

THE GALLUP ORGANIZATION

Public Opinion Regarding America's Space Program

Submitted to:

The Space Foundation

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Submitted by:

THE GALLUP ORGANIZATION

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Methodology

The survey results are based on a nationally representative sample of 1001 telephone interviews with a general population sample of U.S. adult men and women age 18 and over residing in telephone households. Interviewing was conducted by the Gallup Organization's full-time interviewing staff during the period of June 9 - July 1, 2005. The survey was commissioned by The Space Foundation in an effort to better understand the extent of support and public attitudes toward America's space program.

The sample used for this survey was a random digit telephone sample drawn from telephone exchanges serving the continental United States. The design of the sample ensures representation of both listed and unlisted numbers by random generation of the last two digits of telephone numbers selected on the basis of their area code, telephone exchange and bank number.

A three-call design was used; that is one initial call and up to two additional calls were made to a household to reach an eligible respondent. Only one interview within each household was conducted. For results based on samples of this size, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects could be plus or minus three percentage points. In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias in the findings of opinion polls.

Detailed Findings

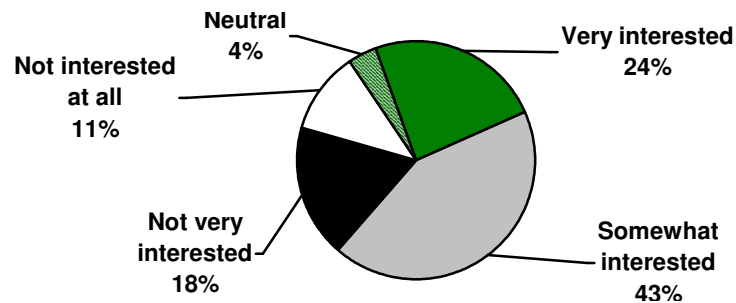
Interest in America's Space Program

Q1: How would you describe your overall interest in America's space program? Would you say you are very interested, somewhat interested, not very interested or not interested at all?

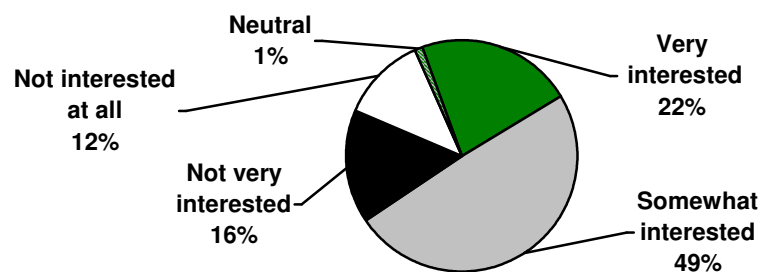
Currently, 71% of the adult public report having interest in America's space program. Twenty-two percent say they are very interested and 49% somewhat interested. In 2004, 67% said they were interested in the space program. While majorities in each demographic group express interest in America's space program, some are more likely than others to express interest.

- Men are more likely than women to say they are very interested in the space program (26% vs. 18%).
- Adults under age 35 are less likely than their counterparts to say they are very interested (16% age 18-34 say they are very interested). This compares to 26% among those age 50-64 who say are very interested.
- The college-educated are more likely than adults who have not attended college to say they are very interested in the space program (26% vs. 16%).

Interest In America's Space Program 2004 (n=1000)



2005 (n=1001)



Main Reason Why America Continues To Explore Space

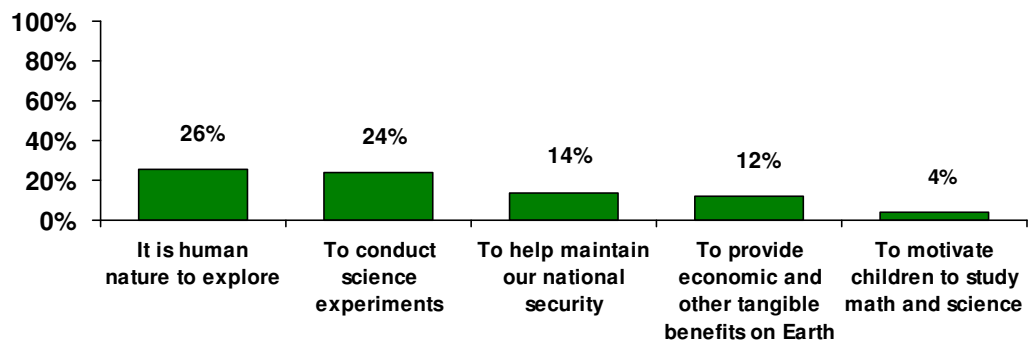
Q2: What do you think is the main reason why America continues to explore space?

- It is human nature to explore
- To conduct science experiments
- To help our national security
- To provide economic and other tangible benefits on Earth
- To motivate children to study math and science
- Or, some other reason

Approximately one in every four (26%) believe that America continues to explore space because it is human nature to do so. As many (24%) believe America explores space to conduct science experiments. Fourteen percent of the public feel America continues to explore space to help maintain its national security. Twelve percent believe we explore space to provide economic benefits on earth.

Adults under age 50 are more likely than that age 65 and over to feel America explores space to conduct scientific experiments (28% vs. 15%). Men, more often than women, are also of this opinion (28% vs. 21%).

Main Reason America Continues To Explore Space (n=1001)



Attitudes Toward Both Manned Exploration and Unmanned Exploration With Robotics

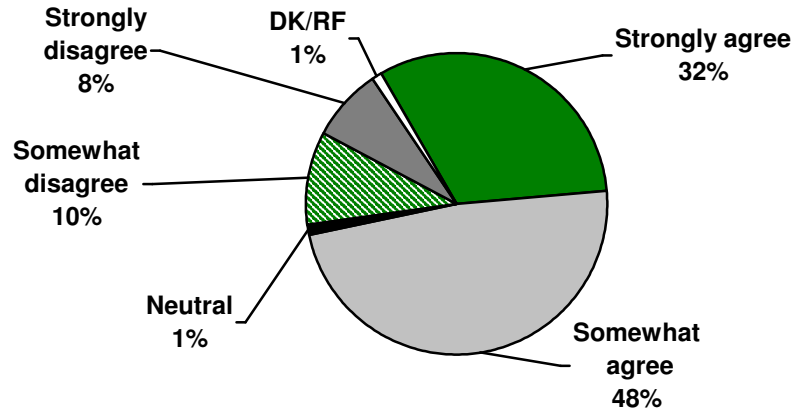
Q6A: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? “America’s space program helps give America the scientific and technological edge it needs to compete with other nations in the international marketplace.” “America’s space program benefits the nation’s economy by inspiring students to pursue careers in technical fields.” Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree?

A large majority (80%) of the adults surveyed agree that “America’s space program helps give America the scientific and technological edge it needs to compete with other nations in the international marketplace.” Men are more likely than women to strongly agree (36% vs. 29%). Adults under age 35 are less likely to agree with this statement (21% strongly agree vs. 40% among those age 50-64 and 38% among adults age 35-49). In addition, Republicans are more likely than Democrats or Independents to strongly agree with statement.

About three-quarters (76%) agree (either strongly or somewhat) that “America’s space program benefits the nation’s economy by inspiring students to pursue careers in technical fields.” There was not a great deal of variation in the responses to this questioning by the various demographic groups. Those most interested in the space program were the most likely to strongly agree with this statement.

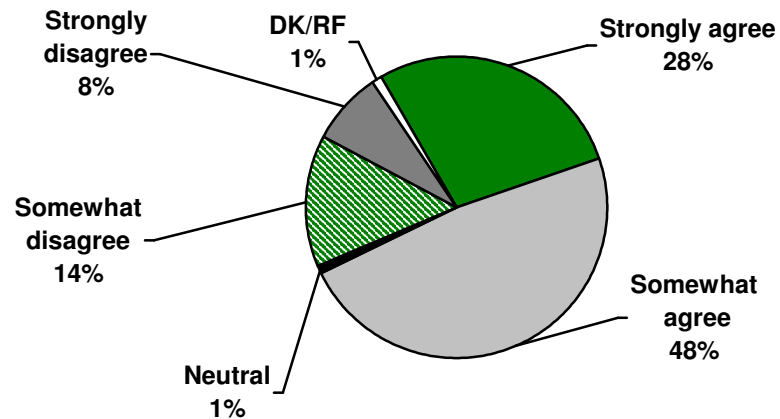
Agreement With Statement (n=1001)

“America’s space program helps give America the scientific and technological edge it needs to compete with other nations in the international marketplace”



Agreement With Statement (n=1001)

“America’s space program benefits the nation’s economy by inspiring students to pursue careers in technical fields”



Opinion Regarding The Funding of the Space Program

Q4: NASA'S budget request this year is under one percent of the federal budget which would amount to approximately \$58 per year for the average citizen. Do you think the nation should continue to fund space exploration...?

-At this current level

-At a slightly increased level

-At a significantly increased level

-At a slightly decreased level

-At a significantly decreased level

-Not fund at all

About one-third (36%) of the adults surveyed are of the opinion that the nation should continue to fund space exploration at the current level, while 37% believe funding should be increased (25% at a slightly increased level and 12% at a significantly increased level).

- Women are more likely than men to report wanting to keep funding at its present level.
- Conversely, men more than women, say they would like to see funding increased slightly.
- Republicans are more likely than Democrats to want to keep funding at the present level.
- Not surprisingly, the more interest a respondent has in the space program, the more likely he or she is to want to increase funding.

Opinion Regarding the Funding of the Space Program

	2005 %
At this current level	36
At a slightly increased level	25
At a significantly increased level	12
At a slightly decreased level	12
At a significantly decreased level	4
Not fund at all	8
Don't know/Refused	3
Total	100
Number of Interviews	(1001)

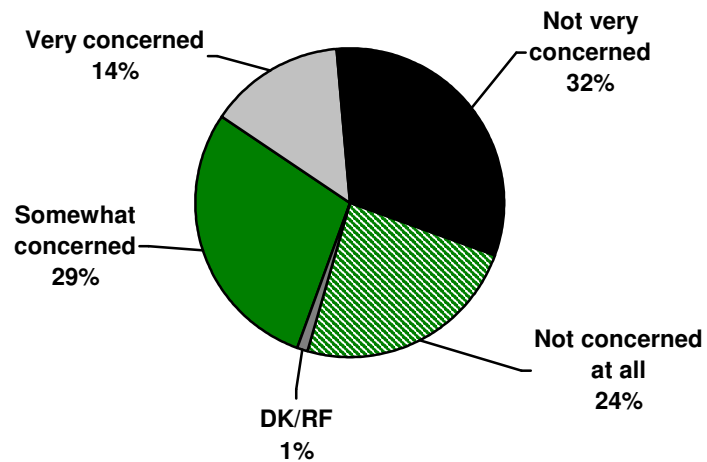
Concern That America Will Lose Its Leadership Role in Space

Q5A: A number of Asian and European countries now have space programs of their own or have announced plans for space activities and exploration. As more countries embark on space programs, how concerned are you that the U.S. will lose its leadership in space? Would you say you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned or not concerned at all?

While more than half of the adults surveyed say they are not concerned that America will lose its leadership role in space, four in ten (43%) report they are concerned about this.

There were no differences by gender in opinions in this regard. A majority in each demographic group said they were not concerned that America would lose its leadership role.

Concern That the U.S. Will Lose Its Leadership in Space (n=1001)



Extent of Support For New Plan For Space Exploration

Q7: In January 2004, a new plan or goal for space exploration was announced. The plan includes a stepping-stone approach to return the space shuttle to flight, complete assembly of the space station, build a replacement for the shuttle, go back to the Moon, and travel to Mars and beyond. If NASA's budget did not exceed one percent of the federal budget, to what extent would you support or oppose this new plan for space exploration? Would you strongly support it, support it, oppose it or strongly oppose it?

Three-quarters (77%) of the public supports the new plan for space exploration as outlined above (26% strongly support it and 51% support it). One in five (20%) oppose the new space exploration program.

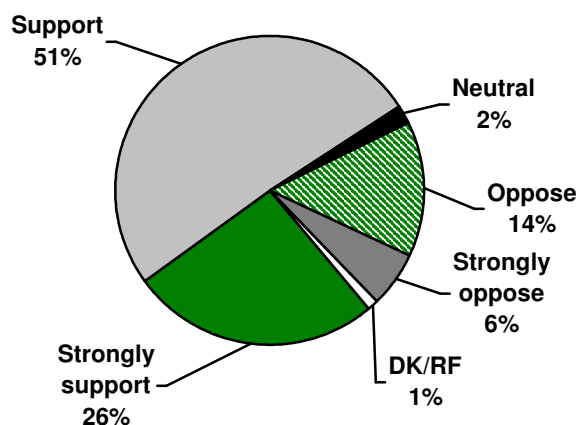
Strong support for this new space plan is greatest among:

- Men (32% strongly support the plan)
- College graduates (32% strongly support it)
- Those very interested in the space program (57% strongly support).

Those more likely than others to oppose the plan are:

- Independents (27% oppose the plan)
- Adults age 65 and over (36% oppose the plan).

Extent of Support for 2004 Plan for Space Exploration (n=1001)



Technical Appendix

Sampling Tolerances

In interpreting survey results, it should be borne in mind that all sample surveys are subject to sampling error, that is, the extent to which the results may differ from what would be obtained if the whole population had been interviewed. The size of such sampling errors depends largely on the number of interviews.

The following tables may be used in estimating the sampling error of any percentage in this report. The computed allowances have taken into account the effect of the sample design upon sampling error. They may be interpreted as indicating the range (plus or minus the figure shown) within which the results of repeated samplings in the same time period could be expected to vary, 95 percent of the time, assuming the same sampling procedures, the same interviewers, and the same questionnaire.

The first table shows how much allowance should be made for the sampling error of a percentage:

Recommended Allowance for Sampling Error
of a Percentage

In Percentage Points
 (at 95 in 100 confidence level)*
 S A M P L E S I Z E

	1000	700	500	300	200	100
PERCENTAGES NEAR 10	2	2	3	4	5	6
PERCENTAGES NEAR 20	3	3	4	5	6	9
PERCENTAGES NEAR 30	3	4	4	6	7	10
PERCENTAGES NEAR 40	3	4	5	6	7	11
PERCENTAGES NEAR 50	3	4	5	6	8	11
PERCENTAGES NEAR 60	3	4	5	6	7	11
PERCENTAGES NEAR 70	3	4	4	6	7	10
PERCENTAGES NEAR 80	3	3	4	5	6	9
PERCENTAGES NEAR 90	2	2	3	4	5	6

* THE CHANCES ARE 95 IN 100 THAT THE SAMPLING ERROR IS NOT LARGER THAN THE FIGURE SHOWN.

The table would be used in the following manner: Let us say a reported percentage is 33 for a group which includes 1000 respondents. Then we go to row "percentages near 30" in the table and go across to the column headed "1000". The number at this point is 3, which means that the 33 percent obtained in the sample is subject to a sampling error of plus or minus 3 points. Another way of saying it is that very probably (95 chances of 100) the true figure would be somewhere between 30 and 36, with the most likely figure the 33 obtained.

In comparing survey results in two samples, such as, for example, men and women, the question arises as to how large a difference between them must be before one can be reasonably sure that it reflects a real difference. In the tables below, the number of points which must be allowed for in such comparisons is indicated.

Two tables are provided. One is for percentages near 20 or 80; the other for percentages near 50. For percentages in between, the error to be allowed for is between those shown in the two tables.

**RECOMMENDED ALLOWANCE FOR SAMPLING
ERROR OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
20 % AND 80 %**

**IN PERCENTAGE POINTS
(AT 95 IN 100 CONFIDENCE LEVEL)*
S A M P L E S I Z E**

=====

	<u>1000</u>	<u>700</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>100</u>
1000	4					
700	4	5				
500	5	5	5			
300	6	6	6	7		
200	7	7	7	8	9	
100	9	9	9	10	11	12

**RECOMMENDED ALLOWANCE FOR SAMPLING
ERROR OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
50 % AND 50 %**

**IN PERCENTAGE POINTS
(AT 95 IN 100 CONFIDENCE LEVEL)*
S A M P L E S I Z E**

=====

	<u>1000</u>	<u>700</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>100</u>
1000	5					
700	5	6				
500	6	6	7			
300	7	7	8	9		
200	8	9	9	10	11	
100	11	12	12	12	13	15