

On socio-political questions, Ontarians continue to be more likely than Canadians on average to think that "our economy will become so closely tied to the American economy that we will gradually lose our ability to make our own decisions." They are even less likely (36%) than average (45%) to believe that a free trade agreement will be fair and equitable for both Canada and the United States.

On other questions, 58% of Ontarians as compared to 48% on average feel it likely that the American government might take further protectionist actions. They are also more likely (62%) than average (55%) to think that the Americans are better bargainers than Canadians and that, therefore, Canadians will end up with a bad deal. Finally, they are even more likely (74%) than Canadians overall (67%) to disagree with the statement: "The federal government has provided the Canadian people with enough information about what it wants to gain in the trade talks."

1. Differences in results between June and August

Relative Benefit for Canada -- The aggregate data for Canada as a whole show consistency between June and August in perceptions of the relative benefits of free trade for Canada and the U.S. among those respondents expecting some benefits for Canada. In contrast, some slight changes in opinion on this question are apparent among Ontario residents. Those Ontarians thinking the U.S. would benefit more have increased from 27% to 37%, while the number thinking both countries will benefit equally have decreased from 46% in June to 37% in August. Given the sample sizes involved, these results may only indicate a marginal shift in opinion, but they are consistent with the overriding finding from the August survey of increased concern about whether a fair and mutually beneficial trade deal can be reached.