

## Patents – By the Numbers

### U.S. Patents by Region

Top 5 Counties

State	County	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total
California	Santa Clara	8,108	7,159	7,172	7,805	10,047	40,290
Washington	King	1,991	2,063	2,358	3,026	3,637	13,075
California	Los Angeles	2,593	2,155	2,020	2,216	2,817	11,800
California	San Diego	2,220	2,043	1,990	1,964	2,993	11,120
California	San Mateo	1,943	1,780	1,762	1,954	2,664	10,103

### U.S. Patents by Region

Top 5 Indiana Counties

County	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total
Hamilton	245	235	198	220	267	1,165
Allen	80	83	78	80	114	435
Marion	94	89	74	72	94	423
Tippecanoe	61	72	58	83	121	395
St. Joseph	63	57	55	56	74	305

To qualify for patent protection, an invention does not have to be totally new. It can be an improvement on existing items or methods. Even a small functional or decorative improvement may be patentable. Utility patents may be granted for a process, machine, article of manufacture or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof. Design patents may be granted for the ornamental design for an article of manufacture. Plant patents may be granted to anyone who invents or discovers and reproduces any distinct and new variety of plant.

### Change in Patents by State 2005-2010

(top 5, U.S. average, Indiana and bottom 5)

Hawaii	131.1%
Washington	118.0%
Utah	60.8%
Vermont	60.7%
Virginia	58.4%
U.S. avg.	40.6%
Indiana	31.3%
South Carolina	11.3%
Delaware	7.3%
Montana	-6.3%
Alaska	-13.6%
Idaho	-31.8%

“A patent for an invention is the grant of a property right to the inventor, issued by the Patent and Trademark Office. The term of a new patent is 20 years from the date on which the application for the patent was filed in the United States or, in special cases, from the date an earlier related application was filed, subject to the payment of maintenance fees. U.S. patent grants are effective only within the U.S., U.S. territories and U.S. possessions.

The right conferred by the patent grant is, in the language of the statute and of the grant itself, “the right to exclude others from making, using, offering for sale, or selling” the invention in the United States or “importing” the invention into the United States. What is granted is not the right to make, use, offer for sale, sell or import, but the right to exclude others from making, using, offering for sale, selling or importing the invention.”

### Utility Patents by State

(top 5 and Midwest states)

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2010*
California	22,275	19,600	19,181	20,246	27,337	80.74
Texas	6,308	5,733	5,712	5,934	7,545	31.92
New York	5,627	5,007	4,885	5,237	7,082	41.77
Washington	3,286	3,228	3,517	4,310	5,258	86.40
Massachusetts	4,011	3,510	3,516	3,696	4,923	80.35
Michigan	3,758	3,141	2,996	2,983	3,823	43.27
Illinois	3,294	2,894	2,741	2,898	3,611	34.09
Ohio	2,630	2,255	2,227	2,341	3,230	34.53
Indiana	1,165	1,137	985	1,095	1,492	26.17
Kentucky	413	429	413	368	536	13.85

\*(per 100,000 residents)

### U.S. vs. Foreign Origin

(utility patents)

	U.S. applications	Foreign applications	U.S. grants	Foreign grants
2010	241,977	248,249	107,792	111,822
2000	164,795	131,131	85,068	72,426
1990	90,643	73,915	47,391	42,974
1980	62,098	42,231	37,355	24,464
1970	72,343	30,832	47,072	17,357

Sources: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, State Science & Technology Institute