Women leaders in 2022
Progress in the pipeline?

The devastation of the pandemic forced millions of American women out of the workforce as part of the Great Resignation. But for those who were able to stay, 2022 has revealed an unexpected upside: the pipeline for women leaders has actually expanded for some roles. And yet, the most senior roles are as elusive as ever.

Good news, bad news

Pipeline as priority

After a dismal 2021, the percentage of women in executive leadership roles is rebounding... but enough women still aren’t making it to the C-suite or executive boards.

83% of men CEOs say advancing women is not a priority, but that they try to do it when they can.

Gender equity and the bottom line

Organizations experience a 61% higher rate of revenue growth when they:
- Designate the advancement of women as a top business priority
- See gender inclusivity as a driver of financial performance
- Fully support making changes to achieve gender equity

Among women CEOs, 72% say their organizations have made the advancement of more women a top formal business priority.

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Pipeline potential

When a woman sits in the corner office, that organization’s talent pipeline is filled with 23% more women than other organizations.

The solution: Turn advocacy into action.

Don’t just talk. Act!
- Make the advancement of more women a top business priority.
- Notify spouses to establish targeted career re-entry programs, skills training, and flexible scheduling to reduce barriers for women who want to return to work.
- Identify and overcome the stacked biases that slow the progress of women of color, LGBTQ+ women, and women with different abilities.
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Read our latest report, “Women, leadership, and missed opportunities.”

Learn more

Methodology: To capture a 2022 update of the state of women in leadership roles in US organizations, the IBV accessed data from its pulse survey to 300 US CEOs at the end of 4Q 2021. It compared the results to similar survey findings from 144 US C-suite executives who participated in the IBV’s 2021 “Women, leadership, and missed opportunities” study, and responses from 92 US C-suite executives in its 2019 study, “Women, leadership, and the priority paradox.” The analysis of data focused on key measures of progress: awareness, commitment, and action. The 2021 study is available at ibm.co/women-leadership-2021.


12% 10% 9% 18% 15% 9% 13% 22% 20%
27% 32% 32% 23% 27% 27% 23% 27% 27%