

VI. AMERICAN INVESTMENT

Earlier we saw that concern about foreign investment is a key factor affecting general assessments of free trade. It should therefore come as no surprise that three-quarters of the public are still in favour of the principle of restrictions on American investment in certain sectors of the Canadian economy (Table 8). Canadians' pragmatic nature, however, is reflected in respondents' reactions to subsequent questions posed in the survey. Six out of ten (62%) indicate that they would be more inclined to support free trade if fewer restrictions on American investment meant more jobs for Canadians. Moreover, the majority (57%) believe that jobs created by increased U.S. investment are more important than limiting American influence in the Canadian economy. Not to be overlooked, however, are the four-in-ten who believe that jobs are not as important as limiting American influence in the Canadian economy. Those who are more likely to hold this latter view include 35-44 year olds, the well-educated, and residents of Ontario, particularly those living in Metropolitan Toronto.

LIKELIHOOD OF FUTURE U.S. PROTECTIONIST ACTIONS

| | | |
|-------------------|----|----|
| Very likely | 41 | 33 |
| Somewhat likely | 42 | 37 |
| Not too likely | 13 | 17 |
| Not at all likely | 4 | 1 |

EFFECT OF U.S. PROTECTIONISM ON CANADIAN ECONOMY

| | | |
|--------------------|----|----|
| Very serious | 34 | 41 |
| Serious | 49 | 49 |
| Not too serious | 17 | 9 |
| Not serious at all | 2 | 1 |

EFFECTIVENESS OF FREE TRADE DEAL IN PREVENTING AMERICAN PROTECTIONISM

| | | |
|----------------------|----|----|
| Very effective | 27 | 21 |
| Effective | 37 | 46 |
| Not too effective | 32 | 23 |
| Not at all effective | 4 | 9 |