

PATENTS

U.S. ECONOMIC GROWTH

Patent Law and Economic Growth

- The First U.S. Patent Law was signed in 1790.
- Within 13 years, America had more inventions patented than Britain, even though Britain's population was *more than twice that of the U.S.*
- By 1870, the populations of the above countries were about equal, however, the U.S. was patenting over five times the number of inventions.

Patenting Spikes

Patenting Spikes have correlated with major industrial breakthroughs:

- Surge in 1880s corresponded with advances with the emerging railroad, telegraph and telephone
- 1902 – 1906, rapid early growth period for automobile and aircraft industries
- Mid-80's saw a surge due to the personal computer and emergence of high-tech industries