

Corona Flashsurvey #8 Adapting to the new normal

Tokyo | December 2020



#### Key findings

# After nine months of Corona crisis management, of the surveyed companies ...

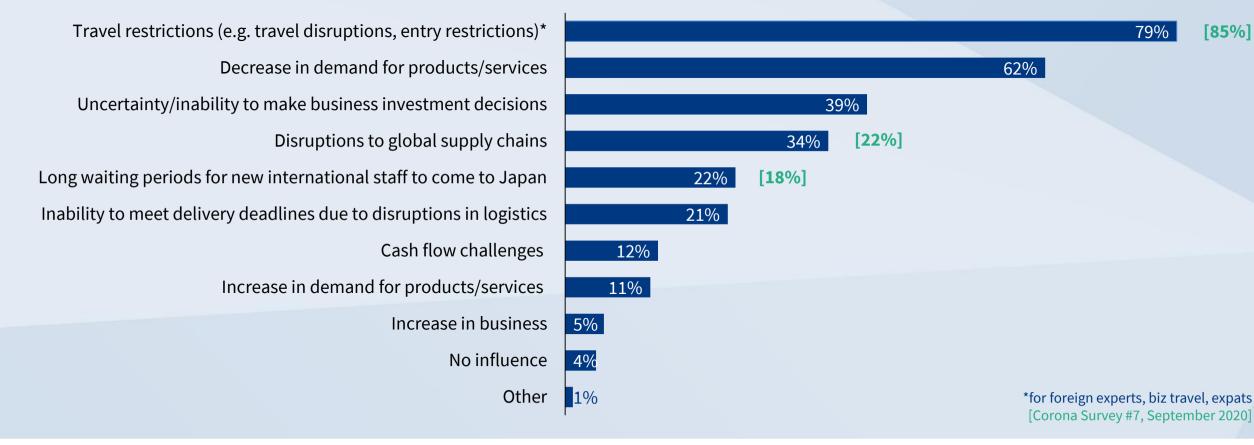


Note: in brackets comparison with Corona Survey #7, September 2020



# **Biggest challenges during the last nine months**

Please specify the most significant influence the COVID-19 pandemic had on your company's business activities in Japan.

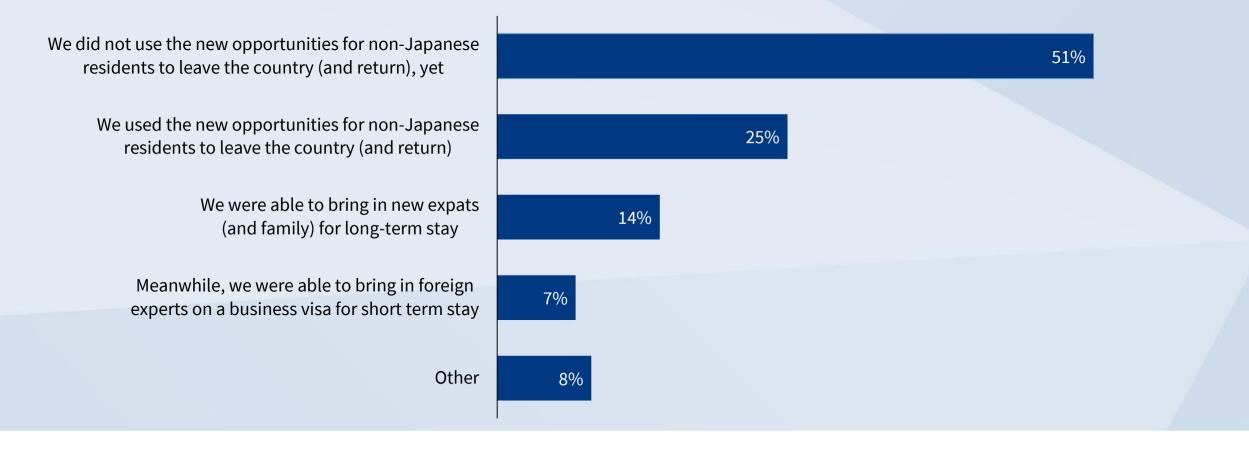




[85%]

# **Relaxation of the travel restrictions > entry ban**

Making use of the relaxation of the entry ban since September 1, 2020.

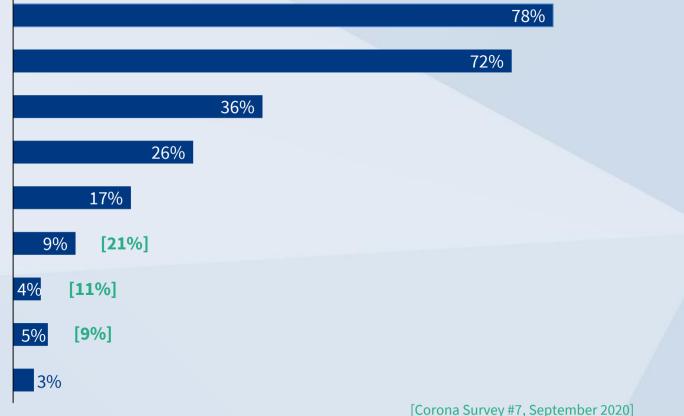




#### **TOP 9 consequences as a result of the last nine months**

Which consequences do you draw from the challenges that appeared over the past months for your company?

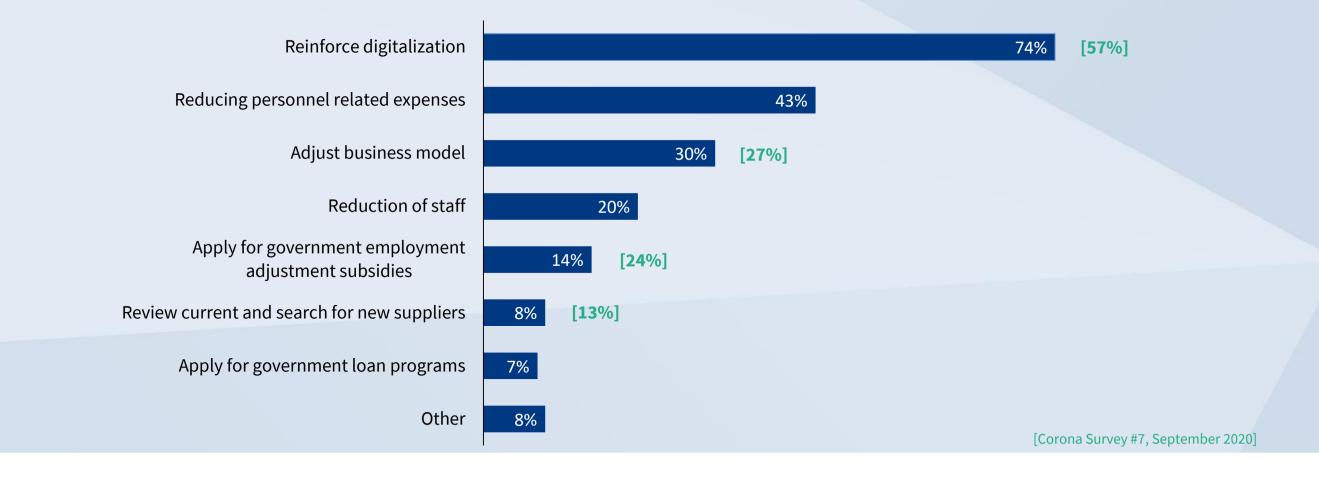
Flexible working model of the past months will be maintained Business travel patterns will change (essential vs. non-essential travel) Our range of services/products will be complemented by digital solutions My company will benefit from streamlined processes in mid- to long-term No changes to existing strategy The overall importance of Japan will be reconsidered in our Asian strategy Reduction of expat deployment and increase of local management functions We will downsize our operations in Japan We consider moving regional responsibilities to other locations outside Japan





# **TOP 7 measures to counter COVID-19 impact**

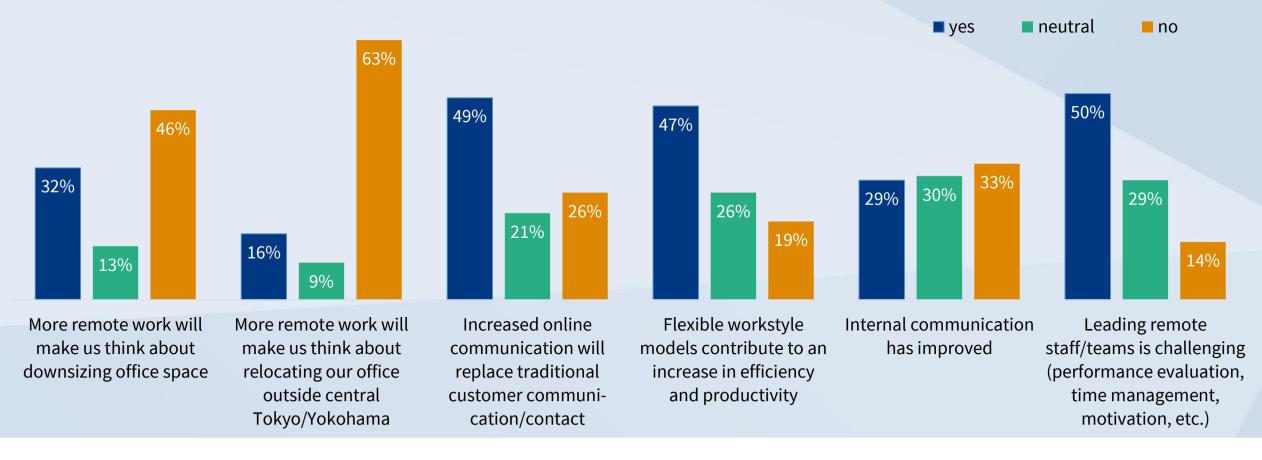
Which measures did you introduce to mitigate decreasing business and revenue?





## **TOP 6 challenges in managing flexible workstyle models**

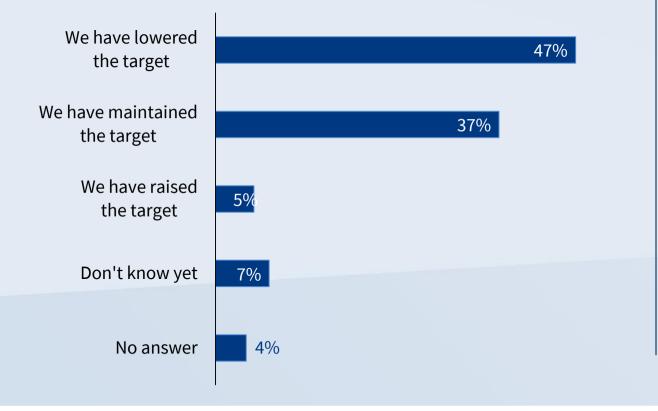
Areas in which German companies see themselves particularly challenged.





# Influence of Corona on business performance and revenue

# Have you adjusted your company's 2020 business performance targets?



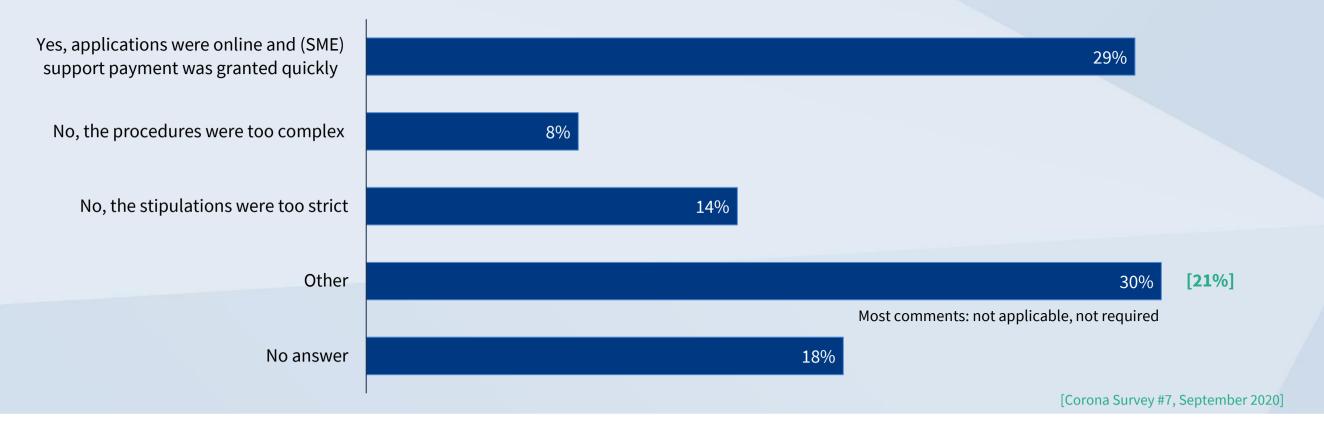
To which extent do you expect your revenues to be affected in this year?





# Making use of government support programs

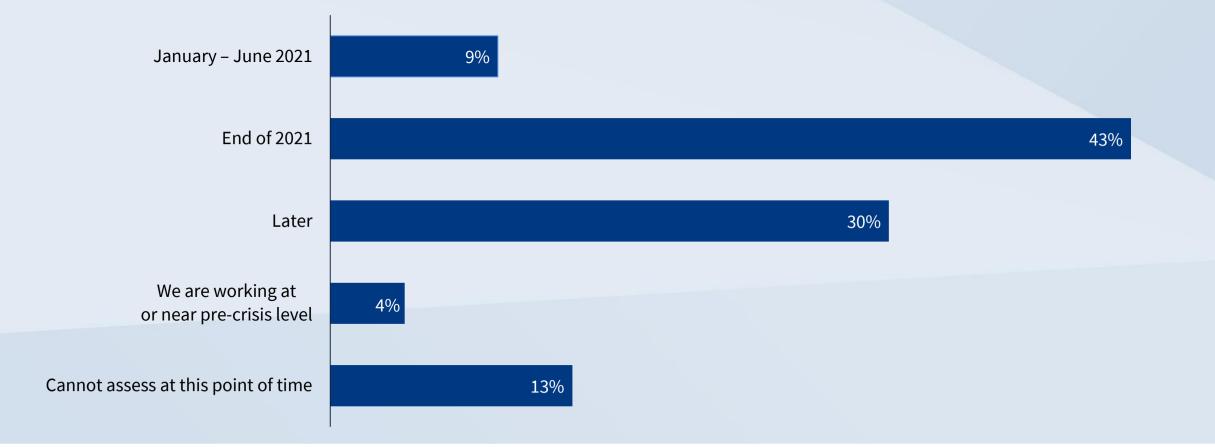
Did your company apply for the financial support packages offered by the Japanese government?





# Long breath required until recovery

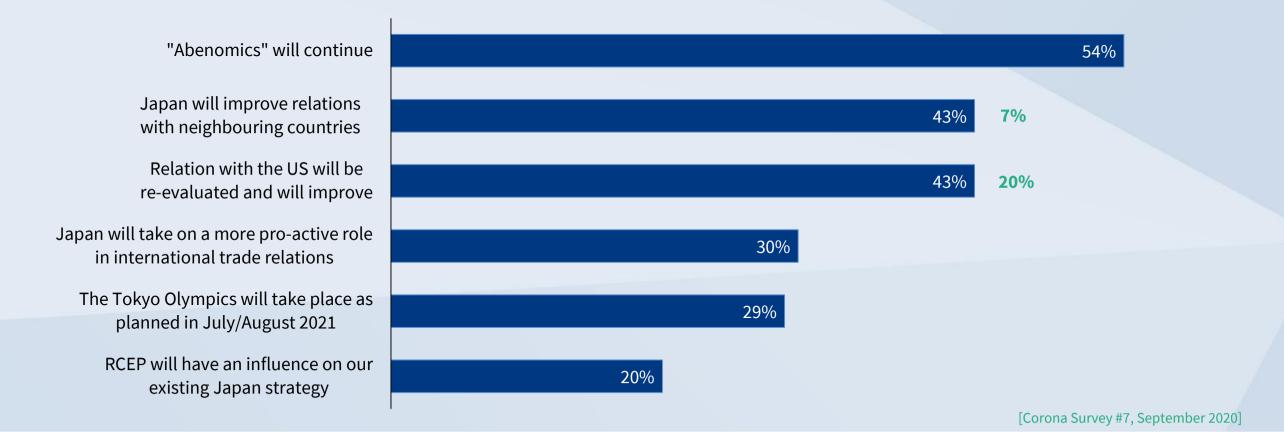
Future perspective: when do you expect the Japanese economy to recover to its pre-crisis level?





# Key domestic and foreign policy topics

How do you think about the further direction of Japan in regards to domestic and foreign policy under PM Suga?





#### Voices

The discrimination between Japanese and foreign residents in Japan in regulations for re-entry into Japan is appalling. On the other hand, the discipline and consideration the Japanese people show concerning Covid-19 have kept infection numbers down compared to Europe/US, is remarkable. Even if the handling of the pandemic in Japan is at times not transparent and worrying.

The pandemic helped increasing and further advancing digitalization in companies, and also changed the role of working in home offices as effectively as in conventional offices.

Globalization is more fragile than most of us thought. A simple virus can impact the global economy in ways no one predicted, and there was a lack of cooperation between regions that will negatively affect the benefits of globalization while exposing some of the many problems of it.

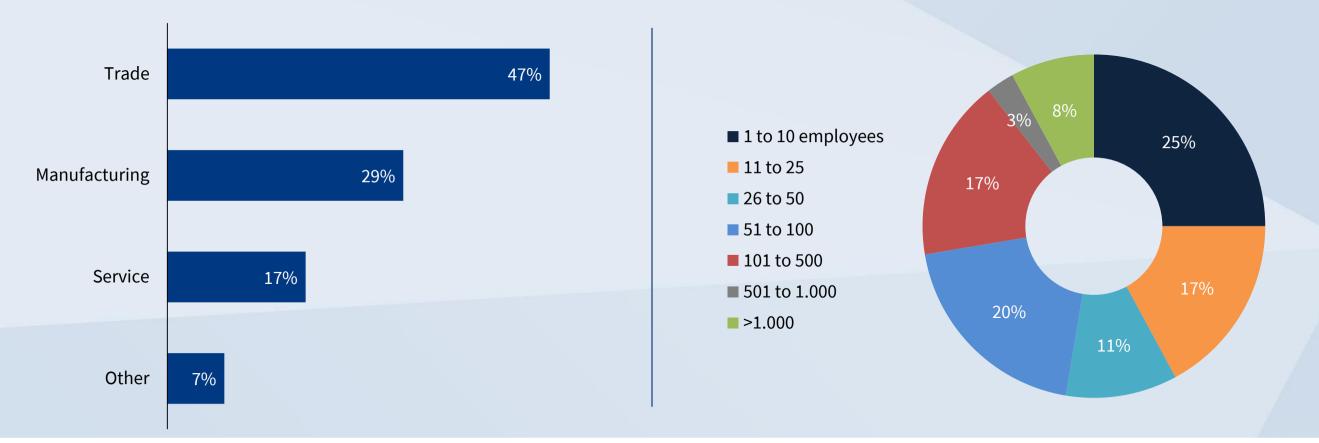
The different treatment of Japanese nationals and foreigners with resident permit regarding travel showed all foreign residents that they are only tolerated and not considered to be an actual part of the Japanese society. From a business perspective, this also cast doubts about the suitability of Japan regional headquarters for Asia.

So far the country managed the Covid-19 pandemic reasonable well. This is also to a high extent a result of the discipline of the population to follow guidelines i.e. wearing masks in comparison with Europe. Compared with other governments, Japan reacted too slow in their taskforces to secure protective equipment and necessary healthcare products. More agility is needed in the future.



# **Profile of the companies surveyed**

No. of German companies in Japan surveyed: 379 | Response rate: 20% | Period: December 7–11, 2020





# **German presence in Japan**

**12.480** German companies export to Japan

450 German companies with own subsidiary in Japan



#### German direct investment (stock):



German-Japanese trade: **44,7 Bill. €** 

Germany is the **No. 1** European exporter to Japan



**10 German** companies among the **Top 100** foreign investors in Japan

German business in Japan creates **265.000 jobs** 



#### **German Foreign Trade Promotion**









#### Disclaimer

All content was created with the greatest possible care and to the best of our knowledge. The publisher assumes no liability for the topicality, correctness, completeness or quality of the information provided. The publisher is not liable for material or immaterial damage caused directly or indirectly by the use or non-use of the information provided, unless it can be proven that he was guilty of willful intent or gross negligence.

Reprint only with source.

© Copyright 2020 AHK Japan. All rights reserved. The name and logo are registered trademarks of the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan (AHK Japan).

German Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan (AHK Japan) KS Sanbancho Bldg. 5F., Sanbancho 2-4, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0075, Japan info@dihkj.or.jp | www.japan.ahk.de

