

### III. PERCEIVED BÉNÉFITS/LOSSES OF FREE TRADE FOR CANADA

As was done in the June survey, respondents were asked to comment on whether they think Canada would benefit or lose if trade barriers and taxes were removed from goods and services flowing between the two countries. As may be seen in Table 5, Canadians are more likely to think the country will benefit (49%) than lose (40%) under such an agreement. These findings are very similar to those obtained in the June survey.

Table 5

#### PERCEIVED BENEFITS/LOSSES OF FREE TRADE FOR CANADA

	JUNE 1987 %	AUGUST 1987 %
<u>IF BARRIERS AND TAXES WERE ELIMINATED, CANADA WOULD...</u>		
Benefit a great deal	17	13
Benefit somewhat	32	36
Neither benefit nor lose	13	10
Lose somewhat	22	23
Lose a great deal	16	17
<u>OF THOSE THINKING CANADA WILL BENEFIT, WHICH COUNTRY DO THEY THINK WOULD BENEFIT MORE?</u>		
Canada will benefit more	25	25
U.S.A. will benefit more	27	30
Both will benefit equally	48	43

Those respondents who thought Canada would benefit from an elimination of trade barriers were asked whether one country would benefit more or less than the other. While a slight decrease has occurred in the number of Canadians who think that Canada and the United States would benefit equally from a free trade deal (43% in August as compared to 48% in June), this magnitude of change is of marginal statistical significance at best. Nevertheless, we would suggest that this result is of greater importance than could be attributed solely on the basis of statistical significance, given that it provides evidence or signs of other prevailing concerns as was found emerging elsewhere in the August data.