

A COMMISSION SURVEY

CHANGING
PUBLIC ATTITUDES
ON GOVERNMENTS
AND TAXES

1990

Advisory Commission on
Intergovernmental Relations
WASHINGTON, DC 20575



S-19

Members of the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations

(September 1990)

Private Citizens

Daniel J. Elazar, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Robert B. Hawkins, Jr., *Chairman*, San Francisco, California
Mary Ellen Joyce, Arlington, Virginia

Members of the U.S. Senate

Dave Durenberger, Minnesota
Carl Levin, Michigan
Charles S. Robb, Virginia

Members of the U.S. House of Representatives

Richard K. Armey, Texas
Sander M. Levin, Michigan
Ted Weiss, New York

Officers of the Executive Branch, U.S. Government

Debra Rae Anderson, Deputy Assistant to the President, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
Samuel K. Skinner, Secretary of Transportation
Richard L. Thornburgh, Attorney General

Governors

John Ashcroft, Missouri
Booth Gardner, Washington
George A. Sinner, North Dakota
Stan Stephens, Montana

Mayors

Victor H. Ashe, Knoxville, Tennessee
Donald M. Fraser, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Robert M. Isaac, Colorado Springs, Colorado
Joseph A. Leafe, Norfolk, Virginia

Members of State Legislatures

David E. Nething, North Dakota Senate
Samuel B. Nunez, Jr., President, Louisiana Senate
Ted L. Strickland, Colorado Senate

Elected County Officials

Harvey Ruvin, Dade County, Florida, County Commission
Sandra R. Smoley, Sacramento County, California, Board of Supervisors
James J. Snyder, Cattaraugus County, New York, County Legislature

A COMMISSION SURVEY

**CHANGING
PUBLIC ATTITUDES
ON GOVERNMENTS
AND TAXES**

1990

Advisory Commission on
Intergovernmental Relations
WASHINGTON, DC 20575

S-19



Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations

1111 20th Street, NW
Suite 2000

Washington, DC 20575

Phone: (202) 653-5640

FAX: (202) 653-5429

Foreword

This publication presents the 19th annual survey of public attitudes toward governments and taxes conducted for the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR).

The Gallup Organization has conducted the polls since 1983 using the Gallup Personal Omnibus. Every effort was made to ensure comparability with the previous surveys conducted by Opinion Research Corporation of Princeton, NJ. A description of the poll appears on page 14. Users should note that for 1990, the sample size is 1,166, and the margin of error for a poll of this size is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

This year ACIR asked 10 questions.

The following analysis of the poll results was prepared by Phillip E. Riggs, intern-analyst, with assistance from Bruce D. McDowell, director of government policy research, and Andree Reeves, analyst. Members of the ACIR staff participated in developing the questions and in reviewing the results.

All interpretations of the data are those of the ACIR staff.

John Kincaid
Executive Director

Contents

The 1990 Survey Highlights	1
The 1990 Survey in Detail	3
The 1990 Questions	3
Which do you think is the worst tax—that is, the least fair?	3
From which level of government do you feel you get the least for your money?	6
To the extent that government may be involved, in which level of government do you have the most trust and confidence to handle each of the following problems?	7
Services to immigrants?	9
Attraction of foreign investment and trade?	9
Health care for the disabled, poor, and elderly?	10
Child care?	10
Job training?	10
Maintenance of highways and bridges?	11
Overall, how would you grade the performance of each of the following governments?	12
Overall, how would you grade the ability of the federal, state, and local governments to cooperate and work together today?	13
The Poll	14
Introduction to Detailed Findings	14
Previous Classifications and Results	14
<i>Appendix I</i> Detailed Results: 1990 Survey	15
<i>Table A1</i> Which do you think is the worst tax—that is the least fair: federal income tax, social security tax, state income tax, state sales tax, or local property tax?	16
<i>Table A2</i> From which level of government do you feel you get the least for your money: federal, state, or local?	17
To the extent that government may be involved, in which level of government do you have the most trust and confidence to handle each of the following problems most effectively: federal, state, or local?	
<i>Table A3</i> A. Services to immigrants	18
<i>Table A4</i> B. Attraction of foreign investment and trade	19
<i>Table A5</i> C. Health care for the disabled, poor, and elderly	20
<i>Table A6</i> D. Child care	21
<i>Table A7</i> E. Job training	22
<i>Table A8</i> F. Maintenance of highways and bridges	23

	Overall, how would you grade the performance of each of the following governments?	
<i>Table A9</i>	A. Federal	24
<i>Table A10</i>	B. State	25
<i>Table A11</i>	C. Local	26
	Overall, how would you grade the ability of the federal, state, and local governments to cooperate and work together today?	
<i>Table A12</i>	A. Federal	27
<i>Table A13</i>	B. State	28
<i>Table A14</i>	C. Local	29
<i>Appendix II</i>	Guide to Current and Historical Questions, 1972-1990	31
	Taxes	31
	Aid Programs	32
	Spending	32
	Government Power and Efficiency	32
	Trust and Confidence in Government	33
	Government Functions	33
	Other	34

The 1990 Survey Highlights

Major findings from the U.S. Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations May 1990 poll on changing attitudes on government and taxes include the following:

- As in every year since 1972, citizens were asked, "Which do you think is the **worst** tax—that is, the least fair?" The 1990 responses show the *local property tax as least fair (28 percent)* for the second year in a row, *followed very closely by the federal income tax (26 percent)*. In 1989, the percentages were 32 for the property tax and 27 for the federal income tax (28 percent and 21 percent when Social Security was included).
- Asked for the second year to identify the government from which they get the **least** for their money, *41 percent* of the respondents *picked the federal government*. *State government was chosen by 26 percent and local government by 21 percent* of those questioned. Last year, 36 percent selected the federal government and 25 percent each chose state and local governments as providing the least for their money.
- The question regarding trust and confidence in governments to handle six problems elicited responses showing a clear choice for three of the problems and choices divided more evenly among the federal, state, and local governments for the other three. Respondents *clearly trust the federal government most to attract foreign investment and trade (58 percent) and to provide services to immigrants (60 percent)*, and *state government most to maintain the nation's highways and bridges (57 percent)*. *By much smaller percentages, respondents trust the federal government to handle health care for the disabled, poor, and elderly (36 percent), and state government most to provide child care (34 percent) and job training (37 percent)*. Respondents' *trust in local government is 29 percent for handling child care and 23 percent for job training*.
- A first-time question in 1990 was, "Overall, how would you grade the performance of each of the following governments?" Most Americans appear to be moderately satisfied with state, local, and federal governments' performance, giving each government an average grade of "C."
 - *High marks ("excellent" or "good") for overall performance were given to local government by 32 percent* of those polled, and *to the federal and state governments by 29 percent each*.
 - *Ratings of unsatisfactory or failure were given to the federal government by 23 percent* of the respondents; *20 percent rated state government as unsatisfactory or a failure, and 19 percent picked local government*.
- In another first-time question, respondents were asked, "Overall, how would you grade the ability of the federal, state, and local governments to cooperate and work together?" Again, *all three governments fared pretty well, with a solid plurality (40 percent local to 43 percent state and federal) giving a "satisfactory" rating*. *Twenty-nine percent rated local government's ability to cooperate and work with other governments as "excellent" or "good," compared to 27 percent for state government and 24 percent for the federal government*.

The 1990 Survey in Detail

This is the 19th annual public opinion survey commissioned by the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR). The sample for the poll was 1,166 adults aged 18 and older. The margin of error for samples of this size is plus or minus 3 percentage points at the 95 percent level of confidence.

This reports contains only the 1990 survey results. Detailed data for each question are in Appendix I. Survey results for 1989 can be found in the 1989 report (S-18), for 1982-88 in the 1988 report (S-17), and for 1972-81 in the 1983 or 1984 reports (S-12 and S-13).

The 1990 Questions

Which do you think is the worst tax— that is, the least fair?

From 1972 to 1989, ACIR asked citizens to choose the tax they considered to be the worst, that is, the least fair, from among the federal income tax, state income tax, state sales tax, and local property tax (see Figure 1 and Table 1). From 1972 to 1978, the local property tax was cited as the worst tax five times. From 1979 to 1988, respondents consistently rated the federal income tax as the worst tax. In 1989 the local property tax was selected

as the worst tax—by 32 percent, up from 28 percent—and the percentage of respondents choosing the federal income tax dropped from 33 to 27.

In 1988, ACIR also introduced a modified version of this question, adding the Social Security tax as a response.¹ Including Social Security, 26 percent chose the federal income tax as worst in 1988, and 21 percent chose it in 1989 (see Table 2). To date, the inclusion of the Social Security tax has had no effect on the relative rankings of the other four taxes.

In 1990, using only the question including Social Security, the percentages of respondents who perceive the local property tax and the federal income tax as least fair are about the same: 28 percent for the local property tax and 26 percent for the federal income tax (see Table 2 and Appendix I, Table A1). The proportion of respondents selecting the federal income tax as worst increased from 1989 to 1990 by 5 percent (from 21 to 26 percent). Interestingly, despite the recent increases in the Social Security tax and the attention focused on the Social Security

¹ ACIR plans to alternate each version of the "worst tax" question annually.

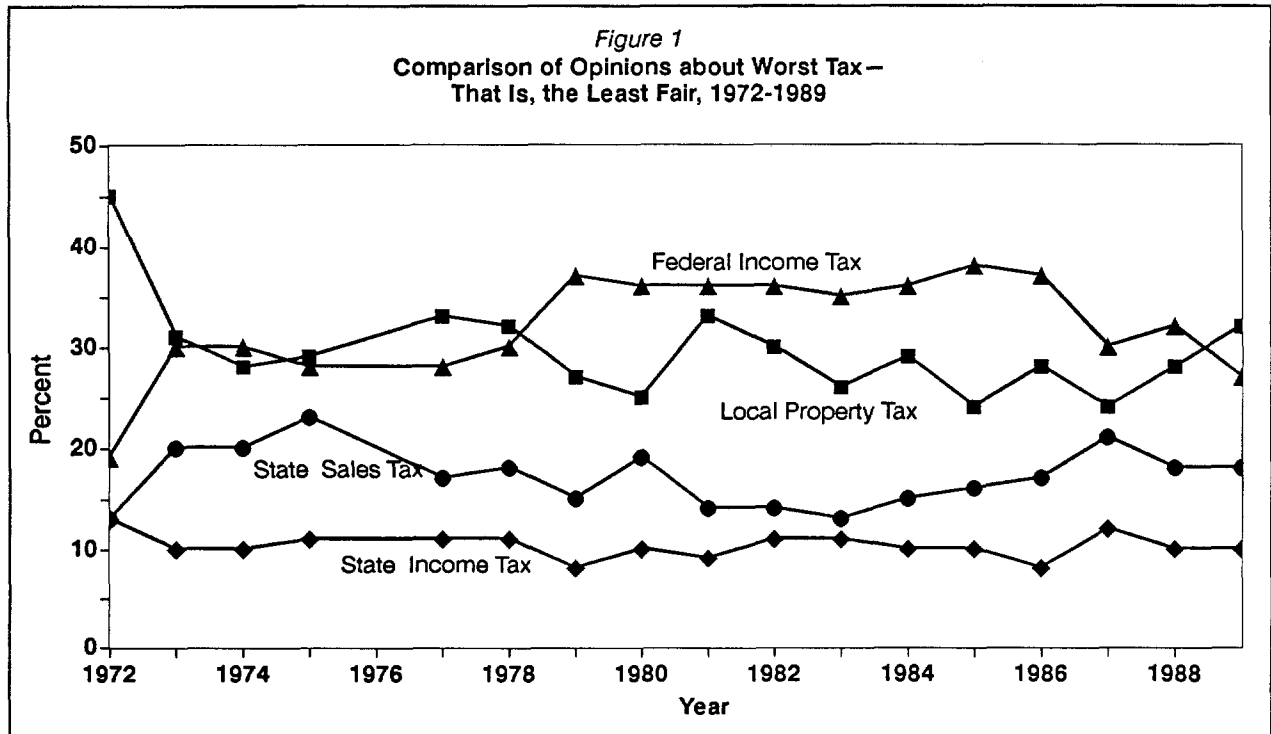


Table 1
Which Do You Think is the Worst Tax—That is the Least Fair:
Local Property Tax, Federal Income Tax, State Sales Tax, or State Income Tax?
(percent, without Social Security)

	Federal Income Tax	State Income Tax	State Sales Tax	Local Property Tax	Don't Know/ No Answer
June 1989	27	10	18	32	13
June 1988	33	10	18	28	11
June 1987	30	12	21	24	13
May 1986	37	8	17	28	10
May 1985	38	10	16	24	12
May 1984	36	10	15	29	10
May 1983	35	11	13	26	15
May 1982	36	11	14	30	9
Sept. 1981	36	9	14	33	9
May 1980	36	10	19	25	10
May 1979	37	8	15	27	13
May 1978	30	11	18	32	10
May 1977	28	11	17	33	11
May 1976			Not Available		
May 1975	28	11	23	29	10
April 1974	30	10	20	28	14
May 1973	30	10	20	31	11
March 1972	19	13	13	45	11

tax burden and fund surplus in early 1990, only 15 percent of the respondents cited this tax as worst (compared to 18 percent in 1989).

Interesting regional variations emerged in the responses to this question. While respondents in three of the four regions (Northeast, North-Central, and South) picked the local property tax as least fair, those in the West more frequently chose the federal income tax, by 31 to 18 percent (see Figure 2 and Table 3).

Analysis of prior poll results in Figure 2 and Table 3 shows that regional differences in attitudes are more than isolated occurrences, that worst-tax responses fluctuated by region from 1988 through 1990, but tended to maintain their direction. For example, respondents in the northeastern and north-central states have been relatively steadfast in their dislike of the local property tax. Likewise, citizens in the western

states have consistently expressed greater dissatisfaction with the federal income tax. Responses in the South, however, shifted after 1988. In that year, southerners identified the federal income tax as the worst; in 1989 and 1990, they chose the local property tax. Additional subgroups in 1990 that believe the federal income tax is the least fair include people making over \$40,000 per year (33 percent), and white collar, sales, and clerical workers (32 percent) (see Appendix I, Table A1).

Subgroups that feel most negatively toward the local property tax include respondents over age 65 (33 percent), retired people (37 percent), and individuals living in the north-central states (33 percent). The relatively high negative reaction to the local property tax among retired individuals may be attributable to the fact that many retirees live on lower incomes, and their income taxes and Social Security taxes are either

Table 2
Which Do You Think is the Worst Tax—That is the Least Fair:
Federal Income Tax, Social Security Tax, State Income Tax, State Sales Tax, or Local Property Tax?
(percent)

	Federal Income Tax	Social Security Tax	State Income Tax	State Sales Tax	Local Property Tax	Don't Know/ No Answer
June 1990	26	15	10	12	28	9
June 1989	21	18	9	14	28	10
June 1988	26	17	9	15	24	9

(See Appendix I, Table A1, page 16 for 1990 detailed data.)

Figure 2
Which Do You Think is the Worst Tax—That is, the Least Fair:
Federal Income Tax, Social Security Tax, State Income Tax, State Sales Tax, or Local Property Tax?
(by region, percent)

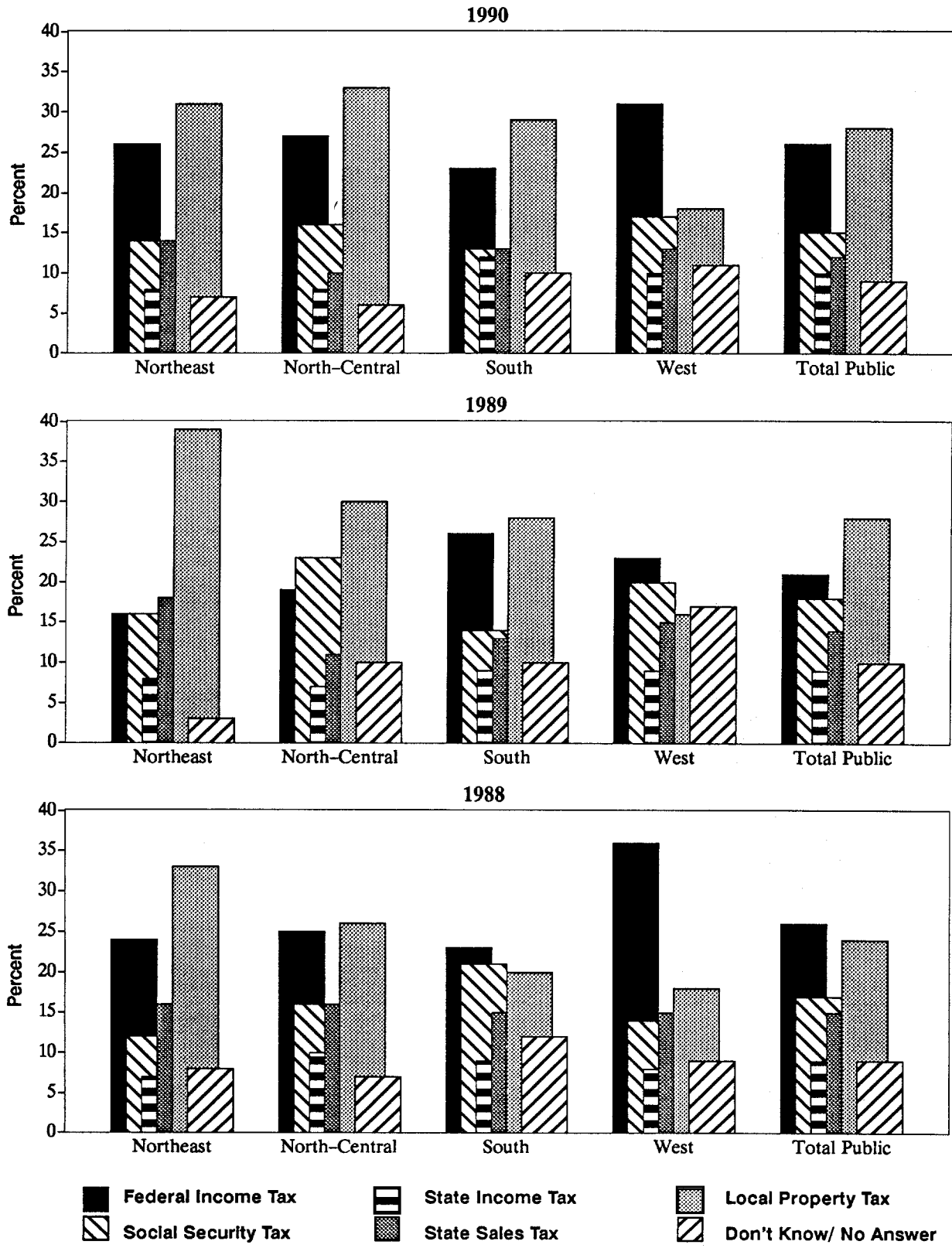


Table 3
1990

Which Do You Think is the Worst Tax—That is, the Least Fair:
Federal Income Tax, Social Security Tax, State Income Tax, State Sales Tax, or Local Property Tax?
(by region, percent)

	Federal Income Tax	Social Security Tax	State Income Tax	State Sales Tax	Local Property Tax	Don't Know/ No Answer
Northeast	26	14	8	14	31	7
North-Central	27	16	8	10	33	6
South	23	13	12	13	29	10
West	31	17	10	13	18	11
Total Public	26	15	10	12	28	9
1989						
	Federal Income Tax	Social Security Tax	State Income Tax	State Sales Tax	Local Property Tax	Don't Know/ No Answer
Northeast	16	16	8	18	39	3
North-Central	19	23	7	11	30	10
South	26	14	9	13	28	10
West	23	20	9	15	16	17
Total Public	21	18	9	14	28	10
1988						
	Federal Income Tax	Social Security Tax	State Income Tax	State Sales Tax	Local Property Tax	Don't Know/ No Answer
Northeast	24	12	7	16	33	8
North-Central	25	16	10	16	26	7
South	23	21	9	15	20	12
West	36	14	8	15	18	9
Total Public	26	17	9	15	24	9

nonexistent or markedly lower than when they were working. White collar, sales, and clerical workers are among those least likely to believe the local property tax is worst; only 21 percent of this group identified the property tax as the worst tax. Contrary to the conventional wisdom that homeowners dislike the local property tax more than renters, respondents who own their homes are not markedly more likely than those who rent to view the local property tax as the worst tax (30 and 25 percent, respectively).

Of those choosing the Social Security tax as worst, the subgroups that most often cited that tax as the worst are white collar, sales, and clerical workers (25 percent) and persons aged 25 to 34 (21 percent). Groups that least often cited the Social Security tax as the worst are individuals who did not complete high school (10 percent), unemployed persons (10 percent), and retired persons (10 percent).

From which level of government do you feel you get the least for your money?

ACIR asked this question in 1989 and 1990. It is a variation of a question that has been asked since 1972: "From which level of government do you feel you get the most for your money?" The long-term trend in responses to the "most for your money" question has been interesting (see Figure 3 and Table 4). From 1972 through 1978, respondents said the federal government gave them the most for their money. This

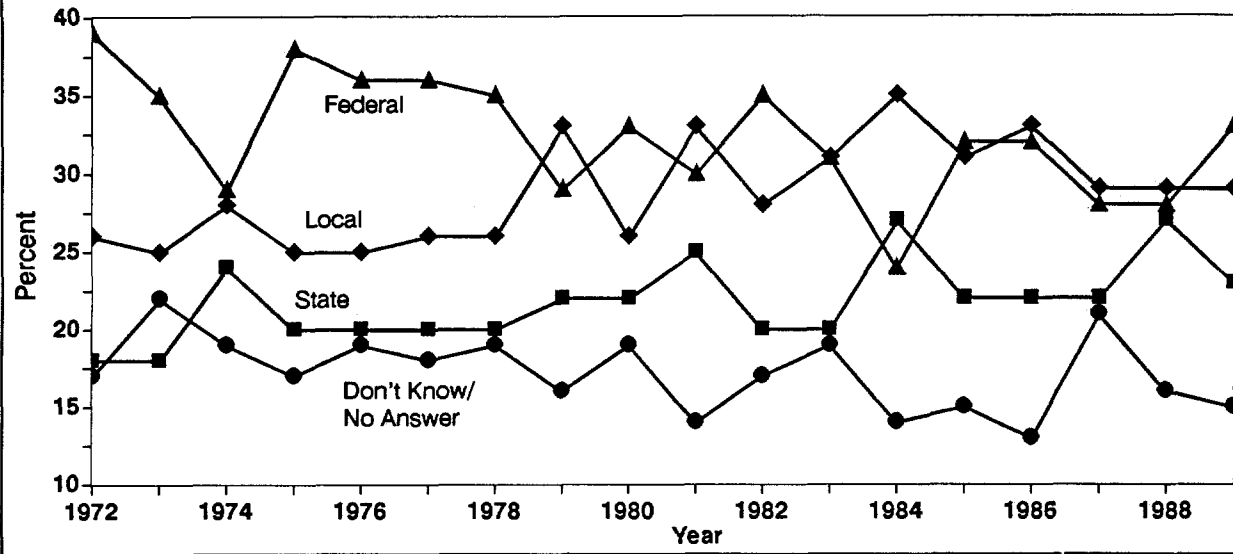
pattern was broken in 1979, the year after funding levels for federal aid programs peaked as a percentage of federal outlays and of state and local revenues. Since that time, respondents have alternately judged the federal and local governments as giving them the most for their money, often with a very small margin separating them.

Changing the wording of this question from "most" to "least" appears to have had a significant effect on the responses. One generally would expect individuals who say that a particular government gives them the most for their money to identify another government as giving them the least. However, in 1989, when both versions of this question were asked, similar pluralities of respondents believed that the federal government gave them the most for their money (33 percent, Table 4) and the least for their money (36 percent, Table 5).²

The results of the 1990 "least for your money" question suggest increased dissatisfaction with federal taxing and spending policies. This year, a larger plurality (41 percent) responded that the federal government gives them the least for their money than in 1989 (36 percent) (see Table 5). Respondents choosing state government remained about the same (26 percent

² ACIR plans to alternate each version of the "most/least for your money" question annually.

Figure 3
Comparison of Opinions about the Level of Government that Provides "The Most for Your Money," 1972-89



in 1990 and 25 percent in 1989), while 21 percent chose local government, down from 25 percent a year earlier.

Individuals 35-to-44 years old were particularly likely in 1990 to say that the federal government gives them the least for their money (47 percent) (see Appendix I, Table A2). Those most likely to say that state government gives them the least for their money were blacks (38 percent) and individuals from the

Northeast (33 percent). Those most likely to say that local governments give them the least for their money were people with incomes of \$15,000 to \$24,999 per year (27 percent).

There was a sharp difference in the responses of blacks and whites to this question. Whites were almost twice as likely to feel that the federal government gives them the least for their money (43 percent of whites to 23 percent of blacks). Blacks, on the other hand, were more likely to respond that their state government gives them the least for their money (38 percent of blacks to 24 percent of whites).

Table 4
From Which Level of Government Do You Feel You Get the Most for Your Money — Federal, State, or Local? — (percent)

	Federal	State	Local	Don't Know/No Answer
1989	33	23	29	15
1988	28	27	29	16
1987	28	22	29	21
1986	32	22	33	13
1985	32	22	31	15
1984	24	27	35	14
1983	31	20	31	19
1982	35	20	28	17
1981	30	25	33	14
1980	33	22	26	19
1979	29	22	33	16
1978	35	20	26	19
1977	36	20	26	18
1976	36	20	25	19
1975	38	20	25	17
1974	29	24	28	19
1973	35	18	25	22
1972	39	18	26	17

To the extent that government may be involved, in which level of government do you have the most trust and confidence to handle each of the following problems?

As in 1989, respondents to the 1990 ACIR poll were asked in which government they had the most trust and confidence to handle a variety of problems (see Figure 4 and Table 6). This year's set of six problems included foreign and domestic issues.

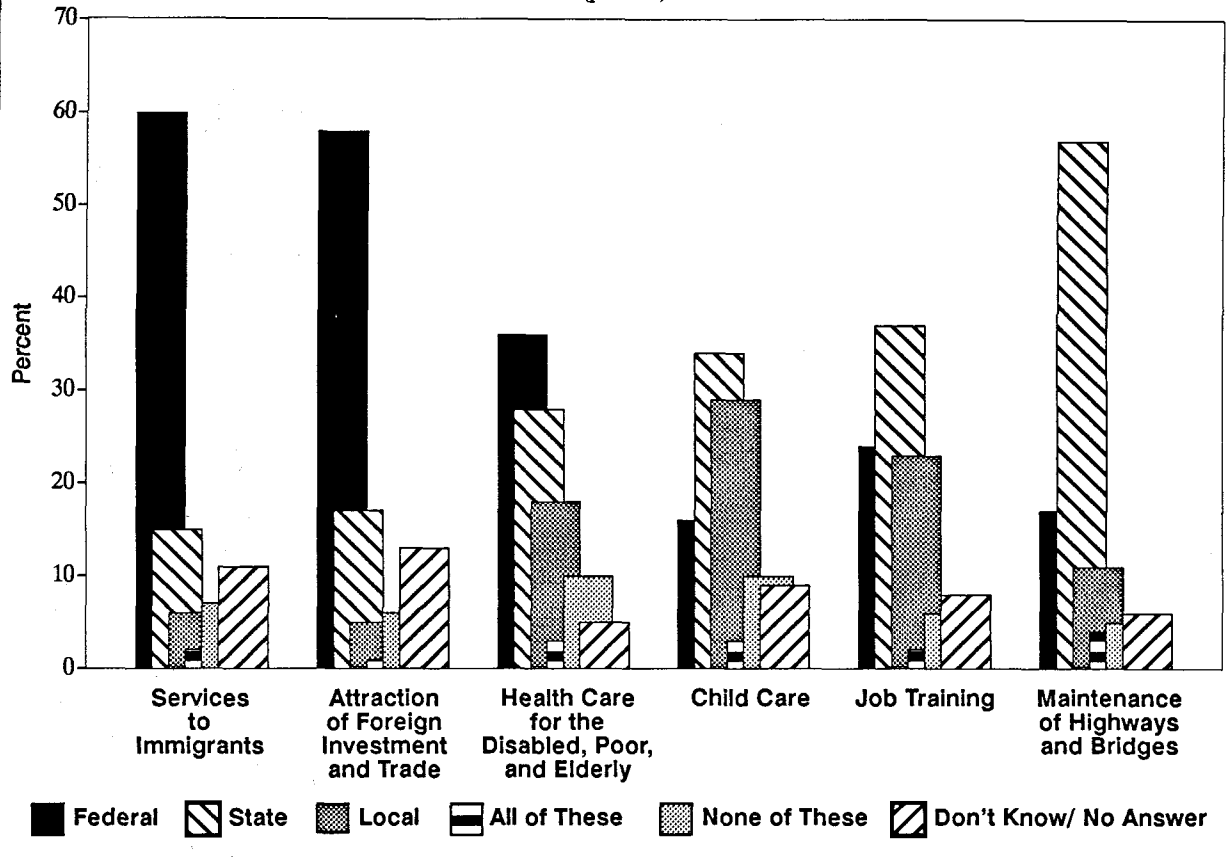
Table 5
From which Level of Government Do You Feel You Get the Least for Your Money? — (percent)

	Federal	State	Local	Don't Know/No Answer
June 1990	41	26	21	12
June 1989	36	25	25	14

(See Appendix I, Table A2, page 17, for 1990 detailed data)

Figure 4
1990

To the Extent that Government May Be Involved, in which Level of Government Do You Have the Most Trust and Confidence to Handle Each of the Following Problem Most Effectively. . . ?
(percent)



The responses varied considerably from subject to subject. For example, Table 6 reveals that the public most often places its trust and confidence in the federal government to provide services to immigrants and attract foreign investment and trade, and in state government to maintain highways and bridges. Responses were more mixed for the other three prob-

lems (health care for the disabled, poor, and elderly; child care; and job training).

Although pluralities of those asked said they trust the federal government most to provide health care for the disabled, poor, and elderly, and state government to provide job training and child care, substantial numbers of respondents selected all three

Table 6
To the Extent that Government May Be Involved, in which Level of Government Do You Have the Most Trust and Confidence to Handle Each of the Following Problems Most Effectively. . . ?
(percent)

	Services to Immigrants	Attraction of Foreign Investment and Trade	Health Care for the Disabled, Poor, and Elderly	Child Care	Job Training	Maintenance of Highways and Bridges
Federal	60	58	36	16	24	17
State	15	17	28	34	37	57
Local	6	5	18	29	23	11
All of These	2	1	3	3	2	4
None of These	7	6	10	10	6	5
Don't Know/No Answer	11	13	5	9	8	6

Table 7
To the Extent that Government May Be Involved, in which Level of Government Do You Have the Most Trust and Confidence to Handle Each of the Following Problems Most Effectively . . .

A. Services to Immigrants?
(percent)

	Federal	State	Local	All of These	None of Them	Don't Know/ No Answer
Total Public	60	15	6	2	7	11
Professional, Manager, Owner	72	14	4	3	5	3
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	64	12	7	4	4	9
Blue Collar	56	17	6	1	7	13
Retired	57	12	6	3	11	11
Northeast	69	13	4	2	6	6
North-Central	67	10	5	1	6	13
South	57	13	7	2	8	14
West	49	25	8	4	6	8

(See Appendix I, Table A3, page 18, for 1990 detailed data)

types of government as the one they trust most to handle each of these three problems.

Following is some additional detail about the poll results on these six functions of government.

Services to Immigrants

A majority of citizens polled (60 percent) said they trust the federal government most to provide services to immigrants (see Table 7), compared to 15 percent for state government and 6 percent for local government.

In the Northeast, North-Central and South regions, the majority expressed most trust and confidence in the federal government (69 percent, 67 percent, and 57 percent), compared to a substantially lower 49 percent in the West. Fully 25 percent of respondents living in the West indicated the most trust and confidence in state government to handle services to immigrants. Occupationally, 72 percent of professionals, managers, and owners of businesses trust the federal government most

to supply these services, as do 56 percent of blue-collar workers and 57 percent of retired persons.

Attraction of Foreign Investment and Trade

Beyond the finding that a majority of respondents (58 percent) has the most trust and confidence in the federal government to handle the attraction of foreign investment and trade, two other findings about this question are interesting (see Table 8). First, the majority for the federal government held in every subgroup except one; still, blacks chose the federal government at least three times as often as the other choices (see Appendix I, Table A4). Second, the percentage of individuals answering "don't know/no answer" (13 percent) was more than twice as great as those selecting local government (5 percent) and about the same as those designating state government (17 percent). The unusually high proportion of respondents opting for the "don't know" category

Table 8
To the Extent that Government May Be Involved, in which Level of Government Do You Have the Most Trust and Confidence to Handle Each of the Following Problems Most Effectively . . .

B. Attraction of Foreign Investment and Trade?
(percent)

	Federal	State	Local	All of These	None of Them	Don't Know/ No Answer
Total Public	58	17	5	1	6	13
Professional, Manager, Owner	62	24	4	1	3	6
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	57	15	7	3	6	12
Blue Collar	58	19	2	1	6	14
Retired	53	12	6	1	7	21
Northeast	72	11	4	1	5	8
North-Central	57	20	3	1	7	13
South	54	17	6	2	5	16
West	53	20	6	3	6	12

(See Appendix I, Table A4, page 19, for 1990 detailed data)

Table 9
To the Extent that Government May Be Involved, in which Level of Government Do You Have the Most Trust and Confidence to Handle Each of the Following Problems Most Effectively . . .
C. Health Care for the Disabled, Poor, and Elderly?
(percent)

	Federal	State	Local	All of These	None of Them	Don't Know/No Answer
Total Public	36	28	18	3	10	5
Under 35 Years of Age	35	35	18	3	5	4
18-24	34	37	16	5	2	5
25-34	35	34	19	2	6	3
35-44	38	26	16	1	14	5
45-65	34	26	19	3	13	6
Over 65	41	21	17	3	10	8
Northeast	47	22	18	3	9	2
North-Central	37	26	20	1	11	6
South	33	31	16	3	9	7
West	31	34	16	4	10	5

(See Appendix I, Table A5, page 20, for 1990 detailed data)

suggests that the public is not as familiar with or as interested in this issue as in the others.³

Health Care for the Disabled, Poor, and Elderly

A plurality expressed the most trust and confidence in the federal government to handle health care for the disabled, poor, and elderly (36 percent), followed by 28 percent for state government (see Table 9). Only 18 percent of those surveyed said they most trust local government.

Subgroup variations in age and region are distinct. The federal government was chosen over state and local governments two to one by individuals over 65 years of age (41 percent to 21 percent and 17 percent, respectively) and by people from the Northeast (47 percent to 22 percent and 18 percent). Westerners chose state government about as frequently as the federal government to provide health care to these groups (34 to 31 percent), and individuals under 35 years of age selected either government equally (35 percent each). Of those choosing local government to provide health care, it did best with individuals in the North-Central region (20 percent) and with those who have attended but not completed college (26 percent) (see Appendix I, Table A3).

³ These findings are interesting in light of responses to related questions in earlier polls. The 1988 poll asked respondents if they thought state offices in foreign countries and foreign trips by governors and mayors to promote trade were a good use of public funds. That year, the public expressed mixed feelings on both questions. For the complete text of these questions, responses, and analysis, see *Changing Public Attitudes on Government and Taxes: 1988* (S 17), p. 7. For more information on state and local activity in international affairs, see the Summer 1990 issue of *Intergovernmental Perspective* and the forthcoming ACIR report *State and Local Roles in Intergovernmental Affairs*.

Child Care

Thirty-four percent of those asked said they trust the state government most to provide child care (see Table 10), and 29 percent chose local government. Only 16 percent selected the federal government for child care (its lowest figure for any of the six problems included this year).

A number of subgroups exhibited sharp variations. For example, those most likely to need child care (respondents under 35 and between 35 and 44 years of age) trusted state government most to provide this service (41 and 35 percent, respectively). Individuals over 65 years of age, on the other hand, said they trust local government most (33 percent).

A plurality of both "total employed" and "employed females" also expressed trust in the state government to provide child care (38 and 36 percent, respectively). In contrast, a plurality of both "total not employed" and "not employed females" chose local government most (32 and 33 percent). Whether employed or unemployed, respondents selected either state or local government more than twice as often as the federal government.

Additionally, as shown in Table 10, a plurality of respondents with children under age 18 expressed most confidence in state government to provide child care (37 percent), while respondents with no children divided fairly equally between state and local government (30 to 32 percent, respectively).

Job Training

More Americans surveyed trust state government to handle job training (37 percent) than the federal or local governments (24 percent and 23 percent, respectively), with a plurality for state government in every region of the country (see Table 11). Also, respondents from the Northeast were more

Table 10
To the Extent that Government May Be Involved, in which Level of Government Do You Have the Most Trust and Confidence to Handle Each of the Following Problems Most Effectively . . .
D. Child Care?
(percent)

	Federal	State	Local	All of These	None of Them	Don't Know/ No Answer
Total Public	16	34	29	3	10	9
Under 35 Years of Age	17	41	28	3	6	7
18-24	20	43	26	5	1	6
25-34	16	39	28	2	8	7
35-44	17	35	25	2	14	7
45-65	13	30	32	3	13	10
Over 65	16	24	33	2	9	16
Employed	16	38	28	2	9	7
Employed Female	18	36	22	3	13	8
Not Employed	15	27	32	3	11	13
Not Employed Female	14	26	33	3	10	13
Children in Household: Under 18	18	37	27	3	10	6
No Children	13	30	32	3	10	12

(See Appendix I, Table A6, page 21, for 1990 detailed data)

likely (31 percent) than those from the other three regions to select the federal government over local governments (17 percent).

Given that unemployed individuals are often the intended beneficiaries of government job training programs, their views on this question are of special interest. Similar pluralities of both employed (38 percent) and unemployed (34 percent) said they trust state government most to provide job training. Unemployed respondents, however, were twice as likely as employed respondents to respond "don't know/no answer."

Maintenance of Highways and Bridges

A 57 percent majority expressed the most trust and confidence in state government to handle the

maintenance of highways and bridges (see Table 12), compared to only 17 percent for the federal government, and 11 percent for local government. A majority in every category but one said it trusts state government most. Forty-eight percent of blacks chose the state, still a wide plurality over the other choices made by blacks (see Appendix I, Table A8). Those most likely to pick state government were individuals making \$40,000 or more (64 percent). Twenty-four percent of college graduates considered the federal government most trustworthy, as did 23 percent of professionals, managers, and owners of businesses, 21 percent of retired workers, and 22 percent of people living in the Northeast. Local government fared best with white-collar, sales, and clerical workers (17 percent) among those choosing local government. The

Table 11
To the Extent that Government May Be Involved, in which Level of Government Do You Have the Most Trust and Confidence to Handle Each of the Following Problems Most Effectively . . .
E. Job Training?
(percent)

	Federal	State	Local	All of These	None of Them	Don't Know/ No Answer
Total Public	24	37	23	2	6	8
Employed	24	38	24	2	6	6
Employed Female	19	40	24	3	6	8
Not Employed	23	34	22	3	6	12
Not Employed Female	22	36	22	3	5	12
Northeast	31	40	17	2	5	5
North-Central	17	40	28	1	7	8
South	24	31	25	3	7	10
West	25	39	19	3	6	9

(See Appendix I, Table A7, page 22, for 1990 detailed data)

Table 12
To the Extent that Government May Be Involved, in which Level of Government Do You Have the Most Trust and Confidence to Handle Each of the Following Problems Most Effectively. . .
F. Maintenance of Highways and Bridges?
(percent)

	Federal	State	Local	All of These	None of Them	Don't Know/No Answer
Total Public	17	57	11	4	5	6
Professional, Manager, Owner	23	60	8	3	4	3
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	13	52	17	6	6	7
Blue Collar	15	58	10	3	6	7
Retired	21	55	8	8	4	4
Northeast	22	51	13	5	6	5
North-Central	17	60	12	2	5	5
South	13	59	12	4	5	8
West	20	56	7	7	5	6

(See Appendix I, Table A8, page 23, for 1990 detailed data)

responses to this question were remarkably similar in metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas, as well as in cities and suburbs.

Overall, how would you grade the performance of each of the following governments?

The performance question is new this year. The results indicate moderate satisfaction with all three types of government. Table 13 shows that a plurality of Americans rated the performance of all three governments as satisfactory, with the state receiving the highest satisfactory score (46 percent), followed closely by local government (45 percent) and the federal government (43 percent).

Thirty-two percent of respondents rated the performance of local government as excellent or good, compared to 29 percent for the federal and state governments. Conversely, 23 percent of the respondents viewed the federal government's performance as unsatisfactory or a failure, compared to 20 percent for state government and 19 percent for local government.

To express the findings another way, each government was assigned a grade-point average (GPA).⁴ This calculation was made by considering the "excellent" response an A, the "good" a B, the "satisfactory" a C, the "unsatisfactory" a D, and the "failure" an F, and by assigning each letter grade a numerical value ranging from 4 for an A to 0 for an F. The resulting overall

GPA for each government is surprisingly similar: all three receive a C.

This finding is especially interesting following the results of the question asking respondents to identify the government that gives them the least for their money. With 41 percent of the respondents perceiving the federal government as giving them the least for their money, one might expect more respondents to assign it a relatively lower overall performance rating. There is no significant difference in the performance ratings for any of the governments as measured by the grade-point averages.

There were only a few variations by subgroup concerning the performance of the three types of government (see Appendix I, Tables 9-11). Most interesting, perhaps, is the finding that rural residents (36 percent) were significantly more likely than either

⁴ To obtain an overall GPA for each of the governments, the DK/NA category was dropped and the corresponding percentage of respondents was subtracted. Hence, the subsequent GPA is based on an N of 1,108 rather than the overall N of 1,166. Also, the percentage of respondents in each response category was converted to the actual number of respondents and then multiplied by a corresponding value of 4 for an "A," 3 for a "B," 2 for a "C," 1 for a "D," and 0 for an "F." The figures for each government were: 2.25 for local, 2.17 for state, and 2.15 for federal. All of the figures used in these calculations can be found in Appendix I, Tables 9 11.

Table 13
Overall, How Would You Grade the Performance of Each of the Following Governments?
(percent)

	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Failure	Don't Know/No Answer
Local	4	28	45	15	4	5
State	1	28	46	17	3	5
Federal	2	27	43	20	3	5

(See Appendix I, Tables A9-11, pages 24-26, for 1990 detailed data)

Table 14
Overall, How Would You Grade the Ability of the Federal, State, and Local Governments to Cooperate and Work Together?
(percent)

	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Failure	Don't Know/ No Answer
Local	4	25	40	17	4	10
State	2	25	43	18	3	10
Federal	2	22	43	22	3	9

(See Appendix I, Tables A12-14, pages 27-29, for 1990 detailed data)

urban or suburban residents (25 percent) to rate the federal government as excellent or good.

Overall, how would you grade the ability of the federal, state, and local governments to cooperate and work together today?

A plurality of respondents believes all three governmental partners are able to cooperate and work together satisfactorily (40 percent for local, and 43 percent each for state and federal; see Table 14). Twenty-nine percent of those polled said local gov-

ernment's ability to cooperate and work with the two other governmental partners is excellent or good, followed by state government with 27 percent and the federal government with 24 percent. Consistently, a lower percentage of respondents said that the state or local governments' ability to cooperate is unsatisfactory or a failure (21 percent each). Individuals 18 to 24 years of age were most likely to rate each government's ability to cooperate as excellent or good, and least likely to rate them as unsatisfactory or a failure (see Appendix I, Tables A12-14).

The Poll

This report presents the findings of a personal interview research survey conducted among a nationally representative sample of 1,166 men and women, 18 years of age or over, living in private households in the United States.

Interviewing for this survey was completed May 4-22, 1990, by members of the Gallup Personal Omnibus national interviewing staff. All interviews were conducted in the homes of respondents.

To ensure the representativeness of the sample, data were weighted to take into account demographic variables. Therefore, the results may be projected to the total adult civilian population, 18 years of age or over, living in the United States.

Introduction to Detailed Findings

The tables contained in this report present detailed findings of the various survey results. Details may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

The following definitions are provided for some of the standard breakdowns by which the data are analyzed. Other breakdowns are self-explanatory.

Occupation refers to the occupation of the respondent. The types of positions included in each category are listed below. The fourth classification is retired persons.

Professional/Manager/Owner

Executives, Professionals, Technical and Kindred Workers, Managers, Officials, and Proprietors.

White Collar, Sales, Clerical

Clerical, Office and Secretarial Workers, and Sales Agents and Workers.

Blue Collar

Semi-Skilled, Laborers, and Service Workers; Craftsmen, Foremen, Kindred Workers, Maintenance Repairmen, Carpenters, Plumbers and Electricians; Operatives and Kindred Workers, Apprentices, and Assembly Line Workers; Housekeepers in Private Households, Institutional and Public; Police, Security Guards; Beauticians and Barbers.

Metro size groupings are determined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census population figures for the metropolitan area. Nonmetro areas are those not in a metropolitan area. Metropolitan areas consist of two parts: (1) "central city areas" with populations of 50,000 or more in a central city or combination of central cities of a metropolitan area; and (2) "fringe areas" with urban concentrations of population outside but closely associated with the central city or cities.

The four *geographic regions* are defined as follows: *Northeast*—Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania; *North-Central*—Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas; *South*—Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas; *West*—Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, California, Hawaii, Alaska.

Income groups respondents by 1989 total household income before taxes.

Sampling tolerances for the survey are plus or minus 3 percentage points at the 95 percent level of confidence.

Further detail on the survey methods and sampling tolerances are available from ACIR.

Previous Classifications and Results

This volume presents only the 1990 survey results. Detailed data may be found in Appendix I.

Survey results for questions asked in 1989 may be obtained by ordering the 1989 report (S-18).

Survey results for questions asked in the 1982-1988 surveys may be found in the 1988 report (S-17), in Appendix I. Revised 1986 figures are underlined in the detailed tables of the 1988 report.

Data on questions asked in the 1972-1981 surveys may be found in Appendix III of the 1983 or 1984 reports (S-12 and S-13). Descriptions of classifications used in these years also may be found in those reports.

Appendix I
**Detailed Results:
1990 Survey**

Table A1
1990

Which Do You Think is the Worst Tax—That is the Least Fair:
Federal Income Tax, Social Security Tax, State Income Tax, State Sales Tax, or Local Property Tax?
(percent)

	Federal Income Tax	Social Security Tax	State Income Tax	State Sales Tax	Local Property Tax	Don't Know/ No Answer
Total Public	26	15	10	12	28	9
Male	26	16	11	10	29	8
Female	26	14	9	14	28	9
Head of Household	27	15	10	12	29	8
Male Head	27	16	12	10	29	7
Female Head	26	14	8	14	29	9
Under 35 Years of Age	25	20	9	12	27	8
18-24	18	17	11	16	31	9
25-34	29	21	8	10	25	7
35-44	30	11	12	14	25	8
45-65	27	14	12	11	30	7
Over 65	21	12	7	14	33	14
High School Incomplete	23	10	9	14	30	14
High School Graduate	26	15	10	12	30	7
College Incomplete	29	19	10	13	23	6
College Graduate	28	16	9	11	29	7
Household Income: Under \$15K	27	13	8	13	27	11
\$15-24.9K	26	11	15	11	29	8
\$25K +	27	17	8	13	29	7
\$25-29.9K	24	15	10	12	25	13
\$30-39.9K	19	17	9	18	30	8
\$40K +	33	17	7	10	29	3
Own	26	15	10	12	30	7
Rent	26	15	11	13	25	10
White	27	15	10	11	29	9
Black	20	18	7	22	25	8
Employed	28	18	11	11	26	7
Employed Female	30	17	11	11	25	6
Not Employed	23	10	8	15	32	12
Not Employed Female	22	10	7	18	31	12
Professional, Manager, Owner	29	16	14	12	25	5
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	32	25	8	8	21	7
Blue Collar	26	15	12	12	28	7
Retired	26	10	7	11	37	9
Married	27	14	11	13	29	6
Not Married	26	16	9	11	27	12
Household Size: 1-2 People	27	14	10	11	29	9
3-4 People	28	16	9	13	26	8
5+ People	20	16	11	14	32	7
Children in Household: Under 18	26	16	9	13	28	7
No Children	26	14	10	12	29	10
Northeast	26	14	8	14	31	7
North-Central	27	16	8	10	33	6
South	23	13	12	13	29	10
West	31	17	10	13	18	11
Nonmetro	26	15	9	12	31	8
Metro: 50000 and Over						
Fringe	27	15	10	13	27	8
Central City	24	15	11	13	27	11

Table A2
1990

From Which Level of Government Do You Feel You Get the Least for Your Money:
Federal, State, or Local?
(percent)

	Federal	State	Local	Don't Know/ No Answer
Total Public	41	26	21	12
Male	42	27	21	10
Female	40	25	21	15
Head of Household	41	26	21	13
Male Head	44	27	20	10
Female Head	38	25	21	15
Under 35 Years of Age	42	27	19	12
18-24	37	27	24	12
25-34	45	26	17	12
35-44	47	24	20	9
45-65	42	26	21	11
Over 65	33	27	22	18
High School Incomplete	33	23	23	20
High School Graduate	42	26	21	11
College Incomplete	44	30	18	9
College Graduate	46	25	20	9
Household Income: Under \$15K	34	28	19	19
\$15-24.9K	41	18	27	14
\$25K +	44	28	20	8
\$25-29.9K	46	27	11	16
\$30-39.9K	41	31	20	8
\$40K +	46	26	23	5
Own	42	25	22	11
Rent	39	28	17	16
White	43	24	21	12
Black	23	38	26	14
Employed	42	25	23	9
Employed Female	41	23	25	11
Not Employed	38	28	17	17
Not Employed Female	39	27	17	17
Professional, Manager, Owner	46	26	21	7
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	44	26	21	9
Blue Collar	38	26	23	13
Retired	40	19	25	16
Married	43	26	21	10
Not Married	38	26	20	15
Household Size: 1-2 People	44	23	20	13
3-4 People	39	29	20	12
5+ People	38	28	24	11
Children in Household: Under 18	42	28	20	10
No Children	41	25	21	14
Northeast	43	33	14	10
North-Central	42	27	23	9
South	40	25	24	12
West	41	20	20	19
Nonmetro	44	24	23	10
Metro: 50000 and Over				
Fringe	39	28	22	12
Central City	41	26	16	16

Table A3
1990

To the Extent that Government May Be Involved, in which Level of Government Do You Have the Most Trust and Confidence to Handle Each of the Following Problems Most Effectively: Federal, State, or Local?

A. Services to Immigrants
(percent)

	Federal	State	Local	All of These	None of Them	Don't Know/ No Answer
Total Public	60	15	6	2	7	11
Male	63	14	5	2	8	8
Female	57	15	6	2	6	14
Head of Household	61	14	6	2	7	11
Male Head	64	13	5	2	8	7
Female Head	58	14	6	2	7	13
Under 35 Years of Age	64	17	5	3	3	8
18-24	60	22	6	4	2	6
25-34	66	15	5	2	4	8
35-44	59	12	6	1	9	13
45-65	59	15	5	1	8	11
Over 65	55	11	7	2	10	15
High School Incomplete	46	16	7	2	9	19
High School Graduate	64	13	5	2	6	10
College Incomplete	59	17	4	3	8	9
College Graduate	69	14	7	0	5	5
Household Income: Under \$15K	53	12	6	2	10	17
\$15-24.9K	60	16	9	2	4	11
\$25K+	64	16	5	2	7	7
\$25-29.9K	63	9	4	2	10	13
\$30-39.9K	55	17	4	4	9	11
\$40K+	70	16	5	0	5	3
Own	62	14	5	2	7	10
Rent	55	16	7	2	6	14
White	62	14	6	2	7	9
Black	46	12	6	3	8	25
Employed	64	15	5	2	5	9
Employed Female	60	16	5	2	5	12
Not Employed	54	15	7	2	9	14
Not Employed Female	55	15	7	2	6	16
Professional, Manager, Owner	72	14	4	3	5	3
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	64	12	7	4	4	9
Blue Collar	56	17	6	1	7	13
Retired	57	12	6	3	11	11
Married	62	14	6	2	7	9
Not Married	56	16	5	2	6	14
Household Size: 1-2 People	58	14	5	3	9	12
3-4 People	63	15	7	1	5	10
5+ People	58	17	8	1	6	10
Children in Household: Under 18	62	14	7	2	5	10
No Children	58	15	5	2	8	11
Northeast	69	13	4	2	6	6
North-Central	67	10	5	1	6	13
South	57	13	7	2	8	14
West	49	25	8	4	6	8
Nonmetro	64	11	4	1	10	10
Metro: 50000 and Over						
Fringe	56	18	8	3	5	10
Central City	60	16	6	1	5	13

Table A4
1990

To the Extent that Government May Be Involved, in which Level of Government Do You Have the Most Trust and Confidence to Handle Each of the Following Problems Most Effectively: Federal, State, or Local?

B. Attraction of Foreign Investment and Trade
(percent)

	Federal	State	Local	All of These	None of Them	Don't Know/ No Answer
Total Public	58	17	5	1	6	13
Male	61	20	3	1	6	9
Female	56	15	6	2	5	16
Head of Household	58	17	5	1	6	13
Male Head	60	21	3	1	7	9
Female Head	55	14	7	2	6	17
Under 35 Years of Age	64	16	5	3	4	9
18-24	68	14	5	5	2	7
25-34	61	18	5	1	5	10
35-44	58	17	4	1	5	15
45-65	52	25	4	1	8	11
Over 65	56	9	6	1	7	22
High School Incomplete	50	14	4	2	7	24
High School Graduate	62	16	6	2	4	12
College Incomplete	56	20	4	2	9	8
College Graduate	63	22	4	0	5	7
Household Income: Under \$15K	50	14	4	1	8	24
\$15-24.9K	60	16	6	3	4	12
\$25K +	61	20	5	1	5	8
\$25-29.9K	55	15	8	2	6	14
\$30-39.9K	59	17	6	1	8	10
\$40K +	65	24	3	0	4	4
Own	58	18	5	1	7	11
Rent	56	16	4	3	3	17
White	59	18	5	2	6	12
Black	48	16	5	0	7	24
Employed	61	18	4	2	5	11
Employed Female	57	16	6	2	5	15
Not Employed	54	15	6	1	7	17
Not Employed Female	54	13	7	2	6	18
Professional, Manager, Owner	62	24	4	1	3	6
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	57	15	7	3	6	12
Blue Collar	58	19	2	1	6	14
Retired	53	12	6	1	7	21
Married	59	18	5	1	6	10
Not Married	57	16	4	1	5	17
Household Size: 1-2 People	54	18	5	1	8	15
3-4 People	62	17	4	2	5	11
5+ People	61	16	7	2	3	13
Children in Household: Under 18	62	16	5	2	5	11
No Children	56	18	5	1	7	14
Northeast	72	11	4	1	5	8
North-Central	57	20	3	1	7	13
South	54	17	6	2	5	16
West	53	20	6	3	6	12
Nonmetro	57	20	5	0	6	12
Metro: 50000 and Over						
Fringe	60	18	3	3	6	11
Central City	56	13	7	2	5	17

Table A5
1990

To the Extent that Government May Be Involved, in which Level of Government Do You Have the Most Trust and Confidence to Handle Each of the Following Problems Most Effectively: Federal, State, or Local?
C. Health Care for the Disabled, Poor, and Elderly
(percent)

	Federal	State	Local	All of These	None of Them	Don't Know/ No Answer
Total Public	36	28	18	3	10	5
Male	40	28	17	2	9	4
Female	33	29	18	3	10	7
Head of Household	37	27	18	3	10	5
Male Head	41	26	17	3	10	3
Female Head	34	27	18	4	11	7
Under 35 Years of Age	35	35	18	3	5	4
18-24	34	37	16	5	2	5
25-34	35	34	19	2	6	3
35-44	38	26	16	1	14	5
45-65	34	26	19	3	13	6
Over 65	41	21	17	3	10	8
High School Incomplete	38	22	15	6	9	11
High School Graduate	37	32	15	2	9	4
College Incomplete	28	31	26	3	10	4
College Graduate	41	26	17	1	12	4
Household Income: Under \$15K	37	28	12	4	12	8
\$15-24.9K	35	30	18	4	10	4
\$25K +	37	27	20	2	9	5
\$25-29.9K	36	27	19	6	6	6
\$30-39.9K	36	25	21	1	11	6
\$40K +	37	29	20	2	9	3
Own	35	28	19	2	10	6
Rent	39	28	16	3	8	5
White	36	29	18	3	10	5
Black	41	29	10	4	9	7
Employed	37	29	18	2	10	4
Employed Female	34	28	17	3	13	5
Not Employed	36	27	16	3	9	8
Not Employed Female	33	30	17	3	8	9
Professional, Manager, Owner	44	24	17	3	11	1
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	31	34	18	2	10	5
Blue Collar	36	28	18	3	9	6
Retired	44	25	8	4	11	8
Married	37	27	19	3	10	5
Not Married	36	31	16	3	9	6
Household Size: 1-2 People	35	28	18	3	10	6
3-4 People	39	29	17	3	9	4
5+ People	34	30	19	2	10	6
Children in Household: Under 18	37	29	17	3	10	5
No Children	36	27	19	3	10	6
Northeast	47	22	18	3	9	2
North-Central	37	26	20	1	11	6
South	33	31	16	3	9	7
West	31	34	16	4	10	5
Nonmetro	38	30	18	1	9	4
Metro: 50000 and Over						
Fringe	34	29	18	5	11	4
Central City	38	26	16	2	10	8

Table A6
1990

To the Extent that Government May Be Involved, in which Level of Government Do You Have the Most Trust and Confidence to Handle Each of the Following Problems Most Effectively: Federal, State, or Local?
D. Child Care
(percent)

	Federal	State	Local	All of These	None of Them	Don't Know/ No Answer
Total Public	16	34	29	3	10	9
Male	16	36	30	2	8	8
Female	16	31	28	3	11	10
Head of Household	15	32	30	3	10	9
Male Head	15	35	31	2	9	8
Female Head	16	30	29	3	12	11
Under 35 Years of Age	17	41	28	3	6	7
18-24	20	43	26	5	1	6
25-34	16	39	28	2	8	7
35-44	17	35	25	2	14	7
45-65	13	30	32	3	13	10
Over 65	16	24	33	2	9	16
High School Incomplete	16	31	23	4	9	18
High School Graduate	15	36	31	1	9	8
College Incomplete	15	31	33	3	13	5
College Graduate	18	34	29	3	10	6
Household Income: Under \$15K	14	33	25	3	11	15
\$15-24.9K	20	35	29	3	5	8
\$25K +	15	32	32	3	12	7
\$25-29.9K	14	23	27	6	16	14
\$30-39.9K	13	39	28	2	11	8
\$40K +	16	31	35	2	12	4
Own	14	30	33	2	11	10
Rent	19	39	22	4	7	9
White	15	34	30	3	10	9
Black	22	31	19	1	12	14
Employed	16	38	28	2	9	7
Employed Female	18	36	22	3	13	8
Not Employed	15	27	32	3	11	13
Not Employed Female	14	26	33	3	10	13
Professional, Manager, Owner	18	36	30	3	11	3
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	20	34	26	2	10	8
Blue Collar	15	38	26	2	8	10
Retired	13	26	31	3	14	14
Married	15	32	32	2	11	8
Not Married	16	36	25	3	8	12
Household Size: 1-2 People	13	32	31	3	10	12
3-4 People	17	35	28	3	10	7
5+ People	20	34	29	1	9	7
Children in Household: Under 18	18	37	27	3	10	6
No Children	13	30	32	3	10	12
Northeast	20	37	27	3	7	7
North-Central	15	33	32	1	11	8
South	17	36	26	2	9	11
West	11	27	33	5	14	10
Nonmetro	12	36	33	1	10	9
Metro: 50000 and Over						
Fringe	17	28	31	4	11	9
Central City	20	38	22	2	8	10

Table A7
1990

To the Extent that Government May Be Involved, in which Level of Government Do You Have the Most Trust and Confidence to Handle Each of the Following Problems Most Effectively: Federal, State, or Local?
E. Job Training
(percent)

	Federal	State	Local	All of These	None of Them	Don't Know/ No Answer
Total Public	24	37	23	2	6	8
Male	27	35	23	2	7	7
Female	20	38	23	3	6	10
Head of Household	24	37	23	2	6	8
Male Head	27	36	22	2	7	6
Female Head	21	37	23	3	6	10
Under 35 Years of Age	23	39	26	3	4	6
18-24	20	37	29	6	3	6
25-34	24	40	24	2	4	5
35-44	23	40	17	2	9	8
45-65	24	34	23	2	7	9
Over 65	25	32	24	2	5	12
High School Incomplete	24	32	20	3	7	14
High School Graduate	25	37	23	3	5	7
College Incomplete	24	36	26	3	6	6
College Graduate	23	42	22	1	6	6
Household Income: Under \$15K	26	34	17	2	9	12
\$15-24.9K	28	32	25	4	4	8
\$25K +	21	40	25	2	6	6
\$25-29.9K	22	32	27	5	7	8
\$30-39.9K	21	40	22	1	9	7
\$40K +	20	41	27	2	4	6
Own	23	37	23	2	6	9
Rent	27	35	23	3	5	7
White	24	38	23	2	6	8
Black	22	31	22	3	6	16
Employed	24	38	24	2	6	6
Employed Female	19	40	24	3	6	8
Not Employed	23	34	22	3	6	12
Not Employed Female	22	36	22	3	5	12
Professional, Manager, Owner	26	36	24	1	9	4
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	22	40	28	3	3	5
Blue Collar	23	38	20	3	7	10
Retired	25	33	20	2	6	14
Married	23	36	25	2	6	8
Not Married	25	38	20	2	6	9
Household Size: 1-2 People	23	37	21	2	7	10
3-4 People	27	37	22	3	6	6
5+ People	22	37	29	2	5	7
Children in Household: Under 18	23	38	24	3	6	6
No Children	24	35	22	2	7	10
Northeast	31	40	17	2	5	5
North-Central	17	40	28	1	7	8
South	24	31	25	3	7	10
West	25	39	19	3	6	9
Nonmetro	23	39	24	1	6	7
Metro: 50000 and Over						
Fringe	23	37	22	4	7	7
Central City	25	34	23	2	4	12

Table A8
1990

To the Extent that Government May Be Involved, in which Level of Government Do You Have the Most Trust and Confidence to Handle Each of the Following Problems Most Effectively: Federal, State, or Local?
F. Maintenance of Highways and Bridges
(percent)

	Federal	State	Local	All of These	None of Them	Don't Know/ No Answer
Total Public	17	57	11	4	5	6
Male	21	58	8	5	5	4
Female	14	56	14	3	6	8
Head of Household	18	57	11	4	5	6
Male Head	22	58	7	4	5	4
Female Head	14	55	14	4	6	8
Under 35 Years of Age	14	60	12	4	4	6
18-24	14	57	14	6	3	7
25-34	14	62	11	3	5	5
35-44	19	53	11	2	6	8
45-65	20	55	12	3	6	5
Over 65	17	57	8	6	5	6
High School Incomplete	15	54	10	5	6	11
High School Graduate	15	58	12	3	6	6
College Incomplete	17	55	14	5	6	4
College Graduate	24	60	7	4	2	3
Household Income: Under \$15K	12	58	12	4	7	9
\$15-24.9K	21	50	14	5	5	6
\$25K +	18	59	10	3	5	4
\$25-29.9K	23	57	6	2	4	8
\$30-39.9K	17	53	14	3	8	5
\$40K +	18	64	9	4	3	3
Own	19	57	9	4	6	5
Rent	12	57	16	4	3	9
White	17	57	11	4	6	5
Black	15	48	13	6	4	15
Employed	18	58	12	3	5	5
Employed Female	12	57	16	3	6	7
Not Employed	16	57	10	5	6	7
Not Employed Female	17	55	11	3	5	9
Professional, Manager, Owner	23	60	8	3	4	3
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	13	52	17	6	6	7
Blue Collar	15	58	10	3	6	7
Retired	21	55	8	8	4	4
Married	18	57	11	4	5	4
Not Married	16	56	11	4	5	8
Household Size: 1-2 People	18	56	9	5	6	6
3-4 People	17	59	13	3	5	4
5+ People	18	54	12	4	5	8
Children in Household: Under 18	15	58	13	3	5	6
No Children	19	56	9	5	5	6
Northeast	22	51	13	5	6	5
North-Central	17	60	12	2	5	5
South	13	59	12	4	5	8
West	20	56	7	7	5	6
Nonmetro	16	60	11	4	6	3
Metro: 50000 and Over						
Fringe	19	54	11	5	5	5
Central City	15	56	11	3	4	11

Table A9
1990

Overall, How Would You Grade the Performance of Each of the Following Governments?

A. Federal

(percent)

	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Failure	Don't Know/ No Answer
Total Public	2	27	43	20	3	5
Male	2	30	41	21	4	3
Female	1	25	46	18	3	7
Head of Household	2	26	44	20	4	4
Male Head	2	28	41	23	4	2
Female Head	1	25	46	18	3	7
Under 35 Years of Age	2	29	43	18	2	6
18-24	4	35	41	10	2	8
25-34	1	26	44	22	3	5
35-44	2	27	38	24	4	6
45-65	2	27	47	19	3	2
Over 65	1	26	45	18	5	6
High School Incomplete	1	21	47	15	3	13
High School Graduate	1	30	45	17	3	3
College Incomplete	2	30	36	24	5	4
College Graduate	3	27	42	25	3	1
Household Income: Under \$15K	2	26	40	19	5	9
\$15-24.9K	1	25	50	17	1	5
\$25K +	2	28	43	21	4	2
\$25-29.9K	0	26	40	25	4	5
\$30-39.9K	4	27	39	26	2	2
\$40K +	1	30	46	17	4	2
Own	2	27	44	20	4	3
Rent	2	28	41	18	2	8
White	1	28	44	19	4	4
Black	4	25	36	21	2	12
Employed	2	26	44	20	4	4
Employed Female	2	24	46	19	5	4
Not Employed	0	29	43	18	3	6
Not Employed Female	0	27	46	18	2	8
Professional, Manager, Owner	2	30	42	23	3	1
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	1	24	50	14	8	3
Blue Collar	3	25	43	21	3	6
Retired	0	27	41	23	6	3
Married	1	27	45	20	3	3
Not Married	2	29	41	18	3	7
Household Size: 1-2 People	2	25	43	22	4	4
3-4 People	2	28	44	18	3	5
5+ People	1	33	42	16	4	5
Children in Household: Under 18	2	28	43	19	3	6
No Children	2	27	44	20	4	4
Northeast	2	27	45	20	2	4
North-Central	1	29	47	17	4	4
South	2	31	37	20	4	6
West	1	20	48	22	4	5
Nonmetro	2	34	39	18	5	4
Metro: 50000 and Over						
Fringe	1	24	48	19	2	5
Central City	2	23	43	23	4	6

Table A10
1990

Overall, How Would You Grade the Performance of Each of the Following Governments?

B. State
(percent)

	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Failure	Don't Know/ No Answer
Total Public	1	28	46	17	3	5
Male	1	29	44	19	3	4
Female	2	27	48	15	2	7
Head of Household	1	27	46	18	3	5
Male Head	1	27	45	20	4	3
Female Head	1	27	47	16	2	7
Under 35 Years of Age	2	30	45	14	3	6
18-24	2	35	48	4	1	10
25-34	2	28	43	19	4	4
35-44	2	29	42	18	2	7
45-65	1	24	51	21	1	3
Over 65	1	29	43	15	6	6
High School Incomplete	2	21	44	16	3	13
High School Graduate	2	30	49	14	2	4
College Incomplete	1	31	42	19	3	4
College Graduate	0	30	46	21	2	1
Household Income: Under \$15K	3	24	44	18	3	8
\$15-24.9K	1	25	51	14	3	6
\$25K +	1	30	46	17	3	3
\$25-29.9K	1	30	42	20	0	8
\$30-39.9K	1	27	47	21	2	1
\$40K +	1	32	47	14	4	2
Own	1	27	48	18	3	3
Rent	3	29	42	15	2	9
White	1	28	48	16	3	4
Black	2	26	33	22	3	14
Employed	1	27	47	17	2	5
Employed Female	1	27	48	16	3	6
Not Employed	2	28	45	17	3	6
Not Employed Female	2	27	48	15	1	8
Professional, Manager, Owner	1	28	44	22	3	2
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	0	31	50	8	5	6
Blue Collar	2	25	46	19	1	7
Retired	1	30	45	15	6	3
Married	1	28	46	17	4	4
Not Married	2	28	46	16	2	7
Household Size: 1-2 People	1	26	45	20	3	5
3-4 People	2	29	45	16	3	4
5+ People	1	31	51	10	1	6
Children in Household: Under 18	2	30	45	15	3	6
No Children	1	27	47	19	2	5
Northeast	0	26	43	22	4	4
North-Central	1	31	50	12	2	4
South	2	29	41	19	2	7
West	2	24	53	14	3	6
Nonmetro	1	32	44	17	3	3
Metro: 50000 and Over						
Fringe	1	21	52	16	3	6
Central City	2	31	39	18	2	8

Table A11
1990

Overall, How Would You Grade The Performance Of Each Of The Following Governments?

C. Local
(percent)

	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Failure	Don't Know/ No Answer
Total Public	4	28	45	15	4	5
Male	3	32	40	17	3	4
Female	5	24	49	12	4	6
Head of Household	4	27	46	15	4	5
Male Head	3	30	41	18	4	3
Female Head	5	24	50	12	4	6
Under 35 Years of Age	4	29	44	13	3	7
18-24	3	33	44	8	1	11
25-34	4	27	45	16	4	5
35-44	5	25	44	16	4	6
45-65	4	31	44	15	3	2
Over 65	4	27	46	16	4	3
High School Incomplete	3	22	46	14	4	11
High School Graduate	4	31	46	13	2	4
College Incomplete	4	25	44	18	6	4
College Graduate	6	34	41	15	3	1
Household Income: Under \$15K	4	27	43	14	6	7
\$15-24.9K	4	28	46	15	2	5
\$25K+	4	29	45	16	3	3
\$25-29.9K	4	26	42	16	3	9
\$30-39.9K	3	28	48	16	4	2
\$40K+	5	30	45	15	4	2
Own	4	29	46	15	4	3
Rent	5	23	44	14	3	10
White	4	28	45	15	3	4
Black	3	21	39	17	8	12
Employed	4	30	42	15	4	5
Employed Female	5	24	48	13	4	6
Not Employed	4	27	46	14	4	5
Not Employed Female	5	25	49	12	4	6
Professional, Manager, Owner	4	32	41	18	3	2
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	4	26	50	7	7	6
Blue Collar	3	27	44	17	3	6
Retired	5	26	45	16	5	3
Married	4	29	45	15	3	4
Not Married	4	27	44	14	4	7
Household Size: 1-2 People	5	26	44	16	4	5
3-4 People	3	30	46	14	3	4
5+ People	6	30	44	11	4	6
Children in Household: Under 18	4	30	44	13	4	6
No Children	5	27	45	16	3	4
Northeast	5	31	40	18	3	4
North-Central	5	30	47	12	2	4
South	4	27	44	17	3	6
West	3	26	47	11	7	6
Nonmetro	3	30	46	16	4	2
Metro: 50000 and Over						
Fringe	6	29	45	12	4	5
Central City	4	25	43	16	4	8

Table A12

1990

**Overall, How Would You Grade the Ability of the Federal, State, and Local Governments
to Cooperate and Work Together Today?**

A. Federal

(percent)

	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Failure	Don't Know/ No Answer
Total Public	2	22	43	22	3	9
Male	3	24	39	23	3	8
Female	1	19	46	20	4	10
Head of Household	2	21	42	23	4	9
Male Head	2	23	39	25	4	7
Female Head	2	18	45	20	4	11
Under 35 Years of Age	1	25	43	21	3	8
18-24	2	28	50	11	2	7
25-34	1	23	39	26	3	9
35-44	3	22	36	26	6	8
45-65	3	19	43	23	3	9
Over 65	1	20	49	16	3	12
High School Incomplete	2	17	39	18	3	21
High School Graduate	3	20	49	19	2	7
College Incomplete	1	23	42	23	5	5
College Graduate	1	29	35	29	3	3
Household Income: Under \$15K	1	18	43	18	4	16
\$15-24.9K	3	25	44	18	2	9
\$25K+	2	21	43	26	4	5
\$25-29.9K	2	16	45	26	2	9
\$30-39.9K	3	20	39	28	3	7
\$40K+	1	23	44	25	4	3
Own	2	21	43	23	3	8
Rent	1	22	41	20	4	13
White	2	21	44	22	3	9
Black	5	24	33	18	5	14
Employed	3	22	42	24	4	6
Employed Female	2	19	46	23	5	6
Not Employed	1	21	44	17	3	13
Not Employed Female	1	20	46	18	3	14
Professional, Manager, Owner	1	26	40	27	3	3
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	3	18	49	17	5	9
Blue Collar	3	18	41	26	3	9
Retired	1	25	41	20	3	11
Married	2	21	44	23	4	6
Not Married	2	22	41	19	3	13
Household Size: 1-2 People	2	19	42	23	3	11
3-4 People	2	23	44	21	4	7
5+ People	2	24	43	19	4	7
Children in Household: Under 18	1	24	40	22	4	8
No Children	3	19	45	21	3	10
Northeast	3	23	45	20	1	7
North-Central	2	20	45	22	4	7
South	2	24	41	21	3	9
West	1	17	39	24	5	13
Nonmetro	2	25	46	19	3	5
Metro: 50000 and Over						
Fringe	2	21	43	22	3	10
Central City	2	18	38	24	5	13

Table A13
1990

Overall, How Would You Grade the Ability of the Federal, State, and Local Governments to Cooperate and Work Together Today?

B. State
(percent)

	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Failure	Don't Know/ No Answer
Total Public	2	25	43	18	3	10
Male	3	26	43	18	2	8
Female	1	24	43	17	4	11
Head of Household	2	24	43	18	3	10
Male Head	3	24	43	20	3	7
Female Head	1	24	42	17	4	12
Under 35 Years of Age	2	27	42	17	3	10
18-24	2	36	46	8	0	9
25-34	1	23	40	21	4	10
35-44	3	27	38	20	4	9
45-65	2	21	46	18	2	10
Over 65	2	23	44	16	3	12
High School Incomplete	3	20	38	18	1	20
High School Graduate	1	25	48	15	3	8
College Incomplete	3	25	43	17	5	7
College Graduate	1	30	40	22	3	4
Household Income: Under \$15K	2	21	41	18	3	17
\$15-24.9K	3	26	45	16	1	9
\$25K +	2	26	44	19	3	6
\$25-29.9K	3	19	47	22	0	9
\$30-39.9K	2	27	37	23	4	7
\$40K +	2	27	47	16	3	5
Own	2	23	46	18	3	8
Rent	1	27	37	18	3	14
White	2	25	45	17	3	9
Black	4	28	29	19	5	16
Employed	3	26	42	19	3	8
Employed Female	1	25	40	21	5	7
Not Employed	1	24	45	15	3	13
Not Employed Female	1	23	46	13	3	14
Professional, Manager, Owner	2	26	42	23	3	4
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	3	31	40	9	6	11
Blue Collar	2	21	45	20	2	10
Retired	1	28	41	18	2	10
Married	2	25	43	19	4	7
Not Married	3	24	43	15	2	14
Household Size: 1-2 People	2	22	43	19	2	12
3-4 People	2	24	46	17	4	7
5+ People	2	33	37	17	3	8
Children in Household: Under 18	2	28	38	19	4	8
No Children	2	22	47	17	2	11
Northeast	1	28	43	18	2	8
North-Central	2	23	49	16	3	7
South	2	28	40	18	2	10
West	3	19	40	19	4	15
Nonmetro	2	29	48	14	2	6
Metro: 50000 and Over						
Fringe	2	23	43	20	3	10
Central City	2	23	36	19	5	15

Table A14
1990

Overall, How Would You Grade the Ability of the Federal, State, and Local Governments to Cooperate and Work Together Today?

C. Local
(percent)

	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Failure	Don't Know/ No Answer
Total Public	4	25	40	17	4	10
Male	5	25	40	19	3	9
Female	4	25	40	16	5	11
Head of Household	4	24	40	18	4	10
Male Head	4	25	40	20	3	8
Female Head	3	24	40	16	5	13
Under 35 Years of Age	4	26	40	17	3	11
18-24	7	33	40	9	0	10
25-34	3	22	40	21	4	11
35-44	4	24	36	18	9	9
45-65	5	24	42	18	2	9
Over 65	4	26	40	16	3	12
High School Incomplete	3	22	35	18	3	20
High School Graduate	4	26	41	16	4	8
College Incomplete	6	19	43	19	5	8
College Graduate	3	32	41	17	3	4
Household Income: Under \$15K	4	18	39	19	6	16
\$15-24.9K	6	27	38	19	2	9
\$25K +	3	27	42	17	4	7
\$25-29.9K	3	22	44	19	0	12
\$30-39.9K	3	29	40	18	4	7
\$40K +	4	28	43	15	5	6
Own	4	26	41	17	4	8
Rent	3	23	36	19	5	14
White	4	25	41	17	4	10
Black	5	27	29	15	7	16
Employed	5	25	40	18	4	8
Employed Female	4	25	38	19	6	8
Not Employed	3	26	40	15	4	13
Not Employed Female	3	25	41	13	4	14
Professional, Manager, Owner	4	28	43	18	3	5
White Collar, Sales, Clerical	6	24	40	9	10	11
Blue Collar	4	21	39	23	3	10
Retired	5	27	38	17	2	10
Married	3	26	41	19	3	8
Not Married	5	24	38	14	5	14
Household Size: 1-2 People	5	23	39	17	4	12
3-4 People	3	25	44	16	4	8
5+ People	6	30	34	19	4	8
Children in Household: Under 18	4	26	38	18	5	9
No Children	4	24	41	17	3	11
Northeast	4	26	43	17	2	8
North-Central	5	25	41	17	4	9
South	3	27	40	17	4	10
West	5	20	36	18	6	16
Nonmetro	5	29	41	17	3	7
Metro: 50000 and Over						
Fringe	3	23	43	17	4	11
Central City	4	23	34	19	6	14

Appendix II

Guide to Current and Historical Questions, 1972-1990

This guide is an index to all questions asked in the ACIR polls from 1972 until 1990. Individuals wishing to order data may (1) order individual reference tables and/or (2) order the publications in which the data appear.

This index should be read as follows: The first column is the question wording. Column 2 (Year) reports the years in which the question was asked. Column 3 (Reference Table number) reports the number of the Reference Table containing this ques-

tion. Column 4 (Publication, Table number) reports the publication and table number for previously published detailed tables.

The data for the questions asked in 1990 are published in *Changing Public Attitudes on Government and Taxes 1990* (S-19). The data for 1989 are in volume S-18, for the period 1982-88 in volume S-17, and for 1972-81 in volumes S-12 or S-13. For years with blanks, data are included in the first tables in that list.

	Year	Reference Table Numbers	Publication, Table Numbers
TAXES			
Federal-State-Local Taxes			
From which level of government do you feel you get the most for your money —federal, state, or local?	1989-72	1-4 2	S-18, 1 S-17, 1-4
From which level of government do you feel you get the least for your money —federal, state, or local?	1989 1990	49 62	S-18, 2 S-19, A2
Considering all government services on the one hand and taxes on the other, which of the following statements comes closest to your view?	1986, 82 1980-77 1976-75	38-40	S-17, 38-40
Here is a list of the major types of taxes in the country today. Which do you think is the fairest?	1972, 74	E	S-13, E
Which do you think is the worst tax, that is, the least fair?	1990 1988-77 1975-72	61 6-9	S-19, A1 S-18, 3 S-17, 6-9
Which do you think is the worst tax, that is, the least fair—including Social Security?	1990-88	5	S-18, 4 S-17, 5
Federal-Local Taxes			
Which statement agrees most with your own thinking about the national value-added tax and local property tax?	1972	1	S-13, 1
Federal Taxes			
If the federal government had to raise taxes/revenues, which would be the best way to do it?	1987 1984 1983 1972	22-24 K	S-17, 22-24 S-13, K
If the federal income tax collections must be increased, which way is the best?	1983	25	S-17, 25

Which one of the changes would be the single most important change that would make the nation's tax system more fair?	1983	46	S-17, 46
Which one way of reducing the federal deficit would you prefer?	1984	43	S-17, 43

State Taxes

Suppose your state government must raise taxes/revenues, which would be the better way to do it?	1987 1983	26-27	S-17, 26-27
	1972, 76	D	S-13, D
Do you favor or oppose state laws which give special tax breaks or other incentives to industries that will locate or expand present operations in the state?	1977	L	S-13, L

Local Taxes

Suppose your local government must raise more taxes/revenue, which would be the better way to do it?	1987 1986 1983 1981	28-31	S-17, 28-31
Which reason do you feel is the most important for dissatisfaction with the property tax?	1977	G	S-13, G

AID PROGRAMS

Federal Aid

Rank types of federal grant programs as to whether they are necessary or unnecessary.	1982	16	S-17,16
Do you favor or oppose revenue sharing?	1973-76, 79	C	S-13, C
Do you favor or oppose special federal aid for central cities experiencing financial difficulty?	1976-79	J	S-13, J
For which, if any, of the following programs should the federal government stop providing federal financial support?	1985	42	S-17, 42

State Aid

With the cutbacks in federal financial aid to local governments, what should states do?	1983	47	S-17, 47
---	------	----	----------

Welfare

Should single parents receiving welfare be required to work in a government program to continue receiving payments?	1986	41	S-17, 41
---	------	----	----------

SPENDING

Federal-State-Local Spending

Which level of government do you think spends your tax dollars most wisely—federal, state, or local?	1989	52	S-18, 7
--	------	----	---------

Federal Spending

Which functions should the federal government turn back to state and local governments?	1981	P	S-13, P
Which one way of reducing the federal deficit would you prefer?	1984	43	S-17, 43
If the federal government decides to reduce spending, which one way would you prefer?	1986, 84	37	S-17, 37

State-Local Spending

Supposing the budgets of your state and local governments have to be curtailed, which one part would you limit most severely?	1980-81	O	S-13, O
---	---------	---	---------

GOVERNMENT POWER AND EFFICIENCY

Federal-State-Local Power

Which level of government do you think has too much power today—federal, state, or local?	1989	53	S-18, 8
---	------	----	---------

Which level of government do you think needs more power today— federal, state, or local?	1989	54	S-18, 9
How much power do you feel the federal government has over the activities of state and local government?	1987	32	S-17, 32
Which of these statements comes closest to your view about government power today?	1986-82 1978	35-36	S-17, 35-36
Federal Efficiency			
In your opinion, how often does the federal government perform its duties efficiently and at the best cost possible?	1988	10	S-17, 10
Federal-State-Local Efficiency			
From which level of government do you feel you get the most for your money?	1989-72	1-4	S-17, 1-4
Which government do you feel wastes the most of your tax money?	1987	21	S-17, 21
In your opinion, how often does your state government perform its duties efficiently and at the best cost possible?	1988	11	S-17, 11
In your opinion, how often does your local government perform its duties efficiently and at the best cost possible?	1988	12	S-17, 12
State-Local Efficiency			
Which of these statements about the ability of state and local government to deal with today's problems comes closest to your view?	1978	N	S-13, N
Would the following services be more efficiently produced/delivered by private companies or your local government?	1985	44	S-17, 44

TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT

Federal-State-Local Confidence			
On the whole, who do you think is the most honest—federal officials, state officials, or local officials?	1989	50	S-18, 5
Which level of government do you think responds best to your needs?	1989	51	S-18, 6
How much trust and confidence do you have in your government to do a good job?	1987	34	S-17, 34
In which people in government do you have the most trust and confidence?	1987	33	S-17, 33
To the extent that government may be involved, in which level of government do you have the most trust and confidence to handle each of the following problems most effectively: federal, state, or local?			
Service to immigrant	1990	63	A3
Attraction of foreign investment and trade	1990	64	A4
Health care for the disabled, poor, and elderly	1990	65	A5
Child care	1990	66	A6
Job training	1990	67	A7
Maintenance of highways and bridges	1990	68	A8
In which level of government do you have the most trust and confidence to handle each of the following problems most effectively— federal, state, or local?			
Disposing of or recycling trash?	1989	59	S-18, 14
Cleaning up air pollution?	1989	56	S-18, 11
Fighting against drugs?	1989	55	S-18, 10
Improving public schools?	1989	57	S-18, 12
Helping the homeless?	1989	60	S-18, 15
Managing urban development to limit cost and congestion?	1989	58	S-18, 13

GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS

Performance and Cooperation			
Overall, how would you grade the performance of each of the following governments—federal, state, local?	1990	69-71	S-19, A9-11
Overall, how would you grade the ability of the federal, state, and local governments to cooperate and work together today?	1990	72-74	S-19, A12-14

Foreign Policy and Trade

In recent years, many states have set up full-time offices in foreign countries to promote trade, tourism, and investment for their states. Are these state offices usually a very good use of public funds, a somewhat good use, not a very good use, or a poor use of public funds?	1988	15	S-17, 15
In recent years, many governors and mayors have traveled to foreign countries to promote trade, tourism, and investment for their states. Are these foreign trips by governors and mayors usually a very good use of public funds, a somewhat good use, a not very good use, or a poor use of public funds?	1988	16	S-17, 16
Many city councils have passed resolutions on such foreign policy issues as Israel, Northern Ireland, South Africa, and nuclear weapons. These resolutions sometimes oppose the foreign policy of the President and Congress. Do you think it is very proper, somewhat proper, not very proper, or not proper at all for city councils to pass resolutions on foreign policy?	1988	17	S-17, 17

Public Works

If you were to grade the performance of the following types of public works services based on your own experience, what grade would you give each—roads and bridges, water supply, solid waste disposal?	1988	18	S-17, 18
Average grades for public works services	1988	19	S-17, 19
If there is a need to raise additional revenues to improve public works services, which one of these methods would you prefer?	1988	20	S-17, 20

OTHER**Political Organizations**

In general, which one of the organizations listed below do you feel best represents the political interests of people like you?	1983	48	S-17, 48
---	------	----	----------

State Surplus Funds

How should states use their surplus funds?	1984	45	S-17, 45
--	------	----	----------

State Constitutions

Does your state have its own constitution, or does it rely on the United States Constitution for its governing powers?	1988	13	S-17, 13
Does the constitution of your state have a Bill of Rights or some other provisions that protect individual rights, like freedom of religion and freedom of speech?	1988	14	S-17, 14

Recent Publications of the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations

1990 Fiscal Capacity and Effort, M-170, 9/90, 160 pp.	\$20.00
State Constitutional Law: Cases and Materials, 1990-91 Supplement, M-172, 9/90, 56 pp.	\$7.00
Intergovernmental Regulation of Telecommunications, A-115, 7/90, 48 pp.	\$10.00
The Volume Cap for Tax-Exempt Private-Activity Bonds: State and Local Experience in 1989, M-171, 7/90, 36 pp.	\$7.50
Significant Features of Fiscal Federalism, 1990 Edition, Volume I, M-169, 1/90, 152 pp.	\$17.50
Volume II, M-169-II, 7/90, 220 pp.	\$17.50
State and Local Initiatives on Productivity, Technology, and Innovation, A-114, 6/90, 180 pp.	\$25.00
Local Revenue Diversification: Rural Economies, SR-13, 4/90, 60 pp.	\$8.00
State Taxation of Banks: Issues and Options, M-168, 12/89, 48 pp.	\$10.00
A Catalog of Federal Grant-in-Aid Programs to State and Local Governments: Grants Funded FY 1989, M-167, 10/89, 40 pp.	\$10.00
Local Revenue Diversification: Local Sales Taxes, SR-12, 9/89, 56 pp.	\$8.00
Changing Public Attitudes on Governments and Taxes: 1989, S-18, 9/89, 36 pp.	\$10.00
State Constitutions in the Federal System: Selected Issues and Opportunities for State Initiatives, A-113, 7/89, 128 pp.	\$15.00
Residential Community Associations: Questions and Answers for Public Officials, M-166, 7/89, 40 pp.	\$5.00
Residential Community Associations: Private Governments in the Intergovernmental System? A-112, 5/89, 128 pp.	\$10.00
Readings in Federalism—Perspectives on a Decade of Change, SR-11, 5/89, 128 pp.	\$10.00
Disability Rights Mandates: Federal and State Compliance with Employment Protections and Architectural Barrier Removal, A-111, 4/89, 136 pp.	\$10.00
Hearings on Constitutional Reform of Federalism: Statements by State and Local Government Association Representatives, M-164, 1/89, 60 pp.	\$5.00
State and Federal Regulation of Banking: A Roundtable Discussion, M-162, 11/88, 36 pp.	\$5.00
Assisting the Homeless: State and Local Responses in an Era of Limited Resources, M-161,	\$10.00
Devolution of Federal Aid Highway Programs: Cases in State-Local Relations and Issues in State Law, M-160, 10/88, 60 pp.	\$5.00
State Regulations of Banks in an Era of Deregulation, A-110, 9/88, 36 pp.	\$10.00
State Constitutional Law: Cases and Materials, M-159, 9/88, 480 pp.	\$25.00
Local Revenue Diversification: Local Income Taxes, SR-10, 8/88, 52 pp.	\$5.00
Metropolitan Organization: The St. Louis Case, M-158, 9/88, 176 pp.	\$10.00
Interjurisdictional Competition in the Federal System: A Roundtable Discussion, M-157, 8/88, 32 pp.	\$5.00
State-Local Highway Consultation and Cooperation: The Perspective of State Legislators, SR-9, 5/88, 54 pp.	5.00
Governments at Risk: Liability Insurance and Tort Reform, SR-7, 12/87, 42 pp.	\$5.00
The Organization of Local Public Economies, A-109, 12/87, 64 pp.	\$5.00
Is Constitutional Reform Necessary to Reinvigorate Federalism? A Roundtable Discussion, M-154, 11/87, 39 pp.	\$5.00
Local Revenue Diversification: User Charges, SR-6, 10/87, 64 pp.	\$5.00
The Transformation in American Politics: Implications for Federalism, B-9R, 10/87, 88 pp.	\$5.00
Devolving Selected Federal-Aid Highway Programs and Revenue Bases: A Critical Appraisal, A-108, 9/87, 56 pp.	\$10.00
Estimates of Revenue Potential from State Taxation of Out-of-State Mail Order Sales, SR-5, 9/87, 10 pp.	\$3.00
Federalism and the Constitution: A Symposium on <i>Garcia</i> , M-152, 7/87, 88 pp.	\$10.00

What is ACIR?

The Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR) was created by the Congress in 1959 to monitor the operation of the American federal system and to recommend improvements. ACIR is a permanent national bipartisan body representing the executive and legislative branches of Federal, state, and local government and the public.

The Commission is composed of 26 members—nine representing the federal government, 14 representing state and local government, and three representing the public. The President appoints 20—three private citizens and three federal executive officials directly, and four governors, three state legislators, four mayors, and three elected county officials from slates nominated by the National Governors' Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the National League of Cities, U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the National Association of Counties. The three Senators are chosen by the President of the Senate and the three Representatives by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Each Commission member serves a two-year term and may be reappointed.

As a continuing body, the Commission addresses specific issues and problems, the resolution of which would produce improved cooperation among governments and more effective functioning of the federal system. In addition to dealing with important functional and policy relationships among the various governments, the Commission extensively studies critical governmental finance issues. One of the long-range efforts of the Commission has been to seek ways to improve federal, state, and local governmental practices and policies to achieve equitable allocation of resources and increased efficiency and equity.

In selecting items for the research program, the Commission considers the relative importance and urgency of the problem, its manageability from the point of view of finances and staff available to ACIR, and the extent to which the Commission can make a fruitful contribution toward the solution of the problem.

After selecting specific intergovernmental issues for investigation, ACIR follows a multistep procedure that assures review and comment by representatives of all points of view, all affected levels of government, technical experts, and interested groups. The Commission then debates each issue and formulates its policy position. Commission findings and recommendations are published and draft bills and executive orders developed to assist in implementing ACIR policy recommendations.

