



Standard Eurobarometer 83 Spring 2015

EUROPEANS AND ECONOMIC STATISTICS

REPORT

Fieldwork: May 2015

This survey has been requested and co-ordinated by the European Commission,
Directorate-General for Communication.

http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm

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Standard Eurobarometer 83
Spring 2015

Europeans and economic statistics

Survey conducted by TNS opinion & social at the request of the
European Commission,
Directorate-General for Communication

Survey coordinated by the European Commission,
Directorate-General for Communication
(DG COMM "Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and
Eurobarometer" Unit)

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INTRODUCTION

In this Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2015 (EB83), European citizens were asked about their knowledge and understanding of economic statistics and whether they trust them. This is the third Eurobarometer survey on this subject, following those conducted in March-April 2007¹ and August-September 2009².

This latest Eurobarometer survey of spring 2015 (EB83) addresses the following aspects:

- Knowledge of growth, inflation and unemployment rates;
- **The importance** that Europeans place on these economic statistics and their **trust** in them.

The full report of the Standard Eurobarometer 83 survey of spring 2015 consists of five volumes. The first volume presents the state of public opinion in the European Union. Four other volumes present the views of Europeans on other issues: the Europe 2020 strategy; European citizenship; the European Union budget; Europeans and economic statistics. This volume is devoted to Europeans and economic statistics.

This Standard Eurobarometer 83 survey (EB83) was conducted between 16 and 27 May 2015 in 34 countries and territories³: the 28 Member States of the European Union (EU), five candidate countries⁴ (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania) and the Turkish Cypriot Community in the part of the country not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. The questions on knowledge of economic statistics were asked only in the 28 EU Member States.

As these questions have already been asked in previous Eurobarometer surveys, it has been possible to analyse the trends in public opinion.

¹ Europeans' knowledge of economic indicators:

http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_special_eco_ind_en.pdf

² Europeans' knowledge of economic indicators:

http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_323_en.pdf

³ Please refer to the technical specifications for information on the exact dates of the interviews in each country.

⁴ The survey was not conducted in Iceland. In March 2015, the Icelandic government requested that "Iceland should not be regarded as a candidate for EU membership".

The methodology used is that of the Standard Eurobarometer surveys of the Directorate-General for Communication (“Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and Eurobarometer” Unit)⁵. A technical note describing how the institutes within the TNS opinion & social network conduct interviews is included in the report’s annexes. This note also specifies the confidence intervals⁶, which enable us to assess the accuracy of a survey’s results, according to the size of the sample polled in relation to the total size of the population studied.

The abbreviations used in this report correspond to:

ABBREVIATIONS			
BE	Belgium	LV	Latvia
CZ	Czech Republic	LU	Luxembourg
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary
DK	Denmark	MT	Malta
DE	Germany	NL	The Netherlands
EE	Estonia	AT	Austria
EL	Greece	PL	Poland
ES	Spain	PT	Portugal
FR	France	RO	Romania
HR	Croatia	SI	Slovenia
IE	Ireland	SK	Slovakia
IT	Italy	FI	Finland
CY	Republic of Cyprus*	SE	Sweden
LT	Lithuania	UK	United Kingdom
CY (tcc)	Turkish Cypriot Community		
TR	Turkey	ME	Montenegro
MK	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**	RS	Serbia
AL	Albania		
EU28	European Union – weighted average for the 28 Member States		
Euro area	BE, FR, IT, LU, DE, AT, ES, PT, IE, NL, FI, EL, EE, SI, CY, MT, SK, LV, LT	Non-euro area	BG, CZ, DK, HR, HU, PL, RO, SE, UK

* Cyprus as a whole is one of the 28 European Union Member States. However, the “acquis communautaire” has been suspended in the part of the country that is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. For practical reasons, only the interviews carried out in the part of the country controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the “CY” category and in the EU28 average. The interviews carried out in the part of the country that is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the “CY(tcc)” [tcc: *Turkish Cypriot Community*] category.

** Provisional abbreviation which in no way prejudices the definitive name of this country, which will be agreed once the current negotiations at the United Nations have been completed.

* * * * *

*We wish to thank all the people interviewed throughout Europe
who took the time to take part in this survey.*

Without their active participation, this survey would not have been possible.

⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm

⁶ The results tables are annexed. It should be noted that the total of the percentages indicated in the tables in this report may exceed 100% when the respondents were able to choose several answers to a question.

I. CURRENT KNOWLEDGE OF ECONOMIC INDICATORS

In this Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2015 (EB83), Europeans were asked about their knowledge of three economic indicators: the growth rate, the inflation rate and the unemployment rate.

Reference values and methodology used for the analysis of questions QF1 to QF4

The reference values used in this report, i.e. the “real” growth, inflation and unemployment rates, are all taken from the European Economic Forecast published by the European Commission in spring 2015.⁷ Our aim in using a single source is to ensure the consistency of the results in this report.

However, before the survey fieldwork, it is possible that respondents may have encountered other more recent and very slightly different figures. To take account of this possible issue, all the estimates given by respondents within a range of 20% above or below the real rate used in this report are taken to be correct estimates. Therefore, if for a given country the 2014 growth rate was 1%, all answers of between 0.80% and 1.20% inclusive are classified in the “correct answer” category. The “other answer” category consists of estimates that differ by more than 20% from the real rate, and “DK” answers.

1. THE GROWTH RATE

– Only 6% of Europeans estimated their country’s growth rate correctly –

When asked about the growth rate of the economy in their country in 2014 (that is, the percentage change in their country’s Gross Domestic Product between 2013 and 2014)⁸, **more than nine in ten respondents gave an incorrect answer**, including 31% “DK” answers. Only 6% of respondents estimated this rate correctly.

In 28 Member States, more than seven in ten Europeans gave an incorrect answer, meaning that their estimate was either more than 20% above or below the exact figure or they said that they did not know (“DK”).






























⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/european_economy/2015/pdf/ee2_en.pdf (page 1, table 1): Overview: the spring 2015 forecast.

⁸ QF1. What was the official growth rate of the economy (measured in terms of Gross Domestic Product) in (OUR COUNTRY) in 2014? I can tell you that this figure is between -5% and +15%.

There are however significant differences in knowledge between Member States, so that four different groups of countries can be distinguished. A first group consists of three countries where the percentage of correct answers exceeds 20%: the Netherlands (28%), Sweden (23%) and Estonia (23%); then there is a group of nine Member States with scores of between 18% (Hungary) and 10% (Slovakia); then nine further countries with rates of between 1% and 10%; lastly, there is a group of seven Member States where the proportion of correct answers is 0%: Germany, France, Italy, Greece, Croatia, Austria and Finland.

Europeans tend to overestimate their country's growth rate. In 27 Member States, the average growth rate estimated by respondents overall is higher than the real growth rate by between over five percentage points in Cyprus (+5.1) and +0.2 points in Luxembourg. Slovenia is the only exception since the average estimated growth rate coincides with the real growth rate, although only 7% of respondents in Slovenia gave the right answer.

QF1. What was the official growth rate of the economy
(measured in terms of Gross Domestic Product) in (OUR COUNTRY) in 2014?
I can tell you that this figure is between -5% and +15%.

		Average estimated rate (%)	Official rate 2014 (%)*	Difference (estimated rate- official rate 2014)	Don't know
	EU28	3,7	1,4	+2,3	31%
	EURO AREA**	3,3	0,9	+2,4	33%
	CY	2,8	-2,3	+5,1	50%
	IT	3,7	-0,4	+4,1	30%
	PT	5,0	0,9	+4,1	56%
	RO	6,6	2,8	+3,8	67%
	FR	3,9	0,4	+3,5	37%
	DK	4,0	1,1	+2,9	27%
	CZ	4,7	2,0	+2,7	24%
	HR	2,3	-0,4	+2,7	29%
	LV	5,1	2,4	+2,7	52%
	AT	2,6	0,3	+2,3	12%
	DE	3,8	1,6	+2,2	30%
	SK	4,4	2,4	+2,0	44%
	BE	2,9	1,0	+1,9	46%
	LT	4,8	2,9	+1,9	40%
	PL	5,2	3,4	+1,8	13%
	EE	3,7	2,1	+1,6	15%
	HU	5,2	3,6	+1,6	28%
	BG	3,2	1,7	+1,5	55%
	FI	1,3	-0,1	+1,4	24%
	SE	3,4	2,1	+1,3	12%
	UK	3,9	2,8	+1,1	24%
	NL	1,8	0,9	+0,9	10%
	IE	5,6	4,8	+0,8	23%
	EL	1,6	0,8	+0,8	37%
	MT	4,3	3,5	+0,8	37%
	ES	2,1	1,4	+0,7	40%
	LU	3,3	3,1	+0,2	42%
	SI	2,6	2,6	0	32%

*Source: European Economic Forecast published by the European Commission in spring 2015

**Only the euro area data are available

2. THE INFLATION RATE

– Europeans do not know the inflation rate in their country –

Respondents were then asked to indicate the inflation rate in their country in 2014 (i.e. the percentage increase or decrease in consumer prices between 2013 and 2014): **none of them could give the correct answer**⁹. Almost a third did not know (“DK”) (31%) and the other answers were more than 20% above or below the exact figure.






























In all 28 Member States, the “other answer” rate is above 90%. The differences in knowledge between countries are therefore small: in 21 countries, 100% of those polled gave an incorrect answer; in five other Member States, the rate of correct answers is 1% (France, the United Kingdom, Luxembourg, Austria and Croatia). Lastly, only two countries stand out by a very slightly greater knowledge of the inflation rate: Finland (6% correct answers) and Hungary (3%).

However, it is important to clarify that, given the low actual inflation rates for 2014, the permitted margins of error were very narrow. For example, in Germany the real inflation rate in 2014 was 0.8%, so the correct answers were those between 0.64% and 0.96% (inclusive). In Poland, with a real rate of 0.1%, “right” answers had to be between 0.08% and 0.12% inclusive.

As was the case for the growth rate, **Europeans tend to overestimate their country’s rate of inflation**. On average, Europeans overestimate the inflation rate in their country in 2014 by a factor of around eight (4.9%, whereas the actual rate was 0.6%). Respondents in all 28 Member States gave an estimate of the inflation rate that was above the real rate. The difference between the estimated and real inflation rates is relatively high in all countries, varying from +2.3 percentage points in Sweden to +9.5 in Bulgaria.

⁹ QF2. What was the official inflation rate, the rate by which consumer prices increased or decreased, in (OUR COUNTRY) in 2014? I can tell you that the exact figure is between -5% and +20%.

QF2. What was the official inflation rate, the rate by which consumer prices increased or decreased, in (OUR COUNTRY) in 2014?
I can tell you that the exact figure is between -5% and +20%.

		Average estimated rate (%)	Official rate 2014 (%)*	Difference (estimated rate-official rate 2014)	Don't know
	EU28	4,9	0,6	+4,3	31%
	EURO AREA**	4,5	0,4	+4,1	33%
	BG	7,9	-1,6	+9,5	52%
	CY	8,5	-0,3	+8,8	52%
	EL	7,1	-1,4	+8,5	39%
	HU	7,3	0,0	+7,3	22%
	EE	7,7	0,5	+7,2	19%
	PT	7,0	-0,2	+7,2	56%
	HR	7,3	0,2	+7,1	30%
	CZ	7,4	0,4	+7,0	22%
	PL	6,5	0,1	+6,4	11%
	IT	6,3	0,2	+6,1	30%
	IE	6,3	0,3	+6,0	23%
	LT	6,0	0,2	+5,8	43%
	LV	6,0	0,7	+5,3	48%
	RO	6,7	1,4	+5,3	67%
	FI	6,1	1,2	+4,9	24%
	SK	4,7	-0,1	+4,8	40%
	DK	4,6	0,3	+4,3	24%
	ES	3,9	-0,2	+4,1	42%
	MT	4,9	0,8	+4,1	39%
	BE	4,1	0,5	+3,6	44%
	FR	3,9	0,6	+3,3	37%
	UK	4,6	1,5	+3,1	23%
	DE	3,6	0,8	+2,8	27%
	SI	3,2	0,4	+2,8	35%
	LU	3,3	0,7	+2,6	41%
	NL	2,9	0,3	+2,6	13%
	AT	4,0	1,5	+2,5	9%
	SE	2,5	0,2	+2,3	12%

*Source: European Economic Forecast published by the European Commission in spring 2015

**Only the euro area data are available

– A narrow majority of Europeans know how the inflation rate changed in their country between 2013 and 2014 –

Following on from the previous question, respondents were asked whether they thought that the inflation rate in their country in 2014 was higher, lower or equal to the rate in 2013¹⁰. **Three in ten Europeans think that the inflation rate was lower in 2014 than in 2013 (30%); conversely, a similar proportion say that it was higher (29%);** 23% think that it was identical; lastly, almost one in five Europeans said they did not know (DK: 18%).

In 13 Member States¹¹, a majority of respondents think that the inflation rate was higher in 2014 than in 2013. In contrast, in ten other countries¹² a majority of respondents think that the inflation rate was lower in 2014 than in 2013. Respondents in Belgium are evenly divided: 32% think that the inflation rate was higher and 32% that it was lower. Lastly, in the remaining four Member States¹³, a majority of respondents think that the inflation rate in their country was the same in 2014 as in 2013. National differences are particularly striking: half the respondents in Austria (50%, the highest proportion) say that the 2014 rate was “higher” compared with only 20% of respondents in Slovakia (where “higher” score was lowest).

These results must be seen alongside the **actual changes in the inflation rate between 2013 and 2014**. In all Member States except Latvia, the inflation rate was lower in 2014 than in 2013. In Latvia, the rate increased by only 0.7 percentage points (from 0% in 2013 to 0.7% in 2014). A majority of respondents correctly identified the inflation trend between 2013 and 2014 in 11 Member States: these are the 10 countries where a majority answered that the rate had decreased, led by Sweden (47% answered “lower”, reflecting a 0.2 percentage point fall in the inflation rate), Hungary (45%, -1.7) and the Netherlands (40%, -2.3); and Latvia, where a majority of respondents correctly answered that the inflation rate had risen (33%).

It is interesting to note that of the four countries which recorded the sharpest fall in the actual inflation rate between 2013 and 2014 the Netherlands is the only one where a majority of respondents identified this decrease. This was not the case in Estonia (36% of respondents answered “higher”, whereas there was a 2.7 percentage point fall in the inflation rate), Croatia (40%, -2.1) and Bulgaria (34%, -2).






























¹⁰ QF3. Do you think that in (OUR COUNTRY), the inflation rate in 2014 was higher, lower or equal to the one in 2013?

¹¹ Lithuania, Spain, Latvia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Portugal, Ireland, Bulgaria, Greece, Croatia, Cyprus and Austria.

¹² The Czech Republic, Germany, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

¹³ Finland, Italy, Poland and Slovakia.

QF3. Do you think that, in (OUR COUNTRY), the inflation rate in 2014 was higher, lower or equal to the one in 2013?

		Official rates			Estimated rates			
		Official rate 2014 (%)*	Official rate 2013 (%)*	Difference (2014-2013)	Higher	Lower	Equal	Don't know
	EU28	0,6	1,5	-0,9	29%	30%	23%	18%
	EURO AREA**	0,4	1,4	-1,0	30%	29%	23%	18%
	EE	0,5	3,2	-2,7	36%	26%	19%	19%
	NL	0,3	2,6	-2,3	36%	40%	19%	5%
	HR	0,2	2,3	-2,1	40%	19%	30%	11%
	BG	-1,6	0,4	-2,0	34%	14%	21%	31%
	RO	1,4	3,2	-1,8	29%	33%	18%	20%
	ES	-0,2	1,5	-1,7	29%	25%	19%	27%
	HU	0	1,7	-1,7	27%	45%	22%	6%
	SK	-0,1	1,5	-1,6	20%	30%	35%	15%
	SI	0,4	1,9	-1,5	23%	35%	27%	15%
	UK	1,5	2,6	-1,1	31%	37%	15%	17%
	IT	0,2	1,3	-1,1	26%	27%	31%	16%
	LT	0,2	1,2	-1,0	34%	33%	17%	16%
	LU	0,7	1,7	-1,0	30%	31%	20%	19%
	FI	1,2	2,2	-1,0	28%	28%	29%	15%
	CZ	0,4	1,4	-1,0	27%	32%	31%	10%
	DE	0,8	1,6	-0,8	24%	36%	23%	17%
	CY	-0,3	0,4	-0,7	40%	15%	21%	24%
	BE	0,5	1,2	-0,7	32%	32%	18%	18%
	PL	0,1	0,8	-0,7	22%	28%	30%	20%
	AT	1,5	2,1	-0,6	50%	25%	19%	6%
	PT	-0,2	0,4	-0,6	34%	19%	23%	24%
	EL	-1,4	-0,9	-0,5	40%	19%	24%	17%
	FR	0,6	1	-0,4	35%	24%	18%	23%
	IE	0,3	0,5	-0,2	41%	22%	24%	13%
	DK	0,3	0,5	-0,2	36%	27%	28%	9%
	MT	0,8	1	-0,2	28%	29%	19%	24%
	SE	0,2	0,4	-0,2	27%	47%	23%	3%
	LV	0,7	0	+0,7	33%	28%	23%	16%

*Source: European Economic Forecast, published by the European Commission in spring 2015

**Only the euro area data are available

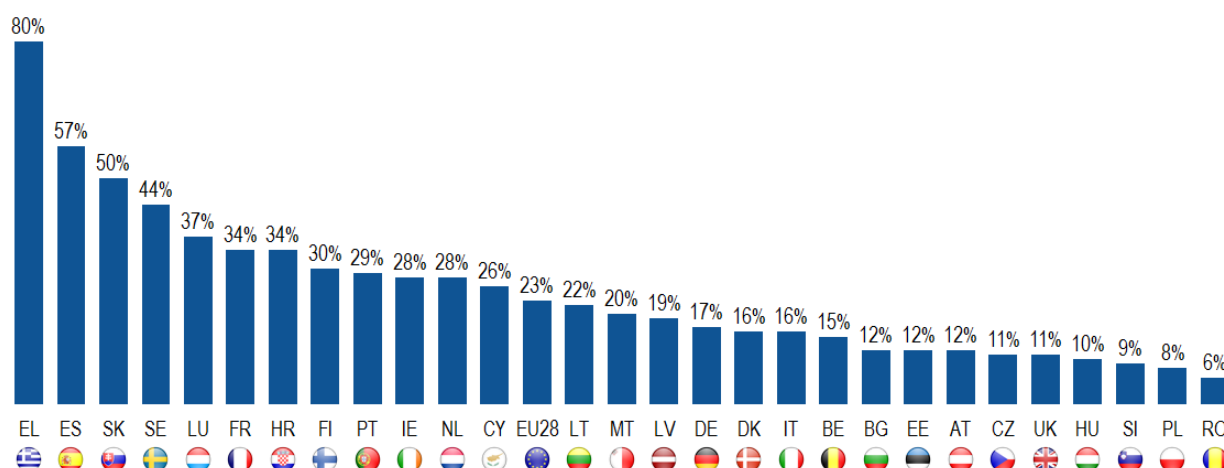
3. THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

- Almost a quarter of Europeans are more or less aware of the unemployment rate in their country –

Almost a quarter of Europeans (23%) correctly estimated the official unemployment rate in their country¹⁴ (23%), while more than three-quarters gave another answer (77%), including a fifth who did not know.

A national analysis shows that an absolute majority of respondents correctly estimated the rate in three Member States: Greece (80%), Spain (57%) and Slovakia (50%). In the 25 other Member States a majority of respondents fall in the “other answer” category. There are therefore very significant differences in knowledge, since the rate of correct answers varies from 80% in Greece to 6% in Romania (where it is the lowest).

QF4R. What was the official unemployment rate, the percentage of active people who do not have a job, in (OUR COUNTRY) in 2014? I can tell you that the exact figure is between 0% and 30%.
Correct answers - % EU
































In 26 Member States, respondents overestimated the unemployment rate in their country: the average estimate is therefore higher than the official unemployment rate, by an amount ranging from more than ten percentage points in Hungary (+10.5) and Romania (+10.4) to less than two percentage points in Malta (+1.7).

The case of the remaining two countries is particularly interesting. These are **Greece** and **Spain**, the two countries with the highest proportion of correct answers. In Greece, the average estimated rate of unemployment corresponds exactly to the official figure (26.5%, the highest official unemployment rate in the European Union, where the average rate was 10.2% in 2014). Lastly, in Spain, respondents underestimate the official unemployment rate by more than two percentage points (average estimate of 21.9% compared with an official unemployment rate of 24.5%, the second highest rate in the European Union).

¹⁴ QF4. What was the official unemployment rate, the percentage of active people who do not have a job, in (OUR COUNTRY) in 2014? I can tell you that the exact figure is between 0% and +30%.

QF4. What was the official unemployment rate, the percentage of active people who do not have a job, in (OUR COUNTRY) in 2014?






I can tell you that the exact figure is between 0% and 30%.

		Average estimated rate (%)	Official rate 2014 (%)*	Difference (estimated rate-official rate 2014)	Don't know
	EU28	15,9	10,2	+5,7	20%
	EURO AREA**	16,1	11,6	+4,5	20%
	HU	18,2	7,7	+10,5	15%
	RO	17,2	6,8	+10,4	58%
	UK	14,7	6,1	+8,6	23%
	BE	16,9	8,5	+8,4	29%
	CZ	14,0	6,1	+7,9	11%
	IT	20,5	12,7	+7,8	20%
	BG	19,1	11,4	+7,7	41%
	PL	16,3	9,0	+7,3	8%
	EE	14,5	7,4	+7,1	14%
	AT	12,7	5,6	+7,1	6%
	NL	13,9	7,4	+6,5	9%
	SI	16,0	9,7	+6,3	22%
	LT	16,7	10,7	+6,0	27%
	FI	14,7	8,7	+6,0	12%
	DK	12,5	6,6	+5,9	13%
	CY	22,0	16,1	+5,9	25%
	DE	10,3	5,0	+5,3	18%
	LV	16,0	10,8	+5,2	36%
	FR	15,1	10,3	+4,8	20%
	SE	11,7	7,9	+3,8	3%
	LU	9,2	5,9	+3,3	21%
	IE	14,4	11,3	+3,1	18%
	HR	20,2	17,3	+2,9	23%
	PT	17,0	14,1	+2,9	37%
	SK	15,5	13,2	+2,3	18%
	MT	7,6	5,9	+1,7	35%
	EL	26,5	26,5	0	11%
	ES	21,9	24,5	-2,6	24%

*Source: European Economic Forecast, published by the European Commission in spring 2015

**Only the euro area data are available

Knowledge of growth rate, inflation rate and unemployment rate at national level
Percentage of correct answers (+/- 20%) for QF1, QF2, QF4

	Growth of the economy in 2014	Inflation rate in 2014	Unemployment rate in 2014
EU28	6%	0%	23%
 Gender			
Man	7%	0%	28%
Woman	4%	0%	19%
 Age			
15-24	4%	0%	17%
25-39	6%	0%	23%
40-54	6%	0%	26%
55 +	6%	0%	25%
 Education (End of)			
15-	3%	0%	21%
16-19	5%	0%	21%
20+	9%	1%	31%
Still studying	4%	0%	20%
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	8%	0%	27%
Managers	9%	1%	26%
Other white collars	8%	0%	26%
Manual workers	5%	0%	21%
House persons	3%	0%	18%
Unemployed	4%	0%	25%
Retired	5%	0%	24%
Students	4%	0%	20%
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	3%	0%	22%
From time to time	4%	0%	23%
Almost never/ Never	7%	0%	24%
Consider belonging to			
The working class	4%	0%	20%
The lower middle class	7%	0%	22%
The middle class	6%	0%	27%
The upper middle class	8%	0%	29%
The upper class	19%	0%	24%
Use of the Internet			
Everyday	7%	0%	26%
Often/ Sometimes	4%	0%	21%
Never	3%	0%	19%

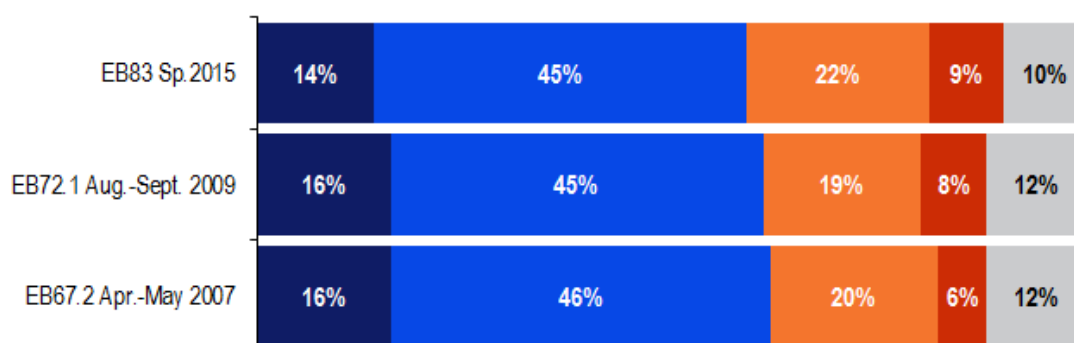
II. PERCEIVED IMPORTANCE OF AND TRUST IN ECONOMIC STATISTICS

– Almost six out of ten Europeans think that, in their country, political decisions are made on the basis of statistical information –

59% of respondents believe that statistical information plays a role in political decision-making¹⁵ (-2 percentage points since the Special Eurobarometer 323 survey of August-September 2009)¹⁶; just under a third of respondents disagree with this statement (31%, +4), while 10% (-2) express no opinion. Of those Europeans who agree that “political decisions are made on the basis of statistical information” in their country, 14% (-2) replied “yes, certainly” and 45% (unchanged) replied “yes, probably”.

QF5a. (...) Personally, do you think that, in (OUR COUNTRY), political decisions are made on the basis of statistical information? - % EU

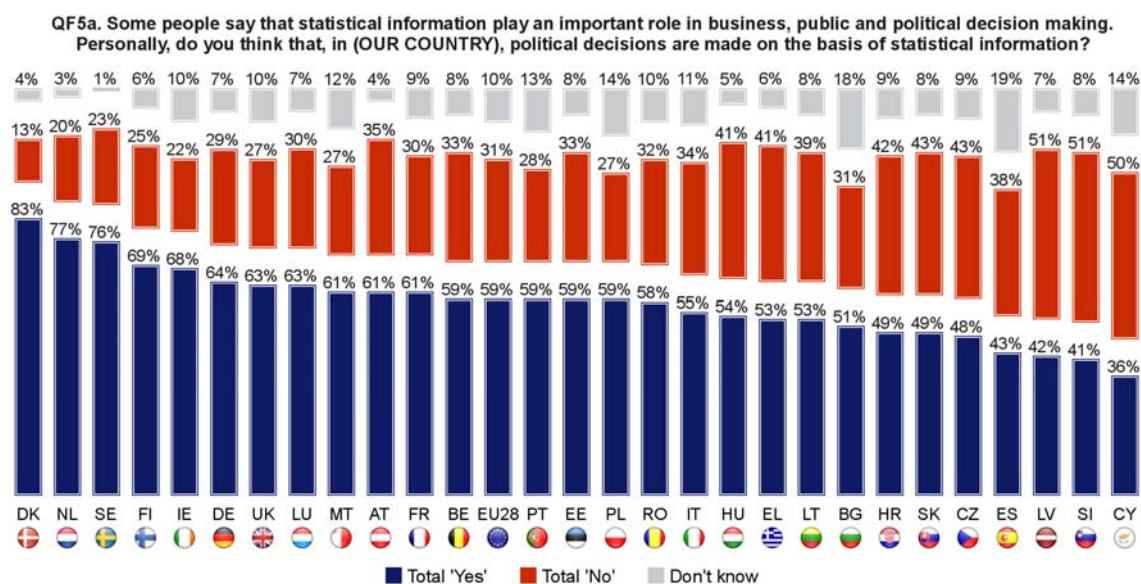
■ Yes, certainly ■ Yes, probably ■ No, probably not ■ No, certainly not ■ Don't know



A majority of respondents in 25 Member states agree that statistical information plays an important role in political decision-making. In the three other countries, a majority of respondents disagree: **Latvia** (51% total “no” answers), **Slovenia** (51%) and **Cyprus** (50%). There are therefore very significant differences between Member States: 83% of respondents in Denmark consider that statistics play an important role in political decisions (the highest score) compared with 36% in Cyprus (the lowest score).






























¹⁵ QF5a. Some people say that statistical information plays an important role in business, public and political decision making. Personally, do you think that, in (OUR COUNTRY), political decisions are made on the basis of statistical information?

¹⁶ Europeans' knowledge of economic indicators : http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_323_en.pdf







Since August-September 2009, agreement that statistics play a key role in national political decision-making has increased significantly in Malta (61%, +11 percentage points). However, it has decreased by more than ten percentage points in Cyprus (36%, -28), Slovenia (41%, -15), Spain (43%, -12) and Belgium (59%, -11).

QF5a. Some people say that statistical information play an important role in business, public and political decision making. Personally, do you think that, in (OUR COUNTRY), political decisions are made on the basis of statistical information?

		Total 'Yes'	Diff. Sp.2015- Aug.-Sep. 2009	Total 'No'	Diff. Sp.2015- Aug.-Sep. 2009	Don't know	Diff. Sp.2015- Aug.-Sep. 2009
	EU28	59%	-2	31%	+4	10%	-2
	EURO AREA	58%	-3	32%	+5	10%	-2
	NON-EURO AREA	61%	=	29%	+3	10%	-3
	MT	61%	+11	27%	-4	12%	-7
	HU	54%	+5	41%	+2	5%	-7
	BG	51%	+5	31%	+2	18%	-7
	PL	59%	+4	27%	=	14%	-4
	LV	42%	+4	51%	-1	7%	-3
	IE	68%	+3	22%	+8	10%	-11
	DE	64%	+3	29%	-2	7%	-1
	EE	59%	+3	33%	-2	8%	-1
	FI	69%	+2	25%	=	6%	-2
	RO	58%	+2	32%	+10	10%	-12
	IT	55%	+1	34%	+4	11%	-5
	LT	53%	+1	39%	+6	8%	-7
	DK	83%	-1	13%	+1	4%	=
	SE	76%	-1	23%	+3	1%	-2
	NL	77%	-2	20%	+5	3%	-3
	PT	59%	-2	28%	+13	13%	-11
	CZ	48%	-3	43%	+2	9%	+1
	SK	49%	-4	43%	+4	8%	=
	UK	63%	-5	27%	+5	10%	=
	FR	61%	-5	30%	+4	9%	+1
	EL	53%	-6	41%	+5	6%	+1
	AT	61%	-7	35%	+9	4%	-2
	LU	63%	-9	30%	+9	7%	=
	BE	59%	-11	33%	+6	8%	+5
	ES	43%	-12	38%	+12	19%	=
	SI	41%	-15	51%	+15	8%	=
	CY	36%	-28	50%	+28	14%	=
	HR	49%	NA*	42%	NA*	9%	NA*












*NA = Not Asked: this question was not asked in this country in the previous survey.

QF5a Some people say that statistical information play an important role in business, public and political decision making. Personally, do you think that, in (OUR COUNTRY), political decisions are made on the basis of statistical information?

	Total 'Yes'	Total 'No'	Don't know
EU28	59%	31%	10%
 Gender			
Man	62%	30%	8%
Woman	56%	32%	12%
 Age			
15-24	61%	28%	11%
25-39	62%	30%	8%
40-54	62%	31%	7%
55 +	53%	33%	14%
 Education (End of)			
15-	45%	36%	19%
16-19	59%	32%	9%
20+	67%	28%	5%
Still studying	63%	27%	10%
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	66%	28%	6%
Managers	68%	28%	4%
Other white collars	67%	28%	5%
Manual workers	60%	32%	8%
House persons	47%	35%	18%
Unemployed	52%	36%	12%
Retired	53%	33%	14%
Students	63%	27%	10%

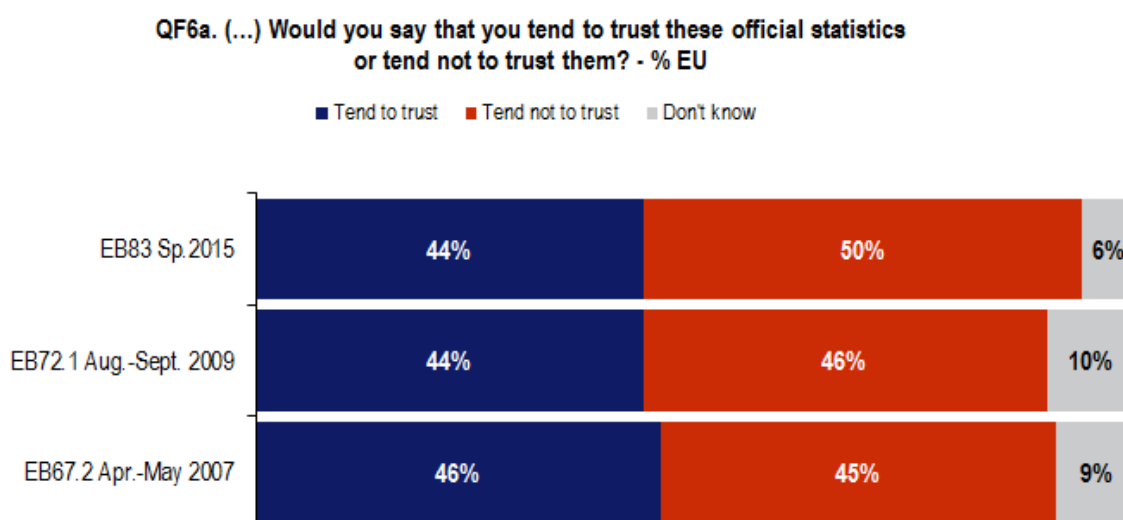
The following table shows the results by socio-demographic criteria for the European Union as a whole (EU28 average), for the six largest EU countries and for countries that have received or currently receive European Union support for tackling the financial and economic crisis.

QF5a. Some people say that statistical information play an important role in business, public and political decision making.
Personally, do you think that, in (OUR COUNTRY), political decisions are made on the basis of statistical information?
Answer: Total 'Yes'

	 EU28	 DE	 ES	 FR	 IT	 PL	 UK	 EL	 PT	 IE	 CY
TOTAL	59%	64%	43%	61%	55%	59%	63%	53%	59%	68%	36%
Gender											
Man	62%	70%	47%	70%	57%	58%	66%	57%	61%	69%	40%
Woman	56%	60%	37%	51%	53%	60%	62%	50%	56%	68%	34%
Age											
15-24	61%	67%	37%	66%	50%	65%	64%	67%	62%	72%	48%
25-39	62%	68%	47%	65%	61%	61%	67%	49%	69%	69%	28%
40-54	62%	66%	48%	70%	60%	59%	63%	57%	64%	67%	32%
55 +	53%	61%	37%	49%	49%	55%	62%	49%	46%	67%	41%
Education (End of)											
15-	45%	57%	34%	35%	41%	49%	51%	47%	53%	62%	38%
16-19	59%	60%	47%	58%	59%	57%	66%	54%	62%	70%	30%
20+	67%	74%	53%	70%	64%	61%	70%	56%	67%	70%	36%
Still studying	63%	69%	37%	71%	51%	73%	65%	60%	71%	70%	55%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	66%	79%	54%	90%	65%	60%	66%	55%	54%	74%	12%
Managers	68%	70%	45%	71%	69%	62%	71%	61%	72%	77%	32%
Other white collars	67%	69%	63%	69%	71%	64%	71%	53%	73%	72%	44%
Manual workers	60%	63%	48%	64%	50%	55%	62%	57%	68%	66%	32%
House persons	47%	55%	34%	39%	40%	62%	55%	51%	55%	64%	53%
Unemployed	52%	54%	42%	60%	41%	56%	58%	48%	45%	60%	28%
Retired	53%	59%	32%	48%	51%	55%	63%	51%	42%	69%	38%
Students	63%	69%	37%	71%	51%	73%	65%	60%	71%	70%	55%

– Half of Europeans do not trust their country's official statistics –

While a very large majority of respondents consider that official statistics play a role in political decision-making, an **absolute majority also do not trust these statistics**¹⁷ (50% "tend not to trust" them, +4 percentage points since August-September 2009 and +5 since the Special Eurobarometer survey of April-May 2007)¹⁸; 44% "tend to trust" the official statistics (unchanged and -2), while 6% (-4 and -3) expressed no opinion. Although the changes are modest, they confirm the downward trend in trust since 2007, when a narrow majority of Europeans "tended to trust" the statistics (this had already ceased to be the case in 2009). The trust index¹⁹ therefore fell from +1 to -6 between 2007 and 2015.



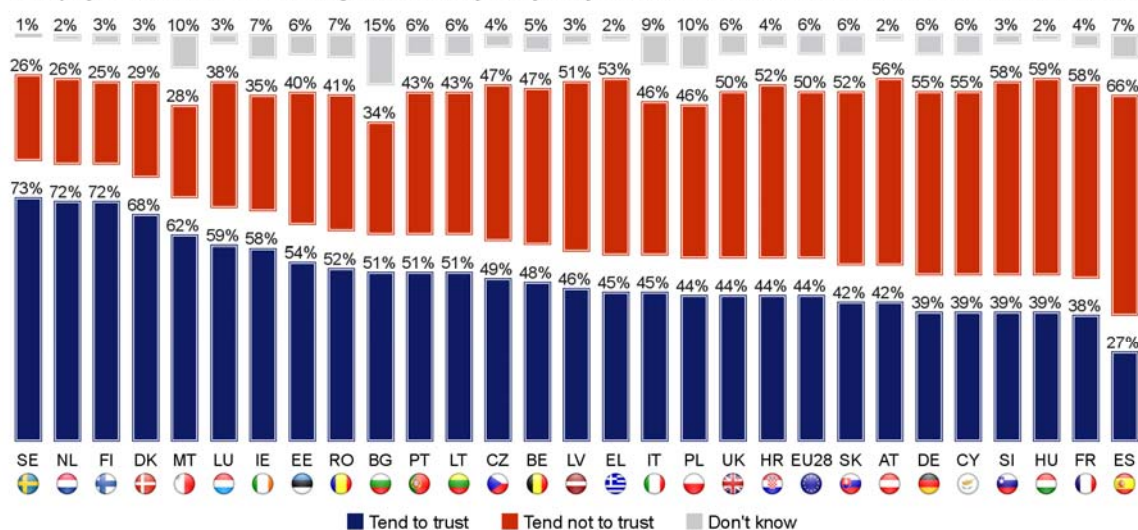
A majority of respondents in 14 Member States tend to trust the official statistics in their country, compared with a minority in the 14 other countries. Trust in these statistics varies from 73% in Sweden (where it is the highest) to 27% in Spain (where it is the lowest).

¹⁷ QF6a. Personally, how much trust do you have in the official statistics in (OUR COUNTRY), for example the statistics on unemployment, inflation or economic growth? Would you say that you tend to trust these official statistics or tend not to trust them?

¹⁸ Europeans' knowledge of economic indicators: http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_special_eco_ind_en.pdf






























¹⁹ Difference between the percentages of "tend to trust" and "tend not to trust" answers.

QF6a. Personally, how much trust do you have in the official statistics in (OUR COUNTRY), for example the statistics on unemployment, inflation or economic growth? Would you say that you tend to trust these official statistics or tend not to trust them?
































Since August-September 2009 the proportion of respondents who tend to trust the official statistics has increased by more than ten percentage points in Malta (62%, +19 percentage points), and the United Kingdom (44%, +11). In contrast it has fallen sharply in Cyprus (39%, -22), Spain (27%, -16), Slovakia (42%, -13), Austria (42%, -11), Greece (45%, -11) and Belgium (48%, -10).

QF6a. Personally, how much trust do you have in the official statistics in (OUR COUNTRY), for example the statistics on unemployment, inflation or economic growth? Would you say that you tend to trust these official statistics or tend not to trust them?

		Tend to trust	Diff. Sp.2015- Aug.-Sep. 2009	Tend not to trust	Diff. Sp.2015- Aug.-Sep. 2009	Don't know	Diff. Sp.2015- Aug.-Sep. 2009
	EU28	44%	=	50%	+4	6%	-4
	EURO AREA	42%	-2	52%	+6	6%	-4
	NON-EURO AREA	48%	+4	46%	=	6%	-4
	MT	62%	+19	28%	-7	10%	-12
	UK	44%	+11	50%	-11	6%	=
	FI	72%	+5	25%	-3	3%	-2
	BG	51%	+4	34%	=	15%	-4
	SE	73%	+3	26%	=	1%	-3
	NL	72%	+3	26%	-1	2%	-2
	EE	54%	+3	40%	-2	6%	-1
	IT	45%	+3	46%	+5	9%	-8
	DE	39%	+3	55%	=	6%	-3
	RO	52%	+2	41%	+12	7%	-14
	HU	39%	+2	59%	+5	2%	-7
	IE	58%	+1	35%	+15	7%	-16
	LT	51%	=	43%	+4	6%	-4
	PT	51%	-1	43%	+16	6%	-15
	LV	46%	-1	51%	+4	3%	-3
	PL	44%	-1	46%	+5	10%	-4
	DK	68%	-2	29%	+3	3%	-1
	FR	38%	-2	58%	+2	4%	=
	CZ	49%	-5	47%	+4	4%	+1
	SI	39%	-6	58%	+10	3%	-4
	LU	59%	-9	38%	+12	3%	-3
	BE	48%	-10	47%	+7	5%	+3
	EL	45%	-11	53%	+12	2%	-1
	AT	42%	-11	56%	+16	2%	-5
	SK	42%	-13	52%	+12	6%	+1
	ES	27%	-16	66%	+21	7%	-5
	CY	39%	-22	55%	+25	6%	-3
	HR	44%	NA*	52%	NA*	4%	NA*





*NA = Not Asked: this question was not asked in this country during the previous survey.

QF6a. Personally, how much trust do you have in the official statistics in (OUR COUNTRY), for example the statistics on unemployment, inflation or economic growth? Would you say that you tend to trust these official statistics or tend not to trust them?

		Tend to trust - Tend not to trust EB67.2 Apr.-May 2007	Tend to trust - Tend not to trust EB72.1 Aug.-Sept. 2009	Tend to trust - Tend not to trust EB83 Sp.2015	Diff. Sp.2015 - Aug.-Sept. 2009	Diff. Sp.2015 - Apr.-May 2007
	EU28	+1	-2	-6	-4	-7
	EURO AREA	+1	-2	-10	-8	-11
	NON-EURO AREA	0	-2	+2	+4	+2
	BE	+19	+18	+1	-17	-18
	BG	-2	+13	+17	+4	+19
	CZ	+14	+11	+2	-9	-12
	DK	+49	+44	+39	-5	-10
	DE	-8	-19	-16	+3	-8
	EE	+28	+9	+14	+5	-14
	IE	+36	+37	+23	-14	-13
	EL	+7	+15	-8	-23	-15
	ES	+4	-2	-39	-37	-43
	FR	-25	-16	-20	-4	+5
	HR	-8	NA*	-8	NA*	=
	IT	+1	+1	-1	-2	-2
	CY	+30	+31	-16	-47	-46
	LV	-5	0	-5	-5	=
	LT	+18	+12	+8	-4	-10
	LU	+36	+42	+21	-21	-15
	HU	-19	-17	-20	-3	-1
	MT	+17	+8	+34	+26	+17
	NL	+58	+42	+46	+4	-12
	AT	+11	+13	-14	-27	-25
	PL	+6	+4	-2	-6	-8
	PT	+30	+25	+8	-17	-22
	RO	+25	+21	+11	-10	-14
	SI	+5	-3	-19	-16	-24
	SK	0	+15	-10	-25	-10
	FI	+40	+39	+47	+8	+7
	SE	+26	+44	+47	+3	+21
	UK	-25	-28	-6	+22	+19












*NA = Not Asked: this question was not asked in this country during the previous survey.

QF6a Personally, how much trust do you have in the official statistics in (OUR COUNTRY), for example the statistics on unemployment, inflation or economic growth? Would you say that you tend to trust these official statistics or tend not to trust them?

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU28	44%	50%	6%
 Gender			
Man	47%	48%	5%
Woman	41%	52%	7%
 Age			
15-24	50%	43%	7%
25-39	48%	47%	5%
40-54	44%	52%	4%
55 +	38%	54%	8%
 Education (End of)			
15-	30%	61%	9%
16-19	42%	52%	6%
20+	51%	45%	4%
Still studying	55%	39%	6%
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	50%	46%	4%
Managers	53%	43%	4%
Other white collars	52%	45%	3%
Manual workers	42%	52%	6%
House persons	38%	54%	8%
Unemployed	33%	61%	6%
Retired	37%	55%	8%
Students	55%	39%	6%

The following table shows the results by socio-demographic criteria for the European Union as a whole (EU28 average), for the six largest EU countries and for countries that have received or currently receive European Union support for tackling the financial and economic crisis.

QF6a. Personally, how much trust do you have in the official statistics in (OUR COUNTRY), for example the statistics on unemployment, inflation or economic growth? Would you say that you tend to trust these official statistics or tend not to trust them?
Answer: 'Tend to trust'

	 EU28	 DE	 ES	 FR	 IT	 PL	 UK	 EL	 PT	 IE	 CY
TOTAL	44%	39%	27%	38%	45%	44%	44%	45%	51%	58%	39%
Gender											
Man	47%	44%	31%	40%	48%	41%	51%	45%	54%	57%	40%
Woman	41%	34%	24%	35%	43%	47%	37%	46%	48%	59%	38%
Age											
15-24	50%	47%	38%	45%	44%	45%	56%	58%	54%	64%	37%
25-39	48%	43%	30%	39%	54%	46%	50%	49%	56%	59%	36%
40-54	44%	38%	22%	37%	51%	45%	44%	45%	56%	55%	41%
55 +	38%	35%	26%	34%	36%	42%	33%	39%	42%	56%	42%
Education (End of)											
15-	30%	30%	18%	28%	30%	37%	27%	37%	48%	47%	32%
16-19	42%	36%	27%	31%	51%	42%	41%	45%	54%	54%	34%
20+	51%	43%	38%	43%	56%	47%	55%	51%	55%	66%	50%
Still studying	55%	55%	39%	60%	44%	51%	56%	56%	51%	68%	40%
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	50%	50%	25%	42%	58%	42%	50%	49%	37%	59%	27%
Managers	53%	44%	36%	44%	62%	54%	51%	56%	66%	76%	52%
Other white collars	52%	36%	42%	45%	60%	48%	51%	50%	56%	64%	41%
Manual workers	42%	34%	26%	35%	43%	38%	44%	46%	61%	53%	37%
House persons	38%	29%	20%	40%	43%	52%	42%	51%	60%	52%	61%
Unemployed	33%	28%	24%	28%	32%	37%	34%	36%	41%	42%	28%
Retired	37%	36%	24%	31%	32%	43%	33%	36%	39%	55%	43%
Students	55%	55%	39%	60%	44%	51%	56%	56%	51%	68%	40%

STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 83

Europeans and economic statistics

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between the 16th and the 27th of May 2015, TNS opinion & social, a consortium created between TNS political & social, TNS UK and TNS opinion, carried out the wave 83.3 of the EUROBAROMETER survey, on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General for Communication, "Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and Eurobarometer" unit.

The wave 83.3 is the STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 83 survey and covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, resident in each of the Member States and aged 15 years and over.

The STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 83 survey has also been conducted in five candidate countries (Turkey, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania) and in the Turkish Cypriot Community. In these countries, the survey covers the national population of citizens and the population of citizens of all the European Union Member States that are residents in these countries and have a sufficient command of the national languages to answer the questionnaire.

The basic sample design applied in all states is a multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each country, a number of sampling points was drawn with probability proportional to population size (for a total coverage of the country) and to population density.

In order to do so, the sampling points were drawn systematically from each of the "administrative regional units", after stratification by individual unit and type of area. They thus represent the whole territory of the countries surveyed according to the EUROSTAT NUTS II (or equivalent) and according to the distribution of the resident population of the respective nationalities in terms of metropolitan, urban and rural areas. In each of the selected sampling points, a starting address was drawn, at random. Further addresses (every Nth address) were selected by standard "random route" procedures, from the initial address. In each household, the respondent was drawn, at random (following the "closest birthday rule"). All interviews were conducted face-to-face in people's homes and in the appropriate national language. As far as the data capture is concerned, CAPI (*Computer Assisted Personal Interview*) was used in those countries where this technique was available.

For each country a comparison between the sample and the universe was carried out. The Universe description was derived from Eurostat population data or from national statistics offices. For all countries surveyed, a national weighting procedure, using marginal and intercellular weighting, was carried out based on this Universe description. In all countries, gender, age, region and size of locality were introduced in the iteration procedure. For international weighting (i.e. EU averages), TNS Opinion & Social applies the official population figures as provided by EUROSTAT or national statistic offices. The total population figures for input in this post-weighting procedure are listed below.

Readers are reminded that survey results are estimations, the accuracy of which, everything being equal, rests upon the sample size and upon the observed percentage. With samples of about 1,000 interviews, the real percentages vary within the following confidence limits:

Statistical Margins due to the sampling process (at the 95% level of confidence)											
<i>various sample sizes are in rows</i>						<i>various observed results are in columns</i>					
	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	
N=50	6,0	8,3	9,9	11,1	12,0	12,7	13,2	13,6	13,8	13,9	N=50
N=500	1,9	2,6	3,1	3,5	3,8	4,0	4,2	4,3	4,4	4,4	N=500
N=1000	1,4	1,9	2,2	2,5	2,7	2,8	3,0	3,0	3,1	3,1	N=1000
N=1500	1,1	1,5	1,8	2,0	2,2	2,3	2,4	2,5	2,5	2,5	N=1500
N=2000	1,0	1,3	1,6	1,8	1,9	2,0	2,1	2,1	2,2	2,2	N=2000
N=3000	0,8	1,1	1,3	1,4	1,5	1,6	1,7	1,8	1,8	1,8	N=3000
N=4000	0,7	0,9	1,1	1,2	1,3	1,4	1,5	1,5	1,5	1,5	N=4000
N=5000	0,6	0,8	1,0	1,1	1,2	1,3	1,3	1,4	1,4	1,4	N=5000
N=6000	0,6	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,1	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,3	1,3	N=6000
N=7000	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,2	1,2	N=7000
N=7500	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,1	N=7500
N=8000	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	N=8000
N=9000	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	N=9000
N=10000	0,4	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,0	N=10000
N=11000	0,4	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	N=11000
N=12000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	N=12000
N=13000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	N=13000
N=14000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	N=14000
N=15000	0,3	0,5	0,6	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	N=15000
	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	

ABBR.	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	DATES FIELDWORK		POPULATION 15+	PROPORTION EU28
BE	Belgium	TNS Dimarso	1,014	16/05/15	26/05/15	9,263,570	2.18%
BG	Bulgaria	TNS BBSS	1,063	16/05/15	26/05/15	6,294,563	1.48%
CZ	Czech Rep.	TNS Aisa	1,021	16/05/15	26/05/15	8,955,829	2.11%
DK	Denmark	TNS Gallup DK	1,020	16/05/15	26/05/15	4,625,032	1.09%
DE	Germany	TNS Infratest	1,554	16/05/15	26/05/15	71,283,580	16.79%
EE	Estonia	TNS Emor	1,001	16/05/15	26/05/15	1,113,355	0.26%
IE	Ireland	Behaviour & Attitudes	1,018	16/05/15	26/05/15	3,586,829	0.84%
EL	Greece	TNS ICAP	999	16/05/15	26/05/15	8,791,499	2.07%
ES	Spain	TNS Spain	1,002	16/05/15	26/05/15	39,506,853	9.31%
FR	France	TNS Sofres	997	16/05/15	26/05/15	51,668,700	12.17%
HR	Croatia	HENDAL	1,008	16/05/15	26/05/15	3,625,601	0.85%
IT	Italy	TNS Italia	1,028	16/05/15	26/05/15	51,336,889	12.09%
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	CYMAR	500	16/05/15	26/05/15	724,084	0.17%
LV	Latvia	TNS Latvia	1,005	16/05/15	26/05/15	1,731,509	0.41%
LT	Lithuania	TNS LT	1,003	16/05/15	26/05/15	2,535,329	0.60%
LU	Luxembourg	TNS ILReS	504	16/05/15	27/05/15	445,806	0.11%
HU	Hungary	TNS Hoffmann	1,055	16/05/15	26/05/15	8,477,933	2.00%
MT	Malta	MISCO	504	16/05/15	26/05/15	360,045	0.08%
NL	Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1,010	16/05/15	26/05/15	13,901,653	3.27%
AT	Austria	ipr Umfrageforschung	1,032	16/05/15	27/05/15	7,232,497	1.70%
PL	Poland	TNS Polska	998	16/05/15	26/05/15	32,736,685	7.71%
PT	Portugal	TNS Portugal	1,000	16/05/15	26/05/15	8,512,269	2.01%
RO	Romania	TNS CSOP	1,007	16/05/15	26/05/15	16,880,465	3.98%
SI	Slovenia	RM PLUS	1,008	16/05/15	26/05/15	1,760,726	0.41%
SK	Slovakia	TNS Slovakia	1,051	16/05/15	26/05/15	4,580,260	1.08%
FI	Finland	TNS Gallup Oy	1,013	16/05/15	26/05/15	4,511,446	1.06%
SE	Sweden	TNS Sifo	1,037	16/05/15	26/05/15	7,944,034	1.87%
UK	United Kingdom	TNS UK	1,306	16/05/15	26/05/15	52,104,731	12.27%
TOTAL EU28			27,758	16/05/15	27/05/15	424,491,772	100%*

* It should be noted that the total percentage shown in this table may exceed 100% due to rounding

CY(tcc)	Turkish Cypriot Community	KADEM	500	16/05/15	25/05/15	143,226
TR	Turkey	TNS Piar	1,010	16/05/15	27/05/15	54,844,406
MK	Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia	TNS BRIMA	1,055	16/05/15	23/05/15	1,678,404
ME	Montenegro	TNS Medium Gallup	530	16/05/15	24/05/15	492,265
RS	Serbia	TNS Medium Gallup	1,015	16/05/15	26/05/15	6,409,693
AL	Albania	TNS BBSS	1,000	16/05/15	25/05/15	2,221,572
TOTAL			31,868	16/05/15	27/05/15	490,281,338