

# The Differences Between Publicly-Traded & Privately-Held Companies

## **Table of Contents**

Public vs Private Companies	2
Determining Company Types with Library Resources	
Hoovers	
LexisNexis Academic	4
Useful Definitions	F

(Click the above headings to be taken to relevant section)



## **Public vs Private Companies**

## Major differences include:

	Publicly-traded Companies	Privately-held Companies
•	On their website they should have a section called 'Investor Relations'. This will contain their stock price and most recent annual report.	Their websites won't have a section called 'Investor Relations', since the general public can't invest in them.
•	Once they have an initial public offering (IPO), their securities will be given a unique ticker symbol so they can be identified on a stock market like the Toronto Stock Exchange.	<ul> <li>They vary widely in size, as some businesses might be small mom and pop companies or international corporations.</li> </ul>
•	Members of the public can buy their securities, such as stock, bonds, or options, through stock exchanges or over-the-counter markets.	They may have shareholders, but the stock is traded privately and not available to the general public.
•	They are heavily regulated and must follow disclosure rules set out by securities legislation.	Private companies are owned by small numbers of investors, such as company founders, key employees, or family members.
•	Easier to research because they have to publicly disclose information such as their financials and their annual reports to securities regulators. Securities regulators make this information freely available to the public to allow them to research companies before making investment decisions.	For most private companies you won't be able to find or verify information about their financials, or locate detailed third party research reports. This is because they typically don't have to file reports with securities regulators.

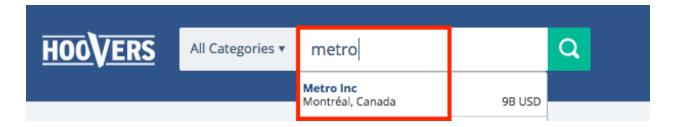
## **Determining Company Types with Library Resources**

#### **Hoovers**

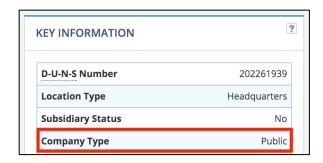
- 1. Click on this link to access Hoovers.
- 2. If you are off-campus, you will be prompted to enter your Passport York ID.
- 3. Click on the **Continue** button.



4. In the search bar, type in your company's name and select from the drop-down menu that automatically populates.



5. Under the **Key Information** box on the company's report, the **Company Type** will be listed.



6. **Tip:** Company Type information is available for major public and private companies.

#### LexisNexis Academic

- 1. Click on this link to access LexisNexis Academic.
- 2. If you are off-campus, you will be prompted to enter your Passport York ID.
- 3. Click on arrow beside **Get Company Info**, type the company's name, and click **Go.**



4. If your company is not in the first three results click the **View All** button.



5. The company type will be listed in the third column



6. Tip: Company Type info available for many large, medium, and small businesses

#### **Useful Definitions**

**Bonds:** A bond is a debt investment in which an investor loans money to an entity (typically corporate or governmental), which borrows the funds for a defined period of time at a variable or fixed interest rate. **Source: Investopedia** 

Canadian Securities Administrators: A collective forum composed of all the provincial and territorial securities regulators of Canada. The CSA's main goal is to collaborate on the creation and harmonization of securities regulations across Canada. Source:

Investopedia

Ontario Securities Commission: The securities regulator that supervises and enforces regulations for the Canadian province of Ontario. Source: Investopedia

**Options:** A financial derivative that represents a contract sold by one party to another party. The contract offers the buyer the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell a security or other financial asset at an agreed-upon price during a certain period of time or on a specific date. **Source:** <a href="Investopedia">Investopedia</a>

Over-the-counter-market: A decentralized market, without a central physical location, where market participants trade with one another through various communication modes such as the telephone, email and proprietary electronic trading systems. Source: Investopedia

**Parent Companies:** A company that controls other companies by owning an influential amount of voting stock or control. Parent companies will typically be larger firms that exhibit control over one or more small subsidiaries in either the same industry or other industries. **Source:** Investopedia

**Securities:** A security is a financial instrument that represents an ownership position in a publicly-traded corporation (stock), a creditor relationship with governmental body or a corporation (bond), or rights to ownership as represented by an option. A security is a financial instrument that represents some type of financial value. **Source: Investopedia** 

**Securities and Exchange Commission:** A United Sates government commission created by Congress to regulate the securities markets and protect investors. Generally, most issues of securities offered in interstate commerce, through the mail or on the internet must be registered with the SEC. **Source:** Investopedia

**Stock Exchange:** A marketplace in which securities, commodities, derivatives and other financial instruments are traded. Exchanges give companies, governments and other groups a platform to sell securities to the investing public. **Source:** Investopedia

**Stock:** A type of security that signifies ownership in a corporation and represents a claim on part of the corporation's assets and earnings. **Source:** Investopedia

**Subsidiaries:** Subsidiaries are companies whose voting stock is more than 50% controlled by another company, usually referred to as the parent company or holding company. **Source:** Investopedia

**Ticker Symbol:** An arrangement of characters (usually letters) representing a particular security listed on an exchange or otherwise traded publicly. Every listed security has a unique ticker symbol, facilitating the vast array of trade orders that flow through the financial markets every day. **Source: Investopedia**