

IX. MAJOR DEMOGRAPHIC DIFFERENCES

Sex, education and age continue to account for the main demographic differences on opinions regarding the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. Below is a summary of these differences.

A. Sex

The sex gap that had been evident in the results of previous surveys that suggested that women were generally both less supportive of and more pessimistic about the deal than men continues to exist. The major differences are as follows:

- The difference between the percentage of women who support (42%) the FTA and the percentage of men who support (57%) the deal has actually increased between May and August. This is mainly due to a 9% drop in the number of women who support the deal. However, the decline in the number of women who support the Agreement does not result in an increase in the number of women who oppose the deal. Instead, there is an increase in the number of women who have no opinion (8% in May to 14% in August).

- Men continue to be more positive about the Agreement's potential effects on the national and provincial economies, as well as the anticipated effects it will have on their own economic well-being. Two-thirds of the men surveyed feel that the Agreement will be a good thing for the national economy, their province's economy, and for their own personal economic situation. Only about half of women indicate similar optimism.

- Women continue to be less likely than men to indicate that they feel there will be more jobs gained than lost as a result of free trade. They are also more likely (57%) than men (47%) to agree that "Canada gave away too much to the Americans" in negotiating the FTA.