## **CPA** Practice **Advisor**

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position, CFOs most commonly cited finance and data-driven decision making, fiscal management and efficiency improvement, and economic and business awareness.

## Apr. 24, 2017



CFO may be a pinnacle career destination, but many of these financial executives are eyeing an upward move. In a Robert Half Management Resources survey, more than six in 10 CFOs (64 percent) said they are at least somewhat motivated to become CEO of their organization, with nearly a quarter (23 percent) stating they are very

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## organization?" Their responses:

Very motivated	23%
Somewhat motivated	41%
Not at all motivated	34%
Don't know/no answer	<u>2%</u>
	100%

"CFOs, with their broad view of the business and influence throughout the organization, are well-prepared to lead a company," said Tim Hird, executive director of Robert Half Management Resources. "While their financial expertise is an asset to any firm, CFOs aspiring to advance to the CEO role must foster a comprehensive skill set. Operational experience is often a must, as is the ability to develop a vision for the firm and inspire others to rally around it."

Robert Half Management Resources highlights four strategies to help financial executives advance their careers:

1. **Build relationships with peers across the organization.** Overseeing companywide projects provides insights into how different functions operate and enhances business acumen, leadership skills and cross-departmental relationships. For instance, many CFOs report working more closely with their CIO, and this interaction provides knowledge of technology critical to the business. 2. Prepare a successor. It's more challenging to move up the ladder if you are

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an independent research firm. It is based on telephone interviews with more than 2,200 CFOs from a stratified random sample of companies in more than 20 of the largest U.S. metropolitan areas.

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