# accenture

High performance. Delivered.

# The High-Performance Workforce Study 2010

Overview of Findings – United States of America

Copyright © 2010 Accenture All Rights Reserved. Accenture, its logo, and High Performance Delivered are trademarks of Accenture.

### Contents

### **Sample Design**

Survey Results

# A total of 674 executives in 24 countries completed the survey

### **Sample structure:**

Countries	
Argentina	6
Australia	33
Brazil	9
Canada	29
China	10
France	54
Germany	34
India	38
Italy	28
Malaysia	25
Mexico	52
Netherlands	26
Nordic (Sweden/Norway/ Finland/Denmark)	11
Singapore	9
South Africa	18
Spain	52
UK	83
US	117
Switzerland	26
Portugal	13
Indonesia	1
TOTAL	674

Region	
US/Canada	146
APAC	201
EALA	327
TOTAL	674

Industry Segment	
Products	168
Communications & High Tech	123
Financial Services	180
Resources	93
Public Service	97
Other	13
TOTAL	674

Job Title	
CEO (or equivalent)	88
CFO (or equivalent)	109
CIO (or equivalent)	78
COO (or equivalent)	95
CHRO (or equivalent)	230
CLO (Chief Learning Officer or equivalent)	60
Other	14
TOTAL	674

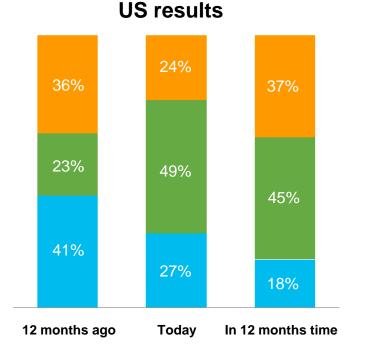
Company Size		
USD\$250M – USD\$500M	20% of sample	
USD\$500M or larger	80% of sample	

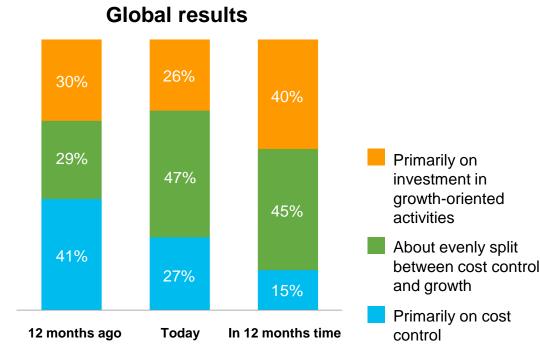
### Contents

Sample Design
Survey Results

Companies are shifting their focus from primarily cost control to a more growth-oriented agenda

# Which one of the following best characterizes your company's overall focus:

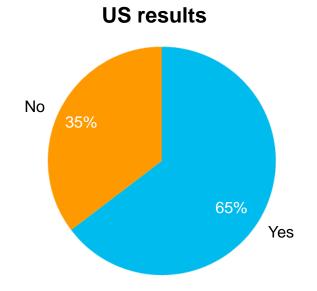


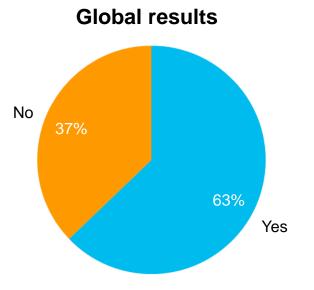


Source: High Performance Workforce Study, 2010 US Base = 117 Global Base = 674

Almost two-thirds of organizations surveyed have reduced their number of full-time employees in the past 12 months

Have you reduced the number of full-time employees in the company in the past 12 months?

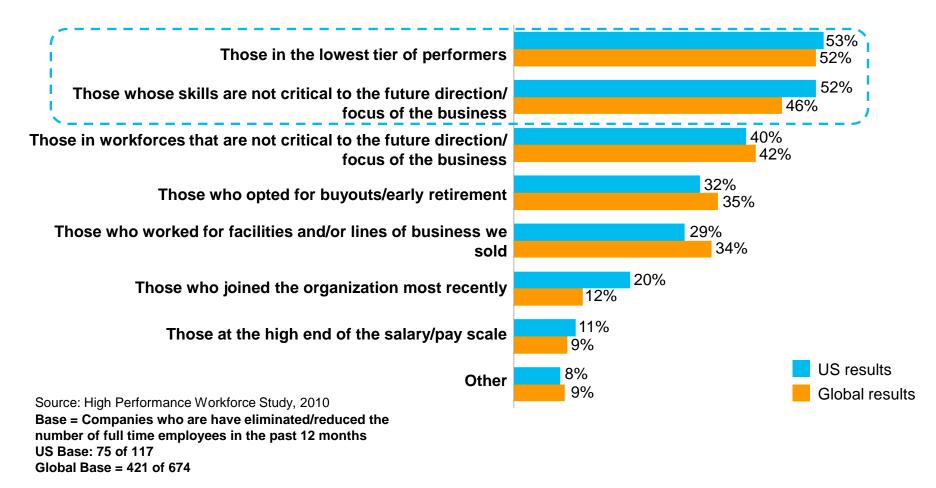




Source: High Performance Workforce Study, 2010 US Base = 117 Global Base = 674

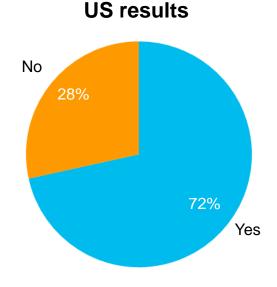
The top two criteria for companies in their decision to let employees go is the lowest tier of performers and those whose skills are not critical to the future direction of the business

Which of the following best describes the criteria you used to determine which employees to let go? Check all that apply.

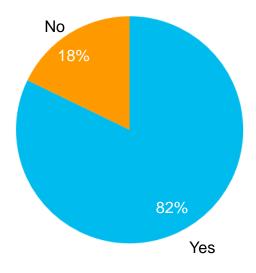


Nearly three-quarters (72 percent) of companies have added full-time equivalent employees in the past 12 months

## Have you added any full-time equivalent employees in the past 12 months?



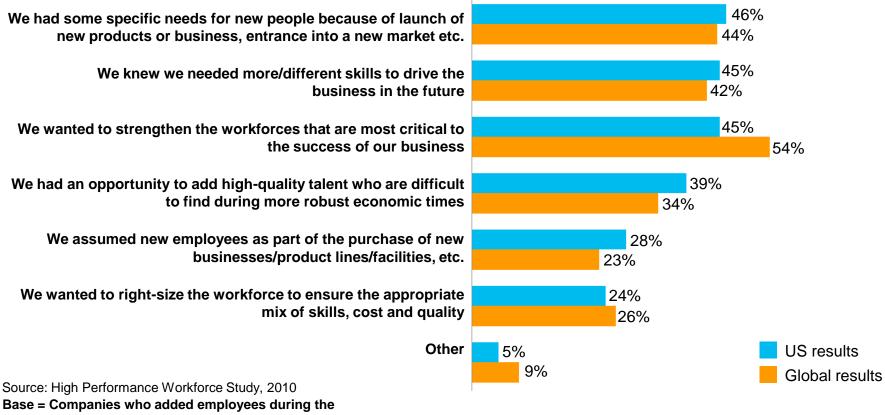
**Global results** 



Source: High Performance Workforce Study, 2010 US Base = 117 Global Base = 674

Companies adding employees during the downturn focused on needs associated with the launch of a new product or new skills to drive business success in the future

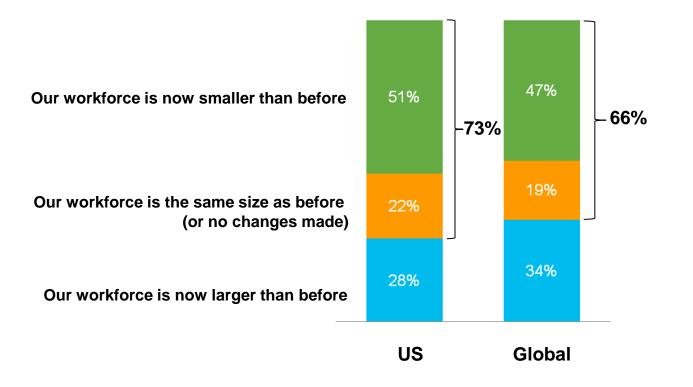
Which of the following best describes your reasons for adding employees during the downturn? Please mention as many as are appropriate...



Base = Companies who added employees during the economic downturn US Base = 83 of 117 Global Base = 549 of 674 Copyright © 2010 Accenture All Rights Reserved.

## Nearly three quarters (73 percent) of US respondents have seen no material growth in the size of their workforce in the past 12 months

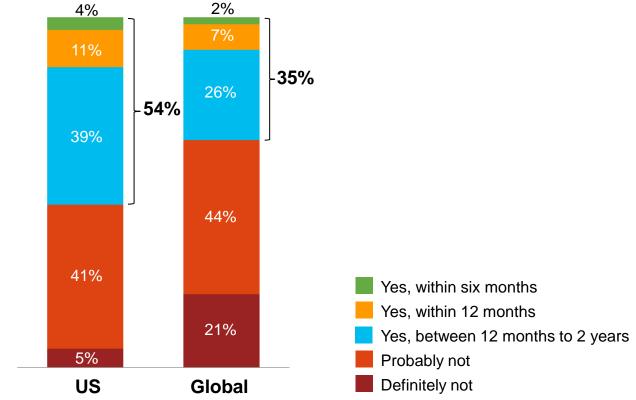
Overall, what is the net result of the changes you've made in terms of the size of your workforce in the past 12 months?



Source: High Performance Workforce Study, 2010 US Base = 117 Global Base = 674

More than half (54 percent) of large US businesses that reduced staff in the past 12 months plan to rebuild their workforces to pre-recession levels within two years

Do you plan to eventually return your workforce to its pre-recession size?

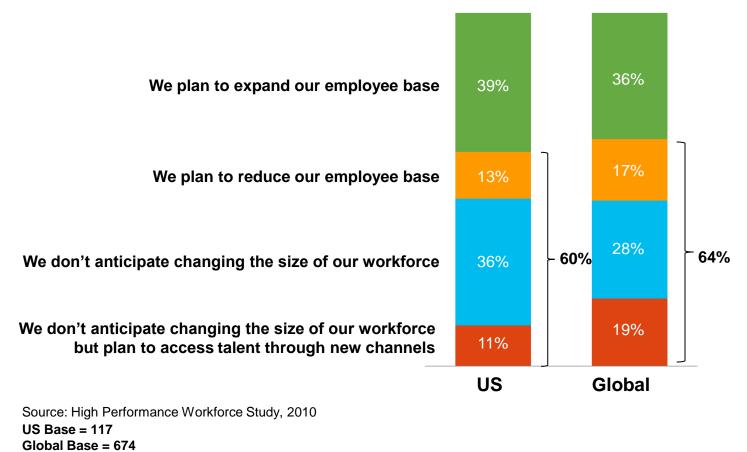


Source: High Performance Workforce Study, 2010

Base = Companies indicated that their workforce is now smaller than before US Base = 59 of 117b Global Base = 313 of 674

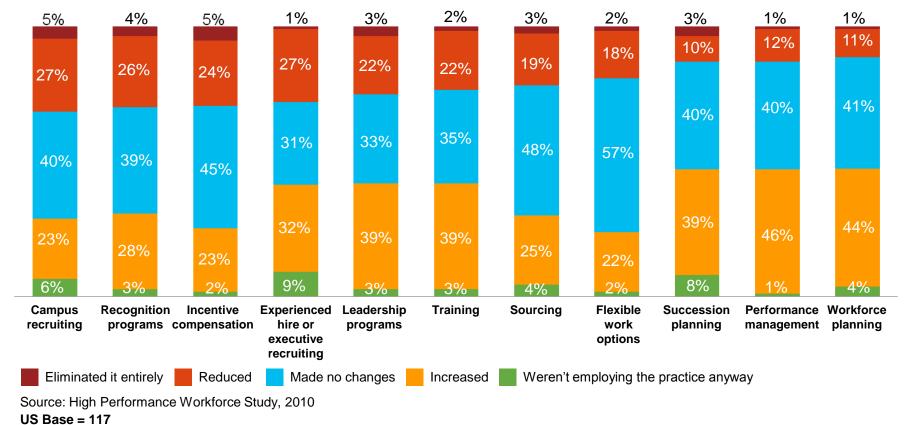
# Nearly two-thirds (60 percent) of US companies surveyed do not expect to grow jobs over the next 12 months

## Which one of the following best describes your company's plans for the size of its workforce over the next 12 months?



Campus recruiting, recognition programs and incentive compensation were eliminated or reduced by about 30 percent of <u>US companies</u> surveyed while over three quarters maintained or increased their focus on succession planning, performance management and workforce planning

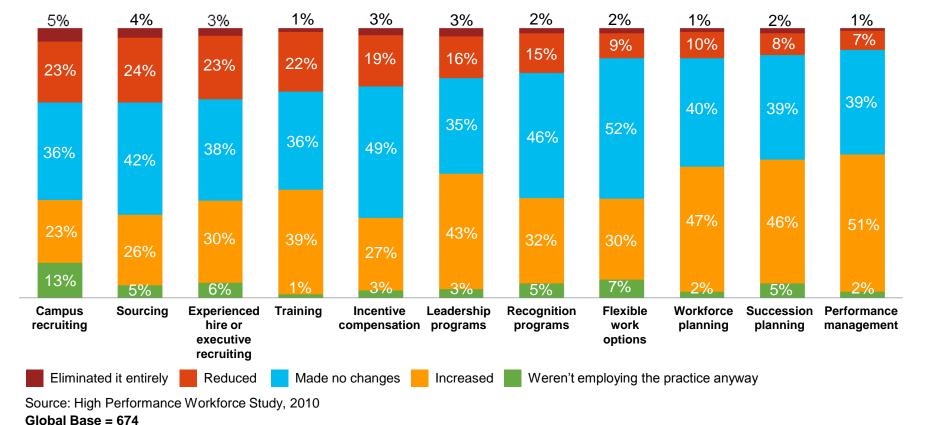
For each of the following talent management practices/processes, please indicate if during the past 12 months you have eliminated it entirely, reduced it made no changes, or increased it...



#### **US results**

Campus and experienced hire recruiting as well as sourcing programs were eliminated or reduced by nearly one third of respondents globally

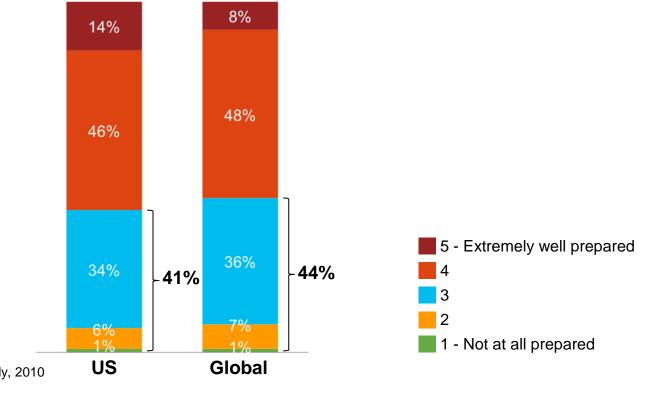
For each of the following talent management practices/processes, please indicate if during the past 12 months you have eliminated it entirely, reduced it made no changes, or increased it...



#### **Global results**

Only 14 percent of US respondents indicated their workforce is extremely well prepared to adapt to and manage change during periods of economic uncertainty while over 40 percent indicated that their workforce is not prepared

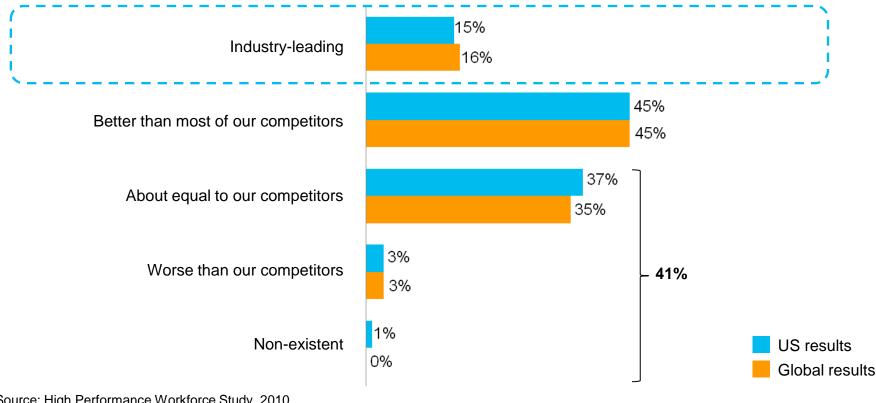
Using a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is not at all prepared and 5 is extremely well prepared, how well prepared would you say your workforce is to adapt to and manage change through periods of economic uncertainty?



Source: High Performance Workforce Study, 2010 US Base = 117 Global Base = 674

Only 15 percent of US companies surveyed describe the overall skill level of their entire workforce as industry leading while 41 percent describe the overall skill level as undifferentiated

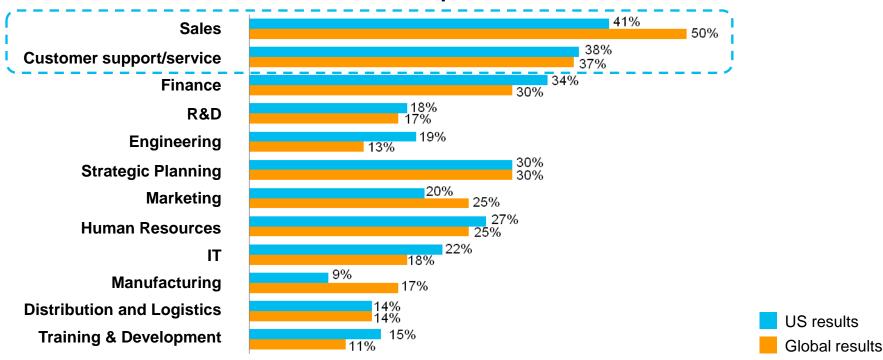
How would you describe the current overall skill level of your organization's entire workforce? Would you say it is...



Source: High Performance Workforce Study, 2010 US Base = 117 Global Base = 674

# Sales and customer service are the most important functional areas within organizations

## Which of the following do you consider to be the three most important functional areas within your organization?

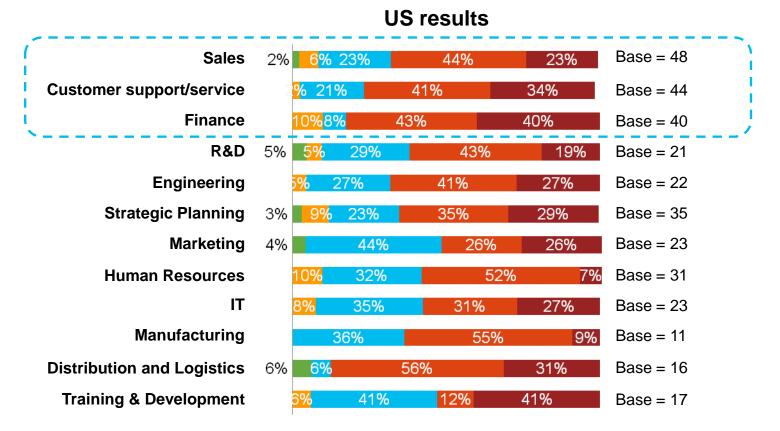


**Related in Top 3** 

Source: High Performance Workforce Study, 2010 US Base = 117 Global Base = 674

## <u>US respondents</u> reported significant skills challenges in the workforces rated as one of their three most important

#### How would you rate the performance of each of your key functional areas...

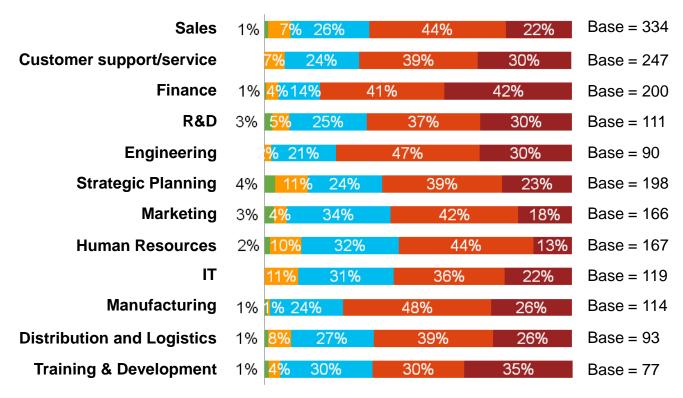




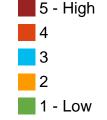
Source: High Performance Workforce Study, 2010 Base = Companies rating each workforce as a top three workforce US Base = 117

## <u>Global respondents</u> also reported skills challenges in the workforces rated as one of their three most important

#### How would you rate the performance of each of your key functional areas...



#### **Global results**



Source: High Performance Workforce Study, 2010

Base = Companies rating each workforce as a top three workforce Global Base = 674

Companies that rated sales as an important functional area find that they have a lack of needed skills in this workforce and in the US, have a difficult time attracting skills due to high salary expectations

And which of the following best describes the skills situation in each of your key functional areas:



A significant proportion of skills in this workforce are out of date

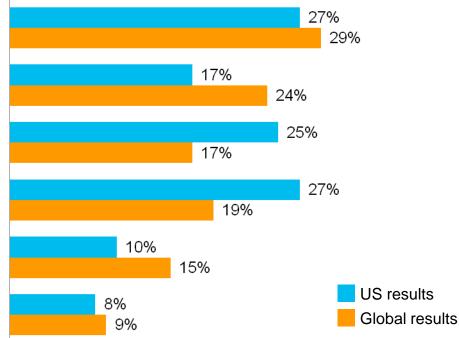
The skills we need in this workforce are difficult to attract because people don't want to work in our industry

We have a difficult time attracting skills in this workforce because we can't pay what they demand

The supply of skills we need in this workforce is extremely small or non-existent

The skills we need in this workforce tend to be mostly located in countries other than those in which they are needed

Source: High Performance Workforce Study, 2010 Base = all those rating sales as a top 3 functional area US Base = 48 Global Base = 334 Copyright © 2010 Accenture All Rights Reserved.

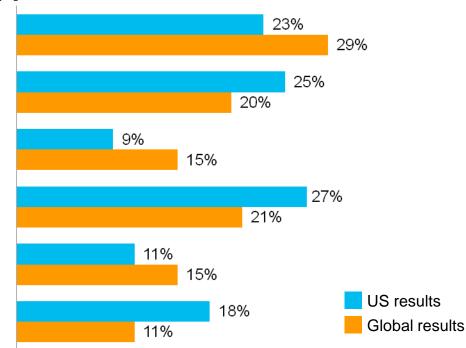


\*Top three most important functional areas were rated as part of the analysis. Some respondents cited multiple skills issues, hence sum of responses > 100%

#### **Sales**

US companies that rated customer support/service as an important functional area have difficulty attracting skills due to high salary expectations

### And which of the following best describes the skills situation in each of your key functional areas:



#### \*Top three most important functional areas were rated as part of the analysis. Some respondents cited multiple skills issues, hence sum of responses > 100%

#### **Customer support/service**

We have a lack of needed skills in this workforce

A significant proportion of skills in this workforce are out of date

The skills we need in this workforce are difficult to attract because people don't want to work in our industry

We have a difficult time attracting skills in this workforce because we can't pay what they demand

The supply of skills we need in this workforce is extremely small or non-existent

The skills we need in this workforce tend to be mostly located in countries other than those in which they are needed

Source: High Performance Workforce Study, 2010 Base = all those rating customer support/service as a top 3 functional area US Base = 44 Global Base = 247

Nearly one fourth (24 percent) of US companies strongly agree that they have the leadership necessary to help the enterprise through periods of economic downturn while one third (32 percent) disagree

### For each of the following statements, please indicate your agreement with the statements as they apply to your overall enterprise:

#### Workforce skills/characteristics

