



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

June 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 6,284 adults aged 16-64 within France (1,058), Germany (1,037), Great Britain (1,125), Spain (1,013) and the United States (1,060), and adults aged 18-64 in Italy (1,011) between 27 May and 1 June 2009.

Complete survey methodology

This **FT/Harris Poll** was conducted online by Harris Interactive among a total of 6,284 adults aged 16-64 within France, Germany, Great Britain, Spain, and the United States and adults aged 18-64 in Italy between 27 May and 1 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 (6,284); France (1,058); Germany (1,037); Great Britain (1,125); Italy (1,011); Spain (1,013); and the United States (1,060).

Weighted bases for the survey are: Total (6,284); France (1,058); Germany (1,037); Great Britain (1,125); Italy (1,011); Spain (1,013); and the United States (1,060).

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
FEELINGS TOWARDS OWN MP/LEGISLATOR**

“Thinking about your own MP/legislator, which statement best sums up how you feel about him or her now as compared to 12 months ago?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1125	1058	1011	1013	1037	1060
I trust him/her more than I did a year ago	2	2	5	4	2	3
My opinion has not changed about him/her in the last year	37	43	35	44	44	46
I trust him/her less than I did a year ago	37	13	20	29	22	18
I don't know who my MP/Legislator is	25	41	40	24	32	33

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

Whilst a plurality of US, German, Spanish and French adults (around 45%) and 35% of Italians say their opinion of their own MP/legislator has not changed in the last year, in Britain opinion is divided; a significantly higher proportion than all other countries (37%) say they trust their own MP/legislator less than they did a year ago, while the same number say their opinion has remain unchanged.

**TABLE 2
MP/LEGISLATOR'S SALARY AND EXPENSES**

“How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? My MP/legislator represents value for money in terms of tax money paid for his or her salary and expenses.”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1125	1058	1011	1013	1037	1060
AGREE (NET)	10	7	10	13	10	15
Agree strongly	3	3	1	2	3	6
Agree somewhat	7	4	8	11	7	9
Neither agree nor disagree	18	33	23	11	27	25
DISAGREE (NET)	57	41	44	71	50	28
Disagree somewhat	22	18	16	20	24	12
Disagree strongly	35	24	28	51	26	15
Not sure	15	19	23	5	14	32

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

In Europe, most adults do not agree that their MP/legislator represents value for money for their salary and expenses paid from tax money. In particular, almost 3 in 5 Britons, half of Germans and around 2 in 5 Italians and French all disagree, while half of Spaniards disagree strongly with this statement.

In the US, opinion is divided; 1 in 3 are not sure, nearly 3 in 10 disagree with the statement and 1 in 4 are neutral.

**TABLE 3
RESPECT TOWARDS OWN MP/LEGISLATOR**

“Compared to other groups of people in your community (for example – business people, religious leaders, civil servants etc.) overall, how much more or less do you respect your MP/legislator than other groups?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1125	1058	1011	1013	1037	1060
Respect MP/legislator more than most other people in community	5	5	9	5	1	5
Respect MP/legislator about the same as most other people in community	46	71	63	66	76	66
Respect MP/legislator less than most other people in community	49	24	28	29	22	28

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

A significantly higher proportion of Britons (half) say they respect their MP/legislator less than other groups of people in their community, while strong majorities (ranging from 63% to 76%) in mainland Europe and the US say they respect them about the same.

**TABLE 4
MPs/LEGISLATORS’ POWER OVER MINISTERS**

“How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? MPs/legislators should have more power to hold ministers accountable for their actions.”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1125	1058	1011	1013	1037	1060
AGREE (NET)	62	56	38	50	37	30
Agree strongly	34	15	10	21	7	9
Agree somewhat	28	41	29	29	30	21
Neither agree nor disagree	18	27	26	28	35	29
DISAGREE (NET)	6	10	24	13	19	20
Disagree somewhat	4	5	14	7	12	9
Disagree strongly	2	5	10	7	7	11
Not sure	13	7	11	8	10	21

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

Majorities in Britain (62%), France (56%) and Spain (50%) and two in five Italians (38%) all agree that MPs and legislators should have more power to hold ministers accountable for their actions. In Germany and the US, opinion is equally divided between those who agree and those who are neutral towards this statement (around 35% in Germany and 30% in the US answered each).

**TABLE 5
HONESTY OF MPs/LEGISLATORS**

“Thinking about the MPs/legislators in [INSERT COUNTRY], in general, do you think they are...?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1125	1058	1011	1013	1037	1060
more honest than those elsewhere in the world	9	6	*	2	11	9
about the same as those elsewhere in the world	70	84	47	66	79	74
less honest than those elsewhere in the world	22	10	52	32	10	17

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

Vast majorities in France, Germany, the US, Britain and Spain (at least 2 in 3) think that MPs and legislators in their country are about as honest as elsewhere in the world. In Italy, more than half of all adults think their country’s MPs are less honest than elsewhere in the world.

**TABLE 6
AWARENESS OF RECENT MPs EXPENSE CLAIMS REVELATIONS IN GB**

“Are you aware of the recent revelations regarding MPs expense claims in Great Britain?”

Base: All GB adults

	Great Britain
	%
Unweighted base	1125
Yes	96
No	4

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

A staggering 96% of Britons are aware of the recent MPs expense claims revelations in the UK.

TABLE 7

EFFECT OF RECENT MPs EXPENSE CLAIMS REVELATIONS ON LIKELIHOOD TO VOTE

“Have the recent revelations regarding MP’s expense claims in Great Britain made you any more or less likely to now vote for your sitting MP?”

Base: All GB adults who are aware of the recent revelations regarding MPs’ expense claims

	Great Britain
	%
Unweighted base	1085
More likely	4
Has not made any difference	40
Less likely	31
Not likely to vote	17
Not sure	8

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

Whilst 2 in 5 Britons say the recent revelations regarding MPs’ expense claims have made no difference to the likelihood to vote for their sitting MP, 3 in 10 say they are now less likely to vote for them.

TABLE 8

LIKELIHOOD TO CONSIDER INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE AT NEXT NATIONAL ELECTION

“At the next national election how likely would you be to consider supporting an independent candidate unconnected with any of the existing political parties?”

Base: All GB adults who are likely to vote

	Great Britain
	%
Unweighted base	846
AT LEAST SOMEWHAT LIKELY (NET)	59
Extremely likely	14
Very likely	9
Likely	16
Somewhat likely	20
Not at all likely	24
Not sure	17

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

3 in 5 British adults who are likely to vote say they are at least somewhat likely to consider supporting an independent candidate at the next general election, with 1 in 4 saying they are very or extremely likely to do so.

**TABLE 9
MPs' REQUIREMENT FOR SECOND HOME**

“Some MPs say they need a second home if they represent a constituency a long way from London, how do you think this requirement should be managed?”

Base: All GB adults

	Great Britain %
Unweighted base	1125
Give them a flat "per day" allowance for every day they spend in Westminster	36
Allow them to claim up to a set limit for rent and council tax, allowing no claims for items beyond that	31
Allow them nothing	27
Allow them to claim for mortgage interest, furnishings and repairs provided they produce receipts	6

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

Very few Britons (just 6%) think MPs who represent a constituency a long way from London should be allowed to claim for mortgage interest, furnishings and repairs for a second home provided they produce receipts. Instead, 36% think MPs should be given a flat ‘per day’ allowance for every day spent in Westminster, 3 in 10 think they should be allowed to claim up to a set limit for rent and council tax for their second home, while a quarter of Britons say they should be allowed nothing.

TABLE 10
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	1125	1058	1011	1013	1037	1060
North Korea	51	36	28	38	44	48
China	6	16	23	11	15	15
US	15	10	8	21	12	7
Iran	7	14	20	10	7	11
Iraq	4	7	6	9	8	6
Russia	4	5	4	1	5	2
Israel	1	*	*	*	*	*
Pakistan	1	*	*	*	*	1
Afghanistan	*	*	*	-	*	*
No one country – all are a threat	*	*	-	-	-	*
France	*	-	-	-	-	*
India	*	-	-	-	-	*
UK	*	-	-	-	-	-
Africa (country not specified)	-	-	-	-	-	*
Middle East (country not specified)	-	*	-	-	-	-
Other	-	*	*	*	-	*
None	11	10	10	9	10	9%
Not sure/Not stated/Refused	*	-	*	*	-	1

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

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