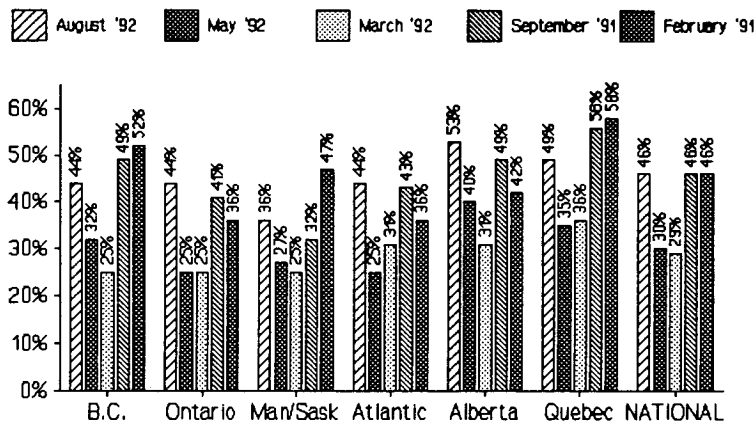


the number saying they "strongly support" such a free trade relationship (24% versus 10%) [figure 17].

Figure 17
Overall Support For NAFTA
- Strongly/Somewhat Support -



Nevertheless, this divided state of opinion represents a significant increase since this spring in the level of public support for Canada becoming a free trade partner with its two southern neighbours. The current level of public support for such an arrangement is 16 points above that recorded in a National Angus Reid Poll conducted in May and 17 points higher than a similar reading in March. The most recent findings show that respondents' support for a three-way North American free trade agreement has returned to levels measured by the Angus Reid Group in both September and February of 1991.

As may be expected, views on Canada participating in a free trade pact with the United States and Mexico are not held uniformly across the national population. Majority support for such an arrangement exists among the following population segments: Albertans (53%; up 22 points since March), men (52%), people with at least some post-secondary schooling

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