

Have you heard anything about discussions on a free trade agreement between Canada, the United States and Mexico? What have you heard?

And would you say that you are supportive or opposed to a free trade agreement between the three countries?

What are the benefits of a free trade agreement between the three countries? What are the disadvantages?

Probe for:

- new export opportunities for Canadian goods and services
- new trade opportunities
- investment opportunities in Canada

If wages are raised as an issue (advantage or disadvantage), probe on:

- how do other industrialized countries compete on wages?
- are their wages lower?
- do you think German workers, for example, work longer hours, have lower wages or shorter vacations?
- if you were told that Germany's workers worked less hours per week on average, had longer vacations and competitive wages, how would you respond? How do the Germans remain competitive?

Also probe for:

- effect on jobs
- environmental concerns
- skills base
- use of technology

Test statement:

"If cheap labour was the sole determinant of plant location, then why is that 87 per cent of the goods Canada imports come from the U.S., Europe and Japan, rather than low-wage countries?"

Do you agree with this statement? Why?

As you might know, Mexico and the United States began talks about free trade between the two countries before Canada was involved. Do you think it is important that Canada be a part of a free trade agreement between the three countries or should Canada just let Mexico and the U.S. work out their own deal and leave Canada out? Why?