



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

**December 2007** - 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](http://www.ft.com). For inquiries, contact Tracey Mc Nerney at 585-214-7756 or [tmcnerney@harrisinteractive.com](mailto:tmcnerney@harrisinteractive.com).

### **Source**

This FT/Harris Poll was conducted online by Harris Interactive among a total of 6,226 adults (aged 16-64) within France (997), Germany (1,057), Great Britain (1,071), Spain (1,012) and the United States (1,056) and adults (aged 18-64) in Italy (1,033) between 28 November and 7 December 2007.

### **Complete survey methodology**

This **FT/Harris Poll** was conducted online by Harris Interactive among a total of 6,226 adults (aged 16-64) within France, Germany, Great Britain, Spain, and the United States and adults (aged 18-64) in Italy between 28 November and 7 December 2007. 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 (6,226); France (997); Germany (1,057); Great Britain (1,071); Italy (1,033); Spain (1,012) and the United States (1,056).

Weighted bases for the survey are: Total (6,225); France (997); Germany (1,057); Great Britain (1,071); Italy (1,033); Spain (1,012) and the United States (1,056).

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  
DESCRIPTION OF PERSONAL IDENTITY**

“Now we would like to ask you some questions about national identity. A person’s identity could be described as regional, national, European, or international (not European). Which, if any, most strongly describes your own identity?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany
	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1071	997	1033	1012	1057
National	40	52	35	44	22
European	14	15	30	18	36
Regional	26	13	19	22	24
International (not European)	4	5	6	4	7
None of these	4	8	4	7	3
Not sure	12	6	6	5	8

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

**Large numbers in Germany and Italy think of themselves as Europeans first, far more than other countries. Only minorities in 4 of 5 countries think of themselves in terms of national identity (British, Germans, Italians, Spanish) first. In France, just over half of the public think of themselves as French first. While just over a fifth of Germans also describe their identity as national, over three in ten say it is European. The highest number for European is in Germany while the lowest is in Great Britain, followed closely by France and Spain. Great Britain has the highest number of people who say they have a regional identity. This may reflect some people who think of themselves as Scottish or Welsh and are saying regional.**

**TABLE 2  
ALLOWING COUNTRIES TO ABIDE BY DIFFERENT LAWS**

“How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Different communities within [Great Britain/France/Italy/Spain/Germany/ the U.S.] should be allowed to abide by different laws according to their own cultural and religious identity.”

Base: Half of all EU adults in five countries and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	513	512	518	522	527	531
AGREE (NET)	37	35	41	37	36	38
Strongly agree	23	13	18	17	9	19
Somewhat agree	14	22	24	19	26	18
Neither agree nor disagree	14	15	17	19	31	19
DISAGREE (NET)	50	49	42	44	34	44
Somewhat disagree	7	18	13	14	23	15
Strongly disagree	42	32	29	30	11	29

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

**Half of British adults, as well as pluralities in France, Italy, Spain and the United States disagree with the idea that different communities within their countries should be allowed to abide by different laws according to their own cultural and religious identity. Germany is more divided. Just over one-third of Germans believe these communities should be able to abide by their different laws and slightly less than that say they should not with three in ten Germans neither agreeing nor disagreeing.**

**TABLE 3**  
**NOT ALLOWING COUNTRIES TO ABIDE BY DIFFERENT LAWS**

“How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Different communities within [Great Britain/France/Italy/Spain/ Germany/the U.S.] should not be allowed to abide by different laws according to their own cultural and religious identity.”

Base: Half of all EU adults in five countries and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	558	485	515	490	530	525
AGREE (NET)	37	32	44	31	39	40
Strongly agree	25	18	22	18	11	20
Somewhat agree	11	14	22	13	28	20
Neither agree nor disagree	19	16	14	20	30	14
DISAGREE (NET)	44	52	42	49	31	46
Somewhat disagree	13	26	18	18	20	18
Strongly disagree	31	26	24	30	11	28

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

**When the reverse of the previous question is asked, that is people should not be allowed to abide by these different laws, again, half of French adults and pluralities of Spaniards, Americans, Italians and British adults disagree with this idea. And, again, Germans are more split with just under two in five agreeing with this idea, just under one-third disagreeing and three in ten neither agreeing nor disagreeing.**

**TABLE 4**  
**PRIMACY OF EU LAW**

“In which of the following areas, if any, should EU law have primacy over national law?”

Base: Half of EU adults in five countries

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany
	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	572	512	514	515	509
Workplace conditions	26	45	56	58	41
Working hours	26	25	34	49	19
Immigration	20	42	64	68	41
Justice	17	44	63	46	41
Competition policy	16	54	42	34	47
Home affairs	8	9	22	15	13
None of these	58	22	12	14	25

Note: Multiple Response

**The British are showing their independence here with almost three in five saying that EU law should have primacy over national law for none of the six areas. This is the highest number by far from the 5 European countries. Just over half of French say EU law should have primacy over national law in the area of competition policy while just under half of Germans say the same. In Italy, almost two-thirds say EU law should have primacy in the areas of immigration and justice, while over half say it should have primacy in the area of workplace conditions. For Spaniards, over two-thirds say EU law should have primacy for immigration while over half say it should have primacy for workplace conditions and just under half for working hours.**

**TABLE 5  
PRIMACY OF NATIONAL LAW**

“In which of the following areas, if any, should National law have primacy over EU law?”

Base: Half of EU adults in five countries

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany
	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	499	485	519	497	548
Immigration	75	49	53	52	38
Home Affairs	68	60	44	56	60
Justice	64	46	48	51	50
Workplace Conditions	53	49	35	49	47
Working Hours	52	41	21	37	41
Competition Policy	39	36	24	33	27
None of these	15	11	15	15	18

Note: Multiple Response

**When it comes to where National law should have primacy over EU law, these numbers are much stronger for the six areas. Overall, competition policy is the area where the lowest numbers in each country say national law should have primacy. With the exception of Germany, just about half or more in the other four countries say national law should have primacy in the area of immigration. Justice is another area where at least pluralities in the five countries say national law should have primacy.**

**TABLE 6  
CITIZENSHIP AND LANGUAGE TESTS FOR IMMIGRANTS**

“Should new immigrants be required to take a citizenship and language test in order to remain in [the UK/ France/ Italy/ Spain/ Germany/ the U.S.]?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1071	997	1033	1012	1057	1056
Yes	83	61	61	50	86	80
No	8	21	29	35	9	11
Not sure	10	18	10	15	5	8

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

**Four out of five or more adults in Germany, Great Britain and the United States believe new immigrants should be required to take a citizenship and language test to remain in their respective countries. Three out of five French and Italian adults believe the same. While half of Spaniards also believe this, over one-third say they should not have to take these tests – the highest of all six countries.**

**TABLE 7  
CIVICS COURSES AS PART OF THE CURRICULUM**

“Should the teachings of civics courses (i.e. lessons on citizenship – how the country/democracy works, etc...) be part of the standard school curriculum in [the UK/ France/ Italy/ Spain/ Germany/ the U.S.]?”  
Base: All EU adults in five countries and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1071	997	1033	1012	1057	1056
Yes	73	86	99	84	92	89
No	11	7	1	10	4	6
Not sure	16	7	1	5	5	6

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

**Consensus is that civics courses should be part of the standard school curriculum across all six of these countries. While almost three-quarter of British adults believes this, 99 percent of Italians feel this way as do over nine in ten Germans. The numbers are just as strong in the other three countries.**

**TABLE 8  
NATIONALITY IN GREAT BRITAIN**

“Thinking about how you would describe yourself if someone asked your nationality, which of the following would you say you were?”

Base: All British adults

	British adults
	%
Unweighted base	1071
English	41
British	41
Scottish	7
Welsh	4
Northern Irish	1
Irish	1
European	1
Other nationality	5
Not sure	*

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

\* = Less than 0.5%

**Britons are split – a plurality would say they are English and the same number would say they are British when asked their nationality.**

**TABLE 9**  
**SENSE OF 'BRITISHNESS'**

"Gordon Brown is keen to foster a sense of 'Britishness' in the nation and often talks about that in his speeches. To what extent do you support or oppose his efforts to do this?"

Base: All British adults

	Total	How describe nationality				
		British	English	Welsh	Scottish	Other
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1071	438	448	38**	82**	65**
SUPPORT (NET)	44	50	45	28	31	29
Strongly support	17	20	19	15	5	9
Somewhat support	27	30	27	12	26	20
Neither support nor oppose	43	44	41	52	42	47
OPPOSE (NET)	13	6	14	20	27	25
Somewhat oppose	8	4	7	18	20	21
Strongly oppose	4	2	7	2	6	3

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

\*\* Caution: small base size

**A plurality of British adults supports Gordon Brown's idea to foster a sense of "Britishness" while a similar number neither supports nor opposes this idea. In the Prime Minister's favour is that just 13 percent oppose this idea. Half of those who describe themselves as British support this idea while just over one-quarter who describe themselves as Scottish do.**

**TABLE 10**  
**'BRITISH JOBS FOR BRITISH PEOPLE'**

"Gordon Brown also talks about "British jobs for British people". To what extent do you support or oppose this goal?"

Base: All British adults

	Total	How describe nationality				
		British	English	Welsh	Scottish	Other
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1071	438	448	38**	82**	65**
SUPPORT (NET)	66	60	77	70	70	33
Strongly support	42	38	52	40	46	13
Somewhat support	24	22	25	30	24	19
Neither support nor oppose	24	31	18	18	23	16
OPPOSE (NET)	10	9	5	12	7	51
Somewhat oppose	7	6	3	8	7	30
Strongly oppose	4	3	2	4	*	20

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

\* = Less than 0.5%

\*\* Caution: small base size

**The idea of British jobs for British people garners more support as two-thirds of adults in Great Britain support this idea. The support is even stronger among those who describe themselves as English, Welsh and Scottish.**

**TABLE 11**  
**ACHIEVABILITY OF 'BRITISH JOBS FOR BRITISH PEOPLE'**

"No matter whether you think this is a desirable goal, do you think the concept of 'British jobs for British people' is achievable?"

Base: All British Adults

		How describe nationality				
		British	English	Welsh	Scottish	Other
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1071	438	448	38**	82**	65**
Yes	22	24	24	20	12	17
No	54	49	55	74	61	61
Not sure	23	27	21	6	27	22

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

\*\* Caution: small base size

**While the support may be there, just over half of adults in Great Britain do not believe the concept of British jobs for British people is actually achievable. Just over one in five believe it is.**

**TABLE 12**  
**SHOULD SCOTTISH MP'S VOTE ON ISSUES RELATING TO ENGLAND?**

"Currently Scottish MP's are allowed to vote on issues relating specifically to England. The Conservative party want only English MP's to be able to vote on matters that only affect England. How much do you agree to disagree with the Conservative party's stance on this issue?"

Base: All British adults

	Total	How describe nationality				
		British	English	Welsh	Scottish	Other
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1071	438	448	38**	82**	65**
AGREE (NET)	66	60	75	60	68	47
Strongly agree	40	29	58	20	35	12
Somewhat agree	26	31	17	40	32	35
Neither agree nor disagree	22	28	16	15	7	43
DISAGREE (NET)	12	12	9	25	25	10
Somewhat disagree	7	5	6	24	16	4
Strongly disagree	5	7	3	1	10	6

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

\*\* Caution: small base size

**Two-thirds of adults in Great Britain agree with the Conservative party that only English MPs should be able to vote on matters that only affect England. Unsurprisingly, those who describe themselves as English agree the most with three-quarters in favour of only English MP's being allowed to vote on matters that only affect England. Just over two thirds of those who describe themselves as Scottish also agree to this.**

**About Harris Interactive**

Harris Interactive is the 13th largest and one of the fastest-growing market research firms in the world. The company provides innovative research, insights and strategic advice to help its clients make more confident decisions which lead to measurable and enduring improvements in performance. Harris Interactive is widely known for The Harris Poll, one of the longest running, independent opinion polls and for pioneering online market research methods. The company has built what it believes to be the world's largest panel of survey respondents, the Harris Poll Online. Harris Interactive serves clients worldwide through its North American, European and Asian offices, and through a global network of independent market research firms. More information about Harris Interactive may be obtained at [www.harrisinteractive.com](http://www.harrisinteractive.com).

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