

Financial Times/Harris Poll

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

August 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 6085 adults aged 16-64 within France (1033), Germany (989), Great Britain (1065), Spain (974) and the United States (1035), and adults aged 18-64 in Italy (989) between 12th and 20th August 2009.

Complete survey methodology

This **FT/Harris Poll** was conducted online by Harris Interactive among a total of 6085 adults aged 16-64 within France, Germany, Great Britain, Spain, and the United States and adults aged 18-64 in Italy between 12th and 20th August 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 (6085); France (1033); Germany (989); Great Britain (1065); Italy (989); Spain (974); and the United States (1035).

Weighted bases for the survey are: Total (6085); France (1033); Germany (989); Great Britain (1065); Italy (989); Spain (974); and the United States (1035).

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 – AUGUST 09
PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

“We would now like to ask a few questions on current affairs.
How big a threat does each of the countries below pose to peace in the Middle East?
Iran

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1065	1033	989	974	989	1035
At least some threat (NET)	80	82	91	86	81	87
A great deal	32	35	37	30	26	51
Quite a bit	21	26	29	35	24	16
A fair amount	17	15	21	17	20	12
Some	9	6	4	4	12	7
None	3	1	1	3	7	3
Not sure	16	17	8	11	12	10

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

“Italy, Spain and the US are the most concerned about the threat Iran poses to Middle Eastern peace, with 91% of Italians believing there is at least some threat. However, over half of Americans think Iran poses a considerable threat to peace in the Middle East. Germans are the least to be concerned a great deal, but at least 80% in all countries believe there is at least some threat.”

**TABLE 2 – AUGUST 09
PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

“We would now like to ask a few questions on current affairs.
How big a threat does each of the countries below pose to peace in the Middle East?
Israel

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1065	1033	989	974	989	1035
At least some threat (NET)	77	79	87	84	80	74
A great deal	26	20	15	22	14	18
Quite a bit	16	22	26	31	16	13
A fair amount	22	22	29	23	27	20
Some	13	15	17	8	22	22
None	5	4	4	5	8	14
Not sure	18	17	8	11	12	12

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

“Israel is seen as less of a threat to Middle Eastern peace, particularly in the US, where less than 1 in 5 believe it poses a considerable threat, compared to over half for Iran. Over 70% in all countries think that there is at least some threat with over 4 in 5 Italians and Spaniards believing there is at least some threat to peace in the Middle East from Israel.

**TABLE 3 – AUGUST 09
IRAN ELECTION**

“On 12 June the Presidential Election in Iran saw Mahmoud Ahmadinejad re-elected amid a much-disputed re-election. What should Western Countries do now?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1065	1033	989	974	989	1035
Find common issues that can be worked on together while disagreeing on others	46	54	51	55	45	43
Cut off all direct contact with the Iranian Government	14	15	27	14	21	15
Ignore the dispute and deal with the government as normal	13	6	8	12	9	12
Not Sure	27	25	14	19	25	30

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

“Over half of respondents in France, Italy and Spain feel that it is best to find common issues to work together with the Iranian government as do a plurality of adults in Great Britain, Germany and the U.S. However, in Italy over a quarter believe it is best to cut off all contact with the Iranian Government. Over a quarter of British, French, Germans and Americans are not sure what should be done with Americans the most unsure of what should be done. Just 15% or less in all six countries believes that ignoring the dispute and carrying on as normal is the right thing to do.”

**TABLE 4 – AUGUST 09
IRAN'S NUCLEAR AMBITIONS**

“Iran is suspected of seeking to build its own nuclear weapons. What should Western countries do in response to this suspicion?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1065	1033	989	974	989	1035
Approve tough new sanctions	35	42	47	55	44	39
Accept that there is nothing they can do and live with the likelihood Iran has nuclear weapons	17	10	12	11	16	10
Bomb Iran's nuclear facilities	11	6	11	7	6	16
Do something else	14	15	17	14	19	14
Not sure	23	27	12	13	14	23

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

“Over half of Spaniards believe that tough sanctions are the best way to deal with the Iranian nuclear threat. Over 2 in 5 Germans, Italians and French are also in favour of this approach as are just under two in five Americans and over one-third of Britons. Britains and Germans are the most likely to accept what is, with just over 15% stating that we should just accept there is nothing we can do. Over 15% of Americans think that bombing Iranian nuclear facilities is the appropriate response – the highest such response among these six countries.”

**TABLE 5 – AUGUST 09
IRAN'S NUCLEAR AMBITIONS**

“And do you think the suspicion that Iran is seeking to build its own nuclear weapons is true?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1065	1033	989	974	989	1035
Yes	48	53	61	60	72	67
No	8	10	6	8	6	5
Not Sure	44	37	33	33	22	28

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

“Germans and Americans are the most convinced that Iran is seeking to build its own nuclear weapons, with over two thirds of people believing it to be true. The British and French are the least convinced – only about half believe that Iran is seeking to build nuclear weapons. Less than 10% of respondents in all countries believe that Iran is not seeking to build nuclear weapons.”

**TABLE 6 – AUGUST 09
IRAN’S NUCLEAR AMBITIONS**
“Why do you think Iran might want nuclear weapons?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries and U.S. who think Iran is seeking to build its own nuclear weapons

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	533	588	613	585	716	702
A desire to be a dominant power in the Middle East	76	85	86	70	78	85
Fear of Israel which has nuclear weapons	37	31	22	28	31	36
Fear of the US are the invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan	37	29	24	36	39	36
Other reason	9	12	7	5	11	12
Not sure	2	2	2	4	4	3

Note: Multiple responses allowed

“At least 70% or more in each of the six country of those who believe that Iran is seeking to build its own nuclear weapons think that the reason is a desire to become a dominant power in the Middle East. Over a third of Britons, Spaniards, Germans and Americans believe that fear of the US plays a part, and just over 35% of British and American respondents think that fear of Israel’s nuclear capabilities is the reason for Iran’s nuclear ambitions.”

**TABLE 7 – AUGUST 09
MIDDLE EASTERN ARMS RACE**

“Right now, Israel, Pakistan and Iran all either have or are suspected of having or trying to acquire nuclear weapons. Knowing this, which of the following statements do you most agree with?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1065	1033	989	974	989	1035
A nuclear arms race in the middle East is inevitable	21	25	16	25	10	22
The Middle East should be a nuclear-free zone	19	23	40	26	46	15
I agree equally with both of the statements above	35	29	22	25	29	41
Not sure	25	24	22	24	15	22

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

“Over one fifth of Britons, French, Spaniards, and Americans feel that an arms race in the Middle East is inevitable. Over 2 in 5 Italians and Germans believe that the Middle East should be a nuclear-free zone while two in five Americans agree equally with both statements.”

**TABLE 8 – AUGUST 09
IRAN'S NUCLEAR AMBITIONS**

“Do you support or oppose allowing Iran to develop its nuclear program for energy uses if it can give a verifiable guarantee that it will not acquire or manufacture nuclear weapons?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1065	1033	989	974	989	1035
Oppose	31	36	39	49	48	40
Support	30	42	44	32	31	33
Not sure	39	22	17	19	21	27

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

“The French and Italians are more willing to support Iran’s development of its nuclear program for energy use than other countries. In Spain and Germany just under half oppose the idea as do 2 in 5 Americans. The British are unsure, with just under 1 in 3 opposing or supporting and the rest stating they are not sure.”

**TABLE 9 – AUGUST 09
ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS**

“President Obama has called on Israel to stop building new settlements on occupied Arab land, including East Jerusalem. Which of the following statements, if any, do you agree with most?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1065	1033	989	974	989	1035
Existing Israeli settlements need to be dismantled for a viable Palestinian state to exist	18	52	24	50	25	15
An independent Palestinian state will make Israel safer	18	15	29	10	32	13
A freeze on settlement buildings is enough to reignite the peace process	16	6	24	13	12	14
Israel should continue building to strengthen its security	3	3	4	4	3	16
Not sure	45	24	20	23	27	43

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

Half of French and Spanish adults believe that existing Israeli settlements need to be dismantled for a viable Palestinian state to exist while one-third of Germans and three in ten Italians believe an independent Palestinian state will make Israel safer. In the U.S., 16% believe that Israel should continue to build to strengthen its security – less than 5% in the other 5 countries believes this.

**TABLE 10 – AUGUST 09
ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS**

“The US and EU are currently promoting a two-state solution for Israel and Palestine. Which of the following do you think is the best solution?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1065	1033	989	974	989	1035
A two-state solution is the best solution for both sides	44	62	75	65	70	49
A single state for both Israelis and Palestinians with equal rights in the best solution	20	13	14	18	13	17
Not sure	37	24	10	17	17	34

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

“Majorities in France, Italy, Spain and Germany as well as just under half of Americans and a plurality of Britons agree that a two-state solution is the best solution for both sides. In Italy and Germany at least 7 in 10 people agree with this. In Britain and the US consensus is lower, with just under half agreeing to a two-state solution. One in five or less in all countries feel that a single state would work. Again, American and Britons are less sure about what the best solution is.”

**TABLE 11 – AUGUST 09
THE MIDDLE EAST**

“US President, Barack Obama, has called for closer engagement with the Arab and Muslim worlds. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?”

‘Closer engagement will make US policy fairer in the Middle East’

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1065	1033	989	974	989	1035
Agree (NET)	37	43	66	55	58	35
Strongly Agree	13	12	26	24	32	12
Somewhat Agree	24	31	40	30	26	23
Neither agree nor disagree	29	22	18	24	20	25
Disagree (NET)	8	8	8	10	9	20
Somewhat disagree	5	5	5	6	5	11
Strongly disagree	3	3	3	4	4	9
Not sure	25	27	9	10	13	20

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

“Over half of Spanish and Germans and two thirds of Italians agree that closer engagement with the Middle East will make US policy fairer. One in five Americans disagree compared to 10% or less in all the other countries. Britons are the most neutral, as three in ten neither agree nor disagree.”

**TABLE 12 – AUGUST 09
THE MIDDLE EAST**

“US President, Barack Obama, has called for closer engagement with the Arab and Muslim worlds. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?”

‘Closer engagement will mean a less favourable policy towards Israel’

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1065	1033	989	974	989	1035
Agree (NET)	20	23	25	29	32	32
Strongly Agree	5	5	8	11	10	13
Somewhat Agree	15	18	17	18	22	19
Neither agree nor disagree	37	30	35	36	30	28
Disagree (NET)	15	17	29	20	20	18
Somewhat disagree	12	12	20	14	15	12
Strongly disagree	3	5	8	6	5	6
Not sure	28	30	12	14	17	22

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

“At least one quarter of adults in Italy, Spain, Germany and the US agree that closer engagement with the Middle East will mean a less favourable policy towards Israel. The British and French are less certain, with over half combining to neither agree nor disagree or stating ‘not sure’. Just under three in ten Italians disagree with this statement, as do a fifth of Spanish and German respondents.”

**TABLE 13 – AUGUST 09
THE MIDDLE EAST**

“US President, Barack Obama, has called for closer engagement with the Arab and Muslim worlds. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?”

‘The West should talk to Hamas’

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1065	1033	989	974	989	1035
Agree (NET)	39	34	48	36	53	29
Strongly Agree	12	7	13	13	26	10
Somewhat Agree	28	27	35	24	26	19
Neither agree nor disagree	24	17	21	24	18	23
Disagree (NET)	12	18	18	27	14	23
Somewhat disagree	5	10	10	11	9	6
Strongly disagree	7	8	8	16	5	16
Not sure	25	31	12	13	15	25

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

“Germany and Italy are significantly more in favour of the West talking to Hamas than other countries. Around half of Germans and Italians think that the West should talk to Hamas, compared to two in five Britons, over one-third of French and Spanish adults, and just under a third of Americans. Just under half of Britons and Americans are either neutral or unsure.”

**TABLE 14– AUGUST 09
MIDDLE EASTERN SECURITY**

“Which, if any, of the following countries do you think is the greatest threat to global security?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1065	1033	989	974	989	1035
North Korea	27	23	14	24	29	39
Iran	11	24	33	17	16	15
China	12	20	19	13	11	14
US	15	8	7	16	12	11
Iraq	8	7	11	13	8	7
Russia	7	4	4	3	7	4
Israel	1	1	1	1	2	*
Afghanistan	1	1	1	*	*	*
Pakistan	*	*	*	*	*	-
India	-	-	*	-	-	-
France	*	*	-	-	-	-
Saudi Arabia	*	-	-	-	-	*
Syria	-	-	-	-	-	*
No one country – all are a threat	-	*	*	-	-	*

Middle East (country not specified)	-	*	-	-	-	-
No Country – religious fundamentals are the biggest threat	*	-	-	-	-	-
None	15	11	9	11	13	9
Not Sure	1	1	*	-	*	1
Not stated / not answered / refused	*	*	*	-	-	*

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

About Harris Interactive

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