

Annual report 2010

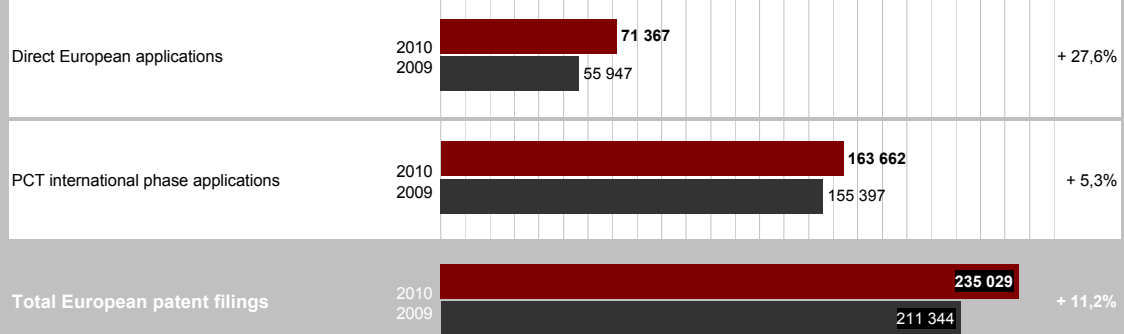


The total number of European patent filings in 2010, more than 235 000, showed a sizeable increase of 11% over the previous year, reaching an all-time high, far in excess of filing levels prior to the world economic crisis and even above the record levels of 2008. The economic recovery has thus found its way into the patent world, too.

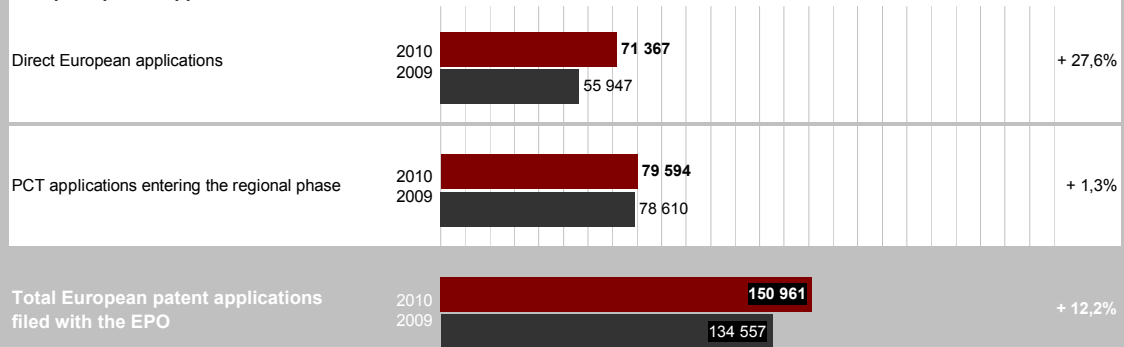
Almost 60% of all filings came from non-European states. The largest applicant country was the USA (26%), followed by Japan (18%), Germany (14%), and a group of three countries (China, South Korea and France) with around 5% each. The biggest increase in patent applications was in those originating in Asia.

The total number of patent filings included 71 367 direct European applications and 163 662 PCT international phase applications. About 79 600 PCT applications entered the European phase. The strong growth in direct European applications (+ 28%) is partially explained by the reaction to the new Rule 36 EPC concerning divisional applications.

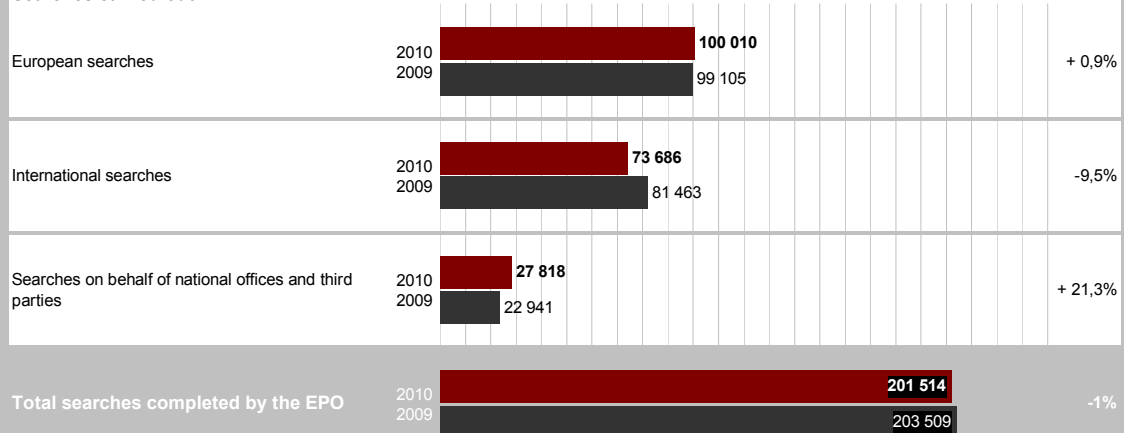
European patent filings



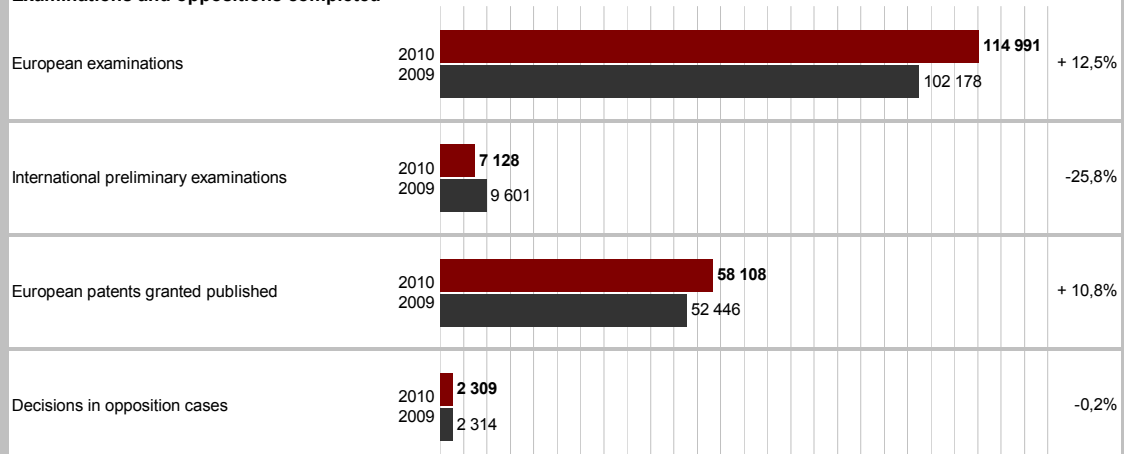
European patent applications filed with the EPO



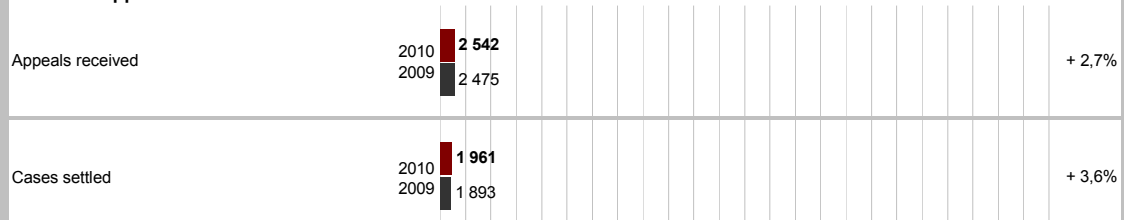
Searches carried out



Examinations and oppositions completed



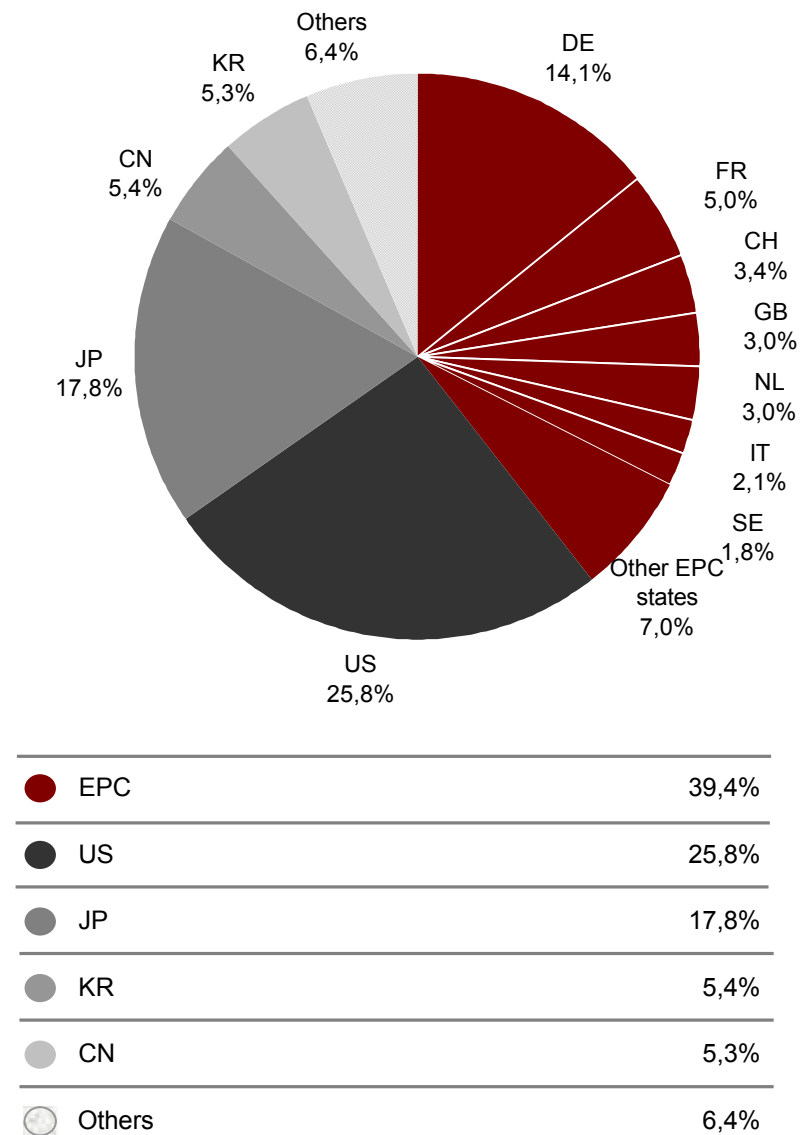
Technical appeals



EPO 2010 ANNUAL REPORT STATISTICS

Country of residence of the applicant		Total European patent filings		
		2010	2009	Change
AL	Albania	1	0	-
AT	Austria	2 212	1 939	14,1%
BE	Belgium	2 352	1 974	19,1%
BG	Bulgaria	34	31	9,7%
CH	Switzerland	7 874	6 931	13,6%
CY	Cyprus	59	54	9,3%
CZ	Czech Republic	213	234	-9,0%
DE	Germany	33 139	30 501	8,6%
DK	Denmark	2 157	2 047	5,4%
EE	Estonia	58	47	23,4%
ES	Spain	2 465	2 271	8,5%
FI	Finland	2 597	2 437	6,6%
FR	France	11 692	11 605	0,7%
GB	United Kingdom	7 155	6 570	8,9%
GR	Greece	130	158	-17,7%
HR	Croatia	52	40	30,0%
HU	Hungary	192	170	12,9%
IE	Ireland	687	673	2,1%
IS	Iceland	70	61	14,8%
IT	Italy	4 951	4 811	2,9%
LI	Liechtenstein	210	238	-11,8%
LT	Lithuania	15	29	-48,3%
LU	Luxembourg	486	382	27,2%
LV	Latvia	49	61	-19,7%
MC	Monaco	19	20	-5,0%
MK	FYRO Macedonia	2	2	0,0%
MT	Malta	39	72	-45,8%
NL	Netherlands	7 119	7 944	-10,4%
NO	Norway	856	782	9,5%
PL	Poland	343	281	22,1%
PT	Portugal	138	206	-33,0%
RO	Romania	24	33	-27,3%
RS	Serbia	20	28	-28,6%
SE	Sweden	4 279	4 182	2,3%
SI	Slovenia	191	202	-5,4%
SK	Slovakia	52	40	30,0%
SM	San Marino	9	13	-30,8%
TR	Turkey	612	464	31,9%
Sub-total EPC member states		92 553	87 533	5,7%
Other country of origin		142 476	123 811	15,1%
Total		235 029	211 344	11,2%

Total European patent filings by residence of applicants



EPO 2010 ANNUAL REPORT STATISTICS

Total European patent filings from other countries

Country of residence of the applicant	2010
AD Andorra	11
AE United Arab Emirates	32
AG Antigua And Barbuda	1
AM Armenia	5
AN Netherlands Antilles	16
AO Angola	1
AR Argentina	29
AU Australia	2004
AZ Azerbaijan	2
BA Bosnia And Herzegovina	13
BB Barbados	146
BD Bangladesh	1
BH Bahrain	2
BM Bermuda	50
BN Brunei Darussalam	6
BR Brazil	520
BS Bahamas	26
BW Botswana	1
BY Belarus	17
BZ Belize	2
CA Canada	4157
CI Côte D'Ivoire	1
CL Chile	94
CM Cameroon	2
CN China	12698
CO Colombia	47
CR Costa Rica	3
CU Cuba	10
DO Dominican Republic	3
DZ Algeria	4
EC Ecuador	33
EG Egypt	50
GA Gabon	2
GE Georgia	6

Country of residence of the applicant	2010
GI Gibraltar	1
GN Guinea	1
GT Guatemala	2
HK Hong Kong	27
ID Indonesia	19
IL Israel	1813
IN India	1321
IQ Iraq	2
IR Iran, Islamic Republic Of	11
JO Jordan	2
JP Japan	41917
KE Kenya	4
KG Kyrgyzstan	1
KN Saint Kitts And Nevis	2
KP Korea, Democratic People'S Republic C	7
KR Korea, Republic Of	12342
KY Cayman Islands	12
KZ Kazakhstan	22
LA Lao People'S Democratic Republic	7
LB Lebanon	10
LK Sri Lanka	10
LY Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1
MA Morocco	15
MD Moldova, Republic Of	1
MH Marshall Islands	1
MO Macao	2
MU Mauritius	3
MX Mexico	196
MY Malaysia	367
NA Namibia	28
NG Nigeria	2
NI Nicaragua	1
NZ New Zealand	324
OM Oman	4

Country of residence of the applicant	2010
PA Panama	6
PE Peru	7
PH Philippines	14
PK Pakistan	1
PR Puerto Rico	5
QA Qatar	8
RU Russian Federation	707
SA Saudi Arabia	103
SC Seychelles	16
SG Singapore	734
SL Sierra Leone	2
SY Syrian Arab Republic	12
SZ Swaziland	3
TD Chad	1
TH Thailand	76
TN Tunisia	10
TT Trinidad And Tobago	1
TW Taiwan, Province Of China	1167
UA Ukraine	107
US United States	60588
UY Uruguay	7
UZ Uzbekistan	4
VC Saint Vincent And The Grenadines	8
VE Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic Of	7
VG Virgin Islands, British	38
VI Virgin Islands, U.S.	1
VN Viet Nam	9
WS Samoa	6
YE Yemen	3
ZA South Africa	306
ZM Zambia	1
not classified	45
Total	142 476

EPO 2010 ANNUAL REPORT STATISTICS

European patent applications filed with the EPO

Country of residence of the applicant		2010	2009	Change
AL	Albania	0	1	-100,0%
AT	Austria	1 730	1 496	15,6%
BE	Belgium	2 040	1 637	24,6%
BG	Bulgaria	9	17	-47,1%
CH	Switzerland	6 742	5 880	14,7%
CY	Cyprus	35	44	-20,5%
CZ	Czech Republic	165	136	21,3%
DE	Germany	27 354	25 124	8,9%
DK	Denmark	1 843	1 489	23,8%
EE	Estonia	27	34	-20,6%
ES	Spain	1 436	1 263	13,7%
FI	Finland	1 639	1 444	13,5%
FR	France	9 531	8 946	6,5%
GB	United Kingdom	5 402	4 807	12,4%
GR	Greece	85	102	-16,7%
HR	Croatia	18	19	-5,3%
HU	Hungary	103	111	-7,2%
IE	Ireland	515	498	3,4%
IS	Iceland	52	47	10,6%
IT	Italy	4 088	3 893	5,0%
LI	Liechtenstein	290	228	27,2%
LT	Lithuania	9	13	-30,8%
LU	Luxembourg	423	304	39,1%
LV	Latvia	33	50	-34,0%
MC	Monaco	14	11	27,3%
MK	FYRO Macedonia	0	0	-
MT	Malta	31	63	-50,8%
NL	Netherlands	5 957	6 704	-11,1%
NO	Norway	516	488	5,7%
PL	Poland	205	174	17,8%
PT	Portugal	81	111	-27,0%
RO	Romania	14	16	-12,5%
RS	Serbia	8	3	166,7%
SE	Sweden	3 560	3 152	12,9%
SI	Slovenia	135	119	13,4%
SK	Slovakia	24	25	-4,0%
SM	San Marino	10	9	11,1%
TR	Turkey	284	189	50,3%
Sub-total EPC member states		74 408	68 647	8,4%
Other country of origin		76 553	65 910	16,1%
Total		150 961	134 557	12,2%

EPO 2010 ANNUAL REPORT STATISTICS

European patent applications filed with the EPO from other countries

Country of residence of the applicant	2010
AE United Arab Emirates	13
AG Antigua And Barbuda	1
AI Anguilla	1
AN Netherlands Antilles	30
AR Argentina	25
AU Australia	996
AW Aruba	1
BA Bosnia And Herzegovina	1
BB Barbados	144
BH Bahrain	1
BM Bermuda	119
BN Brunei Darussalam	8
BR Brazil	190
BS Bahamas	29
BY Belarus	2
BZ Belize	1
CA Canada	2664
CL Chile	23
CN China	2049
CO Colombia	13
CU Cuba	11
DO Dominican Republic	2
DZ Algeria	1
EC Ecuador	2
EG Egypt	3
FO Faroe Islands	3
GE Georgia	1
GI Gibraltar	1
HK Hong Kong	42
ID Indonesia	6
IL Israel	1239
IN India	423
IQ Iraq	2
IR Iran, Islamic Republic Of	5
JO Jordan	2
JP Japan	21824
KH Cambodia	1
KN Saint Kitts And Nevis	1
KP Korea, Democratic People'S Republic	3
KR Korea, Republic Of	4715

Country of residence of the applicant	2010
KW Kuwait	1
KY Cayman Islands	65
KZ Kazakhstan	7
LB Lebanon	6
MA Morocco	2
MD Moldova, Republic Of	2
MO Macao	2
MU Mauritius	3
MX Mexico	49
MY Malaysia	45
NG Nigeria	1
NZ New Zealand	146
PA Panama	6
PE Peru	1
PH Philippines	2
PR Puerto Rico	10
QA Qatar	1
RU Russian Federation	177
SA Saudi Arabia	66
SC Seychelles	10
SG Singapore	288
SZ Swaziland	3
TH Thailand	5
TN Tunisia	3
TT Trinidad And Tobago	1
TW Taiwan, Province Of China	1224
UA Ukraine	12
US United States	39519
UY Uruguay	6
UZ Uzbekistan	1
VC Saint Vincent And The Grenadines	7
VE Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic Of	6
VG Virgin Islands, British	138
VI Virgin Islands, U.S.	5
VN Viet Nam	3
WS Samoa	4
ZA South Africa	103
not classified	25
Total	76 553

EPO 2010 ANNUAL REPORT STATISTICS

European patent applications filed with the EPO

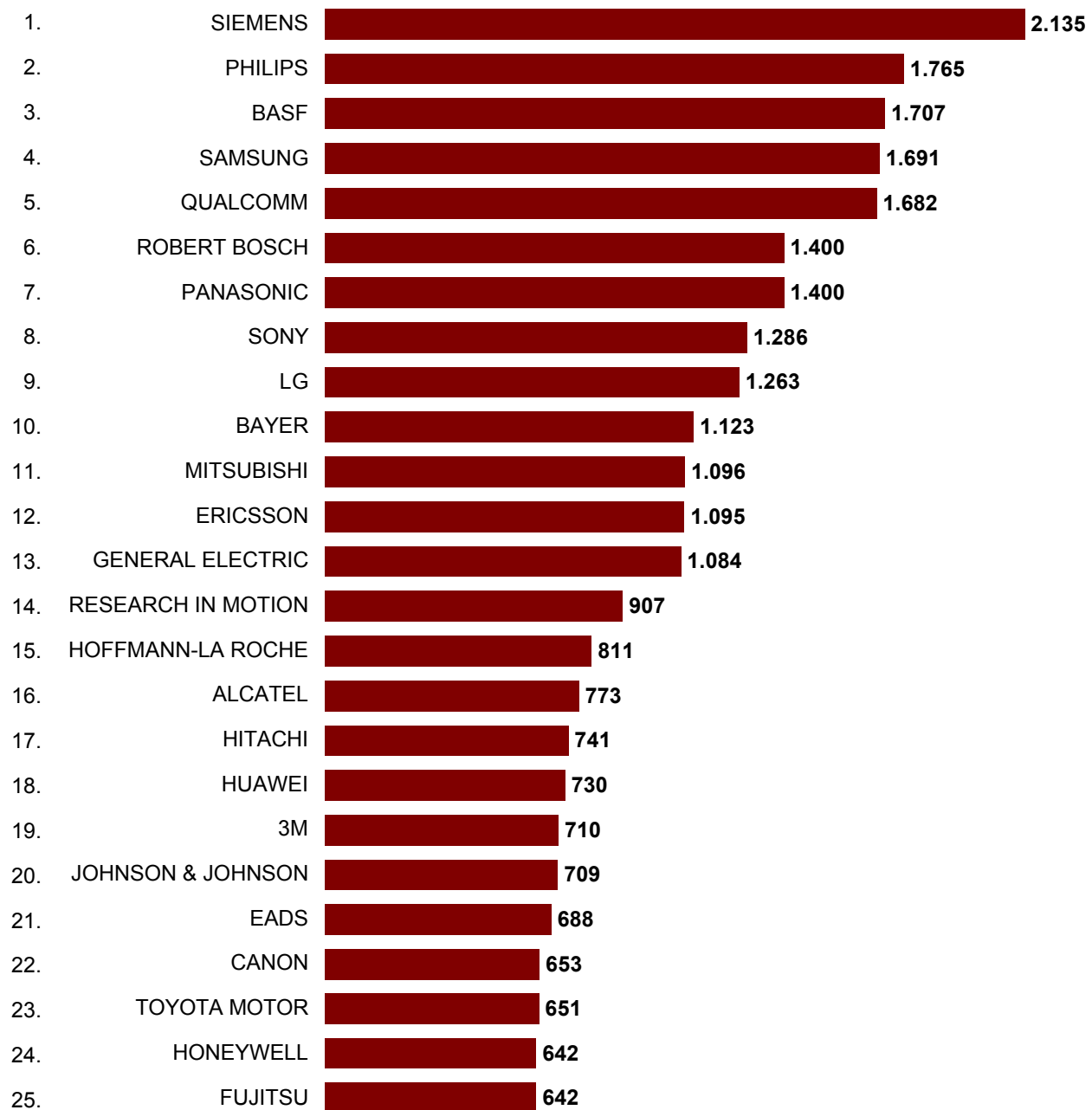
Field of technology	EPC states	U.S.	Japan	Others	Total		
Electrical engineering	Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	3 906	1 563	1 833	939	8 241	5,5%
	Audio-visual technology	1 497	999	1 703	952	5 151	3,4%
	Telecommunications	1 485	1 099	860	947	4 391	2,9%
	Digital communication	2 810	2 343	1 009	1 797	7 959	5,3%
	Basic communication processes	456	331	243	99	1 129	0,7%
	Computer technology	2 594	3 127	1 268	1 268	8 257	5,5%
	IT methods for management	355	582	71	165	1 173	0,8%
	Semiconductors	1 234	989	992	499	3 714	2,5%
Instruments	Optics	1 011	860	1 209	321	3 401	2,3%
	Measurement	3 401	1 505	931	402	6 239	4,1%
	Analysis of biological materials	768	555	129	96	1 548	1,0%
	Control	1 179	534	270	118	2 101	1,4%
	Medical technology	3 981	4 825	801	872	10 479	6,9%
	Organic fine chemistry	3 957	1 963	742	607	7 269	4,8%
	Biotechnology	3 301	2 762	614	758	7 435	4,9%
	Pharmaceuticals	3 103	2 405	414	732	6 654	4,4%
Chemistry	Macromolecular chemistry, polymers	1 673	952	667	177	3 469	2,3%
	Food chemistry	915	313	97	102	1 427	0,9%
	Basic materials chemistry	2 154	1 608	567	268	4 597	3,0%
	Materials, metallurgy	1 199	553	601	196	2 549	1,7%
	Surface technology, coating	997	604	357	114	2 072	1,4%
	Micro-structural and nano-technology	80	49	5	29	163	0,1%
	Chemical engineering	1 920	867	327	229	3 343	2,2%
	Environmental technology	939	364	298	121	1 722	1,1%
	Handling	2 334	721	331	154	3 540	2,3%
	Machine tools	1 962	543	517	158	3 180	2,1%
Mechanical engineering	Engines, pumps, turbines	2 387	902	781	205	4 275	2,8%
	Textile and paper machines	1 122	543	506	140	2 311	1,5%
	Other special machines	2 508	732	438	277	3 955	2,6%
	Thermal processes and apparatus	1 418	345	358	209	2 330	1,5%
	Mechanical elements	2 262	560	543	187	3 552	2,4%
	Transport	3 781	683	1 076	329	5 869	3,9%
Other fields	Furniture, games	1 770	471	144	276	2 661	1,8%
	Other consumer goods	1 665	497	188	332	2 682	1,8%
	Civil engineering	3 092	640	132	274	4 138	2,7%
Not yet classified	5 191	1 130	802	862	7 985	5,3%	
Total	74 407	39 519	21 824	15 211	150 961	100,0%	

Based on the WIPO IPC-Technology concordance as revised in August 2011. Methodology available at: http://www.wipo.int/ipstats/en/statistics/patents/pdf/wipo_ipc_technology.pdf

EPO 2010 ANNUAL REPORT STATISTICS

Leading applicants in 2010

Based on the number of European patent applications filed with the EPO

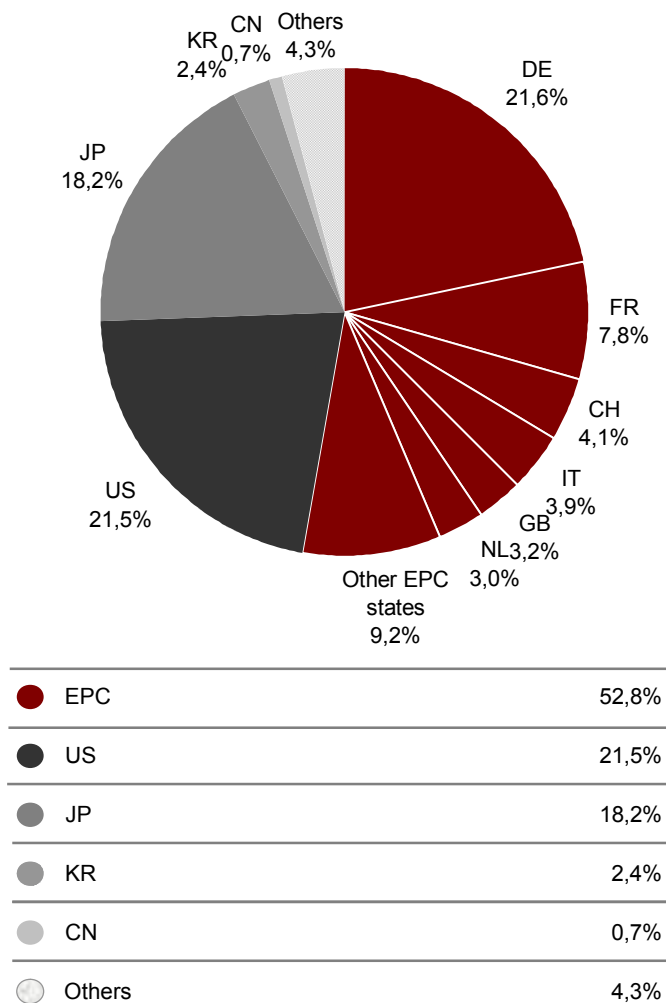


EPO 2010 ANNUAL REPORT STATISTICS

European patents granted in 2010

Country of residence of the patentee	Patents granted			Designations as contracting state	
	2010	2009	Change	Patents	Rate
AL Albania	0	0	-	0	0,0%
AT Austria	667	578	15,4%	39834	68,6%
BE Belgium	642	591	8,6%	39997	68,8%
BG Bulgaria	3	5	-40,0%	34110	58,7%
CH Switzerland	2 389	2 234	6,9%	40670	70,0%
CY Cyprus	18	25	-28,0%	38831	66,8%
CZ Czech Republic	45	40	12,5%	34322	59,1%
DE Germany	12 553	11 477	9,4%	57415	98,8%
DK Denmark	515	436	18,1%	39495	68,0%
EE Estonia	7	8	-12,5%	34101	58,7%
ES Spain	393	350	12,3%	42070	72,4%
FI Finland	679	673	0,9%	39647	68,2%
FR France	4 536	4 069	11,5%	54814	94,3%
GB United Kingdom	1 857	1 658	12,0%	54114	93,1%
GR Greece	16	25	-36,0%	39230	67,5%
HR Croatia	10	15	-33,3%	4179	7,2%
HU Hungary	58	38	52,6%	32802	56,5%
IE Ireland	150	146	2,7%	39538	68,0%
IS Iceland	6	10	-40,0%	25496	43,9%
IT Italy	2 287	2 025	12,9%	46979	80,8%
LI Liechtenstein	116	114	1,8%	40670	70,0%
LT Lithuania	1	0	-	25072	43,1%
LU Luxembourg	130	88	47,7%	39185	67,4%
LV Latvia	8	2	300,0%	21821	37,6%
MC Monaco	8	5	60,0%	39065	67,2%
MK FYRO Macedonia	0	0	-	529	0,9%
MT Malta	18	12	50,0%	10632	18,3%
NL Netherlands	1 725	1 608	7,3%	41693	71,8%
NO Norway	183	142	28,9%	4180	7,2%
PL Poland	45	33	36,4%	28774	49,5%
PT Portugal	29	25	16,0%	39259	67,6%
RO Romania	3	4	-25,0%	32254	55,5%
RS Serbia	2	1	100,0%	0	0,0%
SE Sweden	1 467	1 307	12,2%	40891	70,4%
SI Slovenia	33	28	17,9%	32970	56,7%
SK Slovakia	12	9	33,3%	34120	58,7%
SM San Marino	2	1	100,0%	91	0,2%
TR Turkey	89	61	45,9%	37564	64,6%
Sub-total EPC member states	30 702	27 843	10,3%	1206 414	
Other country of origin	27 406	24 603	11,4%		
Total	58 108	52 446	10,8%		

European patents granted in 2010 by residence of patentees



EPO 2010 ANNUAL REPORT STATISTICS

European patents granted in 2010 to other countries

Country of residence of the applicant	2010
AD Andorra	1
AE United Arab Emirates	4
AI Anguilla	2
AN Netherlands Antilles	20
AR Argentina	5
AU Australia	294
AW Aruba	1
AZ Azerbaijan	0
BA Bosnia And Herzegovina	1
BB Barbados	173
BH Bahrain	0
BM Bermuda	20
BN Brunei Darussalam	2
BR Brazil	47
BS Bahamas	6
BY Belarus	2
BZ Belize	0
CA Canada	733
CK Cook Islands	1
CL Chile	6
CN China	433
CO Colombia	1
CU Cuba	9
EC Ecuador	0
EG Egypt	2
FO Faroe Islands	1
GD Grenada	1
GE Georgia	1
GI Gibraltar	1
HK Hong Kong	19
ID Indonesia	1
IL Israel	277
IN India	121
IR Iran, Islamic Republic Of	4
JO Jordan	5

Country of residence of the applicant	2010
JP Japan	10580
KR Korea, Republic Of	1392
KW Kuwait	1
KY Cayman Islands	56
KZ Kazakhstan	0
LB Lebanon	0
LK Sri Lanka	0
MD Moldova, Republic Of	0
MH Marshall Islands	1
MU Mauritius	7
MX Mexico	7
MY Malaysia	17
NA Namibia	1
NZ New Zealand	38
PA Panama	6
PH Philippines	1
PR Puerto Rico	4
QA Qatar	0
RU Russian Federation	69
SA Saudi Arabia	20
SC Seychelles	3
SG Singapore	86
TH Thailand	1
TN Tunisia	0
TW Taiwan, Province Of China	257
UA Ukraine	11
US United States	12506
UY Uruguay	1
VC Saint Vincent And The Grenadines	5
VE Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic Of	1
VG Virgin Islands, British	84
VU Vanuatu	1
WS Samoa	2
ZA South Africa	53
ZM Zambia	1
Total	27 406

EPO 2010 ANNUAL REPORT STATISTICS

Five year-review					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
European patent filings					
Direct European applications	61 140	62 645	62 736	55 947	71 367
PCT international patent applications	149 640	159 927	163 235	155 397	163 662*
Total European patent filings	210 780	222 572	225 971	211 344	235 029
European patent applications filed with the EPO					
Direct European applications	61 140	62 645	62 736	55 947	71 367
PCT applications entering the regional phase	74 236	78 621	83 529	78 610	79 594
Total European patent applications filed with the EPO	135 376	141 266	146 265	134 557	150 961
Searches carried out					
European searches	83 748	84 698	87 667	99 105	100 010
Other searches	88 285	92 757	99 167	104 404	101 504
For national Offices and third parties	18 444	18 877	17 104	22 941	27 818
International	69 841	73 880	82 063	81 463	73 686
Total searches	172 033	177 455	186 834	203 509	201 514
Examination/Opposition					
International Preliminary Examinations	14 574	11 513	10 430	9 601	7 128
European examinations	96 422	90 310	99 053	102 178	114 991
Patents granted	62 777	54 700	59 810	52 446	58 108
Patents opposed	3 001	3 293	2 840	2 695	2 766
Decisions in opposition cases	1 921	2 085	1 982	2 314	2 309
Appeals					
Received					
Technical Board of Appeal	1 938	2 049	2 362	2 475	2 542
- ex parte	843	913	1 110	1 226	1 241
- inter partes	1 095	1 136	1 252	1 249	1 301
Settled					
Technical Board of Appeal	1 529	1 620	1 737	1 893	1 961
- ex parte	608	673	738	777	807
- inter partes	921	947	999	1 116	1 154
Staff					
A grades	4 363	4 528	4 741	4 872	4 876
B/C grades	1 956	1 971	1 944	1 944	1 902
Total staff	6 319	6 499	6 685	6 816	6 778

Source: EPO databases - March 2011

(*) WIPO estimate March 2011