

December 2020 | Eric Asen

Spotlight on Trust in the Chinese Government in Latin America and the Caribbean

Trust in the Chinese government has declined in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region

In most LAC countries, less than half the public trusts the Chinese government

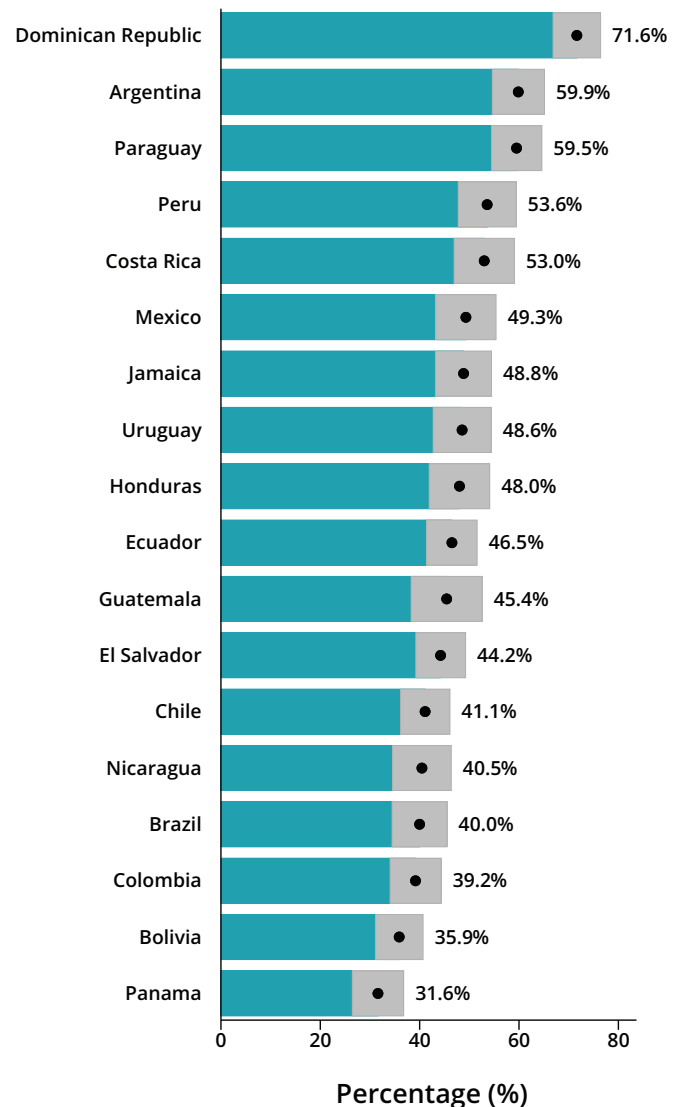
Since 2012, the LAPOP AmericasBarometer project has measured trust in the Chinese government by asking the following question:

MIL10A. The government of China. In your opinion, is it very trustworthy, somewhat trustworthy, not very trustworthy, or not at all trustworthy, or do you not have an opinion?

In the 2018/19 round, this question was included in surveys in 18 countries. Here we code responses into a dichotomous variable, which allows us to estimate the percentage of people in the region who trust the Chinese government. Specifically, responses were recoded into a dichotomous variable indicating trust in the Chinese government by combining the “very” and “somewhat” trustworthy responses into one category, while placing the other responses (“not very” or “not at all” trustworthy) into a baseline category. Those responding that they do not have an opinion are excluded from the analysis.¹

The country with the highest level of trust in the Chinese government in 2018/19 is the Dominican Republic (71.6%), while Panama (31.6%) holds the lowest trust in the Chinese government in the LAC region. Mexico, Jamaica, Uruguay, Honduras, Ecuador, Guatemala, and El Salvador have fairly similar levels of trust in the Chinese government in the 2018/19 round.

Trust in the Chinese Government, 2018/19



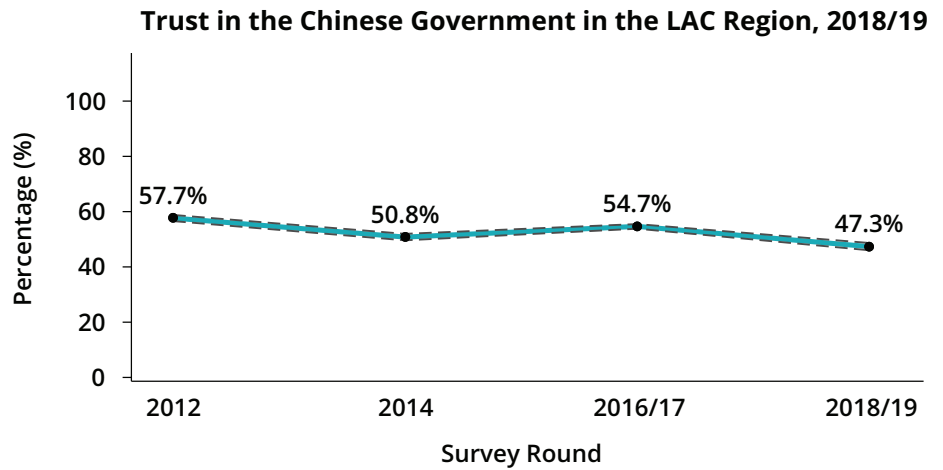
¹ On average in 2018/19, 34% of survey respondents in the LAC region do not have an opinion about whether the Chinese government is trustworthy or not. This is a large number of non-respondents, and should be kept in mind when interpreting the data in this report.

95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2018/19; GM1.0

Trust in the Chinese government has declined

In the average LAC country, trust in the Chinese government declined substantially between 2012 and 2018/19, when it reached its lowest reported level. In 2012, on average, 57.7% trusted the Chinese government. On the other hand, 47.3% trust the Chinese government in 2018/19. Over the intervening six years, trust in the Chinese government fell by about 10 percentage points.

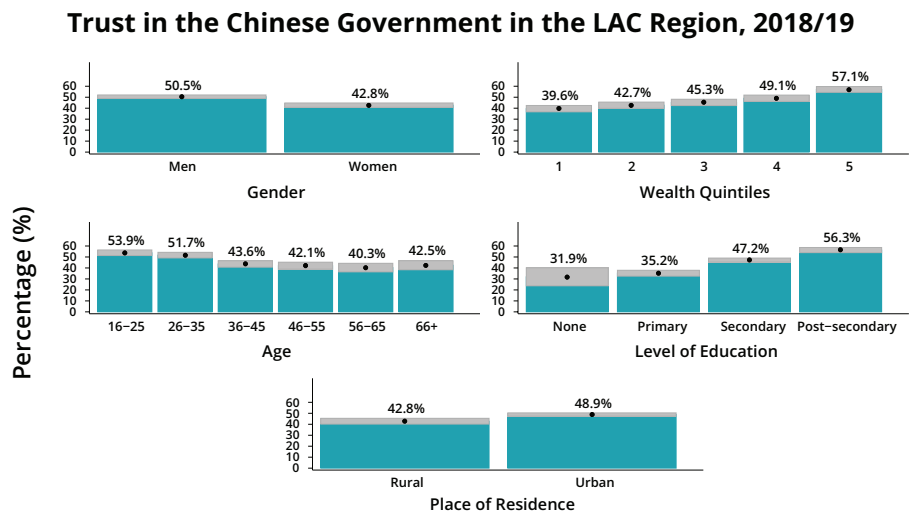


--- 95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2012–2018/19; GM1.0

Trust in the Chinese government is higher among men, the wealthy, the educated, the young, and urban residents

What characteristics of individuals predict trust in the Chinese government in the LAC region? On average, men report more trust in the Chinese government compared to women (50.5% and 42.8%, respectively). Among wealth quintiles, the highest levels of trust are found among the richest quintile. Individuals with post-secondary education report more trust in the Chinese government compared to non-educated individuals (56.3% and 31.9%, respectively). Urban residents express more trust in the Chinese government than rural residents do. Lastly, younger individuals express greater trust in the Chinese government compared to those respondents older than 35 years.



■ 95% Confidence Interval (with Design-Effects)

Source: © AmericasBarometer, LAPOP, 2018/19; GM1.0



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

Eric Asen is a senior at Vanderbilt University majoring in Political Science and Economics with minors in History and Psychology. He intends to pursue a career related to international affairs.

Series Editors: Sebastián C. Larrea, Mariana Rodríguez, Valerie Schweizer, and Elizabeth J. Zechmeister

As a charter member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) Transparency Initiative, the 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 vanderbilt.edu/lapop/core-surveys.

The contents of this Spotlight Report are the sole responsibility of the authors and LAPOP and do not necessarily reflect the views of any supporting organization. LAPOP's AmericasBarometer surveys are supported predominantly by USAID and Vanderbilt University. The 2018/19 round also had support from the the IADB, World Bank, and academic partners and researchers across the Americas.