

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 2019 data report that was made earlier in 2020. 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 June 2019, the KIPO hosted the IP5 Heads of Office meeting held in Incheon, Korea. The IP5 consists of the EPO, the JPO, the KIPO, the CNIPA, and the USPTO. During the meeting, the Heads of Office approved various cooperation achievements over the past year and the work plan for the next step and signed the 2019 IP5 Joint Statement. The statement summarizes the cooperation achievements of the five offices in recent years in the areas of coordination and simplification of procedures, enhancement of work sharing, improvement of patent quality, convenient provision of patent information and statistical data, and timely revision of patent classification, and points out that the future IP5 cooperation will focus on the aspects of coping with global technological change, providing high-quality and reliable examination, and innovating and improving the IP5 cooperation mechanism.

According to the World Economic Outlook¹ of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the global economy is projected to decrease at 4.4 percent in 2020 and grow at 5.2 percent in 2021, The growth projections imply wide negative output gaps and elevated unemployment rates this year and in 2021 across both advanced and emerging market economies.

At the IP5 Offices in 2019, the applications increased 4.1 percent at the EPO, 4.3 percent at the KIPO, 4.1 percent at the USPTO, while they decreased by 1.8 percent at the JPO and 9.2 percent at the CNIPA. The data showed annual growth 5.6 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 on those applications after some delay. 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 and objectives of the public. Definitions related to the terminology used in the report are given in Annexes [1](#) and [2](#) at the end.

¹ World Economic Outlook October 2020: <http://www.imf.org>

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](#). Please also note the [links to statistics at each Office](#).

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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