

On socio-political questions, a majority of Quebec residents (56%) think it likely that "The free trade agreement will be fair and equitable for both Canada and the United States."

Overall, Quebec residents remain more optimistic and supportive of the free trade initiative than Canadians on average and the August data indicate that their support appears to be increasing.

1. Differences in results changes in opinion between June and August

Independence and American Influence -- Several changes in opinion among Quebec residents between June and August further reflect the greater optimism of Quebecers about free trade. A marginally increased percentage of respondents (73% versus 67%) think it likely that "We will be able to maintain current government programs such as unemployment insurance and health insurance." Consistent with this, fewer Quebecers in August (69%) than in June (78%) think it likely that "American influence on our books, magazines, films and other parts of our culture will increase."

Importance of Income as Factor Shaping Opinion -- Fewer people in August (77%) than in June (84%) feel that the issue of "whether Canadians will have higher incomes than they do now" is an important consideration in forming their opinions about a free trade agreement.

Protectionism -- As one sign of pessimism, Quebec residents are now much more likely than in June to expect that it is "very likely" (40% versus 28%) that the American government might take further protectionist actions which "make it harder for some Canadian goods and services to enter the United States."

Jobs Versus Limiting Foreign Influence -- In contrast to Ontarians, Quebecers are increasingly of the view that "The jobs created by increased American investment in Canada are more important than limiting American influence in the Canadian economy." The results for this question among Quebec residents obtained in the June and August surveys are as follows: