



SPECIAL REPRINT

# The world's 50 most innovative companies

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With a GDP of nearly \$19 trillion and a population in excess of 323 million, the United States is the largest consumer market in the world.

As such, global corporations make doing business in the U.S. a priority. To take full advantage of this market, American and foreign companies must protect their proprietary innovations and inventions through patent grants.

Of the three types of patents — utility, design, and plant — utility patents relate specifically to inventions and innovations, including any improvements to existing processes, products, and materials. As measured by utility patents, 2017 was a record-breaking year for corporate innovation. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office granted companies more than 320,000 patents last year — up 5.2% from the previous record of 304,126 patents granted the year before.

Rates of innovation vary considerably from one industry to the next and from one part of the world to the next. For example, a handful of industries — namely computing, telecommunications, and medicine — accounted for the bulk of innovations last year. Meanwhile, American companies accounted for 46% of patents granted in 2017, companies based in Asia accounted for 31%, and European companies accounted for 15%.

Of the thousands of American and international companies that were granted patents last year, just a few major corporations accounted for a massive share of global innovation. Fifty companies alone — including America's most recognizable tech companies: Apple, Google, Microsoft, and Amazon — accounted for about 30% of patents.

Patent research company IFI Claims

Patent Services tracks which specific entities are issued patents. As multiple entities are often owned by a single parent corporation, 24/7 Wall St. combined patent grants issued to the same parent company to identify the world's 50 most innovative companies. While each company on this list was granted at least 700 patents last year, the companies at the top of the list secured thousands.

#### 50. Sharp

- 2017 patent grants: 748
- 2016 patent grants: 888
- Country: Japan
- Products: Televisions, home appliances, smartphones

#### 49. Oracle

- 2017 patent grants: 753
- 2016 patent grants: 667
- Country: United States
- Products: Database software and cloud storage systems

#### 48. Micron Technology

- 2017 patent grants: 802
- 2016 patent grants: 863
- Country: United States
- Products: Computer accessories and storage

#### 47. NEC

- 2017 patent grants: 820
- 2016 patent grants: 890
- Country: Japan
- Products: IT and communications services

#### 46. Honeywell International

- 2017 patent grants: 856
- 2016 patent grants: 673
- Country: United States
- Products: Consumer products, aerospace engineering

#### 45. Nokia

- 2017 patent grants: 890
- 2016 patent grants: 908
- Country: Finland
- Products: Mobile phones, computers, tablets

#### 44. Koninklijke Philips

- 2017 patent grants: 905
- 2016 patent grants: 1,070
- Country: Netherlands
- Products: Lighting, televisions, personal health products

#### 43. Honda Motor

- 2017 patent grants: 910
- 2016 patent grants: 922
- Country: Japan
- Products: Automobiles

#### 42. Texas Instruments

- 2017 patent grants: 923
- 2016 patent grants: 888
- Country: United States
- Products: Semiconductors, educational technology

#### 41. Denso

- 2017 patent grants: 929
- 2016 patent grants: 757
- Country: Japan
- Products: Auto parts

#### 40. SK Hynix

- 2017 patent grants: 942
- 2016 patent grants: 1,126
- Country: South Korea
- Products: Semiconductors, memory chips

#### 39. GlobalFoundries

- 2017 patent grants: 950
- 2016 patent grants: 1,501
- Country: Cayman Islands
- Products: Semiconductors

#### 38. NXP Semiconductors

- 2017 patent grants: 950
- 2016 patent grants: 998
- Country: Netherlands
- Products: Semiconductors, auto parts

#### 37. Cisco Systems

- 2017 patent grants: 967
- 2016 patent grants: 978
- Country: United States
- Products: Software, routers, internet security

# The world's 50 most innovative companies

## 36. Semiconductor Energy Laboratory

- 2017 patent grants: 977
- 2016 patent grants: 1,054
- Country: Japan
- Products: Semiconductors

## 35. HP

- 2017 patent grants: 984
- 2016 patent grants: 1,051
- Country: United States
- Products: Computers, printers

## 34. Infineon Technologies

- 2017 patent grants: 1,005
- 2016 patent grants: 903
- Country: Germany
- Products: Semiconductors

## 33. Xerox

- 2017 patent grants: 1,026
- 2016 patent grants: 1,215
- Country: United States
- Products: Printers

## 32. General Motors

- 2017 patent grants: 1,066
- 2016 patent grants: 1,124
- Country: United States
- Products: Automobiles

## 31. Kyocera

- 2017 patent grants: 1,144
- 2016 patent grants: 1,132
- Country: Japan
- Products: Mobile phones, consumer electronics, power tools

## 30. Ricoh

- 2017 patent grants: 1,145
- 2016 patent grants: 1,412
- Country: Japan
- Products: Printers, cameras, watches, IT services

## 29. Boeing

- 2017 patent grants: 1,177
- 2016 patent grants: 1,055
- Country: United States
- Products: Aerospace and military technology

## 28. Robert Bosch GmbH

- 2017 patent grants: 1,234
- 2016 patent grants: 1,209
- Country: Germany
- Products: Industrial technology, consumer electronics

## 27. AT&T

- 2017 patent grants: 1,265
- 2016 patent grants: 1,232

- Country: United States
- Products: Telecommunications, entertainment, technology

## 26. Siemens

- 2017 patent grants: 1,337
- 2016 patent grants: 1,337
- Country: Germany
- Products: Home appliances, automation systems, healthcare technology

## 25. Seiko Epson

- 2017 patent grants: 1,406
- 2016 patent grants: 1,650
- Country: Japan
- Products: Printers, projectors, wearable products

## 24. Hyundai Motor

- 2017 patent grants: 1,451
- 2016 patent grants: 1,162
- Country: South Korea
- Products: Automobiles

## 23. Hitachi

- 2017 patent grants: 1,497
- 2016 patent grants: 1,534
- Country: Japan
- Products: Telecommunication, power systems, consumer electronics

## 22. Telefonaktiebolaget L.M. Ericsson

- 2017 patent grants: 1,552
- 2016 patent grants: 1,552
- Country: Sweden
- Products: IT services, public safety management, electronic components

## 21. Fujitsu

- 2017 patent grants: 1,604
- 2016 patent grants: 1,636
- Country: Japan
- Products: Semiconductors, operating systems, computer storage

## 20. Huawei Technologies

- 2017 patent grants: 1,616
- 2016 patent grants: 1,353
- Country: China
- Products: Mobile phones, tablets, routers, IT infrastructure

## 19. General Electric

- 2017 patent grants: 1,742
- 2016 patent grants: 1,871
- Country: United States
- Products: Home appliances, jet engines, commercial lending

## 18. Panasonic

- 2017 patent grants: 1,787
- 2016 patent grants: 1,977
- Country: Japan
- Products: Cameras, home appliances, televisions

## 17. Ford Motor

- 2017 patent grants: 1,868
- 2016 patent grants: 1,525
- Country: United States
- Products: Automobiles

## 16. Mitsubishi

- 2017 patent grants: 1,916
- 2016 patent grants: 1,701
- Country: Japan
- Products: Automobiles, air conditioners, power generation systems

## 15. Amazon.com

- 2017 patent grants: 1,963
- 2016 patent grants: 1,672
- Country: United States
- Products: Consumer products, e-readers, TV and movie streaming

## 14. BoE Systems

- 2017 patent grants: 1,999
- 2016 patent grants: 1,340
- Country: United States
- Products: Data collection and processing

## 13. Toshiba

- 2017 patent grants: 2,073
- 2016 patent grants: 2,437
- Country: Japan
- Products: Laptops, hard drives, digital displays, business solutions

## 12. Apple

- 2017 patent grants: 2,229
- 2016 patent grants: 2,103
- Country: United States
- Products: Mobile phones, computers, tablets, software

## 11. Sony

- 2017 patent grants: 2,331
- 2016 patent grants: 2,298
- Country: Japan
- Products: Digital cameras, televisions, speakers, mobile phones

## 10. Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing

- 2017 patent grants: 2,425
- 2016 patent grants: 2,288
- Country: Taiwan
- Products: Semiconductors

# The world's 50 most innovative companies

## 9. Microsoft

- 2017 patent grants: 2,441
- 2016 patent grants: 2,410
- Country: United States
- Products: Software, operating systems, mobile phones

## 8. Toyota Motors

- 2017 patent grants: 2,446
- 2016 patent grants: 1,877
- Country: Japan
- Products: Automobiles, automobile accessories

## 7. Qualcomm

- 2017 patent grants: 2,628
- 2016 patent grants: 2,925
- Country: United States
- Products: Semiconductors, cellular modems, telecommunications equipment

## 6. Alphabet

- 2017 patent grants: 2,709
- 2016 patent grants: 3,219
- Country: United States
- Products: Search engine, internet browser, laptops

## 5. Canon

- 2017 patent grants: 3,285
- 2016 patent grants: 3,665
- Country: Japan
- Products: Cameras, camcorders, printers

## 4. Intel

- 2017 patent grants: 3,435
- 2016 patent grants: 3,080
- Country: United States
- Products: Personal computers, consumer electronics, processors

## 3. LG Electronics

- 2017 patent grants: 4,469
- 2016 patent grants: 4,013
- Country: South Korea
- Products: Mobile phones, televisions, home appliances

## 2. Samsung

- 2017 patent grants: 8,894
- 2016 patent grants: 8,470
- Country: South Korea
- Products: Mobile phones, televisions, home appliances

## 1. International Business Machines

- 2017 patent grants: 9,043
- 2016 patent grants: 8,090
- Country: United States
- Products: Data management, IT services, application development

## Methodology

To identify the 50 most innovative companies, 24/7 Wall St. reviewed the 1,000 companies receiving the most patent grants U.S. Patent and Trademark Office grants in 2017, according to data provided by IFI Claims Patent Services. IFI produces this data based on the entity listed as holding the patent, and that entity often is a division or subsidiary of the larger company. In order to arrive at a figure that more closely reflects a company's total, 24/7 Wall St. combined the grants awarded to a company and its subsidiaries.

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