



Vast Majority of Americans Frustrated, Embarrassed by the Shutdown, Support Back Pay for Federal Workers

Ipsos poll on behalf of NPR

Washington, DC, January 11, 2019 – The ongoing partial government shutdown, which is en route to being the longest shutdown in history, is looming large in the minds of Americans. Ipsos' latest poll with NPR shows that three out of four Americans (74%) believe that the government shutdown is embarrassing for the country. Even though Democrats (87%) feel more strongly about this than Republicans (58%), a majority in both parties agree. Most Americans also believe that Congress should pass a bill to re-open the government now while budget talks continue (71%), once again with majority support coming from both Democrats (86%) and Republicans (56%).

Americans also believe that the gap in federal funding caused by the shutdown has unfairly impacted federal workers, who they believe should get back pay for the time they worked (83%). While this sentiment receives bipartisan support (with 90% of Democrats and 77% of Republicans who agree), almost half of Republicans believe that federal workers should work without pay during the shutdown to keep government services running (46%). A much smaller portion of Democrats agree (27%).

Trump's speech did little to restore faith in the American people, as only one in ten thought it brought the country closer to ending the shutdown (10%). Much of the general frustration surrounding the situation also comes down to the belief that the government in Washington is not doing enough work across the aisle to end the shutdown. Democrats believe that the Trump administration is doing too little to work with Congressional Democrats (78%), while Republicans believe that Congressional Democrats are doing too little to work with Trump (76%).

Current sentiments toward the government in Washington in general are negative, with three-fourths reporting that they feel 'frustrated' or 'angry' toward the federal government (74%). Though there is widespread agreement that the shutdown is bad for the country, when it comes to the wall, the grip of partisan politics is strong. Nearly one in three Americans believe that we should keep the government closed until there is funding for a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border (31%), a sentiment which is largely driven by Republicans (58% vs. only 14% of Democrats).

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1) Do you currently feel optimistic or pessimistic about the following?

Total optimistic

	Total (N = 1,003)	Democrat (N = 319)	Republican (N = 368)	Independent (N = 198)
Your personal finances	65%	66%	73%	60%
The economy	50%	39%	72%	41%
U.S. border security	41%	42%	52%	31%
The direction of the country	37%	23%	61%	28%
The American political system	25%	22%	38%	16%

a. The direction of the country

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Very optimistic	14%	10%	26%	8%
Somewhat optimistic	23	14	36	19
Somewhat pessimistic	25	27	20	31
Very pessimistic	30	45	11	37
Don't know	7	4	7	4
<i>Optimistic (Net)</i>	<i>37%</i>	<i>23%</i>	<i>61%</i>	<i>28%</i>
<i>Pessimistic (Net)</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>68</i>

b. The economy

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Very optimistic	16%	12%	27%	6%
Somewhat optimistic	35	27	45	35
Somewhat pessimistic	29	40	17	31
Very pessimistic	15	19	5	22
Don't know	6	3	5	6
<i>Optimistic (Net)</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>39%</i>	<i>72%</i>	<i>41%</i>
<i>Pessimistic (Net)</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>53</i>

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c. Your personal finances

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Very optimistic	21%	16%	28%	17%
Somewhat optimistic	44	50	45	43
Somewhat pessimistic	22	24	16	27
Very pessimistic	8	6	8	8
Don't know	5	4	4	5
<i>Optimistic (Net)</i>	<i>65%</i>	<i>66%</i>	<i>73%</i>	<i>60%</i>
<i>Pessimistic (Net)</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>35</i>

d. U.S. border security

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Very optimistic	12%	11%	16%	11%
Somewhat optimistic	29	31	36	20
Somewhat pessimistic	26	27	22	35
Very pessimistic	21	19	21	22
Don't know	12	12	5	13
<i>Optimistic (Net)</i>	<i>41%</i>	<i>42%</i>	<i>52%</i>	<i>31%</i>
<i>Pessimistic (Net)</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>56</i>

e. The American political system

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Very optimistic	10%	11%	16%	4%
Somewhat optimistic	15	11	21	12
Somewhat pessimistic	28	28	29	28
Very pessimistic	39	45	28	48
Don't know	8	5	5	7
<i>Optimistic (Net)</i>	<i>25%</i>	<i>22%</i>	<i>38%</i>	<i>16%</i>
<i>Pessimistic (Net)</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>77</i>

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2) How much trust do you currently have in each of the following institutions?

Total trust

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
The military	83%	81%	89%	84%
The government in your state	57%	63%	57%	54%
The news media	45%	67%	29%	44%
The presidency	43%	19%	76%	36%
Congress	37%	47%	36%	27%

a. The news media

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
A lot	15%	24%	8%	15%
Some	30	43	21	29
Very little	29	24	32	27
None at all	22	5	35	28
Don't know	4	3	4	1
<i>Trust (Net)</i>	<i>45%</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>29%</i>	<i>44%</i>
<i>Distrust (Net)</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>55</i>

b. Congress

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
A lot	6%	8%	7%	4%
Some	31	40	29	22
Very little	40	39	39	44
None at all	17	9	19	26
Don't know	6	4	7	3
<i>Trust (Net)</i>	<i>37%</i>	<i>47%</i>	<i>36%</i>	<i>27%</i>
<i>Distrust (Net)</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>70</i>

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c. The military

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
A lot	46%	37%	63%	43%
Some	37	44	27	40
Very little	9	12	5	9
None at all	4	3	2	6
Don't know	4	3	4	1
<i>Trust (Net)</i>	<i>83%</i>	<i>81%</i>	<i>89%</i>	<i>84%</i>
<i>Distrust (Net)</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>15</i>

d. The presidency

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
A lot	20%	7%	42%	13%
Some	23	12	34	23
Very little	16	19	13	15
None at all	37	60	7	47
Don't know	4	2	5	2
<i>Trust (Net)</i>	<i>43%</i>	<i>19%</i>	<i>76%</i>	<i>36%</i>
<i>Distrust (Net)</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>79</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>62</i>

e. The government in your state

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
A lot	14%	16%	17%	12%
Some	43	47	40	42
Very little	26	26	26	28
None at all	12	8	11	16
Don't know	6	3	6	2
<i>Trust (Net)</i>	<i>57%</i>	<i>63%</i>	<i>57%</i>	<i>54%</i>
<i>Distrust (Net)</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>44</i>

3) Which of these best describes how you feel about the federal government?

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Frustrated	54%	55%	53%	53%
Angry	20	28	13	23
Basically content	16	10	24	16
Don't know	10	7	10	8

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4) How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right?

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Just about always	5%	4%	10%	2%
Most of the time	14	13	19	13
Only some of the time	53	56	53	54
Never	19	21	13	24
Don't know	8	6	6	7

5) Which of the following statements comes closer to your view?

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
The federal government is almost always wasteful and inefficient	59%	59%	59%	63%
The federal government does a better job than it gets credit for	21	21	26	17
Don't know	21	20	16	20

6) How much have you seen, heard or read about the recent shutdown of portions of the federal government?

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
A lot	50%	60%	47%	53%
A little	41	33	44	39
Nothing at all	5	3	4	8
Don't know	4	5	5	1

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- 7) **[Base: Has seen, heard, or read ‘a lot’ or ‘a little’ about the recent shutdown]** In your own words, what do you think of the government shutdown?

Open-end topic	Total aware (n=909)
Unfair for Workers/Wrong/Too Many Working Without Pay	26%
Support Shutdown/Funding for Border Wall	13
Negatives/Blame toward President Trump	11
Shutdown is Unnecessary/Ridiculous	8
General negative sentiment (scary, disheartening, senseless)	8
General Discussion of President Trump	6
Need compromise/resolution	5
Negatives/Blame toward Democrats	5
Waste of money/resources/time	5
Looks Bad for the Country	3
Unsure	7
Uncategorized	8

- 8) If Congress couldn't reach an agreement on an issue you deeply cared about, how long would you be willing to see the federal government shut down over it?

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
It's never okay to shut down the government	41%	50%	25%	53%
A few days	11	17	7	9
A few weeks	11	9	17	10
A few months	10	7	18	8
Years	9	6	16	7
Don't know	17x	11	17	13

- 9) Are you, or someone in your immediate family...

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
A federal employee or contractor and was furloughed without pay	4%	5%	5%	2%
A federal employee or contractor and is currently working without pay	6	7	7	2
Unable to access government services that you need, because of the shutdown	15	16	13	14
Unable to visit a national park or public facility because of the shutdown	11	13	11	9
None of the above	74	70	76	79

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10) Do you agree or disagree with each of the following?

Total agree

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
The government shutdown is embarrassing for the country	74%	87%	58%	77%
The government shutdown is going to hurt our country	71%	91%	51%	71%
Congress should pass a bill to re-open the government now while budget talks continue	71%	86%	56%	72%
The government shutdown is going to hurt our economy	70%	88%	53%	68%
My family and I have not been impacted by the government shutdown	65%	67%	69%	64%
We should keep the government closed until there is funding for a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border	31%	14%	58%	21%

a. My family and I have not been impacted by the government shutdown

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	30%	26%	39%	26%
Somewhat agree	34	41	29	38
Somewhat disagree	14	16	11	14
Strongly disagree	13	11	14	12
Don't know	9	6	6	10
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>65%</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>69%</i>	<i>64%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>

b. The government shutdown is going to hurt our economy

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	40%	56%	21%	44%
Somewhat agree	30	32	32	24
Somewhat disagree	12	4	21	14
Strongly disagree	8	3	16	3
Don't know	10	5	10	15
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>70%</i>	<i>88%</i>	<i>53%</i>	<i>68%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>17</i>

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c. The government shutdown is going to hurt our country

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	45%	66%	24%	45%
Somewhat agree	27	25	27	26
Somewhat disagree	11	2	23	12
Strongly disagree	9	4	17	6
Don't know	8	3	9	11
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	71%	91%	51%	71%
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	20	6	39	18

d. The government shutdown is embarrassing for the country

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	54%	68%	37%	58%
Somewhat agree	20	19	21	19
Somewhat disagree	11	7	20	6
Strongly disagree	9	2	17	11
Don't know	5	3	5	6
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	74%	87%	58%	77%
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	21	10	37	17

e. We should keep the government closed until there is funding for a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	18%	8%	36%	10%
Somewhat agree	13	6	22	11
Somewhat disagree	10	5	12	12
Strongly disagree	51	75	20	60
Don't know	9	5	10	7
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	31%	14%	58%	21%
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	60	80	32	72

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f. Congress should pass a bill to re-open the government now while budget talks continue

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	48%	66%	29%	53%
Somewhat agree	23	19	27	19
Somewhat disagree	10	6	16	8
Strongly disagree	8	3	17	6
Don't know	11	6	11	14
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>71%</i>	<i>86%</i>	<i>56%</i>	<i>72%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>15</i>

11) Is the Trump administration doing too much, too little, or about the right amount to work with Democrats in Congress to end the shutdown?

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Too much	9%	7%	16%	3%
Too little	48	78	22	50
About the right amount	23	4	44	24
Don't know	21	11	18	23

12) Are the Democrats in Congress doing too much, too little, or about the right amount to work with the Trump administration to end the shutdown?

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Too much	9%	13%	7%	8%
Too little	45	22	76	45
About the right amount	24	48	3	22
Don't know	22	17	14	25

13) Thinking about President Trump's address to the nation Tuesday night, did it ...

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Have no impact	23%	25%	25%	24%
Move the country further away from ending the government shutdown	14	25	8	11
Bring the country closer to ending the government shutdown	10	6	18	5
I did not watch or follow President Trump's address	39	36	32	45
Don't know	14	8	17	14

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14) Do you agree or disagree with each of the following?

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Federal workers should get back pay for the time they worked during the shutdown	83%	90%	77%	84%
Federal contractors should get back pay for the time they were furloughed during the shutdown	67%	77%	57%	70%
President Trump's speech convinced me there is a crisis on the Southern border	38%	21%	66%	32%
President Trump's speech convinced me of the need for a wall along the US-Mexico border	34%	16%	63%	27%
Federal workers should work without pay during the shutdown to keep government services running	32%	27%	46%	24%

a. Federal workers should get back pay for the time they worked during the shutdown

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	61%	74%	49%	62%
Somewhat agree	22	16	28	22
Somewhat disagree	6	5	7	6
Strongly disagree	4	3	6	4
Don't know	7	3	9	5
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>83%</i>	<i>90%</i>	<i>77%</i>	<i>84%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>11</i>

b. Federal workers should work without pay during the shutdown to keep government services running

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	11%	10%	15%	10%
Somewhat agree	22	18	31	14
Somewhat disagree	24	25	21	26
Strongly disagree	32	43	20	35
Don't know	11	5	13	15
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>32%</i>	<i>27%</i>	<i>46%</i>	<i>24%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>61</i>

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- c. Federal contractors should get back pay for the time they were furloughed during the shutdown

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	43%	53%	31%	50%
Somewhat agree	24	24	26	20
Somewhat disagree	12	11	19	7
Strongly disagree	8	4	12	11
Don't know	12	7	12	12
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>77%</i>	<i>57%</i>	<i>70%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>18</i>

- d. President Trump's speech convinced me of the need for a wall along the US-Mexico border

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	20%	6%	42%	16%
Somewhat agree	14	9	22	11
Somewhat disagree	7	7	7	7
Strongly disagree	38	64	9	43
Don't know	22	13	21	23
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>34%</i>	<i>16%</i>	<i>63%</i>	<i>27%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>50</i>

- e. President Trump's speech convinced me there is a crisis on the Southern border

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	21%	5%	44%	18%
Somewhat agree	17	16	22	14
Somewhat disagree	6	8	5	5
Strongly disagree	34	58	8	40
Don't know	22	13	21	23
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>38%</i>	<i>21%</i>	<i>66%</i>	<i>32%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>45</i>

- 15) Do you have a favorable or unfavorable view toward the following?

Total favorable

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Donald Trump	42%	16%	79%	34%
Nancy Pelosi	39%	73%	19%	29%
Mitch McConnell	27%	23%	44%	16%

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a. Donald Trump

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Very favorable	21%	6%	46%	13%
Somewhat favorable	13	3	23	9
Lean toward favorable	8	6	9	11
Lean toward unfavorable	5	4	5	9
Somewhat unfavorable	5	6	5	7
Very unfavorable	41	71	8	43
Don't know	6	4	3	7
<i>Favorable (Net)</i>	<i>42%</i>	<i>16%</i>	<i>79%</i>	<i>34%</i>
<i>Unfavorable (Net)</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>81</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>59</i>

b. Nancy Pelosi

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Very favorable	14%	29%	7%	7%
Somewhat favorable	13	22	8	10
Lean toward favorable	12	21	5	12
Lean toward unfavorable	8	5	9	9
Somewhat unfavorable	6	3	9	9
Very unfavorable	28	6	54	28
Don't know	20	14	9	24
<i>Favorable (Net)</i>	<i>39%</i>	<i>73%</i>	<i>19%</i>	<i>29%</i>
<i>Unfavorable (Net)</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>46</i>

c. Mitch McConnell

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Very favorable	7%	8%	11%	2%
Somewhat favorable	8	5	15	6
Lean toward favorable	12	10	18	9
Lean toward unfavorable	12	9	17	12
Somewhat unfavorable	6	7	5	7
Very unfavorable	22	38	9	26
Don't know	33	23	25	38
<i>Favorable (Net)</i>	<i>27%</i>	<i>23%</i>	<i>44%</i>	<i>16%</i>
<i>Unfavorable (Net)</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>46</i>

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16) How do you get most of your news? Select up to three.

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Television	60%	64%	58%	60%
Print newspapers/magazines	22	25	22	24
Online/internet	53	53	51	59
Radio	19	18	17	23
Mobile News apps	16	16	15	15
Social media (Twitter, Facebook)	27	27	23	25
None of the above	6	4	8	4

17) Of the choices listed below, which is your main source of television news?

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
FOX News	19%	5%	35%	17%
CNN	12	19	7	9
MSNBC	5	8	2	6
ABC	12	14	10	12
CBS	9	10	8	10
NBC	14	18	12	15
Public Television	6	8	4	5
None of the above	6	5	4	10
Other	17	12	17	15

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About the Study

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted January 9-10, 2019 on behalf of NPR. For the survey, a sample of 1,003 adults 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii were interviewed online in English. The sample includes 319 Democrats, 368 Republicans, and 198 Independents.

The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos' online panel (see link below for more info on "Access Panels and Recruitment"), partner online panel sources, and "river" sampling (see link below for more info on the Ipsos "Ampario Overview" sample method) and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing a sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. Population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2016 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Post-hoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, and education.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following (n=1,003, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=+/-5.0 percentage points).

The poll also has a credibility interval plus or minus 6.3 percentage points for Democrats, plus or minus 5.8 percentage points for Republicans, and plus or minus 7.9 percentage points for Independents.

For more information about conducting research intended for public release or Ipsos' online polling methodology, please visit our [Public Opinion Polling and Communication](#) page where you can download our brochure, see our public release protocol, or contact us.

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About Ipsos Public Affairs

Ipsos Public Affairs is a non-partisan, objective, survey-based research practice made up of seasoned professionals. We conduct strategic research initiatives for a diverse number of American and international organizations, based not only on public opinion research, but elite stakeholder, corporate, and media opinion research.

Ipsos has media partnerships with the most prestigious news organizations around the world. Through our media partnerships, Ipsos Public Affairs is a leading source of intelligent information for businesses and professionals in the U.S., Canada, the UK, and internationally. Ipsos Public Affairs is a member of the Ipsos Group, a leading global survey-based market research company. We provide boutique-style customer service and work closely with our clients, while also undertaking global research.

About Ipsos

Ipsos is an independent market research company controlled and managed by research professionals. Founded in France in 1975, Ipsos has grown into a worldwide research group with a strong presence in all key markets. Ipsos ranks fourth in the global research industry.

With offices in 88 countries, Ipsos delivers insightful expertise across five research specializations: brand, advertising and media; customer loyalty; marketing; public affairs research; and survey management.

Ipsos researchers assess market potential and interpret market trends. They develop and build brands. They help clients build long-term relationships with their customers. They test advertising and study audience responses to various media and they measure public opinion around the globe.

Ipsos has been listed on the Paris Stock Exchange since 1999 and generated global revenues of €1,780.5 million in 2017.

GAME CHANGERS

« Game Changers » is the Ipsos signature.

At Ipsos we are passionately curious about people, markets, brands and society.
We make our changing world easier and faster to navigate and inspire clients to make smarter decisions.
We deliver with security, speed, simplicity and substance. We are Game Changers.

Ipsos is listed on Eurolist – NYSE-Euronext.
The company is part of the SBF 120 and the Mid-60 index
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