

TABLE 67

Companies with intellectual property protection methods, by company size: 2021

(Percent)

Employment size	Companies (number)	Utility patents	Design patents	Copyright	Trademarks	Design complexity	Nondisclosure agreements or noncompete clauses	Branding and product image	Trade secrets
All companies	4,874,928	1.6	1.6	6.0	7.7	3.7	13.9	14.1	7.3
Micro companies									
1–4	2,734,191	1.2	1.1	5.7	5.5	3.1	10.7	11.3	5.5
5–9	950,548	1.5	1.5	5.3	7.7	3.5	13.7	14.4	7.3
Small companies									
10–19	577,397	1.8	2.0	6.0	9.9	4.3	17.9	17.6	9.3
20–49	399,566	2.4	2.7	6.9	13.1	4.6	21.7	20.7	11.4
Medium companies									
50–99	115,591	3.8	4.2	8.3	15.8	6.4	27.5	25.0	14.3
100–249	63,969	4.9	5.8	11.1	20.0	8.1	32.4	27.9	17.1
Large companies									
250–499	18,124	8.9	7.9	15.5	25.0	9.0	36.0	32.4	18.3
500–999	7,668	11.1	10.0	17.7	29.3	14.1	40.4	40.2	21.5
1,000–4,999	6,010	15.2	15.8	22.4	34.7	14.0	43.9	40.1	26.0
5,000–9,999	982	29.9 r	29.6 r	37.8 r	52.5 r	26.8 r	56.5 r	55.8 r	35.8 r
10,000–24,999	516	35.9	36.0	45.5	62.2	29.1	59.1	61.2	41.5
25,000 or more	372	34.7	36.3	44.4	55.6	30.6	54.0	55.9	38.2

r = relative standard error > 50%.

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, 2022 Annual Business Survey: Data Year 2021.