

Table 6

REGIONAL VARIATIONS OF ONTARIO'S
BENEFIT FROM FREER TRADE
WITH THE UNITED STATES

FREE TRADE WILL HELP ONTARIO INDUSTRY

<u>REGION</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Depends</u>	<u>Agree</u>
	%	%	%
British Columbia	34	15	52
Prairies	36	13	51
Ontario	36	13	51
Quebec	30	16	54
Atlantic Canada	38	11	51

Note: Percentages sum horizontally and may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

This table points out three important facts. First, there is very little regional differentiation — everyone agrees that Ontario industry will be helped more than industry in other provinces. Second, the perception of Ontario as a winner is losing ground. Finally, the irony in these data means that there continues to be the potential to have the worst of all possible worlds: a consensus that Ontario benefits from freer trade, and thus the possibility of a mild anti-Ontario feeling being generated, without winning the support of Ontario.

Given the overall positive assessment of the net benefits of free trade, what are the specific sectoral economic effects? Table 7 demonstrates that the chief beneficiaries will be the banking and the financial service and forestry sectors. The single casualty most often identified is the textile and clothing industry. Tracking comparison with April data reveals a net growth in perception of benefits free trade may bring to the cultural industries.