

Women Hold 18% of Private Equity Positions

Fewer than one in 10 senior private equity roles are held by female employees

Women represent 17.9% of employees in the private equity industry in 2019*. This is the lowest proportion of any alternative asset class, and is unchanged from Preqin's last analysis of the industry in November 2017. This varies widely by role function: women account for the majority (53%) of investor relations employees, but only 13% of employees in investment teams. Equally, women hold a greater proportion of junior roles (31%), but become less well-represented at more senior levels, accounting for just 10% of senior employees globally. These trends are relatively equally displayed in different regions, with total female representation ranging from 19% of roles in Europe-based firms to 17% in Rest of World-based firms.

For more information and analysis, see the full *Women in Private Equity 2019* factsheet here:

<http://docs.preqin.com/reports/Preqin-Women-in-Private-Equity-February-2019.pdf>

Michelle Stern, SVP Market Development:

"It is well-known that the representation of women in the alternative assets industry is relatively low. However, it is particularly striking that women still hold fewer than one in five private equity jobs, and that that proportion has remained unchanged since 2017. Where they are employed at private equity firms, women are primarily in client-facing roles on investor relations teams, while deal-side roles in investment teams are overwhelmingly held by men. There is a growing body of evidence showing that firms which employ more women in key decision-making roles have higher returns and lower risk. This alone suggests that greater female representation should be a priority for the industry."

Key Facts on Women in Private Equity:

- **Women account for 17.9% of private equity employees.** This is the lowest proportion of any alternative asset class, and remains unchanged since November 2017.
- This varies by seniority: women account for 31% of junior employees globally, but hold **just 10% of senior roles**.
- Representation is similar across all regions. **Women account for 19% of employees at Asia-based firms**, the highest proportion, and 17% at Europe-based firms, the lowest proportion.
- **Women represent the majority of investor relations employees** (53%). By seniority, they hold 63% of junior roles, but just 34% of senior roles in investor relations teams.
- **Investment teams have the lowest rate of female representation.** Women hold 22% of junior investment roles and 9% of senior roles, giving an overall proportion of 13%.
- Among major private equity hubs, **China- and Hong Kong-based firms have the highest proportions of female employees** (14.0% and 13.8% respectively). South Korea has the lowest representation, with just 3.7% of roles held by women.
- Among senior employees, women hold a quarter of CFO roles (the highest proportion). **Women are least likely to be managing partners**, accounting for just 5% of employees with that job title.

***All employment figures are based on analysis of more than 280,000 industry professionals on Preqin's database, including over 67,000 private equity professionals.**

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New York	London	Singapore	San Francisco	Hong Kong	Manila	Guangzhou
+1 212 350 0100	+44 20 3207 0200	+65 6305 2200	+1 415 316 0580	+852 3892 0200		

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