

Quebec residents continue to hold less pessimistic views of the effect the free trade agreement would have on a number of industry sectors, but the gap between their perceptions and those of other Canadians has narrowed. Specifically, the difference in the perceived effects of the FTA on the wood and paper industry are no longer significantly more positive in Quebec than in the rest of the country, as was the case in October. A less pessimistic view for the future of the car and car parts industry in Quebec as opposed to Ontario is still present (55% worse off versus 66% in the first wave and 43% versus 56% in the third wave).

A greater percentage of Quebecers than other Canadians continue to feel that the wine industry would be unaffected by the agreement. Table 7 shows the distribution of Quebecers' responses regarding this sector over the three waves of research in November/December.

Table 7

QUEBECERS' PERCEIVED EFFECTS OF FREE TRADE ON THE WINE INDUSTRY

	<u>WAVE</u>		
	<u>I</u> %	<u>II</u> %	<u>III</u> %
<u>PERCEIVED EFFECT</u>			
Better off	38	35	43
Not affected	23	25	21
Worse off	38	39	36

In Decima's experience, relatively indecisive results such as this typically reflect feelings of uncertainty as opposed to any definite formation of opinion.

2. Free trade and the energy sector

As apparent in Table 6 above, a majority of Canadians continue to think that the oil and gas industry would be better off under the Canada-U.S. free trade agreement. Perceptions as to the effects of free trade on this sector are also strongly correlated with support for or opposition to the agreement.