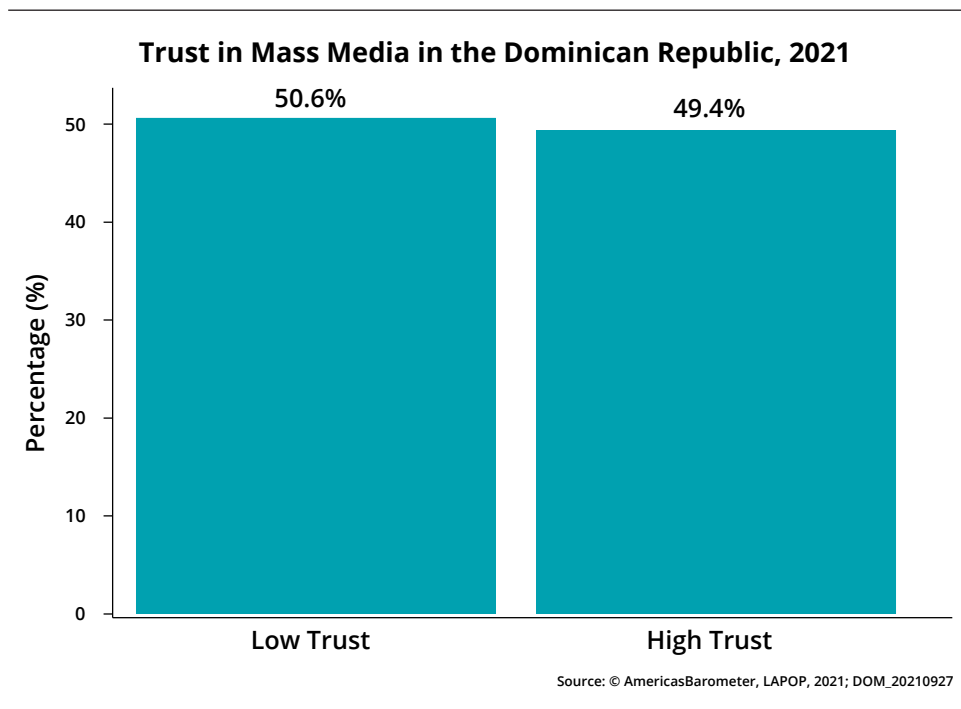


May, 2022 | Nikki Aminmadani and Alexandra Rounds

Spotlight on Trust in the Mass Media in the Dominican Republic

Trust in the mass media in the Dominican Republic has steadily declined since 2008, with record-low levels of trust in 2021

In 2021, Dominicans are divided on their levels of trust in the mass media



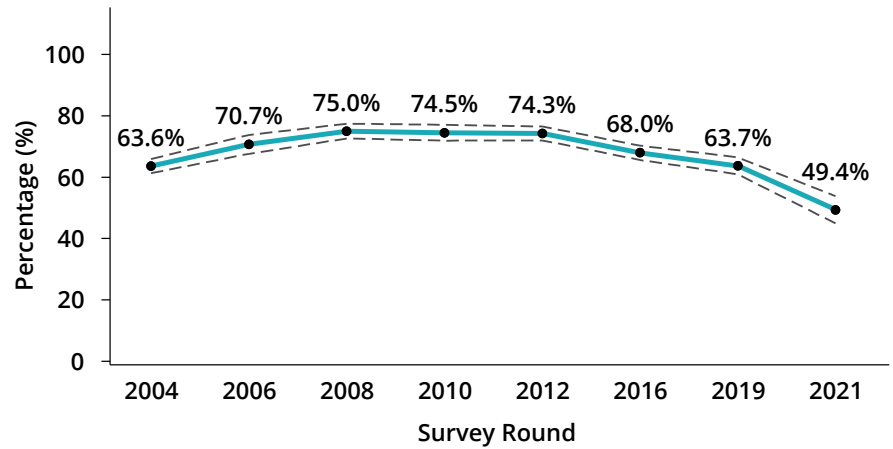
Since 2004, LAPOP's AmericasBarometer has measured trust in the mass media in the Dominican Republic by asking the following question: **B37. To what extent do you have trust in the mass media?** Respondents indicated their opinion on a 1-7 scale, where 1 means "not at all" and 7 means "a lot." Here we code responses into a dichotomous variable, which allows us to estimate the percentage of people in the Dominican Republic that have high trust in the media. Specifically, responses were recoded into a dichotomous variable indicating confidence in the mass media by combining responses "5" through "7" into a "high trust" category, while placing the other responses ("1" through "4") into a baseline "low trust" category.

We find that in 2021, about half of Dominicans (49.4%) have high levels of trust in the mass media, while the other half (50.6%) have low levels of trust in the mass media.

Trust in the mass media continues to decline, reaching its lowest level in 2021

Trust in the mass media in the Dominican Republic was highest in the 2008 round of the AmericasBarometer, when three in four (75.0%) respondents said they trusted the mass media. However, between 2008 and 2021, there was a 25.6 percentage point decrease in this confidence, with about half (49.4%) of respondents in the Dominican Republic saying they have confidence in the mass media in 2021. Moreover, the largest shift in trust in the mass media between consecutive rounds took place between the 2019 and 2021 rounds, with trust decreasing by 14.3 percentage points.

Trust in Mass Media in the Dominican Republic, 2004-2021



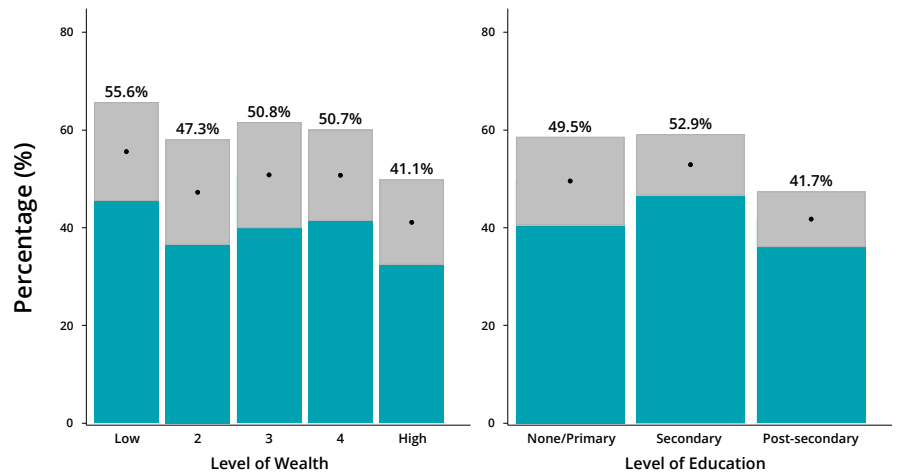
--- 95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2004-2021; DOM_20210927

Trust in the mass media in the Dominican Republic is highest among less wealthy individuals and those with lower levels of education

What characteristics of individuals predict trust in the mass media in the Dominican Republic? Individuals in the highest wealth category (41.1%) have lower levels of trust in the mass media than those in all other wealth categories. Furthermore, those with a post-secondary education have lower levels of trust in the mass media than those with a secondary education (41.7% and 52.9%, respectively).

Trust in Mass Media in the Dominican Republic, 2021



■ 95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2021; DOM_2004-2021_20210927

Gender and age were not statistically significant predictors of confidence in the mass media.¹

Nikki Aminmadani (senior) and Alexandra Rounds (sophomore) are both students at Vanderbilt University studying Political Science and Spanish. They are both hoping to pursue a career in law in the future.

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Interested in knowing more about the LAPOP Lab's AmericasBarometer study? Consult the data and our reports at www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop.

As a charter member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) Transparency Initiative, LAPOP Lab is committed to routine disclosure of our data collection and reporting processes. More information about the AmericasBarometer sample designs can be found at www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop/core-surveys.php

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¹ Due to changes in survey mode in the 2021 AmericasBarometer, place of residence was not analyzed in this Spotlight report.