

Study Findings

The 2012 Women At The Top® (WATT®) Study found that women hold slightly less than one in five senior management positions at the nation's 50 largest commercial banks.

WATT® found a total of 842 senior-level positions within the 50 largest U.S. banks. Women held 141 of those jobs, or 16.7 percent of the total, which included 32 in C-suite positions:

Chief Executive Officer	2
Chief Executive Officer-Division	5
Chief Executive Officer-Asset Mgmt	0
Chief Financial Officer-Division	3
Chief Credit Officer	2
Chief Risk Officer	3
Chief Information Officer	1
Chief Operations Officer	4
Chief Marketing Officer	2
Chief Administrative Officer	2
Chief Human Resources Officer	7

Another area of progress has been the number of women in management as an overall percentage. In 2007, 30 percent of the nation's largest banks did not have a single woman in a senior-level position. Now, just four of the banks, or 8 percent, have no women in management.

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 Methodology

Students at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, led by finance instructor Terrilyn B. Morgan, conducted the 2012 Women at the Top® study. They used Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation data from the 50 largest commercial banks in the U.S., based on asset size as of December 31, 2011.

Researchers gathered information available publicly – including each bank's investor relations information and annual report. (No data was available for one of the banks, so results are based on 49 banks.)

Conclusions

This year's results reflect a slight decrease from 2011, when women held 17.6 of executive positions at the 50 largest commercial banks in the U.S. That number has remained steady: five years ago, women held 16.1 percent of C-level jobs at the 100 largest banks.

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.