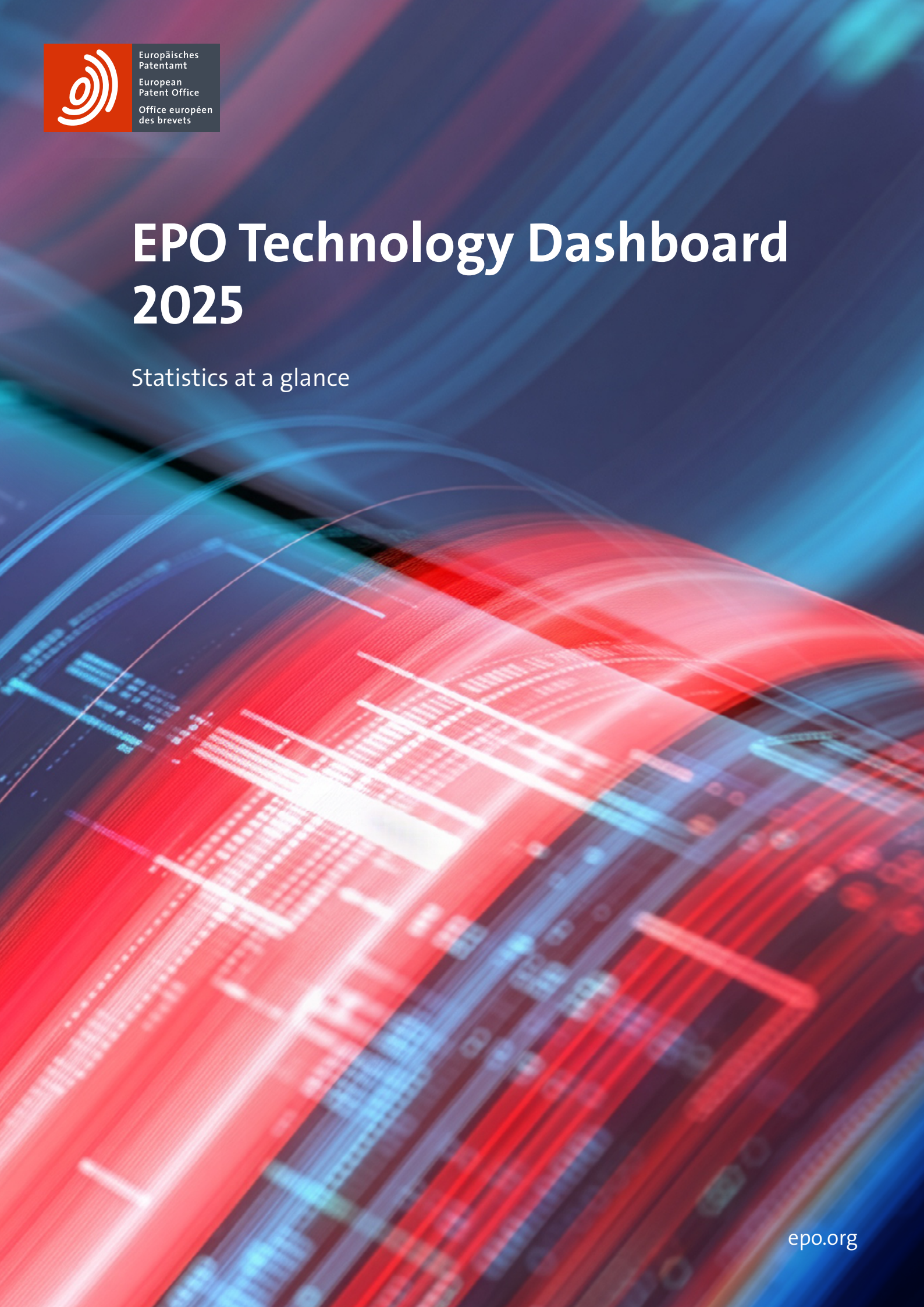
Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

EPO Technology Dashboard 2025

Statistics at a glance



epo.org

Total European patent applications

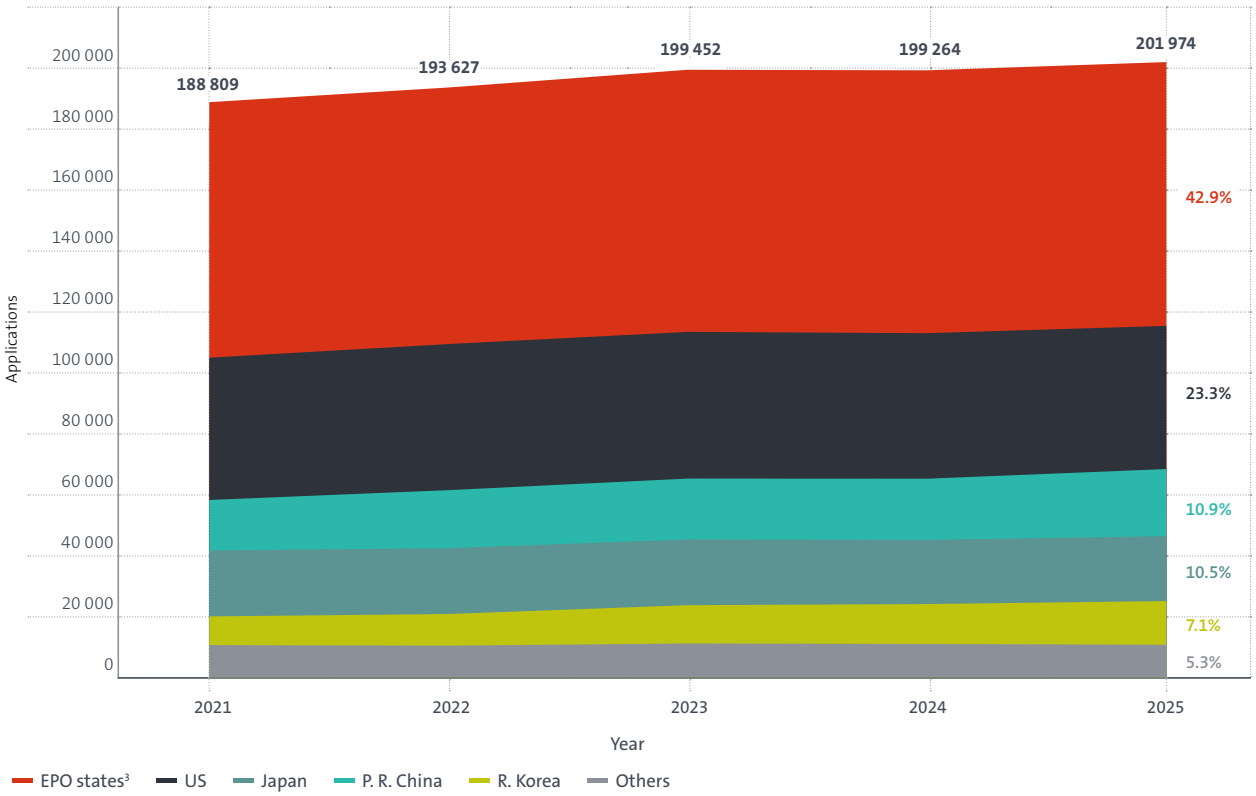
The European Patent Office (EPO) received 201 974 patent applications in 2025, a slight increase (+1.4%) from 2024, exceeding 200 000 filings for the first time. Computer technology, which includes inventions related to artificial intelligence and quantum computing, remained the top technology field and saw significant growth (+6.1%). Digital communication (+11.4%), which includes inventions for mobile networks, saw the largest growth among the leading technology fields, rising to second place overall. The third most active field was electrical machinery, apparatus and energy (+5.3%), which includes battery technologies.

Applications from applicants across all 39 EPO member states rose slightly (+0.4%), with growth driven by states typically filing in smaller volumes. From outside Europe, filings from the United States fell slightly (-1.6%), while P.R. China (+9.7%) overtook Japan (+1.1%) to become the third most active country of origin. R. Korea also saw strong growth (+9.5%).

This graph shows the geographic origin of the European patent applications[1] filed with the EPO. The geographic origin of the file is determined by the country of residence of the first applicant listed on the application form (first-named applicant principle[2]).

Figure 1

Patent applications to the EPO



Status: 02.02.2026

Source: EPO

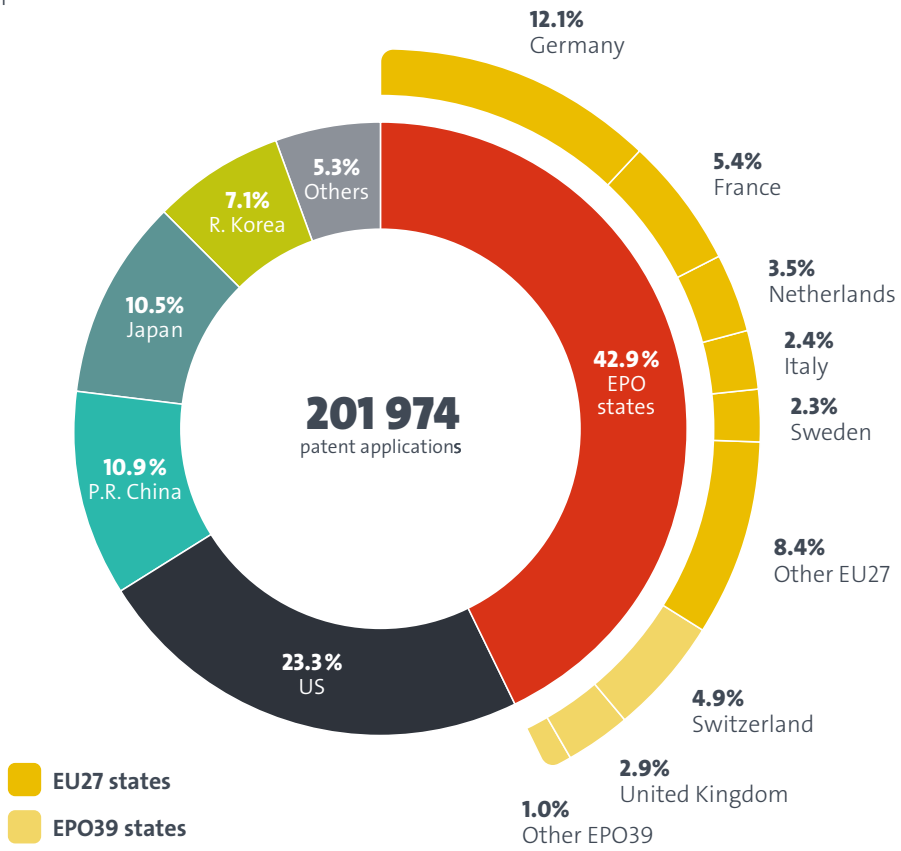
1 European patent applications include direct European applications (Direct) and international (PCT) applications that entered the European phase during the reporting period (PCT regional).
2 In cases where several applicants are mentioned on the application form, the country of residence of the first applicant listed applies.
3 EPO states: the 39 member states of the European Patent Organisation, which includes the 27 states of the EU.

Origin of European patent applications

This graph shows the geographic origin of the European patent applications[1] determined by the country of residence of the first applicant listed on the application form (first-named applicant principle[2]).

Figure 2

Origin of applications



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1 European patent applications include direct European applications and international (PCT) applications that entered the European phase during the reporting period.
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Top technical fields based on European patent applications

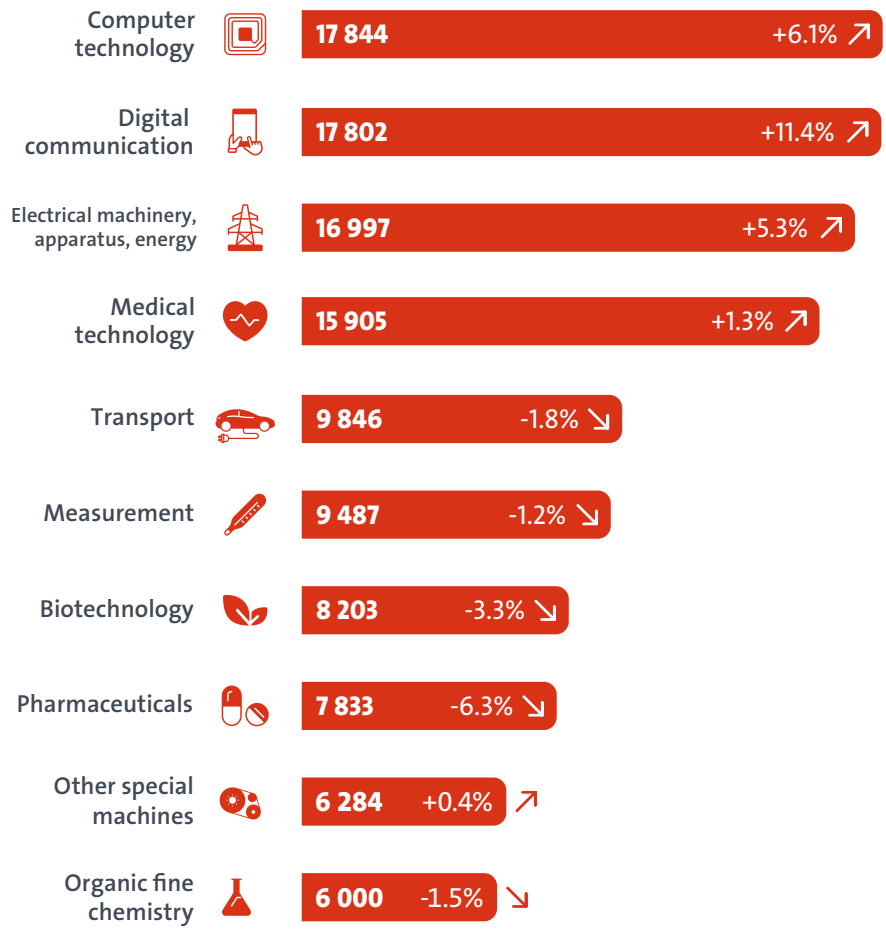
This page shows the number of European patent applications[1] filed with the EPO for the ten technical fields[2] with the largest number of applications in 2025. Five of the ten fields saw growth. The greatest increase was seen in digital communication (+11.4%) which includes inventions for mobile networks. Computer technology (+6.1%) was the top technology field for the second year in a row.

Filings remained robust in electrical machinery, apparatus and energy (+5.3%) as well as in medical technology (+1.3%), while biotechnology (-3.3%) and pharmaceuticals (-6.3%) saw a decline.

The combined number of filings in the top ten technology fields accounted for 57.5% of all European patent applications in 2025.

Figure 3

Top technical fields



Status: 02.02.2026

Source: EPO

1 European patent applications include direct European applications and international (PCT) applications that entered the European phase during the reporting period.

2 The definition of the fields is based on the WIPO IPC technology concordance. The table is available at: www.wipo.int/ipstats/en/docs/ipc_technology.xlsx

Patent applications per million inhabitants

This country ranking[1] is based on the number of European patent applications[2] filed with the EPO per million inhabitants.[3]

Figure 4

Applications per million inhabitants

	Country	Applications in 2025	Population[3] (mio. inhabitants)	Ratio: applications per mio. inhabitants
1.	**Switzerland**	**9 914**	9 049	**1 095.6**
2.	**Finland**	**3 457**	5 636	**613.4**
3.	**Sweden**	**4 724**	10 588	**446.2**
4.	**Denmark**	**2 672**	5 993	**445.9**
5.	**Netherlands**	**7 006**	18 044	**388.3**
6.	**Germany**	**24 476**	83 577	**292.9**
7.	**Republic of Korea**	**14 355**	51 667	**277.8**
8.	**Austria**	**2 253**	9 197	**245.0**
9.	**Ireland**	**1 179**	5 440	**216.7**
10.	**Belgium**	**2 548**	11 900	**214.1**
11.	**Singapore**	**1 184**	5 871	**201.7**
12.	**Japan**	**21 304**	123 103	**173.1**
13.	**France**	**10 932**	68 636	**159.3**
14.	**Israel**	**1 473**	9 517	**154.8**
15.	**United States**	**47 008**	347 276	**135.4**
16.	**Norway**	**726**	5 594	**129.8**
17.	**Hong Kong SAR**	**832**	7 396	**112.5**
18.	**United Kingdom**	**5 875**	69 551	**84.5**
19.	**Italy**	**4 767**	58 934	**80.9**
20.	**Slovenia**	**171**	2 131	**80.2**

Status: 29.01.2025

Source: EPO

1 The geographic origin is based on the country of residence of the first applicant listed on the application form (first-named applicant principle). In cases where several applicants are mentioned on the application form, the country of residence of the first applicant listed applies.

2 European patent applications include direct European applications and international (PCT) applications that entered the European phase during the reporting period.

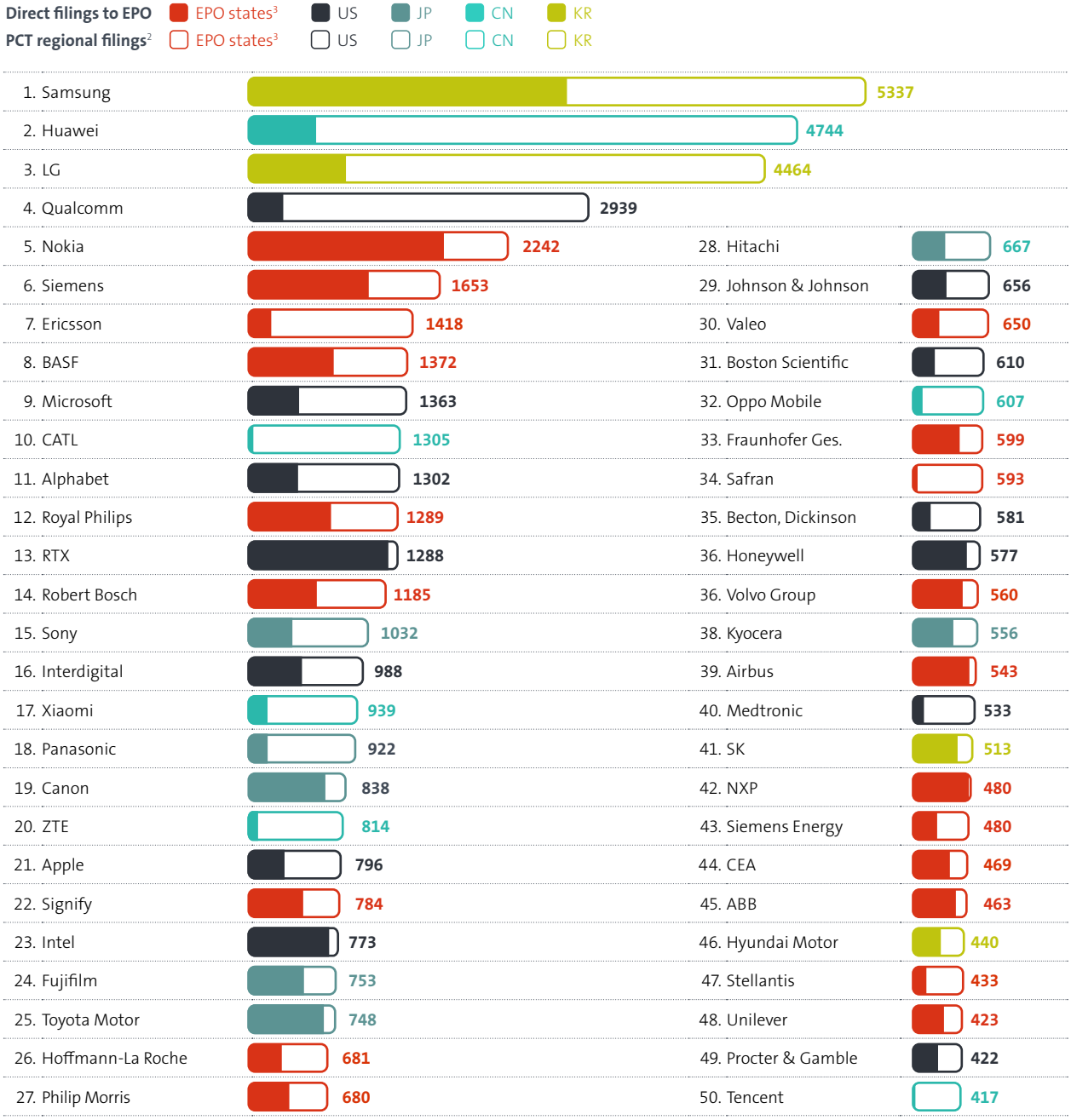
3 Source of population figures: US Census Bureau, International Data Base.

Top 50 applicants

This ranking shows the largest applicants[1] at the EPO, indicating their country of origin[2].

Figure 5

Top 50 applicants[1]



Status: 02.02.2026

Source: EPO

1 This is the ranking of the main consolidated applicants at the EPO in 2025 (first-named applicant principle). It is based on European patent applications filed with the EPO, which include direct European applications and international (PCT) applications that entered the European phase during the reporting period.

2 Country of residence of the headquarters.

3 EPO states: the 39 member states of the European Patent Organisation, which includes the 27 states of the EU.

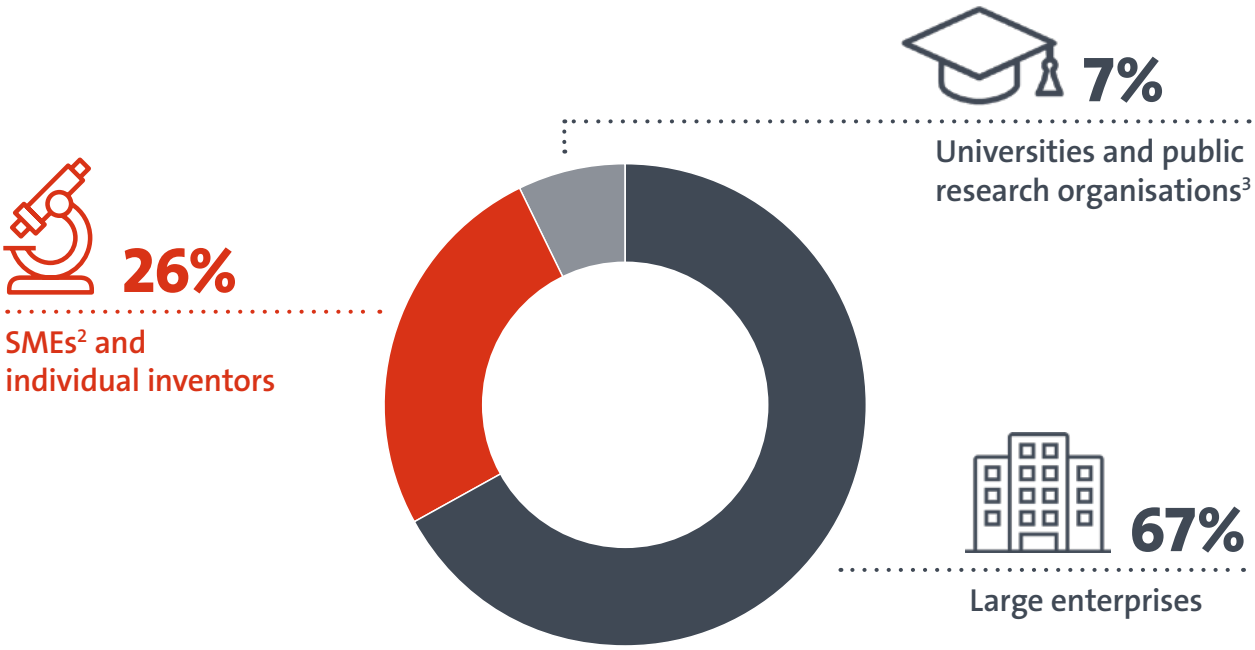
Shares in applications originating from Europe[1]

A breakdown of patent applications originating from European countries shows that 67% of them were filed by large companies, 26% by individual inventors and SMEs, and 7% by universities and public research organisations.

This shows that a significant proportion of applicants at the EPO are smaller entities.

Figure 6

Breakdown of applicants by type



Status: 02.02.2026

Source: EPO

1 This breakdown is based on a large representative sample of patent applications filed with the EPO in 2025 by applicants located in member states of the European Patent Organisation.

2 SMEs have been identified based on the European Commission definition of SMEs (2003/361/EC).
According to this definition, an SME is i) an independent company with ii) less than 250 staff and iii) a turnover below €50 million and/or a balance sheet below €43 million. Detailed financial data and company ownership data from the BvD Orbis database have been used to enable a strict application of this definition.

3 This category includes technology transfer offices that while registered as corporate entities are clearly affiliated to a university or public research

Women inventors

In March 2026 the EPO published a study looking at women's participation in Europe's innovation landscape. For 2025 we find that 26% of applications filed at the EPO from applicants based in one of the EPO's 39 member states named at least one woman as an inventor. A small increase from the previous year.

There is wide variation between countries and technology fields, indicating that there is still much to be done to encourage girls in STEM subjects at schools, and to encourage more women to follow careers in science and engineering.

Granted patents over 5 years

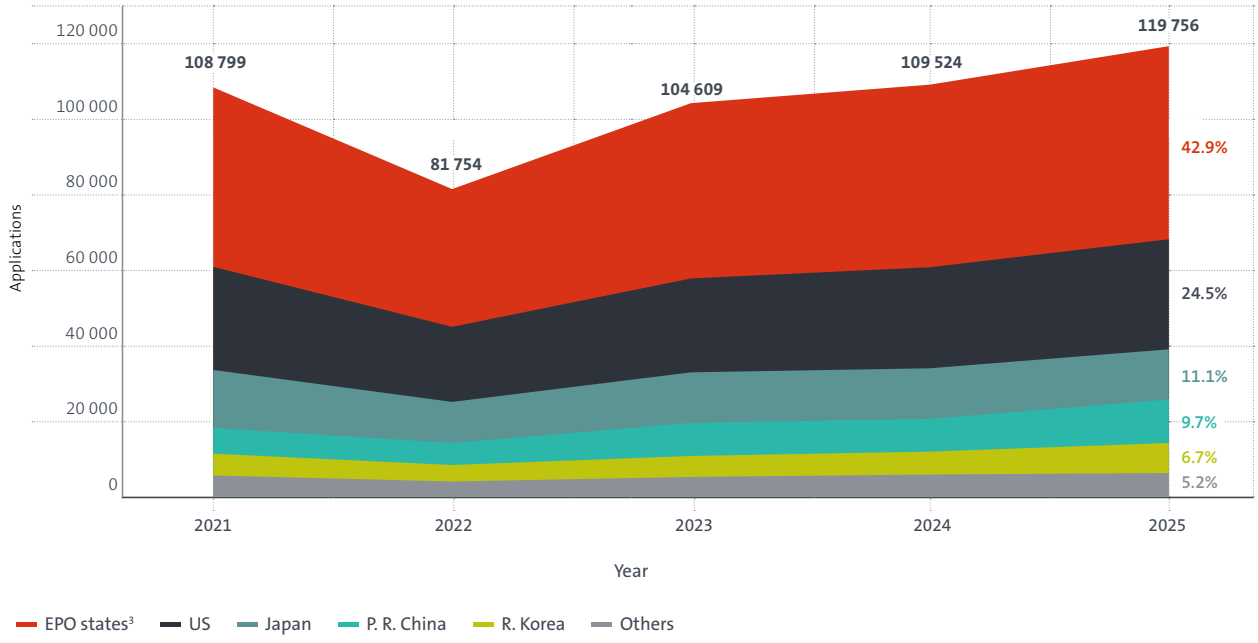
This graph shows the geographic origin of the patents granted by the EPO[1] based on the country of residence of the first patentee listed on the published patent[2].

Uptake of the Unitary Patent

Of the 119 756 patents granted by the EPO in 2025, 28.7% requested unitary effect, a single validation covering 18 EU member states. Uptake from patentees based in Europe was even higher, at 40%, thereby comprising almost 60% of all Unitary Patents.

Figure 7

Patent grants



Status: 02.02.2026

Source: EPO

1 The analysis is based on published patents granted by the EPO.
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