Corruption Indices of Coalition 2000

February 1999

Summary Results

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RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Sample

National sample representative of the population aged 18 and over. Sample size: 1143 respondents.

Survey method

Face-to-face interview

Field work

The field work was conducted in the period February 6 –20, 1999.

MAJOR PROBLEMS BULGARIA IS FACING

Corruption is among the five most important problems Bulgaria is facing today.

TABLE 1. FIVE MOST CRITICAL PROBLEMS BULGARIA IS FACING

Unemployment	**58,40 %**
Low incomes	**51,30 %**
Crime	**45,40 %**
Corruption	**38,50 %**
Poverty	**31,60 %**
High prices	**22,90 %**
Political instability	**17,70 %**
Healthcare	**11,50 %**
Pollution	**3,60 %**
Education	**2,70 %**
Ethnic problems	**2,10 %**

The sum of percentages exceeds 100, as respondents have given up to three answers.

Base: N= 1143

CORRUPTION INDICES

- Corruption indices 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 indices 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 indices have been grouped into several categories:
    - Attitudes towards corruption;
    - Corrupt practices;
    - Assessment of the spread of corruption;
    - Corruption-related expectations.

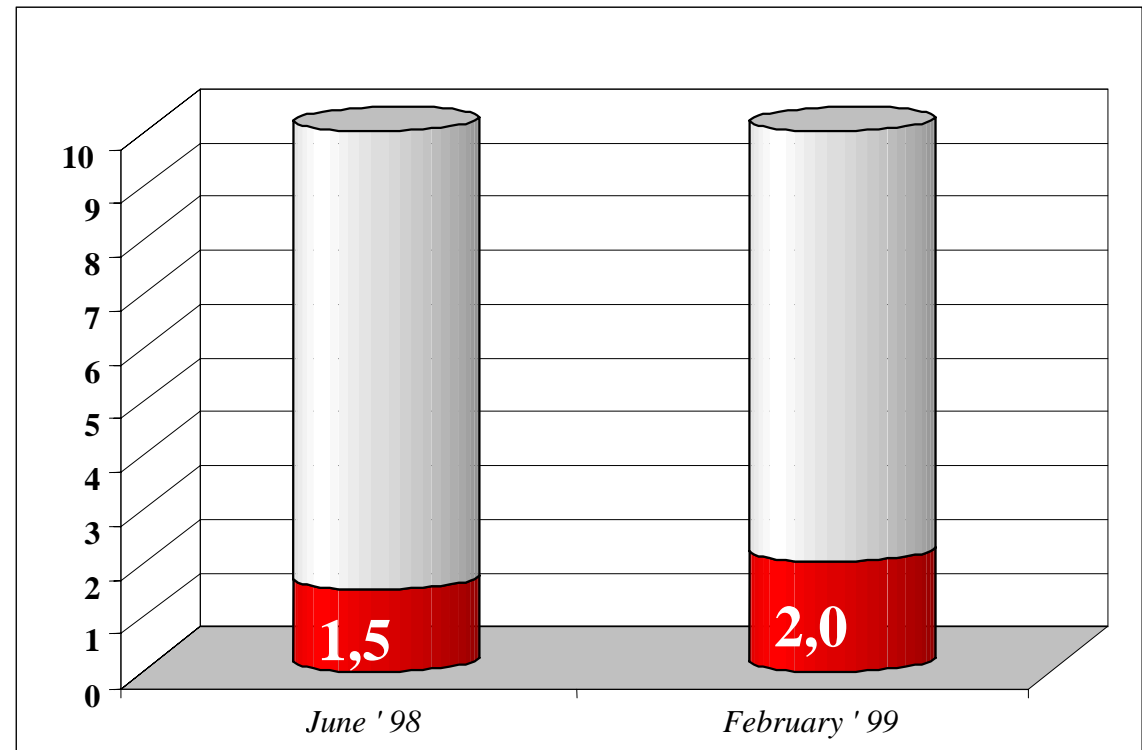## ATTITUDES TOWARDS CORRUPTION

Acceptability in Principle

The index registers the level of acceptability within the public value system of a set of corrupt practices.

The index value was **2.0** in February 1999 and demonstrates that corruption is perceived as socially and morally unacceptable.

In comparison with June 1998 there appears a slightly more visible trend of increased tolerance towards typical corrupt practices like receiving money, gifts or services on the part of public officials.
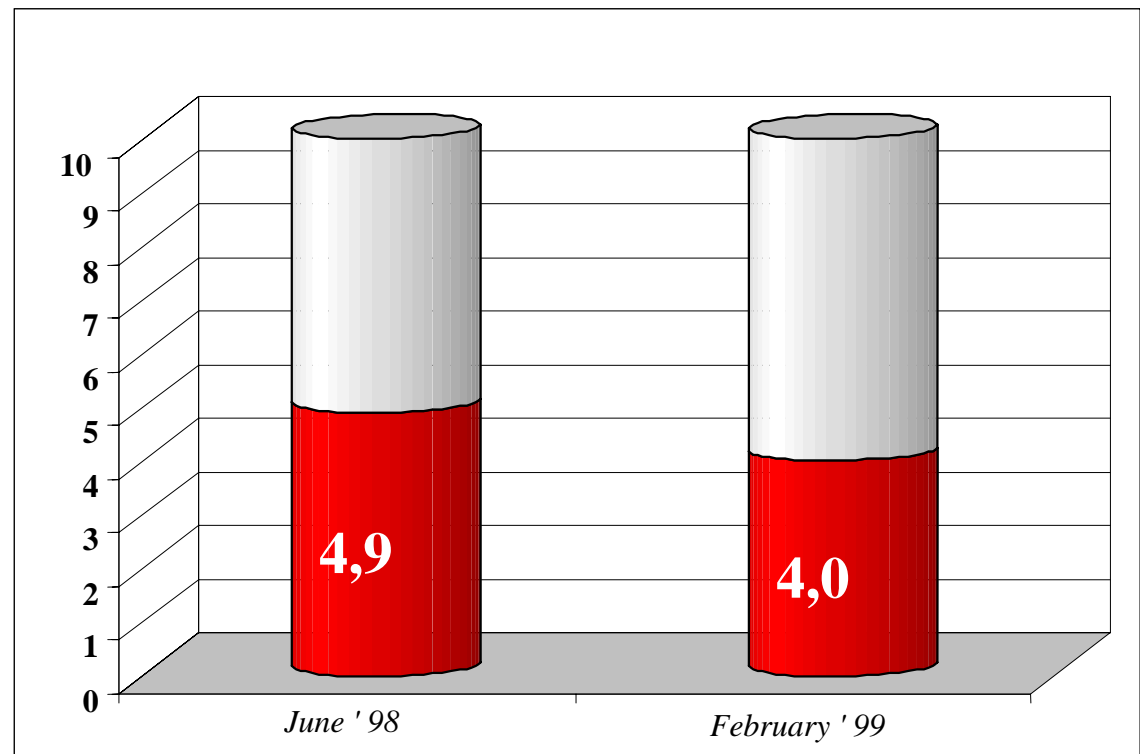
FIGURE 1. ACCEPTABILITY IN PRINCIPLE

Base: N = 1143

Susceptibility to corruption

The index measures the inclination to concede principles and values and use corrupt practices and mechanisms under the pressure of circumstances.

In February 1999 the value of the susceptibility-to-corruption index was **4.0** and marked a slight improvement compared to the value obtained in June 1998.

FIGURE 2. SUSCEPTIBILITY TO CORRUPTION

Base: N = 1143

CORRUPT PRACTICES

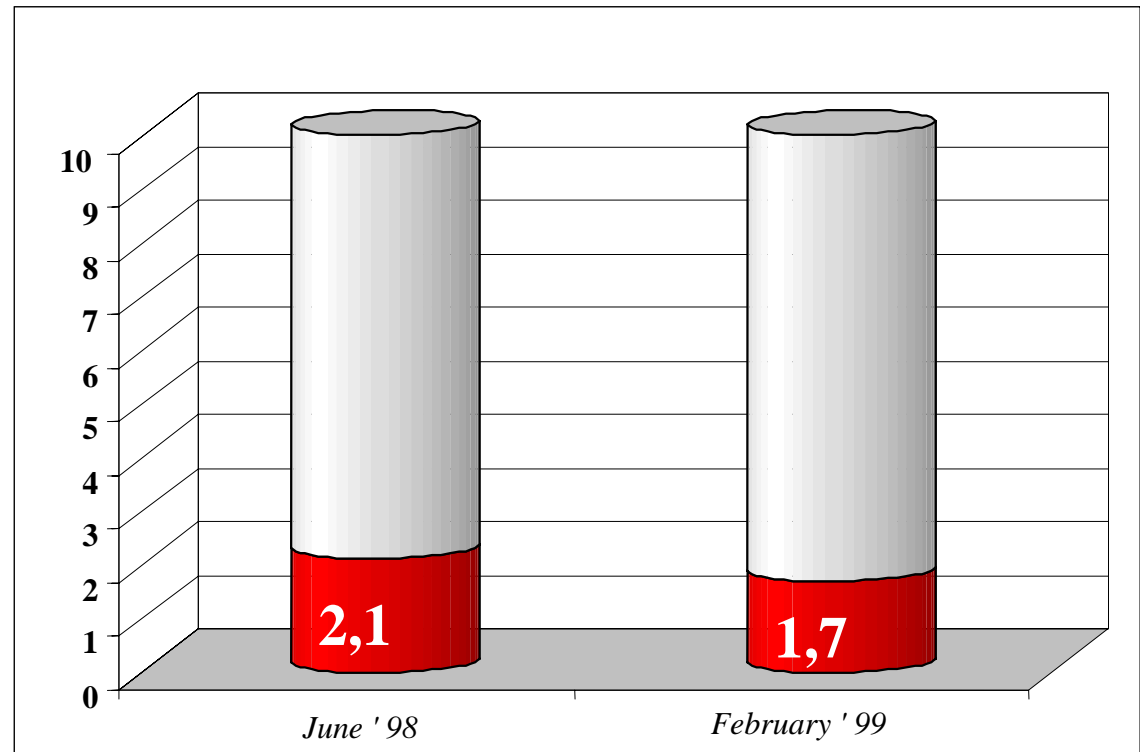**FIGURE 3. CORRUPTION PRESSURE**

Corruption pressure

The index measures the frequency of occurrence of attempts to corrupt public officials.

The value of the corruption pressure index in February 1999 was **1.7.**

This implies comparatively insignificant corruptive coercion. Compared with June 1998 the corruption pressure index registers a trend of slight improvement.
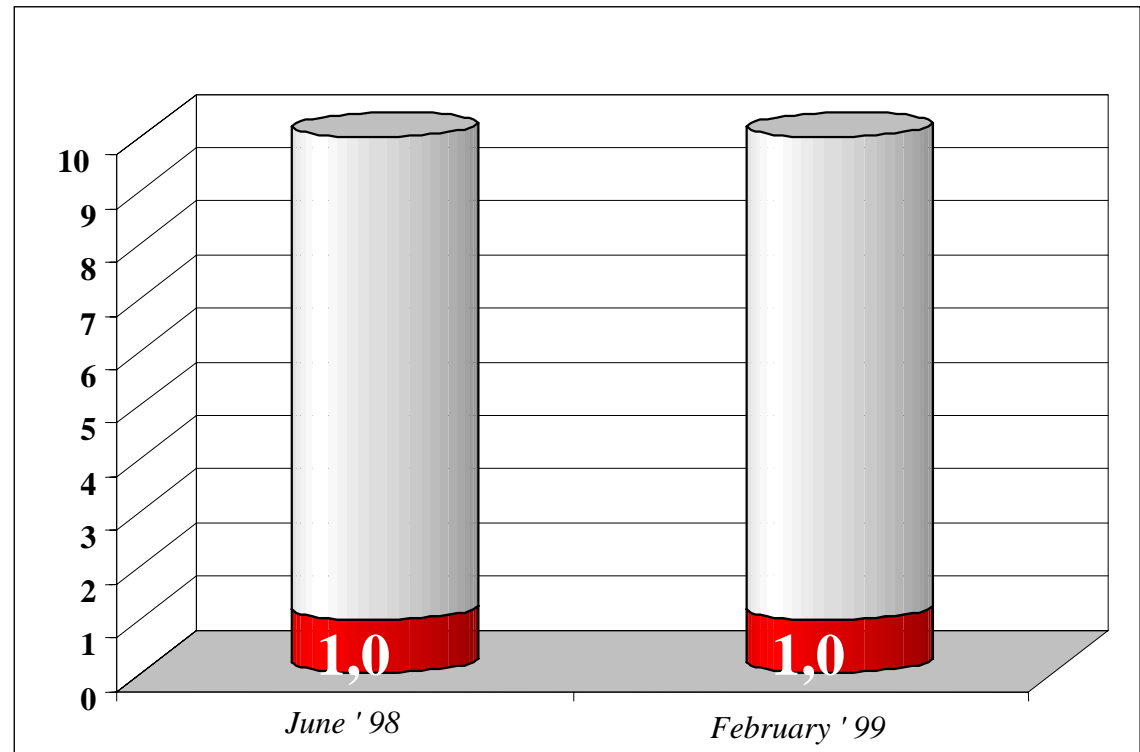

Base: N = 1143

Personal involvement in corrupt practices

The index displays the self-admitted frequency of respondents' personal involvement in occurrences of corrupt behavior.

In February 1999 the index of personal involvement in corrupt practices was **1.0**. This value reveals that a relatively small part of the population has been involved in corruption.

The comparison with June 1998 shows a sustained value of the corrupt practices index.

FIGURE 4. PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT IN CORRUPT PRACTICES

Base: N = 1143

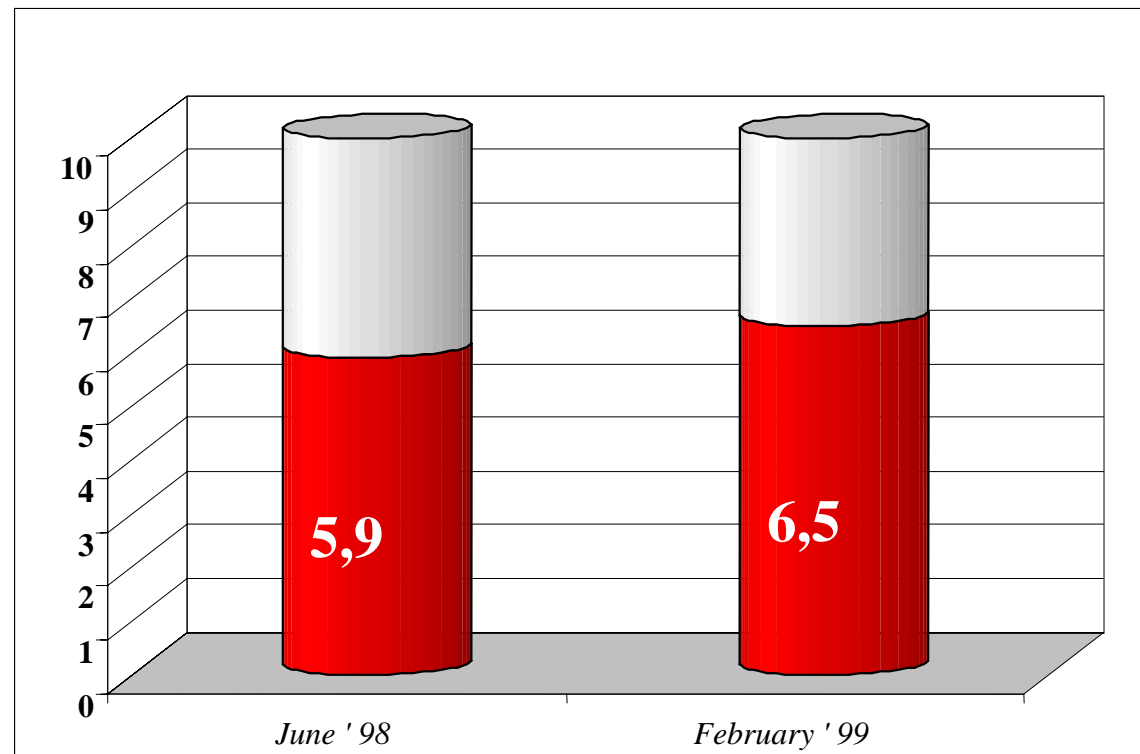## ASSESSMENTS OF THE SPREAD OF CORRUPT PRACTICES

Spread of corruption

This index measures assessments of the level of proliferation of corrupt practices among public officials.

The value of this index in February was **6.5** and shows that corrupt behavior is perceived as a widely accepted practice.

In comparison with June 1998 the index shows slight deterioration: the public admits an increase of the proliferation of corruption.

FIGURE 5. SPREAD OF CORRUPTION

Base: N = 1143

As Bulgarians see it, economic prerequisites predetermine the spread of corruption. Shortcomings in the legislative, administrative and judicial systems are also among the factors significantly affecting the spread of corruption.

TABLE 2. MAJOR FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROLIFERATION OF CORRUPTION IN BULGARIA

Quick money sought at by those in power	**53,50 %**
Low salaries	**51,90 %**
Imperfect legislation	**41,10 %**
Lack of strict administrative control	**35,20 %**
Inefficient judicial system	**26,40 %**
Office duties intermingled with personal interests	**25,10 %**
Crisis of morals in the transition period	**19,40 %**
Problems inherited from the communist past	**10,90 %**
Peculiarities of Bulgarian national culture	**5,70 %**

The sum of percentages is more than 100 as the interviewees have pointed out up to three factors.

Base: N= 1143

The resulting corruption proliferation index values are highest (above 5.0) within the social groups of customs officers, doctors and lawyers.

The officials in the judiciary and law enforcement and those in business come next with index values between **4.0** and **5.0**.

Representatives of central and local government, members of parliament and politicians fall into the group with index values from **3.0** to **4.0**.

Bulgarian citizens are of the opinion that corruption is least spread in the spheres of education, the media and the non-governmental organizations.

TABLE 3. INDEX OF SPREAD OF CORRUPTION AMONG SOME GROUPS OF PUBLIC SECTOR OFFICIALS.

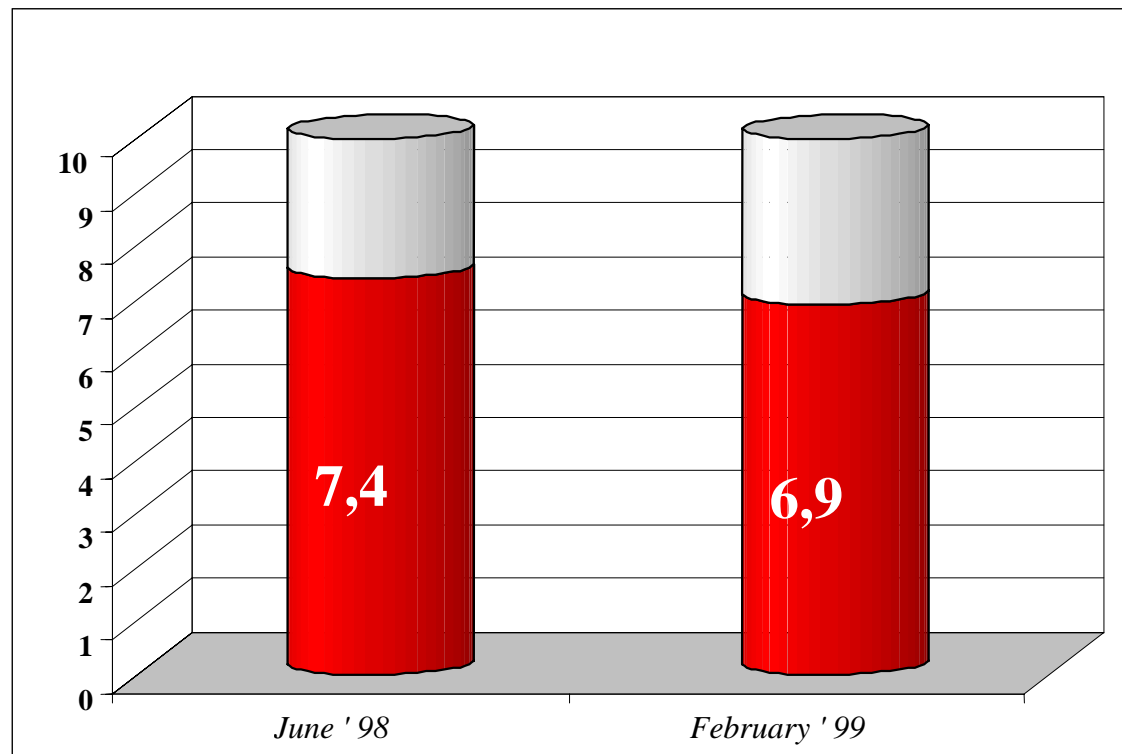| 1	Customs officers	6,7
2	Doctors	5,3
3	Lawyers	5,0
4	Police officers	4,8
5	Judges	4,5
6	Businessmen	4,5
7	Tax officers	4,5
8	Prosecutors	4,4
9	Municipal officials	4,3
10	Investigation officers	4,1
11	Judiciary administration officers	3,9
12	Officers at Ministries	3,9
13	Political party and coalition leaders	3,8
14	Members of Parliament	3,8
15	Ministers	3,7
16	Local political leaders	3,3
17	Municipal counselors	3,2
18	University professors and administration	2,9
19	Teachers	1,9
20	Journalists	1,8
21	Representatives of non-government organizations	1,8

Base: N= 1143

Practical effectiveness

The index shows citizens' assessments of the degree to which corruption has evolved into a practically efficient social tool for solving personal problems.

In February 1999 the index figure was **6.9**. These results confirm mass attitudes that corrupt behavior is socially successful.

In comparison with June 1998 this index underwent positive evolution (values show a slight decrease).
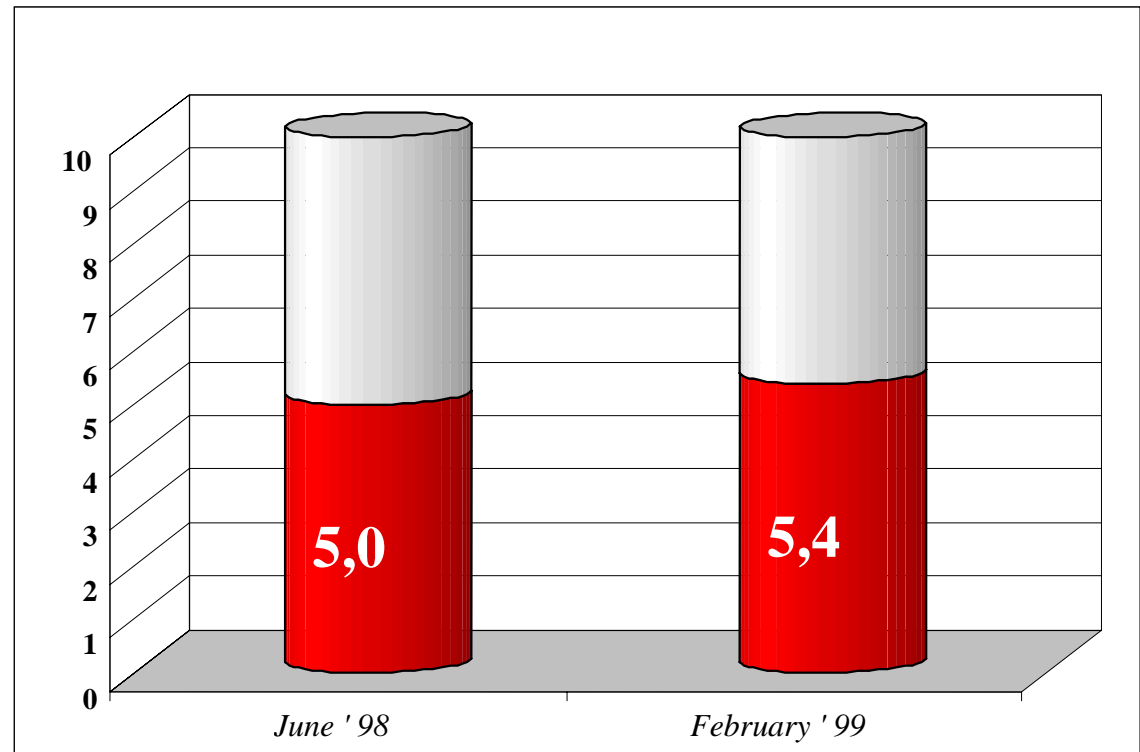
FIGURE 6. PRACTICAL EFFECTIVENESS OF CORRUPTION

Base: N = 1143

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CORRUPTION EXPECTATIONS

FIGURE 7. CORRUPTION EXPECTATIONS

This index represents an assessment of the potential of Bulgarian society to curb corruption.

In the period from June 1998 to February 1999 people have become slightly more pessimistic regarding the likelihood of curbing corruption.

Base: N = 1143

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