

IV. ECONOMIC AND INDEPENDENCE ISSUES

A. Overview

The analysis of anticipated effects or consequences of free trade outlined above indicates the two major underlying concerns of Canadians around which opinion about the free trade agreement is forming. These are issues and concerns relating to perceived economic effects and to the perceived effect of free trade on Canada's independence or sovereignty and Canada's ability under a free trade agreement to retain control over its own economic and political affairs. Concerns about economic effects pertain to both perceptions of the overall effect on the Canadian and individual provincial economies, but most importantly as well are concerns about the impact of a free trade agreement on jobs.

The views of Canadians concerning several other aspects of the economic effects and independence/control issues were probed in the survey as well, with the results summarized below.

B. Jobs and American Investment

Both the proponents and the opponents of Canada-U.S. free trade concur with the view that the free trade agreement will very likely lead to increased American investment in Canada. One of the propositions of the supporters of the agreement is that this will be beneficial for Canada and will lead to the creation of more jobs. Many opponents of free trade express concern about the effect of such increased American investment on Canadian autonomy, due to expectations of increased American influence in Canada as accompanying the expected increased investment. Table 8 provides the results for a question in the October survey ascertaining the views of Canadians on this question.