
Adults in Five Largest European Countries and the U.S. Believe There Will be Strikes and Political Extremism Will Rise in their Country in Next Three Years

ROCHESTER, N.Y. – May 12, 2009 – A new Harris Interactive/France 24/International Herald Tribune survey conducted online by Harris Interactive among a total of 6,449 adults (aged 16-64) within France, Germany, Great Britain, Spain, and the United States and adults (aged 18-64) in Italy between March 25 and 31, 2009 finds that:

- Majorities in all six countries believe that in the next three years it is certain or probable that there will be strikes and/or demonstrations in their country and there will also be the rise of political extremism in their country;
- A majority of adults in Italy (78%), Great Britain (69%), the U.S. (66%), Germany (54%), and France (51%) as well as 40% of Spaniards believe that there will be greatly increased immigration into their country in the next three years
- At least one-third of adults in all six countries, including almost two-thirds of Britons (63%) believe there will be the rise of religious fanaticism in their country in the next three years and over one-third in all six countries also believe there will be a drop in human rights/individual freedoms in their countries in the next three years; and,
- Looking at what might happen in neighboring countries, at least one-quarter of adults in all six countries, including almost half of Americans (47%) believe the bankruptcy of a neighboring country will happen in the next three years. Smaller numbers in all six countries believe there will be a military or other coup or a civil war in a neighboring country or a war between neighboring countries.

Besides what might happen in their country or a neighboring country, there are also things closer to home that are causing worries, especially keeping in mind the economy:

- At least two in five adults in all six countries say they worry a great deal or some about the inability to afford the basic running of their house, such as water, electricity and phones, anymore;
- Losing one's job is also a worry for a majority of adults in Italy (65%) and Spain (52%), a plurality of adults in France (42%), Germany (42%) and the U.S. (40%) and 37% of Britons;
- Seven in ten Italians (70%) and 63% of French adults as well as majorities of Germans (53%) and Americans (51%) worry about not being able to afford necessary medical treatments;
- Two-thirds of French adults (68%), 60% of Italians and a majority of Germans (53%) worry about losing their retirement pensions; and,
- Lesser numbers in the six countries are also worried about the inability to feed their family as in the past, the inability to finance their children's future, losing their savings because their bank/financial institution goes out of business, the

inability to get around because they can't afford their car, the inability to go on vacations as in the past and becoming homeless.

When it comes to solving the current economic crisis, one person instills the most confidence in all six countries – Barack Obama. Specifically:

- Three-quarters of Italians (76%), 60% of Spaniards, half of French adults (50%), 48% of Americans, 46% of Germans and one-third (33%) of Britons have the most confidence in President Obama to solve the crisis;
- No other single leader named garners over one-third of support from adults in any of the six countries; and,
- But there is also a sense that maybe none of the current leaders can do it. Over half of Britons (56%) as well as 43% of Germans and Americans and 39% of French adults say they do not have confidence in any of the leaders to solve the current economic crisis.

So What?

As economists say things may be turning a corner when it comes to the economic crisis that feeling does not seem to be trickling down to most people. There are constant worries about what might occur – both for people personally as well as what might occur in their countries because of the problems everyone is currently facing. Even if the economic numbers do show some positive news, until people around the world feel this sense of optimism themselves, perceptions will dictate that the economic crisis will continue.

TABLE 1
POTENTIAL CRISES IN NEXT THREE YEARS

“We list several events below. In your opinion, what is the likelihood that each will happen in the next three years?”

Percent saying “Certain to happen/probable”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Strikes and/or demonstrations in your country	82	95	89	90	85	78
Greatly increased immigration into your country	69	51	78	40	54	66
Rise of political extremism in your country	65	58	53	60	65	53
Riots in your country	50	66	28	62	44	49
Rise of religious fanaticism in your country	63	44	40	33	44	45
Drop in human rights/individual freedom in your country	43	45	35	46	35	39

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

TABLE 2
OPINION OF PERSONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION

“We list several events below. In your opinion, what is the likelihood that each will happen in the next three years?”

Percent saying “Certain to happen/Probable”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
The bankruptcy of a neighboring country	34	34	24	29	35	47
A military or other coup in a neighboring country	19	21	11	14	20	46
A civil war in a neighboring country	18	22	11	12	14	43
A war between neighboring countries	22	20	14	15	13	37

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

TABLE 3
WORRIES OVER NEXT THREE YEARS

“We again list several hypothetical events below. Keeping in mind the economy and its potential impact on your personal situation, how much do you worry that each will occur in the next three years?”

Percent saying “Worry a great deal/Worry some about the event”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Losing your retirement pensions	32	68	60	38	53	45
Inability to afford necessary medical treatments as in the past	25	63	70	40	53	51
Losing your job	37	42	65	52	42	40
Inability to afford the basic running of your house (water, electricity, phone) anymore	40	50	60	49	41	39
Inability to properly feed your family as in the past	32	52	60	44	37	37
Inability to finance your children’s future (studies...)	24	54	62	38	43	37
Losing your savings because your bank/financial institution goes out of business	33	40	60	47	34	35
Inability to afford to get around by yourself (own car) any more	29	45	50	32	44	35
Inability to afford to go on holiday as in the past	32	44	39	29	47	38
Becoming homeless	28	36	49	44	19	27

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

TABLE 4
WHO CAN SOLVE THE ECONOMIC CRISIS?

“According to you, which of the following do you have the most confidence in being able to solve the current economic crisis?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Barack Obama (USA)	33	50	76	60	46	48
Angela Merkel (Germany)	9	25	34	34	26	8
Nicolas Sarkozy (France)	5	24	28	28	10	5
Gordon Brown (Great Britain)	15	8	17	14	6	14
Jose Manuel Barroso (European Union)	7	10	24	13	11	7
Jose Luis Zapatero (Spain)	1	4	19	22	2	2
Ban Ki-Moon (United Nations)	6	4	12	6	6	8
Silvio Berlusconi (Italy)	1	1	26	3	2	3
Hu Jintao (China)	4	1	8	3	3	6
Dmitri Medvedev (Russia)	2	2	6	3	3	3
Manmohan Singh (India)	2	2	5	1	1	3
Dominique Strauss Kahn (IMF)	*	2	-	-	-	-
All leaders working together	1	-	-	-	*	*
Other	3	3	2	3	4	5
None of them	56	39	16	28	43	43
Not sure	1	*	1	*	*	1

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

Methodology

This **Harris Interactive/France 24/International Herald Tribune** study was conducted online by Harris Interactive among a total of 6,449 adults aged 16-64 within France (1,093), Germany (1,021), Great Britain (1,164), Spain (1,029) and the United States (1,078), and adults aged 18-64 in Italy (1,064) between 25 and 31 March 2009. 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.

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 of the respective countries. 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 of the British Polling Council.

About Harris Interactive

Harris Interactive is a global leader in custom market research. With a long and rich history in multimodal research, powered by our science and technology, we assist clients in achieving business results. Harris Interactive serves clients globally through our North American, European and Asian offices and a network of independent market research firms. For more information, please visit www.harrisinteractive.com.

Press Contact:

Corporate Communications
Harris Interactive
585-272-8400
press@harrisinteractive.net

Harris Interactive Inc. 05/09