

Preface

The IP5 Statistics Report (IP5 SR) is jointly produced by the “*IP5 Offices*”, a group 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). It follows on from a provisional 2013 key IP5 statistical data report that was made earlier in 2014. Since the 2011 Edition, this report is an expansion of the former *Four Office Statistics Report* (FOSR) and *Trilateral Statistical Report* (TSR). 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 are diverse factors that influence patent filing trends. In the past, trend breaks have been caused by changes to patent rules and fees as well as by sudden changes in the economic climate. Every year there is a background of changes at one or more of the IP5 Offices. In 2013 and early 2014, the USPTO implemented the final fee and rules changes associated with the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (AIA) to better align the U.S. with international norms and to harmonize the international patent system and facilitate office cooperation through work-sharing with international patent offices. As the global patent system becomes more harmonized, common economic driving forces have been a major influence on patent filings.

According to the World Economic Outlook¹ of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the “*global activity strengthened during the second half of 2013 and is expected to improve in 2014-2015*”. 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 11 percent in 2012. (At the time of publication of this report, the 2013 worldwide filing count is not yet available.) More recent data are however available from the IP5 Offices (see Chapters 2 and 4 of this report). In 2013, the filings grew 26 percent for the SIPO, 8 percent for the KIPO, 5 percent for the USPTO, and 3 percent for the EPO. But the filings decreased by 4 percent at the JPO. The data showed a total annual growth of 11 percent for overall filings at the IP5 Offices.

Although patent filing is closely tied to economic growth, political and technological factors are also influential. Globalization of markets and production continue to be key business trends. There is a worldwide tendency to harmonize patent laws with common international standards and to facilitate life for applicants when filing across borders. These factors have had a positive impact on worldwide patent growth over recent years.

The IP5 Offices hope that this report provides useful information to the reader. The IP5 Offices will continue to improve and refine the report to better serve expectations and objectives of the public. Definitions related to the terminology used in the report are given in Annexes 1 and 2 that appear at the end.

¹ World Economic Outlook April 2014, www.imf.org.

When reading this report, it should be borne in mind that the procedures and practices among the IP5 Offices differ in a number of areas. Therefore, care should be taken when analysing and interpreting the various statistics.

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 the web-site location of this report, www.fiveipoffices.org/statistics.html.

An additional annex appears in the web version that gives a glossary of patent related terms. A data file is also available that contains statistics covering more years.

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