

TABLE 89-1

**Importance of intellectual property protection, by type: 2017**

(Percent)

Type of intellectual property	Companies (number)	Very important	Somewhat important	Not at all important
Utility patents (patents for inventions)	4,603,606	2.5	4.2	93.3
Design patents (patents for appearance)	4,603,606	2.8	4.9	92.3
Trademarks	4,603,606	7.0	8.9	84.1
Copyrights	4,603,606	6.2	8.0	85.8
Trade secrets	4,603,606	7.3	9.0	83.7
Nondisclosure agreements	4,603,606	8.6	10.9	80.5

**Note(s):**

Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Statistics are representative of companies located in the United States.

**Source(s):**

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics and U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Business Survey, 2017.