2017 Report

World Intellectual Property Indicators

The annual survey of intellectual property activity around the world

Patents Highlights
Patent applications worldwide

3.1 million
For the first time, over three million applications filed in a single year.

2015–2016 +8.3%

Source: WIPO Statistics Database
Top 5 patent offices

2. U.S.
3. Japan
4. Rep. of Korea
5. EPO

Source: WIPO Statistics Database
Top 5 patent offices

1. China
2. U.S.
3. Japan
4. Rep. of Korea
5. EPO

Others

Received more applications than the combined total of offices of the U.S., Japan, the Rep. of Korea and the European Patent Office.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database
Patent filings abroad vs domestic

2016

Domestic

Abroad

U.S.
Japan
Germany
Rep. of Korea
China
France
Switzerland
U.K.
Netherlands
Russian Federation

Residents of the U.S. led the number of filings abroad, followed by Japan and Germany.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database
Patents

Filings to GDP ratio by country of residence

1. Rep. of Korea
2. Japan
3. China
4. Germany
5. Switzerland

2006

2016

Source: WIPO Statistics Database
Filings to GDP ratio by country of residence

1. Rep. of Korea
2. China
3. Japan

2006 2016

3. Republic of Moldova
4. Germany
5. Switzerland

22. Republic of Moldova

The Rep. of Korea still led in patent activity intensity measured in relation to GDP.

China

In only a decade, China jumped from 9th to 2nd place.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database
Patents

Top technology fields

Top 6 techs = 33%

Among the 35 technology fields, the top 6 accounted for a third of all published applications in 2015.

Sources: WIPO Statistics Database & EPO PATSTAT Database
Patents in force worldwide in 2016

11.8 million

Over two-thirds were in force in just 5 countries

1. U.S.
2. Japan
3. China
4. Rep. of Korea
5. Germany

68.6% in 5 countries

Source: WIPO Statistics Database