* Variables
  + **Patent**

Description: A patent grants to the owner an exclusive right to make, use, or sell (including license) the invention embodied by the patent, and is issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Generally, 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 United States, U.S. territories, and U.S. possessions. Under certain circumstances, patent term extensions or adjustments may be available. The patent data provided on this website are for utility patents only. Utility patents may be granted to anyone who invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, article of manufacture, or compositions of matters, or any new useful improvement thereof.

* + **Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)**

Description: Metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas (MSAs, or metro and micro areas) are geographic entities that reflect population characteristics at the county level. They are defined by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) based on U.S. Census Bureau data for use by federal agencies in collecting, tabulating, and publishing federal statistics. A metro area contains a core urban area of 50,000 or more in population, and a micro area contains an urban core of at least 10,000 (but less than 50,000) in population. Each metro or micro area consists of one or more counties: the counties containing the core urban area, as well as any adjacent counties that have a high degree of social and economic integration (as measured by commuting to work) with the urban core. Please note that cities are often a major part of a metropolitan statistical area.

* + **Year**

Description: Record year

* Source of Data
  + Clustermapping / [U.S. Census Bureau](http://www.census.gov/)
* Notes on how to update
  + Update annually