America's **Most Innovative Companies** 2026

Methodology



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Based on a holistic methodology, America's Most Innovative Companies highlights **companies on the forefront of innovation**

Methodology summary

Relevance of Ranking

In a rapidly evolving global economy, **innovation is the cornerstone of sustained success**. "America's Most Innovative Companies 2026" recognizes organizations that lead the charge in fostering creativity, advancing technology, and driving transformational change. This ranking aims to **provide clarity and guidance** to stakeholders by identifying companies that excel in developing innovative products, streamlining processes, and cultivating a forward-thinking corporate culture. Highlighting these trailblazers not only **celebrates their achievements** but also inspires other organizations.

Executive Summary

- **Title of ranking:** America's Most Innovative Companies[1] 2026
- **Media partner:** Fortune
- **Edition:** 4th
- **Number of awardees:** 300
- **Methodology:** Employee and expert surveys, patent data
- **Criteria used for determining the rank**:

  Evaluation of three dimensions of innovation

  - Product innovation
  - Process innovation
  - Innovation culture

Note: 1) Public institutions (such as universities, state institutions, NGOs or public hospitals) were not considered for the list.

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Innovation was evaluated based on **three dimensions**

Definition of the dimensions used in this ranking



Product innovation

Product innovation comprises the regular **introduction of new products or services** and the regular **improvement of existing products and services**.

The number and relevance of industrial property rights in the form of **patents** are also part of this dimension.



Process innovation

This refers to the **development and use of new and innovative technologies and production processes** as well as the **innovative use of digitalization** and the resulting opportunities.

Innovation culture

Measures to what extent a company fosters **a spirit of entrepreneurship and creativity**, encouraging their employees to take initiative and develop new ideas.

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A **multi-layered process** was implemented to achieve a comprehensive result

Data collection and analysis: Overview

Companies could register to ensure that they are considered for this ranking.

Patent data was provided by LexisNexis® Intellectual Property Solutions.

All data was put together based on a scoring model.



Several surveys were conducted, gathering opinions of over 37,000 employees and experts.



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Several **surveys** were conducted to receive **internal and external views** on innovation

Data collection and analysis: Surveys

Company registration

- Companies could register via an online survey.
- They were asked to invite their employees to evaluate their innovativeness.
- **Around 4,000 employees** took part in this survey.

Employee survey

- This survey was conducted via an **online access panel**, which consists of people that register to take part in online surveys.
- This survey was a representative sample of **over 30,000 employees** in the United States.

Expert survey

- Statista surveyed experts in various fields – from recruiters to business analysts, management consultants and people working in R&D or business development.
- In total, **over 3,000 experts** participated in the survey.

The employees represent the **internal view on innovation**.

The experts represent the **external view on innovation**.

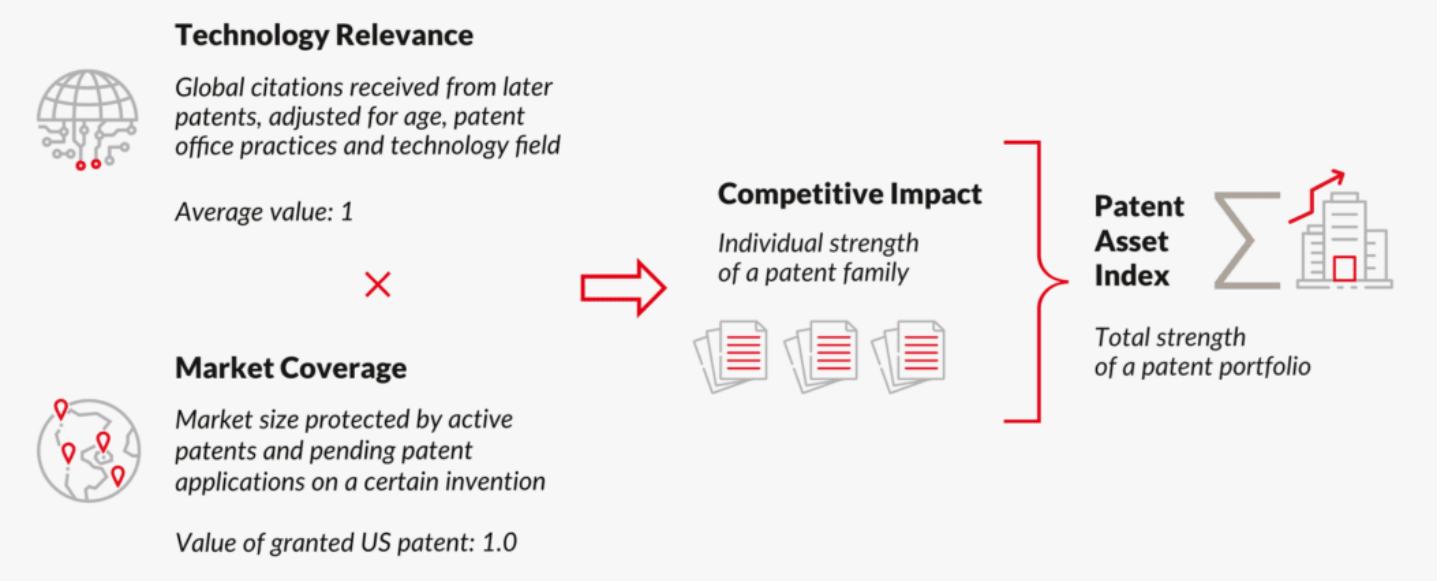
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The total **strength of a patent portfolio** was considered based on the Patent Asset Index

Data collection: Patent analysis

Patent Analysis

- The patent data was provided by LexisNexis® Intellectual Property Solutions.
- The LexisNexis® PatentSight+™ platform has patent data from over 120 million patent documents.
- For each company, the strength of a patent portfolio has been indicated by the Patent Asset Index.

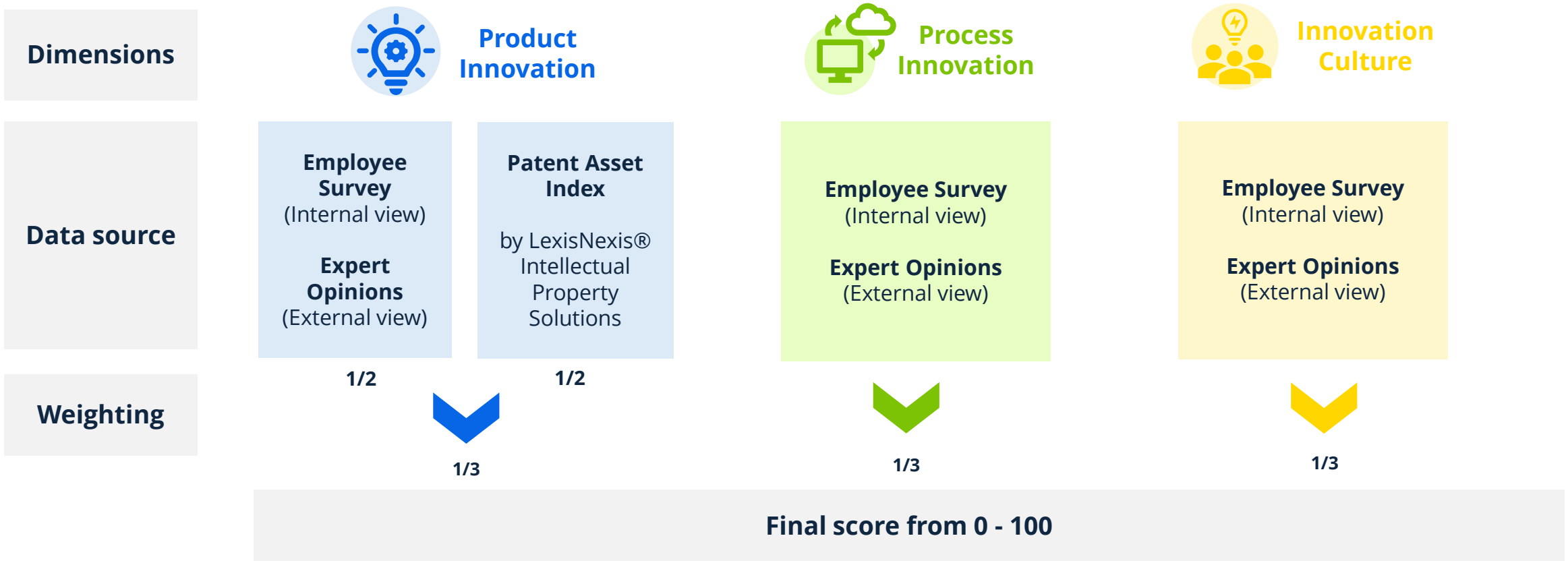


Source: https://www.lexisnexisip.com/resources/patent-asset-index/

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All data was combined based on a balanced scoring model, assigning a score between 0 and 100 to each company

Scoring Model



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The ranking represents 300 innovative American companies which are **active in 17 different industries** and come **from 35 different states**

Composition of the ranking

Ranking

Based on the collected data and the calculated scores, Statista and Fortune awarded the 300 companies with the best scores as America's Most Innovative Companies 2026.

Industry

Technology and Financials took the lead on industries with the most innovative companies. Together with Health Care, they made up around 60% of companies on the list.

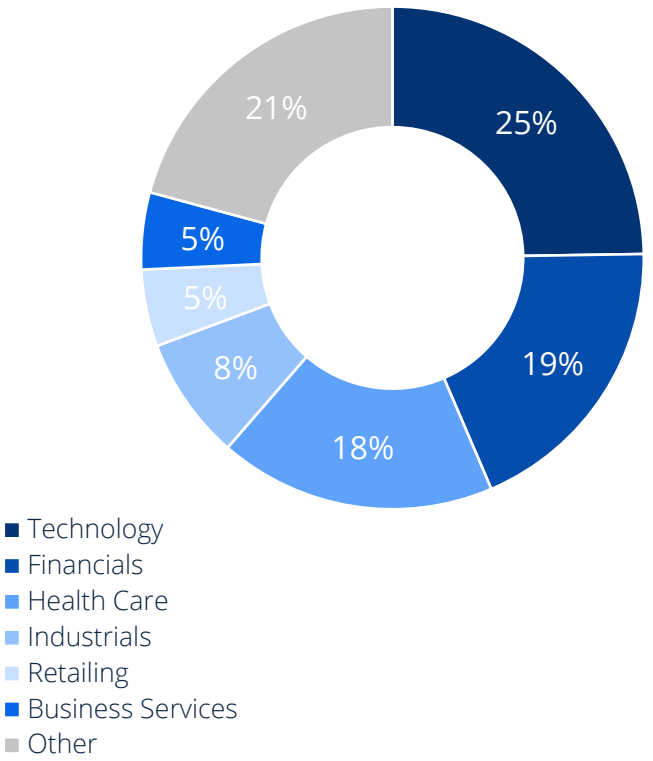
In total, 17 different industries are represented on the list.

State of headquarters

By far, most ranked companies are based in California. New York state is home to the second greatest number of companies in the ranking.

Overall, companies from 35 states are represented on the list.

Distribution of Industries



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The ranking was compiled by **Statista R, the global leader in developing rankings** for companies, brands, and products

About Statista R

statista R is a **world leader** in the creation of company, brand, and product **rankings and top lists**, based on comprehensive market research and data analysis: **Statista R recognizes the best**. With a team of over **100 expert analysts** and in cooperation with more than **45 high profile media brands** across all continents, Statista R creates **transparency for consumers and business decision makers** and helps companies build trust and recognition across a plethora of industries and product categories.

Visit r.statista.com for further information about Statista R and our rankings.

Statista R is a division of statista . The leading data and business intelligence portal provides an extensive collection of statistics, reports, and insights on over 80,000 topics from 22,500 sources in 170 industries. Find out more at statista.com.

Legal disclaimer for the ranking America's Most Innovative Companies

Disclaimer

The selection of the companies and the definition of the evaluation criteria were based on independent journalistic criteria of Fortune and Statista. The evaluation was carried out by the statistics and market research company Statista. Fortune and Statista make no claim to the completeness of the companies examined.

The ranking only includes companies that qualify according to the criteria described in this document. A position in the ranking is a positive recognition based on research of publicly available data sources at the time and several extensive surveys.

The information contained in this ranking should be considered in conjunction with other available information.

The quality of companies that are not included in the ranking is not disputed.