

# Datasets on Employee Ownership Available to the Public

## Worker Co-op Census

The Worker Co-op Census is the largest and most robust data set that has ever been collected on worker cooperatives in the United States. Sponsored by the Democracy at Work Institute (DAWI) and fielded in 2017, it includes both individual- and enterprise-level survey data from 1,147 workers and 82 co-op firms along with transcripts from 15 semi-structured interviews with survey respondents. The survey instrument includes several questions drawn from the NBER Shared Capitalism Project.

*Apply to access this data set through the Democracy at Work Institute for a fee here:*

[www.institute.coop/censusdataaccess](http://www.institute.coop/censusdataaccess)

## National Longitudinal Surveys

The National Longitudinal Surveys (NLS), sponsored by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, are nationally representative surveys that follow the same sample of individuals from specific birth cohorts over time. Thanks to the inclusion of key survey questions, the NLS enables researchers to compare workers with employee ownership at their workplace (employee-owners) to workers without such benefits (non-employee-owners) on a range of outcomes of sociological interest.

*Find information on this data set here: <https://www.bls.gov/nls/>*

*Access this data set for free here: <https://www.nlsinfo.org/investigator/pages/login>*

## U.S. General Social Survey

The U.S. General Social Survey (GSS) is administered to a national random sample of working adults by the National Opinion Research Center of the University of Chicago every two years. Since 2002, supplementary questions on employee ownership have been included in the GSS every four years, thanks to support from the Employee Ownership Foundation. Questions include “Do you own any shares of stock in the company where you now work, either directly or through some type of retirement or stock plan?” and “Are you a member of an Employee Stock Ownership Plan commonly called an ESOP?”

*These data are publicly available here: <http://gss.norc.org>*

## **U.S. Department of Labor Form 5500 Data**

The most common form of employee ownership, the employee stock ownership plan (ESOP), takes the form of a retirement plan and is governed by federal pension law. The Internal Revenue Service requires employers or retirement plan administrators to submit the Form 5500 to satisfy annual reporting requirements for these and similar plans. The Department of Labor makes available the Form 5500 data, covering approximately 800,000 retirement plans, enabling researchers to assess how many employee stock ownership plans exist, the value of employer securities they hold, the number of employees (“plan participants”) they cover, and names and geographical location of employee owned companies.

*These data are publicly available here: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa/about-ebsa/our-activities/public-disclosure/foia/form-5500-datasets>*

## **Shared Capitalism Research Project Data**

The NBER Shared Capitalism Research Project data is based on surveys of over 100,000 employees in 14 companies that use shared capitalism compensation programs. The surveys were administered over 2001–2006.

*To inquire about accessing this dataset contact: Professor Douglas Kruse at [dkruse@smlr.rutgers.edu](mailto:dkruse@smlr.rutgers.edu)*