

FDI – Aug. 18, 2017

Foreign Direct Investment/China

First, we'd like to ask you about a decision that's been in the news recently. The Canadian government has awarded a navy maintenance contract to a firm located in Canada, but owned by a foreign parent company.

Q1. Generally, what are your views on a situation like this? Would you say:

[ROTATE]

The federal government should always favour Canadian-owned companies, even if it costs more
As long as the federal government picks the right contractor, it doesn't matter if the company is foreign-owned

Q2. Now, we'd like to ask you some questions about "foreign direct investment." In plain language, this refers to the partial or total ownership of Canadian corporations and businesses by individuals or groups based in another country.

First, some background.

Foreign direct investment in Canada has been around since Confederation. Recently, between 2012 and 2016, this kind of investment is equivalent to more than half of Canada's GDP.

On one hand, foreign direct investment provides local businesses with capital, which may be used to create jobs and grow the economy. On the other hand, such investment can reduce Canadians' control over certain sectors of their own country's economy.

Based on whatever you've seen or heard and your own general impressions, what are your views on foreign direct investment in Canada? Is it ...

More GOOD than bad

About equally good and bad

More BAD than good

[STANDALONE INTRO SCREEN]

There are a number of sectors in the Canadian economy in which foreign companies could invest, and a variety of foreign countries interested in doing so. The next several questions look at investment in Canada by specific countries across a variety of sectors. For each one, you will be asked to indicate whether you think Canada should encourage or discourage investment from that country in each sector.

[RANDOMIZE PRESENTATION OF Q3 – Q8]

Q3. Should Canada encourage or discourage foreign direct investment from *the United Kingdom* in each of the following sectors?

[ROWS – RANDOMIZE]

Resource extraction (i.e. oil and gas, mining, forestry, etc.)

Agriculture

Health care*

Manufacturing

Banking/Financial services

Military/Defence

Technology*

Retail

[COLUMNS]

Discourage

Encourage

Q4. Should Canada encourage or discourage foreign direct investment from ***the countries of the European Union*** in each of the following sectors?

[ROWS – RANDOMIZE]

Resource extraction (i.e. oil and gas, mining, forestry, etc.)

Agriculture

Health care*

Manufacturing

Banking/Financial services

Military/Defence

Technology*

Retail

[COLUMNS]

Discourage

Encourage

Q5. Should Canada encourage or discourage foreign direct investment from ***China*** in each of the following sectors?

[ROWS – RANDOMIZE]

Resource extraction (i.e. oil and gas, mining, forestry, etc.)

Agriculture

Health care*

Manufacturing

Banking/Financial services

Military/Defence

Technology*

Retail

[COLUMNS]

Discourage

Encourage

Q6. Should Canada encourage or discourage foreign direct investment from **the United States** in each of the following sectors?

[ROWS – RANDOMIZE]

Resource extraction (i.e. oil and gas, mining, forestry, etc.)

Agriculture

Health care*

Manufacturing

Banking/Financial services

Military/Defence

Technology*

Retail

[COLUMNS]

Discourage

Encourage

Q7. Should Canada encourage or discourage foreign direct investment from **Russia** in each of the following sectors?

[ROWS – RANDOMIZE]

Resource extraction (i.e. oil and gas, mining, forestry, etc.)

Agriculture

Health care*

Manufacturing

Banking/Financial services

Military/Defence

Technology*

Retail

[COLUMNS]

Discourage

Encourage

Q8. Should Canada encourage or discourage foreign direct investment from **the United Arab Emirates** in each of the following sectors?

[ROWS – RANDOMIZE]

Resource extraction (i.e. oil and gas, mining, forestry, etc.)

Agriculture

Health care*

Manufacturing

Banking/Financial services

Military/Defence
Technology*
Retail

[COLUMNS]
Discourage
Encourage

Q9. In recent years, business owners from China (excluding Hong Kong) have been purchasing companies in the health care, oil and gas, and technology sectors, among others.

In fact, Chinese direct investment in Canada has nearly doubled in the last five years, to \$21 billion in 2016. Still, this represents less than three per cent of total foreign direct investment in Canada.

Based on whatever you've seen or heard and your own general impressions, what are your views on Chinese investment in Canada? Is it ...

More GOOD than bad
About equally good and bad
More BAD than good

[ASK THOSE WHO SAY IT'S A BAD THING]

Q10. You indicated that Chinese investment in Canada is, on balance, a bad thing. What are your main reasons for feeling this way? (Please pick up to 2 from the list below, or write in your main reason if it's not there.)

[KEEP THIS ORDER]

Just don't like foreign investment, from any country
Canada needs to stay in charge of its own economy
Chinese ownership threatens Canada's strategic interests and security
China's human rights issues/lack of democracy
Chinese money may be tied to government corruption there
Chinese investors will try to break our rules (labour/environmental/financial, etc.)
China's communist government has too much control over their investments
China is just too big – they would buy way too much

[ANCHORED] Other, specify:

Q11. Last year, Canadian foreign direct investment in China was worth more than \$13 billion, and – as a reminder – Chinese foreign direct investment in Canada was \$21 billion.

If Canada discouraged Chinese investment here, it's possible China would reciprocate, and that this could have negative consequences for the Canadian economy.

Opponents of foreign investment say this would be worth it to prevent Chinese takeovers of Canadian companies.

Those who support foreign direct investment from China say this would damage the economic relationship between the two countries

Which of these perspectives is closer to your own? Would discouraging Chinese investment be ...

[ROTATE]

Worth it to prevent Chinese takeovers of Canadian companies

Not worth risking damage to the economic relationship between Canada and China