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**Headline: Wages to go up by 5.9%: Survey**

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## Wages to go up by 5.9%: Survey

COMPANIES here will raise wages by up to 5.9 per cent this year, according to a survey of 500 firms by human resource consultant Mercer — as compared to the projection of 5 per cent in another recent study reported by this newspaper yesterday.

“Last July, we were looking at salary increases of between 4.7 and 4.8 per cent. When we refreshed the numbers at the end of last year, average increases had gone up to between 5.5 and 5.9 per cent, said Ms Su-yen Wong, Mercer’s managing director for the South-east Asian region.

Human resource consultants expect wage hikes to keep up with inflation, which could hit 5.5 per cent this year.

Companies in the banking, property and pharmaceutical sectors will set the pace, while those in electronics manufacturing are likely to be more restrained because of the slowdown in the United States technology sector.

Middle managers stand to gain the most, according to human resources consultant Kelly Services.

“At this point, there is a huge demand for middle managers in all industries and sectors, especially the financial sector. These people would expect a fairly good raise and some could be as high as 10 per cent or more,” said Kelly Services senior vice-president Dhirendra Shantilal.

— CHANNEL NEWSASIA

Quotes from Kelly Services:

*“At this point, there is a huge demand for middle managers in all industries and sectors, especially the financial sector. These people would expect a fairly good-raise and some as high as 10 per cent or more”*

*- Mr Dhirendra Shantilal, Senior Vice President, Kelly Services Asia-Pacific*