

Table SINV-44

USPTO utility patents granted, by region, country, or economy: 1998–2020

(Number)

Region, country, or economy	Economy by income status	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
World	na	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
North America	na	83,045	86,917	88,231	91,051	90,201	91,117	87,438	77,291	93,023	82,539	80,583	85,680	112,163	113,244	126,345	139,833	151,225	147,400	149,897	157,623	150,707	174,479	171,797
Canada	High	2,976	3,218	3,401	3,594	3,448	3,448	3,395	2,921	3,603	3,341	3,375	3,670	4,856	5,051	5,758	6,533	7,032	6,735	6,503	6,937	6,603	7,709	7,375
Mexico	Upper middle	65	80	79	90	108	91	91	82	72	59	64	64	101	103	135	164	185	182	238	295	341	384	348
United States	High	80,004	83,619	84,751	87,367	86,645	87,578	83,953	74,288	89,348	79,138	77,144	81,946	107,205	108,090	120,452	133,135	144,007	140,483	143,156	150,390	143,763	166,386	164,074
Central America and Caribbean	na	44	57	54	43	46	60	33	44	48	46	44	47	60	61	77	74	102	85	103	85	91	103	136
Puerto Rico	High	20	24	26	12	13	27	18	25	27	30	17	15	26	26	37	22	41	33	46	33	42	47	52
South America	na	173	220	209	224	206	244	208	138	216	185	180	208	285	355	366	446	552	550	513	605	590	724	769
Argentina	Upper middle	42	48	55	50	54	61	47	27	42	41	35	47	47	60	68	83	77	75	90	91	88	135	108
Brazil	Upper middle	73	98	102	116	99	132	106	75	130	92	101	111	181	223	201	261	352	337	318	398	389	452	510
Europe	na	24,747	25,570	27,102	29,385	29,174	28,887	26,859	22,765	26,346	23,726	23,722	24,146	33,134	33,473	39,097	44,407	48,747	48,585	49,114	51,855	50,145	57,096	55,801
EU-27 + UK ^a	na	22,997	23,781	25,229	27,338	27,243	26,972	25,068	21,315	24,595	22,161	22,031	22,384	30,741	30,926	36,239	40,985	44,997	44,589	44,992	47,517	45,934	52,360	51,061
United Kingdom	High	3,507	3,606	3,696	3,989	3,859	3,661	3,478	3,169	3,629	3,311	3,120	3,237	4,394	4,375	5,343	5,926	6,604	6,506	6,603	6,804	6,737	7,961	7,564
EU-27 ^b	na	19,491	20,175	21,533	23,349	23,383	23,311	21,591	18,146	20,966	18,850	18,911	19,148	26,348	26,551	30,895	35,059	38,393	38,083	38,389	40,713	39,197	44,399	43,496
Austria	High	398	488	520	584	532	595	546	452	560	454	456	509	740	763	871	1,014	1,213	1,180	1,367	1,543	1,419	1,613	1,532
Belgium	High	699	655	707	738	725	636	630	530	621	532	517	601	831	810	882	1,064	1,205	1,155	1,238	1,304	1,298	1,447	1,375
Denmark	High	397	487	436	489	450	537	426	373	443	396	397	393	612	737	857	923	1,065	1,012	1,084	1,121	1,122	1,223	1,199
Finland	High	599	653	618	743	824	868	924	726	955	858	824	866	1,143	960	1,060	1,227	1,363	1,386	1,513	1,616	1,453	1,529	1,476
France	High	3,691	3,827	3,839	4,067	4,039	3,879	3,406	2,903	3,463	3,152	3,185	3,167	4,478	4,558	5,394	6,148	6,723	6,597	6,465	6,836	6,519	7,285	7,124
Germany	High	9,109	9,363	10,255	11,276	11,309	11,462	10,784	9,040	10,052	9,080	8,952	9,017	12,387	11,930	13,889	15,572	16,589	16,588	15,975	16,924	16,072	18,403	17,887
Hungary	High	51	42	39	59	49	74	51	48	54	49	66	50	93	104	110	137	159	159	178	180	137	177	172
Ireland	High	75	96	129	142	126	163	185	158	186	151	174	193	278	328	356	432	506	508	590	612	690	833	969
Italy	High	1,601	1,505	1,703	1,728	1,760	1,723	1,605	1,316	1,496	1,318	1,369	1,377	1,842	1,922	2,167	2,531	2,653	2,686	2,712	2,751	2,862	3,249	3,243
Netherlands	High	1,251	1,265	1,269	1,329	1,392	1,330	1,286	1,005	1,339	1,273	1,324	1,318	1,660	1,766	1,954	2,277	2,530	2,424	2,600	2,752	2,738	3,066	2,891
Spain	High	257	239	275	276	323	325	273	274	313	282	317	339	436	492	673	738	805	850	795	891	898	974	1,057
Sweden	High	1,232	1,405	1,584	1,746	1,668	1,511	1,286	1,132	1,251	1,068	1,065	1,010	1,436	1,715	2,090	2,301	2,775	2,664	2,863	3,049	2,835	3,149	3,054
Other Europe	na	1,750	1,789	1,873	2,047	1,932	1,915	1,791	1,450	1,751	1,565	1,691	1,762	2,393	2,548	2,859	3,422	3,749	3,997	4,122	4,338	4,211	4,736	4,740
Other Europe-2020 ^b	na	5,256	5,396	5,569	6,036	5,791	5,576	5,269	4,619	5,381	4,877	4,811	4,998	6,787	6,922	8,202	9,348	10,354	10,502	10,725	11,141	10,948	12,697	12,304

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Region, country, or economy	Economy by income status	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Belarus	Upper middle	9	5	3	9	3	6	3	2	6	9	8	7	10	7	8	9	12	12	15	14	11	16	20
Moldova	Lower middle	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
Norway	High	194	227	247	266	249	258	247	223	239	243	263	267	391	369	445	479	549	616	609	605	600	662	710
Russia	Upper middle	212	204	201	255	220	223	188	167	199	201	200	216	307	331	365	439	474	498	557	569	565	626	686
Switzerland	High	1,278	1,286	1,343	1,428	1,366	1,335	1,267	991	1,212	1,033	1,126	1,193	1,584	1,713	1,882	2,303	2,464	2,577	2,631	2,768	2,692	2,997	2,897
Ukraine	Lower middle	20	20	19	24	30	23	21	20	27	20	25	20	20	28	48	44	52	66	76	79	62	95	93
Asia	na	37,798	39,063	40,182	43,271	45,529	46,342	47,538	41,503	51,307	48,182	50,497	54,412	70,164	73,319	83,041	88,215	94,762	96,382	98,010	102,596	100,058	115,039	116,600
China	Upper middle	254	266	326	461	561	614	740	744	1,057	1,193	1,606	2,042	3,215	3,720	5,359	6,680	8,122	9,021	11,439	14,286	15,477	20,376	22,500
India	Lower middle	90	118	141	187	265	354	369	401	511	566	651	709	1,144	1,277	1,756	2,456	3,073	3,457	3,767	4,271	4,315	5,478	5,917
Japan	High	30,887	31,161	31,362	33,278	34,913	35,567	35,441	30,381	36,870	33,409	33,725	35,557	44,977	46,337	50,899	52,270	54,317	52,809	50,168	50,073	47,904	54,033	52,116
Malaysia	Upper middle	24	31	44	34	58	48	85	94	123	171	159	156	200	177	213	222	268	267	275	270	252	290	270
Singapore	High	123	149	226	307	420	438	457	345	412	391	406	436	616	650	805	793	933	961	989	1,023	974	1,115	1,039
South Korea	High	3,269	3,567	3,332	3,548	3,792	3,952	4,429	4,365	5,901	6,299	7,544	8,775	11,669	12,254	13,236	14,556	16,529	17,963	19,576	20,815	19,901	21,870	22,204
Taiwan	High	3,110	3,718	4,705	5,397	5,444	5,299	5,951	5,115	6,350	6,104	6,345	6,666	8,235	8,794	10,638	11,077	11,342	11,688	11,576	11,605	10,994	11,568	12,234
Middle East	na	781	792	841	1,022	1,094	1,236	1,089	980	1,274	1,163	1,250	1,478	1,937	2,123	2,752	3,406	3,988	4,182	4,357	4,898	4,956	5,934	6,039
Israel	High	755	757	789	983	1,046	1,189	1,053	936	1,217	1,111	1,183	1,413	1,839	1,976	2,482	3,008	3,486	3,631	3,713	4,100	4,038	4,668	4,721
Africa	na	119	125	130	137	129	136	124	114	129	99	108	112	151	155	188	223	234	228	251	264	246	271	251
South Africa	Upper middle	115	110	112	119	112	111	102	90	109	78	90	90	121	120	140	163	154	161	181	187	152	192	160
Australia and Oceania	na	842	827	819	1,012	1,009	1,048	1,094	1,052	1,472	1,382	1,400	1,374	1,944	2,129	1,754	1,893	2,014	1,935	1,832	2,028	2,010	2,221	2,274
Australia	High	722	709	710	882	861	909	957	929	1,334	1,271	1,295	1,242	1,770	1,943	1,530	1,643	1,753	1,667	1,561	1,709	1,680	1,839	1,898
New Zealand	High	118	117	109	129	147	137	135	122	137	111	104	132	171	185	223	250	260	267	270	314	328	377	370
Unclassified	na	28	22	25	13	11	8	2	4	6	7	4	6	9	12	13	21	19	34	49	48	49	56	35

na = not applicable, metric not calculated at this level.

EU = European Union; UK = United Kingdom; USPTO = U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

^a The United Kingdom was a part of the EU for data purposes from 1973 to 2019.

^b Beginning in 2020, the United Kingdom was no longer a member of the EU.

Note(s):

USPTO patents are allocated according to patent inventorship information. USPTO patents are fractionally allocated among regions, countries, or economies based on the proportion of residences of all named inventors. Patents are classified under the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) classification of patents, which classifies International Patent Classification (IPC) codes under 35 technical fields. IPC reformed codes take into account changes that were made to the WIPO classification in 2006 under the eighth version of the classification and were used to prepare these data. However, because PatentsView only provides the original IPC codes as they appeared on patents and not the IPC reformed codes, current Cooperative Patent Classification codes on patents were converted back to the most recent IPC classification to prepare these statistics. Fractional counts of patents were assigned to each technological field on patents to assign the proper weight of a patent to the corresponding technological fields under the classification. China includes Hong Kong.

Source(s):

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

Science and Engineering Indicators