

## The Use and Analysis of Citations in Patents (OECD Patent Statistics Manual)

The use of patent and non-patent citations as indicators of innovation has increased dramatically in the last decade. As citations indicate the S&T precedents in inventions, they make it possible to track knowledge. It is possible to identify the influence of particular inventions or particular sets of inventions and map their diffusion through the economy. In particular, the number of citations a patent receives has been found to reflect, on average, the technological and commercial importance of a patent, and thus helps to deal with the problem of the heterogeneity of patents' value.

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