



AFP Annual Conference: Onsite Survey—2011 Results

AFP surveyed attendees to the 8:30am Monday November 7th sessions about their views on the U.S. being a destination for capital investment and hiring in the current environment. The survey generated 1,205 responses.

1. Compared to 12 months ago, has your company’s payroll expanded, remained the same or contracted? Do you anticipate your company’s payroll will expand, remain the same or contract over the next 12 months?

	Expand	Remain the same	Contract
Change from 12 months ago	47%	34%	19%
Anticipated change over next 12 months	44%	39%	17%

2. Compared to 12 months ago, has your company increased, maintained or slowed its pace of capital investment? Do you anticipate your company will increase, maintain or slow its current pace of capital investment over the next 12 months?

	Increase	Maintain	Slow
Change from 12 months ago	45%	42%	13%
Anticipated change over next 12 months	44%	45%	11%

3. Given business conditions, budget debates in Washington, the regulatory environment and other factors, how has the attractiveness of the U.S. as a destination to invest for growth (e.g., hiring, capital investments, acquisitions) changed over the past 12 months? Past 36 months?

	More attractive	About the same	Less attractive
Change from 12 months ago	11%	63%	26%
Change from 36 months ago	14%	48%	38%

4. 81 percent of AN11 attendees identified at least one reason that is keeping their organization from making investments that would be geared towards domestic expansion (e.g., hiring, capital investments). These factors were:

38% Aversion to risk given current environment	16% Job market weakness
35% Weak consumer demand	15% Access to credit
29% Uncertainty/extent of business regulations	15% Uncertainty about future corporate tax policy
29% Future regulatory uncertainty	14% Cost/inability to repatriate foreign earnings back to the home country
26% Current regulatory burden	6% Uncertainty about future personal tax policy
18% Rising/uncertain future health care costs	

5. Given current economic conditions and the state of the job market, should policymakers in Washington implement additional fiscal stimulus or would a focus on deficit reduction provide a greater boost to long-term economic prospects?

21% Given the state of the economy and of the job market, additional fiscal stimulus is necessary

37% Additional fiscal stimulus is not necessary. However, the recovery remains too fragile to consider taking deficit reduction steps (e.g., raising tax receipts, cutting expenditures)

42% The state of economy and the size of the federal debt make deficit reduction the key priority