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National Survey of U.S. Chief Financial Officers finds nearly one-third targeting healthcare cutbacks for their workforce

Greatest pricing pressure is employee benefits relating to healthcare and pensions

CHICAGO, November 1, 2010 - In a national survey of U.S. Chief Financial Officers (CFOs) and senior comptrollers conducted by Grant Thornton LLP, the U.S. member firm of Grant Thornton International Ltd, 30% are planning on reducing health care benefits, 23% are planning on reducing bonuses and 18% will be reducing stock options/equity based compensation.

A vast majority (84%) cited employee benefits (e.g., health care, pensions) as their greatest pricing pressure -- up from 68% six months earlier.

Grant Thornton LLP conducted the biannual national survey from October 5 through October 15, 2010, with 508 U.S. CFOs and senior comptrollers participating.

About which type(s) of pricing pressure are you most concerned? (may select more than one)

	10/2010	3/2010
Employee benefits (e.g., health care, pensions)	84%	68%
Raw materials (e.g., food, metals)	27%	29%
Energy	21%	26%
Other	12%	17%
Company Insurance (not including healthcare)	11%	19%

Is your company making any changes to the average costs per employee in any of these employee benefit and compensation areas?

Salary raises		
	10/2010	3/2010
Decrease	13%	32%
Same	65%	53%
Increase	21%	15%

Bonuses		
	10/2010	3/2010
Decrease	23%	44%
Same	63%	47%
Increase	14%	8%

Stock options/equity based		
	10/2010	3/2010
Decrease	18%	29%
Same	79%	66%
Increase	3%	5%

401 (k) match		
	10/2010	3/2010
Decrease	10%	21%
Same	84%	74%
Increase	5%	5%

Health care benefits		
	10/2010	3/2010
Decrease	30%	29%
Same	49%	66%
Increase	21%	6%

Life insurance benefits		
	10/2010	3/2010
Decrease	9%	11%
Same	86%	86%
Increase	5%	2%

Disability benefits		
	10/2010	3/2010
Decrease	8%	10%
Same	86%	88%
Increase	6%	1%

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