

The results show that there continues to be a consistent majority of respondents who feel that the effect of the Agreement will be positive for the national economy (59%), their provincial economy (59%) and for the economic well-being of themselves and their family (58%). These results have remained virtually unchanged since December 1987.

As has been reported in the findings from previous waves of the research, these perceived economic effects of the deal are strongly related to support and opposition to the Agreement. Illustrating this association are the high Gamma (FN for WP) measures (indicated in Table 6) that were obtained for the association between those who support or oppose the Agreement and expectations as to the deal's effects on the Canadian economy (.904), the respondents' provincial economy (.902), and the respondents' personal economic well-being (.898). As these Gamma measures suggest, there is almost a perfect relationship between perceptions of economic effects of the Agreement and support or opposition to it.

Regional differences do exist in the above results. Those respondents living in Ontario and Quebec exhibit the greatest variance from the average. Quebec respondents are considerably more optimistic about the deal's effects on the national economy (74% say deal would be good) and on their provincial economy (72%). In terms of the FTA's effects on personal economic well-being, 70% of Quebecers feel that the deal will be a good thing. Alberta residents also show a greater likelihood of saying that the free trade deal will be good thing for the Canadian (68%), and their provincial economy (71%), as well as their own personal economic well-being (69%).

The area of the country in which respondents appear to have remained less than convinced that the deal will be a good thing economically is Ontario. An equal number of Ontarians indicate that the deal will be a bad thing (48%) for the national economy as indicate it will be a good thing (48%). Ontarians are also more likely to say that they feel that the deal will be a bad thing for both their provincial economy (47%) and their own economic well-being (42%).

While none of the above regional variations is a new finding (similar results exist in each of the previous waves), there is one area of the country where some "new" variations in will help Canada's, economically, in the future. Regionally, Ontarians continue to be less optimistic of the deal's potential effects, while Quebecers remain more likely to believe the effects will be economically beneficial.