

This table presents a number of results that have remained for the most part constant over the past year. It also shows the results to a new statement used for the first time in this survey. The major findings of note are as follows:

- o Concerns over whether current social programs such as unemployment insurance and health insurance continue to be minimal, as 68% of respondents feel that these programs are likely to be maintained.
- o Although no previous survey results are available to make comparisons against, a clear majority (68%) of respondents feel that it is likely that "Canadian businesses will be capable of taking advantage of any opportunities that free trade with the United States offers."
- o As in previous surveys, about two-thirds of all Canadians believe the prices of consumer goods will likely fall under free trade.
- o On the less positive side, Table 8 shows that a majority of Canadians (59%) are concerned about the likelihood of the Canadian economy being so closely tied to the American economy that Canada's independence will gradually erode.
- o There remains an equal division between those who think it is likely (49%) and those who think it is unlikely (48%) that the number of jobs which are produced by free trade will be greater than the number of jobs that will be lost.
- o A slight majority (54%) of Canadians feel that it is unlikely that the free trade deal will mean that "the poorer regions of the country will be better off than they otherwise would be." This result has for the most part remained unchanged since the May survey.
- o Finally, most respondents do not see either American branch plants in Canada closing as a result of the Free Trade Agreement as a likely (40%) outcome of the deal or that they will have a higher incomes (26%).

To determine whether or not respondents' impressions of the likely or unlikely results of the free trade deal have a major or minor impact on their overall assessment of the FTA, a statistical analysis technique known as multiple regression analysis was applied. Table 9