ICONIQ Growth

Sales Leadership: A Hiring Blueprint

What to prioritize when hiring a Sales executive from \$0 to \$50M ARR

May 2023

For Professional Clients Only. ICONIQ Partners (UK) LLP (973080) is an appointed representative of Kroll Securities Ltd (466588) which is authorized and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

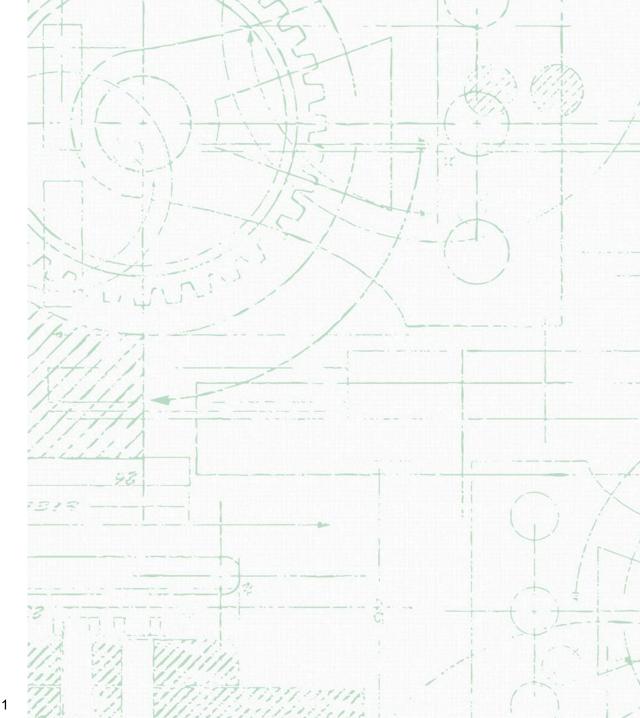












Disclosure

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS PRESENTATION ARE THOSE OF ICONIQ GROWTH ("ICONIQ" OR THE "FIRM"), ARE THE RESULT OF PROPRIETARY RESEARCH, MAY BE SUBJECTIVE, AND MAY NOT BE RELIED UPON IN MAKING AN INVESTMENT DECISION. INFORMATION USED IN THIS PRESENTATION WAS OBTAINED FROM NUMEROUS SOURCES. CERTAIN OF THESE COMPANIES ARE PORTFOLIO COMPANIES OF ICONIQ GROWTH. ICONIQ GROWTH DOES NOT MAKE ANY REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES AS TO THE ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM THESE SOURCES.

THIS PRESENTATION IS FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE INVESTMENT ADVICE OR AN OFFER TO SELL OR A SOLICITATION OF AN OFFER TO BUY ANY SECURITIES WHICH WILL ONLY BE MADE PURSUANT TO DEFINITIVE OFFERING DOCUMENTS AND SUBSCRIPTION AGREEMENTS, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, ANY INVESTMENT FUND OR INVESTMENT PRODUCT REFERENCED HEREIN.

ANY REPRODUCTION OR DISTRIBUTION OF THIS PRESENTATION IN WHOLE OR IN PART, OR THE DISCLOSURE OF ANY OF ITS CONTENTS, WITHOUT THEPRIOR CONSENT OF ICONIQ, IS PROHIBITED.

THIS PRESENTATION MAY CONTAIN FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS BASED ON CURRENT PLANS, ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS. THE RECIPIENT OF THIS PRESENTATION ("YOU") ARE CAUTIONED THAT A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT FACTORS COULD CAUSE ACTUAL RESULTS OR OUTCOMES TO DIFFER MATERIALLY FROM THOSE EXPRESSED IN, OR IMPLIED BY, THE FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS. THE NUMBERS, FIGURES AND CASE STUDIES INCLUDED IN THIS PRESENTATION HAVE BEEN INCLUDED FOR PURPOSES OF ILLUSTRATION ONLY, AND NO ASSURANCE CAN BE GIVEN THAT THE ACTUAL RESULTS OF ICONIQ OR ANY OF ITS PARTNERS AND AFFILIATES WILL CORRESPOND WITH THE RESULTS CONTEMPLATED IN THE PRESENTATION. NO INFORMATION IS CONTAINED HEREIN WITH RESPECT TO CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, WHICH MAY BE SIGNIFICANT. THE PORTFOLIO COMPANIES AND OTHER PARTIES MENTIONED HEREIN MAY REFLECT A SELECTIVE LIST OF THE PRIOR INVESTMENTS MADE BY ICONIO.

CERTAIN OF THE ECONOMIC AND MARKET INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN MAY HAVE BEEN OBTAINED FROM PUBLISHED SOURCES AND/OR PREPAREDBYOTHER PARTIES. WHILE SUCH SOURCES ARE BELIEVED TO BE RELIABLE, NONE OF ICONIQ OR ANY OF ITS AFFILIATES AND PARTNERS, EMPLOYEES AND REPRESENTATIVES ASSUME ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACCURACY OF SUCH INFORMATION.

ALL OF THE INFORMATION IN THE PRESENTATION IS PRESENTED AS OF THE DATE MADE AVAILABLE TO YOU (EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED), AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE, AND MAY NOT BE CURRENT OR MAY HAVE CHANGED (POSSIBLY MATERIALLY) BETWEEN THE DATE MADE AVAILABLE TO YOU AND THE DATE ACTUALLY RECEIVED OR REVIEWED BY YOU. ICONIQ ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION TO UPDATE OR OTHERWISE REVISE ANY INFORMATION, PROJECTIONS, FORECASTS OR ESTIMATES CONTAINED IN THE PRESENTATION, INCLUDING ANY REVISIONS TO REFLECT CHANGES IN ECONOMIC OR MARKET CONDITIONS OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES ARISING AFTER THE DATE THE ITEMS WERE MADE AVAILABLE TO YOU OR TO REFLECT THE OCCURRENCE OF UNANTICIPATED EVENTS.

FOR AVOIDANCE OF DOUBT, ICONIQ IS NOT ACTING AS AN ADVISER OR FIDUCIARY IN ANY RESPECT IN CONNECTION WITH PROVIDING THIS PRESENTATION AND NO RELATIONSHIP SHALL ARISE BETWEEN YOU AND ICONIQ AS A RESULT OF THIS PRESENTATION BEING MADE AVAILABLE TO YOU.

ICONIQ IS A DIVERSIFIED FINANCIAL SERVICES FIRM AND HAS DIRECT CLIENT RELATIONSHIPS WITH PERSONS THAT MAY BECOME LIMITED PARTNERS OF ICONIQ FUNDS. NOTWITHSTANDING THAT A PERSON MAY BE REFERRED TO HEREIN AS A "CLIENT" OF THE FIRM, NO LIMITED PARTNER OF ANY FUND WILL, IN ITS CAPACITY AS SUCH, BE A CLIENT OF ICONIQ. THERE CAN BE NO ASSURANCE THAT THE INVESTMENTS MADE BY ANY ICONIQ FUND WILL BE PROFITABLE OR WILL EQUAL THE PERFORMANCE OF PRIOR INVESTMENTS MADE BY PERSONS DESCRIBED IN THIS PRESENTATION.

THESE MATERIALS ARE PROVIDED FOR GENERAL INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY AND MAY NOT BE RELIED UPON.

THIS MATERIAL MAY BE DISTRIBUTED TO, OR DIRECTED AT, ONLY THE FOLLOWING PERSONS: (I) PERSONS WHO HAVE PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN MATTERS RELATING TO INVESTMENTS FALLING WITHIN ARTICLE 19(5) OF THE FINANCIAL SERVICES AND MARKETS ACT 2000 (FINANCIAL PROMOTION) ORDER 2005 (THE "FP ORDER"), (II) HIGH-NET-WORTH ENTITIES FALLING WITHIN ARTICLE 49(2) OF THE FP ORDER, AND (III) ANY OTHER PERSONS TO WHOM IT MAY OTHERWISE LAWFULLY BE COMMUNICATED (ALL SUCH PERSONS TOGETHER BEING REFERRED TO AS "FPO RELEVANT PERSONS"). PERSONS WHO ARE NOT FPO RELEVANT PERSONS MUST NOT ACT ON OR RELY ON THIS MATERIAL OR ANY OF ITS CONTENTS. ANY INVESTMENT OR INVESTMENT ACTIVITY TO WHICH THIS MATERIAL RELATES IS AVAILABLE ONLY TO FPO RELEVANT PERSONS AND WILL BE ENGAGED IN ONLY WITH FPO RELEVANT PERSONS. RECIPIENTS MUST NOT DISTRIBUTE, PUBLISH, REPRODUCE, OR DISCLOSE THIS MATERIAL, IN WHOLE OR IN PART. TO ANY OTHER PERSON.



Introduction

ICONIQ Growth Leadership Analytics Executive hiring is the final frontier within the modern organization that is yet to benefit from the proliferation of data. Despite having data to guide nearly every other business decision – and despite the criticality of executive hiring decisions – CEOs and Founders have heretofore been forced to rely on anecdotal guidance.

ICONIQ Growth set out to change that.

Determined to help de-risk hiring decisions by empowering CEOs and Founders with data, we are studying every leadership hire between Founding and IPO at dozens of high-caliber SaaS companies. We segment each hiring decision by growth stage in order to deliver hyper-relevant insights. To date, we have collected over **36,000 datapoints on over 1,000 leaders**.

The result is a series of **first-of-their-kind playbooks** that help guide decision-making across the entire private company lifecycle – whether you are making your first leadership hire or evaluating the skillsets needed to adeptly enter the public markets.

We hope this analysis, which examines <u>the backgrounds of Sales executives at</u> <u>companies from \$0M to \$50M ARR</u>, serves as a north star as you build and scale your go-to-market organization.

The Dataset

We studied every Head of Sales hired at these 69 B2B SaaS companies from the day they were founded to the day they went public, capturing the entire private company lifecycle:



We defined "Head of Sales" as the senior-most executive responsible for the revenue number³ (aside from the CEO), agnostic of title. This includes *President*, *President* of *Field*Operations, COO, Chief Revenue Officer,

(E)(S)VP Sales and others, depending on organizational structure and revenue responsibility at each company. Throughout this analysis, we use "Head of Sales" as a catchall term.

Company Inclusion Criteria:

- SaaS business model
- Went public after 2015 via IPO or Direct Listing
- Raised venture capital prior to going public



4

Executive Summary

Early Stage: \$0M-\$20M ARR Early Growth Stage: \$20M-\$50M ARR

STARR (Scale To ARR) Multiple:

Operator's largest prior personal revenue number (scale)

Company ARR at time of hire

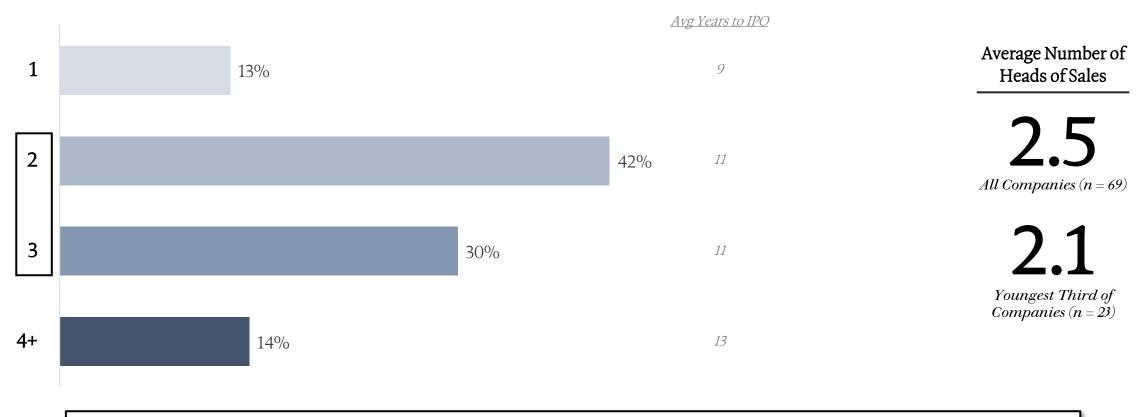
- Companies typically hire **2-3 Heads of Sales** between Founding and IPO. Frequent turnover during the same growth stage, or exceeding 3 Heads of Sales before IPO, may result in delayed go-to-market maturation and predictability, CEO time dilution caused by absorbing direct reports, increased equity burn, loss of time and productivity (e.g., running multiple searches, onboarding time, etc.), and more. Hence, our recommendation is to hire leaders who can **scale with the organization across multiple growth stages**.
- Why do some Heads of Sales stay for only 5 months (necessitating more hires), while others stay for 10+ years? No two variables had a bigger impact on executive outcomes than **prior scale** and **prior Head of Sales experience**. While companies may not be able to hire someone with both attributes and Early Stage companies often cannot attain either optimizing for at least one of these two traits drives longevity.
- Early Stage companies (\$0M-\$20M ARR) found the greatest success when hiring for a STARR Multiple (defined above) of ~25X+ or prior scale >\$250M (this refers to an executive's prior personal revenue accountability or quota). Optimizing for prior Head of Sales experience instead of scale resulted in a 3X higher early departure rate. Scale can compensate for a lack of prior leadership experience, and failure to scale *up* proves to be a bigger risk than failure to scale *down*. Heads of Sales with neither trait fared the worst.
- Early Growth Stage companies (\$20M-\$50M ARR) found the greatest success when hiring for a STARR Multiple of ~14X+ or prior scale >\$500M.

 Individuals without this scale are >2.5X more likely to leave before reaching \$100M ARR, relative to their peers who had been a Head of Sales but had not seen this scale. Prior leadership experience once again proved to be the second-best option, while executives with neither scale nor leadership fared the worst.
- Historically, an executive's prior **sales motion** has been less relevant. Their **sector background** has also proven to be less relevant, with no meaningful differences in tenure outcomes for those with significant prior experience in the company's sector versus little or no prior experience.

Number of Heads of Sales

CEOs can expect to hire 2-3 Heads of Sales between Founding and IPO, though more recently founded companies are trending towards 2.





More than half of the companies with 3 Heads of Sales had at least 1 "early leaver" (tenure <18 months) or extenuating circumstance (e.g., Head of Sales promoted to CEO), suggesting that ~60% of companies would have otherwise had 2 Heads of Sales.

Early Stage Hires

36% of hires made during the Early Stage leave during this same stage. Companies that bypass this hiring "sand trap" by selecting a leader who can scale across multiple stages may avoid hiring up to 5 Heads of Sales and will experience longer leadership durations on average.

ICONIQ SaaS Growth Stages:

Early Stage: \$0M-\$20M ARR
Early Growth Stage: \$20M-\$50M ARR
Growth Stage: \$50M-\$100M ARR
Late Growth Stage: \$100M ARR - IPO

Early Stage Hires: Departure Stages

	Early	Early Growth	Growth	Late Growth	Post-IPO	
Early Stage Hires (\$0M-\$20M ARR)	36%	23%	12%	12%	17%	n = 66
Total # of Heads of Sales at Co. (Range)	2-5	2-5	2-3	2-3	1-2	
Avg. Tenure (Years)	2.2	2.4	3.6	4.4	7.4	

- Some Early Stage companies adeptly recover from an intra-stage departure and make a successful second hire that scales with the company to IPO. However, many companies that have an intra-stage departure find themselves making up to 3-4 *additional* Sales leadership hires.
- The costs of an intra-stage departure and multiple subsequent re-hires may include search firm fees, increased equity burn, loss of time and productivity, CEO time dilution caused by multiple new direct reports, and more.
 - Companies can avoid these costs by hiring someone who has the potential to scale across multiple growth stages.

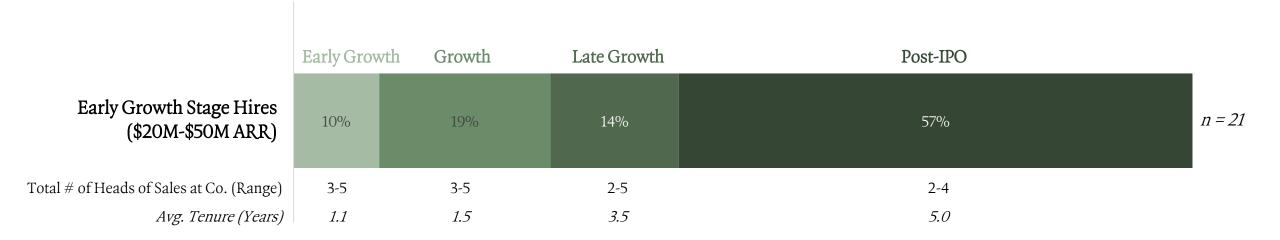
Early Growth Stage Hires

By Early Growth Stage, 57% of companies successfully hire the leader who will scale with their company to IPO. Selecting a leader who cannot scale to at least \$100M+ may require multiple reattempts, suggesting the presence of another hiring "sand trap."

ICONIQ SaaS Growth Stages:

Early Stage: \$0M-\$20M ARR Early Growth Stage: \$20M-\$50M ARR Growth Stage: \$50M-\$100M ARR Late Growth Stage: \$100M ARR - IPO

Early Growth Stage Hires: Departure Stages



Hiring for Success

Why do some Heads of Sales stay for only 5 months, while others endure for 10 years? We analyzed the major traits in Sales executive backgrounds and found that no two variables had a bigger impact on executive tenure than **scale** and **leadership**.

Key Drivers of Executive Tenure:

1. SCALE: Introducing the Scale To ARR (STARR) Multiple:



We found that **Early Stage** leaders (<u>pages 10-12</u>) with \$250M+ scale – or a ~25X+ STARR Multiple² – saw meaningful tenure differences relative to their peers. We found that **Early Growth Stage** leaders (<u>pages 13-14</u>) with \$500M+ scale – or a ~14X+ STARR Multiple³ – saw meaningful tenure differences relative to their peers.

2. LEADERSHIP: Refers to a prior Head of Sales role (at any stage/scale)

Most companies must make **tradeoffs** between these operational backgrounds (with just 8% of Early Stage companies and 29% of Early Growth Stage companies hiring for both traits).

Continue reading to dive into the data around how companies have prioritized these backgrounds, and which operational backgrounds may deliver a more predictable path to successful hiring \rightarrow

⁽¹⁾ STARR Multiple contemplates an executive's <u>personal</u> quota or revenue accountability (**not** the full company number — unless they were the Head of Sales). This figure can come from any prior role, as long as it represents their largest prior personal revenue responsibility.

^{(2) 25}X STARR Multiple is calculated by taking \$250M prior operating scale divided by the midpoint of Early Stage (\$10M). (3) 14X STARR Multiple is calculated by taking \$500M divided by the midpoint of Early Growth Stage (\$35M). Note: Prior company ARR data estimated using proxy metrics (e.g., per headcount, PIC) if actual figures unavailable.

Early Stage | Operational Backgrounds

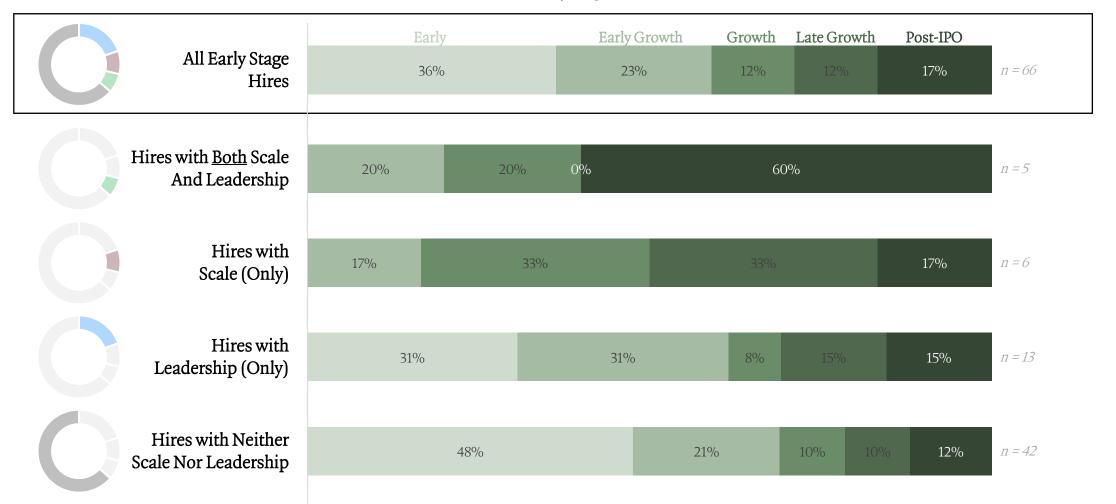


For companies between \$0-\$20M ARR, hiring for prior scale experience of \$250M+ or STARR Multiple of ~25X, especially when combined with prior leadership experience as a Head of Sales, helps mitigate against early departures.

Stage of Departure by Operational Background

Worse outcome Better outcome

Early Stage Hires $\mid n = 66$

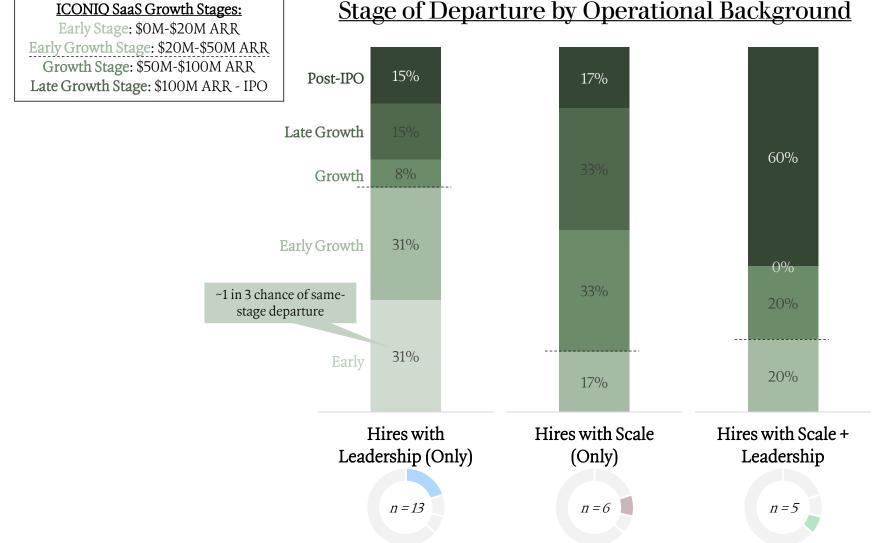


Early Stage | Operational Backgrounds



Early Growth Stage

Executives with leadership experience but without scale >\$250M or a ~25X+ STARR Multiple have a 3X+ higher departure rate during the same stage or stage immediately following, relative to their peers who have seen this scale.



Those who do not have scale >\$250M (or a STARR Multiple of ~25X+) fare worse than their peers who have seen this scale. This suggests that scale can compensate for a lack of prior Head of Sales experience. Owning a smaller piece of a larger company proves to be preferable to owning an end-to-end revenue number at a smaller company.

While CEOs often worry that a large company background won't be applicable for an early-stage startup, the data suggests that failure to scale up is a bigger risk than failure to scale down.

Those with a STARR Multiple>25X *and* prior Head of Sales experience fare the best, with **60% of hires** staying until after the IPO.

Early Growth Stage | Operational Backgrounds

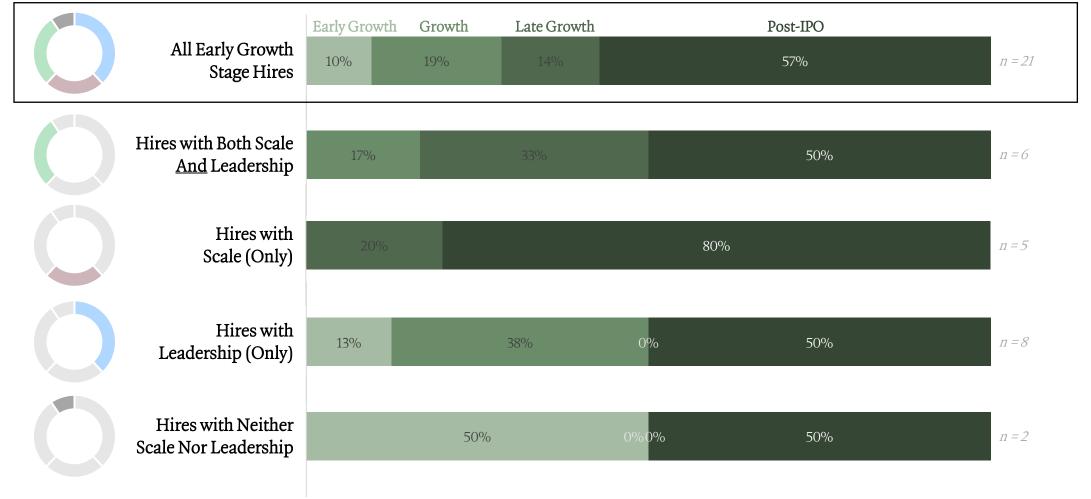


As with their Early Stage peers, Early Growth Stage hires should also optimize for scale as those with a ~14X STARR Multiple (~\$500M prior revenue accountability) fare better than their peers with lower prior revenue ownership.

Stage of Departure by Operational Background

Worse outcome Better outcome

Early Growth Stage Hires $\mid n = 21$



Early Growth Stage | Operational Backgrounds

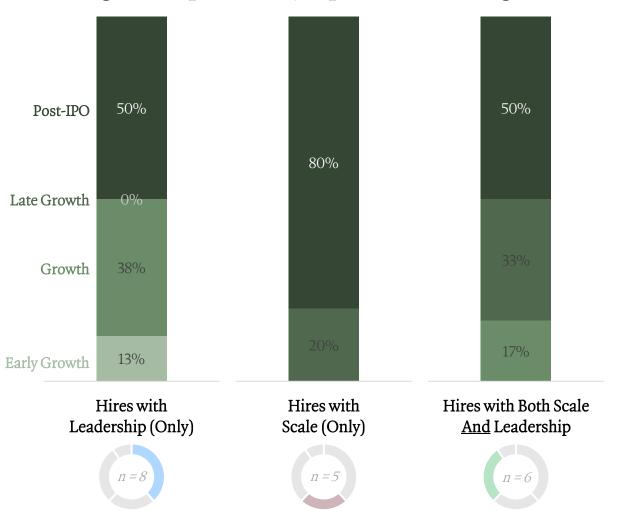


At Early Growth Stage companies, those without scale >\$500M or a ~14X+ STARR Multiple are >2.5X more likely to leave before reaching \$100M ARR.

ICONIQ SaaS Growth Stages:

Early Stage: \$0M-\$20M ARR Early Growth Stage: \$20M-\$50M ARR Growth Stage: \$50M-\$100M ARR Late Growth Stage: \$100M ARR - IPO

Stage of Departure by Operational Background



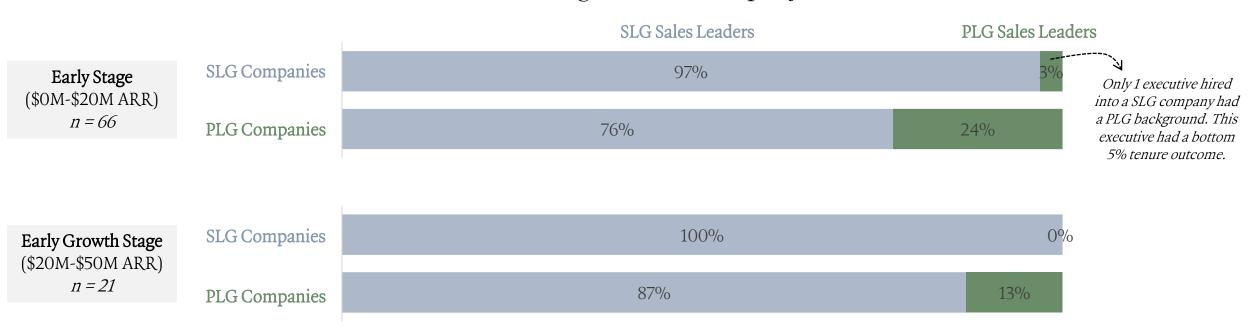
As with Early Stage companies, Early Growth Stage companies can reduce the likelihood of a hire leaving within the same stage or stage immediately following by **optimizing for scale**.

Among the 11 Early Growth Stage hires with a ~14X+ STARR Multiple, just one left before the company reached \$100M.

Sales Motion

Aside from scale and leadership experience, questions often arise around go-to-market affinity. Sales Led Growth <u>and</u> Product Led Growth companies predominantly hire Heads of Sales with SLG expertise.

Sales Leader's GTM Background vs. Company's GTM Motion



CEOs should consider the nuances within each sales motion when selecting a Head of Sales. Sales velocity, ASPs, and customer segment can vary dramatically between two companies that are both under the SLG umbrella – and a Head of Sales who excelled at one SLG company may not excel at another if the go-to-market specifics are dramatically different. Please reach out to the ICONIQ Growth team if we can help you assess GTM alignment.

Sector

Most Heads of Sales hired <\$50M ARR are entering a new sector for the first time. Not only is sector affinity less prevalent, it is also not associated with greater longevity.



Heads of Sales by Prior Sector Exposure

Early + Early Growth Companies | n = 87 hires

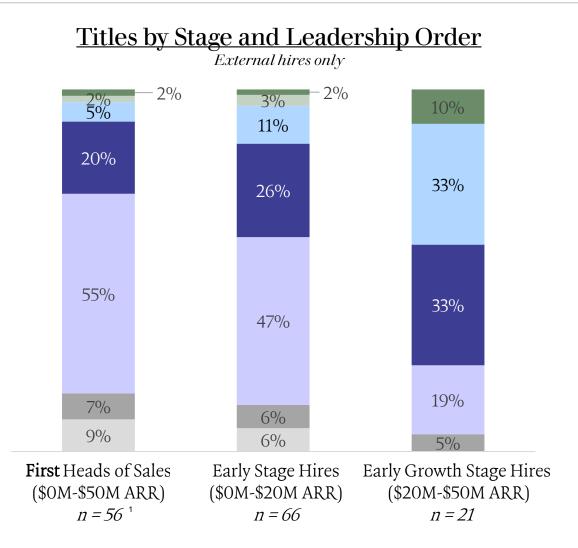
Sector	Example Company	Dominant in Sector	Some Exposure in Sector	New to Sector	N-Size ¹
Go-to-Market Stack	💸 sprinklr	62%	0%	38%	13
Security	(ii) SentinelOne [*]	50%	25%	25%	12
Collaboration & Workflow	asana	33%	22%	44%	9
Data & Analytics	mongo DB.	31%	8%	62%	13
Cloud Infrastructure	DATADOG	27%	18%	55%	11
Back Office & Operations	Ui Path [*]	23%	23%	54%	13
Vertical SaaS	PROCORE	20%	0%	80%	10
Dev Ops	PagerDuty	0%	20%	80%	5
All Application Companies		37%	10%	53%	49
All Infrastructure Companies		29%	18%	53%	38

Average Tenure by Sector Affinity Background (Years)				
3.3 Dominant in sector				
3.6				
Some exposure in sector				
3.8 New to sector				

Titling

Ready to make a Head of Sales hire? VP Sales is the most common title for leaders at companies <\$20M ARR and/or companies hiring their first Head of Sales. Companies hiring a Head of Sales between \$20M-\$50M ARR use SVP/EVP and CRO titles equally.





THANK YOU!

ICONIQ GROWTH LEADERSHIP ADVISORY



Chris Hubbell
General Partner



Caroline Brand
Leadership Analytics



Greg BrownFunctional Lead – G&A



Brad Delaplane
Functional Lead – GTM



Katherine Dunn
Leadership Analytics



Zack OsmanPortfolio Compensation



Adam Snyder

Analyst

ICONIQ GROWTH PORTFOLIO ANALYTICS



Christine Edmonds
General Partner &

Head of Analytics



Portfolio Analytics



Claire Davis
Portfolio Analytics



Vivian Guo
Portfolio Analytics



Sam O'NeillPortfolio Data Manager

Other Reports from ICONIQ Growth

Leadership Advisory Overview	Overview of our core motions and ways that we can support your organization	Case Study, Recent Law 100 care 100 care
Chief Marketing Officer Study	 Quantitative analysis of the most prevalent – and most successful – operational backgrounds and qualifications for Heads of Marketing at private SaaS companies, segmented by Growth Stage Data source: Proprietary dataset of >150 marketing leaders at 49 SaaS companies 	2023 Refresh Coming Soon
Chief People Officer Study	 Quantitative analysis of the most prevalent – and most successful – operational backgrounds and qualifications for Heads of People at private SaaS companies, segmented by Growth Stage Data source: Proprietary datasets of >100 people leaders at 59 companies; 2021 Cloud 100 People leaders 	Of contrast boundaries. No off Bayerous of Steph Systems: If you did state, in City of Steph Security
President & Chief Operating Officer Study	 Examination of the advantages and challenges of having a COO and/or President role Data source: Proprietary dataset of every past and current COO/President at 61 SaaS companies 	Section of control of the control of
Chief Financial Officer Study	 Quantitative analysis of the most prevalent – and most successful – operational backgrounds and qualifications for Heads of Finance at private SaaS companies, segmented by Growth Stage Data source: Proprietary dataset of >170 finance leaders at 72 companies 	Section by the following the control of the control
Chief Revenue Officer Study (Two-Part Series)	 Quantitative analysis of the most prevalent – and most successful – operational backgrounds and qualifications for Heads of Sales/CROs at private SaaS companies, segmented by Growth Stage Data source: Proprietary dataset of >180 sales leaders at 72 companies 	The state of the s



A Portfolio of Category Leaders

1Passw@rd	adyen	SI Age of Learning	放 airbnb	Airtable 🕶	👻 ajaib	2 . Alibaba Group	alteryx	A PPRENTICE
APT <i>TUS</i>	articul a te	* aurora	AUT@MATTIC	X AXONIUS	* bambooнr**	🕏 Benchling	BetterUp	Бill .com
M BLACKLINE	braze	Calendly	✓ Campaign Monitor	Captivate IQ	chime	♦ CLARA	नाः दाः	⊠ conexiom
* coupa	CROWDSTRIKE	Cyber 🔆 GRX	DATADOG	🕖 dataiku	Xdbt	■ Devoted Health	op dialpad	Docu Sign
DRATA	.::. ::enfusion	EPPE	Epic	ez cater	fastly	fetch	"\\' Fivetran	▲ Fireblocks
Flipkart	<u>FREEWILL</u>	- FTX	♥ Gem	₩ GitLab	gofundme	$Good P_{\!\! \chi}$	GreenSk y .	Groww
GUILD	HashiCorp	headspin	% HEPTAGON™	• highradius	O HIGHSPOT	hightouch	<u>H</u> ippo	⊞ HONEST
houzz	iex□	INTERCOM	<i>in</i> vision	komodo health	 	L Lucid	>>>> MARQETA	miro
MC MONTE CARLO	motorway [.]	Moveworks	Nayya	≁ netskope	notable	$oxed{\mathbf{N}}$ Notion	Orca security	panther
people.aí		PLURALSIGHT	> Primer	PROCORE°	@ QGenda	ramp ノ	recharge	RED VENTURES
Reifyhealth	⊕Relativity [·]	(Re prise	Restaurant 365	robinhood	SANITY	SERVICETITAN	shopmonkey	O side
sendbird	(a) SMARTLING	* snowflake	% sprinklr		SQUĪRE	TENCENT MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT	◆truckstop	turb <mark>on</mark> omic
i skuid	twin [¶]	Twistlock	UBER	/// Unit21	Ŵ UNITE US	♥ vic.vi	νirtru (v	WARBY PARKER
wayfair	Wealthsimple	Wolt	zinier	zoom				

wayfair

ICONIQ Growth

SAN FRANCISCO | PALO ALTO | NEW YORK | LONDON | SINGAPORE





