



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

July 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 U.S.

For more information about the polls and to view the [articles by the Financial Times](#) that are based on these data, please go to www.ft.com.

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Source

This FT/Harris Poll was conducted online by Harris Interactive among a total of 6,360 adults (aged 16-64) within France (1,020), Germany (1,046), Great Britain (1,040), Spain (1,116) and the United States (1,054) and adults (aged 18-64) in Italy (1,084) between 5 and 13 July 2007.

Complete survey methodology

This **FT/Harris Poll** was conducted online by Harris Interactive among a total of 6,360 adults (aged 16-64) within France, Germany, Great Britain, Spain, and the United States and adults (aged 18-64) in Italy between 5 and 13 July 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 (6,360); France (1,020); Germany (1,046); Great Britain (1,040); Italy (1,084); Spain (1,116) and the United States (1,054).

Weighted bases for the survey are: Total (6,359); France (1,020); Germany (1,045); Great Britain (1,040); Spain (1,116); Italy (1,084); and the United States (1,054).

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
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

“Regardless of their social background, do you believe all people in your country have the same opportunities to fulfill their potential?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1040	1020	1084	1116	1046	1054
Yes	35	16	15	12	26	45
No	54	79	78	82	69	51
Not sure	11	6	6	7	4	5

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

Great Britain and the US are most likely to think that people in their country have the same opportunities – but majorities in all countries think that people do not have the same opportunities to fulfill their potential.

**TABLE 2
INCOME GAP**

“Do you feel that the gap between the rich and the poor in your country is getting larger or smaller?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1040	1020	1084	1116	1046	1054
Larger	78	85	83	66	91	75
Smaller	4	4	5	8	1	5
Staying the Same	18	11	12	26	8	20

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

Across the board, large majorities of adults in all six countries believe the gap between the rich and poor is getting larger. Spain is the only country where fewer than seven in 10 believe this.

**TABLE 3
CORPORATE LEADERSHIP**

“How much do you admire those who run [your country’s] largest companies?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1040	1020	1084	1116	1046	1054
A great deal	4	4	9	5	3	5
Quite a bit	5	10	24	6	8	6
A fair amount	12	30	21	19	19	16
Somewhat	28	16	14	30	21	33
Not at all	38	36	27	34	41	33
Not sure	13	3	4	6	7	7

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

Italy is really the only country surveyed where there is still some admiration for corporate executives. With the exception of Italy, majorities have very little or no admiration for these executives.

**TABLE 4
CORPORATE EXECUTIVES PAY**

“In your opinion, do senior executives in your country earn too much each year in salaries and bonuses, too little, or about the right amount?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1040	1020	1084	1116	1046	1054
Too much	79	54	74	72	79	77
Too little	2	7	3	2	4	1
About the right amount	10	25	12	14	11	10
Not sure	9	14	11	13	5	13

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

Part of the lack of admiration may have to do with corporate pay. At least seven in ten of adults in, Great Britain, Germany, the US, Italy and Spain think executives earn too much. France stands out on this as only half think executives earn too much while one-quarter believe they earn the right amount.

**TABLE 5
PAY CAPS**

“Do you think that your country’s government should set pay caps for heads of companies?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1040	1020	1084	1116	1046	1054
Yes	60	63	64	62	47	32
No	21	26	28	27	43	47
Not Sure	19	11	8	11	10	22

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

Majorities in Great Britain, France, Italy and Spain believe that the government should set pay caps for the heads of companies. Germans are more split on this issue while US adults are the only ones who do not think pay caps should be set.

**TABLE 6
TAXING HIGHEST EARNERS**

“Do you think that the income tax structure in your country correctly taxes those who earn the highest incomes?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1040	1020	1084	1116	1046	1054
Yes	16	23	13	14	20	12
No, they should be taxed more	58	52	62	66	63	61
No, they should be taxed less	8	11	18	5	7	10
Not sure	19	14	8	15	10	17

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

Majorities in all six countries believe that those who earn the highest income should be taxed more in their countries. France, again, stands out a little on this as just under one-quarter believes the income tax structure is correct in their country.

**TABLE 7
TAXING LOWEST EARNERS**

“Do you think that the income tax structure in your country correctly taxes those who earn the lowest incomes?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1040	1020	1084	1116	1046	1054
Yes	15	24	9	16	12	19
No, they should be taxes more	1	4	2	3	2	6
No, they should be taxed less	69	63	83	69	79	59
Not sure	14	9	6	12	7	17

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

On the flip side of the taxation issue, majorities in all of the countries, with very large majorities in Italy and Germany, say those who earn the least in their countries are incorrectly taxed and their tax burdens should be lowered.

**TABLE 8
POLITICIANS AND THE ECONOMY**

“Do you think the role politicians in your country play in managing the economy is...?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1040	1020	1084	1116	1046	1054
Too small	26	45	19	59	41	27
Just right	39	40	14	24	26	25
Too large	36	14	68	17	33	48

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

Italian adults overwhelmingly believe that politicians play too large a role in managing the economy in their country as do about half of US adults. Pluralities or majorities in Spain, France and Germany, on the other hand think politicians play too small a role. Great Britain is more divided on the issue with two in five saying just right, one-third saying too large and one-quarter saying too small.

**TABLE 8
GLOBALIZATION**

“Do you think Globalization is having a positive or negative effect in [your country]?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1040	1020	1084	1116	1046	1054

Positive effect	15	18	25	17	36	17
Negative effect	53	53	55	54	42	45
Not Sure	32	29	20	30	22	38

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

Majorities or pluralities in all countries believe that globalization is having a negative effect in their country, with Germany (the world's largest exporter) being most likely to say it's having a positive effect. What is interesting to note is the uncertainty on this issue as at least one in five in every country is not sure.

**TABLE 9
GLOBALIZATION AND THE EU**

“Should the European Union do more to protect people from the adverse effects of globalization?”

Base: All EU adults in 5 countries and in the US who think Globalization has a negative effect on their country

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	498	531	565	575	430	502
Yes	64	89	93	94	89	37
No	14	8	3	4	7	18
Not Sure	22	3	4	2	4	45

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

Among those who think globalization is having a negative effect, at least eight in ten in France, Germany, Italy and Spain believe the EU should do more to protect people. Almost two-thirds of British adults also believe the EU should do more, but the numbers are lower than the other countries. Far fewer Americans think this way.

**TABLE 10
FREE COMPETITION**

“Should ‘free competition’ be one of the European Union’s objectives?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1040	1020	1084	1116	1046	1054
Yes	47	45	81	61	69	42
No	15	38	10	18	17	6
Not Sure	38	17	9	20	13	52

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

Large majorities in Italy and Germany, as well as a smaller majority in Spain, believe free competition should be one of the EU’s objectives. Just under half of adults in France and Great Britain also believe this. Among adults in the EU countries surveyed, those in Great Britain are most likely to be unsure on this issue.

**TABLE 11
GREATEST THREAT TO GLOBAL STABILITY**

Q1660_1 “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	1040	1020	1084	1116	1046	1054
US	30	30	17	44	28	12
China	23	32	43	19	27	27
Iran	11	15	15	11	14	16
Iraq	10	8	9	14	10	11
North Korea	7	7	5	4	6	20
Russia	4	2	2	1	6	2
Saudi Arabia	1	*	*	*	-	*
No one country - all are a threat	1	*	-	*	-	*
Israel	*	*	*	*	1	*
Pakistan	*	*	-	-	*	*
Middle East (not specified)	*	-	-	*	*	-
Syria	*	-	-	-	-	-
No country – religious fundamentalists	-	*	-	-	-	-
Muslim Countries (not specified)	-	-	*	*	-	-
Afghanistan	-	-	-	*	-	-
Palestine	-	-	*	*	*	*
Africa (country not specified)	-	-	-	*	-	*
India	-	-	-	*	*	*
Other	*	*	-	1	*	1
None	12	5	7	5	8	9
Not sure	*	-	*	*	*	2

*Less Than 0.5%

“-“ Not Applicable

About Harris Interactive

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