

## 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 2018 data report that was made earlier in 2019. The latest reports, along with other data exchanges and information about the Group, can be found at the IP5 Offices homepage [www.fiveipoffices.org](http://www.fiveipoffices.org).

In June 2018, the USPTO hosted the IP5 Heads of Office meeting held in New Orleans, LA. The IP5 consists of the EPO, the JPO, the KIPO, the CNIPA, and the USPTO. Together, these offices account for more than 80 percent of patent applications filed worldwide, as well as about 95 percent of all PCT work. In 2018, the IP5 continued the tradition of cooperation to strengthen work sharing, patent examination efficiency and quality, and the stability of patent rights for innovators around the world. To assist with these efforts, the USPTO helped lead to completion a comprehensive project evaluation by the IP5. This evaluation was undertaken in order to enhance procedural efficiencies for applicants who apply for patents in multiple IP5 offices. Throughout this evaluation, the IP5 focused on identifying and prioritizing initiatives that would most efficiently achieve the IP5's goals and objectives, including providing further enhancements to Global Dossier and improving work sharing amongst the IP5 offices through programs such as the Collaborative Search Pilot and PCT Collaborative Search and Examination program.

The IP5 Heads of Office meeting also addressed topics that are deemed to play an increasingly important role in the future of IP5 co-operation and which could have a significant impact on the global patent system, such as the further development of the Global Dossier and the increasing use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

In a meeting with IP5 Industry, appreciation was expressed for the EPO's leadership and the continuous progress that it has made in the area of quality. In particular, industry representatives underlined the value of exchanges with the users of the IP5 regions under the framework of the Partnership for Quality. They also highlighted the value of the EPO's comprehensive annual Quality Report and the Praktika intern/extern programme, which encourages greater dialogue between EPO examiners and industry.

The Heads of Office meeting also assessed the evolution of IP5 co-operation since its launch in 2007. The five largest offices account for 80 percent of the global patent market and share the responsibility of optimising the international patent system. Speaking on the future of IP5 co-operation, EPO President underlined that its success will depend on the rigorous prioritisation of projects, and the allocation of the necessary financial, human and IT resources that are required for their efficient and timely implementation. On the basis of a proposal from the EPO, the IP5 offices reaffirmed the impact of AI on the patent system as one of the IP5's main strategic priorities. The subject of AI will now be explored further in conjunction with the other IP5 offices, led by the EPO. Also on the initiative of the EPO, the offices agreed to continue discussions at IP5 level on the interplay of patents and standards, with a view to establishing a uniform, international approach.

According to the World Economic Outlook<sup>1</sup> of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the global economy is projected to grow at 3.5 percent in 2019 and 3.6 percent in 2020, but the expansion is becoming less even and risks to the outlook are mounting. Financial market conditions remain accommodative for advanced economies, which is where many patent applications are made. It seems likely that the drivers for patent applications will remain positive unless there is a major disruption to world economies. At the IP5 Offices in 2018, the applications increased 11.6 percent at the CNIPA, 4.6 percent at the EPO, 2.5 percent at the KIPO, while they decreased by 1.6 percent at the USPTO and 1.5 percent at the JPO. The data showed annual growth 6.0 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.

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, ([www.fiveipoffices.org/statistics.html](http://www.fiveipoffices.org/statistics.html)). Please also note the links to statistics at each Office ([www.fiveipoffices.org/resources/annualreports.html](http://www.fiveipoffices.org/resources/annualreports.html)).

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  
With cooperation of WIPO  
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<sup>1</sup> World Economic Outlook October 2019: [www.imf.org](http://www.imf.org)