

The importance of the perceived slide in Canada's competitiveness is highlighted in Table 8. Respondents were asked to select between the forced choices in following question:

Some people say that we really don't need to worry about international trade, we can preserve our standard of living by just doing a better job of selling products made by Canadians to Canadians.

Other people say that we must be able to trade competitively with the best in the world to preserve our standard of living. Generally speaking, which statement is closest to your own point of view.

Together, these data indicate that a strong majority of Canadians believe that international trade and competitiveness are critical to preserving our standard of living. This opinion is most pronounced in Alberta (89%), and least pronounced in Atlantic Canada (76%). Those **least** likely to accept the relationship between trade, competitiveness and preservation of Canada's standard of living are over-represented in the following subgroups:

- ▶ Women
- ▶ 18-34 years of age
- ▶ The least educated
- ▶ Francophones
- ▶ Least affluent

