



## **Financial Times/Harris Poll Monthly Opinions of Adults from Five European Countries,**

**June 2008** - Below are the most recent data from the Financial Times/Harris Poll, a monthly poll of adults from five countries in Europe. The countries include France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, and Spain.

For more information about the polls and to view the articles by the Financial Times that are based on these data, visit [www.ft.com](http://www.ft.com). For inquiries, contact Tracey McNerney at 585-214-7756 or [press@harrisinteractive.com](mailto:press@harrisinteractive.com).

### **Source**

This FT/Harris Poll was conducted online by Harris Interactive among a total of 5,104 adults (aged 16-64) within France (1,013), Germany (1,005), Great Britain (1,059), and Spain (1,010), adults (aged 18-64) in Italy (1,017) between 28 May and 9 June 2008.

### **Complete survey methodology**

This **FT/Harris Poll** was conducted online by Harris Interactive among a total of 5,014 adults (aged 16-64) within France, Germany, Great Britain, and Spain, adults (aged 18-64) in Italy between 28 May and 9 June 2008. Figures for age, sex, education, region and Internet usage were weighted where necessary to bring them into line with their actual proportions in the population. Propensity score weighting was used to adjust for respondents' propensity to be online.

**Unweighted bases** for the survey are: Total (5,104); France (1,013); Germany (1,005); Great Britain (1,059); Italy (1,017); and Spain (1,010).

Weighted bases for the survey are: Total (5,104); France (1,013); Germany (1,004); Great Britain (1,059); Italy (1,017); and Spain (1,011).

All sample surveys and polls, whether or not they use probability sampling, are subject to multiple sources of error which are most often not possible to quantify or estimate, including sampling error, coverage error, error associated with nonresponse, error associated with question wording and response options, and post-survey weighting and adjustments. Therefore, Harris Interactive avoids the words "margin of error" as they are misleading. All that can be calculated are different possible sampling errors with different probabilities for pure, unweighted, random samples with 100% response rates. These are only theoretical because no published polls come close to this ideal.

Respondents for this survey were selected from among those who have agreed to participate in Harris Interactive surveys. The data have been weighted to reflect the composition of the adult populations within those countries that were surveyed. Because the sample is based on those who agreed to participate in the Harris Interactive panel, no estimates of theoretical sampling error can be calculated.

*These statements conform to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls and the British Polling Council.*

**TABLE 1  
NHS AS ENVY OF THE WORLD**

“For the following statements, please say how much you agree or disagree with each. The National Health Service (NHS) in the UK is the envy of the world.”

Base: All EU adults in five countries

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany
	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1059	1013	1017	1010	1005
AGREE (NET)	59	3	16	7	8
Strongly agree	22	1	3	3	1
Somewhat agree	37	3	13	5	7
Neither agree nor disagree	21	44	69	62	71
DISAGREE (NET)	20	53	15	31	21
Somewhat disagree	14	19	12	10	9
Strongly disagree	6	34	3	21	12

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

**While majorities in Great Britain believe the NHS is the envy of the world, adults in the four other EU countries are not as sure. A majority of French adults disagree with this idea while strong majorities in Italy, Spain and Germany neither agree nor disagree.**

**TABLE 2  
ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE DEPENDS ON PAYMENT ABILITY**

“For the following statements, please say how much you agree or disagree with each. Access to health care in {Great Britain, France, Italy, Spain, Germany} depends on the patient’s ability to pay for it.”

Base: All EU adults in five countries

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany
	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1059	1013	1017	1010	1005
AGREE (NET)	25	38	38	28	69
Strongly agree	3	9	12	7	32
Somewhat agree	21	28	26	21	37
Neither agree nor disagree	25	15	14	17	16
DISAGREE (NET)	50	48	48	55	15
Somewhat disagree	28	31	25	21	10
Strongly disagree	22	17	23	34	5

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

**Over two-thirds of Germans agree that access to health care in their country depends on payment ability. A majority of Spaniards, half of British adults and just under half of adults in France and Italy all disagree with this idea.**

**TABLE 3**  
**COUNTRY'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IS ENVY OF THE WORLD**

“For the following statements, please say how much you agree or disagree with each. The health care system in [France, Italy, Spain, Germany] is the envy of the world.”

Base: All EU adults in four countries

	France	Italy	Spain	Germany
	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1013	1017	1010	1005
AGREE (NET)	70	20	38	32
Strongly agree	23	4	11	5
Somewhat agree	47	16	27	27
Neither agree nor disagree	22	29	29	37
DISAGREE (NET)	9	52	33	32
Somewhat disagree	6	27	18	17
Strongly disagree	3	24	15	15

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

**Very strong majorities of French adults agree that their health care system is the envy of the world while a majority of Italians disagree about their health care system being the envy of the world. Adults in Spain and Germany are more mixed with Spaniards leaning towards agreeing about their health care system being the envy of the world and Germans leaning towards neither agreeing nor disagreeing about their health care system.**

**TABLE 3  
LARGEST THREAT TO SURVIVAL OF HEALTH CARE SYSTEM**

“In your opinion, which of the following is the biggest threat to the survival of the healthcare system in [France, Italy, Spain, Germany] in its current form?”

Base: All EU adults in four countries

	France	Italy	Spain	Germany
	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1013	1017	1010	1005
The costs associated with increasing life expectancy	40	28	33	43
The reluctance of those who pay for the system (whether taxpayers, governments or contributors such as employers and individuals) to meet those costs	29	41	33	32
The costs of technological change	7	8	11	8
Mismanagement of budgets	1	3	1	1
Abused/Taken advantage of	4	*	1	*
Immigrants receiving health treatment for free	1	*	3	1
Legislation/Government/Politics	*	2	1	1
Fraud/corruption	1	2	*	*
The drain on the healthcare system by people who haven't paid into the system (e.g. people on benefits/welfare)	1	*	1	2
Unnecessary tests/treatments/medical care	2	1	*	*
Poor management	*	2	*	*
Poor health care/not a good service/uncaring staff	-	1	1	*
Increased bureaucracy	-	1	*	1
Pharmaceutical industry	*	*	*	1
Unqualified staff/low number of staff	*	1	1	-
Poor investment	*	*	1	1
Unemployment/low income	*	-	1	*
Absenteeism (staff, patient, etc.)	1	1	*	-
Privatisation	*	*	1	*
Too many high level managers	*	1	-	*
The extortionate salaries paid to directors/chief execs, etc	*	-	-	1
Lack of reform/outdated policies	*	-	-	*
Inflation/outgoings/cost (general)	*	*	*	*
Unhealthy practices (Drunk, obese, smoking, etc.)	-	-	*	*
Too many non-medical staff (e.g. managers, admin workers, etc.)	*	-	*	*
People coming from abroad to gain free treatments/ healthcare tourists	-	-	*	*
Lack of competition	*	*	*	*
Increasing population	-	-	*	-
Too much focus put on reaching targets set by government	-	*	-	-
Other	4	1	2	3
None of these	10	11	10	8
Not sure/Not stated/not answered/refused	*	*	*	1

Note: \* indicates less than 0.5% and - indicates no response

**A plurality of adults in France and Germany believe the greatest threat to the survival of the health care system is longer life expectancy while a plurality of Italians believe the greatest threat is the reluctance of those who pay for the system to meet those costs. Spaniards are split with one-third saying the threat is from a longer life expectancy and the same number saying it's the reluctance of those who pay for the system to meet these costs.**

**TABLE 5**  
**OVERALL FEELINGS OF THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM**

“Which of the following statements comes closest to expressing your overall view of the health care system in [France, Italy, Spain, Germany]?”

Base: All EU adults in four countries

	France	Italy	Spain	Germany
	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1013	1017	1010	1005
There are some good things in our health care system, but fundamental changes are needed to make it work better.	47	66	61	61
On the whole, the system works pretty well and only minor changes are necessary to make it work better.	29	11	22	16
Our health care system has so much wrong with it that we need to completely rebuild it.	15	20	12	17
Not sure	4	1	3	4
Decline to answer	5	1	2	1

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

**Two-thirds of Italians as well as three in five Spaniards and Germans say fundamental changes are needed to the health care system in their country to make it work better. French adults are a little more optimistic as just under half believe fundamental changes are needed while nearly three in ten say just minor changes are needed.**

**TABLE 6  
DIFFERENCE IN GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR**

“Do you think the NHS should remain largely tax-funded and free to patients or would you be prepared to make top-up payments for some services in the future?”

Base: British adults

	Great Britain
	%
Unweighted base	1059
Remain largely free	90
I would be willing to make top-up payments	10

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

**Probably not surprisingly, nine in ten British adults want the NHS to remain largely tax-funded and free, while only one in ten would be willing to make top-up payments.**

**TABLE 7  
WHEN TOP-UP PAYMENTS WOULD BE MADE**

“In which of the following circumstances would you be prepared to make top-up payments?”

Base: British adults willing to make top-up payments on the NHS

	Great Britain
	%
Unweighted base	127
To obtain a certain service more quickly	82
To obtain a drug that prolonged life for a short time but as not considered cost-effective by the NHS	67
To have a private room	4
Non vital/ essential surgeries or treatments	1
Other	5

Note: Multiple response

**Among those who would be willing to make top-up payments, four in five would do so to obtain a certain service more quickly, while two-thirds say they would do so to obtain a drug classified as non cost-effective by the NHS.**

**TABLE 8  
TOP-UP PAYMENTS MARKING END OF NHS MODEL**

“In your opinion, would the introduction of top-up payments mark the end of the NHS model of equal access to treatment regardless of need?”

Base: British adults

	Great Britain
	%
Unweighted base	1059
Yes	86
No	14

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

**If top-up payments are introduced, very strong majorities of British adults believe that would mark the end of the NHS model of equal access to treatment regardless of need.**

**TABLE 9  
HOW NHS PROVIDES CARE**

“As you may know, the NHS provides care through NHS-run institutions. It also provides care through private sector companies and voluntary bodies that the NHS funds. Thinking about how the NHS serves you (and your family), with which one of the following statements do you agree?”

Base: British adults

	Great Britain
	%
Unweighted base	1059
I am happy to receive care provided by NHS-owned institutions, voluntary bodies and private sector companies funded by the NHS	64
I am happy to receive care provided by both NHS-owned institutions and voluntary bodies, but not private sector companies funded by the NHS.	18
I am only happy to receive care provided by NHS-owned institutions	13
None of these	6

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

**Looking at how NHS provides care, almost two-thirds of adults say they are happy to receive care by all three possibilities – NHS owned institutions, voluntary bodies and private sector companies funded by NHS.**

**TABLE 10  
FUTURE OF NHS**

“Do you think the model of the NHS for the past 60 years (tax funded and largely free at the point of use will continue?”

Base: British adults

	Great Britain
	%
Unweighted base	1059
Yes	51
No	49

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

**As to whether the model of the NHS will continue, British adults are split – just over half say it will continue.**

**TABLE 11  
DIFFERENCE IN GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR**

“For how many years do you think the model of the NHS for the past 60 years will continue?”

Base: British adults who believe NHS model will not continue

	Great Britain
	%
Unweighted base	517
Five years	32
Ten years	56
To the end of your lifetime	12

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

**Among those adults who believe the NHS model will not continue, just over half believe it will continue for ten years while about one-third say it will continue for just five years.**

**TABLE 12  
LARGEST THREAT TO SURVIVAL OF NHS**

“In your opinion, which of the following is the biggest threat to the survival of the NHS in its current form?”

Base: British adults

	Great Britain
	%
Unweighted base	1059
Politicians deciding they do not want to fund the NHS	27
Immigrants receiving health treatment for free	19
The costs associated with increasing life expectancy	16
Mismanagement of budgets within NHS	12
Too many high level managers within NHS	10
Taxpayers are no longer willing to pay high enough taxes to keep the system going	8
The costs of technological changes	4
People coming from abroad to gain free NHS treatments / NHS tourists	1
Too many non-medical staff within the NHS (e.g. managers, admin workers, etc.)	*
Increased bureaucracy within the NHS	*
Too much focus put on reaching targets set by the Government	*
The extortionate salaries paid to directors/ chief executives, etc.	*
The drain on NHS by people who haven't paid into the system (e.g. people on benefits)	*
Other	2
None of these	3
Not sure/not stated/ not answered/ refused	*

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

**Thinking of what the largest threat to the survival of the NHS is, over one-quarter of British adults say it is politicians deciding they do not want to fund it, followed by immigrants receiving health treatments for fee.**

**TABLE 13  
PLACE OF NHS IN BRITISH SOCIETY**

“Thinking about the place of the NHS in British society, which statement best represents your views?”

Base: British adults

	Great Britain
	%
Unweighted base	1059
The NHS is crucial to British society and we must do everything to maintain it	69
The NHS was a great enterprise but we probably cannot maintain it in its current form	24
None of these statements represents my view	7

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

**Over two-thirds of British adults believe the NHS is crucial to British society and we must do everything to maintain it while just under one-quarter believe it was a great idea, but cannot be maintained as it currently is.**

**TABLE 11  
GREATEST THREATS TO GLOBAL STABILITY**

“Which one, if any, of the following countries do you think is the greatest threat to global stability?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries and in the U.S.

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany
	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1059	1013	1017	1010	1005
US	27	25	19	41	23
China	23	39	34	21	30
Iran	11	15	23	12	14
Iraq	11	4	9	12	9
Russia	7	2	2	1	5
North Korea	6	3	2	3	3
Israel	1	-	*	*	*
India	-	*	*	-	*
Pakistan	*	-	-	-	*
No country – religious fundamentalists are the biggest threat	-	*	-	-	-
Afghanistan	*	-	-	-	*
Saudi Arabia	*	*	-	-	-
Muslim (country not specified)	-	-	-	*	-
Africa (country not specified)	-	-	*	-	*
France	-	*	-	-	-
Palestine	*	-	-	-	-
Middle East (country not specified)	-	*	*	*	-
No one country – all are a threat	-	-	*	1	-
Turkey	-	-	-	-	*
No country – terrorist organizations	-	*	*	-	-
Other	*	*	*	*	*
None	13	10	10	9	14
Not sure/Not stated/Refused	1	1	*	1	*

Note: \* indicates less than 0.5%; “-“ indicates no response

**About Harris Interactive**

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