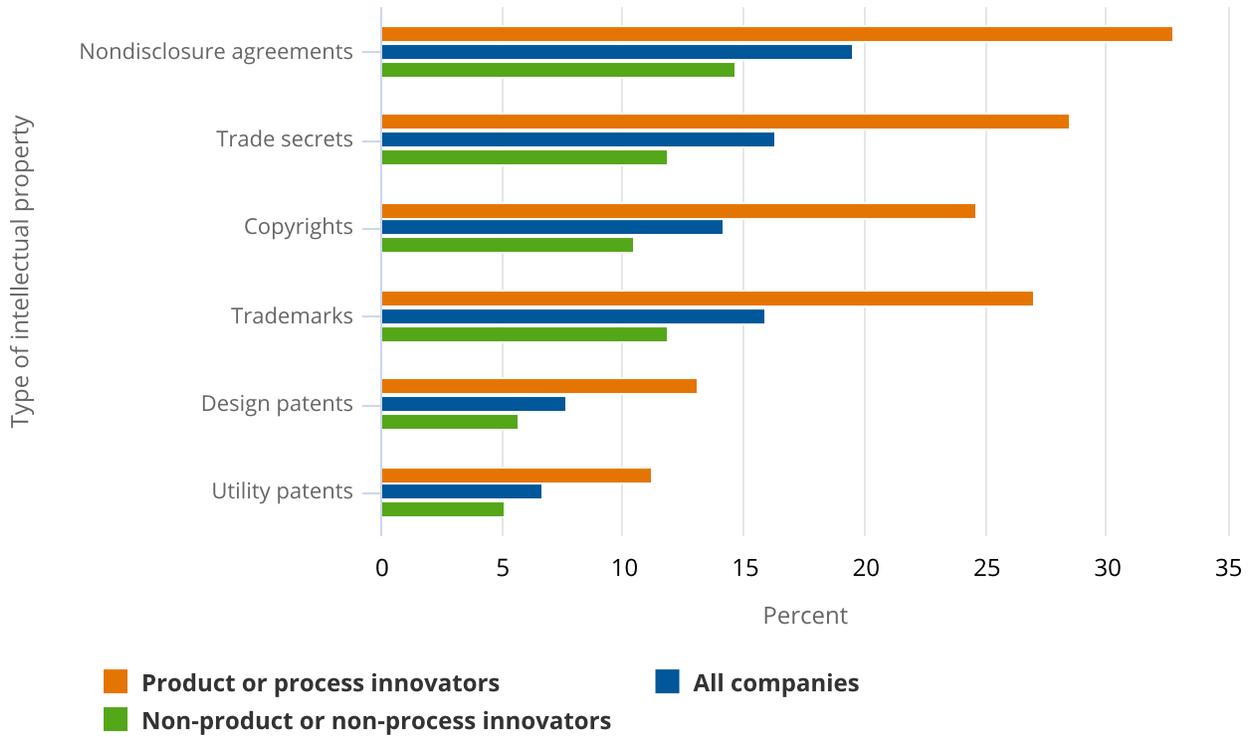


**Figure 3**

**Companies indicating intellectual property protection is very or somewhat important, according to whether the companies are product or process innovators: 2017**



**Note(s):**

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. An estimated 1,218,460 companies were product or process innovators in 2017.

**Source(s):**

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