



# SK FACT SHEET

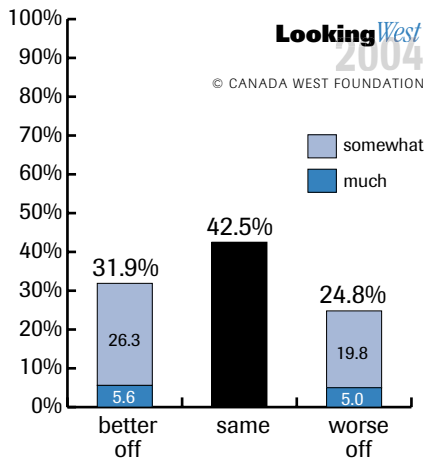
April 2004

## 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?"

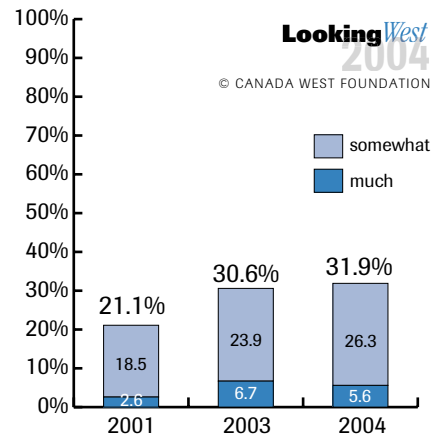
Saskatchewan respondents are divided between optimism (31.9% expect Saskatchewan to be better off) and expectations of the status quo (42.5% expect the province to remain about the same as it is now). Almost one-quarter (24.8%) expect Saskatchewan to be worse off in five years. How have provincial expectations changed since 2001? Saskatchewan optimism levels were very low in 2001, jumped nine percentage points in 2003, and have witnessed a very modest increase in 2004.

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

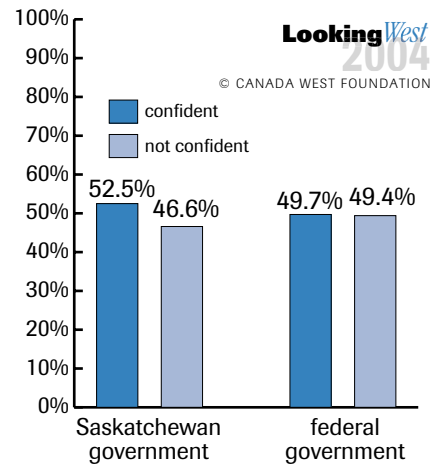


Overall, five years from now, do you expect that [province] will be much better off than now; somewhat better off than now; about the same as now; somewhat worse off than now; much worse off than now?

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, Saskatchewan respondents have somewhat greater confidence in their provincial government's policies to help their province's economy than they do in the federal government's policies, but overall are divided between confidence and a lack of confidence for both orders of government.

Figure 3:  
Government Policies to Help Economy -  
SK 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.

**SK government**

very confident 74%  
somewhat confident 45.1%  
not very confident 31.6%  
not at all confident 15.0%

**federal government**

very confident 3.3%  
somewhat confident 46.4%  
not very confident 39.6%  
not at all confident 9.8%



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