

# Patent applications per million inhabitants

## Dimension - Science & Technology

Associated Key Factor:

### Research and Development

#### Data Source:

Eurostat

Eurostat: Research and Development: Annual Statistics

L-2920 Luxembourg

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/Public/datashop/print-product/EN?catalogue=Eurostat&product=1-structur-EN&mode=download>

<http://europa.eu.int/eurostat>

#### General Availability:

Reporting unit:

Reporting level: national, regional, european

Reporting period: annually

Data available from 1989 to 2000

#### Availability by country:

1989 - 2000: EU-15+AC

#### Data Source:

United Nation Development Programm

[http://www.undp.org/hdr2003/indicator/indic\\_105\\_1\\_1.html](http://www.undp.org/hdr2003/indicator/indic_105_1_1.html)

<http://undp.org>

#### General Availability:

Reporting unit:

Reporting level: national

Reporting period: annually

### The indicator:

Number of patent applications filed annually at the European Patent Office (EPO) per million inhabitants per country

### Description

Data are provided by the EPO according to yearly extraction defined by Eurostat.

Data refer to applications filed directly under the European Patent Convention or to applications filed under the Patent

Co-operation Treaty and designating the EPO (Euro-PCT). Patent applications are counted according to the year in

which they were filed at the EPO and are broken down according to the International Patent Classification (IPC).

They are assigned according to the inventor's place of residence, using fractional counting if multiple inventors or

IPC classes to avoid double counting.

### How is it measured?

Patent applications are counted according to the year in which they were filed at the EPO and are broken down according to the International Patent Classification (IPC).

They are assigned according to the inventor's place of residence, using fractional counting if multiple inventors or

IPC classes to avoid double counting.

### What are the advantages of the indicator?

Widely used indicator to measure innovation in a society/country.

### What are the disadvantages of the Indicator?

Provisional data may differ, for the Patent- Cooperation Treaty applications, the data on the country of residence of the applicant(s) and/or inventor(s) is imputed into the EPO database only after their international publication. This means that data are only final 18 months after the priority date. Different criteria are chosen to count patents.

### What is the policy relevance of the indicator?

Patent applications per million inhabitants is related to the Lisbon Strategy to make the EU "the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy with improved social cohesion by 2010"

As the indicator represents somehow the "inventiveness" of a population, positive effects can be expected.

Therefore fostering of "inventiveness" can be expected to lead towards the reaching of sustainability goals i.e.

### The Indicator is relevant for the following pathways of the FORESIGHT FOR TRANSPORT exercise:

	Transport Impact	External Determining Variable	Intermediate Variable	Contextual Information
Technological innovation and diffusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>