EKOS

Wave 2:

Diversity and Security –
Underlying Patterns and
Tensions

Diversity and Security – Underlying Patterns and Tensions

Wave 2 of the **Security Monitor** 2006-7 Study

EKOS

December 2006

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Introduction

In the immediate aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks, EKOS launched its Security Monitor study. Now in its sixth year, the study continues to demonstrate how dynamic the safety and security landscape is in Canada. These shifts are sometimes unexpected and can alter the public context in terms of policy and the delivery of security services.

The salience of security and threat is much higher today than it was at the close of the last decade and issues related to public security are increasingly critical to the evaluation of broad government performance. Security issues are also becoming crucial yardsticks by which citizens measure the performance of governments.

Today, the Security Monitor study is one of the most important examinations of the public's perceptions of issues of safety and security in Canada. Findings from the past year's Monitor reinforced the need for ongoing monitoring of the public's continually evolving outlook. Pertinent events such as the London transit bombings, rising chaos in Iraq, gun violence in Toronto, Hurricane Katrina, the changing role of the Canadian Forces, and the global focus on a potential influenza pandemic have all had an impact on the public's outlook. Likewise, the continued, intense, and rising concerns about threats linked to climate and the environment demonstrated the breadth of concerns about the nature of threats today. Events such as these have reinforced the dominance of what we have labelled the "security ethic" which has implications for the public's expectations of the state to act as a guardian of risk or risk manager.

The 2006-7 study continues to focus on the evolving safety and security landscape in Canada. The results of the first wave are based on a survey with a national random sample of 1,012 Canadians undertaken in December 2006. The methodological details are shown in the appendix to this report.

Overview

Our main focus here is to examine some of the more challenging and complex questions surrounding linkages between cultural diversity and security. Before enjoining these questions, it is worth summarizing the current public opinion landscape surrounding public security issues.

In a nutshell, it is currently more placid than turbulent. While there has been a steady rise in concern about broad federal direction, the overall pattern is one of general comfort. This occurs against a backdrop of very low levels of awareness of what the federal government is actually doing in the security field.

This relatively stable and favourable environment is particularly noteworthy given the salience of the Maher Arar case in recent months. Despite high recognition and sympathy there is little evidence that the Arar case has seriously disrupted the public's equilibrium of security and civil liberties. In fact, security now outweighs civil liberties by a broad and growing margin. Moreover, the controversy leading to the resignation of Commissioner Zaccardelli has not left any major corrosive effects on the reputation of the RCMP (which remains broadly positive) or other national security agencies. There is much more resistance to granting police more powers at the expense of privacy in particular, but the overall strength of the public security ethic is the more impressive and important finding.

There are, however, consistent cleavages in how conflicts across security and other societal priorities trade-off. In general, youth, those of upper-socioeconomic status and Quebeckers tend to be both more sensitized to civil liberties and somewhat more blasé about the plausibility and imminence of security risks. In general, there has been a mild diminution of security risk perception over the past several months in Canada. Concerns about security are reinforced by a broader sense of vulnerability and we find that seniors and Canadians of lower-socioeconomic standing express greater concerns with security and less commitment to trade-offs such as privacy and civil liberties. Notably, there are few major differences between visible minority and non-visible minority Canadians. This is instructive for the broader issue of diversity and security.

In recent history we have found that attitudes to the broad area of "diversity" (including issues such as multiculturalism, immigration, race relations, etc.) have been one of the most complex and difficult areas of Canadian public opinion. The challenge is becoming greater as Canada's ethnic pluralism burgeons and as generational fault lines on these issues deepen.

These issues take on additional importance and complexity when situated against growing concerns about security, Are certain racial groups more prone to terrorism or crime? Is diversity a boon or a hindrance to greater security? Should certain groups receive disproportionate attention from security agencies? What are the ideal balance points for integration versus diversity? These difficult questions have become even more daunting in recent years.

There is evidence that both American and European publics are increasingly balking at the progressive notions of "identity politics" and multiculturalism as they grow more wary of real and imagined threats from the "clash of civilizations". So where does Canada fit in this context?

There are enormous ambivalence and contradictions in Canadians' outlook on diversity; Canadians are seemingly both pro-diversity and pro-integration. This issue is complicated by the fact that there are also deep demographic strains within the population; youth and the university educated are far more tolerant than older and less-educated Canadians.

In general the security shocks which began with September 11, 2001 (but which have also included events such as the London bombings and the arrest of suspected terrorists in Canada) have strained societal commitment to diversity and pluralism. In both Canada and the United States there was a sharp rise in opposition to immigration following September 11. Since then, the two countries have tracked in profoundly diverging trajectories. American opposition to immigration is now two and one half times as large as Canadian opposition despite less than half the relative levels. In both Europe and America, debates about immigration and multiculturalism have become much more charged in recent years. One-time centres of progressive pluralism such as Denmark are now requiring explicit and strong integration requirements for immigrants; France is pursuing radical secularism, and erstwhile proponents of multiculturalism such as Tony Blair speak openly on discouraging the veil for Muslim women. In the United States the exuberant internationalism following September 11 has radically transformed to incipient or perhaps full blown isolationism. The optimistic and benign miracle of globalization seems to have quickly turned into a darker, closed world where citizen's instincts are more to pull up the drawbridge and hunker down than welcome and celebrate diverse societies.

Canadians are not immune to these pressures on multiculturalism (a policy term which originated from Canada) and immigration, but we are clearly moving in a different direction. Attitudes to immigration and diversity produce deep divisions and contradictory views, but overall Canadians are not immersed in the same backlash that

seems to be gripping Europe and America. This may be rooted in different demographic exigencies, relatively fewer hard experiences and risk from security shocks, and a relatively more ethnically heterogeneous young population. The outcome from these debates is not clear and we have fresh data which shows Canadians are by no means indifferent to these issues, nor particularly circumspect about the application of tools such as ethnic profiling to the areas of crime and security.

American and Canadian outlook on immigration is quite different today and these differences have been widening. It is problematic to draw direct comparisons to American attitudes to immigration because the Mexican border exerts such a great influence on American outlook, but the cumulative evidence supports the case that there are real and growing differences. In the United States, which finds itself deeply divided, the most visible area of national consensus is the inviolable salience of security. Borders and trade have become subordinate issues in this environment. Security is also important to Canadians, but their current conclusion is that they want *both* security *and* diversity and do not see these as mutually contradictory principles. Despite having low confidence in the system's capacity to screen on the basis of criminality and security threats, Canadians remain much more open to immigration and diversity. This may be a complex product of the distinct values, interests, and demography of Canada, but these differences are real and important.

The issue of ethnic profiling provides and interesting and timely illustration of some key points. More positive attitudes to immigration are not simply a reflection of a more liberal-progressive orientation. Most Canadians believe that both criminality and terrorism (even more so) are systematically overrepresented in certain groups (ethnic, racial, or religious). Of those who believe this, the vast majority believe that ethnic profiling is acceptable, at least if there is some plausible rationale. This may explain why, despite broad sympathy and near-universal desire for apology and redress for Mr. Arar, there was little serious damage to the reputation of the RCMP and not any serious public desire to reset the security-civil liberties balance points. It is possible that this also underlies the clear majority rejection of the official claim that ethnic profiling is not practiced. Most Canadians reject this claim as both unlikely and undesirable. Notably, members of visible minority groups – who are presumably more likely to witness these practices – are no less likely to support their use if a clear rationale exists.

These debates are exceedingly complex and important. The current data begins to cast some preliminary light on this area which requires much more careful and exhaustive examination in the future.

Government Responses

Now that the Conservative government is approaching nearly a year in power, Canadians **uncertainty regarding the federal government's direction on national security has dissipated somewhat**. The proportion unwilling to offer an opinion dropped from a high of 21 per cent shortly after the election to 10 per cent in this most recent sounding. While a majority of Canadians (54 per cent) continue to believe that the government is moving in the right direction, some of the uncertainty has been replaced by a growing number saying "wrong direction" (36 per cent – up 13 per cent since February 2006).

Quebeckers are the most divided on this issue: 45 per cent thinks the government is moving in the "right direction" on national security and an equal proportion thinks they are moving in the "wrong direction". Residents of Atlantic Canada, on the other hand, are far more decisive with a clear majority (68 per cent) favouring the current government direction and less than 1 in 3 opposing (26 per cent).

Direction of Government on national security

Q: All things considered, would you say that the Government of Canada is moving in the right direction or the wrong direction in terms of national security?
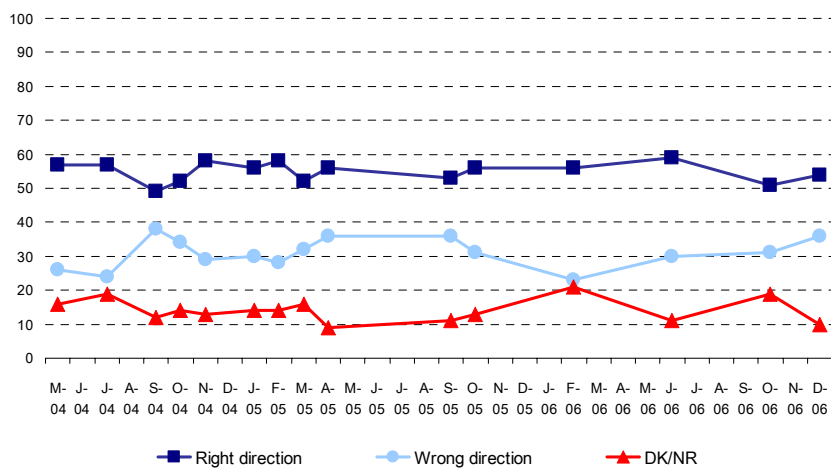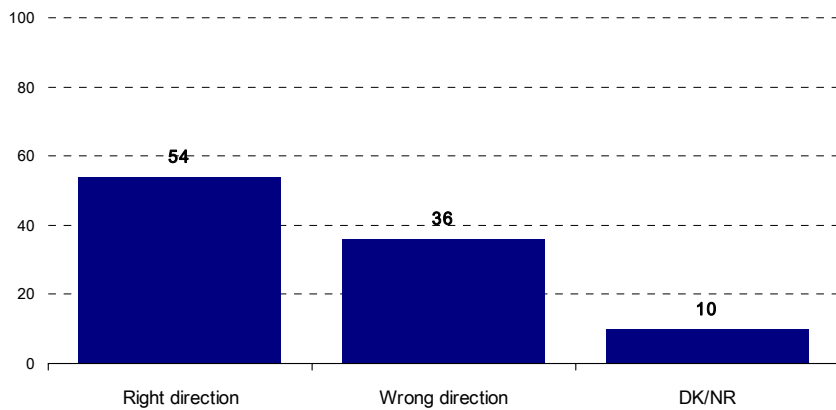
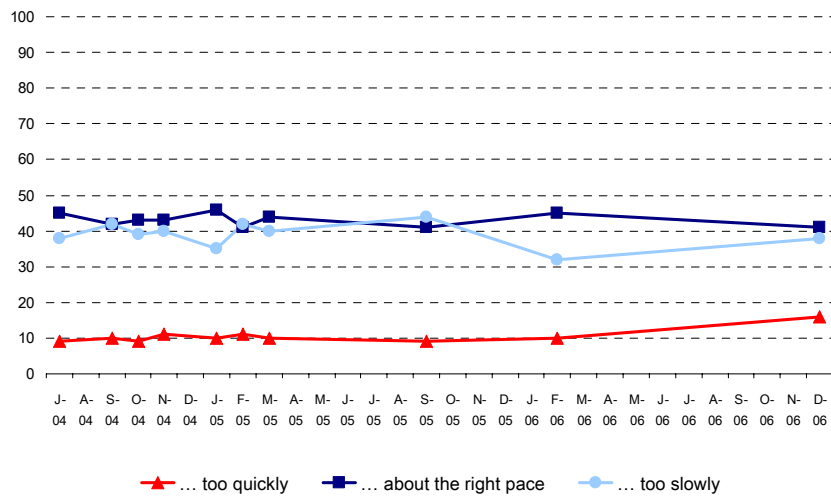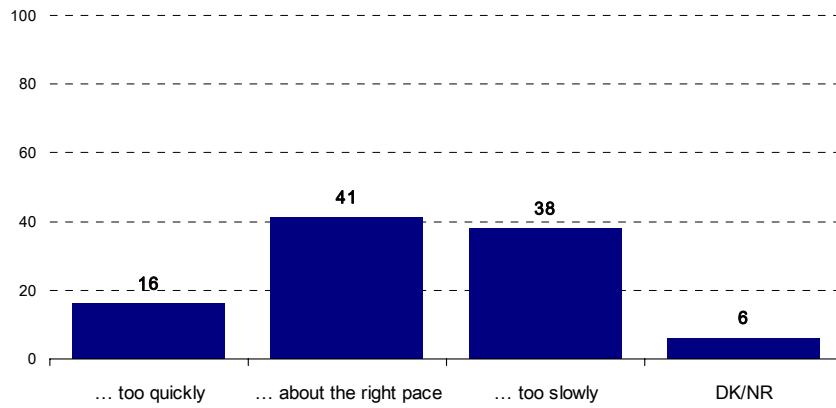**Base:** All Canadians; most recent data point Dec. 06 n=1012

Although a majority of Canadians currently approve of the government's direction on security, only a slight plurality (41 per cent) **approve of the amount and pace of changes the Government of Canada has announced to deal with terrorism specifically**. In fact, almost as many now say that they feel the government is moving "too slowly" on this matter (38 per cent). It is worth noting that there is also a small but rising proportion of Canadian who are concerned that the government is moving "too quickly" to address terrorism (16 per cent – the highest this score has ever been since tracking began in the summer of 2004).

Visible minority Canadians are more likely than others to consider the pace of the government's response to terrorism as being "too slow" (46 per cent compared to 36 per cent of non-visible minorities), as are seniors (45 per cent) and those with a high school level of education or less (43 per cent). Those who fear that a terrorist attack on Canadian soil is imminent are also more likely to think that the response has been delayed (51 per cent).

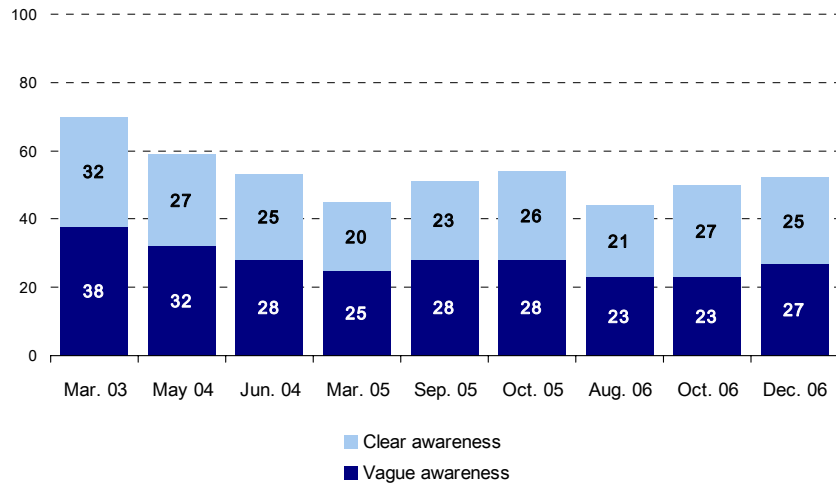## Attitudes towards the amount/pace of changes

Q: Thinking about the amount and pace of changes the Government of Canada has announced to deal with terrorism, do you think they are moving ...

Base: All Canadians; most recent data point Dec. 06 n=1012

11

Awareness of security measures

32	27	25	20	23	26	21	27	25
38	32	28	25	28	28	23	23	27
Mar. 03	May 04	Jun. 04	Mar. 05	Sep. 05	Oct. 05	Aug. 06	Oct. 06	Dec. 06

Clear awareness
Vague awareness

Base: All Canadians; most recent data point Dec. 06 n=1012

Just over half (52 per cent) of Canadians say that they have heard about actions government has taken to improve safety and security in the past year. While overall awareness is up slightly from October 2006, this has been at a cost to "clear awareness" (down two percentage points). Clear awareness is highest amongst men (27 per cent), the university-educated (28 per cent) and those between the ages of 45 and 64 (31 per cent).

Security & Civil Liberties

The gap between Canadians' **lean towards security over civil liberties continues to grow**. Following four consecutive rises since February 2006, support the security side of the equation stands at 61 per cent, which is nearly double the support for civil liberties (35 per cent).

Civil liberties vs. security

Q: Recognizing that both are important in today's world, which of the following do you feel the Government of Canada should place the most emphasis on . . . or . . . ?
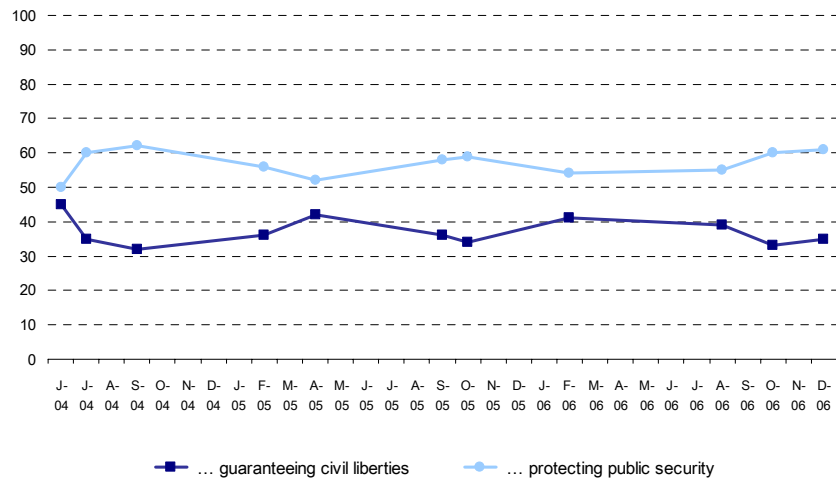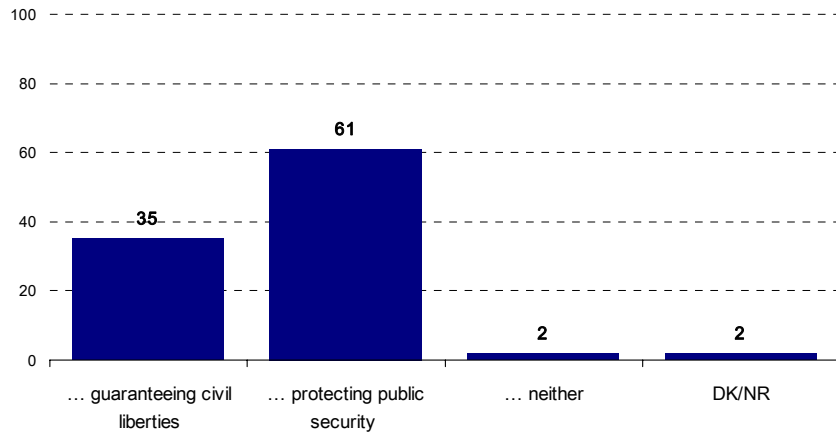
Despite their ongoing tendency to lean towards security over civil liberties, Canadians are again at a impasse when it comes to deciding whether or not they feel **police and intelligence agencies should be given more powers** to ensure security if it comes at a cost to personal privacy. Overall, **43 per cent support and 41 per cent oppose this proposition**. Individuals who are concerned about the threat of terrorism are much more likely to agree with enhancing police powers (56 per cent compared to 29 per cent who are not concerned about a possible terrorist attack on Canadian soil).

Perceived necessity of granting additional security powers

Q: Police and intelligence agencies should have more powers to ensure security even if it means Canadians have to give up some personal privacy safeguards.
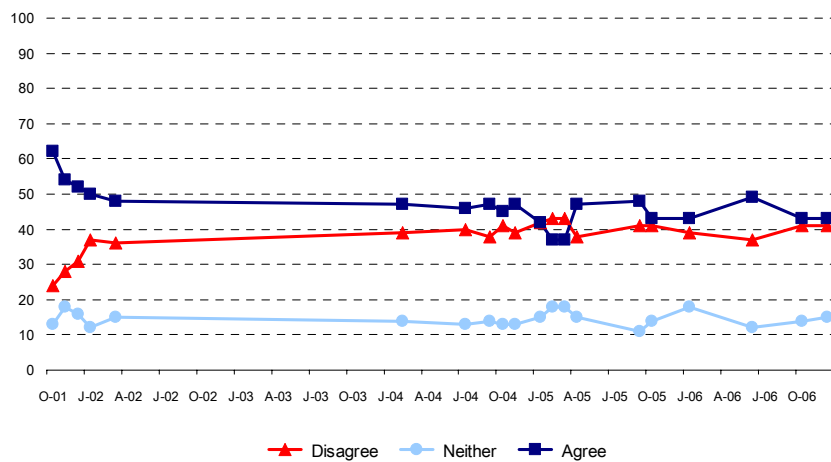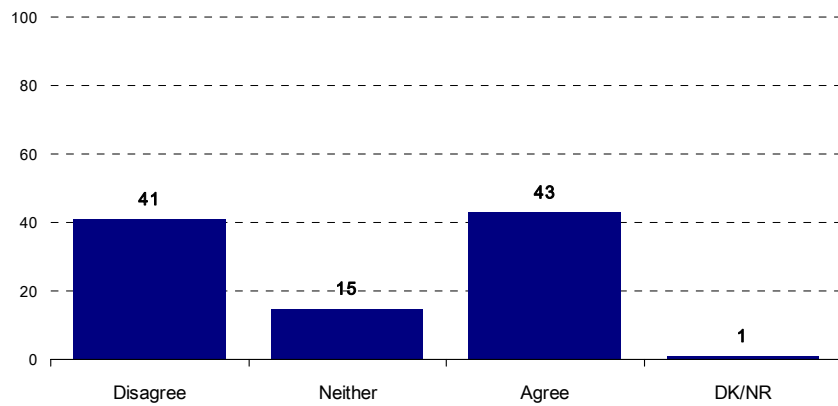
Perception of Threat

In the first wave of this year's Security Monitor we saw that Canadians concerns about the safety of the world remained elevated following the arrest of 17 alleged terrorist suspects in Toronto this past summer. Curiously, this is not the case when Canadians are asked about the perceived safety / danger of their own country.

In this case, the proportion saying **Canada is "more dangerous" dropped from a record high** of 41 per cent around the time of the terror arrests to 33 per cent in the current sounding. While the **plurality position continues to be that Canada has "remained the same"** over the past five years, there has been a **sharp rise in the conviction that Canada is actually "safer"** than in the past (from eight per cent in August 2006 to 17 per cent in the current sounding).

Perceived safety/danger of Canada

Q: From your own point of view, do you feel that, overall, Canada is safer, more dangerous, or about the same as it was five years ago?

Bar chart:
- More dangerous: 33
- About the same: 49
- Safer: 17
- DK/NR: 1

Line chart (O-04 to D-06):
- London Bombings
- Cdn. terrorist arrests →

Legend: More dangerous, About the same, Safer
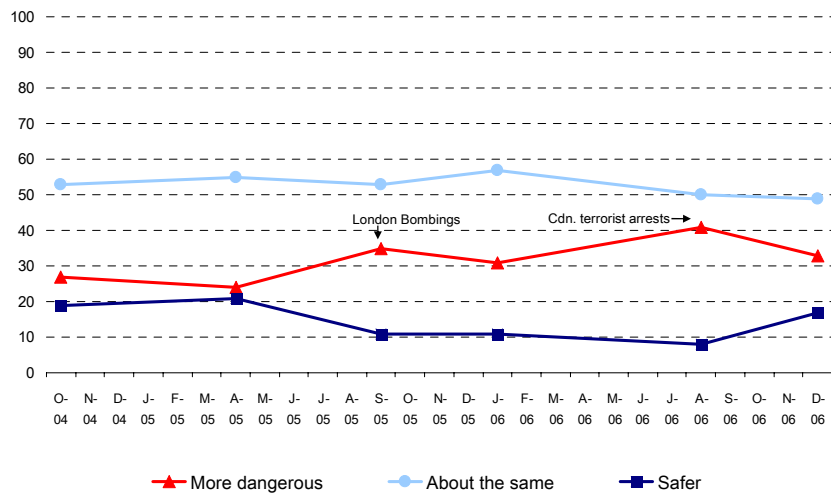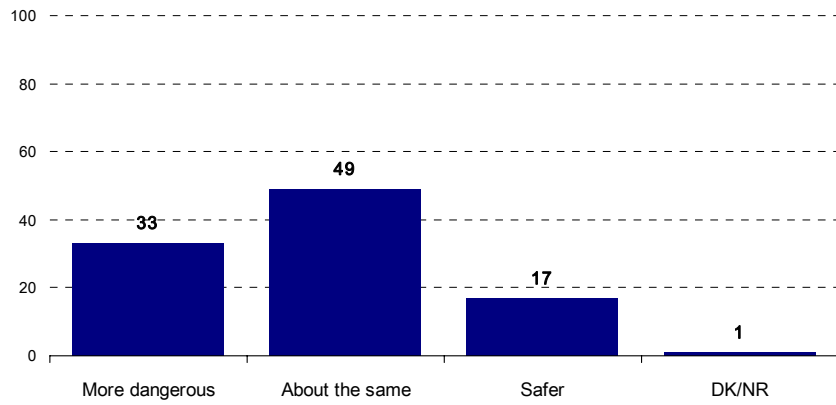
Base: All Canadians; most recent data point Dec, 06 n=1012

Reasons for why the Canada is "more dangerous"

Q: What is the MAIN reason why you believe Canada is more dangerous today?

	Sep. 05	Dec. 06
Threat of terrorism	27	36
Crime and violence on the rise	14	23
Concern over specific crimes (i.e. gangs, drugs, organized crime)	21	17
Lack of proper screening of immigrants	16	12
Laws not being enforced properly	7	8
Other	1	1
DK/NR	14	4

Base: Those who think Canada is "more dangerous"; Dec. 06 n=350

For those that see Canada as a "more dangerous" place, **anxiety over terrorism** (36 per cent) continues to be the **primary source of these concerns**. Increasingly, however, **Canadians also believe that crime and violence is on the rise** (23 per cent – up from 14 per cent in September 2005). Related to this are concerns about a few specific crimes such as gangs, drugs and organized crime (17 per cent). A few also mention improper screening of immigrants (12 per cent) and problems with laws not being enforced properly (eight percent).

Given that the threat of terrorism is cited as a primary reason for why Canada is more dangerous than in the past, it is not unexpected to find that a plurality (48 per cent) also believes that **a terrorist attack on Canadian soil is inevitable**. There has, however, also been a recent rise in disagreement with this sentiment (from 32 per cent in October 2006 to 36 per cent in December 2006).

Is a terrorist attack in Canada inevitable?

Q: It's just a matter of time before there is a major terrorist attack on Canadian soil.

Bar chart values:
- Disagree: 33
- Neither: 17
- Agree: 48
- DK/NR: 2

Line chart (S-05 to D-06) with annotations "London Bombings" and "Cdn. terrorist arrests"

Legend: Disagree (red triangle), Neither (light blue circle), Agree (dark blue square)
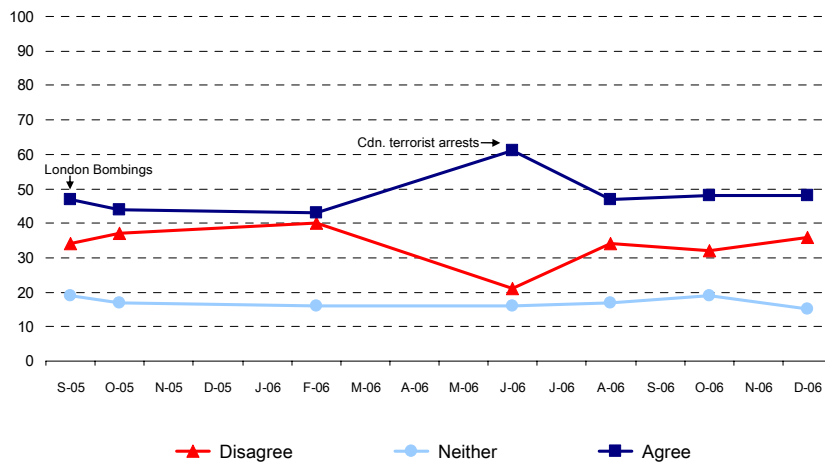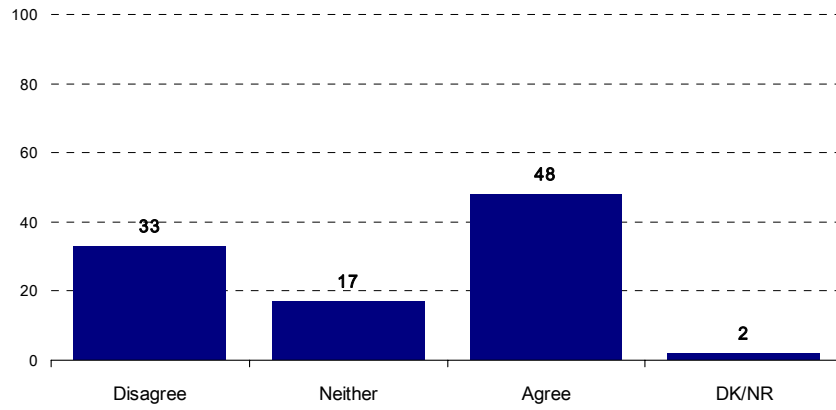
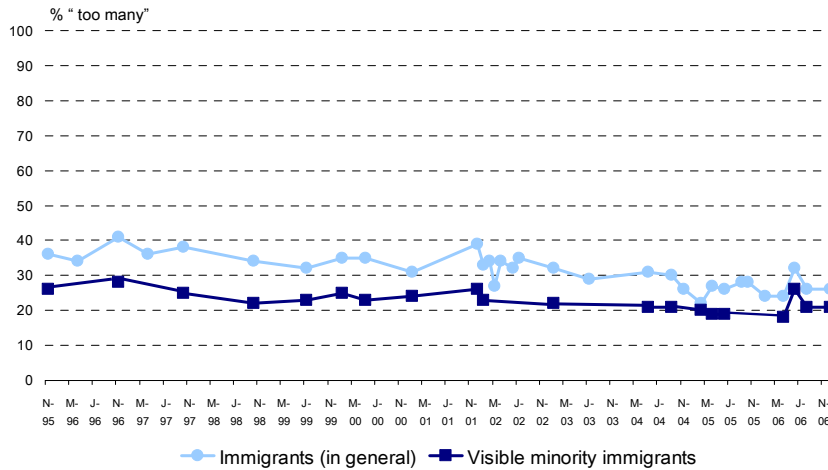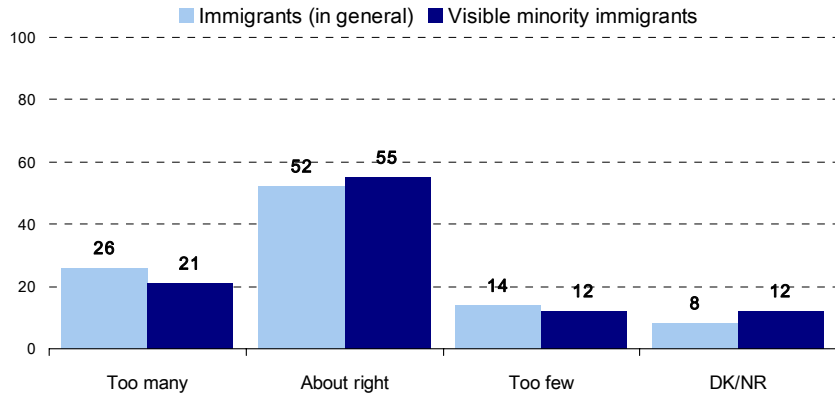# Immigration and Cultural Sensitivities

The long-term trend on attitudes towards immigration shows that **Canadians are largely accepting of the current influx of immigrants** to Canada. Despite fluctuations over the years, the plurality view has consistently been that the number of immigrants – whether visible minorities or not – is "about right". There are those, however, that are not satisfied with the current situation. About 1 in 10 consistently thinks there are "too few" immigrants and at most there is about 1 in 4 that say there are "too many". It is worth noting that, over the past 5 years, the proportion opposed to immigration has rarely climbed above 1 in 4 for visible minorities and 1 in 3 for immigrants in general.

Across Canada, residents of Quebec are most likely to indicate that they are satisfied with the current influx of immigrants: 59 per cent say that the amount of immigrants in general is "about right" and 65 per cent are supportive of the level of visible minority immigration. Support for immigration in general is also higher among those with greater levels of educational attainment: 57 per cent with a university education support compared to 54 per cent with a college education and 46 per cent with a high school education or less. The same is true when comes to visible minority immigration: 60 per cent with a university education support compared to 55 per cent with a college education and 49 per cent with a high school education or less.

Comparing attitudes towards different types of immigration

Q: In your opinion do you feel that there are too many, too few or about the right number of immigrants coming to Canada?

Q: Forgetting about the overall number of immigrants coming to Canada, of those who do come, would you say there are too many, too few or the right amount who are members of visible minorities?

■ Immigrants (in general) ■ Visible minority immigrants

	Too many	About right	Too few	DK/NR
Immigrants (in general)	26	52	14	8
Visible minority immigrants	21	55	12	12

% " too many"

● Immigrants (in general) ■ Visible minority immigrants

N-95, M-96, J-96, N-96, M-97, J-97, N-97, M-98, J-98, N-98, M-99, J-99, N-99, M-00, J-00, N-00, M-01, J-01, N-01, M-02, J-02, N-02, M-03, J-03, N-03, M-04, J-04, N-04, M-05, J-05, N-05, M-05, J-06, N-06

Base: All Canadians; most recent data point Dec. 06 n=1012

31

Tracking attitudes towards immigration (general)

Q: In your opinion do you feel that there are too many, too few or about the right number of immigrants coming to Canada?

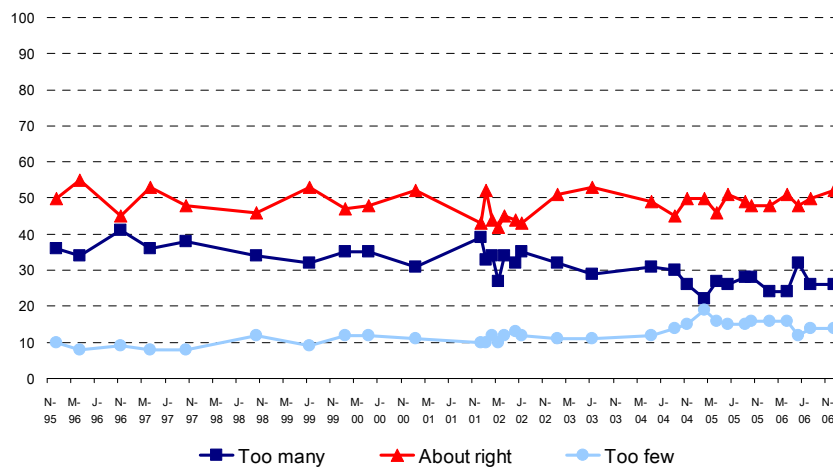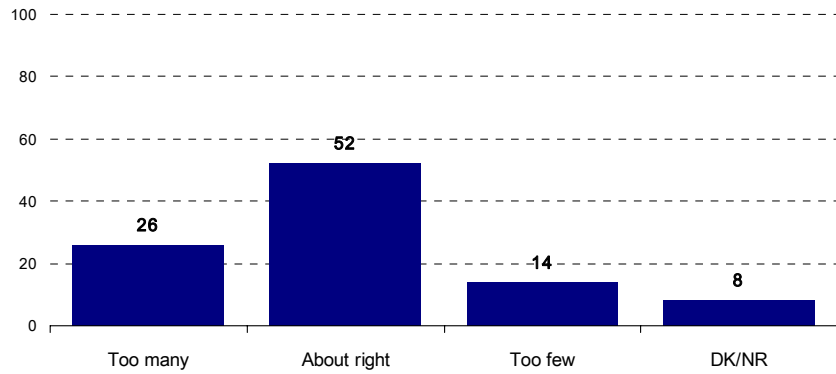# Tracking attitudes towards visible minority immigration

Q: Forgetting about the overall number of immigrants coming to Canada, of those who do come, would you say there are too many, too few or the right amount who are members of visible minorities?
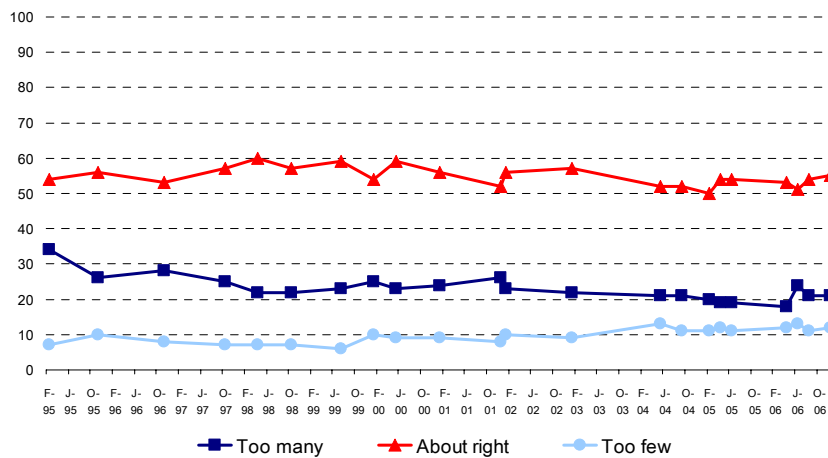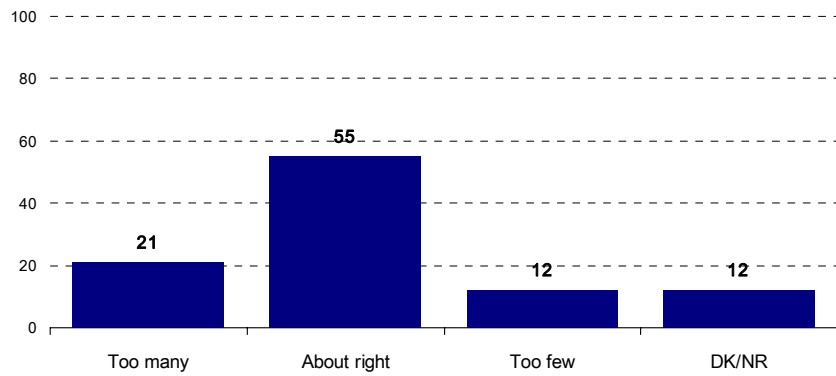
Base: All Canadians; most recent data point Dec. 06 n=1012

Canadians overwhelmingly believe that our **immigration policy is different from that of the United States'** (69 per cent compared to 16 per cent "similar"). Furthermore, most of those who think the policies are different believe **this is a "good thing"** (54 per cent compared to 25 per cent "bad thing"). Interestingly, of the small proportion of Canadians who think our immigration policies are similar to the United States', the plurality also believes this is "good" (41 per cent compared to 27 per cent "bad").

Interestingly, those who think that Canada's rate of immigration is too low are much more likely to believe that Canadian and American immigration policies are similar (26 per cent compared to 16 per cent of other Canadians) and that this is a "bad thing" (42 per cent compared to 27 per cent of other Canadians). Residents of Quebec are also more likely to think our policies on immigration are similar to the U.S. (21 per cent) and this is not seen as desirable (48 per cent describe this as a "bad thing").

Comparing Canadian and American immigration policy

Q: Based on what you know, do you think Canada's immigration policy is … to the United States' immigration policy?
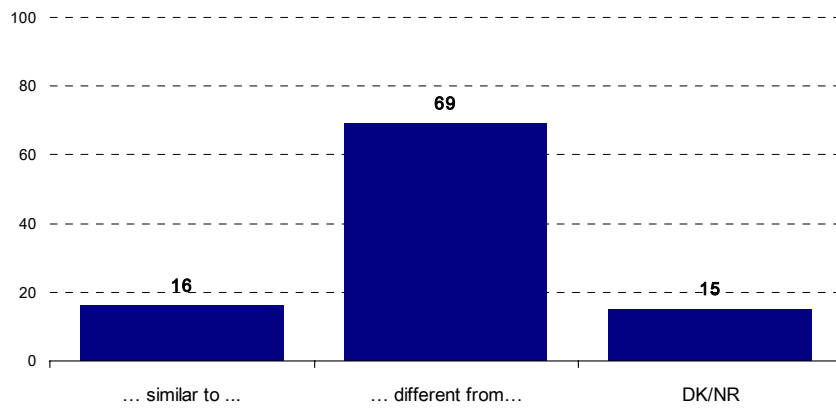
Q: Is this a good or a bad thing?

Those who think Canada's immigration policy is
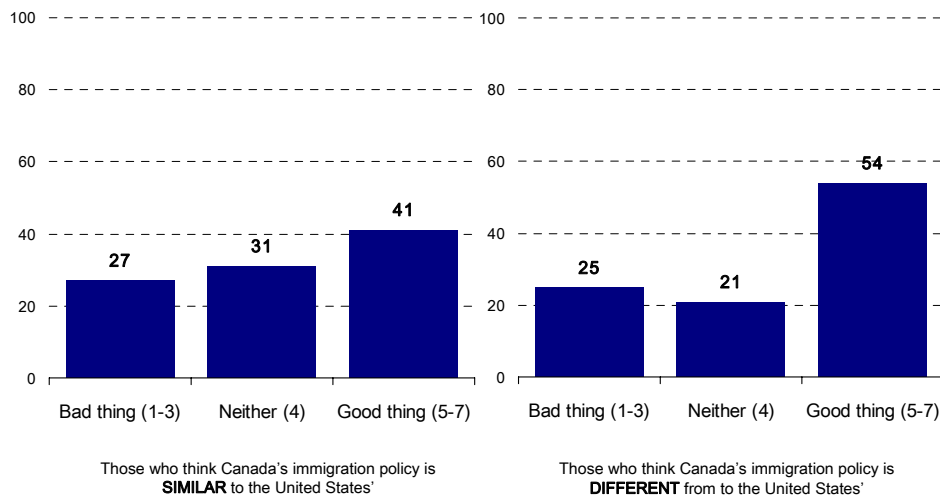**SIMILAR** to the United States'

Those who think Canada's immigration policy is
DIFFERENT from to the United States'

Given that the majority of the public believes that Canada's immigration policies are distinct from the United States, it is not entirely surprising to find that few Canadians know that these two countries have shared policies in this area. Indeed, the majority (75 per cent) have **never heard of the Safe Third Country Agreement between Canada and the United States** that requires, among other things, that signatories respect international obligations for the treatment of refugees. As for whether or not they support this type of arrangement, Canadians are divided: **53 per cent are not comfortable with Canada treating the U.S. as a "safe third country"** and 43 per cent are comfortable with this arrangement.

In light of the finding that residents of Quebec are more likely to disapprove of Canada and the U.S. having similar immigration policies, it follows that they are also the least comfortable with Safe Third Country Agreement between Canada and the U.S. (64 per cent "not comfortable"). Comfort with this Agreement is also related to outlook on immigration: Canadians who feel that there are too few immigrants coming to Canada are much less comfortable with the terms of the Safe Third Country Agreement (60 per cent "not comfortable" compared to 48 per cent who feel there are "too many" immigrants).

The Safe Third Country Agreement

Q: In the past, an individual from another country could seek refugee status in Canada after being denied refugee status in the United States and vice versa. In 2002, Canada and the U.S. signed the Safe Third Country Agreement, which, in most cases, only allows an individual to seek refugee status in the country they arrive in. This means, for example, that someone cannot seek refugee status in Canada if they arrived in the U.S. and were denied this status. Before this survey, do you recall seeing or hearing anything about this Agreement?

Bar chart:
- Yes, clearly: 12
- Yes, vaguely: 13
- (25 per cent recall — spanning Yes, clearly and Yes, vaguely)
- No: 75
- DK/NR: 1
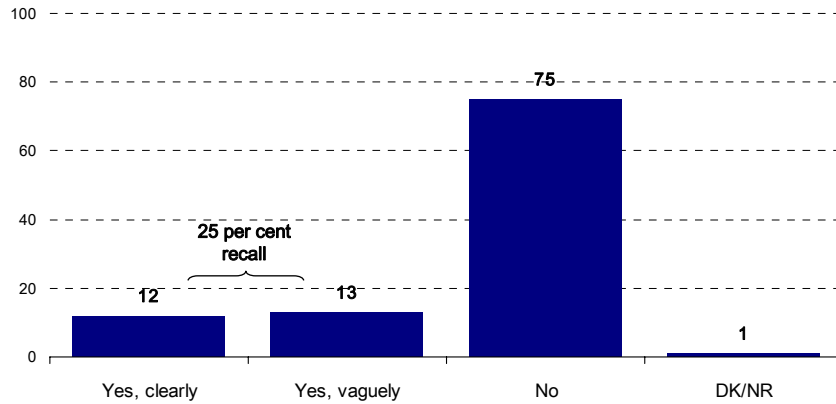
Q: This Agreement requires both Canada and the U.S. to consider the other country a "Safe Third" country that respects international obligations for the treatment of refugees. Which of the following two statements comes closest to your own point of view?

1 - I am **comfortable** with this type of Agreement because I believe that Canada and the U.S. both respect international obligations for the treatment of refugees

2 - I am **NOT comfortable** with this type of Agreement because I do not believe that the U.S. respects international obligations for the treatment of refugees as well as Canada does.

Bar chart:
- Comfortable: 43
- NOT comfortable: 53
- DK/NR: 4
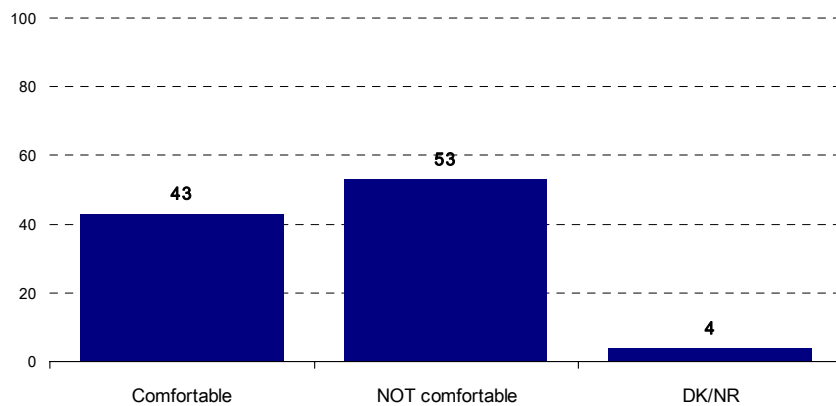
Base: All Canadians; Dec. 06 n=1012

On the surface, the high level of support for immigrants in general and those who are members of visible minorities would seem to indicate that Canadians are largely accepting of people from various backgrounds. A more in-depth examination of some of these attitudes, however, reveals a darker undercurrent. In this wave of the Security Monitor, we took the opportunity to explore some of the more controversial facets of Canadians' outlook on individuals of different groups, asking first whether or not they thought that individuals of certain ethnic, racial or religious groups in Canada had a higher propensity to engage in either terrorist or criminal behaviour.

Results show that a majority (55 per cent) believes that certain individuals are **more likely than others to be involved in terrorist activities**, and just over 1 in 3 (41 per cent) think that members of these groups are **more likely to take part in criminal activities**. It should therefore not be surprising to find that the majority of those who believe this also **endorse greater police surveillance of these groups**. Individuals who are opposed to immigration are particularly likely to both suspect illegal behaviour and to think that monitoring of these individuals is justified.

Suspicion of certain groups involvement in terrorist / criminal activities

Q: Do you think members of certain ethnic, racial or religious groups in Canada are more likely than others to be involved in …

55 per cent

Yes, definitely	Yes, probably	No
28	27	42

…terrorist activities

41 per cent

Yes, definitely	Yes, probably	No
18	23	55

…criminal activities
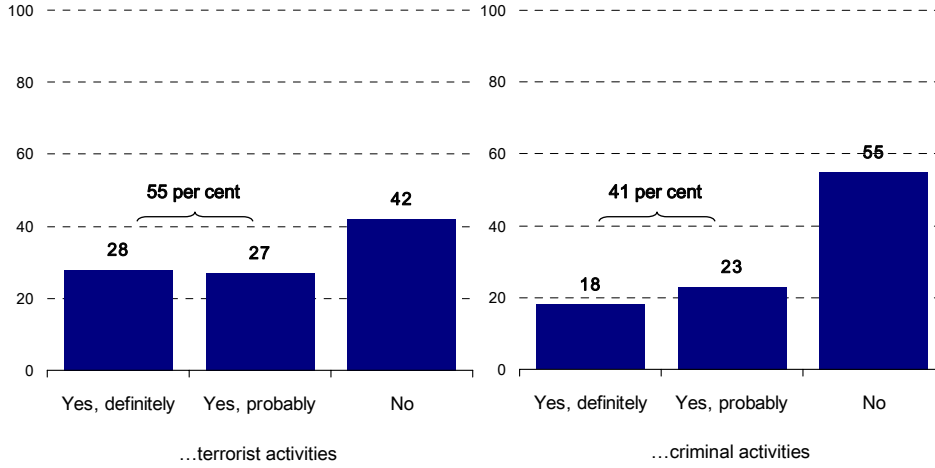
Q: Do you think that this justifies greater police surveillance of members of these groups?

77 per cent

Yes, definitely	Yes, probably	No
42	35	22

Those who think that members of certain ethnic, racial or religious groups are more likely to be involved in **terrorist** activities

78 per cent

Yes, definitely	Yes, probably	No
52	26	20

Those who think that members of certain ethnic, racial or religious groups are more likely to be involved in **criminal** activities
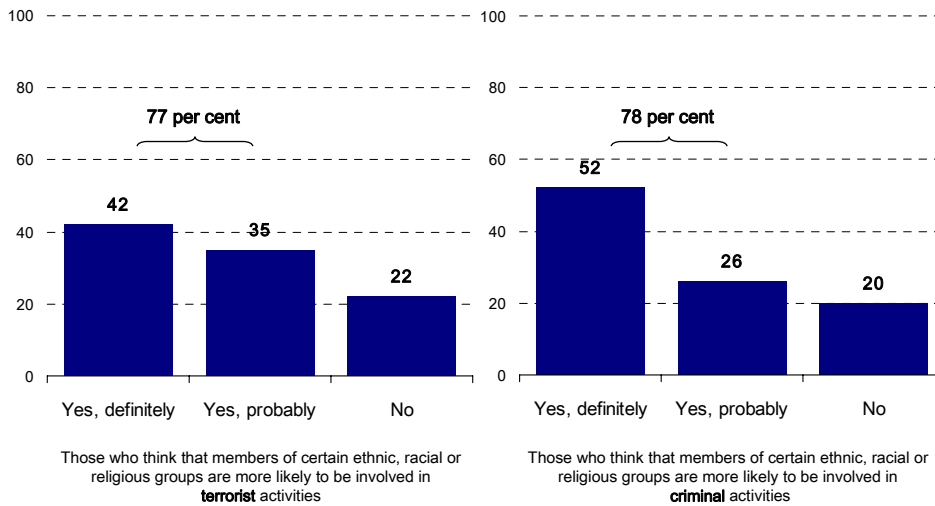
Base: Dec. 06; Those who think there is a greater likelihood of involvement in terrorist activities (n=267) / criminal activities (n=233)

The term "racial profiling" could be used to describe some Canadians'
support for police surveillance of certain groups because of their
ethnicity, race or religion (although this is perhaps not immediately
recognizable in the aforementioned questions). **When asked specifically
about racial profiling, most Canadians (72 per cent) say they have
heard the term before**. Before gauging the public's views on this
practice, respondents were read the following definition: "Racial
profiling is sometimes defined as when law enforcement and security
agencies suspect a person because of a belief that people of his or her
race, ethnicity, nationality or religion are more likely to be involved in
wrongdoing".

When framed in this regard, **1 in 4 say racial profiling is never
acceptable**. For the most part, however, **Canadians approve of racial
profiling if there are recognizable benefits** (i.e. 58 per cent think it is
appropriate if it will reduce risk). It is only a **small minority** (15 per cent)
that thinks that **racial profiling is always acceptable** as an investigative
tool. Those who believe that it is only a matter of time before there is a
terrorist attack on Canadian soil are more likely to find racial profiling
acceptable (21 per cent "always" compared to nine per cent who do
not think that a terrorist attack is imminent). Interestingly, there are no
significant differences between visible minorities and non-visible
minorities on this issue.

Racial profiling

Q: Have you ever heard of the term "racial profiling"?

72 per cent recall

57	15	27	1
Yes, clearly	Yes, vaguely	No	DK/NR
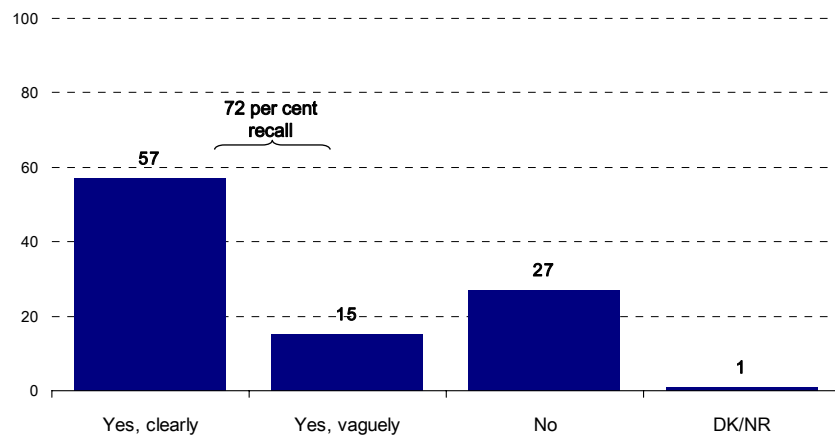
Q: Racial profiling is sometimes defined as when law enforcement and security agencies suspect a person because of a belief that people of his or her race, ethnicity, nationality or religion are more likely to be involved in wrongdoing. Which of the following statements is closer to your own point of view? Racial profiling is ...

1 – **never acceptable** under any circumstances.

2 – **only acceptable if** there is strong evidence to indicate that **it will reduce risk**.

3 – **always acceptable** as an investigative tool.

25	57	15	2
Never acceptable	Only acceptable if it will reduce risk	Always acceptable	DK/NR
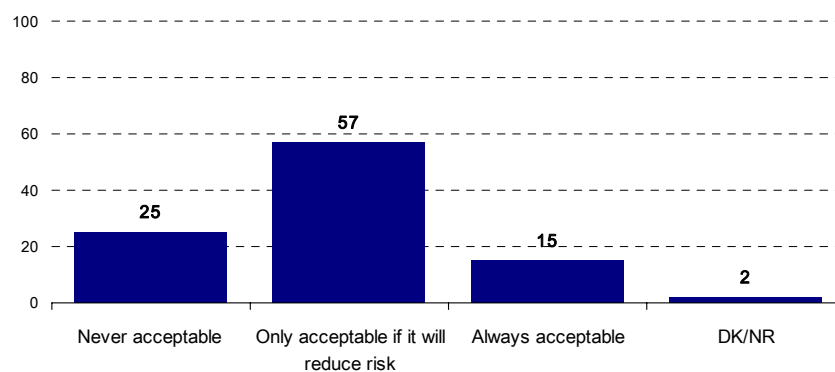
Base: All Canadians; Dec. 06 n=1012

Use of racial profiling as an investigative tool

Q: To the best of your knowledge, do you think Canadian law enforcement or security agencies ever engage in racial profiling when investigating…?
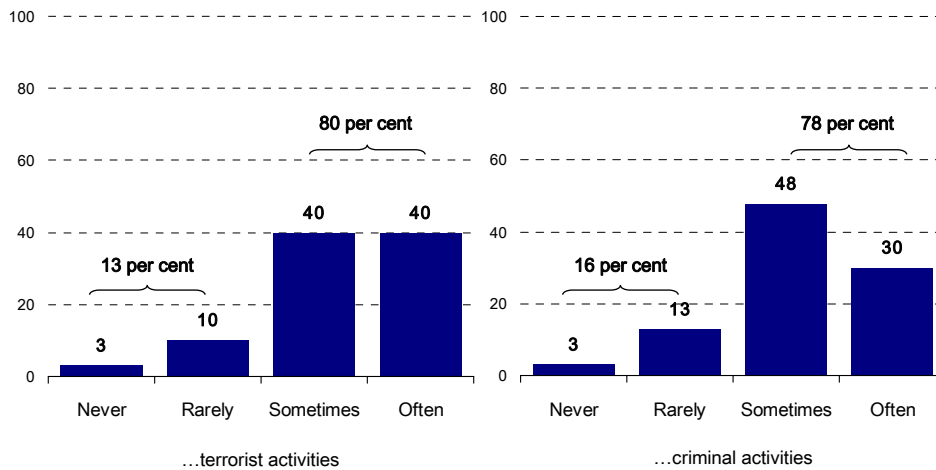
…terrorist activities

…criminal activities

Regardless of their views on the acceptability of racial profiling, we also asked the public whether or not they believe that Canadian law enforcement and security agencies engage in this practice. Despite assertions by these organizations to the contrary, **more than 3 in 4 Canadians believe that these agencies use racial profiling "sometimes" or "often" when investigating terrorist or criminal activities.** Interestingly, frequent flyers are more likely to think that racial profiling is a tool that is used in terrorist investigations (54 per cent say "often" compared to 35 per cent of Canadians who have not flown in the past year).

As we have seen, many Canadians harbour suspicions about individuals of different backgrounds. Despite these views, however, Canadians lean towards feeling that **concerns about immigrants becoming a threat to national security because they do not integrate into Canadian society are overblown** (48 per cent compared to 36 per cent who disagree). At the same time, however, most Canadians (82 per cent) agree that **immigrants to Canada have a responsibility to integrate into Canadian society**.

Integration of immigrants into Canadian society

Q: Immigrants to Canada have a responsibility to integrate into Canadian society.

Disagree: 11
Neither: 7
Agree: 82
DK/NR: 1
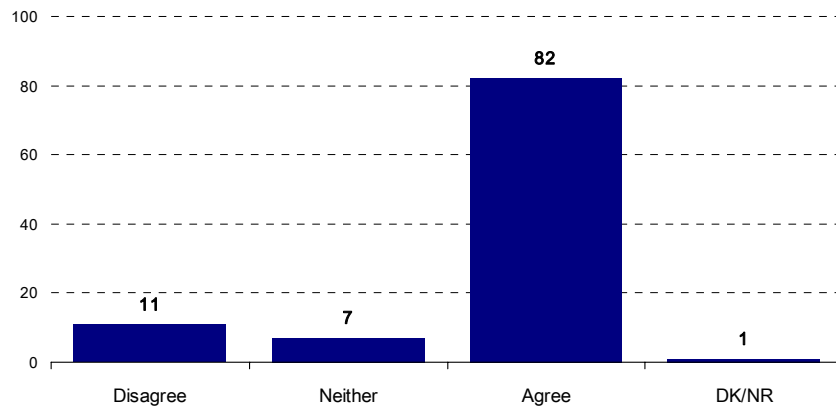
Q: Concerns about immigrants becoming a threat to national security because they do not integrate into Canadian society are overblown.

Disagree: 36
Neither: 15
Agree: 48
DK/NR: 1
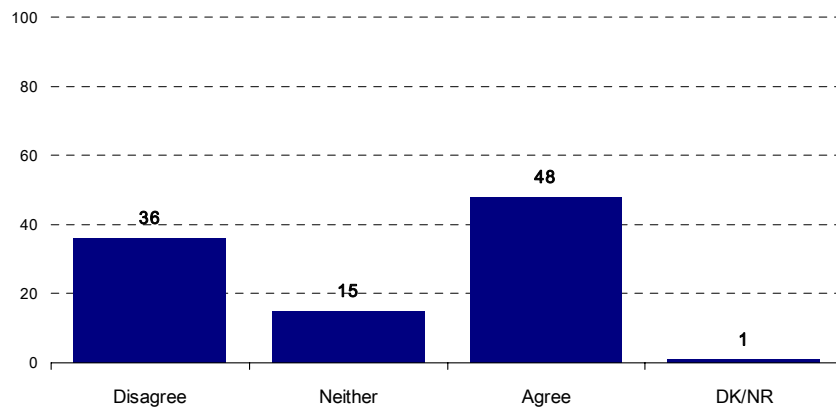
Base: All Canadians; Dec. 06 n=half sample

Transportation Safety and Security

Air travel patterns

Q: How many times have you traveled by air in the past year?
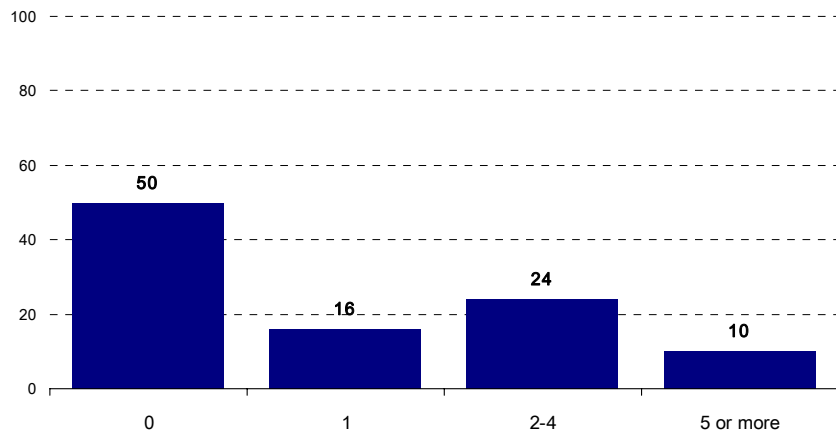
Q: During this time, have you flown on domestic or international flights?*
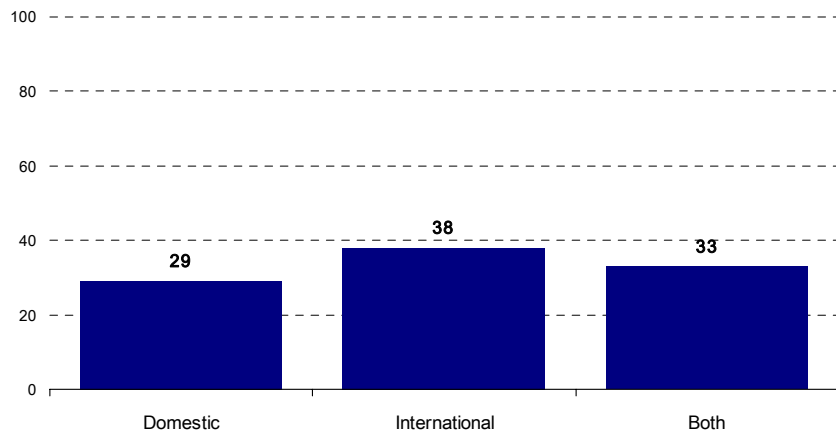
Use of identification documents when boarding domestic flights

It seems that a proposed new program requiring flyers to show a government-issued identity document such as a passport, driver's license or birth certificate before boarding domestic flights may already be in use. The program, called **Passenger Protect**, is part of a new air passenger assessment program that is intended to prevent individuals who could pose a threat to a flight from boarding the plane. Although not yet in effect, the **vast majority of Canadians** (90 per cent) who have flown domestically over the past year indicate that they have **shown identification when taking a flight within Canada**.
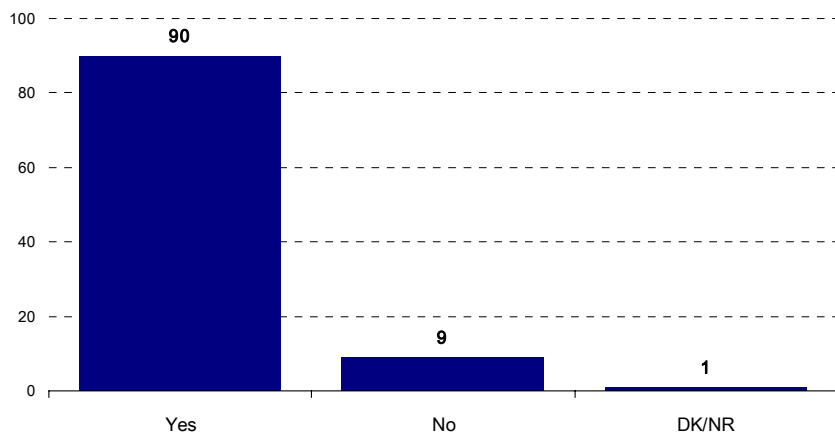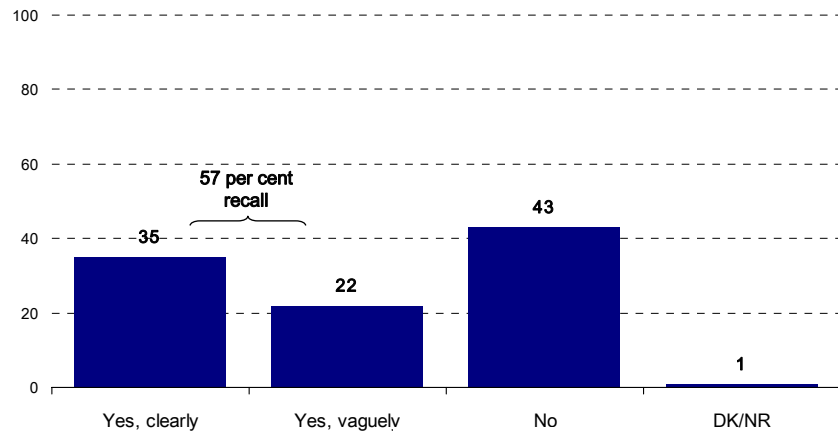
Awareness of Passenger Protect

Even among the general public, there is fairly **widespread recognition of Passenger Protect** (57 per cent have clear / vague recollection). Somewhat surprisingly, frequent flyers are only somewhat more likely to recall hearing about this program: 60 per cent recall among those who have flow 2 or more times compared to 55 per cent recall among those who have not flown in the past year.

Protecting Canada's urban transit system

Q: I worry that Canada is not doing enough to protect its urban transit systems from the threat of terrorist attacks.

	Disagree	Neither	Agree	DK/NR
Apr. 06	32	26	37	4
Dec. 06	30	26	41	3

■ Apr. 06 ■ Dec. 06
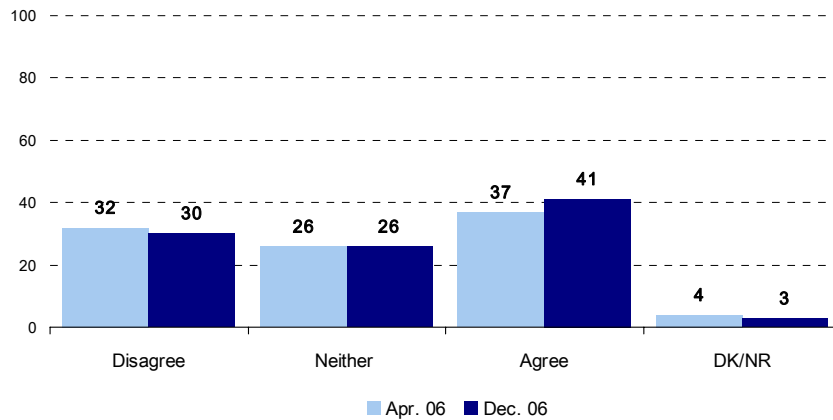
Base: All Canadians; most recent data point Dec. 06 n=1012

Canadians continue to express concern about the vulnerability of the transportation system, with a growing plurality convinced that **not enough is being done to protect urban transit from the threat of terrorism**. Individuals who believe that a terrorist attack on Canadian soil is inevitable appear to be the most concerned (55 per cent compared to 41 per cent of other Canadians).

Terrorist attack on the transportation system: potential targets

Q: Thinking specifically about Canada's transportation system, to what extent do you think each of the following is a target for a terrorist attack?

% "high extent"

Category	Value
Subways in Canada's largest cities	36
Commuter trains in largest cities	25
Public transit - Canada-U.S. border	22
Trains carrying danger. goods	22
Buses in Canada's largest cities	15
Buses in Canada's smaller cities	4
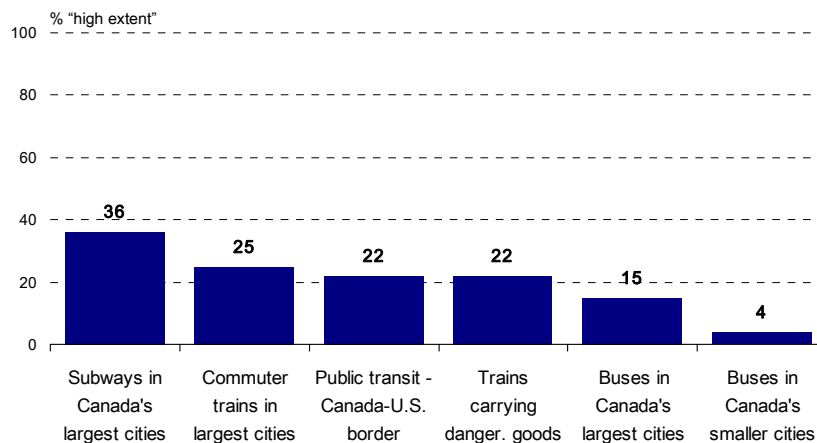
Base: All Canadians; Dec. 06 overall n=1012 (each option asked to half the sample)

Concern about the urban transit system is reflected in the finding that all of the tested **modes of transportation** are considered potential **targets for terrorism**, at least to some extent. **Subways** continue to be considered the **most probable target**, followed by commuter trains, transit near the Canada-U.S. border, and trains carrying dangerous goods. **Views about the risks posed to various elements of public transit are remarkably stable**, with the exception of trains (both the commuter type and those transporting dangerous goods) which are seen as less of a target than they were eight months ago when this battery of questions were first asked.

Rating the potential targets – subways and commuter trains

Q: Thinking specifically about Canada's transportation system, to what extent do you think each of the following is a target for a terrorist attack?

Subways in Canada's largest cities

	A-06	M-06	J-06	J-06	A-06	S-06	O-06	N-06	D-06
Some extent	46								47
High extent	37								36
Little or no extent	15								15

Commuter trains in Canada's largest cities

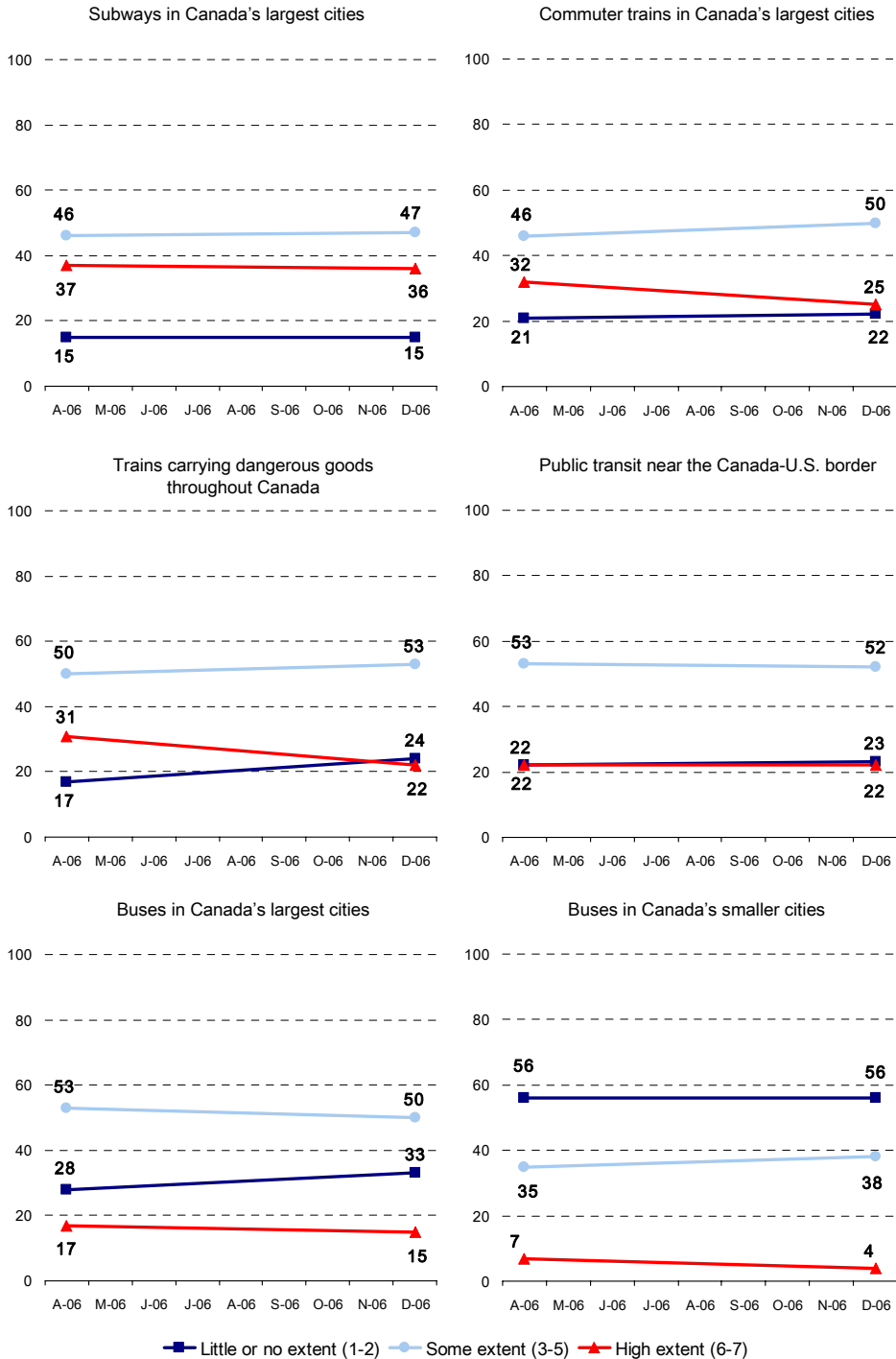|	A-06	M-06	J-06	J-06	A-06	S-06	O-06	N-06	D-06
Some extent	46								50
High extent	32								25
Little or no extent	21								22

Trains carrying dangerous goods throughout Canada

	A-06	M-06	J-06	J-06	A-06	S-06	O-06	N-06	D-06
Some extent	50								53
High extent	31								22
Little or no extent	17								24

Public transit near the Canada-U.S. border

	A-06	M-06	J-06	J-06	A-06	S-06	O-06	N-06	D-06
Some extent	53								52
High extent	22								23
Little or no extent	22								22

Buses in Canada's largest cities

	A-06	M-06	J-06	J-06	A-06	S-06	O-06	N-06	D-06
Some extent	53								50
Little or no extent	28								33
High extent	17								15

Buses in Canada's smaller cities

	A-06	M-06	J-06	J-06	A-06	S-06	O-06	N-06	D-06
Little or no extent	56								56
Some extent	35								38
High extent	7								4

■— Little or no extent (1-2) ●— Some extent (3-5) ▲— High extent (6-7)

Canadians were also probed for **possible solutions to threats posed to the public transit system**. Using a tracking question, we see no clear predilection for any of the proposed ways of preventing a terrorist attack on public transit. **Placing surveillance cameras on buses and subways is given slight preference** (chosen by 30 per cent), but almost as many (29 per cent) indicate that **security patrols would be effective**. Increased intelligence gathering is also seen as useful, but less so than earlier this year (26 per cent down from 31 per cent in April 2006). The option of random bag and passenger searches continues to be considered the least effective (chosen by 11 per cent of respondents).

In another question, respondents were asked to choose from a new list that includes options such as training and security clearances for transportation employees and awareness campaigns. In this arrangement, **better training is chosen by a clear plurality** (49 per cent), although **security clearances are also considered effective** by approximately 1 in 3 (27 per cent). Only about 1 in 5 (19 per cent) feel that a public awareness campaign would help prevent a terrorist attack on the public transit system in Canada.

Best way to prevent a terrorist attack on public transit (i)

Q: In your opinion, which of the following would be most effective in preventing a terrorist attack on Canada's public transit system?

Chart 1 categories with values (Apr. 06 / Dec. 06):
- Surveillance cameras in buses and subways: 30 / 30
- More patrols of subway stations and bus stops by security officers: 25 / 29
- Increased intelligence gathering on potential threats: 31 / 26
- Random bag and passenger searches: 9 / 11

Legend: ■ Apr. 06 ■ Dec. 06

Chart 2 categories with values:
- Better training of transportation workers to alert them to the suspicious behaviour: 49
- Requiring transportation employees to get a security clearance: 27
- Public awareness campaigns about transit security: 19

Awareness of measures to strengthen the security of urban transit

Q: The Government of Canada recently announced measures to strengthen the security of Canada's passenger rail and urban transit systems. Before this survey, do you recall seeing or hearing anything about these measures?
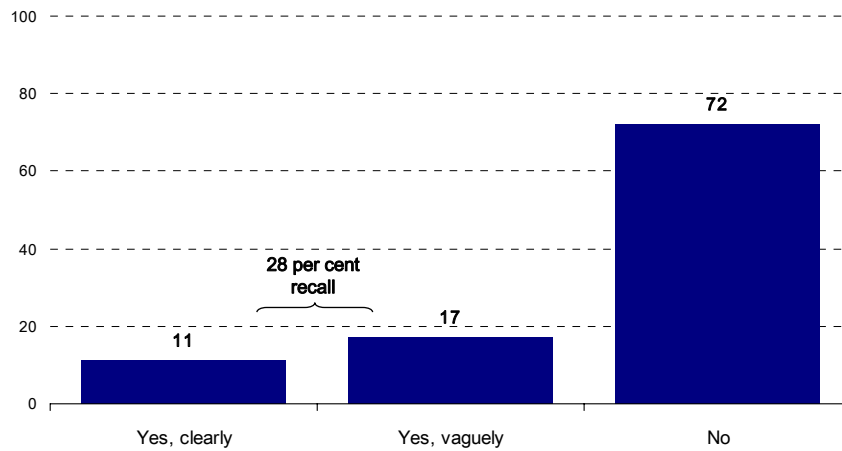
Base: All Canadians; Dec. 06 n=1012

One possible reason for why Canadians continue to express elevated concerns about the safety of the transportation system may reside in the fact that, despite recent announcements, **most have not heard about the federal government's plans to strengthen the security of Canada's passenger rail and urban transit systems** (70 per cent are not aware).
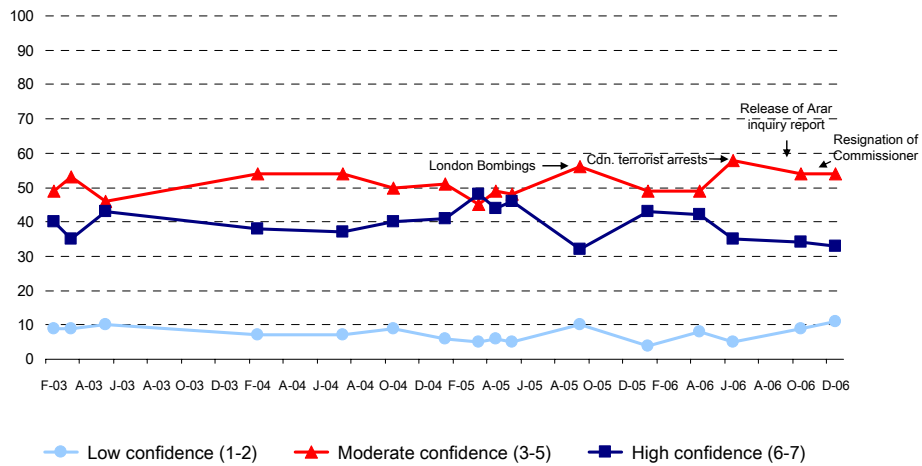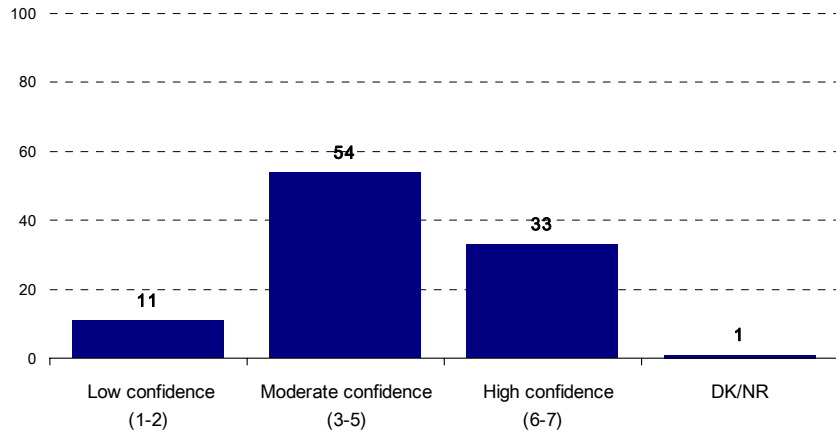
Security Agencies

It has been a difficult year for the RCMP. However, despite findings of wrongdoing in the Maher Arar case and the resulting resignation of Commissioner Giuliano Zaccardelli earlier this month, Canadians' **confidence in the RCMP continues to be quite resilient**. In fact, over the years the Security Monitor has found that there is **no other agency with a security mandate that commands higher confidence**.

That said a **pattern of declining confidence** may be emerging. The proportion of Canadians saying they have "low confidence" in the RCMP has risen for the third consecutive time (from five per cent in June 2006 to 11 per cent in December 2006). Although not to be ignored, those reporting low confidence is still a relatively small group as compared to those with moderate or higher levels of confidence.

Confidence in the RCMP

Q: How much confidence do you have in the RCMP?

- Low confidence (1-2): 11
- Moderate confidence (3-5): 54
- High confidence (6-7): 33
- DK/NR: 1

Annotations: London Bombings, Cdn. terrorist arrests, Release of Arar inquiry report, Resignation of Commissioner

Legend: Low confidence (1-2), Moderate confidence (3-5), High confidence (6-7)

X-axis: F-03 A-03 J-03 A-03 O-03 D-03 F-04 A-04 J-04 A-04 O-04 D-04 F-05 A-05 J-05 A-05 O-05 D-05 F-06 A-06 J-06 A-06 O-06 D-06

Base: All Canadians; most recent data point Dec. 06 n=1012

Ability to prevent / respond to a terrorist attack on the transit system

Q: How much confidence do you have in the Government of Canada's ability to … a terrorist attack on the transit systems* in Canada's largest cities?

Little or no confidence (1-2): …prevent… 24, …respond to… 17
Some confidence (3-5): …prevent… 62, …respond to… 63
High confidence (6-7): …prevent… 12, …respond to… 17
DK/NR: …prevent… 2, …respond to… 2

■ …prevent…   ■ …respond to…
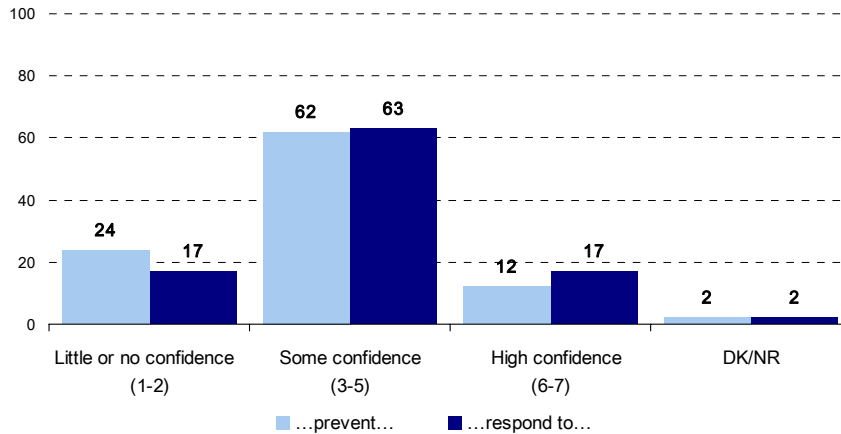
*Please note that previous iterations of this question asked about the "subway systems" in Canada. For this wave, we experimentally tested the use of this term by asking half the sample about the "subway systems" and the other half about the "transit systems". Results reveal an insignificant difference between the use of these two terms. As such, results for these questions have been collapsed under the heading of "transit systems".

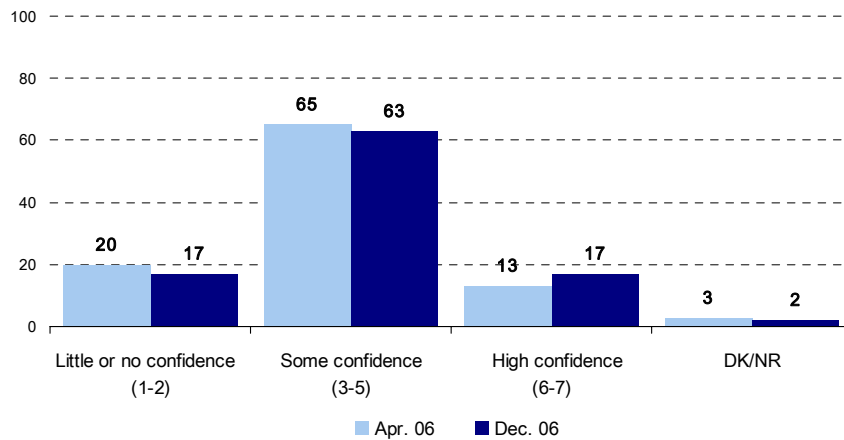**Base:** All Canadians; Dec. 06 overall n=1012

Although Canadians continue to have elevated concerns about Canada's urban transit system being targeted for a terrorist attack, they also express confidence that these threats are under control. Overall, fewer than one in four says that they have "little or no confidence" that the **Government of Canada would be able to prevent or, if necessary, respond to a terrorist attack on the transit system** in one of Canada's largest cities. Further, confidence in the government on both these fronts has risen over the past eight months.

Tracking ability to prevent/respond a terrorist attack on the transit system

Q: How much confidence do you have in the Government of Canada's ability to **prevent** a terrorist attack on the transit systems in Canada's largest cities?

Low confidence (1-2)   Moderate confidence (3-5)   High confidence (6-7)
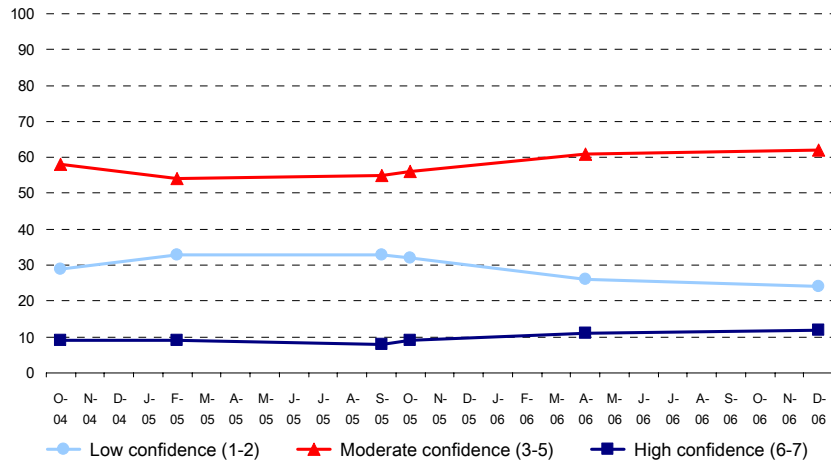
Q: How much confidence do you have in the Government of Canada's ability to **respond to** a terrorist attack on the transit systems in Canada's largest cities?


	Little or no confidence (1-2)	Some confidence (3-5)	High confidence (6-7)	DK/NR
Apr. 06	20	65	13	3
Dec. 06	17	63	17	2

Apr. 06   Dec. 06

Base: All Canadians; Dec. 06 overall n=1012

As we have seen in this wave of the Security Monitor, although receptive to immigration in general, some Canadians seem to have reservations about those who migrate to this country. This may, at least in part, be explained by the fact that **Canadians have relatively low confidence in their immigration system to screen out individuals who may pose a potential threat**. Across the country, confidence in the immigration system is highest in Quebec and lowest in Ontario.

Confidence in the immigration system

Q: How much confidence do you have in the ability of our immigration and refugee system to screen out terrorists?

Low confidence (1-2)   Moderate confidence (3-5)   High confidence (6-7)
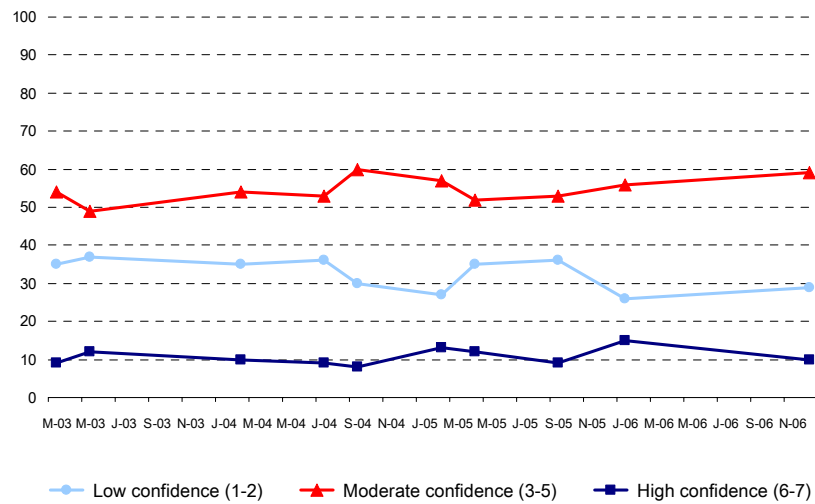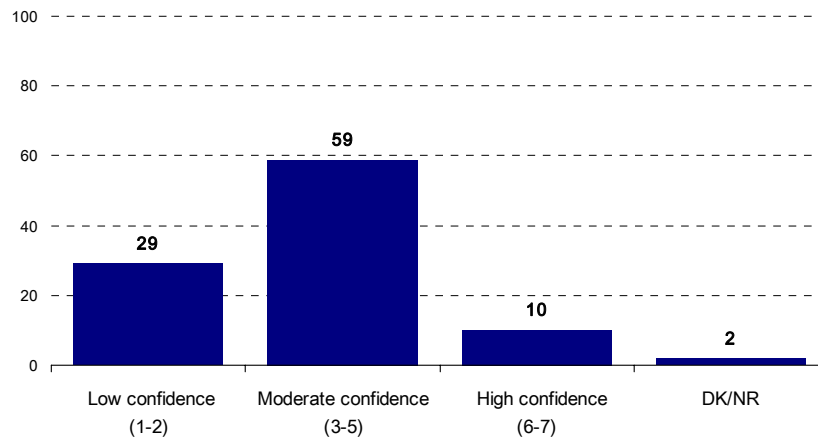
Appendix: Research Methodology

Research Methodology

The methodology planned for the 2006-7 Security Monitor study involves a total of nine waves of research to be conducted over the course of the study.

- Six regular waves involving a telephone survey with a national random sample of 1,000 Canadians.

- One benchmarking wave (near the beginning of the study). This wave focuses on core issues and designed to develop a better profile of Canadians in the safety/security space. This survey involves a sample of 2,000 Canadians.

- One survey with a national random sample of 1,000 Americans.

- One survey with Canadian public and private sector decision-makers.

The results from the final wave are based on the following:

- A telephone survey completed with a stratified national random sample of 1,012 Canadians, aged 18 and over undertaken between December 11 and December 17, 2006.

- The findings were statistically weighted by age, gender and region to ensure that the findings are representative of the Canadian public aged 18 and over.

- In areas, the survey was designed to randomize questions in order to test differences in attitudes across various indicators as well as to minimize response burden.

- Findings from questions posed on the full sample may be considered accurate within +/- 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The margin of error for questions posed on a half sample is +/- 4.4 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

	Field Dates	Surveys	Margin of error
Wave 1	Oct. 20-30, 2006	1,008	+/-3.1 percentage points
Wave 2	Dec. 11-17, 2006	1,012	+/-3.1 percentage points