

B. Regional Differences in Anticipated Effects

The main regional differences in opinion are apparent in the responses of residents of Ontario, Quebec and the Prairie provinces.

Ontario -- Opinions of residents of Ontario are distinguished from those of Canadians on average as follows. They are:

- o More likely (43%) to expect many American companies will close their plants in Canada and to believe that closer ties with the United States will lead to a gradual loss in our ability to make our own decisions (68%);
- o More apt than average (35% versus 24%) to think it unlikely that the free trade agreement will benefit Canada and the U.S. equally and that the U.S. will keep to the terms of the deal (55% versus 60%);
- o Less likely to expect that more jobs will be gained than lost (45% versus 51%) or that Canadians will have higher incomes than they do now (45% versus 51%); and
- o More inclined to see it as "very likely" (33% versus 25%) that the Canadian automobile industry will lose some jobs to the United States.

Quebec -- The optimism of Quebecers is apparent in the fact they are more likely to think that the free trade deal will benefit Canada and the U.S. equally (62%), that differences in economic development among regions will be reduced (50%), and that Canadians will have higher incomes (35% versus 26%).

Prairies -- People living in the Prairie provinces think it unlikely (78%) that many American companies will close plants and that Canadians will have higher incomes (20%).