



COMPANY RESEARCH

There are some 20 business million enterprises in the US; just a small number of these are publicly-traded, that is, are companies that sell their stock to the general public. These publicly traded companies file financial reports (the 10(K), etc.) with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or with other government regulatory bodies. The rest of the business enterprises (whether they are corporations, partnerships, or sole proprietorships) are private companies that do not have to disclose their finances to the public. Consequently, *the private companies themselves supply the financial data you find published on private companies.*

CAUTION: Determine early in your research whether the company is public or private. Go to: <http://www.sec.gov/edgar/searchedgar/cik.htm> The US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Central Index Key (CIK): “to identify corporations and individual people who have filed disclosure with the SEC.” Link on *Websites by Subject*, “Publicly Traded Companies” page.

CAUTION #2: Be sure the company name you are looking for is not a brand or trade name. (Of course a brand name and a company name can be the same, i.e. Coca Cola). Otherwise companies are not listed under their brand names. Use: *Brands and Their Companies* Ref T223 .V4 A22

CAUTION #3: Subsidiaries, branches, divisions, etc. If you cannot find the company listed it might be a part of a larger company. Use: *America’s Corporate Families* Ref HG4057 .A146 (Table #2) and/or *Corporate Affiliations “Who owns Whom”* Ref HG4057 .A22 (Table #2)

CAUTION #4: Name changes, mergers and acquisitions, and those companies that have gone private or have gone “belly up”. These cannot be found. For larger public companies that no longer exist, see: *Mergent Company Archives Manual* Ref HG 4028 .M4 M43 (Table #1)

Which Company directories cover both public and private companies? (Table #2):

Dun and Bradstreet Million Dollar Directory Ref HF5035 .M52

Hoovers Handbook (s) Ref various call numbers . Includes descriptions.

American Business, Emerging Companies, Private Companies, World Business Standard and Poor’s Corporate Register Ref HG 4057 .A4 S7

Thomas Register <http://www.thomasnet.com/index.html>

California Manufacturers Register Ref T12 .C3

Directory of California Technology Companies Ref HF5065 .C2 C28

Directory of California Wholesalers and Service Companies Ref HD9981.7 .C2 C34

Thomas Regional Industrial Buying Guide. Southern California Ref HF5065 .C2 R43

Southern California Business Directory and Buyers’ Guide Ref HF5065 .C2 S66

Ward’s Business Directory of US Private and Public Companies Ref HG4057 .A575

Which reference sources and databases cover publicly-traded companies?

Hoovers Company Reports Databases Files for data on 40,000 Companies, both publicly-traded and **private companies**. Information includes company history, financial data, products or services, a list of competitors, and executives and board members.

Mergent Online Databases The online version of the *Mergent* (formerly *Moody's*) manuals. This database covers some 15,000 US and 20,000 international companies. Data includes SEC EDGAR filings, annual reports, company descriptions, histories, news, and more. (*Mergent (Moody's) Industrials, OTC, International, Public Utilities, etc.*)
Ref HG49XX M(Various) (Table #1)

LEXIS/NEXIS Universe Databases

Select "Business" tab, and then "SEC Filings" from right hand column. Search by company name or ticker symbol. Choose the type of SEC report (10-K, Proxy Statements, etc.) **Note also that you can sort companies with the "Dossier Create a Company List" feature** from right hand column: by state combined with either Total Revenues or Total Assets.

Standard and Poor's Corporate Records Ref HG4501 .S7 (Table #1)

EDGAR (SEC Filings) <http://www.sec.gov/cgi-bin/srch-edgar>,
Ticker Symbol Internet site; *Global Symbol Database* at:
<http://www.dbc.com/cgi-bin/htx.exe/forms/lookup.html?source=core/dbc>

Companies (Publicly-Traded) page on **Websites by Subject, Library Home Page**
<http://www.csupomona.edu/~library/websites/companiespub.html>

Stock Market Prices page on **Websites by Subject, Library Home Page**
<http://www.csupomona.edu/~library/websites/stockquotes.html>

Are there sources that cover private companies? (Table #2)

Hoovers Company Reports Databases
Hoovers Private Companies Ref HG4057 .A28616

Which source gives company histories?

Hoovers Company Reports (includes company history) **Databases**
International Directory of Company Histories 60+ volumes! Ref HD2721 .I63 (Table #2)

How do I find articles on companies? (For use consult *Business Subjects Databases* guide.)

ABI/Inform Global; ABI/Inform Trade & Industry (for small companies) **Databases**
Search both through Multiple Databases link; over 2000 business periodicals.

Factiva Databases Access to 9,000 business periodicals published worldwide.

Business Full Text (Wilson Web) **Databases**
Some 350 essential business periodicals are included in this index; abstracts, and some full text.

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