

TABLE 53. Importance of utility patents, by industry and company size: 2012  
(Percent)

| Industry and company size   | NAICS code          | Very important | Somewhat important | Not important |
|---|---------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| All industries <sup>a</sup>   | 21–23, 31–33, 42–81 | 48.3           | 16.9               | 34.9          |
| Manufacturing industries  | 31–33               | 55.9           | 16.4               | 27.7          |
| Food  | 311                 | 30.6           | 14.6               | 54.9          |
| Beverage and tobacco products   | 312                 | 45.0           | 20.0               | 35.0          |
| Textile, apparel, and leather products  | 313–16              | 34.6           | 28.9               | 36.5          |
| Wood products   | 321                 | 31.3           | 31.3               | 37.5          |
| Paper   | 322                 | 40.8           | 30.6               | 28.5          |
| Printing and related support activities   | 323                 | 33.3           | 27.8               | 38.9          |
| Petroleum and coal products   | 324                 | 59.4           | 0.0                | 40.6          |
| Chemicals   | 325                 | 67.6           | 11.0               | 21.4          |
| Basic chemicals   | 3251                | 64.6           | 11.1               | 24.3          |
| Resin, synthetic rubber, and artificial synthetic fibers and filaments                    | 3252                | D              | D                  | D             |
| Pesticide, fertilizer, and other agricultural chemical                                    | 3253                | D              | D                  | D             |
| Pharmaceuticals and medicines   | 3254                | 79.6           | 6.6                | 13.8          |
| Soap, cleaning compound, and toilet preparation   | 3256                | 49.8           | 21.0               | 29.2          |
| Paint, coating, adhesive, and other chemicals   | 3255, 3259          | 30.3           | 25.5               | 44.2          |
| Plastics and rubber products  | 326                 | 45.6           | 15.2               | 39.2          |
| Nonmetallic mineral products  | 327                 | 46.0           | 38.6               | 15.3          |
| Primary metals  | 331                 | 54.7           | 15.1               | 30.1          |
| Fabricated metal products   | 332                 | 41.5           | 19.4               | 39.0          |
| Machinery   | 333                 | 48.2           | 21.7               | 30.0          |
| Agricultural implement  | 33311               | 52.2           | 24.5               | 23.3          |
| Semiconductor machinery   | 333295              | 63.6           | 21.4               | 15.0          |
| Engine, turbine, and power transmission equipment   | 3336                | 50.0           | 24.3               | 25.7          |
| Other machinery   | other 333           | 46.3           | 21.1               | 32.6          |
| Computer and electronic products  | 334                 | 64.3           | 15.8               | 19.9          |
| Communications equipment  | 3342                | 50.5           | 25.9               | 23.6          |
| Semiconductor and other electronic components   | 3344                | 75.5           | 9.5                | 14.9          |
| Navigational, measuring, electromedical, and control instruments                          | 3345                | 65.4           | 14.0               | 20.6          |
| Electromedical, electrotherapeutic, and irradiation apparatus                             | 334510, 334517      | 90.7           | D                  | D             |
| Search, detection, navigation, guidance, aeronautical, and nautical system and instrument | 334511              | 46.6           | 12.0               | 41.4          |
| Other measuring and controlling device  | other 3345          | 60.6           | D                  | D             |
| Other computer and electronic products  | other 334           | 58.9           | 18.4               | 22.7          |
| Electrical equipment, appliances, and components  | 335                 | 48.5           | 28.4               | 23.0          |
| Transportation equipment  | 336                 | 42.8           | 12.6               | 44.6          |
| Automobiles, bodies, trailers, and parts  | 3361–63             | 54.1           | 18.3               | 27.6          |
| Aerospace products and parts  | 3364                | D              | D                  | D             |
| Aircraft, aircraft engine, and aircraft parts   | 336411–13           | 23.8           | 5.0                | 71.3          |
| Guided missile, space vehicle, and related parts  | 336414–15, 336419   | D              | D                  | D             |
| Military armored vehicle, tank, and tank component  | 336992              | 50.0           | 0.0                | 50.0          |
| Other transportation  | other 336           | D              | D                  | D             |
| Furniture and related products  | 337                 | 64.6           | 17.1               | 18.3          |
| Miscellaneous manufacturing   | 339                 | 73.3           | 11.3               | 15.4          |
| Medical equipment and supplies  | 3391                | 73.4           | 10.6               | 16.0          |
| Other miscellaneous manufacturing   | 3399                | 73.2           | 12.7               | 14.1          |
| Nonmanufacturing industries   | 21–23, 42–81        | 40.1           | 17.4               | 42.4          |
| Mining, extraction, and support activities  | 21                  | 80.1           | 4.2                | 15.7          |
| Utilities   | 22                  | 42.2           | 21.1               | 36.7          |
| Wholesale trade   | 42                  | S              | S                  | S             |
| Electronic shopping and electronic auctions   | 454111–12           | D              | D                  | D             |
| Transportation and warehousing  | 48–49               | 27.3           | 27.3               | 45.5          |
| Information   | 51                  | 44.1           | 19.2               | 36.8          |
| Publishing  | 511                 | 42.1           | 16.6               | 41.3          |
| Newspaper, periodical, book, and directory publishers                                     | 5111                | S              | S                  | S             |
| Software publishers   | 5112                | 42.8           | 16.9               | 40.2          |
| Telecommunications  | 517                 | 69.4           | 11.6               | 19.0          |
| Data processing, hosting, and related services  | 518                 | 39.9           | 26.3               | 33.8          |

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| Other information  | other 51  | S              | 18.4               | 33.0          |
| Finance and insurance  | 52  | 24.6           | 14.3               | 61.1          |
| Real estate and rental and leasing   | 53  | D              | D                  | D             |
| Lessors of nonfinancial intangible assets (except copyrighted works)                     | 533   | D              | D                  | D             |
| Other real estate and rental and leasing   | other 53  | D              | D                  | D             |
| Professional, scientific, and technical services   | 54  | 38.2           | S                  | S             |
| Architectural, engineering, and related services   | 5413  | 31.0           | 15.9               | 53.1          |
| Computer systems design and related services   | 5415  | S              | S                  | S             |
| Scientific research and development services   | 5417  | 54.8           | S                  | S             |
| Biotechnology research and development   | 541711  | 71.3           | 8.2                | 20.5          |
| Physical, engineering, and life sciences (except biotechnology) research and development | 541712  | S              | S                  | S             |
| Social sciences and humanities research and development                                  | 541720  | 20.5           | 14.7               | 64.8          |
| Other professional, scientific, and technical services                                   | other 54  | 16.0           | 11.4               | 72.6          |
| Health care services   | 621-23  | S              | D                  | D             |
| Other nonmanufacturing   | 23, 44-45 (excluding 454111-12),<br>55-56, 624, 71-72, 81 | 29.7           | 18.6               | 51.7          |
| All companies (number of domestic employees)   | -   | 48.3           | 16.9               | 34.9          |
| Small companies <sup>b</sup>   |   |                |                    |               |
| 5-499  | -   | 45.4           | 17.0               | 37.6          |
| 5-99   | -   | 46.3           | 16.0               | 37.7          |
| 5-49   | -   | 45.9           | S                  | 39.0          |
| 5-9  | -   | 67.2           | 6.7                | 26.1          |
| 10-24  | -   | 45.3           | S                  | 39.8          |
| 25-49  | -   | 37.9           | 18.7               | 43.4          |
| 50-99  | -   | 47.2           | 18.6               | 34.1          |
| 100-249  | -   | 41.7           | 18.0               | 40.3          |
| 250-499  | -   | 47.0           | 20.1               | 32.9          |
| Medium and large companies   |   |                |                    |               |
| 500-999  | -   | 49.5           | 18.9               | 31.6          |
| 1,000-4,999  | -   | 59.7           | 16.6               | 23.7          |
| 5,000-9,999  | -   | 68.9           | 11.8               | 19.2          |
| 10,000-24,999  | -   | 75.2           | 13.3               | 11.5          |
| 25,000 or more   | -   | 73.2           | 13.0               | 13.8          |

D = data withheld to avoid disclosing operations of individual companies; S = data withheld as more than 50% of the estimate is a combination of imputation and reweighting to account for nonresponse.

NAICS = 2007 North American Industry Classification System.

<sup>a</sup> Statistics are representative of companies in the United States that were eligible to receive Form BRDI-1 and performed or funded R&D. These statistics are not comparable to estimates from previous years, as those estimates are representative of all companies in the United States.

<sup>b</sup> The upper bound is based on the U.S. Small Business Administration's definition of a small business; the Business R&D and Innovation Survey does not include companies with fewer than five domestic employees.

NOTES: The industry classification is based on the dominant business code for domestic R&D performance, where available. For companies that did not report business codes, the classification used for sampling was assigned.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, and U.S. Census Bureau, Business R&D and Innovation Survey, 2012.