

Again, positions on this dimension are strongly influenced by one's views concerning cultural nationalism or the appropriate relationship with the United States. Assessment is more pessimistic as age and education levels rise. It does not vary by gender or household income.

Canadians continue to be unconvinced of the need for urgency in negotiating any agreement despite wide awareness of the cedar shakes and shingles controversy since April of 1986. The majority (57%) do not see the need for any hurry. While free trade appears to be a good idea, divided opinion on the net benefits indicates that, for most Canadians, it is an idea whose time has not yet necessarily come.

B. Macro Economic Effects

If Canada and the United States were to reach some kind of an agreement on trade, how long do Canadians feel it would take before the effects would be felt? Just one in five think that the effect would be immediate. Thirty-nine percent (-6 from April) estimate that it will take two to three years. Another 27% contend that effects will not work their way through the system for three to five years, with the balance stating more than five.

To determine just what these effects might be, respondents were asked a series of questions about the specific impacts on Canadian companies, jobs and prices. Table 10 details these effects.