

TABLE 59

Importance of utility patent, design patent, and trademark intellectual property protections to companies located in the United States that performed or funded R&D, by industry and company size: 2015

(Percent)

Industry and company size	NAICS code	Utility patents			Design patents			Trademarks		
		Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
All industries	21–23, 31–33, 42–81	44.3	19.2	36.5	18.3	27.1	54.6	45.5	33.9	20.7
Manufacturing industries	31–33	50.2	20.6	29.2	23.5	30.7	45.9	52.8	29.2	17.9
Food	311	24.8	17.6	57.6	15.4	20.2	64.4	70.7	14.2	15.1
Beverages and tobacco products	312	30.1	26.5	43.4	21.0	35.5	43.4	85.0	D	D
Textiles, apparel, and leather products	313–16	40.0	29.3	30.7	32.8	32.7	34.4	55.6	25.8	18.6
Wood products	321	31.3	31.3	37.5	31.3	25.0	43.8	56.3	25.0	18.8
Paper	322	37.9	31.0	31.0	21.4	35.7	42.9	44.8	37.9	17.2
Printing and related support activities	323	45.9	19.1	35.0	30.6	30.6	38.8	45.9	27.3	26.8
Petroleum and coal products	324	69.2	D	D	D	D	50.8	67.7	D	D
Chemicals	325	69.0	14.2	16.8	18.0	22.3	59.7	48.6	35.5	15.9
Basic chemicals	3251	65.5	15.4	19.2	11.7	22.2	66.0	48.8	38.5	12.7
Resins, synthetic rubber, and artificial synthetic fibers and filaments	3252	50.8	30.7	18.6	16.6	31.4	52.0	57.7	35.3	7.0
Pesticides, fertilizers, and other agricultural chemicals	3253	82.7	D	D	16.7	55.9	27.3	43.9	D	D
Pharmaceuticals and medicines	3254	76.0	11.5	12.4	17.0	19.3	63.7	43.2	37.3	19.5
Soaps, cleaning compounds, and toilet preparations	3256	48.4	20.6	31.0	33.6	33.3	33.2	77.9	11.0	11.0
Paints, coatings, adhesives, and other chemicals	3255, 3259	51.4	16.7	31.9	23.6	15.3	61.1	55.6	33.4	11.0
Plastics and rubber products	326	46.6	16.8	36.6	29.0	28.5	42.4	44.6	24.6	30.7
Nonmetallic mineral products	327	49.0	27.0	24.1	25.9	30.8	43.3	56.7	28.6	14.7
Primary metals	331	44.9	24.4	30.7	30.0	24.4	45.6	49.4	33.8	16.9
Fabricated metal products	332	35.6	17.7	46.7	21.4	30.5	48.1	36.1	23.7	40.2
Machinery	333	34.6	44.8	20.6	18.8	53.4	27.8	52.0	29.8	18.1
Agricultural implements	33311	60.3	22.7	17.0	36.8	54.1	9.0	46.7	35.8	17.5
Semiconductor machinery	333242	45.4	18.9	35.6	15.1	37.9	47.0	37.9	26.5	35.6
Engine, turbine, and power transmission equipment	3336	56.4	13.9	29.7	25.4	23.0	51.6	65.4	12.6	22.0
Other machinery	other 333	31.5	49.2	19.4	17.6	56.1	26.3	52.3	30.7	16.9
Computer and electronic products	334	63.7	17.8	18.5	28.7	30.0	41.2	52.8	34.8	12.4
Communications equipment	3342	71.8	12.1	16.2	37.9	22.6	39.4	59.9	33.3	6.8
Semiconductors and other electronic components	3344	67.5	19.4	13.0	27.7	30.6	41.7	49.2	37.0	13.8
Navigational, measuring, electromedical, and control instruments	3345	62.5	18.9	18.6	27.3	33.0	39.7	48.5	37.0	14.5
Electromedical, electrotherapeutic, and irradiation apparatuses	334510, 334517	79.2	D	D	22.6	43.0	34.4	41.0	54.1	4.9
Search, detection, navigation, guidance, aeronautical, and nautical systems and instruments	334511	55.3	6.6	38.1	25.6	26.8	47.6	54.6	15.6	29.8
Other measuring and controlling devices	other 3345	56.5	22.7	20.8	29.9	29.9	40.2	50.5	34.4	15.1
Other computer and electronic products	other 334	50.9	17.9	31.2	24.5	28.9	46.5	64.0	26.3	9.7
Electrical equipment, appliances, and components	335	56.6	20.2	23.2	30.2	31.9	37.9	44.3	45.2	10.5
Transportation equipment	336	42.4	11.3	46.4	26.5	28.3	45.3	41.1	21.2	37.8

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Automobiles, bodies, trailers, and parts	3361-63	44.1	10.4	45.5	26.6	39.8	33.6	45.7	21.3	33.0
Aerospace products and parts	3364	39.0	9.8	51.1	19.1	11.1	69.7	33.8	19.5	46.7
Aircraft, aircraft engines, and aircraft parts	336411-13	39.1	5.7	55.2	21.0	10.5	68.5	33.4	18.4	48.3
Guided missiles, space vehicles, and related parts	336414-15, 336419	38.1	D	D	0.0	D	D	38.1	30.9	30.9
Military armored vehicles, tanks, and tank components	336992	D	D	52.2	47.8	0.0	52.2	D	D	D
Other transportation	other 336	45.6	21.1	33.3	49.7	24.1	26.2	41.4	26.0	32.6
Furniture and related products	337	52.0	12.0	36.0	52.0	16.0	32.0	57.7	19.2	23.1
Miscellaneous manufacturing	339	44.1	12.7	43.2	23.4	21.6	54.9	72.7	21.3	6.0
Medical equipment and supplies	3391	41.0	11.6	47.4	19.5	19.8	60.7	74.0	20.4	5.6
Other miscellaneous manufacturing	3399	59.5	18.3	22.2	43.2	31.0	25.7	66.1	25.8	8.1
Nonmanufacturing industries	21-23, 42-81	36.6	17.4	46.0	11.5	22.4	66.1	35.8	39.9	24.2
Mining, extraction, and support activities	21	50.9	16.4	32.6	27.9	28.6	43.5	45.5	41.9	12.6
Utilities	22	29.5	32.5	38.0	D	D	67.5	38.0	41.4	20.7
Wholesale trade	42	42.6	17.2	40.2	25.1	26.5	48.4	58.8	19.5	21.8
Electronic shopping and electronic auctions	454111-12	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
Transportation and warehousing	48-49	34.8	D	D	D	D	65.2	58.0	0.0	42.0
Information	51	33.0	16.2	50.7	12.2	19.9	67.9	53.0	36.6	10.4
Publishing	511	37.1	17.1	45.8	12.6	19.5	67.9	55.1	39.7	5.1
Newspaper, periodical, book, and directory publishers	5111	D	0.0	D	D	D	D	D	D	0.0
Software publishers	5112	37.2	17.3	45.6	12.5	19.5	68.1	55.0	39.9	5.2
Telecommunications	517	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Data processing, hosting, and related services	518	30.4	16.2	53.5	11.4	20.9	67.7	57.0	29.8	13.2
Other information	other 51	34.0	18.8	47.2	25.4	20.1	54.5	52.4	22.8	24.8
Finance and insurance	52	18.7	20.3	61.0	10.4	8.3	81.3	65.3	16.6	18.1
Real estate and rental and leasing	53	56.3	D	D	41.4	D	D	51.9	D	D
Lessors of nonfinancial intangible assets (except copyrighted works)	533	100.0	0.0	0.0	D	D	0.0	D	D	0.0
Other real estate and rental and leasing	other 53	42.0	D	D	44.1	D	D	58.0	D	D
Professional, scientific, and technical services	54	38.8	17.6	43.6	9.9	24.0	66.1	25.7	44.1	30.2
Architectural, engineering, and related services	5413	31.2	9.8	59.0	10.5	15.2	74.3	22.4	16.9	60.8
Computer systems design and related services	5415	27.3	25.8	46.9	10.2	28.1	61.7	40.9	37.6	21.5
Scientific research and development services	5417	50.7	15.2	34.1	10.3	24.5	65.3	20.5	47.6	31.9
Biotechnology research and development	541711	51.4	17.5	31.1	9.2	18.0	72.8	23.3	29.9	46.9
Physical, engineering, and life sciences (except biotechnology) research and development	541712	51.1	14.0	34.9	10.9	27.5	61.6	19.3	55.5	25.1
Social sciences and humanities research and development	541720	D	D	68.5	0.0	21.1	78.9	D	D	28.2
Other professional, scientific, and technical services	other 54	20.2	18.9	60.9	7.1	22.2	70.7	20.8	64.8	14.4

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Health care services	621-23	42.7	15.8	41.5	D	D	79.2	38.9	24.1	37.0
Other nonmanufacturing	23, 44-45 (excluding 454111-12), 55-56, 624, 71-72, 81	25.3	18.5	56.2	22.1	19.1	58.8	36.4	23.9	39.8
All companies (number of domestic employees)	-	44.3	19.2	36.5	18.3	27.1	54.6	45.5	33.9	20.7
Micro companies ^a										
5-9	-	63.8	16.3	19.9	11.7	19.7	68.6	22.1	31.3	46.6
Small companies										
10-19	-	58.3	18.2	23.6	14.1	33.3	52.5	31.2	35.4	33.4
20-49	-	38.8	24.9	36.3	13.3	30.4	56.2	42.0	38.1	19.8
Medium companies										
50-99	-	31.3	11.7	57.0	17.6	13.6	68.8	44.3	41.6	14.1
100-249	-	38.6	18.1	43.3	17.5	25.3	57.3	43.8	29.3	26.9
Large companies										
250-499	-	36.4	26.8	36.8	19.2	34.1	46.7	41.7	40.4	17.9
500-999	-	49.7	21.8	28.4	24.2	30.1	45.7	53.4	32.6	14.0
1,000-4,999	-	55.7	19.6	24.7	25.0	33.6	41.5	67.9	20.3	11.8
5,000-9,999	-	70.7	14.7	14.6	37.2	28.3	34.5	69.1	22.8	8.1
10,000-24,999	-	77.3	9.8	13.0	26.9	35.6	37.5	78.8	18.6	2.6
25,000 or more	-	73.0	12.1	14.9	30.1	32.4	37.4	85.4	3.3	11.3

D = data withheld to avoid disclosing operations of individual companies; S = data withheld as more than 50% of the estimate is a combination of imputation and reweighting to account for nonresponse.

NAICS = 2012 North American Industry Classification System.

^a Business R&D and Innovation Survey does not include companies with fewer than five domestic employees.**Note(s)**

Statistics are representative of companies in the United States that were eligible to receive Form BRDI-1 and performed or funded R&D. These statistics are not comparable to estimates prior to 2012 as those estimates are representative of all companies in the United States. Industry classification is based on the dominant business code for domestic R&D performance, where available. For companies that did not report business codes, the classification used for sampling was assigned.

Source(s)

National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, and U.S. Census Bureau, Business R&D and Innovation Survey, 2015.