

TABLE 71-1

**Importance of intellectual property protection, by type: 2018**

(Number and percent)

Type of intellectual property	Companies (number)	Very important	Somewhat important	Not at all important
Utility patents (patents for inventions)	4,805,151	3.3	5.5	91.2
Design patents (patents for appearance)	4,805,151	3.6	6.3	90.0
Trademarks	4,805,151	7.9	10.3	81.8
Copyrights	4,805,151	7.1	9.3	83.6
Trade secrets	4,805,151	8.6	10.8	80.6
Nondisclosure agreements	4,805,151	10.2	13.0	76.8

**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 Census Bureau, 2019 Annual Business Survey: Data Year 2018.