

# Research on the MacroEconomic Effects of Patents

<http://swpat.ffii.org/archive/mirror/impact.en.html>

Workgroup  
swpatag@ffii.org

2002-09-24

Since Fritz Machlups report to the US congress of 1958, a considerable number of studies about the economic effects of the patent system has accumulated. Some studies deal with certain types of innovation (sequential, complex systems) or with special areas such as semiconductors, genetics or computing rules (algorithms, mathematics). None seems to claim that the patent system has a positive effect on innovation in these fields. Most find strong indications for negative effects. Some governmental studies (e.g. by intellectual property institutes and the like) combine such negative findings with a recommendation to legalise software patents.

## Contents

...