

Table 1.

Summary of Patent Examining Activities

(As of September 30 of each fiscal year)

Patent examining activity	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Applications filed, total	201,554	236,679	206,276	237,045	256,666
Utility ¹	185,087	220,141	189,979	219,453	238,811
Reissue	430	647	573	606	693
Plant	606	516	564	714	586
Design	15,431	15,375	15,160	16,272	16,576
First actions:					
Design	16,832	18,223	15,465	15,038	16,836
Utility, plant, and reissue	168,722	176,220	179,391	193,635	192,849
PCT/Chapter 1	8,363	9,454	11,224	12,268	13,430
Patent application disposals, total	189,646	189,520	197,244	212,763	220,333
Allowed², total	119,609	119,621	135,321	148,802	158,259
Design	12,388	13,055	13,627	13,562	15,214
Utility, plant, and reissue	107,221	106,566	121,694	135,240	143,045
Abandoned, total	69,909	69,796	61,819	63,878	61,994
Design	4,977	3,336	3,461	2,511	1,892
Utility, plant, and reissue	64,932	66,460	58,358	61,367	60,102
Statutory invention registrations, total	128	103	104	83	80
PCT/Chapter II examinations completed	6,918	8,040	8,403	11,582	12,223
Patents issued³, total	113,268	114,241	116,875	122,977	154,579
Utility	101,270	101,895	104,900	111,979	139,298
Reissue	347	294	291	267	284
Plant	513	390	338	400	577
Design	11,138	11,662	11,346	10,331	14,420
Allowed applications, issue fee not paid ⁴	5,883	5,294	5,408	5,599	6,853
Pendency time of average patent application ⁵	19.0	19.2	20.8	22.2	23.8
Reexamination requests	379	392	418	376	350
Reexamination certificates issued	309	281	298	334	317
PCT search reports prepared	10,813	10,440	11,078	12,048	12,859
PCT international applications, USPTO as receiving office	14,265	15,941	20,106	22,767	27,138
National requirements, USPTO as receiving office	9,076	10,582	11,662	13,858	17,305
International preliminary examination reports	8,005	7,456	7,571	11,738	12,003
Patents renewed under P.L. 102-204 ⁶	121,104	140,512	408,944	138,695	135,462
Patents expired under P.L. 102-204 ⁶	38,859	48,604	60,392	54,485	41,063

¹Utility patents include chemical, electrical and mechanical applications.²“Allowed Patent Applications” are applications awaiting issuance (i.e., publication) as patents.³Excludes withdrawn numbers.⁴35 U.S.C. 151 (includes design applications).⁵Average time (in months) between filing and issuance or abandonment of utility, plant, and reissue applications. This average does not include design patents.⁶The provisions of P.L. 102-204 regarding the renewal of patents superceded P.L. 96-517 and P.L. 97-247.