

Intellectual property (IP) assets

Patents

Details

- Granted for technical inventions
- A set of exclusive rights granted by law to applicants for inventions (i.e. device, substance, method or process) that are new, non-obvious (inventive) and have commercial value
- Legal title - exclusive right to prevent others from making, using, selling or importing a product that infringes the patent without authorisation (in countries for which the patent was granted)
- Applied for from a patent office i.e. European Patent Office (EPO)
- Description and details of invention are made public
- Protection up to 20 years (provided that renewal fees are paid) - patent holders can commercially exploit their inventions exclusively (internally, licensing, royalties etc.)

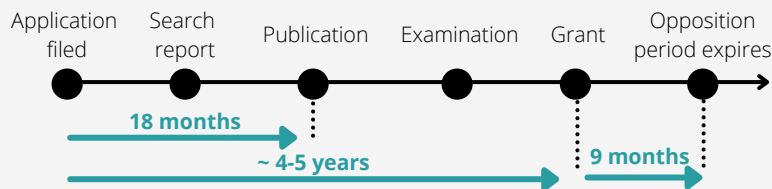
Use examples

- Drugs, devices, methods of treatment

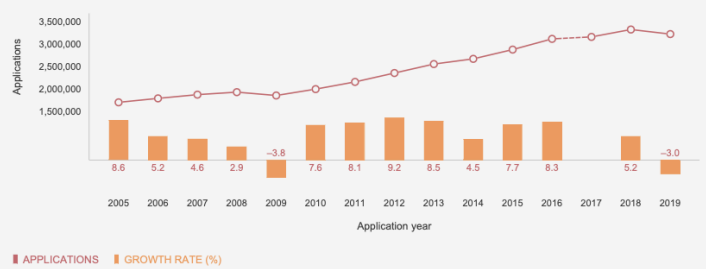
Trends (see charts alongside)

- Top 3 national patent offices: China, USA and Japan
- 3.2 million patent applications filed in 2019 -> 3% decrease on the previous year - first decline since the 2009 financial crisis

Timeline

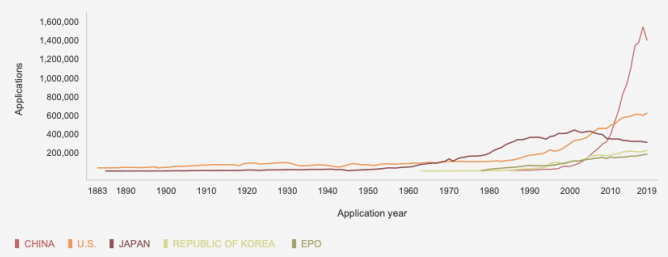


A1. Trend in patent applications worldwide, 2005–2019



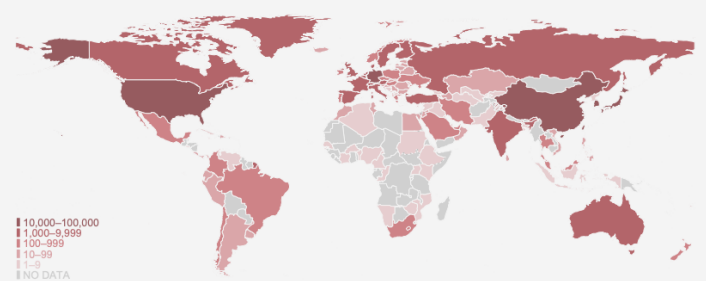
Note: World totals are WIPO estimates using data covering 162 patent offices. These totals include applications filed directly with national and regional offices and applications entering offices through the Patent Cooperation Treaty national phase (where applicable). China's pre-2017 data are not comparable due to a change in methodology. Due to this break in the data series, and to the large number of filings in China, it is not possible to report an accurate 2017 growth rate at world level (see the data description section in Additional information for details). Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2020.

A7. Trend in patent applications for the top five offices, 1883–2019



Note: EPO is the European Patent Office. The top five offices were selected based on their 2019 totals. Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2020.

A49. PCT applications by origin, 2019



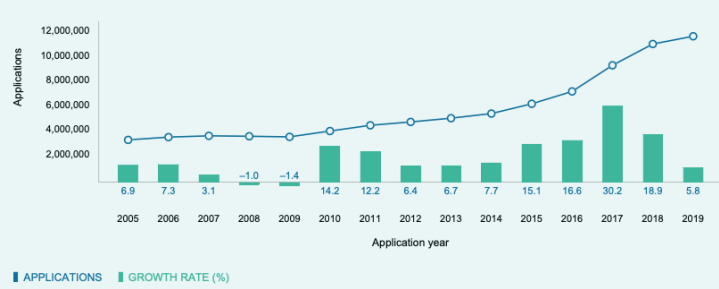
Note: Data refer to the international phase of the Patent Cooperation Treaty System. Counts are based on the residency of the first named applicant and the international application date. Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2020.

A29. Published patent applications worldwide by field of technology, 2008, 2013 and 2018

Field of technology	Number of published applications			Share of total (%) 2018	Average growth (%) 2008–2018
	2008	2013	2018		
Chemistry					
Organic fine chemistry	56,034	55,818	67,202	2.1	1.8
Biotechnology	56,600	45,798	65,562	2.0	6.0
Pharmaceuticals	76,203	80,128	102,853	3.2	3.0
Macromolecular chemistry, polymers	28,409	37,179	53,900	1.7	6.6

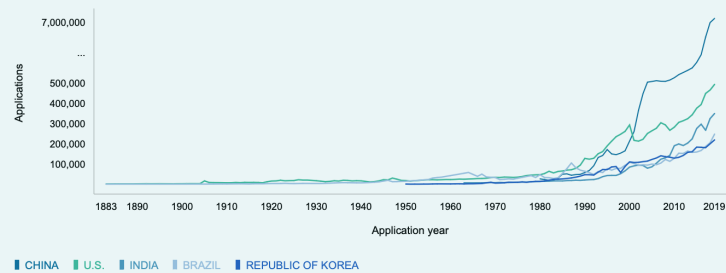
WIPO (2020). World Intellectual Property Indicators 2020. Geneva: World Intellectual Property Organization.

B1. Trend in trademark applications worldwide, 2005–2019



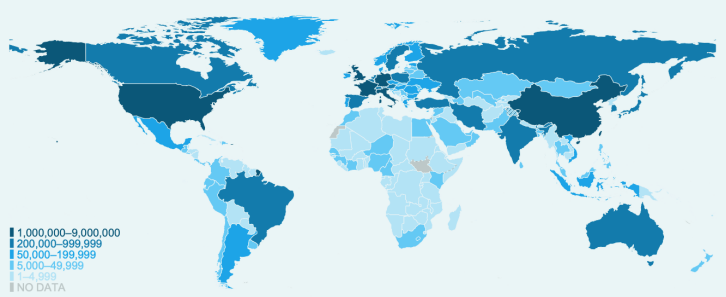
Note: World totals are WIPO estimates using data covering 168 IP offices. Each total includes the number of applications filed directly with national and regional offices (the Paris route), as well as the number of designations received by offices via the Madrid System (where applicable). Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2020.

B9. Trend in trademark applications for the top five offices, 1883–2019



Note: Data are based on the numbers of applications filed; that is, differences between single-class and multi-class filing systems across IP offices are not taken into account. The top five offices were selected based on their 2019 application totals. Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2020.

B19. Equivalent trademark application class counts by origin, 2019



Note: Trademark filing activity by origin includes the number of classes specified in resident applications and in applications filed abroad. The origin of a trademark application is determined by the residence of the applicant. Applications filed at regional offices are considered equivalent to multiple applications in the relevant member states and the classes specified in these applications are multiplied accordingly. See the glossary for the definition of equivalent application. Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2020.

WIPO (2020). World Intellectual Property Indicators 2020. Geneva: World Intellectual Property Organization.

Trademarks

Details

- Distinctive signs indicating the source of a product or service - distinguishes from competitor products & services
- May consist of words and combinations of words (i.e. names or slogans), logos, figures and images, letters, numbers, sounds, or, in rare instances, smells or moving images, or a combination thereof
- Procedures for registering trademarks are governed by the legislation and procedures of national and regional IP offices and the World Intellectual Property Organization (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.
- Territorial
- Period: can last forever if renewal fees are paid every 10 years and if kept from becoming generic

Use examples

- Names, logos & colours applied to the owner's products or services

Trends (see charts alongside)

- Top 3 national trademark offices: China, USA and India
- ~ 11.5 million trademark applications filed worldwide in 2019 -> 5.8% growth rate

Trade secrets & know how

Details

- Information, processes or formulas kept confidential by a company or inventor
- Valuable until secret is shared/becomes known
- Protected by confidentiality – contractual obligations, physical or practical means to limit access to knowledge
- Internal exploitation - production of products or services

Use examples

- Proprietary processes, procedures, cell lines, information

Copyright

Details

- Protects any type of original, creative expression - production of the human mind
- Automatically exists when work is created - does not need to be registered
- © symbol used to indicate awareness of the rights
- Period valid: until 50+ years after the originators death

Use examples

- Software, user manuals, promotional material, website content, literature, art, drama, music, photographs, recordings and broadcasts

IP refers to creations of the mind: inventions, literary and artistic works, and symbols, names, images and designs used in commerce. Two categories:

- Industrial property – including patents, utility models, trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications of source
- Copyright - including literary and artistic works (such as novels, poems, plays, films), musical works, artistic works (such as drawings, paintings, photographs and sculptures) and architectural designs.

References and further details

- AusBiotech. Guide to Life Sciences Investing. <https://www.ausbiotech.org/documents/item/451> (2018).
- WIPO (2020). World Intellectual Property Indicators 2020. Geneva: World Intellectual Property Organization.
- European Patent Office (EPO). Intellectual Property Teaching Kit - IP Basics: Introduction to IP. <https://www.epo.org/learning/materials/kit/download.html>.
- European Patent Office (EPO). Intellectual Property Teaching Kit: IP Advanced Part I. <https://www.epo.org/learning/materials/kit/download.html> (2016).