

III. ANTICIPATED EFFECTS OF FREE TRADE

A. Overall Economic Effects

Data from the October 1987 survey indicated that Canadians strongly held the view that the Americans "got a better deal than Canada." And opinions have not changed over the past six months (from 61% in October 1987 to 59% in May 1988). Three-in-ten (31%) continue to feel that the free trade deal is fair and balanced for both countries, while 7% say that "Canada got a better deal than the Americans." Ontario residents are the most likely to feel that the Americans received the better deal (67%). Apart from the question of the relative attractiveness of the Agreement for Canada and the United States, the more pertinent issue is whether the FTA is perceived to be beneficial for Canada.

It is noteworthy that the majority of Canadians believe that the Free Trade Agreement will have a positive effect on the national economy, on the economy of their province, and on individuals' own personal economic well-being. Table 5 presents the aggregate data on these measures. The table also shows that Canadians' expectations regarding the economic benefits likely to accrue from passage of the FTA have not changed since the winter of 1987.

Table 5

PERCEIVED ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE

	PERCENTAGE SAYING GOOD THING			
	November/December I %	II %	III %	May 1988 %
<u>THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IS A GOOD THING FOR...</u>				
The Canadian economy	53	56	58	58
Your provincial economy	53	55	57	57
Economic well-being of you and your family	56	55	59	60