

Opinions on the free trade agreement vary on the basis of respondents' expectations as to the economic benefits or drawbacks for Canada. Those feeling that the agreement will have positive economic effects for Canada's economy in general and employment in particular are more likely to be supportive, with those people anticipating negative economic effects more likely to be opposed to the free trade agreement. As in previous surveys, however, these constant figures at the aggregate level mask underlying shifts in the extent of support for free trade on the basis of respondents' region of residence.

Table 2

SUPPORT FOR FREE TRADE BY REGION

	<u>JUNE</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>CONFIDENCE INTERVAL* (OCT.SURVEY)</u>
	%	%	%	%
<u>GOOD IDEA/SUPPORT FREE TRADE AGREEMENT</u>				
National average	50	50	48	±2.2
British Columbia	63	52	57	±6.7
Prairies	47	50	49	±5.4
Ontario	41	37	37	±3.8
Balance of Ontario	38	34	35	±4.3
Toronto	47	43	42	±7.7
Quebec	52	64	59	±4.4
Atlantic region	51	45	49	±7.5

- * Because public opinion polls are based on a sample rather than the entire population, the survey results represent an estimate of public support of free trade. The October findings, based on a sample of 1,998, are accurate within ±2.2%, 19 times out of 20. As indicated above, the confidence interval is larger for regional data.