

Table 1**Importance of intellectual property protection, by type of protection: 2017**

(Percent)

| Type of intellectual property protection | Very important | Somewhat important | Not at all important |
|--|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Nondisclosure agreements | 8.6 | 10.9 | 80.5 |
| Trade secrets | 7.3 | 9.0 | 83.7 |
| Trademarks | 7.0 | 8.9 | 84.1 |
| Copyrights | 6.2 | 8.0 | 85.8 |
| Design patents | 2.8 | 4.9 | 92.3 |
| Utility patents | 2.5 | 4.2 | 93.3 |

Note(s):

Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Statistics are representative of companies located in the United States with at least one employee. There were estimated to be 4,603,606 such companies in 2017.

Source(s):

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