

Learning Executives Express Increasing Confidence in 3rd Quarter

Three of four confidence indices record all-time high values.

(Alexandria, VA) October 20, 2009 – Learning executives continue to be increasingly optimistic about the outlook and expectations for the learning function according to the latest measurement by the American Society for Training & Development ([ASTD](#)). The [Learning Executive Confidence Index \(LXCI\)](#) for the third quarter of 2009 continued its upward trend after posting a significant rebound in the second quarter. All four major indices increased with three of four achieving all-time high values. The current LXCI surveyed 292 learning executives about their expectations in four areas: impact on corporate performance; ability to meet learning needs; status as a key strategic component; and availability of resources. It is modeled on the CEO Confidence Indices reported by *Chief Executive Magazine* and The Conference Board.

Current LXCI indices show growing confidence in key areas in the third quarter, continuing the across-the-board positivity of learning executives' (LXs) noted in the second quarter of 2009. After back-to-back drops at the end of 2008, executive confidence began to stabilize in the first quarter of 2009. When the four different measures are combined, the overall LXCI for third quarter 2009 was 60.7, compared with 59.4 for second quarter of 2009. The LXCI is measured on a 100-point scale. The 1.3-point change shows a continued rebound in optimism and indicates that collectively learning executives expect their learning functions to remain the same or marginally improve over the next six months.

Other highlights of the LXCI for third quarter 2009 include:

- More than three quarters, or 77.3 percent of LXs anticipate that their organization's profits will remain the same or improve, up slightly from 74.5 percent in Q2 2009.
- Each of the four major indices (impact on corporate performance, ability to meet learning needs, availability of resources, and status as a key strategic component) was on the upswing in Q3, with all but one of them (ability to meet learning needs) reaching their highest value on record.
- A growing number of LXs expect outsourcing on external services that aid in the learning function to increase or remain at comparable levels. The increase is significant: 39.9 percent of LXs in the third quarter expect a similar amount to be spent on outside vendors, compared with 28.7 percent in the second quarter.

-more-

- Pessimism about resources available for outsourcing and external services decreased. In the third quarter 38.1 percent of LXs said the amount of money available for external services and outsourcing would decrease – a 24.5 percent drop from the Q1 2009 figure of 62.6 percent.

ASTD's Learning Executive Confidence Index was launched in August 2008 and is designed to assess the outlooks and expectations of learning executives for the next six months.

To find out more about the LXCI, go to <http://www.astd.org/content/research/LXCI.htm>.

About ASTD

ASTD (American Society for Training & Development) is the world's largest professional association dedicated to the training and development field. In more than 100 countries, ASTD's members work in organizations of all sizes, in the private and public sectors, as independent consultants, and as suppliers. Members connect locally in 133 U.S. chapters and with 30 international partners. ASTD started in 1943 and in recent years has widened the profession's focus to align learning and performance to organizational results, and is a sought-after voice on critical public policy issues. For more information, visit www.astd.org.

###