

Table 2.10

Reported confidence in selected institutions

United States, selected years 1979-2004

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")

| | 1979 | 1981 | 1983 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Banks and banking | 60% | 46% | 51% | 51% | 49% | 51% | 49% | 42% | 36% | 30% | 37% | 35% | 43% | 44% | 41% | 40% | 43% | 46% | 44% | 47% | 50% | 53% |
| Big business | 32 | 20 | 28 | 31 | 28 | NA | 25 | NA | 25 | 22 | 22 | 26 | 21 | 24 | 28 | 30 | 30 | 29 | 28 | 20 | 22 | 24 |
| Church or organized religion | 65 | 64 | 62 | 66 | 57 | 61 | 59 | 52 | 56 | 56 | 53 | 54 | 57 | 57 | 56 | 59 | 58 | 56 | 60 | 45 | 50 | 53 |
| Congress | 34 | 29 | 28 | 39 | 41 | NA | 35 | 32 | 24 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 21 | 20 | 22 | 28 | 26 | 24 | 26 | 29 | 29 | 30 |
| Criminal justice system | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 17 | 15 | 20 | 19 | 19 | 24 | 23 | 24 | NA | 27 | 29 | 34 |
| Health maintenance organizations, HMOs | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 17 | 16 | 15 | 13 | 17 | 18 |
| Medical system | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 34 | 36 | 41 | 42 | 38 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 38 | 44 | 44 |
| Military | 54 | 50 | 53 | 61 | 63 | 61 | 68 | 63 | 68 | 69 | 68 | 64 | 64 | 66 | 60 | 64 | 68 | 64 | 66 | 79 | 82 | 75 |
| Newspapers | 51 | 35 | 38 | 35 | 37 | 31 | 36 | NA | 39 | 32 | 31 | 29 | 30 | 32 | 35 | 33 | 33 | 37 | 36 | 35 | 33 | 30 |
| Organized labor | 36 | 28 | 26 | 28 | 29 | 26 | 26 | NA | 27 | 22 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 25 | 23 | 26 | 28 | 25 | 26 | 26 | 28 | 31 |
| Police | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 52 | 54 | 58 | 60 | 59 | 58 | 57 | 54 | 57 | 59 | 61 | 64 |
| Presidency | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 50 | 43 | 38 | 45 | 39 | 49 | 53 | 49 | 42 | 48 | 58 | 55 | 52 |
| Public schools | 53 | 42 | 39 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 49 | 43 | 45 | 35 | 39 | 34 | 40 | 38 | 40 | 37 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 38 | 40 | 41 |
| Television news | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 46 | 35 | 33 | 36 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 36 | 34 | 35 | 35 | 30 |
| U.S. Supreme Court | 45 | 46 | 42 | 56 | 54 | 52 | 56 | 46 | 47 | 39 | 44 | 42 | 44 | 45 | 50 | 49 | 47 | 50 | 50 | 47 | 46 | |

Note: Sample sizes vary from year to year; the data for 2004 are based on telephone interviews with a randomly selected national sample of 1,002 adults, 18 years of age and older, conducted May 21-23, 2004. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

Source: The Gallup Organization, Inc., *The Gallup Poll* [Online]. Available: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/> [June 1, 2004]. Reprinted by permission.