



The number of women in senior-level positions at the nation's 50 largest banks is holding steady, with modest improvements in the number of women reaching the C-suite level.

Study Findings

The 2011 Women At The Top® (WATT®) Study focused on the financial services industry in the U.S. and targeted the 50 largest commercial banks based on asset size. Results indicate that women hold slightly less than one in five senior management positions at these banks.

FWI found a total of 940 senior-level positions within the 50 largest U.S. banks. Women held 165 of those jobs, or 17.6 percent of the total, which included 40 in C-suite positions:

Chief Executive Officer	3
Chief Financial Officer (Finance)	9
Chief Financial Officer (Fiduciary)	1
Chief Credit Officer	2
Chief Risk Officer	4
Chief Retail Officer	1
Chief Information Officer	2
Chief Operations Officer	3
Chief Marketing Officer	7
Chief Administrative Officer	5
Chief Human Resources Officer	3

Another area of progress has been the number of women in management as an overall percentage.

In 2005, 30 percent of the nation's largest banks did not have a single woman in a senior-level position. Now, just 12 percent have no women in management.

Study Methodology

The 2011 study was sponsored by the Women at the Top® Network and conducted by students at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, led by finance instructor Terrilyn B. Morgan. They used FDIC data from the 50 largest commercial banks in the U.S., based on asset size as of December 31, 2010.

Banks were sorted by assets, and the web sites for each listing were reviewed. To calculate the number of women in leadership positions at each bank, researchers gathered information available publicly – including each bank's investor relations information and annual report, when available.

Conclusions

The overall 17.6 percent of the executive management positions held by women has held relatively steady in recent years, but reflects an improvement from 12.6 percent in 2005.

By expanding the number of positions included in the study in 2011, the WATT® Study showed that women are reaching influential positions, albeit slowly, after years of investment in women's leadership, training and mentorship programs. The WATT® Network, which sponsors the study, believes that continued improvement will come as the industry, and the economy, recovers.