

- A fear persists among half the population that when the government talks about Canada becoming more competitive, they really mean that a lot of Canadians will lose their jobs.
- There is increasing acceptance that the government is committed to providing retraining opportunities to Canadians affected by changing market conditions.
- Fewer than one-in-five believe the Canadian government is adequately preparing Canadians for international competitiveness.
- A majority believe that the best way to ensure Canada is competitive in the international marketplace (even with the challenge of low-wage competitors) is to provide our workers with stronger job skills through training.

General Trade Issues

- A majority of Canadians believe that Canada is a net importer of goods and services (i.e. we import more than we export). If Canada works to reverse the perceived trade deficit, majorities believe that both average Canadians and Canadian businesses will be better off.
- Increased foreign investment, even with the trade offs of job creation and technology transfer, remains controversial because it is believed to limit the control we have over our economy.
- A strong majority think that adjustment to free trade is the joint responsibility of employers, workers, unions, business associations, and all levels of government.
- In terms of the credibility of potential spokespersons on trade issues, majorities would find at least some of what was said by trade economists and other experts in international trade, business leaders, and the media trustworthy. The least credible spokespersons are federal government leaders, labour leaders, and interest groups opposed to the FTA.

GATT

- Nearly three-quarters of those surveyed have heard of the GATT, 52% have heard something recently. In terms of specific recall, the threat to farmers' marketing boards was cited by nearly half as what they had heard most recently. Importantly, most of those who recalled the threat to marketing boards regarded it as a negative outcome.