

Hague Yearly Review 2024





Hague Yearly Review 2024

International Registration of Industrial Designs

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Further information

Online resources

The data underlying the figures and tables can be downloaded free of charge at www.wipo.int/ipstats. The webpage also provides links to the IP Statistics Data Center – offering access to WIPO’s statistical data – and to the IP Statistical Country Profiles. Because the IP Statistics Data Center is regularly updated, data reported in the Review may differ slightly from that available from online resources.

The following resources are available on WIPO’s website:

Information on the Hague System

www.wipo.int/hague

Contact information

Department for Economics and Data Analytics

Website: www.wipo.int/ipstats

email: ipstats.mail@wipo.int

Key numbers for 2023

8,566 (+7.4%)
International applications

25,414 (+1.3%)
Designs contained in
international applications

8,366 (+8.3%)
International registrations

25,262 (+0.5%)
Designs contained in
international registrations

38,498 (+14.9%)
Designations in international
applications

103,063 (+5.1%)
Designs contained in designations
in international applications

37,043 (+15.7%)
Designations in international
registrations

103,168 (+7.0%)
Designs contained in designations
in international registrations

5,592 (+5.8%)
Renewals of international
registrations

21,791 (+3.4%)
Designs contained in renewals
of international registrations

56,567 (+9.2%)
International registrations
in force

213,318 (+7.1%)
Designs contained in international
registrations in force

Special theme: Hague international application for graphical user interface designs

A graphical user interface (GUI) serves as the means through which individuals interact with electronic devices via visual elements such as icons, buttons and menus. It facilitates user tasks by providing intuitive manipulation of graphical objects, typically through input devices like mice, keyboards or touchscreens. Designed for ease of use and aesthetic appeal, GUIs enhance user experience across various software applications, websites and digital platforms. Given their prevalence, modern products frequently incorporate GUIs to streamline user interaction. Designs related to GUIs can be protected under the Hague System. This special theme provides an overview of the protection of designs related to GUIs through the Hague System in recent years.

Identifying Hague international applications for GUI designs

The identification of GUI designs can be based on Locarno class and/or keyword searches. The relevant Locarno class for GUI designs is subclass 14-4, which covers screen displays and icons, including augmented reality graphical user interfaces for screen display, graphic symbols for screen display, graphical user interfaces for computer screen layout, icons for computers, and web banners. However, GUI designs are not exclusively classified under 14-4, as some GUIs are classified together with physical products, meaning GUI designs can be classified under other Locarno classes. Hence, relying solely on class 14-4 will not capture all GUI designs. But it is difficult to identify other classes that will accurately capture all the GUI designs. Therefore, we used the following keyword searches to capture GUI designs: “graphic + user + interface,” “GUI,” “animated,” “icon” and “display.” These keywords will capture most, if not all GUI designs.

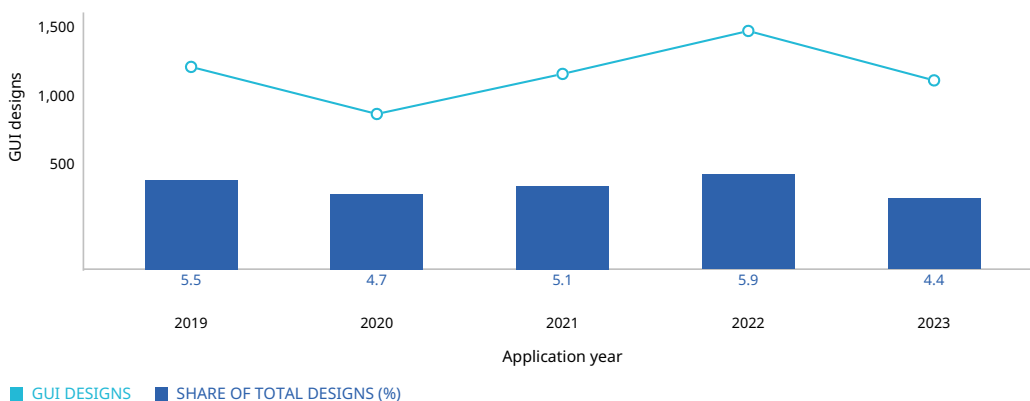
How many GUI designs are contained in Hague international applications?

The total number of GUI designs contained in Hague international applications amounted to 1,111 in 2023 (see figure S1), reflecting a 24.5% decrease compared to the previous year, following double-digit growth in the two preceding years (+33.7% in 2021 and +27% in 2022). This decline in 2023 can be attributed to a substantial decrease in GUI designs originating from the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea. The share of GUI designs in total designs contained in Hague international applications ranged from 4.4% to 5.9% over the past five years.

The Republic of Korea contributed the largest number of GUI designs, with 1,339 originating from there during the 2019–2023 period. This figure represents 23% of the total GUI designs. The Republic of Korea was followed by the US with 869 GUI designs, China (857), the Kingdom of the Netherlands (566) and Japan (424). The top ten origins, as depicted in figure S2, accounted for 90% of the total GUI designs during the 2019–2023 period. The proportion of GUI designs in total designs varied significantly

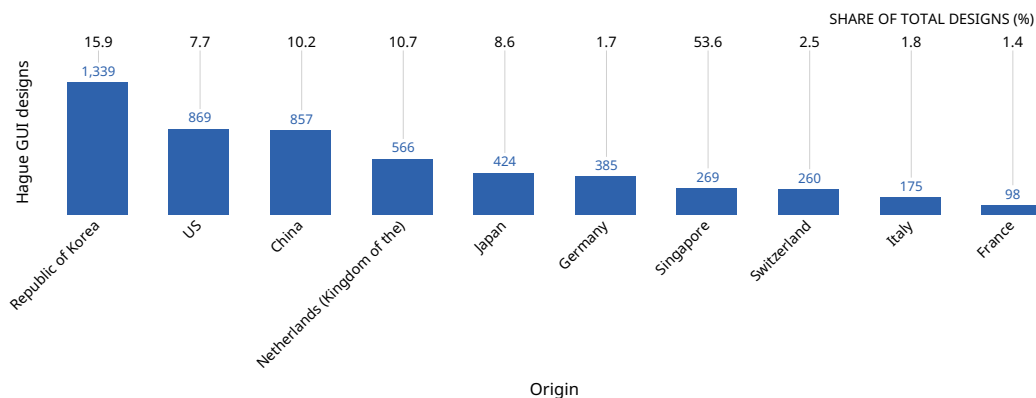
among the top 10 origins, ranging from 1.4% in France to 53.6% in Singapore. For the leading origin, the Republic of Korea, approximately 16% of all designs filed via the Hague System were GUI designs.

S1. GUI designs contained in international applications, 2019–2023



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

S2. GUI designs contained in international applications for the top 10 origins, 2019–2023



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

Who are the top applicants for GI designs?

Samsung Electronics of the Republic of Korea stands out as the top filer, having submitted 1,019 GUI designs for the period spanning 2019 to 2023 (see table S3). Philips Electronics of the Kingdom of the Netherlands follows in second place with 561 GUI designs, trailed by Beijing Xiaomi Mobile Software of China (426 GUI designs), LG Electronics of the Republic of Korea (188) and Joyo Technology of Singapore (182). However, when considering GUI designs as a percentage of total designs for each of these top applicants, five of the top applicants – Joyo Technology, Kwai Games, Rite-Hite Holding, Shanghai Lianshang Network Technology, and Towerking Tech Limited – exhibit a ratio of 100%. That is to say, all the designs for these applicants are GUI designs. In contrast, only 1.2% of all designs filed by Procter & Gamble of the US are classified as GUI designs. Likewise, Ferrari of Italy and LG Electronics maintain a low ratio of GUI designs as a percentage of total designs.

S3. Top applicants for GUI designs contained in international applications, 2019–2023

Applicant	Country	GUI designs	Share of total designs (%)
Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.	Republic of Korea	1,019	28.9
Koninklijke Philips Electronics N.V.	Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	561	24.8
Beijing Xiaomi Mobile Software Co., Ltd.	China	426	27.0
LG Electronics Inc.	Republic of Korea	188	7.4
Joyo Technology Pte. Ltd.	Singapore	182	100.0
Abbott Diabetes Care Inc.	US	181	81.2
Ferrari S.P.A.	Italy	131	10.3
Inventio AG	Switzerland	109	46.4
Mitsubishi Electric Corporation	Japan	109	21.2
Microsoft Corporation	US	90	26.1
Kwai Games Pte. Ltd.	Singapore	81	100.0
Towerking Tech Limited	Seychelles	68	100.0
DM-Vermögensverwaltungs GmbH	Germany	62	72.9
Lenovo (Beijing) Co., Ltd.	China	44	19.3
Shanghai Lianshang Network Technology Co., Ltd.	China	44	100.0
LG Display Co., Ltd.	Republic of Korea	42	32.6
Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited	Japan	42	71.2
Procter & Gamble Co.	US	41	1.2
Sony Interactive Entertainment Inc.	Japan	41	30.4
Ninebot (Beijing) Tech. Co.Ltd	China	38	16.6
Rite-Hite Holding Corporation	US	38	100.0

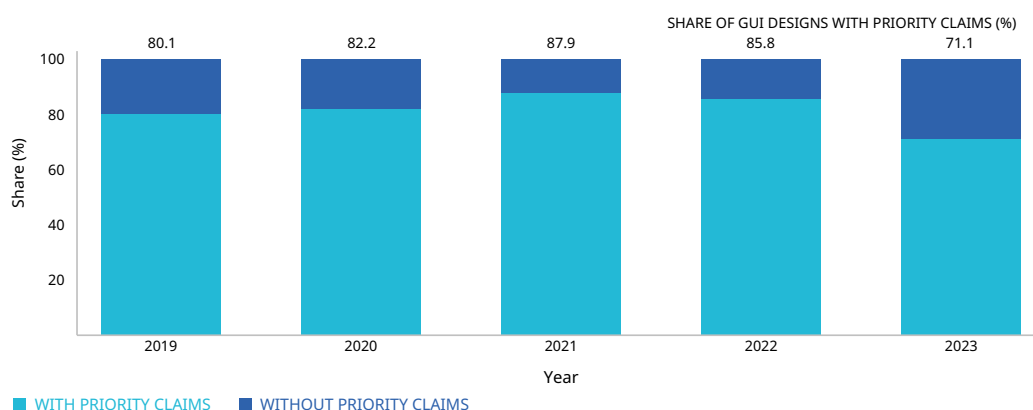
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

What proportion of international applications for GUI designs originate from an earlier application?

Figure S4 presents the share of Hague international applications for GUI designs with and without priority claims across the years 2019 to 2023. There is a fluctuation in the share of applications with and without priority claims over the years. In 2019, the share of applications with priority claims stood at 80.1%, while it increased slightly in 2020 to 82.2%. However, there was a notable increase in 2021, reaching 87.9%, indicating a higher proportion of applications with priority claims. Subsequently, in 2022, the share decreased slightly to 85.8%. The most significant change occurs in 2023, where the share of applications with priority claims drops significantly to 71.1%, while the share of applications without priority claims increases substantially to 28.9%. Generally speaking, the share of Hague international applications for GUI designs with priority claims across the years 2019 to 2023 is much higher than the average share for all Hague applications, as reported in figure 14 on page 26.

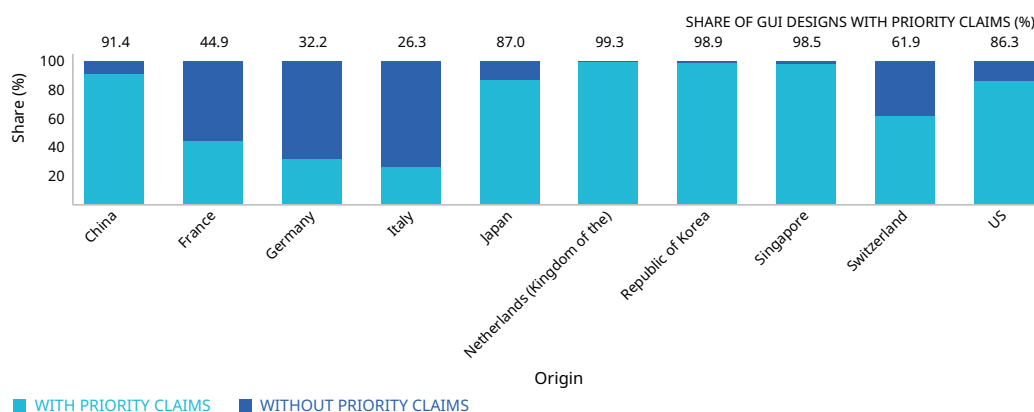
Among the top ten origins, nearly all applications for GUI designs originating from Singapore (98.5%), the Kingdom of the Netherlands (99.3%), and the Republic of Korea (98.9%) have an earlier priority claim (see figure S5). In contrast, less than half of all applications for GUI designs filed by France (44.9%), Germany (32.2%), and Italy (26.3%) contained a priority claim.

S4. Share of GUI designs contained in international applications with priority claim, 2019–2023



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

S5. Share of GUI designs contained in international applications with priority claim for the top 10 origins, 2019–2023



Note: The top 10 origins as reported in figure S2.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

Which Locarno classes are frequently specified in GUI designs?

Table S6 outlines the distribution of GUI designs contained within Hague international applications by Locarno class for the period spanning 2019 to 2023. Subclass 14-4 (screen displays and icons) contains 4,750 GUI designs, constituting 79.2% of the total. It is followed by subclass 14-2 (data processing equipment) at 7.6%, subclass 14-3 (telecommunications equipment, wireless remote controls, etc.) at 3.3% and subclass 20-2 (display and sales equipment) at 3.2%. Overall, the bulk of the GUI designs are in class 14, which accounted for around 91.5% of the total for the 2019–2023 period.

In line with the overall trend, subclass 14-4 was the most frequently specified in GUI designs for each of the top 10 origins (see table S7), ranging from 45.4% for Switzerland to 98.9% for both Italy and Singapore. While subclass 14-2 emerged as the second most frequent for GUI designs originating from China (7% of the total), Japan (16.2%), and the US (11.6%). In the case of Switzerland, subclass 12-5 (elevators and hoists for loading or conveying) accounted for a quarter of the total. Subclass 20-2 (display and sales equipment) represented a significant share of the total for France (11.2%) and Germany (19.1%). As shown in the table, GUI designs are classified across different subclasses for each of the top 10 origins.

The class distribution among the top 10 applicants mirrors the overall trend. Subclass 14-4 accounted for all GUI designs for three of the top ten applicants – Abbott Diabetes Care, Ferrari, and Joyo Technology (see table S8). Additionally, subclass 14-4 constituted the bulk of

the total GUI designs for Samsung Electronics (92.7% of all GUI designs), Beijing Xiaomi Mobile Software (89.7%), and Microsoft (88.9%). However, there are two exceptions: Inventio AG and LG Electronics. For Inventio AG, subclass 12-5 represented the largest share (54.7%) of GUI designs. Regarding LG Electronics, GUI designs were evenly distributed across four subclasses (14-2, 14-3, 14-4, and 14-6).

S6. GUI designs contained in international applications by class, 2019–2023

Subclass	GUI designs	Share of total (%)
14-4: Screen displays and icons	4,750	79.2
14-2: Data processing equipment, etc.	455	7.6
14-3: Telecommunications equipment, wireless remote controls, etc.	195	3.3
20-2: Display and sales equipment	189	3.2
12-5: Elevators and hoists for loading or conveying	70	1.2
28-3: Toilet articles and beauty parlor equipment	47	0.8
14-6: Holders, stands and supports for electronic equipment, etc.	46	0.8
Others	242	4.0
Total	5,994	100.0

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

S7. GUI designs contained in international applications by class for the top 10 origins, 2019–2023

Subclass	Origin									
	China	France	Germany	Italy	Japan	Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	Republic of Korea	Singapore	Switzerland	US
12-5: Elevators and hoists for loading or conveying	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	70	..
14-2: Data processing equipment, etc.	60	..	11	..	74	12	110	1	43	102
14-3: Telecommunications equipment, wireless remote controls, etc.	41	9	3	..	21	..	113	..	..	2
14-4: Screen displays and icons	726	85	268	173	335	489	1,087	266	127	738
14-6: Holders, stands and supports for electronic equipment, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	26	..	..	..
20-2: Display and sales equipment	16	12	81	1	..	2	12	1	14	19
28-3: Toilet articles and beauty parlor equipment	..	..	..	..	..	45	..	..	..	2
Others	14	1	60	1	26	18	50	1	26	14
Total	857	107	423	175	456	566	1,398	269	280	877

Note: The top 10 origins are as reported in figure S2.

.. indicates zero.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

S8. GUI designs contained in international applications by class for the top 10 applicants, 2019–2023

Applicant	Subclass							
	12-5	14-2	14-3	14-4	14-6	28-3	Others	Total
Abbott Diabetes Care Inc.	181	..	..	..	181
Beijing Xiaomi Mobile Software Co., Ltd.	..	1	39	382	..	..	4	426
Ferrari S.P.A.	131	..	..	..	131
Inventio AG	70	19	..	33	..	..	6	128
Joyo Technology Pte. Ltd.	182	..	..	..	182
Koninklijke Philips Electronics N.V.	..	12	..	487	..	45	17	561
LG Electronics Inc.	..	38	54	28	20	..	48	188
Microsoft Corporation	..	10	..	80	..	..	..	90
Mitsubishi Electric Corporation	5	82	..	..	22	109
Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.	..	24	54	996	..	..	1	1,075

Note: The top 10 applicants are as reported in table S3. See annex A for definition of subclasses.

.. indicates zero.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

Which Locarno classes do top GUI design applicants also file in?

For seven of the top 10 GUI design applicants, the share of GUI designs in total designs was below 30% (see table S3). The exceptions were Abbott Diabetes Care, Inventio and Joyo Technology. Table S9 shows the distribution of non-GUI designs by Locarno subclass. The top 10 applicants have a substantial number of non-GUI designs distributed across various subclasses. For example, LG Electronics filed for 2,439 non-GUI designs, which are spread across all the reported subclasses in Table S9. Similarly, all the non-GUI designs for Samsung Electronics and Beijing Xiaomi Mobile Software can be found in most of the subclasses reported in table S9. In contrast, non-GUI designs filed by Abbott Diabetes Care, Ferrari, and Inventio are limited to a few subclasses – only one subclass accounted for all the non-GUI designs for Abbott Diabetes Care and around 95% for Ferrari.

S9. Non-GUI designs contained in international applications by class for the top 10 applicants, 2019–2023

Applicant	Subclass												Total
	3-1	12-16	12-5	12-8	14-1	14-2	14-3	15-5	23-4	24-1	28-3	Others	
Abbott Diabetes Care Inc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42	..	..	42
Beijing Xiaomi Mobile Software Co., Ltd.	54	8	..	..	100	73	335	58	43	..	38	463	1,172
Ferrari S.P.A.	23	533	..	624	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	388	1,568
Inventio AG	..	..	121	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	5	127
Joyo Technology Pte. Ltd.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Koninklijke Philips Electronics N.V.	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	32	17	126	1,065	471	1,717
LG Electronics Inc.	26	29	8	10	149	147	374	333	220	15	56	1,072	2,439
Microsoft Corporation	4	..	..	..	16	137	35	..	..	..	..	71	263
Mitsubishi Electric Corporation	..	..	53	..	..	10	39	..	131	..	..	187	420
Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.	190	9	..	2	51	172	1,422	145	95	1	2	654	2,743

Note: The top 10 applicants are as reported in table S3. See annex A for definition of subclasses.

.. indicates zero.

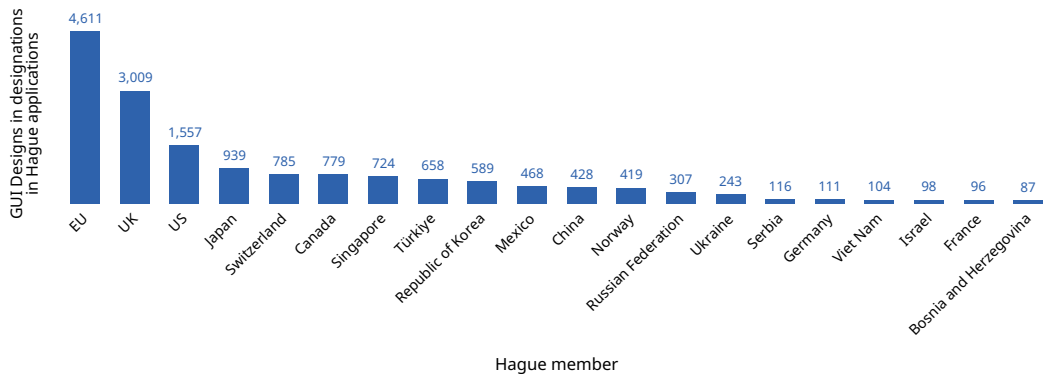
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

Geographical coverage of GUI designs

The EU was the most designated Hague member in international applications with 4,611 GUI designs for the 2019–2023 period (see figure S10). The UK was the second most preferred member, receiving 3,009 GUI designs designations, followed by the US with 1,557, Japan with 939, and Switzerland with 785. The ranking of the top 3 most designated members for GUI designs is identical to the ranking for all designs, as reported in figure 20 on page 28. However, there are some subtle differences. For example, both China and Singapore achieve a higher ranking for GUI designs designations compared to all designs designations.

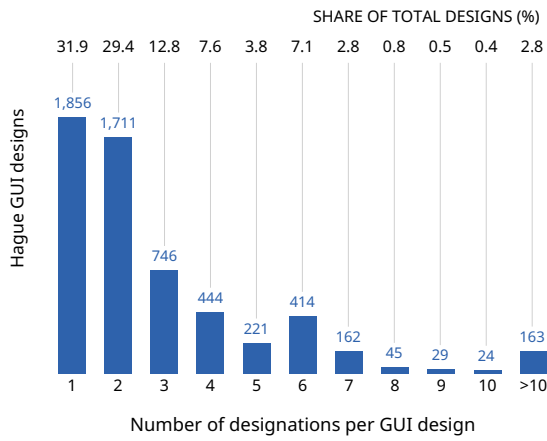
The distribution of designation for GUI designs shows around 32% of GUI designs included a single designation, while another 29.4% included two designations and 12.8% had three designations (see figure S11).

S10. GUI designs designations in international applications for the top 20 most designated Hague members, 2019–2023



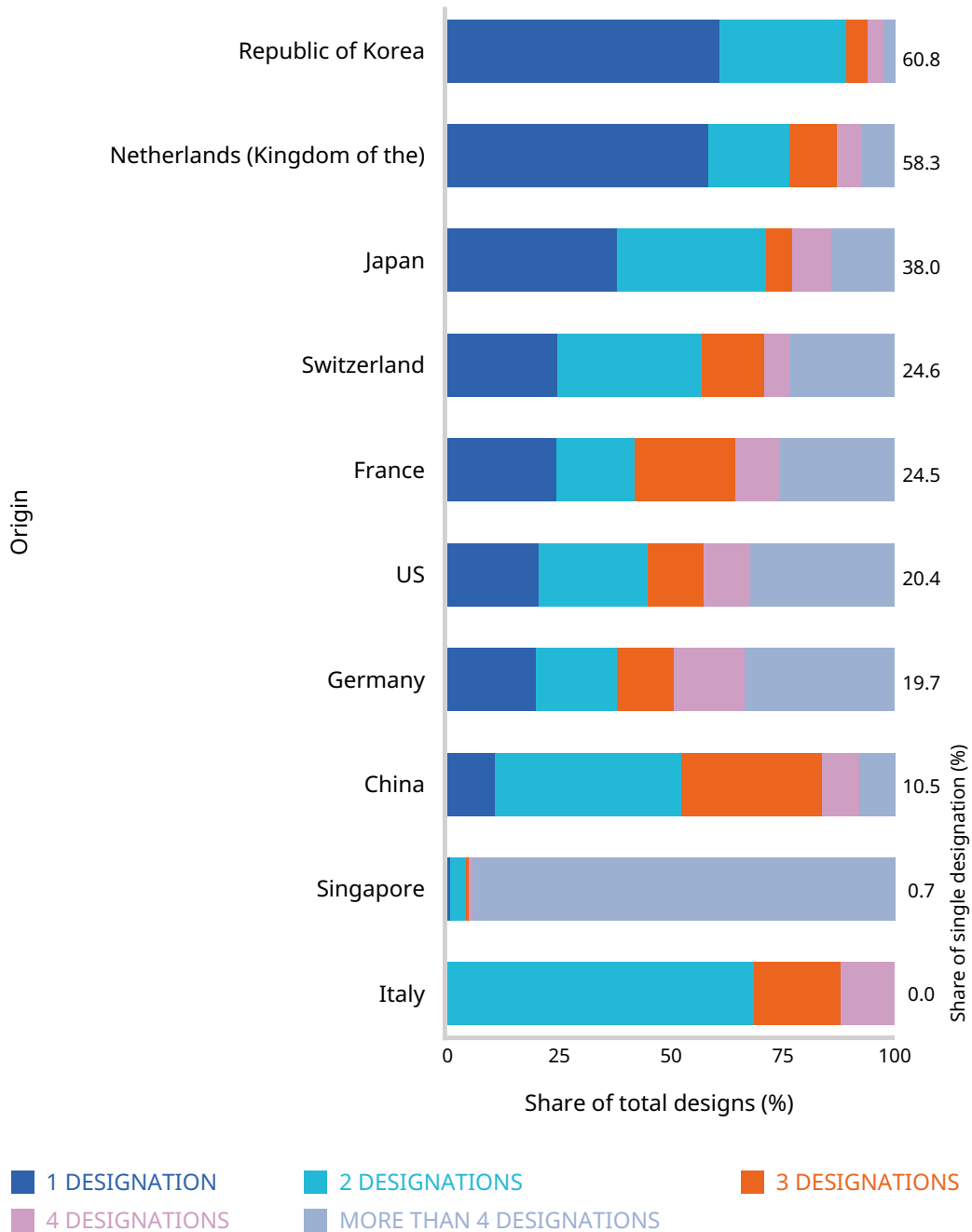
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

S11. Distribution of designations of GUI designs, 2019–2023



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

S12. Distribution of GUI designs per designation for the top 10 origins, 2019–2023



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

The distribution of designations per GUI design varied widely. Among the top 10 origins, the Republic of Korea had the largest proportion of GUI designs with a single designation at 60.8% (see figure S12). In contrast, Italy had no GUI designs with a single designation but had a high share of GUI designs with two designations at 68.6%. Along with the Republic of Korea, the Kingdom of the Netherlands (58.3%) and Japan (38%) also had a high proportion of GUI designs with a single designation. Singapore by far had the largest proportion of GUI designs with more than four designations.

The UK is the only designated member of the Hague Agreement to have obtained designation for GUI designs from each of the top 10 applicants (see table S13). In contrast, China, Mexico, and Türkiye only received designation from three of the top 10 applicants. Interestingly, the EU received designation from nine of the top 10 applicants, with the exception being Philips Electronics.

S13. GUI designs for the top 10 applicants and the top most designated Hague members, 2019–2023

Applicant	Designated Hague members											Total
	Canada	China	EU	Japan	Mexico	Republic of Korea	Singapore	Türkiye	UK	US	Others	
Abbott Diabetes Care Inc.	128	87	175	87	..	..	..	..	175	..	341	993
Beijing Xiaomi Mobile Software Co., Ltd.	..	..	421	1	..	32	1	11	289	305	83	1,143
Ferrari S.P.A.	..	36	95	34	..	16	..	..	95	36	..	312
Inventio AG	..	..	109	..	..	..	13	..	41	..	..	163
Joyo Technology Pte. Ltd.	60	..	180	..	171	..	171	171	171	182	..	1,106
Koninklijke Philips Electronics N.V.	2	..	..	176	8	118	79	79	496	..	95	1,053
LG Electronics Inc.	26	25	157	76	4	4	..	..	20	99	24	435
Microsoft Corporation	28	..	34	..	..	28	..	..	24	..	..	114
Mitsubishi Electric Corporation	..	..	106	..	..	..	3	..	53	..	..	162
Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.	..	..	992	..	..	..	..	..	306	..	..	1,298

Note: The top 10 applicants are as reported in figure S3 and the top 10 designated Hague members are as reported in figure S10.

.. indicates zero.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

Conclusion

This special theme provides an overview of the protection of designs related to Graphical User Interfaces (GUIs) through the Hague System. GUIs play a vital role in facilitating user interaction with electronic devices, enhancing user experience across various digital platforms. Despite a slight decline in GUI designs in 2023, there has been significant growth in previous years. The Republic of Korea emerges as a key contributor to GUI designs, with Samsung Electronics leading the pack. China and the US also accounted for a large proportion of total GUI designs for the 2019–2023 period.

The distribution of GUI designs by Locarno class and among top origins and top applicants highlights the prevalence of subclass 14-4. In addition, the top 10 applicants also have a substantial number of non-GUI designs distributed across other subclasses.

Additionally, the geographical coverage and designation distribution of GUI designs demonstrate the EU as the most designated Hague member for GUI designs, followed by the UK and the US. In addition, around a third of all GUI designs had a single Hague member as designated member, but the proportion of GUI designs by the number of designated members varies for the top 10 origin and applicants.

Annex A

Locarno subclass

3-1	Trunks, suitcases, briefcases, handbags, keyholders, cases specially designed for their contents, wallets and similar articles
12-5	Elevators and hoists for loading or conveying
12-8	Motor cars, buses and lorries
12-16	Parts, equipment and accessories for vehicles, not included in other classes or subclasses
14-1	Equipment for the recording or reproduction of sounds or pictures
14-2	Data processing equipment as well as peripheral apparatus and devices
14-3	Telecommunications equipment, wireless remote controls and radio amplifiers
14-4	Screen displays and icons
14-6	HOLDERS, stands and supports for electronic equipment, not included in other classes
15-5	Washing, cleaning and drying machines
20-2	Display and sales equipment
23-4	Ventilation and air-conditioning equipment
24-1	Apparatus and equipment for doctors, hospitals and laboratories
28-3	Toilet articles and beauty parlor equipment

A. International applications via the Hague System

Highlights

After experiencing double-digit growth in 2021 and 2022, the demand for design protection showed a modest increase of 1.3% in 2023

In 2023, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) received 8,566 international applications for design protection under the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs. This represents a healthy 7.4% increase on the previous year (see figure 1). Furthermore, applications contained a record number of designs, reaching 25,414 and marking a modest 1.3% growth (see figure 2). The modest 1.3% growth in 2023 follows a 20.9% growth in 2021 and 11.5% in 2022, which was mainly due to the accession of China to the Hague System in 2022.

Applicants from at least 68 countries or territories filed one or more Hague application

The accession of Brazil and Mauritius in 2023 has increased the number of Hague members to 79. Applicants can now obtain design protection within the territories of 96 countries. Note that there are fewer Hague members than there are countries covered by the system, due to the Hague membership of the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) and the European Union (EU). Applicants can choose to designate these two intergovernmental organizations in an application, each of which affords protection across all their respective member states. In 2023, over 3,500 applicants from at least 68 countries filed international applications.

In 2023, applicants based in Europe accounted for 60.2% of all designs filed worldwide (see figure 6). This is owing to the fact that a majority of Hague System members are European countries. However, with the recent accession of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea to the Hague System, the proportion of designs originating from Asia has increased significantly, from 3.9% in 2013 to 28% in 2023. In addition, the accession of Canada and the United States of America (US) has resulted in a substantial increase in Northern America's share, from 5.4% in 2013 to 11.4% in 2023. In contrast, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), and Oceania had a combined share of just 0.4% in 2023. This is due to the limited number of Hague Agreement parties in these three regions.

Germany remained top user of the international design system

Despite an 8% drop in 2023, Germany remained the top user of the international design system with 4,518 designs, followed by China (3,758), the US (2,674), Switzerland (2,196), and Italy (1,817) (see figure 8). China, a recent member, consolidated its second-place position due to a 46.9% growth in designs in 2023, while Italy moved from fourth to fifth place due to a 24.9% decline between 2022 and 2023.

Among the top ten countries, China (+46.9%) and Türkiye (+45.9%) experienced double-digit growth in 2023. The US (+9.5%), Japan (+6.9%) and France (+9%) also reported strong growth in 2023. Meanwhile, four countries experienced a decline, with Italy (-24.9%) recording the sharpest drop, followed by the UK (-8.8%), Germany (-8%) and the Republic of Korea (-7.9%).

The average number of designs per international application declined from 4.9 in 2014 to 3 in 2023

The Hague System allows applicants to register up to 100 different designs through a single international application. In 2023, only one application filed by I. Paleohorinos Fotistika of Greece contained the maximum permitted number of designs. In addition, an application filed by Genya Orman Urunlarni Sanayi ve Ticaret of Türkiye contained 99 designs.

In 2023, the average number of designs per application filed was 3, which is similar to the previous year's ratio of 3.1 (see figure 3). The average number of designs per application has shown a downward trend over recent years, partly because new members of the Hague System from Asia, such as China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, have been filing applications containing fewer designs compared to long-term European members like Austria, Germany and Italy. For instance, the Republic of Korea's applications averaged 1.5 designs per application in 2023, whereas those originating from Austria contained an average 6 designs (see figure 9). Among the top 20 origins, Malta had a ratio of 23.9 designs per application. This exceptionally high ratio can be explained by only 11 applications having been filed by applicants from Malta, one of which contained 64 designs, while a further six applications had more than 20 designs each. Similarly, only 17 applications originated from Greece, with one application containing the maximum 100 designs, one application with 57 designs, and one with 45 designs. As a result, Greece has a high ratio of 14.9 designs per application.

As shown in figure 10, the share of single-design applications has been following an upward trend, with the most notable increase occurring between 2014 and 2016, when Japan, the Republic of Korea and the US joined the Hague System. Furthermore, the uptrend accelerated between 2021 and 2023 partly due to accession of China to the Hague System in 2022. The share of single-design applications has continued to increase for the newest members, whereas for long-term members it has remained static for some and declined for others in recent years (see figure 11).

The distribution of designs per application varied widely across different origins. Among top 20 origins, the Republic of Korea had the largest proportion of single-design applications at 87.2%. In contrast, Austria and Germany had the lowest at around 30% (see figure 12), but both of these origins had the largest share of applications with more than 10 designs, with percentages of 13.8% and 10.5% respectively.

In 2023, Samsung Electronics of the Republic of Korea overtook Procter & Gamble of the US to become the applicant with the highest number of published designs

Samsung Electronics of the Republic of Korea moved into the top filing position with 544 designs in published registrations, surpassing Procter & Gamble (525 designs), a US-based company that previously held the top position (see table 4). LG Electronics of the Republic of Korea and Porsche AG of Germany, each with 352 designs, jointly held the third position, followed by Xiaomi Mobile Software of China with 315 designs.

Porsche AG, Hermes Sellier of France, Triple A Finance of Germany, and Alfred Kärcher of Germany, all saw substantial increases in the number of published designs in 2023 compared to 2022, with increases of 235, 179, 175, and 142 designs respectively. Conversely, Procter & Gamble had 162 fewer designs in 2023 compared to 2022, resulting in it dropping from first to second position in the ranking.

The proportion of designs filed by the top three applicants in each of the top 10 origins varied significantly, ranging from 15.3% in Japan up to 67.5% in the Republic of Korea (see figure 5). In the Republic of Korea, the top applicant alone accounted for 30.4% of all designs originating from that country in 2023, whereas in Japan, the top applicant filed only 6.3% of that country's designs total.

Since 2010, the EU has been the most designated Hague member in international applications, with 5,843 designations in 2023

In 2023, designations in total international applications increased by 14.9%, reaching 38,498, following a 15.9% increase the previous year (see figure 16). However, the number of designs contained in designations grew by a more modest 5.1%, reaching around 103,063 designs in 2023 (see figure 17).

Geographical coverage of international applications

The Hague System is a mechanism simplifying the process of registering designs in multiple jurisdictions by creating a single international procedure. Applicants can select those Hague members in whose jurisdictions they wish to protect their designs, which are referred to as designated members. In 2023, applicants could seek protection for up to 100 designs in a single international application in 96 countries/territories.

The EU remains the most designated Hague member in international applications, with 5,843 designations (see figure 20) containing 18,575 designs (see figure 21). The EU has held top position since 2010. After the EU, the UK was the second most designated with 15,373 designs, followed by Switzerland with 8,176, the US with 8,109, and China with 5,720. Five of the top 20 most designated members saw a double-digit growth in designs contained in designations, with China – a recent member – reporting the fastest increase at 68.4%. Viet Nam (+32.3%), Norway (+11.1%), the US (+11.1%) and Japan (+10%) are the other four countries with double-digit growth. In contrast, Israel saw the steepest drop at 17.1%.

In six of the top 15 most designated members, designs originating in China accounted for the largest proportion of all designs in designations, with shares ranging from 17% in the EU to 30.8% in Viet Nam. Meanwhile, Germany and the US had the largest share of all designs in four and three of the top 15 designated members, respectively (see table 24).

Although it is possible for applicants to designate every member of the Hague Agreement in an application, in 2023, no applicant sought protection for their designs in all member jurisdictions. However, one application from Germany did designate 75 of the 79 Hague members, while one application from France and two from Algeria, each designated 69 Hague members. It should be noted Algeria is not a member of the Hague System; however, applicants from non-member countries can file applications for international registrations, provided they have real and effective industrial or commercial establishment within the jurisdiction of a Hague member.

In 2023, about 16.5% of applications included a single designation, while another 22.2% included two designations. Only 6.2% of applications included more than 10 designations (see figure 18). The share of applications with a single designation followed an upward trend between 2009 and 2016, increasing from 17.1% in 2009 to 33.2% in 2016. However, having reached a peak in 2016, the trend in single designation applications has since headed back downward, declining to 16.5%, as of 2023. In contrast, applications with three or more than three designations have trended upward since 2017. For example, applications with more than three designations increased from 27.6% in 2016 to 43.2% in 2023 (see figure 19).

Among the top 20 designated Hague members, more than two-thirds of applications designating Japan, Mexico, the Russian Federation, the US or Viet Nam were for single designs. On the other hand, in respect of designations of Norway, Switzerland or Türkiye less than half of applications were single-design applications (see figure 23).

Designs related to means of transport accounted for 11.1% of all designs in 2023

In 2023, the biggest share of total designs was in means of transport (Class 12) accounting for 11.1% of all designs. This was followed by recording and communication equipment (Class 14) at 8.6%, furnishing (Class 6) at 7.6%, packages and containers (Class 9) at 6.9%, and household goods (Class 7) at 5.6%. The top 10 most specified classes together accounted for 64% of all designs in 2023, whereas the 10 least specified classes accounted for only 3.7% (see table 25). Among the top 10 classes, there was a significant growth in the number of designs for clothing (Class 2) at +33.8%; equipment for production, distribution or transformation of electricity (Class 13) at +32.4%; and household goods (Class 7) at +26.3%.

International applications by Locarno class

The Hague System allows up to 100 industrial designs to be filed within the same class of International Classification for Industrial Designs established under the Locarno Agreement through a single application. The Locarno classification consists of 32 classes.

While designs relating to means of transport were the most frequently specified class in international applications overall, class shares did vary across origins (see table 26). For example, Class 14 was the class most frequently specified in applications from China (20.1% of all designs), Japan (20.8%) and the Republic of Korea (33.5%). For the UK (31.6%), it was class 21, while for the US (19.9%) class 9 and Switzerland (21.4%) class 10 (clocks and watches) accounted for the largest share of the total.

The Hague System accounted for around 40% of all non-resident design filings in 2022

When seeking design protection in foreign jurisdictions, applicants have the option of filing an application directly at a national or regional intellectual property office (known as the Paris route) or making use of the Hague System, provided they are able to meet the requirements.

In 2022, applicants worldwide sought protection for approximately 208,000 designs in foreign jurisdictions. Of these, 40.2% were filed via the Hague System, while the remaining 59.8% were filed by the Paris route (see figure 29). Use of the Hague System for non-resident filings varied among Hague members. Among the top five Hague members, Switzerland received the largest share of non-resident filings through the Hague System at 84%, followed by Japan at 36.5% and the UK at 36%. However, the EU and the US received only 20.5% and 19.6% of their non-resident filings, respectively, via the Hague System (see figure 30).

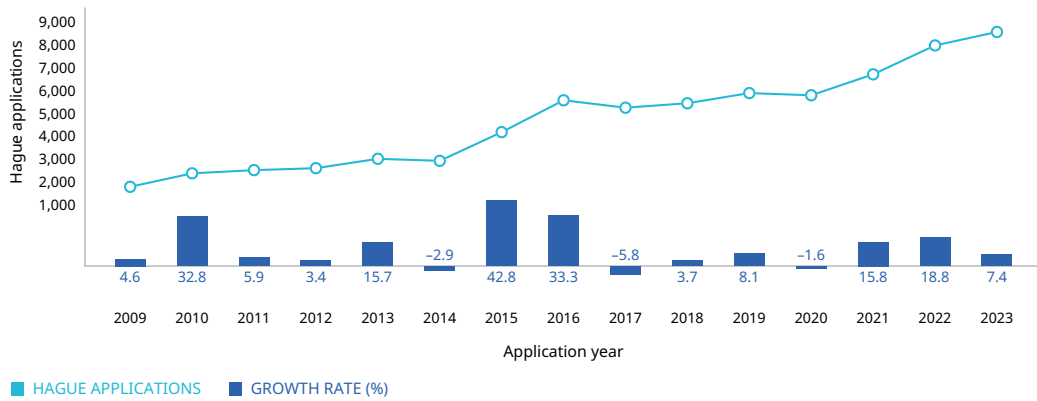
The Hague System is also used by applicants seeking protection for industrial designs within their domestic jurisdiction (i.e., resident Hague filings). Resident filings through the Hague System have more than doubled, from around 5,500 designs in 2009 to around 12,100 designs in 2022. In 2022, the EU received applications for the protection of 7,431 designs through the Hague System from resident applicants. The EU was followed by Switzerland (1,735 designs) and the UK (704). Switzerland received the largest share of resident filings via the Hague System at 57.9%, which is a considerable increase from its 2021 ratio of 43.2%. Switzerland was followed by Liechtenstein at 29.5%, Norway at 20.9%, Israel at 12.6%, the EU at 12.3% and Singapore at 12% (see figure 31).

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In 2023, international applications grew by 7.4% to reach 8,566 applications.

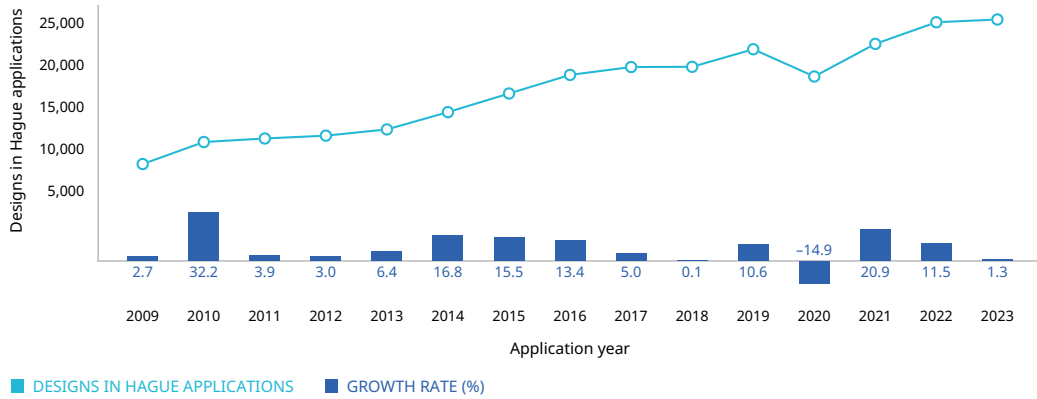
1. International applications, 2009–2023



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

The number of designs contained in international applications reached a record, totaling 25,414, reflecting a modest increase of 1.3%.

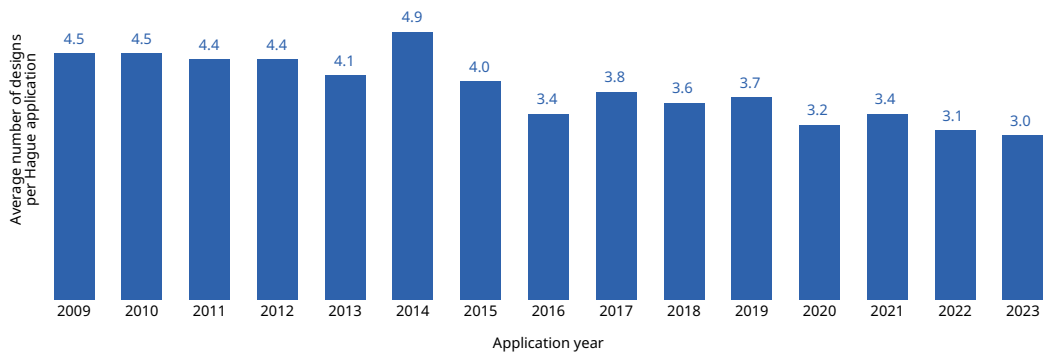
2. Number of designs contained in international applications, 2009–2023



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

In 2023, the average number of designs per application filed was 3, which is similar to the previous year's ratio of 3.1.

3. Average number of designs per international application, 2009–2023



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

Samsung Electronics of the Republic of Korea moved into the top filing position with 544 designs in published registrations, surpassing Procter & Gamble of the US.

4. Top Hague applicants, 2021–2023

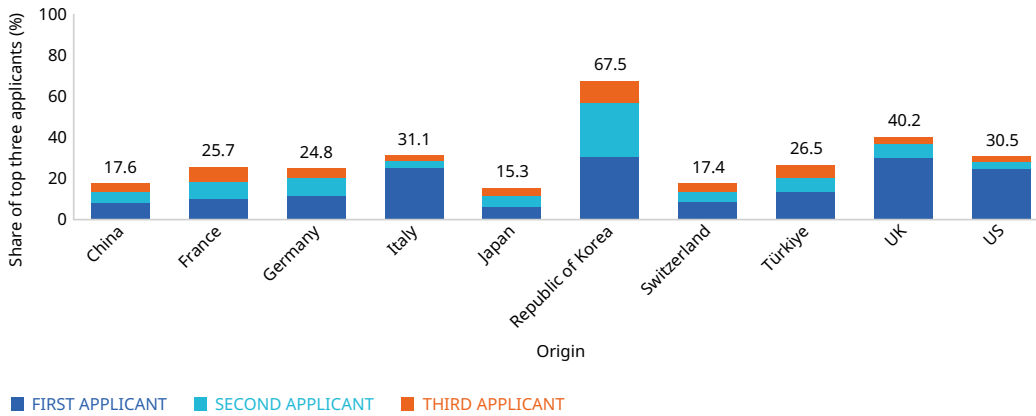
Ranking	Applicant's name	Origin	Number of designs contained in published registrations		
			2021	2022	2023
1	Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.	Republic of Korea	862	451	544
2	Procter & Gamble Co.	US	665	687	525
3	Dr. Ing. H.C. F. Porsche AG	Germany	45	117	352
3	LG Electronics Inc.	Republic of Korea	655	366	352
5	Beijing Xiaomi Mobile Software Co., Ltd.	China	227	251	315
6	Volkswagen AG	Germany	403	233	312
7	Koninklijke Philips Electronics N.V.	Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	678	633	294
8	Jellycat Limited	UK	100	403	255
9	Hermes Sellier (société par actions simplifiée)	France	168	72	251
10	Alfred Kärcher GmbH & Co	Germany	102	47	189
11	I. Paleohorinos Fotistika A.B.E.E.	Greece	138	414	187
12	Triple A Finance GmbH & Co. KG	Germany	0	0	175
13	Ferrari S.P.A.	Italy	99	329	172
13	Kronoplus Limited	Malta	56	171	172
15	Renault S.A.S.	France	84	48	155
16	PSA Automobiles SA	France	303	188	142
17	Daimler AG	Germany	178	101	122
18	Hyundai Motor Company	Republic of Korea	123	76	119
19	Thun S.P.A.	Italy	284	147	118
20	Hansgrohe SE	Germany	114	75	116
21	Alpro, N.V.	Belgium	0	0	114
22	Mercedes-Benz Group AG	Germany	0	13	109
23	Gree Electric Appliances, Inc. of Zhuhai	China	15	16	107
24	Gillette Company LLC	US	135	122	106
25	BSH Hausgeräte GmbH	Germany	22	52	105
26	X-Technology Swiss GmbH	Switzerland	0	8	104
27	Genya Orman Ürünleri Sanayi VE Ticaret Limited Sirketi	Türkiye	37	0	99
28	GD Midea Heating & Ventilating Equipment Co., Ltd.	China	0	2	97
29	Steinpol Central Services Sp. Z O.O.	Poland	43	173	96
30	Philips Domestic Appliances Holding B.V.	Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	0	12	88
31	Thomas Sabo GmbH & Co. KG	Germany	19	191	87
32	Cartier International AG	Switzerland	87	93	80
33	Bayerische Motoren Werke AG	Germany	70	14	79
33	Impress Tech Ltd	Cyprus	64	87	79
35	Braun GmbH	Germany	83	38	76
36	Candy Polstermöbel GmbH	Germany	70	134	75
37	Microsoft Corporation	US	109	30	74
38	Mitsubishi Electric Corporation	Japan	150	72	73
39	Harry Winston SA	Switzerland	196	114	71
40	Kurtoğlu Bakir Kurşun Sanayi A.S	Türkiye	24	20	70
41	Beijing Rockrobo Technology Co., Ltd.	China	14	58	69
42	Pi-Design AG	Switzerland	23	52	68
43	Shenzhen Qianhai Yahee E-Commerce Co., Ltd	China	0	0	66
44	Abbott Diabetes Care Inc.	US	70	22	65
45	Richemont International SA	Switzerland	112	78	64
46	Fritz Egger GmbH & Co. Og	Austria	0	15	61
47	Carven France SAS	France	0	0	59
48	Chocoladefabriken Lindt & Sprüngli AG	Switzerland	110	51	56
48	Poly-Clip System GmbH & Co. KG	Germany	0	0	56
50	Birkenstock IP GmbH	Germany	15	37	55
50	Ferm Living Aps	Denmark	28	34	55

Note: For confidentiality reasons, data are derived from published registrations and their corresponding publication dates.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

Among top 10 origins, the Republic of Korea had the largest proportion of designs filed by its top three applicants.

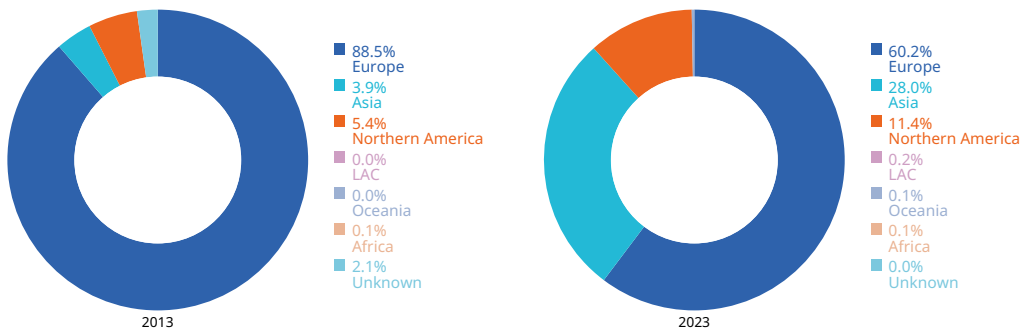
5. Share of the top three applicants for the top 10 origins, 2023



Note: data are derived from designs contained in applications filed in 2023.
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

The significant rise in Asia’s share of designs in applications in 2023 compared to 2013 is attributable to the successive accessions to the Hague System of the Republic of Korea in 2014, Japan in 2015, and China in 2022.

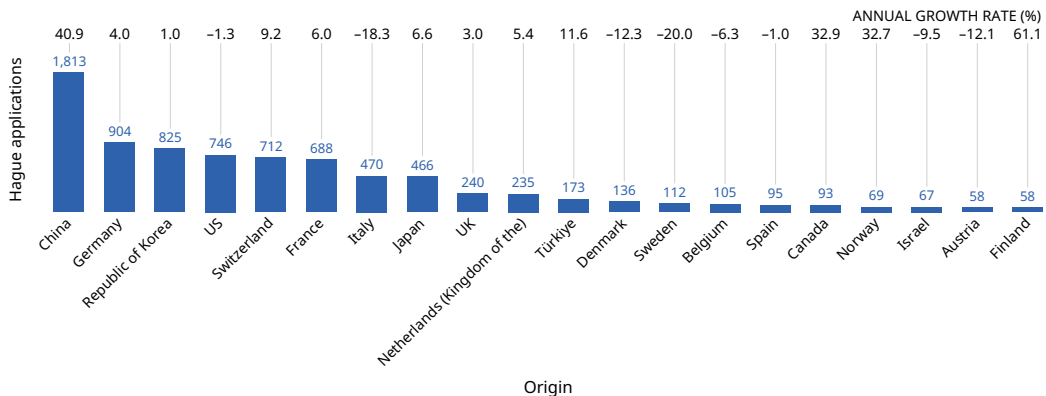
6. Designs contained in international applications by region, 2013 and 2023



Note: Each geographical region includes the following number of countries or territories that filed at least one design application in either 2013 or 2023: Africa (8), Asia (17), Europe (41), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) (4), Northern America (2) and Oceania (1). Regions are defined according to United Nations definitions.
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

China filed 1,813 international applications via the Hague System in 2023, more than double the number filed by the second-ranked country, Germany.

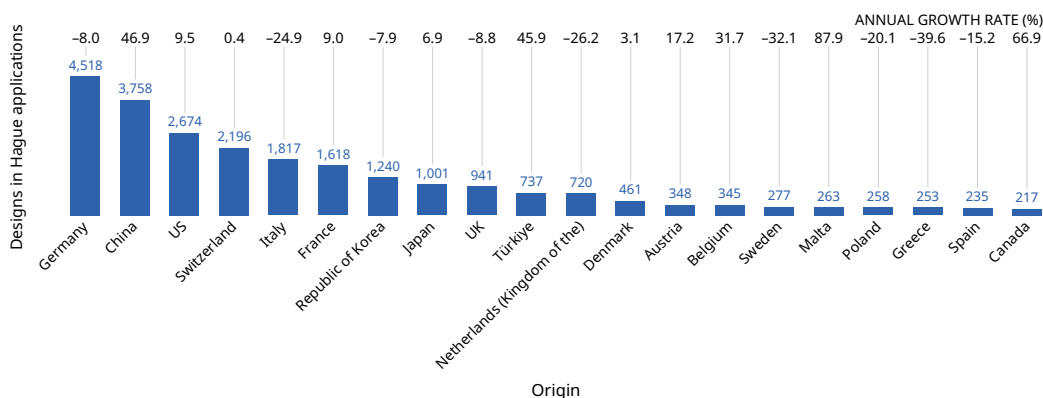
7. International applications for the top 20 origins, 2023



Note: The origin of an application is defined as the country or territory of residence stated in an applicant address.
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

Despite an 8% decrease in the number of designs, Germany continued to be the leading user of the Hague System with 4,518 designs in 2023.

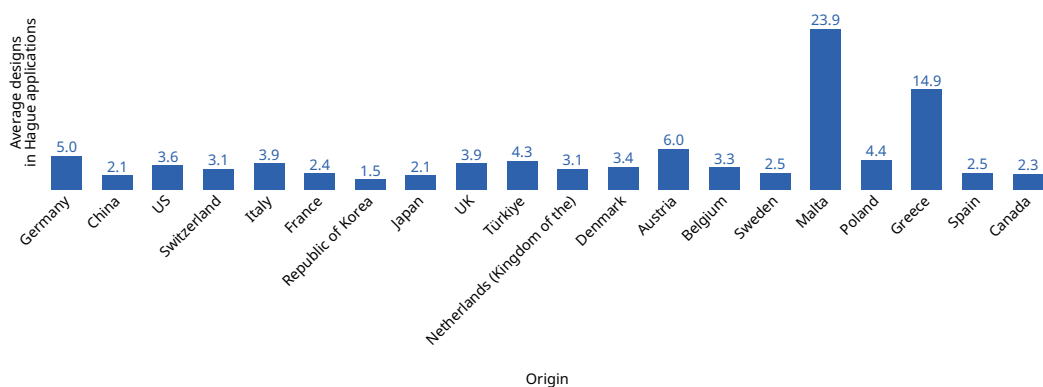
8. Designs contained in international applications for the top 20 origins, 2023



Note: The origin of an application is defined as the country or territory of residence stated in an applicant address.
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

Among top 20 origins, the average number of designs per application varied from 1.5 for the Republic of Korea to 23.9 for Malta.

9. Average number of designs per international application for the top 20 origins, 2023

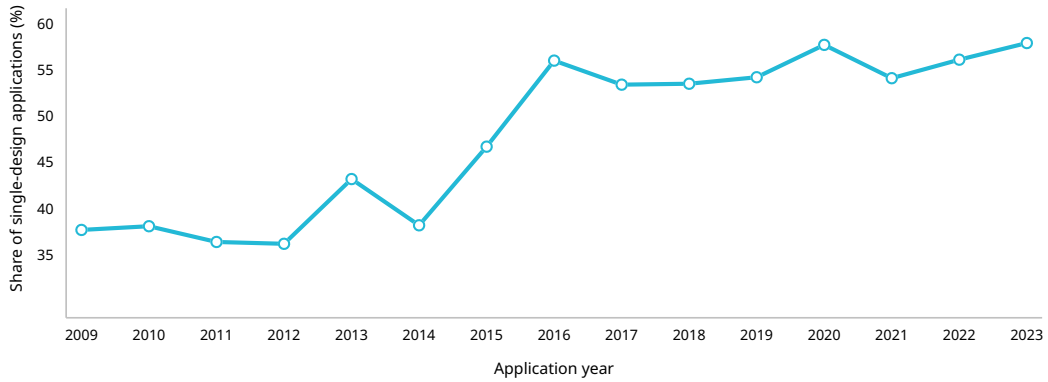


Note: Greece (17 applications) and Malta (11) had a relatively low number of applications filed. However, each application contained a substantial number of designs. In fact, one application for Greece even reached the maximum limit of 100 permitted designs, while one application for Malta contained 64 designs. As a result, the average number of designs per application for Greece and Malta is significantly higher compared to the other top 20 origins. The origin of an application is defined as the country or territory of residence stated in an applicant address. Top 20 origins are as reported in figure 8.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

Around three-thirds of Hague international applications are single-design applications.

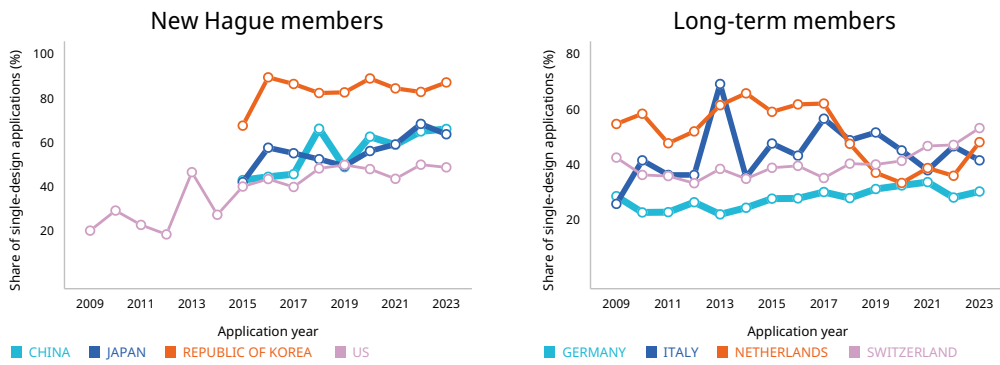
10. Share of single-design applications, 2009–2023



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

New Hague members such as the Republic of Korea have higher single-design shares compared to long-term members such as Germany.

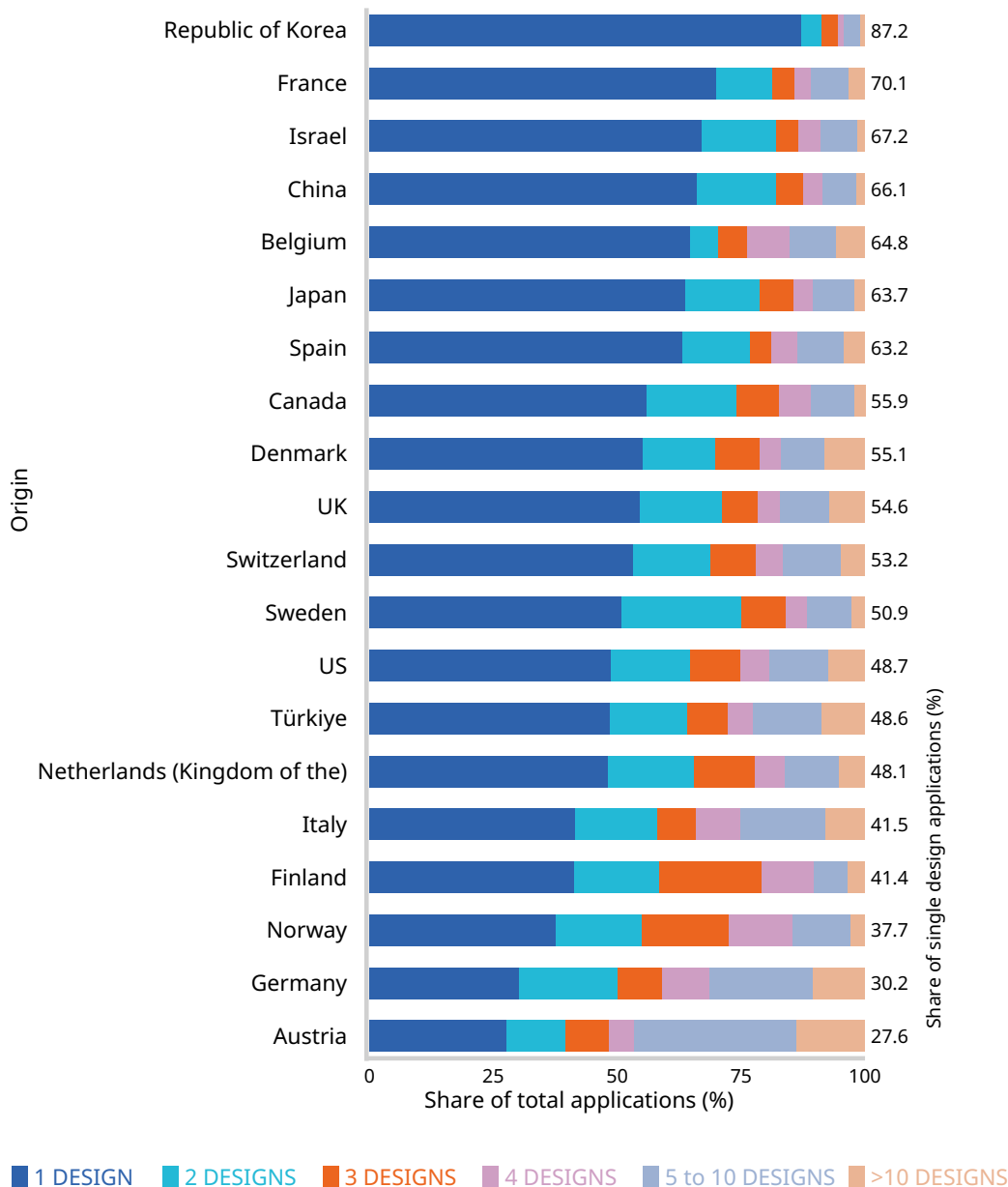
11. Share of single-design applications for selected origins, 2009–2023



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

More than two-thirds of applications filed by France, Israel and the Republic of Korea were single-design applications.

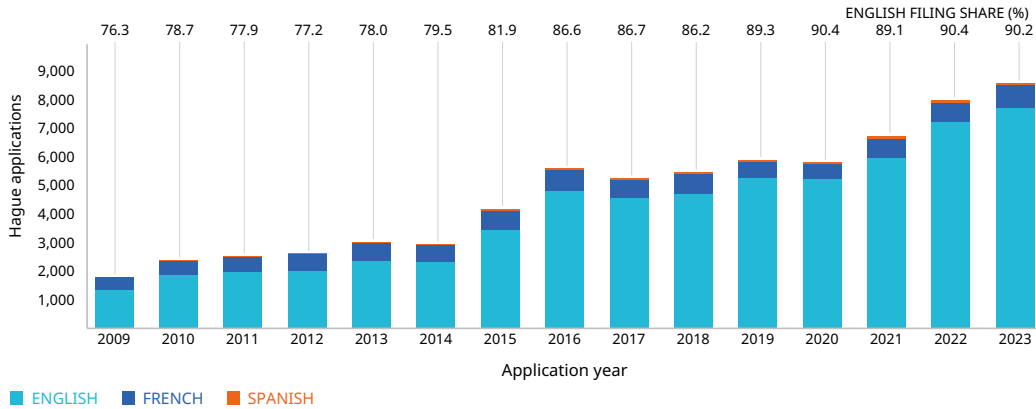
12. Distribution of designs per application for the top 20 origins, 2023



Note: Top 20 origins are as reported in figure 7.
 Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

Nine out of ten Hague international applications are filed in the English language.

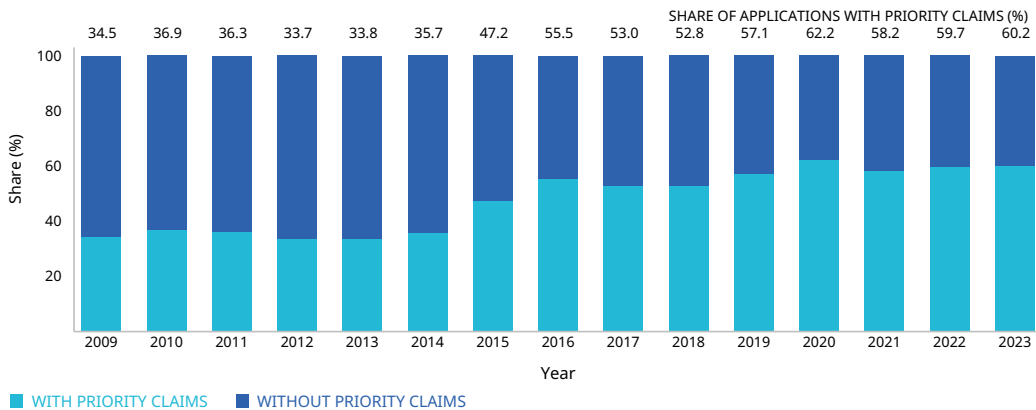
13. Distribution of international applications by language of filing, 2009–2023



Note: International applications can be filed in English, French or Spanish.
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

In 2023, 60% of all applications were based on priority claims, representing a substantial rise from the 33.8% recorded a decade earlier.

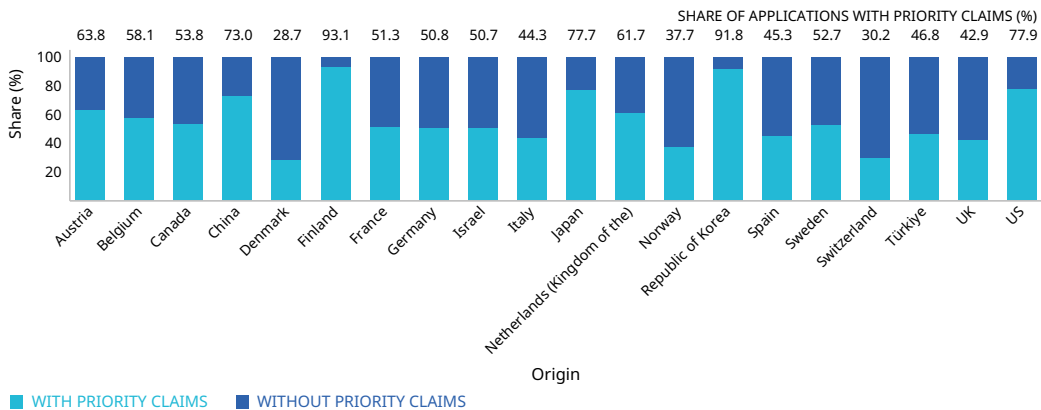
14. International applications with priority claims, 2009–2023



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

In 2023, Finland and the Republic of Korea were the top 20 countries with the largest proportion of applications with priority claims.

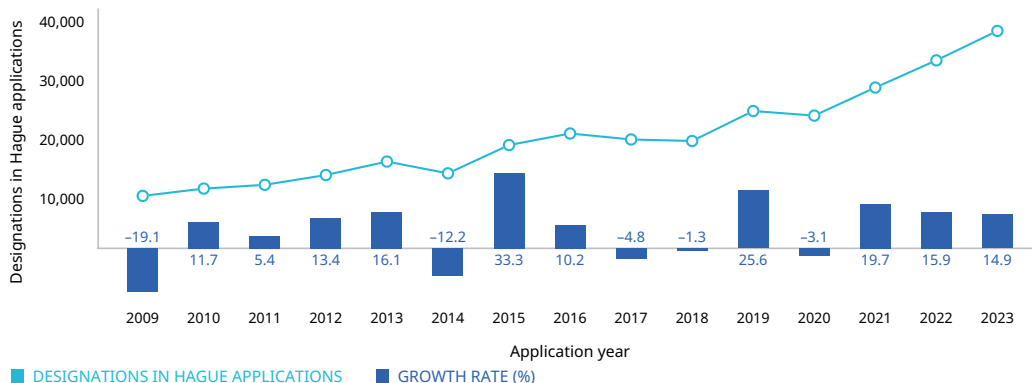
15. Share of international applications with priority claims for the top 20 origins, 2023



Note: Top 20 origins are as reported in figure 7.
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

Designations in international applications increased by 14.9% in 2023, representing three successive years of double-digit growth.

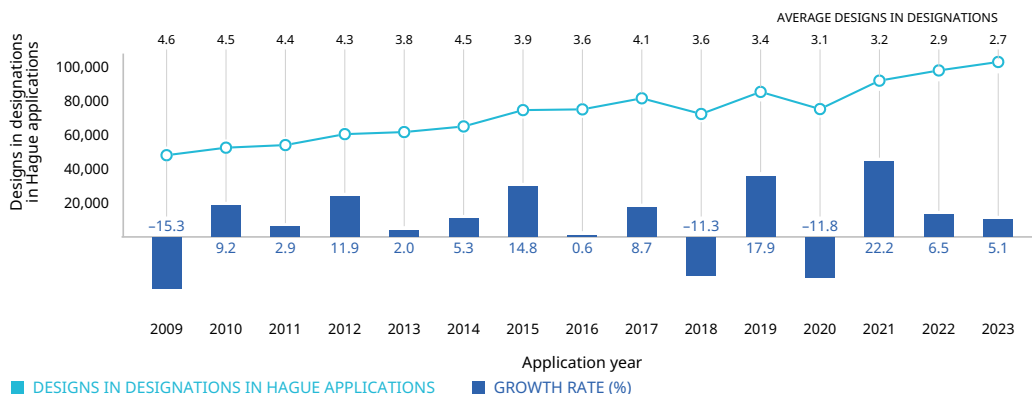
16. Designations in international applications, 2009–2023



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

In 2023, designs contained in designations increased by 5.1% to approximately 103,000.

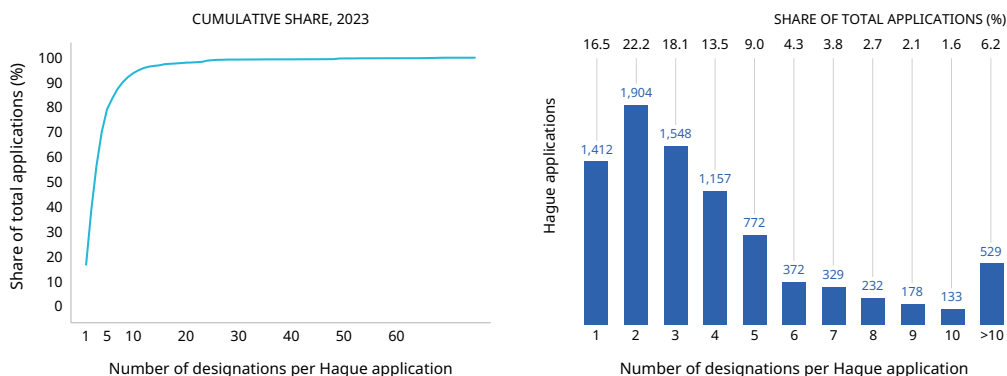
17. Number of designs contained in designations in international applications, 2009–2023



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

Around 70% of applications sought protection in up to four Hague member jurisdictions.

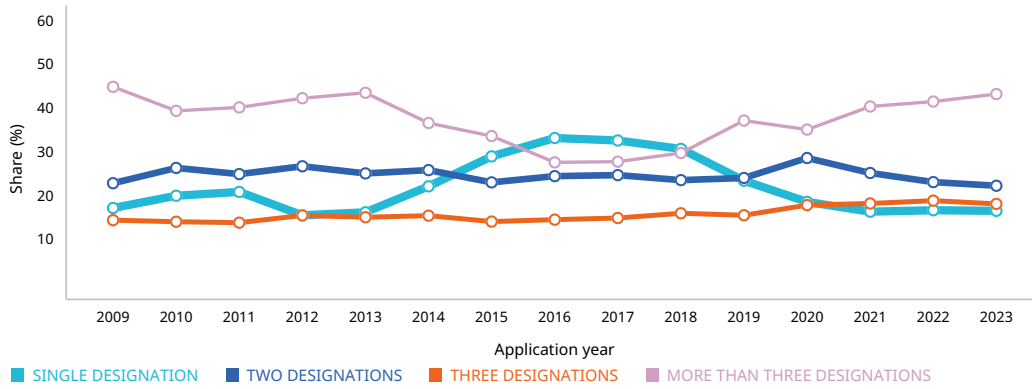
18. Distribution of designations per international application, 2023



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

Applications seeking protection in more than three Hague members' jurisdictions increased from 27.6% in 2016 to 43.2% in 2023.

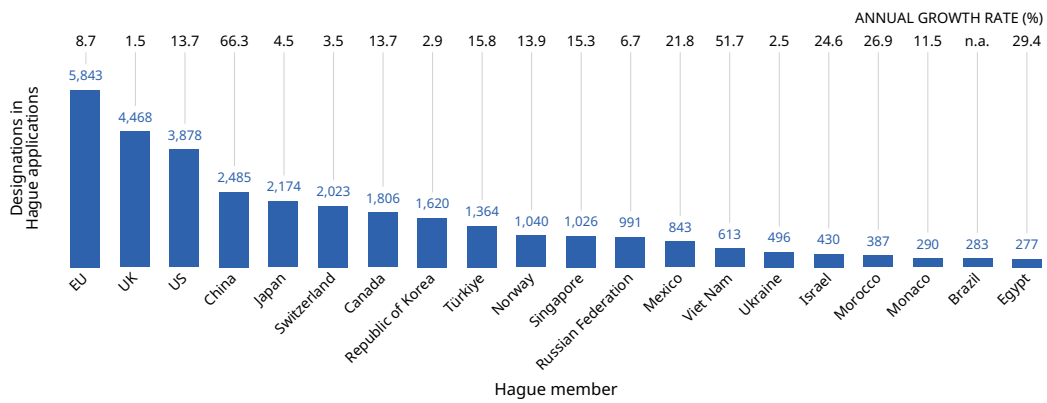
19. Share of applications by number of designations, 2009–2023



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

The EU is by far the most designated member in international applications, followed by the UK and the US.

20. Designations in international applications for the top 20 most designated Hague members, 2023

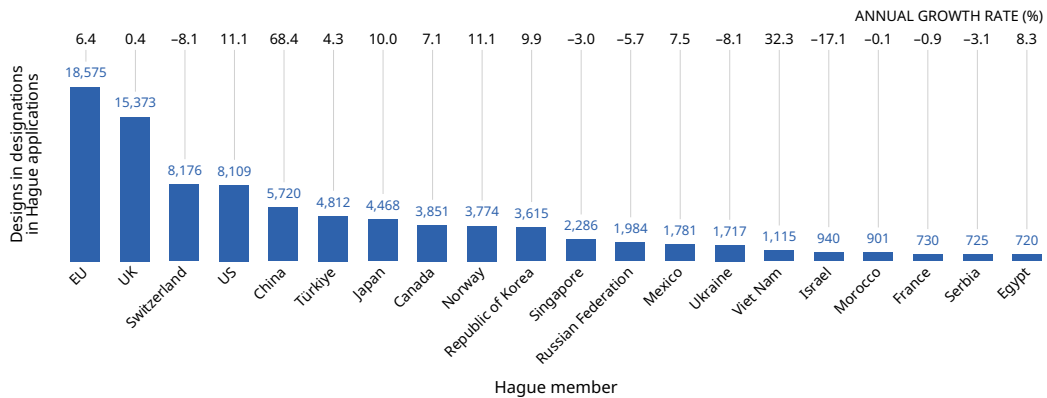


Note: n.a. indicates not applicable.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

The EU and the UK continue to be the two most designated members in terms of designs in designations.

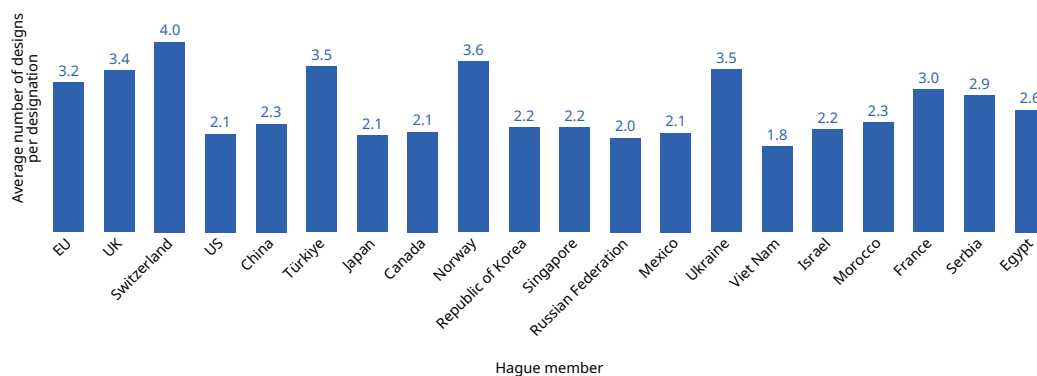
21. Designs contained in designations in international applications for the top 20 most designated Hague members, 2023



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

Norway, Switzerland, Türkiye and Ukraine were the top four designated members with the most designs per designation in international applications.

22. Average number of designs per designation for the top 20 most designated Hague members, 2023

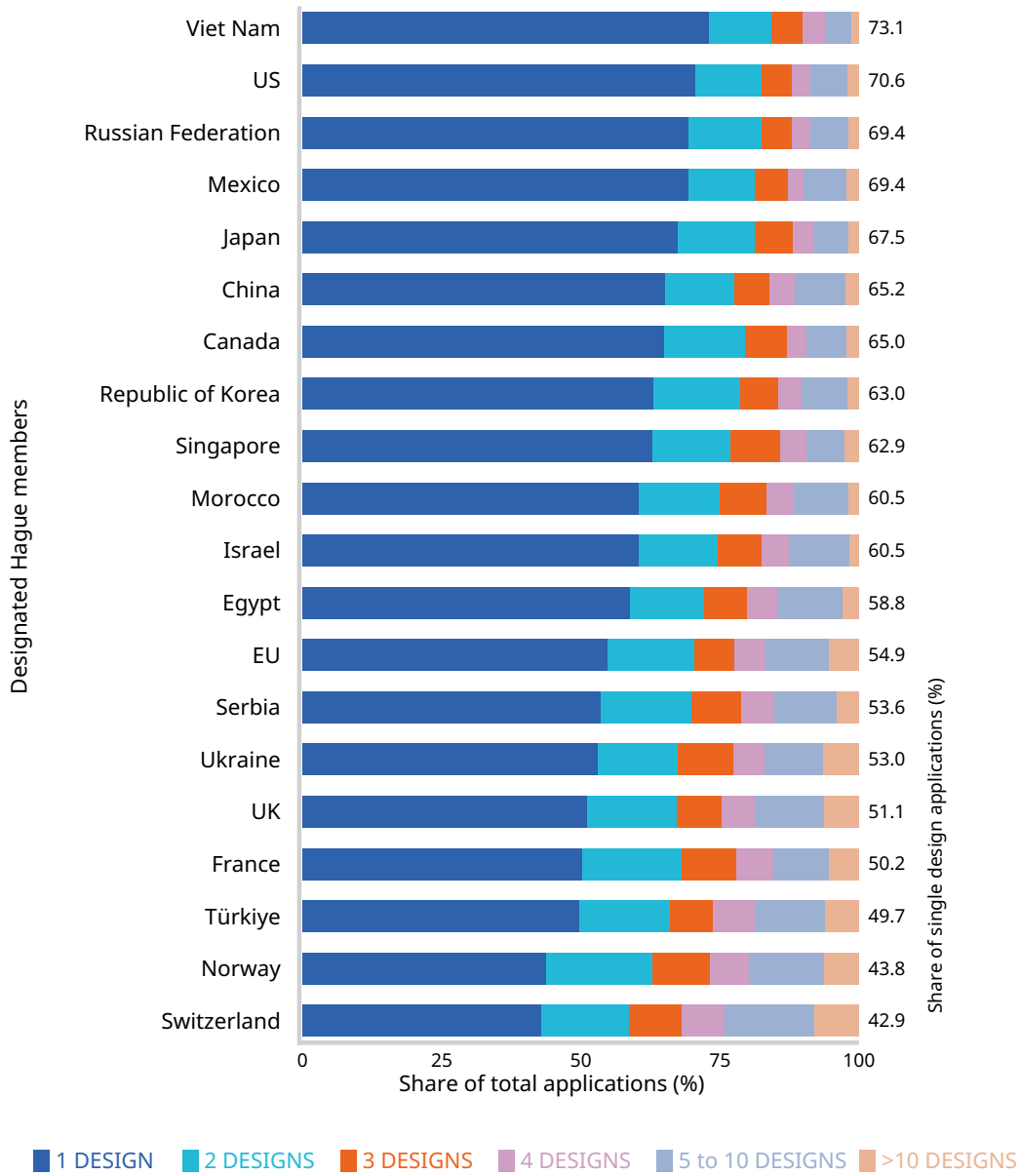


Note: The top 20 most designated Hague members are as reported in figure 21.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

The US and Viet Nam had a proportion of single design applications over 70% among the top 20 most designated members of the Hague Agreement.

23. Distribution of designs per application for the top 20 most designated Hague members, 2023



Note: Top 20 most designated Hague members are as reported in figure 21.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

Chinese applicants accounted for the highest number of designations in six of the top 15 Hague members, while German applicants had the highest number in four.

24. Designs contained in applications for the top 15 origins and the top 15 most designated Hague members, 2023

Origin	Designated Hague member (number of designs)														
	Canada	China	EUIPO	Japan	Mexico	Norway	Republic of Korea	Russian Federation	Singapore	Switzerland	Türkiye	UK	Ukraine	US	Viet Nam
Austria	51	84	141	56	27	85	37	39	12	196	157	228	62	94	11
Belgium	59	73	90	36	33	156	49	49	16	182	100	227	22	83	19
China	552	97	3,158	944	266	91	717	517	328	89	1,514	91	2,178	343	
Denmark	72	89	355	73	15	207	41	4	11	161	62	388	39	110	8
France	229	606	940	368	85	223	244	176	193	664	416	1,010	148	460	69
Germany	340	828	2,638	534	172	1,048	546	207	235	3,028	1,750	2,762	255	943	72
Italy	151	399	1,307	285	73	236	281	179	150	600	421	1,494	113	444	45
Japan	50	423	830	96	17	91	278	25	144	119	17	495	31	360	47
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	143	68	227	105	28	221	160	33	134	218	161	484	43	149	19
Republic of Korea	111	391	1,041	313	64	14	29	84	74	9	59	542	8	548	104
Sweden	57	84	163	38	11	168	57	8	11	73	56	149	5	84	7
Switzerland	405	631	1,851	497	199	435	424	285	520	1,619	617	1,441	344	660	161
Türkiye	4	20	708	8	3	7	12	58	2	24	99	447	15	251	..
UK	246	207	730	136	50	136	131	36	148	123	107	631	71	389	37
US	848	952	2,386	650	417	222	366	59	133	412	164	2,130	30	272	67
Others/Unknown	533	768	2,010	329	321	434	243	225	175	659	497	1,431	440	1,084	106
Total	3,851	5,720	18,575	4,468	1,781	3,774	3,615	1,984	2,286	8,176	4,812	15,373	1,717	8,109	1,115

Origin	Designated Hague member (share of total, %)														
	Canada	China	EUIPO	Japan	Mexico	Norway	Republic of Korea	Russian Federation	Singapore	Switzerland	Türkiye	UK	Ukraine	US	Viet Nam
Austria	1.3	1.5	0.8	1.3	1.5	2.3	1.0	2.0	0.5	2.4	3.3	1.5	3.6	1.2	1.0
Belgium	1.5	1.3	0.5	0.8	1.9	4.1	1.4	2.5	0.7	2.2	2.1	1.5	1.3	1.0	1.7
China	14.3	1.7	17.0	21.1	14.9	2.4	19.8	26.1	14.3	1.1	2.7	9.8	5.3	26.9	30.8
Denmark	1.9	1.6	1.9	1.6	0.8	5.5	1.1	0.2	0.5	2.0	1.3	2.5	2.3	1.4	0.7
France	5.9	10.6	5.1	8.2	4.8	5.9	6.7	8.9	8.4	8.1	8.6	6.6	8.6	5.7	6.2
Germany	8.8	14.5	14.2	12.0	9.7	27.8	15.1	10.4	10.3	37.0	36.4	18.0	14.9	11.6	6.5
Italy	3.9	7.0	7.0	6.4	4.1	6.3	7.8	9.0	6.6	7.3	8.7	9.7	6.6	5.5	4.0
Japan	1.3	7.4	4.5	2.1	1.0	2.4	7.7	1.3	6.3	1.5	0.4	3.2	1.8	4.4	4.2
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	3.7	1.2	1.2	2.4	1.6	5.9	4.4	1.7	5.9	2.7	3.3	3.1	2.5	1.8	1.7
Republic of Korea	2.9	6.8	5.6	7.0	3.6	0.4	0.8	4.2	3.2	0.1	1.2	3.5	0.5	6.8	9.3
Sweden	1.5	1.5	0.9	0.9	0.6	4.5	1.6	0.4	0.5	0.9	1.2	1.0	0.3	1.0	0.6
Switzerland	10.5	11.0	10.0	11.1	11.2	11.5	11.7	14.4	22.7	19.8	12.8	9.4	20.0	8.1	14.4
Türkiye	0.1	0.3	3.8	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	2.9	0.1	0.3	2.1	2.9	0.9	3.1	..
UK	6.4	3.6	3.9	3.0	2.8	3.6	3.6	1.8	6.5	1.5	2.2	4.1	4.1	4.8	3.3
US	22.0	16.6	12.8	14.5	23.4	5.9	10.1	3.0	5.8	5.0	3.4	13.9	1.7	3.4	6.0
Others/Unknown	13.8	13.4	10.8	7.4	18.0	11.5	6.7	11.3	7.7	8.1	10.3	9.3	25.6	13.4	9.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: The 15 origins are as reported in figure 8 and the top 15 designated Hague members are as reported in figure 21.

.. indicates zero.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

Designs related to means of transport (11.1%) accounted for the largest share of total designs in 2023.

25. Designs contained in international applications by class, 2020–2023

Class	2020	2021	2022	2023	Growth rate (%): 2022–2023	2023 share of total (%)
Class 12: Means of transport	1,895	2,209	2,432	2,829	16.3	11.1
Class 14: Recording and communication equipment	1,644	2,162	2,605	2,174	-16.5	8.6
Class 6: Furnishing	1,385	1,544	1,698	1,924	13.3	7.6
Class 9: Packages and containers	1,572	1,872	1,784	1,745	-2.2	6.9
Class 7: Household goods	839	837	1,131	1,428	26.3	5.6
Class 26: Lighting apparatus	1,303	1,458	1,448	1,398	-3.5	5.5
Class 23: Heating and cooling equipment	1,000	1,035	1,522	1,334	-12.4	5.2
Class 2: Clothing	635	1,114	914	1,223	33.8	4.8
Class 21: Games, toys, sporting goods	612	896	1,335	1,192	-10.7	4.7
Class 13: Equipment for producing electricity	462	674	774	1,025	32.4	4.0
Class 15: Machines, not elsewhere specified	580	743	1,071	1,009	-5.8	4.0
Class 24: Medical and laboratory equipment	657	719	1,010	929	-8.0	3.7
Class 10: Clocks and watches	690	779	837	926	10.6	3.6
Class 25: Building and construction elements	795	710	737	906	22.9	3.6
Class 28: Pharmaceutical and cosmetic products	772	1,276	901	887	-1.6	3.5
Class 8: Tools and hardware	313	583	639	733	14.7	2.9
Class 11: Articles of adornment	1,008	1,103	1,197	726	-39.3	2.9
Class 32: Graphic symbols and logos	731	740	775	715	-7.7	2.8
Class 3: Travel goods	366	518	460	685	48.9	2.7
Class 20: Sales and advertising equipment	98	113	110	260	136.4	1.0
Class 27: Tobacco and smokers' supplies	195	109	219	217	-0.9	0.9
Class 19: Stationery and office equipment	169	272	391	205	-47.6	0.8
Class 16: Photographic apparatus	133	143	183	184	0.5	0.7
Class 5: Textile piecegoods	94	176	238	169	-29.0	0.7
Class 30: Animal care articles	41	100	123	156	26.8	0.6
Class 31: Machines for preparing food or drink	115	77	167	100	-40.1	0.4
Class 22: Arms, articles for hunting and fishing	49	97	70	76	8.6	0.3
Class 1: Foodstuffs	54	129	78	74	-5.1	0.3
Class 4: Brushware	215	98	91	56	-38.5	0.2
Class 18: Printing and office machinery	48	87	29	54	86.2	0.2
Class 29: Accident prevention and rescue equipment	133	90	52	41	-21.2	0.2
Class 17: Musical instruments	11	28	29	34	17.2	0.1

Note: For a complete list of class definitions, visit: www.wipo.int/classifications/locarno.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

The largest share of designs from Germany and Italy related to means of transport, while for China, Japan and the Republic of Korea it was recording and communication equipment.

26. Designs contained in international applications by class for the top 10 origins, 2023

Class	Origin									
	China	France	Germany	Italy	Japan	Republic of Korea	Switzerland	Türkiye	UK	US
Class 1: Foodstuffs	3	1	2	17	..	5	14	5	10	4
Class 2: Clothing	20	317	150	123	44	1	155	11	83	138
Class 3: Travel goods	100	73	95	83	19	80	76	4	17	57
Class 4: Brushware	11	8	2	..	2	..	6	..	..	7
Class 5: Textile piecegoods	6	18	94	..	10	6	11	1	..	7
Class 6: Furnishing	180	95	280	274	36	25	142	182	62	104
Class 7: Household goods	140	72	294	51	20	50	110	116	41	245
Class 8: Tools and hardware	77	20	171	24	21	7	21	11	58	152
Class 9: Packages and containers	55	92	98	73	72	20	208	41	69	532
Class 10: Clocks and watches	154	29	64	17	39	27	471	18	8	35
Class 11: Articles of adornment	5	74	111	58	54	41	181	20	20	19
Class 12: Means of transport	522	287	1,007	416	108	57	45	30	20	58
Class 13: Equipment for producing electricity	381	45	96	30	48	20	100	5	34	124
Class 14: Recording and communication equipment	752	50	57	114	209	416	21	9	40	316
Class 15: Machines, not elsewhere specified	222	25	237	26	43	128	65	51	20	51
Class 16: Photographic apparatus	76	8	4	7	11	15	7	..	3	35
Class 17: Musical instruments	9	..	..	1	4	..	..	..	..	8
Class 18: Printing and office machinery	7	24	3	3	6	..	3	..	..	4
Class 19: Stationery and office equipment	27	14	56	4	12	7	26	..	2	28
Class 20: Sales and advertising equipment	24	66	68	..	..	21	25	4	2	13
Class 21: Games, toys, sporting goods	109	50	174	96	80	29	18	35	297	95
Class 22: Arms, articles for hunting and fishing	1	2	..	25	1	4	1	..	..	21
Class 23: Heating and cooling equipment	267	6	403	91	61	80	131	12	27	58
Class 24: Medical and laboratory equipment	158	33	118	36	54	67	90	20	24	182
Class 25: Building and construction elements	75	23	96	16	15	8	49	49	25	8
Class 26: Lighting apparatus	93	88	500	170	14	59	17	8	30	31
Class 27: Tobacco and smokers' supplies	60	5	3	1	10	16	23	..	6	72
Class 28: Pharmaceutical and cosmetic products	139	16	208	19	5	43	62	12	18	187
Class 29: Accident prevention and rescue equipment	3	2	..	..	4	2	4	..	13	4
Class 30: Animal care articles	51	14	8	1	..	2	..	..	2	51
Class 31: Machines for preparing food or drink	16	3	3	18	3	4	18	3	..	17
Class 32: Graphic symbols and logos	5	74	116	23	2	..	96	90	9	5

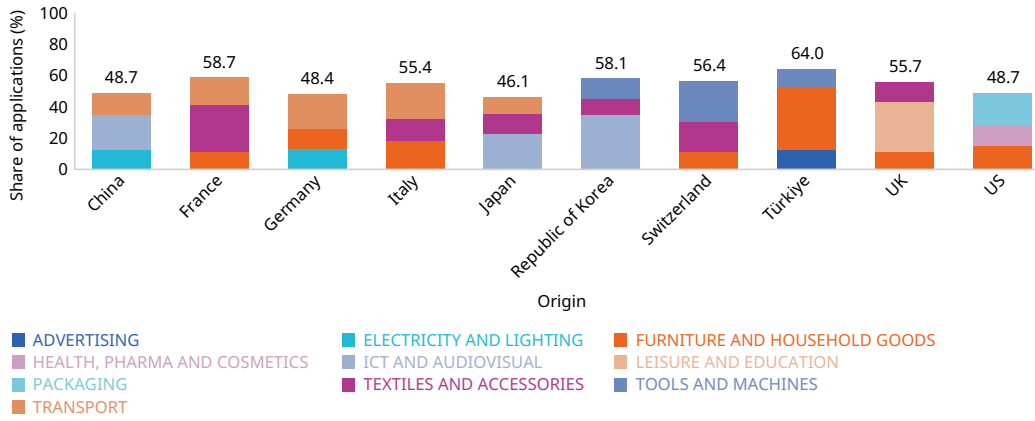
Note: Top 10 origins are as reported in figure 8. For a complete list of class definitions, visit: www.wipo.int/classifications/locarno.

.. indicates zero.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

In 2023, the top three sectors accounted for over half of all designs in six of the top ten origins.

27. Distribution of designs contained in applications by the top three sectors for the top 10 origins, 2023



Note: See the annex for definitions of sectors. Top 10 origins are as reported in figure 8.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

The largest share of designs designated for Canada, China, the EU, Japan and the US related to recording and communication equipment.

28. Designs contained in international applications by class and designated Hague member, 2023

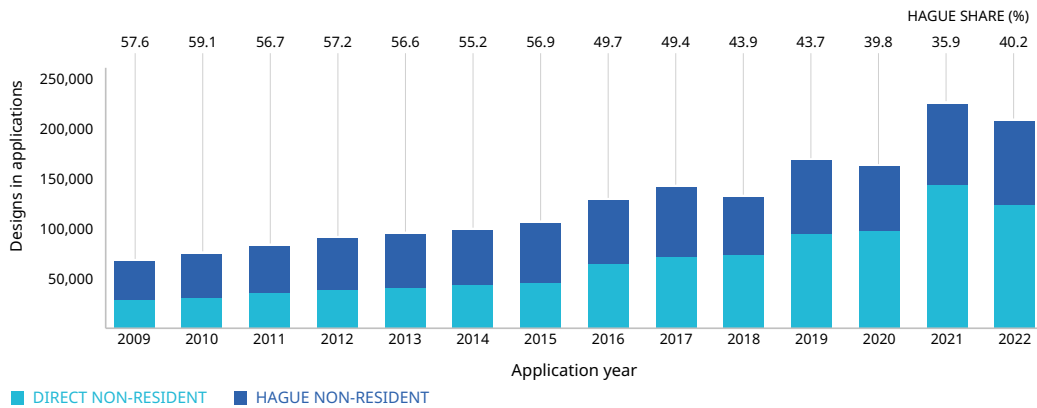
Class	Designated Hague member									
	Canada	China	EU	Japan	Norway	Republic of Korea	Switzerland	Türkiye	UK	US
Class 1: Foodstuffs	14	8	56	16	3	15	28	3	55	24
Class 2: Clothing	166	354	856	263	126	252	409	264	815	525
Class 3: Travel goods	155	201	544	176	59	167	227	91	462	300
Class 4: Brushware	25	8	26	21	10	17	13	15	37	27
Class 5: Textile piecegoods	7	98	125	31	4	68	104	84	60	36
Class 6: Furnishing	159	324	1,583	138	240	88	789	185	1,168	577
Class 7: Household goods	255	345	1,017	194	174	191	456	261	943	425
Class 8: Tools and hardware	141	288	535	78	66	83	256	97	444	277
Class 9: Packages and containers	300	417	1,188	372	361	288	614	202	1,277	429
Class 10: Clocks and watches	162	216	834	213	162	158	473	272	556	296
Class 11: Articles of adornment	144	203	603	129	126	193	479	259	571	258
Class 12: Means of transport	224	462	1,589	401	709	396	759	845	1,408	573
Class 13: Equipment for producing electricity	155	189	756	232	179	187	252	140	577	438
Class 14: Recording and communication equipment	378	494	1,900	504	226	257	290	114	1,195	778
Class 15: Machines, not elsewhere specified	130	317	811	227	45	247	274	230	608	466
Class 16: Photographic apparatus	50	52	130	57	14	47	33	13	109	97
Class 17: Musical instruments	3	1	20	0	0	0	1	0	14	21
Class 18: Printing and office machinery	13	6	44	5	7	8	26	26	48	15
Class 19: Stationery and office equipment	31	60	157	17	41	27	86	34	150	68
Class 20: Sales and advertising equipment	22	63	233	31	12	17	108	127	93	90
Class 21: Games, toys, sporting goods	282	257	894	246	118	204	243	125	791	348
Class 22: Arms, articles for hunting and fishing	9	27	52	21	3	9	28	42	48	20
Class 23: Heating and cooling equipment	152	308	990	127	156	112	433	244	716	402
Class 24: Medical and laboratory equipment	269	356	700	352	102	193	282	90	608	497
Class 25: Building and construction elements	162	91	677	52	305	46	386	243	365	261
Class 26: Lighting apparatus	112	232	771	143	263	88	545	337	958	328
Class 27: Tobacco and smokers' supplies	64	19	137	13	14	3	34	5	170	87
Class 28: Pharmaceutical and cosmetic products	149	169	575	273	106	179	168	160	503	216
Class 29: Accident prevention and rescue equipment	5	17	21	15	8	7	8	5	13	21
Class 30: Animal care articles	54	21	112	36	23	16	47	26	97	73
Class 31: Machines for preparing food or drink	22	40	71	38	17	30	23	11	63	48
Class 32: Graphic symbols and logos	27	72	564	39	87	22	293	253	440	85

Note: Top 10 designated Hague members are as reported in figure 21. For full class definitions, visit: www.wipo.int/classifications/locarno.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

In 2022, the Hague System accounted for two-fifths of all non-resident design filings.

29. Non-resident application design counts by filing route (direct and Hague), 2009–2022

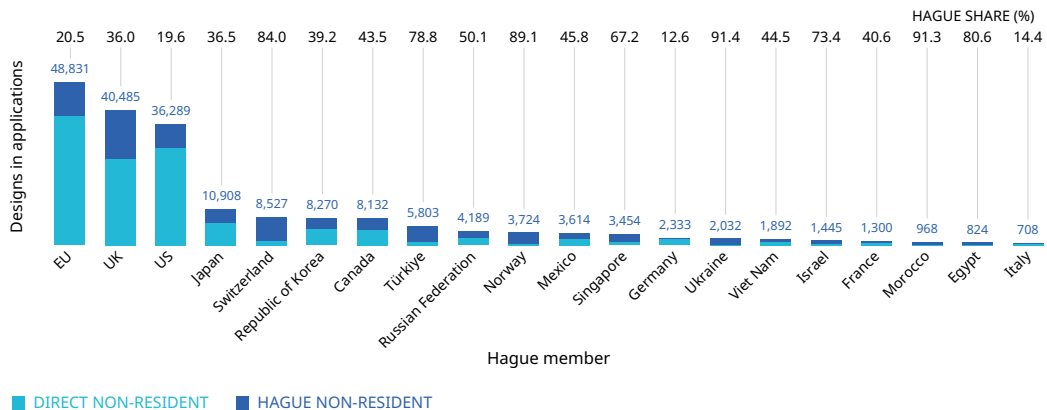


Note: Because data on direct applications are only available up to 2022, Hague designation data for 2023 are not reported. The direct route refers to those applications filed directly at a national or regional IP office of a Hague member. The Hague route refers to designations received by offices via the Hague System. For simplicity, the latter designations are referred to as applications received via the Hague route.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

The Hague route accounts for over 80% of non-resident filings at the offices of Egypt, Morocco, Norway, Switzerland and Ukraine.

30. Non-resident application design counts by filing route for selected Hague members, 2022

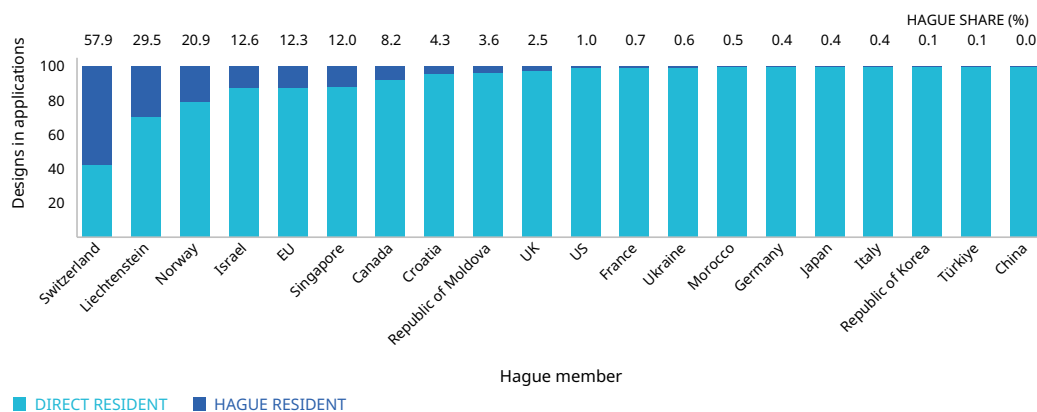


Note: Because data on direct applications are only available up to 2022, Hague designation data for 2023 are not reported. The direct route refers to those applications filed directly at a national or regional IP office of a Hague member. The Hague route refers to designations received by offices via the Hague System. For simplicity, the latter designations are referred to as applications received via the Hague route.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

The Hague route was used by a significant proportion of resident filings at the offices of Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

31. Resident application design counts by filing route for selected Hague members, 2022



Note: Because data on direct applications are only available up to 2022, Hague designation data for 2023 are not reported. The direct route refers to those applications filed directly at the national or regional IP office of a Hague member. The Hague route refers to designations/filings received by offices via the Hague System. For simplicity, the latter designations are referred to as applications received via the Hague route.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

B. Registrations, renewals of registrations and registrations in force via the Hague System

Highlights

Designs registered through the Hague System more than doubled during the past decade

The International Bureau (IB) reported 8,366 international registrations in 2023, representing an 8.3% increase on the previous year (see figure 32). Additionally, the number of designs included in registrations amounted to 25,262, which is a modest 0.5% increase on the previous year (see figure 33). However, the long-term trend indicates an upward trajectory, with the number of designs registered via the Hague System having more than doubled over the past decade – increased from 11,869 in 2013 to 25,262 in 2023.

Holders residing in Germany accounted for the biggest proportion of all design registrations at 18.3%, followed by those in China (14%), the US (10.1%), Switzerland (9.2%) and Italy (8.2%) (see table 34). Among the top five origins, China experienced a 63.7% increase in registered designs in 2023, leading to a two-position advancement to second place. Similarly, Switzerland moved up one position to fourth, thanks to a 13.8% increase in 2023. In contrast, Germany (-9.6%), Italy (-5.5%) and the US (-6.1%) saw steep decreases over the same period. Outside the top five sources, Austria (+57%), Canada (+77.6%) and Türkiye (+23.8%) experienced double-digit growth, albeit starting from a lower base.

Registrations, refusals and grants of protection

Designated offices can refuse to grant an international registration protection. If an office decides to refuse protection, it must notify the IB of its decision within six or 12 months from the date on which the registration was published in the *International Designs Bulletin*.

Renewals of designs contained in registrations increased by 3.4% in 2023, marking a seventh successive year of growth

In 2023, there were around 5,592 international registrations containing 21,791 designs that were renewed. Registration renewals returned to growth with a 5.8% increase in 2023, following a 3.2% decline in the previous year (see figure 40), while renewals of designs contained in registrations increased by 3.4% in 2023, marking a seventh successive year of growth (see figure 41).

Among the top five countries, Germany accounted for the largest share of design renewals at 25.8%, followed by Switzerland with 19.3%, France with 10%, the US with 9.5% and Italy with 6.4% (see figure 43). The combined share of the top five countries stood at 71% in 2023, which is 16.5 percentage points below their 2013 share. This is expected as recent members such as China, Japan and the Republic of Korea increase their share of total renewals.

In 2023, the EU was the most designated Hague member with 15,330 design renewals. Switzerland closely followed with 12,873 design renewals, followed by Türkiye with 7,576, Ukraine with 3,241, and Norway with 3,176 (see table 44). These five most designated members accounted for 44.5% of all design renewal designations in 2023, which is 9.3 percentage points higher than their combined share in 2018.

Renewals of international registrations

International registrations under the Hague Agreement are initially valid for a period of five years, and can be renewed for at least two additional five-year periods. However, the maximum duration of protection in any Hague member's jurisdiction may vary according to the laws pertaining to that jurisdiction. It is important to note that in order for an international registration to remain valid, it must be renewed. During the renewal process, a holder has the option of either renewing all or only some of the designs contained in the initial registration, and can also choose to do so in respect of either all or only some of the Hague members designated in the initial registration.

The whole term of protection of an international registration is divided into successive five-year periods. The total number of renewals in any given year can be disaggregated into first, second and third renewal, and so on. For an international registration, the first renewal is due five years after initial registration, the second after 10 years, the third after 15 years, the fourth after 20 years, and so on.

In 2023, around 58% of all designs were renewed for a first time (see figure 45). Second-time renewed-designs accounted for about one-quarter of all renewals, while designs renewed for a third time accounted for one-tenth of all renewals. The fourth renewal category, which includes renewal for a fourth time or more, accounted for the remaining 6.6%. It is worth noting that the shares of first renewals have been trending upward since 2011.

There is a significant variation in the distribution of design renewals across categories for the 2019–2023 period among the top 15 origins. In the case of Japan and the Republic of Korea, designs renewed for a first time accounted for almost every renewal (see figure 46). This is because these countries only became Hague System members in 2015 and 2014, respectively, meaning insufficient time had elapsed for the vast majority of registrations to be renewed for a second time. Similarly, first-time renewals constituted a significant proportion of all renewals in Denmark, Sweden and the UK. On the other hand, more than one-third of all renewals from the US were renewed for a second time. The largest shares of third renewals were observed in France, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Switzerland, while Belgium, France and Italy had high fourth-renewals shares.

Figure 47 shows the first-renewal rate between 2009 and 2023, which is the ratio between designs renewed for a first time in any given year and the total number of designs due for a first renewal before expiry. In 2023, out of 15,917 designs due for renewal, 10,879 were renewed, resulting in a first-renewal rate of 68.3%. The first-renewal rate for international designs has consistently been over 67% every year since 2019.

Figure 48 displays the range of first-renewal rates for the top 15 origins for the 2019–2023 period. Among these origins, Liechtenstein had the highest first-renewal rate at 94.5%, whereas Türkiye had the lowest at 41.4%. Austria also had a relatively low first-renewal rate of 47.6%, similar to Türkiye. However, the first-renewal rate for each of the remaining 13 countries was over 50%.

Around 56,700 international registrations, containing around 213,300 designs, were in force in 2023

Active registrations increased by 9.2% to reach 56,567 in 2023 (see figure 49). Registrations in force consisted of approximately 213,318 designs (see figure 50). However, the majority of designs and registrations were concentrated in a small number of countries. In 2023, France, Germany, Italy, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland and the US held collectively around 68.9% of

all active designs (see figure 53). Nevertheless, their combined share decreased by about 6.6 percentage points between 2018 and 2023.

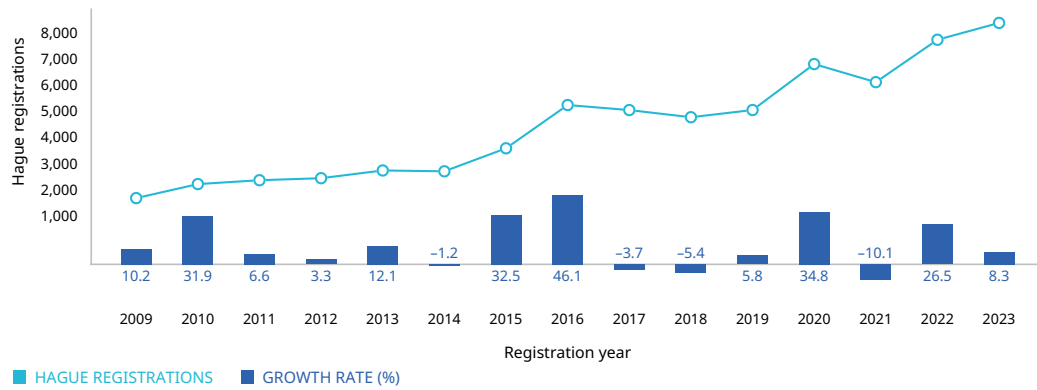
Studying registrations in force by right holders helps provide insights into the concentration of registrations at the firm and individual levels. In 2023, just under two-thirds of firms or individuals that held an active registration had no more than one registration in their portfolio (see figure 54). A further 14.9% of holders owned only two active registrations, while holders with three accounted for just 6.2% of the total. Only 47 portfolios had more than 100 active registrations, with one holder – LG Electronics of the Republic of Korea – having 2,875 active registrations. The distribution of active registrations has remained more or less the same over the past few years.

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In 2023, international registrations increased by 8.3%, reaching a total of 8,366 registrations.

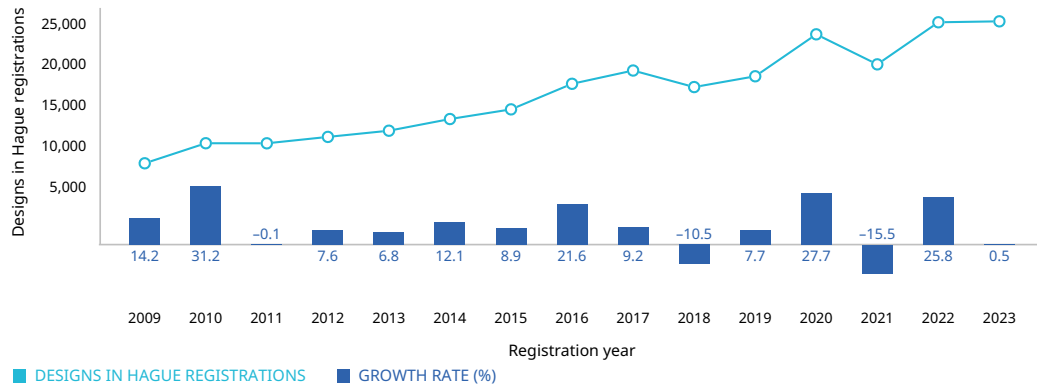
32. International registrations, 2009–2023



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

The number of designs remained relatively stable in 2023, with 25,262 designs, showing a marginal growth rate of 0.5%.

33. Number of designs contained in international registrations, 2009–2023



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

In 2023, the top four origins – holders residing in China, Germany, Switzerland and the US – accounted for more than half of all designs within registrations.

34. International registrations and registration design counts for the top 20 origins, 2021–2023

Origin	Number of registrations					Designs in registrations				
	2021	2022	2023	Growth rate (%): 2022–2023	2023 share of total (%)	2021	2022	2023	Growth rate (%): 2022–2023	2023 share of total (%)
Germany	796	875	907	3.7	10.8	3,661	5,100	4,612	-9.6	18.3
China	241	1,089	1,718	57.8	20.5	573	2,157	3,531	63.7	14.0
US	607	799	711	-11.0	8.5	2,296	2,723	2,557	-6.1	10.1
Switzerland	539	634	710	12.0	8.5	1,847	2,039	2,320	13.8	9.2
Italy	422	564	487	-13.7	5.8	1,884	2,191	2,071	-5.5	8.2
France	581	644	674	4.7	8.1	1,507	1,443	1,565	8.5	6.2
Republic of Korea	844	788	838	6.3	10.0	1,464	1,268	1,261	-0.6	5.0
Japan	389	454	478	5.3	5.7	859	957	987	3.1	3.9
UK	183	222	238	7.2	2.8	623	1,133	977	-13.8	3.9
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	202	220	239	8.6	2.9	1,130	1,086	685	-36.9	2.7
Türkiye	99	147	166	12.9	2.0	454	550	681	23.8	2.7
Denmark	136	153	135	-11.8	1.6	328	434	440	1.4	1.7
Austria	63	61	60	-1.6	0.7	189	251	394	57.0	1.6
Belgium	59	119	99	-16.8	1.2	138	289	321	11.1	1.3
Sweden	119	138	116	-15.9	1.4	347	405	302	-25.4	1.2

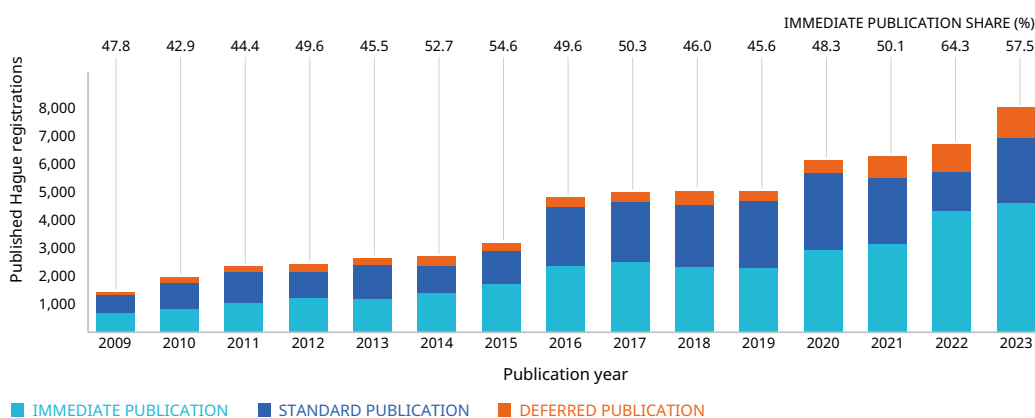
Origin	Number of registrations					Designs in registrations				
	2021	2022	2023	Growth rate (%): 2022–2023	2023 share of total (%)	2021	2022	2023	Growth rate (%): 2022–2023	2023 share of total (%)
Poland	40	60	58	-3.3	0.7	231	304	257	-15.5	1.0
Spain	117	106	89	-16.0	1.1	350	282	248	-12.1	1.0
Greece	9	8	11	37.5	0.1	150	416	241	-42.1	1.0
Canada	75	66	91	37.9	1.1	157	134	238	77.6	0.9
Malta	7	12	8	-33.3	0.1	99	311	213	-31.5	0.8
Others/Unknown	578	566	533	-5.8	6.4	1,706	1,675	1,361	-18.7	5.4
Total	6,106	7,725	8,366	8.3	100.0	19,993	25,148	25,262	0.5	100.0

Note: Top 20 origins were selected based on the number of designs contained in registrations in 2023.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

In 2023, immediate publication of international registrations constituted 57.5% of all publications, with standard publication comprising approximately 30%.

35. Publication of international registrations, 2009–2023

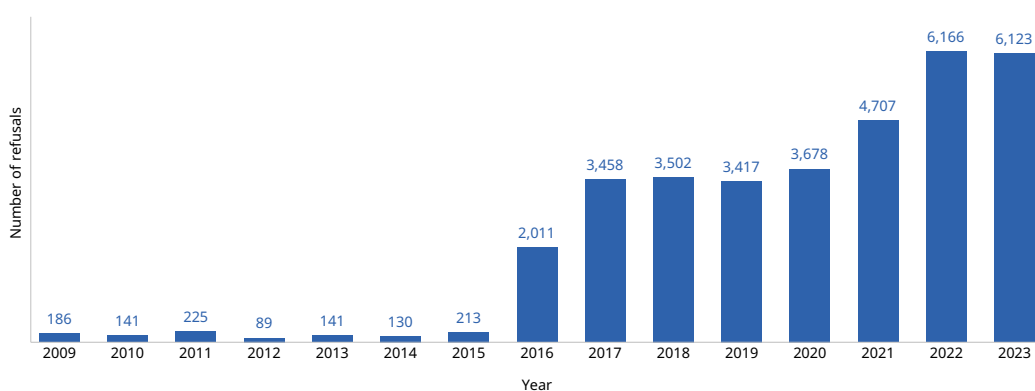


Note: International registrations are published in the *International Designs Bulletin (IDB)* 12 months after the date of registration, unless applicants request immediate publication or a deferment of publication. The publication of international registrations can be deferred for up to 12 months under the Hague Act, or up to 30 months under the Geneva Act.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

In 2023, the International Bureau recorded 6,123 refusals of international registration, a figure similar to the number of refusals in the previous year.

36. Refusal of international registration, 2009–2023

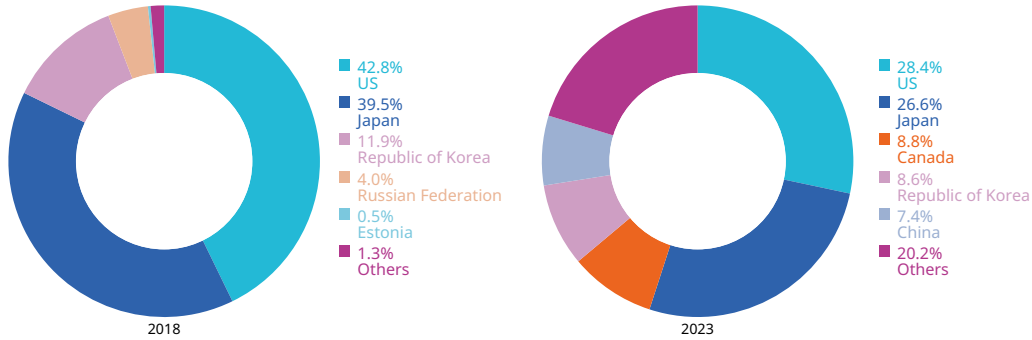


Note: The high number of refusals since 2016 coincides with Japan and the US joining the Hague System in 2015.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

In 2023, the combined refusals from Japan and the US accounted for more than half of all refusals.

37. Refusal of international registration by designated Hague member, 2018 and 2023

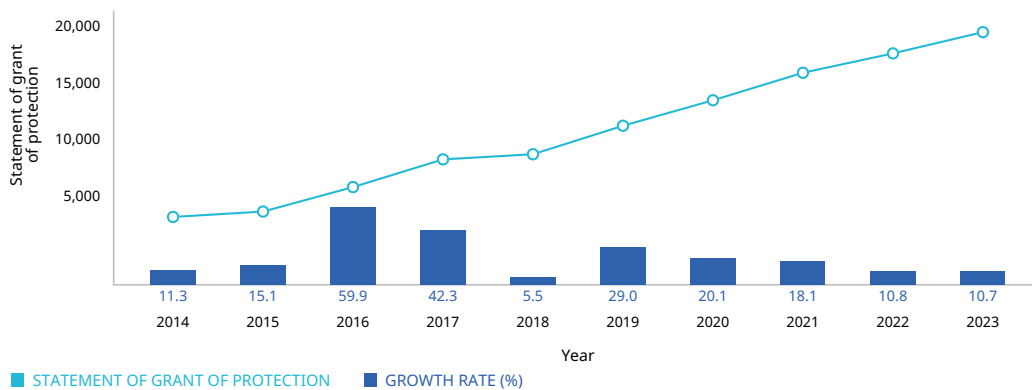


Note: The Japan Patent Office (JPO) issues one notification of refusal per design, where an international registration contains more than one industrial design.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

Hague members issued almost 19,500 statements of grant of protection in 2023, marking a considerable increase from the 3,142 issued in 2014.

38. Statement of grant of protection, 2014–2023

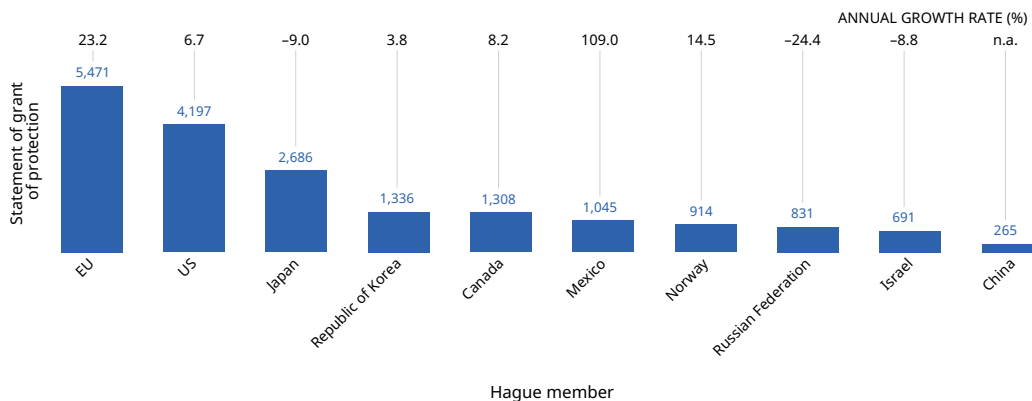


Note: The Japan Patent Office (JPO) issues a statement of grant of protection per design, rather than per international registration.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

In 2023, the EU issued the highest number of statements of grant of protection, followed by the US and Japan.

39. Grant of protection by designated Hague member, 2023



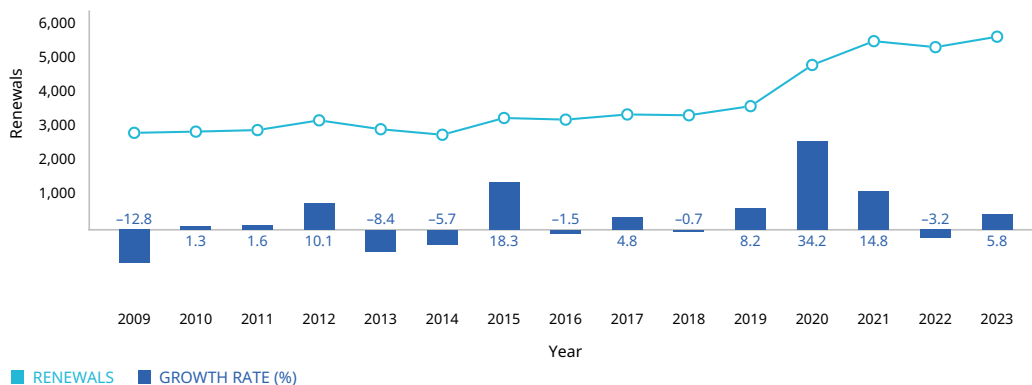
Note: The Japan Patent Office (JPO) issues a statement of grant of protection per design, rather than per international registration.

n.a. indicates not applicable.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

International registration renewals returned to growth with 5,592 renewals in 2023, marking a 5.8% increase from the previous year.

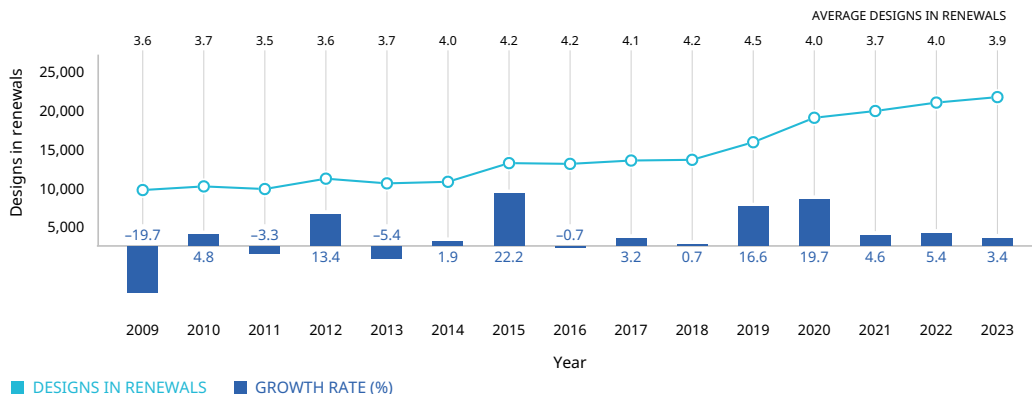
40. Renewals of international registrations, 2009–2023



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

Designs contained in renewals grew for a seventh successive year, reaching around 21,800.

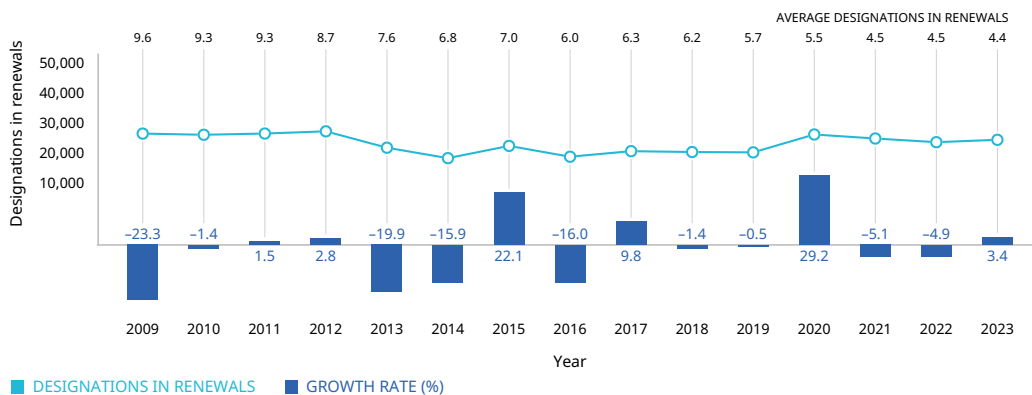
41. Renewals of designs contained in international registrations, 2009–2023



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

Designations in renewals increased by 3.4% in 2023 to reach 24,417.

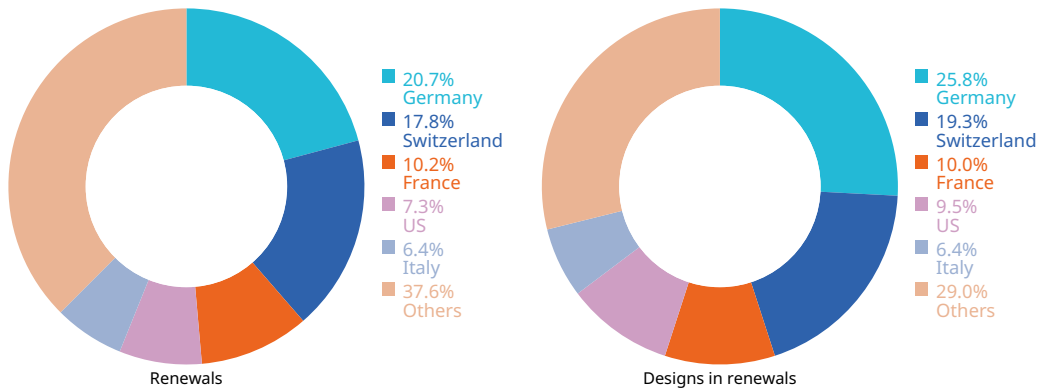
42. Designations in renewals of international registrations, 2009–2023



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

International registrations from Germany accounted for more than a quarter of all designs in renewals in 2023.

43. Renewals of international registrations for the top five origins, 2023



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

In 2023, the EU was the most frequently designated Hague member in renewals, followed by Switzerland and Türkiye.

44. Top designated Hague members in renewals of registrations, 2013, 2018 and 2023

Designated member	Renewals of registrations				Design renewals			
	2013	2018	2023	2023 share of total (%)	2013	2018	2023	2023 share of total (%)
EU	713	1,669	3,731	15.3	2,776	7,699	15,330	16.2
Switzerland	2,289	2,414	2,773	11.4	8,739	10,661	12,873	13.6
Türkiye	512	1,184	1,798	7.4	2,059	5,190	7,576	8.0
Ukraine	588	776	897	3.7	1,856	2,715	3,241	3.4
Norway	n.a.	472	881	3.6	n.a.	1,591	3,176	3.3
Singapore	348	639	892	3.7	1,309	2,383	2,964	3.1
Morocco	517	615	700	2.9	1,955	2,577	2,878	3.0
France	1,522	877	524	2.1	5,377	3,537	2,682	2.8
US	n.a.	n.a.	1,156	4.7	n.a.	n.a.	2,453	2.6
Germany	1,432	829	476	1.9	5,264	3,433	2,444	2.6
Monaco	739	674	602	2.5	2,922	2,605	2,276	2.4
Republic of Korea	n.a.	n.a.	643	2.6	n.a.	n.a.	2,075	2.2
Liechtenstein	720	640	505	2.1	2,608	2,290	1,951	2.1
Italy	1,486	796	334	1.4	5,233	3,108	1,734	1.8
Benelux Office for Intellectual Property	1,493	785	318	1.3	5,385	3,158	1,706	1.8
Serbia	597	522	434	1.8	1,903	1,769	1,680	1.8
Montenegro	630	580	483	2.0	2,061	1,883	1,622	1.7
North Macedonia	567	543	445	1.8	1,916	1,733	1,540	1.6
Tunisia	783	410	392	1.6	3,130	1,661	1,453	1.5
Slovenia	474	359	262	1.1	1,658	1,545	1,411	1.5
Others/Unknown	6,316	5,489	6,171	25.3	21,829	19,653	21,817	23.0
Total	21,726	20,273	24,417	100.0	77,980	79,191	94,882	100.0

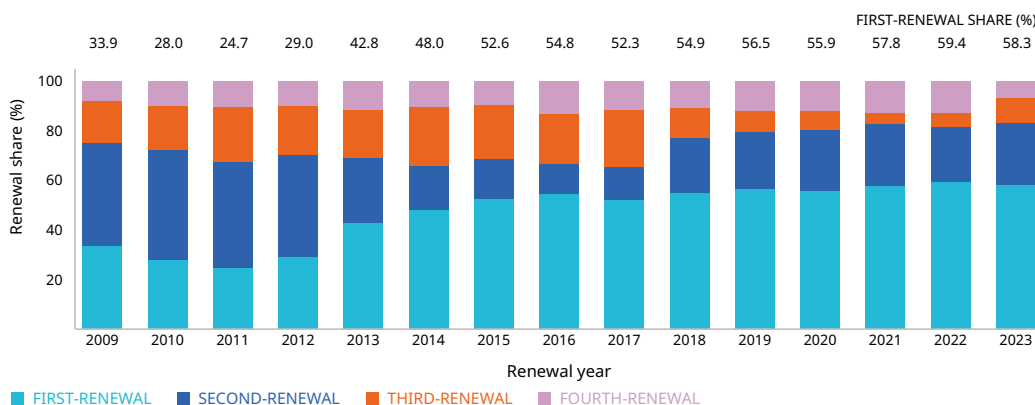
Note: Selection of the top 20 designated Hague members was based on the number of renewals of designs contained in Hague registrations in 2023.

n.a. indicates not applicable.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

First renewals accounted for close to three-fifths of all designs renewed in 2023, while a quarter constituted second renewals.

45. Designs in renewals by category, 2009–2023

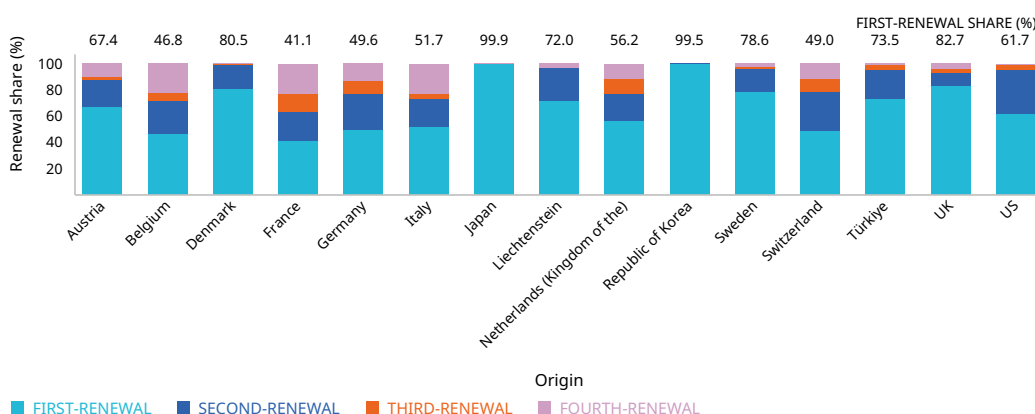


Note: The fourth-renewal category includes renewal for a fourth time or more.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

Belgium, France and Italy had a relatively large proportion of fourth renewals, with more than 22% of all designs renewed for a fourth time.

46. Designs in renewals by category for the top 15 origins, 2019–2023

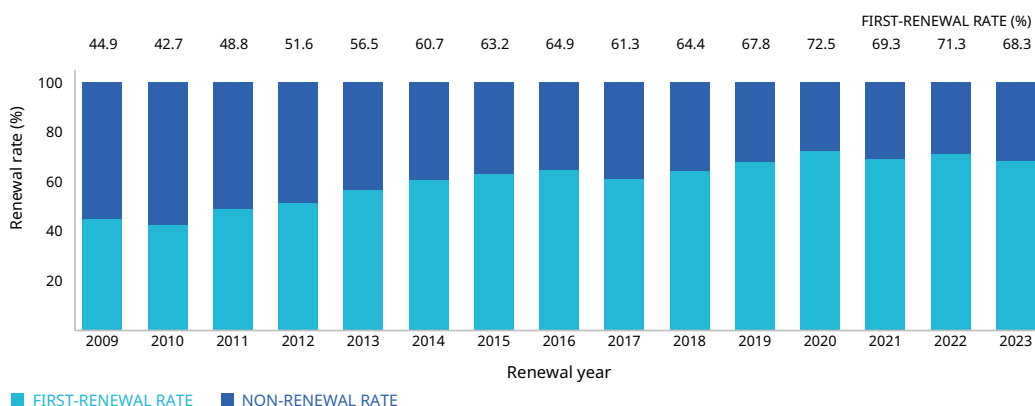


Note: The fourth-renewal category includes renewal for a fourth time or more.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

In 2023, the first-renewal rate was 68.3%, slightly below the rate recorded in 2022.

47. First-renewal rate for designs contained in international registrations, 2009–2023

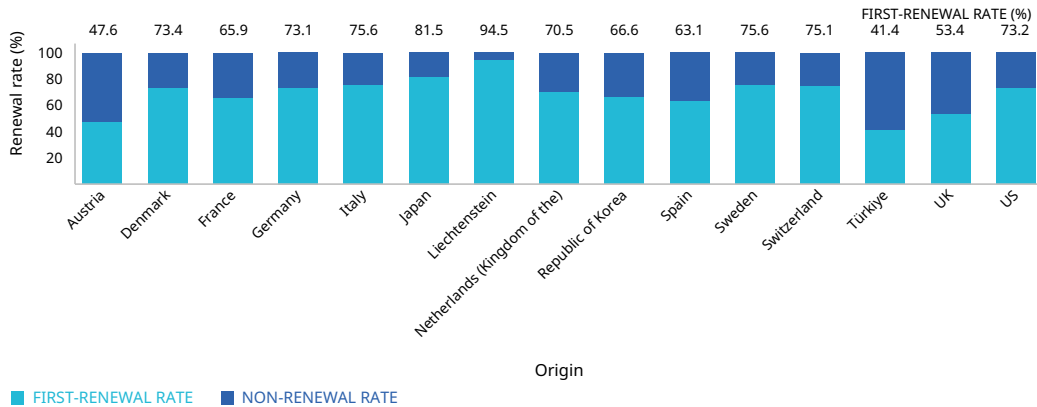


Note: The first-renewal rate is defined as the total number of designs renewed for the first time in any given year divided by the total number of designs that must be renewed for a first time or else expire.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

The first renewal rate exceeded 70% for nine of the top 15 origins during the 2019–2023 period

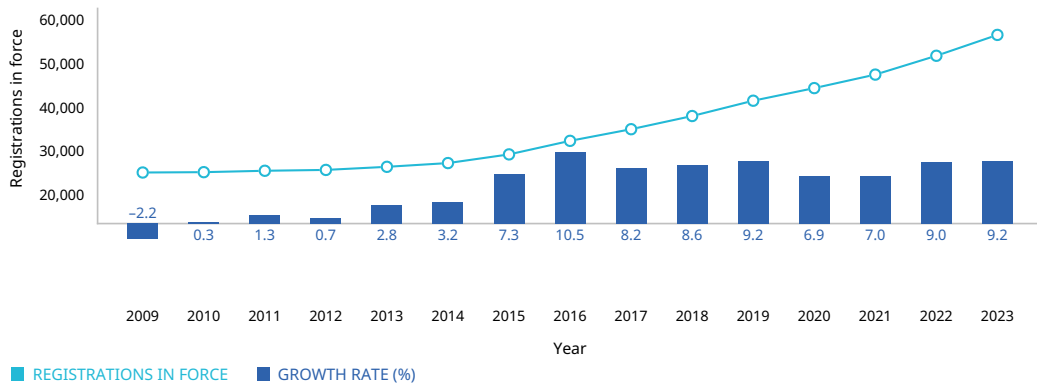
48. First-renewal rate for designs contained in international registrations for the top 15 origins, 2019–2023



Note: The first-renewal rate is defined as the total number of designs renewed for the first time in any given year divided by the total number of designs that must be renewed for a first time or else lapse.
 Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

International registrations in force grew by 9.2% in 2023, reaching a total of around 56,600 registrations in force.

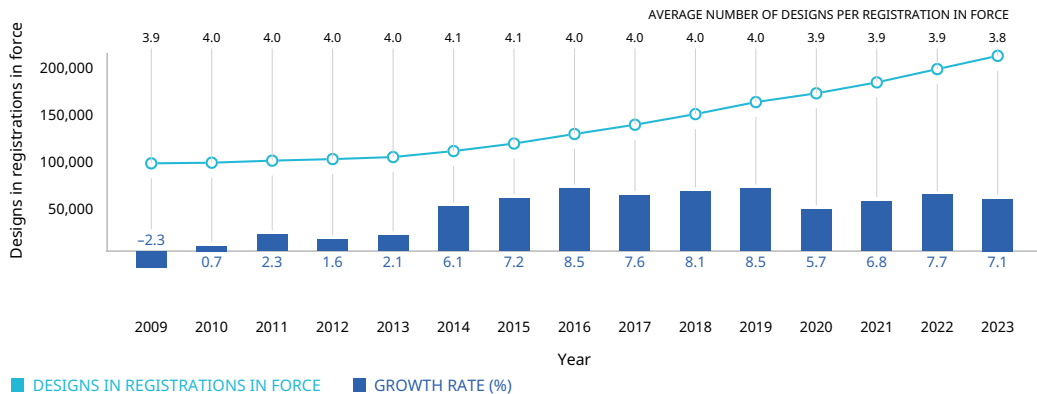
49. International registrations in force, 2009–2023



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

The approximately 56,600 international registrations in force in 2023 contained around 213,300 designs.

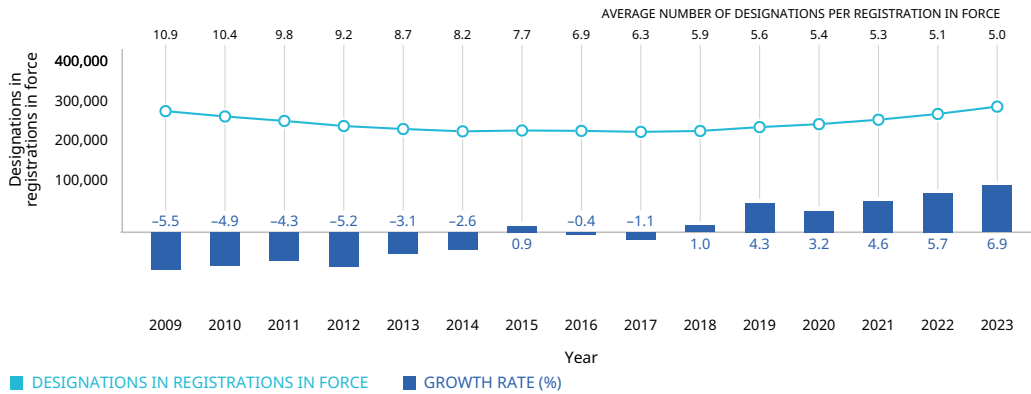
50. Designs contained in international registrations in force, 2009–2023



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

Designations in international registrations in force grew by 6.9% in 2023, bringing the total number to around 284,600.

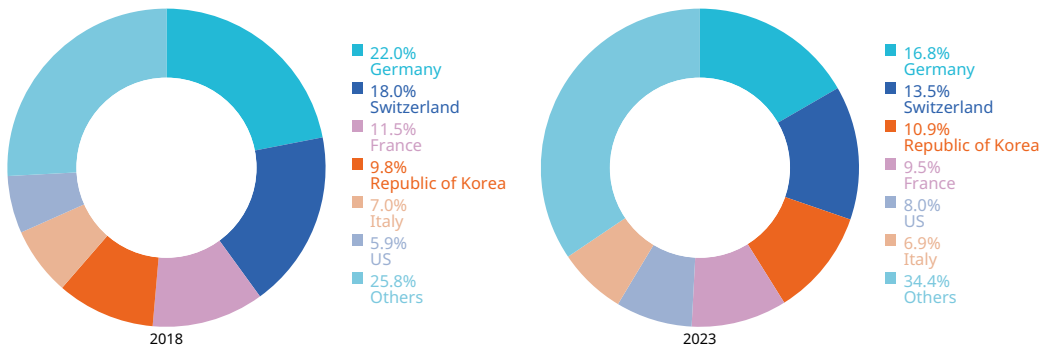
51. Designations contained in international registrations in force, 2009–2023



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

In 2023, holders from Germany held the most registrations in force, followed by Switzerland and the Republic of Korea.

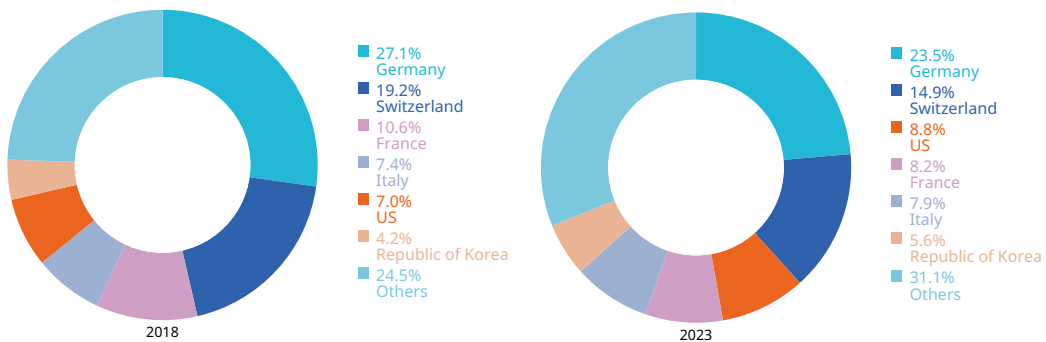
52. Share of international registrations in force for the top six origins, 2018 and 2023



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

The top six origins' combined share of registrations in force decreased from 76% in 2018 down to 69% in 2023.

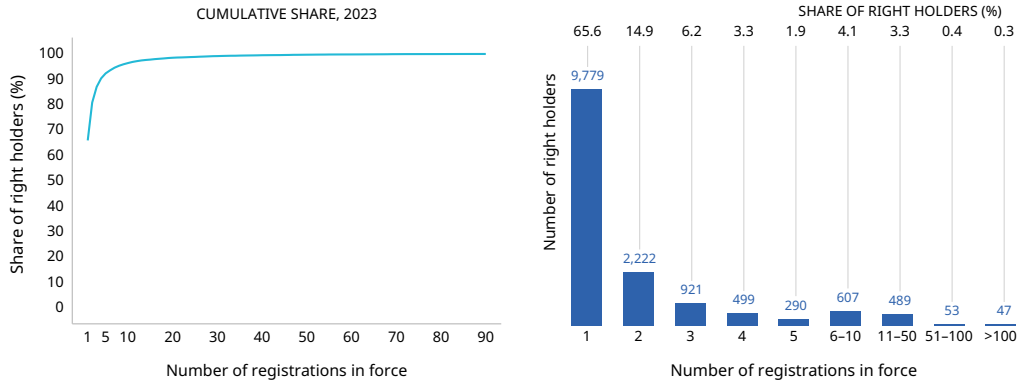
53. Share of designs contained in international registrations in force for the top six origins, 2018 and 2023



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

Around four-fifths of international registration holders had up to two registrations in their portfolio in 2023.

54. Distribution of international registrations in force by right holder portfolio size, 2023



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

C. Decision outcomes for international registrations via the Hague System

Highlights

After an international registration is published, the designated office decides whether to grant or refuse protection. Should the office refuse protection, it must notify the International Bureau (IB) of its refusal within six or 12 months of the registration's publication in the *International Designs Bulletin (IDB)*. After having issued a refusal, it is possible that the office may review its decision and issue either a withdrawal of a refusal or a statement of grant of protection following a refusal. Should the designated office not communicate a refusal to the IB within the prescribed refusal period, protection is considered to be granted by default. Alternatively, an office may choose to send the IB a statement of grant of protection (SGP) within the refusal period, in order that the holder of an international registration does not have to wait until expiry of the refusal period. Data for 2022 are incomplete, hence not included in this section.

Decisions conveyed by designated offices to the IB have increased significantly

Between 2010 and 2022, the number of decisions communicated to the IB by designated offices relating to international registrations outpaced the number of registrations. In 2010, designated offices communicated 1,877 decisions to the IB, whereas in 2022, they communicated 21,194 decisions. Over the same period, the number of registrations increased from 2,122 to 5,932. Consequently, the ratio of decisions per registration increased from 0.9 in 2010 to 3.6 in 2022 (see figure 55). In 2022, the EU communicated the largest share of decisions to the IB, accounting for 29.6% of the total, followed by the US (21.7%), Japan (9.1%) and the Republic of Korea (8.3%) (see figure 57).

In 2022, designated offices granted around 88% of all design registrations, with only 12% rejected (see figure 58). Among the top 20 most designated offices, 13 granted over 97% of designs. Mexico, the Russian Federation and the US were the only three designated offices in this group with a share of granted designs below 50% (figure 59). That said, the refusal share might be overstated with regard to the most recent years, because some designs refused initially may go on to be granted at a later date (grant after refusal).

In 2022, around 84% of all decisions were transmitted to the IB within 12 months

The percentage of decisions transmitted to the IB later than the 12-month time limit has gradually increased from approximately 1.1% in 2010 to about 16% in 2022. In 2022, around 84% of all decisions were transmitted to the IB within 12 months, and another 13.1% within 18 months (see figure 62). Roughly, 3% of all decisions took more than 18 months from publication date to be conveyed to the IB. Timelines for decisions vary significantly across designated offices, depending on the type of decision. The offices of Georgia, Poland and Spain transmitted nearly all decisions to the IB within six months of the publication date (see figure 63). In contrast, a large proportion of decisions to the IB from Mexico (46.7%) and the US (60.5%) came after 12 months.

Likewise, China (24.2%), the Republic of Korea (19.4%) and Viet Nam (18.3%) also transmitted a large proportion of decisions after the 12-month limit.

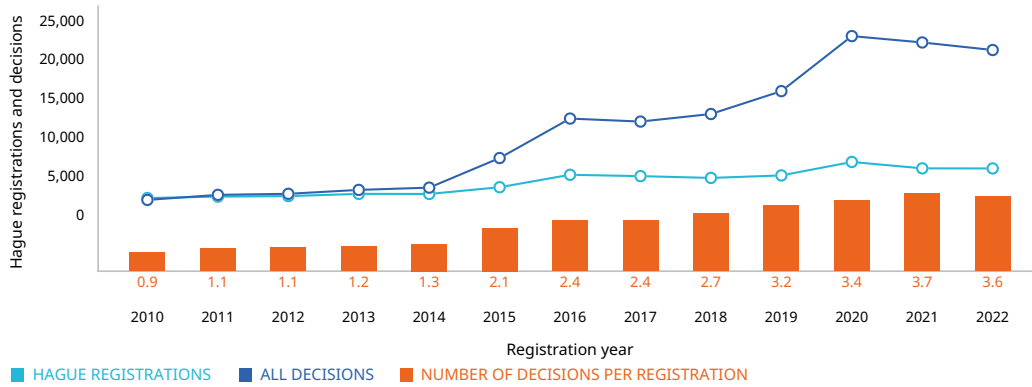
Figures 64 and 65 show the type of decision communicated by offices after the 12-month time limit has expired. Grant after refusal was the category with the largest proportion of decisions from 2015 onwards, ranging from 72.3% in 2015 to 39.2% in 2021 (see figure 64). Invitations to pay the second part of the designation fee accounted for approximately a quarter of all decisions transmitted later than 12 months in the past five years. From 2020 to 2022, all decisions so transmitted by Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Syrian Arab Republic and the UK were grant after refusal, while every decision from Norway was a grant without refusal (see figure 65).

List of indicators

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In 2022, an average 3.6 decisions were made per international registration, a ratio similar to the previous year.

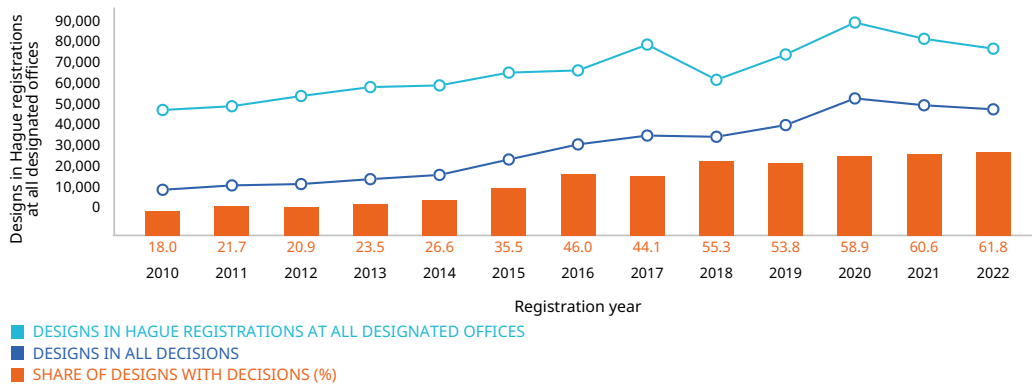
55. International registrations and decisions, 2010–2022



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

The share of designs with decisions has been gradually following an upward trend, peaking at 61.8% in 2022.

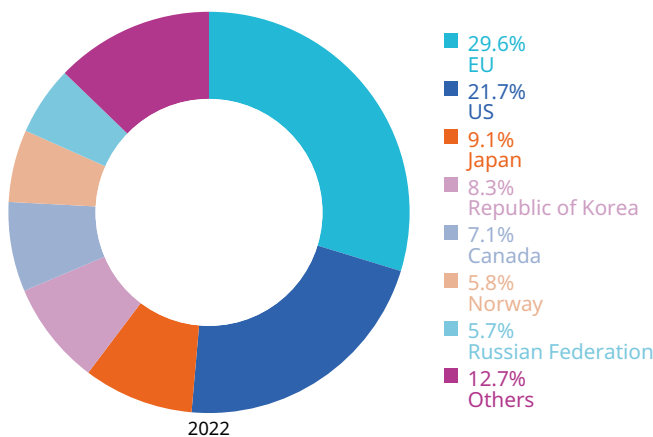
56. Decisions communicated to the IB by designated offices, 2010–2022



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

The EU and the US together accounted for over half (51.3%) of the decisions communicated to the IB in 2022.

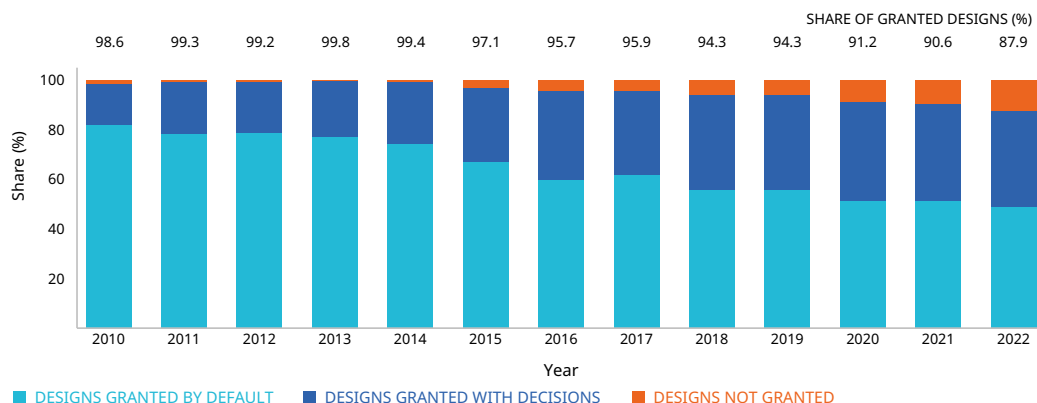
57. Share of decisions communicated to the IB by the top designated offices, 2022



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

In 2022, at least 87.9% of designs were granted either by default or granted with a decision. However, the share of grants could be higher as some of the initial refusals may be granted at a later date.

58. Outcome of substantive examination by all designated offices, 2010–2022

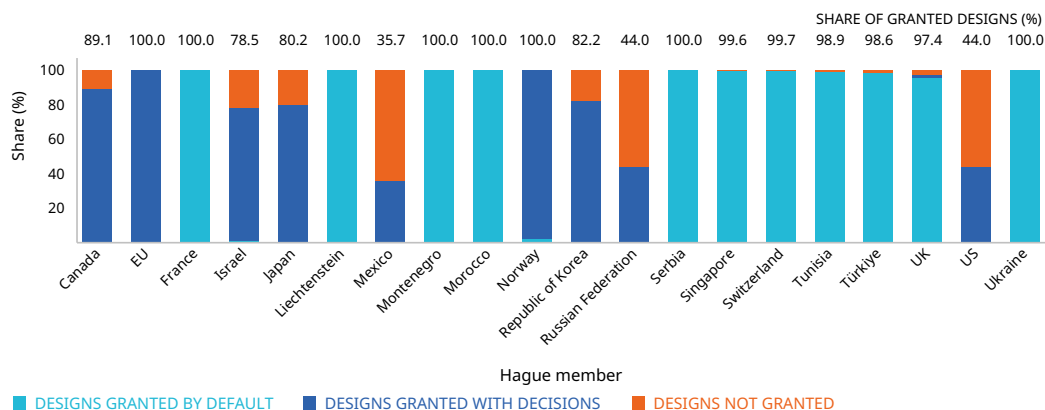


Note: The official refusal share (designs not granted) for the most recent years might be overstated, because some designs refused initially may be granted at a later date (grant after refusal).

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

Of the top 20 designated offices, six offices granted all designs by default.

59. Outcome of substantive examination for the top 20 designated offices, 2020–2022

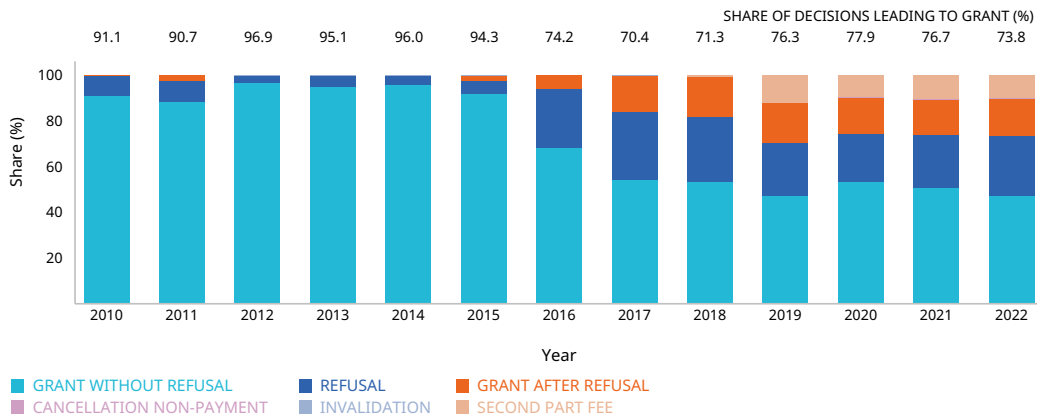


Note: The official refusal share (designs not granted) for the most recent years might be overstated, because some designs refused initially may be granted at a later date (grant after refusal).

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

In 2022, 16.4% of designs with decisions communicated to the IB were granted after initially being refused.

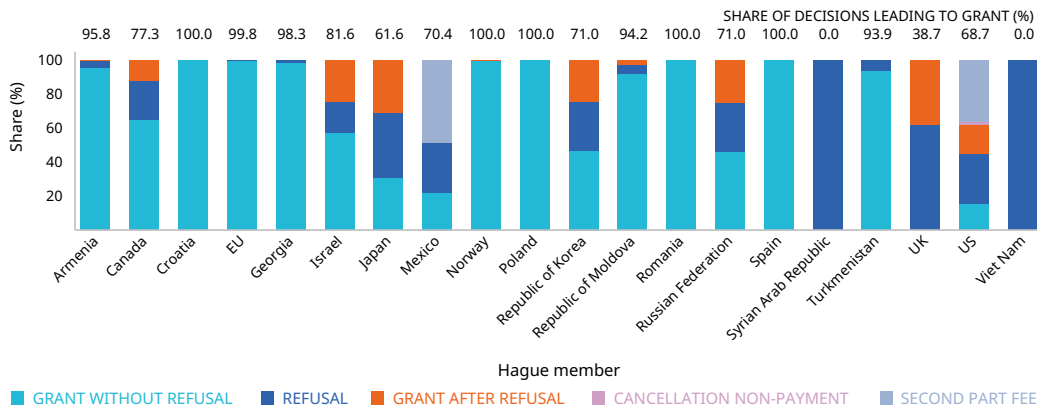
60. Decisions communicated to the IB by decision type, 2010–2022



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

Japan and the UK have a grant after refusal rate of over 30% for all decisions communicated to the IB.

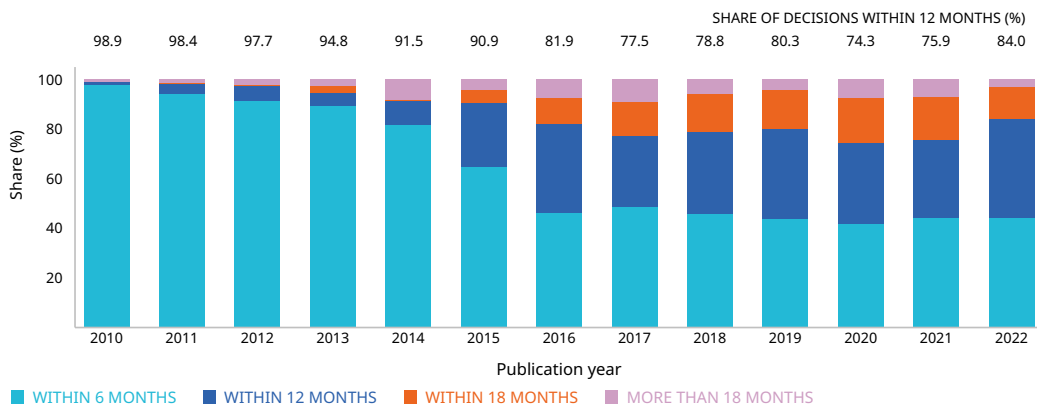
61. Decisions communicated to the IB by the top 20 designated offices that issued the most decisions, 2020–2022



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

In 2022, around 84% of all decisions were transmitted within 12 months of the publication date.

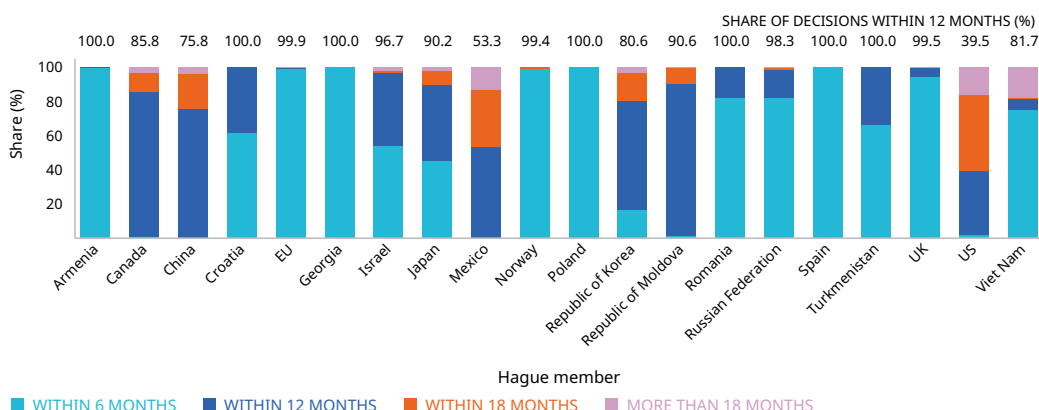
62. Timelines for decisions by all designated offices, 2010–2022



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

All decisions by the offices of Georgia, Poland and Spain were transmitted to the IB within six months of the publication date.

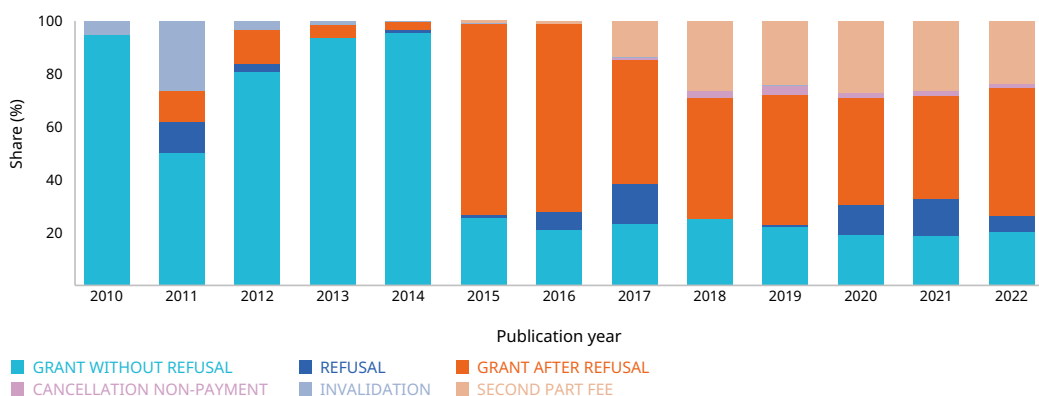
63. Timeliness of decisions by the top 20 designated offices that issued the most decisions, 2020–2022



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

The share of grants after refusal is the largest among all decisions following the expiry of the 12-month time limit, constituting 48.4% in 2022.

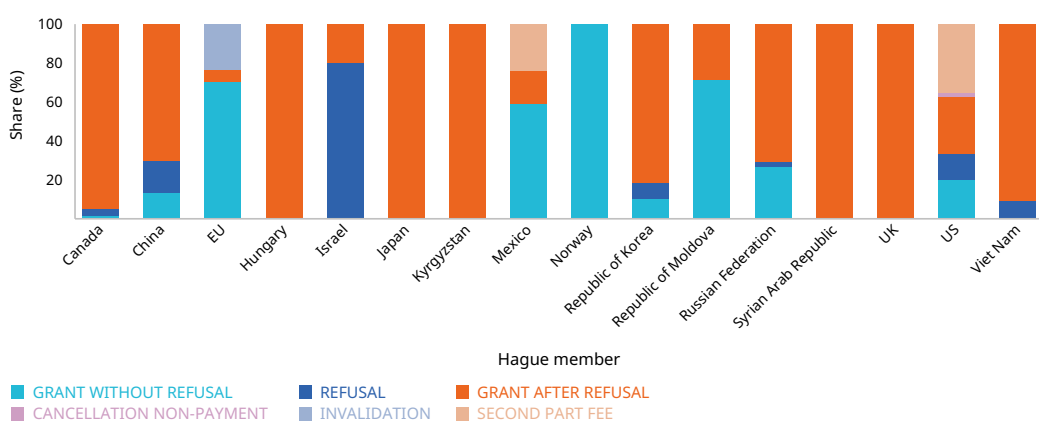
64. Distribution of decisions after expiry of the 12-month time limit by decision type, 2010–2022



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

All decisions transmitted by Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Syrian Arab Republic and the UK were grant after refusal.

65. Distribution of decisions after expiry of the 12-month limit by decision type and designated office, 2020–2022



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

D. Registration fees, and fees collected and distributed by the International Bureau

Highlights

The IB distributed CHF 14.4 million to 77 designated members in 2023

In 2023, designated offices received approximately 14.4 million Swiss francs (CHF) from the IB. The US received the largest share of the total at 23.1%, followed by Japan at 21.2%, the EU at 12.2%, China at 9.9%, and Canada at 8.9% (see table 67). China, which became a designated member in May 2022, was the fourth biggest recipient in 2023. Both China (+4.7 percentage points) and Canada (+0.4 percentage points) increased their share of the total amount distributed by the IB in 2023 compared to the previous year. In contrast, the EU (-0.6 percentage point) and Japan (-5 percentage points) saw a decrease over the same period. The share of the US remained the same at 23.1%.

IB and designation fees

The IB of WIPO collects fees for services relating to the registration, renewal and maintenance of industrial designs. Fees include a basic fee per application and per design, as well as a fee for each reproduction to be published. The IB also collects standard and individual designation fees on behalf of designated members and distributes them accordingly.

On average, applicants paid around CHF 2,100 per international registration through the Hague System in 2023

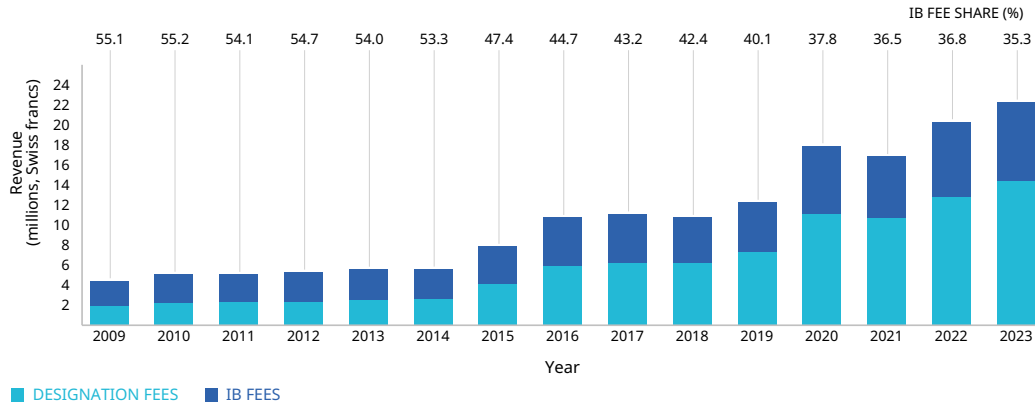
In 2023, the average fee for a Hague international registration was CHF 2,097, which is CHF 33 more than the previous year (see figure 68). The upward trend in the average registration fee is partly due to the increase in the average number of designations per application. For example, the share of applications with more than three designations increased from 29.7% in 2018 to 43.2% in 2023. The fee per registration ranged from between CHF 456 for 11 single-design registrations to CHF 55,177 for a single registration originating from Germany that contained 47 designs and designated 3 Hague members. Around two-thirds of registrations cost less than the CHF 2,097 average fee, while only 7.6% of registrations cost more than CHF 4,000 per registration.

List of indicators

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The IB fee share has drastically declined over the past decade – from 54% in 2013 to 35.3% in 2023.

66. Fees collected by the IB, 2009–2023



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

Combined, the EU, Japan and the US received 56.5% of the CHF 14.4 million in fees distributed to designated members in 2023.

67. Fees distributed to designated members by the IB, 2022–2023

Designated member	2022	2023	2023 share of total (%)
African Intellectual Property Organization	104,222	91,532	0.6
Albania	10,735	15,339	0.1
Armenia	12,662	16,334	0.1
Azerbaijan	10,229	12,902	0.1
Belarus	10,680	12,360	0.1
Belize	6,046	8,729	0.1
Benelux Office for Intellectual Property	19,293	10,996	0.1
Benin	2,200	1,440	0.0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	14,168	17,096	0.1
Botswana	2,732	3,077	0.0
Brazil	n.a.	13,820	0.1
Brunei Darussalam	12,048	11,583	0.1
Bulgaria	6,593	4,527	0.0
Cambodia	4,641	8,658	0.1
Canada	1,092,364	1,282,723	8.9
China	661,491	1,419,517	9.9
Côte d'Ivoire	2,074	1,735	0.0
Croatia	18,940	14,033	0.1
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	9,664	9,072	0.1
Denmark	8,075	6,616	0.0
Egypt	15,934	17,701	0.1
Estonia	2,328	2,196	0.0
EU	1,637,676	1,755,263	12.2
Finland	5,390	4,003	0.0
France	30,748	22,439	0.2
Gabon	922	749	0.0
Georgia	26,043	30,908	0.2
Germany	33,618	26,462	0.2
Ghana	8,147	7,623	0.1
Greece	11,416	8,658	0.1
Hungary	9,738	6,296	0.0
Iceland	33,553	31,784	0.2
Israel	108,081	118,763	0.8
Italy	17,381	9,513	0.1
Jamaica	3,240	5,470	0.0
Japan	3,369,831	3,059,888	21.2
Kyrgyzstan	33,891	42,703	0.3
Latvia	2,294	1,130	0.0
Liechtenstein	22,491	22,514	0.2
Lithuania	17,626	16,307	0.1
Mali	433	178	0.0

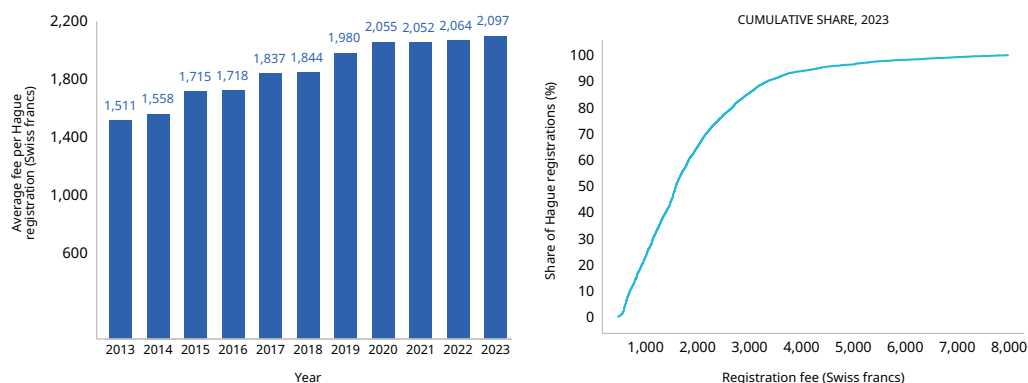
Designated member	2022	2023	2023 share of total (%)
Mauritius	n.a.	2,160	0.0
Mexico	124,665	177,904	1.2
Monaco	25,490	27,427	0.2
Mongolia	10,088	11,911	0.1
Montenegro	18,532	22,309	0.2
Morocco	43,146	50,436	0.4
Namibia	3,310	6,092	0.0
Niger	502	198	0.0
North Macedonia	17,329	19,804	0.1
Norway	128,083	138,475	1.0
Oman	12,236	16,604	0.1
Poland	6,747	3,210	0.0
Republic of Korea	875,925	1,092,653	7.6
Republic of Moldova	43,483	49,810	0.3
Romania	16,413	17,052	0.1
Russian Federation	173,645	246,771	1.7
Rwanda	2,062	2,408	0.0
Samoa	1,086	2,230	0.0
San Marino	1,750	3,114	0.0
Sao Tome and Principe	1,694	2,203	0.0
Senegal	2,375	1,609	0.0
Serbia	54,486	57,905	0.4
Singapore	61,728	66,412	0.5
Slovenia	11,730	10,373	0.1
Spain	5,156	4,834	0.0
Suriname	3,513	3,420	0.0
Switzerland	330,132	316,724	2.2
Syrian Arab Republic	4,867	7,212	0.1
Tajikistan	8,991	14,607	0.1
Türkiye	95,628	106,573	0.7
Tunisia	31,854	33,673	0.2
Turkmenistan	24,881	49,481	0.3
UK	205,732	215,279	1.5
Ukraine	75,705	76,714	0.5
US	2,960,737	3,324,689	23.1
Viet Nam	60,290	74,120	0.5
Total	12,843,629	14,409,033	100.0

Note: n.a. indicates not applicable.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

The average fee per registration was just above CHF 2,000, marking a slight increase from the previous year.

68. Registration fees, 2013–2023



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

E. Statistical tables and annexes

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Statistical tables

69. International applications via the Hague System, 2023

Name	Origin ¹		Designated Member	
	Number of Applications	Number of Designs	Number of Applications	Number of Designs
African Intellectual Property Organization	n.a.	n.a.	204	465
Albania	..	..	200	528
Algeria (a)	3	3	n.a.	n.a.
Armenia	..	..	155	297
Australia (a)	12	19	n.a.	n.a.
Austria (b)	58	348	n.a.	n.a.
Azerbaijan	..	..	207	408
Belarus	4	4	152	434
Belgium (c)	105	345	n.a.	n.a.
Belize	..	..	131	232
Benelux	n.a.	n.a.	82	211
Benin	..	..	11	22
Bosnia and Herzegovina	9	54	230	650
Botswana	..	..	62	88
Brazil	28	32	283	630
Brunei Darussalam	..	..	82	146
Bulgaria	19	51	38	55
Cambodia	..	..	110	221
Cameroon (a)	1	1	n.a.	n.a.
Canada	93	217	1,806	3,851
Chile (a)	1	3	n.a.	n.a.
China	1,813	3,758	2,485	5,720
Côte d'Ivoire	..	..	19	63
Croatia	8	14	86	283
Cyprus (b)	25	124	n.a.	n.a.
Czech Republic (b)	17	99	n.a.	n.a.
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	..	..	73	115
Denmark	136	461	84	177
Egypt	3	3	277	720
Estonia	8	17	36	62
European Union	n.a.	n.a.	5,843	18,575
Finland	58	151	58	82
France	688	1,618	241	730
Gabon	..	..	3	4
Georgia	3	19	198	388
Germany	904	4,518	198	500
Ghana	..	..	73	104
Greece	17	253	49	224
Hungary	7	19	44	65
Iceland	1	1	171	426
India (a)	2	2	n.a.	n.a.
Ireland (b)	16	41	n.a.	n.a.
Israel	67	138	430	940
Italy	470	1,817	26	110
Jamaica	..	..	60	82
Japan	466	1,001	2,174	4,468
Kyrgyzstan	1	1	158	290
Latvia	8	8	31	41
Lebanon (a)	1	1	n.a.	n.a.
Liechtenstein	4	17	238	533
Lithuania	7	9	86	268
Luxembourg (c)	9	21	n.a.	n.a.
Mali	..	..	3	4
Malta (b)	11	263	n.a.	n.a.
Mauritius	..	..	45	63
Mexico	4	4	843	1,781
Monaco	3	3	290	633
Mongolia	..	..	175	300
Montenegro	..	..	250	651
Morocco	3	18	387	901
Namibia	..	..	67	102
Netherlands (Kingdom of the) (c)	235	720	n.a.	n.a.

Name	Origin ¹		Designated Member	
	Number of Applications	Number of Designs	Number of Applications	Number of Designs
Niger	..	..	4	5
North Macedonia	5	5	219	521
Norway	69	211	1,040	3,774
Oman	1	1	239	447
Poland	58	258	46	68
Portugal (b)	15	61	n.a.	n.a.
Republic of Korea	825	1,240	1,620	3,615
Republic of Moldova	2	15	185	469
Romania	6	8	67	161
Russian Federation	51	73	991	1,984
Rwanda	..	..	59	81
Samoa	..	..	62	88
San Marino	..	..	85	144
Sao Tome and Principe	..	..	54	75
Senegal	..	..	13	24
Serbia	9	15	250	725
Singapore	39	63	1,026	2,286
Slovakia (b)	3	7	n.a.	n.a.
Slovenia	19	34	94	269
South Africa (a)	1	1	n.a.	n.a.
Spain	95	235	71	187
Suriname	..	..	64	96
Sweden (b)	112	277	n.a.	n.a.
Switzerland	712	2,196	2,023	8,176
Syrian Arab Republic	1	1	59	125
Tajikistan	..	..	89	146
Thailand (a)	2	4	n.a.	n.a.
Tunisia	..	..	270	647
Türkiye	173	737	1,364	4,812
Turkmenistan	..	..	95	181
Ukraine	40	126	496	1,717
United Arab Emirates (a)	2	14	n.a.	n.a.
United Kingdom	240	941	4,468	15,373
United States of America	746	2,674	3,878	8,109
Uruguay (a)	1	1	n.a.	n.a.
Viet Nam	8	9	613	1,115
Others	3	11	..	..
Total	8,566	25,414	38,498	103,063

Note: Only those countries/territories of origin and designated Hague member countries or jurisdictions for which Hague System statistics exist for 2023 are listed. The Benelux countries are Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

¹ Origin of an application is defined as the country or territory of residence stated in an applicant address.

(a) Not a member of the Hague System. This country cannot therefore be designated by an applicant that uses the Hague System. However, applicants from this country are able to file via the Hague System by claiming commercial activity or domicile in a country or jurisdiction of a regional office that is a member of the Hague System.

(b) Not a member of the Hague System but is a member of the European Union. Applicants from this country can file by virtue of that country's membership of the European Union. This country cannot, however, be designated by an applicant using the Hague System.

(c) The IP office is the Benelux Office for Intellectual Property.

n.a. indicates not applicable.

.. indicates zero.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

70. International registrations via the Hague System, 2023

Name	Origin ¹		Designated Member	
	Number of Registrations	Number of Designs	Number of Registrations	Number of Designs
African Intellectual Property Organization	n.a.	n.a.	172	449
Albania	..	..	187	529
Armenia	..	..	139	271
Australia (a)	13	20	n.a.	n.a.
Austria (b)	60	394	n.a.	n.a.
Azerbaijan	..	..	187	364
Belarus	..	..	127	364
Belgium (c)	99	321	n.a.	n.a.
Belize	..	..	123	221
Benelux	n.a.	n.a.	64	188
Benin	..	..	12	24
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5	28	222	695
Botswana	..	..	51	66
Brazil	9	10	166	359
Brunei Darussalam	..	..	72	164
Bulgaria	15	41	19	37
Cambodia	..	..	95	214
Canada	91	238	1,773	3,867
Chile (a)	1	3	n.a.	n.a.
China	1,718	3,531	2,423	5,513
Côte d'Ivoire	..	..	20	65
Croatia	6	9	68	277
Cyprus (b)	26	134	n.a.	n.a.
Czech Republic (b)	13	106	n.a.	n.a.
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	..	..	61	100
Denmark	135	440	56	134
Egypt	..	..	251	762
Estonia	7	16	20	39
European Union	n.a.	n.a.	5,748	18,428
Finland	61	160	31	38
France	674	1,565	198	699
Gabon	..	..	2	2
Georgia	1	11	182	343
Germany	907	4,612	151	423
Ghana	..	..	61	91
Greece	11	241	47	221
Hungary	9	20	20	40
Iceland	1	1	166	465
Ireland (b)	17	43	n.a.	n.a.
Israel	63	110	409	1,031
Italy	487	2,071	21	133
Jamaica	..	..	48	71
Japan	478	987	2,166	4,467
Kyrgyzstan	..	..	143	310
Latvia	7	7	12	15
Lebanon (a)	1	1	n.a.	n.a.
Liechtenstein	5	23	229	652
Lithuania	6	7	65	231
Luxembourg (c)	12	28	n.a.	n.a.
Malaysia (a)	1	4	n.a.	n.a.
Mali	..	..	2	2
Malta (b)	8	213	n.a.	n.a.
Mauritius	..	..	32	44
Mexico	1	1	798	1,801
Monaco	4	4	292	717
Mongolia	..	..	167	336
Montenegro	..	..	241	694
Morocco	2	6	377	925
Namibia	..	..	57	83
Netherlands (Kingdom of the) (c)	239	685	n.a.	n.a.
Niger	..	..	3	3
North Macedonia	4	4	207	544
Norway	66	204	1,032	3,820
Oman	..	..	232	493
Poland	58	257	28	71
Portugal (b)	7	15	n.a.	n.a.

Name	Origin ¹		Designated Member	
	Number of Registrations	Number of Designs	Number of Registrations	Number of Designs
Republic of Korea	838	1,261	1,627	3,666
Republic of Moldova	1	13	179	484
Romania	3	3	53	198
Russian Federation	42	80	962	2,055
Rwanda	..	..	48	71
Samoa	..	..	52	75
San Marino	..	..	70	157
Sao Tome and Principe	..	..	44	62
Senegal	..	..	14	26
Serbia	8	14	238	761
Singapore	42	63	1,021	2,406
Slovakia (b)	2	8	n.a.	n.a.
Slovenia	21	34	79	283
Spain	89	248	41	136
Suriname	..	..	55	87
Sweden (b)	116	302	n.a.	n.a.
Switzerland	710	2,320	2,020	8,379
Syrian Arab Republic	..	..	43	101
Tajikistan	..	..	78	173
Thailand (a)	2	4	n.a.	n.a.
Tunisia	..	..	260	699
Türkiye	166	681	1,332	4,890
Turkmenistan	..	..	78	166
Ukraine	36	92	498	1,781
United Arab Emirates (a)	2	14	n.a.	n.a.
United Kingdom	238	977	4,453	15,682
United States of America	711	2,557	3,760	7,903
Uruguay (a)	1	1	n.a.	n.a.
Viet Nam	7	8	563	1,032
Others	3	11	..	..
Total	8,366	25,262	37,043	103,168

Note: Only those countries/territories of origin and designated Hague member countries or jurisdictions for which Hague System statistics exist for 2023 are listed. The Benelux countries are Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

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(a) Not a member of the Hague System. This country cannot therefore be designated by an applicant using the Hague System. However, applicants from this country are able to file via the Hague System by claiming possession of a real and effective commercial or industrial establishment, or a residence, in the territory of a Hague System member.

(b) Not a member of the Hague System but is a member of the European Union. Applicants from this country can file by virtue of that country's membership of the European Union. This country cannot, however, be designated by an applicant using the Hague System.

(c) The IP office is the Benelux Office for Intellectual Property.

n.a. indicates not applicable.

.. indicates zero.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

71. Renewals of international registrations via the Hague System, 2023

Name	Origin ¹		Designated Member	
	Number of Renewals	Number of Designs	Number of Renewals	Number of Designs
African Intellectual Property Organization	n.a.	n.a.	117	396
Albania	1	1	288	1,041
Antigua and Barbuda (a)	1	8	n.a.	n.a.
Armenia	..	..	231	736
Austria (b)	39	136	n.a.	n.a.
Azerbaijan	..	..	200	696
Belgium (c)	70	206	n.a.	n.a.
Belize	..	..	147	427
Benelux	n.a.	n.a.	318	1,706
Benin	..	..	36	192
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	14	287	1,086
Botswana	..	..	40	105
Brunei Darussalam	..	..	23	43
Bulgaria	13	38	127	487
Cambodia	..	..	27	38
Canada	11	16	130	254
China	106	195	0	0
China, Hong Kong SAR (a)	2	3	n.a.	n.a.
Côte d'Ivoire	..	..	36	85
Croatia	11	28	231	1,163
Cyprus (b)	14	86	n.a.	n.a.
Czech Republic (b)	30	256	n.a.	n.a.
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	..	..	74	152
Denmark	55	176	67	356
Egypt	..	..	255	1,070
Estonia	4	5	23	157
European Union	n.a.	n.a.	3,731	15,330
Finland	32	65	33	203
France	569	2,169	524	2,682
Gabon	..	..	31	45
Georgia	1	3	284	799
Germany	1,159	5,619	476	2,444
Ghana	..	..	27	93
Greece	5	92	248	1,382
Hungary	3	12	143	539
Iceland	4	8	83	234
Ireland (b)	4	24	n.a.	n.a.
Italy	358	1,404	334	1,734
Japan	311	968	615	1,384
Kyrgyzstan	..	..	188	535
Latvia	4	4	15	50
Lebanon (a)	1	3	n.a.	n.a.
Liechtenstein	21	117	505	1,951
Lithuania	1	1	81	539
Luxembourg (c)	30	128	n.a.	n.a.
Mali	..	..	4	14
Malta (b)	1	1	n.a.	n.a.
Monaco	2	56	602	2,276
Mongolia	..	..	197	619
Montenegro	1	2	483	1,622
Morocco	..	..	700	2,878
Namibia	..	..	43	98
Netherlands (Kingdom of the) (c)	261	755	n.a.	n.a.
New Zealand (a)	1	1	n.a.	n.a.
Niger	..	..	3	12
North Macedonia	..	..	445	1,540
Norway	66	168	881	3,176
Oman	..	..	271	918
Poland	56	136	28	110
Portugal (b)	8	33	n.a.	n.a.
Republic of Korea	503	1,204	643	2,075
Republic of Moldova	1	11	336	1,074
Romania	2	6	205	941
Russian Federation	10	14	379	1,067
Rwanda	..	..	15	46

Name	Origin ¹		Designated Member	
	Number of Renewals	Number of Designs	Number of Renewals	Number of Designs
Sao Tome and Principe	..	..	14	39
Senegal	..	..	40	197
Serbia	7	15	434	1,680
Singapore	7	11	892	2,964
Slovakia (b)	4	14	n.a.	n.a.
Slovenia	26	31	262	1,411
Spain	48	109	114	648
Suriname	..	..	41	226
Sweden (b)	110	429	n.a.	n.a.
Switzerland	996	4,211	2,773	12,873
Syrian Arab Republic	..	..	20	42
Tajikistan	..	..	124	357
Tunisia	1	1	392	1,453
Türkiye	80	297	1,798	7,576
Turkmenistan	..	..	16	57
Ukraine	17	30	897	3,241
United Arab Emirates (a)	1	1	n.a.	n.a.
United Kingdom	71	238	234	1,065
United States of America	406	2,075	1,156	2,453
Others	45	157	..	..
Total	5,592	21,791	24,417	94,882

Note: Only those countries/territories of origin and designated Hague member countries or jurisdictions for which Hague System statistics exist for 2023 are listed. The Benelux countries are Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

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(c) The IP office is the Benelux Office for Intellectual Property.

n.a. indicates not applicable.

.. indicates zero.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2024.

A brief presentation of the Hague System

Introduction

The WIPO-administered Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs comprises two international treaties: the Hague Act (1960) and the Geneva Act (1999). If the Hague System had not been established, the procedure for protecting designs in multiple jurisdictions would have involved filing a separate application at each national or regional intellectual property (IP) office. The Hague System simplifies this process by creating a single international procedure for the protection of a design in multiple jurisdictions. This makes it possible for an applicant to obtain protection for up to 100 industrial designs for products belonging to the same class in multiple jurisdictions by filing a single application with the International Bureau (IB) of WIPO. It also simplifies the subsequent management of the industrial design, since it makes it possible to record changes or renew the registration through a single procedural step.

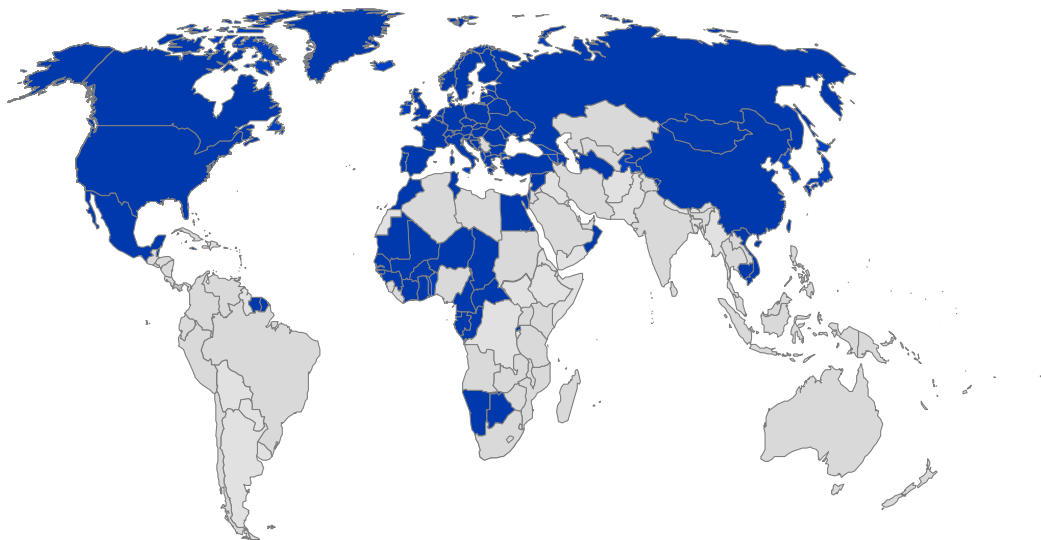
As at December 31, 2023, the Hague System comprised 79 members. This means that applicants can obtain protection for their designs in a geographical area incorporating a total of 96 countries. The difference between the number of Hague members and the number of countries covered by the System is due to the fact that the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) and the European Union (EU) are Hague members. By choosing to designate either of these intergovernmental organizations within an application, protection can be sought simultaneously within all their respective member states.

Advantages of the Hague System

The Hague System lowers transaction costs for design registrations through the creation of a single application in one language, with one set of fees in a single currency denomination. Applicants are therefore not burdened by having to apply at multiple offices, which would entail having to deal with different formalities in different languages, and involve purchasing several currency denominations to pay various fees.

The System also simplifies the subsequent management of international registrations. Applications are handled through a single institution, which allows future amendments to registrations and renewals of registrations to be carried out by a single office (i.e., the IB) rather than requiring the designer/holder of a registration to request such amendments at multiple IP offices.

Hague members in 2023



International application and registration procedures

When deciding to seek protection for designs in multiple jurisdictions, an applicant can file separate applications with each office directly (the Paris route) or file a single international application through the Hague System. The overview of the industrial design registration process illustrates the procedure for filing applications in multiple jurisdictions via the Hague System.

An international application¹ is normally filed directly with the IB,² which is responsible for carrying out an examination to verify that it meets all formality requirements. In the case of non-compliance, applicants are invited to correct the application within a three-month period. If corrections are not made during that time, the application is considered abandoned. The IB does not undertake substantive examination (e.g., for novelty of design) and therefore cannot reject an application on substantive grounds. The decision whether to grant protection remains the prerogative of the national or regional office of the jurisdiction of the granting authority.

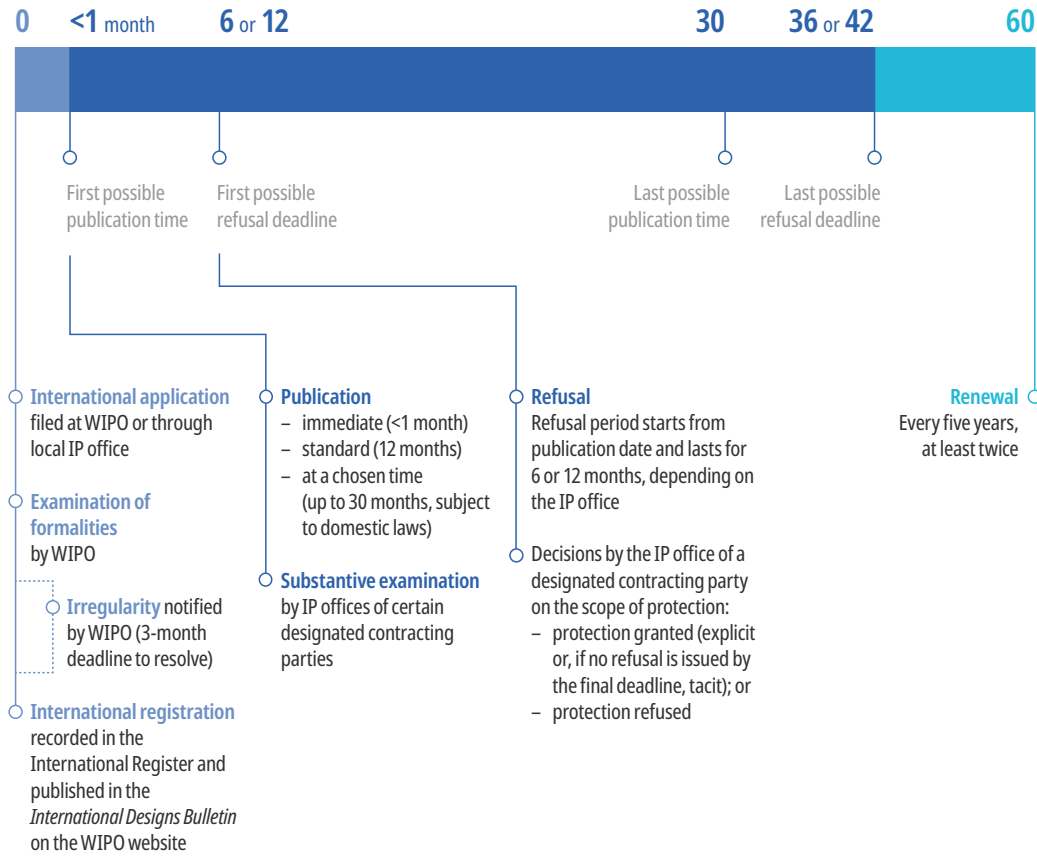
International applications are recorded in the International Register, if they fulfill all the requirements of the formality examination conducted by the IB. The standard process is for international registrations to be published in the *International Designs Bulletin (IDB)* 12 months after the date of international registration, unless an applicant requests immediate publication or a deferment of publication.³ The previous six-month standard publication period continues to apply to international registrations resulting from international applications filed before the entry into force on January 1, 2022, of the new standard publication period of 12 months. Once registrations are published in the *IDB*, national and regional offices identify those international registrations that have designated their country or intergovernmental organization. They then carry out a substantive examination according to their respective national or regional legislation, if any.⁴ If an office refuses to issue protection, it must notify the IB of its refusal within six months of the date of publication of the international registration in the *IDB*.⁵ In the case of a refusal, applicants have the same right of appeal as those who file directly with a national or regional office.⁶ However, if the IB does not receive a notification of refusal from a national or regional office within the prescribed time period, the international registration is considered valid within that jurisdiction and has effect as a grant of protection in the jurisdiction concerned.⁷

International registrations are valid for a period of five years and may be renewed for at least two additional five-year periods. The maximum duration of protection afforded by each designated Hague member depends on the locally applicable legislation. The IB administers the renewal process.

For more information on the Hague System, visit: www.wipo.int/hague.

- 1 An international application does not require a prior national application or registration. It must be filed in one of three working languages – English, French or Spanish – and list the designated members (i.e., states or intergovernmental organizations such as the EU or the OAPI) in which protection is sought.
- 2 An international application may be filed directly with the IB or indirectly through the national/regional IP office of the applicant's Contracting Party. Under certain conditions, and under the Hague Act only, an international application must be filed through a national IP office.
- 3 An applicant can defer publication for up to 12 months under the Hague Act, or for up to 30 months under the Geneva Act.
- 4 Some offices carry out a substantive examination of every design, whereas others automatically issue protection for designs, unless there is opposition from third parties.
- 5 Under certain circumstances, and under the Geneva Act only, the time period for notifying the IB of a refusal is 12 months instead of 6 months.
- 6 An applicant can appeal against a refusal according to the rules and regulations outlined in the domestic/ regional legislation of the office refusing protection. The IB is not involved in this procedure.
- 7 In some cases, national or regional offices notify the IB that protection is granted for an international registration by sending a statement of grant. However, where an office does not provide the IB with such a statement, the international registration is nevertheless valid, unless the office refuses the registration and communicates its refusal to the IB within the prescribed time limit (i.e., within 6 months or 12 months, as the case may be).

Overview of the industrial design registration process



Benefits

- File one international application in one language to register up to 100 designs – for products belonging to the same class – in more than 90 countries
- Pay one set of fees in a single currency (Swiss francs)
- Time the publication of your registration to fit your business strategy
- Renew and manage your registration directly through WIPO

Data description

Data are compiled by WIPO on the processing of international applications, registrations and renewals through the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs. Complete data exist up to calendar year 2023. However, figures shown in the Review are subject to alteration; for example, country of origin information for a few international Hague applications was missing at the time of data extraction. When this information becomes available, the applications by origin statistics for a few countries may change, but this will be minimal. Regular updates are available at: www.wipo.int/ipstats.

Statistics on direct non-resident (Paris route) applications at national and regional IP offices are extracted from the WIPO Statistics Database, primarily based on WIPO's Annual IP Survey. The latest available year for complete direct applications data is 2022.

Acronyms

BOIP	Benelux Office for Intellectual Property
EU	European Union
EUIPO	European Union Intellectual Property Office
GUI	Graphical User Interface
IB	International Bureau of WIPO
<i>IDB</i>	<i>International Designs Bulletin</i>
IP	intellectual property
IPR	intellectual property rights
JPO	Japan Patent Office
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
OAPI	African Intellectual Property Organization
RCD	Registered Community Design
UK	United Kingdom
US	United States of America
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization

Glossary

This glossary provides definitions of key technical terms and concepts.

Applicant: A natural person or a legal entity that files an application for an industrial design. There may be more than one applicant in an application. For statistical purposes, the name of the first named applicant is used to determine the origin of the application.

Application: A formal request for the protection of an industrial design at a national or regional IP office, which usually then examines the application and decides whether to grant or refuse protection within its jurisdiction. (See “Hague international application”).

Application date: This may also be referred to as the filing date. Filing (application) date requirements may vary according to jurisdiction. Typical filing date requirements are that an application contains a sufficiently clear representation of the industrial design in question and allows the identity of the applicant to be established.

Class: Refers to classes defined in the Locarno Classification. Classes indicate the categories of products for which industrial design protection is requested. (See “Locarno Classification”).

Design count: The number of designs contained in an industrial design application or registration. Under the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs, it is possible for an applicant to obtain protection for up to 100 industrial designs for products belonging to one and the same class by filing a single application. Some national or regional IP offices allow applications to contain more than one design for the same product or within the same class, whereas others permit only one design per application. In order to capture the differences between application and registration numbers across offices, it is useful to compare their respective application and registration design counts.

Designation: The request made in an international application or registration by which the applicant/ international registration holder specifies the jurisdiction(s) in which protection is sought for their industrial designs.

European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO): The EUIPO is the office responsible for managing the EU trademark and the Registered Community Design (RCD). The validity of these two intellectual property rights extends across the jurisdictions of all 27 EU member states.

Filing: See “Application”.

Hague international application: An application for the international registration of an industrial design filed under the WIPO-administered Hague System.

Hague international registration: An international registration issued via the Hague System that facilitates the acquisition of industrial design rights in multiple jurisdictions. An application for the international registration of an industrial design leads to its recording in the International Register and the publication of the registration in the *International Designs Bulletin*. If a registration is not refused by the IP office of a designated Hague member, the international registration will have the same effect as a registration made in that jurisdiction.

Hague member (Contracting Party): A State or intergovernmental organization that is a member of the Hague System. Includes any State or intergovernmental organization party to the Geneva Act of 1999 and/or the Hague Act of 1960. Entitlement to file an international application under the Hague Agreement is limited to natural persons or legal entities having a real and effective industrial or commercial establishment, or a domicile, in at least one of the Contracting Parties to the Agreement, or being a national of one of those Contracting Parties or of a member state of an intergovernmental organization that is a Contracting Party. In addition – but only under the 1999 Act – an international application may be filed on the basis of habitual residence in the jurisdiction of a Contracting Party.

Hague route: An alternative to the Paris route (i.e., the direct national or regional route), the Hague route enables an application for international registration of industrial designs to be filed using the Hague System.

Hague System: The abbreviated form of the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs. The System comprises two international treaties: the Hague Act of 1960 and the Geneva Act of 1999. The Hague System makes it possible for an applicant to register up to 100 industrial designs in multiple jurisdictions by filing a single application with the International Bureau of WIPO. It simplifies multinational registration by setting aside the requirement to file separate applications with each IP office. The System also simplifies the subsequent management of an industrial design, since it makes it possible to record changes or renew a registration through a single procedural step.

Holder: The natural person or legal entity in whose name an international registration is recorded.

Industrial design: Industrial designs are applied to a wide variety of industrial products and handicrafts. They refer to the ornamental or aesthetic aspects of a useful article, including composition of lines or colors or any three-dimensional forms that give a special appearance to a product or handicraft. The holder of a registered industrial design has exclusive rights against unauthorized copying or imitation of the design by third parties. Industrial design registrations are valid for a limited period. The term of protection is usually at least 15 years.

International Bureau (IB): In the context of the Hague System, the International Bureau of WIPO acts as a receiving office for international applications. International applications are filed directly with the IB or indirectly through the IP office of a Contracting Party. The IB handles processing tasks with respect to these applications and the subsequent management of the international registration.

International Designs Bulletin (IDB): The official publication of the Hague System, containing data on new international registrations, decisions by designated offices, as well as renewals and modifications affecting international registrations. It is published weekly on the WIPO website at: www.wipo.int/hague/en/bulletin.

International Register: The official collection of data concerning international registrations maintained by the IB.

International registrations in force: International registrations that are currently valid. To remain in force, international registrations must be renewed by paying a renewal fee to the IB at the end of each five-year term of protection. The period of protection of a designation of a Contracting Party in an international registration must be at least 15 years, subject to renewal of that designation. However, depending on the domestic laws of individual Contracting Parties, the period of protection may be longer than 15 years. For example, under the legislation of Switzerland, the period of protection for industrial design registrations is 25 years, subject to renewal.

Locarno Classification: The abbreviated form of the International Classification for Industrial Designs under the Locarno Agreement used for registering industrial designs. The Locarno Classification consists of 32 classes and their respective subclasses with explanatory notes plus an alphabetical list of those goods in which industrial designs are incorporated and an indication of the classes and subclasses to which they belong.

Maintenance: An act by an applicant to keep an IP grant/registration valid (in force), primarily by paying a renewal fee to the IP office of the State or jurisdiction providing protection. In some jurisdictions that fee is also known as a "maintenance fee." Industrial designs can only be maintained for a limited number of years.

National route: Applications for IP protection filed directly with the national office of, or acting for, the relevant State or jurisdiction (see also "Hague route"). The national route is also called the "direct route" or "Paris route."

Non-resident application: For statistical purposes, a “non-resident” application refers to an application filed at an IP office of a given country/territory/region in which the applicant does not reside or does not have a real and effective industrial or commercial establishment. Non-resident applications are sometimes referred to as foreign applications. A non-resident registration is an IP right issued on the basis of a non-resident application.

Opposition: An administrative process for disputing the protection of an industrial design that is often limited to a specific time period after the industrial design has been published. For the Hague System, opposition rules are defined by national laws. The fact that an opposition is filed must be communicated within the applicable refusal period to the IB as a refusal based on an opposition. However, the national IP office does not have to decide on the opposition within that period.

Origin (country or region): For statistical purposes, the origin of an application means the country or territory of address of the first named applicant in the application. In some cases (notably in the US), the country of origin is determined by the residence of the assignee rather than that of the applicant.

Paris Convention: The Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, signed on March 20, 1883, is one of the most important IP treaties, as it establishes the general principles applicable to all IP rights. It establishes the “right of priority” that enables an IP applicant, when filing an application in countries other than the original country of filing, to claim priority of an earlier application filed up to 12 months previously for patents and utility models, and up to six months previously for trademarks and industrial designs.

Paris route: An alternative to the Hague route, the Paris route (also called the “direct route”) enables individual IP applications to be filed directly with an IP office of a country/territory that is a signatory of the Paris Convention.

Priority date: The filing date of the application on the basis of which priority is claimed. (See “Paris Convention”.)

Publication date: The general rule is that international registrations are published in the *International Designs Bulletin* 12 months after the date of registration, unless applicants request an immediate publication or a deferment of publication. Publication of an international registration can be deferred for up to 12 months under the Hague Act, or for up to 30 months under the Geneva Act.

Regional application (registration): An application filed with (registered by) an IP office having regional jurisdiction over more than one country. Currently, three regional offices are members of the Hague System: the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), the Benelux Office for Intellectual Property (BOIP) and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO).

Registered Community Design (RCD): A registration issued by the EUIPO based on a single application filed directly with that office by an applicant seeking protection within the EU as a whole.

Registration: An exclusive set of rights legally accorded to an applicant when an industrial design is registered or issued. Registrations are issued to applicants to make use of and exploit their industrial designs for a limited period.

Renewal: The process by which an industrial design right is maintained. This usually consists of paying renewal fees to an IP office at regular intervals. If renewal fees are not paid, the registration may lapse.

Resident application: For statistical purposes, a “resident” application refers to an application filed with an IP office by an applicant residing or having a real and effective industrial or commercial establishment in the country/territory/region in which that office has jurisdiction. Resident applications are sometimes referred to as domestic applications. A resident registration is an IP right issued on the basis of a resident application.

Statement of grant: A voluntary communication from an IP office to the IB informing it that an industrial design has been granted protection within its jurisdiction.

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO): A United Nations specialized agency dedicated to the promotion of innovation and creativity for the economic, social and cultural development of all countries through a balanced and effective international IP system. WIPO was established in 1967 with a mandate to promote the protection of IP throughout the world through cooperation between states and in collaboration with other international organizations.

Locarno classes and industry sectors

Locarno classes	Sector
20, 32	Advertising
1, 27, 31	Agricultural products and food preparation
23, 25, 29	Construction
13, 26	Electricity and lighting
6, 7, 30	Furniture and household goods
24, 28	Health, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics
14, 16, 18	Information Communication Technologies (ICT) and audiovisual
17, 19, 21, 22	Leisure and education
9	Packaging
2, 3, 5, 11	Textiles and accessories
4, 8, 10, 15	Tools and machines
12	Transport

Source: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Hague members

As of December 31, 2023, the Hague System comprised 79 members covering 96 countries/territories.

African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI)	Luxembourg
Albania	Mali
Armenia	Mauritius
Azerbaijan	Mexico
Belarus	Monaco
Belgium	Mongolia
Belize	Montenegro
Benin	Morocco
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Namibia
Botswana	Netherlands (Kingdom of the)
Brazil	Niger
Brunei Darussalam	North Macedonia
Bulgaria	Norway
Cambodia	Oman
Canada	Poland
China	Republic of Korea
Côte d'Ivoire	Republic of Moldova
Croatia	Romania
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Russian Federation
Denmark	Rwanda
Egypt	Samoa
Estonia	San Marino
European Union	Sao Tome and Principe
Finland	Senegal
France	Serbia
Gabon	Singapore
Georgia	Slovenia
Germany	Spain
Ghana	Suriname
Greece	Switzerland
Hungary	Syrian Arab Republic
Iceland	Tajikistan
Israel	Tunisia
Italy	Türkiye
Jamaica	Turkmenistan
Japan	Ukraine
Kyrgyzstan	United Kingdom
Latvia	United States of America
Liechtenstein	Viet Nam
Lithuania	

