

- o In determining whose opinions they are relying on most in making up their minds about the free trade agreement, young people (18 to 24 years of age) appear to be relying on the media (40% in wave III) much more than are those over 55 years of age (25% in wave III);
- o In waves I and II the pessimistic view of the effects of the agreement on the oil and gas industry that existed among the elderly in October persisted. In the third wave, however, the elderly indicate a belief that the oil and gas industry would more likely to be better off under the free trade agreement (58%), similar to the outlook prevailing among youth; and
- o Young people remain consistently more positive than the elderly when it comes to predicting the effect of the agreement on certain industries. This is perhaps most apparent in the wine industry, as more than two youth (those under age 25) for every one older person (those over 55) indicate that the wine industry would be better off under a free trade deal.

Overall, Canadian youth remain more optimistic about the opportunities that the free trade deal has to offer than do Canadians who are retired or who are near retirement age. This optimism on the part of Canadian youth is most prevalent with regard to economic issues. While Canadian youth do exhibit concerns regarding the issue of sovereignty, this concern is neither more nor less pronounced than is apparent among the Canadian population overall.

C. Education

1. Summary of major findings

The issues of independence and economics still dominate the differences of opinion that exist between those of different educational backgrounds. More highly educated Canadians continue to have a more optimistic perception of what the trade deal would mean for the economy. At the same time, however, these well-educated respondents remain concerned about the free trade deal's effects on Canada's sovereignty and cultural industries.