

Table 29.—Public's level of confidence in various institutions: 1996 and 1998

| Institution | Percent of respondents by levels of confidence, 1996 | | | | | Percent of respondents by levels of confidence, 1998 | | | | |
|--|--|-------------|------|-------------|------------|--|-------------|------|-------------|------------|
| | A great deal | Quite a lot | Some | Very little | No opinion | A great deal | Quite a lot | Some | Very little | No opinion |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Private higher education | 18.3 | 38.7 | 28.3 | 7.5 | 7.1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Small businesses | 15.3 | 40.8 | 32.6 | 7.6 | 3.6 | 25.0 | 31.0 | 34.0 | 9.0 | 1.0 |
| Religious organizations | 23.6 | 31.1 | 31.3 | 12.3 | 1.7 | 34.0 | 25.0 | 26.0 | 12.0 | 2.0 |
| The military | 16.9 | 37.0 | 31.0 | 12.1 | 3.1 | 33.0 | 31.0 | 25.0 | 8.0 | 2.0 |
| Public higher education | 15.0 | 36.4 | 34.2 | 11.6 | 2.8 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Private elementary or secondary education | 15.1 | 35.3 | 33.4 | 9.7 | 6.5 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Youth development and recreation | 14.8 | 35.2 | 32.7 | 11.6 | 5.7 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Public elementary or secondary education | 13.3 | 31.7 | 37.2 | 15.3 | 2.4 | 16.0 | 21.0 | 40.0 | 20.0 | 1.0 |
| Health organizations | 10.8 | 28.2 | 42.0 | 15.9 | 3.1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Federated charitable appeals, e.g., United Way | 12.6 | 26.3 | 34.9 | 21.6 | 4.5 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Human services organizations | 9.1 | 28.1 | 42.6 | 15.1 | 5.0 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Arts, culture, and humanities organizations | 9.3 | 26.7 | 39.8 | 14.3 | 9.9 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Recreation for adults | 7.8 | 27.5 | 41.9 | 13.4 | 9.4 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Environmental organizations | 9.4 | 23.1 | 41.0 | 20.3 | 6.2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Private and community foundations | 7.6 | 24.0 | 42.3 | 13.5 | 12.6 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Local government | 5.4 | 25.9 | 43.3 | 23.1 | 2.3 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Public/society benefit, e.g., civil rights, social justice, community improvement organizations | 7.5 | 22.7 | 43.4 | 20.8 | 5.6 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Media, e.g., newspapers, TV, radio | 6.3 | 22.7 | 39.5 | 29.7 | 1.8 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Television news | — | — | — | — | — | 15.0 | 19.0 | 40.0 | 24.0 | 1.0 |
| Work-related organizations | 6.1 | 21.5 | 47.2 | 17.4 | 7.9 | — | — | — | — | — |
| State government | 4.1 | 22.2 | 44.9 | 26.4 | 2.5 | — | — | — | — | — |
| International/foreign, e.g., culture exchange, relief organiza- tions | 6.3 | 19.1 | 37.5 | 24.2 | 12.8 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Organized labor | 6.6 | 17.7 | 40.9 | 29.3 | 5.6 | 11.0 | 15.0 | 45.0 | 22.0 | 5.0 |
| Major corporations | 4.9 | 18.7 | 44.2 | 27.4 | 4.8 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Federal government | 5.2 | 17.5 | 43.9 | 31.1 | 2.2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Organizations that advocate a particular cause | 4.0 | 15.7 | 42.7 | 29.5 | 8.1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Congress | 3.4 | 12.4 | 41.7 | 39.0 | 3.5 | 10.0 | 18.0 | 48.0 | 20.0 | 2.0 |
| Political organizations, e.g., Republican or Democratic par- ties | 3.8 | 10.8 | 39.2 | 42.6 | 3.7 | — | — | — | — | — |

—Not available.

SOURCE: Independent Sector, The Gallup Organization, *Giving and Volunteering in the United States, 1996 and 1998*. (This table was prepared September 1998.)

NOTE: Institutions are listed in rank order as determined by the combined responses of "a great deal" and "quite a lot" of confidence for 1996.