

EUROPEAN UNION

Almost Half of Britons Would Vote to Abandon European Union

Three-in-five respondents believe EU membership has been negative for their country.

[LONDON – 6 December 2010] – British sentiments on the country's European Union (EU) membership are worsening, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 2,002 British adults, three-in-five respondents (59%) say EU membership has been moderately negative (30%) or very negative (29%) for the United Kingdom.

Since June, the proportion of Britons who say the EU has been very positive for the UK has dropped from seven per cent to four per cent, and while 31 per cent regarded it as moderately positive earlier this year, only 25 per cent feel the same way now.

In the event of a referendum on the UK's EU membership, nearly half of Britons (48%) would vote in favour of pulling out, while 27 per cent would vote to stay.

Pound Vs. Euro

When asked about the UK adopting the euro as its national currency, four-in-five respondents (80%) would vote in favour of the country maintaining the pound. This figure remains unchanged since the [June 2010](#) Angus Reid Public Opinion poll released on this subject in June 2010.

KEY FINDINGS

- **59% say EU membership has been negative for the UK; 29% believe it has been positive**
- **48% (+6 since June) would vote to leave the EU in a referendum**
- **80% would vote against the UK adopting the euro; less than 10% support this course of action**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From November 30 to December 1, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 2,002 randomly selected British adults who are Springboard UK panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 2.2% for the entire sample. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region data to ensure samples representative of the entire adult population of Great Britain. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

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When it comes to political leanings, 41 per cent of Labour Party supporters and 31 per cent of Liberal Democrat supporters would vote in favour of the UK remaining in the EU, but only 17 per cent of Conservatives concur. The level of aversion to the euro is very strong among all party followers (Con. 90%, Lib-Dem 80%, Lab. 77%).

Respondents aged 18 to 34 are more evenly split than older voters on whether the UK should remain in the EU. Despite that nearly three-quarters (73%) feel the EU's effect on the UK has been negative, 37 per cent of younger respondents would vote to stay. Nearly two-thirds of Britons over the age of 55 (58%) would vote to leave the EU, and 62 per cent of them feel its effect has been detrimental to Britain.

Our May 2010 poll on the European Union can be found [here](#).

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European Union

The United Kingdom has been a member of the European Union (EU)—previously the European Economic Community (EEC)—since 1973. Overall, do you think EU membership has been positive or negative for the United Kingdom?

	Total – Dec. 2010	Total – Jun. 2010	Difference (+/-)
Very positive	4%	7%	-3%
Moderately positive	25%	31%	-6%
Moderately negative	30%	26%	+4%
Very negative	29%	25%	+4%
Not sure	12%	11%	+1%
Positive – net	29%	38%	-9%
Negative – net	59%	51%	+8%

European Union

The United Kingdom has been a member of the European Union (EU)—previously the European Economic Community (EEC)—since 1973. Overall, do you think EU membership has been positive or negative for the United Kingdom?

	Total – Dec. 2010	Age		
		18-34	35-54	55+
Very positive	4%	6%	5%	3%
Moderately positive	25%	36%	21%	19%
Moderately negative	30%	24%	32%	32%
Very negative	29%	15%	29%	41%
Not sure	12%	13%	5%	9%
Positive – net	29%	22%	34%	24%
Negative – net	59%	73%	57%	62%

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European Union			
If a referendum on whether the United Kingdom should remain a member of the European Union (EU) were held tomorrow, how would you vote?			
	Total – Dec. 2010	Total – Jun. 2010	Difference (+/-)
In favour of the United Kingdom remaining a member of the EU	27%	35%	-8%
Against the United Kingdom remaining a member of the EU	48%	42%	+6%
Not sure	21%	20%	+1%
Would not vote	4%	3%	+1%

European Union				
If a referendum on whether the United Kingdom should remain a member of the European Union (EU) were held tomorrow, how would you vote?				
	Total – Dec. 2010	Age		
		18-34	35-54	55+
In favour of the United Kingdom remaining a member of the EU	27%	37%	23%	23%
Against the United Kingdom remaining a member of the EU	48%	32%	50%	58%
Not sure	21%	23%	23%	18%
Would not vote	4%	8%	4%	1%

European Union			
If a referendum on whether the United Kingdom should adopt the euro as its currency were held tomorrow, how would you vote?			
	Total – Dec. 2010	Total – Jun. 2010	Difference (+/-)
In favour of the United Kingdom adopting the euro	8%	9%	+1%
Against the United Kingdom adopting the euro	80%	79%	+1%
Not sure	10%	10%	NC
Would not vote	3%	2%	+1%

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Angus Reid Public Opinion is a practice of Vision Critical—a global research and technology company specializing in custom online panels, private communities, and innovative online methods. Vision Critical is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Public Opinion team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995

Vision Critical is now one of the largest market research enterprises in the world. In addition to its five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.

Angus Reid Public Opinion polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum (www.angusreidforum.com), Springboard America (www.springboardamerica.com) and Springboard UK (www.springboarduk.com) online panels, which are carefully recruited to ensure representation across all demographic and psychographic segments of these populations. Panel members pass through rigorous screening and a double opt-in process ensuring highly motivated and responsive members. These premier online survey platforms present respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses. Each survey is actively sampled and weighted to model that characteristics of the universe required and employs the latest in quality control techniques to ensure data validity.

Since 2006, Angus Reid has covered eight provincial elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes.

Angus Reid, the only public opinion firm to exclusively use online methods to follow the views of the electorate during the 2008 federal campaign, offered the most accurate prediction of the results of Canada's 40th election. More information on our electoral record in Canada and the United States can be found at:

<http://www.angus-reid.com/services/record-of-accuracy/>

More information on the way Angus Reid conducts public opinion research can be found at <http://www.angus-reid.com/about/>

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**For more information, please contact
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:
<http://www.angus-reid.com>**

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