

Companies face unprecedented challenges in responding to the novel coronavirus outbreak. Chief among these challenges – weighing cost-savings considerations with respect to employee pay and benefits.

Evaluating the current state

In the wake of COVID-19, organizations are facing unexpected financial pressures, requiring executive teams to quickly make decisions and act to secure the future. As a result, organizations need practical and actionable levers to pull to meet the current business and people needs. The following are workforce cost and physical return to work related actions available to leaders to evaluate.



Reduce and reallocate discretionary spending



Implement voluntary severance/ retirement programs



Help implement hiring freeze/pause



Suspend 401(k) matches; freeze existing defined benefit (DB) plans



Consider voluntary and involuntary furloughs (partially paid with benefits)



Help Implement unlimited paid time off (PTO) plans



Restructure incentive arrangements (equity/bonus/commission)



Assist with establishing an employersponsored foundation



Delay/freeze compensation adjustments



Restructure health and welfare (H&W) expense

EY rapid cost and workforce approach •

EY has developed a broad workforce economics approach that enables organizations to model short-term and longer-term planning and actions, including those relating to employee plans and programs, as well as the overall workforce. The approach allows senior leaders to align on and prioritize actions based on business needs and consider workforce-related savings options. We have the ability to help:

- Provide a directional estimate of workforce cost reductions utilizing our Workforce Economics Modeling Tool
- Review a range of actions that address current business needs, and assess financial vs. workforce impacts

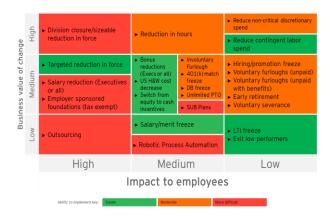
Tailor actions based on value of the change while minimizing impact on employees

Evaluate employee sentiment around physical return to work and remote work attributes utilizing Conjoint analysis

EY workforce economics approach

Workforce actions •

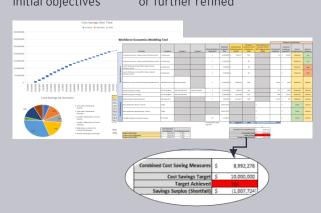
Evaluate decisions based on value vs. employee impact, align across stakeholders, and implement mindfully



Workforce modeling tool

1 Begin with your aligned guiding principles and initial objectives

Explore multiple scenarios using preloaded or employer-specific variables, which can be defaulted or further refined

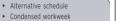


Conjoint analysis

- 1 Begin with current remote work and physical return to work attributes
- 2 Explore multiple scenarios using areas of flexibility (employment, location, schedule, rewards)
- 3 Conduct employee survey and conjoint analysis to determine employee sentiment around return to work attributes

Employee sentiment





Flexible start/finish time
 PTO/Unlimited vacation/Sabbatical

Schedule

Leave (paternity, caregiving)

(1 of 6) Commute 10 - 30 minutes 1 minutes 1 more and 10 - 30 minutes 1 more and 10 - 30 minutes 1 more and 10 - 30 minutes 1 minutes 1 more and 10 - 30 minutes 1 minutes 1 more and 10 - 30 minutes 1 minut

Getting started



Gather data

2-3 days

- Understand business need and revenue impacts
- Collect employment cost data
- Establish initial cost reduction needs
- Establish cost-reduction principles

02

Detailed analysis

3-5 days

- Model 3-5 scenarios based on costreduction needs
- Conduct virtual workshop to review scenarios and align
- Conduct detailed analysis on desired scenario

03

Build plan and execute

Build plan: 3-5 days, Execute: Varied

- ► Leadership sign-off
- Operational actions required to execute (legal and compliance review, payroll, vendor communications, etc.)
- Organization and talent planning services for any headcount reductions
- Change and communications plan
- Consider short- to medium-term workforce ramp-up and potential fluctuations
- Create linkage to enterprise risk management (ERM) and ERM mitigation plans

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