

Table 2.7

Reported confidence in selected institutions

United States, 1973-97

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")

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
The military	40%	33%	24%	23%	27%	29%	29%	28%	28%	31%	35%	45%	32%	36%	35%	33%	32%	43%	47%	50%	57%	39%	43%	47%	37%
Medicine	57	50	43	42	43	42	30	34	37	32	35	43	39	33	36	40	30	35	NA	29	22	23	26	29	29
The White House	18	28	NA	11	31	14	15	18	28	20	23	42	30	19	23	17	20	21	21	16	23	18	13	15	15
Major educational institutions such as colleges and universities	44	40	36	31	37	41	33	36	34	30	36	40	35	34	36	34	32	35	21	25	23	25	27	30	27
The U.S. Supreme Court	33	40	28	22	29	29	28	27	29	25	33	35	28	32	30	32	15	32	23	30	26	31	32	31	28
Congress	NA	18	13	9	17	10	18	18	16	13	20	28	16	21	20	15	16	12	9	10	12	8	10	10	11
Television news	41	31	35	28	28	35	37	29	24	24	24	28	23	27	29	28	25	27	20	22	23	20	16	21	18
Organized religion	36	32	32	24	29	34	20	22	22	20	22	24	21	22	16	17	16	20	NA	NA	NA	NA	24	NA	20
State governments	24	NA	NA	16	19	15	NA	NA	NA	NA	18	23	16	19	18	NA	18	10	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Local governments	28	NA	NA	21	18	19	NA	NA	NA	NA	18	23	18	21	18	NA	17	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Major companies	29	21	19	16	20	22	18	16	16	18	18	19	17	16	21	19	16	14	15	11	16	19	21	21	18
The press	30	25	26	20	18	23	28	19	16	14	19	18	16	19	19	18	18	18	14	13	15	13	11	14	11
Law firms	24	18	16	12	14	18	16	13	NA	NA	12	17	12	14	15	13	NA	NA	NA	11	11	8	9	11	7
Organized labor	20	18	14	10	14	15	10	14	12	8	10	12	13	11	11	13	10	14	NA	NA	NA	NA	8	NA	9
Executive branch of the Federal Government	19	28	13	11	23	14	17	17	24	NA	NA	NA	19	18	19	16	17	14	NA	13	15	12	9	12	12
Wall Street	NA	NA	NA	NA	19	15	NA	12	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	8	9	9	12	13	15	13	17	17

Note: Some figures have been revised by the Source and therefore will differ from previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

Source: Louis Harris, *The Harris Poll* (Los Angeles: Creators Syndicate, Inc., Feb. 10, 1997), pp. 2-4. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.