

Canadians and Americans, how we see each other: post election perceptions

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December 9, 2024

Introduction and methodology

In the aftermath of the US elections there is considerable attention being directed by Canadian policy makers as to what the outcome might imply for relations with our southern neighbors. At play are important trade and other economic issues, cooperation on global conflicts and alignments as well as immigration and border security. To provide insight into the tenor of relations between Canada and the United States following the election of Donald Trump, the Association for Canadian Studies commissioned Leger Marketing to survey Canadians and Americans as to how they view issues of border security, whether they respectively believe that their countries are headed in the right direction and how they see their respective place/status on the world stage. We also asked about the extent to which Americans and Canadians remain proud of their country.

The survey was conducted by Leger for the Association for Canadian Studies with 1539 respondents in Canada over the period November 22 to 24, 2024. A margin of error cannot be associated with a non-probability sample in a panel survey for comparison purposes. A probability sample of 1539 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.5\%$, 19 times out of 20. In the United States, the survey was conducted by Leger with 1009 respondents over the period November 22-24, 2024 and has a probabilistic margin of error of $\pm 3.9\%$, 19 times out of 20

Americans are more likely than Canadians to think that the border is secure between the two countries

	I think the border between Canada and the United States is secure	
	Canadians	Americans
Yes	37%	48%
No	46%	21%
I don't know	17%	31%

A Majority of Canadians believe that Canada is an important actor on the world stage; a plurality of Americans also do but one quarter and one in three either don't know

	Canada is an important actor on the world stage -	
	Canadians	Americans
Yes	55%	43%
No	31%	24%
I don't know	14%	33%

While a majority of Americans consider the United States to be the most powerful country in the world, a plurality of Canadians share that sentiment

	The United States of America is the most powerful country in the world -	
	Canadians	Americans
Yes	42%	57%
No	37%	22%
I don't know	20%	21%

More Americans than Canadians think that Canada is headed in the right direction as a majority of Canadians say were not. More Americans think that their country is headed in the right direction than do Canadians though more think they re not than think they are

	Canada is headed in the right direction	
	Canadians	Americans
Yes	24%	32%
No	55%	18%
I don't know	21%	51%

	The United States is headed in the right direction	
	Canadians	Americans
Yes	18%	34%
No	63%	44%
I don't know	19%	22%

There is little distinction on the basis of age and region around whether Canada is an important actor on the world stage or if the US is the world's most powerful country

Canadians saying YES	Total	Between 18 and 24	Between 25 and 34	Between 35 and 44	Between 45 and 54	Between 55 and 64	65+	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Canada is an important actor on the world stage	55%	50%	54%	57%	54%	59%	53%	63%	53%	56%	46%	60%	50%
The United States of America is the most powerful country in the world	42%	42%	39%	46%	46%	37%	44%	37%	45%	41%	40%	42%	47%

Canadians and americans exhibit similar levels of pride in their country

	I am proud to be Canadian	I am proud to be American
Yes	78%	76%
No	12%	12%
I don't know	10%	12%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Amongst those who say they are not proud to be Canadian some one in four agree that Canada is an important actor on the world stage

Canada is an important actor on the world stage	I am proud to be Canadian	
	Yes	No
Yes	62.3%	25.5%
No	26.0%	61.4%
I don't know	11.7%	13.0%
	100.0%	100.0%

Those Canadians who do not feel that the country is headed in the right direction are far less likely to agree that Canada is an important actor on the world stage

Canada is an important actor on the world stage	Canada is headed in the right direction	
	Yes	No
Yes	79.1%	42.7%
No	16.8%	44.8%
I don't know	4.1%	12.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%