

EUROPEAN UNION

Half of Britons Would Vote to Leave the European Union in a Referendum

Only one third of respondents believe EU membership has been positive for the United Kingdom.

[LONDON – 12 July 2011] – The level of animosity towards the European Union (EU) in Britain remains high, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 2,003 British adults, a majority of respondents (57%) believe that EU membership has been negative for the United Kingdom, while only one third (32%) think it has had a positive effect.

Respondents aged 18-to-34 are more likely to express positive feelings about the EU (45%) than those aged 35-to-54 (31%) and those over the age of 55 (22%).

Half of Britons (49%) say they would vote against the United Kingdom remaining a member of the EU if a referendum took place, while only one-in-four (25%) would vote to stay. Older respondents favour the idea of abandoning the EU by a 3-to-1 margin (68% to 19%).

Finally, Britons oppose the notion of the UK adopting the euro as its national currency by a 10-to-1 margin, with 81 per cent of respondents saying they would reject this course of action in a referendum.

Consult our [May 2010](#) and [December 2010](#) polls on the European Union.

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KEY FINDINGS

- **57% say EU membership has been negative for the UK; 32% believe it has been positive**
- **49% would vote to leave the EU in a referendum; 25% would vote to stay in**
- **81% would vote against the UK adopting the euro; only 8% endorse this idea**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From July 2 to July 4, 2011, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 2,003 randomly selected British adults who are Springboard UK panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 2.2%. 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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About Angus Reid Public Opinion

[Angus Reid Public Opinion](#) is a public affairs practice headed by Dr. Angus Reid: an industry visionary who has spent more than four decades asking questions to figure out what people feel, how they think and who they will vote for. A team of talented and experienced practitioners with a unique and profound understanding of global issues conduct high quality research throughout the world on a daily basis for corporations, governments, academic researchers, and non-profit organizations.

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

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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?

	Jul. 2011	Dec. 2010	Jun. 2010
Positive	32%	29%	38%
Negative	57%	59%	51%
Not sure	11%	12%	11%

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?

		Age		
	Total – Jul. 2011	18-34	35-54	55+
Positive	32%	45%	31%	22%
Negative	57%	36%	57%	74%
Not sure	11%	19%	13%	4%

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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?			
	Jul. 2011	Dec. 2010	Jun. 2010
In favour of the United Kingdom remaining a member of the EU	25%	27%	35%
Against the United Kingdom remaining a member of the EU	49%	48%	42%
Not sure	23%	21%	20%
Would not vote	4%	4%	3%

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?				
		Age		
	Jul. 2011	18-34	35-54	55+
In favour of the United Kingdom remaining a member of the EU	25%	34%	23%	19%
Against the United Kingdom remaining a member of the EU	49%	31%	48%	63%
Not sure	23%	29%	25%	15%
Would not vote	4%	6%	4%	2%

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European Union			
If a referendum on whether the United Kingdom should adopt the euro as its currency were held tomorrow, how would you vote?			
	Jul. 2011	Dec. 2010	Jun. 2010
In favour of the United Kingdom adopting the euro	8%	8%	9%
Against the United Kingdom adopting the euro	81%	80%	79%
Not sure	9%	10%	10%
Would not vote	2%	3%	2%

European Union				
If a referendum on whether the United Kingdom should adopt the euro as its currency were held tomorrow, how would you vote?				
		Age		
	Jul. 2011	18-34	35-54	55+
In favour of the United Kingdom adopting the euro	8%	9%	7%	8%
Against the United Kingdom adopting the euro	81%	74%	82%	86%
Not sure	9%	14%	8%	5%
Would not vote	2%	3%	3%	2%

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