SYNERGY

Who Do You Want To Work For?

Every company has owners. There could be a few, dozens, or even thousands. But there is always at least one, and companies operate for the benefit of their owners. The way a company is owned impacts every major decision, for example if the company decides to do layoffs during a recession.

Below are the most common ways that companies are owned. In practice, companies might blend these models, for example being part employee-owned and part management-owned.

1 Public Company

Ownership is distributed among general public shareholders through the free trade of shares of stock on stock exchanges.

Examples: Apple & Coca-Cola

2 Private Equity

Ownership is held by a financial firm that invests money on behalf of high-net-worth individuals and pension funds.

Examples: The Blackstone Group & The Carlyle Group

3 Founder or Family-Owned

Ownership is held by the original founder(s) of the company or by their descendants.

Examples: Mars Candy & Cargill

4 Management-Owned

Ownership is held by senior leaders of the company who are not founders or family of the founders.

Examples: Many Law & Engineering Firms

5 Employee-Owned

Ownership is held by a broad-based group of employees, and every person at the company has reasonable access to an ownership stake.

Examples: WinCo Foods & Wawa

A Certified Employee-Owned Company

Use Certified EO's Directory to find more employee-owned companies