

Released:
Tuesday, January 28, 2020

Contact:
PATRICK MURRAY
732-979-6769 (cell); 732-263-5858 (office)
pdmurray@monmouth.edu
Follow on Twitter: @PollsterPatrick

NATIONAL: LITTLE OPPOSITION TO USMCA

But most have no opinion of new trade deal

West Long Branch, NJ – Republicans have become free trade enthusiasts, although a significant number of Americans have not formed an opinion of USMCA, the recently approved North American trade agreement. The *Monmouth University Poll* also finds that there is a split decision on whether USMCA will be better for the country than NAFTA, the treaty it will replace, but very few Americans register a negative opinion of the new trade deal.

Most Americans have not formed an opinion of USMCA – the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement – that was approved by Congress last week. While 33% of the public approves of this new trade deal and only 5% disapproves, a majority (61%) has no opinion on this. Just 19% of the public has heard a lot about USMCA and 45% has heard a little, while 37% has heard nothing at all. Among those who have heard at least a little about the trade deal, 48% approve of it, 7% disapprove, and 45% have no opinion.

Republicans (53%) are more likely than independents (29%) and Democrats (24%) to approve of USMCA, but there are much smaller partisan differences on disapproval (just 1% of Republicans, 6% of independents, and 8% of Democrats). Just under half of Republicans (45%) have no opinion on the new deal, compared to about two-thirds of independents (65%) and Democrats (68%).

“President Trump’s new deal seems to have convinced a number of Republicans to get on the free trade bandwagon,” said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute.

A majority of Americans (57%) say that free trade agreements with other countries are good for the United States, while just 10% say they are bad and 29% are not sure. Opinion that free trade deals are good for the U.S. has increased from 51% last year and 52% in 2018. The recent uptick of positive views on free trade has come almost entirely from Republicans (from 40% in 2019 to 68% now), while opinion

has been more stable among independents (56% in 2019 and 55% now) and Democrats (55% in 2019 and 53% now). Back in 2015, far fewer Americans saw free trade as good for the U.S. (24%) and there was no partisan difference in this opinion – 23% of Republicans, 24% of Democrats, and 24% of independents alike had a positive view of these deals.

The public is divided on whether NAFTA – the three-nation trade agreement that has been in effect for more than 25 years – has been good (31%) or bad (27%) for the country. Another 9% say it has not had much impact either way and 33% are unsure of what its impact has been. This opinion is nominally more positive than it was in 2015, when 18% said NAFTA had been good and 24% said it had been bad.

There is a distinct partisan gap in opinion of the existing treaty. The original NAFTA agreement was signed by President George H. W. Bush in 1992, but it wasn't approved by Congress until the following year when President Bill Clinton took office. Currently, opinion of NAFTA stands at 13% good to 50% bad among Republicans, 35% good to 27% bad among independents, and 41% good to 8% bad among Democrats. This partisan gap was significantly narrower in 2015 (12%-31% Republicans, 19%-24% independents, and 23%-20% Democrats).

The *Monmouth University Poll* finds that 31% of the public expects that the new USMCA deal will be better for the country than NAFTA has been, 8% feels that it will be worse, 30% says it will be about the same, and 31% do not have an opinion. Among those who have heard at least a little about the new deal, 43% say it will be better than NAFTA, 9% say it will be worse, 29% say it will be the same, and 20% have no opinion. By party affiliation, Republicans (61%) are significantly more likely than either independents (30%) or Democrats (8%) to expect USMCA will be better for the country. However, there is not much partisan difference in the number who think it will actually be worse (3% Republicans, 7% independents, and 12% Democrats).

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by telephone from January 16 to 20, 2020 with 903 adults in the United States. The question results in this release have a margin of error of +/- 3.3 percentage points. The poll was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, NJ.

QUESTIONS AND RESULTS

(* Some columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.)

[Q1-7 previously released.]

8. In general, do you think that free trade agreements with other countries are good or bad for the United States, or are you not sure?

TREND:	Jan. 2020	May 2019	June 2018	Nov. 2015
Good	57%	51%	52%	24%
Bad	10%	14%	14%	26%
Not sure	29%	29%	30%	46%
(VOL) Depends	3%	6%	5%	3%
(n)	(903)	(802)	(806)	(1,012)

9. Do you think NAFTA, the free trade agreement between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico that went into effect in 1994, has been good or bad for most Americans, has not had much impact on most Americans, or are you not sure?

TREND:	Jan. 2020	Nov. 2015
Good	31%	18%
Bad	27%	24%
Not much impact	9%	16%
Not sure	33%	43%
(n)	(903)	(1,012)

10. The United States has recently approved a new trade agreement with Mexico and Canada, called U. S. M. C. A. or "Us-macca," which will replace NAFTA. Have you heard a lot, a little, or nothing at all about this?

	Jan. 2020
A lot	19%
A little	45%
Nothing at all	37%
(n)	(903)

11. Do you approve or disapprove of this new trade deal with Mexico and Canada, or do you have no opinion on this?

	Jan. 2020
Approve	33%
Disapprove	5%
No opinion	61%
(n)	(903)

12. Compared to NAFTA, do you think this new trade deal will be better, worse, or about the same for the United States?

	Jan. 2020
Better	31%
Worse	8%
About the same	30%
(VOL) Don't know	31%
(n)	(903)

[Q13-27 previously released.]

METHODOLOGY

The *Monmouth University Poll* was sponsored and conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute from January 16 to 20, 2020 with a national random sample of 903 adults age 18 and older. This includes 363 contacted by a live interviewer on a landline telephone and 540 contacted by a live interviewer on a cell phone, in English. Telephone numbers were selected through random digit dialing and landline respondents were selected with a modified Troidahl-Carter youngest adult household screen. Monmouth is responsible for all aspects of the survey design, data weighting and analysis. The full sample is weighted for region, age, education, gender and race based on US Census information (CPS 2018 supplement). Data collection support provided by Braun Research (field) and Dynata (RDD sample). For results based on this sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling has a maximum margin of plus or minus 3.3 percentage points (unadjusted for sample design). Sampling error can be larger for sub-groups (see table below). In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

<i>DEMOGRAPHICS (weighted)</i>	
<i>Self-Reported</i>	
27% Republican	
42% Independent	
32% Democrat	
49% Male	
51% Female	
30% 18-34	
34% 35-54	
36% 55+	
64% White	
13% Black	
16% Hispanic	
8% Asian/Other	
68% No degree	
32% 4 year degree	

MARGIN OF ERROR		<i>unweighted</i>	<i>moe</i>
		<i>sample</i>	<i>(+/-)</i>
TOTAL		903	3.3%
REGISTERED VOTER	Yes	847	3.4%
	No	56	13.1%
SELF-REPORTED	Republican	256	6.1%
PARTY ID	Independent	357	5.2%
	Democrat	275	5.9%
IDEOLOGY	Liberal	217	6.7%
	Moderate	346	5.3%
	Conservative	320	5.5%
GENDER	Male	444	4.7%
	Female	459	4.6%
AGE	18-34	158	7.8%
	35-54	349	5.3%
	55+	391	5.0%
RACE	White, non-Hispanic	678	3.8%
	Other	186	7.2%
COLLEGE GRADUATE	No degree	412	4.8%
	4 year degree	488	4.4%
WHITE COLLEGE	White, no degree	300	5.7%
	White, 4 year degree	375	5.1%
INCOME	<\$50K	251	6.2%
	\$50 to <100K	248	6.2%
	\$100K+	325	5.4%
2016 VOTE BY	Trump 10+ pts	304	5.6%
COUNTY	Swing <10 pts	195	7.0%
	Clinton 10+ pts	404	4.9%

###

Monmouth University Poll -- NATIONAL -- 1/28/20

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY			GENDER
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con	Male
8. In general, do you think that free trade agreements with other countries are good or bad for the United States, or are you not sure?	Good	57%	59%	46%	68%	55%	53%	58%	57%	61%	63%
	Bad	10%	10%	5%	7%	13%	8%	7%	11%	10%	13%
	Not sure	29%	28%	47%	23%	27%	36%	32%	28%	26%	19%
	[VOL] Depends	3%	3%	3%	2%	5%	3%	4%	4%	3%	5%

		GENDER	AGE 3-WAY			COLLEGE GRAD		RACE	
		Female	18-34	35-54	55+	No degree	4 yr degree	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth
8. In general, do you think that free trade agreements with other countries are good or bad for the United States, or are you not sure?	Good	52%	55%	61%	56%	54%	64%	57%	58%
	Bad	7%	9%	11%	10%	11%	7%	11%	8%
	Not sure	39%	33%	25%	30%	31%	25%	29%	30%
	[VOL] Depends	2%	4%	2%	4%	3%	3%	3%	4%

		WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE		INCOME			2016 MARGIN by COUNTY		
		White no degree	White college	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Trump 10+pts	Swing <10pts	Clinton 10+pts
8. In general, do you think that free trade agreements with other countries are good or bad for the United States, or are you not sure?	Good	52%	67%	53%	61%	62%	60%	50%	58%
	Bad	13%	7%	10%	9%	12%	9%	11%	10%
	Not sure	31%	25%	33%	27%	23%	27%	35%	29%
	[VOL] Depends	3%	2%	4%	3%	3%	4%	4%	3%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
9. Do you think NAFTA, the free trade agreement between the U. S., Canada, and Mexico that went into effect in 1994, has been good or bad for most Americans, has not had much impact on most Americans, or are you not sure?	Good	31%	30%	38%	13%	35%	41%	47%	36%	14%
	Bad	27%	29%	13%	50%	27%	8%	10%	23%	45%
	Has not had much impact	9%	9%	7%	7%	10%	8%	9%	10%	6%
	Not sure	33%	32%	42%	30%	27%	43%	33%	31%	34%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			COLLEGE GRAD		RACE
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	No degree	4 yr degree	White non-Hisp
9. Do you think NAFTA, the free trade agreement between the U. S., Canada, and Mexico that went into effect in 1994, has been good or bad for most Americans, has not had much impact on most Americans, or are you not sure?	Good	29%	33%	35%	34%	24%	27%	39%	28%
	Bad	36%	19%	17%	27%	36%	28%	26%	32%
	Has not had much impact	10%	7%	7%	9%	10%	10%	7%	8%
	Not sure	25%	41%	41%	30%	30%	35%	29%	32%

Monmouth University Poll -- NATIONAL -- 1/28/20

		RACE		WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE		INCOME			2016 MARGIN by COUNTY
		Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	White no degree	White college	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Trump 10+pts	
9. Do you think NAFTA, the free trade agreement between the U. S., Canada, and Mexico that went into effect in 1994, has been good or bad for most Americans, has not had much impact on most Americans, or are you not sure?	Good	36%	23%	39%	33%	33%	31%	23%	
	Bad	17%	34%	28%	22%	21%	35%	34%	
	Has not had much impact	10%	9%	6%	9%	10%	8%	8%	
	Not sure	37%	34%	27%	36%	36%	26%	35%	

		2016 MARGIN by COUNTY	
		Swing <10pts	Clinton 10+pts
9. Do you think NAFTA, the free trade agreement between the U. S., Canada, and Mexico that went into effect in 1994, has been good or bad for most Americans, has not had much impact on most Americans, or are you not sure?	Good	31%	36%
	Bad	26%	23%
	Has not had much impact	9%	9%
	Not sure	34%	32%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY			GENDER
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con	
10. The United States has recently approved a new trade agreement with Mexico and Canada, called U. S. M. C. A. or "Us-macca," which will replace NAFTA. Have you heard a lot, a little, or nothing at all about this?	A lot	19%	20%	7%	30%	17%	12%	11%	16%	28%	25%
	A little	45%	47%	26%	46%	43%	47%	47%	49%	40%	43%
	Nothing at all	37%	34%	67%	24%	40%	41%	42%	35%	32%	32%

		GENDER	AGE 3-WAY			COLLEGE GRAD		RACE	
			Female	18-34	35-54	55+	No degree	4 yr degree	White non-Hisp
10. The United States has recently approved a new trade agreement with Mexico and Canada, called U. S. M. C. A. or "Us-macca," which will replace NAFTA. Have you heard a lot, a little, or nothing at all about this?	A lot	13%	10%	18%	26%	17%	23%	23%	13%
	A little	46%	32%	50%	49%	42%	50%	48%	36%
	Nothing at all	41%	57%	31%	25%	41%	28%	29%	51%

		WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE		INCOME			2016 MARGIN by COUNTY		
		White no degree	White college	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Trump 10+pts	Swing <10pts	Clinton 10+pts
10. The United States has recently approved a new trade agreement with Mexico and Canada, called U. S. M. C. A. or "Us-macca," which will replace NAFTA. Have you heard a lot, a little, or nothing at all about this?	A lot	21%	27%	14%	14%	29%	23%	15%	17%
	A little	47%	51%	38%	52%	49%	45%	51%	41%
	Nothing at all	32%	22%	49%	34%	22%	31%	33%	42%

Monmouth University Poll -- NATIONAL -- 1/28/20

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY			GENDER
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con	Male
11. Do you approve or disapprove of this new trade deal with Mexico and Canada, or do you have no opinion on this?	Approve	33%	36%	11%	53%	29%	24%	23%	28%	50%	41%
	Disapprove	5%	5%	3%	1%	6%	8%	11%	5%	2%	6%
	No opinion	61%	59%	86%	45%	65%	68%	66%	67%	48%	54%

		GENDER	AGE 3-WAY			COLLEGE GRAD		RACE		WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE
		Female	18-34	35-54	55+	No degree	4 yr degree	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	White no degree
11. Do you approve or disapprove of this new trade deal with Mexico and Canada, or do you have no opinion on this?	Approve	27%	19%	34%	46%	32%	36%	39%	25%	38%
	Disapprove	5%	4%	6%	5%	5%	6%	6%	4%	5%
	No opinion	69%	77%	60%	49%	63%	57%	55%	71%	58%

		WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE	INCOME			2016 MARGIN by COUNTY		
		White college	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Trump 10+pts	Swing <10pts	Clinton 10+pts
11. Do you approve or disapprove of this new trade deal with Mexico and Canada, or do you have no opinion on this?	Approve	41%	27%	33%	43%	41%	32%	29%
	Disapprove	8%	3%	6%	9%	3%	9%	5%
	No opinion	50%	70%	61%	48%	56%	59%	66%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY			GENDER
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con	Male
12. Compared to NAFTA, do you think this new trade deal will be better, worse, or about the same for the United States?	Better	31%	32%	20%	61%	30%	8%	15%	21%	57%	37%
	Worse	8%	8%	5%	3%	7%	12%	18%	7%	2%	9%
	About the same	30%	30%	32%	16%	30%	44%	35%	40%	15%	28%
	[VOL] Dont know	31%	30%	43%	20%	33%	35%	33%	32%	26%	26%

		GENDER	AGE 3-WAY			COLLEGE GRAD		RACE	
		Female	18-34	35-54	55+	No degree	4 yr degree	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth
12. Compared to NAFTA, do you think this new trade deal will be better, worse, or about the same for the United States?	Better	26%	15%	33%	42%	33%	27%	36%	22%
	Worse	7%	10%	7%	7%	7%	9%	8%	8%
	About the same	31%	33%	31%	26%	29%	32%	29%	32%
	[VOL] Dont know	36%	42%	28%	25%	31%	31%	27%	39%

		WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE		INCOME			2016 MARGIN by COUNTY		
		White no degree	White college	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Trump 10+pts	Swing <10pts	Clinton 10+pts
12. Compared to NAFTA, do you think this new trade deal will be better, worse, or about the same for the United States?	Better	37%	34%	29%	28%	33%	41%	31%	24%
	Worse	9%	8%	8%	8%	8%	4%	10%	10%
	About the same	28%	33%	24%	38%	34%	28%	26%	33%
	[VOL] Dont know	27%	25%	38%	27%	24%	27%	32%	34%