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Inside the New Economy

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BUT FIRST, THIS

Stimulating conversation: The incoming presidential administration must make economic inducements its top priority, starting with the swift passage of a new COVID-19 stimulus package.

So say respondents to the latest CEO Survey by accounting giant [Marcum LLP](#) and Hofstra University's [Frank G. Zarb School of Business](#), which quizzed 250 C-suite executives in November, representing a wide range of national industries – healthcare, manufacturing, construction, real estate, retail and more. More than two-thirds (67.6 percent) said a new federal COVID-19 stimulus deal should be one of the Biden Administration's top three opening acts, with nearly half (45.6 percent) calling it President Biden's Job No. 1.

The pandemic hangs heavy over the survey, with four out of five middle-market CEOs labeling COVID a “continuing factor” in their operations and 82.4 percent of all respondents noting current actions in anticipation of new shutdowns. Executives also cited a need for expanded access to capital for midsized businesses, while ranking national immigration reform and improved trade with China as low priorities. [Full survey here.](#)