

The U.S. patent system works best when it secures only those truly new inventions worthy of protection. The health of the system is apparent, in part, from the number of domestic and foreign entities seeking and maintaining these valuable and high-quality assets. While there is room for improvement, policymakers must continue to place a priority on patent quality. If the U.S. grants low-quality, weak, or overbroad patents—to either domestic or foreign entities—those bad patents can only be misused to hurt U.S. innovators.

Domestic and Foreign Patenting on the Rise

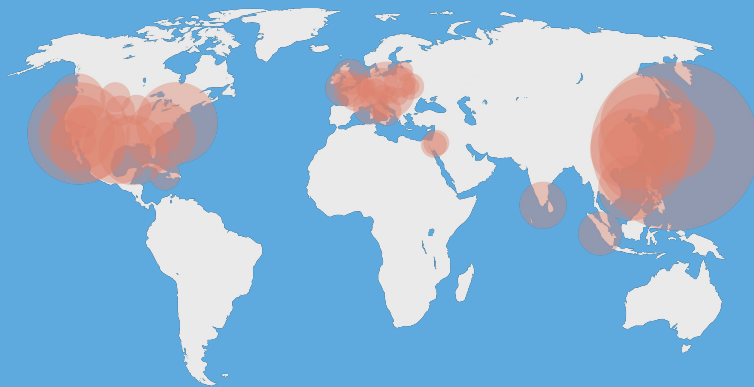
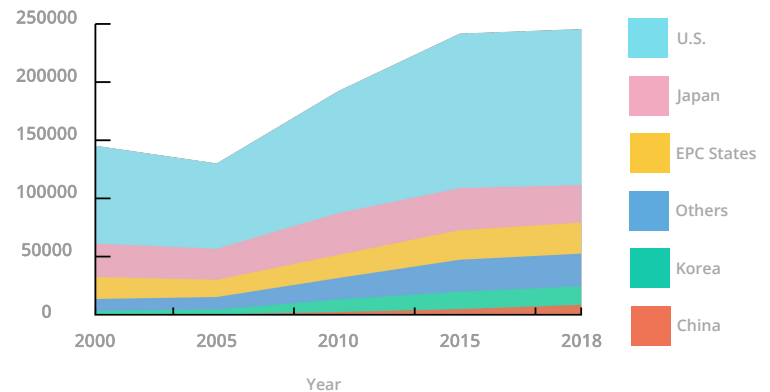
Overall rates of U.S. patent activity have continued to grow, with both domestic and foreign inventors applying for and obtaining an increasing number of patents.

From 2000 to 2018, the total number of patents granted by the U.S.P.T.O. increased by **69%**

Since 2000, the number of U.S. patents granted to U.S. inventors has increased **60%**

In that same time, the number of U.S. patents granted to foreign inventors increased **82%**, largely attributable to increased U.S. patenting by Korean and Chinese inventors

U.S. Patents Granted, by Inventor Country



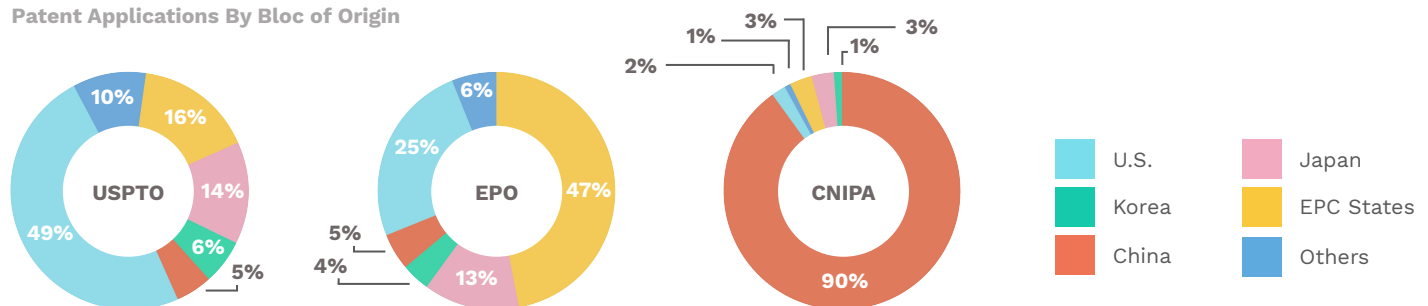
U.S. Patents by Inventor's Country of Origin

Regions with high levels of U.S. patenting activity over the last five years indicate the global spread of inventors and assignees engaging with the U.S. patent system.

U.S. Patents Are Valuable Assets Worldwide

Several indicators point to the U.S. patent's gold standard status. A significant number of foreign inventors apply for U.S. patents, every patent goes through a formal review process, and U.S. patents tend to be maintained through most of their term. By contrast, very few foreign inventors apply for Chinese patents, less than 25% of Chinese patents are substantively reviewed, and a majority are abandoned early in their lifetime. In sum, the volume of patents granted by a country says nothing about the quality of those patents, but the quality of the U.S. patent system is evident from its global appeal.

Patent Applications By Bloc of Origin



Sources

IP5 Statistical Indicators, <https://www.fiveipoffices.org/statistics>.
 PatentsView, <http://www.patentsview.org/web/#viz/locations>.

Lulu Yilun Chen, *China Claims More Patents Than Any Country—Most Are Worthless*, Bloomberg (Sept. 28, 2018).