

Intellectual Property: America's Competitive Advantage

When you pick up a prescription at the pharmacy, you're seeing America's intellectual property (IP) system at work. IP protections help support the complex research behind the pipeline of **8,000 new medicines** in development and give innovators the confidence to keep investing in the next breakthrough. But the impact of strong IP extends far beyond biopharmaceuticals.

A new **USPTO report** shows how our IP framework is deeply woven into the American economy, supporting high-value jobs, exports and growth across industries.¹



The Economic Power of IP

IP-intensive industries – those that predominantly rely on intellectual property protection, make up 128 sectors – over 60% of U.S. industries – across manufacturing, technology, biopharmaceuticals and professional services, representing a major part of the American economy, with an outsized role in global competitiveness, jobs and wages.

\$11.4 trillion

in private-sector GDP comes from IP-intensive industries, nearly half of the U.S. total.

65.8 million

jobs are supported by IP-intensive industries, roughly 44% of all private-sector employment.

53% higher

weekly earnings on average are provided to Americans working in IP-intensive industries, compared to workers in non-IP-intensive industries.



Certain Types of IP have an Outsized Advantage

America's IP system provides protections in the form of patents, trademarks and copyrights, often working together to protect the ideas and inventions that help U.S. companies compete.

- **\$1.58 trillion** in exports comes from IP-intensive industries, representing **81.5% of U.S. commodity exports**.
- Biopharma companies rely on utility patents to protect active ingredients, method of treatment, manufacturing, dosage and formulation inventions. Utility patent-intensive industries generated **\$6 trillion** or **23% of private sector GDP**.



Biopharmaceuticals Showcase America's IP Advantage

A strong, predictable IP system enables biopharmaceutical innovation. This system drives sustained investment in high-risk research, world-class scientific discovery, widespread availability of innovative treatments, all the while contributing to economic growth.

- **\$247 billion** in private-sector GDP came from biopharmaceutical manufacturing in 2024 alone.
- Additional research from NDP Analytics notes that nearly **\$74 billion** a year on average was invested by biopharmaceutical manufacturers in R&D from 2012 to 2022 — equal to **33.9% of annual sales** and **29.6% of all U.S. manufacturing R&D investment** during that period. What's more, biopharmaceutical R&D investment per employee is 13x the average for the manufacturing sector.ⁱⁱ

Protecting America's IP advantage means preserving the system that **fuels breakthroughs, supports high-paying American jobs and drives the next generation of cures**. At a time when global competitors are investing aggressively to catch up, strong and predictable IP protections help keep research, investment and scientific leadership here at home.

i. <https://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/uspto-aug2026-report-ip-intensive-industries.pdf>

ii. <https://ndpanalytics.com/wp-content/uploads/IP-Report-April-2025-Final.pdf>