



BC FACT SHEET

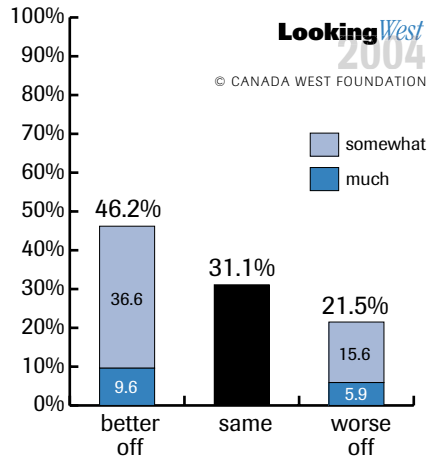
April 2004

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?"

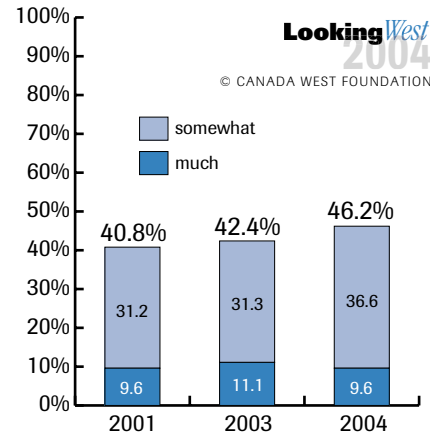
British Columbia respondents express relatively high levels of optimism, and at the same time with a considerable high percentage of pessimists – an interesting dichotomy. How have provincial expectations changed since 2001? In BC, optimism levels have been consistently rising, with 2004 levels five percentage points higher than 2001 levels.

Figure 1:
Provincial Expectations in Five Years -
BC 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 -
BC Respondents

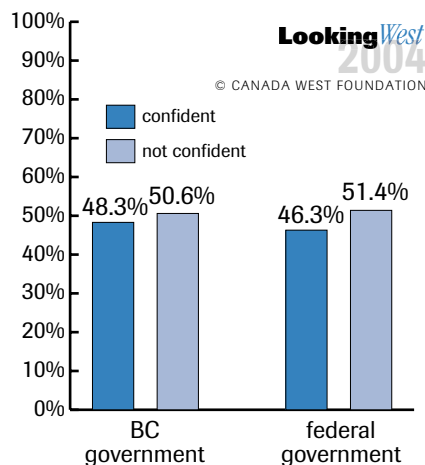


Overall, five years from now, do you expect that [province] will be much better off than now; somewhat better off than now; about the same as now; somewhat worse off than now; much worse off than now?

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 British Columbians do not have much confidence in either order of government: a slim majority expressed a lack of confidence in the ability of the BC government's policies to help the BC economy, and a similar number expressed a lack of confidence in the ability of the federal government's policies to help the economy.

Figure 3:
Government Policies to Help Economy -
BC 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.

BC government

very confident 10.6%
somewhat confident 37.7%
not very confident 31.0%
not at all confident 19.6%

federal government

very confident 4.5%
somewhat confident 41.8%
not very confident 38.9%
not at all confident 12.5%



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