

IV. ECONOMIC AND INDEPENDENCE ISSUES

A. Overview

As alluded to in the above discussion, the November/December study as well as previous research demonstrate that the views of Canadians regarding the free trade agreement are based on essentially two considerations:

1. **Economic Effects** -- the perceived effects of the agreement on the Canadian and provincial economies and in particular the anticipated effect on jobs; and
2. **Canadian Independence and Identity Concerns** -- whether Canadians retain their ability to make their own decisions.

The following section of the report examines these issues through the analysis of the questions posed in the study which probe the various perceived effects of the free trade deal for Canada in terms of these two main considerations.

B. Jobs and American Investment

One of the most salient aspects of debate over free trade in Canada has been whether or not the predicted increase of American investment in Canada, a result that both proponents and opponents of the agreement agree on, would be a good thing for Canadians or, as opponents of the deal suggest, would lead to a loss of Canadian autonomy. In ascertaining opinions on this issue, Canadians were asked whether they think the jobs that are expected to result from free trade are more important or not as important as limiting American influence on the Canadian Economy.

The results of this question from the three waves in November/December, and from previous surveys conducted in 1987 appear in Table 9 below.