

# Trust in People is Influenced by Occupation of Respondent

- An Exploratory Analysis -

Most reports in the media are about how the public view different occupations. However the views of members of different occupations, of the public, could be more revealing because individuals' life experiences may influence their view of how 'good' the public generally is. The work reported here explores this conjecture using data from the "European Quality of Life Survey, 2003".

Data were analysed from the following questions

**Probability** ["most people can be trusted"] relative to 'Other'

- Generalized Trust: "most people can be trusted" [01-10: recoded as binary 0(<=5) or 1(>5)]
- What is your occupation [pick from 14: 'farmer', 'shop owner', etc] n=11,917
- What sector of the economy [pick from 18 'NACE Sectors': 'manufacturing', 'education', 'construction', etc] n=21,548

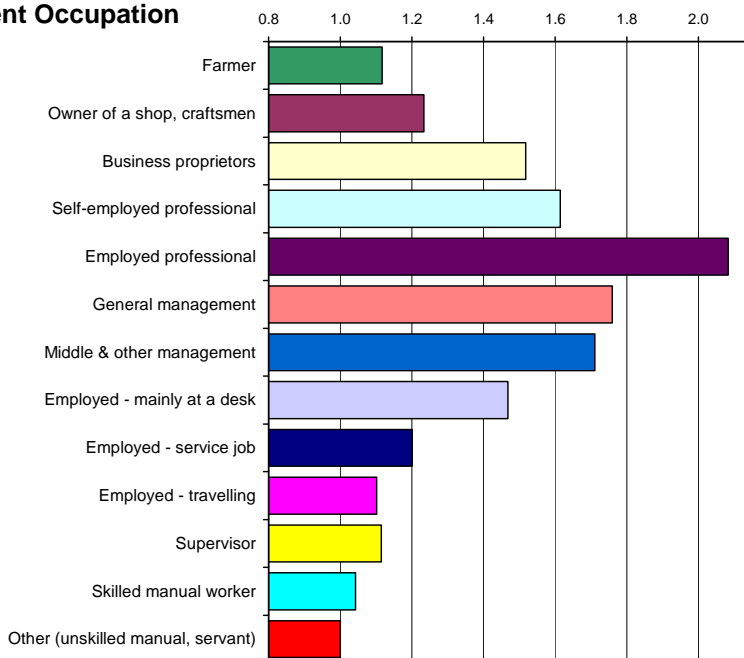
Country dummies were included because there are large effects of nationality on trust (but they did not materially alter the results).

Generally 'managerial', 'professional' or 'self-employed' occupations had higher trust. Eight Occupations significantly increased trust relative to 'Other (unskilled manual, servant)' - in one case with double the relative odds.

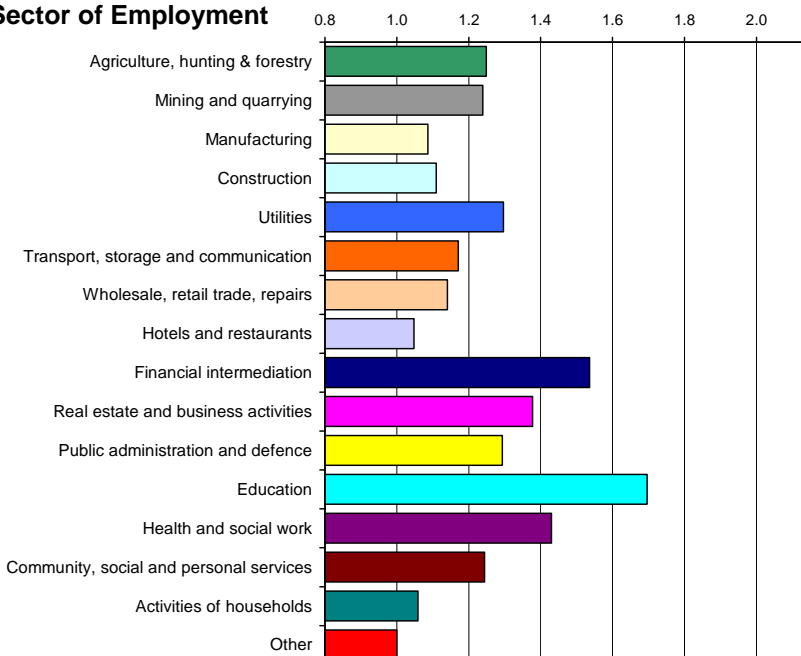
10 Industry ('NACE') sectors appear to significantly increase trust, compared to the 'Other sectors' category. 'People' and 'services' sectors appear to have higher trust compared to 'manufacturing', 'construction', 'wholesale' and 'other'.

'Management' and 'People' occupations, or sectors, seem to have increased trust acknowledged by respondents, relative to 'Other'. Interestingly both 'managers' and 'self-employed professionals' express higher levels of trust, and one might hypothesize that their experience would lead them to have a more realistic view. The results thus agree with J. Delhey and K. Newton (2003: Eur. Socs.), who state that "those who are successful in life trust more, or are more inclined by their personal experience to do so". Further analysis might be undertaken using appropriate controls for other factors likely to influence trust.

## Current Occupation



## Sector of Employment



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