

## State ranks low in patent requests

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Oklahoma ranks No. 40 out of 50 states and the District of Columbia in innovation as measured by international patent applications, according to a study released Thursday by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation.

The ranking is based on the total percentage of international patent applications filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) per 100,000 workers for the years 1998 and 2006.

Concluded in 1970, the PCT gives inventors a means to safeguard their intellectual property in more than 100 countries with a single application. In 2006, the number of patent applications filed per 100,000 workers in an individual state ranged from 1.3 to 82.1, with an average of 25.1, according to the report.

Delaware, Massachusetts, Minnesota, California and Connecticut top the list of states that are leaders in innovation as measured by international patent applications, according to the study.

The five states that have lagged the most in filing international patent applications are South Dakota, Alaska, Arkansas, Hawaii and Mississippi.

Delaware had the highest number of patents per worker in 2006, with 82.1 PCT applications per 100,000 workers.

In contrast, Oklahoma had 10.0 PCT applications per 100,000 workers last year. The state's 2006 ranking was down from 1998, when it was No. 38.

Among the study's other findings, universities and research institutions were responsible for 8.9 percent of all PCT applications in 1998, compared with 7.8 percent in 2006.

While the U.S. share of PCT applications remains greater than that of any other country, overall its share has decreased from 37.4 percent to 34.1 percent in the last four years as other countries have experienced more substantial growth, the report says.

The full report can be viewed at [www.tulsaworld.com/kauffman](http://www.tulsaworld.com/kauffman).

The Kauffman Foundation of Kansas City is a private, nonpartisan entity that works with partners to advance entrepreneurship and improve the education of children.