

27th Annual Edition

The Celluloid Ceiling: Employment of Behind-the-Scenes Women on Top Grossing U.S. Films in 2024

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In 2024, 70% of films employed 10 or more men in key behind-the-scenes roles but only 8% employed 10 or more women. Women directed and wrote some of the year’s buzziest films, including *The Substance* and *Babygirl*. But their directors, Coralie Fargeat and Halina Reijn remain exceptions, not the rule. The stunning successes enjoyed by high-profile women in the last few years – including Greta Gerwig, Jane Campion, and Chloé Zhao -- have not translated into opportunities for greater numbers of women. Visibility for a few has not generated employment for many.

As directors, women accounted for just 16% of those working on the 250 top (domestic) grossing films in 2024, even with the percentage achieved in 2023. Women made up 11% of those working on the 100 top grossing films, down 3 percentage points from 14% in 2023.

Signs of how we envision women who direct were on full display this summer when a number of films portrayed women in this role, including *The Fall Guy*, *A Family Affair*, and *MaXXXine*. In these narratives, fictional female helmers needed to be saved, required help translating their direction for a male actor who literally spoke a different language, or were rendered so brittle by thoughts of future opportunities that they were perceived as being difficult to work with. Every one of the portrayals provided a Rorschach test of how we view women in leadership positions.

Overall, women comprised 23% of all directors, writers, producers, executive producers, editors and cinematographers working on the 250 top grossing films and 20% on the 100 top films in 2024.

The Celluloid Ceiling has tracked women's employment on the 250 top grossing films for the last 27 years. Having monitored credits for over a quarter of a century, the project provides the longest-running and most comprehensive account of women's behind-the-scenes representation available. This historical record reveals that women remain dramatically underrepresented in many key behind-the-scenes roles on the top 100 and 250 (domestic) grossing films of 2024.

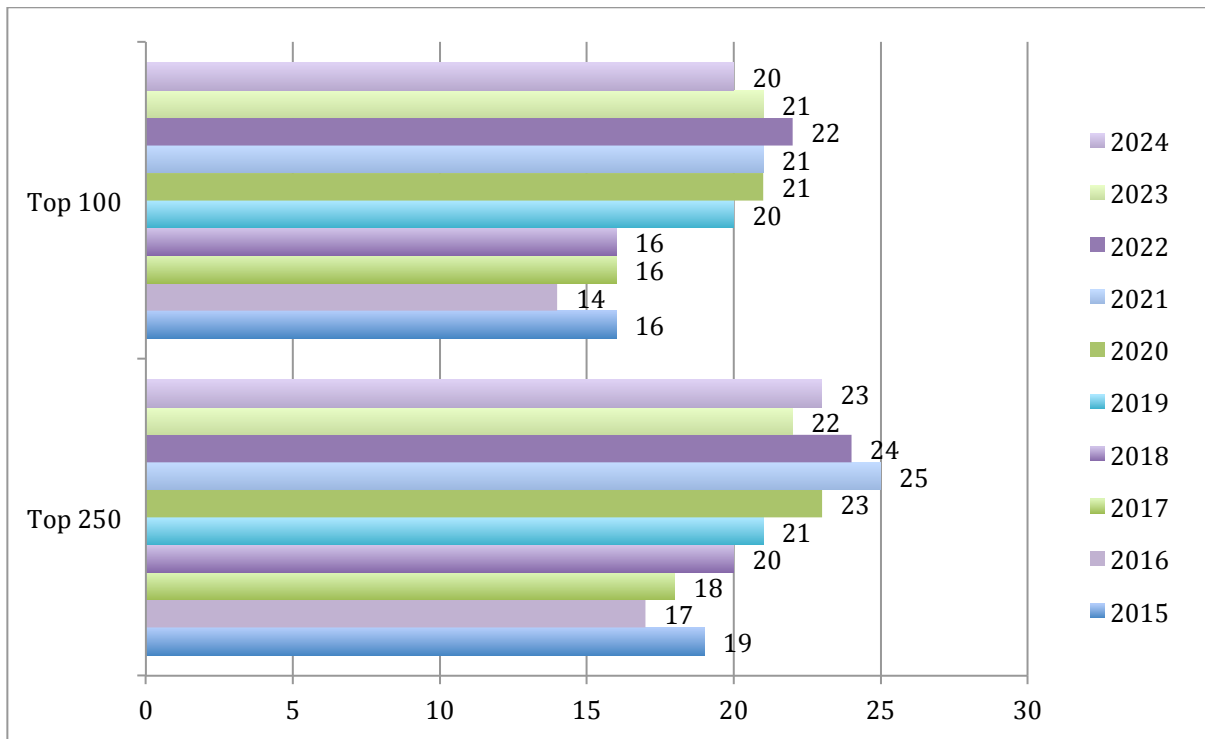
Key Findings

- In 2024, the majority of the top 250 films (72%) employed 0 to 5 women in the roles considered, 19% of films employed 6 to 9 women, and 8% employed 10 or more women. In contrast, 6% of films employed 0 to 5 men in the roles considered, 25% employed 6 to 9 men, and the remaining majority (70%) employed 10 or more men.

- Last year, women comprised 23% of directors, writers, producers, executive producers, editors, and cinematographers working on the 250 top grossing films. This represents an increase of 1 percentage point from 22% in 2023. The percentage of women working on the top 100 films decreased one percentage point, from 21% in 2023 to 20% in 2024 (see Figure 1).

Figure 1.

*Comparison of Percentages of Behind-the-Scenes Women on Top 100 and 250 Films**

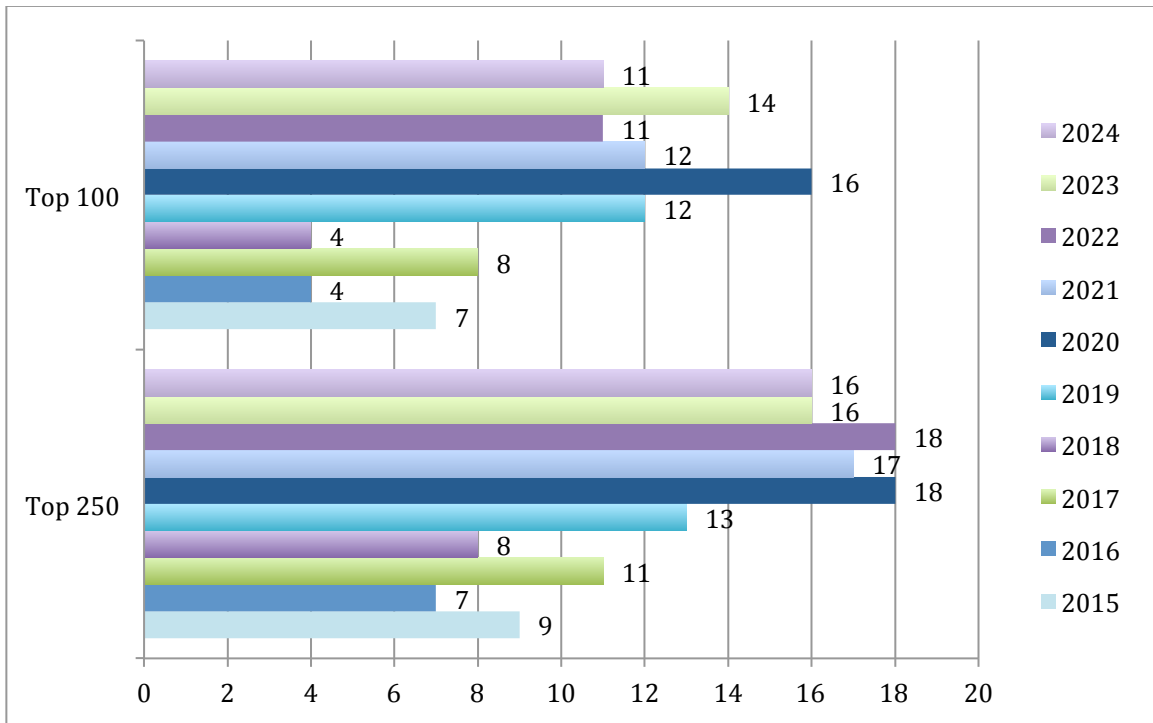


**includes directors, writers, producers, executive producers, editors, cinematographers*

- Women accounted for 16% of directors working on the 250 top films in 2024, even with the percentage achieved in 2023. Women comprised 11% of directors working on the 100 top films of 2024, down 3 percentage points from 14% in 2023 (see Figure 2).

Figure 2.

Comparison of Percentages of Women Directors Working on the Top 100 and 250 Films



- In other roles, women comprised 27% of producers, 22% of executive producers, 20% of writers, 20% of editors, and 12% of cinematographers working on the 250 top films. Women accounted for 24% of producers, 21% of executive producers, 21% of editors, 16% of writers, 11% of directors, and 5% of cinematographers working on the 100 top films.

- Films with at least one woman director employed substantially more women in other key behind-the-scenes roles than films with exclusively male directors. On films with at least one woman director, women comprised 52% of writers, 27% of editors, and 34% of cinematographers. In contrast, on films with male directors,

women accounted for 12% of writers, 17% of editors, and 5% of cinematographers (top 250 films).

Background

For the last 27 years, *The Celluloid Ceiling* has tracked women's employment on the 250 top grossing films (international films and re-issues omitted). In later years, the study also considered the 100 top films, and until 2020 the 500 top films.

The results of the study are divided into two major sections. The first section reports the findings for the 250 top (domestic) grossing films, offering comparisons of percentages from 2024 with figures dating from 1998. This year's report monitored over 3,300 credits on the top grossing films. Since 1998, the study has tracked more than 85,000 behind-the-scenes credits.

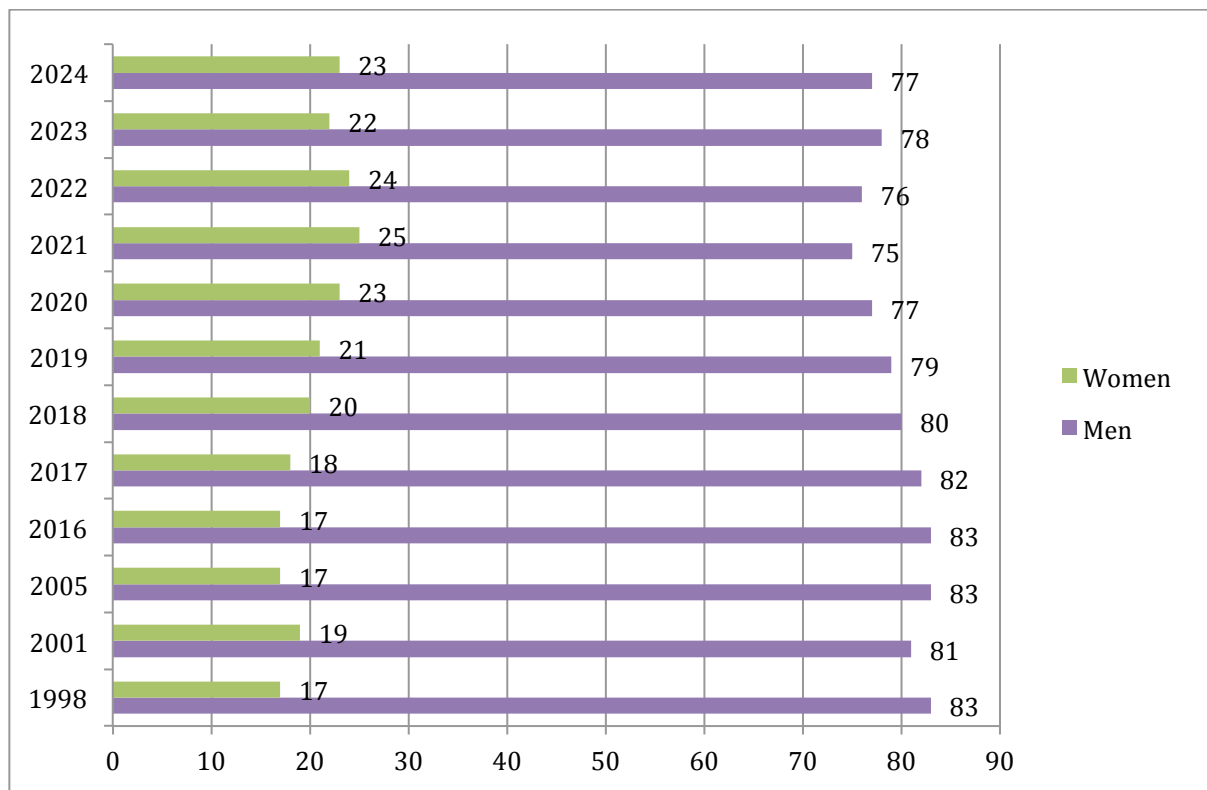
The second section provides the numbers for the 100 top (domestic) grossing films, comparing this year's figures with those from 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2015, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. Figures for the top grossing films are based on numbers obtained from The Numbers on January 1, 2025.

Findings / 250 Top Films

Women comprised 23% of all directors, writers, executive producers, producers, editors, and cinematographers working on the 250 top films of 2024. This represents an increase of 1 percentage point from 2023, and an increase of only 6 percentage points since 1998 (see Figure 3).

Figure 3.

Historical Comparison of Percentages of Behind-the-Scenes Women on Top 250 Films



Women fared best as producers (27%), followed by executive producers (22%), editors (20%), writers (20%), directors (16%), and cinematographers (12%).

In 2024, the majority of films (72%) employed 0 to 5 women in the roles considered, 19% of films employed 6 to 9 women, and 8% employed 10 or more women. In contrast, 6% of films employed 0 to 5 men in the roles considered, 25% employed 6 to 9 men, and the remaining majority (70%) employed 10 or more men.

Women comprised 16% of all directors working on the 250 top films of 2024, even with the percentage achieved in 2023. Taking the long view, this represents an increase of 7 percentage points from 9% in 1998 (see Figure 4).

Films with at least one woman director employed substantially more women in other key behind-the-scenes roles than films with exclusively male directors. On films with at least one woman director, women comprised 52% of writers, 27% of editors, and 34% of cinematographers. On films with male directors, women accounted for 12% of writers, 17% of editors, and 5% of cinematographers.

Women accounted for 20% of all writers working on the 250 top films of 2024, up 3 percentage points from 17% in 2023. Taking the long view, this represents an increase of 7 percentage points from 13% in 1998. It also represents a recent historic high.

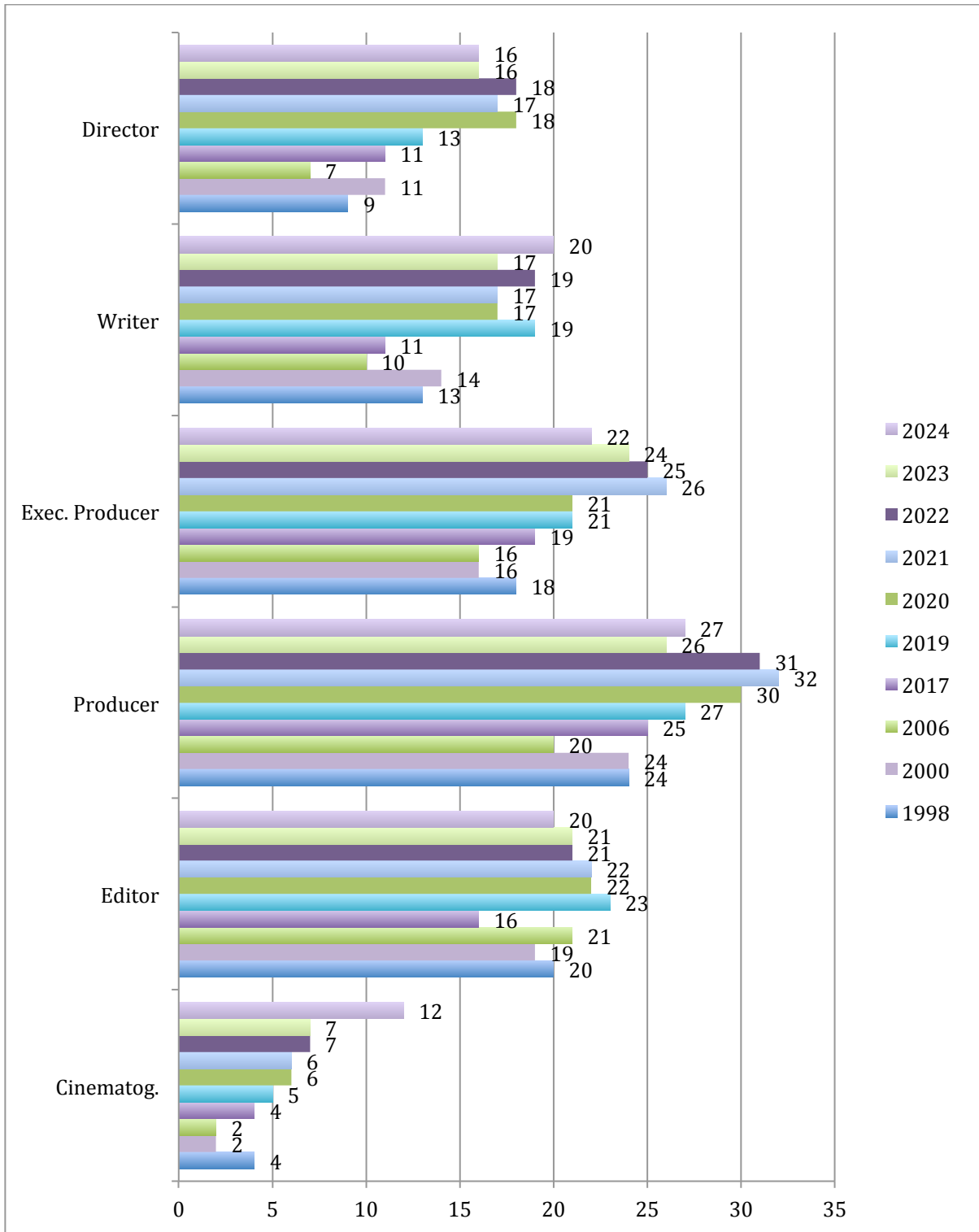
Women made up 22% of all executive producers working on the 250 top films of 2024, down 2 percentage points from 24% in 2023. Taking the long view, this represents an increase of 4 percentage points from 18% in 1998.

Women comprised 27% of all producers working on the 250 top films of 2024, an increase of 1 percentage point from 26% in 2023. Taking the long view, this represents an increase of 3 percentage points from 24% in 1998.

Women accounted for 20% of all editors working on the 250 top films of 2024, down one percentage point from 21% in 2023. Taking the long view, this represents no change from 20% in 1998.

Figure 4.

Historical Comparison of Percentages of Women Employed Behind the Scenes on Top 250 Films by Role



Women made up 12% of all cinematographers working on the 250 top films of 2024, up 5 percentage points from 7% in 2023. Taking the long view, this represents an increase of 8 percentage points from 4% in 1998, and a recent historic high.

92% of the top 250 films had no women cinematographers, 82% had no women directors, 76% had no women writers, and 75% had no women editors.

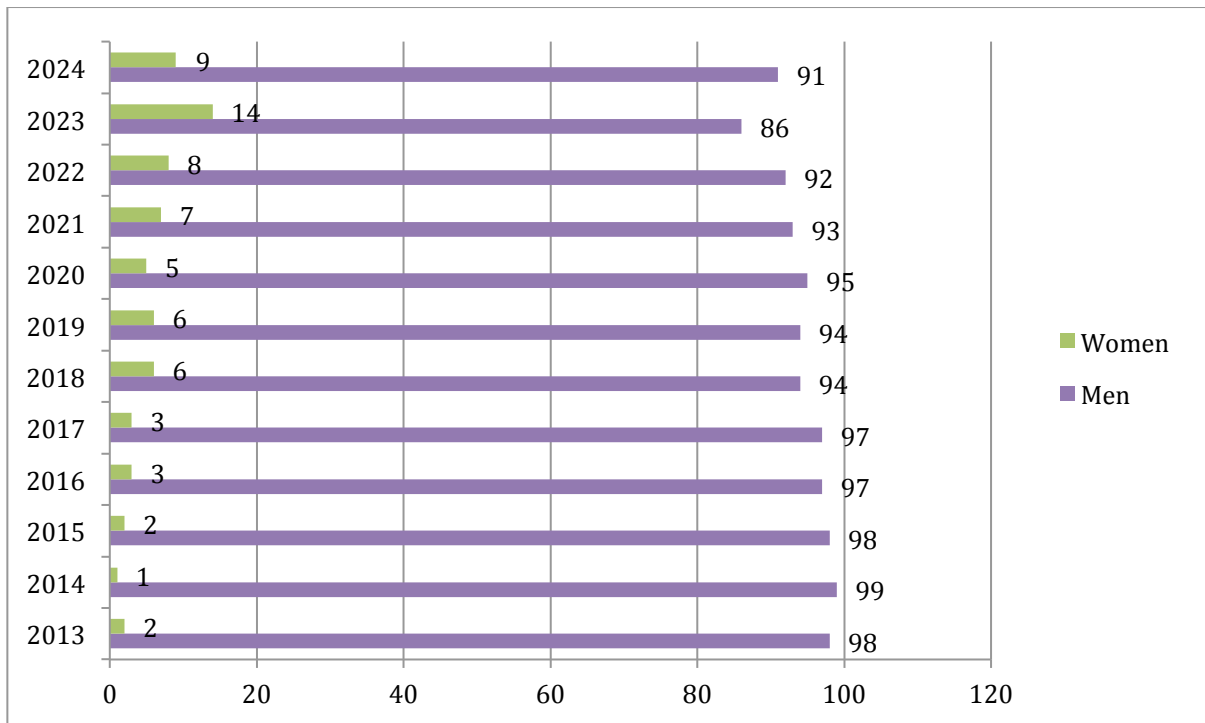
Additional Role / Composers

Women comprised 9% of composers working on the 250 top grossing films of 2024 (see Figure 5). This represents a decline of 5 percentage points from 14% in 2023. 90% of films had no women composers in 2024.

On films with at least one woman director, women accounted for 14% of composers versus 7% on films with exclusively male directors.

Figure 5.

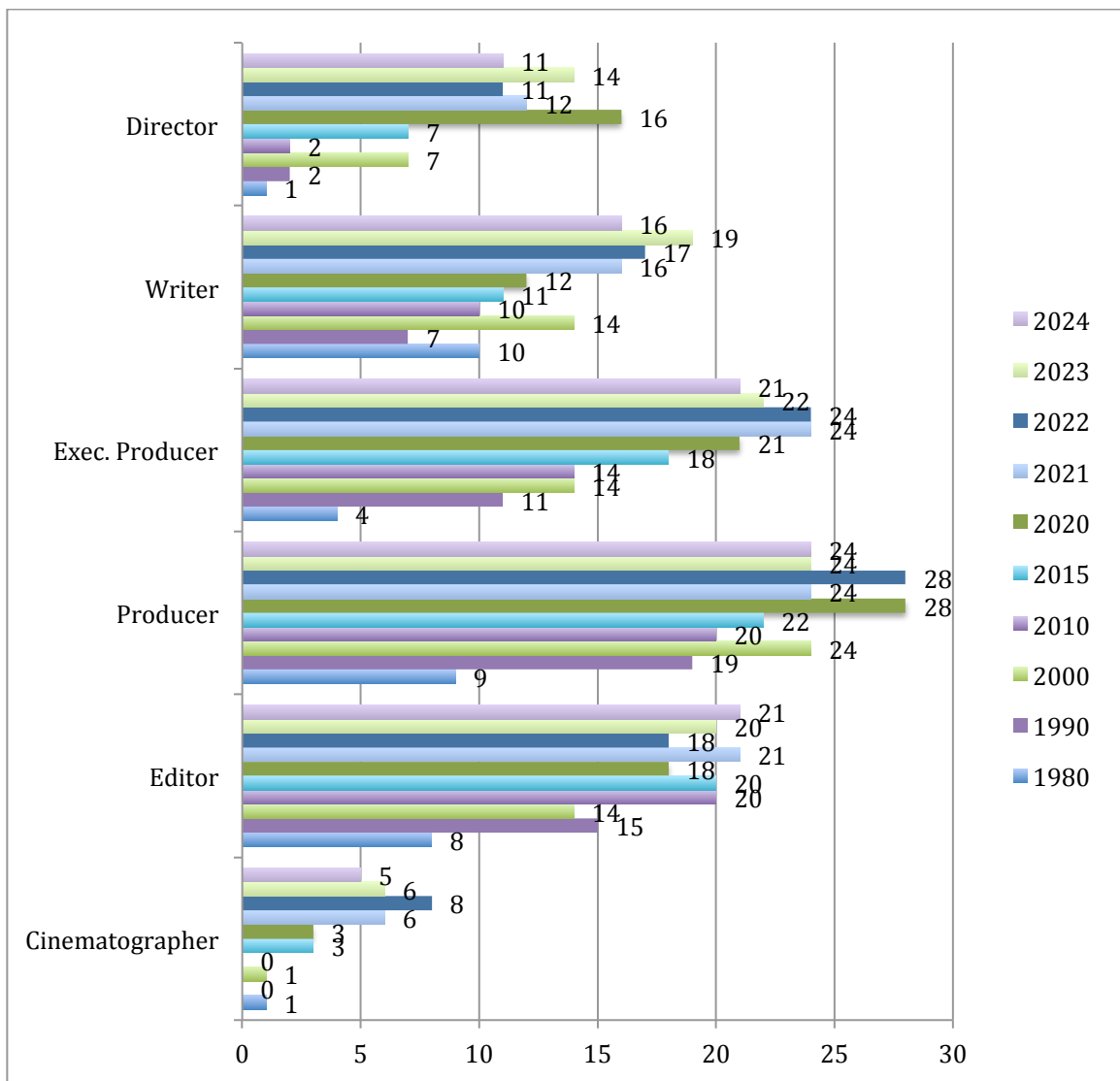
Recent Historical Representation of Women and Men as Composers on the Top 250 Films



Findings/ 100 Top Films

Women comprised 20% of all directors, writers, producers, executive producers, editors, and cinematographers working on the 100 top films of 2024. This represents a decrease of 1 percentage point from 21% in 2023.

*Figure 6.
Historical Comparison of Percentages of Women Employed Behind the Scenes on Top 100 Films by Role**



*Note that relatively minor fluctuations in the numbers affect this data set to a greater extent than the set of 250 films due to its smaller size.

Women fared best as producers (24%), followed by executive producers (21%), editors (21%), writers (16%), directors (11%), and cinematographers (5%) (see Figure 6).

Women comprised 11% of directors working on the 100 top films of 2024. This represents a decline of 3 percentage points from 14% in 2023.

Women accounted for 16% of writers working of the 100 top films of 2024. This represents a decline of 3 percentage points from 19% in 2023.

Women made up 21% of executive producers working on the 100 top films of 2023. This represents a decrease of 1 percentage point from 22% in 2023.

Women comprised 24% of producers working on the 100 top films of 2024. This is even with the percentage achieved in 2023.

Women accounted for 21% of editors working on the 100 top films of 2024. This represents an increase of 1 percentage point from 20% in 2023.

Women made up 5% of cinematographers working on the 100 top films of 2024. This represents a decrease of 1 percentage point from 6% in 2023.

Additional Role / Composers

Women comprised 7% of composers working on the 100 top films of 2024. This represents a decline of 5 percentage points from 12% in 2023. 92% of films had no women composers in 2024.