PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

Reuters/Ipsos Poll: Nuclear Energy

Topline Findings

Washington, DC, June 10, 2022 – A recent Reuters/Ipsos poll finds two in five Americans say they are familiar with nuclear power energy plants (43%). They claim similar levels of familiarity with solar power plants (44%) and wind power plants (45%). Forty-five percent of Americans say they support nuclear power energy plants, with coal-fired plants (36%) and gas-fired plants (41%) garnering less support.

Half of Americans believe currently operating nuclear plants should be maintained/kept open but no new plants should be built, only 20% say all current nuclear power plants should be shut down and no new plants should be built. Even among those who say they oppose relying on nuclear power plants for electricity, 56% are okay with keeping currently operating plants open and just not building new ones.

Among those who support relying on nuclear power energy plants for American electricity, the most common reason given is that it is a low-cost way to produce energy (49%). Among those who oppose it, the most common reason is the risk of nuclear meltdowns/accidents (69%).

These are the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between June 1-2, 2022. For this survey, a sample of 1,004 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.8 percentage points for all respondents.

For complete results, please refer to the following annotated questionnaire:

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Full Annotated Questionnaire

		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
With which political party do you most identify? Summary	Strong Democrat	16%	38%	0%	0%
	Moderate Democrat	17%	41%	0%	0%
	Lean Democrat	9%	21%	0%	0%
	Lean Republican	8%	0%	23%	0%
	Moderate Republican	13%	0%	40%	0%
	Strong Republican	13%	0%	37%	0%
	Independent	16%	0%	0%	100%
	None of these	6%	0%	0%	0%
	DK	2%	0%	0%	0%
	Total	1004	431	355	149
With which political party do you most identify? Detailed	Democrat	42%	100%	0%	0%
	Republican	34%	0%	100%	0%
	Independent	16%	0%	0%	100%
	None/DK	8%	0%	0%	0%
	Total	1004	431	355	149
1_1. [Nuclear power energy plants] How familiar are you, if at all, with the following	Very familiar	10%	10%	8%	10%
	Somewhat familiar	34%	34%	35%	31%
	Not very familiar	26%	25%	29%	21%
	I have heard of it, but that's about it	23%	22%	23%	26%
	I have never heard of it	8%	9%	5%	12%
	Total	1004	431	355	149
1_1. [Nuclear power energy plants] How familiar are you, if at all, with the following - Summary	Total Familiar	43%	44%	43%	41%
	Total Not Familiar	57%	56%	57%	59%
	Total	1004	431	355	149

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		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
1_2. [Coal-fired energy plants] How familiar are you, if at all, with the following	Very familiar	8%	9%	8%	6%
	Somewhat familiar	26%	25%	30%	26%
	Not very familiar	29%	26%	29%	30%
	I have heard of it, but that's about it	21%	22%	19%	20%
	I have never heard of it	16%	18%	13%	18%
	Total	1004	431	355	149
1_2. [Coal-fired energy plants] How familiar are you, if at all, with the following - Summary	Total Familiar	34%	34%	38%	32%
	Total Not Familiar	66%	66%	62%	68%
	Total	1004	431	355	149
1_3. [Gas-fired powered plants] How familiar are you, if at all, with the following	Very familiar	7%	7%	6%	4%
	Somewhat familiar	19%	18%	21%	23%
	Not very familiar	34%	32%	37%	25%
	I have heard of it, but that's about it	19%	19%	19%	20%
	I have never heard of it	22%	23%	17%	28%
	Total	1004	431	355	149
1_3. [Gas-fired powered plants] How familiar are you, if at all, with the following - Summary	Total Familiar	26%	26%	27%	27%
	Total Not Familiar	74%	74%	73%	73%
	Total	1004	431	355	149
1_4. [Hydro-electric power plants] How familiar are you, if at all, with the following	Very familiar	10%	11%	6%	14%
	Somewhat familiar	26%	27%	28%	26%
	Not very familiar	29%	28%	30%	23%
	I have heard of it, but that's about it	21%	20%	24%	18%
	I have never heard of it	14%	14%	12%	19%
	Total	1004	431	355	149
1_4. [Hydro-electric power plants] How familiar are you, if at all, with the following - Summary	Total Familiar	36%	38%	34%	40%
	Total Not Familiar	64%	62%	66%	60%
	Total	1004	431	355	149

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		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
1_5. [Solar power plants] How familiar are you, if at all, with the following	Very familiar	12%	13%	8%	13%
	Somewhat familiar	32%	35%	34%	28%
	Not very familiar	27%	26%	30%	22%
	I have heard of it, but that's about it	22%	21%	23%	26%
	I have never heard of it	7%	6%	5%	11%
	Total	1004	431	355	149
1_5. [Solar power plants] How familiar are you, if at all, with the following - Summary	Total Familiar	44%	47%	42%	41%
	Total Not Familiar	56%	53%	58%	59%
	Total	1004	431	355	149
1_6. [Wind power plants] How familiar are you, if at all, with the following	Very familiar	11%	14%	7%	14%
	Somewhat familiar	34%	34%	38%	27%
	Not very familiar	25%	24%	28%	22%
	I have heard of it, but that's about it	23%	20%	23%	28%
	I have never heard of it	7%	8%	5%	9%
	Total	1004	431	355	149
1_6. [Wind power plants] How familiar are you, if at all, with the following - Summary	Total Familiar	45%	48%	45%	40%
	Total Not Familiar	55%	52%	55%	60%
	Total	1004	431	355	149
2_1. [Nuclear power energy plants] How much do you support or oppose relying on the following for American electricity?	Strongly support	18%	13%	24%	18%
	Somewhat support	27%	29%	30%	21%
	Somewhat oppose	21%	24%	16%	17%
	Strongly oppose	12%	13%	11%	15%
	Not sure	22%	21%	18%	29%
	Total	1004	431	355	149
2_1. [Nuclear power energy plants] How much do you support or oppose relying on the following for American electricity? - Summary	Total Support	45%	42%	55%	39%
	Total Oppose	33%	37%	28%	32%
	Total Not Sure	22%	21%	18%	29%
	Total	1004	431	355	149

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		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
2_2. [Coal-fired energy plants] How much do you support or oppose relying on the following for American electricity?	Strongly support	11%	7%	19%	7%
	Somewhat support	25%	17%	35%	25%
	Somewhat oppose	21%	26%	17%	16%
	Strongly oppose	18%	29%	8%	15%
	Not sure	24%	20%	21%	37%
	Total	1004	431	355	149
2_2. [Coal-fired energy plants] How much do you support or oppose relying on the following for American electricity? - Summary	Total Support	36%	24%	54%	32%
	Total Oppose	40%	56%	25%	31%
	Total Not Sure	24%	20%	21%	37%
	Total	1004	431	355	149
2_3. [Gas-fired powered plants] How much do you support or oppose relying on the following for American electricity?	Strongly support	14%	10%	19%	10%
	Somewhat support	28%	22%	38%	22%
	Somewhat oppose	21%	28%	14%	19%
	Strongly oppose	11%	16%	4%	12%
	Not sure	27%	24%	24%	37%
	Total	1004	431	355	149
2_3. [Gas-fired powered plants] How much do you support or oppose relying on the following for American electricity? - Summary	Total Support	41%	33%	57%	32%
	Total Oppose	32%	43%	19%	31%
	Total Not Sure	27%	24%	24%	37%
	Total	1004	431	355	149
2_4. [Hydro-electric power plants] How much do you support or oppose relying on the following for American electricity?	Strongly support	36%	38%	36%	31%
	Somewhat support	33%	33%	34%	27%
	Somewhat oppose	7%	7%	8%	5%
	Strongly oppose	2%	1%	1%	3%
	Not sure	24%	21%	21%	34%
	Total	1004	431	355	149
2_4. [Hydro-electric power plants] How much do you support or oppose relying on the following for American electricity? - Summary	Total Support	68%	71%	70%	57%
	Total Oppose	8%	9%	9%	9%
	Total Not Sure	24%	21%	21%	34%
	Total	1004	431	355	149

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		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
2_5. [Solar power plants] How much do you support or oppose relying on the following for American electricity?	Strongly support	44%	56%	33%	44%
	Somewhat support	32%	28%	37%	30%
	Somewhat oppose	7%	5%	10%	5%
	Strongly oppose	4%	1%	8%	3%
	Not sure	14%	10%	12%	19%
	Total	1004	431	355	149
2_5. [Solar power plants] How much do you support or oppose relying on the following for American electricity? - Summary	Total Support	76%	84%	70%	73%
	Total Oppose	11%	6%	18%	8%
	Total Not Sure	14%	10%	12%	19%
	Total	1004	431	355	149
2_6. [Wind power plants] How much do you support or oppose relying on the following for American electricity?	Strongly support	42%	52%	34%	41%
	Somewhat support	32%	31%	34%	26%
	Somewhat oppose	8%	5%	11%	8%
	Strongly oppose	4%	2%	8%	3%
	Not sure	14%	10%	12%	21%
	Total	1004	431	355	149
2_6. [Wind power plants] How much do you support or oppose relying on the following for American electricity? - Summary	Total Support	74%	83%	68%	67%
	Total Oppose	12%	7%	20%	12%
	Total Not Sure	14%	10%	12%	21%
	Total	1004	431	355	149

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		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
3. Which of the following comes closest to your opinion on building/maintaining nuclear power plants?	Currently operating nuclear power plants should be shut down, and no new plants should be built	20%	23%	14%	18%
	Currently operating nuclear power plants should be maintained and kept open, but no new plants should be built	50%	53%	44%	58%
	Currently operating nuclear power plants should be maintained and kept open, and new nuclear plants should be built	29%	24%	42%	24%
	Total	1004	431	355	149
[Base: Support NPP at Q2] 4_1. [Increased energy reliability] You mentioned you support relying on nuclear power energy plants for American electricity. Which of the following reasons, if any, best describe why you support them?	No	52%	63%	39%	54%
	Yes	48%	37%	61%	46%
	Total	482	191	207	61
[Base: Support NPP at Q2] 4_2. [They produce low carbon emissions, help fight climate change] You mentioned you support relying on nuclear power energy plants for American electricity. Which of the following reasons, if any, best describe why you support them?	No	61%	60%	62%	57%
	Yes	39%	40%	38%	43%
	Total	482	191	207	61

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		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
[Base: Support NPP at Q2] 4_3. [It's a low-cost way to produce energy] You mentioned you support relying on nuclear power energy plants for American electricity. Which of the following reasons, if any, best describe why you support them?	No	51%	55%	45%	54%
	Yes	49%	45%	55%	46%
	Total	482	191	207	61
[Base: Support NPP at Q2] 4_4. [Leads to lower electric bills] You mentioned you support relying on nuclear power energy plants for American electricity. Which of the following reasons, if any, best describe why you support them?	No	61%	67%	52%	64%
	Yes	39%	33%	48%	36%
	Total	482	191	207	61
[Base: Support NPP at Q2] 4_5. [They are a low risk to the public] You mentioned you support relying on nuclear power energy plants for American electricity. Which of the following reasons, if any, best describe why you support them?	No	72%	71%	69%	73%
	Yes	28%	29%	31%	27%
	Total	482	191	207	61
[Base: Support NPP at Q2] 4_6. [They release less pollution into the atmosphere] You mentioned you support relying on nuclear power energy plants for American electricity. Which of the following reasons, if any, best describe why you support them?	No	57%	55%	56%	56%
	Yes	43%	45%	44%	44%
	Total	482	191	207	61

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		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
[Base: Support NPP at Q2] 4_7. [They use less raw materials] You mentioned you support relying on nuclear power energy plants for American electricity. Which of the following reasons, if any, best describe why you support them?	No	76%	80%	74%	67%
	Yes	24%	20%	26%	33%
	Total	482	191	207	61
[Base: Support NPP at Q2] 4_8. [Other] You mentioned you support relying on nuclear power energy plants for American electricity. Which of the following reasons, if any, best describe why you support them?	No	99%	99%	98%	100%
	Yes	1%	1%	2%	0%
	Total	482	191	207	61
[Base: Support NPP at Q2] 4_9. [Not sure] You mentioned you support relying on nuclear power energy plants for American electricity. Which of the following reasons, if any, best describe why you support them?	No	90%	91%	95%	83%
	Yes	10%	9%	5%	17%
	Total	482	191	207	61
[Base: Oppose NPP at Q2] 5_1. [The risk of nuclear meltdowns/accidents] You mentioned you oppose relying on nuclear power energy plants for American electricity. Which of the following reasons best describe why you oppose them?	No	31%	24%	36%	46%
	Yes	69%	76%	64%	54%
	Total	313	155	89	45

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		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
[Base: Oppose NPP at Q2] 5_2. [An increased spread of nuclear weapons] You mentioned you oppose relying on nuclear power energy plants for American electricity. Which of the following reasons best describe why you oppose them?	No	73%	71%	73%	71%
	Yes	27%	29%	27%	29%
	Total	313	155	89	45
[Base: Oppose NPP at Q2] 5_3. [Cancer risks] You mentioned you oppose relying on nuclear power energy plants for American electricity. Which of the following reasons best describe why you oppose them?	No	50%	47%	57%	57%
	Yes	50%	53%	43%	43%
	Total	313	155	89	45
[Base: Oppose NPP at Q2] 5_4. [Environmental concerns for mining uranium] You mentioned you oppose relying on nuclear power energy plants for American electricity. Which of the following reasons best describe why you oppose them?	No	52%	44%	58%	59%
	Yes	48%	56%	42%	41%
	Total	313	155	89	45
[Base: Oppose NPP at Q2] 5_5. [The cost to build new plants is high] You mentioned you oppose relying on nuclear power energy plants for American electricity. Which of the following reasons best describe why you oppose them?	No	81%	81%	80%	78%
	Yes	19%	19%	20%	22%
	Total	313	155	89	45

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		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
[Base: Oppose NPP at Q2] 5_6. [Takes away focus from developing renewable energy sources (wind, solar, etc.)] You mentioned you oppose relying on nuclear power energy plants for American electricity. Which of the following reasons best describe why you support them?	No	62%	52%	74%	68%
	Yes	38%	48%	26%	32%
	Total	313	155	89	45
[Base: Oppose NPP at Q2] 5_7. [Risks associated with storing nuclear waste] You mentioned you oppose relying on nuclear power energy plants for American electricity. Which of the following reasons best describe why you oppose them?	No	36%	33%	46%	26%
	Yes	64%	67%	54%	74%
	Total	313	155	89	45
[Base: Oppose NPP at Q2] 5_8. [Other] You mentioned you oppose relying on nuclear power energy plants for American electricity. Which of the following reasons best describe why you oppose them?	No	99%	99%	98%	99%
	Yes	1%	1%	2%	1%
	Total	313	155	89	45
[Base: Oppose NPP at Q2] 5_9. [Not sure] You mentioned you oppose relying on nuclear power energy plants for American electricity. Which of the following reasons best describe why you oppose them?	No	96%	96%	97%	96%
	Yes	4%	4%	3%	4%
	Total	313	155	89	45

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		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
[Base: Support or oppose NPP at Q2] 6. Have you always ... nuclear power plants?	Yes	60%	61%	67%	53%
	No	21%	24%	18%	21%
	Not sure	18%	15%	15%	26%
	Total	795	346	296	106
[Base: No to Q6] 7. You mentioned you haven't always ... nuclear power plants. When did your feelings change? Your best guess	Within the last year	10%	13%	8%	0%
	1-3 years ago	16%	19%	10%	25%
	3-5 years ago	19%	20%	24%	8%
	5-10 years ago	11%	15%	7%	0%
	10-15 years ago	12%	12%	10%	18%
	15 years ago, or more	13%	13%	19%	8%
	Not sure	19%	8%	22%	41%
	Total	167	83	49	22

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About the Study

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between June 1-2, 2022 on behalf of Thomson Reuters. For this survey, a sample of 1,004 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English.

The sample was randomly drawn from Ipsos' online panel, partner online panel sources, and "river" sampling 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 2019 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Posthoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, and education.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online non-probability 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 3.8 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=1,004, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=+/- 5.3 percentage points).

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Founded in France in 1975, Ipsos is listed on the Euronext Paris since July 1st, 1999. 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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