



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

May 2008 - Below are the most recent data from the Financial Times/Harris Poll, a monthly poll of adults from six countries in Europe and the United States. The countries include France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Spain and the United States. This month China and Japan are also included.

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 Tracey McNerney at 585-214-7756 or tmcnerney@harrisinteractive.com.

Source

This FT/Harris Poll was conducted online by Harris Interactive among a total of 8748 adults (aged 16-64) within France (1,288), Germany (1,106), Great Britain (1,088), Spain (1,120), and the United States (1,046), adults (aged 18-64) in Italy (1,087) and Japan (1,002) and adults (aged 18-60) in China (1,011) between 30 April and 14 May 2008.

Complete survey methodology

This **FT/Harris Poll** was conducted online by Harris Interactive among a total of 8748 adults (aged 16-64) within France, Germany, Great Britain, Spain, and the United States, adults (aged 18-64) in Italy and Japan, and adults (aged 18-60) in China between 30 April and 14 May 2008. 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 (8,748); France (1,288); Germany (1,106); Great Britain (1,088); Italy (1,087); Spain (1,120), China (1,011), Japan (1,002) and the United States (1,046).

Weighted bases for the survey are: Total (8,748); France (1,288); Germany (1,106); Great Britain (1,088); Italy (1,087); Spain (1,120), China (1,011), Japan (1,002) and the United States (1,046).

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
OPENING CEREMONIES ATTENDANCE

“How much would you support or oppose the attendance of [Nicolas Sarkozy, Silvio Berlusconi, Jose Luis Zapatero, Angela Merkel, Gordon Brown, George Bush, Yasuo Fukuda] at the opening of the Olympic Games in China in 2008?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries, Japanese and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States	Japan
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1088	1288	1087	1120	1106	1046	1002
SUPPORT (NET)	25	28	32	35	29	36	35
Completely support	6	8	16	15	12	16	4
Support more than oppose	19	20	16	20	17	20	31
OPPOSE (NET)	43	54	48	39	55	43	45
Oppose more than support	20	28	17	21	25	21	30
Completely oppose	23	26	32	17	31	23	14
Not sure	32	18	20	27	16	21	21

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

Majorities in Germany and France as well as pluralities in Italy, Japan and the U.S. would oppose their country’s leader attending the opening of the Olympic games in China this summer. Adults in Spain are a little more divided on this issue as just under two in five would oppose Zapatero attending the opening ceremonies while just over one-third would support it.

TABLE 2
GLOBAL PROTESTS OVER TIBET

“How much, if anything, have you heard about the recent global protests surrounding the freeing of Tibet from Chinese rule?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries, Chinese, Japanese, and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States	China	Japan
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1088	1288	1087	1120	1106	1046	1011	1002
A lot	44	84	34	20	51	41	46	27
A little	44	16	60	68	44	45	50	66
Nothing at all	12	1	6	12	6	13	4	8

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

Very few adults in all the countries have heard nothing about the recent global protests surrounding the freeing of Tibet from Chinese rule. It has garnered the most attention in France, where very large majorities have heard a lot about it, and in Germany where a majority of adults have heard a lot about it. Even in China, just under half of adults have heard a lot about the protests.

TABLE 3
TIBET AS REGION OR NATION

“Some people want Tibet to be a sovereign nation not under Chinese rule, while others believe that Tibet is a natural region of China and should remain under Chinese rule. What do you think?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries, Japanese, Chinese, and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States	Japan
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1088	1288	1087	1120	1106	1046	1002
Tibet should <u>not</u> be under Chinese rule	53	67	75	64	74	59	69
Tibet should be under Chinese rule	5	9	3	7	7	5	5
Not at all sure	42	24	22	29	19	36	27

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

Very strong majorities in Italy, Germany, Japan, France and Spain all believe Tibet should not be under Chinese Rule. In Great Britain and the U.S., while a majority of adults do believe Tibet should not be under Chinese rule, two in five adults in Great Britain and two in three adults in the U.S. are not at all sure.

TABLE 4
HUMAN RIGHTS AS CENTRAL PART OF FOREIGN POLICY

“In your opinion, should human rights be a central figure of {France’s, Italy’s, Spain’s, Germany’s, the UK’s, the U.S.’s, Japan’s, China’s} foreign policy?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries, Japanese, Chinese, and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States	China	Japan
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1088	1288	1087	1120	1106	1046	1011	1002
Human rights should be a central feature of our foreign policy	63	80	85	77	84	72	45	56
Human rights should <u>not</u> be a central feature of our foreign policy	14	11	6	8	6	11	38	21
Not at all sure	24	9	9	15	9	17	17	23

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

Note: * indicates less than 0.5%

Very strong majorities in the European countries and the U.S. believe that human rights should be a central feature of their country’s foreign policy. A majority of Japanese adults and a plurality of Chinese adults also believe this.

TABLE 5
GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR

“Is the gap between the rich and poor in [the UK, France, Italy, Spain, Germany, China, Japan, the US] too narrow, too wide or about right?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States	China	Japan
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1088	1288	1087	1120	1106	1046	1011	1002
Too wide	79	85	82	76	87	78	80	64
About right	8	10	8	13	8	12	15	20
Too narrow	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	8
Not sure	11	4	9	9	5	8	3	8

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

Strong majorities in all five European countries, the two Asian countries and the U.S. all believe that the gap between rich and poor in their country is too wide. Japan is the country where the greatest number of people believe it is too narrow, but this is under one in ten adults.

TABLE 6
DIFFERENCE IN GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR

“Do you expect the gap between rich and poor to increase, decrease or stay the same in the next 5 years?”

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

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States	China	Japan
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1088	1288	1087	1120	1106	1046	1011	1002
Increase	78	85	76	75	89	74	60	81
Stay the same	10	9	10	14	4	15	9	14
Decrease	3	2	5	5	4	5	22	1
Not sure	9	4	9	6	3	7	9	4

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

Looking ahead five years, there isn't much hope for the gap between rich and poor to get any better. Again, strong majorities in all five European countries, the U.S. and the two Asian countries believe the gap will increase in the future. One in five Chinese adults, however, do believe the gap will decrease in the next five years.

TABLE 7
TAXING THE RICH

“What should the government do with regard to taxes on wealthy people in [the UK, France, Italy, Spain, Germany, the U.S., China, Japan]? Do you think the government should tax the wealthy more, less or do you think they should keep taxes on the wealthy at their current level”

Base: All EU adults in five countries, Japanese, Chinese, and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States	China	Japan
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1088	1288	1087	1120	1106	1046	1011	1002
The government should tax the wealthy more	56	51	59	65	64	62	60	77
The government should keep taxes on the wealthy at their current levels	27	30	22	20	25	22	32	14
The government should tax the wealthy less	6	11	11	5	5	6	2	4
Not sure	10	8	9	10	6	9	6	5

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

Majorities in all the European countries, the U.S. and the two Asian countries believe the government should tax the wealthy more. Japan, Spain and Germany are the strongest supporters of this idea

TABLE 8
TAXING THOSE WITH LOWER INCOMES

“What should the government do with regard to taxes for those on a low income in [the UK, France, Italy, Spain, Germany, the U.S., China, Japan]? Do you think the government should tax those on a lower income more, less or do you think they should keep taxes for those on a low income at their current levels?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries, Japanese, Chinese, and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States	China	Japan
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1088	1288	1087	1120	1106	1046	1011	1002
The government should tax those on a low income less	74	69	86	82	83	61	90	76
The government should keep taxes for those on a low income at their current levels	16	22	7	9	11	27	8	19
The government should tax those on a low income more	2	3	2	2	1	4	*	1
Not sure	8	6	5	8	5	8	2	4

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

When it comes to taxing those with a lower income, again adults in these countries are of a similar mind. Very strong majorities, at least two-thirds in all European countries and the two Asian countries believe that the government of their country should tax those on a low income less. The U.S. is the country where the greatest number of people, believe the government should tax those on a low income at their current levels.

TABLE 9
DIRECTION OF HOUSING PRICES

“Thinking to the next 12 months, do you expect house prices in [the UK, France, Italy, Spain, Germany, the U.S., China, Japan] to go up, come down or remain the same as they are today?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries, Japanese, Chinese, and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States	China	Japan
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1088	1288	1087	1120	1106	1046	1011	1002
Expect house prices to come down	55	23	25	48	18	47	27	23
Expect house prices to remain the same	21	43	27	32	28	23	22	34
Expect house prices to go up	15	27	38	15	40	21	46	32
Not at all sure	10	7	9	6	13	8	12	5

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

Looking at housing prices and where they might be heading in the future, there is some disagreement between the countries. A majority of adults in Great Britain as well as a plurality of Spaniards and those in the U.S., expect housing prices to come down in their respective countries in the next year. A plurality of adults in France and just over one-third of adults in Japan believe their house prices will remain the same. A plurality of adults in China and Germany and just under that in Italy expect that the house prices in their countries will go up in the next 12 months.

TABLE 10
RESPONSIBILITY FOR HOUSING PRICE STABILITY

“How much responsibility should the government of [the UK, France, Italy, Spain, Germany, the U.S., China, Japan] take to ensure that the values of homes in [the UK, France, Italy, Spain, Germany, the U.S., China, Japan] do not decline substantially?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries, Japanese, Chinese, and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States	China	Japan
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1088	1288	1087	1120	1106	1046	1011	1002
It should have a lot of responsibility	25	14	32	37	24	15	35	25
It should have some responsibility	53	43	38	25	42	49	58	60
It should have no responsibility whatsoever	23	43	30	39	35	36	7	15

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

When it comes to responsibility for ensuring housing values do not decline substantially, some believe the government should have some responsibility, but some also believe it should have no responsibility. A majority of adults in Japan, China and Great Britain believe their government should have some responsibility for ensuring the values of homes do not decline substantially as do a plurality of adults in Germany and in the U.S. and just under that in Italy. Spain and France are clearly divided on this issue. Just over two in five French adults believe the government should have no responsibility while the same number believe it should have some responsibility. In Spain, just under two in five adults believe the government should have no responsibility while just under that believe it should have a lot of responsibility.

TABLE 11
GREATEST THREATS 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	China	Japan
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1088	1288	1087	1120	1106	1046	1011	1002
US	33	30	20	42	29	18	79	22
China	19	32	34	18	23	20	5	41
Iran	11	17	20	13	13	23	3	2
Iraq	10	6	10	10	11	10	2	2
North Korea	10	6	3	6	6	17	2	26
Russia	6	3	3	1	6	3	1	3
Israel	*	*	*	*	1	1	-	*
India	*	*	*	*	*	-	*	-
Pakistan	*	*	*	*	*	1	-	-
Afghanistan	*	*	*	-	-	*	-	-
Saudi Arabia	*	*	-	*	-	*	-	-
Africa (country not specified)	-	*	-	-	*	-	*	*
France	-	*	-	-	*	-	-	-
Middle East (country not specified)	-	-	*	-	*	*	-	*
No one country – all are a threat	-	-	*	*	-	*	-	-
Turkey	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-
No country – terrorist organisations	-	-	-	-	-	*	*	*
Muslim countries (not specified)	-	-	-	-	-	*	-	-
Other	*	*	-	*	1	*	1	*
None	10	5	8	9	9	8	7	3
Not sure/Not stated/Refused	*	*	*	*	-	*	-	*

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

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