

The data substantiate a proposition generated from the first wave of this study. The Canadian public continue to believe that the government's ideal type for bilateral relations is out of step with public desires. Overall, 49% of Canadians want to be close trading partners, but 62% perceive this to be the goal of the federal government. The actual state of current relations, however, is described in this manner by 32%.

Again, the probable rationale for this conception of the appropriate bilateral strategy appears to spring from the conviction that "Americans, while they may like us, don't do us any special favours when it comes to trade and economics" among 75% of the sample (+2% over April).

C. Assessments of Freer Trade

Respondents were asked a series of questions to determine overall perceptions of the principal beneficiaries of a free trade agreement. The first inquired "if trade barriers...(for) goods and services were removed across the Canada-U.S. border" would Canada benefit or lose a great deal?

The overall belief that the country will benefit persists among 55% of all Canadians, a proportion which has held steady since April. The following tables profile the regional variations, both to this perception, as well as the perception of benefit to the province.