

TABLE 6.—*Kinds of invention, and percent patent-motivated.* (Guesses).

	Percent patent-motivated	
	In this class	In all inventions
Lower inventions (50%): Commercial and nonprofit, organized and individuals.....	1	0.5
Upper inventions (50%):		
Organized 90%:		
Noncommercial 52%.....	0	0
Commercial 48%.....	67	14.5
Unorganized 10%:		
Noncommercial 10%.....	0	0
Commercial 90%.....	75	3.4
Total of invention patent-motivated.....		18.4

[139] Now for the upper half of inventing. Endeavoring again to quantify by weight, not number, we guess that 90% of it by value is of the organized type, because 64% of patents granted to Americans are already assigned to corporations (cf. ¶ 405). Regarding this organized inventing, along with invention-oriented research, we have also some good statistics¹⁷⁴ permitting its repartition as 52% noncommercial and 48% commercial in the source of its funds. For the extent of patent motivation here, we guess two-thirds for the commercial, and 0 for the noncommercial work. Finally we record guesses as in the table for the unorganized tenth of upper invention, as nine-tenths commercial and three-fourths patent-motivated. The table adds up to patent motivation for about 18% of American invention today.

[140] This figure is larger than one would have deduced from the decline of the patent/invention ratios inferable from charts 1 and 4. Being based on guesswork, let us round it to about a fifth of American invention. And if this be not right, revise as you please our guesses in the preceding table 6. No matter how you revise them, if you bear in mind certain proved quantities, such as the percent of governmental inventing, and make your guesses honestly, you will not come out with a share for patenting much larger than our one-fifth by weight.

[141] Our reference to the decline of the patent/invention ratio is not to say that patents ever in the past motivated the whole of invention, or were ever intended to cover such things as the great mass of trivial improvements, or inventions made by and for the Government. Our calculations and "guesstimates" are merely to give us a surer view of the whole subject, such as should help in our later comparisons of the patent system with its rivals, most of which are adapted to cultivate some of the further fields which patents do not.