

Table SINV-1

USPTO utility patents granted, by sector: 1998–2020

(Number)

Owner and sector	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	147,576	153,592	157,595	166,158	167,400	169,077	164,384	143,891	173,822	157,331	157,788	167,463	219,848	224,871	253,633	278,518	301,643	299,382	304,126	320,003	308,852	355,923	353,701
Assigned to foreign owner	63,777	66,202	69,256	75,265	77,848	79,059	78,097	67,626	82,256	76,216	78,230	83,072	109,184	113,104	128,664	139,394	150,264	151,227	152,935	159,868	154,878	177,819	177,452
Assigned to owner from unknown location	48	28	49	45	50	37	23	20	33	47	26	28	33	33	26	35	53	29	39	25	19	25	35
Assigned to U.S. owner	83,752	87,362	88,289	90,848	89,502	89,981	86,264	76,245	91,533	81,069	79,533	84,363	110,632	111,734	124,944	139,090	151,326	148,126	151,152	160,110	153,955	178,079	176,214
Academic	3,468	3,705	3,386	3,501	3,496	3,497	3,261	2,876	3,518	3,213	3,022	3,264	4,514	4,413	5,037	5,618	6,079	6,177	6,625	7,000	6,883	7,781	7,834
Government	1,147	1,104	1,057	1,148	1,122	1,078	1,019	844	1,008	946	905	931	1,257	1,195	1,359	1,446	1,430	1,376	1,299	1,342	1,311	1,429	1,224
Individual	16,387	16,694	16,102	15,182	14,116	13,535	12,173	10,473	11,996	10,034	9,197	9,204	12,546	11,892	12,789	13,903	14,397	14,060	13,875	14,330	13,572	14,890	14,373
Other	511	471	396	437	406	383	361	292	371	303	262	300	449	446	491	562	565	540	484	612	556	725	690
Private	61,980	65,098	67,067	70,482	70,282	71,413	69,383	61,720	74,603	66,544	66,127	70,635	91,830	93,743	105,213	117,507	128,642	125,694	128,682	136,438	131,111	151,958	150,558
Unclassified	259	289	282	99	80	75	66	39	38	29	20	29	36	46	56	54	212	280	187	388	522	1,296	1,535

USPTO = U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Note(s):

Patents are allocated according to patent ownership information. Patents are credited on a fractional-count basis (i.e., for patents with collaborating institutions, each institution receives fractional credit on the basis of the proportion of inventors from participating institutions). Business covers the for-profit business sector. Government includes federal, state, local, and municipal and federally funded research and development centers. Other includes private nonprofits, such as foundations, associations, nonacademic hospitals, and research-performing institutions.

Source(s):

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics; Science-Metrix; PatentsView, USPTO, accessed June 2021.

Science and Engineering Indicators