

However, there has been slight movement on certain issues. Agreement that the free trade issue may create tensions in Canada, or that free trade may make a difference to the average Canadian worker, appears to be growing since April.

A. Support for Freer Trade

An examination of the correlation between the various thematic issues and levels of overall support for the idea that the free trade initiative would be good for Canada continues to underline the importance of emotional concerns, as identified in the first wave. The dominant issues do not appear to be strictly economic ones, whether competition, enhanced productivity or trade balance. There is, instead, a resolve not to be caught napping by the Americans; a recognized need for vigilance, since Canadians will not get any special consideration from the United States.

At the same time, the majority of Canadians think that it is imperative to continue to assert political, cultural and economic independence from our southern neighbour.

Table 17 illustrates the degree of correlation between each of the issue statements and the position on whether "freer trade would be good for Canada" or whether "not having freer trade would be better."