

Views on the question of the provision of adjustment assistance were also explored. Specifically, respondents were asked whether to the best of their knowledge, the federal government will be "providing help to those individuals and industries who may be negatively affected as a result of the Canada-U.S. free trade agreement." Results indicate considerable uncertainty among Canadians about this and opinion is split evenly (49% yes; 48% no).

B. U.S. Protectionism

Concern about U.S. protectionism does not appear to have diminished now that Canada and the United States have reached an agreement. Respondents were informed that there recently has been talk among American Congressional and business leaders about increasing the tariffs and barriers placed on foreign goods and services coming into the United States in order to protect American industry and jobs. They were then asked whether they feel it is likely the American government might take this type of action.

Results show that seven-in-ten Canadians (70%) think that protectionist action of this type is likely, while 29% think it is not likely. Those groups more likely to think such action is likely include Ontario residents (75%), Quebecers (71%), union members (74%) and the university educated (75%).

C. Expectations Re Signing of the Agreement

It was noted above that overall awareness of the outcome of the trade discussions reveals that 21% of Canadians say that the outcome of the discussions was other than the reaching of a free trade agreement. Among the outcomes perceived by these respondents is what in fact has occurred -- an agreement to the outline of a Canada-U.S. free trade agreement which still must be ratified by the American Congress and Canadian Parliament.