

Factors Claimed Important in Shaping Opinion -- An increase in intensity of concern is evident about, "Whether we will be able to maintain current government programs such as unemployment insurance and health insurance." Seven-in-ten Ontarians in August, compared to 61% in June, identify this as a "very important consideration."

A slight increase is also evident in the intensity of concern about "Whether many American companies will close their plants in Canada," with 47% (versus 39% in June) seeing this as a "very important consideration."

Jobs Versus Limiting American Influence -- Results for the June survey show that a majority of Canadians (59%) and Ontario residents (55%) believed that "the jobs created by increased American investment in Canada are more important than limiting American influence in the Canadian economy." While 57% of Canadians on average continue to hold this view, opinion is now split among Ontario residents:

	<u>JUNE</u> %	<u>AUGUST</u> %
JOBS NOT AS IMPORTANT AS LIMITING AMERICAN INFLUENCE IN THE CANADIAN ECONOMY	44	47
JOBS MORE IMPORTANT	55	49

B. Quebec

Residents of Quebec continue to consistently exhibit greater optimism than Canadians on average and Ontarians in particular regarding free trade and the likely economic consequences for Canada. The percentage of Quebecers saying free trade is a good idea has increased from 52% in June to 64% in August. Consistent with the June data, they continue to be more likely (40%) to anticipate higher incomes for Canadians and that "Overall, there will be more jobs gained than lost in Canada" (60% see this as likely). They are also less likely (59%) to think that the Canadian automobile industry will lose jobs to the United States.