

TABLE 54. Importance of design patents, by industry and company size: 2012
(Percent)

Industry and company size	NAICS code	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
All industries ^a	21–23, 31–33, 42–81	21.8	23.6	54.6
Manufacturing industries	31–33	27.7	28.5	43.8
Food	311	19.4	23.4	57.2
Beverage and tobacco products	312	40.0	25.0	35.0
Textile, apparel, and leather products	313–16	38.5	25.0	36.5
Wood products	321	37.5	18.8	43.8
Paper	322	20.4	25.5	54.1
Printing and related support activities	323	0.0	38.9	61.1
Petroleum and coal products	324	26.1	20.8	53.1
Chemicals	325	14.4	30.5	55.1
Basic chemicals	3251	9.6	18.1	72.2
Resin, synthetic rubber, and artificial synthetic fibers and filaments	3252	27.1	21.7	51.2
Pesticide, fertilizer, and other agricultural chemical	3253	24.4	23.6	52.0
Pharmaceuticals and medicines	3254	11.0	37.6	51.4
Soap, cleaning compound, and toilet preparation	3256	40.2	30.7	29.2
Paint, coating, adhesive, and other chemicals	3255, 3259	9.7	22.7	67.6
Plastics and rubber products	326	29.9	31.4	38.7
Nonmetallic mineral products	327	24.3	32.4	43.2
Primary metals	331	21.1	21.1	57.7
Fabricated metal products	332	26.4	31.1	42.5
Machinery	333	25.8	33.6	40.7
Agricultural implement	33311	38.9	44.5	16.7
Semiconductor machinery	333295	23.3	31.6	45.0
Engine, turbine, and power transmission equipment	3336	26.7	26.1	47.2
Other machinery	other 333	24.7	33.8	41.5
Computer and electronic products	334	31.5	24.9	43.6
Communications equipment	3342	31.5	26.8	41.7
Semiconductor and other electronic components	3344	39.3	24.7	35.9
Navigational, measuring, electromedical, and control instruments	3345	27.7	25.1	47.2
Electromedical, electrotherapeutic, and irradiation apparatus	334510, 334517	37.8	23.2	39.1
Search, detection, navigation, guidance, aeronautical, and nautical system and instrument	334511	12.9	29.6	57.5
Other measuring and controlling device	other 3345	S	24.7	47.7
Other computer and electronic products	other 334	27.1	22.5	50.5
Electrical equipment, appliances, and components	335	25.9	42.3	31.8
Transportation equipment	336	25.7	23.2	51.1
Automobiles, bodies, trailers, and parts	3361–63	36.7	28.3	35.0
Aerospace products and parts	3364	D	D	D
Aircraft, aircraft engine, and aircraft parts	336411–13	9.9	13.2	76.9
Guided missile, space vehicle, and related parts	336414–15, 336419	D	D	D
Military armored vehicle, tank, and tank component	336992	D	D	D
Other transportation	other 336	D	D	D
Furniture and related products	337	63.5	14.6	21.9
Miscellaneous manufacturing	339	43.0	27.0	30.0
Medical equipment and supplies	3391	40.9	27.1	32.0
Other miscellaneous manufacturing	3399	47.2	26.8	26.0
Nonmanufacturing industries	21–23, 42–81	15.4	18.5	66.1
Mining, extraction, and support activities	21	D	D	D
Utilities	22	21.1	27.1	51.8
Wholesale trade	42	S	S	S
Electronic shopping and electronic auctions	454111–12	D	D	D
Transportation and warehousing	48–49	D	D	D
Information	51	19.1	24.5	56.4
Publishing	511	12.9	23.0	64.1
Newspaper, periodical, book, and directory publishers	5111	S	D	D
Software publishers	5112	13.2	D	D
Telecommunications	517	12.0	46.4	41.6

TABLE 54. Importance of design patents, by industry and company size: 2012
(Percent)

Industry and company size	NAICS code	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
Data processing, hosting, and related services	518	25.8	24.5	49.7
Other information	other 51	S	19.5	46.6
Finance and insurance	52	8.2	12.3	79.5
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	13.0	15.4	71.6
Architectural, engineering, and related services	5413	14.4	18.9	66.7
Computer systems design and related services	5415	S	S	S
Scientific research and development services	5417	S	14.3	69.7
Biotechnology research and development	541711	10.0	12.1	78.0
Physical, engineering, and life sciences (except biotechnology) research and development	541712	D	D	S
Social sciences and humanities research and development	541720	D	D	79.3
Other professional, scientific, and technical services	other 54	8.9	10.1	80.9
Health care services	621-23	S	S	S
Other nonmanufacturing	23, 44-45 (excluding 454111-12), 55-56, 624, 71-72, 81	23.4	22.1	54.5
All companies (number of domestic employees)	-	21.8	23.6	54.6
Small companies ^b				
5-499	-	21	21.3	57.7
5-99	-	21	18.7	60.3
5-49	-	19.7	16.8	63.5
5-9	-	S	14.6	58.6
10-24	-	17.5	16.3	66.2
25-49	-	19.1	18.1	62.8
50-99	-	24.3	23.8	51.8
100-249	-	18.6	24.3	57
250-499	-	25.3	28.2	46.5
Medium and large companies				
500-999	-	25.6	28.4	46.0
1,000-4,999	-	22.8	33.9	43.3
5,000-9,999	-	27.8	29.9	42.3
10,000-24,999	-	23.1	41.2	35.8
25,000 or more	-	27.0	40.5	32.6

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.

^a 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.

^b 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.