

Table 2.15

Reported confidence in the U.S. Supreme Court

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1984-2002

Question: "I'm going to name some institutions in this country. As far as the people running these institutions (U.S. Supreme Court) are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them?"

	1984			1986			1987			1988			1989			1990		
	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any
National	33%	51%	12%	30%	52%	14%	36%	50%	10%	35%	50%	11%	34%	50%	11%	35%	48%	13%
Sex																		
Male	40	44	15	36	47	15	41	46	11	39	47	10	38	47	12	36	48	13
Female	29	56	11	25	56	14	33	52	10	31	53	11	32	52	10	34	48	12
Race																		
White	35	50	13	31	53	13	38	47	11	36	49	11	36	49	11	37	47	12
Black/other	25	54	11	24	49	19	26	61	7	26	56	10	26	55	12	27	53	14
Age																		
18 to 20 years	29	52	19	47	42	10	62	24	10	57	37	7	44	47	3	39	48	4
21 to 29 years	45	42	11	38	48	10	41	51	6	43	45	8	40	50	8	38	47	10
30 to 49 years	30	56	12	30	55	14	36	52	9	34	55	8	34	54	9	36	47	14
50 years and older	30	51	13	24	52	17	32	48	13	30	50	14	31	46	15	32	50	12
Education^a																		
College	40	50	8	37	52	9	44	49	6	40	51	8	42	50	7	44	47	9
High school graduate	30	52	15	26	56	15	32	51	12	32	51	13	29	52	14	29	48	17
Less than high school graduate	25	46	17	21	39	27	24	47	18	27	46	12	26	41	13	21	51	13
Income																		
\$50,000 and over	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$30,000 to \$49,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$20,000 to \$29,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under \$20,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Occupation																		
Professional/business	40	49	9	36	52	11	47	45	7	38	52	9	43	51	5	42	48	10
Clerical/support	24	62	12	25	57	14	33	58	7	32	54	10	33	50	12	35	48	10
Manual/service	33	48	14	27	51	17	29	52	13	32	50	12	27	52	14	28	49	17
Farming/agriculture	45	40	15	36	39	15	35	40	22	33	33	33	31	19	31	35	53	12
Region																		
Northeast	32	51	13	32	52	13	43	48	7	35	53	9	37	45	9	39	43	13
Midwest	30	55	12	30	54	13	32	52	12	33	51	11	33	55	9	37	48	10
South	32	49	14	28	50	16	33	50	12	37	44	12	32	48	16	29	53	13
West	41	48	9	30	54	14	41	48	8	32	58	8	38	52	6	39	44	15
Religion																		
Protestant	33	52	11	28	52	15	35	50	11	35	48	12	30	54	12	33	50	13
Catholic	32	52	13	32	54	11	39	48	9	34	55	9	47	40	6	40	42	12
Jewish	45	45	10	37	55	8	55	35	5	39	61	0	35	41	18	67	33	0
None	36	43	17	33	47	19	33	53	10	38	52	7	28	54	12	34	44	16
Politics																		
Republican	42	47	10	33	51	14	42	48	6	42	49	7	40	52	6	41	48	9
Democrat	34	51	12	29	53	14	34	50	12	33	52	12	32	51	13	31	48	16
Independent	27	54	14	28	52	15	35	50	12	30	50	12	33	46	13	33	48	13

Note: Sample sizes vary from year to year; the data for 2002 are based on interviews with a randomly selected national sample of 2,765 adults, 18 years of age and older, conducted February to April, 2002. The "don't know" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. Readers interested in responses to this question for previous years should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-2002," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

^aBeginning in 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to data presented for prior years.

1991			1993			1994			1996			1998			2000			2002		
A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any
38%	48%	13%	31%	52%	13%	30%	50%	16%	28%	50%	17%	31%	50%	14%	32%	49%	13%	35%	50%	11%
44	42	14	34	51	12	34	48	16	33	45	18	34	47	15	36	46	14	36	48	13
33	52	12	28	52	14	27	52	17	24	54	16	28	52	13	29	52	12	34	52	10
38	47	12	32	51	12	30	50	17	30	49	16	33	50	13	32	50	12	36	51	10
34	48	14	20	55	20	29	50	15	23	53	18	24	50	18	30	46	14	32	45	18
32	42	21	38	52	7	32	47	21	38	40	15	52	33	7	46	38	9	41	41	12
50	41	7	32	55	13	37	51	11	30	46	19	35	47	15	43	42	10	44	42	12
36	51	12	32	52	14	30	52	16	26	55	15	29	54	14	31	52	12	34	52	11
33	48	15	28	50	14	27	48	19	29	46	17	30	48	14	27	50	15	33	51	11
45	45	9	36	51	11	36	49	13	33	52	13	36	51	11	38	49	9	36	51	10
32	49	16	24	54	17	26	52	20	24	51	20	26	55	15	25	53	16	36	50	11
23	57	13	27	46	13	19	42	20	22	41	22	26	38	21	23	44	19	31	46	15
NA	NA	NA	37	52	10	38	48	14	34	51	12	34	54	11	37	53	8	40	52	8
NA	NA	NA	28	58	12	31	54	13	27	54	16	31	50	15	30	54	13	38	48	11
NA	NA	NA	33	46	17	30	53	15	31	49	16	28	52	14	28	51	13	31	55	12
NA	NA	NA	26	51	16	26	46	22	24	49	21	32	45	15	30	44	17	28	50	16
42	47	10	36	52	9	37	48	14	34	50	12	36	53	9	38	50	9	38	50	10
45	45	10	25	57	14	28	54	16	29	52	17	25	56	15	28	53	12	35	54	8
32	50	15	29	49	17	26	52	17	24	49	20	30	45	18	27	47	18	31	51	14
30	60	5	26	58	5	35	38	25	13	42	29	32	42	19	23	60	11	28	44	17
44	39	14	32	50	12	35	47	14	31	49	13	31	54	11	34	47	12	29	55	11
34	51	13	33	52	11	29	50	18	29	51	17	30	49	15	30	51	14	37	50	10
37	48	13	25	55	16	27	51	18	26	49	18	30	47	17	31	50	13	39	47	11
38	51	9	34	48	13	32	51	15	29	51	17	33	53	11	33	50	12	34	50	14
35	48	15	29	52	14	28	51	17	25	51	18	29	51	15	30	50	14	38	46	12
45	44	9	36	50	12	32	51	14	33	48	15	35	48	12	33	49	11	35	53	9
48	43	10	30	50	15	42	46	12	48	44	4	41	47	9	43	45	12	25	50	20
24	64	11	29	56	13	33	47	18	30	45	19	29	51	14	33	49	14	30	57	10
46	43	11	33	54	11	32	49	16	32	51	15	33	50	15	31	51	13	43	48	8
34	50	13	27	52	16	32	48	16	30	51	13	31	50	13	33	50	10	34	49	14
34	50	14	32	50	13	27	53	17	24	49	21	30	50	15	32	49	14	32	52	12