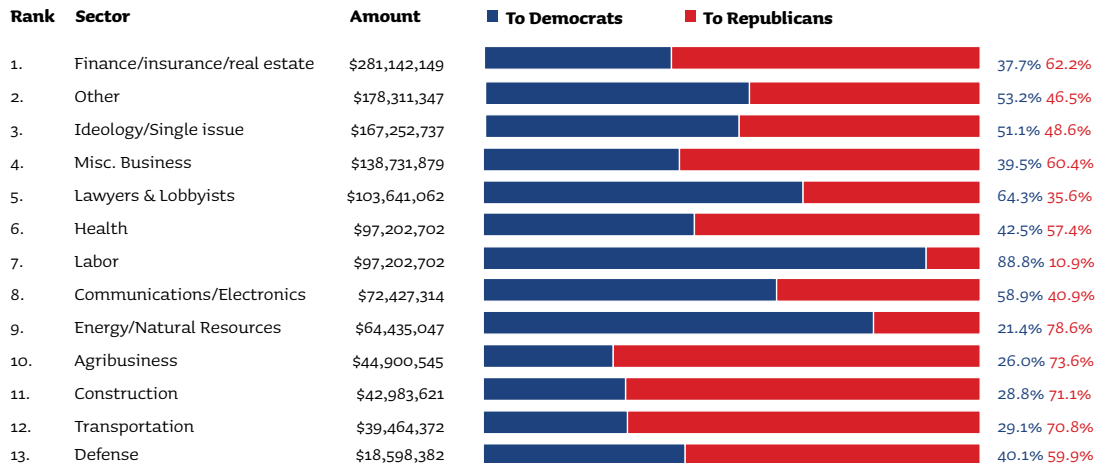


FIGURE 13.1

CONTRIBUTIONS TO POLITICAL PARTIES, BY ECONOMIC SECTOR, 2013-2014



Which economic sectors are financing our elected officials? This figure shows how much different sectors of the economy are contributing to which political parties. While contributions do not necessarily guarantee politicians' votes or support, they certainly let politicians know what issues their political friends are concerned about. Notice that the finance/insurance/real estate sector outspends any other group by a wide margin. What is this likely to mean when issues of financial reform or consumer protection legislation are considered?

Source: Center for Responsive Politics, "Sector Totals, 2013-2014," [https:// www.opensecrets.org/industries/](https://www.opensecrets.org/industries/). Accessed August 4, 2014.