

Table 2.8

Reported confidence in selected institutions

United States, selected years 1973-97

Question: "I am going to read you a list of institutions in American society. Please tell me how much confidence you, yourself, have in each one--a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little."

(Percent saying "a great deal" or "quite a lot")

	1973	1975	1977	1979	1981	1983	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Church or organized religion	66%	68%	64%	65%	64%	62%	66%	57%	61%	59%	52%	56%	56%	53%	54%	57%	57%	56%
Military	NA	58	57	54	50	53	61	63	61	58	63	68	69	68	64	64	66	60
U.S. Supreme Court	44	49	46	45	46	42	56	54	52	56	46	47	39	44	42	44	45	50
Banks and banking	NA	NA	NA	60	46	51	51	49	51	49	42	36	30	37	35	43	44	41
Public schools	58	NA	54	53	42	39	48	49	50	49	43	45	35	39	34	40	38	40
Congress	42	40	40	34	29	28	39	41	NA	35	32	24	18	18	18	21	20	22
Newspapers	39	NA	NA	51	35	38	35	37	31	36	NA	39	32	31	29	30	32	35
Big business	26	34	33	32	20	28	31	28	NA	25	NA	25	22	22	26	21	24	28
Television	37	NA	NA	38	25	25	29	27	28	27	NA	25	24	21	NA	NA	NA	NA
Organized labor	30	38	39	36	28	26	28	29	26	26	NA	27	22	26	26	26	25	23
Police	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	52	54	58	60	59
Criminal justice system	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	17	15	20	19	19
Presidency	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	50	43	38	45	39	49

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 313 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, October 1991), p. 37; George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll*, Mar. 31, 1994, p. 2; May 5, 1995, p. 2; June 6, 1996, p. 2 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Organization, Inc.); and data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.