

## Macro Roundup Article

**Headline:** [It's Not a Space Race, It's the Space Olympics](#)

**Article Link:** <https://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Space-Olympics-Working-Paper.pdf?x85095>

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Publication	American Enterprise Institute
Publication Date	August 08, 2024

**Tweet:** In 2024 the US had 81% of commercial satellites in operation and 86% of global effective launch capacity. @ToddHarrisonDC @AEI argues this creates “a once-in-a-generation opportunity to extend a rules-based international order into space.”

**Summary:** The United States holds a commanding lead in the number of commercial satellites (81% of all commercial satellites in operation today) and in launch (86% of global effective launch capacity so far in 2024). NATO allies (mainly the United Kingdom and France) are a distant second place in the number of commercial satellites (11%), and China is a distant second in effective launch capacity (9%). China is working hard to catch up, and it has plans for mega constellations of satellites and reusable rockets. In many cases, however, it is merely copying what has already proven successful for US companies. The other major space powers, such as Russia, India, and Japan, are well behind the United States, Europe, and China in the commercial space competition. The United States has a window of opportunity to build and extend its lead in nearly all areas of the competition in space, but it must act quickly and in partnership with like-minded nations to remain competitive in all events. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to extend a rules-based international order into space.

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**Primary Topic:** Innovation/Research

**Topics:** Innovation/Research, Investment, Op-Ed/Blog Post, Productivity, Security

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