

# EUROPEANS' KNOWLEDGE OF ECONOMIC INDICATORS

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## INTRODUCTION

The second OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy took place in Istanbul in June 2007 and was entitled "Measuring and Fostering the Progress of Societies". A central point of discussion during this event was the need for "a more comprehensive view on societal progress - one that takes into account social, environmental and economic concerns – rather than focusing mainly on economic indicators"<sup>1</sup>

This raised some very important questions about the place of statistical indicators within society: how can data regarding social and economic progress, frequently used by decision-makers (for instance as a tool for evaluating policies), be more widely disseminated among the general public? Even more importantly, how can such information be transformed into *knowledge* among citizens?

To measure the extent to which citizens are actually aware of key economic indicators and the way in which they comprehend their evolutions and their role within society, the Directorate-General Communication of the European Commission initiated this survey. The results, as presented in this report, give an overview of:

- the climate of opinion among European citizens regarding general economic matters;
- their actual knowledge of three economic key indicators: the economic growth rate, the inflation rate and the unemployment rate;
- the importance that citizens attach to official statistics.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/20/51/38066371.pdf>

In order to maintain homogeneity in the results, the real figures of economic indicators that have been used in this survey were sourced from Eurostat's data base.

When analysing the results, it has been taken into account that the real figures that have been circulating in the national media may have differed slightly from those published by Eurostat, usually being rounded up or down to integer numbers. It became obvious that the large majority of respondents gave integer numbers for the economic indicators. In fact the figures are calculated in a different way in some countries. Moreover, the respondents could have based their knowledge on more recent publications than the ones referred to in the questionnaire.

When citizens were asked to estimate the different economic indicators in their countries, answers that are fairly close to the real figure, though not exact are considered to be 'correct'. In this regard, it was chosen to consider all estimates differing 20% either side from the real figure as being 'correct'. For example, an unemployment rate of 10% is estimated correctly when the answers are between 8% and 12%.

For some of the knowledge-related questions<sup>2</sup>, results from Denmark were coded differently than in the other countries polled: While decimals were used in those other countries, Danish results were rounded to the nearest integer number<sup>3</sup>. This is one of the reasons for using an error margin of +/- 20% throughout the analysis. Caution should however be taken when analysing the Danish results.

The survey on citizens' knowledge of economic indicators was conducted in the spring of 2007 between April 10<sup>th</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup>, as part of the Eurobarometer wave 67.2. It covers 30 countries and territories: The 27 EU Member States, its two candidate states Croatia and Turkey as well as the Turkish Cypriot Community.

The survey was commissioned by the European Commission Directorate-General for Communication and was carried out by TNS Opinion & Social, a consortium formed by TNS and EOS Gallup Europe. The methodology used is that of the Standard Eurobarometer surveys of the Directorate-General Communication ("Public Opinion and Media Monitoring" Unit). A technical note concerning the interviews, carried out by the institutes of the TNS Opinion & Social network, is annexed to this report. This note specifies the interview method used, as well as the confidence intervals<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> QA50a, QA50b, QA52 & QA54

<sup>3</sup> The questions this concerns were asked a second time in Denmark (EB68.2; Nov. 2007 – January 2008), which resulted in a general increase of 'Don't Know' replies and a slightly lower number of correct estimations of the three different economic indicators. Since this could well be explained by the difference in timing, it was decided to present the figures that were obtained originally in this report.

<sup>4</sup> The results tables are included in the annex. The totals indicated may show a one point difference with the sum of the individual units. It should also be noted that the total of the percentages in the tables of this report may exceed 100% when the respondent has the possibility to give several answers to the same question.

## 1. Climate of opinion on economic matters

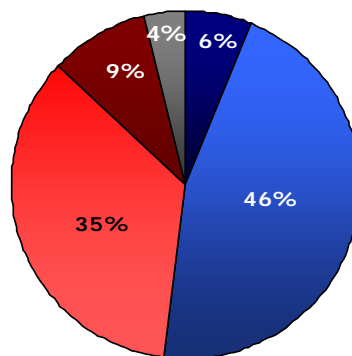
### 1.1. Evaluating the situation of the national economy

When asked to evaluate the state of the economy in their countries, around a half of Europeans (52%) claim that it is *very good* or *rather good*<sup>5</sup>. A slightly lower proportion (44%) thinks that the situation in their countries is *very bad* or *rather bad*.

Europeans' appear to have rather moderate opinions on this issue as only a small proportion consider their national economy to be in a "very good" or "very bad" state. An overall majority say the situation is "rather good" or "rather bad".

QA49.1 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?  
-The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy  
-%EU27

■ Very good ■ Rather good ■ Rather bad ■ Very bad ■ DK



<sup>5</sup> QA49.1 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?  
-The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy

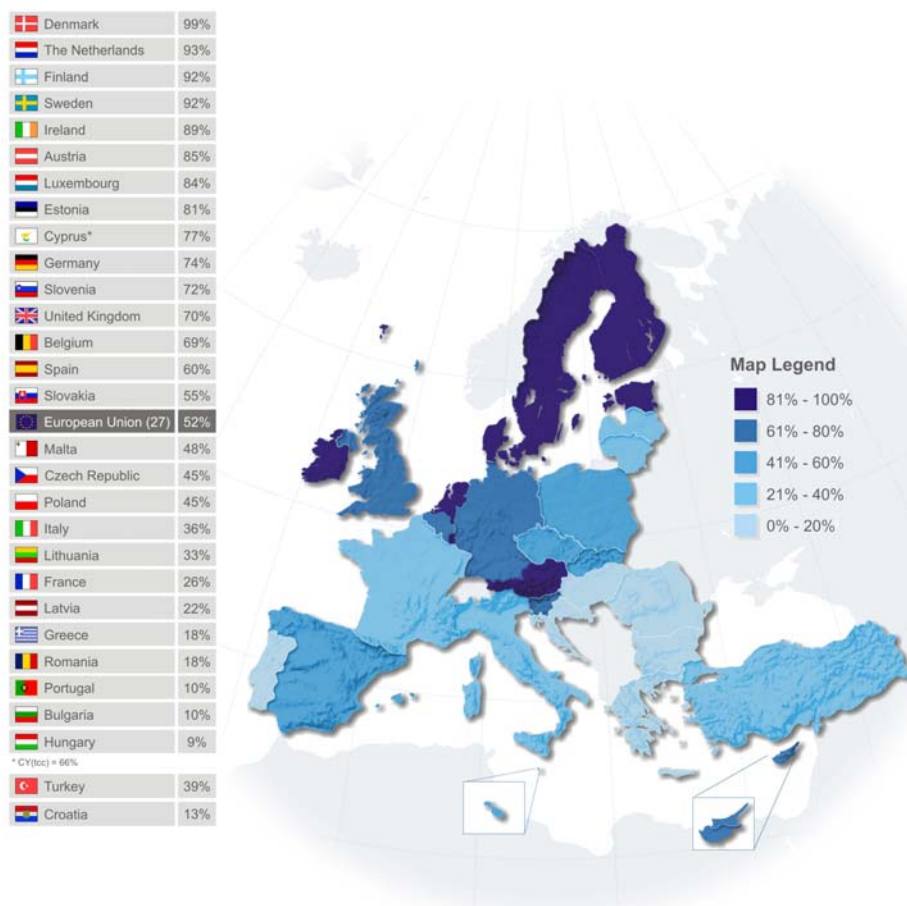
European Union citizens appear to hold widely differing opinions regarding the state of their national economies. Whereas optimism is very high in Denmark (99%), the Netherlands (93%), Finland (92%) and Sweden (92%), respondents in Hungary (9%), Bulgaria and Portugal (both 10%) are far more negative. Similarly in the EU candidate country, Croatia, people appear to be relatively negative about the economy with only 13% saying the situation is *very* or *rather* good.

Compared with results from a survey conducted in the autumn of 2006<sup>6</sup>, European citizens have, on average, become more optimistic about the situation of their national economies (52% finding the situation *very* or *rather* good; +5 percentage points). In Germany the climate of opinion in this respect has become considerably more optimistic – while less than half (43%) of Germans considered the situation of the national economy to be *very* or *rather* good in the autumn of 2006, nearly three-quarters (74%) of Germans expressed the same opinion in the spring 2007. This booming optimism seems to be the result of an actual improvement of the German economy and widespread reporting of the country's prosperity in the national media.

Question: QA49.1. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

Option: The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy

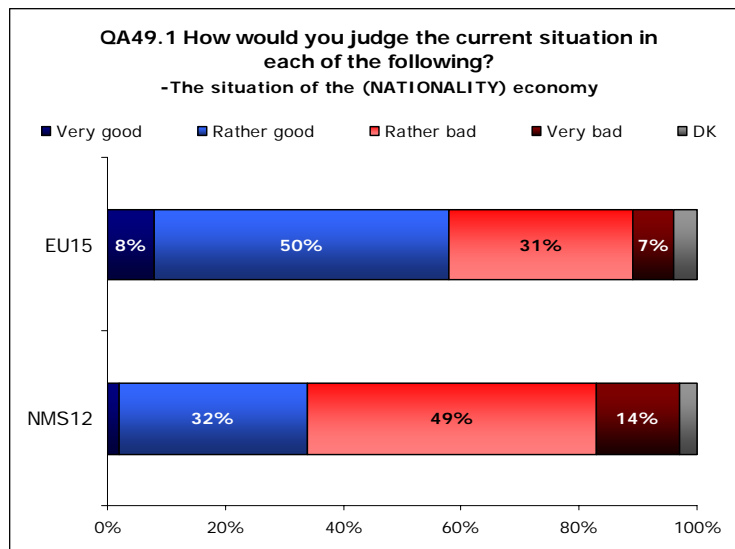
Answers: Good



<sup>6</sup> QA49.1 was also asked in EB66.1 (QA51.1)

As the map above reveals, citizens in the European Union's older Member States are the most optimistic about their national economies. Although Estonians, Cypriots, Slovenes and Slovaks are more positive about their economies than the average, the overall majority of optimistic views are found in the EU15. This tendency is also illustrated in the graph below, where we see a pronounced difference in opinions between citizens from the old and the new Member States. While 58% of citizens in the older Member States claim that the economic situation in their countries is *very* or *rather* good, around a third (34%) of citizens in the NMS12 holds the same opinion.

Among the Union's old Member States, the lowest levels of economic optimism are found in Portugal, Greece, France and Italy. In the EU15 as a whole 38% of citizens consider the state of their national economies to be *very* or *rather* bad, whereas 63% of citizens in the NMS12 share this opinion.






When asked to evaluate the situation of their national economies, men generally appear to be more optimistic than women with 57% responding that the economic situation is *very* or *rather* good compared to 48% of women (table 1).

Moreover, the length of time respondents have spent in education influences how they view the economic situation. Those who spent the longest periods in education (until 20 years of age or later) seem to be considerably more likely to consider the situation *very* or *rather* good than those who finished their education at the age of 15 or earlier (61% vs. 45%).

Among the different occupational groups we can observe that managers are far more inclined to see the economic situation in their countries as *very* or *rather* good (66%) than those in other occupational positions. Conversely, around a half of unemployed people (53%) and house persons (49%) feel that the situation is (*very* or *rather*) bad. 45% of respondents in the remaining categories – the self-employed, white collar and manual workers as well as retired respondents – share this view.

Table 1

QA49.1 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?  
-The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy

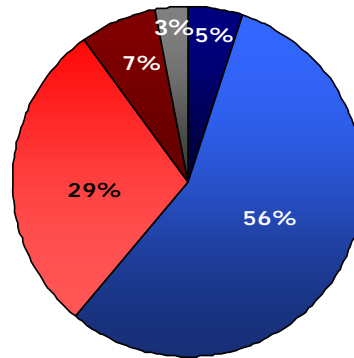
	Total "Good"	Total "Bad"	DK
EU27	52%	44%	4%
 <b>Sex</b>			
Male	57%	40%	3%
Female	48%	48%	4%
 <b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	45%	50%	5%
16-19	52%	45%	3%
20+	61%	37%	2%
Still Studying	55%	40%	5%
 <b>Occupation</b>			
Self- employed	52%	45%	3%
Managers	66%	32%	2%
Other white collars	53%	45%	2%
Manual workers	52%	45%	3%
House persons	45%	49%	6%
Unemployed	42%	53%	5%
Retired	51%	45%	4%
Students	55%	40%	5%

## 1.2. Evaluating one's personal financial situation

Europeans appear on average to be more optimistic about their personal financial situation<sup>7</sup> than about the financial situation of their countries. 61% judge their financial situation to be very or rather good, compared to 36% who have an opposite opinion. Again, we see that Europeans tend to give relatively moderate answers, and only relatively small proportions describe their financial situation in extreme terms.

QA49.3 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?  
-Your financial situation  
-%EU27

■ Very good ■ Rather good ■ Rather bad ■ Very bad ■ DK



<sup>7</sup> QA49.3 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?  
-Your financial situation

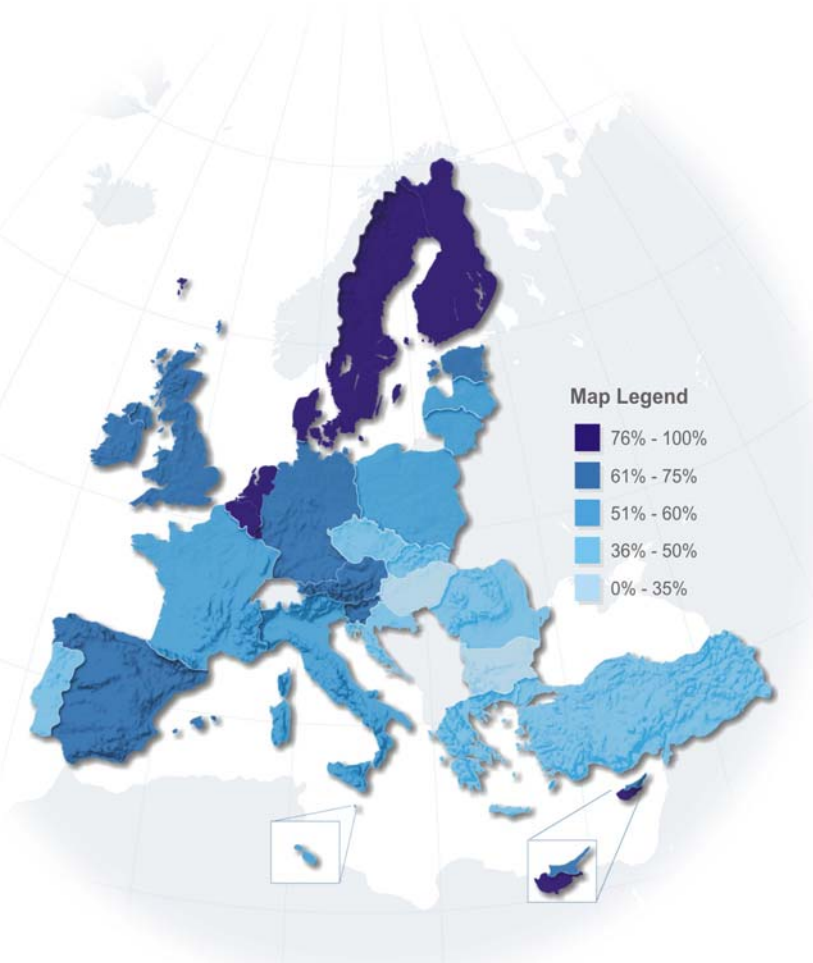
In Luxembourg (89%), the Netherlands (88%) and the Nordic countries – Denmark (87%), Finland and Sweden (both 85%) – people tend to be the most positive about their financial situation. On the other hand, in Bulgaria (22%) and Hungary (27%) only around a quarter of respondents judge their financial situation to be *very* or *rather* good.

Question: QA49.3. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

Option: Your financial situation

Answers: Good

 Luxembourg	89%
 The Netherlands	88%
 Denmark	87%
 Finland	85%
 Sweden	85%
 Cyprus*	79%
 Belgium	78%
 Ireland	74%
 United Kingdom	72%
 Estonia	72%
 Slovenia	70%
 Spain	67%
 Austria	67%
 Germany	64%
 European Union (27)	61%
 France	60%
 Malta	56%
 Poland	55%
 Italy	51%
 Latvia	51%
 Lithuania	51%
 Czech Republic	50%
 Greece	48%
 Slovakia	47%
 Romania	39%
 Portugal	36%
 Hungary	27%
 Bulgaria	22%
* CY(10c) = 75%	
 Croatia	50%
 Turkey	48%

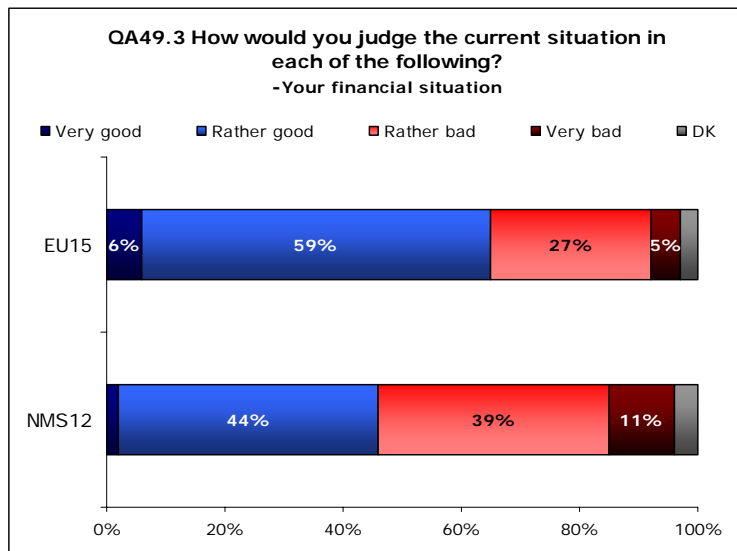


Considering the evolution in results since spring 2006<sup>8</sup>, Europeans seem to have become generally more pessimistic about their financial situation (61%; -5 percentage points). This tendency is most pronounced in Hungary where the share of citizens finding their financial situation to be *very* or *rather* good dropped by 15 percentage points between autumn 2006 and spring 2007. This increase of pessimism in Hungary in this period could be explained by the political crisis taking place in this country in the autumn of 2006.

<sup>8</sup> QA49.3 was also asked in EB65.2 (QC1.7)

It is noteworthy that people's optimism about the national economy roughly correlates with their level of optimism about their own financial situation. Nevertheless, Austrian, Irish, Danish and German citizens appear to be more positive about the financial situation in their countries than about their personal financial situation. Conversely, Croatians, French, Greeks, Latvians and Portuguese are far more optimistic about their personal financial situation than the economic situation in their countries.




When it comes to assessing one's personal financial situation there is a notable divergence of opinion between the old and the new Member States of the European Union. Nearly two-thirds (65%) of citizens in the EU15 say their situation is *very* or *rather* good, whereas slightly less than half (46%) of respondents in the NMS12 express this view. In Portugal, Greece and Italy people appear to be the least positive about their financial situation compared to the rest of the EU15. They are also less positive than the overall European average. Conversely, Cypriots, Estonians and Slovenes are far more positive about their financial situation than their fellow citizens in the NMS12.



A socio-demographic analysis of how people view their private financial situation and their views on the health of the national economy reveals similar trends: Optimism appears to be stronger among men than women, those who spent a shorter period in education (until age 15 or younger) are significantly more negative about their financial situation than those who studied until the age of 20 or later and managers are considerably more likely than other occupational categories to find their financial situation (*very or rather*) good (table 2). Considering the relatively higher salaries often enjoyed by managers this figure is perhaps not surprising. Accordingly, people who traditionally have less financial assets – the unemployed, house persons and retired people – are more inclined to feel that their financial situation is (*very or rather*) bad.

Table 2

QA49.3 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? -Your financial situation

	Total "Good"	Total "Bad"	DK
EU27	61%	36%	3%
 <b>Sex</b>			
Male	64%	33%	3%
Female	57%	39%	4%
 <b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	51%	46%	3%
16-19	59%	38%	3%
20+	73%	24%	3%
Still Studying	62%	32%	6%
 <b>Occupation</b>			
Self- employed	66%	31%	3%
Managers	82%	16%	2%
Other white collars	66%	31%	3%
Manual workers	60%	37%	3%
House persons	53%	43%	4%
Unemployed	31%	66%	3%
Retired	58%	39%	3%
Students	62%	32%	6%

## 2. Actual knowledge of economic indicators

As we have seen in the previous section, Europeans on average tend to be relatively optimistic about the economic situation in their countries and about their personal financial situation. This optimism is generally more pronounced in the EU's old Member States than in the NMS12.

In the following section we will examine Europeans' level of knowledge about certain economic issues. More specifically, we will look at the extent to which Europeans know the real figures for three key economic indicators: **the growth rate of the economy** in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), **the inflation rate** and **the unemployment rate** in their countries.

One of the most striking results of the survey were not found in respondents' replies to questions but rather in the very high proportion who spontaneously said they did not know what to answer. This applies to all knowledge related questions generally and needs to be born in mind during the analysis of the results. Roughly, about half of the respondents answered "don't know" instead of giving their estimations about the evaluation of the national growth, inflation, or unemployment rates. The high proportions of "don't know" answers can, most probably, be explained by the nature of the topic – that seems to be unfamiliar and distant to large shares of the population.

### 2.1. Growth rate of the economy

The size of an economy or the results of economic activity in a country or region are measured as Gross Domestic Product<sup>9</sup>. In order to test citizen's awareness of this exact figure more accurately, the sample was divided into two different groups (Split A and Split B), to which the questions concerning the growth rate were asked in slightly different ways. While respondents in Split B<sup>10</sup> were given the exact growth rate of their countries for the year 2005 as an indication, those in Split A<sup>11</sup> were not given any additional information. In the second set of questions measuring the respondents' awareness of their countries' GDP, respondents in Split A were asked to estimate the evolution of the growth rate from 2005 and 2006 (in terms of "higher", "equal" and "lower") whereas those in Split B were asked to estimate the evolution from 2006 to 2007<sup>12</sup>.

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<sup>9</sup> Definition by Eurostat: "Gross domestic product (GDP) is a measure of the results of economic activity. It is the value of all goods and services produced less the value of any goods or services used in producing them. The calculation of the annual growth rate of GDP volume allows comparisons of economic development both over time and between economies of different sizes, irrespective of changes in prices. Growth of GDP volume is calculated using data at previous year's prices".

[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?\\_pageid=1996,39140985&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL&screen=detail ef&language=en&product=STRIND\\_ECOBAC&root=STRIND\\_ECOBAC/ecobac/eb012](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1996,39140985&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&screen=detail ef&language=en&product=STRIND_ECOBAC&root=STRIND_ECOBAC/ecobac/eb012)

<sup>10</sup> QA50b In 2005, the official growth rate (measured in terms of Gross Domestic product) in (OUR COUNTRY) was [INSERT THE EXACT RATE OF YOUR COUNTRY]%. What was the official growth rate of the economy in (OUR COUNTRY) in 2006? I can tell you that this figure is between -1% and 15%.

<sup>11</sup> QA50a What was the official growth rate of the economy (measured in terms of Gross Domestic Product) in (OUR COUNTRY) in 2006? I can tell you that this figure is between -1% and 15%.

<sup>12</sup> QA51b Do you think that, in (OUR COUNTRY), the growth rate for this year 2007 will be higher, lower or equal to the one in 2006?

The general pattern seems to be that respondents tend to overestimate the growth rate of their countries. As the following tables show respondents that were told the 2005 GDP figure for their countries (Split B: table 4) generally gave a more accurate estimation of the 2006 growth rate than those who were not given this additional information (Split A: table 3). The differences between the average rates as estimated by the respondents and the official rates are generally less pronounced when the growth rate for 2005 was mentioned<sup>13</sup>.

Nevertheless, the overall tendencies on a country level remain the same in both groups of respondents. Citizens from the group of countries which tends to overestimate the national growth rate generally do so regardless of how the question is formulated – although to a lesser extent when they are told the GDP level for 2005 in the question. We see that citizens in Malta, Denmark<sup>14</sup>, the United Kingdom and Hungary are the most inclined to overrate the GDP of their countries, whereas Latvians, Luxembourgers and Finns tend to be rather negative and therefore underrate the actual growth rate. The Slovenians, Poles and the Dutch are the best informed about their national growth rates. Respondents in the EU candidate state Croatia also tended to accurately estimate their country's economic growth rate.

As we mentioned earlier people generally gave more precise answers when they were told the 2005 growth rate – in those cases their answers corresponded better to the official growth rates of their countries. However a somewhat atypical pattern is found in Finland, Belgium and Sweden, where respondents underrated the growth rate to a larger extent when they were given the 2005 rate as an indicative reference. A reverse pattern can be observed particularly in the Czech Republic and Lithuania.

High "don't know" rates were recorded in all European Union countries as well as in the two candidate countries Croatia and Turkey. In the EU as a whole 53% of citizens admitted not to know their country's economic growth rate (for both groups). In Cyprus, Bulgaria and Romania more than eight people in ten said they did not know. Although Germany, the Netherlands and Slovakia have the lowest "don't know" rates in the EU27, the level is still around a third in those countries.

The additional information about the 2005 growth rate given to respondents in Split B seems to have had little influence on the "don't know" rates. In certain countries this indicative piece of information even led to higher reluctance to give an estimation of the national growth rate. The most remarkable differences in "don't know" rates between Split A and Split B can be found in Estonia (46%; +7 percentage points compared with Split A), Austria (37%; +6 points) and Malta (74%; +5 points).

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<sup>13</sup> N.B For Split A these differences stretch from an overestimation of the actual rate of +2,7 in Malta to an underestimation of -3,6 in Latvia (average: + 0,3). For Split B this differences stretch from +1,5 in the UK and -2.1 in Finland (average: + 0.1).

<sup>14</sup> Please note that in DK answers were rounded to the nearest whole number. In other countries decimals have been used

Table 3

QA50a What was the official growth rate of the economy (measured in terms of Gross Domestic Product) in (OUR COUNTRY) in 2006? I can tell you that this figure is between -1% and 15%.

	Average estimated rate (%)	Official rate 2006 (%)*	Difference (estimated rate - official rate 2006)	DK
Split A				
BE	3,8	3,2	0,6	49%
BG	6,2	6,1	<b>0,1</b>	78%
CZ	6,2	6.1 <sup>(f)</sup>	<b>0,1</b>	45%
DK**	5,8	3,2	2,6	34%
DE	2,6	2,8	-0,2	30%
EE	8,8	11,4	-2,6	39%
EL	5,0	4,3	0,7	65%
ES	4,4	3,9	0,5	64%
FR	3,0	2,0	1,0	54%
IE	6,8	6.0 <sup>(f)</sup>	0,8	48%
IT	3,3	1,9	1,4	63%
CY	4,8	3,8	1,0	81%
LV	8,3	11,9	-3,6	72%
LT	7,2	7,5	-0,3	62%
LU	4,6	6,2	-1,6	65%
HU	5,6	4,0	1,6	54%
MT	5,6	2,9	2,7	69%
NL	3,9	2,9	1,0	26%
AT	4,5	3,1	1,4	31%
PL	5,9	5,8	<b>0,1</b>	62%
PT	2,3	1,3	1,0	59%
RO	7,1	7,7	-0,6	82%
SI	5,2	5,2	<b>0,0</b>	44%
SK	6,7	8,3	-1,6	30%
FI	4,8	5,5	-0,7	36%
SE	4,5	4,4	<b>0,1</b>	42%
UK	5,4	2,8	2,6	60%
HR	5,0	4.8 <sup>(f)</sup>	<b>0,2</b>	45%
TR	9,2	6,1	3,1	79%

\*Source: Eurostat

\*\*Please note that in DK answers were rounded to the nearest whole number. In other countries decimals have been used

(f): Forecast

Table 4

QA50b In 2005, the official growth rate (measured in terms of Gross Domestic product) in (OUR COUNTRY) was [INSERT THE EXACT RATE OF YOUR COUNTRY]%. What was the official growth rate of the economy in (OUR COUNTRY) in 2006? I can tell you that this figure is between -1% and 15%.

	Average estimated rate (%)	Official rate 2006 (%)*	Difference (estimated rate - official rate 2006)	DK
Split B				
BE	2,6	3,2	-0,6	50%
BG	6,5	6,1	0,4	82%
CZ	6,9	6.1 <sup>(f)</sup>	0,8	48%
DK**	4,6	3,2	1,4	35%
DE	2,3	2,8	-0,5	27%
EE	10,8	11,4	-0,6	46%
EL	4,9	4,3	0,6	63%
ES	4,4	3,9	0,5	67%
FR	2,3	2,0	0,3	55%
IE	6,7	6.0 <sup>(f)</sup>	0,7	46%
IT	2,3	1,9	0,4	64%
CY	4,4	3,8	0,6	86%
LV	10,3	11,9	-1,6	67%
LT	8,0	7,5	0,5	57%
LU	5,0	6,2	-1,2	66%
HU	5,3	4,0	1,3	48%
MT	4,2	2,9	1,3	74%
NL	2,9	2,9	<b>0,0</b>	28%
AT	3,8	3,1	0,7	37%
PL	5,9	5,8	<b>0,1</b>	55%
PT	2,6	1,3	1,3	60%
RO	7,1	7,7	-0,6	83%
SI	5,1	5,2	<b>-0,1</b>	43%
SK	7,9	8,3	-0,4	33%
FI	3,4	5,5	-2,1	40%
SE	3,5	4,4	-0,9	41%
UK	4,3	2,8	1,5	62%
HR	4,9	4.8 <sup>(f)</sup>	<b>0,1</b>	47%
TR	9,0	6,1	2,9	75%

### ***Estimated evolutions of the 2006 national growth rates***

Europeans generally tend to be more optimistic about the 2006 growth rate in their countries than they are about the rates forecasted for 2007. The following tables (table 5 and table 6) show how citizens' estimated the evolution of their country's growth rate in the year 2006 (compared with the rate in 2005) and 2007 (compared with 2006).

#### ***Growth rate in 2006 compared to 2005***

In most EU countries the economic growth rate was higher in 2006 than in 2005. This was also correctly estimated by the largest proportions of citizens in virtually all these countries (table 5). The highest levels of correct answers were recorded in the Netherlands (76%), Sweden (69%), Estonia (68%) and Denmark (64%). It is noteworthy that the share of "don't know" answers is remarkably low in most of these countries: the Netherlands (9%), Denmark (10%) and Sweden (11%). This is a further confirmation that awareness of national growth rates is relatively high in these countries. In the EU as a whole 27% of citizens did not know whether their country's growth rate had increased, decreased or stayed the same..

In the countries where the official growth rate decreased between 2005 and 2006, citizens also generally appear to be rather optimistic as the largest shares incorrectly say that the growth rate rose in this period. The Hungarians are an exception to this though, with 37% aware that their country's growth rate was lower in 2006. Moreover, the largest proportion of Greeks (35%) incorrectly estimated their growth rate in 2006 to be equal to that of 2005.

#### ***Forecasts of the growth rate in 2007***

Europeans are less likely overall to correctly estimate the real figure for the 2007 growth rate<sup>15</sup> compared to the 2006 rate (table 6). According to forecasts by the European Commission's Directorate-General of Economic and Financial affairs<sup>16</sup>, economic growth rates will generally be lower or remain stable in most countries throughout the European Union. Nevertheless, relatively high proportions of citizens optimistically estimated that the national growth rate is increasing in their countries. In fact it is only in Hungary and Greece that more citizens correctly believe that their national economic growth rate is decreasing in 2007.

The strongest belief that growth rates are increasing can be found in Germany (61%), the Netherlands (59%) and Sweden (54%). Official forecasts foresee decreasing growth rates in all those countries.

The highest proportion of respondents who correctly forecast increased economic growth are found in countries where the forecasts are in fact positive. The most accurate in this respect are the Slovaks with 53% of citizens saying that the growth rate in their country will increase.

Furthermore, 26% of EU citizens said they did not know whether the growth rate in their country will increase, decrease or stay about the same.

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<sup>15</sup> N.B This concerns the forecasted growth rates for 2007

<sup>16</sup> Forecasts published on Eurostat's website:

[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?\\_pageid=1996\\_39140985&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL&screen=detailr ef&language=en&product=STRIND\\_ECOBAC&root=STRIND\\_ECOBAC/ecobac/eb012](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1996_39140985&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&screen=detailr ef&language=en&product=STRIND_ECOBAC&root=STRIND_ECOBAC/ecobac/eb012)

Table 5 QA51a Do you think that, in (OUR COUNTRY), the growth rate in 2006 was higher, lower or equal to the one in 2005?

	Official rates*			Estimated rates			
	2005 (%)	2006 (%)	Difference (2006-2005)	Higher	Lower	Equal	DK
Split A							
BE	1,1	3,2	2,1	<b>48%</b>	13%	15%	24%
BG	6,2	6,1	-0,1	32%	<b>10%</b>	11%	47%
CZ	6,1	6,1 <sup>(f)</sup>	0,0	46%	13%	<b>28%</b>	13%
DK	3,1	3,2	0,1	<b>64%</b>	11%	15%	10%
DE	0,9	2,8	1,9	<b>61%</b>	12%	14%	13%
EE	10,5	11,4	0,9	<b>68%</b>	6%	8%	18%
EL	3,7	4,3	0,6	<b>27%</b>	27%	35%	11%
ES	3,5	3,9	0,4	<b>33%</b>	9%	12%	46%
FR	1,7	2,0	0,3	<b>31%</b>	23%	21%	25%
IE	5,5	6,0 <sup>(f)</sup>	0,5	<b>37%</b>	17%	17%	29%
IT	0,1	1,9	1,8	<b>30%</b>	19%	22%	29%
CY	3,9	3,8	-0,1	34%	<b>9%</b>	18%	39%
LV	10,6	11,9	1,3	<b>52%</b>	9%	8%	31%
LT	7,6	7,5	-0,1	53%	12%	12%	23%
LU	4,0	6,2	2,2	<b>55%</b>	12%	9%	24%
HU	4,1	4,0	-0,1	19%	<b>37%</b>	16%	28%
MT	3,0	2,9	-0,1	35%	<b>16%</b>	18%	31%
NL	1,5	2,9	1,4	<b>76%</b>	7%	8%	9%
AT	2,0	3,1	1,1	<b>41%</b>	15%	23%	21%
PL	3,5	5,8	2,3	<b>45%</b>	8%	15%	32%
PT	0,5	1,3	0,8	<b>26%</b>	22%	15%	37%
RO	4,1	7,7	3,6	<b>36%</b>	9%	11%	44%
SI	4,0	5,2	1,2	<b>47%</b>	16%	19%	18%
SK	6,0	8,3	2,3	<b>57%</b>	14%	19%	10%
FI	2,9	5,5	2,6	<b>49%</b>	15%	25%	11%
SE	2,9	4,4	1,5	<b>69%</b>	8%	12%	11%
UK	1,9	2,8	0,9	<b>29%</b>	19%	16%	36%
HR	4,3	4,8 <sup>(f)</sup>	0,5	<b>33%</b>	18%	27%	22%
TR	7,4	6,1	-1,3	45%	<b>15%</b>	12%	28%

\*Source: Eurostat

(f): Forecast

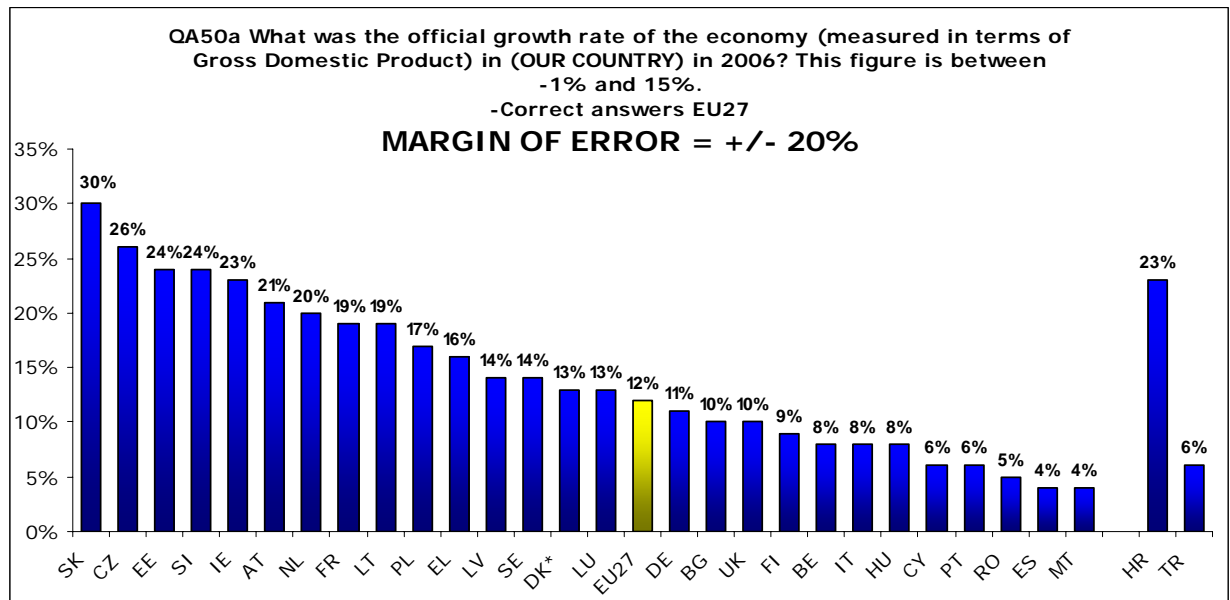
Correct answers in bold

Table 6 QA51b Do you think that, in (OUR COUNTRY), the growth rate for this year 2007 will be higher, lower or equal to the one in 2006?

	Official rates*			Estimated rates			
	Forecast 2007 (%)	2006 (%)	Difference (forecast 2007-official rate 2006)	Higher	Lower	Equal	DK
Split B							
BE	2,3 (f)	3,2	-0,9	38%	<b>13%</b>	27%	22%
BG	6,1 (f)	6,1	0,0	32%	5%	<b>14%</b>	49%
CZ	4,9 (f)	6,1 (f)	-1,2	33%	<b>16%</b>	38%	13%
DK	2,3 (f)	3,2	-0,9	39%	<b>18%</b>	31%	12%
DE	2,5 (f)	2,8	-0,3	61%	<b>8%</b>	19%	12%
EE	8,7 (f)	11,4	-2,7	33%	<b>29%</b>	22%	16%
EL	3,7 (f)	4,3	-0,6	23%	<b>25%</b>	40%	12%
ES	3,7 (f)	3,9	-0,2	30%	<b>12%</b>	14%	44%
FR	2,4 (f)	2,0	0,4	<b>28%</b>	15%	31%	26%
IE	5 (f)	6,0 (f)	-1,0	26%	<b>25%</b>	23%	26%
IT	1,9 (f)	1,9	0,0	22%	21%	<b>23%</b>	34%
CY	3,8 (f)	3,8	0,0	34%	11%	<b>19%</b>	36%
LV	9,6 (f)	11,9	-2,3	49%	<b>10%</b>	16%	25%
LT	7,3 (f)	7,5	-0,2	53%	<b>11%</b>	20%	16%
LU	5 (f)	6,2	-1,2	46%	<b>16%</b>	15%	23%
HU	2,4 (f)	4,0	-1,6	17%	<b>40%</b>	22%	21%
MT	3 (f)	2,9	0,1	<b>34%</b>	11%	19%	36%
NL	2,8 (f)	2,9	-0,1	59%	<b>10%</b>	25%	6%
AT	2,9 (f)	3,1	-0,2	48%	<b>13%</b>	20%	19%
PL	6,1 (f)	5,8	0,3	<b>43%</b>	8%	23%	26%
PT	1,8 (f)	1,3	0,5	<b>25%</b>	18%	17%	40%
RO	6,7 (f)	7,7	-1,0	29%	<b>12%</b>	11%	48%
SI	4,3 (f)	5,2	-0,9	39%	<b>20%</b>	26%	15%
SK	8,5 (f)	8,3	0,2	<b>53%</b>	10%	22%	15%
FI	3,1 (f)	5,5	-2,4	33%	<b>19%</b>	38%	10%
SE	3,8 (f)	4,4	-0,6	54%	<b>13%</b>	22%	11%
UK	2,8 (f)	2,8	0,0	30%	18%	<b>19%</b>	33%
HR	4,8 (f)	4,8 (f)	0,0	35%	16%	<b>30%</b>	19%
TR	4,9 (f)	6,1	-1,2	33%	<b>20%</b>	10%	37%

In order to be able to calculate the rate of correct estimation of the national growth rate, all answers differing by 20% in either direction from the official growth rate have been defined as "correct". Focusing on those respondents who correctly estimated the economic growth rate of their country, we find that the Slovaks top the list with 30% of respondents giving the right answer. This figure is considerably above the EU27 average of 12%. Also in the Czech Republic (26%), Estonia and Slovenia (both 24%) relatively high proportions of respondents know the official GDP rates of their countries. The proportion of correct answers is also above the EU average in Croatia (23%), while the growth rate is correctly estimated by relatively few respondents in the other candidate country Turkey (6%).

In Spain and Malta (both 4%) as well as Romania (5%), Portugal and Cyprus (6%) only very few respondents correctly estimated the economic growth rate in their countries.



\*Please note that in DK answers were rounded to the nearest whole number. In other countries decimals have been used

## 2.2. Inflation rate

The inflation rate<sup>17</sup> is the increase of the average price level. When it comes to estimating this rate for the year 2006, the accuracy of responses varies throughout the European Union<sup>18</sup>. Although the general tendency in virtually all EU countries is to estimate the inflation rate to be higher than it actually is estimations in Hungary, Poland, Cyprus and Lithuania were more pessimistic than elsewhere (see table 7 on the following page). More precisely, the difference between what people estimate the inflation rate to be and the actual inflation rate in EU countries is generally more pronounced in the twelve new Member States than in the fifteen old Member States.

On average, more than half (53%) of Europeans said that they do not know their country's inflation rate. In Romania (82%), Cyprus (79%), Bulgaria (77%) and Turkey (73%), those giving this answer represent a particularly high proportion.

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<sup>17</sup> Comparable inflation rates within the EU are calculated from harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices (HICPs) which "are designed for international comparisons of consumer price inflation. HICP is used for example by the European Central Bank for monitoring of inflation in the Economic and Monetary Union and for the assessment of inflation convergence as required under Article 121 of the Treaty of Amsterdam" (Eurostat).

[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?\\_pageid=1996,39140985&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL&screen=detailref&language=en&product=STRIND\\_ECOBAC&root=STRIND\\_ECOBAC/ecobac/eb040](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1996,39140985&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&screen=detailref&language=en&product=STRIND_ECOBAC&root=STRIND_ECOBAC/ecobac/eb040)

<sup>18</sup> QA52 What was the official inflation rate, the rate of which consumer prices increased or decreased, in (OUR COUNTRY) in 2006? I can tell you that the exact figure is between -1% and 20%.

Table 7

QA52 What was the official inflation rate, the rate of which consumer prices increased or decreased, in (OUR COUNTRY) in 2006? I can tell you that the exact figure is between -1% and 20%.

	Average estimated rate	Official rate 2006 (%)	Difference (estimated rate - official rate 2006)	DK
HU	9,9	4,0	5,9	39%
PL	6,8	1,3	5,5	57%
CY	7,6	2,2	5,4	79%
LT	9,0	3,8	5,2	59%
CZ	6,8	2,1	4,7	43%
EE	8,8	4,4	4,4	47%
IE	6,8	2,7	4,1	44%
MT	6,7	2,6	4,1	67%
SK	7,4	4,3	3,1	34%
AT	4,8	1,7	3,1	35%
UK	5,1	2,3	2,8	58%
FI	4,0	1,3	2,7	38%
EL	5,9	3,3	2,6	55%
LV	9,1	6,6	2,5	56%
FR	4,3	1,9	2,4	53%
DK**	4,2	1,9	2,3	31%
ES	5,9	3,6	2,3	65%
NL	3,7	1,7	2,0	31%
IT	4,1	2,2	1,9	65%
BE	4,1	2,3	1,8	55%
SE	3,3	1,5	1,8	42%
BG	8,9	7,4	1,5	77%
DE	3,2	1,8	1,4	34%
RO	7,9	6,6	1,3	82%
PT	4,3	3,0	1,3	61%
LU	4,2	3,0	1,2	66%
SI	3,7	2,5	1,2	36%
HR	7,9	3,2***	4,7	44%
TR	12,8	9,3	3,5	73%

\*Source: Eurostat

\*\*Please note that in DK answers were rounded to the nearest whole number. In other countries decimals have been used

\*\*\*National CPI by Crostat: HR does not yet produce an HICP

Europeans on average appear to be relatively pessimistic when estimating the annual inflation rates in their countries and the table (table 8) below emphasise this finding. In most EU countries, the majority (DK answers excluded) of citizens are convinced that the inflation rate was higher in 2006 than in 2005. Such signs of pessimism appear to be most widespread in Latvia where 71% of citizens believe that inflation increased while it actually decreased from 2005 to 2006. In this case it needs to be taken into account however that Latvian inflation rates were among the highest in the European Union during that period, a fact which would most probably have a negative effect on Latvian opinions.

An opposite tendency can be noted in Slovenia where around a half (51%) of citizens believe the inflation rate has decreased since 2005 when in actual fact it stayed the same. Interestingly, in Slovakia where the inflation rate increased more than in any other EU country since 2005, up to 45% of citizens say that it decreased. The largest proportion of Romanians (32%) (DK answers excluded) correctly estimated that inflation decreased in 2006.

Respondents were the most likely to know that inflation had increased in countries where the inflation rate was higher in 2006 than in 2005, notably Ireland (60%), Hungary (58%), Estonia (57%) and Lithuania (55%).

Although the majority of citizens in those countries where the inflation rate had decreased since 2005 incorrectly estimated that it had increased, we see that in Poland (24%) and Austria (32%) the proportions of citizens claiming that the inflation rate went up is similar to the proportions of those saying it went down (PL: 23%, AT: 27%).

Table 8 QA53 Do you think that, in (OUR COUNTRY), the inflation rate in 2006 was higher, lower or equal to the one in 2005?

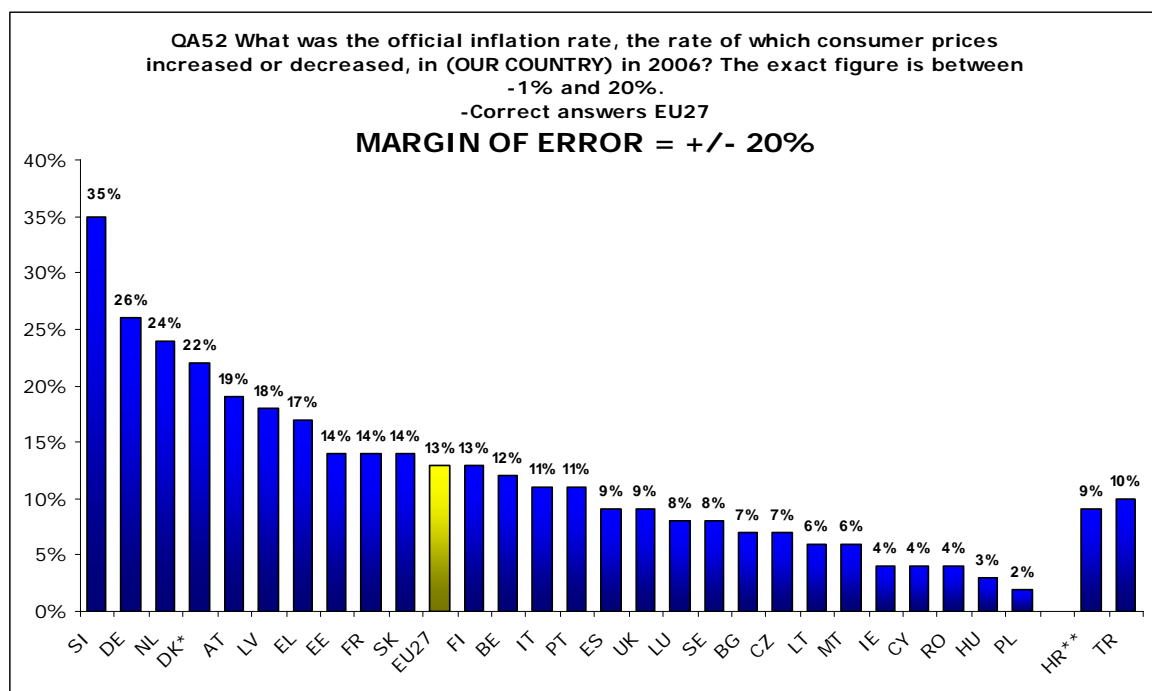
	Official rates*			Estimated rates			
	Official rate 2006 (%)	Official rate 2005 (%)	Difference (2006 - 2005)	Higher	Lower	Equal	DK
SK	4,3	2,8	1,5	23%	45%	19%	13%
BG	7,4	6,0	1,4	35%	15%	9%	41%
LT	3,8	2,7	1,1	55%	14%	9%	22%
PT	3,0	2,1	0,9	37%	12%	13%	38%
SE	1,5	0,8	0,7	37%	22%	25%	16%
CZ	2,1	1,6	0,5	34%	21%	30%	15%
IE	2,7	2,2	0,5	60%	6%	12%	22%
HU	4,0	3,5	0,5	58%	15%	10%	17%
FI	1,3	0,8	0,5	36%	16%	33%	15%
EE	4,4	4,1	0,3	57%	11%	9%	23%
ES	3,6	3,4	0,2	34%	12%	13%	41%
CY	2,2	2,0	0,2	38%	13%	12%	37%
DK	1,9	1,7	0,2	38%	17%	32%	13%
NL	1,7	1,5	0,2	32%	31%	22%	15%
UK	2,3	2,1	0,2	47%	11%	11%	31%
MT	2,6	2,5	0,1	43%	12%	19%	26%
FR	1,9	1,9	0,0	35%	14%	23%	28%
IT	2,2	2,2	0,0	30%	20%	20%	30%
SI	2,5	2,5	0,0	21%	51%	13%	15%
DE	1,8	1,9	-0,1	38%	19%	25%	18%
BE	2,3	2,5	-0,2	36%	16%	22%	26%
EL	3,3	3,5	-0,2	46%	23%	24%	7%
LV	6,6	6,9	-0,3	71%	6%	6%	17%
AT	1,7	2,1	-0,4	32%	27%	21%	20%
LU	3,0	3,8	-0,8	46%	11%	15%	28%
PL	1,3	2,2	-0,9	24%	23%	21%	32%
RO	6,6	9,1	-2,5	13%	32%	8%	47%
HR	3,2**	3,3**	0,1	42%	11%	24%	23%
TR	9,3	8,1	1,2	29%	28%	13%	30%

\*Source: Eurostat

\*\*National CPI by Crostat: HR does not yet produce an HICP

In the EU27 as a whole 13% of citizens correctly<sup>19</sup> estimated the inflation rates of their countries in the year 2006. As the graph below shows, Slovenia tops the list of countries when it comes to correct estimations, with more than a third (35%) giving a correct answer. This might be explained by the extensive media coverage of economic figures around the time of the Slovenian accession to the Euro zone in 2007. Also in Germany (26%) and the Netherlands (24%) citizens seem to be relatively well-informed about the official inflation rates in their countries.

However in a majority of EU-countries the proportion of citizens knowing the actual inflation rate in their country is below the European average. In Poland virtually all answers (98%) appeared to be incorrect<sup>20</sup> and in Hungary, Romania, Cyprus and Ireland more than 95% of respondents gave incorrect estimates.



\*Please note that in DK answers were rounded to the nearest whole number. In other countries decimals have been used

\*\*Based on the national CPI by Crostat: HR does not yet produce an HICP

<sup>19</sup> With 'correct' being defined as answers differing (-/+ ) 20% from the real inflation rate in the particular country

<sup>20</sup> NB. Figures for wrong answers include those who answered "don't know"

### 2.3. Unemployment rate

The unemployment rate is a measure of the proportion of unemployed people as part of the total labour force<sup>21</sup>. Europeans generally estimated their national unemployment rates to be higher than they actually were in 2006<sup>22</sup>. In fact only the Spaniards and the Slovaks optimistically estimated the unemployment rate to be lower than it is (see table 9). Nevertheless their estimates were close to official rates of their countries. Also the French, Swedes and Italians generally gave an accurate estimate for this figure – with the difference between their average estimation and the official unemployment rate in their countries being 1 percentage point or less. The general tendency towards the overestimation of unemployment may well lie with the fact that employment is an issue topping the political agendas in most European countries – and therefore is a key priority among European citizens.

In Hungary and the Netherlands people estimated unemployment rates to be much higher on average than they actually are. This might indicate a tendency towards pessimism regarding the employment situation in those countries. This is especially remarkable for the Netherlands, where the actual unemployment rate is among the lowest in the EU27. Furthermore, as we will see below, the Dutch seem to be very aware of the fact that unemployment has decreased in their country. The relatively strong level of pessimism in Hungary can be explained by the political crisis that hit the country in the autumn of 2006. More recent results from spring 2007 show that Hungarians have a relatively negative view on (socio-) economic matters. Overestimating the country's unemployment rate is clearly in line with this pattern.

Around half of Europeans (48%) say they do not know the unemployment rate in their country.

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<sup>21</sup> Definition by Eurostat: "Unemployment rates represent unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force. The labour force is the total number of people employed and unemployed. Unemployed persons comprise persons aged 15 to 74 who were: a. without work during the reference week, b. currently available for work, i.e. were available for paid employment or self-employment before the end of the two weeks following the reference week, c. actively seeking work, i.e. had taken specific steps in the four weeks period ending with the reference week to seek paid employment or self-employment or who found a job to start later, i.e. within a period of, at most, three months."  
[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?\\_pageid=1996\\_39140985&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL&screen=detailref&language=en&product=STRIND\\_EMPLOI&root=STRIND\\_EMPLOI/emploi/em071](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1996_39140985&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&screen=detailref&language=en&product=STRIND_EMPLOI&root=STRIND_EMPLOI/emploi/em071)

<sup>22</sup> QA54 What was the official unemployment rate, the percentage of active people who do not have a job, in (OUR COUNTRY) in 2006? I can tell you that the exact figure is between 0% and 20%.

Table 9

QA54 What was the official unemployment rate, the percentage of active people who do not have a job, in (OUR COUNTRY) in 2006? I can tell you that the exact figure is between 0% and 20%.

	Average estimated rate	Official rate 2006 (%) *	Difference (estimated rate- official rate 2006)	DK
HU	12,9	7,5	5,4	42%
NL	8,9	3,9	5,0	31%
UK	9,5	5,3	4,2	63%
BG	13,2	9,0	4,2	75%
LT	9,6	5,6	4,0	61%
SI	10,0	6,0	4,0	41%
LV	10,7	6,8	3,9	65%
AT	8,7	4,8	3,9	31%
IE	8,2	4,4	3,8	45%
EL	12,5	8,9	3,6	40%
CZ	10,6	7,1	3,5	27%
BE	11,5	8,2	3,3	32%
RO	10,6	7,3	3,3	85%
EE	9,2	5,9	3,3	46%
FI	10,6	7,7	2,9	26%
CY	7,4	4,7	2,7	67%
DK**	6,4	3,9	2,5	15%
LU	6,7	4,7	2,0	47%
PT	9,7	7,7	2,0	59%
DE	10,3	8,4	1,9	26%
PL	<b>15,3</b>	13,8	<b>1,5</b>	46%
MT	<b>8,5</b>	7,3	<b>1,2</b>	63%
IT	<b>7,6</b>	6,8	<b>0,8</b>	67%
SE	<b>7,8</b>	7,0	<b>0,8</b>	26%
FR	<b>10,0</b>	9,4	<b>0,6</b>	36%
ES	<b>8,2</b>	8,5	<b>-0,3</b>	69%
SK	<b>12,4</b>	13,4	<b>-1,0</b>	23%
HR	15,3	11,1	<b>4,2</b>	38%
TR	15,9	9,5	6,4	70%

\*Source: Eurostat

\*\*Please note that in DK answers were rounded to the nearest whole number. In other countries decimals have been used

When respondents were asked to estimate whether the 2006 unemployment rate in their countries was higher, lower or equal to that of 2005, they were generally optimistic. This corresponds to declining official unemployment rates in many EU countries (see table 10 on the following page). In the previous paragraphs it was noted that citizens generally tend to overestimate real national unemployment rates. Nevertheless, they feel that the situation is improving compared with the situation in 2005.

Of those countries where the unemployment rate officially decreased since 2005, citizens in Denmark (80%), the Netherlands (72%), Lithuania (67%), Slovakia and Finland (both 65%) appear to be particularly aware of this. In these countries relatively low proportions answer that they do not know (DK)<sup>23</sup>, which further underlines the fact that awareness of this issue is relatively high in those countries.

<sup>23</sup> DK: 6%, NL: 8%, LT: 15%, SK: 7%, FI: 6%

In Cyprus and Greece, the largest proportions of citizens are convinced that the unemployment rates in their countries were higher in 2006 than in 2005 although the real situation is actually the opposite – unemployment declined in both countries during this period.

That the unemployment rate was higher in 2006 than in 2005 was correctly estimated by 70% of Luxembourgers, 58% of Hungarians, 47% of Portuguese and 36% of citizens in the United Kingdom.

It needs to be taken into account that almost half (46%) of Romanians answered that they do not know (DK) in which direction unemployment rates evolved in their country. In Spain (39%) and Bulgaria (38%) the proportions of citizens not knowing these rates also appear relatively high. Taking the EU as a whole, around one in five (21%) are unable to give an answer here.

Table 10

QA55 Do you think that, in (OUR COUNTRY), the unemployment rate in 2006 was higher, lower or equal to the one in 2005?

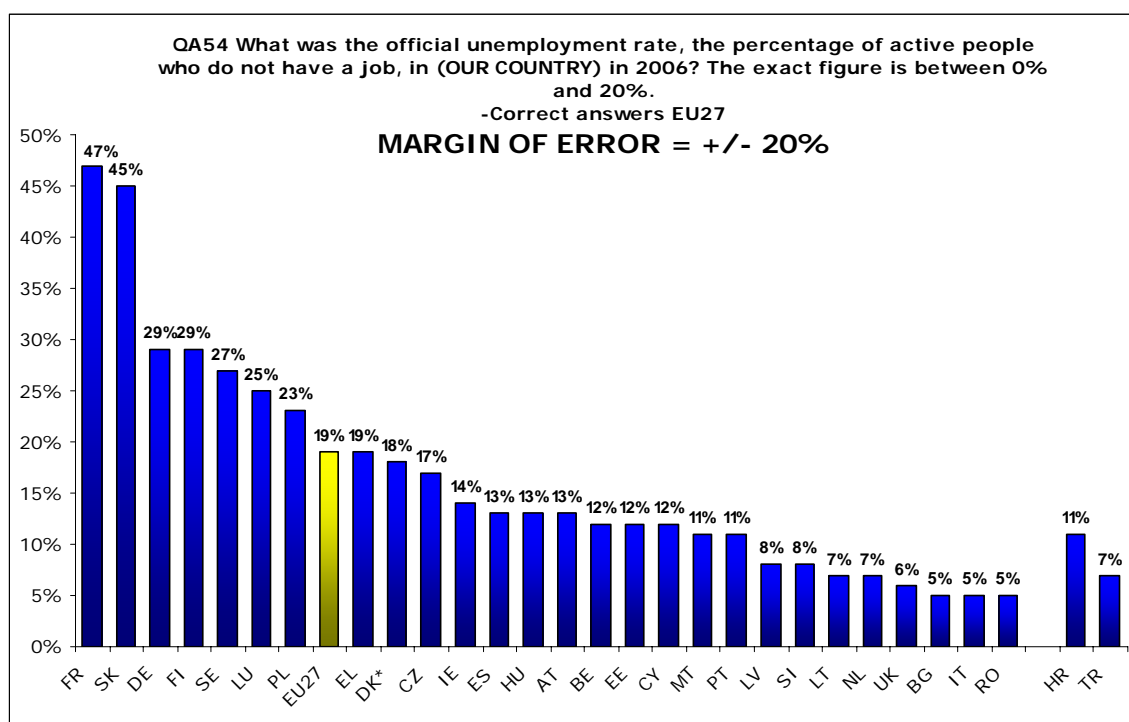
	Official rates*			Estimated rates			
	Official rate 2006 (%)	Official rate 2005 (%)	Difference (official rate 2006 - official rate 2005)	Higher	Lower	Equal	DK
UK	5,3	4,8	0,5	<b>36%</b>	21%	13%	30%
HU	7,5	7,2	0,3	<b>58%</b>	9%	18%	15%
LU	4,7	4,5	0,2	<b>70%</b>	12%	8%	10%
IE	4,4	4,3	0,1	<b>29%</b>	29%	23%	19%
PT	7,7	7,6	0,1	<b>47%</b>	12%	10%	31%
RO	7,3	7,2	0,1	<b>16%</b>	30%	8%	46%
MT	7,3	7,3	0,0	28%	25%	<b>21%</b>	26%
BE	8,2	8,4	-0,2	29%	<b>44%</b>	15%	12%
FR	9,4	9,7	-0,3	25%	<b>46%</b>	17%	12%
AT	4,8	5,2	-0,4	28%	<b>38%</b>	19%	15%
SE	7,0	7,4	-0,4	19%	<b>57%</b>	17%	7%
CY	4,7	5,2	-0,5	48%	<b>11%</b>	15%	26%
SI	6,0	6,5	-0,5	23%	<b>50%</b>	15%	12%
ES	8,5	9,2	-0,7	16%	<b>30%</b>	15%	39%
FI	7,7	8,4	-0,7	13%	<b>65%</b>	16%	6%
NL	3,9	4,7	-0,8	10%	<b>72%</b>	10%	8%
CZ	7,1	7,9	-0,8	24%	<b>35%</b>	32%	9%
DK	3,9	4,8	-0,9	6%	<b>80%</b>	8%	6%
EL	8,9	9,8	-0,9	57%	<b>19%</b>	20%	4%
IT	6,8	7,7	-0,9	25%	<b>25%</b>	23%	27%
BG	9,0	10,1	-1,1	13%	<b>34%</b>	15%	38%
DE	8,4	9,5	-1,1	22%	<b>52%</b>	18%	8%
EE	5,9	7,9	-2,0	12%	<b>63%</b>	7%	18%
LV	6,8	8,9	-2,1	21%	<b>39%</b>	20%	20%
LT	5,6	8,3	-2,7	9%	<b>67%</b>	9%	15%
SK	13,4	16,3	-2,9	13%	<b>65%</b>	15%	7%
PL	13,8	17,7	-3,9	15%	<b>47%</b>	18%	20%
HR	11,1	12,6	-1,5	33%	<b>20%</b>	32%	15%
TR	9,5	10,2	-0,7	42%	<b>21%</b>	12%	25%

\*Source: Eurostat

In France and Slovakia citizens are remarkably well-aware of the official unemployment rates in their countries. 47% of the French and 46% of the Slovaks correctly<sup>24</sup> estimated this figure, which is a significantly higher proportion than the EU average of 19% (see the following graph). The next best at estimating their country's unemployment rate are the Germans and the Finns (29%), although the difference between this figure and that for French and Slovaks is substantial. The most plausible explanation for this widespread knowledge of the unemployment rate among the French is that the French presidential elections took place during the fieldwork for this survey and employment was a crucial issue in the election campaign. In Slovakia, unemployment rates were an important subject of debate around the time of the 2006 elections and the national media continued to pay extra attention to it in the aftermath of this event.

Furthermore, we see that knowledge about one's own country's unemployment rate is above the EU average in Sweden, Luxembourg and Poland.

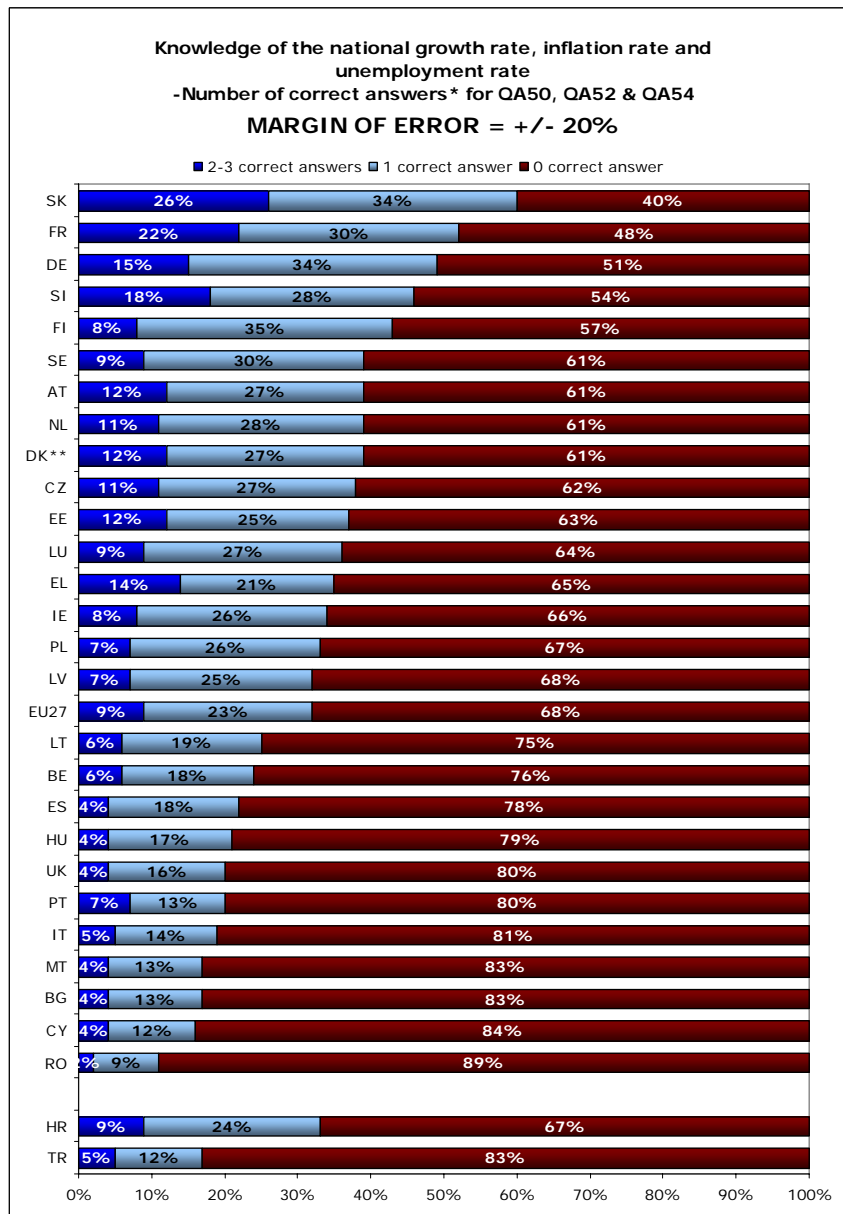
In the overall majority of EU (and EU candidate) countries less than one-fifth of citizens know the 2006 unemployment rate for their country. The lowest awareness of these real figures is recorded in Italy, Romania and Bulgaria where up to 95% of respondents gave incorrect answers.



\*Please note that in DK answers were rounded to the nearest whole number. In other countries decimals have been used

<sup>24</sup> As correct has been defined: answers differing (-/+ ) 20% from the real unemployment rate in the particular country

We have examined how knowledgeable Europeans are concerning three major economic indicators: the growth rate, inflation rate and unemployment rate. The following graph displays the total number of correct estimations by country<sup>25</sup>. Around one third of Europeans (32%) estimated at least one of those real figures correctly. When focusing on the country level, large discrepancies can be found between the different countries. While more than half of Slovaks (60%) and French (52%) and 49% of Germans know at least one of the official rates for economic growth, price inflation and unemployment, only 11% of Romanians, 16% of Cypriots and 17% of Bulgarian and Maltese respondents correctly estimated one or more of these rates.








\* Answers not differing more than +/- 20% from official growth / inflation and unemployment rates

\*\* Please note that in DK answers were rounded to the nearest whole number. In other countries decimals have been used

<sup>25</sup> NB. It needs to be taken into account that the “don’t know” responses have been considered as incorrect answers.

When we examine the results for the previous knowledge related questions in more detail the most striking differences, in socio-demographic terms, are the widely varying proportions of "don't know" answers (table 11). Women, people with a relatively short education (age 15-), house persons and unemployed people are significantly more likely to not give any estimation of growth, inflation and unemployment rates than men, those who spent a longer period in education (until 20 or older) and managers

Table 11  
Share of "don't know" replies for QA50, QA52 and QA54

	Growth rate		Inflation rate	Unemployment rate
	Split A	Split B		
EU27	53%	53%	53%	48%
 <b>Sex</b>				
Male	43%	44%	44%	41%
Female	63%	60%	61%	55%
 <b>Age</b>				
15-24	56%	59%	59%	51%
25-39	49%	50%	50%	45%
40-54	50%	46%	48%	44%
55 +	58%	57%	56%	53%
 <b>Education (End of)</b>				
15-	68%	65%	66%	63%
16-19	53%	52%	52%	47%
20+	36%	38%	39%	34%
Still Studying	55%	56%	58%	50%
 <b>Occupation</b>				
Self- employed	44%	46%	46%	44%
Managers	33%	30%	33%	30%
Other white collars	48%	49%	49%	44%
Manual workers	57%	52%	53%	48%
House persons	69%	68%	69%	64%
Unemployed	55%	59%	56%	51%
Retired	57%	58%	56%	52%
Students	55%	56%	58%	50%
 <b>Opinion leadership index*</b>				
++	33%	34%	35%	31%
+	47%	45%	46%	42%
-	56%	56%	55%	49%
--	72%	71%	71%	66%

\*I[1] INDEX OPINION LEADERSHIP: 1. ++; 2. +; 3. -; 4. --

QA1. When you get together with friends, would you say you discuss political matters frequently, occasionally, or never?

QA2. When you hold a strong opinion, do you ever find yourself persuading your friends, relatives or fellow workers to share your views? Does this happen...? Frequently – Occasionally - Never

Thus, if a person interviewed tries often or from time to time to convince his or her interlocutor or discusses politics on a regular basis, he or she will be considered as a leader of opinion falling in category 1 ( ++ ). On the other hand, if a respondent rarely or never tries to convince his or her interlocutor and never discusses politics, then he or she will not be considered as being a leader of opinion falling in category 4 --.

Further analysis reveals that such economic indicators generally seem to be correctly estimated slightly more often by those representing the latter categories (men, those with a longer education and managers). Managers, who also tend to have a relatively strong educational background, appear to most frequently know their country's growth, inflation and unemployment rates. Among the remaining occupational categories, house persons are usually the most likely to incorrectly estimate the figures.






These results are also reflected in the table below (table 12) which shows the total number of correct answers among the different socio-demographic categories. It can also be observed that a respondent's age slightly influences his or her knowledge of economic figures. The youngest (15-24 years) and oldest (55+) groups of respondents less frequently estimated any of those rates correctly compared to people aged between 25 and 54 years old. This shows that those who represent the major part of the labour force within society appear to be slightly more knowledgeable about economic indicators than other citizens.

Table 12 furthermore shows that there is a relationship between the self-perceived knowledge of people and their objective knowledge of economic indicators. Those with high scores on the opinion leadership scale are most likely to know at least one of those economic figures, while people with the lowest self-perceived knowledge level also appear to be the least knowledgeable about such figures.

Focussing in more detail on the real knowledge possessed by respondents regarding economic indicators, we see that the differences between socio-demographic categories remain rather marginal. This leads us to the following important remark: The relatively low proportions of "don't know" replies among those socio-demographic categories generally having the most correct scores, and the proportionally small difference in their correct answers compared to other categories also indicates that opinion leaders, men, people with a longer education and managers are more likely to *think* that they know the real figures for those indicators – or more likely to essay a *guess*. In other words, for these groups there is a discrepancy between their *self-perceived* knowledge and their *objective* knowledge.

Table 12

Knowledge of the national growth rate, inflation rate and unemployment rate- Number of correct answers for QA50, QA52 and QA54

	0 correct answer	1 correct answer	2-3 correct answers
<b>Margin of error +/- 20%</b>			
EU27	68%	23%	9%
<b>Sex</b>			
 Male	61%	26%	13%
Female	73%	20%	7%
<b>Age</b>			
 15-24	74%	19%	7%
25-39	65%	25%	10%
40-54	64%	26%	10%
55 +	69%	21%	10%
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
 15-	78%	16%	6%
16-19	68%	23%	9%
20+	54%	31%	15%
Still Studying	72%	20%	8%
<b>Occupation</b>			
Self- employed	64%	24%	12%
Managers	51%	33%	16%
 Other white collars	62%	25%	13%
Manual workers	70%	23%	7%
House persons	79%	17%	4%
Unemployed	71%	22%	7%
Retired	69%	21%	10%
Students	72%	20%	8%
<b>Opinion leadership index</b>			
 ++	52%	31%	17%
+	63%	25%	12%
-	69%	22%	9%
--	82%	14%	4%
<b>Objective knowledge of the EU</b>			
Bad	78%	17%	5%
Average	62%	28%	10%
Good	51%	29%	20%

\* Including those spontaneously answering that they "don't know"

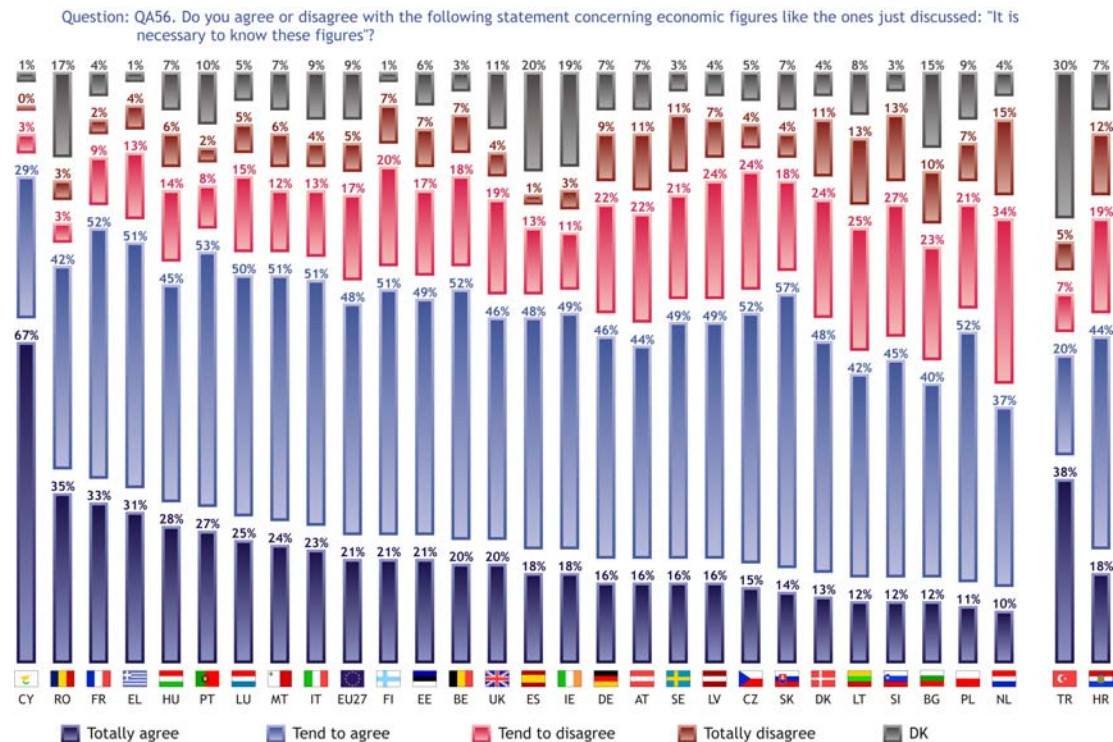
### 3. The importance of statistical figures

Having examined Europeans’ awareness of different key economic indicators, we now turn to the importance that they attach to such statistics.

#### 3.1. Perceived necessity of knowing economic statistics

Cypriots appear to be the most inclined to agree that it is necessary to know economic figures such as those referred to earlier<sup>26</sup> (see the following bar-chart). While around one-fifth (21%) of Europeans *totally* agree and nearly half (48%) *tend to* agree, about 67% and 29% respectively of Cypriots share these opinions. The two-thirds of Cypriots who *totally* agree with the statement stand out compared to respondents in other EU countries. This is particularly interesting when we take into account the fact that Cypriots were generally unable to state their country’s correct growth, inflation or unemployment rates. (see bar-chart on page 27)

For the Dutch on the other hand, knowing this type of economic information is less important – 34% *tend to* disagree with the statement that knowing such figures is necessary and 15% *totally* disagree. These figures are 17 and 10 percentage points respectively lower than the European average. Nevertheless the Dutch were more knowledgeable about such figures than Europeans on average (see bar-chart on page 27).



<sup>26</sup> QA56 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement concerning economic figures like the ones just discussed: "It is necessary to know these figures"?

Men are more inclined (73%) than women (65%) to think that it is necessary to know economic figures such as those discussed in this survey (table 13). Respondents who spent longer in education (until age 20+; 76%) tend to be more likely to agree with this than those who spent a shorter period in education (until age 15 and younger; 62%).

Furthermore, analysis of different occupational categories shows that managers (77%), the self-employed (74%) and white collar workers (73%) most frequently believe that knowledge of statistics is necessary. Conversely, unemployed respondents are more likely to disagree with this (25%).

Table 13

QA56 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement concerning economic figures like the ones just discussed: "It is necessary to know these figures"?




	Total "Agree"	Total "Disagree"	DK
EU27	69%	22%	9%
 <b>Gender</b>			
Male	73%	20%	7%
Female	65%	24%	11%
 <b>Education (End of)</b>			
15	62%	25%	13%
16-19	70%	22%	8%
20+	76%	20%	4%
Still Studying	68%	23%	9%
 <b>Occupation</b>			
Self- employed	74%	18%	8%
Managers	77%	20%	3%
Other white collars	73%	22%	5%
Manual workers	70%	22%	8%
House persons	62%	23%	15%
Unemployed	65%	25%	10%
Retired	66%	23%	11%
Students	68%	23%	9%

Table 14 hereunder shows that those citizens believing that it is necessary to know economic statistics are only slightly more likely to actually know their country's unemployment rate (12%; +5 percentage points), growth rate (10%; +4 points) and inflation rate (7%; +3 points)<sup>27</sup> than people who do not believe this knowledge is necessary.

Table14

QA56 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement concerning economic figures like the ones just discussed: "It is necessary to know these figures"?

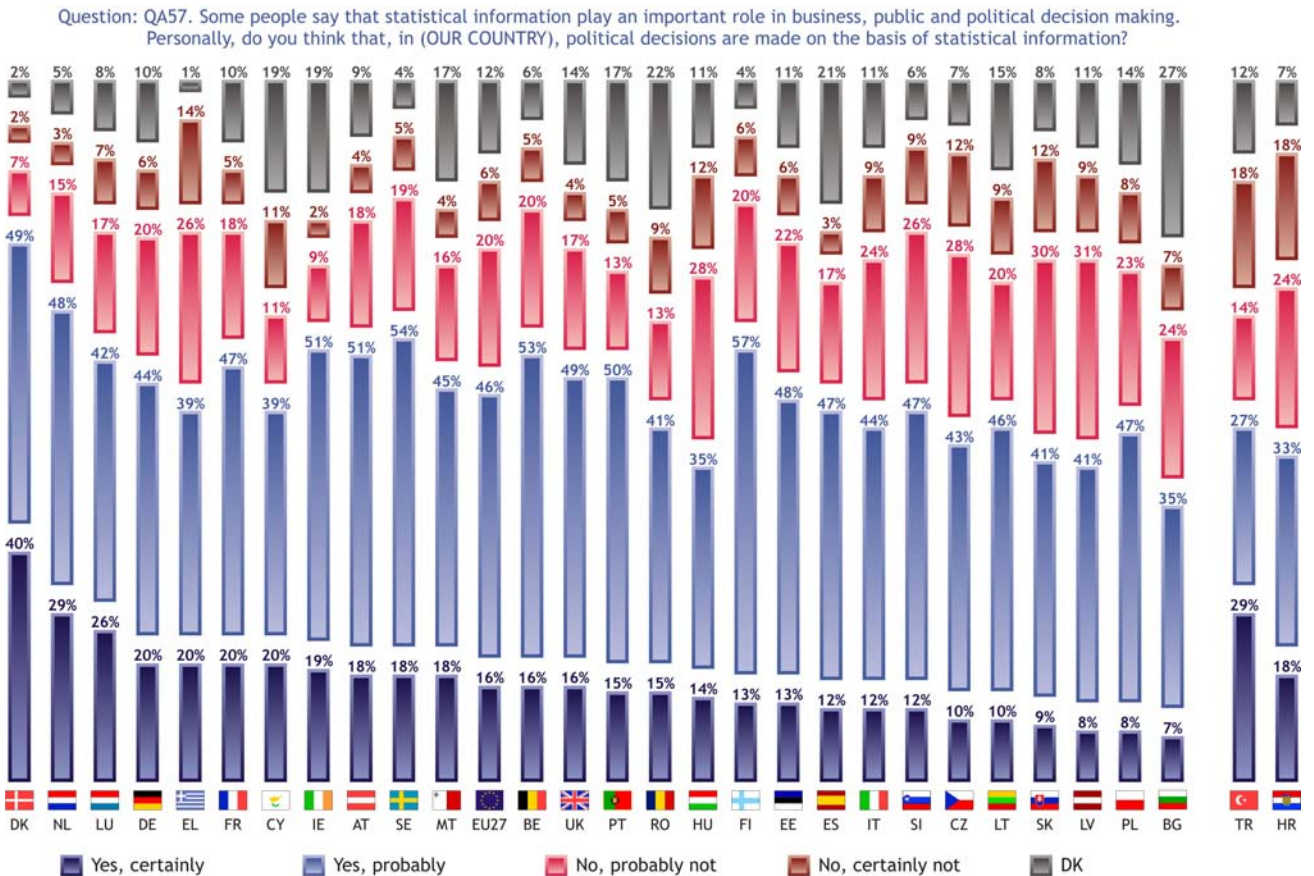
Margin of error (+/-) 20%		EU27	Total "Agree"	Total "Disagree"
	<b>Total</b>	<b>26 717</b>	<b>18 405</b>	<b>5946</b>
% Correct answer for QA50	Growth rate	12%	14%	9%
% Correct answer for QA52	Inflation rate	13%	15%	10%
% Correct answer for QA54	Unemployment rate	19%	21%	14%
Total number of correct answers for QA50, QA52, QA54				
	0 correct answer	68%	63%	74%
	1 correct answer	23%	25%	20%
	2-3 correct answers	9%	12%	6%

<sup>27</sup> As correct has been defined: answers differing (-/+ ) 20% from the real inflation rate in the particular country

### 3.2. Political role of statistics

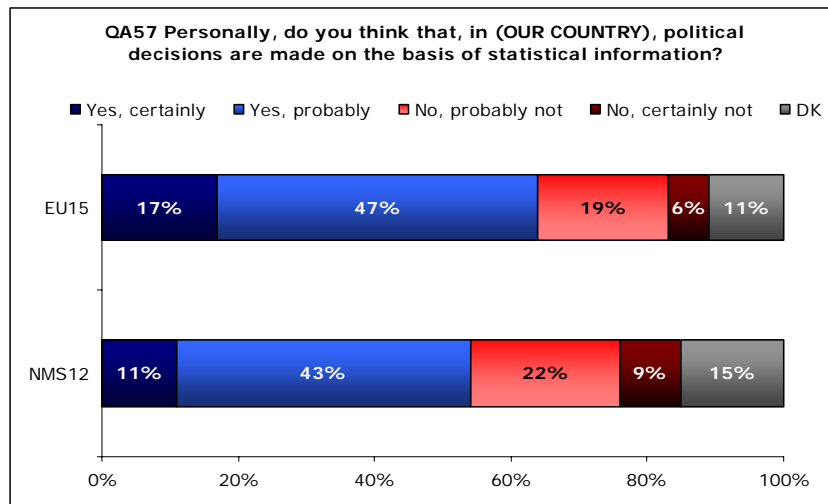
Europeans generally seem fairly convinced that statistical information influences business and public and political decision-making. 62% say that decisions are made on the basis of such information<sup>28</sup>. Among this group 16% *certainly* think that this is the case, whereas 46% think that it is *probable* that political decisions are made on the basis of statistical information.

The strongest belief in this point is found among Danes (89%) but also in the Netherlands (77%), Sweden (72%) and Finland (70%). On the other hand, Bulgarians (42%), Latvians and Hungarians (both 49%) and Slovaks (50%) are less convinced that political decisions are made on the basis of statistical information. However it needs to be taken into account that more than a quarter of respondents (27%) in Bulgaria say they do not know.



<sup>28</sup>QA57 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?

In the European Union's old Member States, citizens appear to be more inclined to think that political decisions are made on the basis of statistical information than in the new Member States. 64% of respondents from the EU15 think this is *certainly* or *probably* the case, compared with 54% of those in the NMS12. Conversely, almost a third (31%) of citizens in the NMS12 thinks this is *probably* or *certainly not* the case, whereas a quarter of EU15 respondents share this view. Furthermore, the proportion of citizens answering that they do not know is slightly higher among citizens in the NMS12 (15%) than among those in the EU15 (11%).



From a socio-demographic perspective we see that respondents who finished their education at the age of 15 years or earlier are less inclined (53%) to think that political decisions are made on the basis of statistical information than those who studied until the age of 16-19 (62%) or until the age of 20 or beyond (70%). This can be explained by the fact that those who are less educated were also more likely to answer that they "do not know" whether statistical information forms a basis for political decision-making. Similarly, managers (72%) and other white collar workers (66%) are more likely to believe this than retired people (56%), house persons (57%) and the unemployed (58%). Again, these differences seem to be reflected in the rate of "don't know" answers in those categories (table 15).

Table 15

QA57 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"	DK
EU27	62%	26%	12%
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	53%	27%	20%
16-19	62%	27%	11%
20+	70%	24%	6%
Still Studying	64%	24%	12%
<b>Occupation</b>			
Self- employed	62%	27%	11%
Managers	72%	23%	5%
Other white collars	66%	26%	8%
Manual workers	62%	27%	11%
House persons	57%	25%	18%
Unemployed	58%	28%	14%
Retired	56%	27%	17%
Students	64%	24%	12%

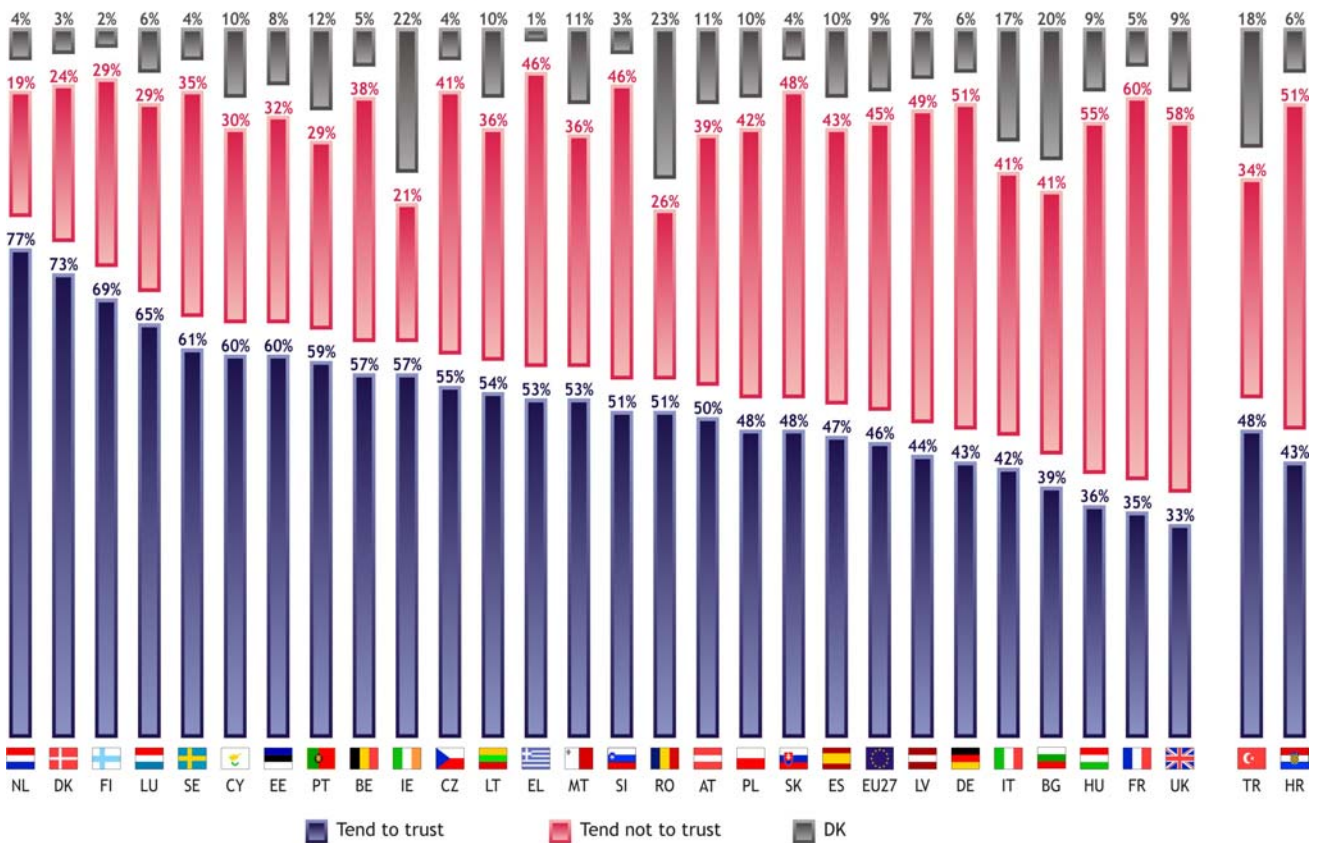


### 3.3. Trust in official statistics

Although the majority of Europeans seem convinced that it is necessary to know economic statistics and that such figures play a major role in political decision-making, their opinions regarding the trustworthiness of official statistics seem to be strongly divided<sup>29</sup>. The proportion of citizens who trust this information (46%) is virtually identical to the proportion claiming that they do not trust such statistics (45%). 9% answer that they do not know whether they find them trustworthy or not.

Trust in official statistics reaches its highest levels in the Netherlands (77%), Denmark (73%) and Finland (69%). Conversely, the least trust is found in France (with 60% who tend not to trust), the United Kingdom (58%) and Hungary (55%).

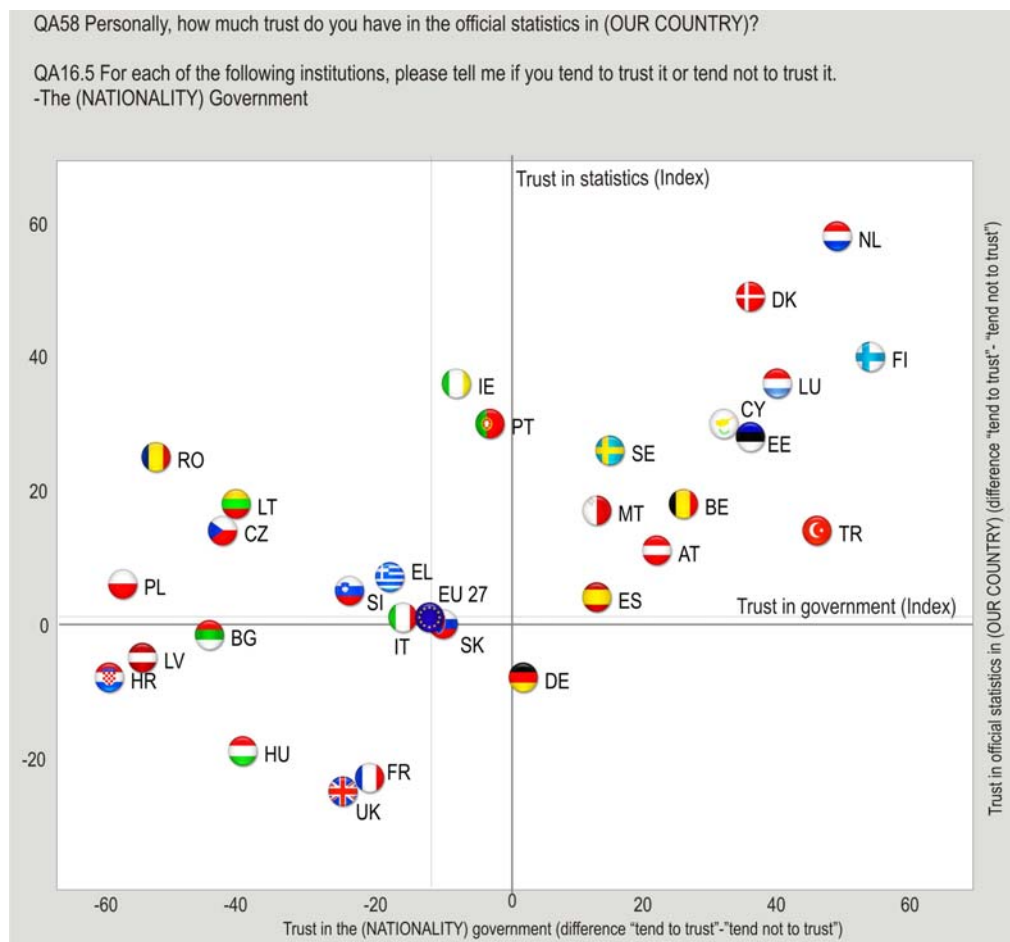
Question: QA58. Personally, how much trust do you have in the official statistics in (OUR COUNTRY), for example the statistics on unemployment, inflation or economic growth? Would you say that you tend to trust these official statistics or tend not to trust



<sup>29</sup> QA58 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?

The following graph shows that there is a correlation between respondents' trust in their national governments and their trust in official statistics in their countries. Overall, citizens tend to be rather divided when it comes to trusting their governments and predominantly positive when concerning their trust in official statistics.

- For the largest group of countries a positive correlation can be distinguished: people have relatively high trust in their governments as well as in official statistics. This is particularly visible in the European Union's older Member States. The highest trust levels were recorded in the Netherlands, Finland and Denmark.
- A negative correlation between the variables "trust in government" and "trust in official statistics" can be found in Croatia, Latvia and Bulgaria (predominantly low levels of trust in governments) as well as Hungary, France and UK (mainly low levels of trust in official statistics).
- Low levels of trust in national governments but relatively high levels of trust in their countries' official statistics were recorded in Romania, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Poland and to a certain extent in Greece and Slovenia.
- In Germany, citizens generally tend to trust their government. They are, however, less inclined to trust official statistics in their country.



In terms of socio-demographic characteristics, we can observe that respondents' age, length of education and occupation influence the level of trust they have in official statistics (table 16). Younger respondents are more inclined to trust such information than older ones and the longer one has spent in education the more trust one has in statistics. Moreover, official statistics enjoy more trust among managers and students (both 55%) than among the unemployed (38%), retired (40%) people, house persons (43%) and manual workers (44%).

Table 16

QA58 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	DK
EU27	46%	45%	9%
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	54%	36%	10%
25-39	48%	44%	8%
40-54	44%	48%	8%
55 +	40%	49%	11%
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	38%	49%	13%
16-19	44%	48%	8%
20+	52%	42%	6%
Still Studying	55%	34%	11%
<b>Occupation</b>			
Self- employed	46%	46%	8%
Managers	55%	40%	5%
Other white collars	48%	44%	8%
Manual workers	44%	48%	8%
House persons	43%	44%	13%
Unemployed	38%	53%	9%
Retired	40%	49%	11%
Students	55%	34%	11%



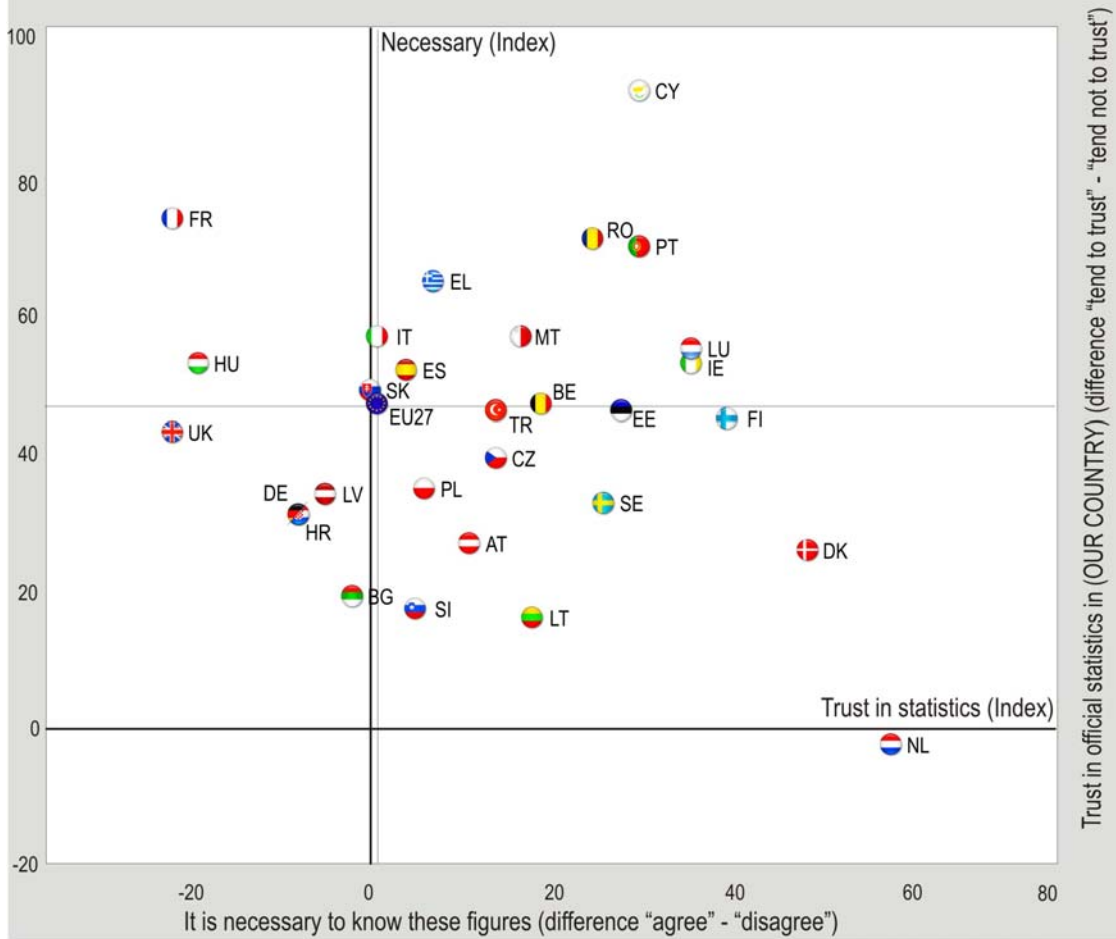
The following graph shows the relationship between citizens' perceptions regarding the necessity of knowing economic figures (Y-axis) and their trust in such figures (X-axis). First of all, it clearly shows that citizens throughout Europe primarily agree that it is necessary to know economic figures. Only the Dutch appear to be less convinced about this. Furthermore, in the majority of countries, citizens' opinions regarding the trustworthiness of such statistics are primarily positive.

Secondly, by taking the weighted results for the whole EU27 as a starting point, we can roughly distinguish four groups of countries - those where citizens generally:

- ...consider it necessary to know economic figures *and* tend to trust official statistics (Cyprus, Greece, Romania, Portugal, Luxembourg, Ireland and Spain). Cyprus stands out here – with the Cypriots being strongly convinced that it is necessary to know such figures.
- ...trust official statistics but find it less necessary to know such figures (Denmark, Finland, Lithuania, Sweden, Austria, Slovenia, Czech Republic and Poland). Here the Netherlands clearly differs, with a high level of trust in statistics among citizens but a low proportion finding it necessary to know them.
- ...tend not to trust official statistics and where they do not find it particularly necessary to know them (United Kingdom, Bulgaria, Germany, Croatia and Latvia)
- ...find it necessary to know economic figures, but where there is little trust in such figures (France and Hungary). The marginal levels of trust in official statistics in these countries, in combination with the strong importance that citizens accord to them (especially in France) makes these two countries particularly interesting.

QA56 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement concerning economic figures like the ones just discussed: "It is necessary to know these figures"?

QA58 Personally, how much trust do you have in the official statistics in (OUR COUNTRY)?



## CONCLUSIONS

The aim of this survey was to examine the general state of opinion in Europe on economic matters, Europeans' actual knowledge of three key economic indicators – **the economic growth rate, the inflation rate and the unemployment rate** – and the importance that they attach to such statistics.

The overall opinion of European citizens regarding their national economies and their private financial situations seems to be rather divided. They appear to be increasingly optimistic about the economy and increasingly pessimistic about their personal finances. A clear discrepancy can be found between public opinion in the EU15 and the NMS12 as citizens from the 15 old EU Member States tend to display considerably more optimism.

When assessing citizens' knowledge of key economic indicators we discovered, most interestingly, that large proportions of citizens throughout Europe claim not to know their country's growth rate, inflation rate or unemployment rate. Even in those countries where people were generally most inclined to give estimations for these figures (i.e. Denmark, the Netherlands, Slovakia and Germany), more than a third of respondents replied "don't know".

Overall, Europeans tend to be relatively optimistic about economic growth in their countries. The general pattern for the European Union is that citizens overestimate their national growth rates. Meanwhile they appear to be more pessimistic about price inflation and unemployment in their countries and tend to overestimate those figures.

We can observe that men, respondents who finished education aged 20 or later and managers are more likely than women, those that spent shorter periods in education (to age 15 or less), house persons and unemployed people to estimate the economic figures correctly. However, this is partly a function of the fact that such groups are more likely to attempt an answer, giving a lower proportion of "don't know" answers. Given that the greater tendency to *attempt* an answer does not translate into an equal proportion of *correct* answers, it therefore seems that men, those with a longer education and managers have a knowledge of economic indicators that is approximate rather than fully accurate.

The survey furthermore revealed that Europeans generally believe it is necessary to know economic statistics. The importance Europeans attach to statistics is even more pronounced when we take into account that the majority of citizens believe they form an important basis for political decision-making. Nevertheless, citizens are strongly divided over whether such figures are trustworthy.

# **ANNEXES**

# **TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**

## **SPECIAL EUROBAROMETER**

### **"Europeans' knowledge of economic indicators"**

### **TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**

Between the 10<sup>th</sup> of April and the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2007, TNS Opinion & Social, a consortium created between Taylor Nelson Sofres and EOS Gallup Europe, carried out wave 67.2 of the EUROBAROMETER, on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate General Communication, "Public Opinion and Media Monitoring".

This SPECIAL EUROBAROMETER is part of the wave 67.2 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 SPECIAL EUROBAROMETER has also been conducted in the two candidate countries (Croatia and Turkey) 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.

\* Only QA49 was asked in the Turkish Cypriot Community

ABBREVIATIONS	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	FIELDWORKDATES	POPULATION 15+
BE	Belgium	TNS Dimarso	1011	11/04/2007 07/05/2007	8.650.994
BG	Bulgaria	TNS BBSS	1039	13/04/2007 26/04/2007	6.671.699
CZ	Czech Rep.	TNS Aisa	1043	13/04/2007 04/05/2007	8.571.710
DK	Denmark	TNS Gallup DK	1002	10/04/2007 14/05/2007	4.411.580
DE	Germany	TNS Infratest	1513	10/04/2007 09/05/2007	64.361.608
EE	Estonia	Emor	1005	16/04/2007 14/05/2007	887.094
EL	Greece	TNS ICAP	1000	10/04/2007 08/05/2007	8.693.566
ES	Spain	TNS Demoscopia	1000	10/04/2007 10/05/2007	37.024.972
FR	France	TNS Sofres	1013	10/04/2007 08/05/2007	44.010.619
IE	Ireland	TNS MRBI	1000	10/04/2007 10/05/2007	3.089.775
IT	Italy	TNS Abacus	1010	10/04/2007 08/05/2007	48.892.559
CY	Rep. of Cyprus	Synovate	502	11/04/2007 07/05/2007	596.752
CY(tcc)	Turkish Cypriot Community	KADEM	500	10/04/2007 06/05/2007	157.101
LV	Latvia	TNS Latvia	1013	13/04/2007 15/05/2007	1.418.596
LT	Lithuania	TNS Gallup Lithuania	1018	10/04/2007 05/05/2007	2.803.661
LU	Luxembourg	TNS ILReS	511	10/04/2007 07/05/2007	374.097
HU	Hungary	TNS Hungary	1006	12/04/2007 10/05/2007	8.503.379
MT	Malta	MISCO	500	10/04/2007 30/04/2007	321.114
NL	Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1009	10/04/2007 10/05/2007	13.030.000
AT	Austria	Österreichisches Gallup-Institut	1011	10/04/2007 01/05/2007	6.848.736
PL	Poland	TNS OBOP	1000	10/04/2007 02/05/2007	31.967.880
PT	Portugal	TNS EUROTESTE	1011	14/04/2007 07/05/2007	8.080.915
RO	Romania	TNS CSOP	1019	10/04/2007 08/05/2007	18.173.179
SI	Slovenia	RM PLUS	1013	10/04/2007 09/05/2007	1.720.137
SK	Slovakia	TNS AISA SK	1106	13/04/2007 01/05/2007	4.316.438
FI	Finland	TNS Gallup Oy	1038	16/04/2007 09/05/2007	4.348.676
SE	Sweden	TNS GALLUP	1005	10/04/2007 10/05/2007	7.486.976
UK	United Kingdom	TNS UK	1319	10/04/2007 07/05/2007	47.685.578
HR	Croatia	Puls	1000	10/04/2007 07/05/2007	3.722.800
TR	Turkey	TNS Piar	1005	10/04/2007 10/05/2007	47.583.830
TOTAL			29222	10/04/2007 15/05/2007	444.406.021

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 above.

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:

<b>Observed percentages</b>	10% or 90%	20% or 80%	30% or 70%	40% or 60%	50%
<b>Confidence limits</b>	± 1.9 points	± 2.5 points	± 2.7 points	± 3.0 points	± 3.1 points

# **QUESTIONNAIRE**

QA49: DO NOT ASK ITEM 1 in CY(tcc) – ASK ITEM 2 ONLY in CY(tcc)

QA49: NE PAS POSER ITEM 1 en CY(tcc) – POSER ITEM 2 UNIQUEMENT en CY(tcc)

QA49 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

QA49 Comment jugez-vous la situation actuelle de chacun des domaines suivants ?

(SHOW CARD WITH SCALE - ONE ANSWER PER LINE)

(MONTRER CARTE AVEC ECHELLE - UNE REPONSE PAR LIGNE)

	(READ OUT)	Very good	Rather good	Rather bad	Very bad	DK
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	(LIRE)	Très	Plutôt bonne	Plutôt mauvaise	Très mauvaise	NSP
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1	The situation of the	1	2	3	4	5
2	The situation of our	1	2	3	4	5
3	Your financial situation	1	2	3	4	5

1	La situation de l'économie	1	2	3	4	5
2	La situation de notre	1	2	3	4	5
3	Votre situation financière	1	2	3	4	5

EB66.1 QA51 (ITEM 1) - EB65.2 QC1 (ITEM 2) - TREND MODIFIED

EB66.1 QA51 (ITEM 1) - EB65.2 QC1 (ITEM 2) - TREND MODIFIED

ASK QA50a TO QA58 ONLY IN EU27 + HR + TR - OTHERS GO TO DEMOGRAPHICS

POSER QA50a A QA58 UNIQUEMENT EN UE27 + HR + TR - LES AUTRES ALLER AUX DEMOGRAPHIQUES

ASK QA50a and QA51a TO SPLIT A – OTHERS GO TO QA50b

POSER QA50a et QA51a AU SPLIT A – LES AUTRES ALLER EN QA50b

QA50a What was the official growth rate of the economy (measured in terms of Gross Domestic Product) in (OUR COUNTRY) in 2006? I can tell you that this figure is between -1% and 15%.

QA50a Quel était le taux officiel de la croissance économique (mesuré en termes de Produit Intérieur Brut) en (NOTRE PAYS) en 2006 ? Je peux vous dire qu'il se situe entre -1% et 15%.

(WRITE DOWN – ONE ANSWER ONLY) (IF "DK", PLEASE CODE '99999')

(NOTER – UNE SEULE REPONSE) (SI "NSP", CODER '99999')

NEW

NEW

QA51a Do you think that, in (OUR COUNTRY), the growth rate in 2006 was higher, lower or equal to the one in 2005?

QA51a Pensez-vous que, en (NOTRE PAYS), le taux de croissance en 2006 était supérieur, inférieur ou égal à celui de 2005 ?

Higher	1
Lower	2
Equal	3
DK	4

Supérieur	1
Inférieur	2
Egal	3
NSP	4

NEW

NEW

ASK QA50b and QA51b TO SPLIT B – OTHERS GO TO QA52

POSER QA50b et QA51b AU SPLIT B – LES AUTRES ALLER EN QA52

QA50b In 2005, the official growth rate (measured in terms of Gross Domestic product) in (OUR COUNTRY) was [INSERT THE EXACT RATE OF YOUR COUNTRY]%. What was the official growth rate of the economy in (OUR COUNTRY) in 2006? I can tell you that this figure is between -1% and 15%.

QA50b En 2005, le taux officiel de la croissance (mesuré en termes de Produit Intérieur Brut) était de [INSERER LE TAUX EXACT DE VOTRE PAYS]%. Quel était le taux officiel de croissance de l'économie en (NOTRE PAYS) en 2006 ? Je peux vous dire qu'il se situait entre -1% et 15%.

(WRITE DOWN – ONE ANSWER ONLY) (IF "DK", PLEASE CODE '99999')

(NOTER – UNE SEULE REPONSE) (SI "NSP", CODER '99999')

NEW

NEW

QA51b Do you think that, in (OUR COUNTRY), the growth rate for this year 2007 will be higher, lower or equal to the one in 2006?

QA51b Pensez-vous que, dans (NOTRE PAYS), le taux de croissance en (NOTRE PAYS) pour cette année 2007 sera supérieur, inférieur ou égal à celui de 2006 ?

Higher	1
Lower	2
Equal	3
DK	4

Supérieur	1
Inférieur	2
Egal	3
NSP	4

QA52 What was the official inflation rate, the rate of which consumer prices increased or decreased, in (OUR COUNTRY) in 2006? I can tell you that the exact figure is between -1% and 20%.

QA52 Quel était le taux officiel de l'inflation, c'est-à-dire le taux qui mesure l'augmentation ou la diminution des prix à la consommation en (NOTRE PAYS) en 2006 ? Je peux vous dire qu'il se situe entre -1% et 20%.

(WRITE DOWN – ONE ANSWER ONLY) (IF "DK", PLEASE CODE '99999')

(NOTER – UNE SEULE REPONSE) (SI "NSP", CODER '99999')

QA53 Do you think that, in (OUR COUNTRY), the inflation rate in 2006 was higher, lower or equal to the one in 2005?

QA53 Pensez-vous qu'en (NOTRE PAYS), le taux d'inflation de 2006 était supérieur, inférieur ou égal à celui de 2005 ?

Higher	1
Lower	2
Equal	3
DK	4

Supérieur	1
Inférieur	2
Egal	3
NSP	4

QA54 What was the official unemployment rate, the percentage of active people who do not have a job, in (OUR COUNTRY) in 2006? I can tell you that the exact figure is between 0% and 20%.

QA54 Quel était le taux officiel du chômage, c'est-à-dire le pourcentage de la population active qui n'a pas d'emploi, en (NOTRE PAYS) en 2006 ? Je peux vous dire que ce taux se situe entre 0% et 20%.

(WRITE DOWN – ONE ANSWER ONLY) (IF "DK", PLEASE CODE '99999')

(NOTER – UNE SEULE REPONSE) (SI "NSP", CODER '99999')

NEW

NEW

QA55 Do you think that, in (OUR COUNTRY), the unemployment rate in 2006 was higher, lower or equal to the one in 2005?

QA55 Pensez-vous qu'en (NOTRE PAYS) le taux de chômage en 2006 était supérieur, inférieur ou égal à celui de 2005 ?

Higher	1
Lower	2
Equal	3
DK	4

Supérieur	1
Inférieur	2
Egal	3
NSP	4

NEW

NEW

QA56 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement concerning economic figures like the ones just discussed: "It is necessary to know these figures"?

QA56 Etes-vous d'accord ou pas d'accord avec l'affirmation suivante concernant les données économiques que nous venons d'évoquer : "Il est nécessaire de connaître ces données" ?

(READ OUT)

(LIRE)

Totally agree	1
Tend to agree	2
Tend to disagree	3
Totally disagree	4
DK	5

Tout à fait d'accord	1
Plutôt d'accord	2
Plutôt pas d'accord	3
Pas du tout d'accord	4
NSP	5

NEW

NEW

QA57 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?

QA57 Certaines personnes affirment que les informations statistiques jouent un rôle important dans le monde des affaires et dans les prises de décisions publiques et politiques. Personnellement, pensez-vous qu'en (NOTRE PAYS), les décisions politiques sont prises sur base d'informations statistiques ?

(READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY)

(LIRE – UNE SEULE REPONSE)

Yes, certainly	1
Yes, probably	2
No, probably not	3
No, certainly not	4
DK	5

Oui, certainement	1
Oui, probablement	2
Non, probablement pas	3
Non, certainement pas	4
NSP	5

NEW

NEW

QA58 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?

QA58 Personnellement, dans quelle mesure faites-vous confiance aux statistiques officielles en (NOTRE PAYS), par exemple les statistiques sur le chômage, l'inflation ou la croissance économique ? Diriez-vous que vous avez plutôt confiance ou plutôt pas confiance en ces statistiques officielles ?

(READ OUT)

(LIRE)

Tend to trust	1
Tend not to trust	2
DK	3

Plutôt confiance	1
Plutôt pas confiance	2
NSP	3

NEW

NEW

# **TABLES**

QA49.1 Comment jugez-vous la situation actuelle de chacun des domaines suivants ?

QA49.1 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

La situation de l'économie (NATIONALITE)

The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy

	TOTAL	Très bonne / Very good	Plutôt bonne / Rather good	Plutôt mauvaise / Rather bad	Très mauvaise / Very bad	NSP / DK	Bonne / Good	Mauvaise / Bad
UE27 EU27	26717	6%	46%	35%	9%	4%	52%	44%
BE	1011	6%	63%	27%	2%	2%	69%	29%
BG	1039	1%	9%	59%	26%	5%	10%	85%
CZ	1043	2%	43%	42%	12%	1%	45%	54%
DK	1002	59%	40%	1%	-	-	99%	1%
D-W	1005	10%	65%	21%	2%	2%	75%	23%
DE	1513	10%	64%	22%	2%	2%	74%	24%
D-E	508	7%	61%	25%	5%	2%	68%	30%
EE	1005	5%	76%	13%	2%	4%	81%	15%
EL	1000	1%	17%	49%	33%	-	18%	82%
ES	1000	3%	57%	30%	6%	4%	60%	36%
FR	1013	1%	25%	60%	11%	3%	26%	71%
IE	1000	25%	64%	7%	2%	2%	89%	9%
IT	1010	6%	30%	45%	13%	6%	36%	58%
CY	502	11%	66%	18%	3%	2%	77%	21%
LV	1013	1%	21%	59%	17%	2%	22%	76%
LT	1018	1%	32%	59%	5%	3%	33%	64%
LU	511	17%	67%	11%	1%	4%	84%	12%
HU	1006	1%	8%	55%	35%	1%	9%	90%
MT	500	3%	45%	34%	10%	8%	48%	44%
NL	1009	11%	82%	5%	-	2%	93%	5%
AT	1011	10%	75%	12%	1%	2%	85%	13%
PL	1000	2%	43%	43%	9%	3%	45%	52%
PT	1011	2%	8%	59%	29%	2%	10%	88%
RO	1019	-	18%	61%	16%	5%	18%	77%
SI	1013	2%	70%	23%	3%	2%	72%	26%
SK	1106	3%	52%	37%	5%	3%	55%	42%
FI	1038	10%	82%	7%	-	1%	92%	7%
SE	1005	28%	64%	6%	-	2%	92%	6%
UK	1319	10%	60%	18%	5%	7%	70%	23%
HR	1000	1%	12%	54%	32%	1%	13%	86%
TR	998	10%	29%	39%	17%	5%	39%	56%

QA49.2 Comment jugez-vous la situation actuelle de chacun des domaines suivants ?

QA49.2 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

La situation de notre économie

The situation of our economy

	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Très bonne / Very good</b>	<b>Plutôt bonne / Rather good</b>	<b>Plutôt mauvaise / Rather bad</b>	<b>Très mauvaise / Very bad</b>	<b>NSP / DK</b>	<b>Bonne / Good</b>	<b>Mauvaise / Bad</b>
CY (tcc)	500	13%	53%	23%	9%	2%	66%	32%

QA49.3 Comment jugez-vous la situation actuelle de chacun des domaines suivants ?

QA49.3 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

Votre situation financière

Your financial situation

	TOTAL	Très bonne / Very good	Plutôt bonne / Rather good	Plutôt mauvaise / Rather bad	Très mauvaise / Very bad	NSP / DK	Bonne / Good	Mauvaise / Bad
UE27 EU27	26717	5%	56%	29%	7%	3%	61%	36%
BE	1011	5%	73%	17%	3%	2%	78%	20%
BG	1039	1%	21%	50%	24%	4%	22%	74%
CZ	1043	3%	47%	41%	6%	3%	50%	47%
DK	1002	30%	57%	11%	2%	-	87%	13%
D-W	1005	4%	62%	26%	6%	2%	66%	32%
DE	1513	4%	60%	28%	6%	2%	64%	34%
D-E	508	1%	52%	36%	8%	3%	53%	44%
EE	1005	2%	70%	20%	4%	4%	72%	24%
EL	1000	2%	46%	39%	13%	-	48%	52%
ES	1000	5%	62%	26%	3%	4%	67%	29%
FR	1013	1%	59%	31%	5%	4%	60%	36%
IE	1000	7%	67%	17%	6%	3%	74%	23%
IT	1010	6%	45%	36%	8%	5%	51%	44%
CY	502	8%	71%	17%	3%	1%	79%	20%
CY (tcc)	500	15%	60%	13%	8%	4%	75%	21%
LV	1013	1%	50%	39%	8%	2%	51%	47%
LT	1018	2%	49%	41%	6%	2%	51%	47%
LU	511	15%	74%	9%	1%	1%	89%	10%
HU	1006	1%	26%	51%	20%	2%	27%	71%
MT	500	5%	51%	34%	7%	3%	56%	41%
NL	1009	14%	74%	9%	2%	1%	88%	11%
AT	1011	11%	56%	29%	2%	2%	67%	31%
PL	1000	2%	53%	32%	8%	5%	55%	40%
PT	1011	2%	34%	50%	9%	5%	36%	59%
RO	1019	1%	38%	44%	11%	6%	39%	55%
SI	1013	2%	68%	24%	4%	2%	70%	28%
SK	1106	2%	45%	41%	10%	2%	47%	51%
FI	1038	7%	78%	13%	2%	-	85%	15%
SE	1005	14%	71%	11%	3%	1%	85%	14%
UK	1319	7%	65%	19%	6%	3%	72%	25%
HR	1000	3%	47%	36%	13%	1%	50%	49%
TR	998	9%	39%	32%	14%	6%	48%	46%

QA50a Quel était le taux officiel de la croissance économique (mesuré en termes de Produit Intérieur Brut) en (NOTRE PAYS) en 2006 ? Je peux vous dire qu'il se situe entre -1% et 15%.

QA50a What was the official growth rate of the economy (measured in terms of Gross Domestic Product) in (OUR COUNTRY) in 2006? I can tell you that this figure is between -1% and 15%.

(SI 'SPLIT A')

(IF 'SPLIT A')

	TOTAL	De -1% à 0% / From -1% to 0%	De 0.1% à 3% / From 0.1% to 3%	De 3.1% à 5% / From 3.1% to 5%	De 5.1% à 15% / From 5.1% to 15%	NSP / DK	Moyenne / Average
UE27 EU27	13437	1%	26%	8%	12%	53%	4,1
BE	503	2%	30%	7%	12%	49%	3,8
BG	518	1%	3%	6%	12%	78%	6,2
CZ	508	-	8%	17%	30%	45%	6,2
DK	492	-	20%	16%	30%	34%	5,8
D-W	488	1%	57%	5%	6%	31%	2,5
DE	731	1%	58%	5%	6%	30%	2,6
D-E	240	1%	63%	3%	9%	24%	2,7
EE	517	1%	2%	4%	54%	39%	8,8
EL	498	-	11%	14%	10%	65%	5,0
ES	509	2%	18%	7%	9%	64%	4,4
FR	508	1%	36%	3%	6%	54%	3,0
IE	500	-	5%	16%	31%	48%	6,8
IT	536	-	27%	5%	5%	63%	3,3
CY	248	-	8%	6%	5%	81%	4,8
LV	481	-	1%	2%	25%	72%	8,3
LT	483	-	4%	5%	29%	62%	7,2
LU	253	-	14%	10%	11%	65%	4,6
HU	502	1%	13%	14%	18%	54%	5,6
MT	248	1%	12%	4%	14%	69%	5,6
NL	509	-	43%	14%	17%	26%	3,9
AT	491	-	38%	14%	17%	31%	4,5
PL	510	-	6%	15%	17%	62%	5,9
PT	498	3%	31%	4%	3%	59%	2,3
RO	509	-	2%	4%	12%	82%	7,1
SI	476	2%	8%	29%	17%	44%	5,2
SK	586	1%	10%	12%	47%	30%	6,7
FI	495	-	23%	22%	19%	36%	4,8
SE	497	-	25%	18%	15%	42%	4,5
UK	673	-	13%	11%	16%	60%	5,4
HR	498	3%	13%	24%	15%	45%	5,0
TR	491	-	1%	3%	17%	79%	9,2

QA51a Pensez-vous que, en (NOTRE PAYS), le taux de croissance en 2006 était supérieur, inférieur ou égal à celui de 2005 ?

QA51a Do you think that, in (OUR COUNTRY), the growth rate in 2006 was higher, lower or equal to the one in 2005?

(SI 'SPLIT A')

(IF 'SPLIT A')

	TOTAL	Supérieur / Higher	Inférieur / Lower	Egal / Equal	NSP / DK
UE27 EU27	13437	41%	15%	17%	27%
BE	503	48%	13%	15%	24%
BG	518	32%	10%	11%	47%
CZ	508	46%	13%	28%	13%
DK	492	64%	11%	15%	10%
D-W	488	61%	12%	14%	13%
DE	731	61%	12%	14%	13%
D-E	240	63%	11%	15%	11%
EE	517	68%	6%	8%	18%
EL	498	27%	27%	35%	11%
ES	509	33%	9%	12%	46%
FR	508	31%	23%	21%	25%
IE	500	37%	17%	17%	29%
IT	536	30%	19%	22%	29%
CY	248	34%	9%	18%	39%
LV	481	52%	9%	8%	31%
LT	483	53%	12%	12%	23%
LU	253	55%	12%	9%	24%
HU	502	19%	37%	16%	28%
MT	248	35%	16%	18%	31%
NL	509	76%	7%	8%	9%
AT	491	41%	15%	23%	21%
PL	510	45%	8%	15%	32%
PT	498	26%	22%	15%	37%
RO	509	36%	9%	11%	44%
SI	476	47%	16%	19%	18%
SK	586	57%	14%	19%	10%
FI	495	49%	15%	25%	11%
SE	497	69%	8%	12%	11%
UK	673	29%	19%	16%	36%
HR	498	33%	18%	27%	22%
TR	491	45%	15%	12%	28%

QA50b En 2005, le taux officiel de la croissance (mesuré en termes de Produit Intérieur Brut) était de [INSERER LE TAUX EXACT DE VOTRE PAYS]%. Quel était le taux officiel de croissance de l'économie en (NOTRE PAYS) en 2006 ? Je peux vous dire qu'il se situait entre -1% et 15%.

QA50b In 2005, the official growth rate (measured in terms of Gross Domestic product) in (OUR COUNTRY) was [INSERT THE EXACT RATE OF YOUR COUNTRY]%. What was the official growth rate of the economy in (OUR COUNTRY) in 2006? I can tell you that this figure is between -1% and 15%.

(SI 'SPLIT B')

(IF 'SPLIT B')

	TOTAL	De -1% à 0% / From -1% to 0%	De 0.1% à 3% / From 0.1% to 3%	De 3.1% à 5% / From 3.1% to 5%	De 5.1% à 15% / From 5.1% to 15%	NSP / DK	Moyenne / Average
UE27 EU27	13280	1%	29%	7%	10%	53%	3,6
BE	508	3%	39%	3%	5%	50%	2,6
BG	521	1%	2%	2%	13%	82%	6,5
CZ	535	-	3%	10%	39%	48%	6,9
DK	510	-	20%	31%	14%	35%	4,6
D-W	517	1%	62%	2%	5%	30%	2,2
DE	782	2%	64%	2%	5%	27%	2,3
D-E	268	1%	71%	4%	6%	18%	2,4
EE	488	-	1%	2%	51%	46%	10,8
EL	502	1%	8%	19%	9%	63%	4,9
ES	491	1%	17%	9%	6%	67%	4,4
FR	505	2%	38%	2%	3%	55%	2,3
IE	500	-	3%	14%	37%	46%	6,7
IT	474	1%	29%	3%	3%	64%	2,3
CY	254	-	3%	9%	2%	86%	4,4
LV	532	-	1%	-	32%	67%	10,3
LT	535	-	3%	4%	36%	57%	8,0
LU	258	-	10%	10%	14%	66%	5,0
HU	504	2%	15%	16%	19%	48%	5,3
MT	252	2%	9%	9%	6%	74%	4,2
NL	500	1%	56%	8%	7%	28%	2,9
AT	520	1%	39%	14%	9%	37%	3,8
PL	490	-	5%	18%	22%	55%	5,9
PT	513	3%	31%	3%	3%	60%	2,6
RO	510	-	1%	4%	12%	83%	7,1
SI	537	1%	9%	29%	18%	43%	5,1
SK	520	-	3%	7%	57%	33%	7,9
FI	543	-	30%	25%	5%	40%	3,4
SE	508	1%	27%	26%	5%	41%	3,5
UK	646	1%	21%	6%	10%	62%	4,3
HR	502	3%	9%	25%	16%	47%	4,9
TR	507	-	1%	3%	21%	75%	9,0

QA51b Pensez-vous que, dans (NOTRE PAYS), le taux de croissance en (NOTRE PAYS) pour cette année 2007 sera supérieur, inférieur ou égal à celui de 2006 ?

QA51b Do you think that, in (OUR COUNTRY), the growth rate for this year 2007 will be higher, lower or equal to the one in 2006?

(SI 'SPLIT B')

(IF 'SPLIT B')

	TOTAL	Supérieur / Higher	Inférieur / Lower	Egal / Equal	NSP / DK
UE27 EU27	13280	37%	15%	22%	26%
BE	508	38%	13%	27%	22%
BG	521	32%	5%	14%	49%
CZ	535	33%	16%	38%	13%
DK	510	39%	18%	31%	12%
D-W	517	60%	8%	19%	13%
DE	782	61%	8%	19%	12%
D-E	268	66%	10%	16%	8%
EE	488	33%	29%	22%	16%
EL	502	23%	25%	40%	12%
ES	491	30%	12%	14%	44%
FR	505	28%	15%	31%	26%
IE	500	26%	25%	23%	26%
IT	474	22%	21%	23%	34%
CY	254	34%	11%	19%	36%
LV	532	49%	10%	16%	25%
LT	535	53%	11%	20%	16%
LU	258	46%	16%	15%	23%
HU	504	17%	40%	22%	21%
MT	252	34%	11%	19%	36%
NL	500	59%	10%	25%	6%
AT	520	48%	13%	20%	19%
PL	490	43%	8%	23%	26%
PT	513	25%	18%	17%	40%
RO	510	29%	12%	11%	48%
SI	537	39%	20%	26%	15%
SK	520	53%	10%	22%	15%
FI	543	33%	19%	38%	10%
SE	508	54%	13%	22%	11%
UK	646	30%	18%	19%	33%
HR	502	35%	16%	30%	19%
TR	507	33%	20%	10%	37%

QA52 Quel était le taux officiel de l'inflation, c'est-à-dire le taux qui mesure l'augmentation ou la diminution des prix à la consommation en (NOTRE PAYS) en 2006 ? Je peux vous dire qu'il se situe entre -1% et 20%.

QA52 What was the official inflation rate, the rate of which consumer prices increased or decreased, in (OUR COUNTRY) in 2006? I can tell you that the exact figure is between -1% and 20%.

	TOTAL	De -1% à 0% / From -1% to 0%	De 0.1% à 2% / From 0.1% to 2%	De 2.1% à 5% / From 2.1% to 5%	De 5.1% à 20% / From 5.1% to 20%	NSP / DK	Moyenne / Average
UE27 EU27	26717	1%	15%	18%	13%	53%	4,8
BE	1011	2%	18%	15%	10%	55%	4,1
BG	1039	1%	1%	5%	16%	77%	8,9
CZ	1043	-	7%	25%	25%	43%	6,8
DK	1002	1%	25%	29%	14%	31%	4,2
D-W	1005	2%	35%	21%	6%	36%	3,0
DE	1513	2%	34%	22%	8%	34%	3,2
D-E	508	1%	33%	28%	14%	24%	4,1
EE	1005	-	1%	14%	38%	47%	8,8
EL	1000	-	2%	27%	16%	55%	5,9
ES	1000	2%	9%	13%	11%	65%	5,9
FR	1013	1%	21%	15%	10%	53%	4,3
IE	1000	-	1%	29%	26%	44%	6,8
IT	1010	1%	13%	14%	7%	65%	4,1
CY	502	-	2%	9%	10%	79%	7,6
LV	1013	-	-	3%	41%	56%	9,1
LT	1018	-	2%	12%	27%	59%	9,0
LU	511	-	14%	13%	7%	66%	4,2
HU	1006	-	-	9%	52%	39%	9,9
MT	500	1%	7%	9%	16%	67%	6,7
NL	1009	1%	33%	23%	12%	31%	3,7
AT	1011	-	23%	26%	16%	35%	4,8
PL	1000	-	9%	15%	19%	57%	6,8
PT	1011	2%	11%	18%	8%	61%	4,3
RO	1019	-	1%	5%	12%	82%	7,9
SI	1013	2%	16%	36%	10%	36%	3,7
SK	1106	-	3%	21%	42%	34%	7,4
FI	1038	1%	23%	27%	11%	38%	4,0
SE	1005	1%	31%	17%	9%	42%	3,3
UK	1319	-	3%	27%	12%	58%	5,1
HR	1000	-	6%	21%	29%	44%	7,9
TR	998	-	1%	2%	24%	73%	12,8

QA53 Pensez-vous qu'en (NOTRE PAYS), le taux d'inflation de 2006 était supérieur, inférieur ou égal à celui de 2005 ?

QA53 Do you think that, in (OUR COUNTRY), the inflation rate in 2006 was higher, lower or equal to the one in 2005?

	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Supérieur / Higher</b>	<b>Inférieur / Lower</b>	<b>Egal / Equal</b>	<b>NSP / DK</b>
UE27 EU27	26717	35%	18%	19%	28%
BE	1011	36%	16%	22%	26%
BG	1039	35%	15%	9%	41%
CZ	1043	34%	21%	30%	15%
DK	1002	38%	17%	32%	13%
D-W	1005	35%	19%	26%	20%
DE	1513	38%	19%	25%	18%
D-E	508	52%	16%	18%	14%
EE	1005	57%	11%	9%	23%
EL	1000	46%	23%	24%	7%
ES	1000	34%	12%	13%	41%
FR	1013	35%	14%	23%	28%
IE	1000	60%	6%	12%	22%
IT	1010	30%	20%	20%	30%
CY	502	38%	13%	12%	37%
LV	1013	71%	6%	6%	17%
LT	1018	55%	14%	9%	22%
LU	511	46%	11%	15%	28%
HU	1006	58%	15%	10%	17%
MT	500	43%	12%	19%	26%
NL	1009	32%	31%	22%	15%
AT	1011	32%	27%	21%	20%
PL	1000	24%	23%	21%	32%
PT	1011	37%	12%	13%	38%
RO	1019	13%	32%	8%	47%
SI	1013	21%	51%	13%	15%
SK	1106	23%	45%	19%	13%
FI	1038	36%	16%	33%	15%
SE	1005	37%	22%	25%	16%
UK	1319	47%	11%	11%	31%
HR	1000	42%	11%	24%	23%
TR	998	29%	28%	13%	30%

QA54 Quel était le taux officiel du chômage, c'est-à-dire le pourcentage de la population active qui n'a pas d'emploi, en (NOTRE PAYS) en 2006 ? Je peux vous dire que ce taux se situe entre 0% et 20%.

QA54 What was the official unemployment rate, the percentage of active people who do not have a job, in (OUR COUNTRY) in 2006? I can tell you that the exact figure is between 0% and 20%.

	TOTAL	De 0% à 5% / From 0% to 5%	De 5.1% à 8% / From 5.1% to 8%	De 8.1% à 10% / From 8.1% to 10%	De 10.1% à 20% / From 10.1% to 20%	NSP / DK	Moyenne / Average
UE27 EU27	26717	9%	8%	14%	21%	48%	10,2
BE	1011	6%	9%	17%	36%	32%	11,5
BG	1039	2%	2%	4%	17%	75%	13,2
CZ	1043	3%	15%	30%	25%	27%	10,6
DK	1002	46%	21%	9%	9%	15%	6,4
D-W	1005	12%	6%	26%	28%	28%	9,7
DE	1513	10%	6%	24%	34%	26%	10,3
D-E	508	6%	4%	18%	56%	16%	12,2
EE	1005	17%	10%	9%	18%	46%	9,2
EL	1000	4%	3%	16%	37%	40%	12,5
ES	1000	10%	6%	8%	7%	69%	8,2
FR	1013	3%	9%	38%	14%	36%	10,0
IE	1000	21%	10%	11%	13%	45%	8,2
IT	1010	15%	5%	4%	9%	67%	7,6
CY	502	16%	8%	4%	5%	67%	7,4
LV	1013	5%	8%	8%	14%	65%	10,7
LT	1018	9%	8%	7%	15%	61%	9,6
LU	511	29%	10%	7%	7%	47%	6,7
HU	1006	3%	12%	9%	34%	42%	12,9
MT	500	11%	11%	4%	11%	63%	8,5
NL	1009	18%	21%	11%	19%	31%	8,9
AT	1011	18%	22%	11%	18%	31%	8,7
PL	1000	2%	2%	3%	47%	46%	15,3
PT	1011	10%	11%	5%	15%	59%	9,7
RO	1019	2%	5%	3%	5%	85%	10,6
SI	1013	6%	15%	17%	21%	41%	10,0
SK	1106	3%	3%	15%	56%	23%	12,4
FI	1038	4%	22%	18%	30%	26%	10,6
SE	1005	23%	29%	8%	14%	26%	7,8
UK	1319	11%	7%	5%	14%	63%	9,5
HR	1000	2%	2%	8%	50%	38%	15,3
TR	998	-	1%	6%	23%	70%	15,9

QA55 Pensez-vous qu'en (NOTRE PAYS) le taux de chômage en 2006 était supérieur, inférieur ou égal à celui de 2005 ?

QA55 Do you think that, in (OUR COUNTRY), the unemployment rate in 2006 was higher, lower or equal to the one in 2005?

	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Supérieur / Higher</b>	<b>Inférieur / Lower</b>	<b>Egal / Equal</b>	<b>NSP / DK</b>
UE27 EU27	26717	24%	38%	17%	21%
BE	1011	29%	44%	15%	12%
BG	1039	13%	34%	15%	38%
CZ	1043	24%	35%	32%	9%
DK	1002	6%	80%	8%	6%
D-W	1005	21%	52%	18%	9%
DE	1513	22%	52%	18%	8%
D-E	508	28%	48%	17%	7%
EE	1005	12%	63%	7%	18%
EL	1000	57%	19%	20%	4%
ES	1000	16%	30%	15%	39%
FR	1013	25%	46%	17%	12%
IE	1000	29%	29%	23%	19%
IT	1010	25%	25%	23%	27%
CY	502	48%	11%	15%	26%
LV	1013	21%	39%	20%	20%
LT	1018	9%	67%	9%	15%
LU	511	70%	12%	8%	10%
HU	1006	58%	9%	18%	15%
MT	500	28%	25%	21%	26%
NL	1009	10%	72%	10%	8%
AT	1011	28%	38%	19%	15%
PL	1000	15%	47%	18%	20%
PT	1011	47%	12%	10%	31%
RO	1019	16%	30%	8%	46%
SI	1013	23%	50%	15%	12%
SK	1106	13%	65%	15%	7%
FI	1038	13%	65%	16%	6%
SE	1005	19%	57%	17%	7%
UK	1319	36%	21%	13%	30%
HR	1000	33%	20%	32%	15%
TR	998	42%	21%	12%	25%

QA56 Etes-vous d'accord ou pas d'accord avec l'affirmation suivante concernant les données économiques que nous venons d'évoquer : "Il est nécessaire de connaître ces données" ?

QA56 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement concerning economic figures like the ones just discussed: "It is necessary to know these figures"?

	TOTAL	Tout à fait d'accord / Totally agree	Plutôt d'accord / Tend to agree	Plutôt pas d'accord / Tend to disagree	Pas du tout d'accord / Totally disagree	NSP / DK	D'accord / Agree	Pas d'accord / Disagree
UE27 EU27	26717	21%	48%	17%	5%	9%	69%	22%
BE	1011	20%	52%	18%	7%	3%	72%	25%
BG	1039	12%	40%	23%	10%	15%	52%	33%
CZ	1043	15%	52%	24%	4%	5%	67%	28%
DK	1002	13%	48%	24%	11%	4%	61%	35%
D-W	1005	17%	46%	21%	9%	7%	63%	30%
DE	1513	16%	46%	22%	9%	7%	62%	31%
D-E	508	16%	50%	24%	6%	4%	66%	30%
EE	1005	21%	49%	17%	7%	6%	70%	24%
EL	1000	31%	51%	13%	4%	1%	82%	17%
ES	1000	18%	48%	13%	1%	20%	66%	14%
FR	1013	33%	52%	9%	2%	4%	85%	11%
IE	1000	18%	49%	11%	3%	19%	67%	14%
IT	1010	23%	51%	13%	4%	9%	74%	17%
CY	502	67%	29%	3%	-	1%	96%	3%
LV	1013	16%	49%	24%	7%	4%	65%	31%
LT	1018	12%	42%	25%	13%	8%	54%	38%
LU	511	25%	50%	15%	5%	5%	75%	20%
HU	1006	28%	45%	14%	6%	7%	73%	20%
MT	500	24%	51%	12%	6%	7%	75%	18%
NL	1009	10%	37%	34%	15%	4%	47%	49%
AT	1011	16%	44%	22%	11%	7%	60%	33%
PL	1000	11%	52%	21%	7%	9%	63%	28%
PT	1011	27%	53%	8%	2%	10%	80%	10%
RO	1019	35%	42%	3%	3%	17%	77%	6%
SI	1013	12%	45%	27%	13%	3%	57%	40%
SK	1106	14%	57%	18%	4%	7%	71%	22%
FI	1038	21%	51%	20%	7%	1%	72%	27%
SE	1005	16%	49%	21%	11%	3%	65%	32%
UK	1319	20%	46%	19%	4%	11%	66%	23%
HR	1000	18%	44%	19%	12%	7%	62%	31%
TR	998	38%	20%	7%	5%	30%	58%	12%

QA57 Certaines personnes affirment que les informations statistiques jouent un rôle important dans le monde des affaires et dans les prises de décisions publiques et politiques. Personnellement, pensez-vous qu'en (NOTRE PAYS), les décisions politiques sont prises sur base d'informations statistiques ?

QA57 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	Oui, certainement / Yes, certainly	Oui, probablement / Yes, probably	Non, probablement pas / No, probably not	Non, certainement pas / No, certainly not	NSP / DK	Oui / Yes	Non / No
UE27 EU27	26717	16%	46%	20%	6%	12%	62%	26%
BE	1011	16%	53%	20%	5%	6%	69%	25%
BG	1039	7%	35%	24%	7%	27%	42%	31%
CZ	1043	10%	43%	28%	12%	7%	53%	40%
DK	1002	40%	49%	7%	2%	2%	89%	9%
D-W	1005	21%	44%	19%	5%	11%	65%	24%
DE	1513	20%	44%	20%	6%	10%	64%	26%
D-E	508	16%	44%	23%	9%	8%	60%	32%
EE	1005	13%	48%	22%	6%	11%	61%	28%
EL	1000	20%	39%	26%	14%	1%	59%	40%
ES	1000	12%	47%	17%	3%	21%	59%	20%
FR	1013	20%	47%	18%	5%	10%	67%	23%
IE	1000	19%	51%	9%	2%	19%	70%	11%
IT	1010	12%	44%	24%	9%	11%	56%	33%
CY	502	20%	39%	11%	11%	19%	59%	22%
LV	1013	8%	41%	31%	9%	11%	49%	40%
LT	1018	10%	46%	20%	9%	15%	56%	29%
LU	511	26%	42%	17%	7%	8%	68%	24%
HU	1006	14%	35%	28%	12%	11%	49%	40%
MT	500	18%	45%	16%	4%	17%	63%	20%
NL	1009	29%	48%	15%	3%	5%	77%	18%
AT	1011	18%	51%	18%	4%	9%	69%	22%
PL	1000	8%	47%	23%	8%	14%	55%	31%
PT	1011	15%	50%	13%	5%	17%	65%	18%
RO	1019	15%	41%	13%	9%	22%	56%	22%
SI	1013	12%	47%	26%	9%	6%	59%	35%
SK	1106	9%	41%	30%	12%	8%	50%	42%
FI	1038	13%	57%	20%	6%	4%	70%	26%
SE	1005	18%	54%	19%	5%	4%	72%	24%
UK	1319	16%	49%	17%	4%	14%	65%	21%
HR	1000	18%	33%	24%	18%	7%	51%	42%
TR	998	29%	27%	14%	18%	12%	56%	32%

QA58 Personnellement, dans quelle mesure faites-vous confiance aux statistiques officielles en (NOTRE PAYS), par exemple les statistiques sur le chômage, l'inflation ou la croissance économique ? Diriez-vous que vous avez plutôt confiance ou plutôt pas confiance en ces statistiques officielles ?

QA58 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?

	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Plutôt confiance / Tend to trust</b>	<b>Plutôt pas confiance / Tend not to trust</b>	<b>NSP / DK</b>
UE27 EU27	26717	46%	45%	9%
BE	1011	57%	38%	5%
BG	1039	39%	41%	20%
CZ	1043	55%	41%	4%
DK	1002	73%	24%	3%
D-W	1005	43%	50%	7%
DE	1513	43%	51%	6%
D-E	508	41%	56%	3%
EE	1005	60%	32%	8%
EL	1000	53%	46%	1%
ES	1000	47%	43%	10%
FR	1013	35%	60%	5%
IE	1000	57%	21%	22%
IT	1010	42%	41%	17%
CY	502	60%	30%	10%
LV	1013	44%	49%	7%
LT	1018	54%	36%	10%
LU	511	65%	29%	6%
HU	1006	36%	55%	9%
MT	500	53%	36%	11%
NL	1009	77%	19%	4%
AT	1011	50%	39%	11%
PL	1000	48%	42%	10%
PT	1011	59%	29%	12%
RO	1019	51%	26%	23%
SI	1013	51%	46%	3%
SK	1106	48%	48%	4%
FI	1038	69%	29%	2%
SE	1005	61%	35%	4%
UK	1319	33%	58%	9%
HR	1000	43%	51%	6%
TR	998	48%	34%	18%