

- o On the question of stakeholder credibility, younger Canadians are more likely to rely on the media in making up their minds about the free trade agreement, and respondents' propensity to identify the media in this context declines as age increases.

2. Key concerns

With reference to the two overriding issues of economic effects and impact on sovereignty or independence, the data show that variations on the basis of age relate mainly to the economic effects question. Those Canadians over the age of 55 are on balance somewhat more pessimistic about the likely economic benefits of free trade.

Among youth, the main issue relates to this group of Canadians being relatively less well-informed about free trade, but also in several respects more likely to be prepared to accept or expect positive economic benefits. Except in terms of differences in outlook on the basis of education levels as defined below, youth in Canada seem no more or less concerned than do other Canadians about the independence or sovereignty question.

C. Education

1. Summary of major findings

Unlike opinion variations on the basis of age and gender, differences in opinion on the basis of respondents' level of education relate to both of the two major issues of economic impact and independence or control issues. More highly educated Canadians are more familiar with the free trade agreement and more positive than average in their expectations of economic benefits. On the other hand, they also exhibit greater than average levels of concern with the effect of free trade on Canada's sovereignty and independence.