# Pulse Survey Results: Navigating the Impact of COVID-19 on Workplace and Rewards Practices

**APAC Edition** 



**Prepared by Rewards Solutions** 

# **About This Report**

#### Dear APAC COVID-19 Pulse Participants,

On behalf of the team that have worked across the region to put this study together, we want to thank you for your time in answering these questions. As we looked at the answers, a number of themes emerged:

#### **Duty of Care**

Two-thirds of HR representatives surveyed believe that organisations must reassess their Duty of Care obligations to employees in light of the COVID-19 outbreak

#### Employee Assistance

Organisations are offering Family Care Support (45%) and Employee Assistance programmes (40%)

#### **HR Readiness**

70% organisations reported that COVID-19 situation has highlighted capability gaps around risk mitigation in the event of a future crisis

Financial Institutions being most prepared (50%) and Manufacturing the least (80%)

### Impact on Workforce Plans

45% respondent organisations are closely reviewing their workforce plans

#### **Impact on Employee Pay**

Cautious outlook. Yet, most organisations (85%) have reported to continue with the planned salary increases and bonus payout

#### **Adjustment to Performance Targets**

Only 20% respondent organisations say that they have no plans to adjust targets



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**Craig Torgius** 

Health Solutions

CCO, Asia

Aon

As you look through the answers to the questions and if you have further queries, please do not hesitate to reach out to us personally – we are here to support you across the country, across the region, and globally.

Sincerely,

#### Alexander Krasavin | Craig Torgius



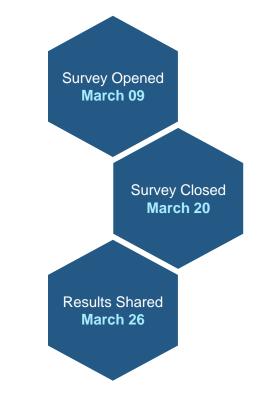
# **Study Overview**

In light of the rapidly evolving COVID-19 pandemic and its widespread social and business implications, we partnered with our clients to create a pulse survey on the workplace, human resources and compensation policies being put in place by companies in APAC as they move to keep employees safe and adjust to an increasingly volatile market.

This study builds upon similar efforts by our teams in China and includes questions on:

- New or enhanced welfare measures for employees
- Employee communication practices
- Compensation actions directly related to the outbreak
- Workforce planning changes
- Travel restrictions
- Work-from-home policies
- HR Preparedness

Our March study of companies in APAC region garnered submission from a total of 304 organisations. This report summarises cross-industry results.





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### Navigating the Impact of COVID-19 on Workplace and Rewards Practices

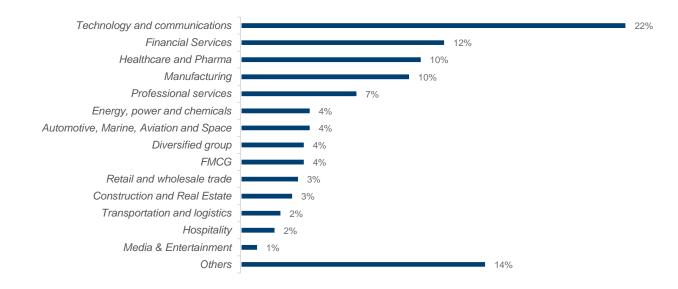
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# **Participant Demographics**

# **Participant Demographics**

### **Industry Distribution:**

All study participants were asked to self-select their primary industry from the following options. Additional information on sub-industries was collected and can be used to create targeted reports upon request.



Number of Responses = 304

'Others' comprise E-Commerce companies, BPOs, Education Sector, Foundations & NGO



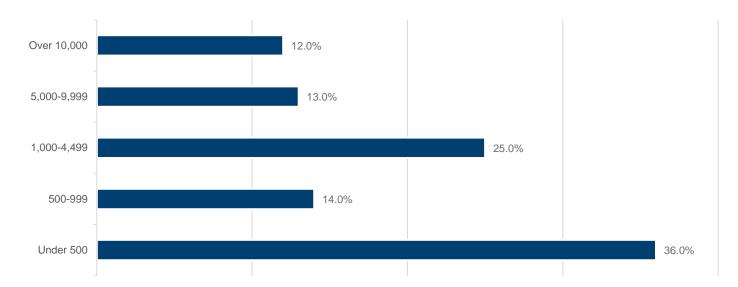
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# **Participant Demographics**

### **Company Headcount:**

All study participants were asked to provide their APAC headcount according to the categories below.



Number of Responses = 304

### Navigating the Impact of COVID-19 on Workplace and Rewards Practices

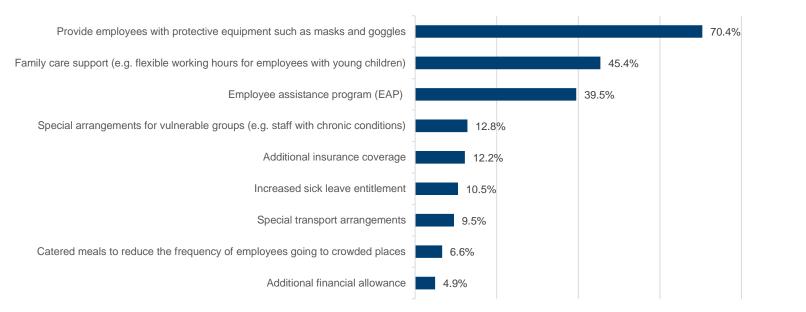
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# **Employee Assistance and Communication**

# **Employee Assistance and Communication – APAC narrative**

#### **Question:**

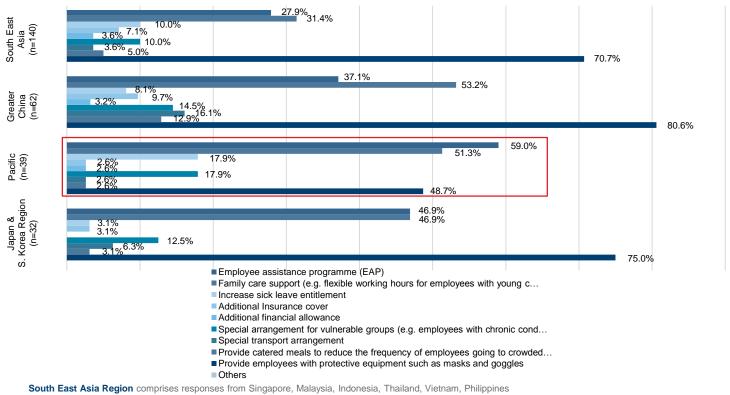
Which of the following employee welfare measures have been adopted by your organisation in light of the COVID-19 pandemic? (*Please select all that apply*)





Responses from 304 Participants

# **Employee Assistance and Communication – Regional Perspectives**



Greater China Region comprises responses from China, Hong Kong and Taiwan Pacific Region comprises responses from Australia and New Zealand



**Instant Insight** 

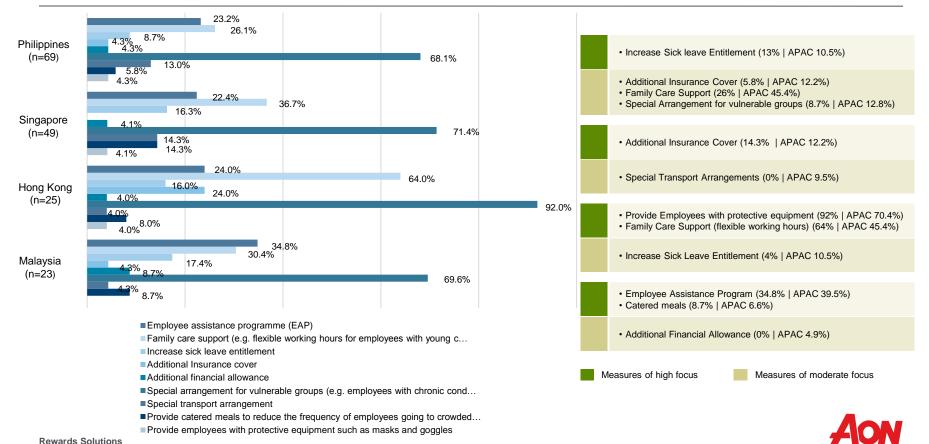
Organisations in Pacific, have proactively instituted EAPs (59% vs. APAC 39.5%) and special arrangements for vulnerable groups (18% vs APAC 12.8%) viz. offering remote working and flexibility.

However, measures such as providing additional Insurance coverage for employees have less prevalence than other APAC regions (2.6% vs APAC 12.2%).





### Employee Assistance and Communication – Location Specific Perspectives



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# **Employee Assistance and Communication – Differentiated Practices**

### **Question:**

# Which of the following employee welfare measures have been adopted by your organisation in light of the COVID-19 pandemic (*Please select all that apply*)

Following differentiated measures have been reported by organisations

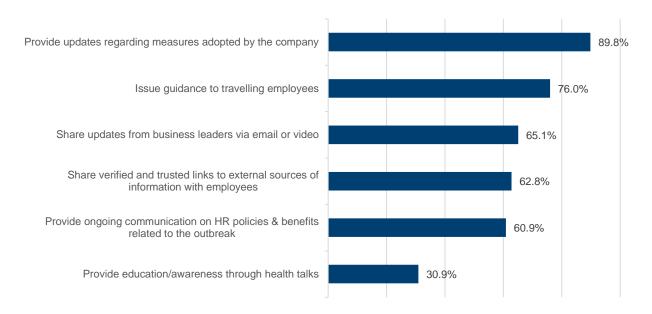
- Two organisations in SEA have offered their employees free offered them Vitamin packs to help them focus on their health
- A Financial Services organisation has started sharing food coupon e-vouchers with employees to order their lunch at home
- A pharmaceutical organisation has activated a suspension of field coverage for the hospitals with confirmed cases
- A SEA based organisation has offered a 'Daily allowance' to employees who are put on Quarantine Order, Leave of Absence and Stay-Home Notice
- A Hongkong and Taiwan based Technology organisation has offered Paid leave for employees who have children below the age of 12
- One organisation has reported that its Insurance companies have simplified the claims process and provided customer service hotlines for assistance if needed
- A SEA-based Educational institution has issued oral digital thermometers to staff
- An Australian Financial Services firm has offered a provision of "Special Leave" for employees that are required to selfisolate, and continued payment to casuals & some contractors not eligible for sick leave that are required to self-isolate (with medical certificate)



# Employee Assistance and Communication (Cont.)

### **Question:**

How is employee communication related to the COVID-19 pandemic being managed in your organisation? (*Please select all that apply*)





#### **Instant Insight**

Organisations share Information via dedicated COVID-19 webpage. FAQs, current status, links to Government issued communication have been hosted.

Social mobile applications and tools have been used by multiple organisation to share information with employees.





Number of Responses = 304

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### Navigating the Impact of COVID-19 on Workplace and Rewards Practices

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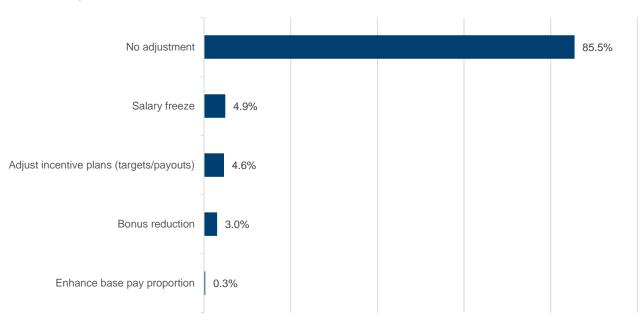
# **Changes to Compensation and Hiring Plans**



# Changes to Compensation – APAC narrative

### **Question:**

Is your organisation considering ways to compensate employees differently in light of the COVID-19 pandemic? (*Please select all that apply*)



Number of Responses = 304

15

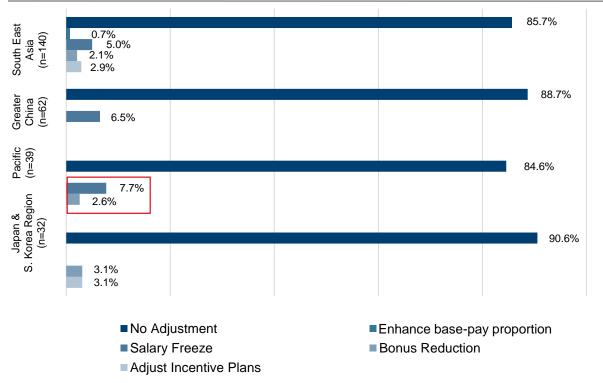


Instant Insight Cautious outlook. Yet.

most organisations (85.5%) have reported to continue with the planned salary increases

and bonus payouts.

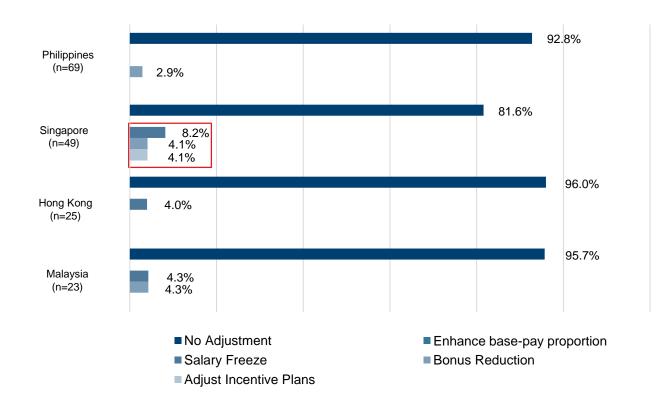
## **Changes to Compensation – Regional Perspectives**



**Instant Insight** Organisations in Pacific have adopted a cautious approach towards employee compensation actively considering salary freezes and bonus reduction.

#### South East Asia Region comprises responses from Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines Greater China Region comprises responses from China, Hong Kong and Taiwan Pacific Region comprises responses from Australia and New Zealand

# Changes to Compensation – Location Specific Perspectives





Organisations in Singapore have adopted a cautious approach to employee compensation. Greater proportion of organisations have reported compensation reviews compared to other locations.

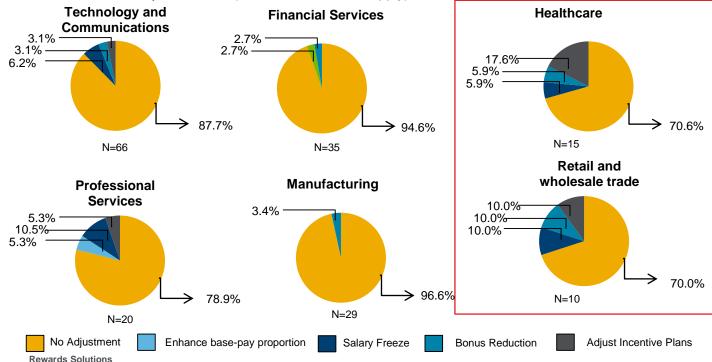




# Changes to Compensation – Industry Insights

### **Question:**

Is your organisation considering ways to compensate employees differently in light of the COVID-19 pandemic? (*Please select all that apply*)



Instant Insight Organisations in Healthcare, Retail & wholesale trade and Professional Services sectors have adopted a relatively cautious approach (compared

to other sectors) to

and have reported

Salary freezes and

employee compensation

muted bonus payouts.

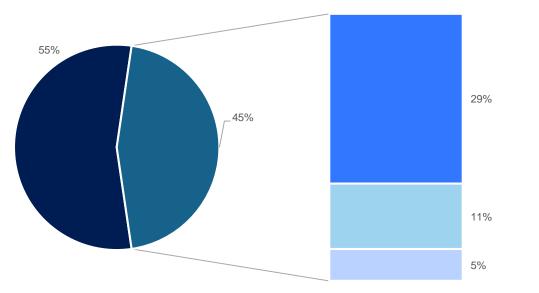


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## Impact on Hiring Plans – APAC narrative

#### **Question:**

### How do you expect the COVID-19 pandemic to impact workforce planning?



- No impact forseen
- Cautious approach to future hiring
- Hiring freeze
- Potential downsizing



#### **Instant Insight**

45% respondent organisations are closely reviewing their workforce plans.

29% respondent have reported to adopt a cautious approach to hiring.



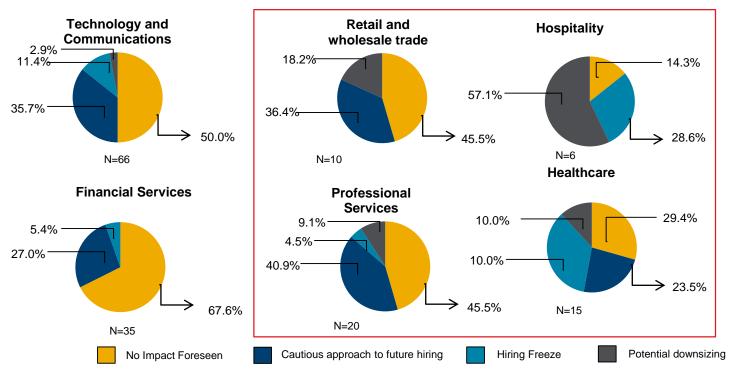


Number of Responses = 304

# Impact on Hiring Plans – Industry Insight

### **Question:**

How do you expect the COVID-19 pandemic to impact workforce planning?





Instant Insight While a 'Cautious approach to Hiring' is

approach to Hiring' is being adopted across sectors, Hospitality and Healthcare may be impacted by 'Hiring Freeze' and 'Downsizing'.





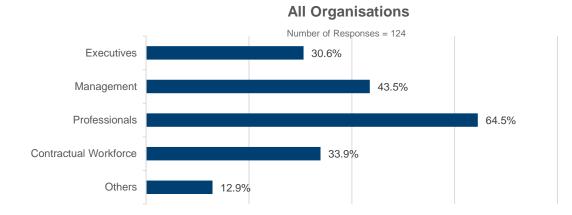
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# Impact on Employee Groups – APAC narrative

#### Question:

In case of the above measures, which group of employees would most likely be impacted?





### Instant Insight

Contractual Workforce and Professionals are expected to be most impacted by change in workforce plan.



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### **Industry-Specific**

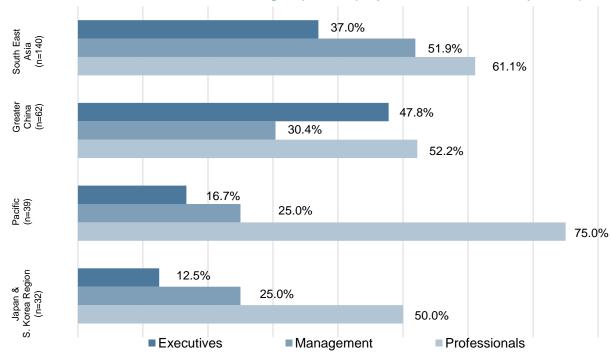


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# Impact on Employee Groups – Regional Perspective



In case of the above measures, which group of employees would most likely be impacted?





#### **Instant Insight**

Impact on workforce planning measures is reported to be spread across employee groups (Executives, Management and professionals) in Greater China South East Asia.



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 South East Asia Region comprises responses from Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines

 Greater China Region comprises responses from China, Hong Kong and Taiwan

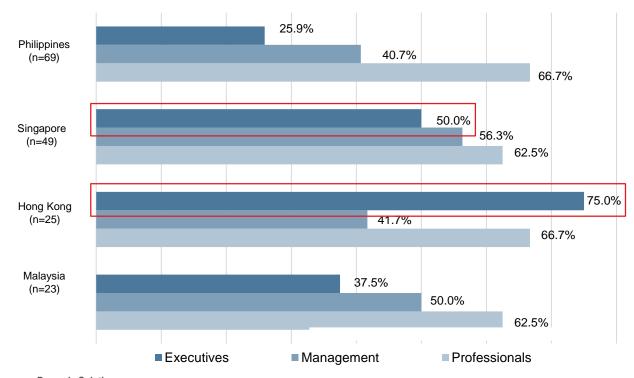
 Pacific Region comprises responses from Australia and New Zealand
 22



# Impact on Employee Groups – Location Specific Perspectives

#### **Question:**

In case of the above measures, which group of employees would most likely be impacted?





#### Instant Insight

Singapore and Hong Kong based organisations have reported a greater impact on Executives compared to organisations in other locations.

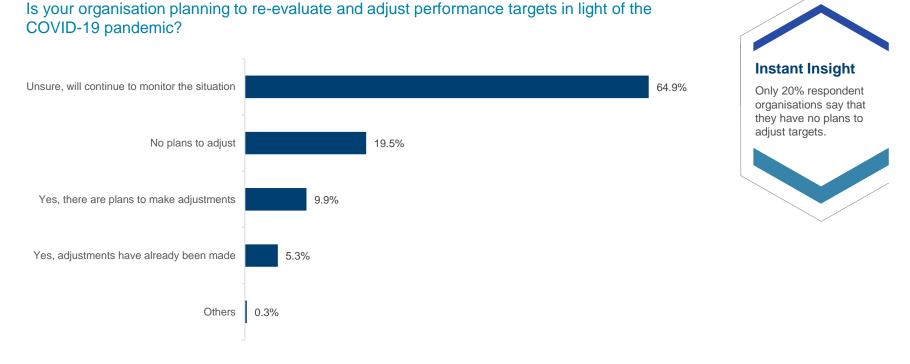




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## Changes to Performance Targets – APAC narrative

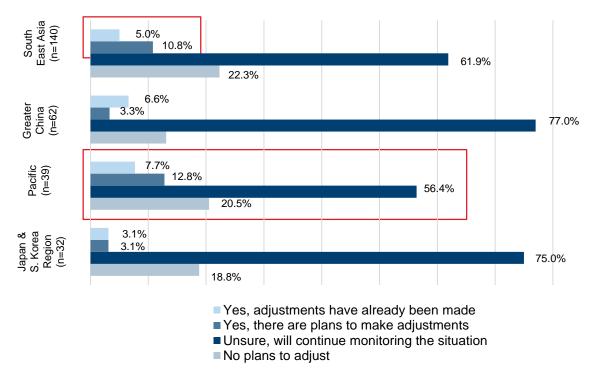


Number of Responses = 304

Question:



### Changes to Performance Targets – Regional Perspective



South East Asia Region comprises responses from Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines Greater China Region comprises responses from China, Hong Kong and Taiwan Pacific Region comprises responses from Australia and New Zealand

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Instant Insight

organisations have reported adjustments /

performance target.

In Greater China, Japan

& South Korea Regions, a relatively higher proportion

of organisations continue

planning to making target

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to monitor the situation

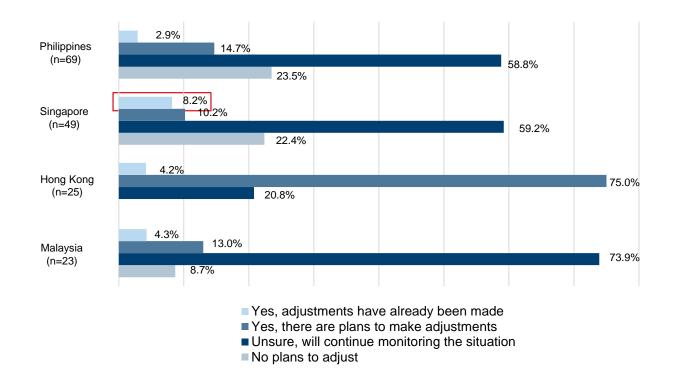
before committing to /

plan to adjust

adjustments.

SEA and Pacific based

### Changes to Performance Targets – Location Specific Perspectives





Instant Insight

Singapore reports a higher proportion of organisations which have already mage adjustments to performance targets.

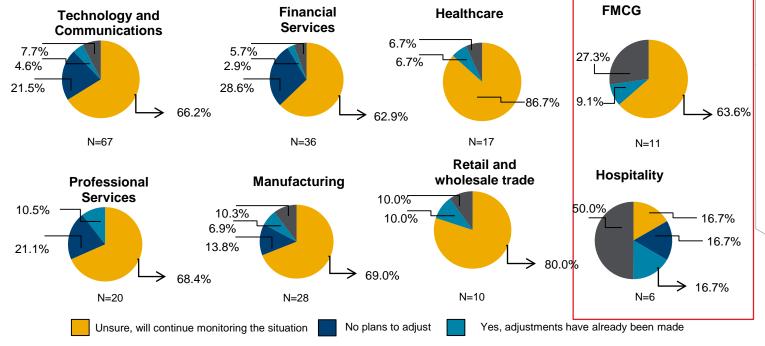




## Changes to Performance Targets – Industry Insights

### **Question:**

Is your organisation considering ways to compensate employees differently in light of the COVID-19 pandemic? (*Please select all that apply*)



#### Instant Insight

FMCG and Hospitality are sectors where a greater proportion of organisations have reported adjustments / plans for adjustments of performance targets.

Most companies in other sectors continue to monitor the situation closely.





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### Navigating the Impact of COVID-19 on Workplace and Rewards Practices

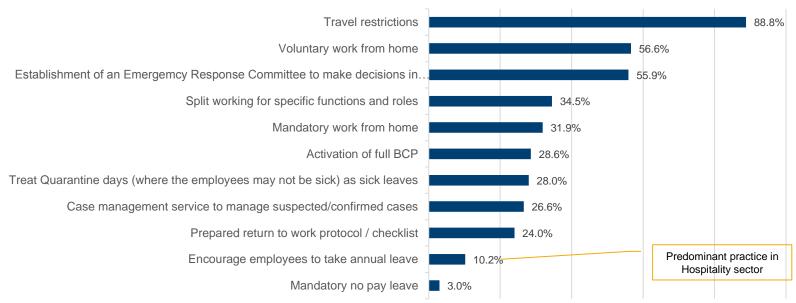
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# **Workforce Safety Measures**

### Workforce Safety Measures

#### **Question:**

Which of the following control measures have been adopted by your organisation in the context of the recent COVID-19 pandemic? (*Please select all that apply*)

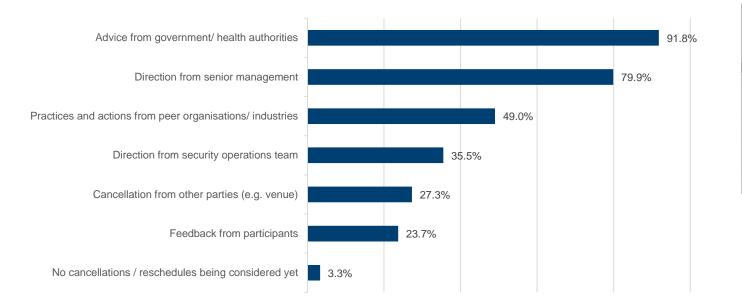


Number of Responses = 304

### **Control Measures**

### **Question:**

### What are the considerations when deciding whether to cancel/ postpone and event?





### Instant Insight

The decision on whether to cancel an even is somewhat reactive where most employers depends on advices and instructions from health organisations and company management.



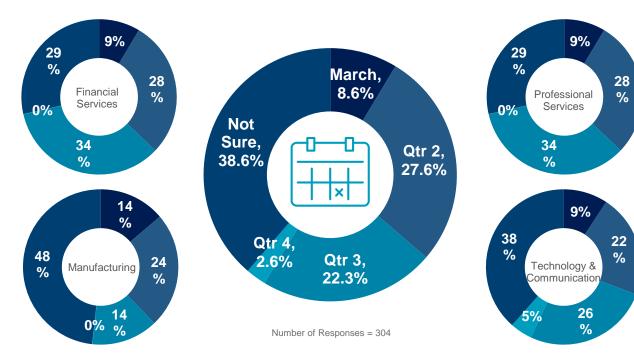


Number of Responses = 304

### Workforce Safety Measures

### **Question:**

When do you estimate your organisation will resume normal operations?





#### Instant Insight

Most companies do not expect to resume normal operations until the second half of the year.

The uncertainty in resuming normal operation is most significant in the manufacturing industry.





## Workforce Safety Measures (Cont.)

#### (Please select all that apply) 20.2% 23.8% Employee has traveled to COVID-19 affected regions 19.1% 21.8% Employee showing symptoms of sickness 14.6% 18.0% Employee family member has traveled to COVID-19 affected regions 14.6% 16.2% Employee with a close family member showing symptoms of sickness 16.1% 10.0% Avoid travelling / commuting to and from work 14.2% 9.1% Functions which may not necessarily be required to be in an office 1.1% - Week ending March 20 1.1% Other ■ Week ending March 13

For which of the following reasons would an employee be required to work from home?



**Extra Insight** 

In the recent week, more number of organisations offered Work From Home to employees to prevent commute to work and have only those functions in office deemed necessary for operations.



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Number of Responses = 304

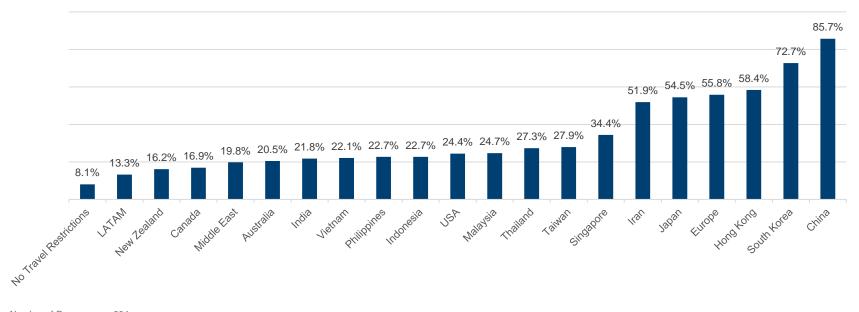
Question:

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### Workforce Safety Measures (Cont.)

**Question:** 

Which locations has your organisation placed travel restrictions on in the context of the recent COVID-19 pandemic? (*Please select all that apply*)





#### Number of Responses = 304

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### Navigating the Impact of COVID-19 on Workplace and Rewards Practices

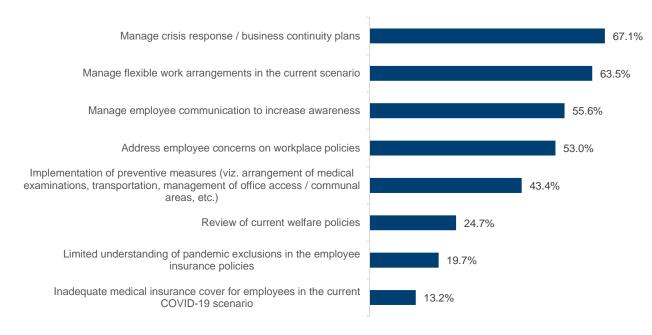
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# **Challenges and Readiness**

## **HR Challenges and Readiness**

**Question:** 

### What are the main challenges faced by HR during the COVID-19 outbreak?





HR departments are focused on minimising disruption to normal operations and providing employees with up-to-date information.

Instant Insight

The fast-moving nature of the crisis has challenged HR departments' ability to perform these operations.



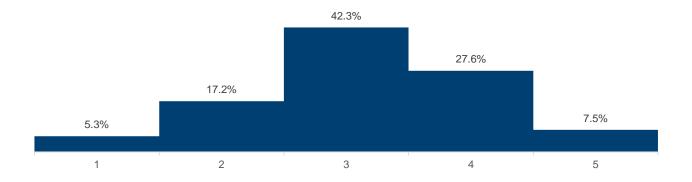


Number of Responses = 304

### **HR Challenges and Readiness**

#### **Question:**

Do you believe that your HR department was adequately trained, equipped and ready to deal with the challenges posed by the COVID-19 outbreak?\* Rate your readiness 1-5 (5 being sufficiently ready to deal with this event)





#### **Instant Insight**

Among the top 5 industries with the most respondents for the survey, respondents in financial services (19%) were the most likely to believe that their HR departments were sufficiently ready (rating = 5) to deal with COVID-19.





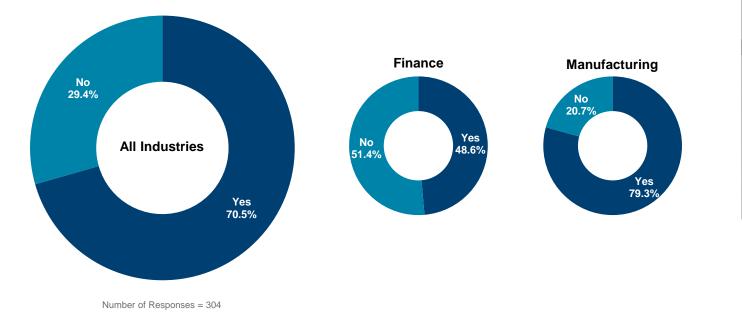
Number of Responses = 304

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### **HR Challenges and Readiness**

#### **Question:**

Has the COVID-19 situation highlighted capability gaps around risk mitigation and / or insurance solutions in the event of a future crisis?





### Instant Insight

Respondents in financial services appear to be split on their satisfaction with their coverage.

However, respondents in manufacturing are most likely to believe that COVID-19 has highlighted gaps in their risk mitigation / insurance solutions.

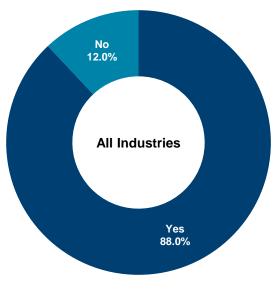




### **HR Challenges and Readiness**

#### **Question:**

Has the COVID-19 situation allowed you to effectively demonstrate the importance of your HR strategies towards mitigating people risk?



Number of Responses = 304



#### **Instant Insight**

While many HR representatives see gaps in their insurance products, nearly 7 in 8 surveyed are satisfied with their strategies to deal with the COVID-19 situation.

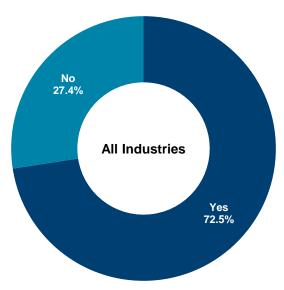




### **HR Challenges and Readiness**

#### **Question:**

Post-COVID-19, do you believe your organisation needs to reassess their Duty of Care obligations to employees?





#### **Instant Insight**

Two-thirds of HR representatives surveyed believe that organisations must reassess their Duty of Care obligations to employees in light of the COVID-19 outbreak.



Number of Responses = 304



### Navigating the Impact of COVID-19 on Workplace and Rewards Practices

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# **Study Participants**

- AAXIS Commerce
- AbbVie GK
- Aberdeen Standard Investments (Asia)
- ABN AMRO Bank N.V.
- Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc.
- AC Energy, Inc.
- Accenture
- Acer
- AGR Operations Manila, Inc.
- Air Products Industrial Gases Pte Ltd
- Align Technology
- Alstom
- Alta Resources
- American Express
- Amorepacific Group
- Anchor Insurance Brokerage
- ANFLOCOR
- Arab Bank Australia Limited
- Arrow Electronics
- ARS Realty
- ASDAS

- Aster DM
- Aten International Co., LTD.
- AUDI SINGAPORE PTE LTD
- Aurecon Australasia Pty. Ltd.
- Autodesk
- AXA

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- Ayala Foundation, Inc.
- B&M Global Services Manila, Inc.
- Bank of the Philippine Islands
- Baxter Healthcare
- BDO
- BIOMIN Singapore Pte Ltd
- BMC Software
- BMES
- Bocimar Hong Kong Limited
- Bose Singapore Pte Ltd
- Boston Scientific
- Boustead Services Pte Ltd
- Boyd & Moore
- BP
- Breadtalk Group Ltd

- Brown-Forman
- ByteDance
- Caben Asia Pacific Ltd.
- Canva
- Catapult Sports
- Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd
- Chanel
- Cheetah Digital
- China Telecom Global Limited
- CHUANG'S CONSORTIUM LTD
- Citi
- Cityneon Holdings
- Classic Fine Foods Phils Inc.
- CLSA
- CNH Industrial Services (Thailand)
- CNQC (South Pacific) Holding Pte Ltd
- Co.op Food
- Covance Asia Pte Ltd
- Cover Genius
- Credit Suisse
- CS-PAC GLOBAL BPO, INC.

- CTCI
- Danaher China
- Danone
- DB Industries
- Deacons
- Deloitte
- DELTA
- Dentsu Aegis Network
- Deputy
- DESTINI OIL SERVICES SDN BHD
- Diversey Philippines
- DLF GLOBAL
- Docusign
- Dolby Japan
- Dragon Capital
- DuPont
- DXC Technology
- Dyson
- Dystar India
- E&V Water and Life Philippines/
- E\*TRADE Information Services, LLC



- Eaton
- Ecolab Korea
- Ecolab Ltd. Taiwan
- Ecolab Philippines Inc.
- EFCC TUNG Fook Church Ltd
- EHS Lens Philippines Inc
- Endace
- EnerSys Reserve Power Pte Ltd
- ENGIE Services Singapore Pte Ltd
- ERM Korea Ltd.
- Essilor Shared Services Philippines Inc
- Euroclear
- Ever Consumer Sales Inc.
- Eximius BPO Services, Inc.
- Exyte Asia-Pacific Holding Ltd
- EY
- Faeyza
- Family Office Exchange
- Fastron Sdn Bhd
- Federal Land Inc.
- FPG Insurance

- Fresenius Medical Care
- Funai Electric Phils., Inc.
- G4S (Hong Kong Holding) Ltd.
- Gartner
- Genesys
- Genpact Services LLC
- GESS

- GI Philippines Corp
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Global Benefits Group Thailand
- Global Payments Process Centre Inc
- GlobalFoundries Singapore Pte Ltd
- Google Operations Center
- Go-VA
- Grab
- Graniterock
- Graymont (Unichamp Mineral Philippines Inc)
  - GSK
  - GSK Consumer Healthcare India
  - GSK Taiwan
- GSK Thailand

- Guiltfree Industries Limited
- Halliburton Worldwide Ltd.
- Hapag-Lloyd Vietnam
- HCF
- Heidelberg Phils. Inc.
- Heidrick & Struggles Singapore Pte Ltd
- Hewlett Packard Enterprise
- Hewlett Packard Enterprise Korea
- Hewlett Packard Enterprise Taiwan Ltd.
- Hilti Asia Ltd
- Hinduja Global Solutions, Ltd.
- Hitachi Cable Philippines Inc.
- Hitachi Consulting Asia Pacific PTe Ltd
- Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications
- Hong Kong Television Network Limited
- Hospitality Resources Inc/The Reef Island Resort
- HP Inc.
- HTC
- IBM
- IBM Korea
- ICTSI

- IHS Markit
- Illumina
- Indeed

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- Infineon Technologies Taiwan Co., Ltd.
- Institutional Shareholder Services, Inc.
  - Integrated Computer Systems, Inc.
- Interflour Group Pte Ltd
- Investment & Capital corporation of the Phils
- ISS, Inc
- Iyasare
- Jebsen & Jessen Business Services (M) Sdn Bhd
- JG Summit Holdings, Inc.
- JLL
- Johnson & Johnson
- JT International Thailand Ltd.
- Julies Franchising Corporation
- Juniper Networks
- Kentop(THAILAND)Ltd
- KGI Securities (Singapore) Pte Ltd
- Kimberly Clark Philippines
- Kimberly Clark Vietnam

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- Klook Travel Technology
- Kuok Group
- Lam Research
- Lazada
- Li & Fung (Trading) Limited
- Lime Technology Pte Ltd
- Linfox International
- LioHo Machinery
- Liteon
- Lookwell Philippines Corporation
- LSEGH, Inc.
- Lumileds Malaysia Sdn Bhd
- Lyreco
- M&G Investments
- M1 Limited
- Manhattan Associates
- Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd
- Mattel Asia Pacific Sourcing Limited
- Maxim Integrated
- Maxis
- Medochemie

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- Meinhardt (HK) Ltd
- Mercedes-Benz Taiwan
- Merck Sharp & Dohme
- Mesoblast
- MINDS
- MNF Group
- Mondelez Sales Malaysia Sdn Bhd
- Mondelez Vietnam
- MSD China
- Mylan Australia
- Navig8 Group
- NCR Asia Pacific
- NEC Corporation
- New Development Bank
- Nib nz limited
- Nokia Taiwan

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- Nomura International Hong Kong Limited
- Northern Trust
- Novartis Heatlhcare Philippines
- Novartis Singapore Pte Ltd
- Novo Nordisk

- NTT DATA Business Solutions APAC
- NTUC Enterprise
- NuWorks Interactive Labs Inc.
- OCBC Bank
- Offensive Security Certifications Inc
- ON Semiconductor
- Ontic Engr & Mfgr Asia-Pacific Pte Ltd.
- OPTODEV INC
- Optus
- Ortho Clinical Diagnostics
- Oshkosh Commercial (Beijing) Co., Ltd
- OVS Hong Kong Sourcing Limited
- Pave
- Pavilion Energy
- Payoneer
- Perkinelmer
- Philippine Airlines
- PHILIPPINE TELEGRAPH & TELEPHONE CORPORATION
- Philips
- Philips Electronics Hong Kong Ltd
- Phocas

- PHPC Co., Ltd. Inc.
- Pivotal Software Australia
- PT Ecart Webportal Indonesia (Lazada Indonesia)
- Pure International (HK) Limited
- Qube Research & Technologies HK Ltd
  - Rakon Limited
- Razer
- RB Malaysia Health
- Red Hat
  - REERACOEN BPO INC
- Rest Super
- RFM

- Ricoh Australia
- Rockwell Collins (Shanghai) Avionics Trading Company Ltd.
- Rotagilla
- S&P Global
- Salesforce
- Sanofi
- SAP
- SAP (Australia and New Zealand)
- Sauwat Strategy



- Saxo Capital Markets Pte Ltd
- School of the Arts
- Scoot Tigerair Pte Ltd
- Servier Philippines, Inc.
- Shatin Baptist Church
- Shionogi (S) Pte Ltd
- Sicuro Group
- Siemens Healthineers Korea
- Siliconware Precision Industries Co., Ltd.
- Silverpeople
- Simpleshow
- Singapore International Foundation
- SMART MODULAR TECHNOLOGIES . SDN BHD -
- Smit Singapore Pte Ltd .
- Solvay .
- Sony Electronics Asia Pacific Pte Ltd
- Sophos Computer Security Pte. Ltd.
- Straightarrow Corporation
- SUNeVision Holdings Ltd
- Swiggy
- Symmetry Medical Malaysia Sdn Bhd

- T&T Salvage Asia Pte Ltd
- Taisho pharmaceuticals philippines inc .
- TCBALL Beverage Can VN ltd .
- TeleChoice International Limited .
- Teleflex Korea
- TenX
  - The BellaVista Hotel
- The fullerton hotel .
  - The Hong Kong Philharmonic Society
  - **TMF** Philippines
- TPV .

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- Transitions Optical Philippines, Inc.
- TRI-AD, Inc.
- TSRC
- Uber
- Ubiquity Global Services
- UBS
- UGS America Sales. Inc.
- Varian Medical Systems Pacific Inc
- Vocus Group
- Wall Street Courier Services Inc.

- Wallem Shipping Singapore Pte Ltd
- Wells Fargo
- Whitney Su
- Wolverine World Wide HK Limited .
- Workplace options asia .
- WorldRemit Service Centre Ltd. .
- **Xylem Water Solutions**
- Zebra Technologies Asia Pacific Pte Ltd .
- 3M Korea
- 5th Leg .

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### Navigating the Impact of COVID-19 on Workplace and Rewards Practices

**APAC Edition** 

# **Additional Information**

### **Contact Our Team**

If you have questions about this study, or want to speak to a member of our team about developing new workplace and rewards practices in response to COVID-19, please contact our study leaders below:

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### **Additional Aon Resources**

To learn more about Aon's complete set of COVID-19 resources and insights, including information on business continuity, communications, cyber security, healthcare, insurance, risk management and supply chain issues, among others, please visit: https://www.aon.com/event-response/coronavirus.aspx

We encourage all clients to bookmark Aon's COVID-19 response site to stay connected to our latest insights on addressing this pandemic at an enterprise-wide level.



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