

**Table 1****Importance of intellectual property protection to companies that performed or funded R&D, by type: 2018**

(Percent)

Type of intellectual property protection	Very important	Somewhat important	Not at all important
Trade secrets	51.7	24.5	23.8
Trademarks	39.8	29.4	30.8
Copyrights	27.8	29.5	42.7
Utility patents (patents for inventions)	31.3	18.1	50.5
Design patents (patents for appearance)	20.3	23.1	56.6
Mask works	7.2	10.1	82.7

**Note(s):**

Detail may not add to 100% because of rounding. Statistics are representative of companies located in the United States with at least 10 employees that performed or funded \$50,000 or more of R&D.

**Source(s):**

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics and Census Bureau, Business Research and Development Survey, 2018.