

Table 10 arrays aggregate responses to a series of agree/disagree statements on competitiveness issues. These data indicate that:

- Most (87%) Canadians believe that Canadian businesses must take more responsibility for competitiveness by investing in research and employee retraining.
- Confirming the data in Table 8, 79% (down 2% since December) agree that to ensure that Canada's standard of social programs are maintained, Canada's economy must be more competitive.
- There is rising support for protectionism. Almost half (48%, up 3% since August) agree that the government should take action to protect Canadian business and industry by limiting the amount of foreign goods sold here even if it means that Canadians will pay more for their products.
- A fear persists among half (48%, down 2% since December) the population that when the government talks about Canada becoming more competitive, they really mean that a lot of Canadians will lose their jobs.
- There is increasing acceptance (35%, up 4% since December) that the government is committed to providing retraining opportunities to Canadians affected by changing market conditions.
- Fewer than one in five (19%, down 2% since December) believe that the Canadian government is adequately preparing Canadians for international competitiveness.

