

ability to make its own decisions. Canadians who are more inclined to believe that this would be one of the consequences of free trade are less likely to support the FTA (30% support versus 51% of Canadians on average);

2. The anticipated loss or gain of Canadian jobs is the second most important consideration or anticipated consequence affecting support for or opposition to the free trade agreement. The concern that jobs in the auto industry would be lost proves to be particularly important in the public's decision to support or oppose the agreement; and
3. The concern of whether or not the United States would keep to the terms of the agreement has become one of the major items affecting support for free trade.

The strength of association between support for free trade and each of the above possible consequences has grown since the October survey, as has the association between all of the anticipated effects and support for free trade. Other items which affect support for the free trade agreement in order of importance are whether:

- o Canadians would have higher incomes;
- o Canadians would be able to maintain current government programs such as Unemployment Insurance and health insurance;
- o Governments would be able to provide regional assistance to businesses in the poorer areas of the country;
- o American companies would close their plants located in Canada;
- o Canada and the United States would become more similar;
- o American influence on our books, magazines and parts of our culture would increase; and
- o Prices on goods imported from the U.S. would be cheaper.

C. Regional Differences in Anticipated Effects

The public's perception of anticipated effects of the FTA not only vary in intensity, but also vary on the basis of respondents' region of residence. These variations are most apparent among residents of Ontario and Quebec, as well as residents of the Prairie provinces and are summarized below.