

Financial Times/Harris Poll

Monthly Opinions of Adults from Five European Countries and the United States

November 2009 - 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 Harris Interactive Corporate Communications at 212-539-9600 or press@harrisinteractive.net.

Source

This FT/Harris Poll was conducted online by Harris Interactive among a total of 6,182 adults aged 16-64 within France (1,071), Germany (1,010), Great Britain (1,076), Spain (949), and the United States (1,039), and adults aged 18-64 in Italy (1,037) between 28th October and 4th November 2009.

Complete survey methodology

This **FT/Harris Poll** was conducted online by Harris Interactive among a total of 6,463 adults aged 16-64 within France, Germany, Great Britain, Spain, and the United States and adults aged 18-64 in Italy between 28th October and 4th November 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.

Unweighted bases for the survey are: Total (6,182); France (1,071); Germany (1,010); Great Britain (1,076); Italy (1,037); Spain (949); and the United States (1,039).

Weighted bases for the survey are: Total (6,182); France (1,071); Germany (1,010); Great Britain (1,076); Italy (1,037); Spain (949); and the United States (1,039).

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 non-response, 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
PRESIDENT OBAMA- THE RIGHT CHOICE

“How would you rate the overall job that President Barack Obama is doing?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1076	1071	1037	949	1010	1039
Good to Excellent (NET)	64%	82%	86%	60%	77%	45%
Excellent	7%	12%	21%	7%	8%	8%
Pretty good	57%	70%	65%	53%	69%	37%
Fair to Poor (NET)	35%	19%	14%	41%	22%	55%
Only fair	30%	17%	13%	37%	21%	31%
Poor	5%	2%	1%	4%	2%	24%

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

The data shows that President Barack Obama is considered to be moving in the right direction. Majorities of European adults and 45% of Americans rate his overall job between excellent to pretty good.

TABLE 2
PRESIDENT OBAMA- PEACE FACILITATOR?

“To what extent do you agree or disagree with President Barack Obama being awarded this year’s Nobel Peace prize?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1076	1071	1037	949	1010	1039
Agree (NET)	15%	27%	39%	20%	35%	21%
Strongly Agree	5%	6%	10%	4%	10%	10%
Somewhat agree	10%	21%	29%	16%	24%	12%
Neither Agree nor disagree	32%	34%	34%	30%	29%	27%
Disagree (NET)	53%	39%	27%	50%	36%	52%
Somewhat disagree	30%	26%	18%	24%	24%	17%
Strongly disagree	23%	13%	9%	27%	13%	35%

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

On average 30% of the Europeans and Americans are neutral to President Obama receiving this year’s Nobel peace prize. However, a little over 50% of Britons and Americans as well as half of Spaniards disagree with President Obama being given the prize. Italians and Germans are most likely to agree with this choice.

TABLE 3

NON US WESTERN TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN TO STAY OR NOT

“With Western troops operating in Afghanistan, what do you think (Non-US) Western troops should do in Afghanistan?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1076	1071	1037	949	1010	1039
At least stay for a year (NET)	56%	57%	66%	57%	62%	79%
Stay as long as necessary	31%	17%	43%	35%	38%	39%
Stay between 2 and 5 years	7%	18%	4%	8%	9%	18%
Stay one more year and then withdraw	18%	23%	18%	14%	15%	23%
Withdraw immediately	44%	43%	34%	43%	38%	21%

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

Majorities of adults in the five European countries believe non-U.S. Western troops should stay in Afghanistan for at least a year, with at least three in ten Britons, Spaniards, Germans and Italians saying they should stay as long as necessary. In the U.S, almost four in five Americans believe that troops should stay for at least a year, with 39% of Americans saying that they should stay as long as necessary.

TABLE 4

US WESTERN TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN TO STAY OR NOT

“With Western troops operating in Afghanistan, what do you think US troops should do in Afghanistan?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1076	1071	1037	949	1010	1039
At least stay for a year (NET)	65%	60%	69%	61%	70%	70%
Stay as long as necessary	40%	18%	49%	39%	46%	32%
Stay between 2 and 5 years	7%	18%	5%	9%	11%	15%
Stay one more year and then withdraw	17%	23%	16%	13%	13%	23%
Withdraw immediately	35%	40%	31%	39%	30%	30%

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

Majorities of European and American adults think that US troops should stay for at least a year in Afghanistan. Just under half of Italians and Germans feel that US troops should stay there as long as necessary.

TABLE 5
NON US WESTERN TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN GOOD TO GO

“Please tell us to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about Afghanistan
1. (Non-US) Western troops are adequately equipped for combat.”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1076	1071	1037	949	1010	1039
Agree (NET)	9%	36%	43%	42%	27%	30%
Strongly agree	2%	6%	9%	13%	4%	6%
Somewhat agree	7%	30%	34%	28%	23%	24%
Neither agree nor disagree	33%	39%	35%	37%	41%	44%
Disagree (NET)	58%	24%	22%	21%	32%	25%
Somewhat disagree	30%	18%	16%	13%	21%	16%
Strongly disagree	29%	7%	6%	8%	12%	9%

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

More than one in three Europeans and Americans fail to either agree or disagree with western troops being adequately equipped for combat. It is only in Britain that there is a majority view as three in five Britons believes that Western troops are not adequately equipped for combat. One-third of Germans also share this view.

TABLE 6
US WESTERN TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN GOOD TO GO

“Please tell us to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about Afghanistan
2. US troops are adequately equipped for combat.”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1076	1071	1037	949	1010	1039
Agree (NET)	36%	47%	61%	61%	52%	44%
Strongly agree	11%	12%	22%	32%	13%	15%
Somewhat agree	26%	36%	39%	29%	38%	29%
Neither agree nor disagree	47%	38%	27%	30%	35%	25%
Disagree (NET)	17%	15%	12%	9%	13%	31%
Somewhat disagree	10%	11%	8%	5%	9%	21%
Strongly disagree	7%	4%	4%	4%	4%	10%

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

Majorities in Italy, Spain Germany, just under half of French and U.S adults and more than one third of Britons believe that US troops are adequately equipped for combat. More than one in four Americans and Italians, less than half of Britons and one third of French, Spaniards and Germans neither agree nor disagree with this statement.

TABLE 7
PEOPLE'S PERSPECTIVE ON EXTRA US TROOPS TO AFGHANISTAN

“President Barack Obama is considering sending up to 40,000 extra US troops to Afghanistan. Which of the following statements best describes your perspective on this issue?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1076	1071	1037	949	1010	1039
He should send no extra troops at all	34%	47%	49%	50%	47%	29%
He should send 20,000 extra troops	5%	5%	6%	5%	7%	8%
He should send 40,000 extra troops	15%	8%	8%	8%	11%	20%
He should send more than 40,000 extra troops	8%	6%	7%	8%	9%	12%
Not sure	38%	33%	30%	28%	27%	31%

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

Half of Spaniards and just under half of French, Italians and Germans, one third of Britons and three in ten Americans think that President Obama should not be sending any extra troops to Afghanistan.

TABLE 8
DEFEATING TALIBAN

“How successful do you believe the US-led mission to defeat the Taliban will ultimately be?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1076	1071	1037	949	1010	1039
At least somewhat successful (NET)	57%	71%	67%	71%	52%	74%
Very successful	2%	2%	2%	5%	2%	4%
Successful	10%	14%	10%	11%	9%	21%
Somewhat successful	44%	54%	55%	55%	41%	49%
Not at all successful	43%	29%	33%	29%	48%	26%

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding; * indicates less than 0.5%

Whilst majorities of European adults in the 5 biggest countries and the US believe that the US led mission to defeat the Taliban will be at least somewhat successful, a little less than half of Germans and more than two in five Britons think that it will be not at all successful.

TABLE 9
WHAT NEXT- FIGHTING OR BUILDING RELATIONS

“(Non-US) Western countries/The US involvement in Afghanistan going forward should be...”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1076	1071	1037	949	1010	1039
Most focused on fighting Taliban	15%	16%	13%	15%	16%	30%
Most focused on nation building/improving relations	51%	62%	64%	68%	57%	37%
Neither of the above	12%	8%	11%	8%	14%	15%
Not sure	23%	13%	13%	10%	13%	18%

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding; * indicates less than 0.5%

Majorities in Britain, France, Italy, Spain and Germany say that going forward US involvement in Afghanistan should be more focussed on nation building. The Americans remain divided with 30% saying that focus should be on fighting Taliban and 37% favour improving relations.

TABLE 10
BEST PRESIDENT OF EUROPE

“Who do you think would make the best President of Europe overall?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1076	1071	1037	949	1010	1039
Tony Blair (UK)	14%	11%	14%	8%	3%	23%
Felipe Gonzalez (Spain)	2%	5%	9%	26%	2%	2%
Paavo Tapio Lipponen (Finland)	2%	6%	7%	4%	4%	1%
Jean-Claude Juncker (Luxembourg)	2%	5%	4%	2%	9%	1%
Jan Peter Balkenende (Netherlands)	4%	2%	3%	1%	3%	2%
Bertie Ahern (Republic of Ireland)	7%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Other candidate	10%	13%	11%	13%	22%	4%
Not sure	59%	57%	51%	45%	55%	63%

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

The most interesting thing to note here is that around half or more of European and US adults were not sure of who would make the best president of Europe. Among the candidates mentioned, Tony Blair is the top choice, albeit by small numbers, for the best President of Europe in the US and major European countries with the exception of Germany and Spain. In Germany, Jean-Claude Juncker takes a lead whereas in Spain, Felipe Gonzalez gets the highest score.

TABLE 11
GREATEST THREAT 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 U.S. adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1076	1071	1037	949	1010	1039
Iran	17%	32%	38%	19%	22%	23%
China	12%	23%	22%	12%	16%	13%
North Korea	24%	14%	9%	15%	20%	31%
US	17%	8%	6%	24%	12%	9%
Iraq	7%	7%	12%	12%	12%	10%
Russia	5%	5%	3%	3%	5%	3%
Israel	1%	1%	*	1%	*	*
Pakistan	1%	*	*	*	*	*
Afghanistan	*	-	1%	*	-	*
Middle East (country not specified)	-	-	*	-	-	*
Turkey	-	-	-	-	*	-
No one country – all are a threat	-	*	*	-	-	*
Muslim Countries (not specified)	-	-	-	-	*	-
No country – religious fundamentalists are the biggest threat	-	-	-	*	-	-
Palestine	*	-	-	-	-	-
France	-	*	-	-	-	-
Saudi Arabia	*	-	-	-	-	*
India	-	-	-	-	-	*
Other	-	*	*	*	*	*
None	17%	10%	9%	13%	12%	10%
Not sure/not stated/not answered/refused	*	*	*	*	*	*

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding, * indicates less than 0.5%; “-” indicates no response

About Harris Interactive

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