

The United States Patent and Trademark Office

Citizen Centric Report

October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2014



The USPTO was created as a separate entity in 1802.

Agency Objectives

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Agency Mission

Fostering innovation, competitiveness and economic growth, domestically and abroad by delivering high quality and timely examination of patent and trademark applications, guiding domestic and international intellectual property policy, and delivering intellectual property information and education worldwide, with a highly skilled, diverse workforce.

Agency Vision

Leading the Nation and the World in Intellectual Property Protection and Policy.

Did you know...

The USPTO was named #1 out of 300 agency subcomponents in the 2013 Best Places to Work in the Federal Government® rankings.

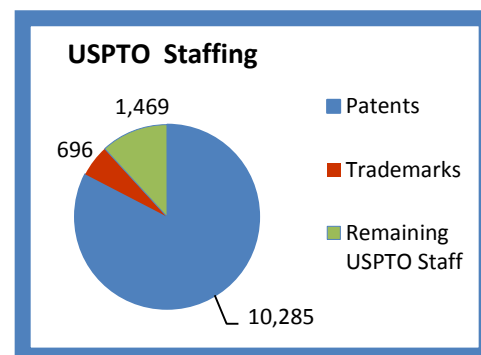
As an agency within the Department of Commerce (DOC), the USPTO is uniquely situated to support accomplishing the DOC's mission to **create the conditions for economic growth and opportunity**. The agency is led by the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO who consults with the Patent Public Advisory Committee and the Trademark Public Advisory Committee. The Public Advisory Committees (www.uspto.gov/about/advisory/) for the USPTO were created by statute. The Advisory Committees consist of citizens of the United States chosen to represent the interests of the diverse users of the USPTO.

The USPTO has two major components, the Patent organization and the Trademark organization, which are teamed with several other supporting units. Headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, the USPTO also has offices in Detroit, Michigan and Denver, Colorado, and is establishing two more offices in Dallas, Texas and San Jose, California.

The USPTO administers the laws relevant to patents and trademarks and advises the secretary of commerce, the president of the United States, and the administration on patent, trademark, and copyright protection, and trade-related aspects of intellectual property (IP). These activities give innovators, businesses, and entrepreneurs the protection and encouragement they need to turn their creative ideas into tangible products, and also provide protection for their inventions and trademarks.

America Invents Act

President Obama signed the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (AIA) (Pub. L. No. 112-29) into law on September 16, 2011. This sweeping reform introduced some of the biggest changes to the patent system in almost 200 years. Since its enactment, the USPTO has worked diligently to implement the AIA's statutory requirements to improve patent quality, reduce the backlog of patent applications, reduce domestic and global patenting costs for U.S. companies, provide greater certainty in patent rights, and offer effective alternatives to costly and complex litigation.



How We Have Progressed

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS	FY 2014 Target	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual
Average Number of Months From Filing Until Initial Determination of the Patentability of an Invention	17.4	18.4	18.0	18.2
Average Number of Months to Obtain a Patent	26.7	27.4	30.1	29.1
Progression Towards Superior Patent Quality and Level of Service	83 - 91	75.0	65 - 73	71.9
Average Number of Months Before Trademark Review is Initiated (First Office Action)	2.5 to 3.5	3.0	2.5 to 3.5	3.1
Average Number of Months to Obtain a Trademark	12.0	9.8	12.0	10.0
The Percentage of First Office Actions Consistent with the Quality Standards established by the Trademark Organization	95.5%	95.8%	95.5%	96.3%
The Percentage of Final Office Actions Consistent with the Quality Standards established by the Trademark Organization	97.0%	97.2%	97.0%	97.1%
Trademark Applications Processed Electronically	78.0%	80.7%	76.0%	79.0%

A **patent** is an intellectual property right granted by the government of the United States of America to an inventor “to exclude others from making, using, offering for sale, or selling the invention throughout the United States or importing the invention into the United States” for a limited time in exchange for public disclosure of the invention when the patent is granted.

A **trademark** is a word, phrase, symbol or design, or a combination of words, phrases, symbols, or designs, that identifies and distinguishes the source of the goods of one party from those of others.

Did you know... that the USPTO granted 329,613 patents in fiscal year 2014? This represents a 14% increase from fiscal year 2013.

Did you know... that the USPTO registered 206,555 trademarks in fiscal year 2014? This represents a 7% increase from fiscal year 2013.

The above subset of performance metrics are used to measure actions taken in line with the USPTO 2014-2018 Strategic Plan, which is designed to strengthen the capacity of the USPTO by focusing on a specific set of goals and the steps we must take to reach those goals, as follows:

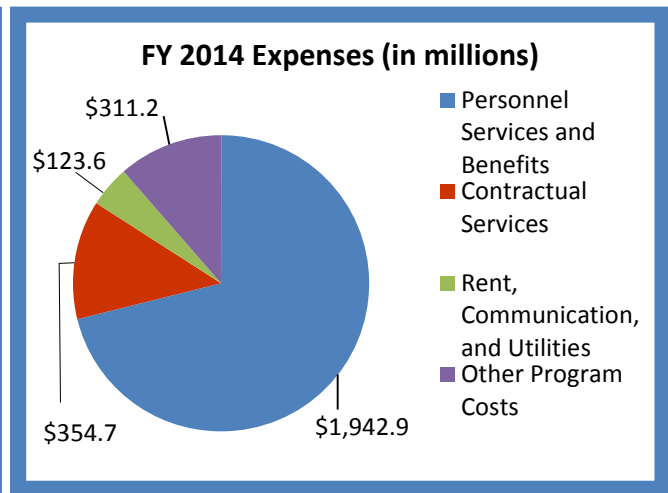
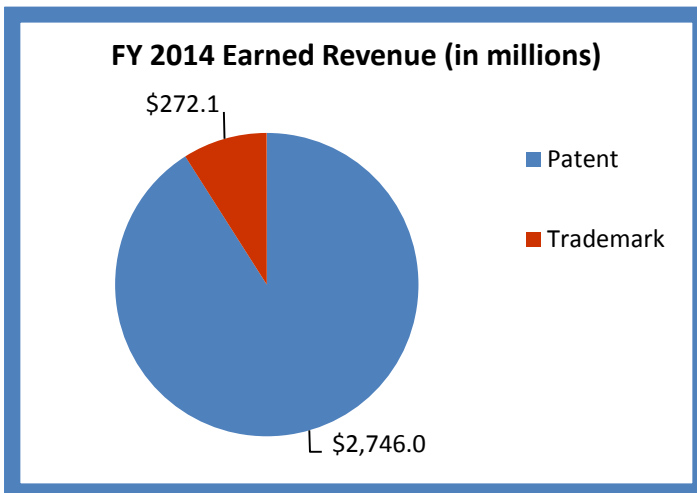
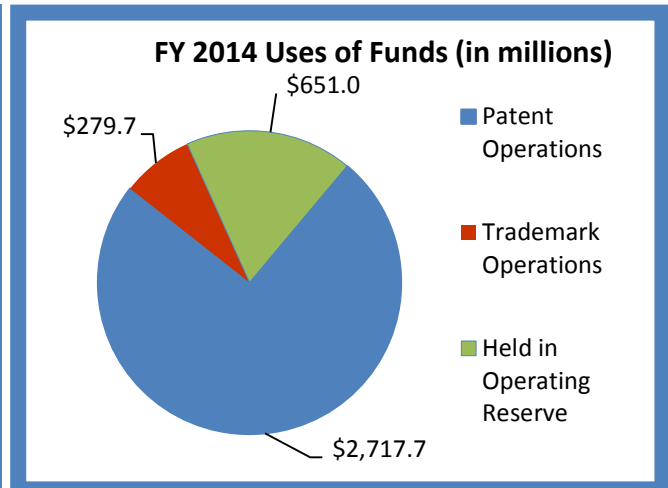
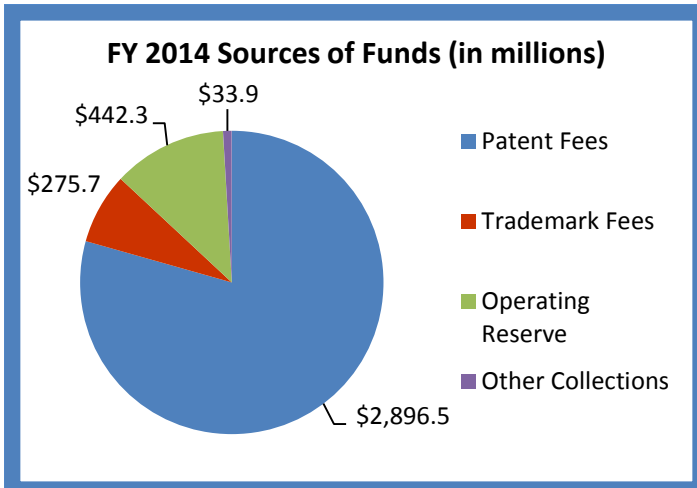
- Provide timely examination of patent applications; reduce the average time to first office action for patent applications (average time from filing until an examiner’s initial determination on patentability) to 10 months, and average total pendency (average time from filing until the application is issued as a patent or abandoned) to 20 months
- Improve quality of patent examination
- Improve/enhance patent appeal and post-grant processes
- Optimize trademark quality and maintain pendency
- Demonstrate global leadership in all aspects of IP policy development
- Improve information technology infrastructure and tools
- Implement a sustainable funding model for operations
- Improve relations with employees and stakeholders

Complete discussions of the above performance metrics can be found in the 2014 Performance and Accountability Report located at beta.uspto.gov/annualreport in the Management Discussion and Analysis section.

These performance metrics were designed as a part of the USPTO 2014-2018 Strategic Plan. Input was solicited from our employees and stakeholders to assure that the agency operates under the best measures of performance.

Finances and Budget

The USPTO operates using fees for patents and trademarks.
No taxpayer dollars are used for agency operations.



The USPTO financial management process ensures that management decision-making information is dependable, internal controls over financial reporting are effective, and that compliance with laws and regulations is maintained. The USPTO issues financial statements as a part of our effort to continually improve the accuracy and usefulness of its financial management information. Complete financial information can be found in the 2014 Performance and Accountability report located at beta.uspto.gov/annualreport in the Management Discussion and Analysis section.

The USPTO received an unmodified (clean) audit opinion from the independent public accounting firm of KPMG LLP on its fiscal year 2014 financial

statements. This is the 22nd consecutive year that the USPTO received a clean opinion. Our unmodified audit opinion provides independent assurance to the public that the information presented in the USPTO financial statements is fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In addition, KPMG LLP reported no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in the USPTO's internal control, and no instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations affecting the financial statements.

The audit opinion can be found in the 2014 Performance and Accountability report located at beta.uspto.gov/annualreport in the Financial section.

Management Challenges and What's Ahead

The distance between innovation and the marketplace is shrinking. Said another way, innovation is moving more quickly from creation to manufacture and distribution. Intellectual property is a necessary instrument for innovators and businesses to capture value as ideas move to the marketplace. In performing its mission—quality examination and disposition of patents and trademarks—the USPTO faces significant challenges.

The AIA promotes innovation and job creation by improving patent quality, clarifying patent rights, reducing the patent application backlog, and offering effective alternatives to costly patent litigation. It has also significantly moved the USPTO toward a more sustainable funding model. Implementation of the Act's provisions presents numerous challenges and the USPTO continues to engage stakeholders to ensure that implementation is fully accomplished.

We continue to focus on addressing our challenges to:

1. Complete implementation of a sustainable funding model
2. Manage the patent business' transition to a maintenance mode
3. Reduce certain trademark fees
4. Successfully implement the patent dispute resolution portions of the AIA
5. Improve awareness with oversight entities of agency operations
6. Create information technology enterprise architecture and tools that support mission-critical business and programmatic requirements
7. Legal challenges to the interpretation and the regulations implementing the AIA

Complete workload information can be found in the 2014 Performance and Accountability report located at beta.uspto.gov/annualreport in the Other Accompanying Information section.

Did you know...
of all 50 states, California received the most issued patents (44,147) in fiscal year 2014?

Did you know...
of all foreign countries, Japan received the most issued patents (56,640) in fiscal year 2014?

Did you know...
of all foreign countries, Canada received the most registered trademarks (4,010) in fiscal year 2014?

Did you know...
of all 50 states, California received the most registered trademarks (34,311) in fiscal year 2014?

We would like to hear from you. Please let us know what you think about this report by emailing PARmail@uspto.gov



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