

III. ANTICIPATED EFFECTS OF FREE TRADE

A. Overall Economic Effects

Analysis of the results from previous research reveals that Canadians' opinions either in favour or against the free trade agreement are based essentially on two main considerations or criteria. These are the perceived economic effects of the free trade agreement, as well as expectations as to the agreement's impact on Canada's independence or sovereignty. The results from the November/December 1987 surveys confirm the persistence of these considerations as determinants of Canadians' attitudes toward the Canada-U.S. free trade agreement.

One of the ways in which Canadians' perceptions of the economic effects of the free trade agreement were probed in the November/December 1987 surveys was through a series of questions exploring views as to the perceived impact of the agreement on the national and provincial economies, as well as on individuals' own economic well-being. Aggregate results for the three waves of research conducted appear in Table 3 below.

Table 3

PERCEIVED ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE

	PERCENTAGE SAYING GOOD THING		
	I %	II %	III %
<u>THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IS A GOOD THING FOR...</u>			
The Canadian economy	53	56	58
Your provincial economy	53	55	57
Economic well-being of you and your family	56	55	59