

10 BEST THINGS ABOUT ESOPS



The ESOP Association

Companies with Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs) help workers, communities, and the economy.

1 ESOPs improve job security

6x
less likely to lay off employees

2 ESOPs fare better during economic downturns



During the COVID-19 pandemic, ESOPs were nearly **4x** more likely to retain jobs. During the Great Recession, employment grew by **1.9%** among ESOPs while it fell by nearly 3% overall.

3 ESOPs empower and invest in workers



41%
more likely to be involved in company decisions



2x
more likely to receive training from their employer

4 ESOPs improve worker retention



46%
longer tenure than non-employee owners



80%
of ESOP business leaders feel they do better than non-ESOP competitors recruiting and retaining workers

5 ESOPs improve company performance



6 ESOPs increase worker satisfaction



10%
higher job satisfaction reported among employee owners. Employee ownership **increases** workers' intention to stay at their firm.

7 ESOPs improve retirement security

\$164,000

the average amount an employee owner has accumulated in wealth from their stake, requiring no contribution on their part.

75%

of ESOP companies also offer 401(k)s. 60-64 year old employee owners had, on average, **10x** greater wealth than their peers.



8 ESOPs promote greater worker engagement and motivation

ESOPs increase alignment between employees' interests and companies' long-term outlook by allowing workers to share in the success of the company.



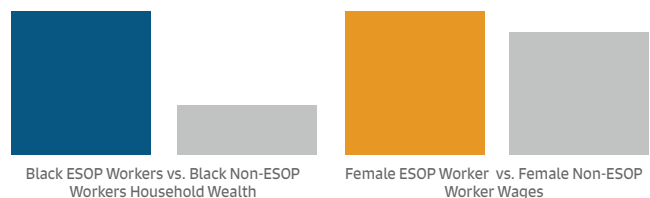
10 ESOPs promote local economic prosperity



ESOPs allow local business owners to sell to their employees, keeping the business and its contributions to the community in town. Employee owners were **2x** as likely to report that their companies made an effort to provide opportunities in their communities.

9 ESOPs reduce inequality

Black ESOP employees have **3x** the wealth of Black households nationally. Female employee owners earn **17%** higher wages than their non-employee owner peers; this grows to **30%** for women of color.



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Sources

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- <https://www.aspeninstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Race-and-Gender-Wealth-Equity-and-the-Role-of-Employee-Share-Ownership.pdf>

2. ESOPs fare better during economic downturns

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- <https://cleo.rutgers.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/EOF-REPORT-EMPLOYEE-OWNED-FIRMS-IN-THE-COVID-19-PANDEMIC.pdf>

3. ESOPs empower and invest in workers

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- <https://www.aspeninstitute.org/publications/employee-ownership-and-esops-what-we-know-from-recent-research/>

4. ESOPs improve worker retention

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- <https://esca.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/NCEO-report-FINAL.pdf>

5. ESOPs improve company performance

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6. ESOPs increase worker satisfaction

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- <https://www.hks.harvard.edu/centers/mrcbg/programs/growthpolicy/do-broad-based-employee-ownership-profit-sharing-and-stock>

7. ESOPs improve retirement security

- <https://www.aspeninstitute.org/publications/employee-ownership-and-esops-what-we-know-from-recent-research/>
- <https://www.aspeninstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Race-and-Gender-Wealth-Equity-and-the-Role-of-Employee-Share-Ownership.pdf>

8. ESOPs promote greater worker engagement and motivation

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9. ESOPs reduce inequality

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10. ESOPs promote local economic prosperity

- <https://esca.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/JZS-ESCA-CSR-Report.pdf>

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