

# Regional Differences

*Traditionally, the PSI has measured personal security at the national level. A breakdown of the PSI by region illustrates how personal security differs across Canada. The regional snapshots reveal the positive and negative indicators, which influence the PSI ranking. (Regional indexes should be interpreted with caution due to the smaller sample sizes, particularly with respect to indicators of people's perceptions).*

## British Columbia

- While the data for economic, health security and physical safety showed positive gains in BC in 2001, **there was a dramatic decline in the overall perception index. In other words, perceptions in BC are moving in the opposite direction of the data, suggesting a very pessimistic outlook.**
- Among Canadians, BC residents expressed the greatest fear of losing their jobs. BC was the only region where there was greater concern over potential job losses in 2001 than there were in 2000: 38% of BC residents feared losing their jobs, compared to 25% in 2000.
- BC residents also felt considerably less confident about their employability.
- In all of Canada, confidence in the social safety net was lowest among residents of BC, Ontario and the Prairies.
- People in BC also reported an increased sense of stress and a sharp decrease in confidence over their access to the health care system.
- **Residents of BC and Quebec had the highest proportion of residents who feel unsafe in their neighbourhoods.**

## Alberta

- Alberta was the regional “good news story” of this year’s PSI.
- Both the data index and the perception index rose almost across the board, making Albertans unique in the 2002 PSI for their confident outlook.
- Economic security as measured by the hard data increased sharply. And unlike most other provinces, Alberta residents’ perceptions of economic security also rose.
- Among Canadians, Alberta had the highest percentage of residents who felt their income was adequate: 57% compared to 49% nationally.
- Health and physical safety data and perception indicators also rose, but more modestly.

## Manitoba & Saskatchewan

- The overall data index rose, while the perception index fell significantly in the Prairies.
- The objective indicators of economic security improved, but Prairie residents’ perceptions of economic security fell due to less confidence in their employability and concerns over the

adequacy of government income security programs.

- Among Canadians, people in the Prairies had the lowest percentage of residents who felt their income was adequate (42%).
- The data index increased and the perception index slipped for health security.

## Ontario

- The data index for Ontario rose quite significantly, driven by an increase in economic security.
- While almost all the hard data for economic security improved, Ontarians' perceptions of their economic security actually fell across the board.
- 51% of Ontarians felt their income was adequate – the second highest rate after Alberta.
- Health security data showed a modest improvement, but Ontario residents' impression of their health security fell slightly.
- The data index for personal safety fell slightly, as did Ontarians' perception of their personal safety.

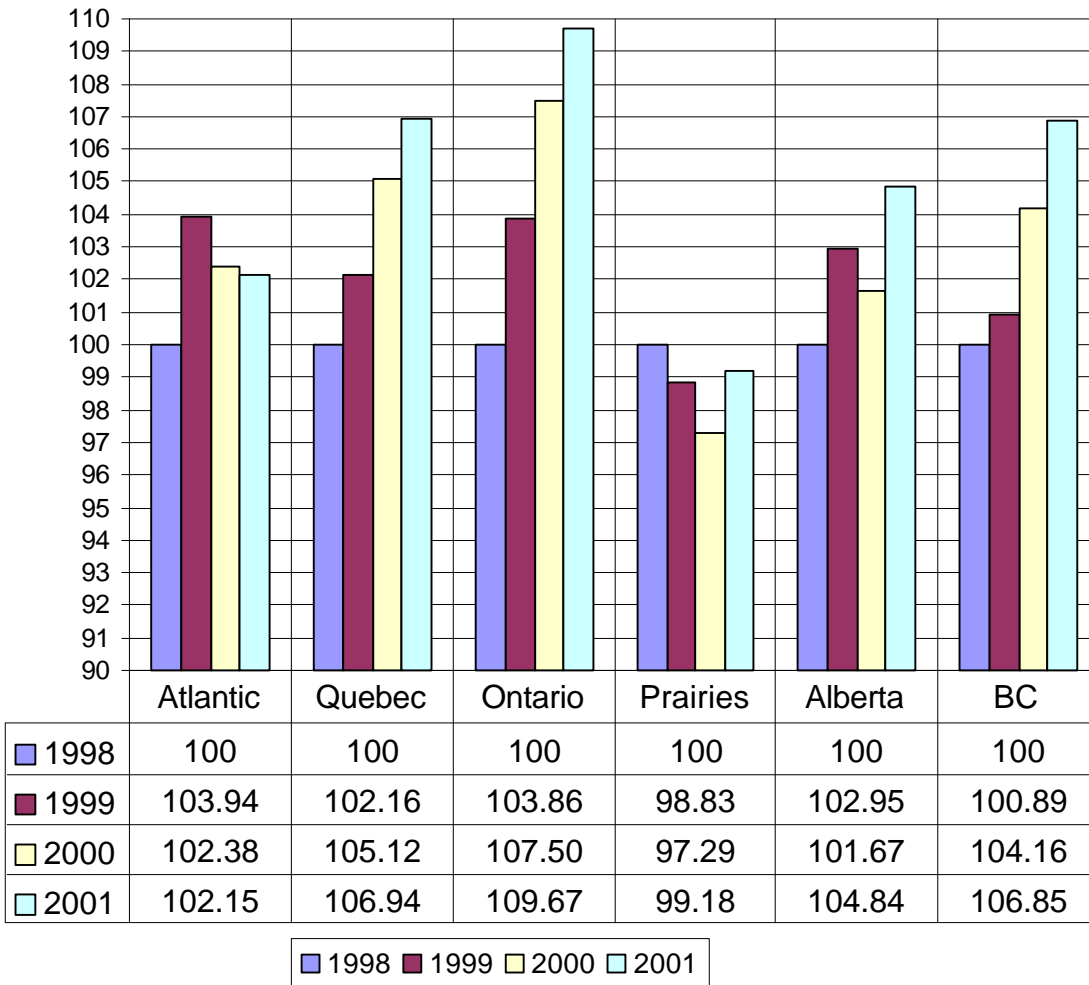
## Quebec

- The objective data index of personal security rose in Quebec, but Quebecers' perception of their personal security declined.
- While the hard data for economic security rose on almost all fronts, Quebecers felt less secure economically, partly due to perceptions of the inadequacy of their income and a lack of confidence in government support programs.
- Quebec had the fewest residents who feared losing their jobs: 20% compared to 28% nationally.
- Health data suggest that conditions are improving; but Quebecers' perceptions did not match that data. In fact, they were more concerned than ever over access to health care.
- **Quebec residents were by far the most fearful of violent crime in their neighbourhoods: only 59% reported feeling very safe even though Quebec posted the lowest violent crime numbers in Canada in 2000, (just over 700 violent crimes per 100,000).**

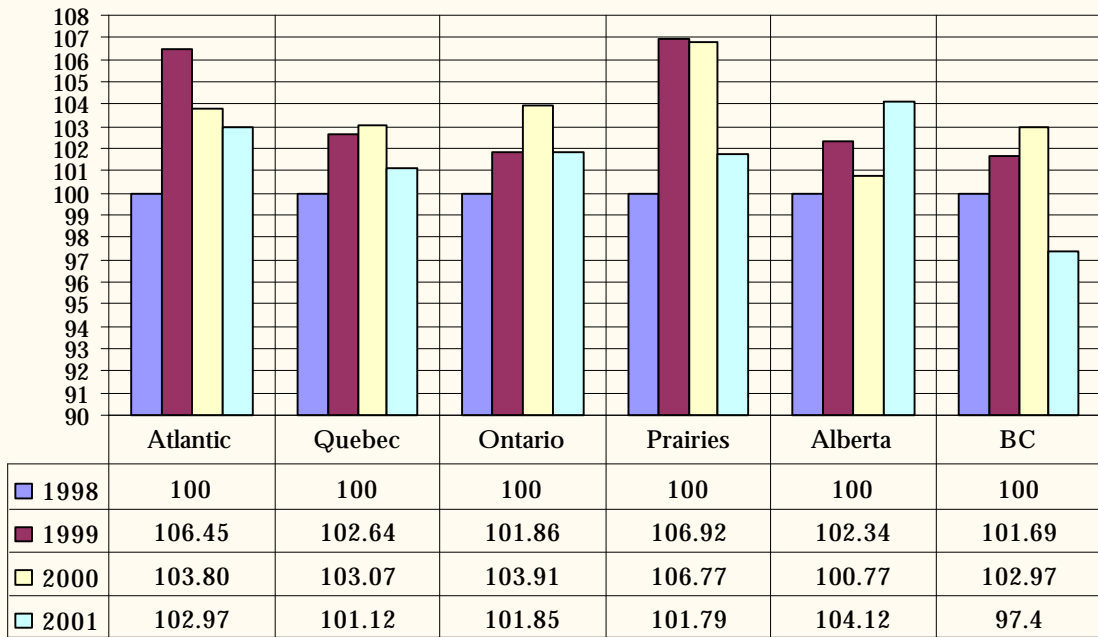
## The Atlantic Provinces

- Unlike most regions, the data index of overall personal security fell slightly in the Atlantic provinces. Residents' perceptions of their security also fell.
- Economic security increased according to the hard data as did residents' perceptions of their economic security.
- Conversely, the indicators for health security fell, as did people's perceptions of their health security, in part, due to increased concerns over access to health care.
- The Atlantic Provinces recorded the lowest incidence of property crimes in Canada.

## PSI Data Index, by Region 1998-2001



### PSI Perception Index by Region, 1998-2001



■ 1998   
 ■ 1999   
 ■ 2000   
 ■ 2001