

marketplace. This help is delivered through a wide range of programs and services, including referral of individuals for training, provision of income support, individual counselling and other programs to help the unemployed back into the workforce.)

A strong majority (62 per cent) agrees that the best way for Canada to become more internationally competitive is to provide workers with stronger job skills through training. Only 35 per cent think that Canada will never be competitive because of low-wage economies abroad. (The federal government has placed more emphasis on training by amending the Unemployment Insurance Act to allow more unemployed Canadians to receive adjustment assistance. This leads to stable, long-term employment. Expenditures for training and other adjustment measures under the Unemployment Insurance Act more than tripled from \$500 million in 1990 to \$1.95 billion in 1992.)

The study indicates a high degree of awareness of the importance of international trade and competition. An overwhelming majority (81 per cent) believes that Canada must trade competitively to preserve its standard of living, while 79 per cent agree that a competitive economy is necessary for the preservation of a high standard of social programs. However, 87 per cent also think that we are falling behind our major competitors such as Japan, Germany and the United States. The survey also shows that only 16 per cent of Canadians know that Canada exports more than it imports. Sixty-one per cent believe that the country has a negative trade balance. (In fact, Canada runs a substantial surplus on its merchandise trade balance. Statistics Canada data show that, in 1991, Canada exported \$3.4 billion more to the world than it imported.)

Nearly two thirds of Canadians (63 per cent) support the federal government's policy of safeguarding Canada's long-term economic future by concentrating on developing the skills of Canadian workers, rather than relying on short-term job creation to deal with the recession (33 per cent).

Canadians also appear to be drawing a strong connection between continuing unemployment and a lack of skills training. While Canadians in general believe that many of the jobs lost during the recession will not come back with recovery, 6 in 10 Canadians agree that jobs are going unfilled because of a lack of qualified candidates, and 7 in 10 agree that many of the unemployed will not get jobs unless they get more training first.

The study, commissioned jointly by External Affairs and International Trade Canada and Employment and Immigration Canada, covered a wide range of international trade and economic adjustment questions. It was conducted between March 9 and March 17, 1992,