

## United States - Maribeth Renne

### 1. What is happening in your country in the economy, politically and labour market -

We are currently "on pins and needles" waiting to hear the outcome of our Presidential Election. Many believe this election has been extremely volatile and polarizing to our nation.

The election has very much affected our country economically as well. There was a slow, steady retreat of the stock market as of Friday, Nov. 4, with the market falling for the ninth straight day. Wall Street was in its longest period of decline in more than three decades. Investors continued to focus on the US presidential election, which has become very close and has put the market on the defensive.

The US Trade deficit fell in September to the lowest level in 19 months as demand for U.S.-made airplanes and other exports increased while imports slipped.

Workers saw the best increases in seven years in October as employers added 161,000 jobs. The job market looks much more resilient. Job gains have been steady but pay raises have only recently become more widespread. Millions of Americans are working part time but would prefer to work full time. The unemployment rate dipped to 4.9 %.

Average hourly pay took a big step up in October, rising 10 cents an hour to an average of \$25.92. That is 2.8 percent higher than a year ago and is the sharpest 12-month rise in seven years.

### 2. What is happening in the profession of career coaching?

Career Coaching continues to be sought after, especially by individuals seeking to grow and develop in their careers. Professionals providing individualized coaching are in demand.

### 3. What is going on in professional career coaching organizations?

Outplacement coaching purchased and provided by employers for those whose jobs are being eliminated does not seem to be growing and large outplacement firms continue to offer more cookie-cutter approaches at lower cost.

Professional career coaching organizations that provide coaching to empower employees to move up in their organizations continue to get work in this area. However, many companies are asking for lower prices for this type of coaching as well.

### 4. What strategies are career coaches using to compete in today's market place (ref. super-specialisations from the April call)

I think most of us are staying abreast of current 'hot' topics and developing coaching programs to speak to these emerging needs. Dealing with bullying in the

workplace, developing confidence, building resiliency and grit, and other similar needs are being addressed.

We are doing more presentations and lectures on 'hot' topics to interest listeners in one-on-one coaching in these areas.