

HONG KONG, CHINA-- [Media OutReach](#) -- 15 May, 2014 -- If you are a finance and accounting professional and you have not had a pay rise lately, then it is time to start making a game plan for getting the salary you deserve. That is because the majority of your peers in Hong Kong are likely to have their base salaries increased.

According to the latest research by specialist recruitment firm [Robert Half](#) (NYSE: RHI), Hong Kong is one of only six markets surveyed where a majority of companies (69%) are paying more to professionals in their finance and accounting department with the trend towards further increases. The other five are China, Singapore, New Zealand, Australia and Brazil. The majority of countries surveyed are either maintaining or reducing salaries.

The global survey was conducted among 2,431 Chief Financial Officers (CFOs) in 16 countries, 150 of which are from Hong Kong.

Globally, Hong Kong is near parity with China, where 70% of CFOs in China are planning to increase salaries for finance and accounting professionals this year.

Ms Pallavi Anand, Managing Director of Robert Half Hong Kong, said an increase in base salaries confirms a sense of optimism as Hong Kong continues to be well regarded as a thriving hub for international and regional companies to locate their finance and accounting team for

Greater China and Asia-focused operations.

TABLE 1: On average what remuneration trends is your finance department currently facing for salaries?

Salaries
All Countries
Singapore
Hong Kong
China
Japan
Australia
New Zealand
UAE
UK

Increasing
44%
55%
69%
70%
45%
55%
60%
43%
42%

Maintaining
54%
43%
29%
28%
52%
43%
36%
55%
54%

Decreasing
3%

Hong Kong Among Top Markets Increasing Base Salaries for Majority of Finance and Accounting Professionals

Written by Australian Business

1%
2%
2%
3%
2%
4%
2%
4%

Salaries
Brazil
Chile
Austria
Belgium
France
Ger-many
Switzer-land
The Nether-lands

Increasing
58%
39%
39%
23%
28%
43%
39%
27%

Maintaining
40%
55%
61%
73%
72%
55%
58%
70%

Decreasing
2%
6%

0%
4%
0%
2%
3%
3%

In large Hong Kong firms with 1,000 or more staff, 80% are paying their finance and accounting staff more, compared to 63% of smaller firms with less than 500 employees.

"While the trend is definitely up, it does not mean every finance and accounting professional should expect a pay rise. The ability to increase salaries depends on the performance of individual companies. Employees moving to new firms are also likely to get a bigger pay rise than employees staying where they are.

"Many companies usually have a general range in mind when hiring for a specific position, but will go to the top end of the range for outstanding candidates . Candidates who feel confident that they are experienced and have the ability to handle the responsibilities of the position, should be prepared to engage in a [salary negotiation](#) ," Ms Anand said.

BONUSES

And when it comes to bonus time, Hong Kong finance and accounting employees also have a good chance of getting more. The survey found that 43% of companies are increasing bonuses while 47% are paying the same as last year.

Compared to the rest of the world, Hong Kong and China have the highest number of companies that are increasing bonuses for finance and accounting professionals, ahead of Singapore, Australia and Brazil.

TABLE 2: On average what remuneration trends is your finance department currently facing for bonuses?

Bonuses
All Countries
Singapore
HK
China
Japan
Australia
NZ
UAE
UK

Increasing
28%
37%
43%
61%
33%
37%
31%

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27%
26%

Maintaining
52%
59%
47%
33%
57%
51%
36%
51%
51%

Decreasing/No
20%
4%
10%
6%
10%
12%
33%
22%
23%

Bonuses	
Brazil	
Chile	
Austria	
Belgium	
France	
Ger-many	
Switzer-land	
The	Nether-lands

Increasing
37%
29%
25%
14%
18%
29%

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16%
12%

Maintaining
54%
45%
49%
58%
56%
55%
58%
54%

Decreasing/No
9%
26%
26%
28%
26%
16%
26%
34%

An infographic highlighting salary and bonus information across 16 countries is available below.

"On average, what remuneration trends is your finance department currently facing?"

