Where are the women CEOs?

The progress of women to the top role in the world’s largest publicly listed companies has been slow since the appointment of the first woman CEO of a Fortune 500 company, in 1963. After six decades, there are still only 7% around the world.

Only 7% of CEOs leading some of the world’s largest publicly listed companies are women.

There are significant differences among markets...

Countries with the highest % of women CEOs

- Norway: 20%
- Kenya: 18%
- Singapore: 13%

Countries with the lowest % of women CEOs

- Saudi Arabia and Italy had no women CEOs

...and similar gaps among sectors

Sectors with the highest % of women CEOs

- Travel and hospitality: 14%
- Chemicals: 12%
- Media and entertainment & banking: 11%

Sectors with the lowest % of women CEOs

- Manufacturing: 0%
- Technology: 2%
- Power and utilities: 5%

Source: Heidrick & Struggles’ Route to the Top 2022 Sample: largest publicly-listed companies in 25 markets: Australia and New Zealand, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States

To explore our full report on global CEOs go to heidrick.com/routetothetop2022