

F. Thematic Analysis

Tracking of overall intensity of agreement on an eleven-point scale for a series of thematic issue statements indicates a slight increase in the number of Canadians who feel that the United States might take advantage of Canadian friendliness, that free trade may matter to business but not the average worker, and that any free trade initiative might lead to increased domestic tension.

An examination of the correlation between the various thematic issues and levels of overall support for the trade initiative continues to suggest that views are being formed on the basis of emotional concerns rather than pragmatic ones. The dominant question is still not one of competition, enhanced productivity or trade balance, but achieving a middle ground in our relationship with the United States. The following table indicates the principal issues which correlate with positions on free trade.

Table 8

ISSUE STATEMENT	<u>CORRELATION COEFFICIENT</u>
There may be economic dislocation and short-term problems if Canada enters into free trade arrangements, but we will have to have free trade in order to ensure that there will be more jobs in the future.	0.4297
I'm really concerned that the free trade issue is only going to create tensions and frustrations in Canada, just as things were getting better.	0.3143
People who oppose a free trade agreement with the United States just don't have enough confidence in Canada.	0.2934
If our economy becomes any more closely tied to the American economy we will lose our political independence.	0.2771