



2017 Report

World Intellectual Property Indicators

The annual survey of intellectual
property activity around the world

**Patents
Highlights**



Patents

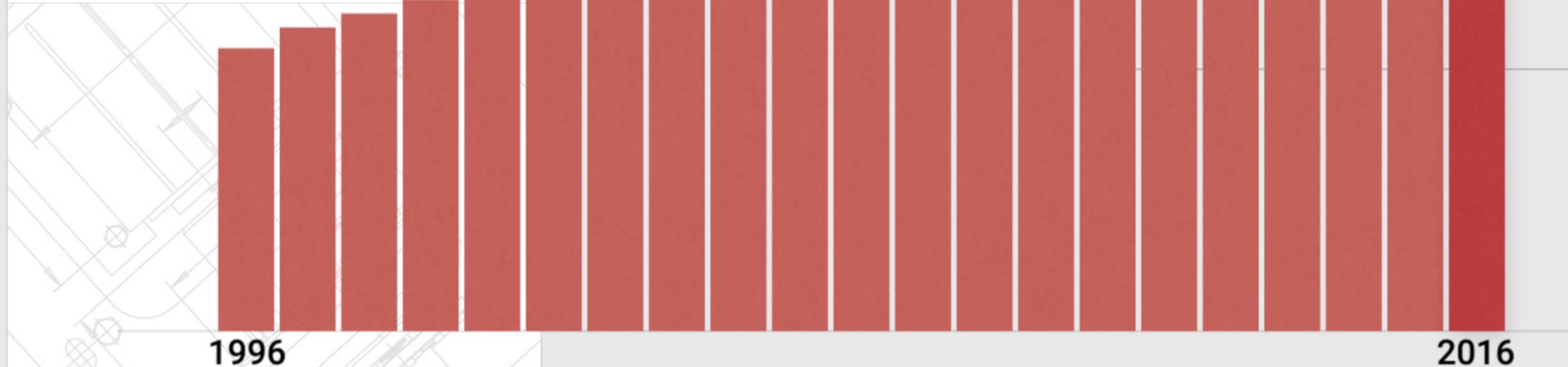
2016

Patent applications worldwide

3.1 million

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

2015-2016 **+8.3%**

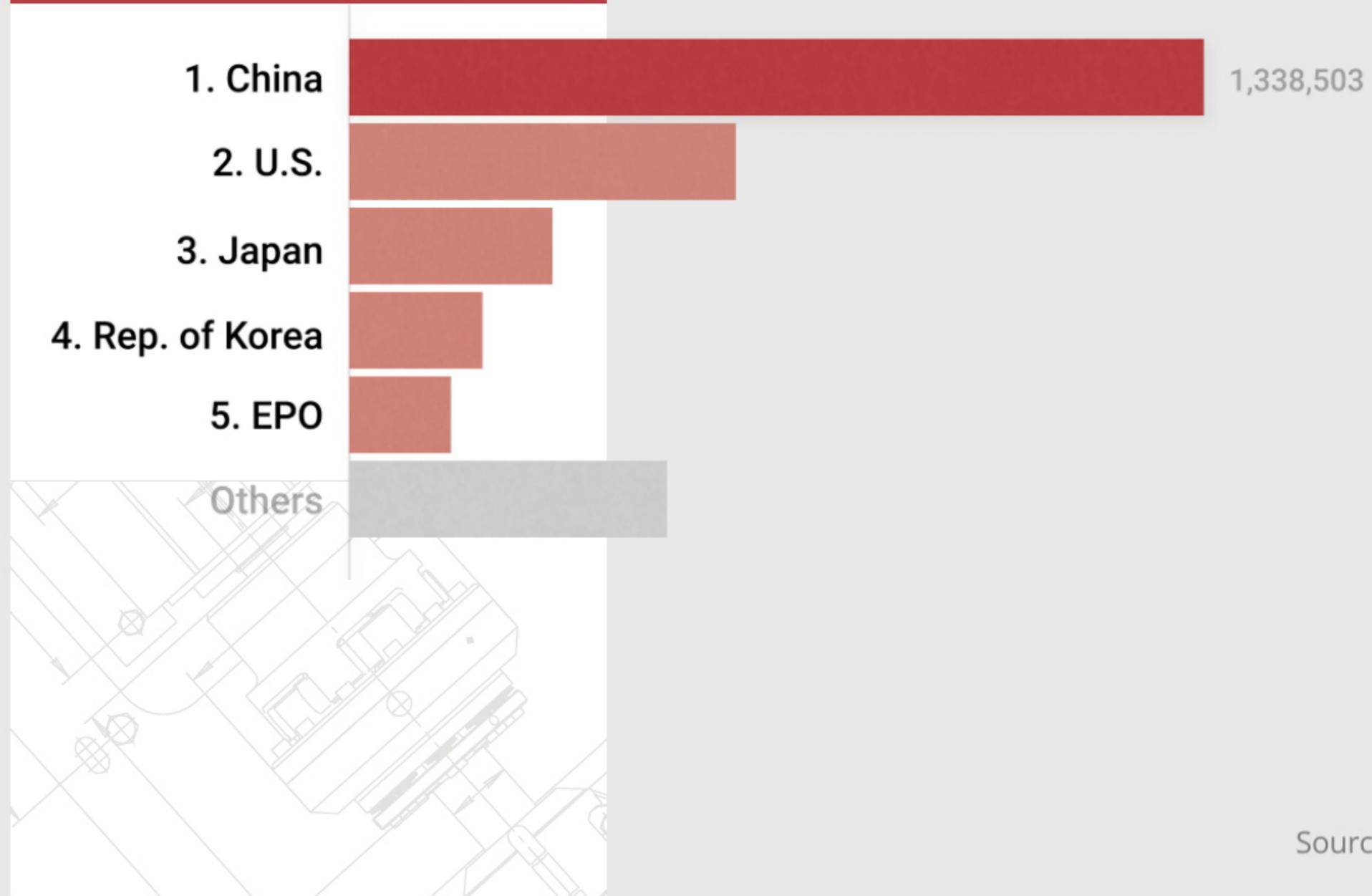


3 million



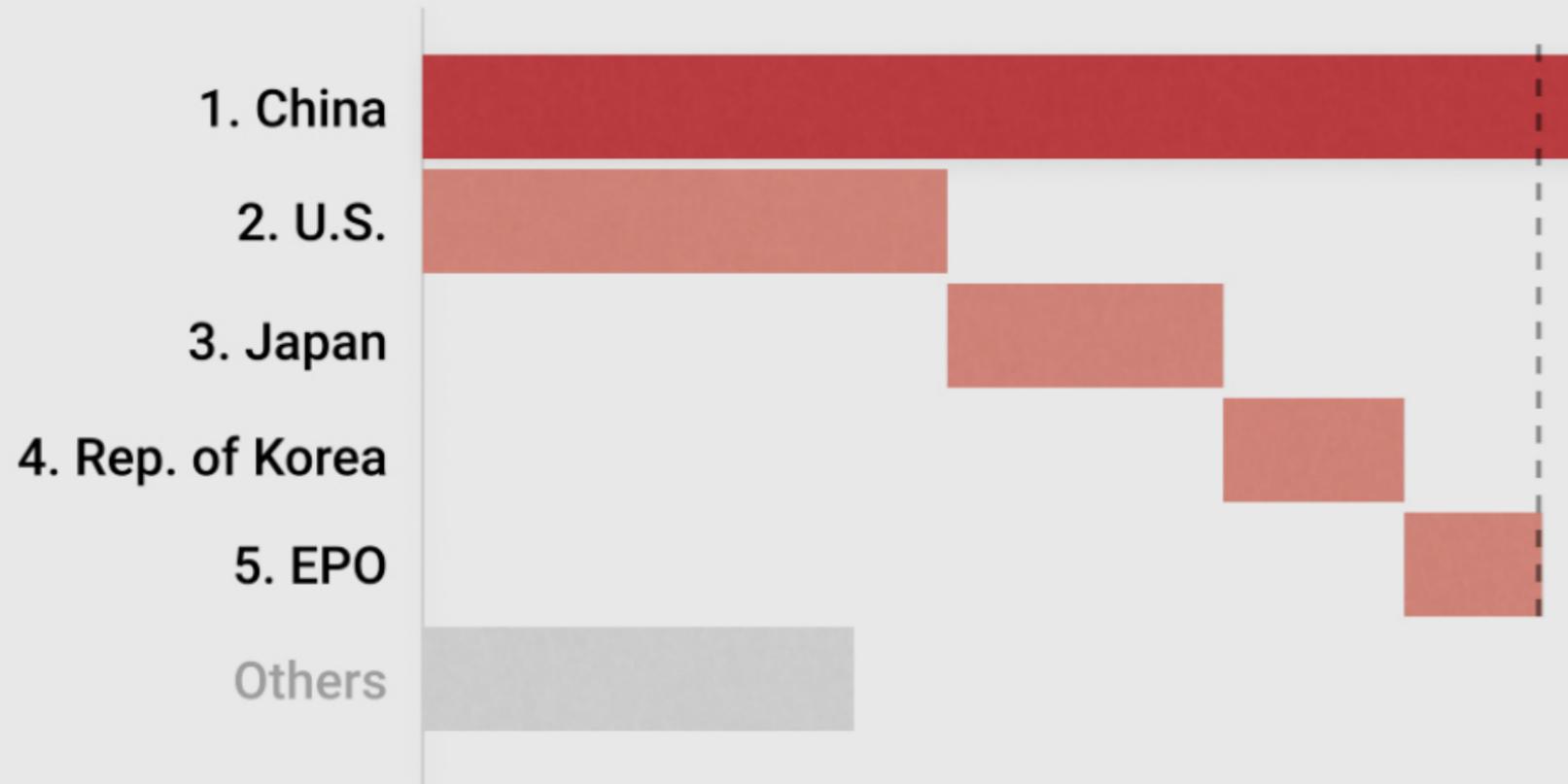
2016

Top 5 patent offices





Top 5 patent offices



China

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

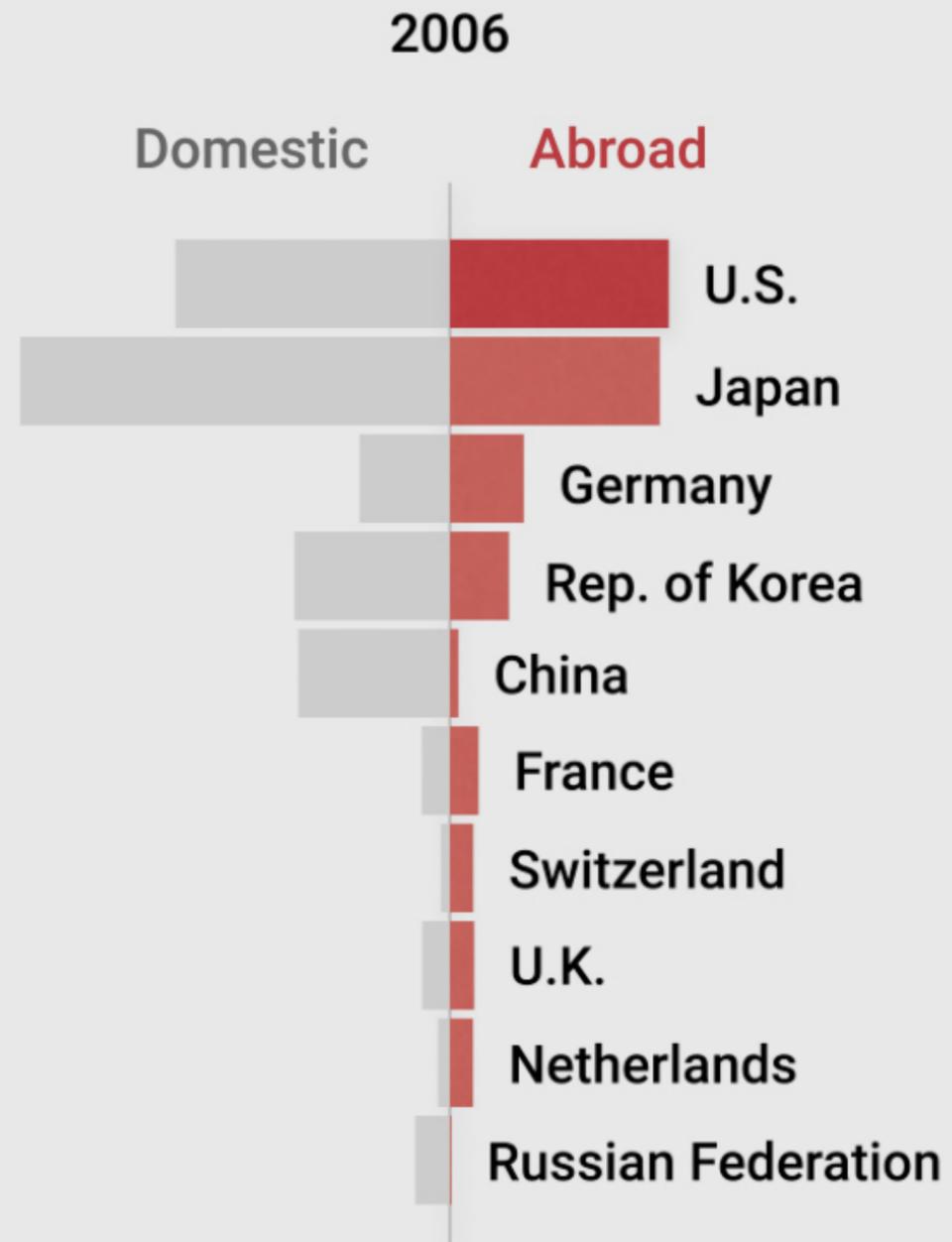


Source: WIPO Statistics Database



2016

Patent filings abroad vs domestic





2016

Patent filings abroad vs domestic



1 U.S. **216,000**

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

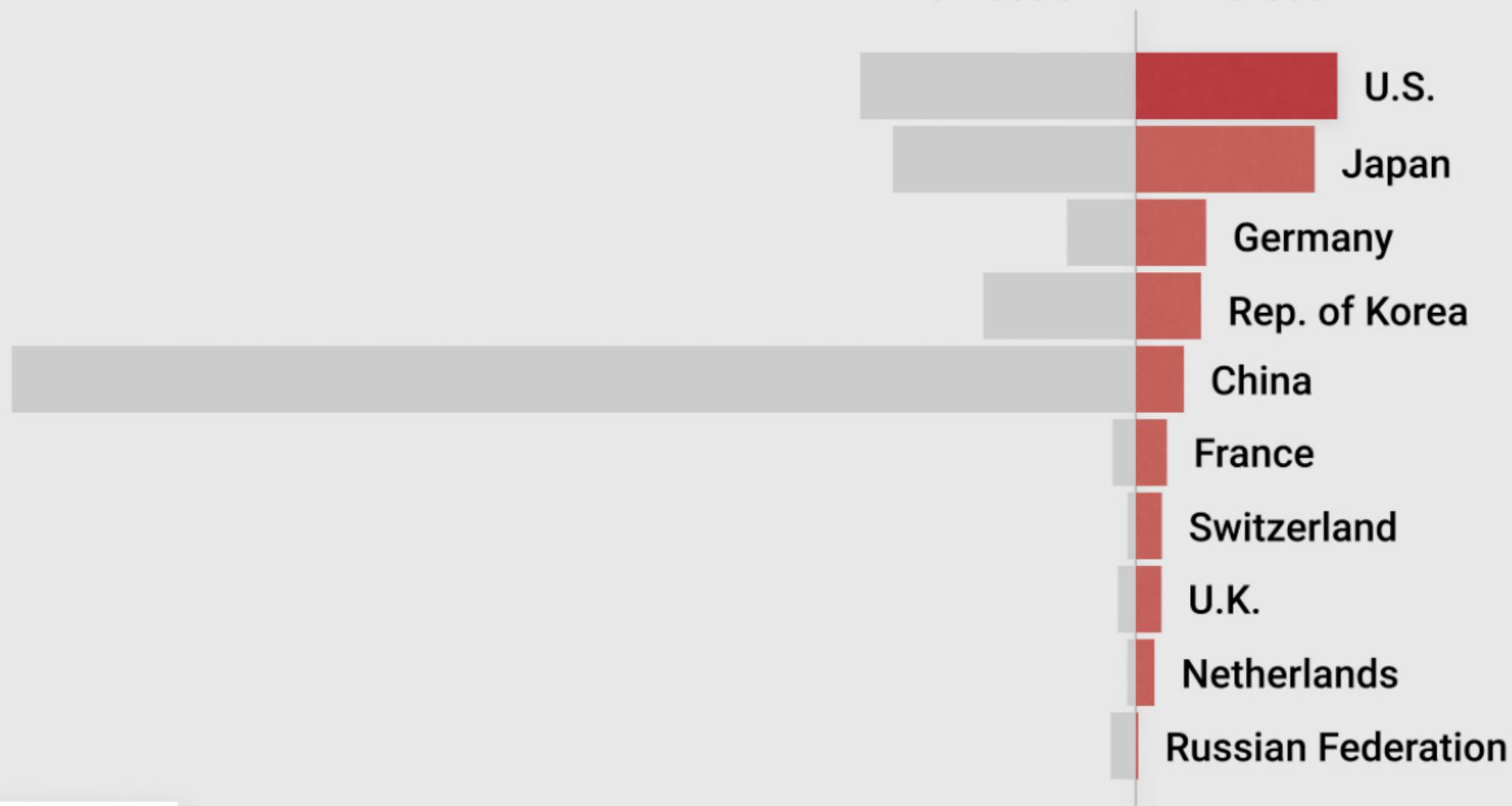


Source: WIPO Statistics Database

2016

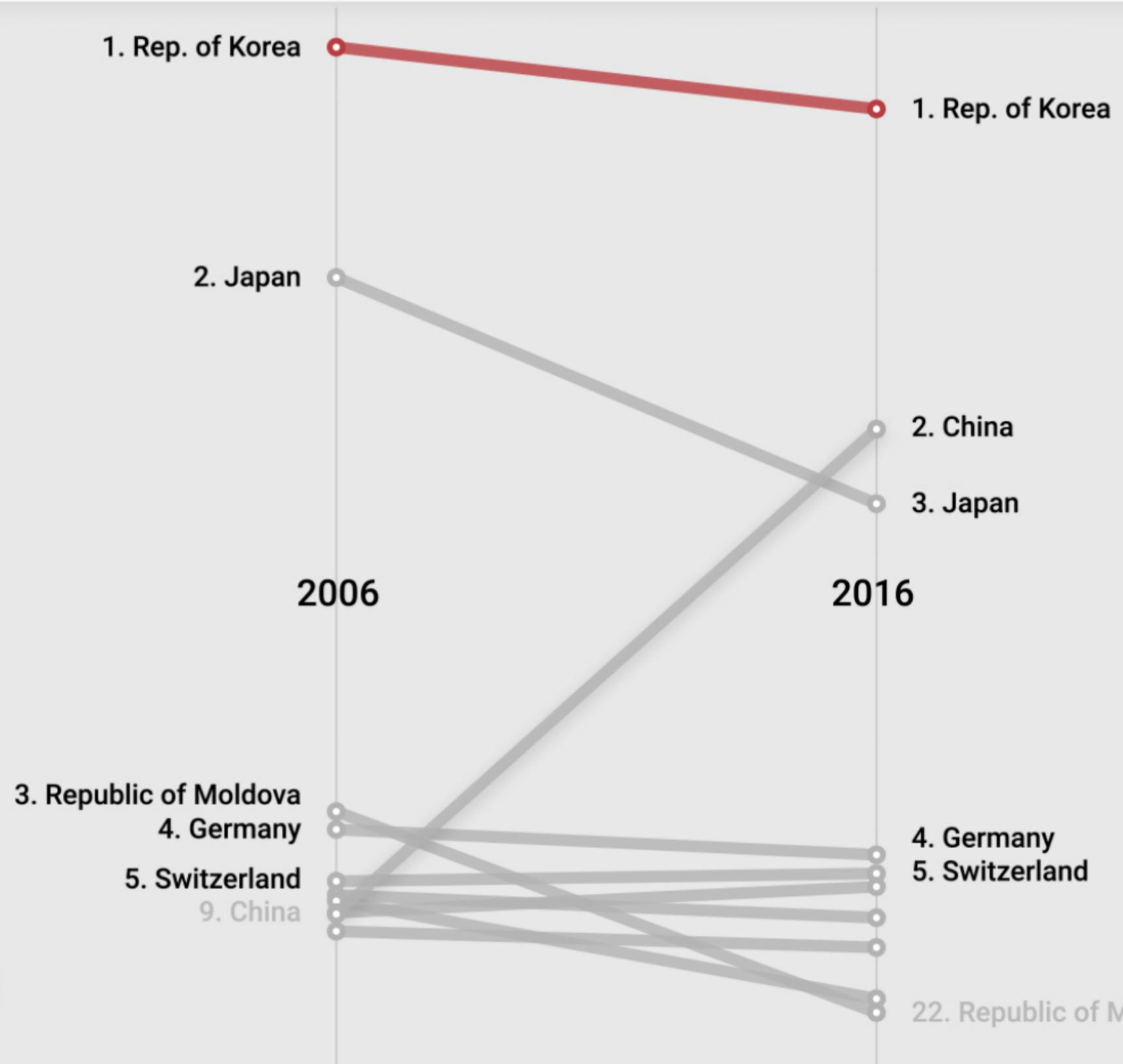
Domestic

Abroad





Patents



2016

Filings to GDP ratio
by country of residence

1 Rep. of Korea

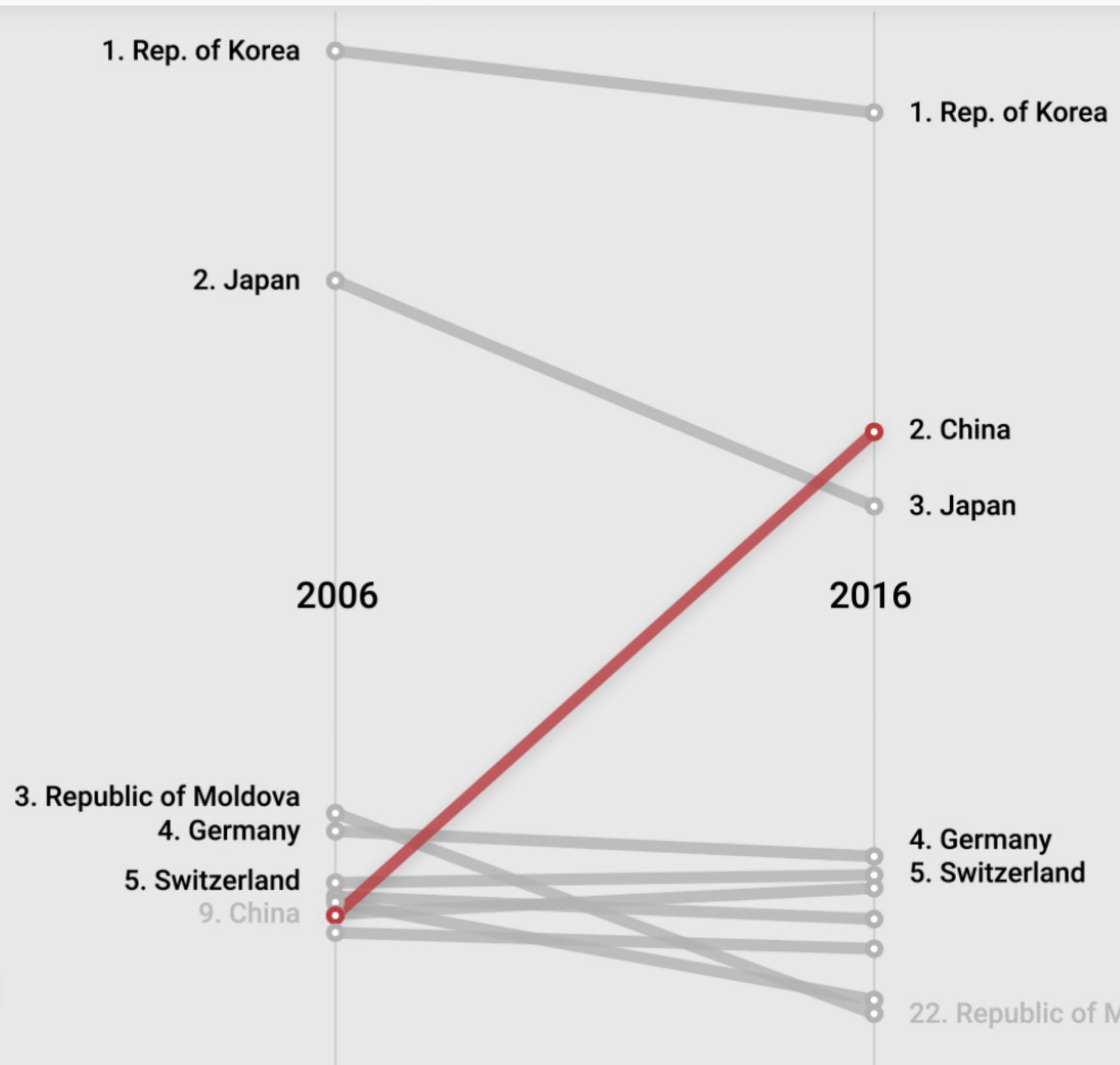
The Rep. of Korea still led in patent activity intensity measured in relation to GDP



Source: WIPO Statistics Database



Patents



2016

Filings to GDP ratio by country of residence

1 Rep. of Korea

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

200,000

2015

Top technology fields



2005

Computer technology

Electrical machinery,
apparatus, energy

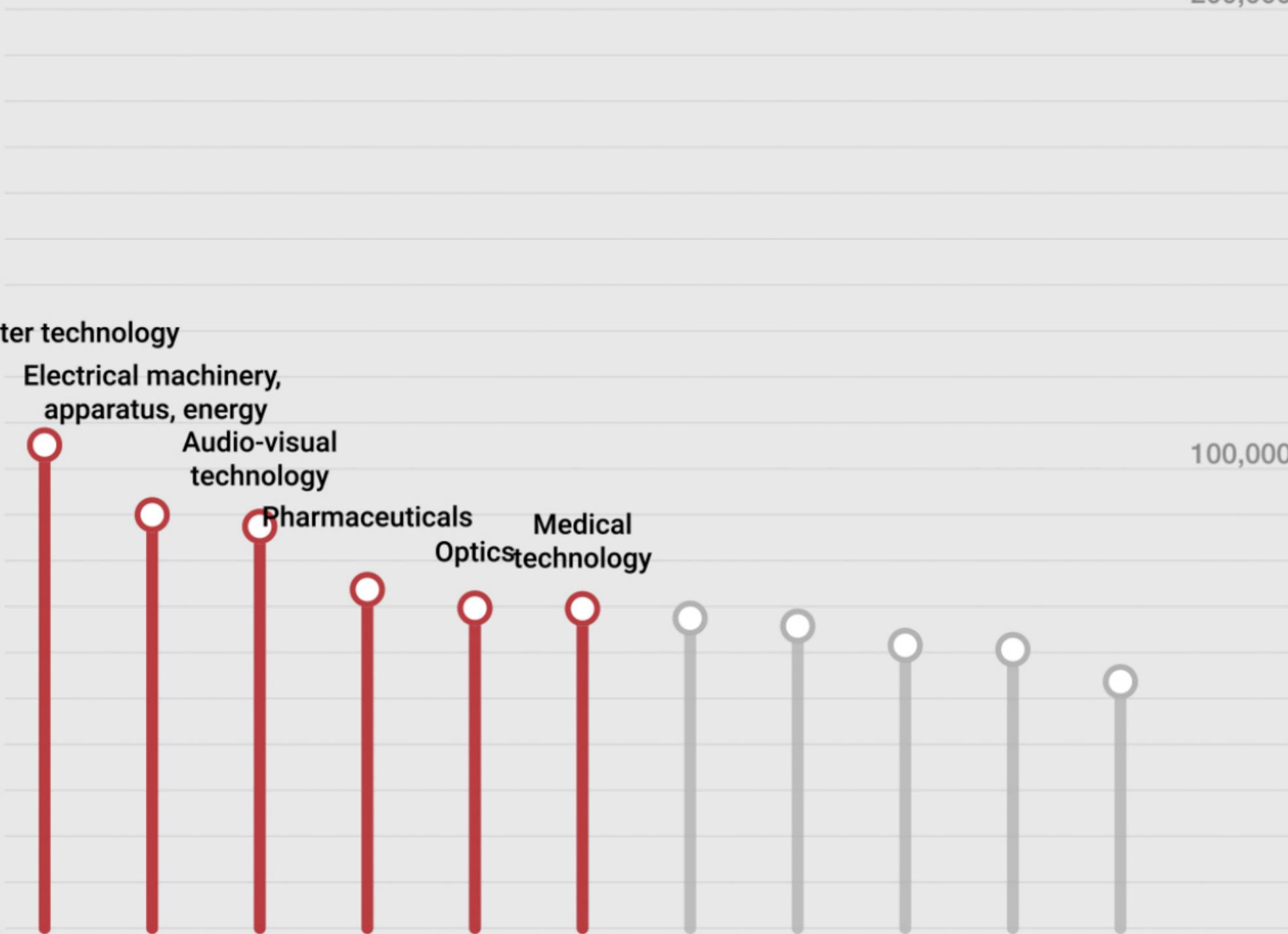
Audio-visual
technology

Pharmaceuticals

Optics

Medical
technology

100,000



Sources: WIPO Statistics Database
& EPO PATSTAT Database



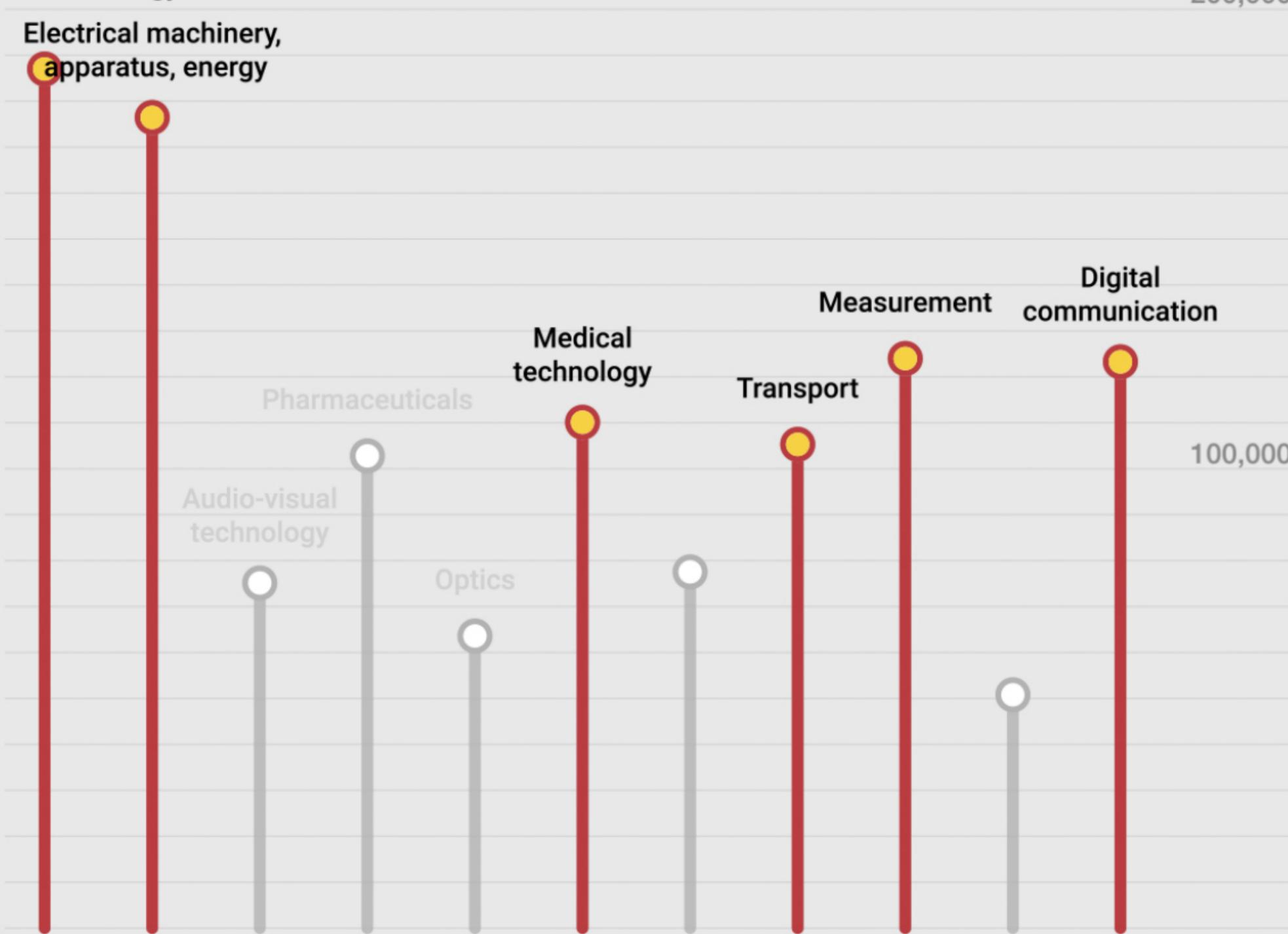
Patents

Computer technology

200,000

Electrical machinery,
apparatus, energy

2015



2015

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



2016

Patents in force



11.8 million

Patents in force worldwide in 2016

Over two-thirds were in force in just 5 countries

