

Table 4 -- Continued

	PERCENTAGE SAYING SOMEWHAT LIKELY/VERY LIKELY				
	<u>August</u> %	<u>October</u> %	Nov./Dec. I    II    III %    %    %		
Whether differences in economic development among regions in Canada will gradually be reduced	47	44	46	47	45
Whether many American companies will close their plants in Canada	41	38	41	41	40
Whether Canadians will have higher incomes than they do now	32	26	23	27	24

On an aggregate level, a number of prominent considerations that existed in the October results continue to take on importance in this most recent survey. Major findings to note regarding the public's anticipation of the consequences of free trade include the following:

- o Seven-in-ten Canadians continue to expect that consumer prices would be lower as a result of the free trade agreement, yet only 24% foresee earning higher incomes;
- o Sixty percent (60%) think that the Canadian auto industry would lose jobs to the U.S., however there are signs of a decrease over the course of the November/December waves in the percentage thinking this is likely;
- o On the question of independence, eight-in-ten Canadians believe that Canada and the United States would become more similar and 68% expect American influence on Canada's cultural industries to increase;
- o Continuing a trend that first appeared in the October survey, the number of Canadians who believe the Canadian economy "will become so closely tied to the U.S. economy that we would gradually lose our ability to make our own decisions" continues to decrease (59% by the third wave of the study versus 68% in August);