



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

July 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 585-214-7756 or press@harrisinteractive.net.

Source

This FT/Harris Poll was conducted online by Harris Interactive among a total of 6,362 adults aged 16-64 within France (1,089), Germany (1,033), Great Britain (1,109), Spain (1,033) and the United States (1,052), and adults aged 18-64 in Italy (1,046) between 24th and 29th June 2009.

Complete survey methodology

This **FT/Harris Poll** was conducted online by Harris Interactive among a total of 6,362 adults aged 16-64 within France, Germany, Great Britain, Spain, and the United States and adults aged 18-64 in Italy between 24 and 29 June 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 (6,362); France (1,089); Germany (1,033); Great Britain (1,109); Italy (1,046); Spain (1,033); and the United States (1,052).

Weighted bases for the survey are: Total (6,362); France (1,089); Germany (1,033); Great Britain (1,109); Italy (1,046); Spain (1,033); and the United States (1,052).

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 – DECEMBER 08
WHEN RECESSION WILL END**

“Moving on to a few questions on current affairs, many economists say that [the UK/Germany/Italy/Spain/
the US] is now in 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

**TABLE 1 – JULY 09
WHEN RECESSION WILL END**

“Moving on to a few questions on current affairs, many economists say that [the
UK/France/Germany/Italy/Spain/ the US] is now in recession. When do you expect the recession to end?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1109	1089	1046	1033	1033	1052
In less than 6 months	2	3	3	5	6	6
Between 6 months and 1 year	21	20	24	17	26	18
Between 1 and 2 years	45	40	39	40	32	43
In more than 2 years	18	20	18	24	15	21
I do not expect the recession to end in the foreseeable future	14	17	15	14	21	12

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

Back in December the majorities in all 5 European countries as well as the US said that they expected the current recession to last between 1 and 2 years. Compared to December, Germans remain the most pessimistic with just over 1 in 5 saying that they do not expect the recession to end in the foreseeable future, a decrease from December. However public opinion has not changed significantly on this issue overall.

**TABLE 2 – NOVEMBER 08
STANDARD OF LIVING**

“In the next year, do you expect your standard of living to become...?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1087	1045	1052	1007	1034	1032
BETTER (NET)	11	4	12	7	21	21
Much better	1	*	1	1	3	3
Somewhat better	10	4	11	6	18	18
Neither better nor worse	33	20	30	34	34	35
WORSE (NET)	55	76	58	59	45	44
Somewhat worse	40	59	40	44	30	35
Much worse	15	17	19	15	15	9

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

**TABLE 2 – JULY 09
STANDARD OF LIVING**

“In the next year, do you expect your standard of living to become...?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1109	1089	1046	1033	1033	1052
BETTER (NET)	11	6	8	15	14	23
Much better	1	1	1	3	3	4
Somewhat better	10	5	7	12	12	19
Neither better nor worse	48	27	62	38	43	41
WORSE (NET)	41	68	30	47	43	36
Somewhat worse	32	46	26	37	31	28
Much worse	9	22	5	10	11	8

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

We have seen a decrease throughout most of Europe and the US in those who perceive that their standard of living will become worse in the coming year when compared with how they felt in November. Germans, however, remain pessimistic with similar numbers saying they expect their standard of living to be worse. Just under half in Britain and over 3 in 5 Italians expect their standard of living to neither become better nor worse. Two-thirds of French adults and just under half of Spanish say they expect that their standard of living to become worse over the next year. When compared to November, the majority in all 5 European countries and the US said that they expected their standard of living to become worse.

**TABLE 3 – DECEMBER 08
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 employed full or part time

	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

**TABLE 3 – JULY 09
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: All EU adults in five countries and U.S. adults who are employed full or part time

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	788	743	777	697	737	754
Extremely concerned	8	9	13	21	8	12
Fairly concerned	11	16	16	22	10	9
Somewhat concerned	41	29	46	32	37	36
Not at all concerned	40	47	25	25	45	42

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

Germany and America are still the most optimistic when it comes to the stability of their own jobs, with just under half of Germans and just over 2 in 5 Americans saying that they are not at all concerned. The French also share their confidence, with just under half also saying that they are not at all concerned.

The Italian and Spanish have not experienced the same level of comfort as their European counterparts over the last 7 months as they are still somewhat concerned about the security of their jobs. Originally just one quarter of Italians and one in five Spaniards said they were not at all concerned about losing their jobs in the next year, now one-quarter of those employed in both countries are not at all concerned about their job security – no real change at all.

The British are very much split with 2 in 5 saying that are not at all concerned about losing their job over the next year, while the same amount are somewhat concerned. This have remained constant compared to December where just under 2 in 5 say that they were not at all concerned about losing their jobs and again the same amount of British said that they were somewhat concerned.

**TABLE 4 – DECEMBER 08
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

**TABLE 4 – JULY 09
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: All EU adults in five countries and U.S. adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1109	1089	1046	1033	1033	1052
Extremely concerned	10	14	18	24	10	17
Fairly concerned	23	31	29	29	19	20
Somewhat concerned	40	32	35	23	44	32
Not at all concerned	19	15	8	7	23	14
A friend or family member has already lost their job as a result of this recession	8	8	10	17	4	17

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

Compared to December, Americans have seen the largest increase in the number of friends and family who have already lost their job as a result of this recession.

Interestingly, Italians have seen the biggest increase in confidence since December, when 1 in 3 said that they were extremely concerned about their friends and families job security. Now less than one in five Italians say they are extremely concerned.

Compared to December when over 3 in 10 British adults were somewhat concerned that a friend or family member could lose their job over the coming year that concern has increased to 4 in 10 British adults somewhat concerned, but the number of those extremely concerned has dropped. .

In Germany and America the attitudes have not changed significantly over the concern of the job stability of their family members and friends. The majority of Germans and Americans are still somewhat concerned.

Just under 3 in 10 Spanish say that they are fairly concerned that a friends and family member will lose their jobs in the next year as a result of the recession.

TABLE 5**MONTHLY SAVINGS**

“Thinking of the share of your monthly income that you save, would you say that compared to 6 months ago this has now...?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1109	1089	1046	1033	1033	1052
increased	8	8	5	15	6	12
remained about the same	52	40	45	39	60	47
decreased	40	52	50	47	34	41

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

Six in ten Germans, half of Britons and just under half of Americans all say the share of their monthly income that they save has remained the same compared to six months ago.

Half of French and Italian adults and just under half of Spaniards say the amount they save has decreased compared to six months ago.

**TABLE 6 – MARCH 09
BUYING SHARES IN COMPANIES**

“Has the current economic downturn made you any more or less likely to buy shares in companies?”
Base: All EU adults in five countries and U.S. adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1226	1067	1030	1098	1060	1057
More likely	6	11	4	6	7	9
Less likely	41	41	61	57	48	45
Has not made any difference	46	39	28	30	39	39
Not sure	6	9	6	6	6	6

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

**TABLE 6 – JULY 09
BUYING SHARES IN COMPANIES**

“Has the current economic downturn made you any more or less likely to buy...? – shares in companies”
Base: All EU adults in five countries and U.S. adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1109	1089	1046	1033	1033	1052
More likely	5	7	5	4	5	9
Less likely	37	46	61	50	47	47
Has not made any difference	49	32	24	32	37	35
Not sure	9	15	10	14	11	9

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

Since March there has been no shift in share buying behaviour as a result of the economic downturn. Half of British say that the economic downturn has not made a difference as to how they buy shares in a company; this has remained relatively unchanged from March.

Over 2 in 5 French, 3 in 5 Italians, half of Spaniards and just under half of Germans and Americans say that the economic downturn has made them less likely to buy shares in a company. This view has changed very little since March.

**TABLE 7
BUYING A CAR**

“Has the current economic downturn made you any more or less likely to buy...? – a car”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1109	1089	1046	1033	1033	1052
More likely	5	8	7	11	7	9
Less likely	39	38	53	50	39	50
Has not made any difference	50	44	31	25	44	35
Not sure	6	9	9	14	10	6

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

Half of Italians, Spaniards and Americans have said the economic downturn has made them less likely to buy a car. A majority in Britain, as well as a plurality in Germany and France have said that the economic downturn has not made any difference to them in buying a car.

**TABLE 8
BUYING PROPERTY**

“Has the current economic downturn made you any more or less likely to buy...? – property”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1109	1089	1046	1033	1033	1052
More likely	8	13	19	7	8	11
Less likely	34	38	43	52	44	47
Has not made any difference	51	38	27	28	38	34
Not sure	7	12	10	13	11	7

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

A majority of Spaniards as well as just under half of Americans as well as over two in five Germans and Italians all agree that due to the economic downturn they are less likely to buy a property. But 1 in 5 Italians said that they are more likely to buy a property.

The French are a little split on the issue with just under 2 in 5 saying that they are less likely to buy a property and the same amount saying that the economic downturn has not made any difference to the likelihood of them buying a property.

Over half of the British said that the economic downturn has not made any difference to the likelihood of them purchasing a property.

**TABLE 9
BUYING GOVERNMENT BONDS**

“Has the current economic downturn made you any more or less likely to buy...? – government bonds”
Base: All EU adults in five countries and U.S. adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1109	1089	1046	1033	1033	1052
More likely	3	9	10	5	5	6
Less likely	33	35	48	47	44	45
Has not made any difference	55	36	31	34	38	39
Not sure	9	20	11	15	13	10

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

The French again remain split on the likelihood of buying government bonds. While 35% said that they are less likely to buy government bonds, 36% said that the economic downturn has made no difference.

Just under half of Italians and Spaniards as well as just over two in five Germans and Americans say that because of the economic downturn, they are less likely to buy government bonds. A majority of British adults say the economic downturn has not made any difference to them in whether they will buy government bonds.

**TABLE 10 – NOVEMBER 08
INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENT’S HANDLING OF FINANCIAL CRISIS**

“How would you rate the performance of your country’s government in handling the global financial market crisis?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1087	1045	1052	1007	1034	1032
GOOD (NET)	15	23	16	10	23	4
Excellent	2	1	3	2	2	1
Good	13	22	12	7	21	3
Fair	32	39	28	28	43	27
POOR (NET)	53	38	57	62	34	68
Poor	33	23	32	34	22	41
Terrible	19	15	24	28	12	27

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

**TABLE 10 – JULY 09
INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENT’S HANDLING OF FINANCIAL CRISIS**

“How would you rate the performance of your country’s government in handling the global financial market crisis?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1109	1089	1046	1033	1033	1052
GOOD (NET)	9	8	16	7	13	16
Excellent	1	1	4	2	1	4
Good	7	7	12	6	11	12
Fair	29	31	28	21	46	37
POOR (NET)	62	61	56	72	41	47
Poor	32	37	32	34	26	26
Terrible	30	23	25	38	15	21

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

As the recession worsens so too does public perception of the government’s ability to recover. Three in five French and British adults, nearly three quarters of Spaniards and over half of Italians would rate the performance of their country’s government in the global financial market crisis as poor. Compared to November where over half of British and Italians, under 2 in 5 French, 3 in 5 Spanish would rate their countries government in handling the global financial crisis as poor.

Back in November two-thirds of Americans rated the government’s handling of the financial crisis as poor. Now, under the new administration that has dropped to just under half of Americans.

Back in November just over 2 in 5 Germans rated their government’s handling of the financial crisis as fair. The same amount would still rate their governments handling the same in July, but there has been an increase in the amount who would rate the governments handling as poor from just over a third to 2 in 5.

**TABLE 11 – AUGUST 08
RESPONSE OF ECB/BANK OF ENGLAND/FEDERAL RESERVE**

“Do you feel the European Central Bank/Bank of England/Federal Reserve has responded appropriately to the challenges of the economic downturn and its consequences?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries and U.S. adults who say economy in their country has got worse

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	970	825	901	828	548	924
Yes	23	13	9	5	8	20
No	37	45	55	56	48	43
Not sure	40	43	36	39	44	36

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

**TABLE 11 – JULY 09
RESPONSE OF ECB/BANK OF ENGLAND/FEDERAL RESERVE**

“Do you feel the European Central Bank/Bank of England/Federal Reserve has responded appropriately to the challenges of the economic downturn and its consequences?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1109	1089	1046	1033	1033	1052
Yes	28	21	17	13	23	23
No	34	43	47	52	34	41
Not sure	38	37	36	35	44	35

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

Over half of Spanish, over 2 in 5 French and Americans and just under half of Italians all believe that the European Central Bank or the Federal Reserve have not responded appropriately to the challenges of the economic downturn. Noteworthy is the fact that just under 2 in 4 British are not sure how the Bank of England responded.

TABLE 12

CENTRAL BANKS/GOVERNMENTS REGULATION OF ECONOMY AND INFLATION

“Do you believe the recent actions of central banks and governments in cutting interest rates and increasing spending will cause inflation to occur in the near future?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1109	1089	1046	1033	1033	1052
WILL (NET)	50	42	63	54	47	56
Definitely will	11	8	13	10	7	18
Probably will	39	34	49	44	40	38
WILL NOT (NET)	16	33	18	28	31	19
Probably will not	14	29	16	21	28	17
Definitely will not	2	4	2	7	3	1
Not sure	34	26	20	18	22	25

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

From the actions of the central banks and governments in cutting interest rates and increase spending, at least a plurality throughout Europe and in the US believe that these actions probably will cause inflation to occur in the near future.

TABLE 13

ECONOMIC CRISIS AND ITS IMPACT ON HOLIDAY PLANS

“Will the current economic crisis have an impact on your [holiday/vacation] plans for this year?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1109	1089	1046	1033	1033	1052
I will reduce my [holiday/vacation] budget	15	21	18	27	9	17
I will go away a shorter period	8	12	16	13	5	12
I will cancel my [holiday/vacation]	5	15	5	9	3	9
I will increase my [holiday/vacation] budget	1	1	1	1	1	2
I will go away a longer period	*	1	1	1	1	1
The crisis won't have any impact on my [holiday/vacation] plans	28	27	25	20	46	22
I did not plan to go on [holiday/vacation] this year	34	20	22	26	25	31
Not sure yet	13	9	14	11	12	11

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

Just over 3 in 10 British and Americans say that they do not have any plans to go on holiday this year. Just under half of Germans say that the economic crisis will have no impact on their holiday plans.

French, Spanish and Italians are pretty split in their attitudes to the economic crisis affecting their holiday plans. 1 in 4 Italians say that the crisis will have no impact on their holiday plans yet 22% say that they did not have any plans to go on holiday this year. The French and Spanish follow a similar trend, with over 1 in 4 French and 1 in 5 Spaniards saying that the crisis will not affect their holiday plans, whereas just over 1 in 5 French and just under 3 in 10 Spaniards say they will be reducing their holiday budget.

TABLE 14
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 in the U.S.

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1109	1089	1046	1033	1033	1052
North Korea	27	18	10	20	26	42
China	9	21	26	15	12	15
US	20	15	8	27	20	11
Iran	17	28	35	17	20	15
Iraq	6	4	8	7	7	6
Russia	3	2	2	3	4	2
Israel	*	*	*	*	*	*
Pakistan	*	*	*	*	*	*
Afghanistan	*	-	*	-	*	*
No one country – all are a threat	-	-	*	-	*	*
France	-	*	-	-	-	-
Saudi Arabia	-	-	-	*	-	-
Syria	-	-	*	-	-	-
Africa (country not specified)	-	-	-	-	*	*
Middle East (country not specified)	-	-	*	-	-	-
Other	-	*	*	*	*	*
None	15	10	8	12	11	9
Not sure/Not stated/Refused	1	-	1	-	*	*

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

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