

Executive Summary

The IP5 Statistics Report (IP5 SR) is an annual compilation of patent statistics for the five largest intellectual property offices – the IP5 Offices – namely the European patent Office (EPO), the Japan patent Office (JPO), the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), the National Intellectual Property Administration of the P.R. China (CNIPA) and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

- At the end of 2016, 11.8 million patents were in force in the world (+11.8 percent). 91 percent of these patents were in force in one of the IP5 Office jurisdictions.
- In 2016, 2.8 million patent applications were filed worldwide, either as direct national, direct regional or international phase PCT applications, of which 94 percent originated from the IP5 Blocs.
- In 2016, 89 percent of the worldwide patent applications were filed as direct national applications. The proportion of applications filed via the PCT remained stable.
- In 2017, 2.7 million patent applications were filed at the IP5 Offices (+1.8 percent).
- Together the IP5 Offices granted 1.2 million patents in 2017 (+4 percent)
- In 2017, the main developments at the IP5 Offices were:
 - IP5: In June, the 10th meeting of the IP5 Heads of Office was held in Valletta, Malta. Together with representatives of industry groups from the five regions, the IP5 Heads of Office celebrated ten years of IP5 cooperation. Major achievements included the Global Dossier, the Common Citation Document, the IP5 Common Application Format, the IP5 Patent Prosecution Highway, the IP5 patent information Policy, the IP5 Quality Management Meeting, the Mutual machine Translation and the IP5 Industry Consultation Group.
 - EPO: There was a further increase in the number of grants at EPO by 10 percent, while applications increased by almost 4 percent. Processing times for Office actions continued to improve. The EPO Quality Management System was re-certified according to a more stringent version of ISO 9001, that also covered oppositions and patent information activities. A validation agreement with Tunisia entered into force.
 - JPO: With the acceleration of the intellectual property creation cycle - intellectual property creation, the establishment of rights, and utilization of rights - there is a growing need to reduce the time of total pendency. JPO speeded up examinations under the next decade goal for 2023, established in 2014. This is to bring the “total pendency” down to an average of 14 months and the first action pendency down to 10 months or less. The JPO has almost achieved the goal: the “total pendency” was 14.1 months and the first action pendency was 9.3 months.

- KIPO: Prior art searches were expanded, examination quality was enhanced and customized examination services were provided. The annual average first office action pendency period was 10.4 months for patents and utility models, 5.0 months for trademarks and 4.9 months for designs. KIPO lent a total of 324.5 million USD to SMEs. Several Memoranda of Understanding were signed with foreign IPR authorities. These included one on CSP with SIPO and one to extend the CSP with USPTO. Agreements were also made with the EUIPO on an exchange of IPR data and with the EPO on CPC.
- CNIPA: In 2018, in order to further improve the IP administration system and to promote IP creation, protection and utilization, SIPO has been restructured to add the duty of trademark and geographical indication management. Due to these changes, in August 2018 the English name SIPO was changed to the National Intellectual Property Administration, PRC (abbreviated as CNIPA). The number of invention patent applications filed for which relevant fees were paid increased by 14.2 percent and grants for inventions by 3.9 percent, while the average pendency period for grants was approximately 22 months
- USPTO: Final action pendency decreased from 25.3 months to 24.2 months (for FY 2017). The backlog of unexamined patent applications was reduced by 2 percent to 526 579, despite an annual filing growth of 2.7 percent over the last 5 years. The USPTO finalized a revised patent fee schedule designed to recover aggregate estimated costs of the Patent operations, Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) operations, and administrative services. The full version of PatentsView was released allowing users to explore 40 years of data on inventors, their organizations, locations, and overall patenting activity.