

TABLE S7-7

## Public confidence in institutional leaders, by type of institution: Selected years, 1973–2018

(Percent)

| Year             | Military | Scientific community | Medicine | Education | U.S. Supreme Court | Organized religion | Major companies | Banks and financial institutions | Organized labor | Executive branch of the federal government | Television | Press | Congress | Mean <sup>a</sup> |
|------------------|----------|----------------------|----------|-----------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|--|------------|-------|----------|-------------------|
| 1973 (n = 1,504) | 32       | 37                   | 54       | 37        | 31                 | 34                 | 29              | na                               | 15              | 29   | 18         | 23    | 23       | 30.1              |
| 1974 (n = 1,484) | 39       | 45                   | 61       | 49        | 33                 | 45                 | 31              | na                               | 19              | 14   | 23         | 25    | 17       | 33.4              |
| 1975 (n = 1,490) | 35       | 37                   | 51       | 31        | 30                 | 24                 | 19              | 31                               | 10              | 13   | 18         | 24    | 13       | 25.4              |
| 1976 (n = 1,499) | 40       | 42                   | 54       | 37        | 34                 | 30                 | 21              | 39                               | 12              | 13   | 18         | 28    | 13       | 28.6              |
| 1977 (n = 1,530) | 36       | 41                   | 53       | 40        | 36                 | 40                 | 27              | 42                               | 15              | 27   | 18         | 25    | 19       | 31.4              |
| 1978 (n = 1,532) | 30       | 36                   | 46       | 28        | 29                 | 31                 | 21              | 32                               | 11              | 12   | 14         | 20    | 13       | 24.1              |
| 1980 (n = 1,468) | 28       | 41                   | 53       | 30        | 24                 | 35                 | 27              | 32                               | 15              | 12   | 15         | 22    | 9        | 26.0              |
| 1982 (n = 1,860) | 29       | 35                   | 45       | 35        | 30                 | 33                 | 21              | 26                               | 13              | 17   | 15         | 18    | 13       | 25.3              |
| 1983 (n = 1,599) | 30       | 42                   | 52       | 28        | 27                 | 29                 | 24              | 23                               | 8               | 14   | 12         | 13    | 10       | 24.1              |
| 1984 (n = 989)   | 36       | 44                   | 51       | 28        | 33                 | 30                 | 30              | 30                               | 8               | 19   | 13         | 17    | 13       | 26.9              |
| 1986 (n = 1,470) | 31       | 39                   | 47       | 28        | 30                 | 25                 | 25              | 21                               | 9               | 21   | 15         | 19    | 16       | 25.4              |
| 1987 (n = 1,819) | 35       | 41                   | 51       | 36        | 35                 | 30                 | 28              | 27                               | 12              | 17   | 12         | 19    | 16       | 27.5              |
| 1988 (n = 997)   | 35       | 39                   | 52       | 30        | 35                 | 21                 | 25              | 27                               | 11              | 16   | 14         | 19    | 16       | 26.0              |
| 1989 (n = 1,035) | 33       | 41                   | 47       | 30        | 35                 | 22                 | 25              | 19                               | 9               | 20   | 14         | 17    | 18       | 25.8              |
| 1990 (n = 899)   | 33       | 38                   | 45       | 27        | 34                 | 23                 | 26              | 17                               | 11              | 24   | 14         | 14    | 16       | 25.3              |
| 1991 (n = 1,017) | 61       | 40                   | 48       | 30        | 37                 | 25                 | 20              | 12                               | 11              | 27   | 15         | 16    | 18       | 28.8              |
| 1993 (n = 1,057) | 41       | 37                   | 40       | 22        | 30                 | 23                 | 21              | 14                               | 8               | 11   | 12         | 11    | 7        | 21.8              |
| 1994 (n = 2,011) | 37       | 39                   | 42       | 26        | 31                 | 25                 | 26              | 18                               | 11              | 11   | 10         | 10    | 8        | 23.0              |

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|------------------|----------|----------------------|----------|-----------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|--|------------|-------|----------|-------------------|
| 1996 (n = 1,925) | 39       | 40                   | 45       | 23        | 28                 | 25                 | 24              | 24                               | 11              | 10   | 11         | 11    | 7        | 22.8              |
| 1998 (n = 1,911) | 36       | 40                   | 45       | 27        | 31                 | 27                 | 26              | 26                               | 11              | 13   | 10         | 9     | 10       | 23.8              |
| 2000 (n = 1,896) | 40       | 41                   | 44       | 27        | 32                 | 28                 | 28              | 29                               | 13              | 14   | 10         | 10    | 13       | 25.0              |
| 2002 (n = 912)   | 56       | 37                   | 37       | 26        | 36                 | 19                 | 17              | 22                               | 12              | 27   | 9          | 10    | 14       | 25.0              |
| 2004 (n = 876)   | 58       | 42                   | 38       | 28        | 31                 | 23                 | 19              | 29                               | 13              | 22   | 10         | 9     | 15       | 25.5              |
| 2006 (n = 1,989) | 47       | 41                   | 40       | 28        | 33                 | 24                 | 18              | 30                               | 12              | 16   | 9          | 10    | 12       | 24.1              |
| 2008 (n = 2,390) | 48       | 38                   | 40       | 28        | 29                 | 20                 | 16              | 20                               | 11              | 10   | 9          | 8     | 10       | 22.3              |
| 2010 (n = 3,278) | 52       | 40                   | 41       | 26        | 30                 | 18                 | 12              | 10                               | 11              | 16   | 11         | 9     | 10       | 23.0              |
| 2012 (n = 3,258) | 53       | 41                   | 40       | 25        | 27                 | 19                 | 16              | 11                               | 12              | 14   | 9          | 8     | 6        | 22.4              |
| 2014 (n = 2,130) | 49       | 41                   | 37       | 23        | 20                 | 17                 | 16              | 13                               | 11              | 10   | 9          | 7     | 5        | 20.3              |
| 2016 (n = 1,956) | 53       | 40                   | 36       | 26        | 26                 | 20                 | 18              | 14                               | 13              | 13   | 10         | 8     | 6        | 22.3              |
| 2018 (n = 1,563) | 59       | 44                   | 37       | 25        | 31                 | 21                 | 19              | 19                               | 13              | 12   | 8          | 13    | 6        | 24.0              |

na = not applicable; question was not asked.

<sup>a</sup> Excludes banks and financial institutions.**Note(s)**

Data represent respondents expressing "a great deal of confidence" when asked the following question: *As far as the people running these institutions are concerned, would you say that you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them?* Sample size is not exact for all institutions. Data in institution columns are rounded and may not work out to the average shown in the mean column.

**Source(s)**

NORC at the University of Chicago, General Social Survey (1973–2018).