NAFTA UPDATE

In the last issue, we showed that Americans were not following the debate about NAFTA closely. Attentiveness is still low, and the ambivalent structure of attitudes (fear of job loss, recognition of the benefits of free trade) remains. Education, income, and union status produce greater differences in opinions than party affiliation.

Question: How closely have you followed the news about the North American Free Trade Agreement between the United States and Mexico, sometimes known as "NAFTA"...?

- Have followed news about NAFTA very/ somewhat closely
- Have heard a great deal about NAFTA
- Not too/ not at all
- Some
- None (vol.)/ Don't know/ no answer

Aug. 1993: 42% 58% 44% 56%
Sep. 1993: 10% 35% 48% 7% 17% 43% 36% 4%

Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization for USA Today and CNN, latest that of September 10-12, 1993.

Question: How much have you heard about the North American Free Trade agreement called NAFTA...?

- Have followed news about NAFTA
- Not too/ not at all
- Some
- None (vol.)/ Don't know/ no answer

Aug. 1993: 43% 56% 1% 4%
Sep. 9-15, 1993: 43% 56% 1%
Sep. 24-27: 40% 59% 1%


Question: How closely did you follow news stories about the debate about the free trade agreement between the United States, Canada, and Mexico?

- Have followed news about NAFTA very/ fairly closely
- Not too/ not at all
- Don't know

Sep. 9-15, 1993: 43% 56% 1%
Sep. 24-27: 40% 59% 1%


Question: Do you favor or oppose the proposed free trade agreement between the United States and Mexico? (Gallup)

- Favor the free trade agreement
- Oppose it
- No opinion

Aug. 1993: 41% 44% 15%
Sep.: 35% 41% 24%

Question: Do you favor or oppose the North American Free Trade Agreement with Mexico and Canada that eliminates nearly all restrictions on imports, exports, and business investment between the United States, Mexico, and Canada? If you feel you have not heard enough about this issue yet to have an opinion, please just say so.

- Favor NAFTA
- Oppose it
- Have not heard enough yet
- Not sure

Jan. 1993: 28% 31% 36% 5%
Apr.: 27% 25% 44% 4%
Jul.: 31% 20% 36% 4%
Sep.: 25% 36% 34% 5%
Oct.: 23% 33% 34% 4%


Responses of various groups
September Gallup/USA Today/CNN poll

- Favor NAFTA
- Oppose it

By education
- <H.S. grad. 32%
- Coll. grad. 44%

By income
- <$15,000 32%
- >=$50,000 41%

Union household
- Yes 23% 51%
- No 37% 39%

Party identification
- Rep. 40% 37%
- Dem. 32% 40%
- Ind. 34% 45%

Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization for USA Today and CNN, latest that of September 10-12, 1993.