

Upcoming Business Methods Events
[Past and future Business Methods events](#)

Business Methods

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The Business Methods Practice Area is part of Technology Center 3600 that handles Business Methods applications. In the Business Methods Practice Area, there are three workgroups. The 3620 and the 3680 workgroups examine applications pertaining to incentive programs, coupons; operations research; electronic shopping; health care; point of sale, inventory, accounting; cost/price, reservations, shipping, and transportation; and business processing. The 3690 workgroup examines applications pertaining to finance/banking/insurance.



Highlights



TC 3600 Business Methods Partnership Meeting (BMPM)

Prior partnership meetings

Partnership meetings are held each year to engage stakeholders. These meetings allow Technology Center management and participants to share information about initiatives and best practices.

[Expand all](#) | [Collapse all](#)

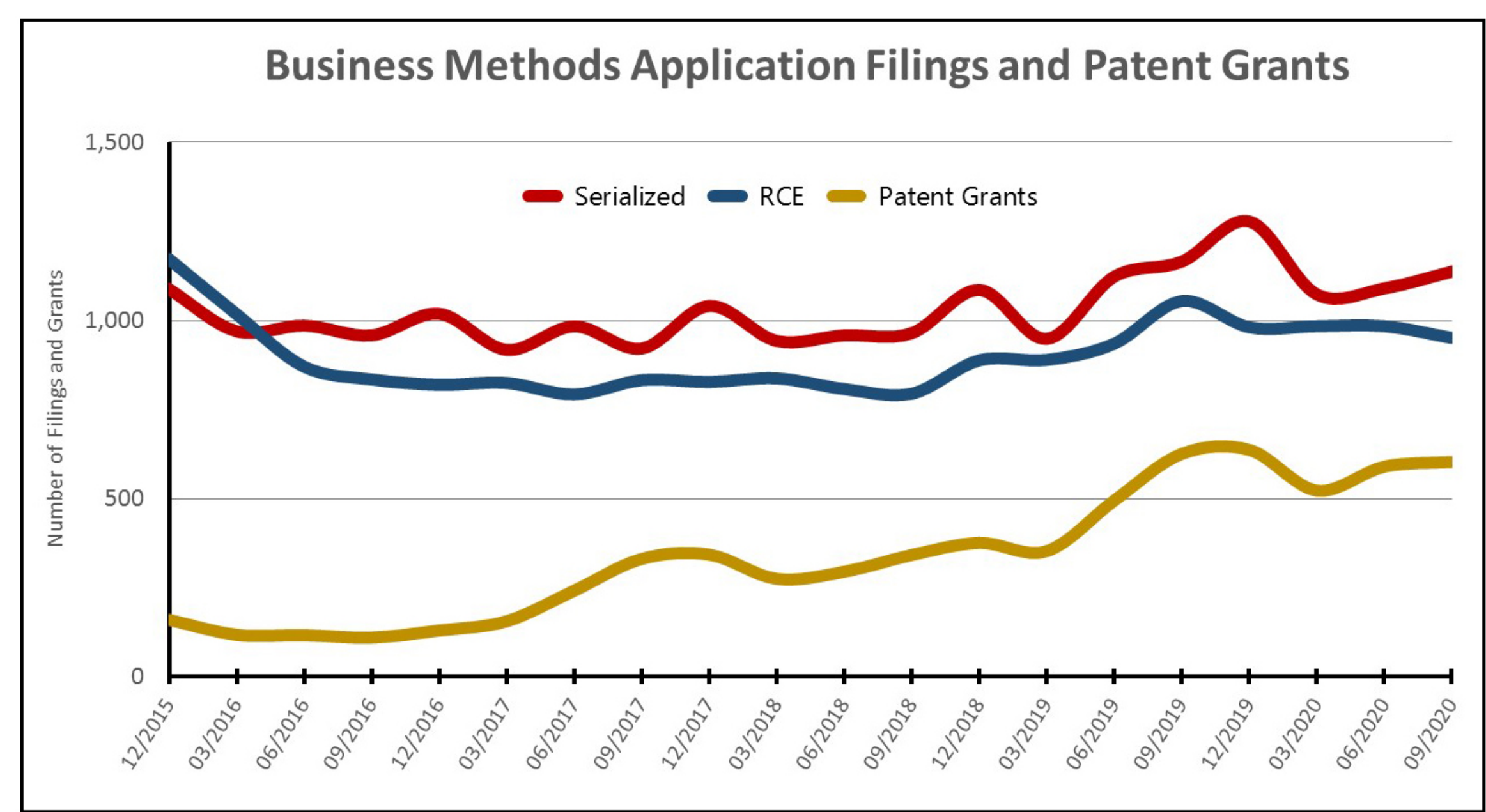
- > [June 2021 presentation materials](#)
- > [April 2019 presentation materials](#)
- > [March 2018 presentation materials](#)
- > [September 2017 presentation materials](#)

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Statistics

This section highlights charts and statistics of the Business Methods Practice Area.

[Text Version of Business Methods Application Filings and Patent Grants](#)



The above diagram shows the trend of 3 month average, filings and patent grants for the 5 years 2015 through 2020. It shows the trends for the serialized and RCE filings along with the patents granted during the same period.

Statistics published from prior years

- > [Business Methods Allowance Rate 2008-2019 \(published 2019\)](#)
- > [Filing Trends in Business Methods 1997-2017 \(published 2018\)](#)
- > [RCE Filings and Inventory 2011-2017 \(published 2018\)](#)
- > [Business Methods Allowance Rate 2008-2017 \(published 2017\)](#)

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Guidance and training materials

Below are links to some of the training materials and guidance documents that may be of particular interest to applicants and practitioners in the Business Methods practice area.

35 U.S.C § 101

- [Examination guidance and memoranda](#)
- [Training materials on subject matter eligibility](#)

35 U.S.C § 103

- [Examination guidelines and training materials in view of KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.](#)
- [Developments in the Obviousness Inquiry after KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.](#)

Other examination guidance and training materials

- [Best Practices in Examination](#)
- [35 U.S.C § 112 \(a\), \(b\), and \(f\)](#)
- [Claim Interpretation](#)
- [America Invents Act](#)
- [Patent Trial and Appeal Board](#)
- [Practice Tips for Writing Effective Appeal Briefs](#)

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Outreach opportunities and presentations

USPTO outreach opportunities bring together inventors and examiners to promote a deeper understanding of technology and the examining process. Find out more about how you can participate in the patent examining process.

- [Business Methods Partnership Meetings Speaker Interest Form](#) – Partnering with our external stakeholders to establish a dialogue about mutual topics of interest.
- [Patent Examiner Technical Training \(PETTP\) Program](#) – Opportunities for experts from industry and academia to participate as guest lecturers and provide technical training and expertise to Patent Examiners regarding the state of the art.
- [Site Experience Education Program \(SEE\) Trips](#) – Examiner field trips to commercial, industrial, and academic institutions within U.S. to enable Patent Examiners to explore the technology where it is being developed.

Past Business Methods outreach presentations designed to provide resources and information to our stakeholders

- [Business Methods Director's Dallas Update \(August 2018\)](#)
- [Helpful Tools and Resources \(December 2017\)](#)
- [Business Methods Overview & Highlights from the 2019 Revised Subject Matter Eligibility Guidance \(May 2019\)](#)

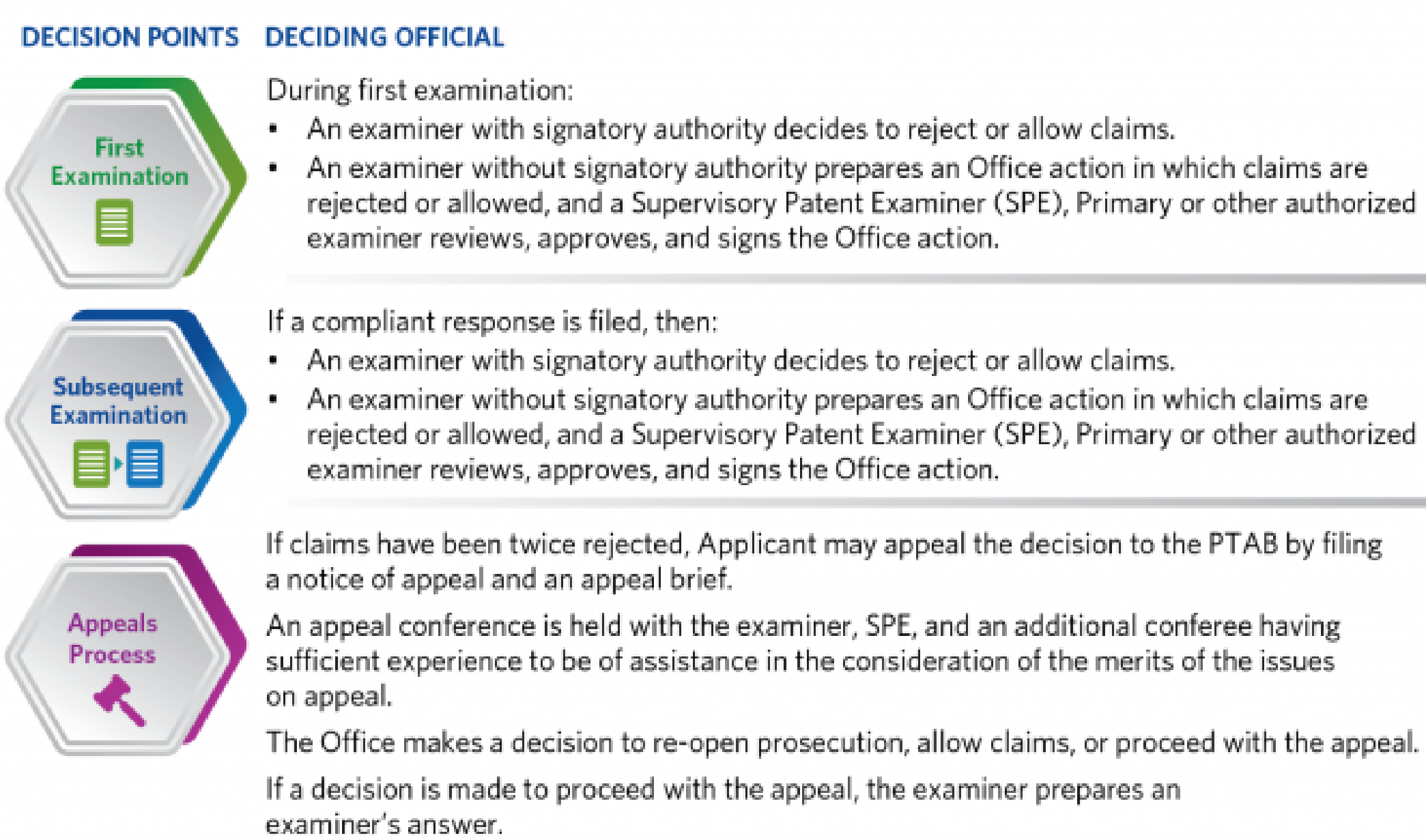
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Examiner decision making process

The final say for the determination of patentability resides with the Primary Examiner (MPEP §1004) with the exception of when a Junior Examiner has partial signatory authority (MPEP §1005). The chart below illustrates decision points and who is the deciding official during the first examination, the subsequent examination, and the appeals process.

[Text Version of the Examiner Decision Making Process](#)

High Level Overview of the Examiner Decision Making Process



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Contact us

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- [Organizational chart](#)

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