

V. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT

Respondents were presented with a number of "issue statements" concerning the federal government's management and objectives in the free trade talks. Responses provide an indication of public perceptions of how the federal government has handled the negotiations, whether it is prepared for the changes anticipated under free trade, and whether the free trade initiative is an isolated one or part of a broader plan for Canada's economic development. Table 10 presents the aggregate responses for each of these statements.

Table 10

PERCEPTIONS OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT AND OBJECTIVES REGARDING FREE TRADE

	<u>PERCENTAGE AGREE</u>	<u>GAMMA CORRELATION</u>
I see the free trade deal with the Americans as part of a general effort by the government to improve Canada's trade situation with countries around the world	64	.690
From what I've heard or read, Canada gave away too much to the Americans in the free trade agreement	61	-.707
I'm concerned that free trade is only going to increase tensions among regions and groups in Canada	54	-.503
I think the government has a good idea of how to deal with the changes the free trade agreement will bring in Canada	50	.722
All the discussions about free trade may matter to businesses but free trade won't make any difference to the average Canadian worker	38	.147
The federal government has provided the Canadian people with enough information about the free trade agreement	26	.462