

D. Specific Anticipated Effects

While a majority, albeit a slim one, anticipate positive general effects of the FTA, perceptions of specific possible outcomes or consequences of free trade are not, in every case, so positive. As in May, and in previous surveys respondents were asked to consider a number of possible outcomes or consequences of free trade and asked to indicate the extent to which they feel these outcomes are likely to occur. The responses to these statements appear in Table 8, which also includes data from previous surveys conducted over the past year.

Statement	May 1989	May 1990	May 1991	May 1992	May 1993	May 1994	May 1995
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Whether Canadian businesses will be capable of taking advantage of any opportunity that free trade with the States offers	66	72	69	67	71	67	63
Whether prices for most consumer goods in Canada will generally be lower	66	75	64	68	70	68	63
Whether our economy will become as strongly tied to the U.S. economy that we gradually lose our ability to make our own decisions	64	43	64	62	59	60	59
Whether overall there will be more jobs gained than lost in Canada	54	52	47	50	52	49	49
Whether many American companies will close their plants in Canada	41	38	41	41	39	39	40
Whether Canadians will have higher incomes than they do now	52	34	43	42	38	34	34
The poorer regions of the country would be better off under the FTA than they otherwise would be	44	44	44	44	44	44	42