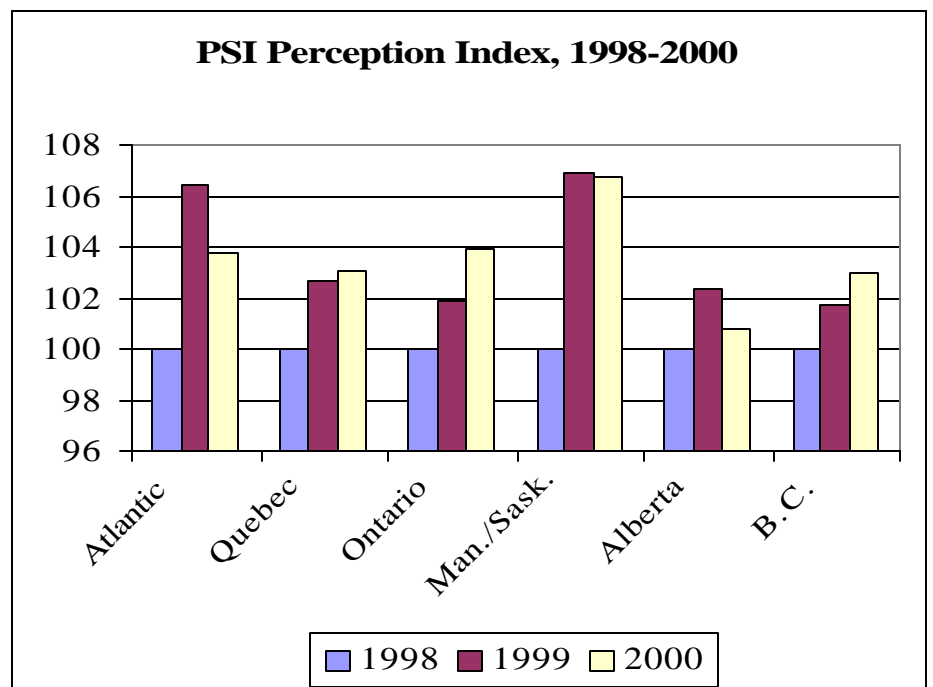
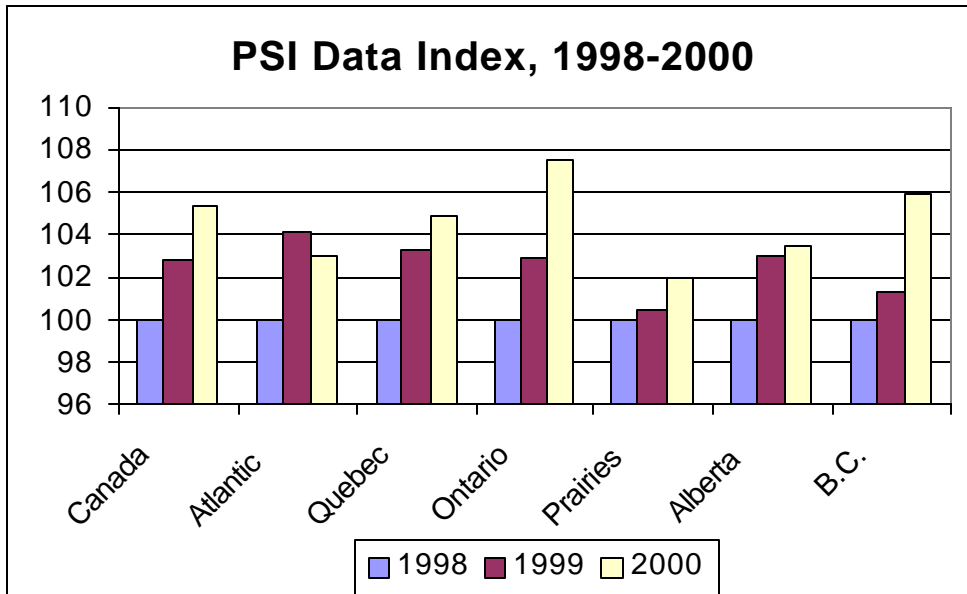




Traditionally, the PSI has measured personal security at the national level. New regional indexes provide us with some idea about how personal security differs across Canada and the indicators that influence positive or negative growth of the PSI in different regions. (Regional indexes should be interpreted with caution due to the smaller sample sizes, particularly with respect to indicators of people's perceptions.)



The Atlantic Provinces

⇒ In 1999, the Atlantic Provinces experienced economic gains. Disposable incomes and social assistance levels rose as unemployment rates and debt levels declined. As a result, the overall PSI index for the region rose in 1999.

⇒ **Between 1999 and 2000, however, there was a negative shift in the health component of the PSI, largely due to increased traffic and occupational injury rates.**

⇒ Atlantic residents' perceptions of their personal security reflected these changing economic and social conditions. An initial increase between 1998 and 1999 can be attributed to positive perceptions about all of the PSI indicators – economic, health and physical safety. The decrease in positive perceptions between 1999 and 2000 was the result of falling confidence in the health indicators.

Quebec

⇒ In Quebec, both the data and perception indexes rose in 1999 and again in 2000.

⇒ Large drops in the long-term unemployment rate gave the economic indicators a boost.

⇒ Physical safety data decreased minutely between 1998 and 1999, then increased more substantially between 1999 and 2000. Despite these positive trends, however, perceptions of crime in Quebec have worsened since 1998.

⇒ Health data indicates that conditions are improving, but again, perceptions did not match the data trend.

Ontario

⇒ Ontario has experienced one of the most dramatic increases in its PSI data index since 1998. With the exception of Employment Insurance coverage and social assistance benefits, all of the data indicators rose between 1999 and 2000.

⇒ All of the indicators in the perception index have also risen since 1998, although Ontario residents report that they are leading more stressful lives and they rate their level of health slightly lower than they did in 1999.

Manitoba & Saskatchewan

⇒ According to the hard data, the Man./Sask. PSI index rose slightly in 1999 and made larger gains in 2000.

⇒ The perceptions of residents from these two Prairie provinces also made great gains between 1998 and 1999, then declined slightly between 1999 and 2000.

⇒ The latest decline is attributable to less security around health and physical safety, despite the data indicators recording an increase.

Alberta

- ⇒ The data index for Alberta rose in 1999 and again in 2000, while the perception index rose in 1999, then declined in 2000.
- ⇒ The health and physical safety data indicate positive overall growth since 1998.
- ⇒ The economic indicators showed a decline in 2000, as debt levels, long-term unemployment and the poverty gap increased, and social assistance benefits decreased.
- ⇒ **Perceptions in Alberta are moving in the opposite direction of the data.** Albertans were less confident about their health and physical safety and were more confident about their economic security, even though the health and physical safety indicators increased and the economic security indicators decreased.

British Columbia

- ⇒ According to the data, the PSI for British Columbia increased slightly in 1999 and more strongly in 2000. All of the data indicators – with the exception of social assistance benefits and debt levels – recorded positive growth.
- ⇒ The perception index also experienced positive gains in 1999 and 2000.
- ⇒ As was the case in Man/Sask., the BC economic security data decreased between 1998 and 1999, but residents' perception of economic security increased.
- ⇒ Data for the health and physical safety indicators have shown positive growth since 1998, but again, residents' perceptions of their health and physical safety decreased between 1999 and 2000.