

Table 2.10.2008

Reported confidence in selected institutions

United States, selected years 1979-2008

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	2005	2006	2007	2008
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%	49%	49%	41%	32%
Big business	32	20	28	31	28	NA	25	NA	25	22	22	26	21	24	28	30	30	29	28	20	22	24	22	18	18	20
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	53	52	46	48
Congress	34	29	28	39	41	NA	35	32	24	18	18	18	21	20	22	28	26	24	26	29	29	30	22	19	14	12
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	26	25	19	20
Health maintenance organizations,	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	17	16	15	13	17	18	17	15	15	13
Medical system	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	34	36	41	42	38	40	40	40	38	44	44	42	38	31	35
Military	54	50	53	61	63	61	68	63	68	69	68	64	64	66	60	64	68	64	66	79	82	75	74	73	69	71
Newspapers	51	35	38	35	37	31	36	NA	39	32	31	29	30	32	35	33	33	37	36	35	33	30	28	30	22	24
Organized labor	36	28	26	28	29	26	26	NA	27	22	26	26	26	25	23	26	28	25	26	26	28	31	24	24	19	20
Police	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	52	54	58	60	59	58	57	54	57	59	61	64	63	58	54	58
Presidency	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	50	43	38	45	39	49	53	49	42	48	58	55	52	44	33	25	26
Public schools	53	42	39	48	49	50	49	43	45	35	39	34	40	38	40	37	36	37	38	38	40	41	37	37	33	33
Television news	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	46	35	33	36	34	34	34	36	34	35	35	30	28	31	23	24
U.S. Supreme Court	45	46	42	56	54	52	56	46	47	39	44	42	44	45	50	50	49	47	50	50	47	46	41	40	34	32

Note: Sample sizes vary from year to year; the data for 2008 are based on telephone interviews with a randomly selected national sample of 822 adults, 18 years of age and older, conducted June 9-12, 2008. 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/1597/Confidence-Institutions.aspx> [Mar. 24, 2009]. Reprinted by permission.