






Station Social Media

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The International Space Station marked its 10th anniversary of continuous human occupation on Nov. 2, 2010. Since Expedition 1, which launched Oct. 31, 2000, and docked Nov. 2, the space station has been visited by 204 individuals.

At the time of the anniversary, the station's odometer read more than 1.5 billion statute miles (the equivalent of eight round trips to the Sun), over the course of 57,361 orbits around the Earth.

The International Space Station is not only an orbiting laboratory, but also a space port for a variety of international spacecraft. As of June 2013, there have been:

- 89 Russian launches
- 37 Space Shuttle launches
- 1 test flight and 2 operational flights by SpaceX's Dragon
- 3 Japanese HTVs
- 3 European ATVs

A total of 168 spacewalks have been conducted in support of space station assembly totaling more than 1,061 hours, or more than 44 days.

The space station, including its large solar arrays, spans the area of a U.S. football field, including the end zones, and weighs 924,739 pounds. The complex now has more livable room than a conventional five-bedroom house, and has two bathrooms, a gymnasium and a 360-degree bay window.

Additional launches will continue to augment these facts and figures, so check back here for the latest.

International Space Station Size & Mass

- Length — 12.56 m (41.2 ft)
- Diameter — 4.11 m (13.5 ft)
- Solar array length — 10.67 m (35.0 ft)
- Solar array width — 3.35 m (11.0 ft)
- Mass — 19,323 kg (42,600 lb)

Expedition 1: First ISS Crew



Launch: Oct. 31, 2000

Vehicle: Russian Soyuz

Docking: Nov. 2, 2000

Undocking: March 18, 2001

Vehicle: Space Shuttle Discovery

Landing: March 21, 2001

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The Expedition 34 Crew Lands in Kazakhstan



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International Space Station at Completion



Image above: Expedition 22 Flight Engineer Oleg Kotov wears a Russian Orlan spacesuit during a spacewalk. Credit: NASA

- The ISS solar array surface area could cover the U.S. Senate Chamber three times over.
- ISS is larger than a five-bedroom house.
- ISS has an internal pressurized volume of 32,333 cubic feet, or equal that of a Boeing 747.
- The solar array wingspan (240 feet) is longer than that of a Boeing 777 200/300 model, which is 212 feet.
- Fifty-two computers control the systems on the ISS.
- More than 115 space flights were conducted on five different types of launch vehicles over the course of the station's construction.
- More than 100 telephone-booth-sized rack facilities can be in the ISS for operating the spacecraft systems and research experiments.
- The ISS is almost four times as large as the Russian space station Mir and about five times as large as the U.S. Skylab.
- The ISS weighs almost one million pounds (approximately 925,000 pounds). That's the equivalent of more than 320 automobiles.
- The ISS measures 357 feet end-to-end. That's equivalent to the length of a football field including the end zones (well, almost – a football field is 360 feet).
- 3.3 million lines of software code on the ground support 1.8 million lines of flight software code.
- Eight miles of wire connects the electrical power system.
- In the International Space Station's U.S. segment alone, 1.5 million lines of flight software code run on 44 computers communicating via 100 data networks transferring 400,000 signals (e.g. pressure or temperature measurements, valve positions, etc.).
- The ISS manages 20 times as many signals as the space shuttle.
- Main U.S. control computers have 1.5 gigabytes of total main hard drive storage in the U.S. segment compared to modern PCs, which have ~500 gigabyte hard drives.
- The entire 55-foot robot arm assembly is capable of lifting 220,000 pounds, which is the weight of a space shuttle orbiter.
- The 75 to 90 kilowatts of power for the ISS is supplied by an acre of solar panels.

