



MB FACT SHEET

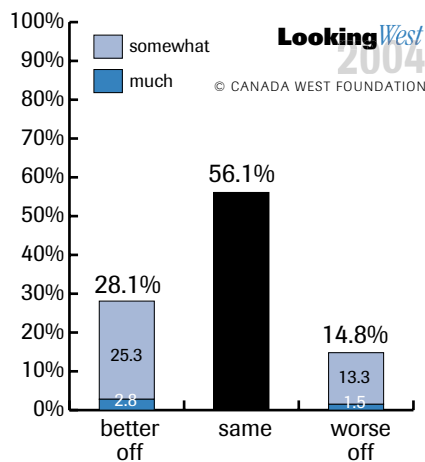
April 2004

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?"

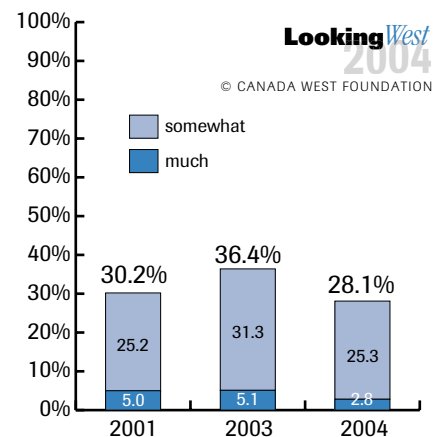
Manitobans expect a status quo future, with the majority expecting no major changes over the next five years. Almost three in ten are optimistic, expecting the province to be better off, and less than two in ten are pessimistic. How have provincial expectations changed since 2001? Manitoba has its lowest optimism levels in 2004; while the 2003 data showed an increase over 2001 in the percentage of respondents expecting Manitoba to be better off, expectations dropped off in 2004.

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

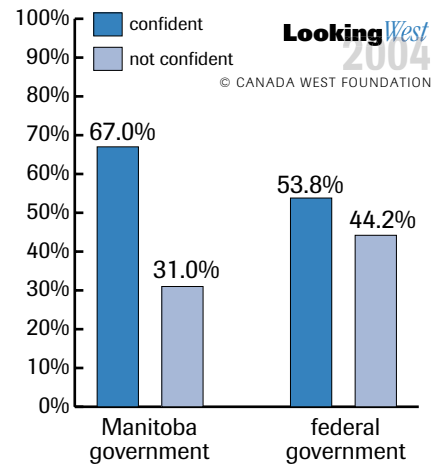


Overall, five years from now, do you expect that [province] will be much better off than now; somewhat better off than now; about the same as now; somewhat worse off than now; much worse off than now?

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, Manitobans have greater confidence in their provincial government's policies to help their province's economy than they do in the federal government's policies, with two-thirds stating that they are very or somewhat confident that the province's policies will help Manitoba's economy over the next five years. In contrast, a small majority of respondents indicate confidence about the ability of the federal government's policies to help the Manitoba economy over the next five years.

Figure 3:
Government Policies to Help Economy -
MB 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.

MB government

very confident 6.3%
somewhat confident 60.7%
not very confident 23.4%
not at all confident 7.6%

federal government

very confident 2.5%
somewhat confident 51.3%
not very confident 36.3%
not at all confident 7.9%



This summary was authored by CWF Director of Research Loleen Berdahl, and is part of the Canada West Foundation's Building the New West Project. The Kahanoff Foundation, Western Diversification, the Privy Council Office, the Government of Saskatchewan, and Alberta International and Intergovernmental Relations provided funding support for this research study. The opinions expressed in this document are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Canada West Foundation's donors, subscribers or Board.