

YouGov Survey Results

The Euro

Prepared for The Daily Telegraph

Sample Size: 1,852

Fieldwork: 9th - 10th June 2003

	%
Have you heard anything at all about Gordon Brown's statement in the House of Commons about Britain's membership of the 'euro', the single European currency?	
Yes, have heard something	86
No, have heard nothing	13
Don't know	1

Mr Brown announced the Government's decision that the time is not yet right for Britain to join the euro, but that we should almost certainly join at some time in the future. Do you broadly welcome the Government's decision or not?	
Yes, welcome it	56
No, do not	37
Don't know	7

Do you welcome it mainly because of the suggestion that we will join the euro in the future or mainly because of the assurance that we are not joining now? (Base = Those who welcome it)	
Because we will join in the future	36
Because we are not going to join now	50
Both equally	14
Don't know	0

Do you not welcome it mainly because of the suggestion that we will join the euro in the future or because we are not joining straight away? (Base = Those who do not welcome it)	
Because we will join in the future	72
Because we are not joining straight away	27
Don't know	2

The Government has also decided to keep the issue under review, so that Britain might seek to join the single currency next year or the year after. Do you think it is right to keep open the option in this way, or should the Government have ruled out any attempt to join the single currency before the next general election?	
Right to keep option open	52
Should have ruled out joining before next election	46
Don't know	2

Ahead of this week's announcement on Britain and the single currency, some people said there was a battle between Tony Blair and Gordon Brown over the policy that should be announced. Do you think that there was a battle and, if so, who won it?	
Yes, there was a battle, and Tony Blair won it	8
Yes, and Gordon Brown won it	25
Yes, the battle was a draw	18
No, there was not a battle	19
Don't know	30

If a referendum on the question of the European single currency were held soon, how would you vote – in favour of, or against, Britain joining the single currency and the abolition of the pound?	
In favour of joining	33
Against joining	61
Don't know	7

Still on the euro, which if these four statements comes closest to your own view?

Britain should definitely join the euro as soon as possible	20
Britain should probably join the euro at some point – but not yet	25
Joining the euro is not a good idea – and we should not join it for many years to come	25
Britain should never join the euro	27
Don't know	3

Have you definitely made up your mind on the question of the single currency, or might you change your mind in the course of the next year or so?

Definitely made up my mind	65
Might change	31
Don't know	4

The Chancellor said several times in his statement that it had to be 'clear and unambiguous' whether or not the Government's economic tests for joining the euro had been met. From what you know, is it, or is it not, possible for statements about future economic developments to be 'clear and unambiguous'.

Is possible	18
Is not possible	61
Don't know	20

Whether or not one likes the idea of Britain joining the single currency, do you agree or disagree that it is inevitable that Britain will join it sooner or later and that we may as well get used to the idea?

Agree, inevitable	55
Disagree, not inevitable	40
Don't know	5

As you probably know the present Government is committed to holding a referendum on the single currency if it ever decides that Britain should go in, a commitment it shares with all the main parties. As a matter of fact, do you think there is likely to be a referendum within the next two or three years (that is, before the next election), or is any referendum likely to be put off until after the next election?

Referendum likely before next election	26
Referendum unlikely until after next election	65
Don't know	10

Who do you think are campaigning more effectively to win over the people in this country, the 'Euro-enthusiasts', those who want us to join the euro and move towards a more fully integrated Europe, or the 'Euro-sceptics', those who do not want us to join the euro and do not want us to move towards a more fully integrated Europe?

Euro-enthusiasts campaigning more effectively	18
Euro-sceptics campaigning more effectively	55
Don't know	27

In the light of Mr Brown's statement and taking everything into account, how much do you trust the Government to make the right decisions on Britain's entry into the euro?

Trust a lot	11
Trust a little	22
Neither trust nor distrust	17
Don't trust much	22
Don't trust at all	27
Don't know	2

Do you agree or disagree with this statement: 'It would be in Britain's long-term national interest to join the single currency if the economic conditions are right'

Agree	46
Disagree	44
Don't know	10

Looking ahead, whose judgement do you think is likely to be better on the question of whether Britain should join the euro – Tony Blair’s or Gordon Brown’s?

Tony Blair	12
Gordon Brown	55
Don’t know	33

Which, if any, of these ADVANTAGES do you think Britain would enjoy in the long term if we did eventually join the single currency? (Please tick all that apply)

No need to change money when travelling to Europe	82
Reduced costs for British companies trading with Europe	56
More foreign investment in Britain	40
Greater British influence in the European Union	36
More jobs for British workers	22
Lower interest rates	20
Cheaper mortgages	19
Lower prices	15
Greater British influence in the world outside Europe	12
Lower taxes	7
None of these	10
Don’t know	4

Which, if any, of these DISADVANTAGES do you think Britain would suffer in the long term if we did eventually join the single currency? (Please tick all that apply)

Less control over Britain’s own affairs	70
More Government rules and regulations	59
Closer links to weak economies in other parts of Europe	56
Higher prices	55
Higher taxes	50
Less British influence in the world outside Europe	45
Higher interest rates	36
Fewer jobs for British workers	33
Dearer mortgages	31
Less British influence in the European Union	29
None of these	4
Don’t know	6