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## **Hiring outlook improving for 2011**

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An overwhelming majority (89%) of public accountants believe that businesses will either hire more in 2011 than they did in 2010 or maintain their employee count in 2011, according to a new survey from Sageworks.

The survey found:

- 23% expect businesses to increase their employee counts in 2011
- 66.4% expect businesses to maintain their number of employees in 2011
- 10.6% predict businesses will reduce or significantly reduce their number of employees this year

The Sageworks survey illustrates the same cautious optimism the Hay Group found in their recent salary survey, finding that frozen wages in 2010 will give way to modest pay raises in 2011.

Companies plan to raise their salary budgets a median of 2.8% in 2011 after giving median 2.4% raises in 2010. Next year's anticipated raises are still more than a percentage point below the 4% yearly raises that marked 2005 to 2007.