

EPO patents granted for selected regions/countries/economies: 1996–2006

Region/country/economy	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	Number										
All regions/countries/economies	40,084	39,658	36,733	35,367	27,526	34,710	47,380	59,988	58,727	53,255	59,025
United States	9,833	9,726	9,079	8,848	7,074	8,218	11,200	14,299	13,605	12,466	13,355
EU	18,244	18,492	17,618	17,030	12,996	17,597	24,584	30,813	30,186	27,072	29,471
Austria	436	434	460	375	264	438	583	762	789	686	761
Belgium	401	449	463	429	321	441	560	700	699	607	667
Bulgaria	4	2	2	0	3	3	3	6	2	7	5
Czech Republic	18	15	18	9	7	15	20	29	38	41	34
Denmark	220	291	228	235	199	253	402	521	504	455	485
Finland	307	330	315	360	272	349	474	653	803	669	740
France	3,284	3,343	3,082	2,968	2,170	2,849	3,951	4,958	4,426	3,781	4,289
Germany	8,218	7,876	7,682	7,554	5,585	8,294	11,385	13,653	13,763	12,802	13,802
Greece	9	11	10	14	8	18	15	27	31	18	30
Hungary	31	27	22	26	22	30	56	73	56	43	54
Ireland	42	44	50	40	33	45	69	108	95	88	87
Italy	1,381	1,533	1,333	1,269	1,025	1,302	1,840	2,471	2,447	2,073	2,395
Luxembourg	14	22	32	9	17	34	36	47	48	38	53
Netherlands	977	1,004	938	876	749	875	1,206	1,561	1,485	1,353	1,554
Poland	4	12	13	13	10	11	15	21	20	21	26
Portugal	5	6	11	8	5	7	8	30	19	14	17
Romania	1	4	1	2	1	2	4	3	1	8	1
Slovenia	6	14	12	9	6	14	18	26	32	33	31
Spain	151	158	156	158	155	203	234	408	457	424	435
Sweden	652	686	655	646	556	729	1,076	1,499	1,423	1,217	1,282
United Kingdom	2,079	2,225	2,130	2,020	1,582	1,677	2,615	3,238	3,031	2,672	2,696
All others	6	7	7	8	6	7	14	21	17	22	25
Asia	9,804	9,217	7,966	7,430	5,740	6,868	8,674	10,909	11,264	10,355	12,449
China	33	37	25	23	29	23	52	74	90	103	138
India	11	15	10	13	12	16	29	65	94	98	122
Japan	9,626	8,984	7,732	7,145	5,497	6,596	8,264	10,266	10,450	9,490	11,229
Malaysia	1	6	4	3	2	3	2	8	5	9	14
Philippines	0	0	2	2	0	2	2	3	1	2	1
Singapore	19	19	22	26	15	31	28	61	52	46	59
South Korea	73	113	127	170	163	165	247	355	450	478	725
Taiwan	40	41	42	47	22	28	49	70	115	125	151
Thailand	2	2	2	1	0	5	2	7	7	6	10
All others	3	2	0	2	2	0	1	4	3	2	3
All others	2,203	2,223	2,070	2,059	1,716	2,027	2,922	3,966	3,673	3,361	3,750
Share of EPO patents granted	Percent distribution										
All regions/countries/economies	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
United States	24.53	24.52	24.72	25.02	25.70	23.68	23.64	23.84	23.17	23.41	22.63
EU	45.51	46.63	47.96	48.15	47.21	50.70	51.89	51.37	51.40	50.83	49.93

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Austria	1.09	1.09	1.25	1.06	0.96	1.26	1.23	1.27	1.34	1.29	1.29
Belgium	1.00	1.13	1.26	1.21	1.17	1.27	1.18	1.17	1.19	1.14	1.13
Bulgaria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01
Czech Republic	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.07	0.08	0.06
Denmark	0.55	0.73	0.62	0.66	0.72	0.73	0.85	0.87	0.86	0.86	0.82
Finland	0.77	0.83	0.86	1.02	0.99	1.01	1.00	1.09	1.37	1.26	1.25
France.....	8.19	8.43	8.39	8.39	7.88	8.21	8.34	8.27	7.54	7.10	7.27
Germany	20.50	19.86	20.91	21.36	20.29	23.89	24.03	22.76	23.44	24.04	23.38
Greece	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.05	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.05
Hungary	0.08	0.07	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.09	0.12	0.12	0.10	0.08	0.09
Ireland.....	0.10	0.11	0.14	0.11	0.12	0.13	0.15	0.18	0.16	0.17	0.15
Italy.....	3.45	3.86	3.63	3.59	3.72	3.75	3.88	4.12	4.17	3.89	4.06
Luxembourg.....	0.04	0.06	0.09	0.03	0.06	0.10	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.07	0.09
Netherlands.....	2.44	2.53	2.55	2.48	2.72	2.52	2.54	2.60	2.53	2.54	2.63
Poland.....	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04
Portugal	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.05	0.03	0.03	0.03
Romania.....	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Slovenia.....	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.05
Spain	0.38	0.40	0.42	0.45	0.56	0.58	0.49	0.68	0.78	0.80	0.74
Sweden.....	1.63	1.73	1.78	1.83	2.02	2.10	2.27	2.50	2.42	2.28	2.17
United Kingdom.....	5.19	5.61	5.80	5.71	5.75	4.83	5.52	5.40	5.16	5.02	4.57
All others.....	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.04
Asia.....	24.46	23.24	21.69	21.01	20.85	19.79	18.31	18.19	19.18	19.45	21.09
China	0.08	0.09	0.07	0.07	0.11	0.07	0.11	0.12	0.15	0.19	0.23
India.....	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.11	0.16	0.18	0.21
Japan.....	24.01	22.65	21.05	20.20	19.97	19.00	17.44	17.11	17.79	17.82	19.02
Malaysia	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02
Philippines	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Singapore.....	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.05	0.09	0.06	0.10	0.09	0.09	0.10
South Korea	0.18	0.29	0.34	0.48	0.59	0.48	0.52	0.59	0.77	0.90	1.23
Taiwan	0.10	0.10	0.11	0.13	0.08	0.08	0.10	0.12	0.20	0.23	0.26
Thailand.....	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02
All others.....	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
All others.....	5.50	5.61	5.64	5.82	6.24	5.84	6.17	6.61	6.25	6.31	6.35

EPO = European Patent Office; EU = European Union

NOTES: Patent applications assigned to year based on application date to EPO. Patent applications on fractional-count basis. For patent applications with multiple inventors from different countries, each country receives fractional credit based on proportion of its participating inventors. Asia includes China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, and Thailand. China includes Hong Kong. Countries that have <0.01% world share of U.S. patent applications in 2005 grouped in All others.

SOURCE: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Patent database, http://stats.oecd.org/wbos/default.aspx?DatasetCode=PATS_IPC, accessed 15 February 2007.