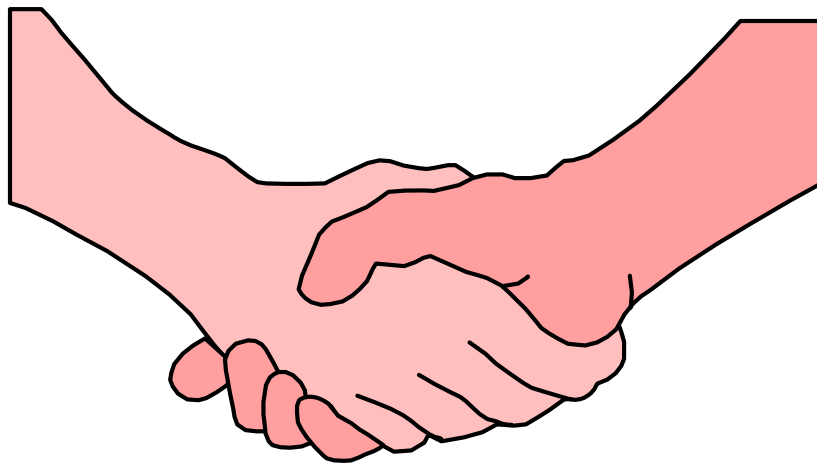


A Profile of Trust in the Professions in Maltese Society

2002-2003





**A Profile of Trust in the Professions
in Maltese Society**

2002-2003

**Prepared by:
J. Inguanez
C. Savona-Ventura**

**DISCERN
Institute for Research on the Signs of the Times
Malta
2004**

Table of Contents

<i>Introduction</i>	4
<i>Methodology</i>	5
<i>Demography of study populations</i>	6
<i>Trust Profile</i>	9
1: Medical Profession	13
2: Teaching Profession	15
3: Clergy	17
4: Politicians.....	20
5: Legal Profession.....	22
<i>Conclusions</i>	24

A Profile of Trust in the Professions in Maltese Society

Introduction

If society's survival depends on trust, much more do its leaders. Perhaps, in the short-term, formal leaders can ignore the issue of trust..... However, they cannot do so for long without harming their society or organisation. Indeed, informal leaders cannot maintain their position without trust; their very existence is born of trust. As part of the series of Omnibus Surveys carried out by DISCERN during 2002-2003, a comparative test of the trust enjoyed by the country's main professions was carried out.

The series of three Omnibus Surveys were carried out over a period of about two years [2002-2003]; a period when major news events such as the political climate in the country, and the adverse news events relating to the legal and clergy profession may have influenced some of the inter-survey observations.

Methodology

The surveys were carried out during the months of May-June 2002, February-April 2003, and October-December 2003. They were conducted as a computer-aided telephone survey using volunteer interviewers. The data was collected on a specifically designed database and analysed using SPSS. A statistical value of $p < 0.05$ was taken as statistically significant. The samples were selected randomly from the April 2001 Electoral Register. When the respondents were unavailable or unwilling to participate they were systemically substituted by other respondents from the same town/village, same sex, and same age.

The respondents were specifically asked to indicate which, of a list of professions, they most or least trusted. In addition, the respondents were further asked to indicate which of a list of organisations they most trusted. The distribution of individuals in the three surveys who responded to these questions amounted to 897 [Table 1]. This population sample gives a confidence limit of ***%.

Table 1: Survey Series

Survey Series	Frequency	Percent
❖ May-June 2002	299	33.3
❖ February-April 2003	274	30.5
❖ October-December 2003	324	36.1
Total	897	100.0

Acknowledgements are due to all those volunteers who have so generously dedicated the necessary time to administer the telephone interviews.

Demography of study populations

The study series had a greater preponderance of female respondents than male with a Female-to-Male ratio of 529:339. The majority of respondents [54.8%] belonged to the second generation age groups [30-59 years]; while 15.6% and 29.6% belonged to the third [<30 years] and first [>60 years] generation respectively [Table 2]. The age distribution by gender was statistically significantly different.

Table 2: Age by Gender distribution

Age group	female	male	Total	Percent
❖ <20	10	10	20	2.3
❖ 20-29	62	53	118	13.3
❖ 30-39	84	59	143	16.2
❖ 40-49	97	54	152	17.3
❖ 50-59	114	72	188	21.3
❖ 60-69	88	46	137	15.5
❖ 70-79	57	37	99	11.2
❖ 80+	16	8	26	2.9
Total	529	339	884	100.0

Age by gender distribution P<0.0001 sig.; Differences in totals due to missing data

The majority [71.5%] of the respondents were married according to civil or canonical law; 18.4% were single while 4.6% had lost their marital partner through death. Only 3.6% reported their state as being divorced, separated or co-habiting [Table 3]. The marital distribution by gender was statistically significantly different.

Table 3: Marital Status by Gender distribution

Marital Status	female	male	Total	Percent
❖ married	392	240	641	71.5
❖ co-habiting	0	2	2	0.2
❖ divorced	4	1	6	0.7
❖ separated	10	14	24	2.7
❖ single	88	72	165	18.4
❖ unknown	2	9	18	2.0
❖ widow/er	35	6	41	4.6
Total	531	344	897	100.0

Marital status by gender distribution $P < 0.0001$ sig.; Differences in totals due to missing data

The majority of the respondents [52.4%] came from the Harbour Region. The percentage distribution for various localities in Malta were similar to those reported in the 2000 National Census. The distribution from Gozo & Comino was significantly different so that the study population accounted for 3.5% of respondents in contrast to 7.8% in the National Census [Table 4].

Table 4: Residence locality

Residence locality	Frequency	Percent	Maltese population [2000]	Percent
❖ Inner Harbour Region	203	22.6	83405	21.8
❖ Outer Harbour Region	267	29.8	118059	30.9
❖ South Eastern Region	124	13.8	52407	13.7
❖ Western Region	106	11.8	52930	13.8
❖ Northern Region	121	13.5	46034	12.0
❖ Gozo & Comino	45	5.0	29690	7.8
❖ unknown	31	3.5		
Total	897	100.0		100.0

Comparison between study population and total population by locality: $P = 0.02$ sig.

Educational status was investigated in the first and questionnaire surveys involving a total of 299 respondents only. The majority [53.2%] of respondents had attended a secondary level of education; 23.4% attended a post-secondary or university level of education [Table 5]. The educational levels attained were statistically significantly different between the genders.

Table 5: Education by Gender distribution

Education	female	male	Total	Percent
❖ primary	30	21	52	17.4
❖ secondary	90	68	159	53.2
❖ post-secondary	20	29	52	17.4
❖ university	12	6	18	6.0
❖ unknown	10	6	18	6.0
Total	162	130	299	100.0

Education by gender $P=0.017$ sig.; Differences in totals due to missing data

The large majority of female respondents were not gainfully employed and reported being home-makers. This observation resulted in a statistically significant difference in the employment patterns between males and females. Overall unemployment amounted to 2.2%, while student respondents amounted to 3.6% [Table 6].

Table 6: Occupation by Gender distribution

Occupation	female	male	Total	Percent
❖ manual labourer	20	47	69	7.7
❖ skilled labourer - craftsman	5	46	51	5.7
❖ clerk	25	21	46	5.1
❖ administrative - managerial	11	31	44	4.9
❖ professional	48	50	100	11.1
❖ student	22	9	32	3.6
❖ home-maker	323	5	331	36.9
❖ other	16	44	60	6.7
❖ pensioner	51	74	129	14.4
❖ unemployed	6	13	20	2.2
❖ unknown	3	3	15	1.7
Total	530	343	897	100.0

Occupation by gender $P<0.0001$ sig.; Differences in totals due to missing data

Trust Profile

The professions that enjoyed the highest proportion of primary trust were the clergy [37.5%], the medical profession [22.1%] and teachers [16.3%]. The professions that enjoyed the lowest proportion of primary trust were politicians [1.3%], journalists [1.3%], accountants [2.1%], lawyers [2.8%] and police [3.1%] [Table 7].

Table 7: Most-Trusted Profession

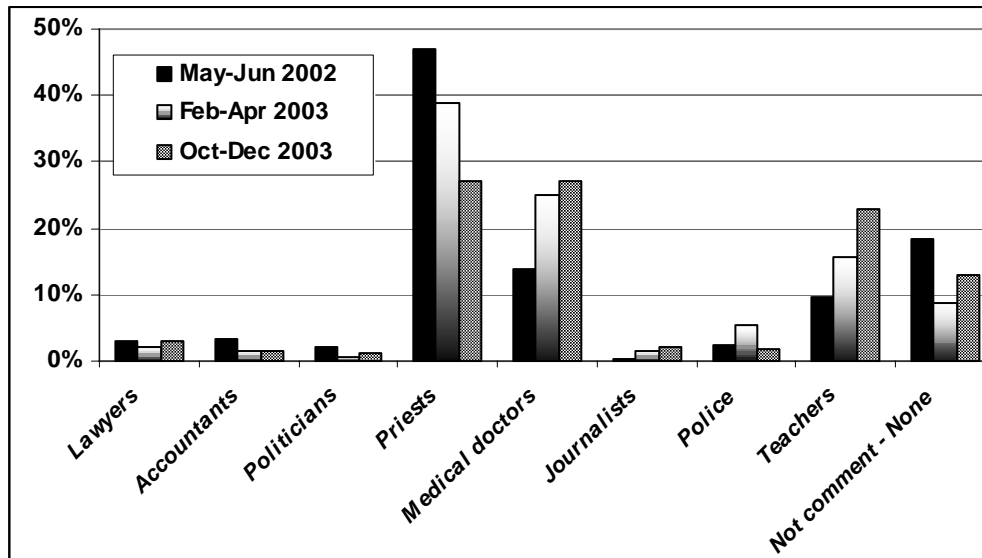
Most-trusted Profession	Frequency	Percent
❖ lawyers	25	2.8
❖ accountants	19	2.1
❖ politicians	12	1.3
❖ clergy	336	37.5
❖ medical doctors	198	22.1
❖ journalists	12	1.3
❖ police	28	3.1
❖ teachers	146	16.3
❖ no comment	121	13.5
Total	897	100.0

There has been some inter-survey variability in relation to primary trust proportions, though the general pattern has remained the same. The last survey of the series has indicated that the trust enjoyed by the clergy has fallen from the 47.0% in the May-June 2002 survey to 27.2% in the last survey. Inversely the trust enjoyed by the medical and teaching professions has increased from 13.9% to 27.2% and 9.6% to 22.8% respectively. The reasons for the differences may be attributed to the political climate and adverse media given to the legal professions and clergy [Table 8; Figure 1].

Table 8: Levels of trust by Survey Order

Profession Most trusted	Survey May-June 2002	Survey February-April 2003	Survey October-December 2003
Lawyers	3.0%	2.2%	3.1%
Accountants	3.3%	1.5%	1.5%
Politicians	2.0%	0.7%	1.2%
Priests	47.0%	39.0%	27.2%
Medical doctors	13.9%	25.0%	27.2%
Journalists	0.3%	1.5%	2.2%
Police	2.3%	5.5%	1.9%
Teachers	9.6%	15.8%	22.8%
Preferred not to comment None of the above	18.5%	8.8%	12.9%

Figure 1: Levels of trust by Survey Order



Trust in lawyers appears to have recovered the mild set-back received by the adverse media reporting alleged corruption in the Courts in the period prior to the February-April 2003 Survey. The adverse media given to the clergy just prior to the last survey of the series has suggested that at least 24.5% of respondents in that survey stated that their trust in the priesthood had diminished because of

the current events; 70.3% stated that the current events had no influence in their level of trust. A greater proportion of male respondents stated that their trust in the clergy had diminished, though the difference between the genders was not statistically significant.

Table 9: Diminished trust in clergy after adverse media coverage

Change in Trust level	Female		Male		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No change in trust	142	74.0	82	65.6	227	70.3
Diminished trust	40	20.8	37	29.6	79	24.5
Increased trust	5	2.6	2	1.6	7	2.2
No answer	5	2.6	4	3.2	10	3.1
Total	192	100.0	125	100.0	323	100.0
Missing			7		1	

[$p=0.31$ n.sig.]

Conversely the professions least trusted by the respondents of the first survey were politicians [43.0%] followed by lawyers [16.2%]. In contrast only 2.3% of respondents chose the clergy as their least-trusted profession; while 1.3% chose the medical profession. Only 0.3% identified teachers as a least-trusted profession [Table 10].

Table 10: Least-Trusted Profession

Profession	Number	Percent
❖ Lawyers	49	16.2
❖ Accountants	3	1.0
❖ Politicians	130	43.0
❖ Priests	7	2.3
❖ Medical doctors	4	1.3
❖ Journalists	11	3.6
❖ Police	12	4.0
❖ Teachers	1	0.3
❖ Preferred not to comment	85	28.1
Total	302	100.0

The high level of trust in the clergy is reflected also in a marked trust of the Church as an institution: 58.0% of respondents consider the Church as the most trusted organisation [Table 11]. This mean level of trust was apparently slightly reduced to 55.6% from the 60.9% level reported in the February-April 2003 Omnibus Survey after the adverse media coverage against certain members of the clergy [Table 12]. The level of trust enjoyed by the Maltese Church as an institution contrasts sharply with the level of trust enjoyed by the Trade Unions [3.5%], Political Parties [3.0%], and Parliament [2.5%]. The Courts and Police Corps also enjoy a low level of trust [5.0% and 8.6% respectively] [Table 11]. There appears to be statistically significant differences in organisational trust patterns between genders with the Church enjoying greater trust among female as compared to males [65.5% vs 44.6%] [Table 11].

Table 11: Organizational Trust by Gender distribution

Organizational Trust	female	male	Total	Percent
❖ Church	124	195	345	58.0
❖ Police Corp	19	31	51	8.6
❖ Courts	16	13	30	5.0
❖ Trade Unions	10	11	21	3.5
❖ Political Parties	10	7	18	3.0
❖ Parliament	5	10	15	2.5
❖ None of the Above	17	10	27	4.5
❖ other	50	36	88	14.8
Total	251	313	595	100.0

Gender differences $p=0.0001$ sig.

Table 12: Organisational trust by Survey Series

Profession Most trusted	Survey May-June 2002	Survey February-April 2003	Survey October-December 2003
Courts	Not assessed	6.9%	3.4%
Police Corp		8.4%	8.6%
Trade Unions		2.2%	4.6%
Political Parties		4.4%	1.9%
Church		60.9%	55.6%
Parliament		2.6%	2.5%
None of the above		10.2%	18.5%
No answer		4.4%	4.9%

The major professions [the clergy, medical profession and teachers] that enjoyed the higher proportion of primary trust can be further analysed and compared to the total population in relation to their sociological backgrounds. The other professions have too few numbers to allow for any statistical interpretations. Similar analysis could be made for those respondents who reported a low level of trust in the politicians and legal profession.

1: Medical Profession

The medical profession was chosen by 22.2% of the respondents as being the most trusted profession. The popularity rating appears to have gradually increased over the various surveys from 13.9% to 27.2%. Only 1.3% of respondents placed the medical profession as the least trusted profession. Overall males appeared to be more likely to favour the medical profession for primary trust [Table 13A]. Single or separated-divorced individuals were similarly more likely to place their primary trust in the medical profession when compared to married ones [Table 13C]. These gender and marital status differences however did not show statistical significance. Statistically significant trends were demonstrated for age and education. Thus the elderly generation were statistically more likely to place their primary trust in the medical profession when compared to the younger generation [Table 13B] and a decreased trust was shown by those who had achieved either a primary or university level of education [Table 13D]. No differences were observed for occupation [Table 13E] and residence locality, though individuals from the Northern Region did appear to have a higher proportion of primary trust in the medical profession [Table 13F].

Table 13: Social characteristics favouring primary trust in Medical Professionals

A: Gender	Medical doctors	percent	Total	percent
<input type="checkbox"/> Female	107	54.0	530	59.1
<input type="checkbox"/> Male	83	41.9	343	38.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	8	4.0	24	2.7
Total [<i>p=0.191 n.sig.</i>]	198	100.0	897	100.0

B: Generation group	Medical doctors	percent	Total	percent
<input type="checkbox"/> first [>60 years]	55	27.8	262	29.2
<input type="checkbox"/> second [30-59 years]	99	50.0	483	53.8
<input type="checkbox"/> third [<30 years]	43	21.7	138	15.4
<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	1	0.5	14	1.6
Total [<i>p=0.045 sig.</i>]	198	100.0	897	100.0

C: Marital Status	Medical doctors	percent	Total	percent
<input type="checkbox"/> single	43	21.7	165	18.4
<input type="checkbox"/> married / widow/er / co-habiting	144	72.7	683	76.1
<input type="checkbox"/> separated / divorced	8	4.0	30	3.3
<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	3	1.5	19	2.1
Total [<i>p=0.329 n.sig.</i>]	198	100.0	897	100.0

D: Education	Medical doctors	percent	Total	percent
<input type="checkbox"/> primary	2	4.8	52	17.2
<input type="checkbox"/> secondary	29	69.0	159	52.6
<input type="checkbox"/> post-secondary	10	23.8	52	17.2
<input type="checkbox"/> university	1	2.4	18	6.0
<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	0	0.0	21	7.0
Total [<i>p=0.04 sig.</i>]	42	100.0	302	100.0

E: Occupation	Medical doctors	percent	Total	percent
<input type="checkbox"/> Manual labourer	18	9.1	69	7.7
<input type="checkbox"/> Skilled labourer - craftsman	7	3.5	51	5.7
<input type="checkbox"/> Clerk	9	4.5	46	5.1
<input type="checkbox"/> Managerial	15	7.6	44	4.9
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional	24	12.1	100	11.1
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	11	5.6	60	6.7
<input type="checkbox"/> Home-maker	69	34.8	331	36.9
<input type="checkbox"/> Pensioner	31	15.7	129	14.4
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	8	4.0	32	3.6
<input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed	5	2.5	20	2.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	1	0.5	15	1.7
Total [<i>p=0.432 n.sig.</i>]	198	100.0	897	100.0

F: Residence locality	Medical doctors	percent	Total	percent
<input type="checkbox"/> Inner Harbour Region	46	23.2	203	22.6
<input type="checkbox"/> Outer Harbour Region	61	30.8	267	29.8
<input type="checkbox"/> South Eastern Region	24	12.1	124	13.8
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Region	23	11.6	106	11.8
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Region	32	16.2	121	13.5
<input type="checkbox"/> Gozo & Comino	6	3.0	45	5.0
<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	6	3.0	31	3.5
Total [<i>p=0.549 n.sig.</i>]	198	100.0	897	100.0

2: Teaching Profession

The teaching profession was chosen by 16.3% of the respondents as being the most trusted profession. The popularity rating appears to have markedly increased over the various surveys from 9.6% to 22.8%. Only 0.3% of respondents placed the teaching profession as the least trusted profession. Gender showed very minimal differences in primary trust towards the teaching profession with a slight non-statistically significant bias with males more likely to favour the profession [Table 14A]. Age was a definite statistically significant correlate with the elderly generation more likely placing their primary trust in the teaching profession when compared to the younger generation [Table 14B]. Those achieving higher grades of educational level including post-secondary and university levels were also statistically more likely to place their primary trust in the teaching profession [Table 14D]. This is further reflected by the statistically significant increased trust in this profession reported in students and professionals when compared to other occupations. The skilled labourer - craftsman also reported an increased level of primary trust in the teaching profession [Table 14E]. Single or separated-divorced individuals were similarly more likely to place their primary trust in the teaching profession when compared to married ones [Table 14C], though the differences were not statistically significant. No differences were observed for residence locality [Table 14F].

Table 14: Social characteristics favouring primary trust in Teaching Professionals

A: Gender	Teachers	percent	Total	percent
<input type="checkbox"/> Female	84	57.5	530	59.1
<input type="checkbox"/> Male	59	40.4	343	38.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	3	2.1	24	2.7
Total [<i>p=0.669 n.sig.</i>]	146	100.0	897	100.0

B: Generation group	Teachers	percent	Total	percent
<input type="checkbox"/> first [>60 years]	30	20.5	262	29.2
<input type="checkbox"/> second [30-59 years]	79	54.1	483	53.8
<input type="checkbox"/> third [<30 years]	36	24.7	138	15.4
<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	1	0.7	14	1.6
Total [<i>p=0.043 sig.</i>]	146	100.0	897	100.0

C: Marital Status	Teachers	percent	Total	percent
<input type="checkbox"/> single	32	21.9	165	18.4
<input type="checkbox"/> married / widow/er / co-habiting	104	71.2	683	76.1
<input type="checkbox"/> separated / divorced	9	6.2	30	3.3
<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	1	0.7	19	2.1
Total [<i>p=0.072 n.sig.</i>]	146	100.0	897	100.0

D: Education	Teachers	percent	Total	percent
<input type="checkbox"/> primary	1	3.4	52	17.2
<input type="checkbox"/> secondary	12	41.4	159	52.6
<input type="checkbox"/> post-secondary	9	31.0	52	17.2
<input type="checkbox"/> university	5	17.2	18	6.0
<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	2	6.9	21	7.0
Total [<i>p=0.006 sig.</i>]	29	100.0	302	100.0

E: Occupation	Teachers	percent	Total	percent
<input type="checkbox"/> Manual labourer	9	6.2	69	7.7
<input type="checkbox"/> Skilled labourer - craftsman	12	8.2	51	5.7
<input type="checkbox"/> Clerk	8	5.5	46	5.1
<input type="checkbox"/> Managerial	7	4.8	44	4.9
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional	28	19.2	100	11.1
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	8	5.5	60	6.7
<input type="checkbox"/> Home-maker	48	32.9	331	36.9
<input type="checkbox"/> Pensioner	13	8.9	129	14.4
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	9	6.2	32	3.6
<input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed	3	2.1	20	2.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	1	0.7	15	1.7
Total [<i>p=0.015 sig.</i>]	146	100.0	897	100.0

F: Residence locality	Teachers	percent	Total	percent
<input type="checkbox"/> Inner Harbour Region	39	26.7	203	22.6
<input type="checkbox"/> Outer Harbour Region	41	28.1	267	29.8
<input type="checkbox"/> South Eastern Region	21	14.4	124	13.8
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Region	20	13.7	106	11.8
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Region	17	11.6	121	13.5
<input type="checkbox"/> Gozo & Comino	3	2.1	45	5.0
<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	5	3.4	31	3.5
Total [<i>p=0.358 n.sig.</i>]	146	100.0	897	100.0

3: Clergy

Primary trust in the clergy was associated with marked social correlates. The clergy was definitely the most popular profession to attract primary trust from the survey respondents being chosen by 37.5% of the respondents as being the most trusted profession. The popularity rating appears to have decreased slightly over the various surveys from 47.0% to 27.2%. Only 2.3% of respondents placed the clergy as the least trusted profession. Statistical correlates were identified for gender, age, marital status, and occupation. Thus women were more likely than men to place their primary trust in the clergy [Table 15A]; while in contrast to the other professions the younger age groups were more likely to place their trust in this profession [Table 15B]. Married or widowed individuals were also more likely to place their primary trust in the clergy when compared to single, separated or divorced individuals [Table 15C]. Occupation showed statistical correlation to primary trust in the clergy, but this correlate was probably a feature of the influence of the gender preferences since the survey has shown a correlation to preference to clergy by home-makers [Table 15E]. Individuals achieving a primary level of education also showed a preference to placing their primary trust in the clergy in contrast to those reaching higher levels of education. The differences were just not statistically significant [Table 15D]. No relationships could be noted for residence locality [Table 15F].

Table 15: Social characteristics favouring primary trust in the Clergy

A: Gender	Clergy	percent	Total	percent
<input type="checkbox"/> Female	227	67.6	530	59.1
<input type="checkbox"/> Male	104	31.0	343	38.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	5	1.5	24	2.7
Total [<i>p</i> <0.0001 sig.]	336	100.0	897	100.0

B: Generation group	Clergy	percent	Total	percent
<input type="checkbox"/> first [>60 years]	113	33.6	262	29.2
<input type="checkbox"/> second [30-59 years]	189	56.3	483	53.8
<input type="checkbox"/> third [<30 years]	32	9.5	138	15.4
<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	2	0.6	14	1.6
Total [<i>p</i> =0.045 sig.]	336	100.0	897	100.0

C: Marital Status	Clergy	percent	Total	percent
<input type="checkbox"/> single	52	15.5	165	18.4
<input type="checkbox"/> married / widow/er / co-habiting	275	81.8	683	76.1
<input type="checkbox"/> separated / divorced	5	1.5	30	3.3
<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	4	1.2	19	2.1
Total [<i>p</i> =0.034 sig.]	336	100.0	897	100.0

D: Education	Clergy	percent	Total	percent
<input type="checkbox"/> primary	34	23.4	52	17.2
<input type="checkbox"/> secondary	74	51.0	159	52.6
<input type="checkbox"/> post-secondary	21	14.5	52	17.2
<input type="checkbox"/> university	8	5.5	18	6.0
<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	5	3.4	21	7.0
Total [<i>p</i> =0.055 just n.sig.]	145	100.0	302	100.0

E: Occupation	Clergy	percent	Total	Percent
<input type="checkbox"/> Manual labourer	17	5.1	69	7.7
<input type="checkbox"/> Skilled labourer - craftsman	15	4.5	51	5.7
<input type="checkbox"/> Clerk	23	6.8	46	5.1
<input type="checkbox"/> Managerial	15	4.5	44	4.9
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional	27	8.0	100	11.1
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	21	6.3	60	6.7
<input type="checkbox"/> Home-maker	144	42.9	331	36.9
<input type="checkbox"/> Pensioner	52	15.5	129	14.4
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	12	3.6	32	3.6
<input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed	7	2.1	20	2.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	3	0.9	15	1.7
Total [<i>p</i> =0.01 sig.]	336	100.0	897	100.0

F: Residence locality	Clergy	percent	Total	Percent
<input type="checkbox"/> Inner Harbour Region	78	23.2	203	22.6
<input type="checkbox"/> Outer Harbour Region	101	30.1	267	29.8
<input type="checkbox"/> South Eastern Region	43	12.8	124	13.8
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Region	44	13.1	106	11.8
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Region	39	11.6	121	13.5
<input type="checkbox"/> Gozo & Comino	22	6.5	45	5.0
<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	9	2.7	31	3.5
Total [<i>p=0.402 n.sig.</i>]	336	100.0	897	100.0

Primary trust in the clergy was closely related to catholic belief [Table 15G] and practice as evidenced by attendance to the celebration of Mass on Sunday and/or special occasions like Christmas [Table 15H]. The observations were statistically significant.

Table 15 cont.: Religious attitudes favouring primary trust in the Clergy

G: Catholic beliefs	Clergy	percent	Total	percent
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	193	99.5	575	96.6
<input type="checkbox"/> No or no answer	1	0.5	20	3.4
Total [<i>p=0.012 sig.</i>]	194	100.0	595	100.0

H: Mass Attendance	Clergy	percent	Total	Percent
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	281	83.6	670	74.7
<input type="checkbox"/> No	43	12.8	192	21.4
<input type="checkbox"/> Excused due to illness	9	2.7	23	2.6
<input type="checkbox"/> No reply	3	0.9	12	1.3
Total [<i>p=0.009 sig.</i>]	336	100.0	897	100.0

4: Politicians

Politicians received the primary trust from only 1.3% of respondents, while they were considered most untrustworthy by 43.0% of respondents. Their positive trust value varied throughout the period from 2.0% to 0.7% and 1.2% reflecting the political turmoil affecting the Islands during the period. No statistically significant social correlates were identified among those individuals who viewed the politicians as the least trustworthy, though some trends could be observed. Women appeared more likely to consider politicians untrustworthy [Table 16A]; as were also the younger generation [Table 16B] and married or widowed individuals [Table 16C]. Those attaining higher levels of education also appeared more likely to consider politicians untrustworthy [Table 16D]; this been in part reflected in occupational status with the student, managerial and professional group being more likely to consider politicians untrustworthy [Table 16E]. Individuals residing in the southern part of Malta were also more likely to consider politicians untrustworthy probably reflecting the political divide on the Islands [Table 16F].

Table 16: Social characteristics favouring primary distrust in Politicians

A: Gender	Politicians	Percent	Total	Percent
<input type="checkbox"/> Female	76	58.5	162	53.6
<input type="checkbox"/> Male	52	40.0	130	43.0
<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	2	1.5	10	3.3
Total [<i>p=0.29 n.sig.</i>]	130	100.0	302	100.0

B: Generation group	Politicians	Percent	Total	Percent
<input type="checkbox"/> first [>60 years]	56	43.1	119	39.4
<input type="checkbox"/> second [30-59 years]	69	53.1	158	52.3
<input type="checkbox"/> third [<30 years]	5	3.8	19	6.3
<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	0	0.0	6	2.0
Total [<i>p=0.246 n.sig.</i>]	130	100.0	302	100.0

C: Marital Status	Politicians	Percent	Total	Percent
<input type="checkbox"/> single	21	16.2	49	16.2
<input type="checkbox"/> married / widow/er / co-habiting	107	82.3	240	79.5
<input type="checkbox"/> separated / divorced	1	0.8	4	1.3
<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	1	0.8	9	3.0
Total [<i>p=0.726 n.sig.</i>]	130	100.0	302	100.0

D: Education	Politicians	Percent	Total	Percent
<input type="checkbox"/> primary	20	15.4	52	17.2
<input type="checkbox"/> secondary	64	49.2	159	52.6
<input type="checkbox"/> post-secondary	31	23.8	52	17.2
<input type="checkbox"/> university	10	7.7	18	6.0
<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	5	3.8	21	7.0
Total [<i>p=0.056 n.sig.</i>]	130	100.0	302	100.0

E: Occupation	Politicians	Percent	Total	Percent
<input type="checkbox"/> Manual labourer	12	9.2	36	11.9
<input type="checkbox"/> Skilled labourer - craftsman	5	3.8	15	5.0
<input type="checkbox"/> Clerk	8	6.2	18	6.0
<input type="checkbox"/> Managerial	12	9.2	17	5.6
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional	15	11.5	30	9.9
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	11	8.5	19	6.3
<input type="checkbox"/> Home-maker	45	34.6	109	36.1
<input type="checkbox"/> Pensioner	12	9.2	38	12.6
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	6	4.6	8	2.6
<input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed	2	1.5	4	1.3
<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	2	1.5	8	2.6
Total [<i>p=0.073 n.sig.</i>]	130	100.0	302	100.0

F: Residence locality	Politicians	Percent	Total	Percent
<input type="checkbox"/> Inner Harbour Region	24	18.5	52	17.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Outer Harbour Region	44	33.8	96	31.8
<input type="checkbox"/> South Eastern Region	20	15.4	43	14.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Region	14	10.8	32	10.6
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Region	15	11.5	46	15.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Gozo & Comino	11	8.5	24	7.9
<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	2	1.5	9	3.0
Total [<i>p=0.733 n.sig.</i>]	130	100.0	302	100.0

5: Legal Profession

The legal profession received the primary trust from only 2.8% of respondents, while they were considered most untrustworthy by 16.2% of respondents. Their positive trust value varied throughout the period from 3.0% to 2.2% and 3.1% reflecting the period where the profession received adverse media coverage. No statistically significant social correlates were identified among those individuals who viewed the legal profession as the least trustworthy, though some trends could be observed. Men in contrast to women appeared more likely to consider lawyers untrustworthy [Table 17A]; as were also the second generation [Table 17B] and married or widowed individuals [Table 17C]. Those attaining a primary or post-secondary level of education also appeared more likely to consider lawyers untrustworthy [Table 17D]. The skilled labourer - craftsman were also more likely to consider lawyers untrustworthy [Table 17E]. Individual residing in the norther part of Malta and in Gozo were also more likely to consider lawyers untrustworthy [Table 17F].

Table 17: Social characteristics favouring primary distrust in the Legal Profession

A: Gender	Lawyers	Percent	Total	Percent
<input type="checkbox"/> Female	21	42.9	162	53.6
<input type="checkbox"/> Male	28	57.1	130	43.0
<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	0	0.0	10	3.3
Total [<i>p=0.078 n.sig.</i>]	49	100.0	302	100.0

B: Generation group	Lawyers	Percent	Total	Percent
<input type="checkbox"/> first [>60 years]	18	36.7	119	39.4
<input type="checkbox"/> second [30-59 years]	28	57.1	158	52.3
<input type="checkbox"/> third [<30 years]	3	6.1	19	6.3
<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	0	0.0	6	2.0
Total [<i>p=0.845 n.sig.</i>]	49	100.0	302	100.0

C: Marital Status	Lawyers	Percent	Total	Percent
<input type="checkbox"/> single	5	10.2	49	16.2
<input type="checkbox"/> married / widow/er / co-habiting	43	87.8	240	79.5
<input type="checkbox"/> separated / divorced	0	0.0	4	1.3
<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	1	2.0	9	3.0
Total [<i>p=0.285 n.sig.</i>]	49	100.0	302	100.0

D: Education	Lawyers	Percent	Total	Percent
<input type="checkbox"/> primary	12	24.5	52	17.2
<input type="checkbox"/> secondary	23	46.9	159	52.6
<input type="checkbox"/> post-secondary	10	20.4	52	17.2
<input type="checkbox"/> university	3	6.1	18	6.0
<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	1	2.0	21	7.0
Total [<i>p=0.521 n.sig.</i>]	49	100.0	302	100.0

E: Occupation	Lawyers	Percent	Total	Percent
<input type="checkbox"/> Manual labourer	5	10.2	36	11.9
<input type="checkbox"/> Skilled labourer - craftsman	6	12.2	15	5.0
<input type="checkbox"/> Clerk	6	12.2	18	6.0
<input type="checkbox"/> Managerial	1	2.0	17	5.6
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional	5	10.2	30	9.9
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	3	6.1	19	6.3
<input type="checkbox"/> Home-maker	15	30.6	109	36.1
<input type="checkbox"/> Pensioner	8	16.3	38	12.6
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	0	0.0	8	2.6
<input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed	0	0.0	4	1.3
<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	0	0.0	8	2.6
Total [<i>p=0.065 n.sig.</i>]	49	100.0	302	100.0

F: Residence locality	Lawyers	Percent	Total	Percent
<input type="checkbox"/> Inner Harbour Region	8	16.3	52	17.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Outer Harbour Region	15	30.6	96	31.8
<input type="checkbox"/> South Eastern Region	3	6.1	43	14.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Region	5	10.2	32	10.6
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Region	10	20.4	46	15.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Gozo & Comino	8	16.3	24	7.9
<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	0	0.0	9	3.0
Total [<i>p=0.122 n.sig.</i>]	49	100.0	302	100.0

Conclusions

The social correlate differences related to positive trust observed in the present analysis are summarized in Table 18 below. Definite patterns and differences are clearly observable even though not all observations reached statistical significance.

Table 18: Summary of Social correlates to positive trust

Social Correlate to Positive Trust	Clergy	Medical profession	Teaching profession	Legal profession	Politicians
% positive trust	37.5%	22.1%	16.3%	2.8%	1.3%
% negative trust	2.3%	1.3%	0.3%	16.2%	43.0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Gender	Female>Male	Male>Female	Male>Female	Female>Male	Male>Female
<input type="checkbox"/> Age	Young>Elderly	Elderly>Young	Elderly>Young	1 st & 3 rd gen.>2 nd	Elderly>Younger
<input type="checkbox"/> Marital Status	Married > Single	Single > Married	Single > Married	Single > Married	Single > Married
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	1 ^o > others	1 ^o / 3 ^o > 2 ^o / p2 ^o	p2 ^o / 3 ^o > 1 ^o / 2 ^o	2 ^o / 3 ^o > 1 ^o / p2 ^o	1 ^o / 2 ^o > 3 ^o / p2 ^o
<input type="checkbox"/> Occupation	Homemakers>other	No differences	Professionals>other	Professional > labourers	Labourers > professional
<input type="checkbox"/> Residence	No differences	North > others	No differences	South > North	North > South

It is reassuring to note that the traditionally "caring professions" - the clergy, medical and teaching professions - have retained a high level of trust in Maltese society in spite of what might be considered a secularization of the workings of these professions. The low levels of trust reported for the "administrative professions" - the politicians and police - is a worrying factor. It appears that Maltese society has decreased its trust in the country's administrative bodies as represented by parliament and the courts. While a questioning attitude towards the workings of the administrative bodies by the general population is a healthy feature of a mature society, the very low levels of trust and high levels of mistrust exhibited towards these bodies suggests that the population is viewing the workings of these two institutions with suspicion.