

respondents' opinions have occurred. In Manitoba, the number of respondents who now believe that the deal will be good for either the nation's economy (43%) or for their provincial economy (33%) has dropped since May (from 52% and 37% respectively).

Despite this drop in the percentage of respondents who feel that the deal will be a good thing, there has not been an increase in the number of respondents who feel the deal will be a bad thing for either the national or their provincial economies or for themselves. Instead, a large number of Manitoba respondents have "no opinion" to each of the three questions dealing with expectations of economic effects. This finding seems to be in line with the increase in no opinion found to exist on the ballot question for free trade as indicated earlier. It also further underlines the linkage between the anticipated economic effects of free trade and support or opposition for the deal.

C. Securing Canada's Future

One of the new questions that was tested in May 1988 asked respondents whether or not they agreed that the FTA will help secure Canada's economic future. As Table 7 below suggests, a slim majority of respondents in both May and August agree with the statement. Not surprising is the fact that fully three-quarters of those who agree with this statement are also supporters of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement.

Table 7

THE FTA AND CANADA'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

PERCENTAGE AGREE

	May 1988	August 1988
Agree	52	43
Disagree	37	43
No opinion	11	14

Over the long run, the Canada-U.S. free trade deal will help to secure Canada's economic future

Overall, a slim majority of Canadians have positive perceptions of the deal's general economic effects on a national, provincial and personal scale and tend to agree that it will help Canada's economy in the future. Regionally, Ontarians continue to be less optimistic of the deal's potential effects, while Quebecers remain more likely to believe the effects will be economically beneficial.