

Etude CFO 2010 : Influence grandissante des directeurs financiers... mais grand écart entre les attentes des entreprises et l'exécution de leurs missions élargies

Armonk, NY - 02 mars 2010: IBM (NYSE: IBM). IBM annonce les résultats de l'étude « IBM Global CFO Study 2010 » : la crise économique mondiale actuelle a marqué un tournant pour les directeurs financiers (DAF), mais sans doute pas dans le sens prévu. Sous les feux des médias, les DAF et leur organisation financière ont dû faire face à des urgences en matière d'investissements, de trésorerie et de chiffre d'affaires. Dans le même temps, la volatilité et l'incertitude les ont amenés à participer plus souvent aux débats du conseil d'administration concernant les prévisions, la rentabilité et la gestion des risques, ainsi qu'aux décisions stratégiques relatives à la chaîne logistique, à la politique tarifaire et à la production.

Les DAF exercent de ce fait une influence grandissante et stratégique dans l'entreprise. L'étude « IBM Global CFO Study 2010 », fondée sur des entretiens avec plus de 1900 directeurs et responsables financiers à travers le monde, témoigne de cette évolution. Notre enquête révèle malheureusement un manque d'efficacité de la fonction Finance – surtout dans ces nouveaux domaines de responsabilité à fort impact, où la réussite de l'entreprise dépend bien souvent des avis émis par le directeur financier.

Attentes et exécution : le fossé se creuse

Si l'importance de leurs responsabilités purement financières n'a en rien diminué, l'implication des DAF dans les problèmes touchant l'entreprise dans son ensemble a fortement augmenté. Ainsi, depuis 2005, l'importance de l'intégration de l'information a plus que doublé. De même, la priorité accordée à la gestion des risques d'entreprise a augmenté de 93 %. Pourtant, plus de 45 % des DAF signalent le manque d'efficacité de leur organisation dans les questions de stratégie, d'intégration de l'information, et de gestion des risques et des opportunités. En d'autres termes, les besoins augmentent plus vite que les capacités, et la fonction Finance est confrontée à un écart croissant entre attentes et exécution.

Findings Indicate Decision-Making Role of CFOs in the Boardroom More Important Than Ever; Point to Large Gap in Effectiveness

ARMONK, NY, March 2, 2010— IBM (NYSE: IBM) today announced the findings of a major new study of over 1,900 Chief Financial Officers (CFOs) and senior finance executives from 81 countries and 35 industries worldwide, which reveals that more than 60 percent of CFOs plan major changes to respond to the new economic climate.

CFOs and senior finance executives believe the already intense pressure on three fronts -- reducing the enterprise cost base, making faster, more accurate decisions and providing more transparency to external stakeholders will increase dramatically over the next three years.

The IBM study is the largest sample of CFO sentiment during the worst economic downturn in decades. As part of the impetus for change, Study participants ranked “providing inputs into enterprise strategy” number one when asked what was most important. Surprisingly, cost reduction was not at the top of the CFO agenda. However, they also revealed a major gap in organizational effectiveness, as only 50 percent feel their Finance organizations are currently effective in providing the necessary business insight to support these broader enterprise priorities.

“Never before has the importance of strong Finance capabilities been highlighted more than during the recent global economic downturn,” said William Fuessler, global leader, financial management, IBM Global Business Services. “Our study shows that CFOs are expected to provide fact-based leadership and strategic decisions grounded in business analytics to help navigate the enterprise through these new economic waters.”

Since IBM's first CFO study in 2003, CFOs have continually stated their aspirations to shift more focus to analysis and decision support, however few have made significant progress shifting the workload. Among Finance's effectiveness gaps, the largest is in the area of driving integration of information. CFOs' responses indicate this is a major enabler for practically every area of business insight, but, at the same time, show just how difficult this kind of integration is to accomplish.

One group of CFOs, dubbed “Value Integrators,” were found to consistently outperform their peers in all key financial metrics by

driving two key qualities across their organization:

- Finance efficiency – The degree of common process and data standards across the organization
- Business insight – The maturity level of Finance talent, technology and analytical capabilities dedicated to providing business optimization, planning and strategic insights.

Value Integrators have found a way to excel and navigate an uncertain economic climate. The study indicates that enforcing process and data standards, integrating information and applying business analytics are key capabilities that enable improved business insight and risk management.

In fact, when compared to their peers, their enterprises outperform on every financial measure assessed, including return on invested capital revenue growth and Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization

Since Value Integrators enjoy proportional representation across various dimensions of the data sample, their performance signals a better practice and is not just a consequence of industry, geography or company size. Their Finance operations reflect a pervasive corporate philosophy that encourages integration across functions to make smarter decisions that lead to better overall performance.

Analytics are Key to Predictive Insight

Many CFOs feel their Finance organizations are more comfortable providing “tail lights” rather than “headlights.” With the appropriate analytical capabilities spanning process, technology and talent, results of the study indicate Finance can turn this of financial and operational information into business insights, where decisions are no longer made on intuition, but are fact based.

Many respondents indicated that sophisticated analytics can help Finance uncover correlations among seemingly unrelated pieces of information and find patterns nearly impossible to detect manually. In many ways, Finance’s persuasiveness as strategic advisor hinges on having superior business insight capabilities.

Businesses and governments need more advanced data analyses, scenario planning and even predictive capabilities to contend with rising complexity, uncertainty and volatility and, in certain regions, sustained lower growth.

Becoming a Value Integrator

The study findings indicate that CFOs are increasingly playing a significant role on strategic and operational matters to help the business make better decisions faster. Value Integrators – at their core, integrate both efficiency and insight. “Value” conveys Finance’s contribution to helping manage the Enterprise, while “Integrator” conveys the importance they place on standardizing and integrating information and processes, necessary enablers to partner effectively with the business.

Value Integrators are more than just information clearinghouses. Finance’s mission should be helping the company think as an overall business instead of individual areas. Not surprisingly, Value Integrators indicated that a top priority was attracting and retaining the right talent and developing people in Finance in support of these increased demands.

Value Integrators – more than any other group – are equipped to advise at an enterprise level. They are positioned to evaluate business opportunity and risk in an end-to-end context and recommend difficult trade-offs among units, markets and business functions.

About the Global CFO Study

The findings of this report are based upon a survey conducted in the spring and summer of 2009 by IBM Global Business Services’ Financial Management practice and the IBM Institute for Business Value (IBV). Over 1,900 Chief Financial Officers and senior Finance executives from 81 countries and 35 industries participated in structured interviews or online surveys designed to capture insights on how Finance professionals are affected by and deal with performance, risks, operational levers and governance. The majority of these interviews were conducted in person by IBM practitioners, with the remainder interviewed online. Participants represent organizations across a variety of industries, geographic locations and revenue size.

For access to the full study findings and case studies, please visit www.ibm.com/cfostudy
