

## Patent families

	2003	2002	2001	2000
Number of active patent families to date	<b>701</b>	654	590	526
New patent families (first filing)	<b>140</b>	114	107	85

The increase in the number of patents reflects a revised patent strategy, which boosts patenting of processes, formulations and new medical indications. The number of active patent families covers new inventions, less regular pruning – ie weeding out patents of low value – of the patent portfolio. The number of new patent families is a measure of inventive activity in the company's R&D organisation.