Global Business Ethics Survey

Ethics & Compliance Initiative
2016

OBJECTIVE:
The survey was conducted to expand upon the view of workplace integrity in organizations located in 13 countries, Brazil, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, South Korea, Spain, United Kingdom and the United States.

METHODS USED:
Data collection for the Global Business Ethics Survey™ (GBES™) was performed through online panels. Data collection took place from November 30 – December 31, 2015. Surveys were conducted in the native language of each of the 13 countries selected by ECI for surveying. A total of 1,000 responses were collected in each country (except the United States, for which 1,046 responses were collected), for a grand total of 13,046 responses in the GBES data set.

KEY FINDINGS:
- In the private sector, a majority of bribery involves management (23 percent top managers, 32 percent middle managers). Companies reported that 71% of these compliance-related training are done annually.
- Across all sectors, more employees in Brazil, India and Russia both experience pressure to compromise standards and observe misconduct than their counterparts in the other 10 countries surveyed.
- Across all sectors, on average, the greatest declines in key measures occurred at organizations undergoing profound organizational change.

CONCLUSION:
- The survey reveals a strong connection between employees feeling pressure to compromise organizational standards and their likelihood of observing misconduct. Similarly, there is a link between reporting rates and the likelihood of experiencing retaliation.
- Building and sustaining a culture that prizes ethical decision-making and speaking up will benefit employees and mitigate risks associated with operating in today’s complex global economy. A high quality ethics and compliance program is an essential part of building and sustaining an ethical culture.