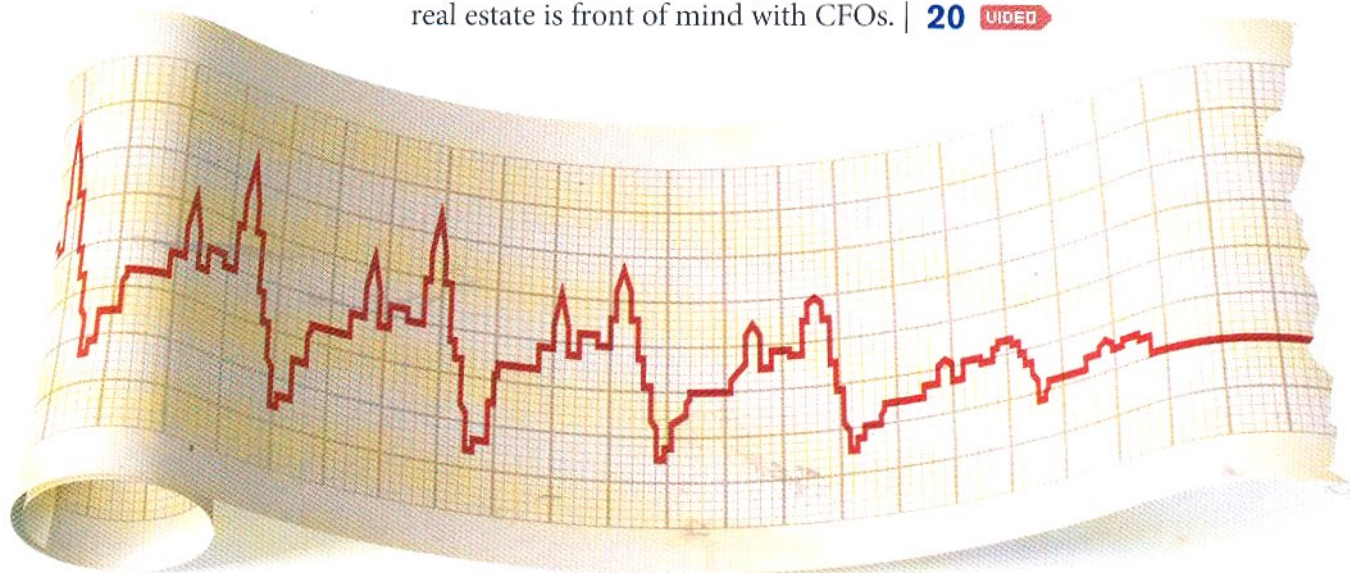


## Finding a Cure for Your Real Estate Blues

Whether they're structuring deals to conserve cash, reduce operating costs, or liquidate a business, real estate is front of mind with CFOs. | **20** **VIDEO**



### FOREIGN INVESTMENT in U.S. Real Estate

Foreign investment in U.S. real estate continues to grow. Members of the Association of Foreign Investors in Real Estate (AFIRE) hold about \$230 billion in U.S. real estate, AFIRE reports. This was expected to increase to about \$267 billion during 2008 and compares to \$184 billion in 2006.

Investors from outside the country benefit from both declining real estate values and the languishing U.S. dollar, as each gives them more for their money. "That's two things going for" foreign investors,

says Barry Gross, president of Developers Research in Irvine, Cal. At the same time, most investors view the U.S. as a safe location; AFIRE members ranked the U.S. as the most stable and secure country in which to invest.

However, while the U.S. currently tops foreign investors' rankings, its dominance isn't absolute, AFIRE reports. Its members say that they plan to boost overall spending on real estate by 20 percent in 2008, compared to a 16 percent jump in spending in the U.S.