



AB FACT SHEET

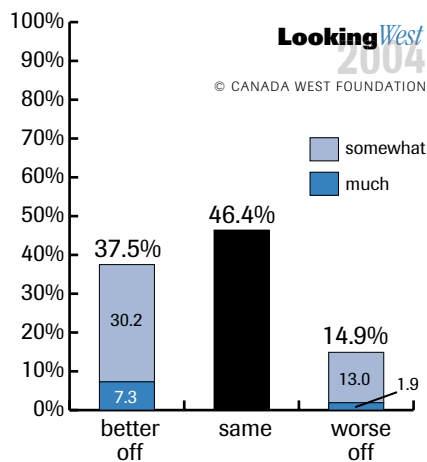
April 2004

Economic Expectations

Since 2001, the Looking West surveys have explored the extent to which western Canadians feel optimistic about their province's economic and social outlook: are western Canadians generally optimistic or pessimistic about the near future of their province? To assess this, western Canadians were asked, "Overall, five years from now, do you expect that [province] will be much better off than now; somewhat better off than now; about the same as now; somewhat worse off than now; much worse off than now?"

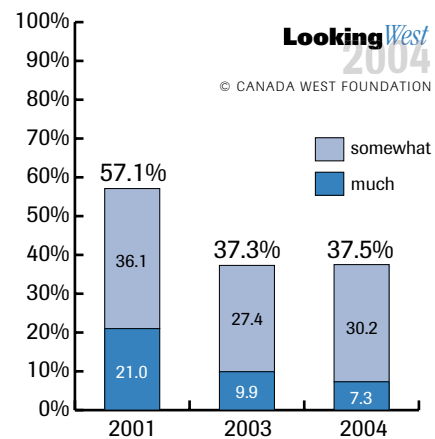
Albertans are divided between optimism (37.5% expect Alberta to be better off) and expectations of the status quo (46.4% expect the province to remain about the same as it is now). Less than two in ten (14.9%) expect Alberta to be worse off. How have provincial expectations changed since 2001? In Alberta, optimism levels dropped considerably – a full 20 percentage points! – between 2001 and 2003, but held constant between 2003 and 2004.

Figure 1:
Provincial Expectations in Five Years -
AB Respondents, 2004



Overall, five years from now, do you expect that [province] will be much better off than now; somewhat better off than now; about the same as now; somewhat worse off than now; much worse off than now?

Figure 2:
Expect Province to be Better Off in Five Years -
AB Respondents

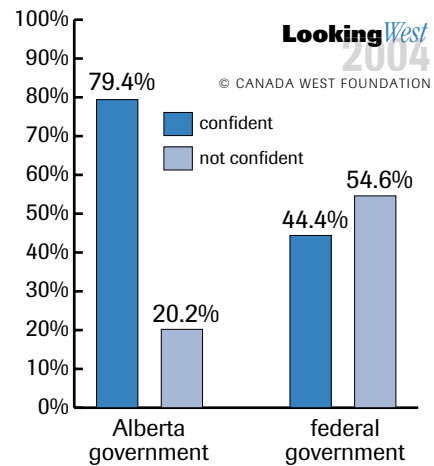


Overall, five years from now, do you expect that [province] will be much better off than now; somewhat better off than now; about the same as now; somewhat worse off than now; much worse off than now?

The Looking West 2004 survey also asked two questions specific to the provincial economies. First, respondents were asked, "How confident are you that the [province] government's policies will help the [province] economy over the next five years?" Very confident; somewhat confident; not very confident; not at all confident." Second, respondents were asked, "How confident are you that the federal government's policies will help the [province] economy over the next five years? Very confident; somewhat confident; not very confident; not at all confident."

The data indicate that, overall, Albertans have significantly greater confidence in the Alberta government's policies to help Alberta's economy than they do in the federal government's policies. Almost eight in ten Alberta respondents are confident that provincial policies will help the economy over the next five years. The same cannot be said for the federal government: a majority of Albertans indicates that they lack confidence in the ability of federal policies to help Alberta's economy.

Figure 3:
Government Policies to Help Economy -
AB Respondents, 2004



How confident are you that the [province] government's policies will help the [province] economy over the next five years? Very confident; somewhat confident; not very confident; not at all confident. How confident are you that the federal government's policies will help the [province] economy over the next five years? Very confident; somewhat confident; not very confident; not at all confident.

Alberta government

very confident 24.6%
somewhat confident 54.8%
not very confident 15.6%
not at all confident 4.6%

federal government

very confident 3.6%
somewhat confident 40.8%
not very confident 41.9%
not at all confident 12.7%



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