

Volatility is the new normal

BARCLAYS HAS JUST LAUNCHED THE RESEARCH PHASE OF ITS 2012 GLOBAL CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT SURVEY AND INVITES TREASURERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD TO EXPRESS THEIR OPINIONS ON RISK MANAGEMENT, A TOPIC WHICH IS CENTRAL TO STRATEGIC DECISION-MAKING WITHIN ORGANISATIONS.

With the support of the ACT, Barclays is building on its inaugural 2010 survey to provide further high-quality insight into the activities and trends in corporate risk management. It will also help treasurers compare their own organisations against a truly global peer group.

Global financial conditions have improved

little since the 2008–09 credit crisis. Factors such as the European sovereign debt crisis, slow growth in developed markets, worrying signs from emerging markets and volatility across all asset classes are all stoking fears of a double-dip recession or even a global depression.

For corporate treasurers, this raises the stakes for their risk management

programmes. Issues such as liquidity in emerging market currencies, carry costs of net investment hedging of foreign subsidiaries, low yields on cash investments, bank counterparty risk and credit line availability are regularly cited as major causes of concern for treasurers. Have corporations prepared enough to meet these challenges?

HAS RISK MANAGEMENT EVOLVED?

The financial crisis of 2008–09 was a watershed in financial markets and forced many corporate treasurers to overhaul outdated or weak risk management processes and make them fit for purpose. The current ongoing global economic problems will be a severe test of whether treasurers and their risk management approaches have truly evolved.

The 2010 survey established that risk management is an issue that has moved from the sidelines to the very centre of corporate strategy. Treasurers have become an even more essential part of strategic decision-making, with visibility at the highest levels within organisations.

How to take part

Tell us about the issues that are important to you and find out what other treasurers are saying. The survey will take place between 13 February and 30 March 2012, and the results will be available in May 2012. Individual responses will be confidential.

You can participate in this year's survey by visiting the Barclays Global Corporate Risk Management website at:

www.barcap.com/corporateriskmanagementsurvey

The survey can also be accessed via the ACT website at www.treasurers.org/risksurvey

