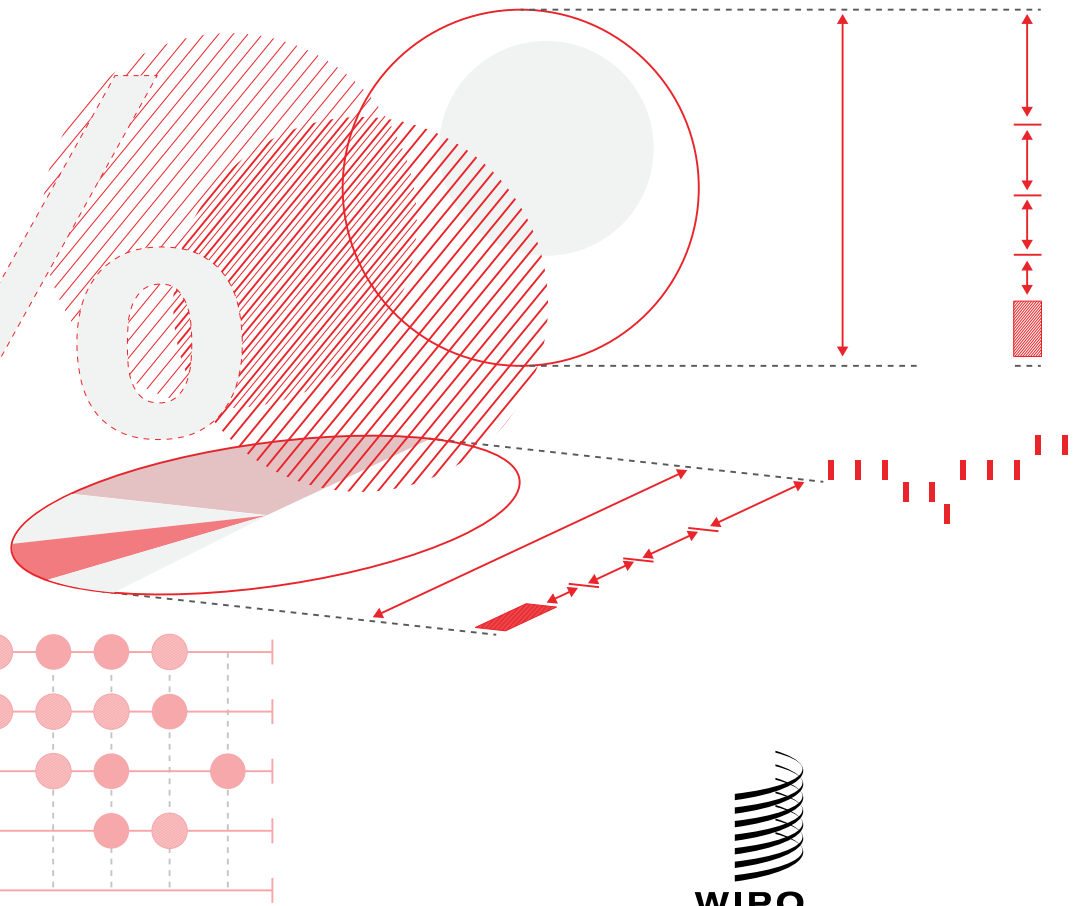


# WIPO IP Facts and Figures 2021





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Organization  
34, chemin des Colombettes  
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Switzerland

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# Introduction

*IP Facts and Figures 2021* from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) provides an overview of intellectual property (IP) activity using the latest available year of complete statistics. The figures presented here are drawn from WIPO's more comprehensive *World Intellectual Property Indicators 2021*.

*IP Facts and Figures* serves as a quick reference guide covering four types of industrial property: patents, utility models, trademarks, and industrial designs. It focuses primarily on application data, the most often used measure of IP activity. Trademark application data refer to class counts – that is, the number of classes specified in applications. This provides the best comparison of international trademark filing activity across IP offices, because some jurisdictions may allow multiple classes of goods and services to be specified in a single application, whereas others require a separate application for each class. For the same reason, industrial design data refer to design counts, that is, the number of designs contained in applications.

Unless otherwise stated, all data refer to activity that occurred in calendar year 2020, and growth means annual growth, that is, the change from 2019 to 2020.

Please note: due to the continual updating of statistics, the data presented in this publication may differ from that previously published, and also from the data available on WIPO's web pages. For a greater in-depth analysis of WIPO and/or national office IP statistics, please visit the following Internet pages:

**IP statistics:** [www.wipo.int/ipstats](http://www.wipo.int/ipstats)

**World Intellectual Property Indicators:** [www.wipo.int/ipstats/en/wipi](http://www.wipo.int/ipstats/en/wipi)

**Contact information:**

Department for Economics and Data Analytics

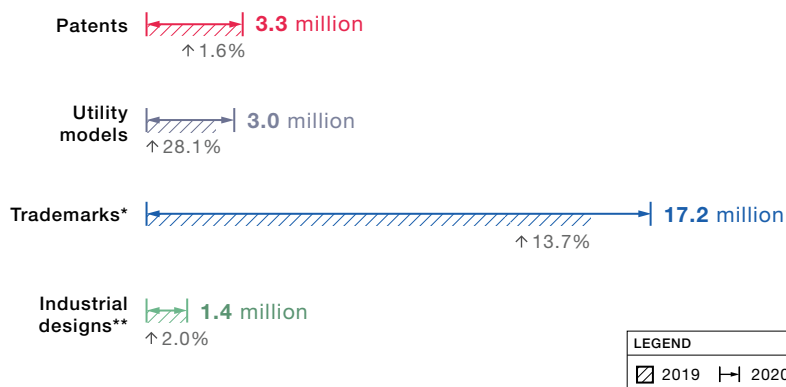
e-mail: [ipstats.mail@wipo.int](mailto:ipstats.mail@wipo.int)



# Global intellectual property applications and active IP rights

## Trademark filing activity boomed in 2020, defying a global economic downturn

### 1. Total applications worldwide, 2020



\* refers to class count – the total number of goods and services classes specified in trademark applications.

\*\* refers to design count – the total number of designs contained in industrial design applications.

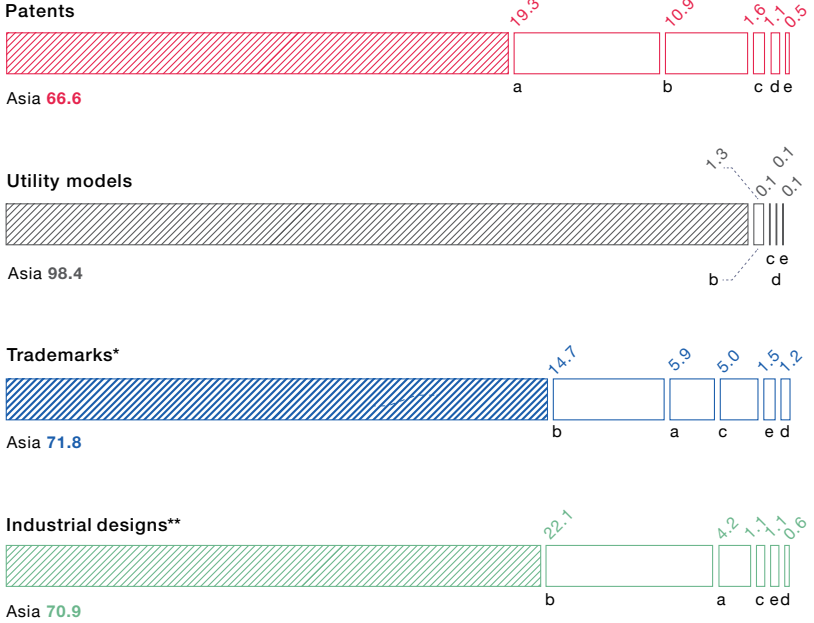
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2021.

Global patent filing bounced back to a 1.6% growth in 2020, while trademark and industrial design filing activity grew by 13.7% and 2%, respectively. In terms of volume, patent filings around the world numbered 3.3 million, trademark filing activity 17.2 million and industrial design filing activity 1.4 million. Applications for utility models – a special form of patent right – grew by 28.1% to reach 3 million applications.



# Offices in Asia accounted for the bulk of IP filing activity

## 2. Percentage shares of IP filing activity by region, 2020



LEGEND	
	Asia
a	North America
b	Europe
c	Latin America and the Caribbean
d	Oceania
e	Africa

\* refers to class count – the total number of goods and services classes specified in trademark applications.

\*\* refers to design count – the total number of designs contained in industrial design applications.

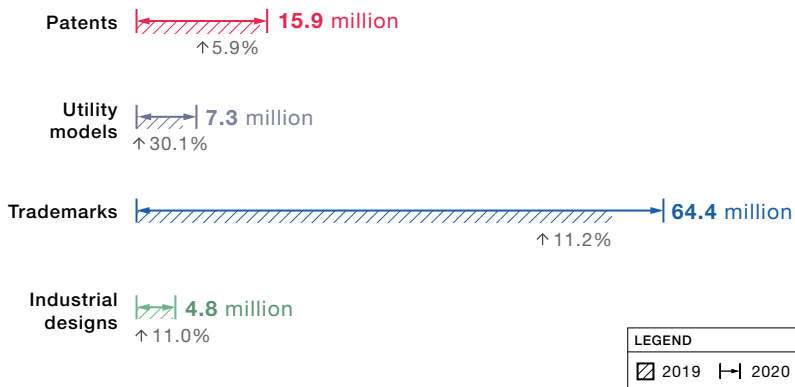
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2021.

Offices located in Asia accounted for around two-thirds or more of total filing activity for patents, trademarks and industrial designs worldwide, plus almost the entirety of utility model filing activity worldwide. Over the past decade, Asia has increased considerably its global share of applications filed for all four of these IP rights.

(Note that North American offices do not offer utility model registration and are therefore not included in the bar for that IP right in the chart opposite.)

## Active trademark registrations worldwide grew by 11.2% in 2020

### 3. IP rights in force, 2020



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2021.

Patents in force worldwide grew by 5.9% to reach around 15.9 million in 2020. The highest numbers of patents in force were recorded in the United States of America (U.S.) (3.3 million), China (3.1 million) and Japan (2 million).

There were an estimated 64.4 million active trademark registrations worldwide in 2020 – up 11.2% on 2019, with 30.2 million in China alone, followed by 2.6 million in the U.S. and 2.4 million in India.

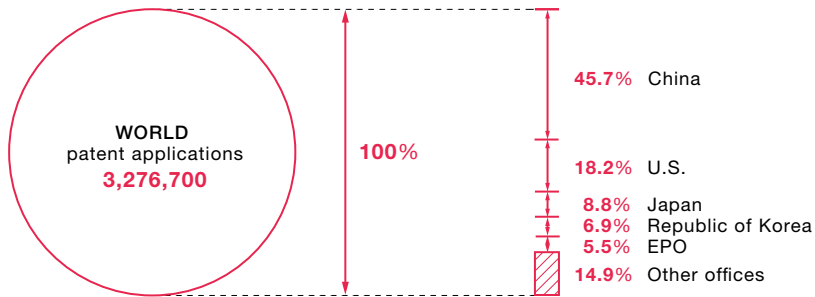
The total number of industrial design registrations in force worldwide grew by 11% in 2020 to reach around 4.8 million. The most registrations in force were in China (2.2 million), the U.S. (371,870) and the Republic of Korea (369,526).



# Patents and utility models

## The top five offices accounted for 85.1% of the world total

4. Percentage shares of total patent applications by the top five offices, 2020



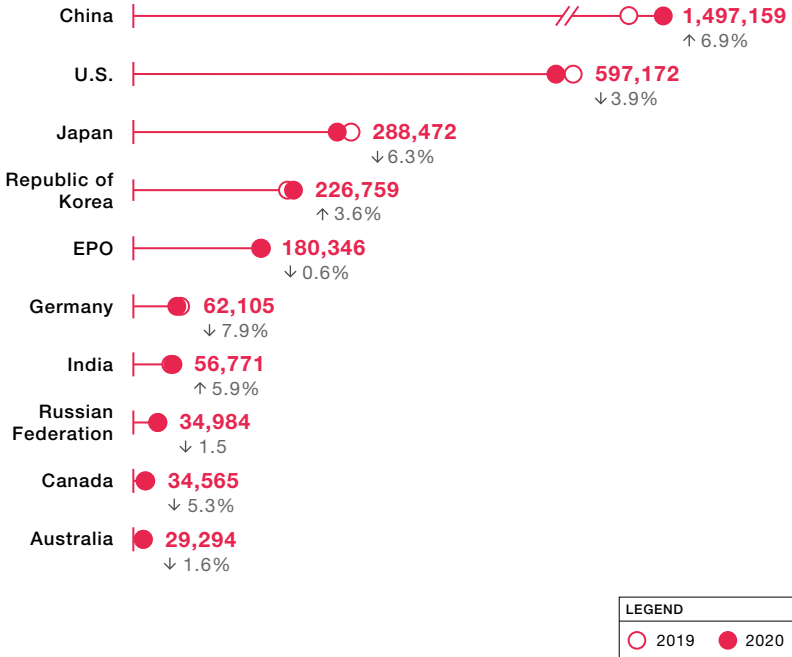
EPO is the European Patent Office.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2021.

The top five offices together accounted for 85.1% of total patent applications in 2020. This is 7.7 percentage points higher than the combined share for the top five in 2010. This is mainly due to a strong growth in applications originating from China, whose share of the world total has more than doubled from 19.6% in 2010 to 45.7% in 2020.

## Following a sharp fall in 2019, China's office rebounded to record a 6.9% growth in filings in 2020

5. Patent applications for the top 10 offices, 2020



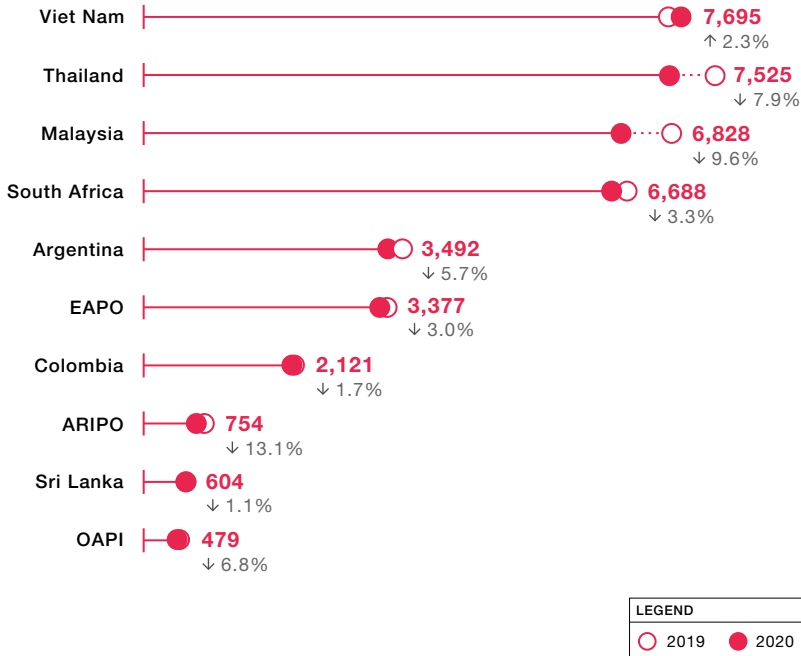
EPO is the European Patent Office.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2021.

In 2020, China's IP office returned to growth, with around 1.5 million patent applications filed for the year. This was 2.5 times more than received by the IP office of the second leading country, the U.S. (597,172). The U.S. was followed by the office of Japan (288,472), the Republic of Korea (226,759) and the European Patent Office (EPO) (180,346). Among the top 10 offices, only three – China (+6.9%), India (+5.9%) and the Republic of Korea (+3.6%) – recorded an increase in patent applications in 2020.

## Viet Nam is the only office among selected low- and middle-income countries where patent applications grew in 2020

### 6. Patent applications for offices of selected low- and middle-income countries, 2020



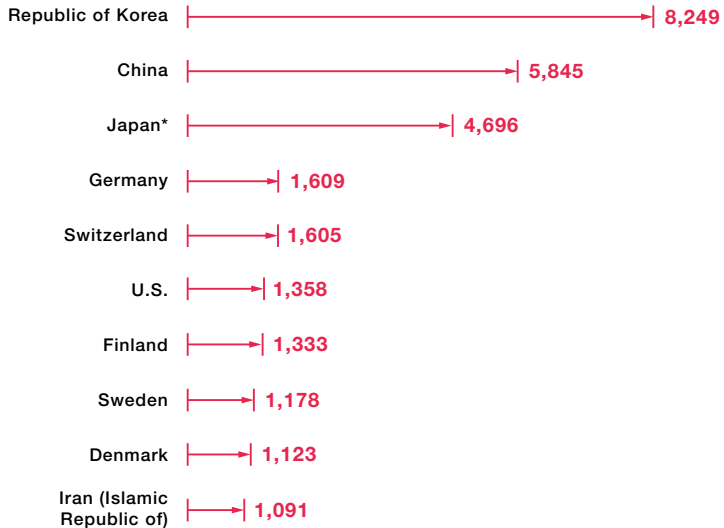
ARIPO is the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization; EAPO is the Eurasian Patent Organization; OAPI is the African Intellectual Property Organization.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2021.

Only Viet Nam (7,695), Thailand (7,525), Malaysia (6,828) and South Africa (6,688) from among offices of selected low- and middle-income countries received more than 6,600 applications in 2020. Except for Viet Nam, all offices selected received fewer applications in 2020 than in 2019. For example, all three regional offices – the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) (–6.8%), the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) (–13.1%) and the Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO) (–3.0%) – recorded a decrease in applications in 2020. For the number of patent applications received by all other IP offices (where available), see the statistical table starting on page 41.

## The Republic of Korea continued to file the greatest number of resident applications relative to GDP in 2020

### 7. Resident patent applications relative to GDP for the top 10 origins, 2020



GDP data are in 2017 US purchasing power parity (PPP) dollars. The top 10 origins were included if they had a GDP greater than USD 25 billion PPP and more than 100 resident patent applications.

\* 2019 data.

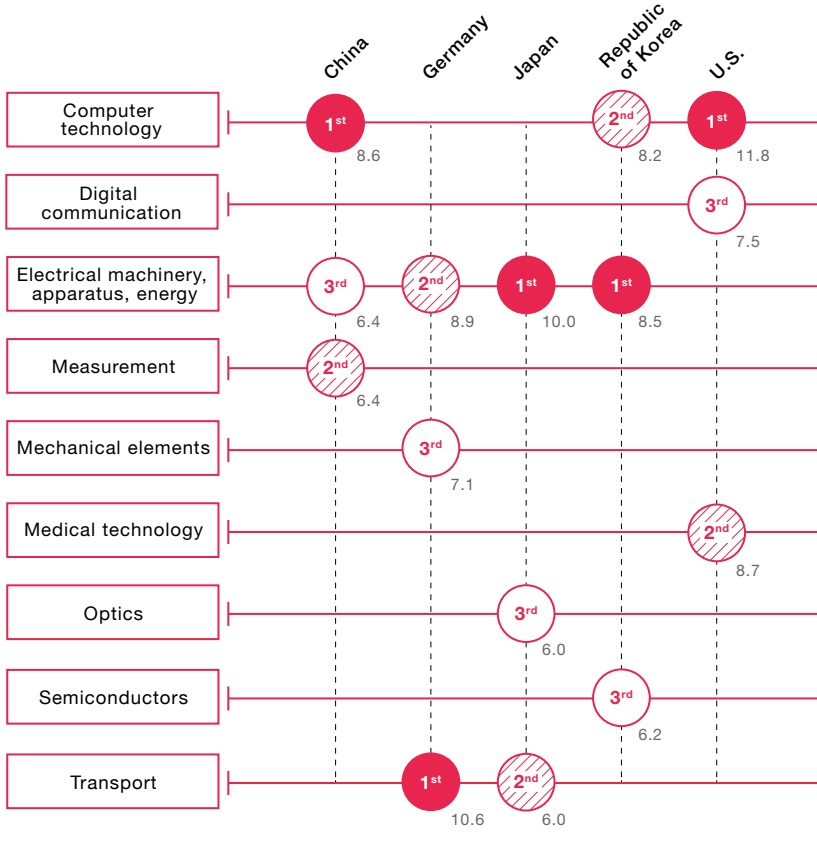
Sources: WIPO Statistics Database and World Bank, September 2020.

Differences in volume of patent activity reflect both the size of an economy and its level of development. By weighing the number of applications per country relative to GDP, it is possible to compare the filing activity of countries with economies of very different sizes to arrive at an alternative measure.

With 8,249 resident patent applications per unit of USD 100 billion GDP, the Republic of Korea continued to be the country filing the most patent applications in 2020. China (5,845) recorded the second highest ratio, followed by Japan (4,696), Germany (1,609) and Switzerland (1,605). These five have been the top ranking countries since 2018.

## Which countries specialize in which technologies?

### 8. The top three technology fields for each of the top five origins, 2017–2019



Numbers in gray show percentage share.

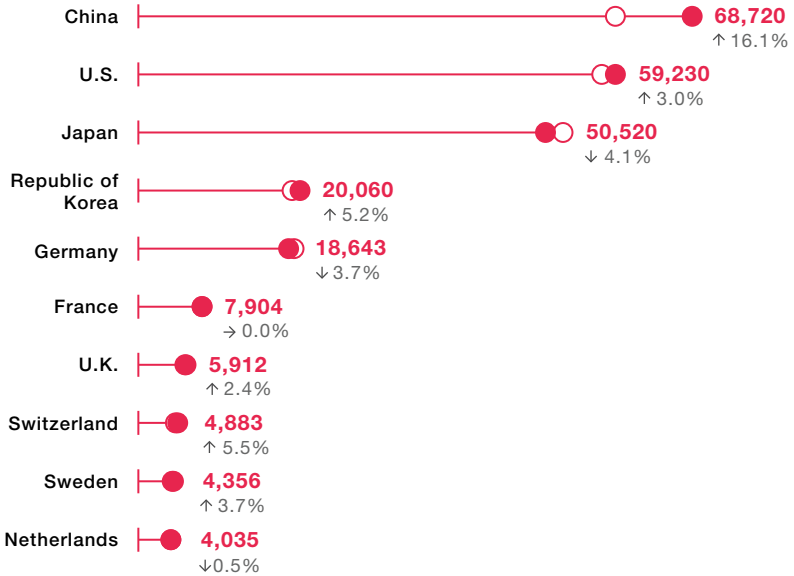
Sources: WIPO Statistics Database and EPO PATSTAT database, September 2021.

Analyzing patents by technology shows a country's areas of strength or specialization. For example, applicants from China (8.6% of all published applications) and the U.S. (11.8%) filed most heavily in computer technology, applicants from Japan (10%) and the Republic of Korea (8.5%) in electrical machinery, and those from Germany (10.6%) in transport.



## China extended its lead in 2020 as the biggest user of WIPO's PCT System

### 9. PCT international applications for the top 10 origins, 2020



LEGEND	
○	2019
●	2020

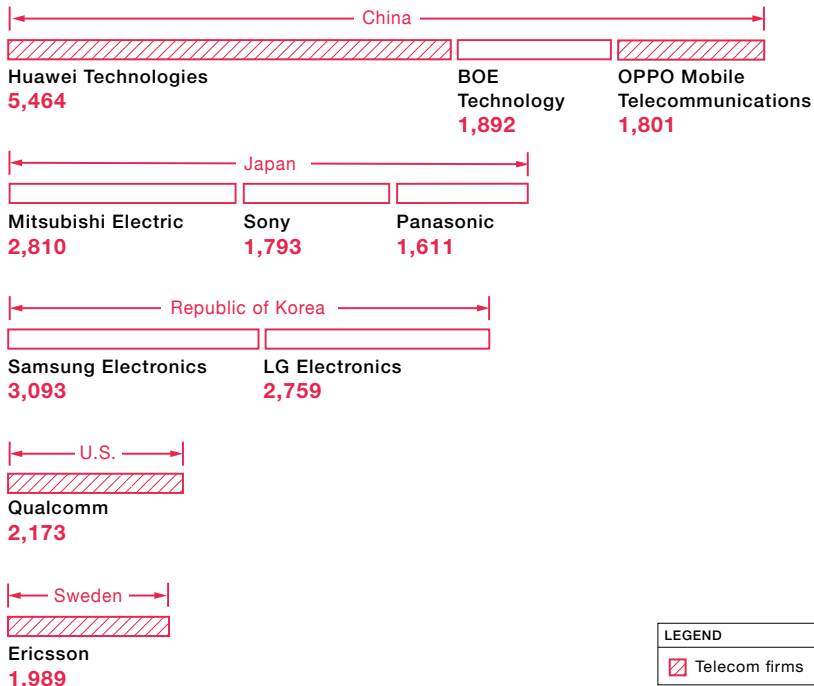
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2021.

The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) System simplifies the process of multiple national patent filings by reducing the requirement to file a separate application in each jurisdiction where protection is sought.

International patent applications filed via WIPO's PCT System – one of the most widely used metrics for measuring innovation activity – reached 275,900 applications in 2020, representing a 4% increase on 2019. Applicants residing in China (68,720 applications) extended that country's lead in 2020 as the biggest user of WIPO's PCT System, followed by the U.S. (59,230), Japan (50,520), the Republic of Korea (20,060) and Germany (18,643).

## China-based telecoms giant Huawei Technologies, with 5,464 published PCT applications, was the top filer in 2020

10. Top 10 PCT applicants, 2020

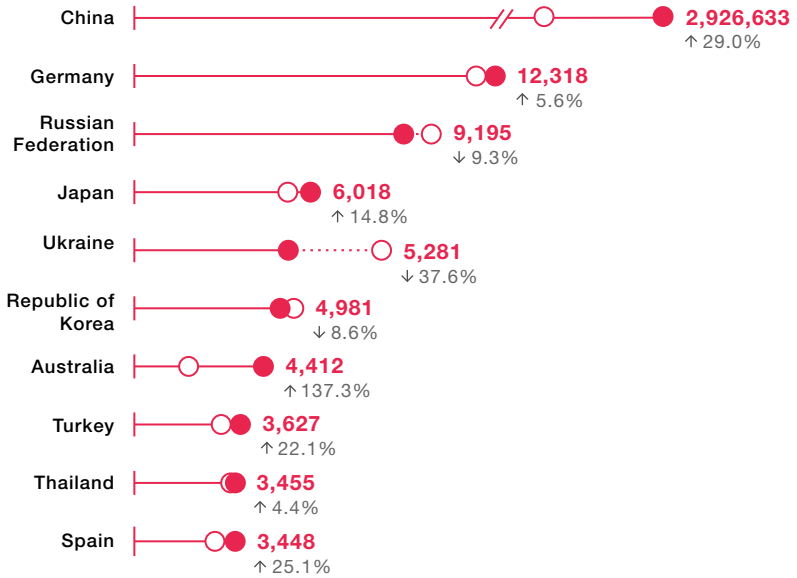


Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2021.

For the fourth consecutive year, China-based telecoms giant Huawei Technologies, with 5,464 published PCT applications, was the top filer in 2020. It was followed by Samsung Electronics of the Republic of Korea (3,093), Mitsubishi Electric Corp. of Japan (2,810), LG Electronics Inc. of the Republic of Korea (2,759) and Qualcomm Inc. of the U.S. (2,173). Among the top 10 filers, LG Electronics recorded the fastest growth (+67.6%) in published applications in 2020 and moved up from 10<sup>th</sup> position in 2019 to rank 4<sup>th</sup> in 2020.

## Australia's IP office recorded 137.3% growth in utility model applications in 2020

11. Utility model applications for the top 10 offices, 2020



LEGEND	
○	2019
●	2020

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2021.

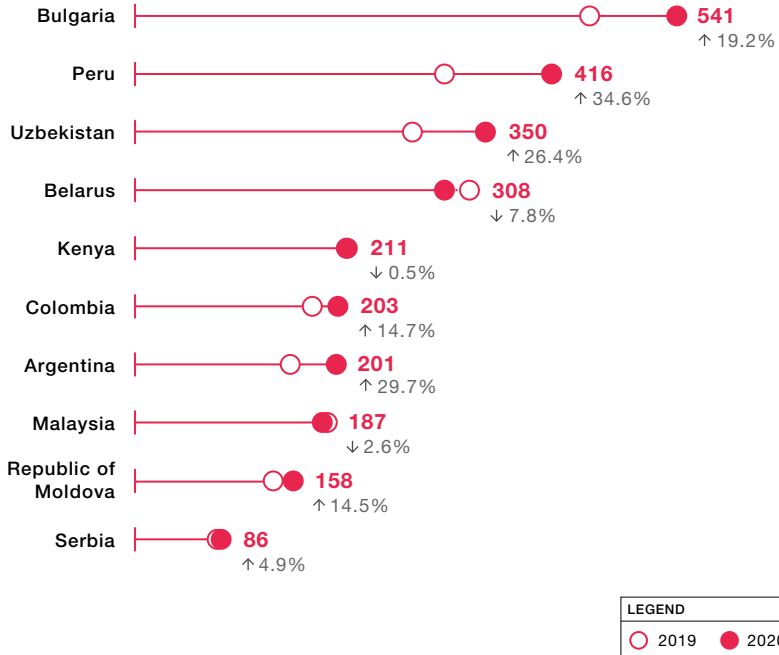
A utility model is a special form of patent right. It has less stringent requirements than a patent, but gives a shorter term of protection. Utility models are not available in all jurisdictions.

The IP office of China received more than 2.9 million applications in 2020, followed by Germany (12,318), the Russian Federation (9,195), Japan (6,018) and Ukraine (5,281).

Among the top 10 offices, the IP office of Australia received 137.3% more applications in 2020 compared to a year earlier. This sharp rise in applications could be explained by the Australian Government's planned phasing out of innovation (i.e., utility model) patents causing applicants to hurry and submit applications before new legislation comes into force. The IP offices of China (+29%), Japan (+14.8%), Spain (+25.1%) and Turkey (+22.1%) also recorded a strong growth in 2020.

## Utility model filings grew strongly in middle-income countries Argentina, Peru and Uzbekistan

### 12. Utility model applications for offices of selected middle-income countries, 2020



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2021.

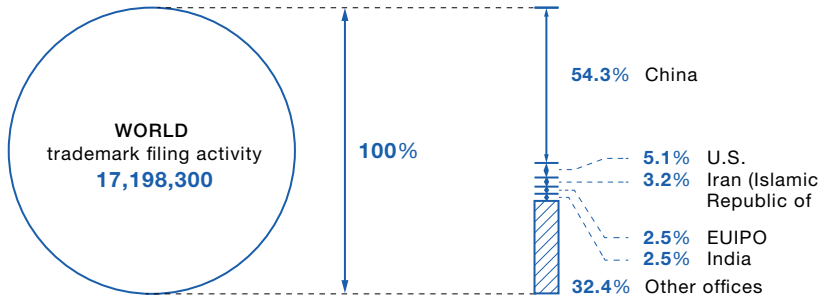
The chart above shows how many utility model applications were received by the IP offices of selected middle-income countries in 2020. Applications filed in Peru (+34.6%) grew strongly. Argentina (+29.7%) and Uzbekistan (+26.4%) also recorded similarly positive growth in 2020. For the number of utility model applications received by all other IP offices (where available), see the statistical table starting on page 41.



# Trademarks

**Around 68% of trademark filing worldwide was concentrated at just five offices in 2020, up from the 39% held by the top five offices in 2010.**

13. Percentage shares of total trademark filing activity by the top five offices, 2020



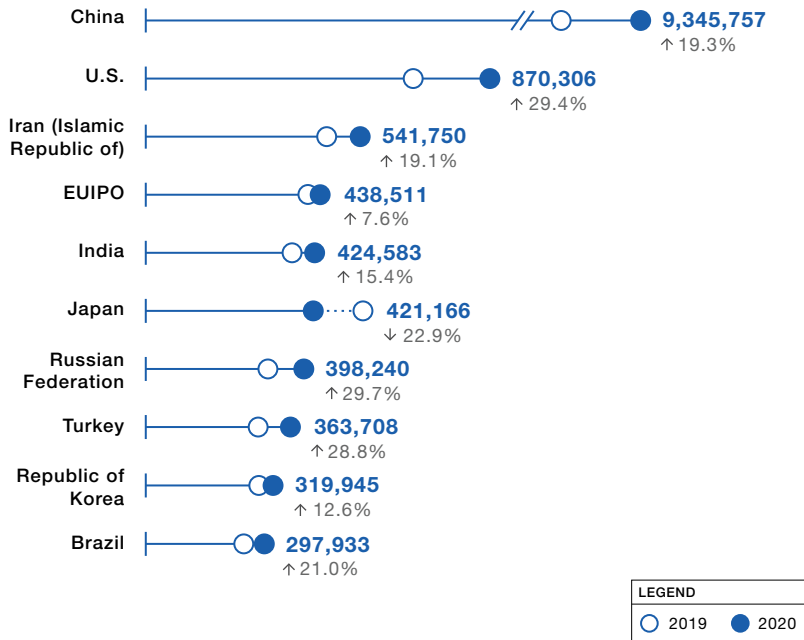
EUIPO is the European Union Intellectual Property Office.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2021.

The top five offices accounted for around 68% of global trademark filing activity in 2020 as measured by class counts. The office of China (54.3%) was responsible for more than half of all the world's trademark filing activity, the majority of which originated from Chinese residents. The four other offices among the top five each accounted for 5% or less of the total.

## Eight of the top 10 offices recorded double-digit growth in trademark filing activity in 2020

### 14. Application class counts for the top 10 offices, 2020



EUIPO is the European Union Intellectual Property Office.

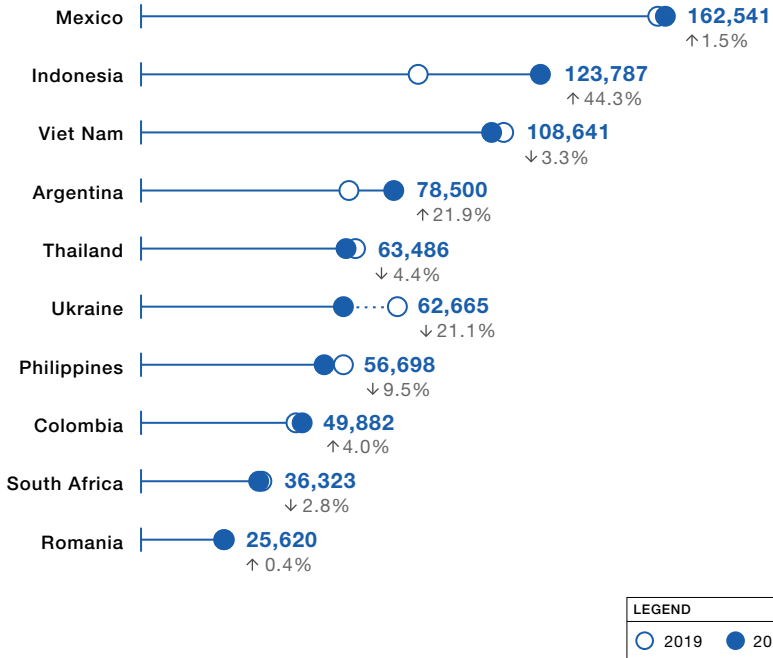
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2021.

Trademark filing activity was considerably higher at eight of the top 10 offices in 2020 than in 2019. Growth exceeded 20% at four, namely, Brazil (+21%), the Russian Federation (+29.7%), Turkey (+28.8%) and the U.S. (+29.4%). China's class count of 9.3 million was followed by 870,306 at the office of the U.S. These have been the top two offices since the early 2000s; however, driven by resident filing activity, China's class count has grown from about twice that of the U.S. in 2006 to almost 11 times as much in 2020. These two top-ranked offices were followed by those of the Islamic Republic of Iran (541,750), the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) (438,511) and India (424,583), which overtook Japan to rank 5<sup>th</sup> in 2020.



## Among offices of selected middle-income countries, Mexico, Indonesia and Viet Nam saw comparatively high volumes of trademark filing in 2020

15. Application class counts for offices of selected middle-income countries, 2020



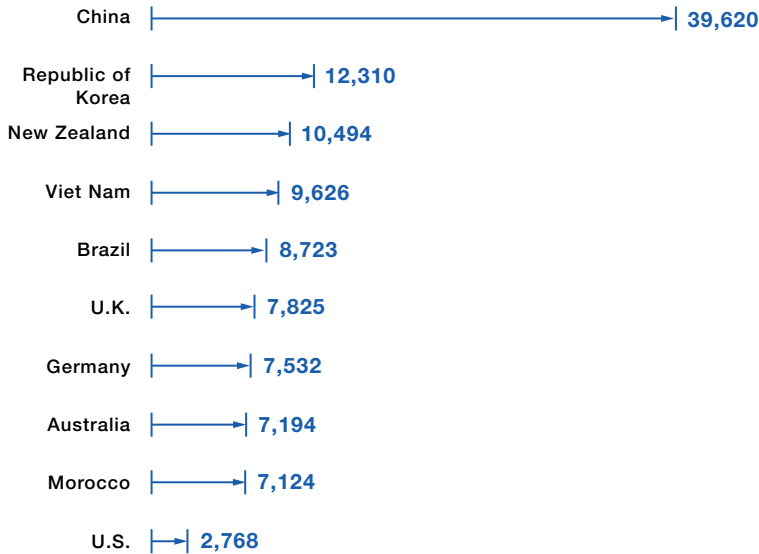
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2021.

Mexico (162,541), Indonesia (123,787) and Viet Nam (108,641) had a considerably higher level of trademark filing activity – as measured in class counts – than many other middle-income countries and feature among the top 20 offices globally in terms of trademark filing.

The chart above shows the total number of classes specified in trademark applications received by the IP offices of selected middle-income countries in 2020. For the trademark application class counts for all other IP offices (where available), see the statistical table starting on page 41.

## China and the Republic of Korea performed strongly in application class count per unit of GDP in 2020

16. Resident trademark application class count relative to GDP for selected origins, 2020



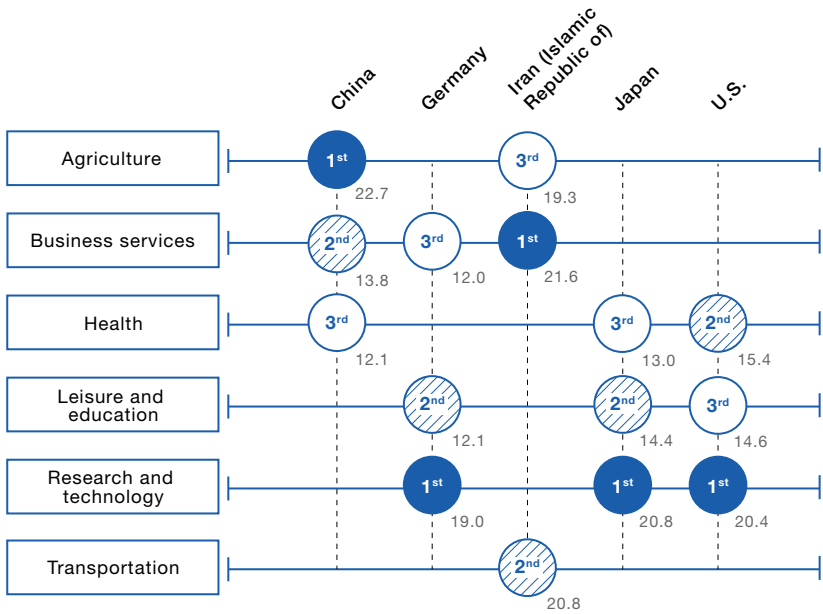
GDP data are in 2017 US purchasing power parity (PPP) dollars.

Sources: WIPO Statistics Database and World Bank, September 2021.

Calculating application class count per unit of USD 100 billion GDP allows a comparison to be made between trademark filing activity in countries with different filing systems (single-class versus multi-class) and economies of varying sizes. On this measure, smaller countries, such as Australia, Morocco and New Zealand, rank higher than some larger ones with higher class counts in absolute terms, for example, the U.S.

## What industries attracted the most trademark filing by applicants from the top origins?

17. The top three industry sectors for each of the top five origins, 2020



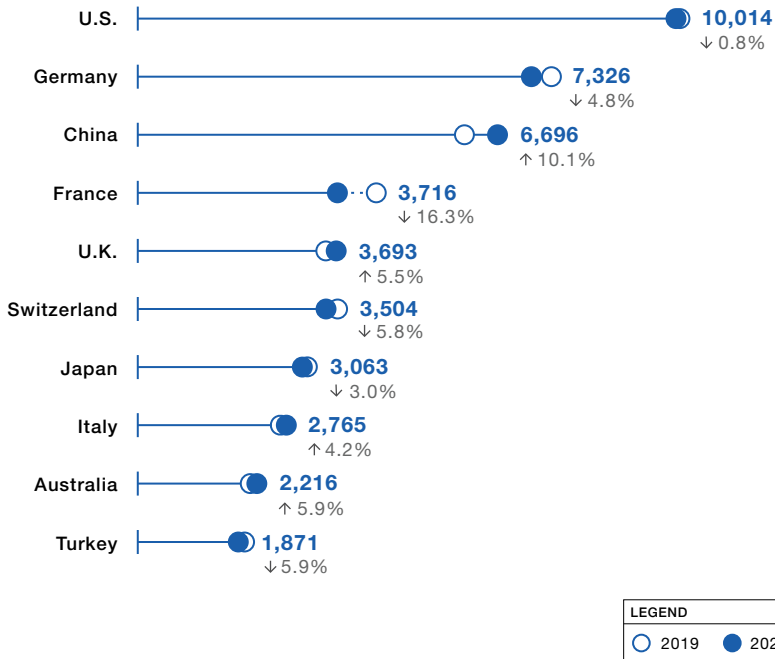
Numbers in gray show percentage share.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2021.

Using the Nice Classification, trademark applications can be attributed to 10 industry sectors. The chart above shows the top three industry sectors for each of the five origins with the highest trademark filing activity in 2020. Research and technology and leisure and education feature among the three sectors to attract the largest volumes of trademark applications originating from Germany, Japan and the U.S. Business services was among the top three sectors for applicants from Germany, China and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Health was a top sector for applicants based in China, Japan and the U.S. Agriculture was a top three sector for China and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Transportation was a top sector for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

## The U.S., Germany and China continue as top users of the Madrid System

18. Madrid international applications for the top 10 origins, 2020



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2021.

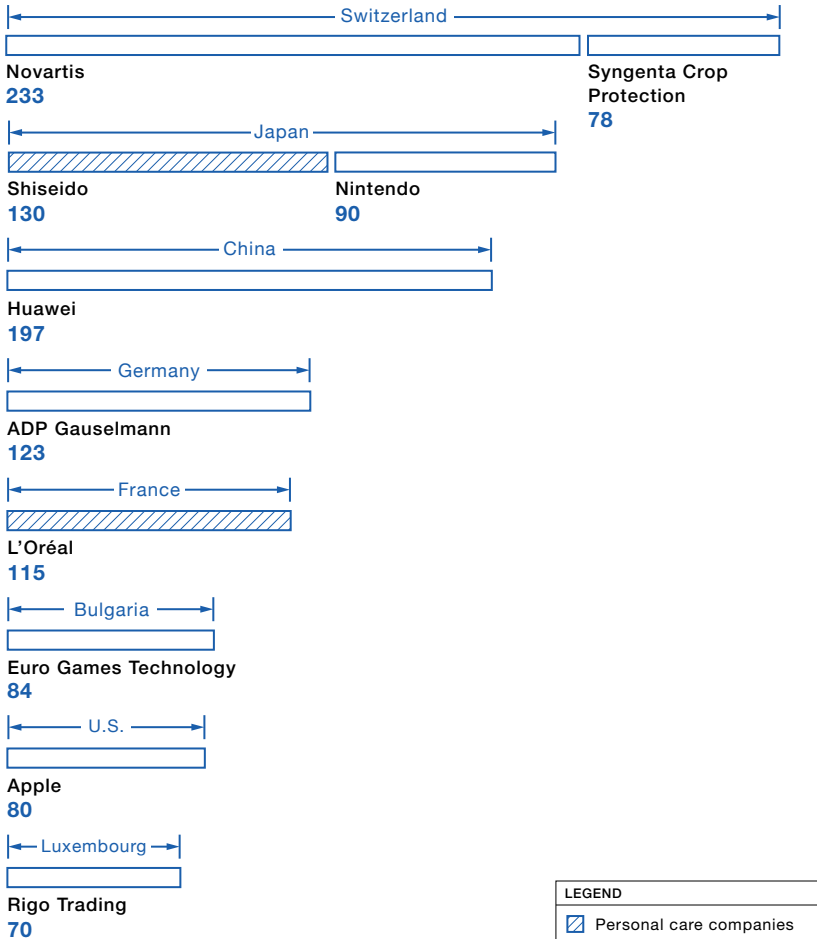
The WIPO-administered Madrid System makes it possible for a trademark holder to apply for trademark registration in multiple countries by filing a single international application via a national or regional IP office.

International trademark applications filed via the WIPO-administered Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks decreased by 0.5% to 63,837 in 2020, representing the first decline in over a decade.

Despite on-year declines, applicants based in the U.S. (10,014) and Germany (7,326) continued to file the highest numbers of Madrid applications in 2020. They were followed by applicants located in China (6,696), France (3,716) and the United Kingdom (U.K.) (3,693). From among the top 10 origins, China (+10.1%) is the only one to have recorded double-digit growth in 2020, although the U.K. (+5.5%) and Italy (+4.2%) also reported notable growth rates. In contrast, Madrid applications from Germany (−4.8%), France (−16.3%), Switzerland (−5.8%) and Turkey (−5.9%) underwent the biggest on-year decreases among the top 10 origins.

## Swiss pharmaceutical company Novartis was the top Madrid applicant in 2020

19. Top 10 Madrid applicants, 2020



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2021.

WIPO received 104 more applications from Novartis in 2020 than it did in 2019, elevating the company from 3<sup>rd</sup> position to top spot. Novartis was followed by Huawei Technologies of China (197), Shiseido Company of Japan (130), which produces personal care products, gaming company ADP Gauselmann of Germany (123) and French personal care company L'Oréal (115). L'Oréal – the top filer in 2019 – dropped to 5<sup>th</sup> position, filing 78 fewer applications in 2020.

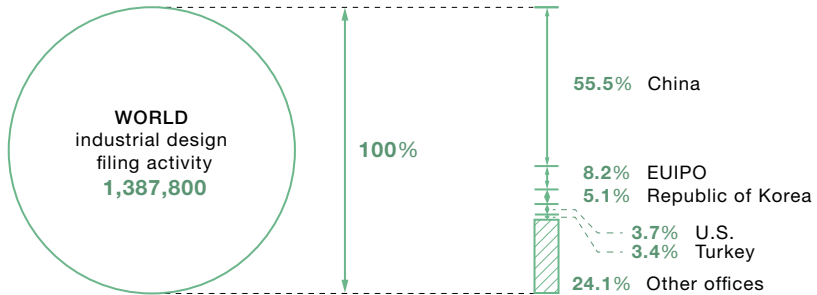




# Industrial designs

## The office of China was responsible for more than half of all industrial design filing activity worldwide

20. Percentage shares of total design filing activity by the top five offices, 2020



EUIPO is the European Union Intellectual Property Office.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2021.

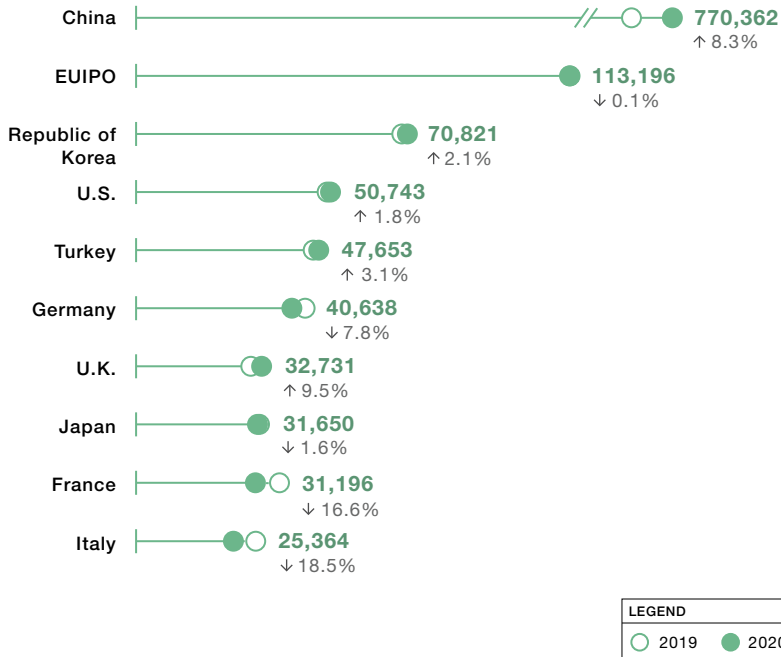
WIPO uses the application design count to measure filing activity for industrial designs; that is to say, it does not count just the number of applications, but also the number of designs in applications. Design count is a better way of comparing filing activity across IP offices, because at some offices users are able to register multiple designs through a single application.

In 2020, about 1.1 million industrial design applications were filed worldwide. The number of designs contained in applications increased by 2% to 1.4 million designs.

Three quarters (almost 76%) of industrial design filing activity globally – as measured by design count – occurred at the top five offices in 2020, with the office of China alone receiving 55.5% the world total. The EUIPO (8.2%) and the Republic of Korea (5.1%) received the second and third largest shares of total filing activity, respectively.

## Among top 10 offices, China and the U.K. experienced the sharpest growth in filings

21. Application design counts for the top 10 offices, 2020



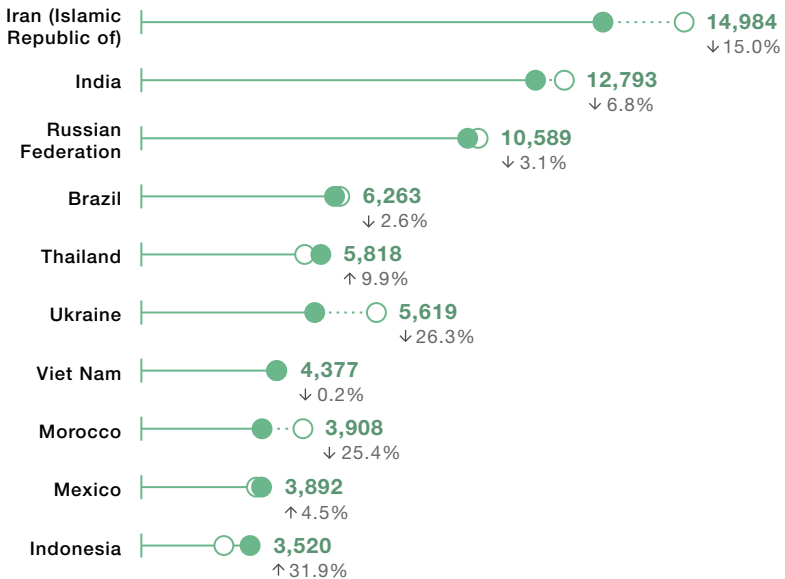
EUIPO is the European Union Intellectual Property Office.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2021.

Top 10 offices the U.K. (+9.5%) and China (+8.3%) recorded a strong annual growth in the number of designs in applications received in 2020, whereas Italy (-18.5%) and France (-16.6%) saw a sharp on-year decline.

## Among selected offices of middle-income countries, Indonesia saw a sharp rise in filings

### 22. Application design counts for offices of selected middle-income countries, 2020



LEGEND	
○	2019
●	2020

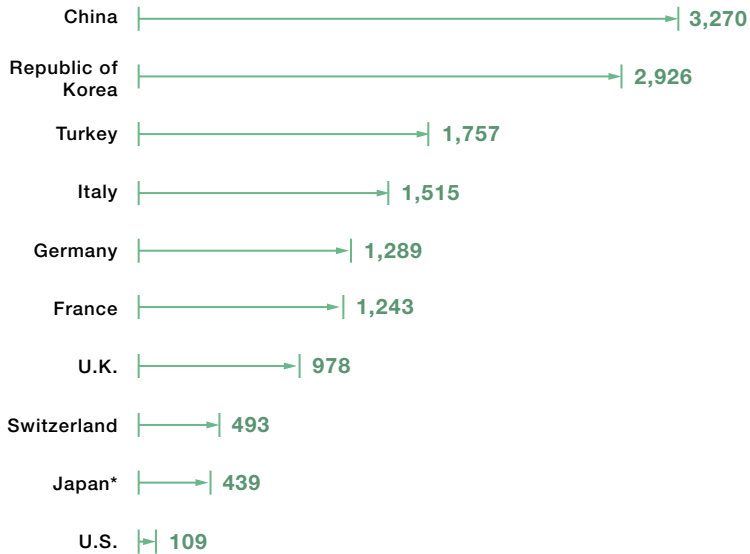
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2021.

The IP offices of the Islamic Republic of Iran (14,984), India (12,793) and the Russian Federation (10,589) had considerably greater filing activity than had the offices of most other middle-income countries in 2020. Brazil (6,263), Thailand (5,818) and Ukraine (5,619) also ranked among the top 20 offices in the world in terms of design filing activity.

The chart above shows the total number of designs contained in applications filed at the IP offices of selected middle-income countries in 2020. For the application design counts for all other IP offices (where available), see the statistical table starting on page 41.

## China leads the world in designs in applications per unit of GDP

### 23. Resident application design count relative to GDP for top origins, 2020



GDP data are in 2017 US purchasing power parity (PPP) dollars.

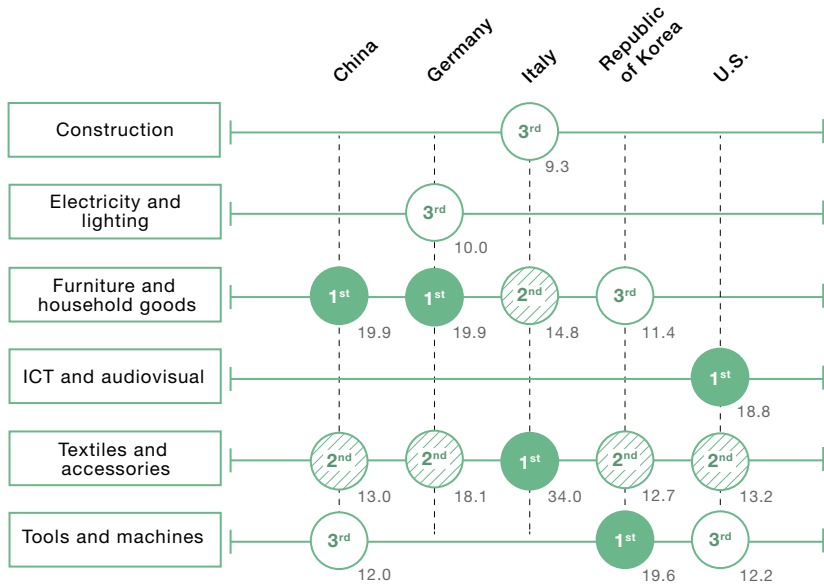
\* 2019 data.

Sources: WIPO Statistics Database and World Bank, September 2021.

Calculating design counts per unit of USD 100 billion GDP enables a comparison to be made between the industrial design filing activity of residents of countries whose filing systems are different (single-design versus multi-design) and whose economies vary in size. On this measure, China and the Republic of Korea performed strongly. Among the top 10 origins, they had the highest resident design count per unit of GDP in 2020, followed by Turkey, Italy and Germany.

## Which industries attracted the most design filing at selected large origins?

24. The top three industry sectors for each of the selected origins, 2020



Numbers in gray show percentage share.

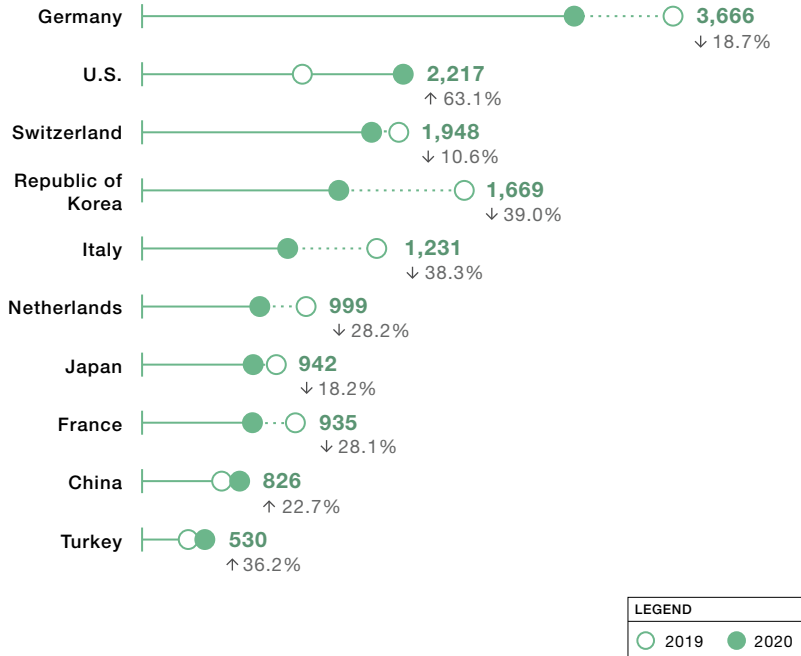
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2021.

Grouping the 32 Locarno classes into 12 industry sectors allows the areas of strength or specialization of different countries to be analyzed. Textiles and accessories featured as one of the top three sectors for designs counts for all five top origins in 2020. The furniture and household goods sector was a top three sector for four of the five top origins.

Tools and machines was a top three sector for applicants from China, the Republic of Korea and the U.S. Electricity and lighting was one of the top three sectors for applicants located in Germany, while construction ranked among the top three sectors for applicants in Italy. Information and communications technology (ICT) and audiovisual was a top three sector for applicants based in the U.S.

## Designs in Hague applications fell by nearly 15% in 2020, largely due to declines by a majority of top origins

### 25. Designs in Hague international applications for the top 10 origins, 2020



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2021.

The Hague System makes it possible for an applicant to obtain protection for their industrial designs in multiple jurisdictions by filing a single application with the International Bureau of WIPO. This simplifies the process of multinational registration by eliminating the requirement to file a separate application in each jurisdiction in which protection is sought. Hague applicants can protect up to 100 industrial designs for products belonging to one and the same class through a single application.

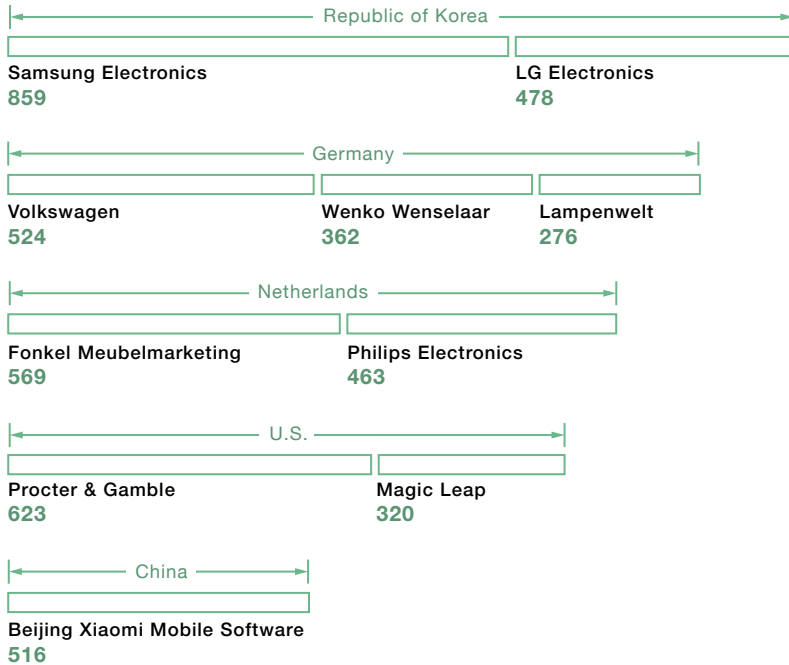
Hague international applications dropped by 1.6% in 2020, down to 5,799 applications. Moreover, the number of designs contained in applications fell by 14.7%, down to 18,636 designs – a first fall since 2006.

With 703 international applications filed containing 3,666 designs, Germany remained the biggest user of the Hague System in 2020. The U.S. (2,217) moved up from 6<sup>th</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> position, while Switzerland (1,948) remained in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The Republic of Korea and Italy ranked 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, with 1,669 and 1,231 designs, respectively.

Of the top 10 origins, the U.S. (+63.1%), Turkey (+36.2%) and China (+22.7%) were the only three to see growth in 2020. In contrast, the steepest falls came from applicants residing in the Republic of Korea (-39%), Italy (-38.3%) and France (-28.1%).

## Samsung Electronics of the Republic of Korea continued as top Hague applicant

26. Top 10 Hague applicants, 2020



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2021.

For a fourth consecutive year, Samsung Electronics of the Republic of Korea, with 859 designs published, headed the list of top filers, followed by Procter & Gamble of the U.S. (623), Fonkel Meubelmarketing of the Netherlands (569), Volkswagen of Germany (524) and Beijing Xiaomi Mobile Software of China (516). For the first time ever, a company from China was among the top five applicants.

The top 10 applicants represent a diverse set of industries that includes automobiles, electronics, furnishing and household/consumer goods.





# Additional information

## Statistical tables

### Applications by office, 2020

IP office <sup>a</sup>	Applications			
	Patent	Utility model	Trademark class count <sup>b</sup>	Industrial design count <sup>c</sup>
African Intellectual Property Organization	479	..	13,332	861
African Regional Intellectual Property Organization	754	14	675	87
Albania	12	2	8,297	548
Algeria	710	..	20,115	1,472
Andorra	8	..	2,138	..
Angola	85	..	3,920	..
Argentina	3,492	201	78,500	2,099
Armenia	70	29	11,141	407
Australia	29,294	4,412	149,540	7,359
Austria	2,297	440	25,469	373
Azerbaijan	108	40	12,312	583
Bahrain	264	..	9,869	73
Bangladesh	402	..	13,691	1,241
Barbados	29	..	899	..
Belarus	394	308	19,335	409
Belgium (d)	1,150	..	..	..
Belize	23	..	..	270
Benelux Office for Intellectual Property	..	..	61,744	1,299
Bhutan	6	..	2,362	9
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	..	..	6,634	..
Bosnia and Herzegovina	55	..	9,758	843
Botswana	4	13	3,162	..
Brazil	24,338	2,662	297,933	6,263
Brunei Darussalam	120	..	3,926	172
Bulgaria	246	541	14,310	782
Burundi	7	3	260	..
Cabo Verde	5	..	214	4
Cambodia	248	..	12,918	288
Canada	34,565	..	147,267	7,530
Chile	2,805	157	59,933	459
China	1,497,159	2,926,633	9,345,757	770,362
China, Hong Kong SAR	21,556	689	69,973	3,878
China, Macao SAR	66	43	13,467	207
Colombia	2,121	203	49,882	792
Costa Rica	..	9	14,663	78
Croatia	129	19	8,184	948
Cuba	109	2	6,283	23

IP office <sup>a</sup>	Applications			
	Patent	Utility model	Trademark class count <sup>b</sup>	Industrial design count <sup>c</sup>
Curaçao	..	..	1,980	..
Cyprus	3	..	3,419	82
Czech Republic	729	1,324	26,207	676
Democratic Republic of the Congo	182	..	606	..
Denmark	1,478	140	9,189	431
Dominican Republic	217	14	13,095	16
Ecuador	407	34	18,692	116
Egypt	2,207	..	..	..
El Salvador	147	4	9,302	34
Estonia	23	43	5,520	140
Ethiopia	60	361	2,992	..
Eurasian Patent Organization	3,377	..	..	..
European Patent Office	180,346	..	..	..
European Union Intellectual Property Office	..	..	438,511	113,196
Finland	1,685	319	9,244	239
France	14,313	1,019	290,194	31,196
Gambia	16	1	2,044	1
Georgia	215	65	9,780	602
Germany	62,105	12,318	264,669	40,638
Ghana	20	..	5,338	1,052
Greece	763	17	17,622	1,075
Grenada	2	..	393	..
Guatemala	212	14	6,097	137
Honduras	161	..	5,381	..
Hungary	456	228	11,054	604
Iceland	47	..	9,420	414
India	56,771	..	424,583	12,793
Indonesia	8,160	2,311	123,787	3,520
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	12,030	..	541,750	14,984
Iraq	733	..	..	..
Ireland	129	163	7,202	248
Israel	8,123	..	21,795	1,762
Italy	11,008	2,397	100,872	25,364
Jamaica	57	..	6,726	217
Japan	288,472	6,018	421,166	31,650
Jordan	337	..	6,156	89
Kazakhstan	900	..	25,784	..
Kenya	376	211	11,992	239
Kyrgyzstan	64	24	7,298	342
Lao People's Democratic Republic	..	..	5,599	36
Latvia	94	..	4,809	212
Lesotho	..	..	2,028	..
Liechtenstein (e)	..	..	8,705	871
Lithuania	113	..	6,490	610
Luxembourg (d)	808	..	..	..

IP office <sup>a</sup>	Applications			
	Patent	Utility model	Trademark class count <sup>b</sup>	Industrial design count <sup>c</sup>
Madagascar	27	..	5,683	220
Malaysia	6,828	187	45,286	1,701
Malta	11	..	1,462	36
Mauritius	25	..	4,434	86
Mexico	14,312	708	162,541	3,892
Monaco	13	..	8,562	730
Mongolia	148	222	18,501	1,017
Montenegro	5	..	8,116	853
Morocco	2,688	..	30,169	3,908
Mozambique	40	11	5,119	..
Namibia	..	5	4,581	125
Netherlands (d)	3,023	..	..	..
New Zealand	5,765	..	55,649	1,367
Nigeria	1,008	..	9,324	1,216
North Macedonia	47	..	..	665
Norway	1,444	..	42,202	3,314
Oman	529	..	12,578	492
Pakistan	900	..	40,578	464
Panama	319	8	10,982	42
Papua New Guinea	53	..	696	5
Paraguay	337	9	16,810	113
Patent Office of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf	2,343	..	..	..
Peru	1,267	416	37,250	276
Philippines	3,993	1,490	56,698	1,293
Poland	4,098	870	37,629	2,080
Portugal	958	94	34,730	1,764
Qatar	685	..	7,153	..
Republic of Korea	226,759	4,981	319,945	70,821
Republic of Moldova	96	158	12,058	865
Romania	864	71	25,620	912
Russian Federation	34,984	9,195	398,240	10,589
Rwanda	..	6	2,776	87
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	5	..	318	..
Samoa	2	..	1,659	80
San Marino	718	..	..	139
Sao Tome and Principe	..	..	1,391	..
Saudi Arabia	3,568	..	30,184	948
Serbia	146	86	17,015	1,065
Seychelles	12	..	552	8
Sierra Leone	..	..	2,274	..
Singapore	13,265	..	52,238	3,566
Slovakia	221	390	13,020	368
South Africa	6,688	..	36,323	1,708
Spain	1,555	3,448	80,432	12,376

IP office <sup>a</sup>	Applications			
	Patent	Utility model	Trademark class count <sup>b</sup>	Industrial design count <sup>c</sup>
Sri Lanka	604	..	..	281
Sudan	160	..	4,367	250
Sweden	2,196	..	19,739	297
Switzerland	1,675	..	101,121	10,160
Syrian Arab Republic	92	..	13,762	574
Tajikistan	8	..	5,765	..
Thailand	7,525	3,455	63,486	5,818
Trinidad and Tobago	112	..	2,543	19
Tunisia	257	..	..	..
Turkey	8,158	3,627	363,708	47,653
Tuvalu	10	..	15	..
Uganda	19	19	3,071	45
Ukraine	3,183	5,281	62,665	5,619
United Arab Emirates	1,908	9	18,620	686
United Kingdom	20,649	..	278,699	32,731
United Republic of Tanzania	..	1	3,625	..
United States of America	597,172	..	870,306	50,743
Uruguay	..	..	9,336	..
Uzbekistan	588	350	15,187	180
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	207	..	7,773	26
Viet Nam	7,695	575	108,641	4,377
Yemen	68	..	6,094	64
Zambia	27	..	5,280	124
Zimbabwe	11	..	3,271	..
Others/Unknown	..	..	12	..
<b>World total (2020 estimate)</b>	<b>3,276,700</b>	<b>3,000,110</b>	<b>17,198,300</b>	<b>1,387,800</b>

a. Not all listed countries/territories/intergovernmental organizations have an IP office. Furthermore, some offices do not receive applications for some IP rights. Only those offices with at least one application filed are presented.

b. Application class count is the sum of classes specified in applications received directly by an office plus, where applicable, those specified in designations received by the office via the Madrid System.

c. Application design count is the sum of designs contained in applications received directly by an office plus, where applicable, those contained in designations received by the office via the Hague System.

d. This country does not have a national trademark or industrial design office. All applications for trademark and design protection are filed at the Benelux Office for Intellectual Property (BOIP) or the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO).

e. The Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property acts as the receiving office for patent applications.

.. indicates either zero, not available, or not applicable.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2021.

## International applications by origin via the PCT, Madrid and Hague Systems, 2020

Origin <sup>a</sup>	International applications		
	PCT	Madrid	Hague <sup>b</sup>
Albania	1	26	3
Algeria	14	15	..
Andorra	1	5	7
Antigua and Barbuda	68	..	..
Argentina	42	1	2
Armenia	4	33	7
Australia	1,720	2,216	8
Austria	1,519	988	197
Azerbaijan	7	11	..
Bahamas	6	1	..
Bahrain	2	2	..
Bangladesh	1	..	..
Barbados	40	10	..
Belarus	14	231	..
Belgium	1,331	724	142
Belize	4	7	..
Benin	1	..	..
Bermuda	10	7	..
Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba	..	1	..
Bosnia and Herzegovina	7	45	6
Brazil	697	146	..
Brunei Darussalam	1	1	..
Bulgaria	53	293	8
Cambodia	1	11	..
Cameroon	2	1	3
Canada	2,623	708	150
Chile	262	..	..
China	68,720	6,696	826
Colombia	132	47	..
Congo	1	..	..
Costa Rica	10	..	..
Croatia	21	201	37
Cuba	12	7	..
Curaçao	..	6	..
Cyprus	42	271	99
Czech Republic	219	312	77
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	2	9	..
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1	..	..
Denmark	1,551	627	242
Dominica	..	1	..
Dominican Republic	10	1	..
Ecuador	4	1	..
Egypt	46	13	24
El Salvador	1	1	..

Origin <sup>a</sup>	International applications		
	PCT	Madrid	Hague <sup>b</sup>
Equatorial Guinea	..	1	..
Estonia	55	84	16
Eswatini	1	..	3
Finland	1,670	427	45
France	7,904	3,716	935
Gabon	1	..	..
Georgia	6	41	..
Germany	18,643	7,326	3,666
Ghana	..	3	6
Greece	103	113	143
Guatemala	2	..	..
Hungary	139	226	23
Iceland	51	32	..
India	1,914	334	1
Indonesia	16	99	..
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	283	17	..
Iraq	..	1	..
Ireland	793	274	7
Israel	1,948	400	101
Italy	3,401	2,765	1,231
Japan	50,520	3,063	942
Jordan	20	..	7
Kazakhstan	30	91	..
Kenya	7	10	..
Kuwait	13	1	..
Kyrgyzstan	4	5	13
Lao People's Democratic Republic	..	1	..
Latvia	30	83	35
Lebanon	2	..	..
Libya	3	..	..
Liechtenstein	250	85	24
Lithuania	41	148	23
Luxembourg	318	303	182
Madagascar	..	1	..
Malaysia	255	102	1
Malta	42	64	163
Marshall Islands	..	6	..
Mauritius	14	8	..
Mexico	196	22	2
Monaco	20	113	9
Mongolia	..	7	..
Morocco	42	99	8
Namibia	5	..	..
Nauru	1	..	..
Netherlands	4,035	1,405	999

Origin <sup>a</sup>	International applications		
	PCT	Madrid	Hague <sup>b</sup>
New Zealand	311	542	1
Nicaragua	2	..	..
Nigeria	4	..	..
North Macedonia	6	28	11
Norway	702	288	206
Oman	11	5	1
Panama	21	2	..
Peru	37	2	..
Philippines	32	56	..
Poland	363	407	54
Portugal	269	185	18
Qatar	23	3	..
Republic of Korea	20,060	1,581	1,669
Republic of Moldova	5	104	11
Romania	41	80	10
Russian Federation	1,073	1,566	113
Rwanda	..	1	..
Saint Kitts and Nevis	1	1	..
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	..	1	..
Samoa	4	..	..
San Marino	7	11	4
Saudi Arabia	956	..	..
Senegal	2	6	..
Serbia	25	140	28
Seychelles	3	11	..
Singapore	1,278	674	53
Slovakia	50	89	4
Slovenia	86	191	153
South Africa	251	1	..
Spain	1,502	1,256	296
Sri Lanka	23	..	..
Sudan	6	1	..
Sweden	4,356	823	380
Switzerland	4,883	3,504	1,948
Syrian Arab Republic	2	7	..
Tajikistan	..	5	..
Thailand	188	116	..
Trinidad and Tobago	1	..	..
Tunisia	4	22	..
Turkey	1,705	1,871	530
Uganda	1	..	..
Ukraine	133	420	80
United Arab Emirates	86	19	2
United Kingdom	5,912	3,693	419
United States of America	59,230	10,014	2,217



## WIPO IP FACTS AND FIGURES

Origin <sup>a</sup>	International applications		
	PCT	Madrid	Hague <sup>b</sup>
Uruguay	7	1	..
Uzbekistan	..	10	..
Viet Nam	24	175	4
Zambia	1	1	..
Zimbabwe	2	2	..
<b>Total (2020 estimates)</b>	<b>275,900</b>	<b>63,837</b>	<b>18,636</b>

a. Origin is defined as the country/territory of the stated address of residence of the applicant. Where more than one applicant is listed in an application, the origin is based on the first named applicant. Only origins with at least one international application filed in 2020 are presented.

b. Data represent the number of designs contained in Hague international applications.

.. indicates zero or not applicable.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2021.

## Statistical resources

### IP Statistics Data Center

The WIPO IP Statistics Data Center is a free online service for accessing WIPO's statistics on patents, utility models, trademarks, industrial designs and the use of the PCT, Madrid and Hague Systems. Users can select from a wide range of indicators to view or download data. This tool is intended for IP professionals, researchers and policymakers, and can be accessed via the IP Statistics webpage: [www.wipo.int/ipstats](http://www.wipo.int/ipstats).

The IP Statistics Data Center is also available in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish.

### IP Statistical Country Profiles

Visit WIPO's IP Statistical Country Profile webpages for more statistics and longer time series for patent, utility model, trademark and industrial design data. Like WIPO's IP Statistics Data Center, this service can be accessed via the IP Statistics webpage: [www.wipo.int/ipstats](http://www.wipo.int/ipstats).

The IP Statistical Country Profiles are also available in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish.

## Glossary

### Class count

The number of classes specified in a trademark application or registration. In the international trademark system and at certain national and regional offices, an applicant can file a trademark application specifying one or more of the 45 goods and services classes of the Nice Classification. Offices use either a multi-class or single-class filing system. For example, the offices of Japan, the Republic of Korea and the United States of America (U.S.), as well as many European IP offices, have a multi-class filing system. On the other hand, the offices of Brazil, Mexico and South Africa follow a single-class filing system, requiring a separate application to be filed for each class in which trademark protection is sought. To capture differences in application and registration numbers across offices, it is useful to compare the respective application and registration class counts.

### Design count

The number of designs contained in an industrial design application or registration. Under the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs, it is possible for an applicant to obtain protection for up to 100 industrial designs for products belonging to one and the same class by filing a single application. Some national or regional IP offices allow applications to contain more than one design for the same product or within the same class, while others allow only one design per application. In order to capture the differences in application and registration numbers across offices, it is useful to compare the respective application and registration design counts.

### Hague international application

An application for the international registration of an industrial design filed under the WIPO-administered Hague System.

### Hague System

The abbreviated form of the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs. The System comprises two international treaties: the Hague Act of 1960 and the Geneva Act of 1999. The Hague System makes it possible for an applicant to register up to 100 industrial designs in multiple jurisdictions by filing a single application with the International Bureau of WIPO. It simplifies multinational registration by reducing the requirement to file a separate application at each IP office. The System also simplifies the subsequent management of the industrial design, since it is possible to record changes or renew a registration through a single procedural step for all designated Hague members.

## **Industrial design**

Industrial designs are applied to a wide variety of industrial products and hand-crafts. They refer to the ornamental or aesthetic aspects of a useful article, including compositions of lines or colors or any three-dimensional forms that give a special appearance to a product or handicraft. The holder of a registered industrial design has exclusive rights against unauthorized copying or imitation of the design by third parties. Industrial design registrations are valid for a limited period. The term of protection is usually 15 years in most jurisdictions. However, differences in legislation do exist, notably in China (which provides for a 10-year term from the application date).

## **In force**

Refers to IP rights that are currently valid or, in the case of trademarks, active. To remain in force, IP protection must be maintained.

## **Intellectual property (IP)**

Refers to creations of the mind: inventions, literary and artistic works, and symbols, names, images and designs used in commerce. IP is divided into two categories: industrial property – which includes patents, utility models, trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications of source – and copyright, which includes literary and artistic works (such as novels, poems, plays, films), musical works, artistic works (such as drawings, paintings, photographs and sculptures) and architectural designs. Rights related to copyright include those of performing artists in their performances, those of producers of sound recordings in their recordings and those of broadcasters in their radio and television programs.

## **Madrid international application**

An application for international registration under the Madrid System, which is a request for the protection of a trademark within the jurisdiction of one or more Madrid members. An international application must be based on a basic mark, that is, prior application or registration of a mark within a Madrid member jurisdiction.

## **Madrid System**

An abbreviation describing the system for the international registration of trademarks, originally established by the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks and later also governed by the Protocol

Relating to the Madrid Agreement. Following a decision by the Madrid Union Assembly in October 2016, the Protocol is now the sole governing treaty of the Madrid System. The Madrid System is administered by the International Bureau of WIPO.

### **Patent**

A set of exclusive rights granted by law to applicants for inventions that are new, non-obvious and commercially applicable. A patent is valid for a limited period of time (generally 20 years), during which time patent holders may commercially exploit their inventions on an exclusive basis. In return, applicants are obliged to disclose their inventions to the public in a manner that enables others skilled in the art to replicate the invention. The patent system is designed to encourage innovation by providing innovators with time-limited exclusive legal rights, thus enabling them to appropriate the returns from their innovative activity.

### **PCT application**

A patent application filed through the WIPO-administered PCT, also known as an international application.

### **PCT System**

The PCT, an international treaty administered by WIPO, facilitates the acquisition of patent rights in a large number of jurisdictions. The PCT System simplifies the process of multiple national patent filings by reducing the requirement to file a separate application in each jurisdiction. However, the decision on whether to grant patent rights remains the responsibility of national and regional patent offices, and patent rights remain limited to the jurisdiction of the patent granting authority. The PCT application process starts with the international phase, during which an international search and, possibly, a preliminary examination are performed, and concludes with the national phase, during which a national or regional patent office decides on the patentability of an invention according to national law.

### **Resident**

For statistical purposes, a resident application refers to an application filed with the IP office of, or acting for, the state or jurisdiction in which the first named applicant in the application has residence. For example, an application filed with the Japan Patent Office (JPO) by a resident of Japan is considered a resident application from the perspective of the JPO. Resident applications are sometimes referred to as “domestic applications.” A resident grant/registration is an IP right issued on the basis of a resident application.

**Trademark**

A sign used to distinguish the goods or services of one undertaking from those of another. A trademark may consist of words and combinations of words (for instance, names or slogans), logos, figures and images, letters, numbers, sounds, or, in rare instances, smells or moving images, or a combination thereof. The procedures for registering trademarks are governed by the legislation and procedures of national and regional IP offices and WIPO. Trademark rights are limited to the jurisdiction of the IP office that registers the trademark. Trademarks can be registered by filing an application at the relevant national or regional office(s), or by filing an international application through the Madrid System.

**Utility model**

A special form of patent right granted by a state or jurisdiction to an inventor or the inventor's assignee for a fixed period of time. The terms and conditions for granting a utility model are slightly different from those for normal patents (including a shorter term of protection and less stringent patentability requirements). The term "utility model" can also describe what are known in certain countries as "petty patents," "short-term patents" or "innovation patents."

**World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**

A United Nations specialized agency dedicated to the promotion of innovation and creativity for the economic, social and cultural development of all countries through a balanced and effective international IP system. WIPO was established in 1967 with a mandate to promote the protection of IP throughout the world through cooperation between states and in collaboration with other international organizations.

World Intellectual Property Organization  
34, chemin des Colombettes  
P.O. Box 18  
CH-1211 Geneva 20  
Switzerland

Tel: + 41 22 338 91 11  
Fax: + 41 22 733 54 28

For contact details of WIPO's  
External Offices visit:  
[www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/offices](http://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/offices)

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