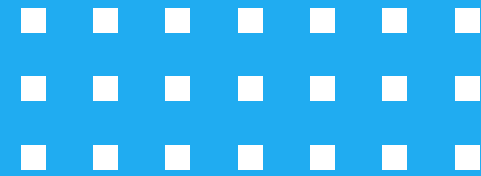


MAY 2025

TOP 5 CEO ISSUES

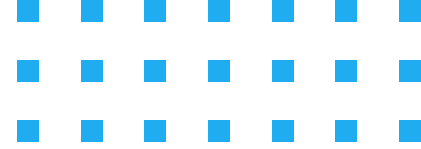




CEOs continue to express concern over sluggish economic conditions, inflation, interest rates, and post-election policy uncertainty. These factors are impacting confidence in long-term investment and business planning. Many are adopting a “watch and wait” approach while managing tighter margins and increasing cost pressures.



Economic Uncertainty and Market Volatility



Artificial Intelligence is a frequent topic of discussion, with leaders exploring how to integrate AI into operations, improve customer engagement, and boost productivity. However, there's a wide variance in AI maturity across businesses, and many are struggling with which tools to choose and how to effectively upskill their teams. Concerns also remain around AI's impact on workforce structure and data security.



AI Adoption and Productivity Challenges

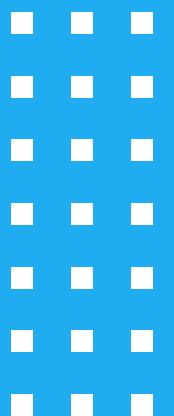
Recruiting and retaining skilled staff remains difficult, especially in competitive and specialised markets. CEOs are increasingly focused on improving workplace culture, leadership development, and succession planning to build stronger teams and mitigate attrition. Some are exploring new incentive models or staff equity schemes to stay competitive.



Talent Acquisition, Retention, and Leadership Development


Strategic Planning Amidst Rapid Change

There is a strong push among leaders to revisit business strategies to ensure they remain agile and relevant. With fluctuating demand, changing customer expectations, and competitive pressure, CEOs are recalibrating their long-term plans. Strategic reviews, business consolidation, and M&A opportunities are frequently being explored as pathways to growth or risk mitigation.





Workplace Models and Cultural Alignment



The shift between remote, hybrid, and in-office work continues to be a source of tension and operational challenge. CEOs are navigating issues around accountability, performance management, and maintaining team cohesion. Additionally, organisational culture, values alignment, and trust-building are front of mind, particularly in dispersed teams.

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