

Further on economic outlook, respondents were asked to select from a list what they believed were the two most important reasons for the current recession. Table 3 displays scores for combined first and second choice by reason. These data indicate that majorities of Canadians believe that either free trade with the U.S. (62%) or the GST (58%) -- i.e. specific government initiatives -- are most responsible for the recession. The reason selected third most often was "global economic conditions" (39%).

In Ontario and the Prairies free trade is named most often as the cause of the recession, while Québeckers, Atlantic residents, and B.C. residents blame the GST. Only Albertans see global economic conditions as the major reason for the economic downturn.

