

Executive summary

While much of the world braces for recession, CEOs in the United Arab Emirates are optimistic and poised for growth:

96%

are confident in growth prospects for their industry, up from 88% in 2021

88%

are confident in growth prospects for their country

60%

expect their earnings to increase by 2.5 to 4.5% annually over the next 3 years

01



In response to geopolitical challenges,

- **68%** have diversified their supply chains, an increase of 39% from the previous year
- **64%** plan to transfer overseas operations locally/in-house in the next 6 months
- **48%** have reconsidered investment strategies

02



When it comes to ESG...

- **36%** of CEOs in the UAE plan to take a more proactive approach to societal issues such as a just transition, human rights and a living wage
- **32%** see a net-zero strategy as a key driver to accelerating ESG, compared to 19% of CEOs worldwide

03



96% of CEOs report an aggressive digital investment strategy, compared to just 64% last year. Moreover:

- **88%** have plans in place to address a ransomware attack (2021: 52%)
- **92%** are committed to building partner ecosystems and supply chain cyber defenses in addition to their own, representing a 20% increase from 2021

04



But a showdown over the return to the office may be looming:

- **60%** of CEOs expect employees to return to the office full-time
- **66%** of employees prefer hybrid working