



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

August 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. 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 6,134 adults (aged 16-64) within France (959), Germany (1,001), Great Britain (1,082), Spain (1,025), and the United States (1,044), and adults (aged 18-64) in Italy (1,023) between 30 July and 12 August 2008.

Complete survey methodology

This **FT/Harris Poll** was conducted online by Harris Interactive among a total of 6,134 adults (aged 16-64) within France, Germany, Great Britain, Spain, and the United States and adults (aged 18-64) in Italy between 30 July and 12 August 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 (6,134); France (959); Germany (1,001); Great Britain (1,082); Italy (1,023); Spain (1,025); and the United States (1,044).

Weighted bases for the survey are: Total (6,133); France (959); Germany (1,001); Great Britain (1,082); Italy (1,023); Spain (1,025); and the United States (1,044).

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
VOTING WITH LABOUR**

“In past elections how have you generally voted with regards to the Labour party?”

Base: All British Adults

	Great Britain
	%
Unweighted base	1082
I have always voted for the Labour party	13
I have often voted for the Labour party	13
I have sometimes voted for the Labour party	20
I have never voted for the Labour party	37
I have never voted in an election	17

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

While over one-third say they have never voted Labour, one-quarter have voted for them always/often and one in five sometimes vote Labour.

**TABLE 2
FUTURE LABOUR VOTING**

“For the next general election, expected to occur within the next two years, are you...?”

Base: All British Adults

	Great Britain Total	Always voted for Labour	Often voted for Labour	Sometimes voted for Labour	Never voted for Labour	Never voted in an election
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1082	147	140	232	390	173
Much less likely to vote for the Labour party	21	14	27	36	18	9
Somewhat less likely to vote for the Labour party	11	12	24	23	4	3
Just as likely to vote for the Labour party	14	44	26	15	4	6
Somewhat more likely to vote for the Labour party	3	8	7	1	1	1
Much more likely to vote for the Labour party	3	15	6	-	1	*
I would never vote for the Labour party	31	3	5	14	68	14
I am not planning to vote in the next general election	16	4	5	10	4	67

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

Labour may have some problems in the next election– one-quarter of those who always voted for Labour are now saying they are less likely to vote Labour in the next general election as are half of those who often voted for Labour and almost three in five of those who sometimes voted for Labour.

**TABLE 3
CHANGE IN HOUSEHOLD FINANCIAL WELL BEING**

“Compared to a year ago, would you say that your household’s economic well being has become...?”
Base: All EU adults in five countries and U.S. adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1082	959	1023	1025	1001	1044
BETTER (NET)	6	14	7	9	12	14
Much better	1	2	2	2	3	2
Somewhat better	4	12	5	6	9	12
Remained about the same	22	26	26	31	32	30
WORSE (NET)	72	60	67	61	56	56
Somewhat worse	42	36	38	32	39	41
Much worse	31	24	29	28	17	15

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

Over half of adults in all six countries, including over two-thirds of adults in Italy and Great Britain, say that their household’s economic well being has got worse in comparison to a year ago.

**TABLE 4
CHANGE IN COUNTRY’S ECONOMY**

“In the past year ago would you say that the economy in {UK, France, Italy, Spain, Germany, the United States} has become...?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1082	959	1023	1025	1001	1044
BETTER (NET)	3	3	3	6	16	3
Much better	1	1	1	2	2	1
Somewhat better	2	2	2	4	14	2
Remained about the same	8	10	10	12	26	8
WORSE (NET)	89	87	88	81	58	90
Somewhat worse	43	38	27	36	46	47
Much worse	46	49	61	46	12	43

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

Looking at the economy of the countries, almost nine in ten adults in Great Britain, France, Italy, Spain and the U.S. all say their country’s economy has got worse in the past year. Six in ten Italians say it has got much worse. Germany is the stand-out as just over half of Germans say the economy has got worse while one-quarter say it has remained about the same and 16%, the highest by far of all 6 countries, say it has got better.

**TABLE 5
LIFESTYLE CHANGES DUE TO THE ECONOMY**

“In the past year, have you changed your lifestyle in any way as a result of inflation and tighter credit conditions?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1082	959	1023	1025	1001	1044
Yes, changed my lifestyle completely	4	6	10	8	5	5
Yes, changed my lifestyle a lot	19	13	15	14	15	19
Yes, changed my lifestyle somewhat	23	20	25	26	28	33
Yes, changed my lifestyle a little	32	36	34	22	21	26
No, have not changed at all	23	25	16	30	30	17

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

People are making changes to their lifestyles because of the economy. Just three in ten adults in Spain and Germany, one-quarter of adults in France, less than one-quarter of Britons, and less than one-in five Americans and Italians say they have made no changes to their lifestyle.

**TABLE 6
TYPES OF LIFESTYLE CHANGE**

“How have you changed your lifestyle as a result of inflation and tighter credit conditions?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries and U.S. adults who have made a lifestyle change

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	846	705	822	713	675	847
I have made fewer visits to restaurants, pubs and cinemas	68	67	73	77	81	75
I have reduced the range of food and drink I buy to cut out more expensive items	68	69	61	51	66	61
I have delayed purchases of new clothes and other consumer goods to make what I have last longer	62	59	61	60	68	65
I shop more at discount stores	49	48	50	50	66	44
I drive my car less and use public transport more	22	36	27	23	34	30
I have switched to taking a holiday in my own country rather than travelling outside the country	16	22	25	37	22	12
I have delayed buying a new car, van or truck	19	20	25	27	28	25
I have delayed buying a new home	13	7	12	19	6	12
Through other means	27	21	29	25	18	37

Note: Multiple responses accepted

While people are changing their lifestyle in many ways, the top three ways in all six countries are to make fewer visits to restaurants/bars, cutting out expensive food and drink items, and delaying purchases. At least a plurality in each country is also shopping more at discount stores.

TABLE 7**HOW MUCH RESPONSIBILITY DOES GOVERNMENT HAVE FOR ECONOMIC ISSUES?**

“How much responsibility does the government of [UK, France, Italy, Spain, Germany, the United States] have for the recent economic downturn and its consequences?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries and U.S. adults who say economy in their country has got worse

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	970	825	901	828	548	924
Complete responsibility	18	16	27	27	19	20
A lot of responsibility	45	46	44	26	55	47
Some responsibility	23	20	19	20	19	22
A little responsibility	11	12	7	17	6	9
None at all	3	5	3	10	2	2

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

Among those who say the economy in their country has got worse, at least half in each country say their government has a lot or complete responsibility for the recent economic downturn. Over two-thirds of Germans, Italians and Americans feel this way.

TABLE 8**HOW COUNTRIES HAVE HANDLED ECONOMIC DOWNTURN**

“How would you evaluate the way that the government of [UK, France, Italy, Spain, Germany, the United States] has handled the economic downturn and its consequences?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries and U.S. adults who say economy in their country has gotten worse

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	970	825	901	828	548	924
Excellent	*	1	2	1	-	*
Good	3	4	4	8	1	4
Fair	25	17	18	29	11	23
Bad	38	53	44	26	55	36
Terrible	33	25	32	37	33	36

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

Among those who say the economy in their country has got worse, there is a strong sense that their country’s government has not done a good job dealing with the bad economic situation. Over 3 in 5 respondents in all six countries say their government has done a bad or terrible job handling the economic downturn and its consequences.

**TABLE 9
RESPONSE OF ECB/BANK OF ENGLAND/FEDERAL RESERVE**

“Do you feel the European Central Bank/Bank of England/Federal Reserve has responded appropriately to the challenges of the economic downturn and its consequences?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries and U.S. adults who say economy in their country has got worse

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	970	825	901	828	548	924
Yes	23	13	9	5	8	20
No	37	45	55	56	48	43
Not sure	40	43	36	39	44	36

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

The Bank of England and the Federal Reserve get slightly higher marks on their response to the economic downturn as one in five Americans and almost one-quarter of Britons say they have responded appropriately. Over half of Italians and Spaniards and just under half of Germans and French adults say the European Central Bank has not responded appropriately.

**TABLE 10
THE ECONOMY IMPACTING VOTING BEHAVIORS**

“Has the state of the economy changed the way you plan to vote at the next election/has the state of the economy changed the way you plan to vote at the next general election expected in less than two years’ time?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1082	959	1023	1025	1001	1044
Yes	23	21	18	21	31	30
No	44	52	56	53	39	49
I do not intend to vote at the next general election	15	9	14	13	12	7
Not sure	17	18	13	14	17	14

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

At the moment, over half of Italians, Spaniards and French adults as well as just under half of Americans and a plurality of Britons all say the economy is not going to impact their vote in the next election. Three in ten Germans and Americans say it will impact their vote.

**TABLE 11
DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING A MORTGAGE**

“In the past year have you or a member of you family experienced difficulty in obtaining the following – a mortgage?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1082	959	1023	1025	1001	1044
Yes	9	20	19	25	12	9
No	91	80	81	75	88	91

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

One-quarter of adults in Spain and one in five adults in France and Italy say they or a family member has had trouble getting a mortgage. Just over one in ten Germans and just under one in ten Britons and Americans report having trouble getting a mortgage.

**TABLE 12
DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING A LOAN**

“In the past year have you or a member of your family experienced difficulty in obtaining the following – a loan?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1082	959	1023	1025	1001	1044
Yes	14	20	20	28	26	18
No	86	80	80	72	74	82

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

Over one-quarter of Germans and Spaniards as well as one in five Italians and French adults say they or a member of their family has had some difficulty in obtaining a loan. Less than one in five Americans and Britons also reports difficulty in obtaining a loan.

**TABLE 13
DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING A CREDIT CARD**

“In the past year have you or a member of you family experienced difficulty in obtaining the following – a credit card?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1082	959	1023	1025	1001	1044
Yes	16	5	13	17	13	16
No	84	95	87	83	87	84

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

Credit cards are still pretty easy to get as less than one in five in all six countries say that they or a member of their family have had difficulty in obtaining one.

**TABLE 14
DIFFICULTY IN BUYING OR SELLING PROPERTY**

“Have you had any difficulty in buying or selling a property as a result of the economic downturn and its consequences?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1082	959	1023	1025	1001	1044
Yes	12	20	32	49	17	15
No	88	80	68	51	83	85

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

Looking at property issues, Spaniards have been the hardest hit as just under half say they have had difficulty in buying or selling property because of the economic downturn. One third of Italians and one in five French adults also report they have had difficulty buying or selling property. Germans, Americans and Britons are less likely to report any difficulty in buying or selling property.

TABLE 15
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	1082	959	1023	1025	1001	1044
US	34	23	20	48	28	17
China	15	39	39	18	29	23
Iran	13	18	19	11	10	26
Iraq	11	7	7	9	10	11
North Korea	6	4	2	3	3	10
Russia	7	2	3	1	6	2
Afghanistan	*	-	*	*	-	1
UK	*	-	-	-	-	-
India	*	*	*	-	-	*
Pakistan	*	-	-	-	*	*
Israel	1	1	*	-	*	*
Saudi Arabia	-	*	-	-	-	*
France	-	-	-	*	-	-
Palestine	-	*	-	-	-	-
Turkey	-	*	-	-	-	-
Muslim (country not specified)	-	*	-	-	-	-
Morocco	-	-	-	*	-	-
Middle East (country not specified)	-	*	*	*	-	-
No one country – all are a threat	*	-	*	*	-	-
Africa (country not specified)	-	-	-	-	*	*
Other	*	-	*	*	1	*
None	13	5	8	8	13	9
Not sure/Not stated/Refused	*	*	1	*	*	*

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

About Harris Interactive

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