



Financial Times/Harris Poll Monthly Opinions of Adults from Five European Countries and the United States

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

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. For inquiries, contact Tracey Mc Nerney at 585-214-7756 or tmcnerney@harrisinteractive.com.

Source

This FT/Harris Poll was conducted online by Harris Interactive among a total of 6,478 adults (aged 16-64) within France (1,122), Germany (1,125), Great Britain (1,109), Spain (1,054) and the United States (1,057) and adults (aged 18-64) in Italy (1,011) between 27 February and 6 March 2008.

Complete survey methodology

This **FT/Harris Poll** was conducted online by Harris Interactive among a total of 6,478 adults (aged 16-64) within France, Germany, Great Britain, Spain, and the United States and adults (aged 18-64) in Italy between 27 February and 6 March 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 (6,478); France (1,122); Germany (1,125); Great Britain (1,109); Italy (1,011); Spain (1,054) and the United States (1,057).

Weighted bases for the survey are: Total (6,478); France (1,122); Germany (1,125); Great Britain (1,109); Italy (1,011); Spain (1,054) and the United States (1,057).

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
HIGH PROFILE FIGURE FOR EU**

“How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? – The EU needs a high profile figure to effectively represent it on the international stage.”

Base: All EU adults in five countries

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany
	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1109	1122	1011	1054	1125
AGREE (NET)	50	81	81	79	45
Completely agree	17	41	52	51	13
Agree more than disagree	33	40	29	28	33
DISAGREE (NET)	28	12	11	10	47
Disagree more than agree	12	9	7	6	24
Completely disagree	16	3	4	4	22
Not sure	22	6	8	12	8

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

Over three quarters of adults in France, Italy and Spain agree that the EU needs a high profile figure to represent it. In fact, over half of Italians and Spaniards completely agree with that sentiment. Just half of British adults believe this while Germany is more divided, but leaning towards disagreeing.

**TABLE 2
EU PRESIDENT**

“As you may or may not be aware, The Lisbon Treaty creates a basic constitutional framework for the entire EU, and it is scheduled to come into effect at the beginning of 2009, after it is approved by each of the EU’s 27 member countries. The treaty anticipates that there will be a European Union president. Assuming this was to occur, which of the following potential candidates would you be most likely to vote for?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany
	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1109	1122	1011	1054	1125
Tony Blair	17	12	16	8	6
Angela Merkel	4	18	18	12	14
Felipe Gonzales	1	4	4	31	2
Romano Prodi	1	2	10	2	3
Nicolas Sarkozy	*	3	*	*	*
Jean-Claude Juncker	*	1	1	*	7
Anders Fogh Rasmussen	*	1	1	*	2
Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero	-	*	2	*	-
Silvio Berlusconi	-	-	3	-	-
Someone else	8	5	7	5	9
None	3	1	*	1	3
Not sure/Refused	66	52	38	39	54

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

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

Angela Merkel receives most consent within European countries outside its own, followed by Tony Blair. Contrary to other national political representatives, Sarkozy gains little consent as possible president of Europe in France. Felipe Gonzales receives the largest support of any person in a single country, as three in ten Spaniards say he is the one they are most likely to vote for..

**TABLE 3
KOSOVO'S DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**

"Kosovo's parliament has recently unanimously endorsed a historic declaration of independence from Serbia. How much do you support or oppose Kosovo's declaration of independence?"

Base: All EU adults in five countries and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1109	1122	1011	1054	1125	1057
SUPPORT (NET)	48	55	64	37	56	43
Completely support	14	13	26	16	21	18
Support more than oppose	33	42	38	21	35	26
OPPOSE (NET)	6	12	18	35	20	5
Oppose more than support	4	9	11	20	13	3
Completely oppose	2	3	6	15	7	1
Not sure	46	33	18	28	24	52

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

Kosovo's declaration of independence receives majority support in France, Italy and Germany. In Great Britain and the United States more people are 'not sure' and there are few people who oppose it. Spain has the largest group of people who oppose the declaration of independence of Kosovo.

**TABLE 4
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO BALKANS**

"Some have suggested that the European Union should do more to promote stability in the Balkan region. How much would you support or oppose the following possible actions? – Providing general financial assistance to the region."

Base: All EU adults in five countries

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany
	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1109	1122	1011	1054	1125
SUPPORT (NET)	43	42	47	59	32
Completely support	9	7	13	20	5
Support more than oppose	34	35	34	39	27
OPPOSE (NET)	27	38	44	25	54
Oppose more than support	16	25	28	17	31
Completely oppose	11	13	16	9	22
Not sure	30	20	9	16	14

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

In Great Britain 1/3 of the population is not sure whether the EU should financially support the Balkans or not, the largest share in Europe. In Spain the majority of adults support the EU financial intervention in the Balkans, while a majority of adults in Germany and a large part of the population in Italy would oppose providing financial assistance to the Balkans.

**TABLE 5
SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO BALKANS**

“Some have suggested that the European Union should do more to promote stability in the Balkan region. How much would you support or oppose the following possible actions? – Providing assistance in the form of security.”

Base: All EU adults in five countries and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany
	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1109	1122	1011	1054	1125
SUPPORT (NET)	54	71	70	75	65
Completely support	12	19	27	35	15
Support more than oppose	42	52	42	40	50
OPPOSE (NET)	20	14	23	12	23
Oppose more than support	12	10	14	9	13
Completely oppose	7	3	9	3	10
Not sure	26	15	7	13	12

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

Security assistance to the Balkans, however, is more widely accepted as strong majorities in Spain, France, Italy and Germany as well as just over half of adults in Great Britain would support the EU providing assistance in the form of security. A relevant part of the population is not sure in Great Britain.

**TABLE 6
FINANCIAL CRISIS IMPACT**

“Now we’d like to ask you some questions about the recent crisis in the financial markets around the world. What impact has the recent financial crisis had on your personal financial situation?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1109	1122	1011	1054	1125	1057
Major impact	5	15	29	14	11	14
Moderate impact	13	30	33	31	15	28
Slight impact	35	24	28	32	30	36
No impact	47	31	10	22	44	21

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

Turning to the economy, just under half of British adults and a plurality of Germans each say they recent financial crisis has had no impact on their personal financial situation. Between one-quarter and just over one-third in all six countries say the crisis has had a slight impact on their financial situation while three in ten in France, Italy and Spain as well as just over one-quarter of Americans say the crisis has had a moderate impact. Italy seems to be hit the hardest as just under three in ten said the crisis has had a major impact on their personal financial situation.

TABLE 7
WORRYING ABOUT FINANCIAL SITUATION IN FUTURE

“Looking ahead to the next 6 months, how worried are you about your personal financial situation?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1109	1122	1011	1054	1125	1057
Extremely worried	4	16	14	16	7	10
Very worried	9	18	19	12	8	14
Fairly worried	16	28	36	26	17	20
Somewhat worried	38	29	24	34	43	40
Not at all worried	32	9	6	11	26	17

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

People that were not hit by the financial crisis tend to be less worried about their future situation. Looking ahead six months, almost one-third of British adults and one-quarter of Germans say they are not at all worried about their personal financial situation. One-third of French and Italian adults say they are extremely or very worried as do just under three in ten Spaniards and just under one quarter of Americans.

TABLE 8
WORRYING ABOUT FINANCIAL SITUATION 6 MONTHS AGO

“Thinking back to approximately 6 months ago, how worried were you about your personal financial situation at that time?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1109	1122	1011	1054	1125	1057
Extremely worried	3	7	7	11	6	5
Very worried	4	9	14	10	7	10
Fairly worried	15	25	33	25	18	18
Somewhat worried	36	37	34	40	41	38
Not at all worried	41	21	12	14	28	29

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

Looking back six months, the worry was less intense. Majorities in Great Britain, France, Spain, Germany and the US as well as a plurality in Italy all say they were only somewhat or not at all worried about their personal financial situation.

**TABLE 9
GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF ECONOMY**

"How do you think the [French, UK, German, Italian, Spanish, US] government is doing at handling the economy today?"

Base: All EU adults in five countries and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1109	1122	1011	1054	1125	1057
Excellent	2	*	1	2	1	1
Good	9	8	4	15	12	7
Fair	37	34	20	35	47	31
Bad	32	31	31	28	22	32
Terrible	20	27	44	19	18	28

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

Note: * indicates less than 0.5%

A little less than half of the Italian population and over one-quarter of French adults and Americans believe their government is doing a terrible job at handling the economy. Just under a third of British adults as well as just over a quarter of Spaniards believe their government is doing a bad job in handling the economy. Just under half of Germans believe their government is doing a fair job on the economy.

**TABLE 10
SHOULD GOVERNMENT SAVE BANKS?**

"How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? – It is the responsibility of the government to intervene and save struggling financial institutions, such as banks."

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1109	1122	1011	1054	1125	1057
AGREE (NET)	40	53	38	50	40	51
Completely agree	8	13	13	15	7	11
Agree more than disagree	32	41	25	36	34	40
DISAGREE (NET)	60	47	62	50	60	49
Disagree more than agree	37	34	32	32	38	35
Completely disagree	23	13	29	18	21	14

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

When it comes to the government stepping in and saving the banks, majorities in Great Britain, Italy and Germany disagree with this idea. French and US adults are more divided, but just over half in both countries agree with the idea of banks intervening and saving struggling financial institutions. Spain, however is perfectly divided – half of Spaniards agree and half disagree with this idea.

**TABLE 11
US PRESIDENT**

“Thinking about the upcoming U.S. national election, which of the following candidates do you think Americans will elect as president?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1109	1122	1011	1054	1125	1057
Barack Obama	43	56	66	55	59	40
Hillary Clinton	16	15	11	16	16	12
John McCain	14	11	11	9	9	26
Not sure	26	19	12	21	16	21

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

Looking at the remaining three candidates (2 Democratic and the Republican nominee), majorities in France, Italy, Spain and Germany and a plurality in Great Britain and the US believe Americans will elect Barack Obama and not either Hillary Clinton or John McCain. In the US, more believe Americans will elect John McCain than Hillary Clinton.

**TABLE 12
US PRESIDENT**

“If the national election for the presidential of the United States were to be held today, which of the following candidates would you prefer?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1109	1122	1011	1054	1125	1057
Hillary Clinton	34	47	39	37	50	37
John McCain	14	8	18	10	5	41
I would not have a preference	38	23	26	39	31	10
Not sure	14	22	18	14	14	12

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

When the choice is between Clinton and McCain, while she is ahead by a large margin in the five European countries, the largest are in France and Germany. In these two countries, Clinton is preferred by almost half of French adults and half of Germans. In the US, however, it is a tight race, but McCain edges Clinton among all Americans (not just voters) by 4 points.

TABLE 13
US PRESIDENT

“If the national election for the presidential of the United States were to be held today, which of the following candidates would you prefer?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1109	1122	1011	1054	1125	1057
Barack Obama	43	65	64	53	62	40
John McCain	11	6	10	8	5	40
I would not have a preference	31	14	13	29	22	7
Not sure	15	15	13	10	11	13

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

When it is Obama versus McCain, the numbers are even stronger for the Democratic candidate. Majorities in France, Italy, Spain and Germany would all prefer Obama as would a plurality in Great Britain. In the US, it is a dead heat – as two in five Americans say they would prefer Obama and the same number say they would prefer McCain.

TABLE 14
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	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1109	1122	1011	1054	1125	1057
US	25	22	19	41	28	13
China	20	23	26	12	18	22
Iran	14	21	24	16	13	17
North Korea	8	5	3	4	5	16
Iraq	9	13	12	13	13	14
Russia	9	7	7	2	10	6
Israel	*	*	1	*	1	1
No one particular country – all are a threat	-	-	-	1	-	-
Pakistan	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other	1	1	1	1	1	1
None	13	7	6	10	10	9
Not sure/Not stated/Refused	*	*	*	*	*	*

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

About Harris Interactive

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