



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

**December 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 6,165 adults (aged 16-64) within France (1,034), Germany (1,074), Great Britain (1,111), Spain (949) and the United States (1,000), and adults (aged 18-64) in Italy (997) between 26 November and 8 December 2008.

### **Complete survey methodology**

This **FT/Harris Poll** was conducted online by Harris Interactive among a total of 6,165 adults (aged 16-64) within France, Germany, Great Britain, Spain, and the United States and adults (aged 18-64) in Italy between 26 November and 8 December 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 (6,165); France (1,034); Germany (1,074); Great Britain (1,111); Italy (997); Spain (949); and the United States (1,000).

**Weighted bases** for the survey are: Total (6,165); France (1,034); Germany (1,074); Great Britain (1,111); Italy (997); Spain (949); and the United States (1,000).

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  
HOLIDAY SPENDING**

“We’d now like you to think about the upcoming holiday season. Do you plan to spend...?”  
Base: All EU adults in five countries and U.S. adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	582	504	506	465	519	494
More than last year	11	12	5	6	13	10
About the same as last year	47	43	39	51	60	42
Less than last year	42	45	56	43	27	48

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

**The economic times have hit the holidays as less than 15% in all 6 countries say they will be spending more this year than last year. Majorities in Germany and Spain and just under half of Britons say they will be spending about the same as last year while over half of Italians and just under half of Americans and French adults say they will be spending less than last year.**

**TABLE 2  
WHEN RECESSION WILL END**

“Moving on to a few questions about current affairs, many economists say that [the UK/Germany/Italy/Spain/ the US] is now in a recession. When do you expect the recession to end?”  
Base: UK, German, Italian, Spanish and U.S. adults

	Great Britain	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1111	997	949	1074	1000
In less than 6 months	3	3	3	7	5
Between 6 months and 1 year	15	14	18	18	20
Between 1 and 2 years	43	36	47	32	38
In more than 2 years	25	24	19	14	25
I do not expect the recession to end in the foreseeable future	13	22	13	30	13

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

**No one expects a quick resolution to the recession. One quarter or less of adults in the five countries which have been declared to be in a recession say it will end in the next year. Pluralities in Great Britain and Spain and just under two in five adults in the US and Italy and one-third of Germans all say it will end in the next 1 – 2 years. Germans are the most pessimistic as three in ten of them say they do not expect the recession to end in the foreseeable future.**

**TABLE 3  
CONCERN OVER PERSONAL JOB LOSS**

“How concerned are you that you will lose your job within the next year as a result of this recession?”  
Base: UK, German, Italian, Spanish and U.S. adults who are full or part time employed

	Great Britain	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	763	704	631	747	649
Extremely concerned	9	21	27	6	12
Fairly concerned	16	23	22	13	11
Somewhat concerned	38	30	29	35	32
Not at all concerned	38	27	22	47	45

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

**Concerns over job losses because of the recession are mixed. Just under half of Germans and Americans who are employed say they are not at all concerned that they will lose their jobs in the next year. Employed Britons are mixed with just under two in five saying they are not at all concerned and the same number saying they are somewhat concerned. Three in ten Italians and just under that of Spaniards say they are somewhat concerned. But, over one-quarter of Spaniards say that they are extremely concerned about job losses.**

**TABLE 4  
CONCERN OVER FRIEND OR FAMILY JOB LOSS**

“How concerned are you that a friend or family member will lose their job within the next year as a result of this recession?”

Base: UK, German, Italian, Spanish and U.S. adults

	Great Britain	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1111	997	949	1074	1000
Extremely concerned	15	30	29	11	17
Fairly concerned	24	27	28	19	23
Somewhat concerned	34	26	19	43	34
Not at all concerned	19	9	4	24	16
A friend or family member has already lost their job as a result of this recession	8	8	19	3	10

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

**The concern for job losses for friends and family is stronger. Three in ten Italians and Spaniards are extremely concerned that a friend or family member will lose their job within the next year while a plurality of Germans and just over one-third of Britons and Americans are somewhat concerned. The concern for Spaniards is clear as almost one in five say a friend or family member has already lost their job as a result of this recession.**

**TABLE 5**  
**WHICH PART OF UK WILL SUFFER MORE**

“Which of the following statements best reflects your views? As a result of the current recession...”

Base: All U.K. adults

	Great Britain
	%
Unweighted base	1111
The South of the UK will suffer more than the North	21
The North of the UK will suffer more than the South	20
Both the North and the South of the UK will suffer the same	59

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

**In the UK, three in five Britons believe that both the North and South of the country will suffer the same as a result of this recession. The remainder is split evenly between whether the North will suffer or the South will suffer more.**

**TABLE 6**  
**SALARY INCREASES FOR NEXT YEAR**

“Normally, employees’ salaries and pensions rise each year to reflect inflation. However, many economists believe that the country will experience deflation in 2009. That means that retail prices will start to fall and a lot of goods will be cheaper than they are now. If that happens, which statement would best reflect your expectations for your salary for the next year?”

Base: All UK and U.S. adults who are full or part-time employed

	Great Britain	United States
	%	%
Unweighted base	763	649
I would expect my salary to increase next year	32	36
I would expect my salary to decrease next year	13	10
I would expect my salary to remain about the same next year	55	54

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

**Majorities of both employed Britons and Americans expect their salary to remain about the same next year with just under one-third of Britons and just over one-third of Americans saying it will increase. There is a sense of optimism as only one in ten Americans and just over that of Britons say they expect their salary to decrease next year.**

**TABLE 7  
PENSION INCREASES FOR NEXT YEAR**

“Normally, employees’ salaries and pensions rise each year to reflect inflation. However, many economists believe that the country will experience deflation in 2009. That means that retail prices will start to fall and a lot of goods will be cheaper than they are now. If that happens, which statement would best reflect your expectations for your pension for the next year”

Base: All UK and U.S. adults who are retired

	Great Britain	United States
	%	%
Unweighted base	89	102
I would expect my pension to increase next year	45	18
I would expect my pension to decrease next year	2	3
I would expect my pension to remain about the same next year	46	59
I do not receive a pension	8	20

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

Note: Please report with caution, small base sizes

**Among retired Britons, there is a split regarding their pensions for next year as just under half say they will remain the same while almost the same number believe they will increase next year. Among retired Americans, almost three in five believe their pensions will remain about the same while just under one in five say they will increase.**

**TABLE 8  
HOME VALUES**

“Since the beginning of the year, has the value of your house or home...”

Base: All EU adults in five countries and U.S. adults who own a house or home

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	625	527	604	554	387	618
Increased	6	14	15	11	13	14
Decreased	62	21	16	33	17	39
Remained the same	9	27	28	24	40	28
Not sure	23	38	41	32	30	19

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

**Among home owners, three in five Britons, just under two in five Americans and one-third of Spaniards all say their home value has decreased since the beginning of the year. Two in five Germans believe their home value has remained the same while two in five Italians and French are not sure.**

**TABLE 9  
UK JOINING THE EUROZONE**

“It is almost seven years since the UK decided against joining the eurozone and to keep the pound as its national currency. In light of the current economic situation, how much would you agree or disagree with the UK now joining the eurozone and adopting the euro as its national currency?”

Base: All U.K. adults

	Great Britain
	%
Unweighted base	1111
AGREE (NET)	22
Strongly agree	9
Somewhat agree	14
DISAGREE (NET)	56
Somewhat disagree	16
Strongly disagree	40
Not sure	22

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

**Even in light of the current economic situation, a majority of Britons do not want the UK to join the eurozone and adopt the euro as the national currency. Just under one-quarter of Britons would want to join the eurozone.**

**TABLE 10  
SHIFTING BACK TO NATIONAL CURRENCIES**

“The euro as a currency is now ten years old. Some have expressed the opinion, though, that [France/Germany/Italy/Spain] should shift back to its former national currency in light of the current economic situation. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with this opinion?”

Base: All adults in France, Italy, Spain and Germany

	France	Italy	Spain	Germany
	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1034	997	949	1074
AGREE (NET)	29	39	35	42
Strongly agree	16	22	23	27
Somewhat agree	13	17	12	15
DISAGREE (NET)	62	54	54	53
Somewhat disagree	22	13	16	23
Strongly disagree	40	41	38	30
Not sure	8	7	11	5

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

**On the reverse side, majorities in France, Italy, Spain and Germany all say they would not want their country to shift back to its former national currency in light of the current economic situation.**

**TABLE 11**  
**EURO CAUSING PRICE INCREASES**

“Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements – The euro has caused prices to increase in my country”

Base: All adults in France, Italy, Spain, Germany

	France	Italy	Spain	Germany
	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1034	997	949	1074
AGREE (NET)	93	89	90	83
Strongly agree	70	68	80	62
Somewhat agree	23	21	11	21
DISAGREE (NET)	6	10	8	15
Somewhat disagree	4	4	3	10
Strongly disagree	2	6	4	6
Not sure	2	2	2	2

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

**Almost all French, Spanish and Italian adults and over four in five Germans all believe that the euro has caused prices to increase in their country.**

**TABLE 12**  
**COUNTRIES WILL STOP USING THE EURO**

“Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements – My country will stop using the euro within the next 10 years”

Base: All adults in France, Italy, Spain, Germany

	France	Italy	Spain	Germany
	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1034	997	949	1074
AGREE (NET)	12	20	10	16
Strongly agree	7	10	5	7
Somewhat agree	5	10	5	8
DISAGREE (NET)	75	61	69	72
Somewhat disagree	22	14	18	23
Strongly disagree	53	46	52	49
Not sure	13	19	21	13

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

**More than two-thirds of French adults, Germans and Spaniards do not believe their country will stop using the euro in the next ten years as do three in five Italians.**

**TABLE 13**  
**EUROZONE SHOULD EXPAND**

“Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements – More countries should join the eurozone”

Base: All adults in France, Italy, Spain, Germany

	France	Italy	Spain	Germany
	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1034	997	949	1074
AGREE (NET)	56	57	44	41
Strongly agree	22	24	24	14
Somewhat agree	34	34	21	27
DISAGREE (NET)	28	28	34	49
Somewhat disagree	16	14	16	26
Strongly disagree	12	14	18	23
Not sure	15	15	21	11

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

**Majorities of French and Italian adults as well as a plurality of Spaniards believe that more countries should join the eurozone. Germans are not as sure as just under half do not believe more countries should join the eurozone and two in five think they should.**

**TABLE 14**  
**ECB AND CONTROLLING INFLATION**

“How would you rate the European Central Bank’s job in the past ten years in controlling inflation?”

Base: All adults in France, Italy, Spain, Germany

	France	Italy	Spain	Germany
	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1034	997	949	1074
Outstanding	3	1	*	1
Good	15	10	6	13
Fair	25	24	21	26
Bad	22	26	34	32
Terrible	22	27	24	15
Not sure	13	12	14	12

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

**When it comes to the ECB and how they have controlled inflation in the past ten years, just over one-quarter of Italians believe they have done a terrible job while one-third of Spaniards and Germans say they have done a bad job. One-quarter of French adults say the ECB has done a fair job in controlling inflation over the past ten years. One thing is clear – no one really thinks they have done an excellent job.**

**TABLE 15**  
**ECB AND CONTROLLING THE EURO**

“How would you rate the European Central Bank’s job in the past ten years in controlling the stability of the euro?”

Base: All adults in France, Italy, Spain, Germany

	France	Italy	Spain	Germany
	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1034	997	949	1074
Outstanding	5	3	3	6
Good	30	20	16	29
Fair	29	29	30	27
Bad	12	14	22	18
Terrible	10	22	18	10
Not sure	14	12	11	10

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

**With regard to the ECB controlling the stability of the euro over the past ten years, this is perceived more favourably by people. Three in ten Spaniards and Italians say the ECB has done a fair job, while three in ten German and French adults say it has done a good job.**

**TABLE 16**  
**EURO OVERTAKING THE DOLLAR**

“How much do you agree or disagree that the euro could overtake the US dollar in global importance within the next 5 years?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1111	1034	997	949	1074	1000
AGREE (NET)	31	66	62	70	58	48
Strongly agree	6	14	13	29	15	17
Somewhat agree	25	52	49	41	43	31
DISAGREE (NET)	38	20	21	17	28	25
Somewhat disagree	23	16	15	12	24	16
Strongly disagree	15	4	5	5	3	10
Not sure	31	14	17	13	14	26

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

**Seven in ten Spaniards, two-thirds of French adults and majorities of Italians and Germans all believe that the euro could overtake the U.S. dollar in global importance within the next 5 years. Even just under half of Americans believe that this is a possibility. British adults are a little more mixed, as just under two in five say it couldn’t happen while three in ten each say it could or that they are not sure.**

**TABLE 17  
OPINION OF US AFTER OBAMA ELECTION**

“How has the recent election of Barack Obama as president of the United States changed your view of the United States?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany
	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1111	1034	997	949	1074
BETTER (NET)	47	61	51	52	67
Much better than it was before	15	13	23	19	25
Somewhat better than it was before	33	48	28	33	42
No different than it was before	48	38	46	44	29
WORSE (NET)	5	1	4	4	4
Somewhat worse than it was before	3	1	2	1	2
Much worse than it was before	1	1	1	3	2

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

**Two-thirds of Germans, three in five French adults and majorities of Italians and Spaniards all say the recent election of Barack Obama has made their view of the United States better. British adults are split – just under half say their opinion is no different than it was before and just under that say their opinion of the US is now better.**

**TABLE 18  
OBAMA DELIVERING ON PROMISES**

“How likely do you think it is that Barack Obama will deliver the changes he has promised? If you are not sure, please give your best guess.”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1111	1034	997	949	1074	1000
Extremely likely	6	4	11	10	6	16
Fairly likely	26	34	63	22	30	26
Somewhat likely	54	50	24	58	55	30
Not at all likely	14	12	2	10	9	28

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

**When it comes to Barack Obama delivering on his promises, Italians are the most optimistic as almost two-thirds of them say it is fairly likely he will do so. Majorities of adults in Spain, Great Britain, Germany and France all believe it is just somewhat likely Obama will deliver on his promises. In the US, Americans are divided – three in ten say it is somewhat likely he will deliver, while just under that say it is not at all likely. Just over one-quarter of Americans say it is fairly likely he will deliver and one in six say it is extremely likely.**

**TABLE 19**  
**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	1111	1034	997	949	1074	1000
US	23	15	9	27	15	12
China	16	38	37	24	31	22
Russia	14	9	6	6	13	10
Iran	10	16	22	11	11	23
Iraq	12	7	12	13	11	11
North Korea	7	4	4	5	6	11
India	*	*	*	1	*	*
Pakistan	2	1	*	1	1	1
Israel	*	*	*	*	*	-
France	-	*	-	-	-	-
Saudi Arabia	*	-	*	-	*	*
No one country – all are a threat	-	*	1	*	-	*
Afghanistan	*	*	*	*	*	*
UK	*	-	-	-	-	-
No country – terrorist organisations	-	-	-	*	-	-
Turkey	-	-	-	-	*	-
Syria	-	-	*	-	-	*
Muslim countries (not specified)	-	-	*	-	*	-
No country – religious fundamentalists	*	-	*	*	-	*
Middle East (country not specified)	*	*	-	*	-	-
Africa (country not specified)	-	*	*	*	-	-
Other	1	*	*	*	*	*
None	12	10	7	10	12	8
Not sure/Not stated/Refused	1	-	*	*	*	*

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

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