
DATA DESCRIPTION

DATA SOURCES

The IP data published in this report are taken from the WIPO Statistics Database, primarily based on WIPO's Annual IP Survey (see below) and data compiled by WIPO in the processing of international applications/registrations through the PCT, Madrid and Hague systems. Data are available for downloading from WIPO's Statistics Data Center at: www.wipo.int/ipstats/.

Patent family and technology data are a combination of those taken from the WIPO Statistics Database and the PATSTAT database of the European Patent Office (using the April 2012 edition of the PATSTAT database).

GDP and population data were obtained from the World Development Indicators Database maintained by the World Bank. R&D expenditure data are those from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

This publication uses the World Bank income classification. Economies are divided according to 2011 gross national income per capita, calculated using the World Bank Atlas method. The groups are: low-income (\$1,025 or less); lower middle-income (\$1,026-\$4,035); upper middle-income (\$4,036-\$12,475); and high-income (\$12,476 or more).¹

The report uses the UN definition of regions and subregions. The geographical terms used by WIPO may differ slightly than those defined by the UN. However, the composition of regions and subregions is identical.²

- ¹ For further details on World Bank classification, see <http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-classifications>.
- ² For further details on UN classification, see <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49regin.htm>.
- ³ All questionnaires are available in English, French and Spanish.

WIPO'S ANNUAL IP STATISTICAL SURVEY

WIPO collects data from national and regional IP offices around the world through annual questionnaires and enters these in the WIPO Statistics Database. In cases where offices do not provide data but data are published on their websites or in annual reports, these data, where possible, are used to supplement the survey responses. A continuing effort is made to improve the quality and availability of IP statistics and to obtain data for as many offices and countries as possible. The annual IP questionnaires can be downloaded at: www.wipo.int/ipstats/en/data_collection/questionnaire/.³

The data are broken down by office, origin, applications abroad, resident and non-resident applications, class counts, design counts, etc. Refer to the Glossary for the definitions of key concepts contained in this publication.

ESTIMATION PROCEDURE FOR WORLD TOTALS

World totals for applications and grants/registrations for patents, utility models, trademarks, industrial designs and plant varieties are WIPO estimates. Data are not available for all offices for every year. Missing data are estimated using methods such as linear extrapolation and averaging adjacent data points. The estimation method used depends on the year and the office in question. Data are available for the majority of the larger offices. Only small shares of world totals are estimated. The table below shows data availability by IP type and data coverage.

Application data availability (based on 2011 statistics collection)

IP type	Estimated world totals based on:	Data available for:	Data coverage
Patents	125 offices	91 offices	98%
Utility models	74 offices	49 offices	99%
Trademarks	151 offices	121 offices	95%
Industrial designs	133 offices	108 offices	99%
Plant varieties	66 offices	59 offices	98%

Where an office provides data that are not broken down by origin, WIPO estimates the resident and non-resident counts using the historical shares at that office.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DATA

Application and grant/registration data include both direct filings and filings via the international systems (where applicable). This publication employs the following terms: patent applications and grants; utility model applications and grants; trademark applications and application class counts, and registrations and registration class counts; industrial design applications and application design counts, and registrations and registration design counts; and plant variety applications and grants. In the case of patents and utility models, data include direct filings at national patent offices and PCT national phase entries. For trademarks, data include filings at national and regional offices and designations received by relevant offices via the Madrid system. Data for industrial designs include national and regional applications combined with designations received by relevant offices via the Hague system.

INTERNATIONAL COMPARABILITY OF INDICATORS

Every effort has been made to compile IP statistics based on the same definitions and to facilitate international comparability. As mentioned above, the data are collected from offices using WIPO's harmonized annual IP questionnaires. However, it must be kept in mind that national laws and regulations for filing IP applications or for issuing IP rights, as well as statistical reporting practices, may differ across jurisdictions.

Please note that due to the continual updating of data and the revision of historical statistics, data provided in this publication may differ from previously published figures and from the data available on WIPO's web pages.