

RBA survey finds most employers plan raises in 2011

By [THOMAS ADAMS](#) - 9/16/2010 3:33:57 PM

A survey by the Rochester Business Alliance Inc. shows 86 percent of employers responding expect to give raises to at least some employees in 2011, up from 62 percent a year ago, the organization announced Thursday.

Some 11 percent plan to freeze wages in 2011, compared with 38 percent last year, the RBA's annual pay trends survey found.

"As the recovery continues, businesses are shifting focus toward retaining employees and attracting new talent," RBA president and CEO Sandra Parker said in a statement.

"Companies are planning pay adjustments that help ensure they remain competitive in attracting and retaining talent, and also benefit employees by helping offset the cost of living, including ever-increasing health insurance premiums."

Some 161 companies representing 67,400 employees responded to the survey, the RBA said.

Local employers are budgeting for a pay increase of 3.2 percent in 2011, compared with 3.1 percent a year ago, the survey shows, but this year's survey found that raises were higher than the 3.1 percent projected. Companies that gave increases from August 2009 to July 2010 paid increases of 3.2 percent.