

Among the demographic sub-groups, the special relationship argument is especially persuasive among better-read, educated, wealthier Americans, and those whose occupations would typically signify middle and upper-middle social and economic status.

Westerners, too, find this fairness argument especially convincing. Using the free and friendly argument, support for the F.T.A. rises among Americans who live in the West to levels comparable to those found among Midwesterners and Northeasterners.

Trade and industrial unionists find the special relationship argument less compelling, if still persuasive, than organized public service employees. While public sector unionists agree with the fair and friendly argument by a better than 4:1 ratio (73% to 17%), the private sector unionist is only a little better than 2:1 favorable (56% to 24%).

CANADA VS ASIAN TIGERS

Most Americans say we have a better trading relationship with Canada than we do with Asian countries, such as Japan, Taiwan, and Korea.

By a 54%-20% margin, Americans are more likely to say we have had a better trading relationship with Canada than with Asian countries. Even the anti-trade public thinks so, with 42% describing the Canadian trade situation better and 34% saying it is not better than our relationship with Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, and other Asian countries.

In general, better-educated and more affluent U.S. citizens are more likely to believe we have had a better trading relationship with the Canadians. Other Americans are more likely to be undecided on the subject than actually opposed to the idea that we have had a better trading relationship with Canada.