

# Patents

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# Rationale for Patents and Intellectual Property Rights

- Economic welfare is created through new ideas and their strategic use
- The patent system is a political device to enhance social and economic welfare by stimulating innovation and diffusion of knowledge

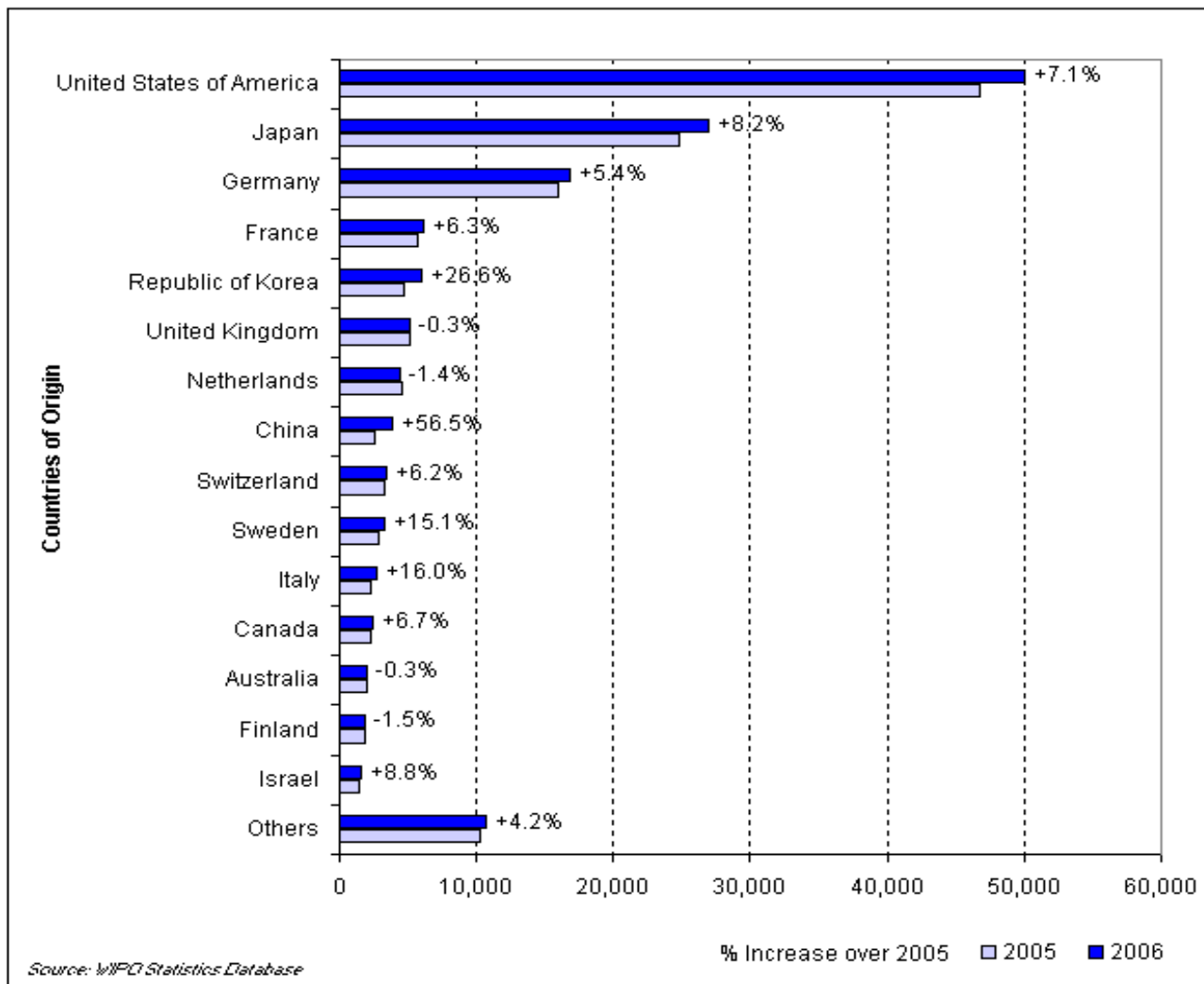
# Pillars of patent system

- The grant to inventors of exclusive property rights over the inventions they claimed to have produced
- The imposition on patent applicants of a duty to disclose all the technical information on the claimed invention

- Patent system - a positive factor in promoting innovation and diffusion of knowledge
- Applications received by patent offices continue to grow steeply
- Results: high numbers of granted patent rights

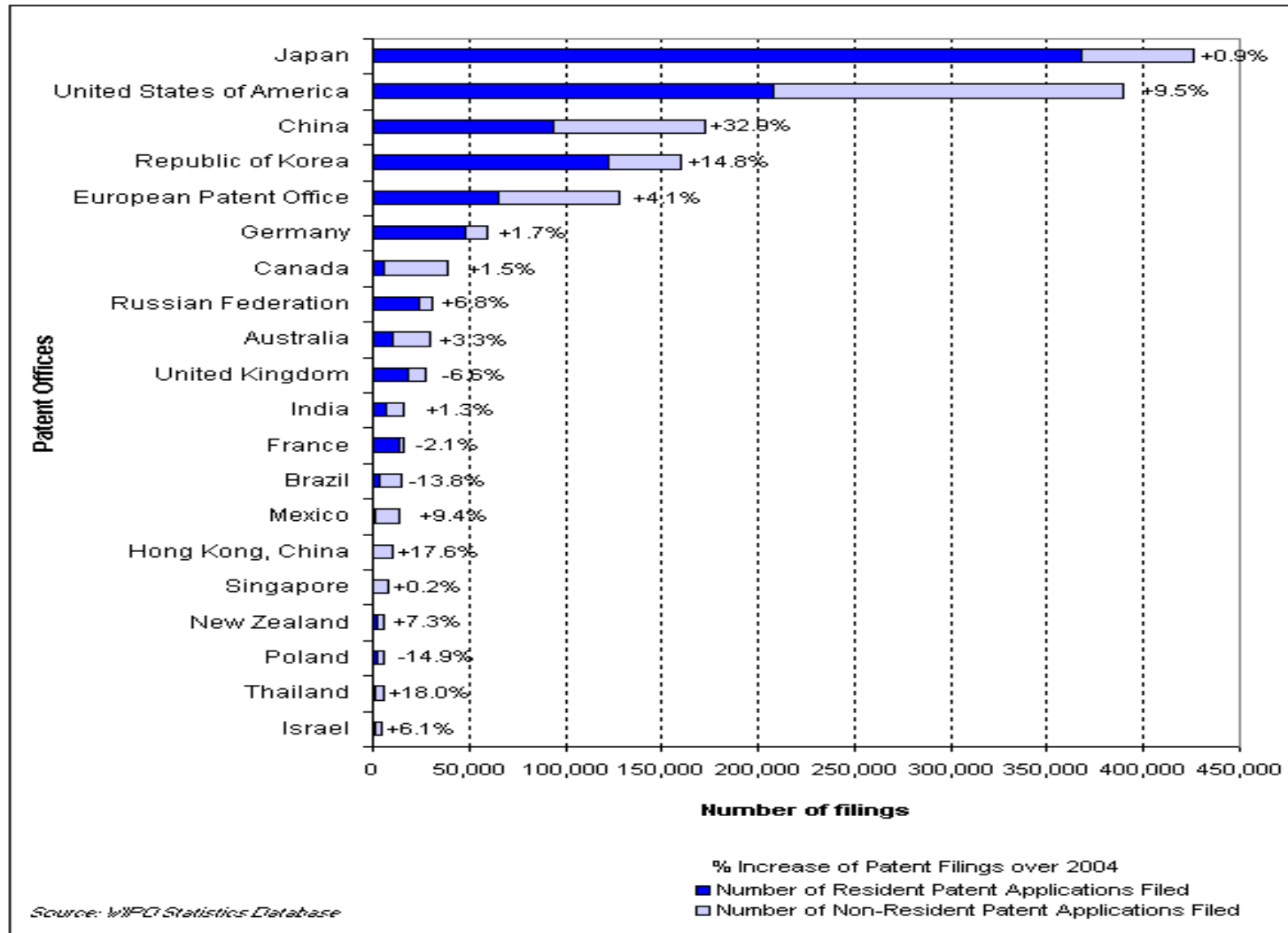
- Undesirable consequence of patents growth is a dampening effect of the incentive to innovate
- Costs associated with inventive activity have risen
- Rising costs reflect overcrowded and overlapping sets of rights in specific research areas

# The number of Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) international applications filed in 2005 and 2006 by country of origin



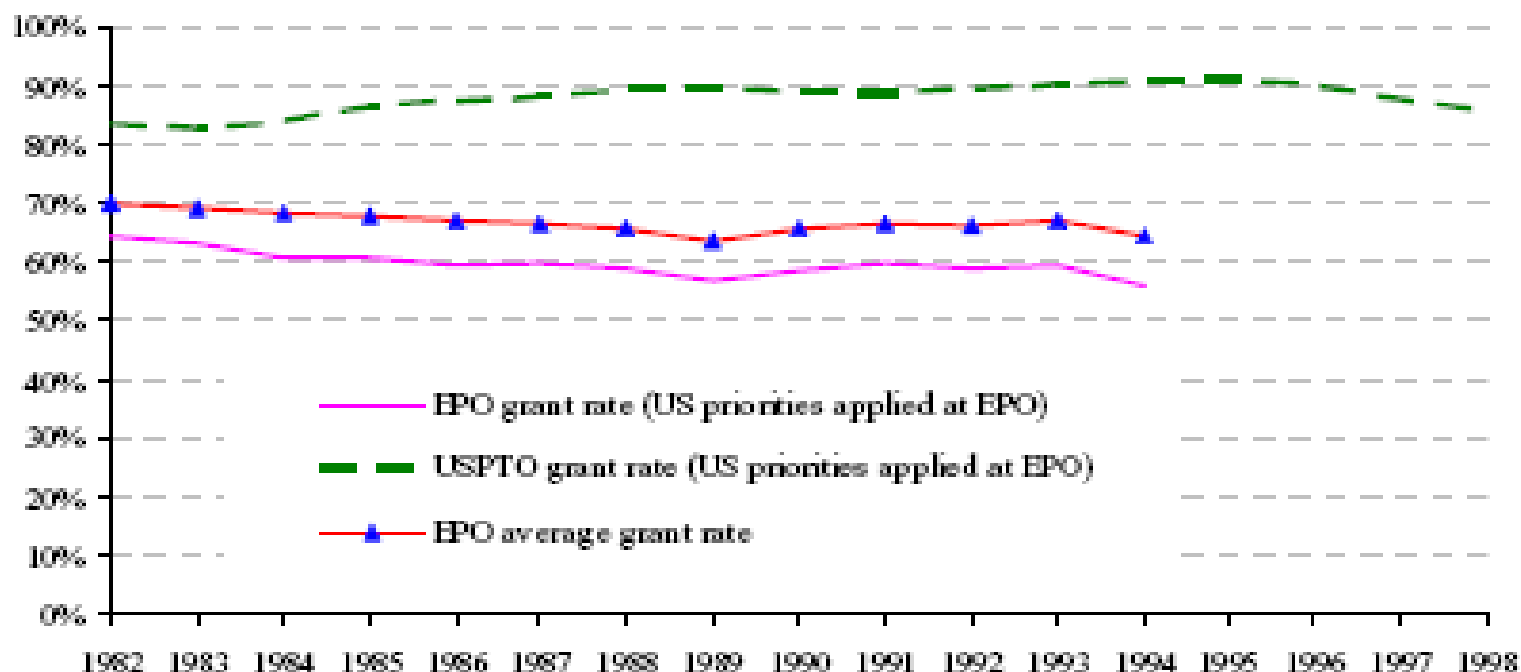
# Top 20 Offices of Filing

## Top 20 patent offices according to the total number of patent filings in 2005



# EPO average grant rate v. EPO and USPTO grant rates for US priorities also applied at EPO

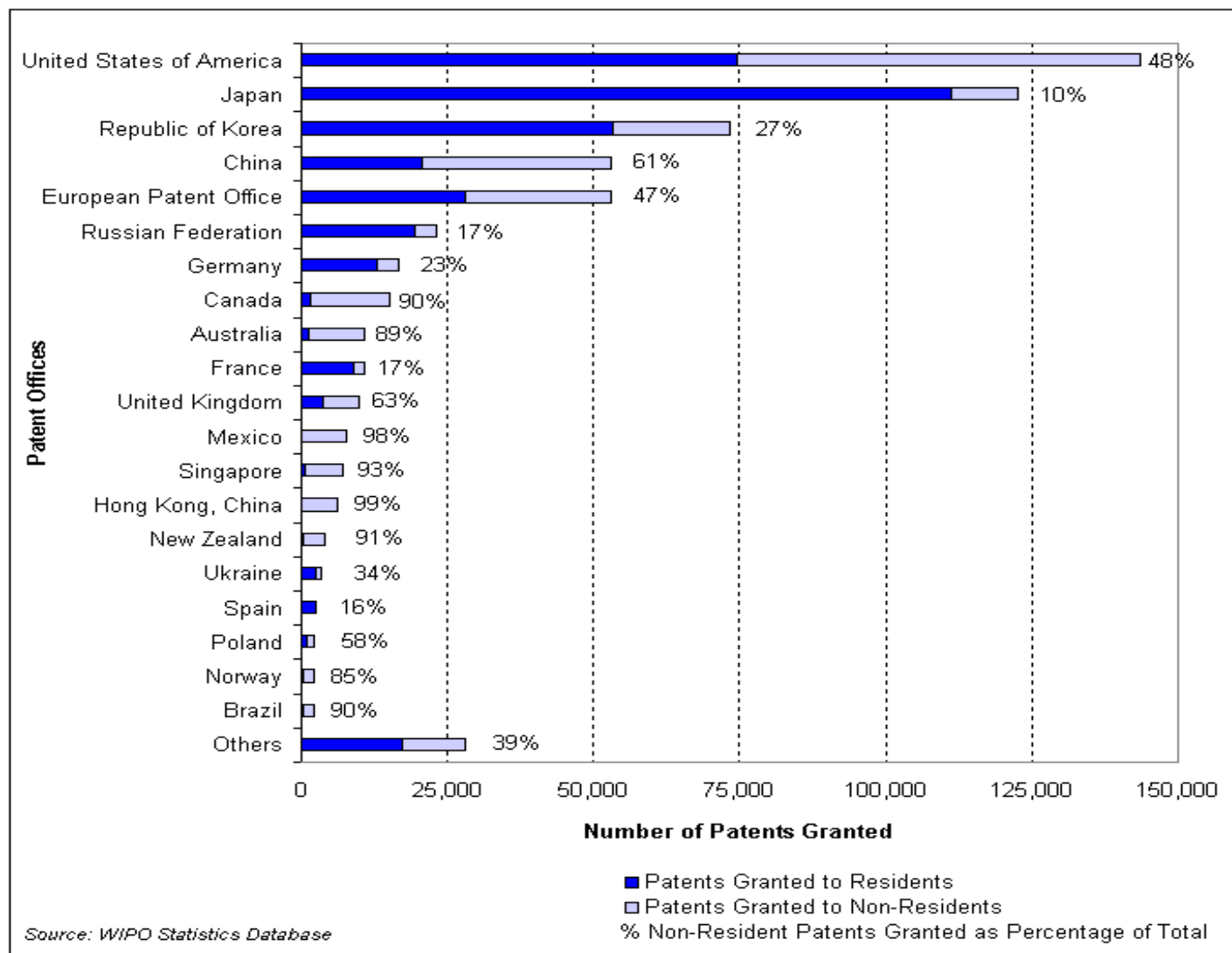
(sorted by EPO application dates)



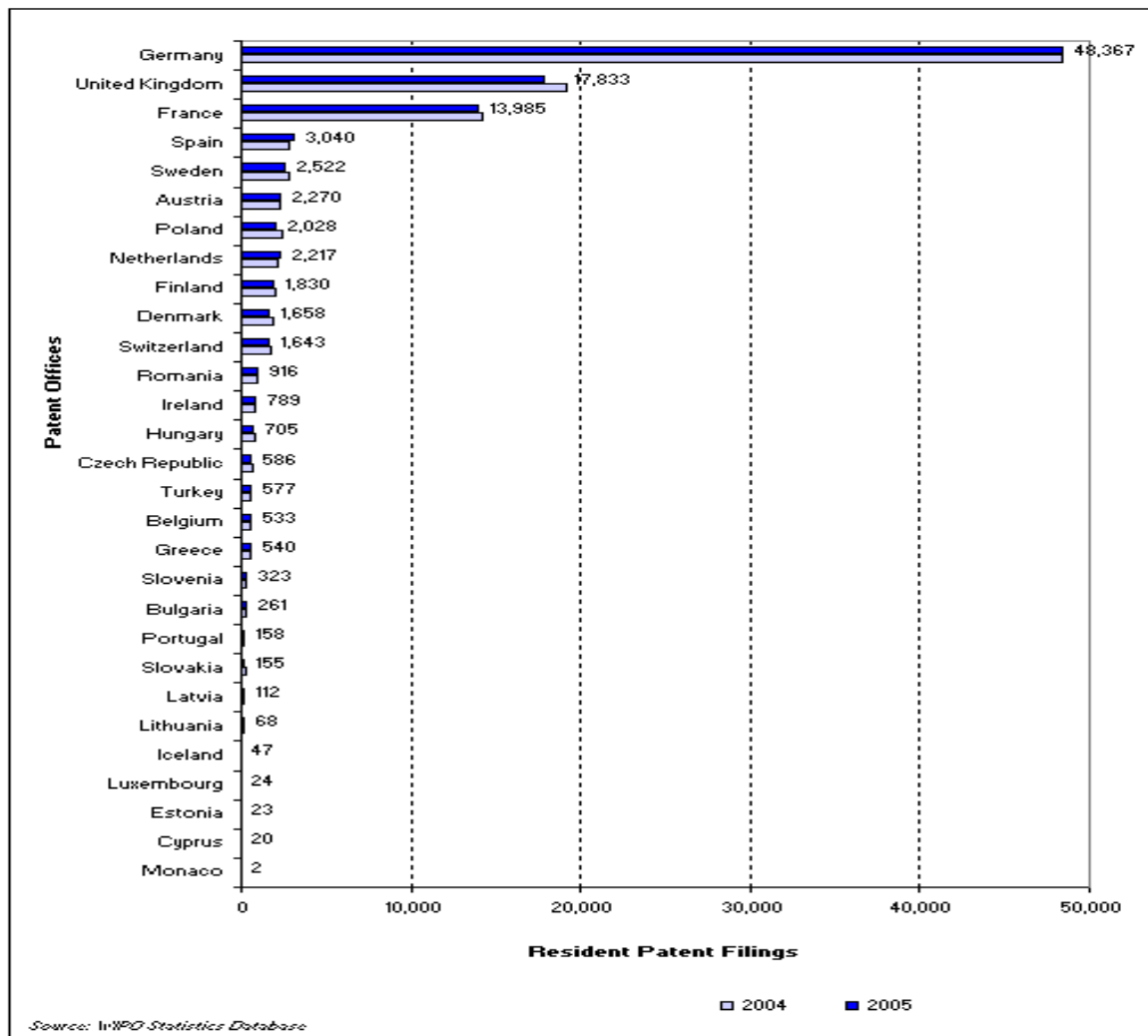
Note: Grant rate is defined as number of grants divided by number of applications sorted by EPO application dates. Data on recent EPO grants is still partial.

Source: OECD patent database, July 2003.

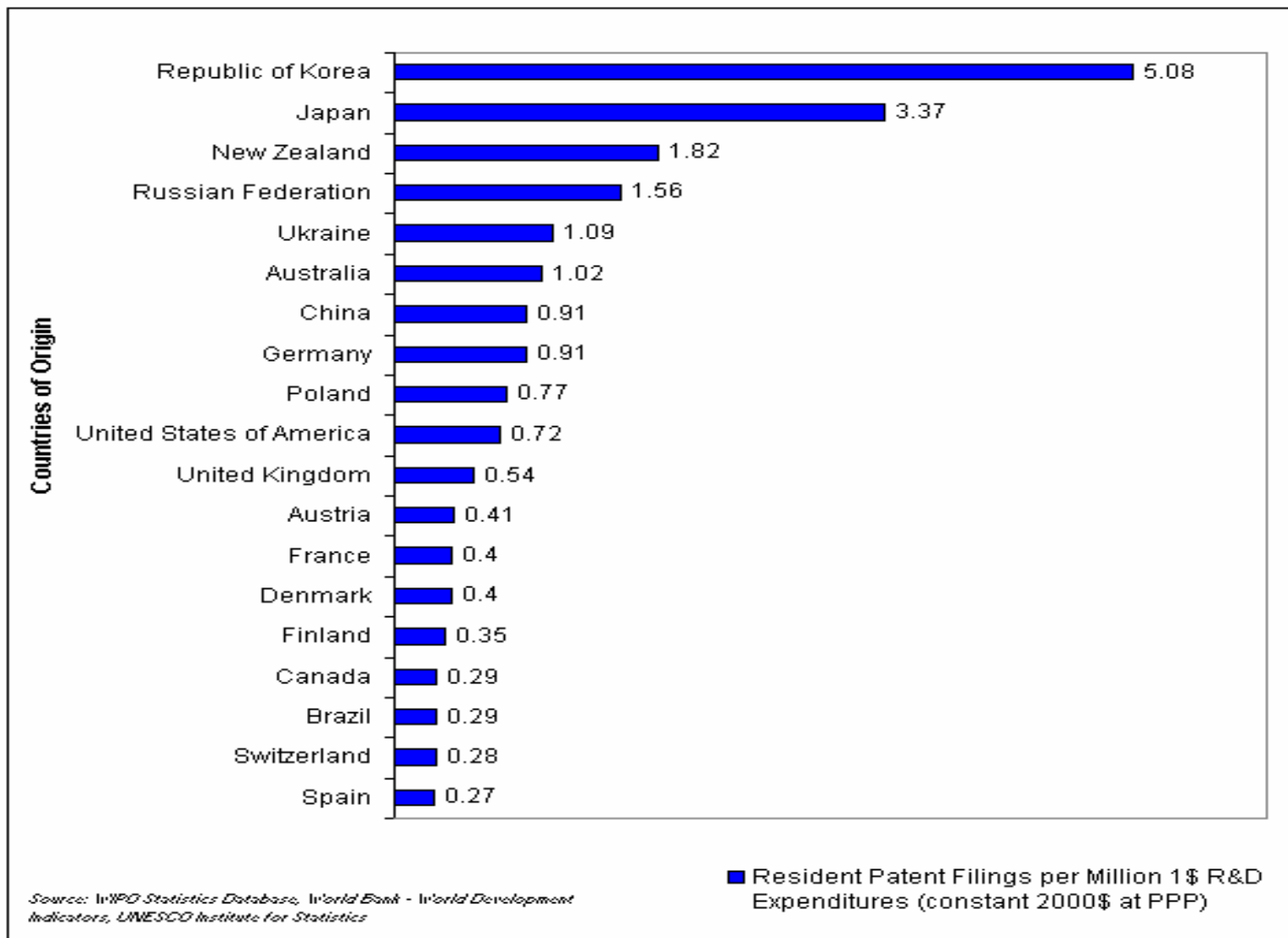
# Number of patents granted by office in 2005



# Number of resident patent applications filed at EPC (European Patent Convention) member States by office



# Number of resident patent applications filed per million dollars of research and development (R&D) expenditures



# Policy options for improvement of the European patent system

- Insertion of the economic mission of the patent system in the European Patent Convention
- Enhancing governance within the European Patent System

# Policy options

- Improving quality aspects in regard to patentability standards and patent grant procedures
- Dealing with emerging technologies
- Increasing access to patented inventions
- Facilitating defensive publications

Thank you!

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