

DATA DESCRIPTION

DATA SOURCES

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

Patent family and technology data are a combination of those taken from the WIPO Statistics Database and the European Patent Office PATSTAT database (using the April 2013 edition of the PATSTAT database).

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

Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) data were obtained from the Japan Patent Office.

This report uses the World Bank's income classifications. Economies are divided according to 2012 gross national income per capita, calculated using the World Bank Atlas method. The groups are: low-income (USD 1,035 or less); lower middle-income (USD 1,036 - USD 4,085); upper middle-income (USD 4,086 - USD 12,615); and high-income (USD 12,616 or more).¹

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

WIPO'S ANNUAL IP STATISTICS SURVEY

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

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

ESTIMATION PROCEDURE FOR WORLD TOTALS

World totals for applications and grants/registrations for patents, utility models, trademarks, industrial designs and plant varieties are WIPO estimates. Data are not available for all IP offices for every year. Missing data are estimated using methods such as linear extrapolation and averaging adjacent data points. The estimation method used depends on the year and the office in question. Where an office provides data that are not broken down by origin, WIPO estimates the resident and non-resident counts using the historical shares of that office. Data are available for the majority of the larger offices. Only small shares of world totals are estimated. For example, the estimation for the total number of patent applications worldwide covers 130 offices; data are available for 95 of these offices. These 95 offices accounted for 99% of the estimated world total. The table below shows data availability by IP type and data coverage for application data.

1 For further details on World Bank classification, see <http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-classifications>.

2 For further details on UN classification, see <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49regin.htm>.

3 All questionnaires are available in English, French and Spanish.

IP type	World totals estimates based on:	Data available for:	Data coverage (%)
Patents	130 offices	95 offices	99
Utility models	75 offices	56 offices	99
Trademarks	155 offices	102 offices	95
Industrial designs	131 offices	103 offices	98
Plant varieties	66 offices	60 offices	98

Note: Trademark data refer to the number of trademark applications based on class counts (i.e., the number of classes specified in applications). Industrial design data refer to the number of industrial design applications based on design counts (i.e., the number of designs contained in applications).

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DATA

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

INTERNATIONAL COMPARABILITY OF INDICATORS

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

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