

Ontario -- Many of the opinions that differentiated Ontario from the rest of the country in the October survey reappear in the the November/December research. For example:

- o An increase in the likelihood of Ontarians thinking that U.S. companies would close American plants in Canada surfaced, with 50% of the Ontario public responding this way by the second wave of the study -- an increase of 4% from the first wave and 7% from the October results;
- o While Canadians on average have become more apt to think it likely that more jobs would be gained than lost due to free trade (from 46% in the first to the 51% in the third wave of the study), only 39% of respondents in Ontario think this would be a likely effect of the agreement; and
- o Although in the first two waves of the study the percentage of Ontarians (42% and 45% respectively) indicating that they think it is "very likely" that jobs in the Canadian auto industry would be lost increased significantly, by the third wave this position seemed to be softening considerably in Ontario (35%).

Quebec -- Residents of Quebec continue to exhibit optimism about the effects of free trade. This is perhaps best illustrated by the fact that the number of Quebecers indicating that it is likely that more jobs would be gained than lost as a result of the agreement steadily increased over the course of the three waves of the study. Even though the number of Canadians overall indicating this rose steadily, the increase is less substantial than is evident in the Quebec results. Quebecers also continue to be more optimistic than average about higher incomes for Canadians resulting from free trade, although not to the degree they were in October (31% in Wave III, versus 35% in October think higher incomes are likely).

Prairies -- As was the case in the October study, Prairie respondents see it as unlikely that many American plants would close their plants in Canada. In the third wave of the survey, 68% of Prairie residents indicate they think it unlikely that American branch plants in Canada would close as a result of free trade.