

**UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**



# **Business Methods**

## **Director's Update FY2018**

Tariq Hafiz

Director

Technology Center 3600

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UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



# Overview

- Business Methods Management Roster
- Business Methods Data Trends
- Business Methods Training and Initiatives
- Business Methods Webpage
- USPTO Patents Programs, Initiatives and Resources

# Business Methods Art Units and SPEs



Director	Telephone	Email
Tariq Hafiz	(571)272-5350	tariq.hafiz@uspto.gov
James Trammell	(571)272-6712	james.trammell@uspto.gov

AU	Art Description	SPE	Telephone	Email
3621	Incentive Programs, Coupons	Rutao (Rob) Wu	(571)272-3136	rutao.wu@uspto.gov
3622		Nathan Uber	(571)270-3923	nathan.uber@uspto.gov
3681		Fonya Long	(571)272-6811	fonya.long@uspto.gov
3682		Ilana Spar	(571)270-7537	ilana.spar@uspto.gov
3688		Kambiz Abdi	(571)272-6702	kambiz.abdi@uspto.gov
3623a	Operations Research	Beth Boswell	(571)272-6737	beth.boswell@uspto.gov
3623b		Matthew Gart	(571)272-3955	matthew.gart1@uspto.gov
3624a		Anita Coupe	(571)270-3614	anita.coupe@uspto.gov
3624b		Christine Behncke	(571)272-8103	christine.behncke@uspto.gov
3683a		Peter H. Choi	(571)272-6971	peter.choi@uspto.gov
3683b		Eric Stamber	(571)272-6724	eric.stamber@uspto.gov
3625a	E-Shopping	Jeff Smith	(571)272-6763	jeff.smith4@uspto.gov
3625b		Marissa Thein	(571)272-6764	maria.thein@uspto.gov
3684		Jason Dunham	(571)272-8109	jason.dunham@uspto.gov
3626a	Healthcare	Robert Morgan	(571)272-6773	robert.morgan@uspto.gov
3626b		Janice Mooneyham	(571)272-6805	janice.mooneyham@uspto.gov
3686a		Elaine Gort	(571)272-6787	elaine.gort@uspto.gov
3686b		Victoria Shumate	(313)446-4858	victoria.shumate@uspto.gov

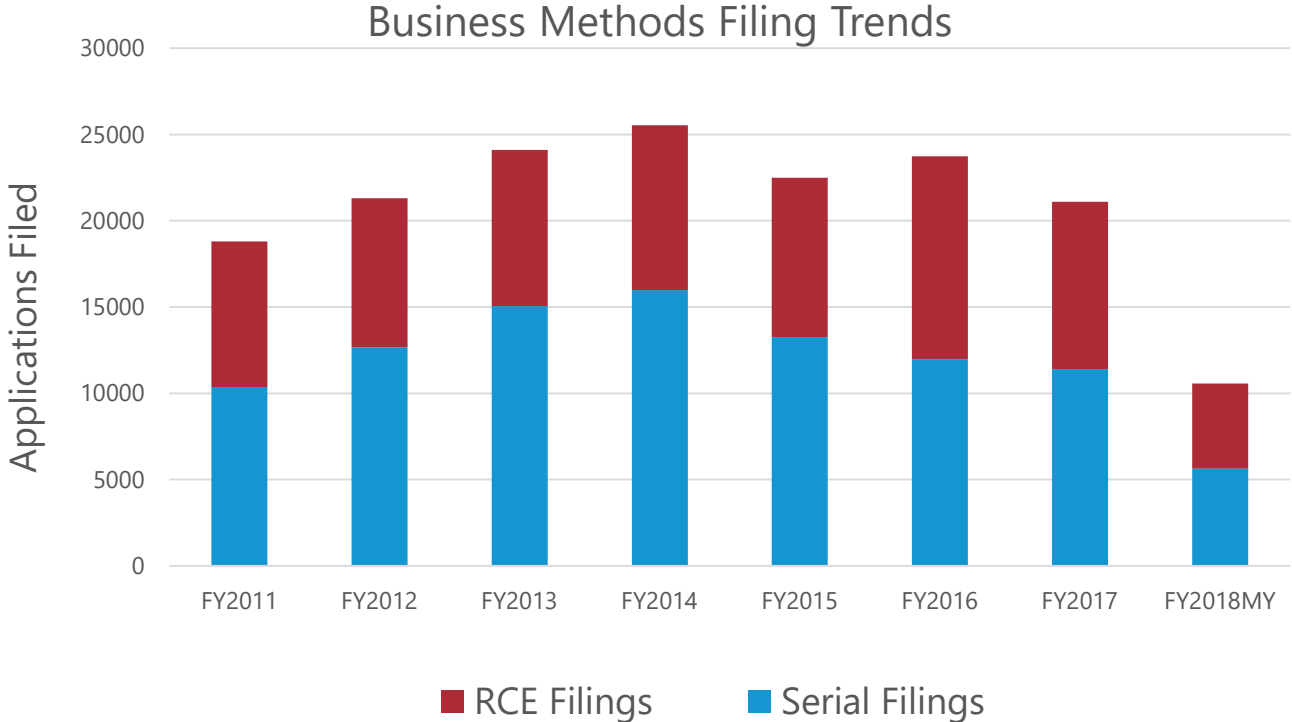
AU	Art Description	SPE	Telephone	Email
3627	Point of Sale, Inventory, Accounting	Florian (Ryan) Zeender	(571)272-3136	florian.zeender@uspto.gov
3687		Fahd Obeid	(571)270-3923	fahd.obeid@uspto.gov
3628a	Cost/Price, Reservations, Shipping, Transportation	Shannon Campbell	(571)272-6811	shannon.campbell@uspto.gov
3628b		Kevin Flynn	(571)270-7537	kevin.flynn@uspto.gov
3629	Business Processing, Electronic Negotiations	Lynda Jasmin	(571)272-6702	lynda.jasmin@uspto.gov
3689		Minnah Seoh	(571)272-6737	minnah.seoh@uspto.gov
3685a	Business Cryptography, Voting	Calvin Hewitt	(571)272-3955	calvin.hewitt@uspto.gov
3685b		John Hayes	(571)270-3614	john.hayes@uspto.gov
3685c		Neha Patel	(571)272-8103	neha.patel@uspto.gov
3691	Finance	Alexander Kalinowski	(571)272-6971	alexander.kalinowski@uspto.gov
3692		Sarah Monfeldt	(571)272-6724	sarah.monfeldt@uspto.gov
3693		Shahid Merchant	(571)272-6763	shahid.merchant@uspto.gov
3694		Bennett Sigmond	(571)272-6764	bennett.sigmond@uspto.gov
3695		Ryan Donlon	(571)272-8109	ryan.donlon@uspto.gov
3696		Namrata (Pinky) Boveja	(571)272-6773	namrata.boveja@uspto.gov
3697		Gerald (Jerry) O'Connor	(571)272-6805	jerry.oconnor@uspto.gov

Workgroups	Title	Specialist	Telephone	Email
3620s, 3680s	TQAS	Jamisue Plucinski	(571)272-6811	jamisue.plucinski@uspto.gov
3620s, 3680s, 3690s	Business Specialist	Robert Weinhardt	(571)272-6633	robert.weinhardt@uspto.gov
3690s	Appeal Specialist	Vincent Millin	(571)272-6747	vincent.millin@uspto.gov

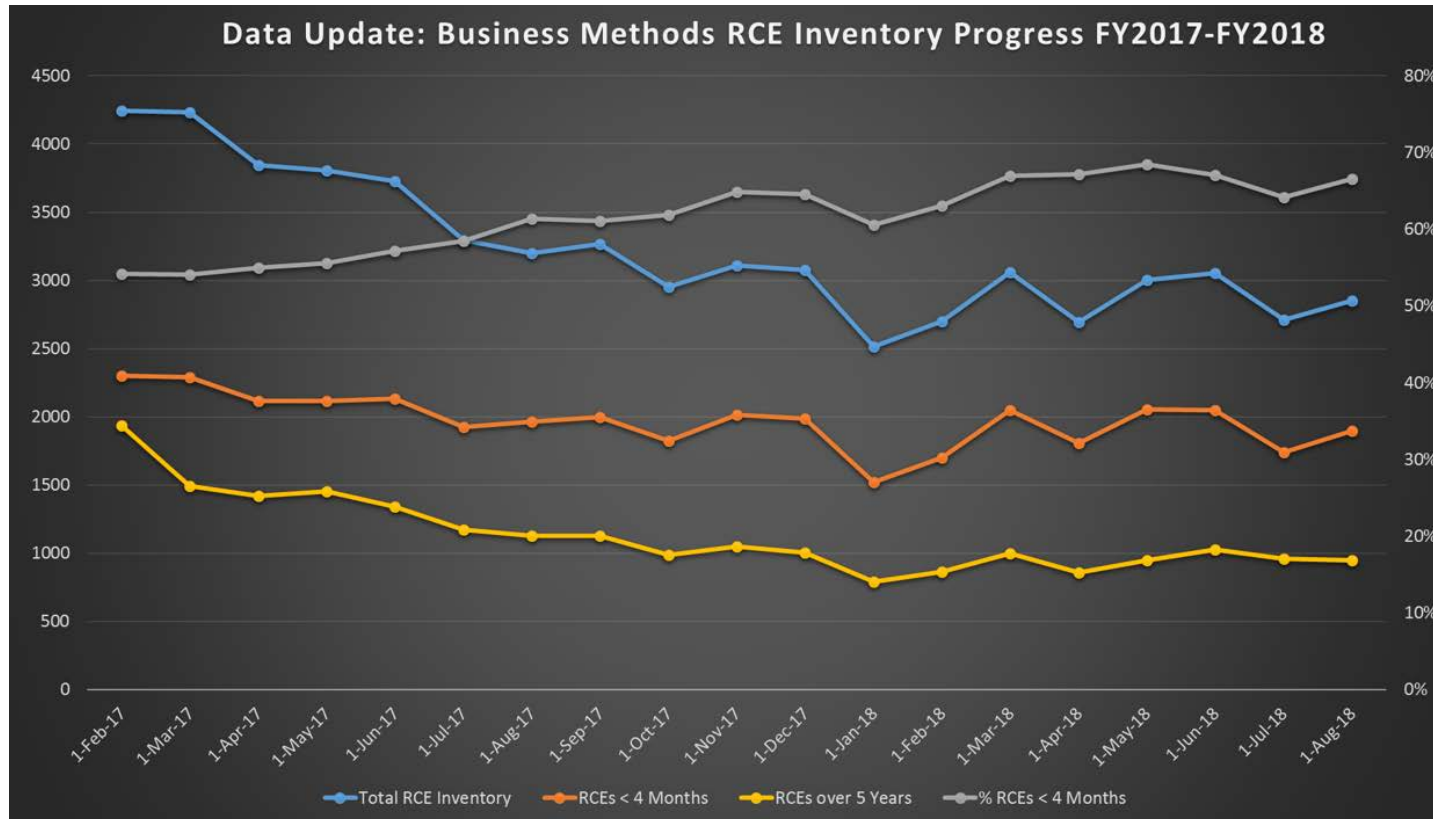
# Data Update: Top Assignees for Patent Grants in Class 705 (USPC)

Top Assignees (FY2016 - July2018)			
1	INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION	11	PAYPAL, INC.
2	MASTERCARD INTERNATIONAL INCORPORATED	12	SQUARE, INC.
3	WALMART APOLLO, LLC	13	BANK OF AMERICA CORPORATION
4	MICROSOFT TECHNOLOGY LICENSING, LLC	14	UIPCO, LLC ( <b>San Antonio, TX</b> )
5	WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.	15	VISA INTERNATIONAL SERVICE ASSOCIATION
6	STATE FARM MUTUAL AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE COMPANY	16	INTUIT INC.
7	AMAZON TECHNOLOGIES, INC.	17	TOSHIBA TEC KABUSHIKI KAISHA
8	FACEBOOK, INC.	18	EBAY INC.
9	CAPITAL ONE SERVICES, LLC	19	GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY
10	GOOGLE LLC	20	FUJITSU LIMITED

# Data Update: Filing Trends in Business Methods



# Data Update: Business Methods RCE Inventory Progress FY2018



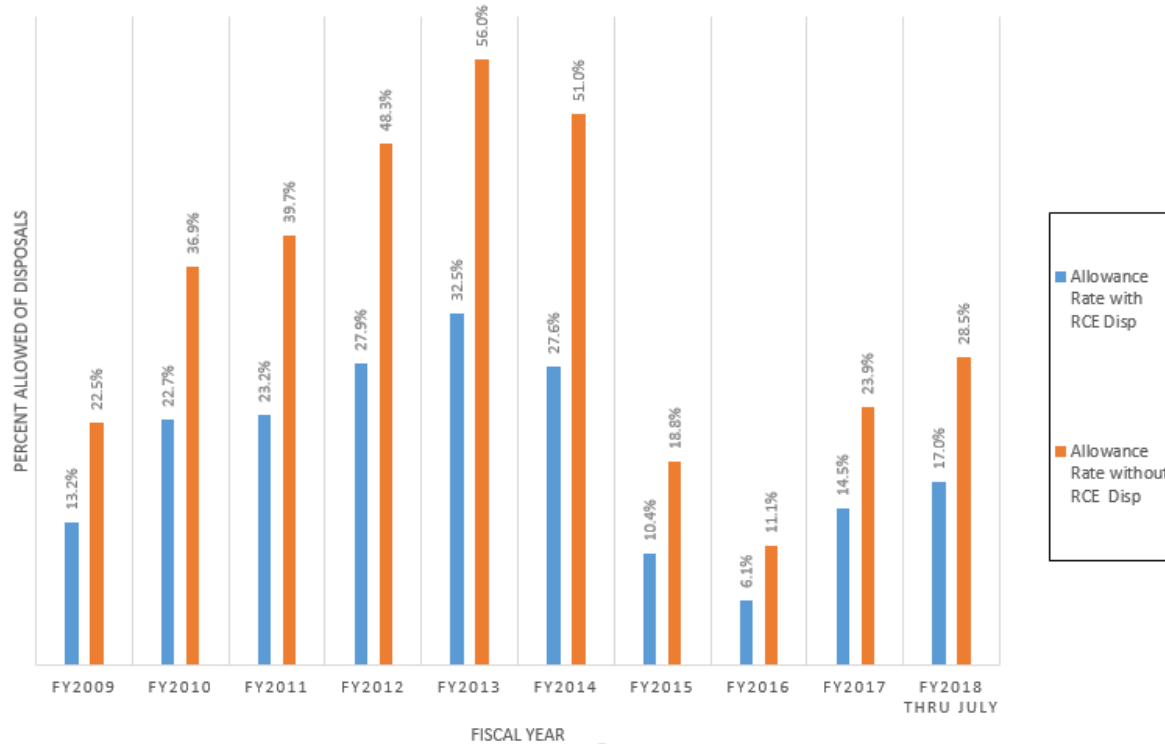
# Data Update: Examiner Growth/Patent Grants

Fiscal Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018MY
Number of Examiners in Business Methods in TC 3600	125	110	116	133	147	260	300	328	316	324	325	346	387	384	372	404	400*
Patent Grants From Business Methods Examiners in TC 3600	494	486	271	687	1055	1186	1571	1659	3515	4042	4432	5205	6094	1657	1395	2481	1786

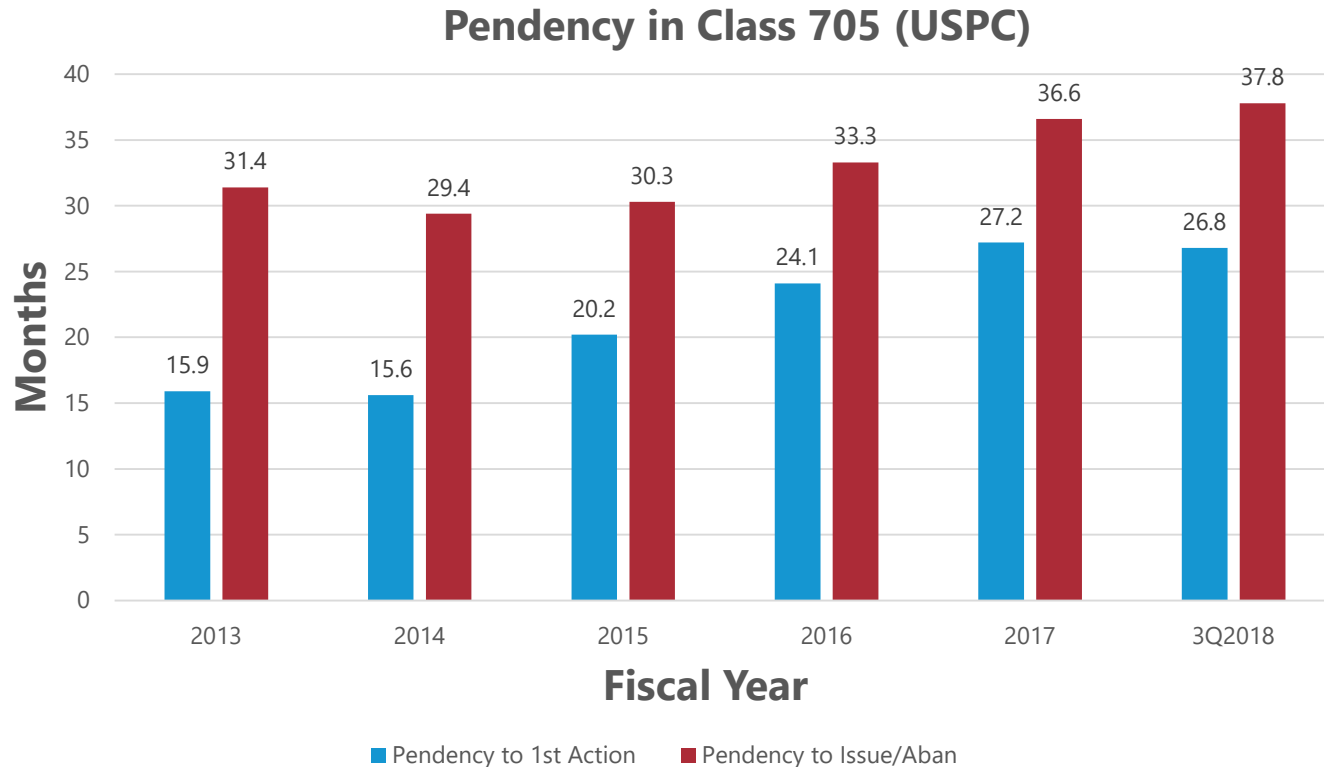
- Data on this chart represents Examiner counts at the end of a fiscal year and does not include Examiners currently in the Patent Training Academy
- \*Does not include 76 BM new hires that joined or will join TC after 2018MY



# Data Update: Business Methods Allowance Rates



# Data Update: Business Methods Pendency in Class 705 (USPC)



# Business Methods Initiatives

## Oldest Pending Case in the Art Units (MPEP §707.02)

- Managers are reviewing the prosecution history of the oldest pending cases in their Workgroups to resolve any outstanding issues and advance prosecution.
- Proactive approach that results in improving pendency and customer satisfaction.
- Examiners can receive the assistance, when necessary, to get the case back on track.

# Business Methods Initiatives

## Bank of Hours

- This bank of hours serves as additional training time to allow Examiners to learn and apply methods from various 35 U.S.C. 101 training topics.
- The initiative has been instrumental in increasing the knowledge and experience of Patent Examiners and in effectively addressing case specific 35 USC 101 related arguments.
- We are continuing the bank of training hours for the Business Methods areas on a case by case basis.

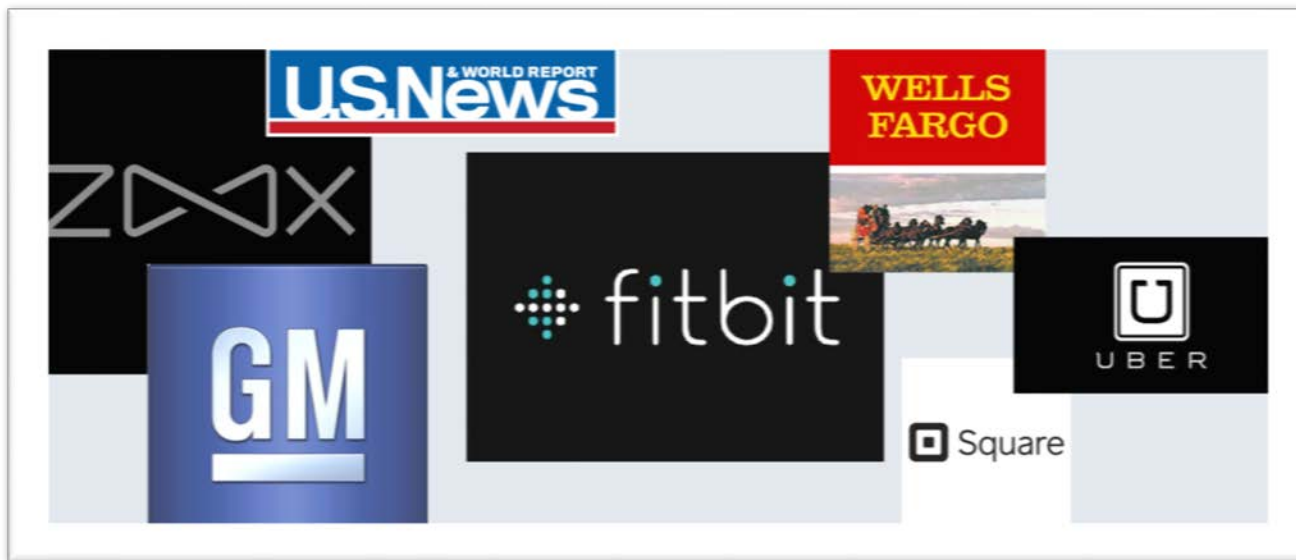
# Business Methods Initiatives

## Training

- Office-wide training is provided to all SPEs and Examiners
- Topic specific modules are provided to Art Units and Workgroups as needed
- Resources including SPEs, Quality Assurance Specialists, Appeals Specialists, Primary Examiners, and TC Trainers assist with presenting training

# Patent Examiner Technical Training Program (PETTP)

Business Methods has hosted various large and small technology leaders across diverse industry sectors. Recently:



# Patent Examiner Technical Training Program (PETTP)

Interested participants should contact the USPTO and identify their area of expertise by filling out the online form available at:

- <https://www.uspto.gov/PatentExaminerTechTraining>, or
- By sending an email to [Examiner\\_Technical\\_Training@uspto.gov](mailto:Examiner_Technical_Training@uspto.gov).

In an effort to allow for more flexibility in delivering training for those who elect not to travel, training can be delivered using webinars (web-based seminars) in this program.

# Business Methods Webpage Update

## [www.uspto.gov/businessmethods](http://www.uspto.gov/businessmethods)

Home / Patents: Getting Started / Patent Basics / Types of Patent Applications / Utility Patent / Business Methods

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## Business Methods

This site is designed to provide you with best practices and current information regarding Business Methods related patent applications.

- 1 Overview
- 2 Highlights
- 3 Statistics
- 4 Guidance and training materials
- 5 Outreach
- 6 Examiner decision making process
- 7 Contact us

### Overview

The Business Methods Practice Area is part of Technology Center 3600 that handles Business Methods applications. The Business Methods Practice Area is comprised of three workgroups that include 3620, 3680, and 3690. The 3620 and the 3680 workgroups examine applications pertaining to incentive programs, coupons; operations research; electronic shopping; health care; point of sale, inventory, accounting; cost/price, reservations, shipping, and transportation; and business processing. The 3690 workgroup examines applications pertaining to finance/banking/insurance.

### Highlights

#### TC 3600 Business Methods Partnership Meeting (BMPM)

The **Next Business Methods Partnership Meeting** is scheduled to take place on **March 15th, 2018**. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet and share ideas, experiences, and insights with USPTO management. Registration information will be forthcoming.

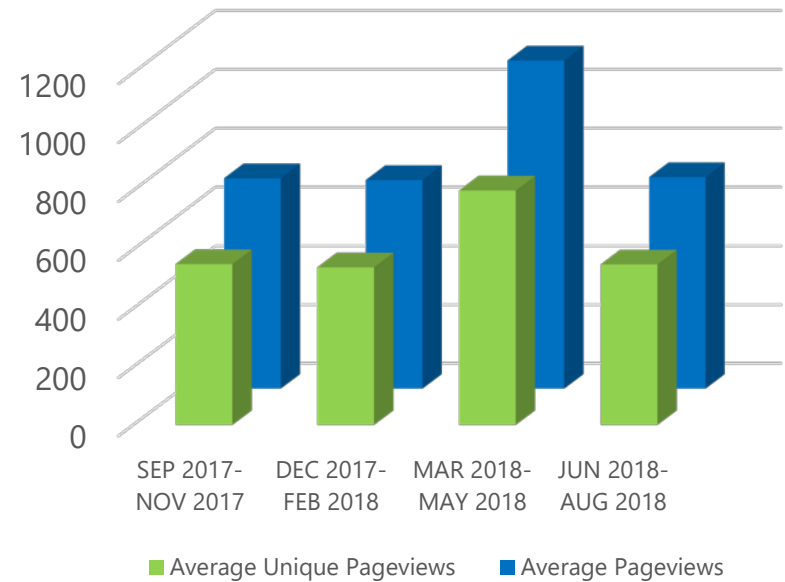




# Business Methods Webpage Update

[www.uspto.gov/businessmethods](http://www.uspto.gov/businessmethods)

- **Consistent and growing level of traffic**
  - 9,900 total pageviews since launch in September 2017
  - 815 average pageviews per month
  - 610 average unique pageviews per month
- **3 minutes spent on average visiting the webpage, which is significant**
- **Texas had 460 total page views since launch (4<sup>th</sup> highest in state pageview rankings)**
- **543 visitors accessed the guidance and training materials section, indicating usefulness**
- **Elevated total pageviews in March 2018 due to visitors accessing electronic Business Methods Partnership Meeting materials from the webpage**



# Resources: Patent Ombudsman Program

The Patents Ombudsman Program enhances the USPTO's ability to assist applicants or their representatives with issues that arise during patent application prosecution.

## Contact info:

- Email: [OmbudsmanProgram@uspto.gov](mailto:OmbudsmanProgram@uspto.gov)
- Website: <https://www.uspto.gov/patents/ombudsman/jsp>
- Phone: 571-272-5555 or 1-855-559-8589 (toll free)

# Resources: Interview Specialist

Interview Specialists are subject matter experts in each Technology Center (TC) on interview practice and policy. They are available to assist both applicants and examiners in interviews, as needed, including facilitating interviews by assisting with technical issues which may arise (e.g. WebEx problems, public interview room setup) and helping to ensure that the interview goes smoothly.

## Contact info:

- Email: [ExaminerInterviewPractice@uspto.gov](mailto:ExaminerInterviewPractice@uspto.gov)

# Call for topics, presenters and panelist

If you are interested in participating in a future Partnership Meeting or have ideas for future topics please email us your contact information along with potential discussion topics.

Email: [BusinessMethods@uspto.gov](mailto:BusinessMethods@uspto.gov) or fill out the speaker interest form on the Business Methods website



**Questions?**

