

Gender Pay Equity

Whereas:

The median income for women working full time in the United States is reported to be 79 percent of that of their male counterparts. This 10,800 dollar disparity can add up to nearly half a million dollars over a career. The gap for African America and Latina women is 60 percent and 55 percent respectively. At the current rate, women will not reach pay parity until 2059.

A 2016 *Glassdoor* study finds an unexplained 6.4 percent gender pay gap in the financial services industry after statistical controls, among the highest of industries examined. Recruiting firm Dice reports men in the technology industry earned nearly 10,000 dollars more than women on average in 2014.

Women make up over half of entry level positions in finance, yet a 2016 *Oliver Wyman* study finds it will take until 2048 to reach 30 percent female executive committee representation. Mercer finds female executives are 20 to 30 percent more likely to leave financial services careers than other careers. Women make up just 26 percent of the US tech workforce, few women hold senior management and board positions, and there are high rates of attrition among women.

A large body of evidence suggests diversity in leadership leads to better performance. McKinsey & Company states, “the business case for the advancement and promotion of women is compelling” and has found companies with highly diverse executive teams boasted higher returns on equity, earnings performance, and stock price growth. Best practices to address this underleveraged opportunity include “tracking and eliminating gender pay gaps.”

Mercer finds actively managing pay equity “is associated with higher current female representation at the professional through executive levels and a faster trajectory to improved representation.”

Regulatory risk exists as the Paycheck Fairness Act pends before Congress. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has proposed rules requiring wage gap reporting. California, Massachusetts, New York, and Maryland have passed some of the strongest equal pay legislation to date.

The *Wall Street Journal* reports, “Research attributes salary inequalities to several factors—from outright bias to women failing to ask for raises.” A Harvard University economist concluded the gap stems from women making less in the same jobs. As much as 40 percent of the wage gap may be attributed to discrimination.

S&P 500 companies including Intel, Apple, Expedia, and eBay have publically reported and committed to gender pay equity.

Resolved: Shareholders request MasterCard prepare a report by November 2017(omitting proprietary information, prepared at reasonable cost) on the Company’s policies and goals to reduce the gender pay gap.

The gender pay gap is defined as the difference between male and female median earnings expressed as a percentage of male earnings (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development).

Supporting Statement: A report adequate for investors to assess MasterCard’s strategy and performance would include the percentage pay gap between male and female employees across race and ethnicity, including base, bonus and equity compensation, policies to address that gap, methodology used, and quantitative reduction targets.