

# Corruption Indexes of *Coalition 2000*

May 2002



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## SURVEY METHODOLOGY

### *Sample*

National representative survey of the population covering 1170 respondents aged 18 and over.

### *Survey method*

The survey used the method of the face-to-face interview.

### *Field work*

Field work was conducted between May 22–31, 2002.

## CORRUPTION INDEXES

- Corruption indexes are among the important outputs of the *Coalition Monitoring System (CMS)* of *Coalition 2000*. Their values are being updated quarterly on the basis of regular CMS surveys.
- Corruption assessment index numbers assume values from 0-10.
- The closer the value of the index is to 10, the more negative are the assessments of the evaluated aspect of the corruption in the country.
- Index numbers close to 0 indicate approximation to the ideal of a “corruption-free” society.
- Corruption indexes have been grouped into several categories:
  - Attitudes towards corruption;
  - Corrupt practices;
  - Assessment of the spread of corruption;
  - Corruption-related expectations.

## CHIEF PROBLEMS FACED BY BULGARIA

The trend towards increased public attention to corruption, started at the beginning of last year, marked a sharp drop in May 2002. The nearly 10% decrease, compared to the previous monitored period (January 2002), of respondents citing corruption as the most serious problem facing Bulgaria is an indicator both of the saturation of media space with the subject of “corruption”, and of shifting the problem at the expense of other “illnesses of the transition” such as unemployment, poverty, low living standard, etc. These problems were in turn permanently established as most acute from the very start of the monitoring.

**TABLE 1. CHIEF PROBLEMS FACED BY BULGARIA**

	<i>Sept. 1999</i>	<i>January 2000</i>	<i>April 2000</i>	<i>Sept. 2000</i>	<i>January 2001</i>	<i>October 2001</i>	<i>January 2002</i>	<i>May 2002</i>
1. Unemployment	64,6	65,3	71,3	67,8	67,5	64,0	68.9	71.5
2. Low incomes	50,2	50,6	48,9	49,0	46,0	45,4	32.9	45.2
3. Poverty	37,1	41,2	41,9	41,5	39,4	46,9	42.7	40.3
<b>4. Corruption</b>	<b>38,5</b>	<b>37,5</b>	<b>40,1</b>	<b>37,5</b>	<b>36,5</b>	<b>45,6</b>	<b>47.0</b>	<b>39.3</b>
5. Crime	32,4	27,9	28,9	25,7	51,7	36,3	32.9	30.2
6. Healthcare	16,0	14,6	14,1	14,0	5,1	11,9	17.2	19.9
7. High prices	21,9	18,9	19,4	22,4	16,3	15,7	20.9	16.8
8. Political instability	15,4	13,1	13,8	17,0	18,2	12,0	13.1	14.1
9. Education	3,8	2,9	2,3	2,1	0,8	2,6	1.8	4.4
10. Environment pollution	5,0	4,3	2,4	2,7	3,0	3,3	1.5	2.2
11. Ethnic problems	4,0	1,4	1,9	1,7	0,9	1,6	1.4	1.3

*Respondents gave up to three answers and the sum total of percentages therefore exceeds 100.*

Base: N= 1170

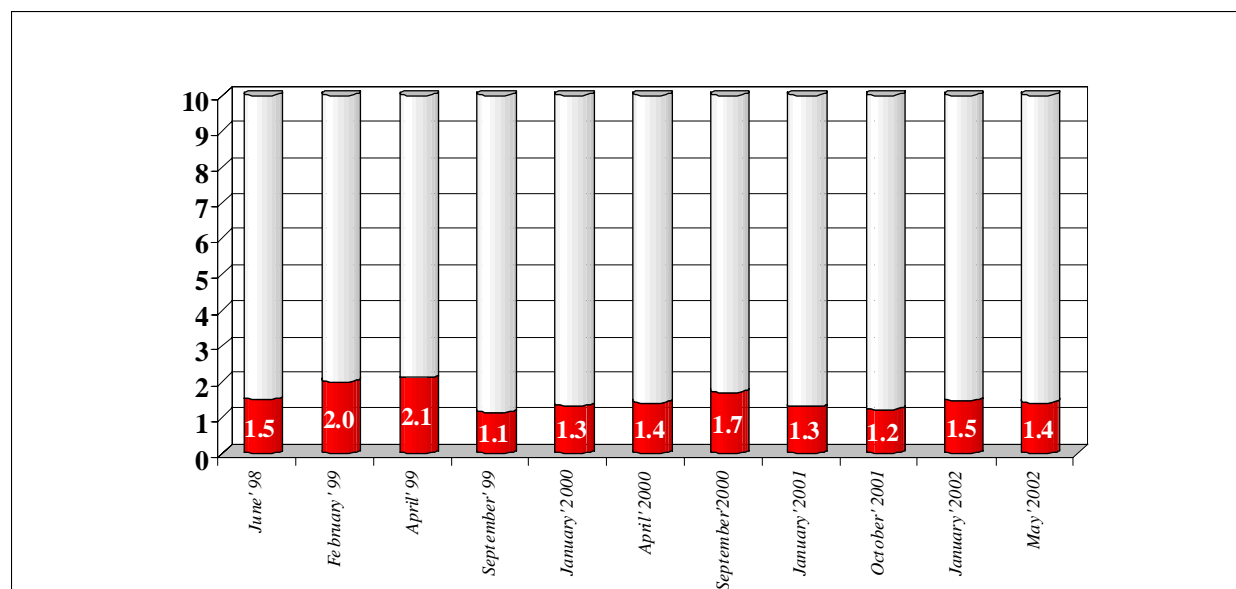
## ATTITUDES TOWARDS CORRUPTION

### Acceptability in Principle

This index reflects the level of value acceptability of the different corruption practices.

The decrease in the levels of this index, since September last year, is compensated by their slight increase in January and May this year. The trend illustrates both public sensitivity to the manifestations of corruption, as well as the increasingly more permanent negative public opinion to these acts on a moral and value level.

**FIGURE 1. ACCEPTABILITY IN PRINCIPLE**



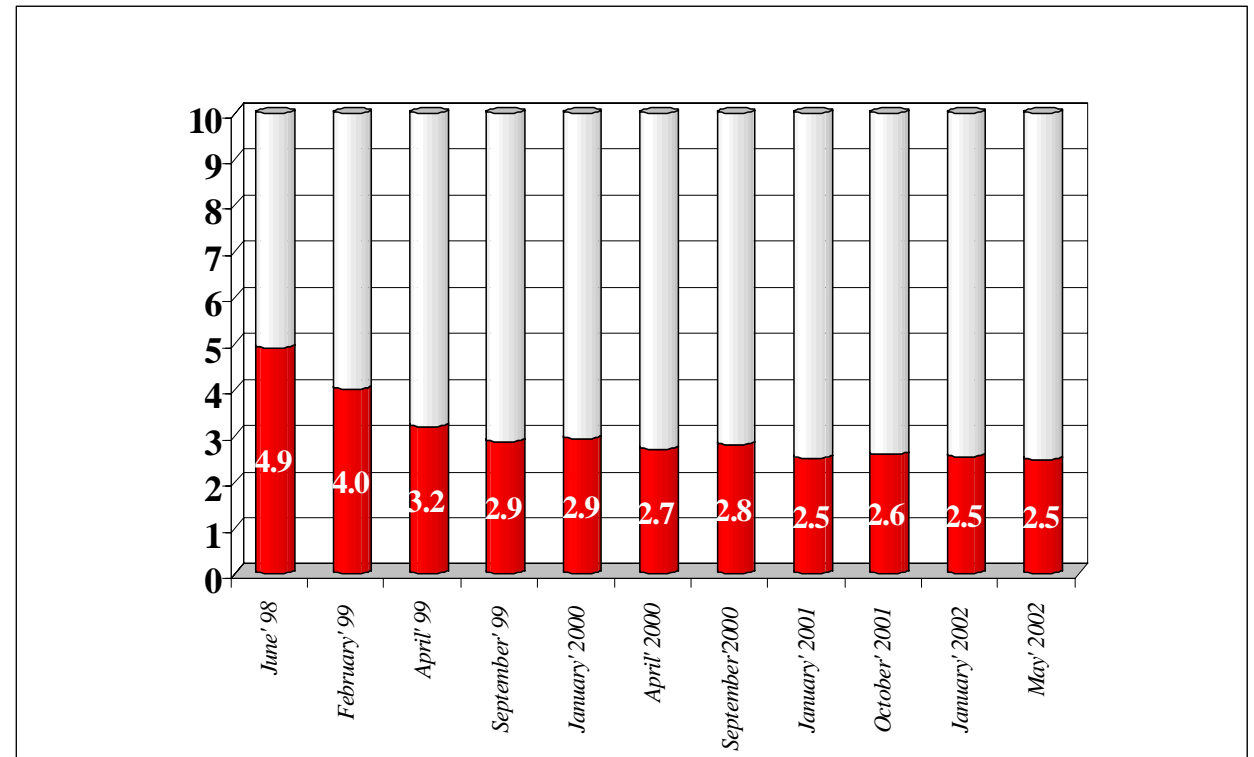
Base: N = 1170

## Susceptibility to corruption

This index measures the tendency of citizens to make compromises with their value system under pressure of circumstances.

The started decrease in the levels of the index, characteristic of the start of the monitored period, has stopped, but the former trend is being retained. The stabilisation of the index around the same level is an indicator of the existence of permanent attitudes towards compromises with one's own value system. Corrupt behaviour is formed under pressure of everyday circumstances and the manifestations of corruption in everyday life, rather than by the value system of society. This is also evidenced by the significantly higher levels of this index than those of the "admissibility of corruption in principle" index.

FIGURE 2. SUSCEPTIBILITY TO CORRUPTION



Base: N = 1170

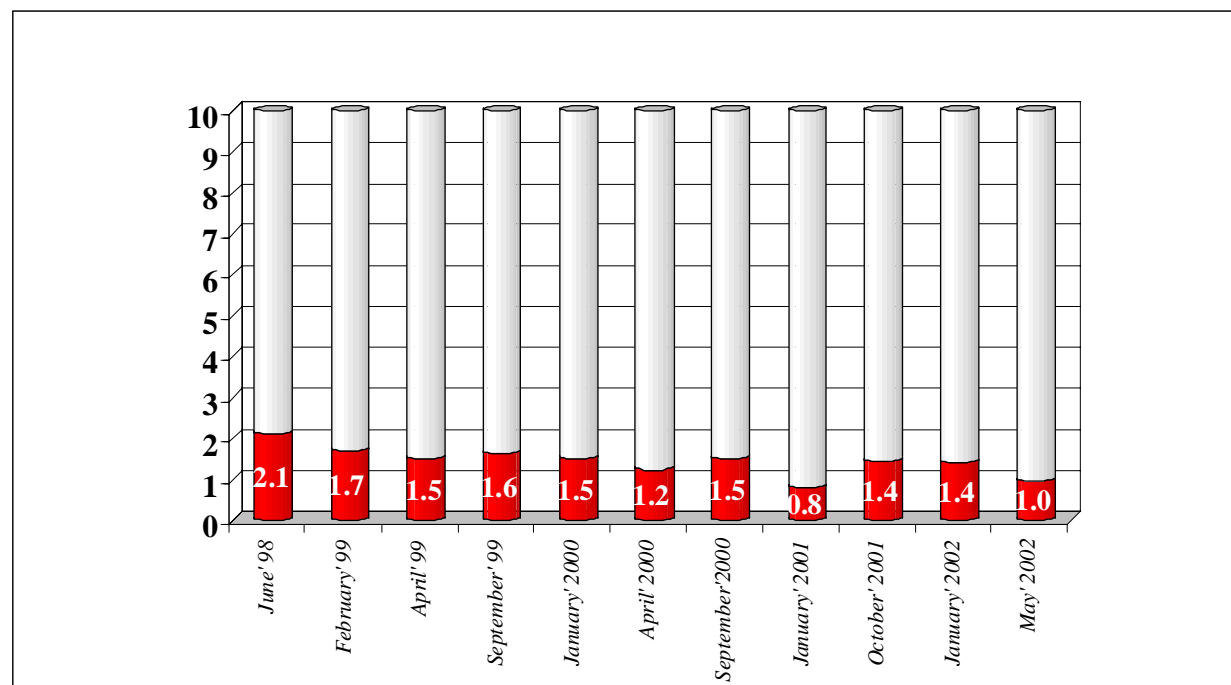
## CORRUPT PRACTICES

### Corruption pressure

This index measures the spread of the attempts of employees in the public sector to directly or indirectly put pressure on citizens for receiving money, gifts or services.

A significant decrease in the levels of the index is being observed for the present period. They have virtually reached some of the lowest levels during the entire monitoring period. This shows that the overt coercion by civil servants continues to be an inconstant variable, which is influenced by accidental factors, rather than by permanent measures for limiting them.

FIGURE 3. CORRUPTION PRESSURE



База: N = 1170



## Corruption pressure

The monitoring conducted in May 2002, shows a number of insignificant changes compared to previous periods in the assessments of corruption pressure exercised by the different groups of employees in the public sector. The increased corruption pressure by doctors since October 2001 is continuing. In practice, this professional group is turning into a traditional bearer of corruption. Compared to the previous monitoring (January 2002), corruption pressure by some representatives of the judicial system, and by prosecutors and investigators above all, has also increased.

Among the other professional groups, corruption pressure has increased slightly, more significantly among customs officers, and employees in ministries and the judicial system. A slight drop is registered among the police, municipal and tax officials.

**TABLE 2."IF IN THE COURSE OF THE PAST YEAR YOU HAVE BEEN ASKED FOR SOMETHING IN ORDER TO HAVE A PROBLEM OF YOURS SOLVED, YOU WERE ASKED BY:" %\***

	January 2000	April 2000	Sept. 2000	January 2001	October 2001	January 2002	May 2002
Customs officer	19,8	29,1	15,8	22,7	18,4	18,55	25,5
Doctor	20,0	18,6	22,1	6,1	22,3	17,96	20,2
Police officer	23,4	19,5	24,0	18,9	18,5	19,9	15,2
University professor or official	10,1	12,6	13,9	13,2	8,8	14,29	12,0
Administrative staff from the judicial system	18,5	10,4	11,5	13,3	11,3	9,38	11,0
Judge	6,9	7,7	9,1	5,8	6,8	7,8	10,7
Businessman	13,7	11,9	9,7	11,6	13,4	10,77	9,4
Ministry official	3,2	3,7	7,0	8,9	5,6	4,92	9,3
Prosecutor	5,9	4,7	7,8	7,2	0,8	4,07	8,5
Criminal investigator	6,1	8,4	6,0	5,5	6,0	4,27	8,2
Banker	8,1	1,8	2,9	4,1	4,1	4,07	5,6
Municipal official	11,3	11,7	10,3	11,2	11,3	9,96	5,5
Tax official	8,4	7,8	8,3	6,4	9,1	5,29	3,8
Member of Parliament	1,9	4,5	6,4	4,2	2,1	2,08	3,5
Teacher	4,9	3,0	5,5	3,7	6,1	3,6	3,1
Municipal Council member	6,7	5,6	3,2	2,1	1,4	2,05	2,7

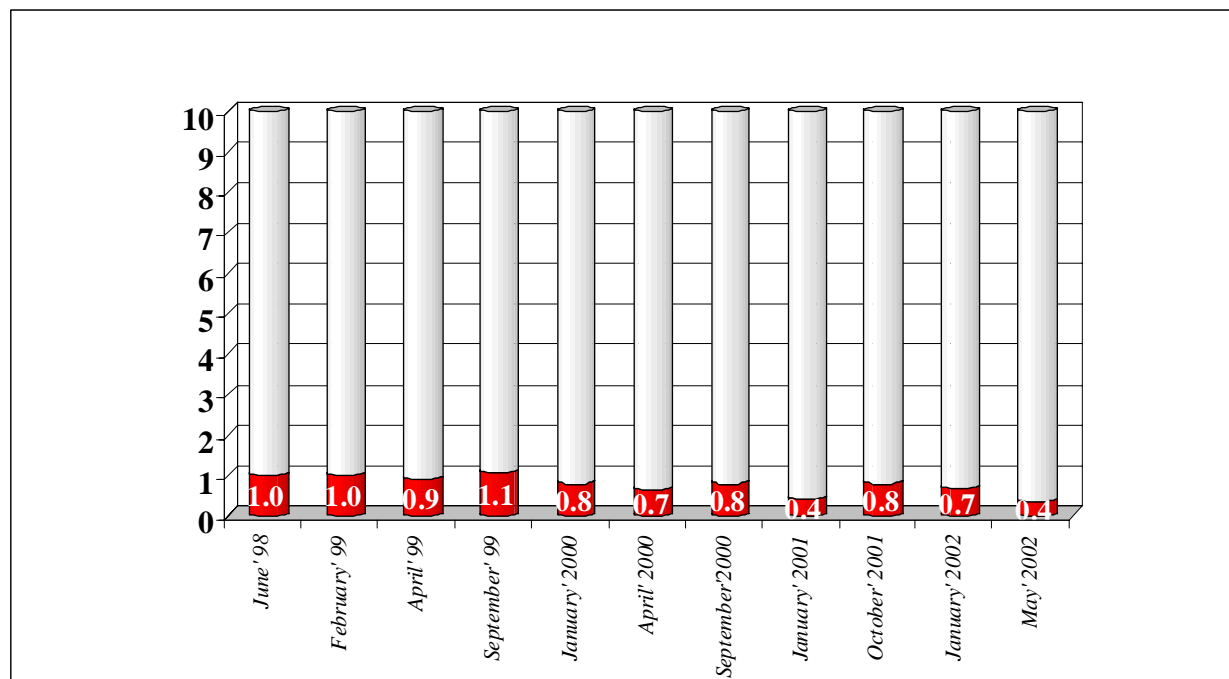
*\*Relative share of those who have had such contacts, who have been asked for money, gifts, or services.*

## Corrupt practices

This index reflects the level of the personal participation of respondents in different forms of corrupt behaviour, i.e. it reflects the **real number of corrupt actions** in the last three months.

This is practically the index with the lowest levels compared to all other indices. A decrease to the level of January last year is seen in it at the present stage. The variations in the index at a relatively low level still do not warrant the categorical conclusion that real corrupt actions have been permanently curbed.

FIGURE 4. CORRUPT PRACTICES



Base: N = 1170

## ASSESSMENTS OF THE SPREAD OF CORRUPTION

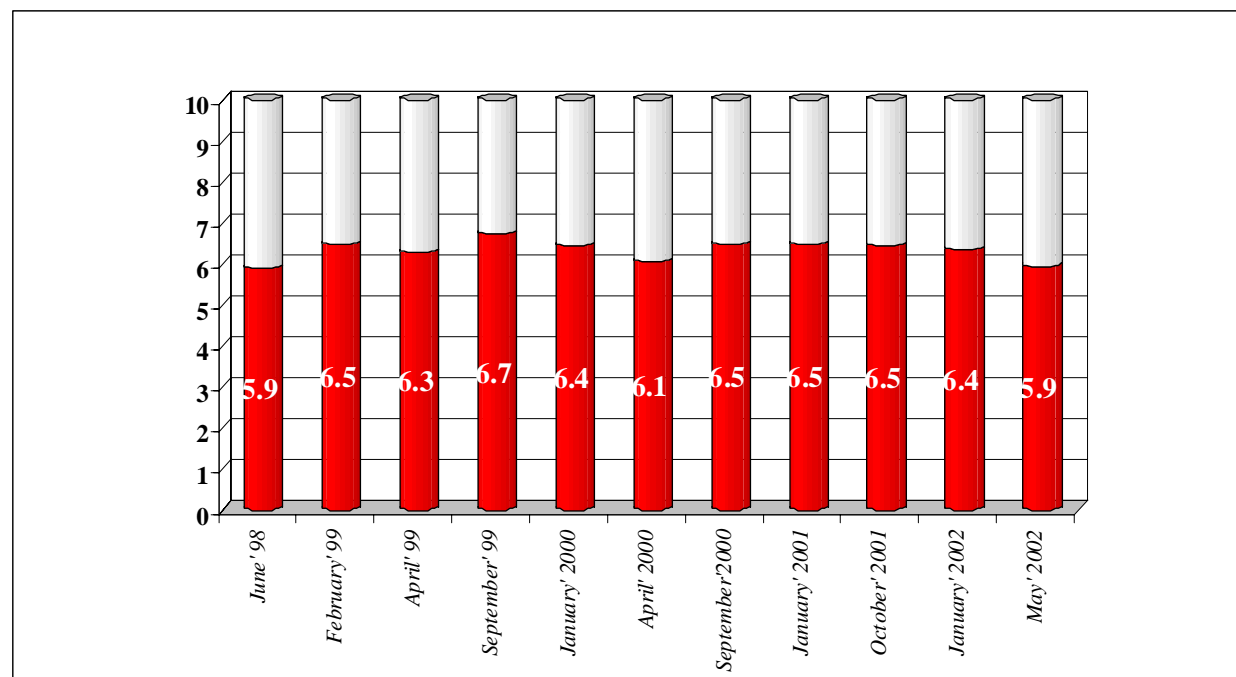
### Spread of corruption

It registers citizens' assessments of the degree of spread of corrupt actions among employees in the public sphere.

The assessments of the degree of spread of corruption for May 2002 mark one of their lowest levels since the start of the corruption monitoring. The drop in the index versus the previous monitored period is nearly 5 points. The reasons for this can, on the one hand, be sought in the genuinely taken actions against corruption and, on the other, in its perception as a permanently existing phenomenon which is becoming a standard in public life.

The so far stable levels of the index, without sharp fluctuations, show that a significant change in public assessments of the degree of spread of corruption in Bulgaria cannot be expected in the near future.

**FIGURE 5. SPREAD OF CORRUPTION**



Base: N = 1170

## Spread of corruption

The most frequently mentioned reason for the spread of corruption in the country in May 2002 continued to be the desire of the people “clothed” in power to quickly get rich. This moral attitude has a permanent place among the assessments of society as a basic factor breeding corruption.

Noticeably, the influence of the factor “lack of strict administrative control” marks a certain increase compared to the attitudes in January 2002. Conversely, although less noticeably, the assessments of the inefficiency of the judicial system are also changing. Despite some fluctuations, the other factors for the spread of corruption retain an unchanged level.

**TABLE 3. MAJOR FACTORS ACCOUNTING FOR THE SPREAD OF CORRUPTION IN THE COUNTRY (%)**

	<i>January 2000</i>	<i>September 2000</i>	<i>January 2001</i>	<i>October 2001</i>	<i>January 2002</i>	<i>May 2002</i>
Fast personal enrichment sought by those in power	57,0	57,8	60,8	59,2	58.6	58.6
Imperfect legislation	35,1	40,5	39,1	38,0	43,0	39.7
Lack of strict administrative control	30,8	32,3	31,8	35,2	34.5	38.9
Low salaries	47,2	41,6	33,7	32,3	38.5	36.0
Ineffectiveness of the judicial system	24,7	22,2	27,2	28,5	32.3	31.2
Intertwinement of official duties and personal interests	28,3	32,6	25,8	31,7	26.7	26.9
Moral crisis in the period of transition	18,2	17,0	18,9	21,1	18.3	16.3
Specific characteristics of Bulgarian national culture	5,9	4,2	5,9	4,4	5.3	4.3

Base: N= 1170

## Spread of corruption

No significant changes were observed in the assessment of “professional” spread of corruption among lawyers, businessmen, bankers and teachers for May 2002. According to public opinion, corruption among doctors and the police has increased within the scope of a few months, while it has decreased among most of the other professional groups. Customs officers continue to head the list of the most corrupt professions, despite the slight decrease in the share of respondents who put them at the head of the list.

According to the Bulgarian citizens, corruption is, as a rule, least widespread among the representatives of non-governmental organisations, journalists and teachers. The rating of journalists in this respect has also increased.

**TABLE 4. “ACCORDING TO YOU, HOW WIDESPREAD IS CORRUPTION AMONG THE FOLLOWING GROUPS”:**

	<i>Relative share of responses “Almost everybody or most are involved”</i>						
	<i>January 2000</i>	<i>April 2000</i>	<i>Sept. 2000</i>	<i>January 2001</i>	<i>October 2001</i>	<i>January 2002</i>	<i>May 2002</i>
Customs officers	77,0	78,6	75,2	74,3	77,3	74,2	70,8
Lawyers	54,8	51,9	52,9	50,3	55,0	55,5	52,5
Doctors	42,5	40,9	43,6	27,0	46,8	45,7	52,3
Prosecutors	46,3	54,4	51,3	50,7	54,8	55,4	51,0
Judges	48,5	56,0	50,1	50,6	56,4	55,0	50,8
Police officers	51,9	50,5	54,3	51,0	53,7	47,0	50,7
Criminal investigators	41,0	48,0	43,8	43,5	48,4	48,0	43,1
Tax officials	53,9	51,0	53,7	47,3	51,6	51,2	41,9
Business people	48,5	51,4	42,3	43,6	42,2	41,6	41,4
Members of the Parliament	45,0	55,1	51,7	52,6	43,5	47,8	39,2
Ministry officials	47,9	55,1	49,7	43,9	45,8	47,1	36,7
Administrative officials in the judicial system	42,0	45,2	40,2	36,8	41,7	41,1	36,5
Ministers	45,3	53,4	55,0	52,3	41,2	45,4	35,6
Political party and coalition leaders	37,5	45,0	43,8	39,1	40,8	43,0	33,0
Municipal officials	45,0	46,5	41,6	35,9	39,6	39,4	30,0
University professors or officials	29,4	29,3	28,1	21,6	27,4	27,7	29,8
Bankers	20,9	38,8	33,5	35,6	32,5	31,7	29,5
Local political leaders	31,7	36,4	36,8	34,2	35,1	34,4	27,1
Municipal Council members	32,5	35,2	32,1	30,9	26,3	31,8	23,4
Representatives of non- governmental organizations	16,2	18,2	23,9	18,2	19,8	21,8	15,3
Teachers	9,5	8,2	10,9	5,8	9,3	9,7	9,8
Journalists	10,6	14,1	13,9	11,3	10,5	12,2	9,5

## Institutional spread of corruption

Despite the changed method for the registration of data, the internal structure of the state institutions, according to assessments of the degree of spread of corruption in them, has not changed significantly.

According to public opinion, corruption is most widespread in customs, the health system, the judicial system and the Ministry of Interior. In particular, the Privatisation Agency is cited as the most corrupt among the state institutions. The fact is indicative that only 0.1% of the respondents stated that there is no corruption in Bulgaria.

The media maintain a high rating among the population. The majority of respondents consider that corruption does not exist in most of them.

**TABLE 5. SPREAD OF CORRUPTION**

<i>General Spread</i>	%
Customs	33,2
Healthcare system (incl. National Health Insurance Fund)	25,6
Parliament, Presidency, Government, political elite.	24,1
Court, Judiciary, Justice	23,5
In the system of Internal affairs (incl. Traffic police, investigation)	20,6

<i>Ministries</i>	%
Ministry of Health	16,5
Ministry of Internal Affairs (incl. The Police and Traffic police)	16,2
Ministry of Economy	16,1
Ministry of Justice. Court System, Courts	15,0
Ministry of Finance (incl. Customs)	12,6

<i>Public Institutions</i>	%
Privatization Agency	22,0
Customs	12,6
National Health Insurance Fund	2,5
Tax Administration	1,7
Institutions issuing, licenses and permissions	1,4

<i>Judicial System</i>	%
Court	29,1
Prosecution	26,2
Investigation	15,7
Lawyers, notaries	15,3
The whole judicial system.	3,5

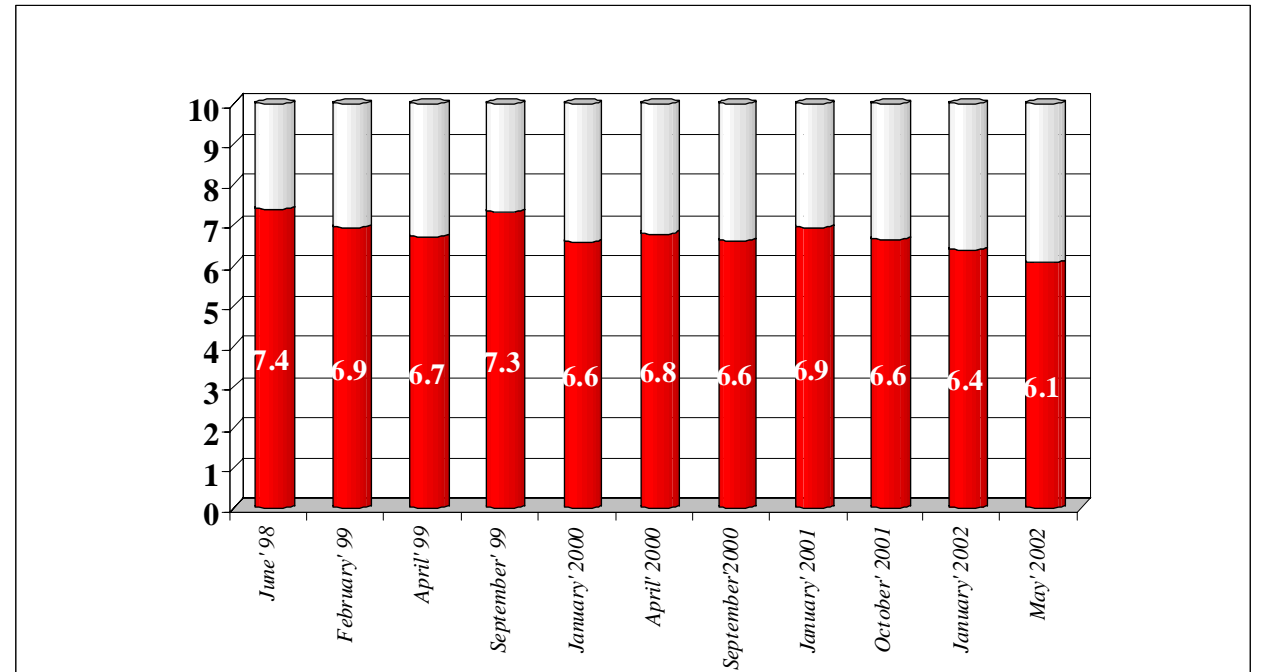
<i>Bulgarian media</i>	%
There is no corruption in the Bulgarian media	9,0
Print media	5,6
Television	4,4
Bulgarian National Radio	3,5
“Trud” newspaper	2,3

### Practical effectiveness of corruption

This index shows the assessments of citizens of the degree to which corruption is becoming an effective means of solving personal problems.

The overall decrease of the other corruption indices also influences the levels of the index of practical effectiveness. Since January 2001 there has been a lasting trend of a drop of this index. What this means is that, in the Bulgarian conditions, the solution of private problems by means of corrupt actions is increasingly becoming less effective in practice. This, in turn, warrants the conclusion that positive changes are starting to occur in the social environment which could help to decrease corrupt practices in the future.

FIGURE 6. PRACTICAL EFFICIENCY OF CORRUPTION



Base: N = 1170

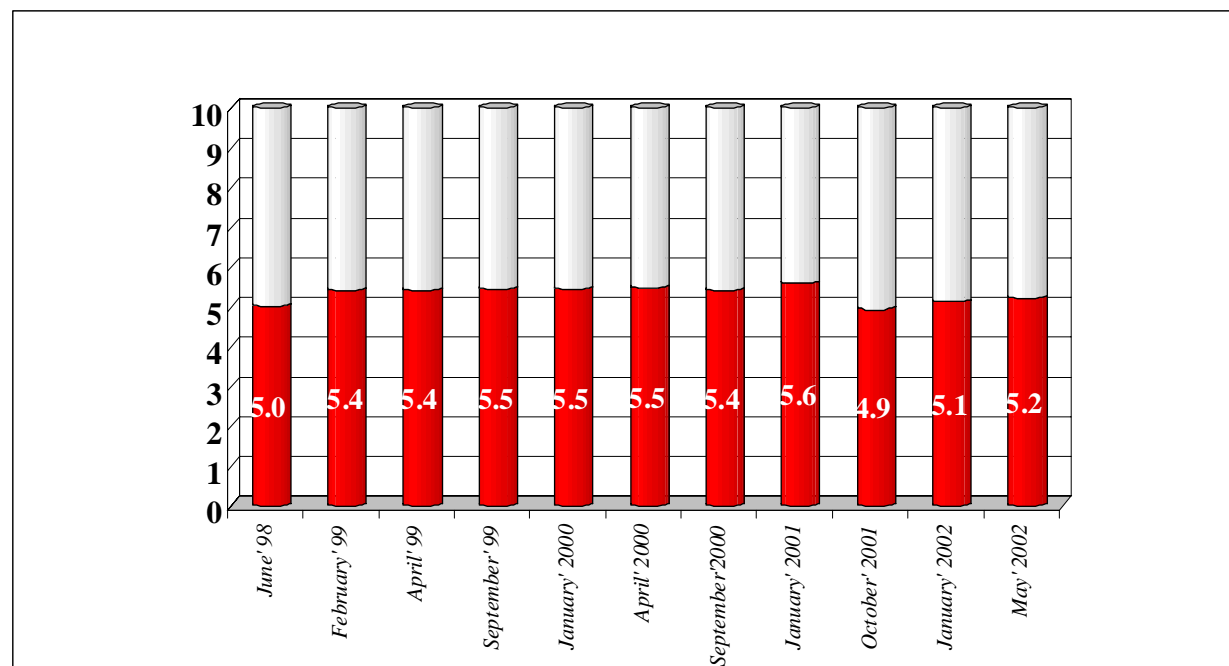
## CORRUPTION EXPECTATIONS

This index reflects the assessment of the possibilities (potential) of Bulgarian society to cope with corruption.

The lowest level of this index, registered in October 2001 and compared to the whole monitored period, is slightly compensated by the subsequent increase for the present period.

As a whole, however, the level of the index continues to be high. This shows that the potential of Bulgarian society to cope with the problem of “corruption” is not linked only with the change of mass attitudes to this phenomenon, but also with the appearance of new social practices. New regulatory mechanisms are needed which are at the same time legitimate, morally acceptable and practically effective.

**FIGURE 7. CORRUPTION EXPECTATIONS**



Base: N = 1170



Vitosha Research (VR) is a social and market research agency. It has been established as a result of the development of the Sociological program of the Center for the Study of Democracy and started its work in 1989.

Vitosha Research is specialized in carrying out social and market research in the fields of corruption and crime, social policies, economic, political and electoral behaviour, privatization, value orientations and attitudes of Bulgarians, public opinion studies, surveys of media audiences and programs, advertising and market research and others.



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