

# FROM CRISIS TO RECOVERY

Treasury's Response to COVID-19

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SVP Paymode-X Strategy & Product, Bottomline



### WHAT.

A review of findings from the latest Global Recovery Monitor survey



#### WHEN.

Tuesday, August 11, 2020 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT



### WHERE.

Live Online Presentation Replays at StrategicTreasurer.com



















# **SPEAKERS**

### GET TO KNOW TODAY'S SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS



**JUSTIN BRIMFIELD Chief Marketing** Officer





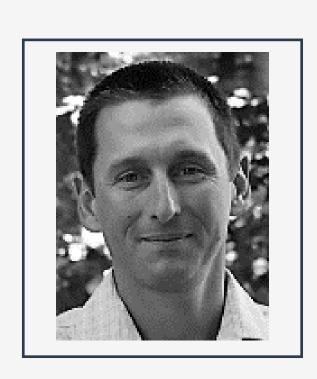
**TONY CARFANG** Managing Director





**CRAIG JEFFERY** Managing Partner





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# MEET THE TREASURY COALITION MEMBERS

# COLLABORATIVE EFFORT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE TREASURY INDUSTRY FROM LEADING TREASURY SOLUTION PROVIDERS

When a global challenge or crisis confronts us or our profession, we want to push back and join forces. The Treasury Coalition is a group of treasury organizations who want to assist the industry in understanding what is going on and how others are viewing the situation.

We want to help find ways of gathering data and sharing insights that aid our companies, our profession and the economic environment in rebounding effectively.

As the COVID-19 virus continued to spread and impact more countries with greater severity, Strategic Treasurer, a treasury consulting and research firm, decided to form the Treasury Coalition by inviting other treasury-focused organizations to join them.

Even in the midst of responding to rapidly changing events, two organizations joined within 24 hours of being invited. Others followed suit over the next few days. More have been added in subsequent weeks. If you are a solution provider and want to join forces, please let us know.

The intent is to share several things together, namely:

- Distribute the offer to take the survey broadly across all geographies by leveraging our client networks.
- Share the insights to the industry at large and to particular groups.

As always, we welcome your ideas.













































# **GLOBAL RECOVERY MONITOR**

# IMMEDIATE AND ONGOING SURVEY OF THE IMPACT OF AND RESPONSE TO SIGNIFICANT GLOBALLY DISRUPTIVE EVENTS

Everyone loves dissecting an event after the fact: Seeing the start and then escalation of an event, watching awareness grow, seeing responses and reaching the inflection point. Then we note how the economy, company or global business environment recovers to a state of normalcy and then, perhaps, to accelerate out of the crisis or problem.

The finance profession generally and treasury specifically are a reasoning, pragmatic and unemotional bunch. They like to know facts, understand risks and communicate clearly. They are not distracted too easily by loud noises or major shifts. Nonetheless, from time to time there are events or disruptions that leave the profession wanting more information and seeing insights from a large number of their peers - and they want those insights and data quickly.

Hindsight is often closer to 20/20, but it arrives too late, like the response of 'watch your head' after you have bumped on the overhead bin. We think that it would be far more helpful to see what others are doing, learning and thinking more rapidly, to get closer to real-time when mid-course adjustments are in order, or simply to know that you are following what many leaders are doing for good reason.

The intent of this Treasury Coalition survey, the Global Recovery Monitor, is to provide rapid exploration and responsive reporting on major factors impacting the profession in collaboration with other leading treasury organizations. The coalition aspect is designed to find common points of concern, with multiple leading treasury organizations leveraging their networks to ensure the most rapid and comprehensive results for the good of the profession.

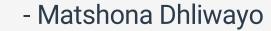
We believe that having information and insights sooner is better than later. As

we gain insights over multiple events, we may as an industry gain better leading indicators that let us know when to expect the inflection point and a return to normalcy.

Our thanks to you, the reader and the respondent to these frequent minisurveys, which allow us to monitor the situation together and respond in a more prepared manner. You help yourself, your company and the industry. We appreciate the teamwork.

Organizational survey response details remain strictly confidential and are not shared or used for any other purpose than the survey itself.

"When all seems to be against you, remember, a ship sometimes has to sail against the current, not with it."







# A GLOBAL RESPONSE

### A UNIQUE PULSE ON THE PANDEMIC OVER THE 13 PERIODS OF RESPONSES

Without a doubt, this pandemic has touched all corners of the globe and spared no industry. GCM/GRM respondents are a diverse group of corporate and financial industry professionals from medium to large firms in every category of business. On behalf of Treasury Coalition members and all who have benefited from the data of this survey, thank you to the respondents for taking the time to share your 1,500+ insights so the profession can take positive and knowledgeable steps forward.

1,500+
Responses

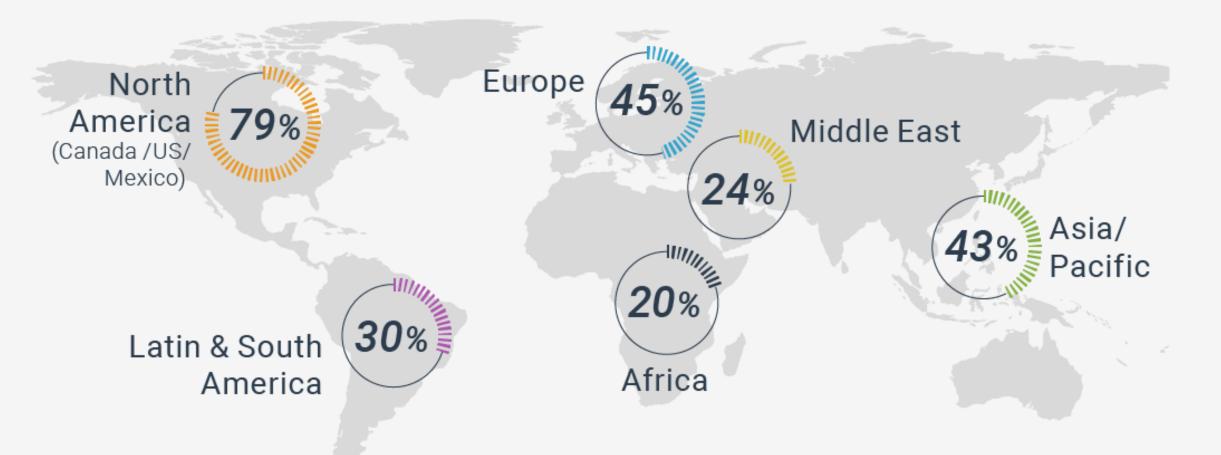


**59%**From Companies with

Annual Revenue of \$500MM or More



### **Regions of Operation**



# HOW HAS COVID-19 IMPACTED TREASURY?

### SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE SHIFT WITH HEALTH AND ECONOMY

Company outlook on liquidity position and three of the four major sentiment factors continued their positive ways again. Accounts Receivable expanded their negative period-over-period liquidity concern lead. The company-specific financial return to normalcy dropped back to 11 months, and the broader economic outlook's equilibrium extended significantly to 7.5 months. Monitoring sentiment across multiple economic measurements indicates continued cross-currents with a notable negative shift this period.



#### **INFLECTION POINT PESSIMISM**

This period provided the most negative view of the inflection point at 5 months, more than double the next worst results during the 20 weeks of the Monitor.



## HEALTH SERIOUSNESS AND FINANCIAL NORMALCY EXTEND

The timeframe where the 'median' respondent believes COVID-19 will stop being a serious health concern and when we reach financial normalcy deteriorate to June/July 2021.



## **GRINDING THE GEARS.**8 PERIOD STREAK ENDS

Company specific liquidity positivity ended an eight-period streak. You can see other negative aspects of company, industry and overall economic impact throughout the results.



#### **INDUSTRY REVENUE FOR Q4**

Estimated revenue by respondent industry for Q4 deteriorated by 14 points, growing to 40% seeing a contraction in that quarter. This moved Q4 from slightly positive to notably negative from the prior period.



#### **FOUR-WEEK CYCLE**

The Monitor completed its first four-week cycle and 20 weeks of monitoring. The Monitor's periods were weekly for 8 weeks, bi-weekly for 8 more weeks and now monthly (4 weeks). Take it once a month now.



#### WFH ISSUES: NEVER-ENDING WORK

Never-ending work mindset impacts the majority of respondents this period as well. Tech issues declined notably over last period. The negative productivity impact with certain individuals grew most dramatically. Read about overall communication effectiveness.



#### FORCED RANK CONCERNS - THE "FIRST FIRST"

Access to Adequate Liquidity fell from the top spot to #4 in this period. Staff Safety Protocols and Direct Financial Impact tied for the top spot. This is the first time Staff Safety has hit first place.



#### DRAMATIC AR DETERIORATION

AR and Fiscal Policy actions are the two negative liquidity concerns.

# **TOP CONCERNS**

### FORCE RANKING SEVEN AREAS

Most periods we have asked respondents to rank seven areas. Since we measure this over time, the gauges below show how the industry as a whole is adapting to changes on the ground and how that is alleviating

or increasing their concerns relative to the other categories. Survey questions are cycled in and out in order to keep the total questions of the Monitor low enough to be completed in 5 minutes.

Areas of Inquiry	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Period 9	Period 10	Period 11	Period 12	Period 13
Business Continuity Plan Completeness	1st	2nd (tie)	Not Asked	3rd	4th	4th	4th (tie)	5th	6th	6th	6th	6th	6th
Staff Safety Protocols	3rd	4th		6th	6th	5th (tie)	6th	7th	2nd	4th	4th	3rd	1st (tie)
Staff Awareness of Plans	6th (tie)	5th		7th	7th	7th	7th	6th	7th	7th	7th	7th	7th
Country Preparedness	6th (tie)	6th		5th	5th	5th (tie)	4th (tie)	4th	5th	5th	5th	5th	5th
Direct Financial Impact to the Business	2nd	1st		1st (tie)	1st	1st	1st	1st	1st	1st	2nd	1st	1st (tie)
Access to Adequate Liquidity	4th	2nd (tie)		1st (tie)	2nd	2nd	2nd	3rd	3rd (tie)	2nd	1st	4th	3rd
Recession in the Regions We Operate In	5th	7th		4th	3rd	3rd	3rd	2nd	3rd (tie)	3rd	3rd	2nd	4th

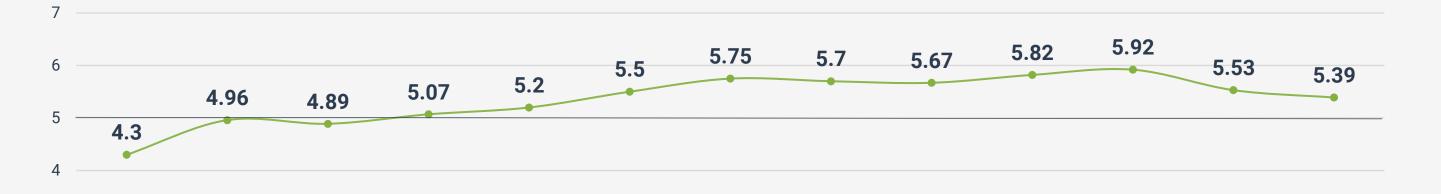
# **PERSPECTIVES**

### WHAT CHANGED IN SENTIMENT **OVER THE PERIODS?**

Vital signs give us a quick indication of what is happening. This chart measures several vital signs in the form of changing perspectives. The perception of responses by organizations and HQ Country have an unblemished track record of consistent improvements over the prior week/period. The line at 5 represents an unchanged view from the prior period. Below the midpoint indicates a deterioration since the prior period. These scores are the average of all respondents on a 1-9 scale.

#### **COMPANY/ORGANIZATION**

Impact of COVID-19 on my company over the past week



#### **COMMUNITY & FAMILY**

Change in my level of concern over impact on my community & family



#### **COUNTRY RESPONSE**

Change in view over prior week of response by my HQ country



#### **COMPANY RESPONSE**

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Change in view over prior week of response by my company



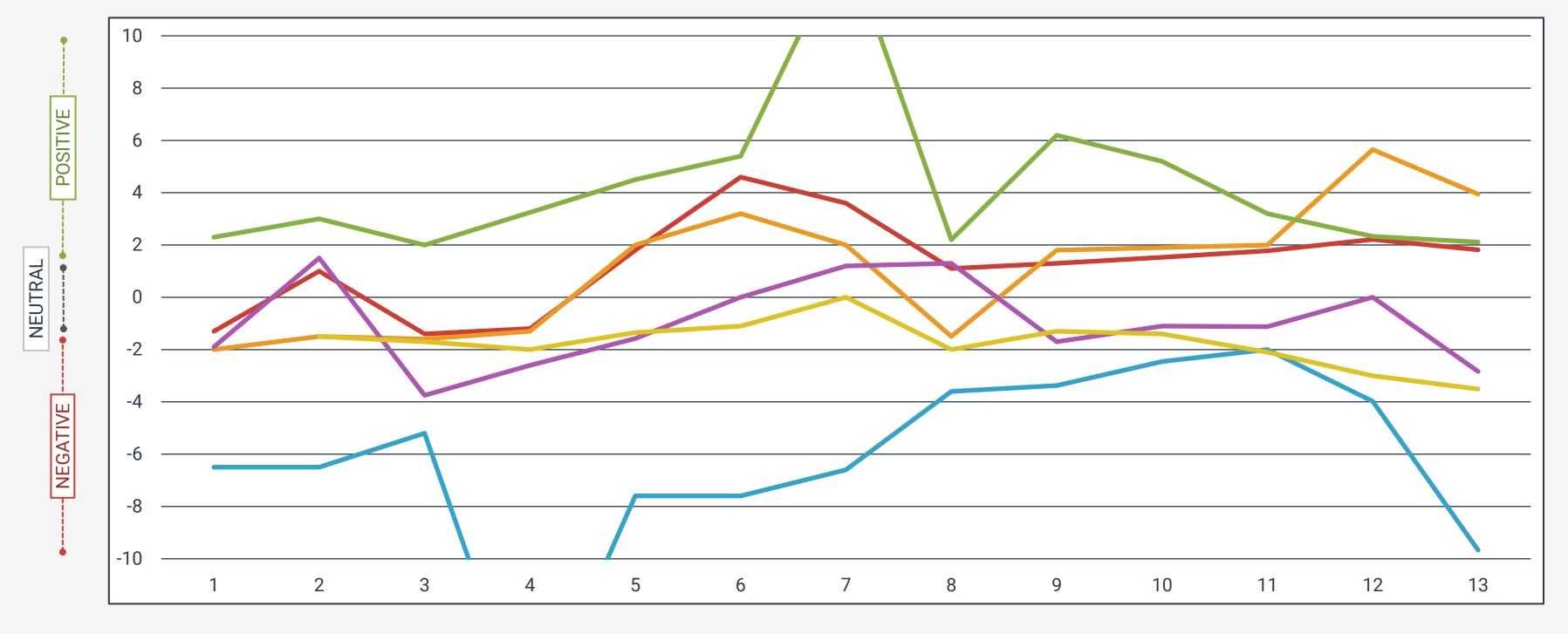
# **DEBT & LIQUIDITY**

### WHAT ACCESS DOES TREASURY HAVE?

Liquidity is vital and cash is the king. In times of disruption and crisis, much attention is paid to the royals. This graphic measures a select handful of elements that add to or detract from an organization's liquidity. We monitor this on a period-over-period basis.

For 10 periods (12 weeks), AR was the most negative of all categories on a periodover-period basis. Period 11 saw Fiscal Policy issues showing a more negative viewpoint, unseating the leader in negativity! In period 12, AR retook the lead and extended that lead in period 13.

Understanding the chart: The teardrop style chart has been replaced with this smoothed line chart to increase the comprehensibility as we continue to add more Monitor periods to the results.



**ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE** 

**BANK LINE OF CREDIT** or Revolver

**CENTRAL BANK LIQUIDITY Provisions for Banks** 

**COVENANT REQUIREMENTS** & Material Adverse Conditions

**COMMERCIAL PAPER** 

Issuance

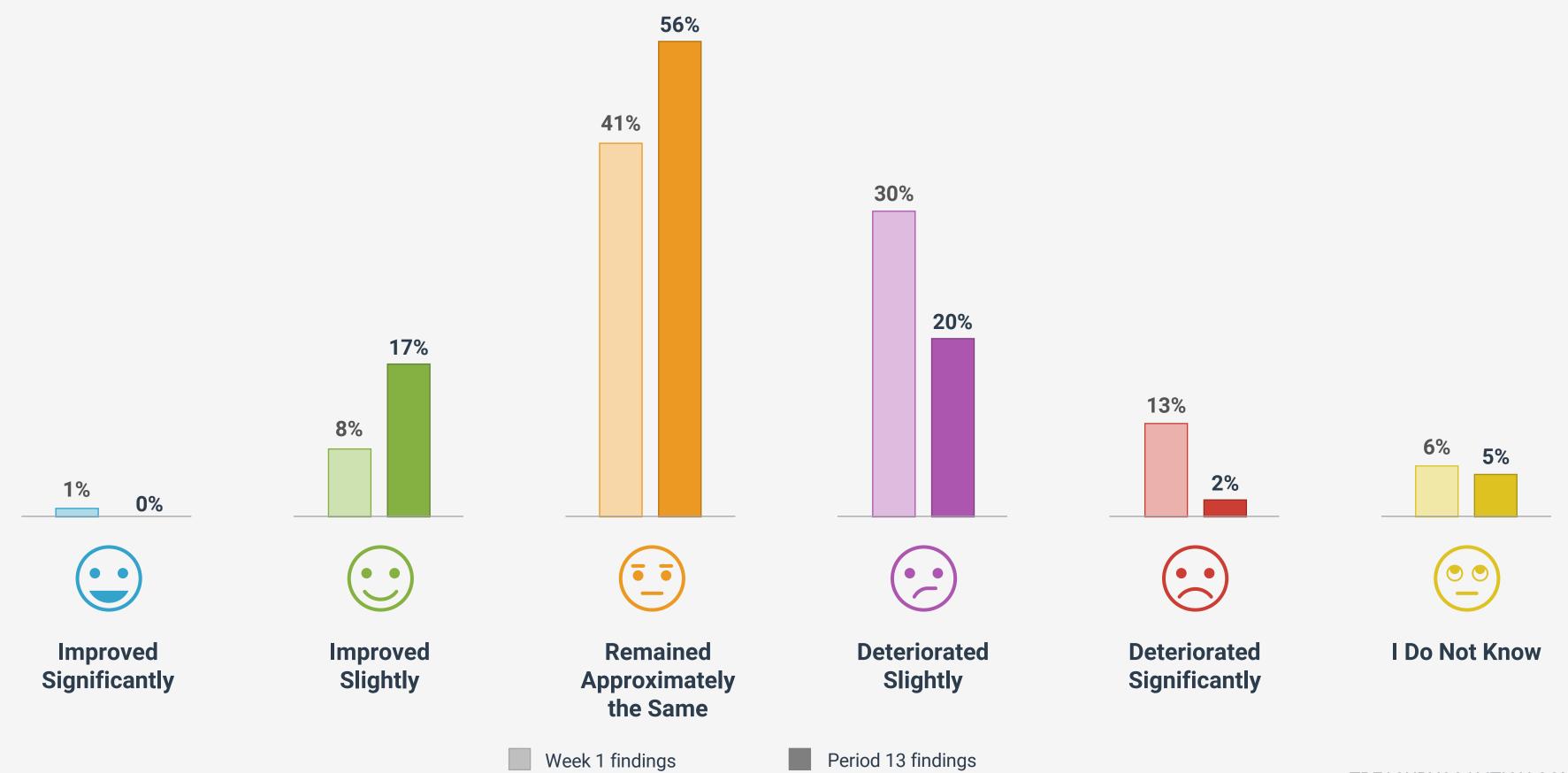
**FISCAL POLICY** 

Government fiscal activities

# **FUTURE LIQUIDITY**

### CHANGES IN OUTLOOK FROM WEEK ONE TO PERIOD THIRTEEN

QUESTION: Over the past week, I feel that my organization's outlook for our future liquidity position has:



# TIMING ESTIMATES

#### FINANCIAL NORMALCY IN JULY 2021

These three graphics represent key milestones in the recovery and return to normal times medically and financially. We believe it useful to see others' expectations on the timing of these milestone events for the current disruption. We also expect this may help gauge the level of

pessimism or optimism of treasury/finance professionals and assist us even more with future events as we understand any collective bias.

The inflection point jumped to 5 months, which is the longest yet seen. COVID-19 remaining as a significant health issue reverted to 11 months, and the expectation of a return to financial normalcy popped back to 11, indicating the average expectation of June/July 2021 for a return to financial normalcy.

The rectangles below represent the proportionate amount of responses in each time domain. The tear drops represent the median response from all respondents. The numbers indicate the period of the Monitor.

#### **INFLECTION POINT**

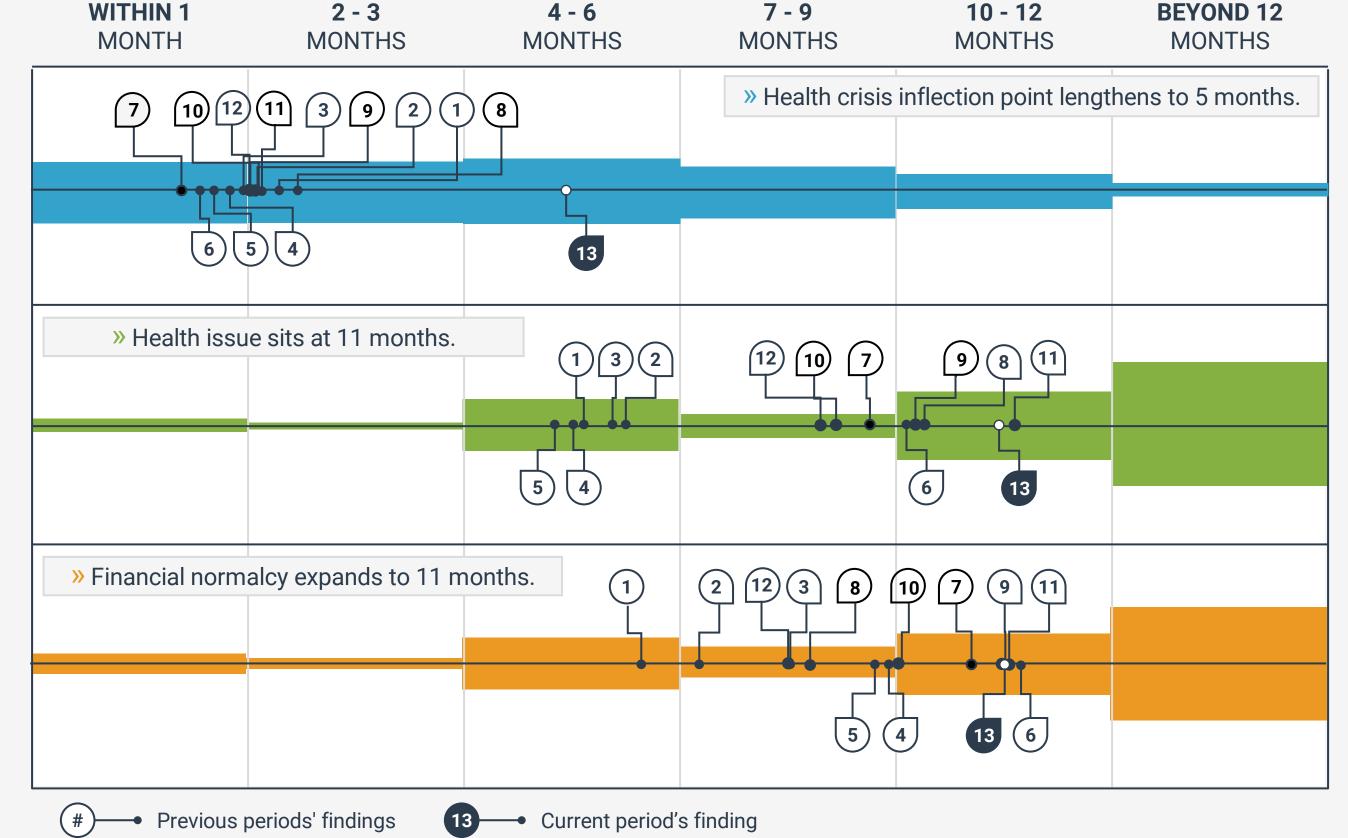
Expected point when the impact of the virus begins to diminish

#### **END OF HEALTH ISSUE**

When the virus is deemed to no longer be a significant health issue

#### **FINANCIAL NORMALCY**

When business returns to the state it was prior to COVID-19



# **ECONOMIC VIEWS**

### **ECONOMIC EQUILIBRIUM: 7.5 MONTHS**

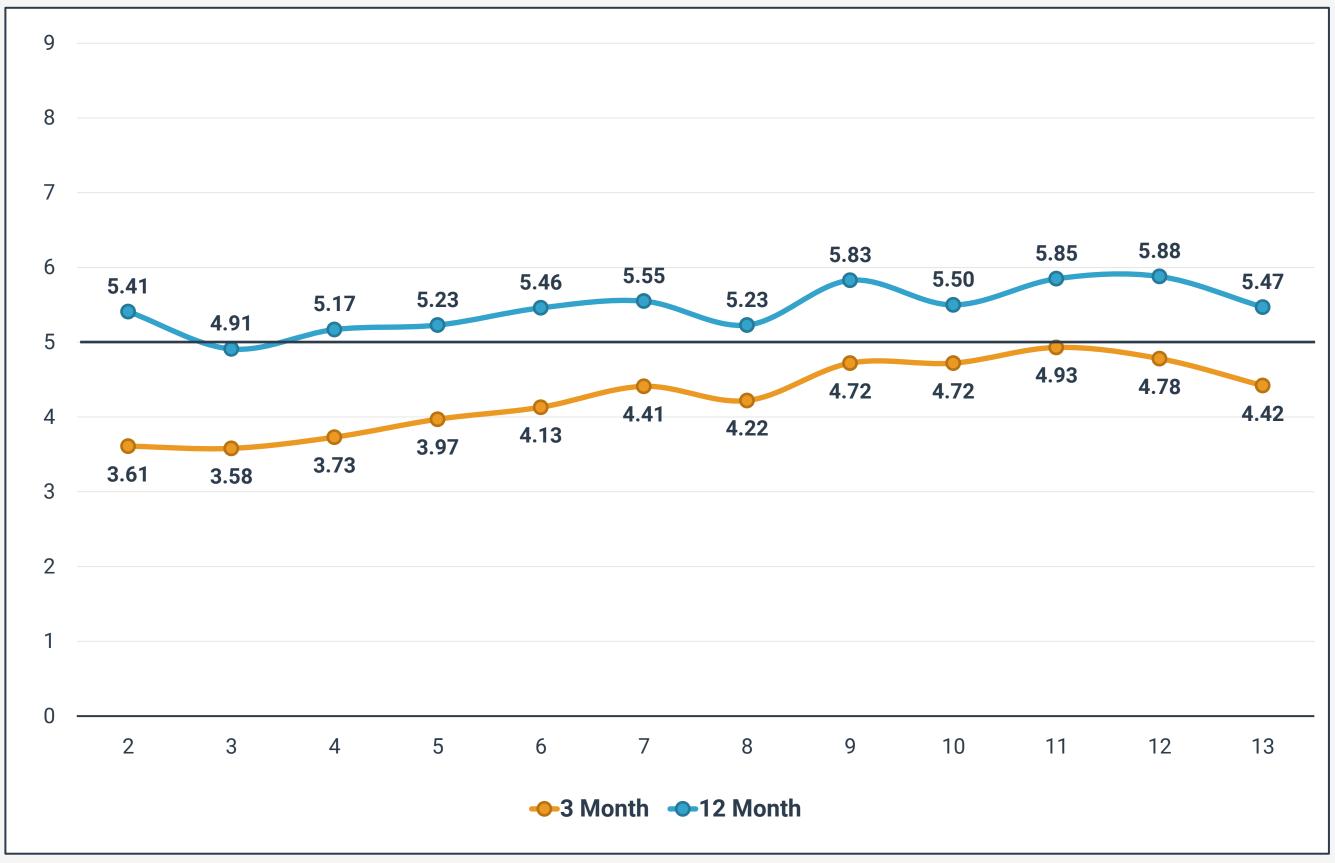
This graphic shows the perspectives on the overall economy across two time domains: 3 and 12 months. We have shifted the modeling from the barbell style graphs to one that better captures the time-element of these shifts. A '5' represents a neutral view. Below 5 is pessimistic.

The rectangles represent the outlook on the economy, and their size and number reflect the proportion of the views for each time domain. The blue indicates the 12month outlook, while the orange shows the view out 3 months.

### **ECONOMIC TURNING POINT PUSHED BACK**

The outlooks for economic status in the 3-month and 12month time domains moved in a decidedly negative direction this period.

Extrapolating from these numbers, we see the expectation that the economy achieves 'normal' status in about seven and a half months, indicating we should reach equilibrium during March 2021. This represents a 3-month extension.

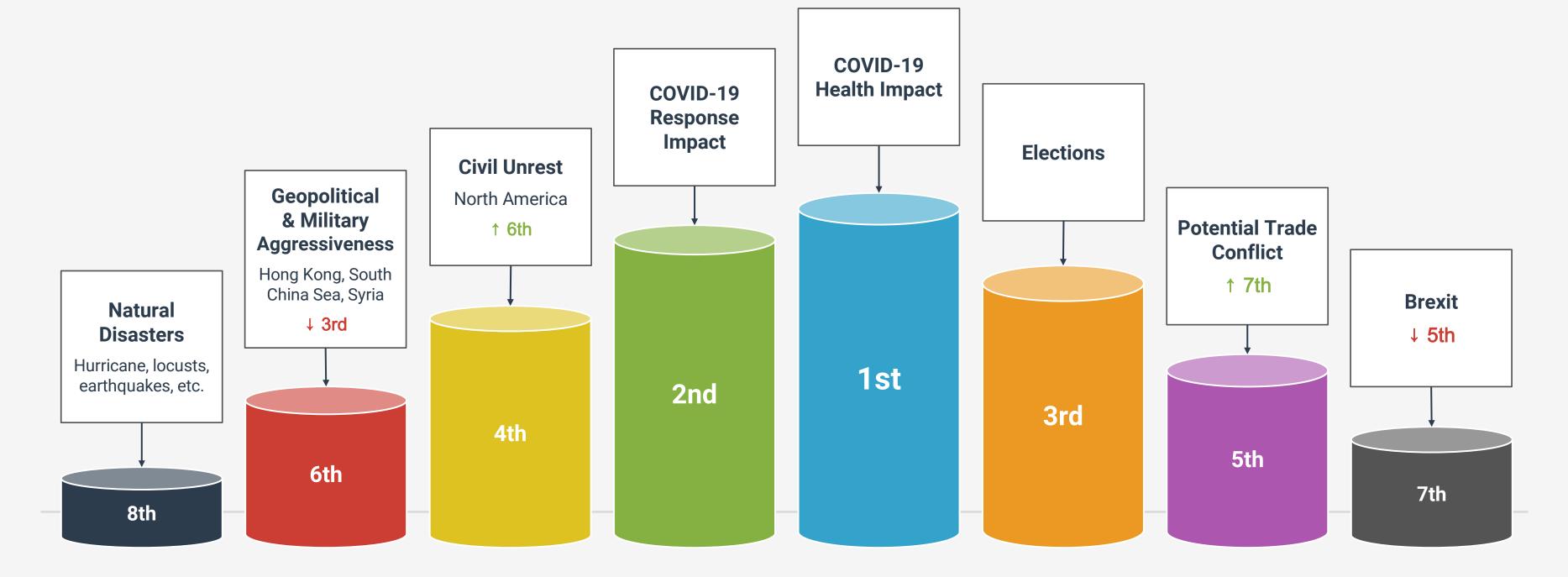


# TOP CONCERNS

### FORCE RANKING EIGHT AREAS

The popularity of the forced ranking question encouraged us to add a second forced ranking chart in the 11<sup>th</sup> period and continue it during several additional cycles. COVID-19 health and response impacts maintained their grip on the top two spots on the 'concern podium' again, and Elections held onto the number 3 slot.

Geopolitical & Military Aggressiveness has been the most active (7th, 3rd, 6th) mover in the mix.



# **GREATEST CONCERN**

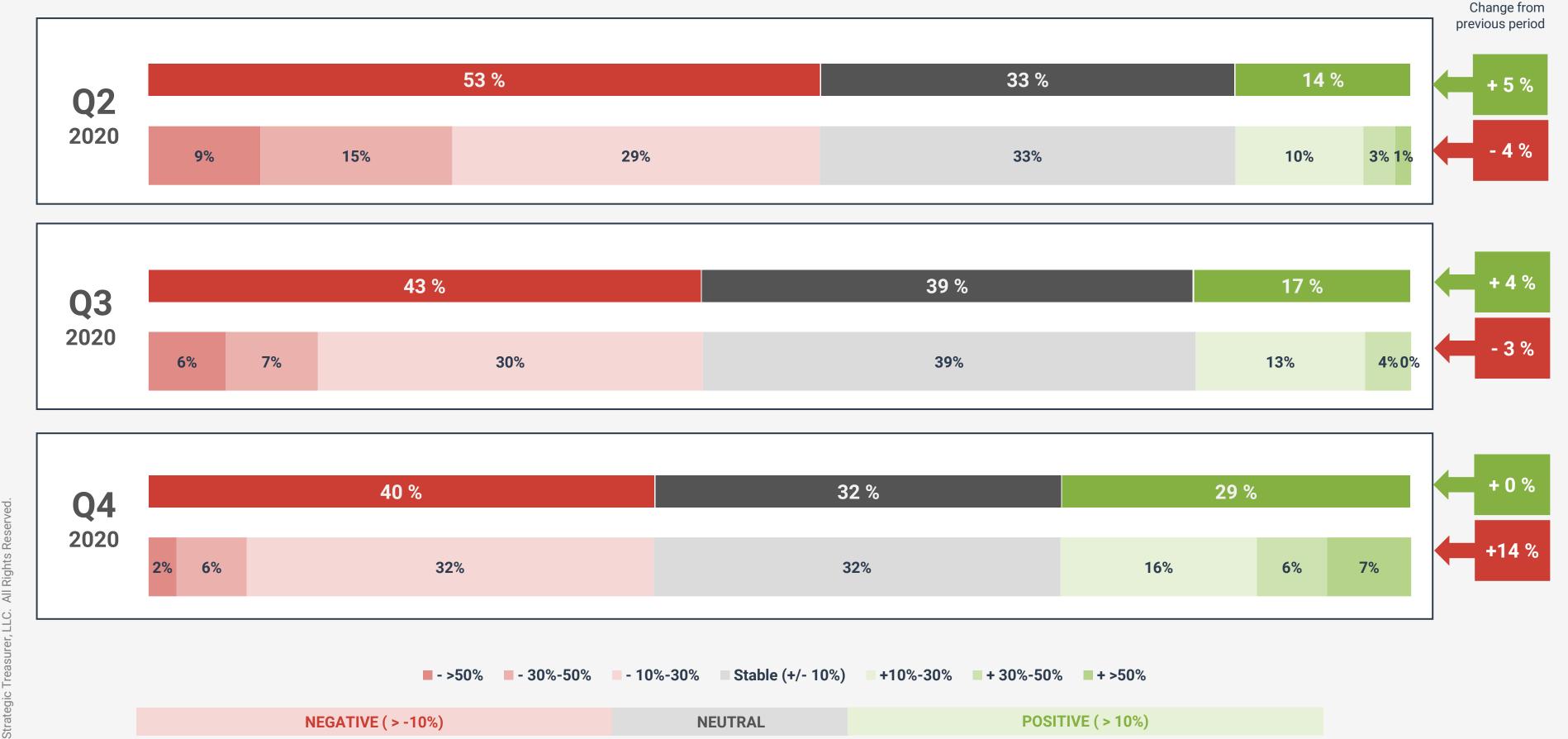
IN YOUR OWN WORDS



# REVENUE LEVELS

ESTIMATED LEVELS IN "YOUR INDUSTRY"

The industry-level outlook for revenue turned massively pessimistic for Q4 2020. This represents a full 14-point negative shift for the end of 2020 from period 11. Q2 was completed during the beginning of this period.

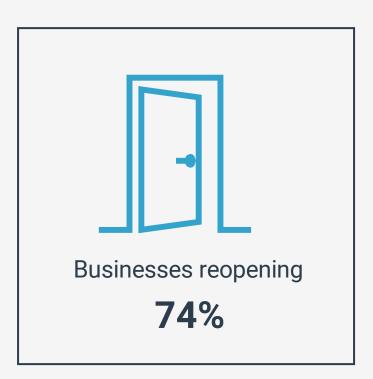




# **ENCOURAGING DATA POINTS**

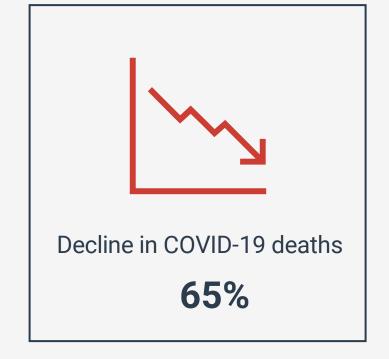
### PICK THREE OF THE MOST ENCOURAGING DATA POINTS

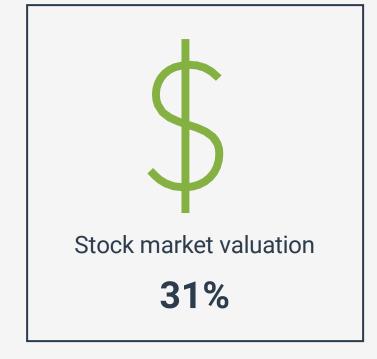
In a period where health and finances turned notably more negative, there were several bright spots. Two economy-related items and one health-related item were seen by the majority of respondents as reason for encouragement. Businesses reopening (74%) from the lockdown topped the list, and the correlated increasing employment numbers (improving jobless numbers) came in third at 58%. The 2nd most encouraging data point was the decline in COVID-19 deaths.

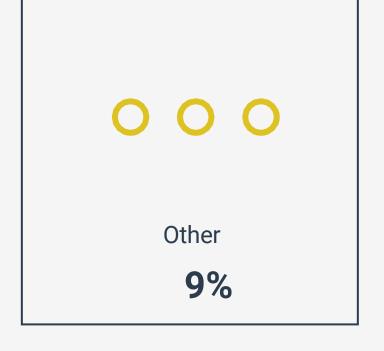










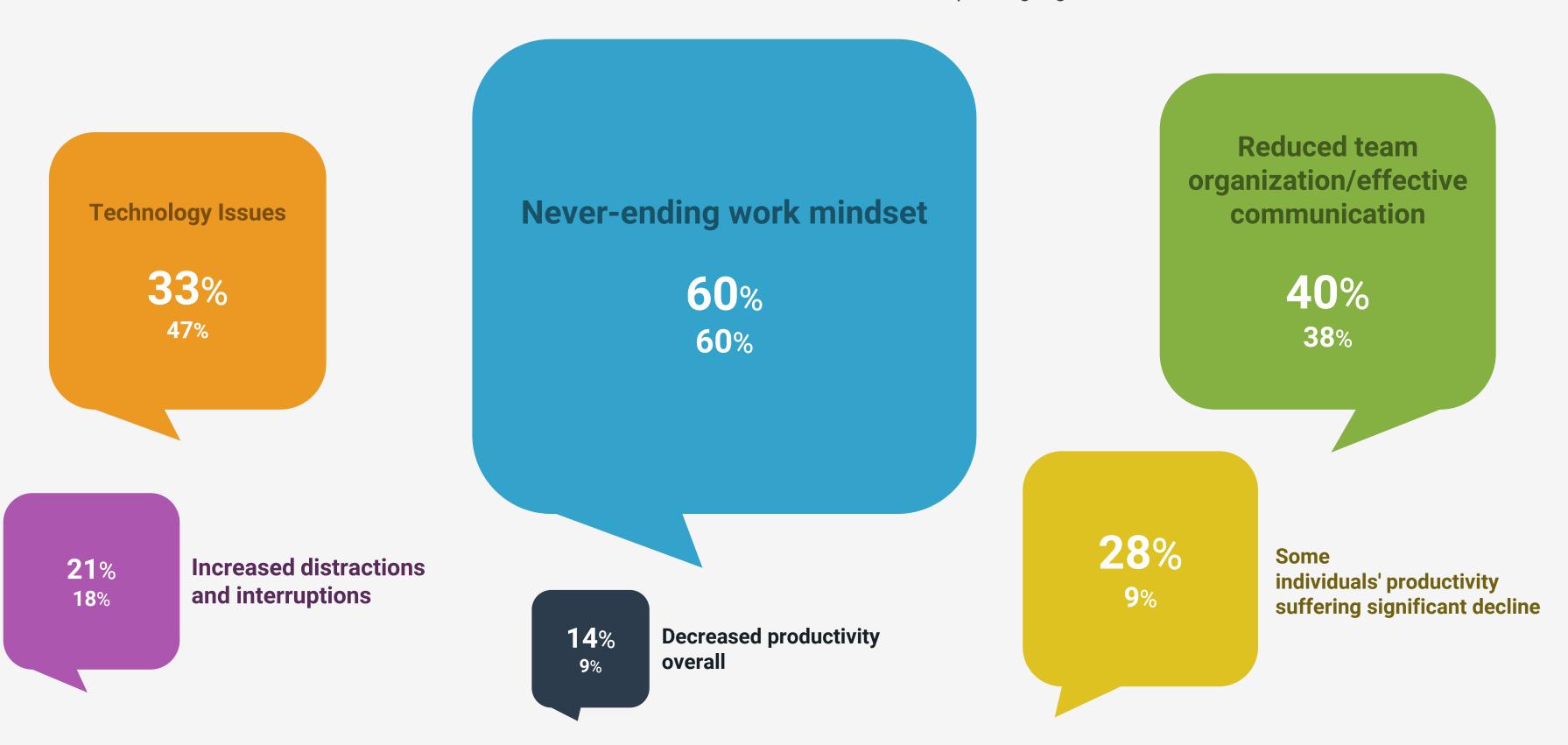


# WFH WOES

### WHAT HAS WORKED POORLY?

Working from Home (WFH) has become commonplace for five months in many localities due to the spread of COVID-19. The Coalition was interested in learning about the extent of some of the challenges finance professionals were experiencing over time.

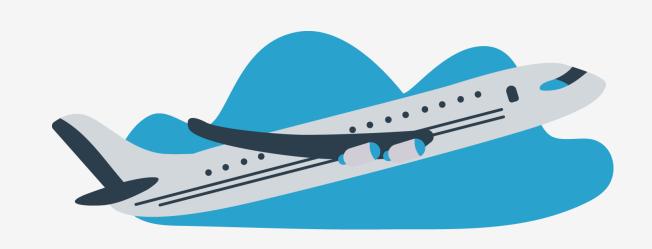
The 'never-ending work mindset' again impacted three out of five respondents. Technology issues dropped from nearly half to one-third. Reduced communication effectiveness impacts four out of ten. Some individuals' productivity drop was significant, and this number rose from 9% to 28% of responding organizations.

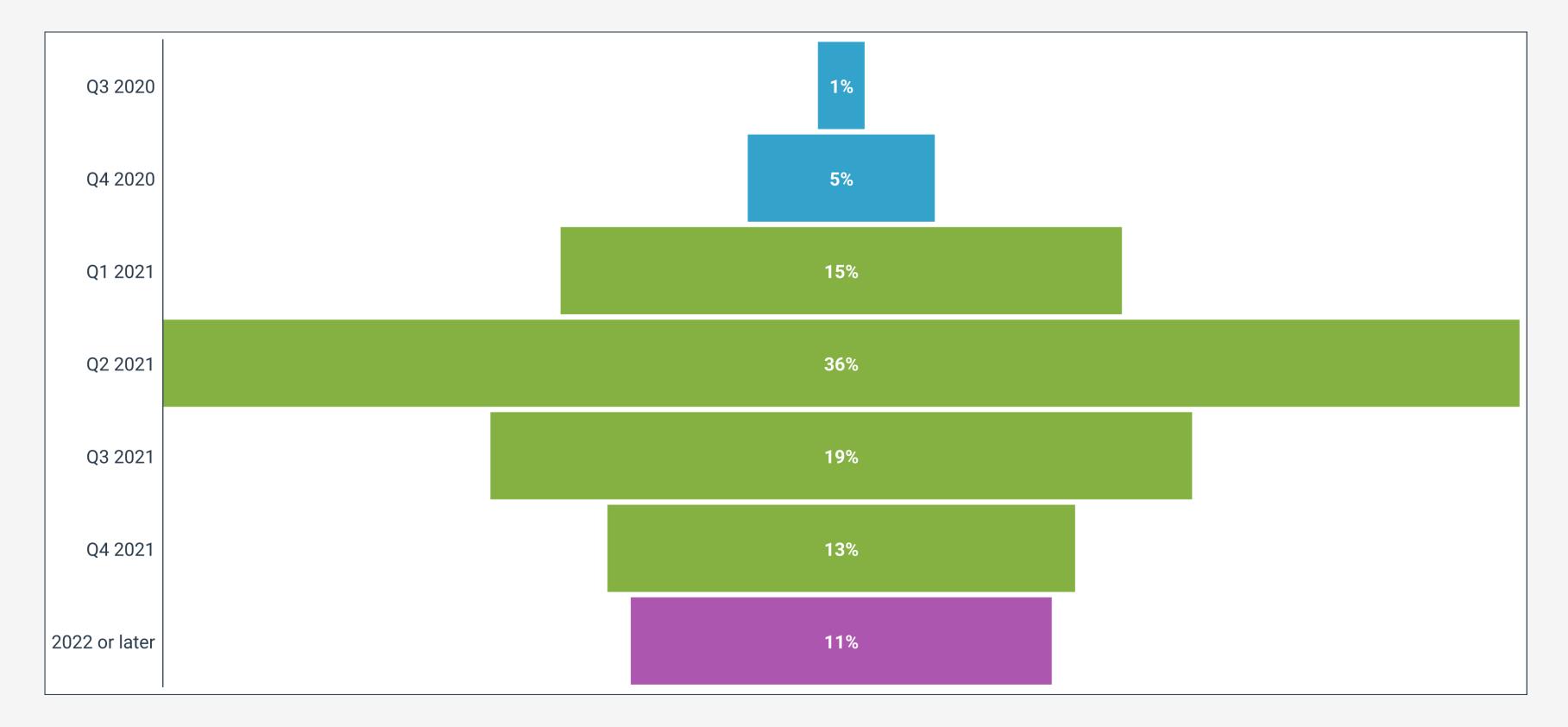


# **BUSINESS TRAVEL**

### RETURN TO 50% OF HISTORICAL NORMS

Business travel, based upon respondents to the Monitor, seems destined for a lengthy period of recovering to where things stood before the rapid shift in March. The 2nd quarter of 2021 represents the median response for when business travel returns to just 50% of historical norms. Only one in five estimate that the 50% mark will be achieved during 2021 Q1.

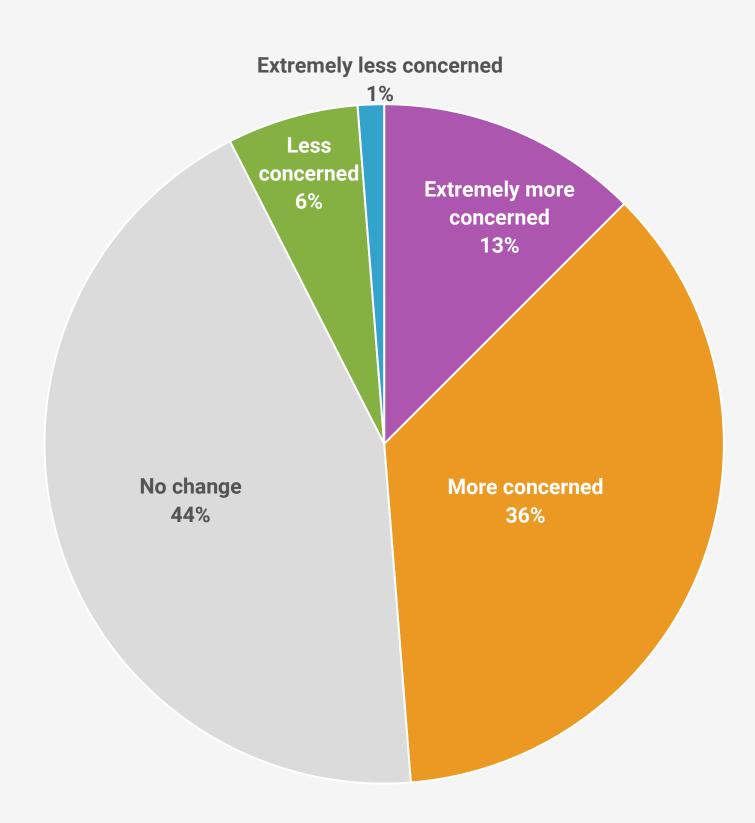




# JOB CONCERN

### LEVEL COMPARED TO PRE-PANDEMIC

During this period nearly half (49%) of respondents were either More Concerned or Extremely More Concerned about their position.







#### **KEY TAKEAWAYS**



### PLAN & **PROTECT**

- **Better Security Processes**
- Adaptation as an **Intentional Activity**
- Benchmark Your Payment **Security Processes**
- What are your peers thinking and doing?



### **OBSERVE & OVERSEE**

- Take Responsibility for Your Health
- Impact to the Business
- **Recession Signals**
- COVID-19 Death & Infection Rates
- What is going on and how should I respond?



### **ENGAGE & ENCOURAGE**

- Intentionally Reach Out to Your Team
- Find Ways to Help
- Don't Be Afraid to Ask Someone for Help
- Who needs what kind of help?



### **MONITOR &** MODEL

- Track: Cash, AR, Sales
- **Update Your Cashflow** Models
- Invest 5 Minutes Once a Month in the Global **Recovery Monitor**
- What are your peers thinking and doing?



# LEVERAGE THIS RESEARCH

KEEP A PULSE ON THE DISRUPTION CAUSED BY COVID-19 WITH THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE INDUSTRY.

Read more about the GCM/GRM and the Treasury Coalition below and join your treasury colleagues in adding your voice and insights into the broader community to help each of us succeed.



#### **Treasury Vitals Measurements**

We monitor the key 'vitals' (measurements) of attitudes, situation and responses of organizations, banks and government across multiple dimensions including: liquidity, employee care, customer status. As we move through successive time blocks, we'll be able to track positive and negative movements in both results and attitudes.



#### **Relevant and Timely Advice**

Instead of waiting until the end of the disruptive situation (health and economic impact in this case) we want to capture and share the techniques and actions of others so that you may be able to benefit from a larger pool of experience.



#### **Three Important Actions**

We ask that you give 5 minutes once a month and get twice as much as you give:

- 1. Take the new surveys launched every four weeks
- 2. Listen to the new podcasts released Thursdays after survey closing.
- 3. Read the new reports released Fridays to the public (Thursdays to survey participants).



Give 5 minutes once a month and help your company and fellow treasury professionals. To download past reports, please visit: treasurycoalition.com



TAKE **SURVEYS** 



LISTEN TO PODCASTS



READ REPORTS





#### **IMPORTANT MONTHLY ACTIONS**



### TAKE THE **SURVEYS**



### LISTEN TO **PODCASTS**



READ THE **REPORTS** 

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