

U.S. PATENT ACTIVITY, 1790 - 1998

Applications				Grants			Grants
Year	Patent (e) (invention)	Design	Plant	Patent (e) (invention)	Design	Plant	Grants to Foreign Residents (a)
1790	n/a			3			n/a
1791	n/a			33			n/a
1792	n/a			11			n/a
1793	n/a			20			n/a
1794	n/a			22			n/a
1795	n/a			12			n/a
1796	n/a			44			n/a
1797	n/a			51			n/a
1798	n/a			28			n/a
1799	n/a			44			n/a
1800	n/a			41			n/a
1801	n/a			44			n/a
1802	n/a			65			n/a
1803	n/a			97			n/a
1804	n/a			84			n/a
1805	n/a			57			n/a
1806	n/a			63			n/a
1807	n/a			99			n/a
1808	n/a			158			n/a
1809	n/a			203			n/a
1810	n/a			223			n/a
1811	n/a			215			n/a
1812	n/a			238			n/a
1813	n/a			181			n/a
1814	n/a			210			n/a
1815	n/a			173			n/a
1816	n/a			206			n/a
1817	n/a			174			n/a
1818	n/a			222			n/a
1819	n/a			156			n/a
1820	n/a			155			n/a
1821	n/a			168			n/a
1822	n/a			200			n/a
1823	n/a			173			n/a
1824	n/a			228			n/a
1825	n/a			304			n/a
1826	n/a			323			n/a
1827	n/a			331			n/a
1828	n/a			368			n/a
1829	n/a			447			n/a
1830	n/a			544			n/a
1831	n/a			573			n/a
1832	n/a			474			n/a
1833	n/a			586			n/a
1834	n/a			630			n/a
1835	n/a			752			n/a
1836 (c)	n/a			702	(b) (d)	(b)	8
1837	n/a			436	(b)	(b)	7
1838	n/a			515	(b)	(b)	17
1839	n/a			404	(b)	(b)	10
1840	735			458	(b)	(b)	19
1841	847			490	(b)	(b)	21
1842	761			488	(b)	(b)	11
1843	819			494		14	8
1844	1,045			478		12	20
1845	1,246			475		17	12
1846	1,272			566		59	19
1847	1,531			495		60	21
1848	1,628			584		46	14

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1849	1,955			988	49		17
1850	2,193			884	83		20
1851	2,258			757	90		17
1852	2,639			890	109		20
1853	2,673			846	86		26
1854	3,328			1,759	57		35
1855	4,435			1,892	70		41
1856	4,960			2,315	107		31
1857	4,771			2,686	113		45
1858	5,364			3,467	102		28
1859	6,225			4,165	108		47
1860	7,653			4,363	183		49
1861	4,643			3,040	142		83
1862	5,038			3,221	195		80
1863	6,014			3,781	176		125
1864	6,932			4,638	139		181
1865	10,664			6,099	221		181
1866	15,269			8,874	294		244
1867	21,276			12,301	325		275
1868	20,420			12,544	446		337
1869	19,271			12,957	506		377
1870	19,171			12,157	737		644
1871	19,472			11,687	905		522
1872	18,246			12,200	884		581
1873	20,414			11,616	747		493
1874	21,602			12,230	886		547
1875	21,638			13,291	915		563
1876	21,425			14,172	802		787
1877	20,308			12,920	699		590
1878	20,260			12,345	590		581
1879	20,059			12,133	592		648
1880	21,761	634		12,926	515		786
1881	24,878	678		15,548	565		995
1882	30,270	948		18,135	861		1,135
1883	33,073	1,238		21,160	1,020		1,259
1884	34,192	1,230		19,122	1,150		1,284
1885	34,697	862		23,282	773		1,549
1886	35,161	645		21,768	595		1,489
1887	34,420	1,041		20,399	949		1,466
1888	34,713	971		19,552	835		1,536
1889	39,607	857		23,322	723		2,003
1890	39,884	1,046		25,308	886		2,105
1891	39,418	1,025		22,310	836		1,928
1892	39,514	1,130		22,645	817		2,051
1893	37,293	1,060		22,747	902		2,473
1894	36,987	1,357		19,833	928		2,166
1895	39,145	1,463		20,855	1,115		2,049
1896	42,077	1,828		21,825	1,445		2,027
1897	45,661	2,150		22,065	1,631		2,221
1898	33,915	1,843		20,375	1,803		2,752
1899	38,937	2,400		23,288	2,139		3,311
1900	39,673	2,225		24,656	1,758		3,483
1901	43,973	2,361		25,554	1,734		3,402
1902	48,320	1,170		27,121	640		3,499
1903	49,289	770		31,032	536		3,763
1904	51,168	818		30,259	557		3,285
1905	54,034	781		29,777	486		3,292
1906	55,471	806		31,169	625		3,471

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1907	57,679	896		35,860	589		3,866
1908	60,142	1,131		32,736	757		3,338
1909	64,408	1,234		36,562	687		3,812
1910	63,293	1,155		35,130	639		3,719
1911	67,370	1,534		32,855	1,010		4,058
1912	68,969	1,850		36,196	1,342		4,489
1913	68,117	2,060		33,915	1,683		4,212
1914	67,774	2,454		39,899	1,715		4,595
1915	67,138	2,734		43,117	1,545		4,334
1916	68,075	2,684		48,892	1,759		3,767
1917	67,590	2,545		40,927	1,512		3,209
1918	57,347	2,234		38,450	1,207		2,883
1919	76,710	3,627		36,795	1,523		3,687
1920	81,915	4,660		37,057	2,485		3,762
1921	87,467	5,596		37,792	3,277		3,963
1922	83,962	4,763		38,361	1,627		4,455
1923	76,783	3,550		38,614	1,927		4,133
1924	76,987	3,635		42,572	2,671		4,723
1925	80,208	4,082		46,432	2,824		5,347
1926	81,365	4,343		44,733	2,602		5,103
1927	87,219	4,473		41,718	2,387		4,918
1928	87,603	4,761		42,326	3,188		5,218
1929	89,752	4,520		45,267	2,907		5,921
1930	89,554	4,182	16	45,226	2,712		6,085
1931	79,740	4,190	37	51,756	2,937	5	6,897
1932	67,006	4,345	46	53,458	2,944	46	7,376
1933	56,558	3,600	27	48,774	2,411	33	7,170
1934	56,643	4,399	28	44,419	2,921	32	6,489
1935	58,117	5,728	72	40,618	3,866	45	5,980
1936	62,599	6,478	66	39,783	4,556	49	5,734
1937	65,324	7,207	45	37,683	5,137	55	5,638
1938	66,874	8,084	48	38,062	5,027	41	5,776
1939	64,093	7,137	76	43,073	5,593	45	6,338
1940	60,863	8,530	91	42,237	6,145	85	6,148
1941	52,339	7,203	67	41,108	6,486	62	5,311
1942	45,549	4,218	60	38,449	3,728	65	3,943
1943	45,493	2,986	41	31,054	2,229	47	2,625
1944	54,190	5,063	42	28,053	2,916	38	2,564
1945	67,846	8,066	52	25,694	3,524	17	2,112
1946	81,056	10,698	72	21,805	2,779	56	1,656
1947	75,443	7,644	92	20,139	2,102	52	1,617
1948	68,740	7,048	59	23,961	3,968	44	1,984
1949	67,592	6,998	70	35,131	4,451	93	3,105
1950	67,264	6,739	105	43,039	4,718	90	4,408
1951	60,438	4,279	71	44,326	4,164	58	4,888
1952	64,554	4,993	84	43,616	2,959	101	5,635
1953	72,284	5,450	99	40,467	2,714	78	4,331
1954	77,185	5,465	95	33,809	2,536	101	4,433
1955	77,188	5,764	118	30,432	2,713	103	4,065
1956	74,906	4,824	104	46,816	2,977	101	6,646
1957	74,197	4,714	101	42,745	2,362	129	6,282
1958	77,495	4,923	134	48,330	2,375	130	7,395
1959	78,594	4,879	114	52,408	2,769	101	8,340
1960	79,590	4,525	131	47,169	2,543	116	7,698
1961	83,100	4,714	107	48,368	2,488	108	8,214
1962	85,029	4,897	151	55,691	2,300	91	10,112
1963	85,869	4,968	145	45,679	2,965	129	8,505
1964	87,592	5,259	120	47,375	2,686	128	8,966

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1965	94,629	5,413	108	62,857	3,424	120	12,525
1966	88,525	4,853	104	68,405	3,188	114	14,008
1967	85,697	4,744	103	65,652	3,165	85	14,711
1968	93,471	5,171	95	59,103	3,352	72	13,722
1969	98,750	5,496	111	67,559	3,335	103	17,573
1970	103,175	5,996	188	64,429	3,214	52	17,872
1971	104,729	6,211	155	78,317	3,156	71	22,850
1972	99,298	5,867	135	74,810	2,901	199	23,815
1973	104,079	5,425	118	74,143	4,033	132	23,344
1974	102,538	5,318	155	76,278	4,304	261	26,514
1975	101,014	6,292	150	72,000	4,282	150	36,271
1976	102,344	7,061	175	70,226	4,564	176	27,134
1977	100,931	7,258	188	65,269	3,929	173	24,684
1978	100,916	7,538	194	66,102	3,862	186	25,711
1979	100,494	7,519	196	48,854	3,119	131	19,458
1980	104,329	7,830	220	61,819	3,949	117	25,387
1981	106,413	7,375	178	65,771	4,745	183	27,752
1982	109,625	8,174	188	57,888	4,944	173	25,528
1983	103,703	8,082	255	56,860	4,563	197	25,331
1984	111,284	8,739	253	67,200	4,938	212	30,394
1985	117,006	9,551	231	71,661	5,066	242	33,795
1986	122,433	9,912	320	70,860	5,518	224	34,780
1987	127,917	11,153	385	82,952	5,959	229	41,587
1988	139,825	11,289	377	77,924	5,679	425	39,627
1989	152,750	12,615	383	95,537	6,092	587	47,802
1990	164,558	11,288	418	90,364	8,024	318	46,094
1991	164,306	13,061	463	96,513	9,569	353	48,944
1992	173,075	13,078	354	97,444	9,269	321	48,572
1993	174,743	13,635	361	98,343	10,630	442	48,531
1994	189,857	15,774	459	101,676	11,095	499	49,224
1995	212,377	15,409	452	101,419	11,712	387	49,327
1996	195,187	15,161	665	109,646	11,410	362	52,268
1997	215,257	16,546	621	111,984	11,414	394	54,108
1998	243,062	17,107	720	147,521	14,757	561	72,395

**Data Sources:**

- (a) recent statistics are obtained from the *U.S. Patent Statistics Report, July 1999*, and from the *Patent Counts (single year reports)*, both U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
- (b) many of the older statistics are obtained from the *Technology Assessment and Forecast Seventh Report*, March 1977, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

**Notes**

n/a: data not available

- a- "Grants to Foreign Residents" data include all patents -- inventions, plants, and designs
- b- counts of patent grants from 1836 to 1842 include design patents
- c- data for 1836 include both the patents granted in that year prior to the effective date of the 1836 Patent Law (July 4, 1836) and those granted in that year after that date
- d- data for 1836 include 599 patents issued prior to July 4, the effective date of the 1836 patent law
- e- "Patents", as used in this table, refers to "patents for inventions", also known as "utility" patents.

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