

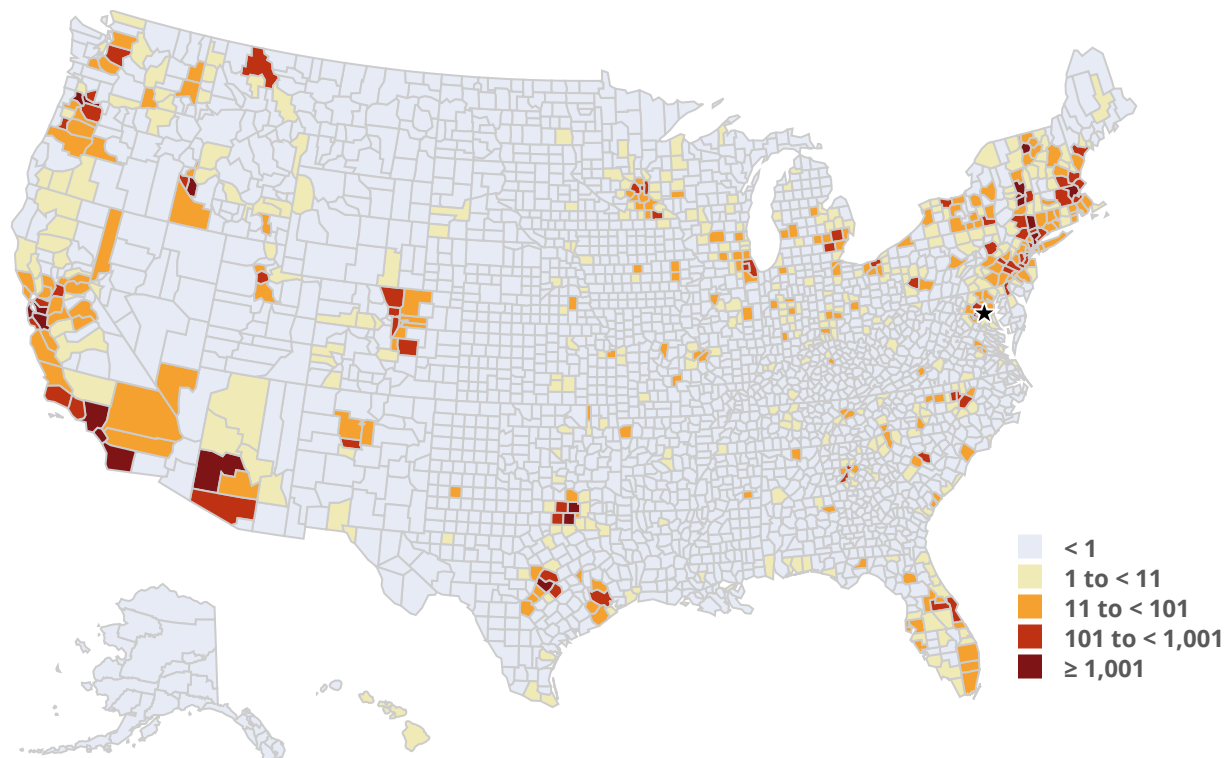


InfoChart

One-Fifth of USPTO Semiconductor Utility Patents Granted to Residents of Santa Clara County, California between 2000 and 2020

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Figure 1 | USPTO utility patents granted to U.S. inventors in semiconductors, by U.S. county: 2000–20



USPTO = Patent and Trademark Office.

Note(s): Utility patents are fractionally allocated among counties based on the proportion of residences of all named inventors. *Science and Engineering Indicators 2022* classifies patent data into 35 comprehensive and nonoverlapping technology fields, which are based on the World Intellectual Property Organization’s 2008 International Patent Classification (<https://www.wipo.int/classifications/ipc/en/>). Patents identify inventions that may later be introduced into use as an innovation. Inventions are also protected by trade secrets and other forms of protection. Differences between technology classes are affected by the propensity to patent a particular type of technology, among other reasons.

Source(s): National Science Board, National Science Foundation. 2022. Invention, Knowledge Transfer, and Innovation. [Public Use file Supplemental Workbook INV-1](#). *Science and Engineering Indicators 2022*. NSB-2022-4. Alexandria, VA. Available at <https://nces.nsf.gov/pubs/nsb20224/>.

Based on the location of inventors, the counties with the highest number of semiconductor utility patents granted are primarily in the western United States and in the northeast. Santa Clara County residents in California's Silicon Valley received one-fifth (19,108) of all Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) utility patents granted between 2000 and 2020. The second-highest number of semiconductor utility patents was granted to residents of Ada County, Idaho (8,719), followed by Dutchess County, New York (4,460). Residents of Maricopa County in southwest Arizona were granted 4,270 utility patents. Five New York counties—Dutchess, Westchester, Albany, Schenectady, and Saratoga—saw over 1,000 semiconductor utility patents awarded to residents over the same period.

Utility patents provide legal protection to novel and potentially useful inventions; the location where inventors reside is a geographic measure of innovative activity. The map above shows the cumulative number of USPTO utility patents granted in semiconductor technology between 2000 and 2020 to inventors residing in each U.S. county.

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