

Preface

The IP5 Statistics Report (IP5 SR) is jointly produced by the “IP5 Offices,” hereafter referred to as the Group, which consist of the European Patent Office (EPO), the Japan Patent Office (JPO), the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA), and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), along with the support of the International Bureau (IB) of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). It follows on from a provisional Key IP5 statistical indicators 2020 data report that was made earlier in 2021. The latest reports, along with other data exchanges and information about the Group, can be found at the IP5 Offices homepage www.fiveipoffices.org.

In July 2020, the CNIPA hosted the 13th IP5 Heads of Office meeting in virtual format. During the meeting, the IP5 Heads of Office took stock of the measures put in place by each of the five offices to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on applicants and to promote innovation that is instrumental in winning the battle against this virus. These include providing assistance and relief to those affected by the outbreak, and continuing to facilitate access to patent information, which presents a wealth of technological knowledge related to the detection, prevention and treatment of COVID-19. They stressed that, through all of these measures, the five offices continue to support inventors and researchers everywhere with high-quality IP rights that help them to attract investment, enter new markets, and foster technology transfer. The five offices will continue the co-operation with the WIPO and support its activities to uphold and strengthen balanced intellectual property systems around the world.”

According to the World Economic Outlook¹ of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the global economy is projected to grow at 5.9 percent in 2021 and grow at 4.9 percent in 2022, the growth projections imply global economic recovery is continuing, even as the Covid-19 pandemic resurges. Advanced economy output is forecast to exceed pre-pandemic medium-term projections. By contrast, persistent output losses are anticipated for the emerging market and developing economy group due to slower vaccine rollouts and generally less policy support compared to advanced economies.

At the IP5 Offices in 2020, the applications increased 3.6 percent at the KIPO, 0.7 percent at the CNIPA, while they decreased by 0.1 percent at the EPO, 6.3 percent at the JPO and 4.0 percent at the USPTO. The data showed annual growth 1.9 percent for overall applications at the IP5 Offices (See Chapters 2 and 4 of this report).

Political and technological factors also influence the levels of patent filings. Globalization of markets and production continues to be a key business trend. There is a worldwide tendency to harmonize patent laws with common international standards and to facilitate filing of applications across borders. Common vehicles for applying across different jurisdictions have also appeared, such as the PCT system, the validation agreements with the EPO and the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH). These factors have had a positive impact on worldwide patent growth over recent years.

While applications are user driven, grants show the production capacity of the offices. The IP5 Offices hope that this report provides useful information to the readers. The IP5 Offices will continue to improve and refine the report to better serve expectations

¹ World Economic Outlook October 2021:
<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/Issues/2021/10/12/world-economic-outlook-october-2021>

and objectives of the public. Definitions related to the terminology used in the report are given in Annexes [1](#) and [2](#) at the end.

When reading this report, please bear in mind that the procedures and practices among the IP5 Offices differ in a number of areas. Therefore, care should be taken when analysing, interpreting and especially comparing 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, (<https://www.fiveipoffices.org/statistics>) Please also note the links to statistics at each Office (<https://www.fiveipoffices.org/resources/annualreports>)

Together with this report, there is a separate glossary of patent-related terms and a set of statistical tables that show extended time series and graphs for most of the data found in this report.

EPO, JPO, KIPO, CNIPA, and USPTO
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