KILPATRICK TOWNSEND

3 KEY TAKEAWAYS

Technology-Specific Patent Filing Trends During the Pandemic

How might a pandemic impact biotechnology patent filings as compared to computer-centric patent filings? The answer might surprise you.

1 New US patent application filings on the whole have fallen modestly across the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, the number of new patent filings has fallen by 8% as compared to the fourth quarter of 2019. This is less than some analysts predicted but larger than similar seasonal variations seen over the past few years.

2 The extent to which patent filings dropped in 2020 varied dramatically across industries. New filings in the chemistry and life sciences sectors dropped by about 20%, while filings in various computer-related technology were level or actually increased.

3 While some may have predicted that COVID-centric innovations may have resulted in stable patent filings in the chemical and biological areas, the societal move to working from home likely was not particularly conducive to the wet-lab experiments frequently essential for these fields. Meanwhile, the ease with which computer-related technology workers have been able to transition to remote work may have supported continued innovation in these fields.

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