EVIDENT AILEADERSHIP BANKS

AI leadership in banking. Mapped.



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Executive Summary

1. MENTIONS OF AI GROW BY 60%

The 50 banks tracked in the Evident AI Index published over 1,250 references to "AI" across annual reports, press releases, and company LinkedIn posts over the past year, a 59% increase relative to the previous year. 35 banks referenced AI across all three channels (up from 26 banks a year ago). Both AI mentions and the substance of what banks are documenting is increasing.

- 2. UK BANKS DRIVE BIGGEST YEAR-OVER-YEAR GAINS IN "VOLUME"
 Banks in the UK witnessed the greatest surge in Al "volume" over the past year.
 On average, UK banks nearly tripled (+193%) the number of references to Al across their key communications channels.
- 3. 15 OF THE 50 BANKS WE TRACK NOW MAKE "SUBSTANTIVE" AI DISCLOSURES If the noise is building, but without an increase in the specificity around use cases, ROI, and tangible information about what the bank is doing to scale AI, then it's just empty calories. Last year, only 6 of 50 Index banks identified AI as a strategic priority in investor relations materials, and clearly described specific use cases in production alongside their ROI. This year, this number increased 2.5x to 15 banks.
- 4. DBS, COMMBANK AND RBC LEAD THE WAY IN AI NARRATIVE
 These banks demonstrate a combination of "volume" and "substance" in their
 Al communications. NAB, Barclays, and Citigroup are the "banks to watch"—

Al communications. NAB, Barclays, and Citigroup are the "banks to watch"—rapidly increasing the extent of Al content found within their annual reports, press releases, and company LinkedIn posts.

5. MORE C-LEVEL VOICES TALK ABOUT AI THAN EVER BEFORE

30 out of the 50 banks we track now feature multiple C-level leaders (CEO, CDO, CTO, COO, CIO, or CAO) speaking about Al in external media channels, a reflection of the growing focus on Al shared across the entire leadership team. In addition, 51 of 94 C-level leaders we track are now engaging with the press on specific Al initiatives underway at the bank, extending the "substance" found on direct comms channels to external media partners.

6. CEOS REMAIN SILENT ON AI AT THEIR OWN RISK

Only a quarter of the most "influential" voices found on external media channels are CEOs and only 17 of 50 CEOs discuss Al-specific content publicly. This lack of clear and consistent communication from the top reduces the bank's ability to mobilize a broad range of stakeholders, including: investors, employees, customers, partners, and prospective hires. Exemplar CEOs that demonstrably "get it" include: BNY's Robin Vince, Citigroup's Jane Fraser, JPMorgan Chase's Jamie Dimon and Standard Chartered's Bill Winters.

- 7. GOLDMAN SACHS, UBS, AND JPMC LEAD THE WAY IN EXEC POSITIONING Goldman Sachs, UBS, and JPMorgan Chase are the only three banks that achieve outsized "influence" across both external media channels, as well as engagement with AI content found on LinkedIn—largely through the impact of their C-level leaders.
- **8. WHAT ABOUT THE RISE OF THE CHIEF AI OFFICER? NOT THIS YEAR...** While 41 of the 50 banks now have evidence of an AI leader serving on the Executive Committee, up from 38 last year, we've seen limited structural changes to the composition of these teams. This is significant in itself, as it suggests AI responsibilities are getting embedded and diffused across the existing team (versus delegated to a newly minted role).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
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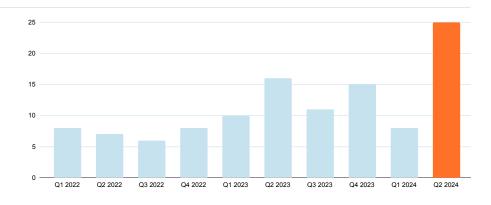


Chapter 1: Introduction

AI WASHING VERSUS AI REALITY

In the most recent round of earnings calls (Q2 2024), the 50 banks tracked in the Evident Al Index reached a critical milestone. For the first time, half of these banks fielded questions from equity analysts concerning risks and opportunities specific to Al. This represents a 56% increase from the same conversations held with the same stakeholder the year before (Q2 2023). It also establishes a tipping point moving forward, where more banks will be expected to actively engage in the Al conversation than punt (or duck difficult questions altogether).

NUMBER OF BANKS MENTIONING AI IN EARNINGS CALLS



Q1 2022 - Q2 2024, n=50 banks

Not surprisingly, many questions from equity analysts probed and prodded the extent to which banks were registering measurable business impact from Al investments. What's interesting is not that these questions are being asked—but that the answers are getting more detailed and specific.

Responding to a question from Betsy Graseck (Morgan Stanley), BNY's CEO Robin Vince unpacked his prepared remarks about the benefit of Al to expense ratios and the time frame over which the bank would likely see results. "I really don't think this is a 2024 [or 2025] story. Of course, we're doing things in 2024. But if you ask me to try to put a pin in where the real benefits and sort of tailwinds kick in... I think this is a 2026 and out benefit on the expense line."

This exchange (and many others detailed on Page 26) demonstrate that we are in the eye of the storm with regards to expectation setting. Banks that overpromise and underdeliver now do so at their own peril. Accordingly, what banks say have meaningful consequences.

These consequences transcend investor relations. Al transformation requires the mobilization of a wide range of stakeholders—extending to employees, partners, customers, and prospective hires. It requires individuals at the top of the organization not just to set forth a clear vision, but to provide consistent and clear communication along the way.

Our objective with this report is to identify those banks characterized by two features. First, the most consistent record of communicating their AI strategy across reinforcing communications channels. And second, the most effective amplification of that messaging through executive leaders and/or their surrogates.

We believe that banks that actively balance "volume" versus "substance" across their strategic communications have the best chance of successfully plotting a course through the impending storm.



Chapter 2: Methodology

The leadership pillar of the Evident Al Index weights 15% of the overall Index ranking. It measures the Al focus of the bank's leadership, expressed through the company's overarching Al narrative, composition of the Executive Leadership team, and external communications from select C-Level Executives.

To that end, the Leadership pillar is composed of two distinct sub-pillars.

1. AI NARRATIVE

The bank's group-level AI narrative across direct comms channels (investor relations materials, press releases, and LinkedIn posts). This includes an assessment of the "volume" (how loudly banks are talking about AI), as well as the "substance" (what is actually being said).

2. EXECUTIVE POSITIONING

The composition of the bank's Executive Leadership team, as well as an assessment of Al-specific comments found in external media channels. This year, we have expanded our sweep of C-level roles to include both the Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Chief Data & Analytics Officer (CDAO / CDO / CAO)—in addition to the CEO, CTO, and CIO.



Chapter 3: Leaders in AI Leadership

In the last Evident Al Index rankings (November 2023), the Top-10 performing banks in the Leadership pillar had one thing in common. Namely, their outperformance within this aspect of the methodology did not guarantee them a podium spot in the overall standings.

Only 5 of the Top-10 banks in the Leadership pillar placed among the Top-10 performing banks in the overall Index (JPMorgan Chase, Capital One, RBC, CommBank, and DBS). In addition, banks that were good at establishing a compelling AI narrative were not necessarily good at amplifying that message through their Executive Leadership (and vice versa). In fact, only 5 banks (DBS, JPMorgan Chase, CommBank, RBC, and CaixaBank) excelled on both fronts.

TOP 10 PERFORMING BANKS IN THE LEADERSHIP PILLAR



LEADERSHIP PILLAR

Bank	Top-10	Al Narrative	Executive Positioning	
DBS	1	1	1	
JPMorgan Chase	2	3	2	
CommBank	3	7	3	
BNP Paribas	4	2	35	
Royal Bank of Canada	5	6	8	
CaixaBank	6	9	10	
Bank of America	7	17	5	
Captial One	8	5	21	
Intesa Sanpaolo	9	11	11	
Deutsche Bank	10	8	18	

November 2023

Part of this can be attributed to weightings (i.e. Leadership is only 15%), but part of it boils down to the "culture" of a given institution. Engaging in strategic communications specific to Al represents a conscious choice. It reflects a dedicated effort to overcome any culture of timidity or opacity—which in turn, requires internal consensus that sharing what the bank is doing is productive and beneficial in the first place.

Historically, this has generated debate over the merits of what actions the Leadership pillar suggests banks take to optimize their strategy. After all, full transparency carries risk. Moreover, different banks are equipped with vastly different marketing and communications apparatuses by which to disseminate their message.

That said, much of the conversation in the past year has shifted from "Should we do that?" to "Why aren't we doing that?" At the end of the day, peer pressure is a wonderful motivator:

- ightarrow Al mentions are up 59% year-over-year across annual reports, press releases, and company LinkedIn posts
- → All 50 Index banks are engaging on the topic of Al via at least one comms channel
- → 35 Index banks are coordinating messaging across all three comms channels (up from 26)
- → 15 banks are making substantive Al disclosures in IR materials linking Al to strategic priorities, emerging use cases, and measurable business impact (up from 6)

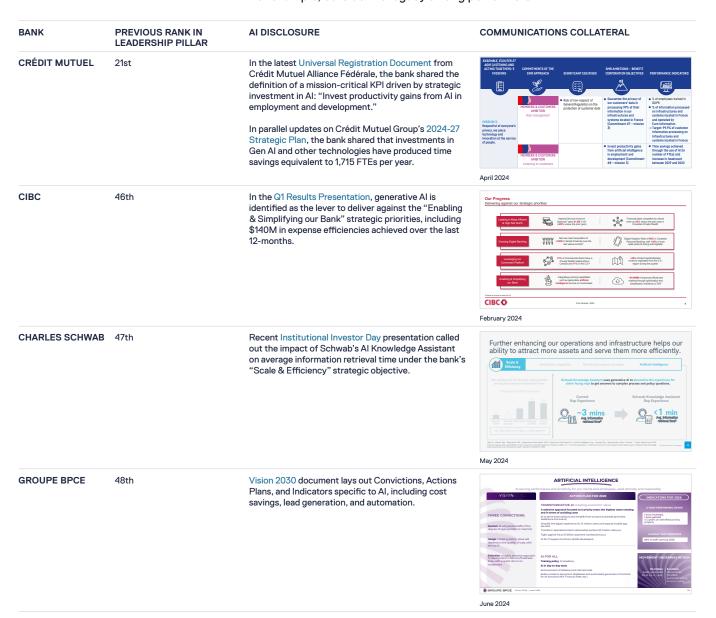


Chapter 3: Leaders in AI Leadership

Before digging into our key findings, readers should digest three big takeaways from this storm surge in activity:

- This data provides strong evidence that banks are no longer waiting on the sidelines to tell their Al story.
- The previous schism between active versus passive participants in the conversation means that small changes in behavior here can have a big impact on performance.
- While many banks are playing catch-up, select banks (which have not received a lot of previous attention) are actively moving the "goalposts" in terms of what good looks like...

For example, outside the legacy strong performers:



These examples demonstrate that banks can gain traction and accelerate quickly in the Leadership pillar. The level of activity observed over the past year coupled with the level of substance coming from the previous non-participants signals a major leveling of the playing field. Whereas you didn't have to do much to stand out before, we expect the current leaderboard to become much more competitive when we update the Evident Al Index rankings next month (October 2024).



Chapter 4: AI Narrative Introduction



This sub-pillar examines each bank's external narrative on AI by examining group-level investor relations materials, press releases, website collateral, and social media activity. We examine both "substance" (what is being communicated) and "volume" (how loudly it is being communicated).

Al transformation requires the mobilization of a wide range of stakeholders—from employees, to investors, to customers. It requires individuals at the top of the organization to understand the transformational power of Al, and be willing to invest in the long-term future of the company (possibly at the expense of the short-term results). It requires setting forth a clear ambition, measurable goals and targets, as well as providing consistent and clear communication along the way.

Sustained, structured disclosures on this topic signals not only greater transparency—but underlying confidence in the ability of an institution to provide regular updates on ongoing investments (and early return on investment).

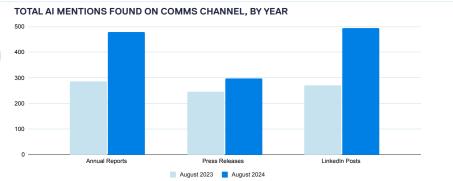
In the previous edition of this report, we examined the persistent gap between active and passive participants in this conversation—and the explicit cost of ongoing silence on the topic. With updated data, we can now show that all 50 banks in the Evident Al Index have built an Al-focused communications and marketing strategy, representing a significant step forward for the industry versus where we were only a year ago.

Here, we explore the different strategies banks are taking towards Al communications, who is leading the way, and which banks are catching up. Not only are some of these changes dramatic, but a growing cohort of leading banks are resetting future expectations for what good "looks like" with regards to strategic communications.

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Chapter 4: AI Narrative Key Findings

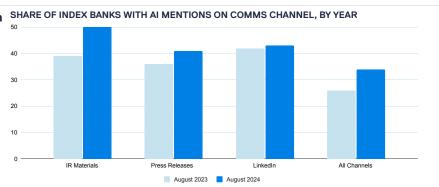
The Al noise builds: The 50 banks we track in the Evident Al Index published over 1,250 references to "Al" across annual reports, press releases and company LinkedIn posts in the last year, a 59% increase year-over-year.



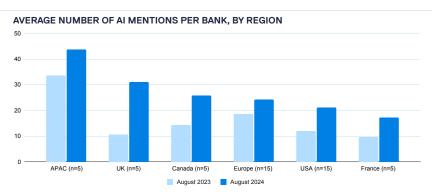
2023 vs. 2024

Al communications evolve with Al strategy: As of August 2024, all 50 Index banks mention Al on at least one comms channel examined, and 35 of 50 Index banks now reference Al across all three channels concurrently, thereby demonstrating a growing sophistication of Al communications.

2023 vs. 2024, n=50 banks

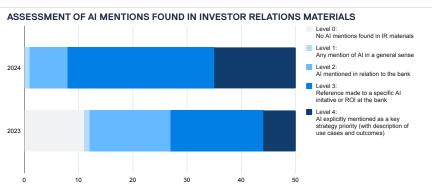


UK banks amp up the volume:
Banks headquartered in the UK
witnessed the greatest surge in
Al "volume" over the past
year—nearly tripling (+192%)
the number of Al references
found across key comms
channels. APAC banks still
lead the way.



2023 vs. 2024

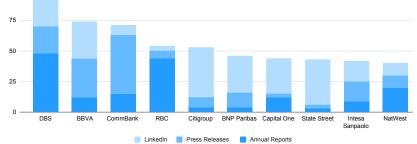
The "substance" of Al communications is improving:
The number of banks clearly articulating Al use cases in production, alongside their ROI, within key investor relations materials has increased year-over-year from 6 to 15 out of the 50 banks we track.



2023 vs. 2024, n=50 banks

DBS, CommBank, and RBC lead the way: These three banks demonstrate a combination of "volume" and "substance" in their Al communications.

Meanwhile, NAB, Barclays, and Citigroup are rapidly increasing the extent of Al content found within their annual reports, press releases, and company LinkedIn posts (respectively).



August 2023-2024, n=1,270 Al mentions

TOP-10 BANKS: TOTAL AI MENTIONS



Chapter 5: Executive Positioning Introduction



While the AI Narrative sub-pillar explores to what extent the bank's group corporate communications are focused on AI, the Executive Positioning sub-pillar explores how the individual leaders at the top of the organization are focusing on AI in external communications.

Given the long-term investment, potential risks, ethical considerations, widespread impact on the future workforce, and continuing need to build trust with a wide range of stakeholders—it is clear that Al is no longer just another item on the technology agenda. Al has evolved into a critical concern that sits at the nexus of strategy, operations, data/analytics, and risk management.

In fact, its far-reaching impact on transformation efforts demands "buy-in" from the most senior members of the Executive Committee, up to and including the CEO.

But "buy-in" alone isn't enough here. To be effective, these senior leaders need to mobilize people to get behind their Al agenda. This includes: (a) the current talent that might fear Al represents an existential threat to their jobs; (b) the scarce technical Al talent banks need to recruit to build the next-generation of Al applications; and (c) the investors who need to back the long-term vision, despite uncertainty about the exact time horizon for immediate returns.

Communication is crucial to engaging stakeholders and driving the Al agenda internally and externally.

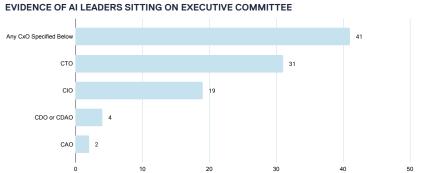
In this sub-pillar, we examine the composition of the Executive Committee across the Index banks, and determine to what extent they are strategically prioritizing AI in their external-facing communications.

Best-in-class banks exhibit not only a clear and comprehensive corporate Al narrative, but one that is consistently reinforced by a wide range of individuals on the Executive Committee, setting the tone from the top. Ultimately, there isn't a member of the Executive Committee that doesn't need to be able to tell the bank's Al story...

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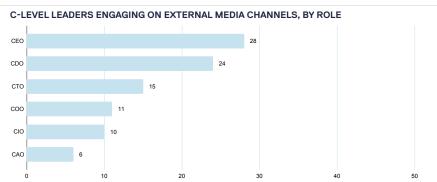
Chapter 5: Executive Positioning **Key Findings**

41 of 50 banks feature an Al leader on the Executive Committee: While these leaders are engaging more on Al via external media channels, Evident observes minimal changes to the leadership structure of Index banks since last year.



August 2024, n=50 banks

More C-level voices talk about AI than ever before: Banks are actively addressing Al both through both a strategic, cDO as well as a technical lens. This requires wider participation among C-level staff to engage in Al conversations via external media channels. 30 of 50 banks are currently engaging with multiple spokespeople. August 2024, n=94 executive voices

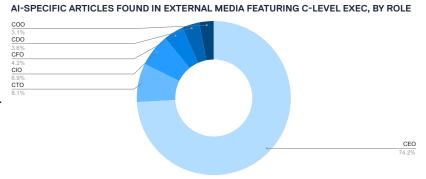


Al at their own risk: While CEOs make up less than banks offering commentary on

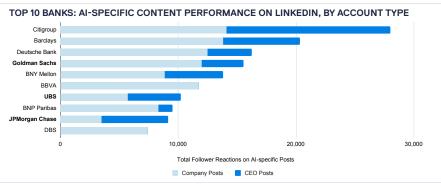
CEOs remain silent on

30% of the C-level leaders from the topic of AI, they drive nearly 75% of resulting press coverage. They also experience about 4x higher engagement on the topic via LinkedIn.

Q1 2024 - Q2 2024, n=1,107 articles

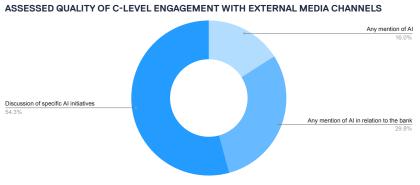


Goldman Sachs, UBS, and JPMorgan Chase lead the way: These are the only three banks to achieve outsized "influence" across both external media channels, as well as engagement with Al content found on LinkedIn.



August 2023-2024

Majority of banks armed with executive voices that focus on substance over style: 28 of 50 index banks feature C-level leaders that are discussing specific Al initiatives underway at the bank with external media partners.



August 2023-2024, n=94 C-level Leaders



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Evident Members have exclusive access to our latest research covering Banking x Talent, Innovation, Leadership, and Transparency. The underlying data that fuels these reports helps our readership:

- → Identify emerging trends as they happen
- ightarrow Highlight the banks that are leading (or lagging) on key Al maturity metrics
- → Anticipate shifts in the data, which could impact the annual Index ranking (October 2024)



SEPTEMBER 2024

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AI NARRATIVE

This report unpacks how AI strategy is communicated by the banks via their direct communications channels, including: investor relations materials, press releases, and corporate LinkedIn posts published at the group-level.

Supporting data exhibits include:

- \rightarrow Total Al Mentions Found on Comms Channel, by Year (2023 vs. 2024)
- \rightarrow Share of Index Banks with Al Mentions on Comms Channels, by Year (2023) vs. 2024)
- → Examples of New Al Landing Pages
- → Average Number of Al Mentions per Bank, by Regions (2023 vs. 2024)
- → Year-over-Year Change in Al Mentions on Comms Channels, by Region (2023 vs. 2024)
- \rightarrow Assessment of Al Mentions Found in Investor Relations Materials (2023) vs. 2024)
- \rightarrow Top-10 Banks: Total Al Mentions (August 2023-2024)
- → Examples of Al-specific Disclosures Found in Investor Relations Materials
- \rightarrow Banks to Watch: Total Al Mentions (TTM) vs. Change in Al Mentions (YoY)
- → Profiles of Bank to Watch: NAB, Barclays, and Citigroup



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EXECUTIVE POSITIONING

This report examines representation of key Al stakeholders on the Executive Committee, as well as the amplification of executive voices across external media channels, industry conferences, and LinkedIn.

Supporting data exhibits include:

- → Evidence of Al Leaders Sitting on Executive Committee (August 2024)
- ightarrow C-level Leaders Engaging on External Media Channels, by Role (August 2024)
- → Distinct Number of C-level Leaders Engaging on External Media Channels (August 2024)
- → Index Banks with C-level Leaders Appearing at Tech / Al Conferences (2021-23 vs. 2022-24)
- → Share of Al-specific Articles Found in External Media Featuring C-level Exec, by Role (Q1 2024 - Q2 2024)
- ightarrow Top-10 Influencers: Total AI-specific Articles Featuring Bank Staff Found in External Media (Q1 2024 - Q2 2024)
- → Top-10 Banks: Al-specific Content Performance on LinkedIn, by Account Type (August 2023-2024)
- → Top-10 AI-specific LinkedIn Posts, by Index Banks (August 2023-2024)
- ightarrow Assessed Quality of C-level Engagement with External Media Channels (August 2023-2024)
- → Profiles of Executive Voices Engaging on External Media Channels



Evident Membership

Evident provides the most in-depth analysis and tracking of how banks are adopting AI, and publishes the annual Evident AI Index (next update: October 2024) that benchmarks the Talent, Innovation, Leadership and Responsible AI capabilities of 50 major banks.

Between Index updates, Evident members have access to in-depth analysis of each of the four Index pillars—fuelled by live data trackers and in-depth interviews with senior leaders across the sector—as well as high-profile industry events.

Evident membership includes:



INSIGHTS

Keep up to date with the latest sector-wide Al activity with access to our latest long and short-form research:

Member Hub: Evident members can access our latest insights each month, spanning 10 sub-pillars of the Evident Al Index, including Talent Development, Talent Capability, Research, Patents, Ventures, and more...

Insights Reports: flagship quarterly reports dive deeper into the latest sector-wide trends, depicting the current state of play of 50 global banks across each pillar of the Index.

Coverage includes: Talent, Innovation, Leadership, and Responsible Al.







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Next update: Jan



BENCHMARKING DATA

Find, edit and export the unique benchmarking data that drives our research, covering the talent, innovation, leadership and responsible Al activities of 50 major banks.



EVIDENT AI SYMPOSIUM

In addition to regular virtual roundtables where we take stock of Al adoption across the banking sector, members participate in the Evident Al Symposium hosted in both London (June) and New York (November)—our largest gatherings of Al leaders from banking, technology, academia, and government.



If you are interested in Membership options for either yourself or your immediate team, please **Contact us** to learn more about pricing



What's Next?



In mid-September, we will be unpacking the key findings from the 2024 Leadership Report in a special Virtual Event:

Evident Al Leadership Roundtable: How can banks translate Al strategy into an effective communications plan?

Al transformation requires the mobilization of a wide range of stakeholders, including: employees, investors, customers, and prospective hires. It requires individuals at the top of the organization to understand the transformational power of Al and establish clear ambitions, goals, and targets for the enterprise at large.

Ultimately, impactful Al leadership comes down to consistent messaging and clarity—coupled with amplification of that messaging through the right surrogates on the Executive Team.

Our Leadership Roundtable offers a unique opportunity to learn from industry practitioners and subject matter experts working at some of the world's leading banks. Attendees will learn how to translate AI strategy into an effective communication plan—and ask critical questions on this topic.



TUESDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2024 10AM EDT | 3PM BST JOIN US



Our next release will be the annual update of the Evident Al Index, arriving October 17, 2024.



Evident AI Index Rankings



The Evident Al Index assesses the various approaches banks are taking towards Al readiness. The November 2023 Index covers 50 of the largest banks in North America, Europe, and Asia. Each bank is assessed on 100+ individual indicators drawn from millions of publicly available data points specific to four pillars: Talent, Innovation, Leadership, and Transparency.

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		222	3	[7]	
		TALENT	= INNOVATION	LEADERSHIP	TRANSPARENCY
COMPANY	RANK	Capability & development	Research, patents, ventures, ecosystem	in public comms and strategy	of responsible Al activities
JPMorgan Chase	1	2	1	2	1
Capital One	2	1	2	8	5
Royal Bank of Canada	3	7	3	5	2
Wells Fargo	4	4	5	32	10
UBS	5	3	19	17	22
CommBank	6	16	20	3	4
Goldman Sachs	7	8	4	15	49
ING	8	6	10	19	15
Citigroup	9	5	8	26	31
DBS	10	22	34	1	12
TD Bank	11	15	6	31	16
BNP Paribas	12	18	13	4	13
HSBC	13	17	12	24	6
BNY Mellon	14	23	15	12	8
Bank of America	15	14	11	7	35
Bank of Montreal	16	25	9	22	14
Morgan Stanley	17	20	7	14	46
Scotiabank	18	21	28	23	3
NatWest	19	11	25	30	9
Société Générale	20	9	32	16	21
Santander	21	24	18	11	27
Barclays	22	12	14	27	44
Standard Chartered	23	27	22	33	11
ABN AMRO	24	13	26	41	30
Intesa Sanpaolo	25	47	16	9	17
BBVA	26	30	21	13	42
Crédit Agricole	27	31	17	34	28
Lloyds Banking Group	28	19	43	38	18
Deutsche Bank	29	32	40	10	26
Truist Bank	30	29	27	29	37
Rabobank	31	10	46	43	29
Raiffeisen Bank Intl	32	26	31	35	41
Westpac	33	37	24	36	19
US Bank	34	28	36	39	25
NAB	35	42	48	25	7
PNC Financial	36	34	38	37	23
KBC	37	38	33	20	38
ANZ	38	43	42	18	34
State Street	39	36	41	28	43
CaixaBank	40	48	47	6	33
CIBC	41	40	29	46	39
Commerzbank	42	44	39	45	24
UniCredit	43	45	23	42	45
Danske Bank	44	39	44	40	32
Crédit Mutuel	45	49	30	21	40
Groupe BPCE	46	48	35	48	20
Charles Schwab	47	33	45	47	48
Nordea	48	35	49	49	36
Citizens Financial	49	41	50	44	47
First Citizens	50	50	37	50	50