

Executive Summary

The IP5 Statistics Report (IP5 SR) is an annual compilation of patent statistics for the five largest Intellectual Property offices - the Five IP Offices (IP5 Offices) - namely the European Patent Office (EPO), the Japan Patent Office (JPO), the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), the State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China (SIPO), and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

- At the end of 2011, 7.9 million patents were in force in the world (+6.6 percent). 89 percent of these patents were valid in one of the IP5 Offices jurisdictions.
- In 2011, 1.8 million patent applications were filed world wide, either as direct national, direct regional or international PCT applications of which 92 percent originated from the IP5 Blocs.
- In 2012, 1.876 million patent applications were filed at the IP5 Offices (+11 percent).
- The share of the PCT applications among the applications at each of the IP5 Offices continued to increase.
- Together the IP5 Offices granted 923 979 patents in 2012, (+17 percent).
- In 2012, the main developments at the IP5 Offices were:
 - IP5: A new version of the Common Application Format was introduced. A redrafted version of the Catalogue of the Differing Practices was issued. The fourth examiner's workshop was held at the SIPO. For the first time, a provisional 2012 key IP5 statistical data report was published.
 - EPO: A record number of 65 687 patents was granted. The Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC), based on EPO's ECLA system with best practice from the USPTO, was introduced. Chinese was added to EPO's Patent Translate service. A vote on the EU regulations to introduce a unitary patent will entrust the EPO with new tasks.
 - JPO: Through enhanced dialogue-type outsourcing, the JPO improved the search process efficiency. The international work sharing programmes helped to accelerate the examinations: 20.1 months on average, and 1.8 months after acceptance of a PPH request.
 - KIPO: The pendency period was reduced to 14.8 months. Also, the third generation of KIPOnet was introduced to provide prompt and precise examination services.
 - SIPO: A record number of 652 777 applications for invention patents were received (+24.4 percent) and 217 105 patents for invention were granted. Similar increases were reported for utility models and designs.
 - USPTO: In 2012 the USPTO exceeded the patent quality target by more than 50 percent and reduced first and final action pendencies to 21.9 and 32.4 months, respectively¹. Concurrently, the backlog of unexamined applications was reduced to 608 283, the lowest level in several years despite significant increases in filings in 2011 and 2012.

¹ Figures refer to FY 2012 (October 2011 - September 2012)