

- o On the question of independence, eight-in-ten Canadians believe that Canada and the United States would become more similar and 68% expect American influence on Canada's cultural industries to increase.
- o Continuing a trend that first appeared in the October survey, the number of Canadians who believe the Canadian economy "will become so closely tied to the U.S. economy that we would gradually lose our ability to make our own decisions" continues to decrease, to 59% by the third wave of the study as compared to 68% in August.
- o Evidence that many Canadians do not really know what would happen under the free trade agreement with the United States continues to appear in opinions on some of the anticipated consequences of free trade. Specifically, while 59% in wave III fear loss of control over decision-making, 71% think that "we will be able to maintain current government programs such as unemployment insurance and health insurance."
- o The most important consequence for the public in terms of affecting their support for or opposition to the agreement is whether it would tie the Canadian economy so closely to the U.S. economy that Canada would gradually lose its ability to make its own decisions. Anticipated loss or gain of Canadian jobs is the second most important consideration or anticipated consequence affecting support for or opposition to the free trade agreement.

Effect on Canadian Business or Industry Sectors

- o Those sectors which a majority of Canadians expect to be better off under free trade continue to be the wood and paper products sector, and the oil and gas industry. Sectors seen as likely to be worse off under free trade remain agriculture and farming, the wine industry, cars and car parts, and the films, books and magazines.
- o There is evidence of moderate growth during the three waves of research in November/December in the number of people who think that the Canada-U.S. free trade agreement is a good thing "as far as energy is concerned" (from 53% in wave I