

Corruption Indexes of *Coalition 2000*

PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES



April 1999

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SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Survey

National survey covering 320 representatives of the following public sector groups:

- Doctors
- Nurses, orderlies, and hospital administration
- University teachers and university administration
- Teachers
- Employees of labor offices and social assistance services
- Officials from district administration services, municipalities, mayor's offices
- Police officers, including Traffic Police
- Court and law-enforcement officials
- Customs officers and tax officials
- Officials from ministries, committees, state agencies, and other institutions.

Survey method

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

Field work

Field work was conducted between March 27 - April 16, 1999.

CHIEF PROBLEMS FACED BY BULGARIA

Public sector employees rate corruption among the five most important national problems. By significance corruption measures up to the chief social and economic problems confronted by our society.

TABLE 1. CHIEF PROBLEMS FACED BY BULGARIA

	<i>April ' 99</i>
Low incomes	60,6%
Unemployment	58,1%
Crime	47,8%
Corruption	42,8%
Poverty	32,2%
Political instability	19,7%
Healthcare	11,3%
High prices	9,7%
Education	5,3%
Ethnic problems	3,4%
Pollution	2,5%

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

Base: N= 320

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.

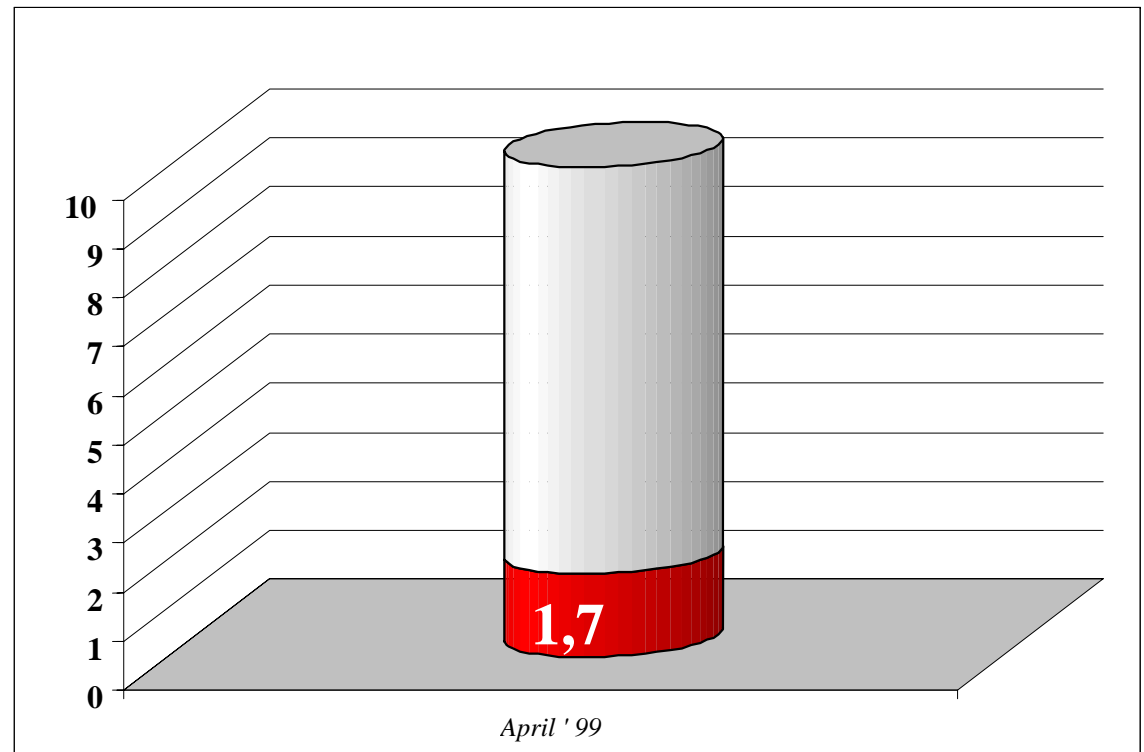
ATTITUDES TOWARDS CORRUPTION

Acceptability in Principle

Reflects the level of tolerance within the value system towards various corrupt practices in public life among public sector employees.

The value of this index is 1.7 and indicates that corruption is very poorly valued in moral and ethical terms.

FIGURE 1. ACCEPTABILITY IN PRINCIPLE



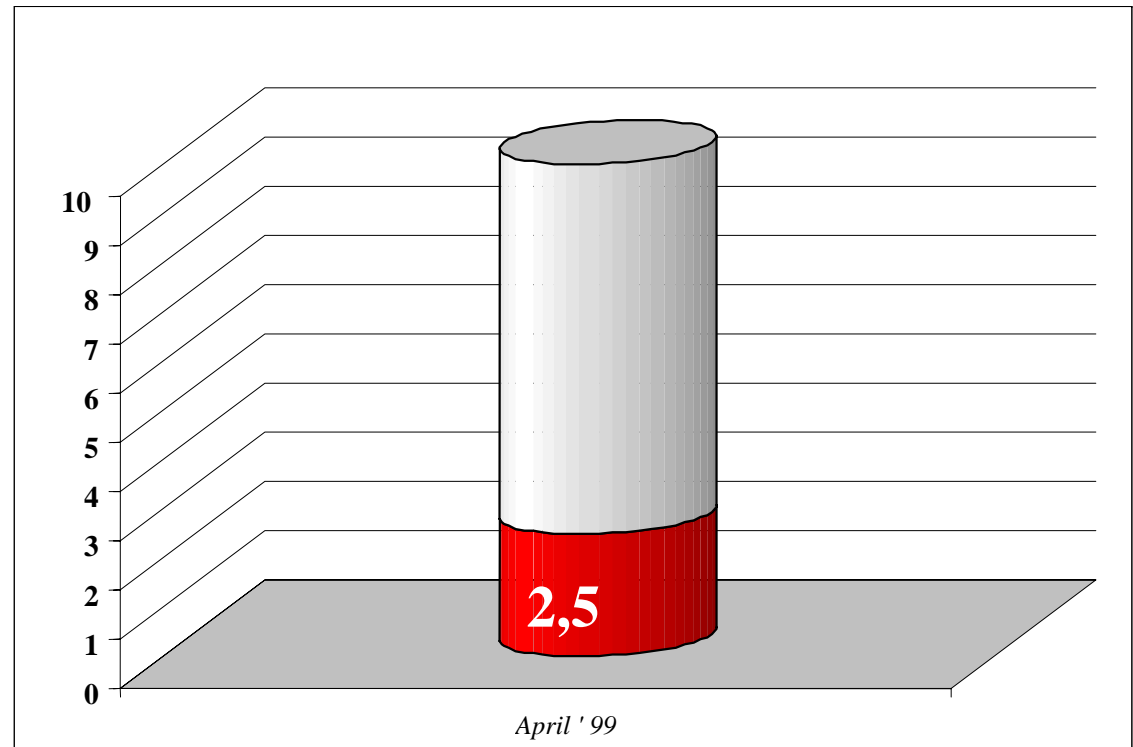
Base: N = 320

Susceptibility to corruption

Measures the inclination to compromise with principles and values under the pressure of circumstances.

The value of this index indicates that susceptibility to corruption among public sector employees is relatively low.

FIGURE 2. SUSCEPTIBILITY TO CORRUPTION



Base: N = 320

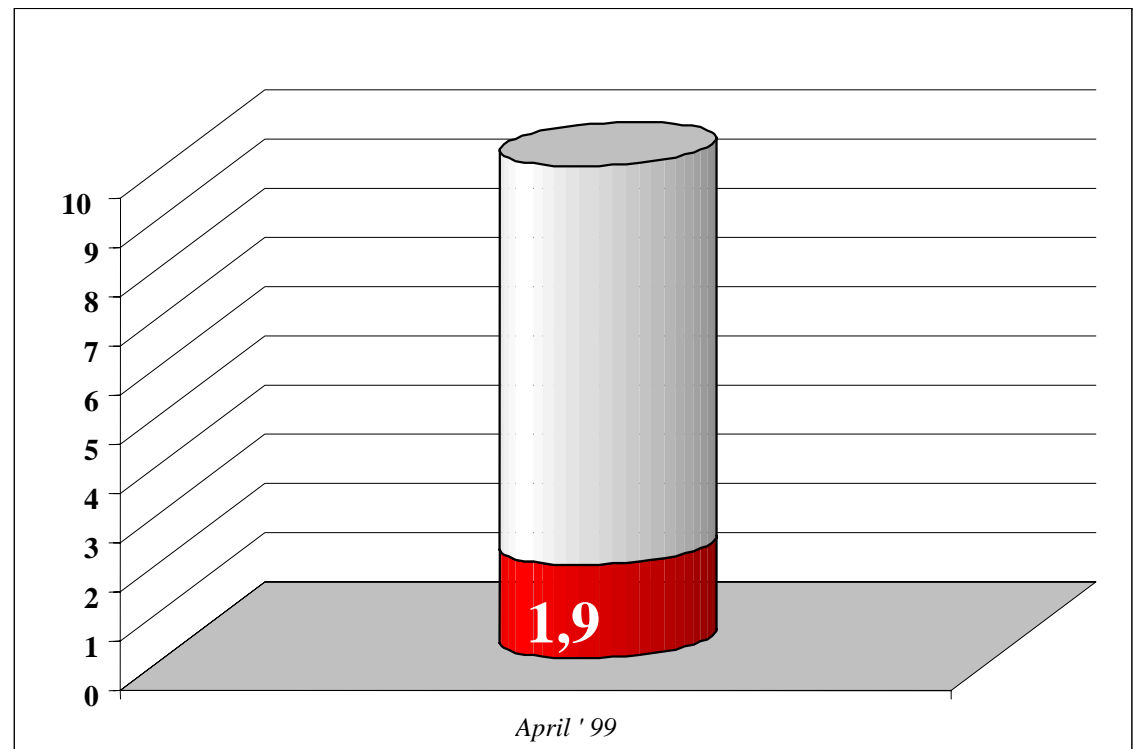
CORRUPT PRACTICES

Corruption pressure

Measures the spread of attempts to exert direct or indirect pressure on public sector employees to accept money, gifts, or services in return of solving a personal problem.

The index shows that direct coercion or indirect attempts to involve public officials in corruption are not widespread, i.e., corruption pressure exerted on public officials is relatively low.

FIGURE 3. CORRUPTION PRESSURE



Base: N = 320

**Corruption pressure
(Occupational groups)**

The data obtained reflect the personal experience of public sector employees in their contacts with colleagues from other occupational groups.

Officials at *customs* and *municipalities* are **most actively involved in corrupt behavior**, having exerted corruption pressure on one in four public sector employees who have had contacts with them. Among the five occupations reported to exert strong corruption pressure are *businesspersons*, *doctors*, and *police officers*.

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>April '99</i>	
	<i>% **</i>	<i>Base *</i>
Customs officer	26,70	86
Municipal official	24,40	205
Businessperson	22,70	163
Doctor	21,70	224
Police officer	20,60	141
University teacher or official	17,10	111
Administrative staff in the judicial system	15,70	140
Ministry official	15,40	91
Tax official	10,60	189
Judge	8,70	103
Criminal investigator	7,40	94
Member of Parliament	7,40	54
Teacher	6,40	171
Municipal Council member	5,30	95
Prosecutor	3,20	94

** - Number of respondents who have had contacts with the respective officials in the course of the past year.*

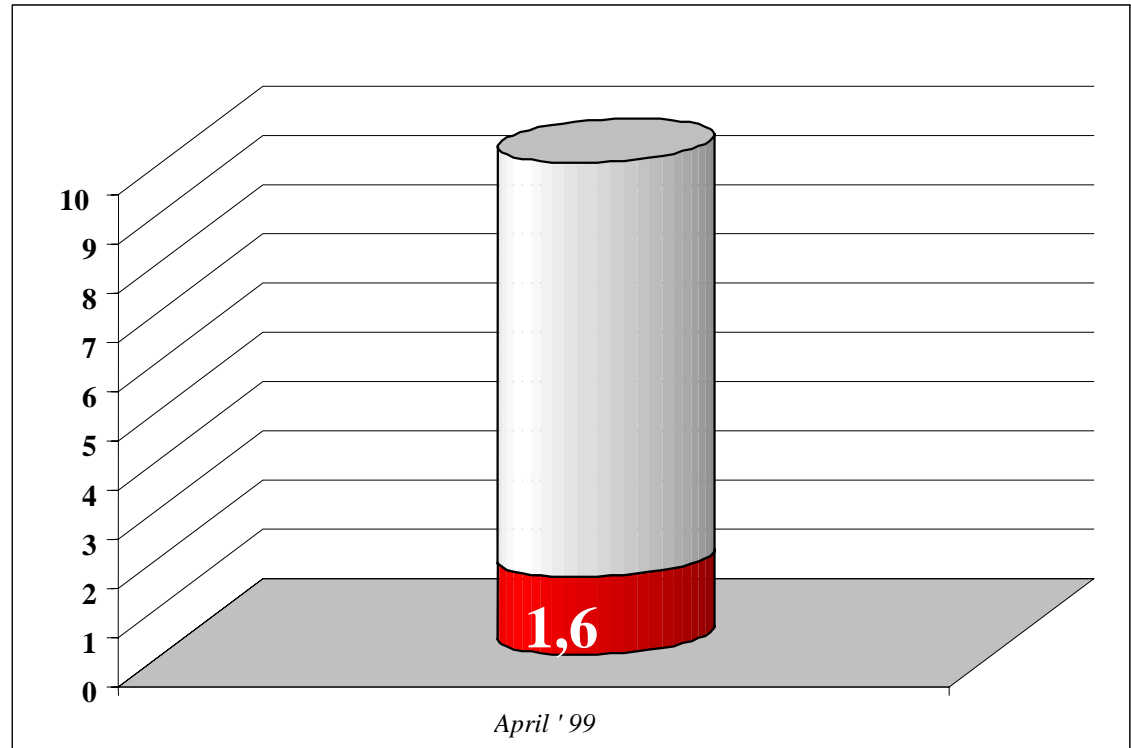
*** - Relative share of those who have had such contacts, who have been asked for money, gifts, or services*

Corrupt practices

Reflects the acknowledged/self-assessed personal involvement of respondents in forms of corrupt behavior.

The low value of the index shows that few public officials are inclined to admit their own direct involvement in any form of corrupt behavior despite the anonymous nature of the survey.

FIGURE 4. CORRUPT PRACTICES. “IN THE COURSE OF THE PAST YEAR, HAVE YOU ACCEPTED GIFTS FROM CITIZENS WHOSE PROBLEMS YOU HAVE DEALT WITH AS PART OF YOUR OFFICIAL DUTIES”



Base: N = 320

Corrupt practices in the immediate environment

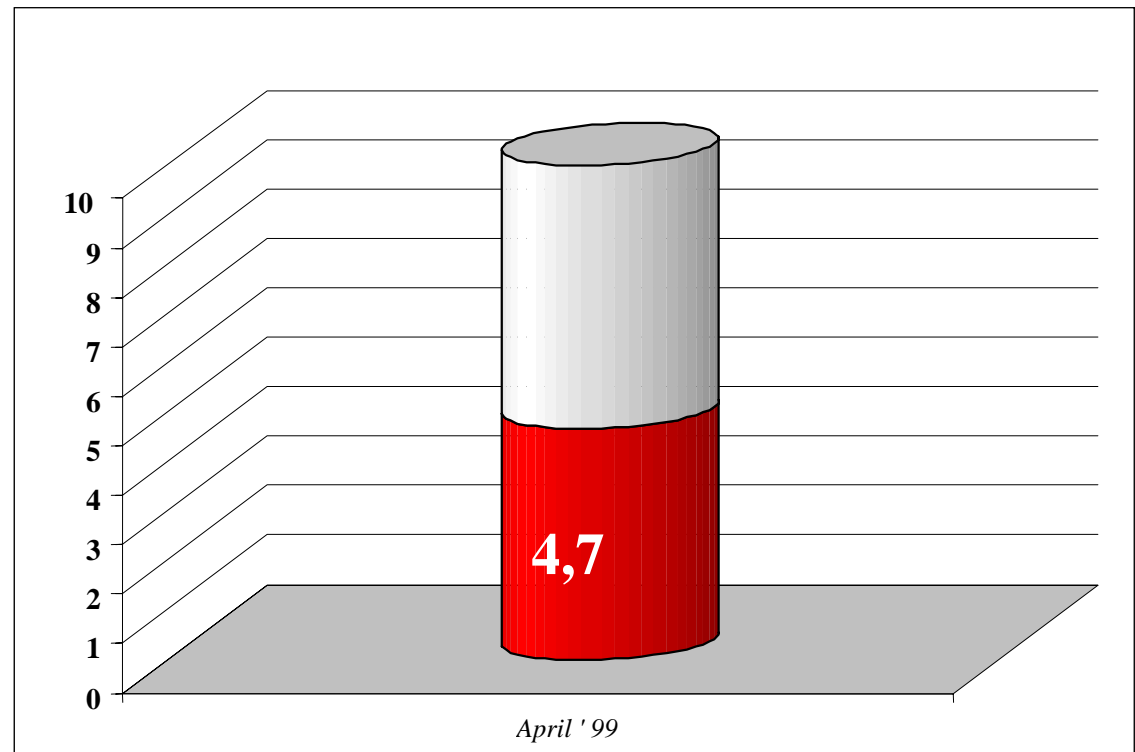
Reflects the perceptions of public sector employees about the **degree of involvement of their own colleagues in corrupt practices.**

The index shows that a large part of public sector employees admit that their own colleagues might be involved in corruption.

It is noteworthy that officials are much more inclined to acknowledge possible corrupt behavior on the part of their colleagues than avow personal involvement in such practices.

As a rule, the public sector employees interviewed knew about, or suspected, corrupt practices within their own professional sector while excluding themselves in the vast majority of cases.

FIGURE 5. ACTS OF CORRUPTION. “ACCORDING TO YOU, HOW OFTEN DO COLLEAGUES OF YOURS ACCEPT MONEY OR GIFTS FROM PEOPLE WITH WHOM THEY HAVE HAD OFFICIAL CONTACTS”



Base: N = 320

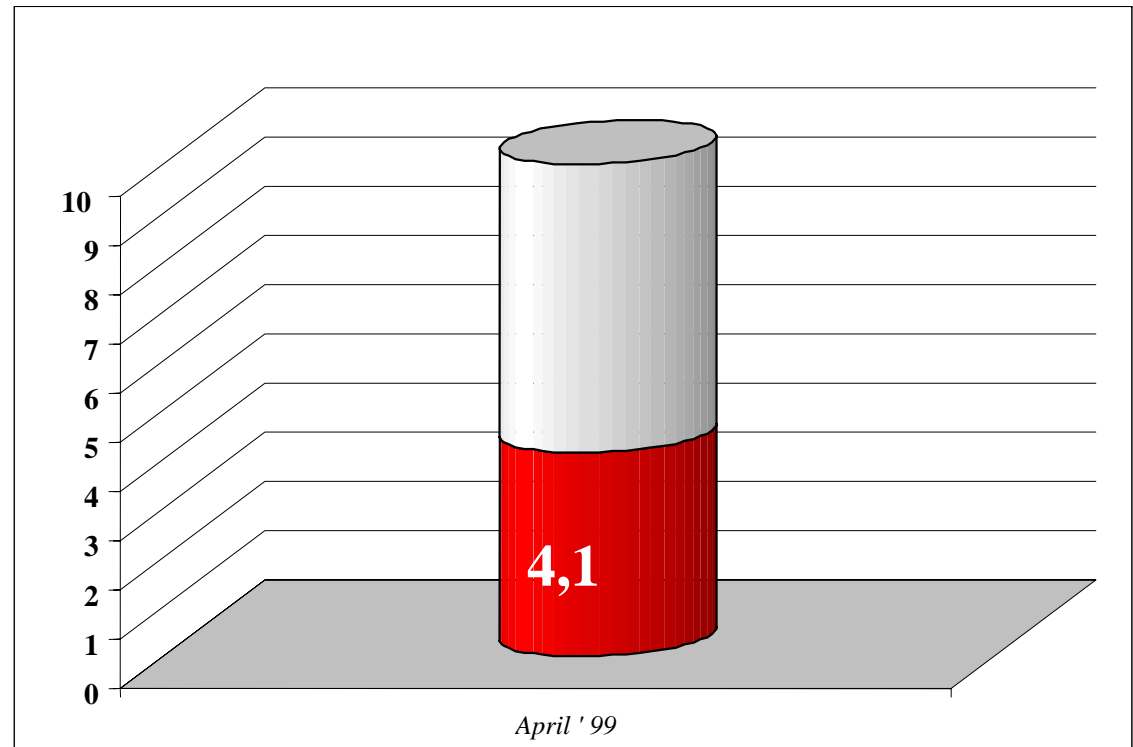
ASSESSMENTS OF THE SPREAD OF CORRUPTION

Spread of corruption

Registers the assessments of public sector employees regarding the spread of corrupt practices.

The value of this index suggests that corrupt practices are relatively widespread and are perceived as normal forms of everyday social interaction.

FIGURE 6. SPREAD OF CORRUPTION



Base: N = 320

Spread of corruption

Two are the key factors cited by public officials as accounting for the spread of corruption:

- “the low salary” is what drives officials to get involved in corruption;
- “the desire to get rich fast” tempts those who have power to succumb to corruption.

The inability to set apart personal interests from official duties is another factor favoring the spread of corruption, aided by the lack of adequate legislation, weak administrative control, and ineffective judicial system.

In the perceptions of public officials the moral crisis in the transition period is a stronger corruption-inducing factor than the legacy from the totalitarian past and the specific characteristics of Bulgarian national culture.

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

	<i>April '99</i>
Low salaries	77,50%
Fast personal enrichment sought by those in power	51,90%
Intertwinement of official duties and personal interests	35,60%
Moral crisis in the period of transition	32,20%
Imperfect legislation	26,90%
Lack of strict administrative control	22,80%
Ineffectiveness of the judicial system	21,60%
Problems inherited from the communist past	16,90%
Specific characteristics of Bulgarian national culture	6,30%

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

Base: N= 320

Spread of corruption

Public officials also believe that corruption is most widespread among *customs officers*.

In their day-to-day activity public officials probably witness particular occurrences of corruption which make them rate the spheres of proliferation of corruption differently than the average Bulgarian.

Public officials assume there is widespread corruption among *businesspersons, lawyers, and tax officials*.

Also regarded as highly susceptible to corruption are politicians - *political party leaders, members of parliament, local political leaders*.

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

	<i>Relative share of those who answered "nearly all" and "most are involved in corruption"</i>
Customs officers	76,90
Businesspersons	57,50
Lawyers	54,70
Tax officials	52,20
Leaders of political parties and coalitions	51,60
Members of parliament	50,30
Local political leaders	49,40
Ministers	49,00
Prosecutors	48,80
Police officers	48,40
Ministry officials	47,90
Municipal officials	47,20
Judges	47,20
Doctors	44,10
Administrative staff in the judicial system	42,80
University teachers or officials	41,90
Criminal investigators	41,60
Municipal Council members	39,10
Representatives of non-governmental organizations	26,90
Journalists	18,70
Teachers	11,90

Base: N= 320

Spread of corruption

Public sector employees assess *customs* as the institution in which corruption mechanisms are most widespread.

The ranking of the national agencies in terms of the scope of corruption within them suggests that *nearly all Bulgarian institutions* are characterized by a high level of “saturation” with corrupt practices.

The *presidency* is the undisputed leader in the perceptions of public sector employees as the institution in which corruption is least widespread.

TABLE 5. “ACCORDING TO YOU, HOW WIDESPREAD IS CORRUPTION IN THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS:”

	<i>Corruption Index</i>	<i>Base *</i>
Customs	8,96	299
Privatization Agency	8,00	270
Foreign Aid Agency	7,48	241
Judicial system	7,42	292
Tax services	7,38	291
Sector ministries	7,16	265
Parliament	6,96	262
Police	6,94	297
Committee on Energy	6,90	239
Government	6,84	259
District administration	6,84	252
Municipal administration	6,80	288
Committee on Posts and Telecommunications	6,46	240
Securities and Stock Exchanges Commission	6,36	188
Commission on the Protection of Competition	6,36	200
National Audit Chamber	5,68	191
Bulgarian National Bank	5,64	207
National Statistical Institute	5,38	195
Army	4,96	254
Presidency	4,38	218

** The number of respondents who made an assessment of the spread of corruption in the respective institutions*

Spread of corruption

If one institution has to be singled out in terms of the scope of corruption within it, public sector employees overwhelmingly point out *customs*.

Parliament and the *judicial system* are perceived as the most corrupt institutions nearly seven times less often.

TABLE 6. "ACCORDING TO YOU, IN WHICH OF THE ENUMERATED INSTITUTIONS IS CORRUPTION MOST WIDESPREAD"

	%
Customs	54,1
Parliament	7,9
Judicial system	7,9
Privatization Agency	6,5
Government	5,8
Tax services	5,1
Sector ministries	3,1
Municipal administration	2,4
Committee on Posts and Telecommunications	1,7
Police	1,4
Committee on Energy	1,4
Foreign Aid Agency	1,4
Presidency	0,7
District administration	0,3

Base: N = 292

Spread of corruption

The *Presidency* has been overwhelmingly cited as an institution in which corruption is least widespread.

The *Army* and the *National Statistical Institute* have also been identified as zones where corrupt practices are relatively limited.

Of all those interviewed, only one or two respondents believed the various state agencies, committees, commissions, as well as the *Government* and the *judicial system* as a whole were areas where corruption is least widespread.

TABLE 7. “ACCORDING TO YOU, IN WHICH OF THE ENUMERATED INSTITUTIONS IS CORRUPTION LEAST WIDESPREAD”

	%
Presidency	39,4
Army	16,7
National Statistical Institute	16,3
National Audit Chamber	8,4
Bulgarian National Bank	5,2
Municipal Administration	3,2
Police	2,4
Committee on Posts and Telecommunications	2,0
District administration	1,2
Commission on the Protection of Competition	1,2
Tax services	0,8
Privatization Agency	0,8
Foreign Aid Agency	0,8
Government	0,4
Judicial system	0,4
Committee on Energy	0,4
Securities and Stock Exchanges Commission	0,4

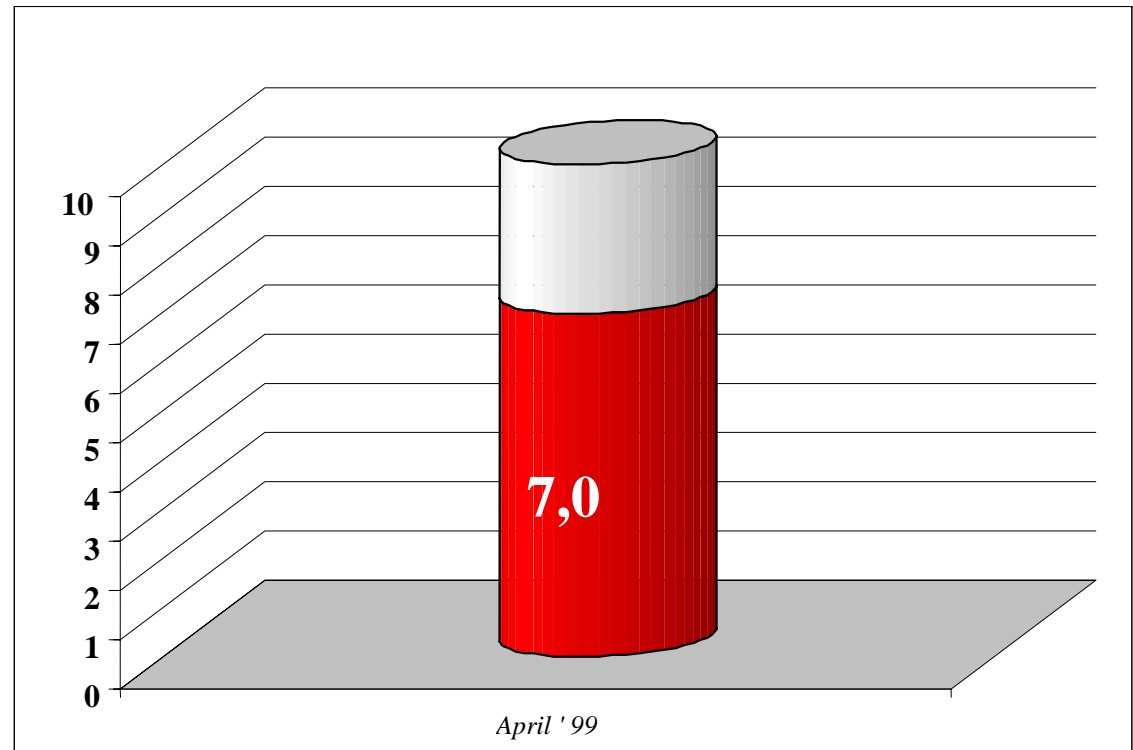
Base: N = 251

Practical efficiency of corruption

Reflects the perceptions of public sector employees about the extent to which corruption is turning into an efficient means of solving everyday problems.

The value of the index shows that even among public officials corruption mechanisms and practices are viewed as a successful social technology for solving personal problems.

FIGURE 7. PRACTICAL EFFICIENCY OF CORRUPTION



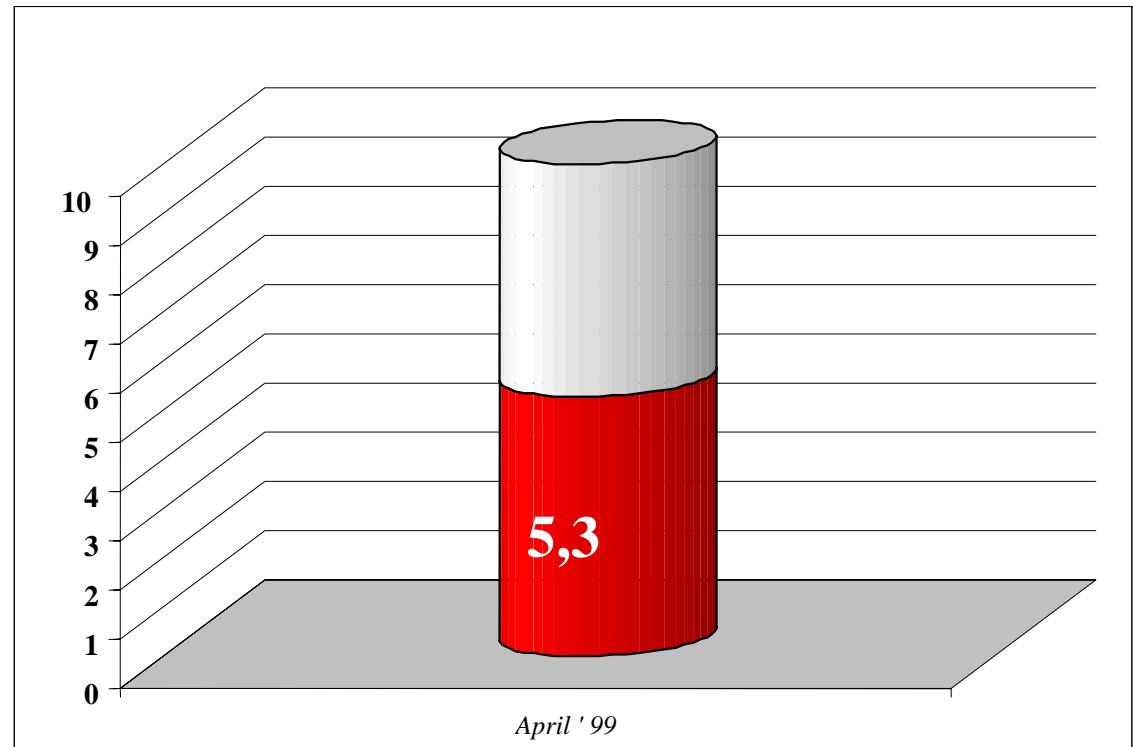
Base: N = 320

CORRUPTION EXPECTATIONS

Records assessments of the capability and potential of Bulgarian society to cope with corruption.

The pessimism of public sector employees regarding the possibility of curbing corruption is considerable. The value of the index suggests that, similarly to the general population, public officials are highly doubtful that the scope of corrupt practices might be reduced.

FIGURE 8. CORRUPTION EXPECTATIONS



Base: N = 320

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 has a record of experience in diverse settings covering a wide range of research fields: economic behavior and privatization, social policy, political attitudes, value orientations, market research, media and audience research, advertising studies, evaluation studies and others.



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