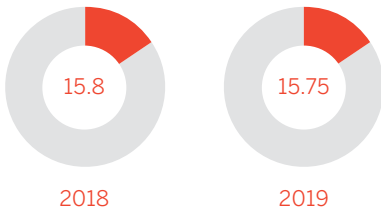
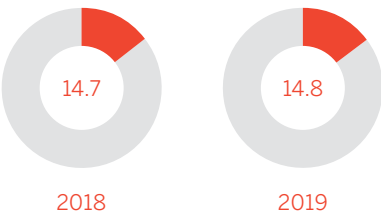


THE LEADERSHIP FOUNDRY is a signature program of Women in Technology (WIT) to increase female representation on corporate boards, create awareness over gender disparity and encourage local organizations to support board diversity. The Leadership Foundry provides training for board candidates, advocates for increasing the number of women serving on corporate boards and researches board gender diversity in publicly traded companies in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC.

The percentage of board seats held by women at publicly traded companies in the Washington region has stalled.



The percentage of those companies that had a critical mass—three or more women—on their boards has increased slightly.



Meanwhile, the number of area publicly held companies whose boards have no women at all is at the lowest point since we began tracking the data.



Data from a Women in Technology-commissioned report, prepared by American University's School of Professional & Extended Studies in 2019, that examined the number of women board members from 162 publicly traded companies headquartered in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC

THE FACTS

- Women hold 15.75% (231) of the 1467 board seats at publicly held companies in the Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC, region. This is a 0.05 percentage-point decrease from the 2018 study.
- Of these 162 companies, 14.8% (24) had a critical mass of women (three or more) serving as board directors, a slight decrease from the 2018 study.
- The trend from 2010 to 2019 continues to show companies within our region slowly but steadily adding women to their boards. In 2019, there were 32 companies in the entire region with no women serving on their board, down from 89 in 2010.

FOCUS 2019

When women are in influential positions on a board they can effect change. Our report this year continues our initial investigation into power positions. Significant board decisions such as identifying a slate of qualified candidates for board seats and influencing decisions in favor of women over traditional male-dominated choices are influenced by women holding power positions on the board. We also highlight significant state-level legislation advances on board gender diversity.

HOW WE WORK

The Leadership Foundry provides intensive board training sessions that prepare women to serve on a corporate board of directors. There are formal and informal networking and mentoring opportunities to assist the participants in obtaining their first corporate board seat. A group of 15–20 experienced women executives have the opportunity to be a part of this program each year.

For more information contact us at theleadershipfoundry@womenintechnology.org.