

One-in-three Canadians disagree that the deal is only an economic agreement, a result that perhaps belies the concerns of those people about the deal's potential effects on Canadian sovereignty. In fact, those who disagree with this statement are disproportionately found among the respondents who oppose (61%) the deal.

8. Overall Economic Effects

As has been stated in previous research, Canadians' opinions about the FTA are centred around two criteria: the perceived economic effects of the deal and the expectations of the deal's effects on Canada's independence and sovereignty. The results for the August survey indicate that those continue to be the main determinants of support or opposition to the FTA.

One of the ways in which the perceived economic effects are probed is through a series of questions which seek to determine the respondents' perceptions of the effects of the deal on the national and provincial economies, as well as on individuals' own economic well-being. Aggregate results for these questions from November 1987 through August 1988 appear in Table 6.

Table 6

PERCEIVED ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE

PERCENTAGE SAYING GOOD THING

	Nov/Dec 1987					August 1988	Current Gamma* Correlation
	I	II	III	IV	V		
THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IS A GOOD THING FOR							
The Canadian economy	33	26	28			39	.904
Your provincial economy	33	32	37			39	.902
Economic well-being of you and your family	26	32	39			35	.898

* The larger the Gamma statistic the more closely associated the two attributes, with a perfect correlation being +1.0 or -1.0. The plus/minus sign indicates the direction of association.