

Duke's Fuqua School of Business / CFO Magazine Business Outlook

Results for 212 Asian firms (own-firm changes expected during the next 12 months)

	Sept 2008	June 2008	March 2008	Dec 2007
Weighted Averages for Earnings growth*	Expected growth in next 12 months	Expected growth in next 12 months	Expected growth in next 12 months	Expected growth in next 12 months
Capital spending	+7.6%	+6.7%	+21.6%	+11.1%
Technology spending	+4.8%	+4.3%	+9.7%	+7.1%
Advertising and marketing spending	+3.9%	+1.8%	+8.1%	+6.8%
Employment	+7.5%	+3.3%	+7.7%	+9.0%
Outsourced Employment	+3.6%	+2.3%	+2.2%	+5.0%
Wages and Salaries	+6.6%	+6.2%	+9.2%	+9.0%
Productivity	+4.7%	+5.3%	+5.5%	+4.1%
Inflation (Chg in prices of own-firm products)	+1.5%	+4.5%	+3.5%	+5.5%
Health Care Costs	+4.5%	+4.5%	+6.7%	0.0%
Dividends*	+0.5%	+3.7%	+7.2%	+4.9%
Share Repurchases*	+0.8%	0.0%	+0.2%	+2.7%
Cash on balance sheet*	+0.2%	+3.4%	+14.8%	-0.3%
Mergers and Acquisitions	37.3% plan to acquire. 10.0% plan to sell part or all of firm.	Not asked	29.1% plan to acquire. 9.3% plan to sell part or all of firm.	42.2% plan to acquire. 12.0% plan to sell part or all of firm.

* indicates public firms only. All other numbers for all survey respondents (including private)

ASIA BUSINESS OPTIMISM

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	Sept 2008	June 2008	March 2008	Dec 2007
	Compared to last qtr.	Compared to last qtr.	Compared to last qtr.	Compared to last qtr.
Optimism about the country's economy	More optimistic: 26.7% Less optimistic: 59.0% No change: 14.3%	More optimistic: 21.0% Less optimistic: 61.7% No change: 17.3%	More optimistic: 38.0% Less optimistic: 43.4% No change: 18.5%	More optimistic: 52.5% Less optimistic: 31.2% No change: 16.3%
Optimism about own company	More optimistic: 40.7% Less optimistic: 43.1% No change: 16.3%	More optimistic: 34.0% Less optimistic: 45.7% No change: 20.4%	More optimistic: 49.5% Less optimistic: 29.9% No change: 20.6%	More optimistic: 61.7% Less optimistic: 21.9% No change: 16.4%

Top Concerns for Asian Businesses

MACRO CONCERNS

- Consumer Demand
- Cost of Fuel
- Trade Policies and Trade Agreements
- Cost of Non-Fuel Commodities

INTERNAL TO OWN FIRM

- Attracting and Retaining Qualified Employees
- Ability to Forecast Results
- Supply Chain Risk
- Customers Paying More Slowly