

Pro-euro majority is falling

Majority falls		
Denmark (%)	May 2009	June 2009
Yes	40.3	39.9
Maybe yes	10.4	10.0
Maybe no	6.2	7.8
No	39.0	38.8
Don't know	4.0	3.5
Yes lead	5.4	3.3

Source: Statistics Denmark and Danske Markets
Opinion poll based on 978 telephone interviews

Danske Bank regularly surveys the opinion of Danes on adopting the euro. Our June poll showed that the *Yes* camp maintained a narrow lead over the *No* side. However, the *Yes* lead continued to shrink, as it has done in recent months – so our June poll does not give grounds for concluding that a majority of Danes would be certain to vote in favour of joining the euro at any future referendum. The modest *Yes* lead represents a return to a more normal situation following the brief *Yes* rally in November and December last year.

Our June poll showed that 39.9% of Danes polled would definitely vote *Yes* to Danish EMU participation, while 38.8% were certain *No* voters. Add to this the 10% of voters who are in doubt, but lean towards voting *Yes* and the 7.8% who would perhaps vote *No* – and the *Yes* camp has a lead of 3.3 percentage points. This is a rather modest lead, and a comparison with the polls we conducted earlier this year shows – as already mentioned – that the lead has shrunk. In any event, many Danes are still in doubt about how to vote.

The temporary momentum of the *Yes* side in the final months of 2008 reflected the autumn economic agenda being heavily affected by the escalating financial crisis. Due to the turmoil in financial markets, the Danish central bank, Danmarks Nationalbank (DN), had to widen the rate spread to the eurozone a couple of times during October. Meanwhile, the Danish economy slowed sharply, and many Danes began to feel the impact of rising interest payments on their budgets. This stimulated support among Danish voters for joining the euro. However, since then the foreign exchange turmoil has subsided, so opinion polls have more or less returned to normal, with a modest *Yes* lead that will likely make a future referendum on euro membership a very close run race.

Key points

- A narrow majority of Danes still support EMU participation.
- 39.9% of those polled in June said that they would vote *Yes*, while 38.8% would vote *No*. Add to this the 10.0% of voters who lean towards voting *Yes*, but are in doubt and the 7.8% that would probably vote *No*, and the *Yes* camp has a lead of 3.3pp.
- Exactly when the Danes will be going to the polls is still uncertain.

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