

KNOWLEDGE OF FREE TRADE

A little more than half of Americans have heard of the free trade agreement. A 52%-44% majority of Americans say they have heard something about the F.T.A. recently signed between the U.S. and Canada.

Sixty-four percent of Americans who are absolutely certain to vote this fall ("Prime") have heard of the treaty. Awareness of the treaty is also higher among those who read news (59%) or business (64%) magazines, people 35 years of age or older, those Americans with at least some college education (58%), professionals, retired persons (68%), men (60%), and those who enjoy more than \$30,000 in household income annually.

BENEFITS OF FREE TRADE TO THE UNITED STATES

Most people think the F.T.A. would be beneficial to the United States. Fifty-seven percent say that such a treaty, which would eliminate tariffs and most other barriers to trade would be in the interest of the United States. Twenty percent disagree.

Better-educated Americans who vote grasp the benefits of free trade more strongly than their fellow citizens. Sixty-three percent of news magazine readers and 67% of business magazine readers say they think the elimination of trade barriers is good for this country. A 64%-16% margin of prime voters believe the elimination of barriers are beneficial, as do more than 60% of Americans who earn \$30,000 or more annually.

Somewhat less favorable inclined toward the elimination of tariffs are Americans who belong to craft, industrial, or other private sector unions. By a 51%-30% margin, trade unionists say that such an agreement would be beneficial to the United States.

Other groups that are either undecided about the eliminations of barriers to trade or less favorable inclined toward it include blacks (37%), females (50%), Democrats (53%), those who earn less than \$20,000 annually (51%), and Westerners (52%). About as many unskilled and semi-skilled laborers favor (36%) as oppose (37%) the elimination of barriers to trade under the agreement.

APPROVAL OF THE F.T.A.

By a nearly four to one margin, Americans believe Congress should approve the F.T.A. between the United States and Canada. Sixty-two percent approve, while 16% disapprove. Nearly one in four Americans is undecided.