

Case study - Spain

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Survey on Social Perception of Science and Technology

Conducted every two years in Spain by FECYT, since 2002.

- Aim: to deepen understanding of the beliefs, attitudes and behaviours of the population residing in Spain with regard to science and technology.
- Strength: continuity over time. It has been **conducted continuously for more than 20 years** (13th edition is currently in progress).

Survey on Social Perception of Science and Technology

Methodology:

- Face-to-face interviews
- Population: Spanish citizens and residents in Spain for 5 or more years, of both sexes, aged 15 and over.
- 4,500 – 7000 interviews.
- Sampling procedure: Multi-stage, stratified, using proportional random sampling, and final units (individuals) using random routes and sex and age quotas.
- Sampling error 2024: $\pm 1.49\%$ (95.5% 2s and $p=q$, assuming simple random sampling)

Dimensions (2024 Survey):

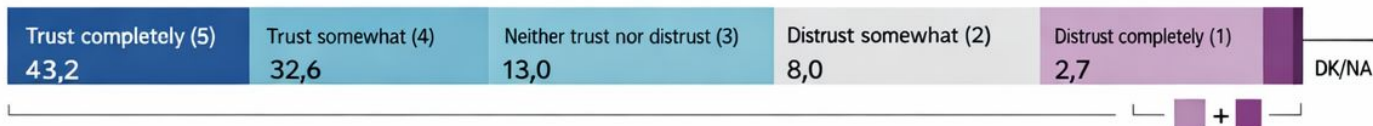
- Public interest in science and technology.
- Science communication
- Trust in science
- Artificial intelligence
- Climate change
- The state of research in Spain

Trust in scientific research

Trust in Scientific Research

To what extent do you distrust or trust scientific research?

Percentage of total responses. Average (1-5).



AI translated graph.

Trust in scientists

■ TOTALLY AGREE (5)
 ■ MOSTLY AGREE (4)
 ■ NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE (3)
 ■ TOTALLY DISAGREE (5)
 ■ MOSTLY DISAGREE
 ■ NS/NC

Scientists are experts in their field



Scientists follow rules and standard procedures



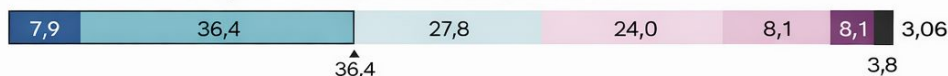
Scientists investigate for the common good



Scientists take the public into account in their research



Scientists inform the public about the results of their research

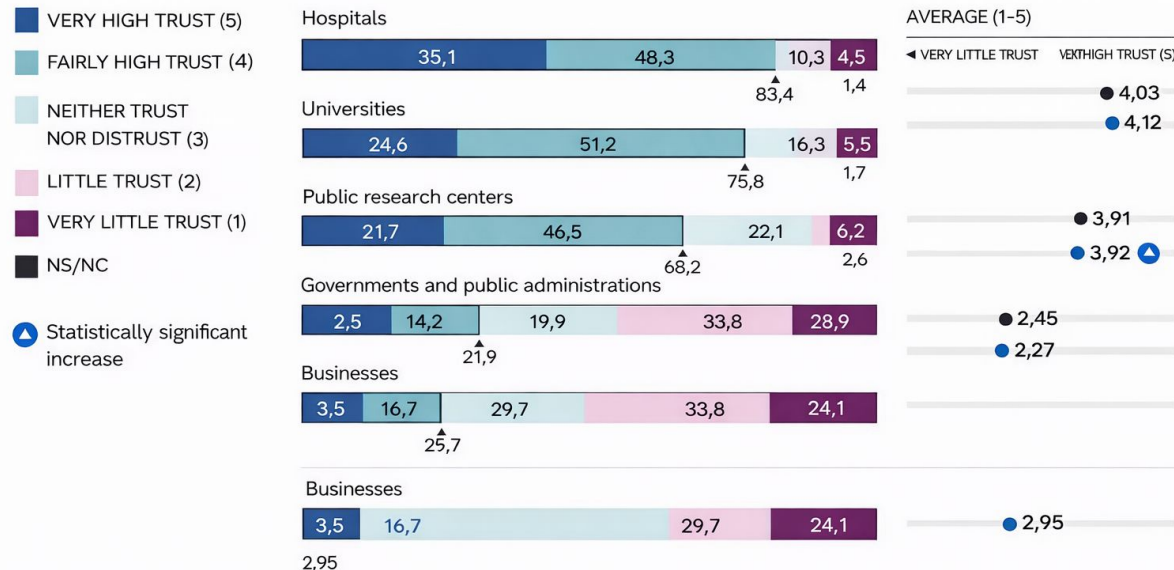


AI translated graph..

Trust in institutions

? Now I would like you to tell me, for each of the institutions I'm going to mention, whether at this moment they inspire very little trust, little trust, neither trust nor distrust, fairly high trust or very high trust when it comes to dealing with Science and Technology-related issues.

Figures in percentage of the total. Average (1-5).



AI translated graph.

Trust in science

As long as the consequences of a new technology are unknown, we should act cautiously and control its use to protect health or the environment.



Those who fund research can influence scientists to reach the conclusions they prefer.



The scientific method is the only reliable way to obtain knowledge.



Scientific knowledge is the best basis for making laws and regulations.



It is not important for me to know about science in my daily life.



MEDIA (1-5)

● 2022 ● 2024

◀ TOTALLY DISAGREE (1)

TOTALLY AGREE (5)



AI translated graph.

Conclusions

- In general, Spanish citizens show a high level of trust in science.
- In general, educational level and socioeconomic status are the variables that have the greatest influence on trust.
- The population does not reject scientific knowledge, but demands that it be oriented towards the common good, that it not be captured by particular interests, and that it engage in dialogue with society as a whole.
- Although trust in science and researchers is high, the study detects a growing concern about the independence of the scientific system and its links to economic or political interests.
- There is a significant increase in conspiracy thinking and, in particular, mistrust of the role of commercial interests in science (a phenomenon that is widespread across Europe, not exclusive to Spain, and which is reflected in the 2025 Eurobarometer).
- Science continues to be recognised, but no longer as an infallible source, but as a system that is required to be transparent, socially oriented and accountable.