



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

**November 2008** - Below are the most recent data from the Financial Times/Harris Poll, a monthly poll of adults from five countries in Europe and the U.S. The European 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 Harris Interactive Corporate Communications at 585-272-8400 or [press@harrisinteractive.net](mailto:press@harrisinteractive.net).

### **Source**

This FT/Harris Poll was conducted online by Harris Interactive among a total of 6,257 adults (aged 16-64) within France (1,045), Germany (1,034), Great Britain (1,087), Spain (1,007) and the United States (1,032), and adults (aged 18-64) in Italy (1,052) between 29 October and 6 November 2008.

### **Complete survey methodology**

This **FT/Harris Poll** was conducted online by Harris Interactive among a total of 6,257 adults (aged 16-64) within France, Germany, Great Britain, Spain, and the United States and adults (aged 18-64) in Italy between 29 October and 6 November 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 (6,257); France (1,045); Germany (1,034); Great Britain (1,087); Italy (1,052); Spain (1,007); and the United States (1,032).

Weighted bases for the survey are: Total (6,257); France (1,045); Germany (1,034); Great Britain (1,087); Italy (1,052); Spain (1,007); and the United States (1,032).

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  
INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF FINANCIAL CRISIS**

“How would you rate the performance of your country's government in handling the global financial market crisis?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1087	1045	1052	1007	1034	1032
GOOD (NET)	15	23	16	10	23	4
Excellent	2	1	3	2	2	1
Good	13	22	12	7	21	3
Fair	32	39	28	28	43	27
POOR (NET)	53	38	57	62	34	68
Poor	33	23	32	34	22	41
Terrible	19	15	24	28	12	27

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

**Majorities of adults in the US, Spain, Italy and Great Britain all say that the performance of their country's government in handling the global financial market crisis is poor. Adults in France and Germany are a little more positive as just one-third of Germans and just under two in five French adults all say their government's handling of the crisis is poor, but just under one-quarter in both countries also say it is good – the highest of all six countries.**

**TABLE 2  
EU'S HANDLING OF FINANCIAL CRISIS**

“How would you rate the performance of the European Union as a whole in handling the global financial market crisis?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1087	1045	1052	1007	1034	1032
GOOD (NET)	8	18	14	7	18	12
Excellent	2	1	1	1	1	1
Good	6	17	12	6	18	11
Fair	28	41	35	31	42	32
POOR (NET)	56	37	46	58	36	32
Poor	39	26	34	43	26	21
Terrible	17	10	12	15	10	11
Not Sure	8	4	5	4	4	24

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

**Looking at the performance of the European Union as a whole in handling the financial crisis, majorities of Britons and Spaniards as well as a plurality of Italians say it is poor, while pluralities of French and German adults all say it is fair. Americans are split, just under one-third say poor and the same number say fair.**

**TABLE 3**  
**HEADS OF STATE HANDLING OF FINANCIAL CRISIS**

“How would you rate the performance of [George W. Bush, Gordon Brown, Nikolas Sarkozy, Angela Merkel, Silvio Berlusconi and Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero] in handling the global financial market crisis?”  
Base: All EU adults in five countries and U.S. adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1087	1045	1052	1007	1034	1032
GOOD (NET)	19	28	20	12	32	12
Excellent	3	3	5	3	4	2
Good	16	25	15	9	28	9
Fair	31	35	27	27	37	21
POOR (NET)	50	37	53	61	32	67
Poor	29	20	22	28	18	28
Terrible	21	18	31	33	13	39

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

**Individual heads of states also are not getting rave marks on their handling of the global financial market crisis. Two thirds of Americans give George Bush poor marks, while three in five Spaniards feel the same about Zapatero. A majority of adults in Italy and Britain give both Berlusconi and Brown poor ratings. In France, Sarkozy is given more mixed ratings – just under four in ten French adults say poor, while just over one-third say fair. Regarding Angela Merkel, just under two in five Germans say her handling is fair while one-third each say poor or good.**

**TABLE 4**  
**NEED FOR CLOSER TIES BETWEEN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES DUE TO FINANCIAL CRISIS**

“Would you say that the recent global financial market crisis has increased or decreased the need for closer ties between European countries?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1087	1045	1052	1007	1034	1032
INCREASED (NET)	39	50	60	56	50	46
Definitely increased	9	13	25	22	16	14
Probably increased	30	37	35	34	35	32
Neither increased nor decreased	23	21	15	19	26	21
DECREASED (NET)	25	23	19	17	16	15
Probably decreased	14	16	11	9	13	9
Definitely decreased	11	6	8	8	3	6
Not sure	13	6	5	8	8	18

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

**When it comes to closer ties between Europeans countries, majorities in Italy, Spain, Germany and France as well as plurality of Americans and two in five Britons all say the market crisis has increased the need for closer ties.**

**TABLE 5  
NEED FOR CLOSER TIES BETWEEN US AND EUROPEAN COUNTRIES DUE TO FINANCIAL CRISIS**

“Would you say that the recent global financial market crisis has increased or decreased the need for closer ties between the United States and European countries?”

Base: All U.S. adults

	United States
	%
Unweighted base	1032
INCREASED (NET)	47
Definitely increased	15
Probably increased	32
Neither increased nor decreased	22
DECREASED (NET)	14
Probably decreased	8
Definitely decreased	6
Not sure	17

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

**Among Americans, just under half say the recent global financial market crisis has increased the need for closer ties between the US and European countries.**

**TABLE 6  
STANDARD OF LIVING**

“In the next year, do you expect your standard of living to become...?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1087	1045	1052	1007	1034	1032
BETTER (NET)	11	4	12	7	21	21
Much better	1	*	1	1	3	3
Somewhat better	10	4	11	6	18	18
Neither better nor worse	33	20	30	34	34	35
WORSE (NET)	55	76	58	59	45	44
Somewhat worse	40	59	40	44	30	35
Much worse	15	17	19	15	15	9

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

**Looking ahead to the next year, three-quarters of French adults, majorities of Spaniards, Italians, and Britons and pluralities of Germans and Americans all expect their standard of living to become worse. One in five Germans and Americans, however, expect their standard of living to get better in the next year.**

**TABLE 7**  
**POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES – NEW SPENDING PROGRAMMES**

“In light of the recent global financial market crisis, how much of an impact might each of the following possible government initiatives make on the economy of your country – New spending programmes”  
 Base: All EU adults in five countries and U.S. adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1087	1045	1052	1007	1034	1032
A large impact	19	27	40	32	23	32
A moderate impact	32	31	29	32	30	24
A small impact	20	19	14	16	20	17
No impact	11	10	8	9	10	9
Not sure	19	12	9	12	18	17

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

**When it comes to a possible government initiative regarding new spending programs, two in five Italians and one-third of Spaniards and Americans believe it could have a large impact while one-third of Britons and three in ten German and French adults believe it would have a moderate impact on their country’s economy.**

**TABLE 8**  
**POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES – NEW MEASURES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES**

“In light of the recent global financial market crisis, how much of an impact might each of the following possible government initiatives make on the economy of your country – New measures to support small businesses”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1087	1045	1052	1007	1034	1032
A large impact	25	41	45	41	31	37
A moderate impact	33	35	26	29	32	28
A small impact	20	14	14	14	17	18
No impact	10	3	8	8	11	5
Not sure	13	6	7	8	10	12

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

**Pluralities in Italy, France and Spain and over one-third of Americans feel that new measures to support small businesses would have a large impact on the economy of their country, while one-third of Britons and Germans feel it would have a moderate impact.**

**TABLE 9**  
**POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES – LOANS TO BANKS**

“In light of the recent global financial market crisis, how much of an impact might each of the following possible government initiatives make on the economy of your country – Loans to banks that are in financial trouble?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1087	1045	1052	1007	1034	1032
A large impact	34	24	35	23	31	35
A moderate impact	31	34	24	32	29	27
A small impact	15	21	17	16	19	17
No impact	8	10	14	19	11	8
Not sure	12	12	10	10	10	13

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

**When it comes to loans to banks that are in financial trouble, just over one-third of Britons, Italians, and Americans and three in ten Germans believe that would have a large impact on their country’s economy. One-third of Spaniards and French adults believe this would have a moderate impact on their country’s economy.**

**TABLE 10**  
**POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES – MEASURE TO SUPPORT BIG BUSINESS**

“In light of the recent global financial market crisis, how much of an impact might each of the following possible government initiatives make on the economy of your country – New measures to support big businesses?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1087	1045	1052	1007	1034	1032
A large impact	16	19	31	19	19	25
A moderate impact	33	34	28	32	28	25
A small impact	21	24	20	23	26	22
No impact	13	14	12	15	14	14
Not sure	17	9	10	11	13	15

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

**Looking at possible new measures to support big businesses, three in ten Italians and one-quarter of Americans believe it would have a large impact on the economy of their country, while one-third of Britons, Spaniards and French adults believe it would have a moderate impact as do just over one-quarter of Germans and one-quarter of Americans.**

**TABLE 11**  
**POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES – TAX DECREASES**

“In light of the recent global financial market crisis, how much of an impact might each of the following possible government initiatives make on the economy of your country – Tax decreases?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1087	1045	1052	1007	1034	1032
A large impact	30	36	52	37	32	41
A moderate impact	27	29	20	29	25	24
A small impact	20	20	14	13	19	17
No impact	9	9	7	13	16	8
Not sure	15	6	7	8	8	10

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

**Just over half of Italians and a plurality of Americans as well as over one-third of Spaniards and French adults and three in ten Germans and Britons all believe that tax decreases would have a large impact on the economy of their country.**

**TABLE 12**  
**IMPORTANCE OF COMBATING GLOBAL WARMING**

“Again taking into account the recent global financial market crisis, how important is it for your government to take action to... Combat global warming?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1087	1045	1052	1007	1034	1032
Absolutely essential	23	27	30	21	28	24
Very important	20	26	24	21	21	22
Important	23	26	25	28	27	20
Somewhat important	16	12	12	16	11	13
Not important	13	6	7	9	8	15
Not sure	5	3	3	5	5	6

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

**Even in light of the recent financial crisis, between one in five adults and three in ten adults in each of the six countries believe that it is still absolutely essential for their government to take action to combat global warming, while between 20% and 26% believe it is very important.**

**TABLE 13**  
**IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVING ECONOMIC CONDITIONS**

“Again taking into account the recent global financial market crisis, how important is it for your government to take action to... Improve economic conditions?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1087	1045	1052	1007	1034	1032
Absolutely essential	32	31	49	45	26	50
Very important	35	35	29	28	34	26
Important	20	24	15	19	29	13
Somewhat important	6	5	4	2	6	3
Not important	3	1	2	1	2	3
Not sure	5	3	2	4	4	4

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

**Half of Americans and Italians and a plurality of Spaniards believe it is absolutely essential for their government to take action to improve economic conditions while over one-third of Britons, Germans and French adults believe it is very important. Not surprisingly, under 4% in each country thinks this is not important.**

**TABLE 14**  
**IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVING HEALTH CARE**

“Again taking into account the recent global financial market crisis, how important is it for your government to take action to... Improve the quality of the health care system?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1087	1045	1052	1007	1034	1032
Absolutely essential	34	25	43	34	31	42
Very important	27	27	27	28	29	23
Important	24	32	19	24	24	15
Somewhat important	8	10	7	7	8	8
Not important	3	4	2	2	4	7
Not sure	4	2	2	4	4	4

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

**Keeping the recent global financial market crisis in mind, a plurality of Americans and Italians as well as one-third of Britons and Spaniards and three in ten Germans believe it is absolutely essential for their government to take action to improve the quality of the health care system. One-third of French adults believe it is important.**

**TABLE 15**  
**IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVING THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**

“Again taking into account the recent global financial market crisis, how important is it for your government to take action to... Improve the quality of the education system?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1087	1045	1052	1007	1034	1032
Absolutely essential	28	29	42	37	39	42
Very important	29	27	27	31	30	25
Important	24	30	18	18	19	18
Somewhat important	10	9	10	7	7	5
Not important	3	4	2	3	2	5
Not sure	5	2	2	5	4	4

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

**When it comes to improving the quality of the education system, again taking into account the recent global financial market crisis, a plurality of Italians and Americans as well as just under two in five Germans and Spaniards say it is absolutely essential to do so. Three in ten Britons say it is very important while three in ten French adults believe it is important.**

**TABLE 16**  
**GLOBAL WARMING AND JOBS**

“Do you believe that efforts to combat global warming – notably, plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions – will increase or decrease the number of jobs that are available in your country?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1087	1045	1052	1007	1034	1032
INCREASE (NET)	24	26	35	35	33	43
Definitely increase	3	4	8	7	5	10
Probably increase	21	22	27	28	28	34
Neither increase nor decrease	46	59	42	47	45	35
DECREASE (NET)	30	15	23	18	23	22
Probably decrease	24	10	16	13	19	14
Definitely decrease	6	5	6	5	4	9

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

**When it comes to efforts to combat global warming and jobs, a majority of French adults and pluralities in Great Britain, Italy, Spain and Germany all say that these efforts will neither increase nor decrease the number of jobs that are available in their country. A plurality of Americans, however, all say that these efforts will increase the number of jobs that are available in the US.**

**TABLE 17**  
**FINANCIAL CRISIS AS EXCUSE TO BACKTRACK ON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS**

“How likely are businesses in your country to use the economic and financial crises as an excuse to backtrack on environmental commitments?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1087	1045	1052	1007	1034	1032
Extremely likely	8	5	12	12	9	10
Very likely	15	19	21	17	19	20
Fairly likely	42	37	43	34	35	34
Somewhat likely	31	27	19	30	28	26
Not at all likely	4	12	5	7	8	10

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

**Pluralities of Britons and Italians as well as over one-third of Americans, Germans, Spaniards and French adults all believe it is fairly likely that businesses in their country will use the economic and financial crises as an excuse to backtrack on economic commitments.**

**TABLE 18**  
**LEADING ROLE IN FIGHTING GLOBAL WARMING**

“How important is it for your country to take a leading role in the fight against global warming in light of the recent global financial market crisis?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1087	1045	1052	1007	1034	1032
Absolutely essential	15	20	15	8	16	19
Very important	21	22	21	15	20	22
Important	26	33	34	36	35	27
Somewhat important	25	19	21	27	18	16
Not important	14	7	9	14	11	15

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

**When it comes to playing a leading role in fighting global warming, between one-quarter and just over one-third in all six countries believe it is important for their country to do so. One in five Americans and French adults say it is absolutely essential for their country to take a leading role in this fight.**

**TABLE 19****EUROPE MOVING AHEAD WITH RESTRICTIONS ON GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

“Should Europe press ahead with its plan to place restrictions on companies’ greenhouse gas emissions, or should it wait for an agreement from China, India or the US to do the same?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1087	1045	1052	1007	1034	1032
Press ahead	54	79	76	73	75	63
Wait for an agreement from others to do the same	28	13	16	18	16	17
Not sure	18	8	7	10	9	21

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

**Strong majorities in France, Italy, Germany, Spain and the US as well as half of adults in Great Britain say that Europe should press ahead with its plan to place restrictions on companies’ greenhouse gas emissions, even without an agreement from China, India or the US to do the same. Just under three in ten Britons, however, believe that Europe should wait for an agreement from others to do the same before moving forward with the plan.**

**TABLE 20**  
**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	1087	1045	1052	1007	1034	1032
US	33	27	18	46	33	14
China	29	35	42	21	30	25
Russia	11	7	5	4	10	10
Iran	7	14	15	8	7	22
Iraq	6	5	7	8	8	7
North Korea	5	4	2	4	3	10
India	*	*	*	*	*	-
Pakistan	*	*	-	-	*	*
Israel	*	-	*	*	1	*
France	*	*	-	-	-	*
Saudi Arabia	*	-	-	-	*	-
No one country – all are a threat	*	*	-	*	*	*
Afghanistan	-	*	-	-	*	1
Romania	-	-	*	-	-	-
Muslim countries (not specified)	-	-	-	*	-	-
Middle East (country not specified)	-	-	*	-	-	-
Africa (country not specified)	-	-	*	-	-	-
Other	*	-	*	*	*	*
None	8	7	9	8	8	10
Not sure/Not stated/Refused	1	1	*	*	*	*

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

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