

PUBLIC

V E R S U S

PRIVATE COMPANIES

COMPARING THE 2 TYPES OF BUSINESSES



A public company is owned by shareholders and publicly traded.

Public companies will have ticker symbols, which can be used to find information about the company.

Examples:

Microsoft	MSFT
Whole Foods	WFMI

Public companies traded in the United States are required to file detailed reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission, such as annual 10-K reports and interim reports

Resources for public company research:

- [MarketLine Advantage](#)
- [Business Source Complete](#)
- [Edgar](#)
- [Osiris](#)



A private company is not traded on the stock exchange and may be owned by one person, a group, or a family.

Private companies may be large or small.

Examples:

- Mars, Inc. (6th largest private company)
- Tanimura & Antle (family-owned business)

Private companies may not divulge financial information so you may need to find information in financial, local and trade news sources.

Resources for private company research:

- [PrivCo](#)
- [Business Source Complete](#)
- [Mergent Intellect](#)
- [Wall Street Journal](#)

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