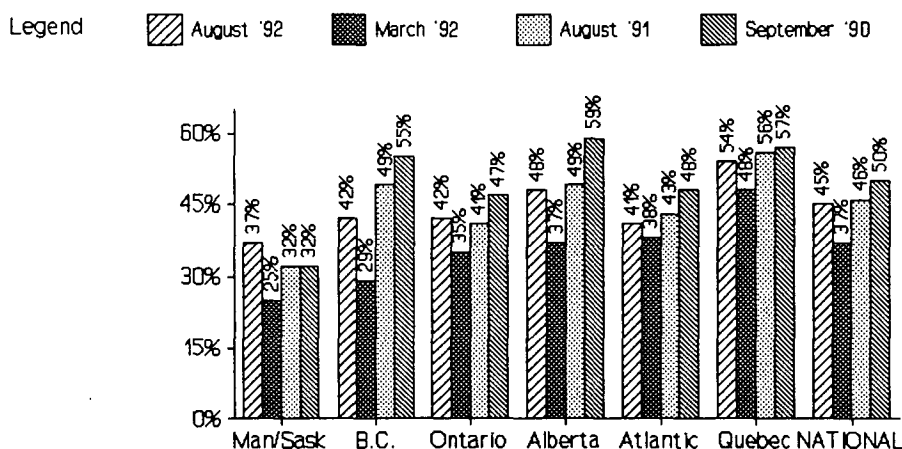


5.0 THE CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

5.1 Overall Support for FTA and Idea of Free Trade

Respondents remain closely divided on the question of support/opposition for the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. The results show that 45 percent of respondents support the Agreement either strongly (10%) or moderately (35%), while 51 percent oppose it either strongly (26%) or moderately (25%). The 45 percent support shows an increase from 37 percent support in March of 1992, and is consistent with that measured a year ago (46% in September of 1991). This represents a slight decline in support for the Agreement measured at 50 percent in September of 1990 [figure 7].

Figure 7
Overall Support for FTA
- Strongly/Somewhat Support -



As the figure shows, support for the Free Trade Agreement is highest in Quebec (54%), followed by Alberta (48%), with lower support in Ontario (42%), British Columbia (42%), the Atlantic provinces (41%) and Manitoba and Saskatchewan (37%). Quebecers have remained the strongest supporters of the Free Trade Agreement across two years of tracking research.