



Attitudes Toward Space Exploration

New C-SPAN/Ipsos Poll

Washington, DC, July 10, 2019

1. How familiar are you with the following topics:

Total familiar - summary

	Total (N=1020)
NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)	63%
Space exploration	56%
Astronomy	56%
The International Space Station program	51%
Planetary science	37%
SpaceX	34%
Space Force	23%
Virgin Galactic	20%
The NASA "Artemis" mission	10%
Blue Origin	10%
United Launch Alliance	8%

2. Thinking about space exploration, would you say you are very interested, moderately interested, or not interested at all?

	Ipsos Poll 2019 Total (N=1020)	GSS 2018 Total (N=2348)	NSF 2001 Total (N=1,573)	NSF 1988 Total (N=2,035)
Very interested	21%	26%	27%	34%
Moderately interested	54%	45%	50%	46%
Not interested at all	24%	30%	24%	20%

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3. Thinking about space exploration and astronomy, would you say you are very well informed, moderately well informed, or poorly informed?

	Ipsos Poll 2019 Total (N=1020)	<i>NSF 2001 Total (N=1,572)</i>	<i>NSF 1988 Total (N=2,037)</i>
Very well informed	5%	11%	13%
Moderately well informed	42%	46%	54%
Poorly informed	52%	43%	34%

4. Have you watched — in person, on TV, or via internet streaming — any of the following events live?

Yes - summary

Lunar eclipse	75%
Shooting star	68%
Space shuttle launch	65%
Blood moon	61%
Meteor shower	52%
Private rocket launch (i.e. SpaceX, Blue Origin, etc.)	26%

5. Have you ever watched footage of the following space exploration milestones?

I saw this event live when it happened

The space shuttle Challenger tragedy, 1986	32%
Apollo 11 Moon Landing, 1969	24%
Launch of the Voyager Missions, 1977	9%
Video of Mars from the Pathfinder mission, 1997	8%
Felix Baumgartner's skydive jump from the edge of space, 2012	8%
Flight of SpaceShipOne, the first manned private space flight, 2004	4%

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I saw recorded footage of this event

Apollo 11 Moon Landing, 1969	50%
The space shuttle Challenger tragedy, 1986	46%
Video of Mars from the Pathfinder mission, 1997	40%
Launch of the Voyager Missions, 1977	32%
Felix Baumgartner's skydive jump from the edge of space, 2012	27%
Flight of SpaceShipOne, the first manned private space flight, 2004	26%

I saw this event live when it happened or I saw recorded footage of this event

The space shuttle Challenger tragedy, 1986	77%
Apollo 11 Moon Landing, 1969	74%
Video of Mars from the Pathfinder mission, 1997	49%
Launch of the Voyager Missions, 1977	41%
Felix Baumgartner's skydive jump from the edge of space, 2012	35%
Flight of SpaceShipOne, the first manned private space flight, 2004	30%

6. Based on anything that you have heard, read, or seen, do you have a favorable or unfavorable general opinion about NASA?

	Total
Very favorable	41%
Somewhat favorable	37%
Somewhat unfavorable	4%
Very unfavorable	3%
Don't know	15%
Total favorable	78%
Total unfavorable	7%

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7a. The federal government's budget for NASA for the 2019 fiscal year is \$21.5 billion. In your opinion, is NASA's budget too little, about the right amount, or too much?

	Total (N=340)
Too little	20%
About the right amount	50%
Too much	27%
Refused	3%

7b. The federal government's budget for NASA for the 2019 fiscal year composes about one half of one percent (0.5%) of the total national budget. In your opinion, is NASA's budget too little, about the right amount, or too much?

	Total (N=335)
Too little	41%
About the right amount	49%
Too much	8%
Refused	3%

7c. The federal government's budget for NASA for the 2019 fiscal year is equal to about \$70 per American. In your opinion, is NASA's budget too little, about the right amount, or too much?

	Total (N=345)
Too little	31%
About the right amount	56%
Too much	12%
Refused	2%

8. In your opinion, have the costs of space exploration exceeded its benefits, or have the benefits of space exploration exceeded its costs?

	Total
The benefits are greater than the costs	31%
About equal	42%
The costs are greater than the benefits	24%
Refused	3%

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9a. Would you say that the benefits have substantially exceeded the costs, or only slightly exceeded the costs? (Asked if “The benefits are greater than the costs” in Q.8)

	Total (N=333)
The benefits slightly exceed the costs	41%
The benefits substantially exceed the costs	59%
Refused	0%

9b. Would you say that the costs have substantially exceeded the benefits, or only slightly exceeded the benefits? (Asked if “The costs are greater than the benefits” in Q.8)

	Total (N=237)
The costs slightly exceed the benefits	30%
The costs substantially exceed the benefits	68%
Refused	2%

10. With the growth of private space exploration, which of the following most closely matches your opinion?

NASA fundings should be increased to make sure it continues to lead in space exploration	31%
NASA fundings should be kept the same	27%
NASA fundings should be reduced and private companies allowed to lead	14%
Don't Know	27%
Refused	1%

11. Based on anything that you have heard, read, or seen, do you have a favorable or unfavorable general opinion about the Space Force?

Very favorable	8%
Somewhat favorable	25%
Somewhat unfavorable	14%
Very unfavorable	16%
Don't know	36%
Total favorable	33%
Total unfavorable	30%

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12. How important, if at all, do you think the Space Force is for improving national security?

Very important	17%
Somewhat important	26%
Somewhat unimportant	16%
Very unimportant	17%
Don't know	24%
Total important	43%
Total unimportant	32%

13. Do you agree or disagree that space exploration...

Total agree- summary

Allows scientific and technological discoveries	80%
Encourages young people to study science and math	77%
Allows the monitoring of natural disasters	73%
Is necessary	71%
Is a means to understand climate change	66%
Improves understanding of everyday life	57%
Contributes to science resulting in advances to health-care	56%
Improves understanding of the human body	55%

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a. Contributes to science resulting in advances to health care

	Total
Strongly agree	23%
Somewhat agree	33%
Somewhat disagree	15%
Strongly disagree	8%
Don't know	20%
Total agree	56%
Total disagree	23%

b. Improves understanding of the human body

	Total
Strongly agree	19%
Somewhat agree	36%
Somewhat disagree	17%
Strongly disagree	9%
Don't know	18%
Total agree	55%
Total disagree	25%

c. Allows the monitoring of natural disasters

	Total
Strongly agree	34%
Somewhat agree	39%
Somewhat disagree	8%
Strongly disagree	3%
Don't know	14%
Total agree	73%
Total disagree	11%

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d. Allows scientific and technological discoveries

	Total
Strongly agree	48%
Somewhat agree	31%
Somewhat disagree	6%
Strongly disagree	2%
Don't know	11%
Total agree	80%
Total disagree	8%

e. Improves understanding of everyday life

	Total
Strongly agree	22%
Somewhat agree	35%
Somewhat disagree	17%
Strongly disagree	7%
Don't know	17%
Total agree	57%
Total disagree	24%

f. Is necessary

	Total
Strongly agree	37%
Somewhat agree	34%
Somewhat disagree	10%
Strongly disagree	5%
Don't know	13%
Total agree	71%
Total disagree	14%

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g. Is a means to understand climate change

	Total
Strongly agree	28%
Somewhat agree	38%
Somewhat disagree	9%
Strongly disagree	7%
Don't know	16%
Total agree	66%
Total disagree	16%

h. Encourages young people to study science and math

	Total
Strongly agree	40%
Somewhat agree	37%
Somewhat disagree	6%
Strongly disagree	3%
Don't know	12%
Total agree	77%
Total disagree	9%

14. Of the following list, which do you believe are top priorities for U.S. space exploration? You may select up to 2 choices.

	Total
Satellite monitoring of Earth to understand environmental changes	52%
Improving national security	32%
Conducting experiments on the International Space Station and in orbit	27%
Unmanned exploration of the solar system	24%
A manned mission to Mars	18%
A manned mission to the Moon	8%
None of the above	10%

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15. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

Total agree - summary

International cooperation in space exploration allows for faster scientific and technological advancement.	69%
International cooperation in space exploration promotes greater peace between nations.	64%
Most of the solar system should be preserved as official wilderness, similar to national parks, to limit mining of moons, asteroids, or planets.	52%
The United States should re-start their Moon exploration missions to catch-up to countries like China and Israel.	49%
The government should increase federal funding for space exploration.	49%
The United States must be the first country to establish a permanent colony in space.	39%
International cooperation in space gives away too much U.S. technology to other nations	34%
Space exploration should be taken over by private businesses.	27%

16. As a child, did you ever dream of becoming an astronaut?

	Ipsos Poll 2019 Total (N=1020)	CBS / NYT 1998 Total (N=764)
Yes	23%	20%
No	72%	79%
Don't know	4%	1%

17. How familiar are you, if at all, with the following individuals?

Total familiar - summary

Neil Armstrong	83%
Buzz Aldrin	68%
Elon Musk	57%
Jeff Bezos	52%
Sally Ride	48%
Mark Kelly	32%
Katherine Johnson	15%
Mae Jamison	14%
Chris Hadfield	11%

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18. If given the opportunity, would you consider travelling to space?

	Ipsos Poll 2019 Total (N=1020)	CBS / NYT 1998 Total (N=764)
Yes	31%	43%
No	53%	55%
Don't know	16%	2%

19. In your opinion, do you believe the U.S. successfully landed a manned mission on the moon in 1969, or do you believe the moon landing was staged?

	Total
I believe the U.S. moon landing was real	78%
I believe the U.S. moon landing was staged	6%
Don't know	15%

20. In your opinion, do you believe that extraterrestrial life from outer space visit our planet?

	Total
I believe that extra terrestrial life exists and that they visit our planet	29%
I believe that extra terrestrial life exists, but they have not visited our planet	27%
I do not believe that extraterrestrial life exists	18%
Don't know	26%

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About the Study

The study was conducted online in Ipsos's Omnibus using the web-enabled "KnowledgePanel," a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the US general population, not just the online population. The study consisted of 1,020 nationally representative interviews conducted between June 14 and June 16, 2019 among adults aged 18+. The margin of error is +/-3.0 percentage points.

KnowledgePanel® is a web enabled probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. population. Initially, participants are chosen scientifically by a random selection of telephone numbers and residential addresses. Persons in selected households are then invited by telephone or by mail to participate in the web-enabled KnowledgePanel®. For those who agree to participate, but do not already have Internet access, Ipsos provides at no cost a laptop and ISP connection. People who already have computers and Internet service are permitted to participate using their own equipment. Panelists then receive unique log-in information for accessing surveys online, and then are sent emails throughout each month inviting them to participate in research.

About Ipsos

Ipsos is a global independent market research company. Our team of 18,000 across 90 countries serves 5,000 clients and undertakes 70,000 different projects each year. Our polling practice 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.

As a global research and insights organization, Ipsos aims to make our changing world easier and faster to navigate and to inspire our clients to make smarter decisions. We are committed to driving the industry with innovative, best-in-class research techniques that are meaningful in today's connected society. We deliver research with security, speed, simplicity, and substance. Our tagline "Game Changers" summarizes our ambition.

Ipsos is committed to building an organization dedicated to a single endeavor: providing our clients with the best service, using qualitative or quantitative methods, at local, regional, and international levels. This is what drives us to ask and probe, to subject our hypotheses to rigorous analyses, and, finally, to deliver reliable data and the most effective recommendations in the shortest time possible. Ipsos has been listed on the Paris Stock Exchange since 1999 and generated global revenues of €1,749.5 million in 2018.

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
and is eligible for the Deferred Settlement Service (SRD).

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