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Tatum Finance Executives Predict Positive Economy in Second Half of 2009

ATLANTA, May 12, 2009 – Financial executives across the country believe that the 2008-2009 economic recession is fading, and a period of recovery is in the process of beginning, according to the results of the *May Survey of Business Conditions*, conducted by executive services firm Tatum, LLC. Nearly 300 chief financial officers and other financial executives participated in the monthly survey that identifies key strengths and weaknesses in business conditions for U.S. organizations.

In the survey, financial executives reported rising capital expenditure commitments, rising backlogs that suggest inventory liquidations are ending and an improvement in the availability of capital. The Survey Index, which represents an overall trend based on elements of the past 30 days and the next 60 days, has been rising steadily for the past six months, and has reached a level not seen since Spring 2008. If current trends continue, the economy is likely to turn positive in the second half of this year.

“Credit markets are settling into a more predictable pattern, consumer confidence is on the rise and businesses have successfully altered their models to address the rules of a new economy,” said Rich D’Amaro, Tatum’s Chairman and CEO. “Though the recession isn’t over, CFOs are confident that the tough decisions made in the last year will help them emerge stronger and more profitable.”

D’Amaro also said that all businesses, whether or not they were severely affected by the downturn, should take advantage of this opportunity to rethink strategic budgeting and planning processes as financial executives prepare for a gradual recovery.

The survey results indicate that 79 percent of financial executives continue to be heavily burdened or see negative effects of the recession, while 57 percent are making various moves to prepare for the end of the recession. Sixty-two percent of survey participants will continue to closely manage overhead costs after the recession, and 60 percent will continue frequent, detailed cash flow forecasting.

For the complete survey, visit <http://www.tatumllc.com/perspectives/survey-of-business-conditions.asp>.

About the Tatum Survey of Business Conditions

Each month, Tatum conducts a survey of its financial and technology executives regarding current business and economic conditions and trends. The survey looks back at the past 30 days and forward to the next 60 days to produce an Index of Business Conditions based on the ratings.

About Tatum, LLC

Companies turn to Tatum when critical business challenges arise because we immediately deliver financial and technology operational expertise via solutions tailored to the Office of the CFO. We understand the urgency of NOW and we leverage nearly 1,000 executives and consulting professionals nationwide to accelerate results to create more value™. For more information, visit www.TatumLLC.com