

THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF INNOVATION IN THE UNITED STATES



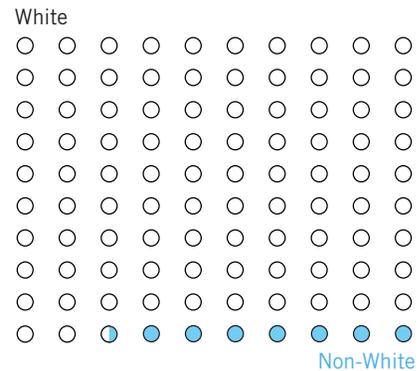
Innovation is a vital engine of progress for the economy and society. But who are America's innovators, and how and where does innovation occur? To find out, ITIF surveyed more than 900 people who have made meaningful, marketable contributions to technology-intensive industries as award-winning innovators and international patent applicants.

Who Are America's Innovators?

Only 12 percent of US innovators are women.



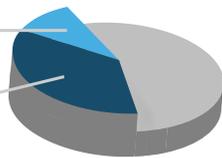
Less than 8 percent of US-born innovators are minorities.



46 percent are immigrants or the children of immigrants.

Children of Immigrants = 10%

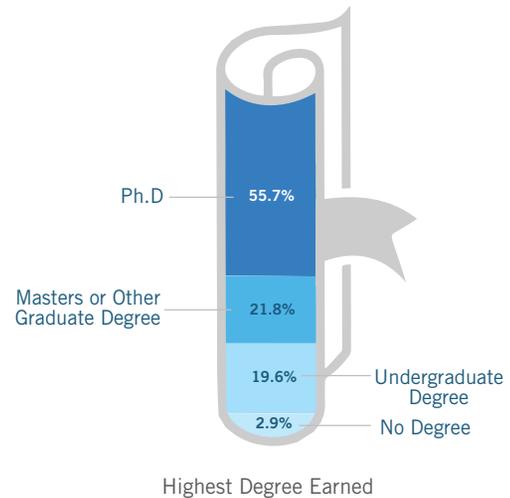
Immigrants = 35.5%



Most foreign-born innovators are from Asia and Europe.

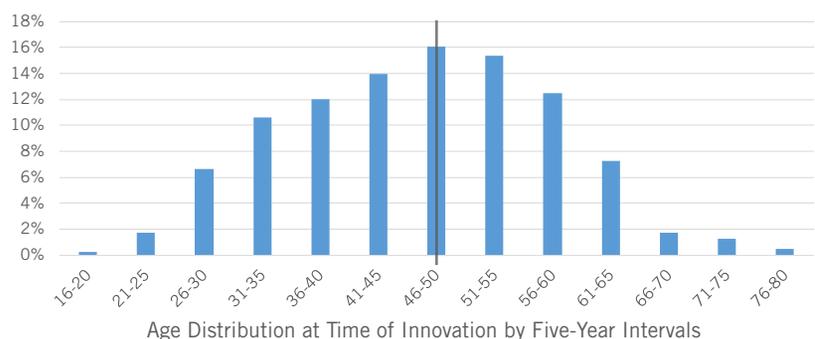
Europe	35.4%
India	21.5%
China	17.1%
Other East Asia	5.1%
Latin America	4.7%
Africa	4.4%
Canada	3.8%
Middle East	3.2%
Other Southeast Asia	3.2%
Oceania	1.6%

Innovators are highly educated, especially in STEM fields.



Contrary to the popular stereotype about young, tech-savvy college dropouts...

The median age for an innovator in the United States is 47.



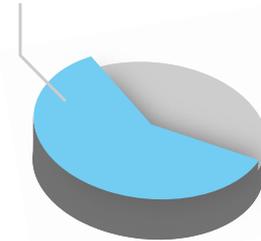
How and Where Does Innovation Occur?

Most respondents' innovations happen in very large or very small companies.



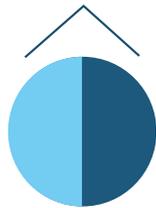
Small companies often rely on government funding to innovate.

Among innovations that happen in companies with fewer than 25 employees, 60% receive public grants.



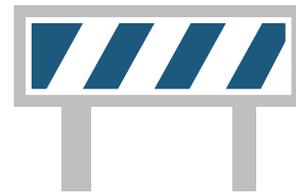
Collaboration is key for innovation—especially public-private partnerships.

One out of five respondents' innovations were the product of collaborations...



...and 50% of those came from public-private partnerships.

28 percent of innovations face barriers to commercialization.



Of those facing barriers, innovators cite:

Regulatory challenges



Lack of funding for further development



To boost US innovation policymakers should:

- ✓ Strengthen the STEM immigration pipeline;
- ✓ Improve STEM education and empower students of all backgrounds to pursue these fields;
- ✓ Incentivize collaborations between public and private entities; and
- ✓ Expand government funding for innovation.

Learn more at itif.org/demographics