

Preface

This report is the first edition of the expanded IP5 Statistics Report (IP5 SR). It was jointly produced by the “IP5 Offices” which includes the EPO, the JPO, the KIPO, the SIPO, and the USPTO along with the support of the International Bureau (IB) of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). This IP5 SR is an expansion of the former “Four Office Statistics Report” (FOSR) which includes the addition of the SIPO since it joined efforts in statistical cooperation through creation of the IP5 Statistics Working Group in April 2012. Prior to 2008, the Report was called the “Trilateral Statistical Report” (TSR) and included the EPO, the JPO, and the USPTO. This report, along with other data exchanges and information about the Group can be found at www.fiveipoffices.org.

Collaboration between the IP5 Offices has proven to be successful in the area of patent statistics. In addition to promoting a better understanding of patenting activity both at the IP5 Offices and worldwide, the report explains each Office’s operations and informs about patent grant procedures. In order to do this, the report discusses background activities at each Office, reviews worldwide patenting developments and then compares the patent related work at the IP5 Offices. The IP5 SR supplements annual reports for each of the IP5 Offices and also presents specific statistics that are collected and published by the WIPO.

There seem to be diverse factors that influence patent filing trends. In the past, the major causes of trend breaks were changes in patent rules and fees. Every year there is a background of small changes of this type at one or more of the IP5 Offices. The only major change recently is the AIA in the U.S., which has not yet been fully implemented. Economic conditions and, in particular, economic growth have had the most bearing on recent filings. Additionally, as the global patent system becomes more harmonized, common economic drivers have been a major influence on patent filings.

According to the *World Economic Outlook*¹ of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), although the global economic crisis has passed, optimism should remain tempered as the risk of another crisis in both advanced and emerging economies is still very much present. In line with the IMF *Outlook*, the data presented in this report show both a global rebound in patent filings since 2009 as well as regional differences in economic growth. Worldwide patent filings grew 5 percent in 2010. (At the time of publication of this report, the 2011 worldwide filing count is not yet available.) More recent data are available from the IP5 Offices and shows that in 2011 filings grew 35 percent for the SIPO, 5 percent for the KIPO, 4 percent for the EPO, 3 percent for the USPTO and fell 1 percent for the JPO. Additionally, the data showed a total growth of 10 percent for overall filings at the IP5 Offices.

¹ *World Economic Outlook* April 2012, www.imf.org.

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Although economic growth is closely tied to patent filing, political and technological factors also influence filing. Globalization of markets and production continue to be key business trends. There is a worldwide tendency to harmonise patent laws with common international standards and to facilitate the flow of patent applications across borders. This has had a positive impact on worldwide patent growth over recent years.

Beginning this year explicit data regarding P.R. China have been added to the report. Therefore, it should be noted that the statistical counts for Other countries (outside the IP5 Blocs) have now been considerably reduced compared to data for Others (which included P.R. China) in previous editions of the report.

The IP5 Offices hope that this IP5SR 2011 brings useful information to the reader. The Offices will continue to improve and refine the report to better serve expectations and objectives of the public.

Materials from this report can be freely reproduced in other publications but we request that this should be accompanied by a reference to the title and a web site location of this report.

An additional annex appears in the web version, <http://www.fiveipoffices.org/stats.html> that gives a glossary of patent related terms, and there is also a file that contains statistics covering more years.

EPO, JPO, KIPO, SIPO, and USPTO

With cooperation of WIPO

December 2012