

Political Criticism

Americans are not overly sensitive to criticism from Canada. A significant majority of Americans (65% to 19%) believe that when the Canadians complain about acid rain or fishing rights or foreign investments that they are acting reasonably from their point of view. This viewpoint is even more strongly held by high income and intelligentsia (70% and 77%, respectively) and nearly that strongly held (68%) by middle class Americans. Only the lower end Americans have a bare majority that believe that Canada is acting reasonably (52%). But, even low income are more supportive than critical of political and policy criticisms emanating from Canada.

A series of questions concerning Canadian trade and investment practices were asked to further assess public attitudes toward Canada from a political perspective. These questions were selected to establish a comparison with elite attitudes that had been investigated in the earlier Market Opinion Research Business Leaders Survey. In general, Americans tended to disagree with the statement that Canada practices unfair trade by dumping low cost products into the U.S. market and disagreed with the notion that imports from Canada take jobs away from U.S. workers. While disagreeing that the economic threat of Canadian competition is serious,