

Table 2.9

Reported confidence in selected institutions

United States, 1979-2004

Question: "As far as people in charge of running... are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them?"

(Percent reporting "a great deal of confidence")

	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
The military	29%	28%	28%	31%	35%	45%	32%	36%	35%	33%	32%	43%	47%	50%	57%	39%	43%	47%	37%	44%	54%	48%	44%	71%	62%	62%
Medicine	30	34	37	32	35	43	39	33	36	40	30	35	NA	29	22	23	26	29	29	38	39	44	32	29	31	32
The White House	15	18	28	20	23	42	30	19	23	17	20	21	21	16	23	18	13	15	15	20	22	21	21	50	40	31
Major educational institutions such as colleges and universities	33	36	34	30	36	40	35	34	36	34	32	35	21	25	23	25	27	30	27	37	37	36	35	33	31	37
The U.S. Supreme Court	28	27	29	25	33	35	28	32	30	32	28	32	23	30	26	31	32	31	28	37	42	34	35	41	34	29
Congress	18	18	16	13	20	28	16	21	20	15	16	12	9	10	12	8	10	10	11	12	12	15	18	22	20	13
Television news	37	29	24	24	24	28	23	27	29	28	25	27	20	22	23	20	16	21	18	26	23	20	24	24	21	17
Organized religion	20	22	22	20	22	24	21	22	16	17	16	20	NA	NA	NA	NA	24	NA	20	25	27	26	25	23	19	27
Major companies	18	16	16	18	18	19	17	16	21	19	16	14	15	11	16	19	21	21	18	21	23	28	20	16	13	12
The press	28	19	16	14	19	18	16	19	19	18	18	18	14	13	15	13	11	14	11	14	15	13	13	16	15	15
Law firms	16	13	NA	NA	12	17	12	14	15	13	NA	NA	NA	11	11	8	9	11	7	11	10	12	10	13	12	10
Organized labor	10	14	12	8	10	12	13	11	11	13	10	14	NA	NA	NA	NA	8	NA	9	13	15	15	11	14	15	
Executive branch of the Federal Government	17	17	24	NA	NA	NA	19	18	19	16	17	14	NA	13	15	12	9	12	12	17	17	18	20	33	26	23
Wall Street	NA	12	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	8	9	9	12	13	15	13	17	17	18	30	30	23	19	12	17

Note: Sample sizes vary from year to year; the data for 2004 are based on telephone interviews with a randomly selected national sample of 1,020 adults, 18 years of age and older, conducted Feb. 9-16, 2004. Some data have been revised by the Source and may differ from previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

Source: Harris Interactive Inc., *The Harris Poll*® (New York: Harris Interactive Inc., Feb. 7, 2001, pp. 4-6; Mar. 10, 2004, p. 5). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. © 2001, 2004, Harris Interactive Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction prohibited without the express written permission of Harris Interactive.