

Patents

Healthy R&D activities were indicated by increases in the number of patent applications. In 2005, the total number of patent applications submitted in Japan amounted to 427,078, which represented an increase of 15.7 percent over 1995.

Table 8.3
Patents

Item	(Cases)				
	1995	2000	2003	2004	2005
Applications	369,215	436,865	413,092	423,081	427,078
Registrations	109,100	125,880	122,511	124,192	122,944
Existing vested rights	681,459	1,040,607	1,100,779	1,104,640	1,123,055

Source: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

Approximately 140 countries, including Japan, has joined the international patent system of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) as of December 2006. In 2006, the number of international patent applications made based on the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) exceeded 145,000, of which Japan filed 26,906, an increase of 8.3 percent over the previous year.

Table 8.4
PCT International Applications by Country of Origin

Country	(Cases)					Annual growth (%)
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006*	
Total	110,392	115,199	122,624	136,500	145,300	6.4
U.S.A.	41,296	41,028	43,350	46,697	49,555	6.1
Japan	14,063	17,414	20,263	24,841	26,906	8.3
Germany	14,326	14,662	15,218	16,000	16,929	5.8
Korea, Rep. of	2,520	2,949	3,558	4,688	5,935	26.6
France	5,089	5,171	5,185	5,741	5,902	2.8
U.K.	5,376	5,206	5,026	5,085	5,045	-0.8
Netherlands	3,977	4,479	4,285	4,516	4,393	-2.7
China	1,018	1,295	1,706	2,493	3,910	56.8
Switzerland	2,755	2,861	2,899	3,277	3,403	3.8
Sweden	2,990	2,612	2,850	2,873	3,123	8.7
Italy	1,982	2,163	2,189	2,345	2,723	16.1

Source: World Intellectual Property Organization.