

# Corruption Indexes of *Coalition 2000*

September 1999



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## SURVEY METHODOLOGY

### *Sample*

National representative survey of the population covering 1110 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 September 11 - September 25, 1999

## CORRUPTION INDEXES

- Corruption indexes are among the important outputs of the Corruption Monitoring System (CMS) of *Coalition 2000*. Their values will be updated quarterly based on survey data.
- Corruption assessment index numbers assume values from 0-10.
- The closer the value of the indexes is to 10, the more negative are the assessments of the evaluated aspect of corruption in Bulgaria. Index numbers closer 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

Corruption is among the three most important problems Bulgaria is currently facing. When compared with previous surveys, corruption has gained an increased significance. In September 1999 it ranked as the third most important problem of Bulgarian society.

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

	<i>February '99</i>	<i>April '99</i>	<i>September '99</i>
1. Unemployment	58,4	64,1	64,6
2. Low incomes	51,3	49,1	50,2
<b>3. Corruption</b>	<b>38,5</b>	<b>34,2</b>	<b>38,5</b>
4. Poverty	31,6	32,9	37,1
5. Crime	45,4	39,1	32,4
6. High prices	22,9	20,5	21,9
7. Healthcare	11,5	9,2	16,0
8. Political instability	17,7	20,2	15,4
9. Pollution	3,6	5,2	5,0
10. Ethnic problems	2,1	2,4	4,0
11. Education	2,7	2,9	3,8

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

Base: N= 1110

## ATTITUDES TOWARDS CORRUPTION

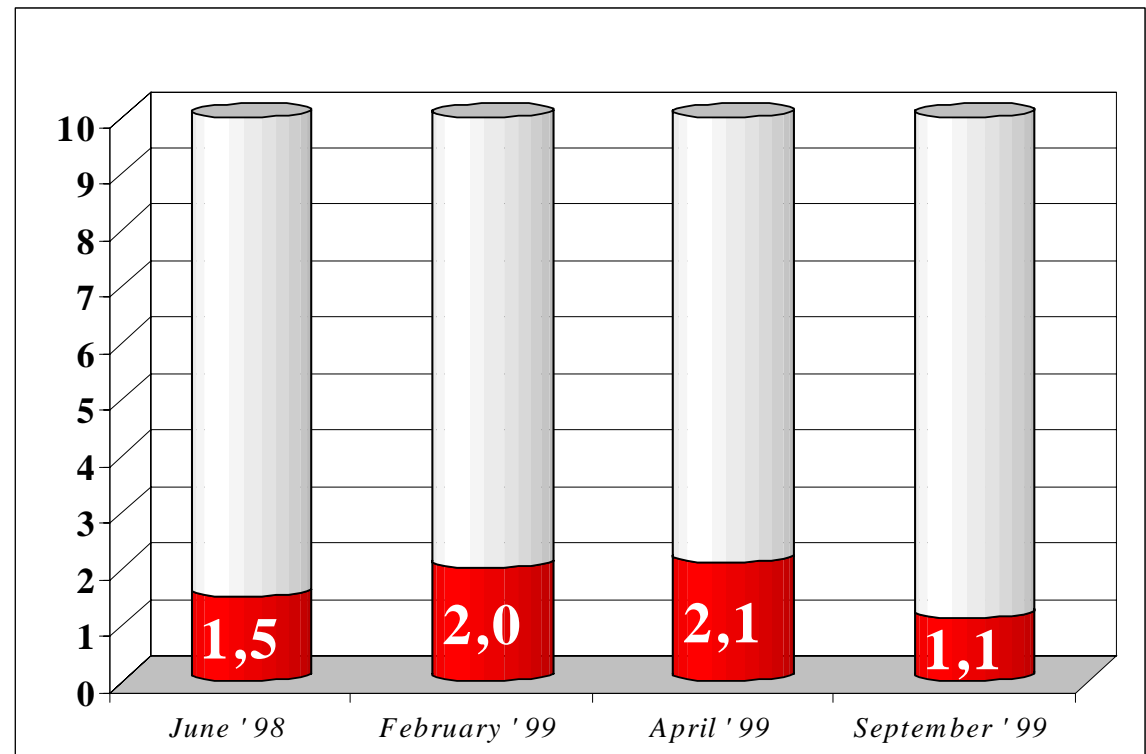
### Acceptability in Principle

The index registers the level of tolerance towards various corrupt practices within the value system of Bulgarians.

In September the value of the index was **1.1**, which indicates that corruption is increasingly perceived as a morally unacceptable social practice. This is demonstrated by the significant decline of the index, which is the biggest change observed since the start of corruption monitoring.

In comparison with April 1999, there is a clearly manifested trend towards reduced tolerance to typical corrupt practices, such as receiving money, gifts or services by public sector officials.

FIGURE 1. ACCEPTABILITY IN PRINCIPLE



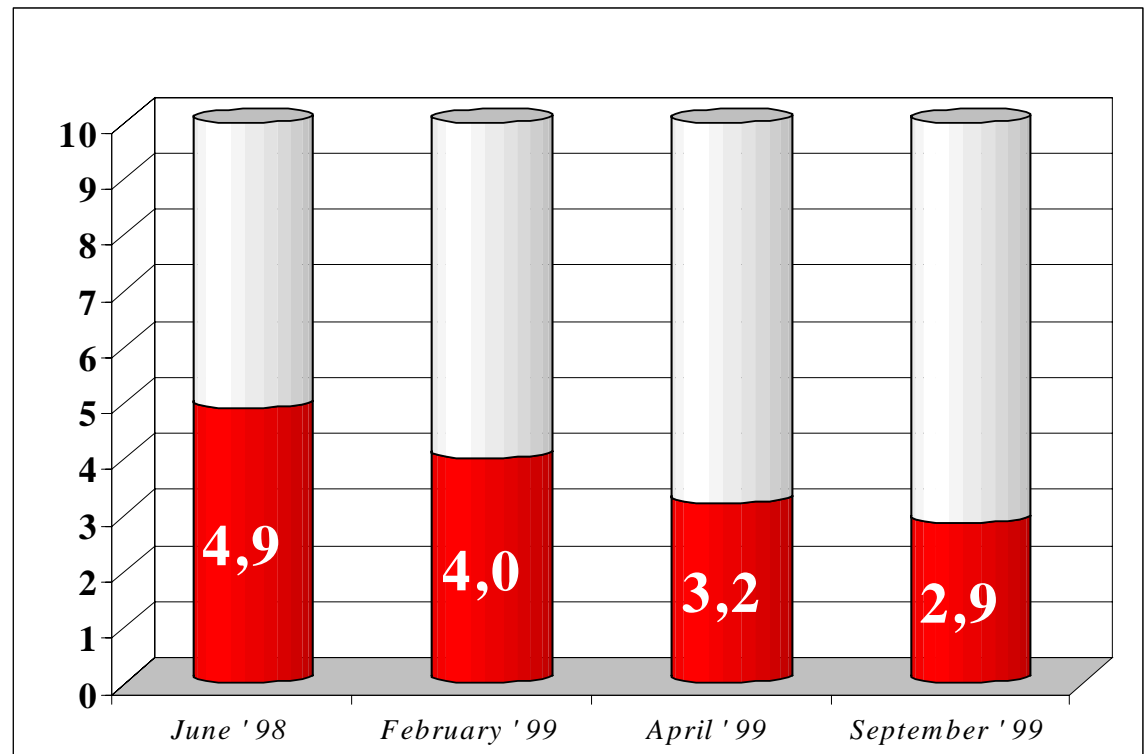
Base: N = 1110

### Susceptibility to corruption

The index measures the compromise with principles and values under the pressure of circumstances.

In September 1999 the value of the susceptibility-to-corruption index was **2.9**. This in line with the trend for decline in the value of the index, observed in the previous surveys. This trend indicates intolerance to corrupt practices and desire to disengage from corrupt behavior in spite of the pressure of circumstances. Nevertheless, the value of the index remains high.

**FIGURE 2. SUSCEPTIBILITY TO CORRUPTION**



Base: N = 1110

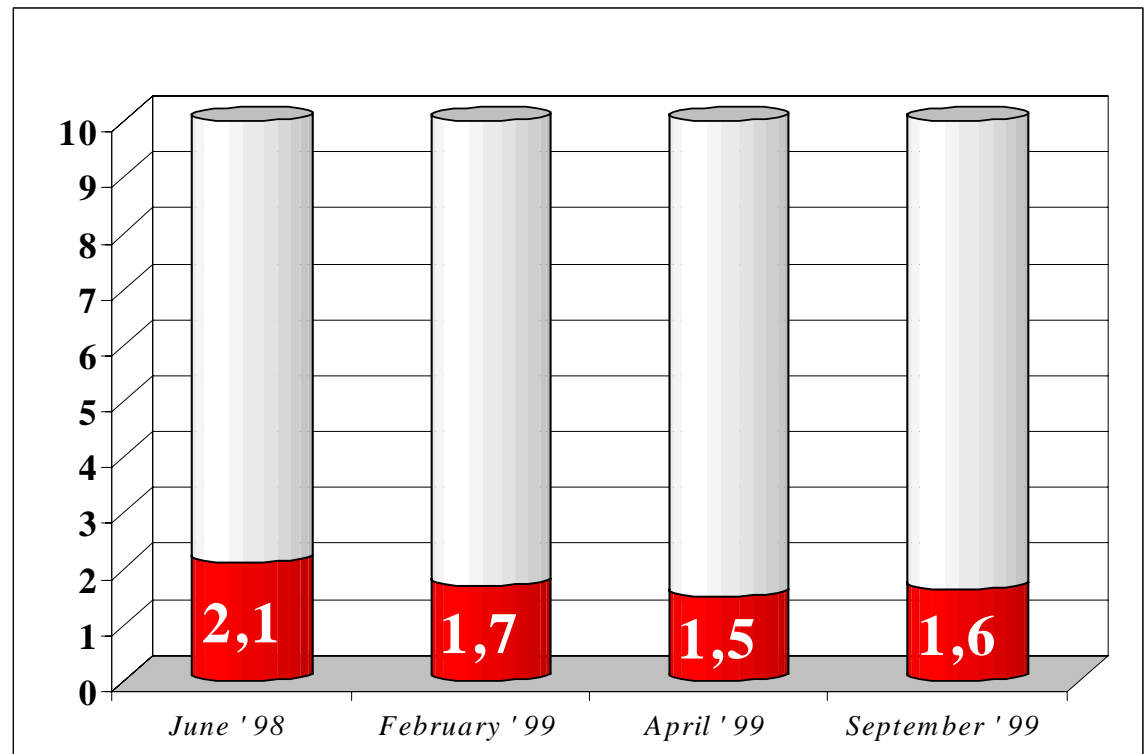
## CORRUPT PRACTICES

### Corruption pressure

The index measures the frequency of attempts by public sector officials to exert either direct or indirect pressure over citizens in order to solicit money, gifts or services.

In September 1999 the value of the corruption pressure index was **1.6**, which indicates that direct pressure to commit bribery is fairly small.

FIGURE 3. CORRUPTION PRESSURE



Base: N = 1110



### Corrupt practices

The survey data obtained indicate that a significant number of respondents point at customs officers, police officials, and medical doctors as the professions that most often are involved in acts of corruption. Despite some slight changes their positions, these professions have been on the top of the since the start of corruption monitoring. An interesting new aspect is the changing attitude of respondents to tax officials, who have moved six places up.

The professions at the bottom of the ranking list continue to be those of teachers and Members of Parliament.

**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:"**

	<i>February '99</i>	<i>April '99</i>	<i>September '99</i>
	<i>%*</i>	<i>%*</i>	<i>%*</i>
Customs officer	17,3	27,9	30,7
Police officer	22,3	22,8	25,9
Doctor	26,6	21,5	25,1
Administrative staff from the judicial system	15,9	20,4	23,6
Businessperson	13,4	12,0	12,8
Municipal official	15,6	11,5	18,0
Judge	8,6	10,9	11,3
University teacher or official	12,4	9,5	16,2
Municipal Council member	8,9	8,6	5,7
Prosecutor	5,5	7,9	9,5
Criminal investigator	7,4	7,9	6,1
Ministry official	5,4	6,7	7,6
Tax official	9,5	6,6	12,1
Teacher	3,4	4,8	5,0
Member of Parliament	2,5	4,8	3,9

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

### Corrupt practices

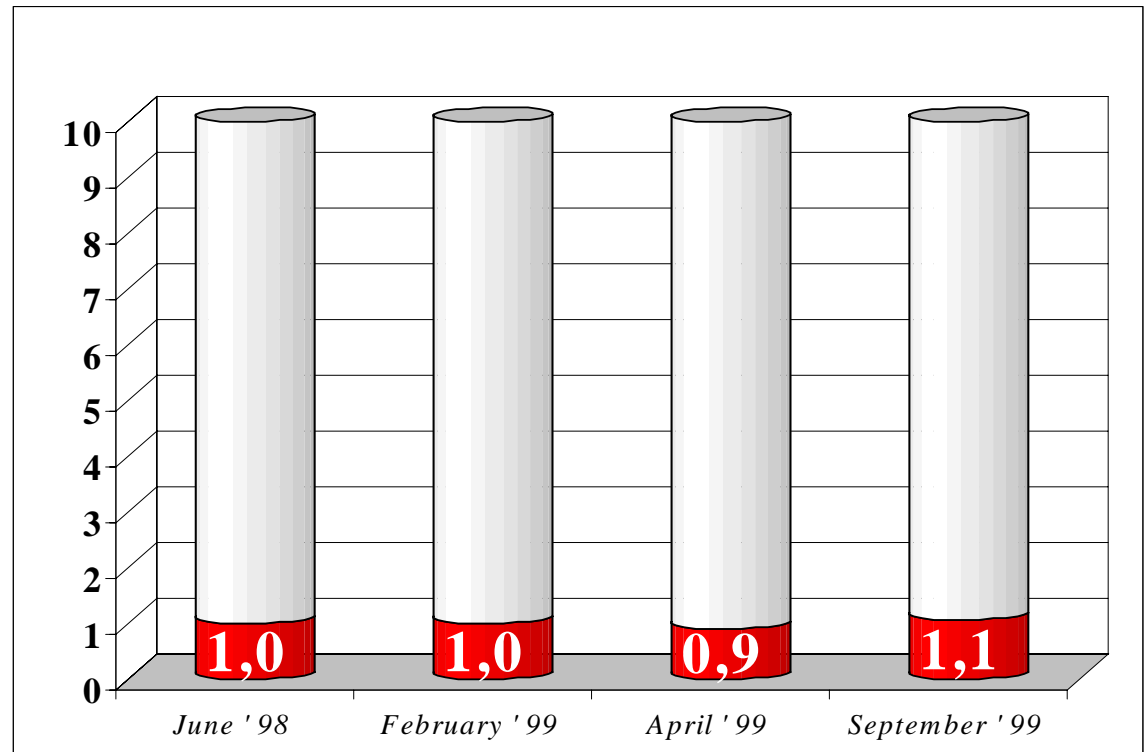
This index reflects the self-assessed/acknowledged personal involvement of respondents in corrupt practices.

In September 1999 the index of personal involvement in corrupt practices maintained its low value, with very small fluctuations from the values measured in the previous surveys.

More than half of those interviews denied firmly any involvement in corrupt practices over the last year, such as paying bribes or bringing gifts to the officials with whom they had been in contact.

The stable values of this index indicate that changes affect to a greater extent people's attitudes to corruption than their actual behavior.

FIGURE 4. CORRUPT PRACTICES



Base: N = 1110

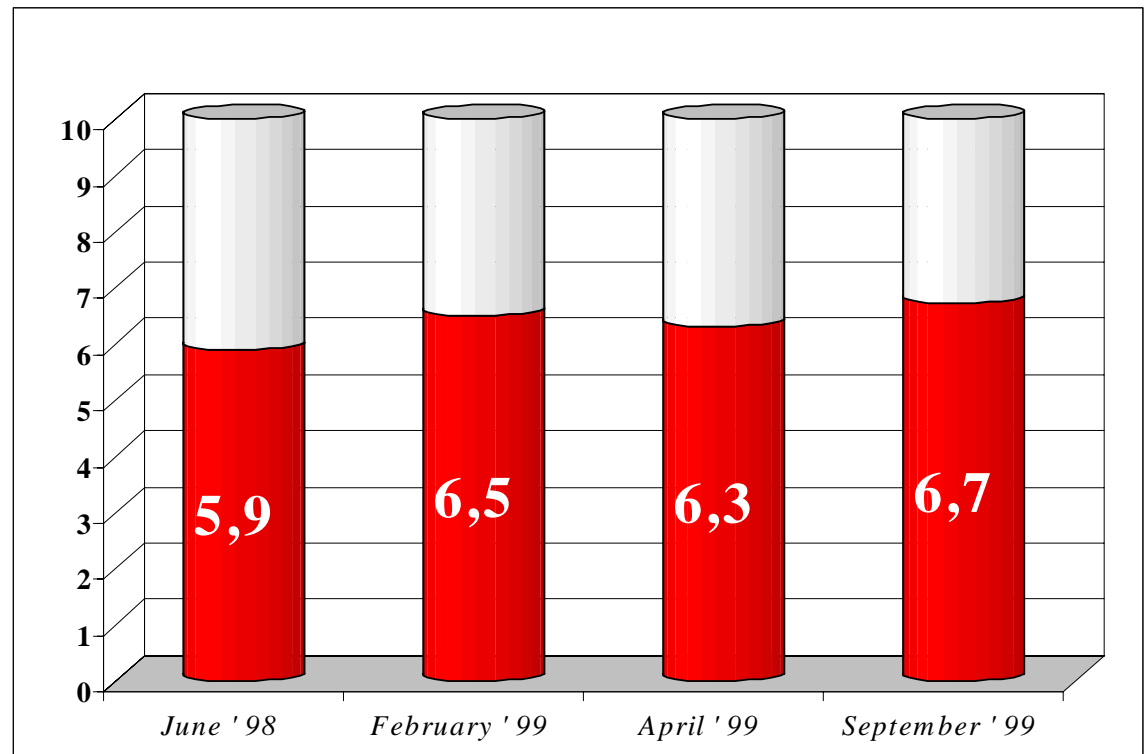
## ASSESSMENTS OF THE SPREAD OF CORRUPTION

### Spread of corruption

The index records the assessment of the spread of corrupt practices among public sector officials.

The value of the index in September 1999 is higher than ever. Nonetheless, the index upward movement is not so big as to signify spread of corrupt practices. What is indicated instead is that corrupt behavior has been increasingly accepted as something wide spread.

**FIGURE 5. SPREAD OF CORRUPTION**



Base: N = 1110

### Spread of corruption

The personal involvement in corrupt practices is the result of low incomes, leading to low living standards and low positions in social hierarchy. At the same time, the imperfectness of legislation and the existence of “loop-holes” and “white spots” in the system for control make corrupt practices possible and create favorable conditions for their further spread. The stable trend in the public’s assessments indicates that corruption is caused by problems linked to the period of transition and not by legacy from the previous authoritarian regime.

**TABLE 3. MAJOR FACTORS ACCOUNTING FOR THE SPREAD OF CORRUPTION IN THIS COUNTRY**

	<i>February '99</i>	<i>April '99</i>	<i>September '99</i>
Fast personal enrichment sought by those in power	53,5	52,9	54,8
Low salaries	51,9	51,5	43,6
Imperfect legislation	41,1	38,8	37,8
Lack of strict administrative control	35,2	36,4	33,8
Intertwinement of official duties and personal interests	25,1	25,8	28,3
Ineffectiveness of the judicial system	26,4	19,6	27,5
Moral crisis in the period of transition	19,4	19,4	19,4
Problems inherited from the communist past	10,9	6,8	7,4
Specific characteristics of Bulgarian national culture	5,7	6,9	4,7

*Respondents cited up to three factors, which is why the sum total of percentages exceeds 100.*

Base: N= 1110

### Spread of corruption

The spread of corruption among institutions largely reproduces the structure by occupational groups (see Table 4). The public's assessments indicate that corruption in the customs, the judiciary, and the Privatization Agency is constantly believed to be extremely high. The police and tax authorities continue to be among the most corrupt with the figures going slightly up. The Bulgarian Army, the National Institute of Statistics and the Presidency have preserved their reputation as institutions where corruption is low.

**TABLE 4. "ACCORDING TO YOU, HOW WIDESPREAD IS CORRUPTION IN THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS:"**

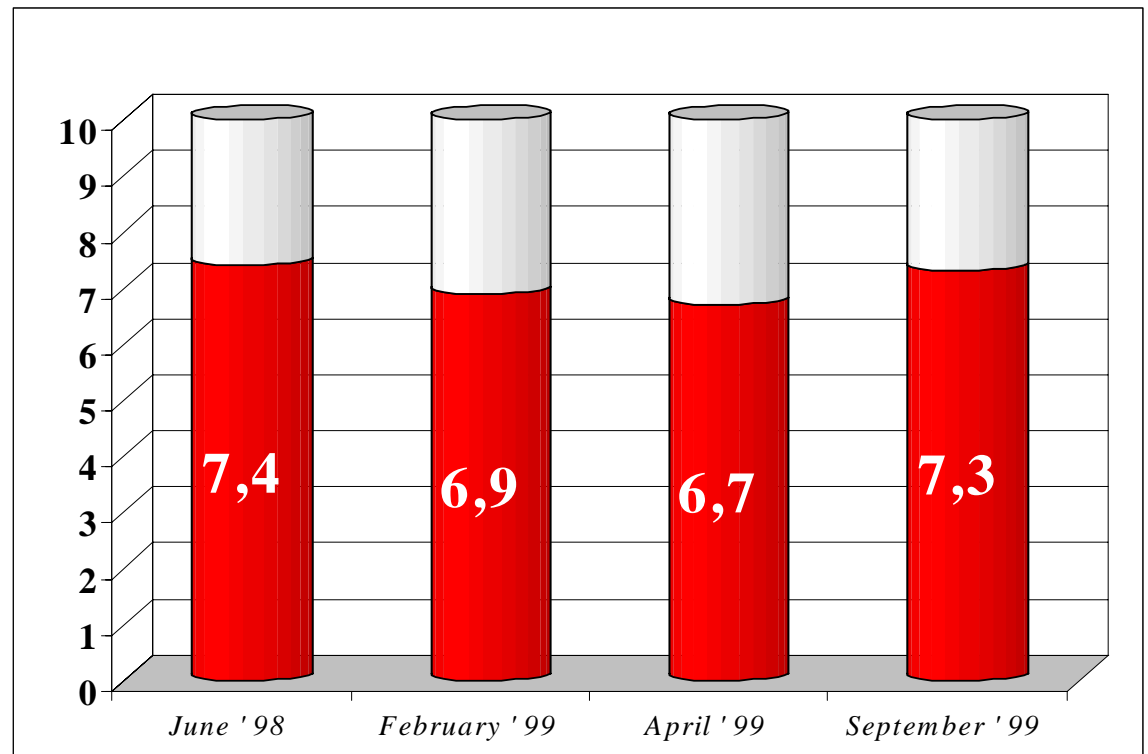
	<i>April '99</i>	<i>September'99</i>
Customs	8,78	9,10
Tax services	7,10	7,98
Judicial system	7,62	7,88
Privatisation Agency	7,46	7,86
Police	7,16	7,54
Sector ministries	6,94	7,40
Foreign Aid Agency	7,02	7,40
District administration	6,90	7,32
Municipal administration	6,64	7,24
Parliament	6,78	7,16
Government	6,58	7,12
Committee on Energy	6,40	6,84
Committee on Posts and Telecommunications	5,86	6,42
Commission on the Protection of Competition	6,14	6,40
Securities and Stock-Exchanges Commission	6,24	6,28
National Audit Chamber	5,74	5,86
Bulgarian National Bank	5,34	5,32
Army	4,88	5,06
National Statistical Institute	4,80	4,54
Presidency	4,46	4,50

### Practical efficiency of corruption

This index reflects citizens perception of the extent to which citizens corruption has evolved into an efficient tool of solving their personal problems.

In September 1999 the index for the practical efficiency of corruption preserved its high value - **7.3**, which represents an increase by more than half a point compared to the value measured in the previous survey. This result provides enough ground to claim that mass attitudes play a dominant role in the successful social mechanism of corrupt behavior and that these attitudes are likely to change fairly slowly in time.

FIGURE 6. PRACTICAL EFFICIENCY OF CORRUPTION



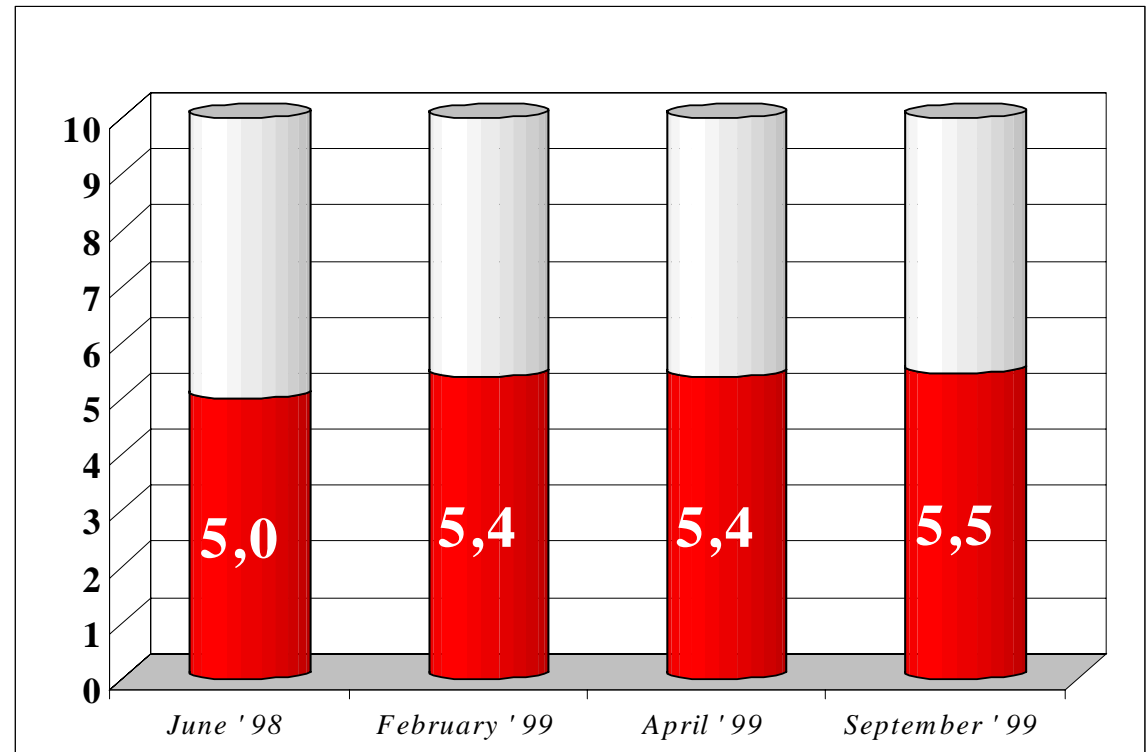
Base: N = 1110

## CORRUPTION EXPECTATIONS

This index records assessments of the capability (the potential) of Bulgarian society to curb corruption.

The survey conducted in September 1999 recorded the highest value of the corruption expectations index since the beginning of corruption monitoring. The index rose by half a point compared to the middle of 1998 and by one tenth compared to the previous survey. This indicates that Bulgarian society's pessimism concerning the possibility to tackle the problem of corruption remains stable in time. In other words, stable negative expectations have been observed.

FIGURE 7. CORRUPTION EXPECTATIONS



Base: N = 1110

Vitosha Research (VR) is a social and market research agency and the survey research unit of the Center for the Study of Democracy, Sofia.

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

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