PCT Yearly Review 2026

WIPO

Patent Cooperation Treaty Yearly Review 2026

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Finally, WIPO is grateful to national and regional patent offices for sharing their annual statistics.

Further information

Online resources

An electronic version of the *Review*, as well as the underlying data used to compile the figures and tables, is available to download at www.wipo.int/web/ip-statistics. This webpage also provides links to the IP Statistics Data Center – giving access to WIPO's statistical data – and the IP Statistical Country Profiles.

The following patent resources are available on WIPO's website:

PCT homepage
WIPO's gateway to PCT resources for applicants, offices and the public.

PCT Newsletter
PCT monthly publication containing information about the filing of PCT applications and news about changes relating to the PCT.

PATENTSCOPE
Enables the search for and download of published PCT applications and national/regional patent collections. Also provides access to related patent and technology information programs and services.

Contact information

Department for Economics and Data Analytics
Website: www.wipo.int/web/ip-statistics
email: ipstats.mail@wipo.int

Key numbers for 2025

275,900 (+0.7%)
PCT applications filed

129 (+5)
Countries of origin of PCT applications

18.1% (+0.2 percentage point)
Share of women among inventors listed in PCT applications

53.3% (–2.3 percentage points)
Share of PCT national phase entries in worldwide non-resident patent application filings

11.1% (+0.6 percentage point)
Share of the main technology field in PCT applications (digital communication)

645,100 (–3.7%)
PCT national phase entries

Note: The latest available year for PCT national phase entry data is 2024.

A. Statistics on the international phase: PCT applications

Highlights

PCT applications grew further by 0.7% in 2025

About 275,900 international patent applications (PCT applications) were filed via WIPO's Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) in 2025 (figure A1), representing a modest increase of 0.7% on the previous year. Over the 2020–2025 period, PCT applications grew by an average of just 0.1% per year.

In 2025, applicants filed 78,648 PCT applications at the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA), acting as a PCT receiving office (figure A4). CNIPA was followed by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) (49,032), the Japan Patent Office (JPO) (46,409), the European Patent Office (EPO) (39,332), the Ministry of Intellectual Property of the Republic of Korea (MOIP) (24,950) and the International Bureau of WIPO (IB) (14,246).

Despite the PCT's broad geographical reach, filing activity remained highly concentrated. In 2025, 158 countries were PCT members, with applicants from 129 countries filing PCT applications across 92 receiving offices (ROs). However, overall, the top 20 receiving offices accounted for almost 99% of total PCT applications filed.

Most PCT applications were filed in Asia

Asian countries accounted for 57% of all PCT applications in 2025 (figure A2), up markedly from the 43.5% recorded in 2015, driven largely by increased filings from China and the Republic of Korea. Europe held the second-largest share at 21.6%, followed by Northern America at 20%. By contrast, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and Oceania together represented just 1.4% of total PCT filings.

The top five origins accounted for over 78% of all PCT applications filed in 2025

In 2025, applicants residing in China filed the highest number of PCT applications (73,718), followed by those in the United States of America (US) (52,617), Japan (47,922), the Republic of Korea (25,016) and Germany (16,441) (figure A7). Collectively, these top five origins accounted for 78.2% of all PCT applications.

Compared with 2024, half of the top 20 origins recorded growth in 2025 (figure A8). Finland (+43.8%) and Singapore (+12.9%) posted the only double-digit increases, while India (–32.4%), Israel (–7%) and Switzerland (–6.3%) registered the steepest declines. Among the top five origins, filings grew in China (+5.3%) and the Republic of Korea (+4.9%), but fell in the US (–3%), Germany (–1.8%) and Japan (–1%) – each marking a third consecutive year of decline.

The top 20 origins comprised 17 high-income countries (predominantly European) and three middle-income economies: China, India and Türkiye. Outside the top 20, other large middle-income economies recorded notable – though smaller – volumes of PCT filings. They included Brazil, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mexico, South Africa and Thailand, with totals ranging from 160 to 620 (table A9). Of the 18 PCT

applications filed by applicants residing in low-income countries, most came from Uganda (7), the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (6) and the Syrian Arab Republic (3) (table A30).

Among large middle-income economies outside the top 20, Albania (+1,466.7%), Peru (+61.3%), South Africa (+20.5%), Mexico (+16.9%) and Malaysia (+10.2%) recorded sharp increases in filings, albeit from a relatively low base (table A9). By contrast, Colombia (–11.3%), Egypt (–4.8%) and Brazil (–2.4%) registered a decline.

The business sector accounted for the vast majority of PCT filing activity

In 2025, the IB published nearly 265,200 PCT applications, an increase of 0.4% compared to 2024. The business sector accounted for 89.6% of all published PCT applications, followed by universities (5.3%), individuals (3.5%) and government and public research organizations (PROs) (1.6%) (figure A11).

Among high-income countries, the business sector dominated published applications in each of the top 20 origins, except for the Russian Federation (figure A12). In Finland, Japan and Sweden, the business sector's share exceeded 96%. Among the top 20 middle-income economies, the business sector accounted for most applications published in 10 origins, including shares above 90% in China, Indonesia and Mauritius. By contrast, individual applicants filed over 75% of applications originating from Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Ukraine.

In several high-income economies – such as Australia, Singapore and Spain – the university sector contributed more than one-tenth of PCT applications. Among the top 20 middle-income origins, the university sector accounted for over 20% of all applications in four countries, with especially high shares in Peru (50%), Morocco (41.1%), Türkiye (25.6%) and South Africa (18.5%). Government and PROs accounted for relatively large shares in Argentina (25.9%), France (6.8%), Malaysia (6.7%) and Singapore (6.6%).

Huawei Technologies led PCT filings for a ninth straight year in 2025

For a nine consecutive year, Huawei Technologies, a telecommunications company based in China, was the top PCT applicant, with 7,523 published applications in 2025 (table A15). Samsung Electronics of the Republic of Korea followed in second place, with 4,698 PCT applications, trailed by Qualcomm of the US (3,227), LG Electronics of the Republic of Korea (2,400) and Contemporary Amperex Technology of China (2,203).

Half of the top 10 applicants underwent double-digit growth in published PCT applications, in 2025, among them LG Energy Solution (+34.8%), Panasonic (+21.9%) and LG Electronics (+15.2%) exhibited the fastest growth. A strong performance lifted Jio Platforms of India, Nissan Motor of Japan, LG Innotek of the Republic of Korea and Boston Scientific of the US up the top PCT applicant ranking.

Companies active in digital communication headed the list of top PCT users in 2025. Of the top 10 applicants, Beijing Xiaomi Mobile Software, Huawei Technologies, LG Electronics, Qualcomm and Samsung Electronics were mainly active in digital communication (table A16). Four other companies were mainly filing in electrical machinery, whereas BOE Tech was mostly active in semiconductors.

The University of California was by far the largest PCT user among educational institutions in 2025

Among educational institutions, the University of California remained the most active user of the PCT System in 2025, with 488 published applications (table A17). Tsinghua University moved up one place to rank second (227 applications), followed closely by the University of Texas (226).

Within the top 50 universities, the Indian Institute of Technology (+62.5%), Pennsylvania State University (+60.5%) and Delft University of Technology (+31.1%) recorded the fastest growth in 2025. Among the top 10, Tsinghua University (+20.7%), Leland Stanford Junior University (+10.5%) and Tohoku University (+8.4%) also registered notable increases in applications.

Universities from nine countries featured in the top 50. The US had 24 universities, while China and the Republic of Korea each had seven. Japan accounted for five, Singapore and the United Kingdom (UK) for two each, and Denmark, India and the Kingdom of the Netherlands for one each.

Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Technology was the top PCT applicant within the government and PRO sector

With 342 published applications, China's Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Technology remained the leading government and PRO applicant in 2025. Germany's Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der angewandten Forschung ranked second, with 233 applications, followed by France's Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique et aux Énergies Alternatives (CEA) and Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM), and Singapore's Agency for Science, Technology and Research (table A18).

Among the top 10 PROs, the fastest growth was recorded by Japan's National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (+24.4%), France's INSERM (+19.7%) and India's Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (+15.2%).

Applicants from 12 countries featured in the top 30 PRO list for 2025. The Republic of Korea had the most applicants (7), followed by China (4), Japan (4), and France, Germany and the US (3 each).

Digital communication remained the main technology field in PCT applications in 2025

In 2025, the technology sector of electrical engineering accounted for 41.1% of all published PCT applications, followed by that of chemistry (22%), mechanical engineering (15.9%) and instruments (15.1%) (figure A3). Over the past decade, electrical engineering has recorded the largest increase in share, rising from 35% in 2015 to 41.1% in 2025. The three largest technology fields in 2025 were all within the electrical engineering sector.

Digital communication remained the leading technology field in 2025, representing 11.1% of all PCT applications. It was followed by computer technology (9.6%), electrical machinery (9%), medical technology (6.3%) and pharmaceuticals (4.3%) (table A20). Together, these top five fields accounted for 40.3% of the total.

Among the top 10 technology fields, digital communication (+6.1%), semiconductors (+6.1%) and electrical machinery (+4.6%) saw the sharpest increases in 2025. By contrast, measurement (–4.2%), biotechnology (–3.9%) and medical technology (–3%) recorded the steepest declines.

In 2025, only 18.1% of inventors listed in PCT applications were women

In 2025, women accounted for 18.1% of all inventors named in PCT applications (figure A22), a modest increase of 0.2 percentage points compared with 2024. Over the past 15 years, the share of women inventors has risen steadily, increasing by a total of 6.7 percentage points.

Across all regions, the proportion of women inventors has grown over the past decade. In 2025, LAC recorded the highest share, with women representing 24.5% of PCT inventors. LAC was followed by Asia (18.8%), Northern America (18.2%), Africa (18.1%), Oceania (16.7%) and Europe (16.3%) (figure A24).

In 2025, 96% of PCT applications listed at least one male inventor, while 38.1% listed at least one female inventor (figure A23). The share of applications with at least one female inventor has increased from 23% in 2011 to 38.1% in 2025. Over the same period, the share with at least one male inventor has declined marginally, from 97.5% to 96%.

The gender gap among PCT inventors varied widely across origins, in 2025. Among the top 20 origins for published PCT applications, Spain (28.7%), Türkiye (25.3%) and China (24.1%) recorded the highest shares of women inventors in 2025 (figure A25). These were the only origins among the top 20 where women accounted for more than one-fifth of inventors. By contrast, Austria, Germany, India and Japan each had fewer than 13% women inventors named in PCT applications.

Technology fields relating to the life sciences had comparatively high shares of women among inventors listed in PCT applications published during 2023–2025 (table A26). Overall, women represented more than one-quarter of inventors in the fields of analysis of biological materials, biotechnology, food chemistry, organic fine chemistry, and pharmaceuticals.

Biotechnology, food chemistry and pharmaceuticals ranked among the top three technology fields with the highest proportion of women inventors globally and in Asia, Europe and Northern America. In LAC, a majority (50.2%) of inventors named in PCT applications in the organic fine chemistry field were women.

The five largest geographic clusters together accounted for nearly one-third of all PCT applications.

The top 50 PCT geographic clusters accounted for 63% of all PCT applications published between 2021 and 2025 (table A28). Tokyo–Yokohama remained the largest cluster over this period, with 132,669 PCT applications, or 10.1% of the overall total. It was followed by Shenzhen–Hong Kong–Guangzhou (9.2%), Seoul (5.6%), Beijing (4.1%) and San Jose–San Francisco (3.8%). Together, these five clusters accounted for nearly one-third of all PCT applications. Paris was the highest-ranked European cluster, placing 10th globally.

Compared with the 2020–2024 ranking of the top 10 clusters, Beijing and Paris each rose by one place. Outside the top 10, Ningde climbed 10 positions to 21st, while Chengdu, Montréal and Helsinki moved up by nine, eight and seven places, respectively. More broadly, 26 of the top 50 clusters recorded growth in PCT applications over 2021–2025, including two in China and one in the Republic of Korea that registered double-digit increases. By contrast, Seattle (–11.4%), Qingdao (–10.3%) and Tel Aviv–Jerusalem (–7.8%) saw the steepest declines.

Some clusters are dominated by a single applicant or concentrated in one technology field, while others have a broader mix of applicants and technologies (table A29). Computer technology and digital communication ranked among the top three fields in each of the six largest clusters. Computer technology was the leading field in Seattle (43.5%), Hangzhou (27.7%) and San Jose–San Francisco (23%). Digital communication accounted for a large share of applications in San Diego (44.9%), Beijing (32.5%) and Shenzhen–Hong Kong–Guangzhou (27.4%). Other fields stood out in specific clusters, such as electrical machinery in Daejeon (36.2%), medical technology in Eindhoven (26.8%) and pharmaceuticals in Boston–Cambridge (21.4%).

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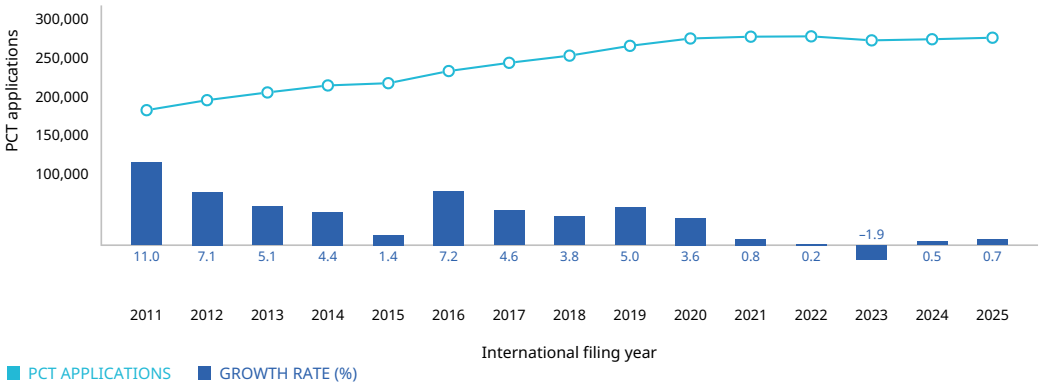
Global trends in PCT applications

In 2025, PCT applications filed rose slightly for a second consecutive year.

A1. Trend in filings of PCT applications, 2011–2025

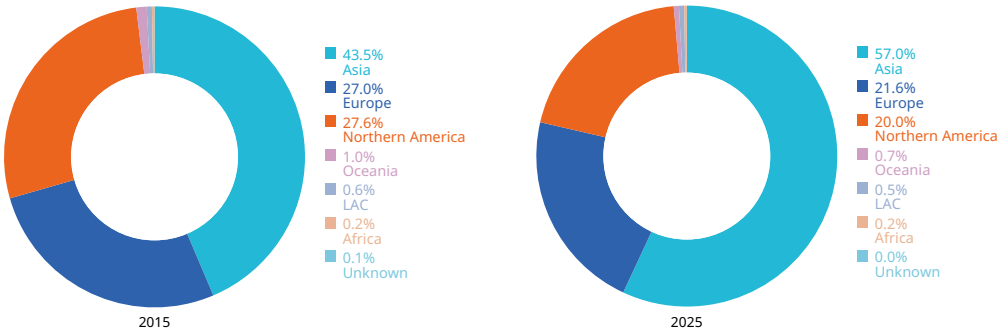


Note: Data for 2025 are WIPO estimates.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Most PCT applications originated from Asia.

A2. Distribution of PCT applications by region, 2015 and 2025

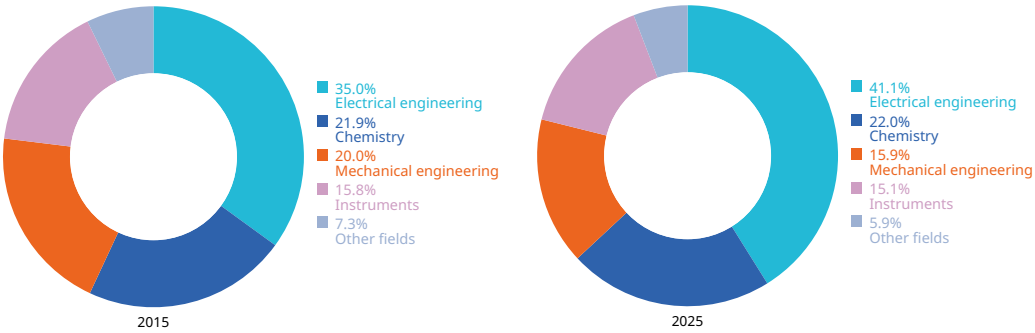


Note: Data for 2025 are WIPO estimates. Regions include the following number of origins: Africa (22), Asia (36), Europe (44), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) (20), Northern America (3) and Oceania (4).

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

The electrical engineering technology sector accounted for more than 41% of PCT applications in 2025.

A3. Distribution of PCT applications by technology sector, 2015 and 2025



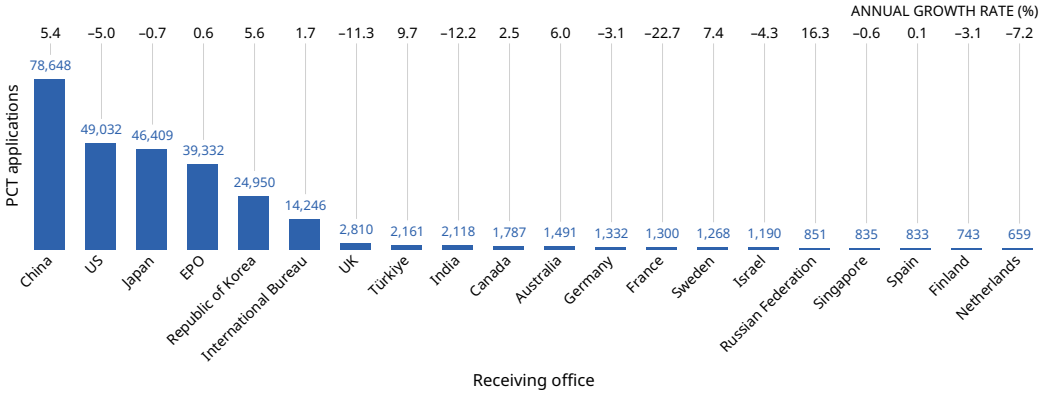
Note: For confidentiality reasons, data are based on published applications and on the publication date. The WIPO IPC technology concordance table (available at: www.wipo.int/web/ip-statistics) was used to convert IPC symbols into five corresponding sectors of technology.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

PCT applications by receiving office

China and the Republic of Korea saw the sharpest increases in filings among top the five offices.

A4. PCT applications for the top 20 receiving offices, 2025

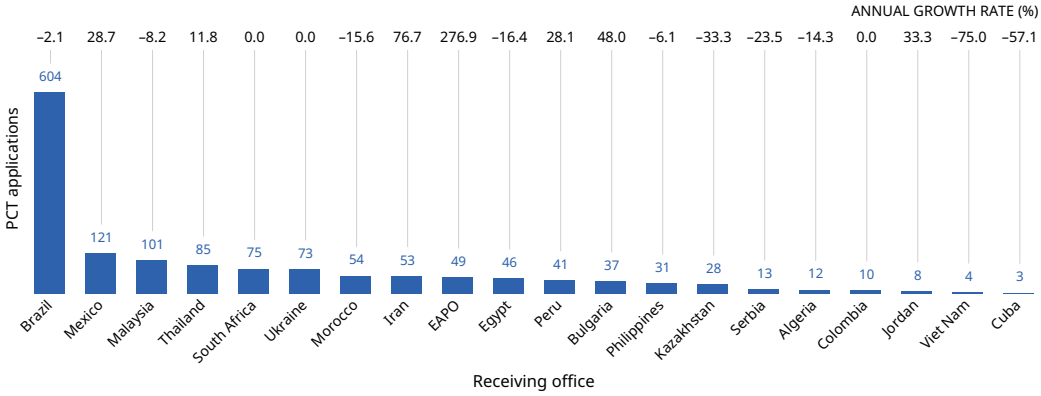


Note: EPO is the European Patent Office and Netherlands is the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Data for 2025 are WIPO estimates.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

In 2025, filings at the office of Mexico increased sharply by 28.7%.

A5. PCT applications for selected receiving offices of low- and middle-income countries, 2025



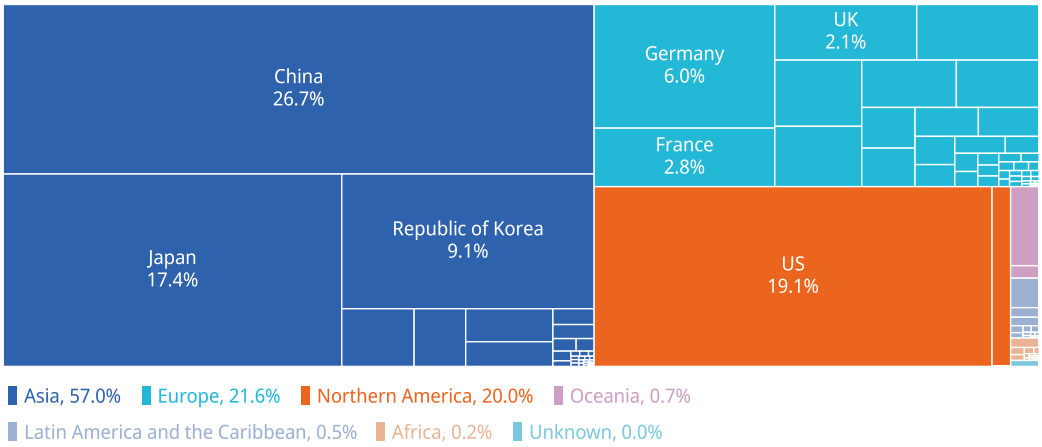
Note: EAPO is the Eurasian Patent Organization. Data for 2025 are WIPO estimates. The offices selected are those top receiving offices of low- and middle-income countries not to feature among the top 20 offices. Where available, data for all offices are presented in statistical table A30.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

PCT applications by origin

PCT applications were highly concentrated in just a few origins in 2025.

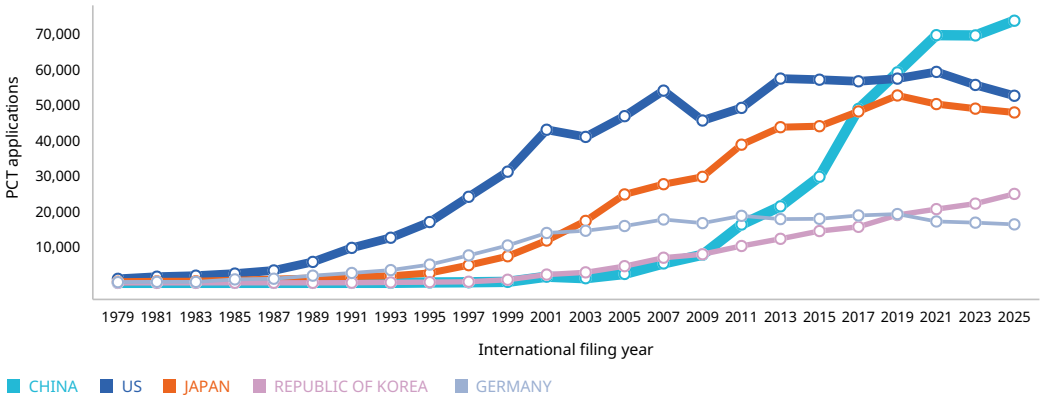
A6. Distribution of PCT applications by region and origin, 2025



Note: Data for 2025 are WIPO estimates.
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

In 2025, China and the Republic of Korea filed more PCT applications than five years ago.

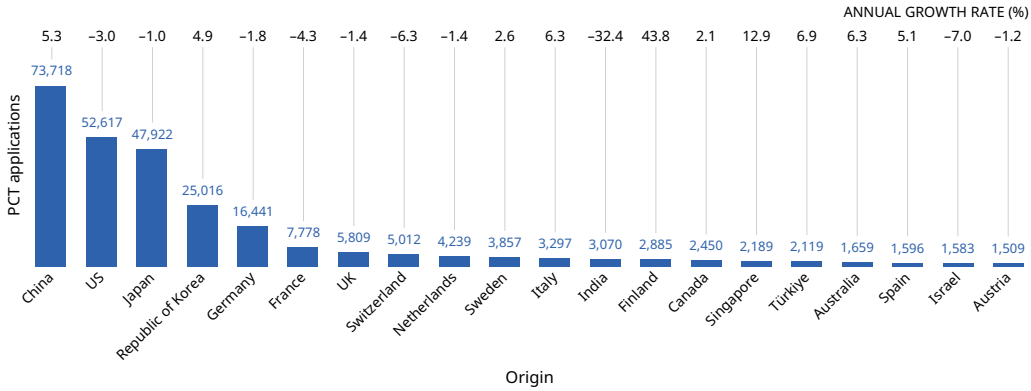
A7. Trend in PCT applications for the top five origins, 1979–2025



Note: Data for 2025 are WIPO estimates.
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Applicants from China filed by far the highest number of PCT applications in 2025.

A8. PCT applications for the top 20 origins, 2025



Note: Netherlands is the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Data for 2025 are WIPO estimates.
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

For a third consecutive year, every geographical region saw filings grow, except for Northern America.

A9. PCT applications for the top origins by region, 2023–2025

Region	Origin	2023	2024	2025	Regional share 2025 (%)	Change from 2024 (%)
Africa	South Africa	187	166	200	42.2	20.5
	Morocco	46	72	73	15.4	1.4
	Egypt	38	62	59	12.4	–4.8
	Mauritius	39	43	43	9.1	0.0
	Kenya	22	8	25	5.3	212.5
	Algeria	13	15	14	3.0	–6.7
	Others	44	36	60	12.7	66.7
	Total*	**389**	**402**	**474**	**0.2**	**17.9**
Asia	China	69,586	69,991	73,718	46.8	5.3
	Japan	48,997	48,407	47,922	30.5	–1.0
	Republic of Korea	22,276	23,842	25,016	15.9	4.9
	India	3,720	4,543	3,070	2.0	–32.4
	Singapore	1,864	1,939	2,189	1.4	12.9
	Türkiye	1,913	1,983	2,119	1.3	6.9
	Israel	1,903	1,703	1,583	1.0	–7.0
	Saudi Arabia	393	498	479	0.3	–3.8
	Iran	348	410	427	0.3	4.1
	United Arab Emirates	135	163	216	0.1	32.5
	Others	547	645	631	0.4	–2.2
	Total*	**151,682**	**154,124**	**157,370**	**57.0**	**2.1**
Europe	Germany	16,933	16,749	16,441	27.6	–1.8
	France	7,908	8,129	7,778	13.0	–4.3
	UK	5,580	5,890	5,809	9.7	–1.4
	Switzerland	5,425	5,349	5,012	8.4	–6.3
	Netherlands	4,259	4,301	4,239	7.1	–1.4
	Sweden	4,302	3,759	3,857	6.5	2.6
	Italy	3,104	3,102	3,297	5.5	6.3
	Finland	1,538	2,006	2,885	4.8	43.8
	Spain	1,464	1,519	1,596	2.7	5.1
	Austria	1,542	1,528	1,509	2.5	–1.2
	Others	7,205	7,193	7,250	12.1	0.8
	Total*	**59,260**	**59,525**	**59,673**	**21.6**	**0.2**
Latin America and the Caribbean	Brazil	514	634	619	49.1	–2.4
	Chile	178	218	202	16.0	–7.3
	Mexico	149	154	180	14.3	16.9
	Colombia	110	71	63	5.0	–11.3
	Peru	27	31	50	4.0	61.3
	Argentina	26	28	40	3.2	42.9
	Ecuador	12	21	38	3.0	81.0
	Dominican Republic	3	3	18	1.4	500.0
	Panama	7	5	14	1.1	180.0
	Uruguay	11	11	11	0.9	0.0
	Others	38	22	25	2.0	13.6
	Total*	**1,075**	**1,198**	**1,260**	**0.5**	**5.2**
Northern America	US	55,661	54,227	52,617	95.5	–3.0
	Canada	2,396	2,399	2,450	4.4	2.1
	Others	15	4	8	0.0	100.0
	Total*	**58,072**	**56,630**	**55,075**	**20.0**	**–2.7**
Oceania	Australia	1,495	1,561	1,659	86.3	6.3
	New Zealand	278	278	262	13.6	–5.8
	Others	6	2	2	0.1	0.0
	Total*	**1,779**	**1,841**	**1,923**	**0.7**	**4.5**
Unknown		218	193	125	0.0	–35.2
Total		**272,475**	**273,913**	**275,900**	**n.a.**	**0.7**

Note: Netherlands is the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Iran is the Islamic Republic of Iran. Data for 2025 are WIPO estimates. This table shows the top origins for every region (with a maximum of 10 per region) where applicants filed more than 10 PCT applications in 2025. Data for all origins are reported in statistical table A30.

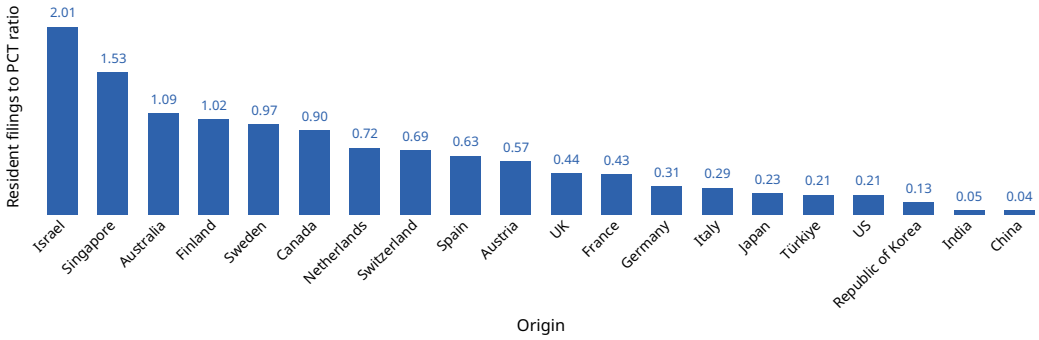
* indicates share of world total.

n.a. indicates not applicable.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Israel's conversion ratio of resident patent applications into PCT applications remained particularly high in 2025.

A10. Conversion ratio of direct resident patent applications to PCT applications for the top 20 origins, 2025



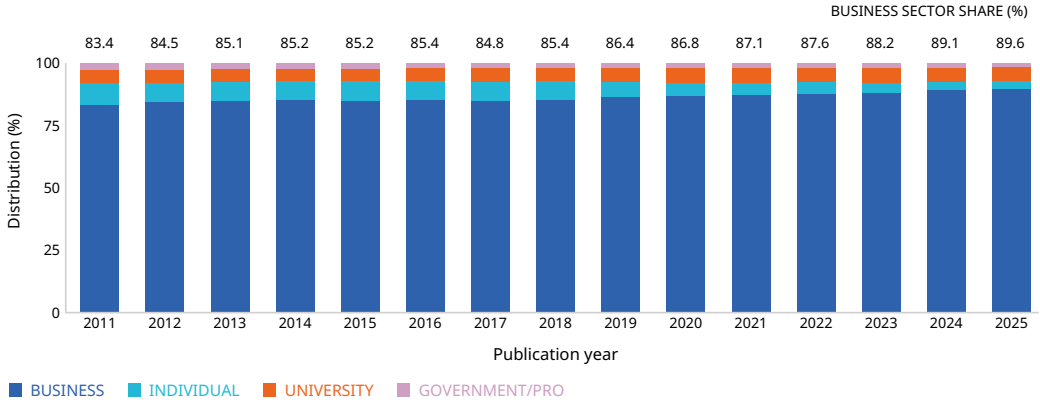
Note: Netherlands is the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Data for 2025 are WIPO estimates. This hypothetical "conversion ratio" reflects the proportion of direct resident patent applications converted into PCT applications. The ratio is defined for the top 20 origins in terms of PCT applications filed in 2025 divided by resident patent applications (including regional applications and excluding PCT national phase entries) filed in 2024. In theory, the conversion ratio ought to be between 0 and 1. However, it may exceed 1, because some applications do not have priority claims associated with prior resident filings. For example, an applicant from Israel may forgo filing an application at the Israel Patent Office and opt instead to file a first application at the USPTO, then convert that prior filing into a PCT application.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

PCT applications by applicant type

The business sector accounted for nearly 90% of PCT applications in 2025.

A11. Distribution of PCT applications by applicant type, 2011–2025

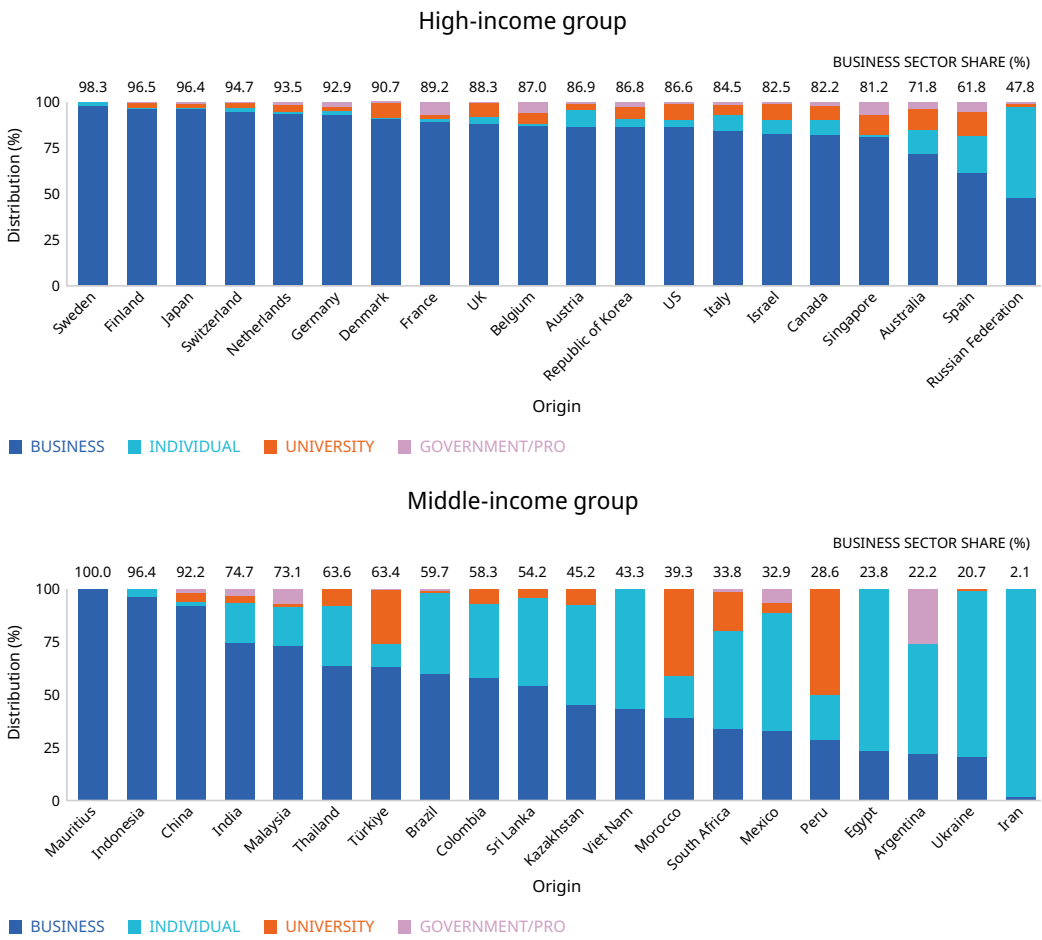


Note: The government and public research organization (PRO) sector includes private non-profit organizations and hospitals. The university sector includes all educational institutions. For confidentiality reasons, data are based on the publication date.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Almost 75% of all PCT applications originating in India were filed by businesses.

A12. Distribution of PCT applications by applicant type for the top 20 origins by income group, 2025

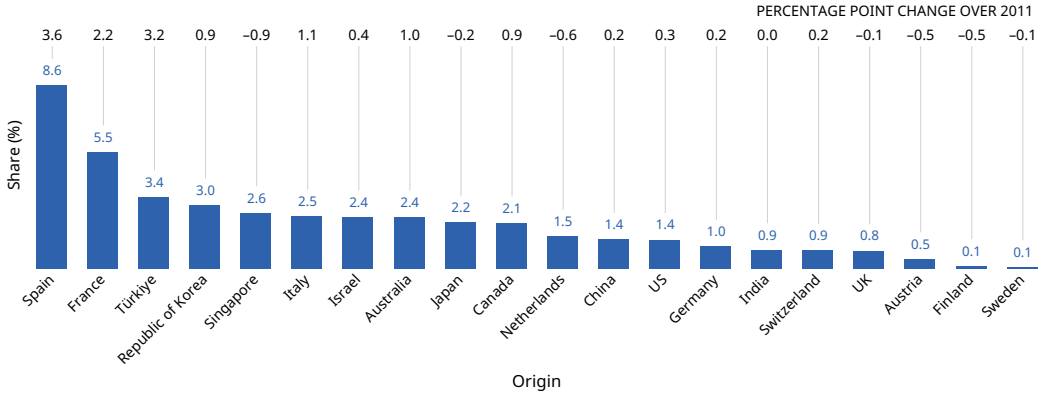


Note: Netherlands is the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Iran is the Islamic Republic of Iran. The government and PRO sector includes private non-profit organizations and hospitals. The university sector includes all educational institutions. Lower and upper middle-income groups have been merged. Low-income countries are omitted due to insufficient data. For confidentiality reasons, data are based on published applications and on the publication date.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Collaboration between the business and public sectors was relatively high in Spain.

A13. Share of PCT applications with business and public sector co-applicants for the top 20 origins, 2025

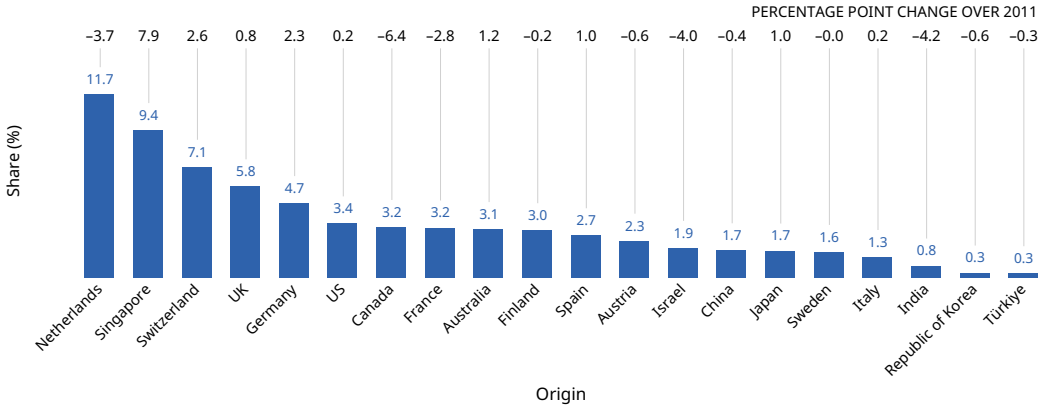


Note: Netherlands is the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The public sector comprises the university sector and the government and PRO sector. The government and PRO sector includes private non-profit organizations and hospitals. The university sector includes all educational institutions. For confidentiality reasons, data are based on published applications and on the publication date.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Applicants from the Kingdom of the Netherlands filed a relatively large proportion of PCT applications together with foreign co-applicants.

A14. Share of PCT applications with foreign co-applicants for the top 20 origins, 2025



Note: Netherlands is the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Counts are based on corporate applicants only (excluding individual applicants) and on all applicants named in PCT applications (not only the first named applicant). For confidentiality reasons, data are based on published applications and on the publication date.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Top PCT applicants

Huawei Technologies remained by far the top PCT applicant in 2025.

A15. Top 50 business PCT applicants, 2023–2025

Ranking	Change in position from 2024	Applicant	Origin	Published PCT applications 2023	2024	2025
1	0	Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd.	China	6,494	6,600	7,523
2	0	Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.	Republic of Korea	3,924	4,640	4,698
3	0	Qualcomm Incorporated	US	3,410	3,848	3,227
4	0	LG Electronics Inc.	Republic of Korea	1,887	2,083	2,400
5	0	Contemporary Amperex Technology Co., Limited	China	1,799	1,993	2,203
6	6	Panasonic Intellectual Property Management Co., Ltd.	Japan	1,722	1,718	2,094
7	6	LG Energy Solution, Ltd.	Republic of Korea	1,423	1,452	1,958
8	–2	BOE Technology Group Co.,Ltd	China	1,988	1,959	1,946
9	–1	Beijing Xiaomi Mobile Software Co., Ltd.	China	1,603	1,889	1,921
10	–3	Mitsubishi Electric Corporation	Japan	2,152	1,956	1,835
11	0	ZTE Corporation	China	1,738	1,851	1,709
12	–3	Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson (Publ)	Sweden	1,863	1,886	1,703
13	–3	Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation	Japan	1,760	1,877	1,612
14	8	NTT Docomo, Inc.	Japan	1,016	976	1,435
15	1	Robert Bosch Corporation	Germany	1,307	1,237	1,306
16	14	Nokia Technologies OY	Finland	628	725	1,195
17	–2	NEC Corporation	Japan	1,592	1,241	1,166
18	9	Beijing Zitiao Network Technology Co., Ltd.	China	810	760	1,133
19	–5	Guang Dong Oppo Mobile Telecommunications Corp., Ltd	China	1,766	1,252	1,071
20	320	Jio Platforms Limited	India	90	87	1,058
21	–2	Vivo Mobile Communication Co., Ltd.	China	1,631	1,212	1,049
22	–1	Sony Group Corporation	Japan	1,433	1,134	1,033
23	8	Honor Device Co., Ltd.	China	753	723	1,029
24	–6	Google Inc.	US	901	1,236	1,020
25	29	BYD Company Limited	China	279	415	959
26	0	Applied Materials, Inc.	US	638	788	951
27	–4	Murata Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	Japan	1,051	867	838
28	–8	Apple Inc.	US	761	1,202	812
29	–4	Fujifilm Corporation	Japan	825	804	773
30	7	BASF SE	Germany	545	618	763
31	–2	Sony Semiconductor Solutions Corporation	Japan	781	733	757
32	1	Denso Corporation	Japan	814	635	697
33	–9	Tencent Technology (Shenzhen) Company Limited	China	677	832	686
34	–6	Koninklijke Philips Electronics N.V.	Netherlands	749	755	653
35	0	Siemens Aktiengesellschaft	Germany	589	630	632
36	10	Tokyo Electron Limited	Japan	337	464	609
37	–1	Kyocera Corporation	Japan	632	622	598
38	5	Schaeffler Technologies AG & Co. KG	Germany	434	497	588
39	–23	Microsoft Technology Licensing, LLC	US	1,350	1,237	554
40	44	Nissan Motor Co., Ltd.	Japan	218	311	545
41	–9	Bayerische Motoren Werke AG	Germany	537	636	530
42	–3	Interdigital Vc Holdings, Inc.	US	208	561	504
43	37	LG Innotek Co. Ltd.	Republic of Korea	264	327	491
45	17	Resonac Corporation	Japan	293	378	481
46	27	Halliburton Energy Services, Inc.	US	398	353	472
47	–6	Hitachi, Ltd.	Japan	515	520	461
48	29	L'Oreal	France	370	335	455
49	3	Canon Kabushiki Kaisha	Japan	400	416	450
50	36	Boston Scientific Scimed, Inc.	US	211	291	444
51	14	Nippon Steel Corporation	Japan	280	372	443

Note: Netherlands is the Kingdom of the Netherlands. For confidentiality reasons, data are based on published applications and on the publication date.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Digital communication technologies accounted for the largest proportion of PCT applications for half of the top 10 business applicants.

A16. Share of technology fields for the top 10 business applicants, 2025

	Applicant									
Field of technology	Huawei Tech.	Samsung Electr.	Qualcomm	LG Electr.	CATL	Panasonic	Lg Energy Solution, Ltd.	BOE Tech. Group	Xiaomi Mobile Software	Mitsubishi Electr.
Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	1.8	3.5	0.9	3.1	71.3	40.0	68.5	0.8	0.1	19.4
Audio-visual technology	5.1	10.3	4.2	7.7	0.3	5.8	0.3	27.9	1.7	1.9
Telecommunications	10.9	7.7	9.9	7.0	0.0	1.0	0.4	4.1	3.4	2.8
Digital communication	54.2	32.3	55.3	39.9	0.1	1.5	0.5	0.9	92.2	4.0
Basic communication processes	1.6	0.6	2.9	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.0	1.2
Computer technology	17.0	23.4	14.9	4.8	2.0	6.8	2.0	12.3	1.7	10.7
IT methods for management	0.5	0.8	0.3	0.4	0.2	4.7	0.7	0.4	0.0	3.7
Semiconductors	2.6	1.0	4.6	1.4	2.1	3.0	0.0	36.4	0.0	6.5
Optics	2.4	2.9	0.3	2.1	0.0	2.1	0.1	12.6	0.1	2.6
Measurement	1.1	1.9	4.5	1.7	6.4	6.7	12.9	1.0	0.5	7.0
Analysis of biological materials	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Control	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.5	4.1	0.7	0.1	0.1	6.8
Medical technology	0.7	2.1	0.6	0.9	0.0	1.8	0.0	0.4	0.1	1.4
Organic fine chemistry	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0
Biotechnology	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.2
Pharmaceuticals	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Macromolecular chemistry, polymers	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.5	1.3	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1
Food chemistry	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Basic materials chemistry	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.3
Materials, metallurgy	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.7	1.5	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.2
Surface technology, coating	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.2	2.1	1.1	1.9	0.4	0.0	0.2
Micro-structural and nano-technology	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Chemical engineering	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.8	1.3	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.5
Environmental technology	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.7	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.5
Handling	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.6	4.3	1.3	1.8	0.0	0.0	2.3
Machine tools	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	3.6	2.2	2.2	0.1	0.1	1.9
Engines, pumps, turbines	0.1	0.3	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.1	0.0	2.9
Textile and paper machines	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Other special machines	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.2	0.9	0.9	0.1	0.0	0.6
Thermal processes and apparatus	0.0	2.8	0.0	4.8	0.2	3.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.8
Mechanical elements	0.4	0.5	0.0	1.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.3
Transport	0.3	0.2	0.6	2.5	2.9	1.6	3.6	0.5	0.1	4.8
Furniture, games	0.1	1.9	0.0	3.6	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Other consumer goods	0.1	4.0	0.0	10.9	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.1	0.1	1.1
Civil engineering	0.0	0.3	0.0	1.1	0.0	1.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2

Note: CATL is Contemporary Amperex Technology, Limited. For confidentiality reasons, data are based on published applications and on the publication date. The WIPO IPC technology concordance table (available at: https://www.wipo.int/web/ip-statistics) was used to convert IPC symbols into 35 corresponding technology fields.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Since 1993, the University of California has been the top PCT applicant from the university sector.

A17. Top 50 university PCT applicants, 2023–2025

Ranking	Change in position from 2024	Applicant	Origin	Published PCT applications 2023	2024	2025
45	–3	University of California	US	531	519	488
110	30	Tsinghua University	China	209	188	227
112	4	Board of Regents of The University of Texas System	US	217	216	226
142	24	Leland Stanford Junior University	US	180	162	179
159	8	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	US	170	161	170
184	–29	Seoul National University	Republic of Korea	168	170	153
184	–28	Johns Hopkins University	US	141	167	153
201	–51	Zhejiang University	China	240	175	144
231	–48	University of Michigan	US	115	150	123
241	31	Tohoku University	Japan	120	107	116
241	–4	University of Tokyo	Japan	128	120	116
241	27	Hanyang University	Republic of Korea	112	109	116
257	53	Nanyang Technological University	Singapore	97	96	110
261	–5	Southeast University	China	120	114	109
271	–52	National University of Singapore	Singapore	139	130	105
292	66	University of Pittsburgh	US	102	83	99
297	–7	Yonsei University	Republic of Korea	103	101	98
319	18	South China University of Technology	China	117	88	93
335	–56	Korea University	Republic of Korea	131	105	88
348	–62	University of Florida	US	105	102	85
351	–88	Osaka University	Japan	132	111	84
351	–44	University of Arizona	US	89	97	84
364	–15	Harvard University	US	87	85	81
377	13	University of Pennsylvania	US	89	75	79
380	237	Indian Institute of Technology	India	41	48	78
384	–94	Columbia University	US	83	101	77
395	–76	Yale University	US	77	93	76
395	25	Kyoto University	Japan	85	71	76
401	–27	Catholic University	Republic of Korea	90	78	75
405	–83	Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology	Republic of Korea	105	92	74
418	–44	Purdue University	US	63	78	72
418	–54	Northwestern University	US	77	82	72
423	29	Oxford University Innovation Limited	UK	56	65	71
429	–161	Peking University	China	85	109	70
435	43	Shanghai Jiaotong University	China	62	62	69
441	71	Arizona Board of Regents, Acting for and on Behalf of Arizona State University	US	63	59	68
441	–6	University of Colorado	US	78	69	68
460	103	Ajou University	Republic of Korea	50	54	66
467	59	National University Corporation Tokai National Higher Education and Research System	Japan	61	57	65
492	78	University of Massachusetts	US	60	53	61
492	284	Pennsylvania State University	US	51	38	61
506	151	Delft University of Technology	Netherlands	61	45	59
524	–120	University of Washington	US	80	73	56
524	–36	Jiangnan University	China	99	61	56
539	90	Texas A & M University System	US	32	47	54
548	–36	Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation	US	64	59	53
548	81	Cambridge University	UK	47	47	53
548	48	Tufts University	US	48	50	53
564	–91	Duke University	US	71	63	52
564	53	Danmarks Tekniske Universitet	Denmark	33	48	52

Note: Netherlands is the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The university sector includes all types of educational institutions. For confidentiality reasons, data are based on published applications and on the publication date.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Despite fewer PCT applications, the Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Technology remained the top PCT applicant for the government and PRO sector in 2025.

A18. Top 30 government and PRO PCT applicants, 2023–2025

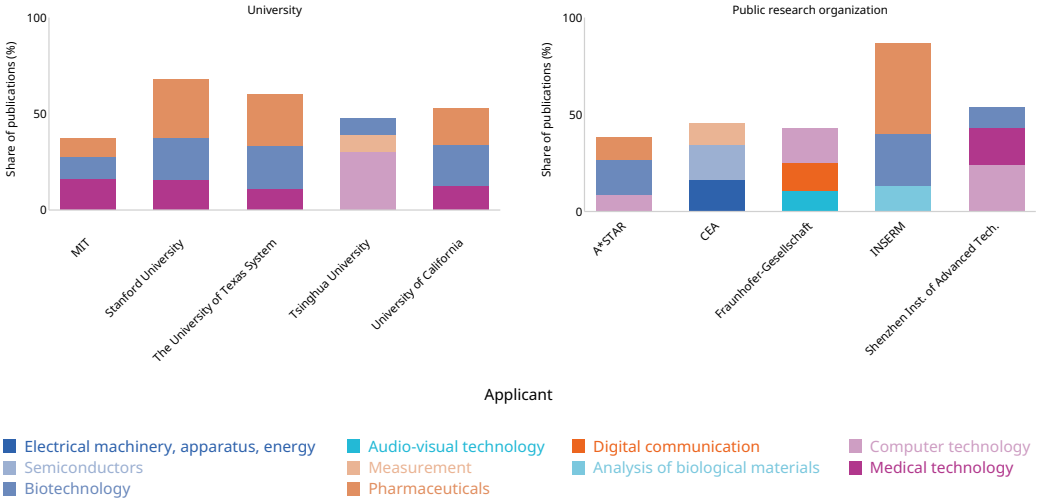
Ranking	Change in position from 2024	Applicant	Origin	Published PCT applications 2023	2024	2025
74	–40	Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Technology	China	696	631	342
106	–7	Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der angewandten Forschung e.V.	Germany	238	254	233
140	–10	Commissariat À L'énergie Atomique et aux Énergies Alternatives (CEA)	France	202	200	180
177	40	Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM)	France	140	132	158
208	21	Agency for Science, Technology and Research	Singapore	118	125	138
267	77	National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology	Japan	96	86	107
305	–5	Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)	France	112	99	96
337	–100	Korea Electronics Technology Institute	Republic of Korea	110	120	87
395	32	Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute of Korea	Republic of Korea	40	70	76
395	51	Council of Scientific and Industrial Research	India	70	66	76
405	15	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	US	76	71	74
435	62	Korea Research Institute of Chemical Technology	Republic of Korea	82	60	69
450	–131	Beijing Superstring Academy of Memory Technology	China	39	93	67
477	–73	Max-Planck-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Wissenschaften e.V.	Germany	75	73	63
534	132	Battelle Memorial Institute	US	39	44	55
564	–166	Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC)	Spain	73	74	52
578	63	Nederlandse Organisatie voor toegepast-natuurwetenschappelijk onderzoek TNO	Netherlands	32	46	51
630	1091	Interuniversitair Micro-electronica Centrum VZW	Belgium	14	16	47
630	123	Riken (the Institute of Physical and Chemical Research)	Japan	47	39	47
642	215	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	Australia	27	34	46
661	127	Korea Institute of Science and Technology	Republic of Korea	30	37	45
661	–164	Sloan Kettering Institute for Cancer Research	US	56	60	45
719	69	Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V.	Germany	37	37	41
883	169	National Institute for Materials Science	Japan	37	27	33
900	–147	Korea Institute of Machinery & Materials	Republic of Korea	27	39	32
900	–67	Korea Electrotechnology Research Institute	Republic of Korea	26	35	32
900	–223	Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Sciences	China	48	43	32
955	433	Japan Science and Technology Agency	Japan	19	20	30
981	–27	Korea Research Institute of Bioscience and Biotechnology	Republic of Korea	27	30	29
1006	–52	Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences	China	21	30	28

Note: Netherlands is the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The government and PRO sector includes private non-profit organizations and hospitals. For confidentiality reasons, data are based on published applications and on the publication date.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Tsinghua University and the Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Technology both had a high share of PCT applications in the computer technology field.

A19. Share of the top three technology fields for the top five universities and PROs, 2025



Note: A*STAR is the Agency for Science, Technology and Research, CEA is the Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique et aux Énergies Alternatives, Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft is the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der angewandten Forschung, INSERM is the Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale, MIT is the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Shenzhen Inst. of Advanced Tech. is the Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Technology. PROs include private non-profit organizations and hospitals. For confidentiality reasons, data are based on published applications and on the publication date. The WIPO IPC technology concordance table (available at: www.wipo.int/web/ip-statistics) was used to convert IPC symbols into 35 corresponding technology fields.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

PCT applications by technology field

Digital communication remained the main technology field in 2025.

A20. PCT applications by technology field, 2021–2025

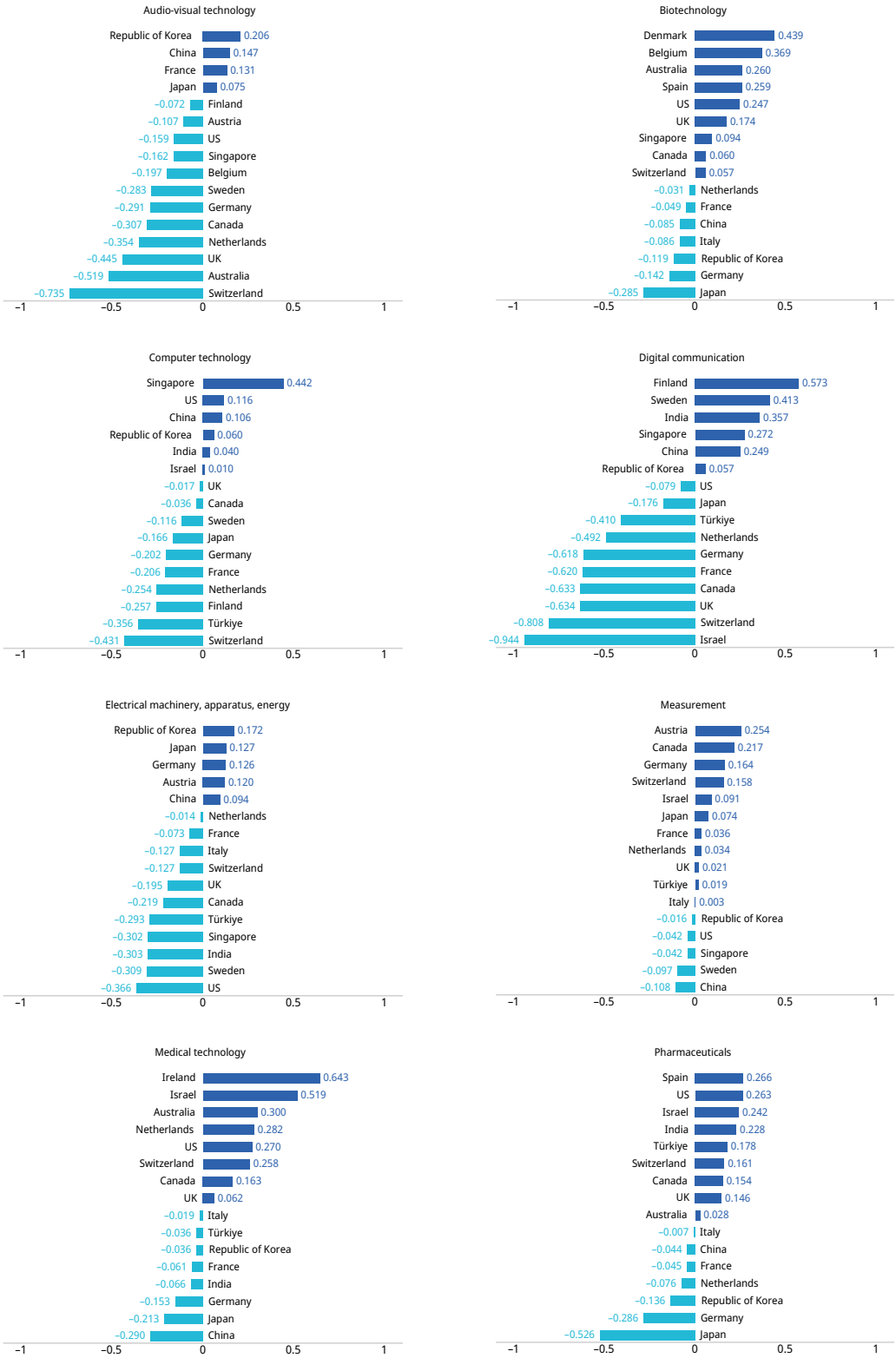
	Technical field	Publication year 2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025 share (%)	Change from 2024 (%)
I	**Electrical engineering**							
1	Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	18,230	19,362	21,088	22,785	23,843	9.0	4.6
2	Audio-visual technology	10,839	10,157	9,501	9,235	9,127	3.4	–1.2
3	Telecommunications	6,376	6,429	6,302	6,171	5,850	2.2	–5.2
4	Digital communication	23,609	25,666	25,125	27,617	29,303	11.1	6.1
5	Basic communication processes	1,647	1,698	1,698	1,595	1,505	0.6	–5.6
6	Computer technology	26,109	28,233	27,279	25,637	25,573	9.6	–0.2
7	IT methods for management	5,298	5,374	5,037	4,662	4,325	1.6	–7.2
8	Semiconductors	8,346	8,914	9,413	8,975	9,521	3.6	6.1
II	**Instruments**							
9	Optics	7,920	7,399	7,125	6,538	6,502	2.5	–0.6
10	Measurement	12,158	12,648	11,831	11,735	11,243	4.2	–4.2
11	Analysis of biological materials	2,154	2,250	1,994	1,927	1,919	0.7	–0.4
12	Control	5,181	5,254	4,537	4,239	3,871	1.5	–8.7
13	Medical technology	18,553	19,020	17,873	17,097	16,576	6.3	–3.0
III	**Chemistry**							
14	Organic fine chemistry	6,155	6,496	6,384	6,215	6,366	2.4	2.4
15	Biotechnology	8,747	9,336	9,694	9,752	9,369	3.5	–3.9
16	Pharmaceuticals	12,160	12,561	12,430	11,748	11,500	4.3	–2.1
17	Macromolecular chemistry, polymers	4,479	4,655	4,542	4,478	4,442	1.7	–0.8
18	Food chemistry	2,469	2,579	2,518	2,353	2,422	0.9	2.9
19	Basic materials chemistry	5,484	5,553	5,370	5,438	5,617	2.1	3.3
20	Materials, metallurgy	4,314	4,636	4,866	5,165	5,573	2.1	7.9
21	Surface technology, coating	3,834	3,981	4,023	4,288	4,495	1.7	4.8
22	Micro-structural and nano-technology	440	424	389	373	373	0.1	0.0
23	Chemical engineering	5,231	5,509	5,175	5,186	5,202	2.0	0.3
24	Environmental technology	2,771	2,841	2,707	2,707	2,884	1.1	6.5
IV	**Mechanical engineering**							
25	Handling	6,258	6,579	6,091	6,185	5,823	2.2	–5.9
26	Machine tools	4,308	4,283	3,908	3,775	3,781	1.4	0.2
27	Engines, pumps, turbines	4,443	4,376	4,175	4,188	4,206	1.6	0.4
28	Textile and paper machines	2,623	2,425	2,193	2,219	2,096	0.8	–5.5
29	Other special machines	7,232	7,278	6,934	6,787	6,670	2.5	–1.7
30	Thermal processes and apparatus	3,928	4,037	4,207	3,762	3,695	1.4	–1.8
31	Mechanical elements	5,162	5,048	5,121	5,166	4,860	1.8	–5.9
32	Transport	10,118	10,061	10,840	10,929	10,961	4.1	0.3
V	**Other fields**							
33	Furniture, games	4,491	4,932	4,549	4,388	4,664	1.8	6.3
34	Other consumer goods	5,842	6,338	6,158	5,379	5,292	2.0	–1.6
35	Civil engineering	6,319	5,941	5,444	5,370	5,616	2.1	4.6

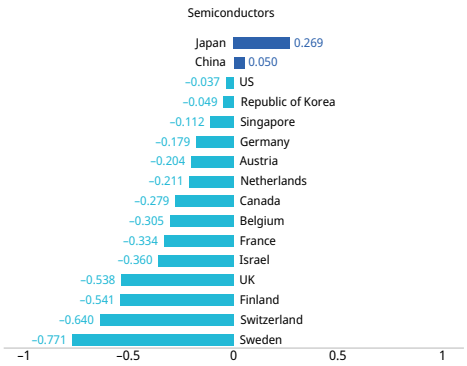
Note: For confidentiality reasons, data are based on published applications and on the publication date. The WIPO IPC technology concordance table (available at: www.wipo.int/web/ip-statistics) was used to convert IPC symbols into 35 corresponding technology fields.

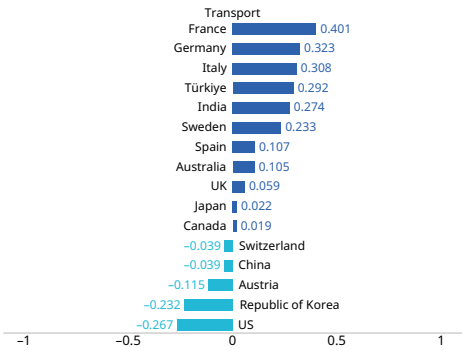
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

A relatively large proportion of PCT filings from Singapore related to computer technology.

A21. Relative specialization index for the top 10 technology fields, 2025







Note: Netherlands is the Kingdom of the Netherlands. This index corrects for the effects of country size and focuses on concentration in specific technology fields thereby capturing whether applicants in a given country tend to have a higher or lower propensity to file in certain technology fields. It is calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{RSI} = \text{Log}\left(\frac{F_{cr}\,\Sigma\,F_{cr}}{\Sigma\,F_c\,\Sigma\,F_r}\right)$$

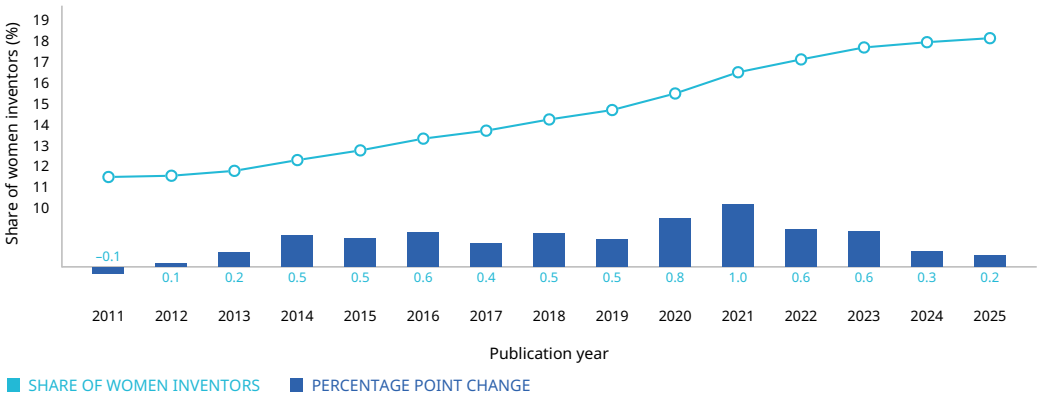
where F_c and F_r denote applications from country c and in a given technology field r. A positive value for a technology field indicates that a country has a relatively high share of PCT filings related to that technology field. For confidentiality reasons, data are based on published applications and on the publication date. The WIPO IPC technology concordance table (available at: www.wipo.int/web/ip-statistics) was used to convert IPC symbols into 35 corresponding technology fields.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Participation of women inventors in PCT applications

In 2025, only 18.1% of inventors were women.

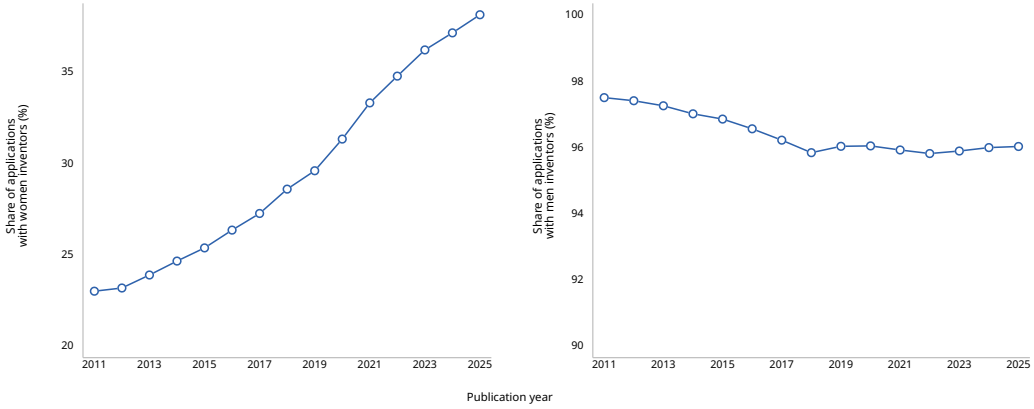
A22. Share of women among listed inventors in PCT applications, 2011–2025



Note: For further details on methodology, refer to www.wipo.int/en/web/economics.
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

In 2025, 96% of all PCT applications listed at least one man as inventor, whereas 38.1% listed at least one woman as inventor.

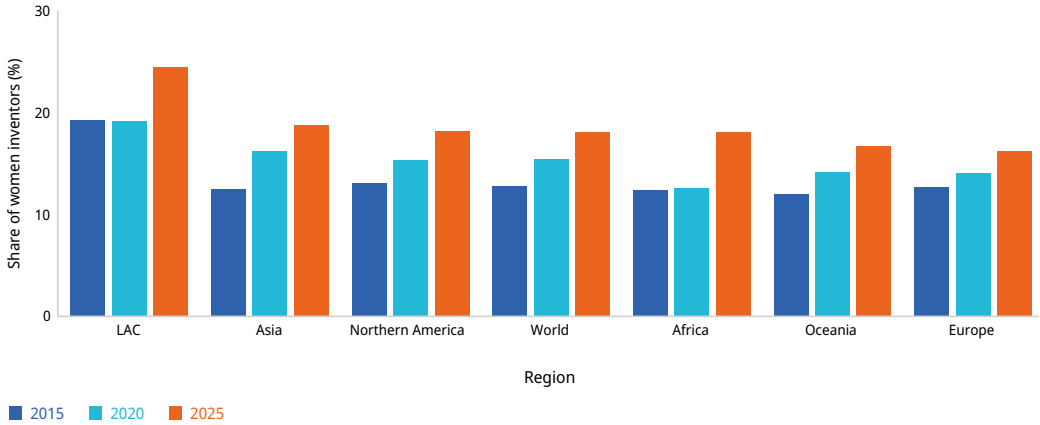
A23. Share of PCT applications with at least one woman as inventor and with at least one man as inventor, 2011–2025



Note: For further details on methodology, refer to www.wipo.int/web/ip-statistics.
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2025.

The share of women inventors listed in PCT applications has grown in every region over the past decade.

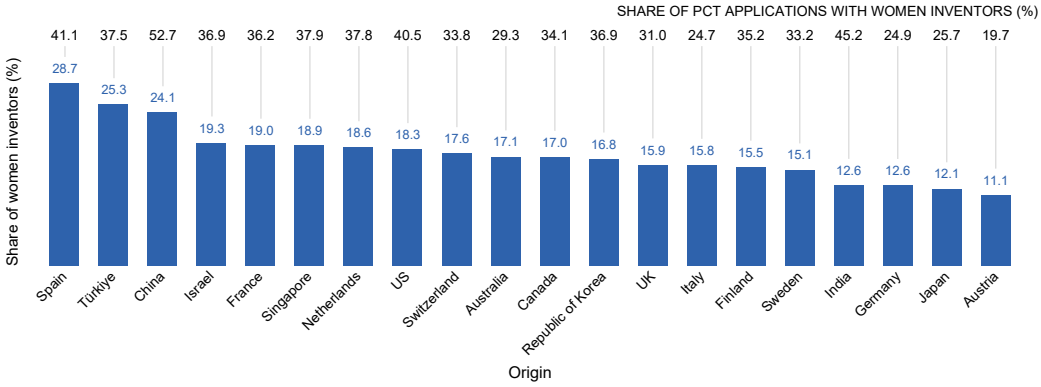
A24. Share of women among listed inventors in PCT applications by geographical region, 2015, 2020 and 2025



Note: LAC is Latin America and the Caribbean. For further details on methodology, refer to www.wipo.int/web/ip-statistics.
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

China, Spain and Türkiye have comparatively larger proportions of women listed as inventors in PCT applications.

A25. Share of women among listed inventors and share of PCT applications with at least one woman as inventor for the top 20 origins, 2025



Note: Netherlands is the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Data are based on published applications and on the publication date. For further details on methodology, refer to www.wipo.int/web/ip-statistics.
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

PCT applications from Latin America and the Caribbean in the field of organic fine chemistry was the one instance where the majority of inventors were women.

A26. Share of women among listed inventors in PCT applications by geographical region and technology field, 2023–2025

Field of technology	Region						
	Africa	Asia	Europe	Latin America and the Caribbean	Northern America	Oceania	World
Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	14.5	15.2	9.0	9.8	12.6	11.0	13.7
Audio-visual technology		16.4	10.0	20.0	15.4	14.7	15.5
Telecommunications		15.6	12.2	12.5	13.3	10.1	14.5
Digital communication	7.7	21.8	12.9	5.6	15.7	6.4	19.4
Basic communication processes		11.3	6.8		11.7	4.3	10.6
Computer technology	14.3	18.5	14.4	12.6	16.1	15.3	17.2
IT methods for management	20.9	19.3	15.9	16.2	17.6	20.4	18.4
Semiconductors		15.0	13.0		12.5	23.4	14.3
Optics		15.5	10.2	19.7	13.4	20.0	14.2
Measurement	15.4	16.5	11.4	15.2	15.0	13.0	14.9
Analysis of biological materials	20.8	28.3	29.4	32.5	28.1	30.2	28.5
Control	17.6	13.4	9.4	15.0	12.8	13.0	12.4
Medical technology	17.3	20.0	19.5	29.9	18.8	16.1	19.3
Organic fine chemistry	30.8	25.0	31.1	50.2	25.0	25.7	26.6
Biotechnology	42.9	31.9	36.7	43.4	31.2	31.5	32.7
Pharmaceuticals	35.8	31.0	36.1	43.1	29.0	28.4	31.4
Macromolecular chemistry, polymers		18.7	24.6	33.6	23.8	20.8	21.1
Food chemistry		30.4	37.5	40.8	30.7	25.9	32.4
Basic materials chemistry	21.3	20.0	26.7	33.6	23.8	21.4	23.0
Materials, metallurgy	19.6	14.8	18.3	22.9	18.3	16.5	16.2
Surface technology, coating		15.3	16.1	23.8	15.9	16.2	15.6
Micro-structural and nano-technology		21.4	19.0	5.3	19.8	21.3	20.2
Chemical engineering	15.2	17.4	16.2	18.2	16.8	14.8	16.9
Environmental technology	23.3	15.6	13.6	16.8	14.3	13.3	14.8
Handling	14.3	13.4	8.2	9.2	11.5	8.6	11.4
Machine tools	6.2	12.4	6.9	20.0	11.8	6.1	10.8
Engines, pumps, turbines	18.8	12.6	5.8	2.4	8.0	3.3	9.2
Textile and paper machines	20.0	19.6	18.6	29.1	18.9	41.7	19.3
Other special machines	10.0	17.1	14.3	20.9	15.3	8.3	15.8
Thermal processes and apparatus	8.3	12.7	7.2	10.2	9.2	6.8	11.1
Mechanical elements	0.0	12.1	5.1	7.0	6.3	2.9	8.8
Transport	8.3	13.9	6.6	5.2	8.5	4.5	10.8
Furniture, games	14.3	17.7	9.4	11.0	13.3	11.5	14.9
Other consumer goods	28.6	16.7	14.6	20.5	17.8	19.7	16.3
Civil engineering	7.0	14.8	6.5	8.6	10.9	5.9	11.5

Note: This table shows the share of women inventors for every region and each technical field in which at least 10 inventors were listed. For further details on methodology, refer to www.wipo.int/en/web/economics. The WIPO IPC technology concordance table (available at: www.wipo.int/web/ip-statistics) was used to convert IPC symbols into 35 corresponding technology fields.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Women accounted for about 42% of inventors listed in PCT applications from applicants residing in France and active in organic fine chemistry.

A27. Share of women among listed inventors in PCT applications for the top 10 origins by technology field, 2025

	Origin									
Field of technology	China	US	Japan	Republic of Korea	Germany	France	UK	Switzerland	Netherlands	Sweden
Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	20.3	12.7	8.2	14.9	6.8	11.6	9.9	9.2	10.4	9.4
Audio-visual technology	23.4	15.7	9.7	13.5	7.7	10.3	10.2	13.2	11.4	16.5
Telecommunications	21.5	13.2	9.3	12.2	4.4	14.8	8.8	8.7	7.6	15.1
Digital communication	27.8	15.8	22.4	14.2	8.5	8.5	11.1	5.1	8.8	15.8
Basic communication processes	15.9	11.6	6.0	6.3	4.0	11.1	7.7	3.1	7.7	8.0
Computer technology	23.4	16.3	11.2	16.7	14.0	12.6	12.4	17.0	15.5	17.4
IT methods for management	24.6	17.8	14.8	21.9	17.9	16.9	14.9	15.8	22.8	16.2
Semiconductors	22.8	12.6	8.9	13.2	13.4	15.7	12.4	9.3	10.2	14.5
Optics	23.7	13.5	10.0	14.4	8.7	16.2	10.6	9.4	8.8	12.2
Measurement	23.2	15.1	9.6	14.0	8.6	13.6	9.6	11.7	12.7	11.9
Analysis of biological materials	34.1	28.1	20.9	26.6	22.3	34.6	29.9	28.1	28.3	26.0
Control	20.4	13.0	8.6	12.3	8.9	9.4	10.7	11.9	8.6	13.2
Medical technology	25.3	18.8	15.3	17.1	17.1	19.9	19.5	15.5	20.0	23.3
Organic fine chemistry	27.3	24.8	18.2	29.6	28.4	42.0	24.0	26.1	29.8	26.3
Biotechnology	35.7	31.1	18.7	32.9	33.8	41.1	31.7	34.4	30.5	31.4
Pharmaceuticals	32.8	28.9	21.2	33.6	32.9	41.0	30.7	33.3	30.6	33.1
Macromolecular chemistry, polymers	25.3	23.6	14.9	20.4	21.6	28.1	24.1	21.8	20.3	29.3
Food chemistry	34.4	30.9	26.0	31.0	31.0	40.5	32.5	41.6	36.7	39.5
Basic materials chemistry	26.6	23.6	16.4	18.8	24.6	31.5	24.1	23.3	29.2	20.8
Materials, metallurgy	21.5	18.2	9.3	13.8	12.1	23.2	21.1	14.7	15.6	20.8
Surface technology, coating	23.1	15.8	12.2	12.5	13.1	21.2	16.7	19.7	14.3	10.5
Micro-structural and nano-technology	26.8	19.8	10.2	11.3	8.2	15.2	15.6	19.0	6.2	33.3
Chemical engineering	22.1	16.8	11.4	16.6	11.0	24.0	14.7	14.2	16.0	12.9
Environmental technology	19.5	14.2	10.3	13.8	9.3	19.1	13.8	12.2	8.2	12.9
Handling	18.5	11.6	9.8	11.7	6.8	9.4	9.1	11.0	14.9	7.2
Machine tools	18.9	12.1	7.2	9.4	4.0	15.5	11.7	5.1	10.7	3.6
Engines, pumps, turbines	19.9	7.9	5.7	10.2	4.5	7.9	5.2	4.2	10.6	8.7
Textile and paper machines	29.8	18.6	15.2	17.4	11.2	21.4	28.0	14.1	21.0	13.4
Other special machines	23.6	15.0	12.4	17.1	10.9	15.3	14.2	17.0	20.0	9.6
Thermal processes and apparatus	18.4	9.3	6.7	10.2	7.7	7.4	6.5	7.1	6.2	5.6
Mechanical elements	18.3	6.3	6.8	9.4	5.0	6.5	4.0	5.1	5.6	7.3
Transport	20.8	8.6	6.6	10.7	5.7	8.8	5.3	6.8	10.5	6.4
Furniture, games	19.5	13.3	15.4	16.3	8.6	11.5	5.8	8.7	13.1	7.1
Other consumer goods	20.8	17.8	13.5	13.1	11.4	13.7	15.7	11.8	23.4	21.2
Civil engineering	18.2	11.1	9.7	12.7	6.7	11.2	4.5	5.3	8.9	6.2

Note: Netherlands is the Kingdom of the Netherlands. For further details on methodology, refer to www.wipo.int/en/web/economics. The WIPO IPC technology concordance table (available at: www.wipo.int/web/ip-statistics) was used to convert IPC symbols into 35 corresponding technology fields.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Top geographical clusters of inventors in PCT applications

The top three clusters in 2021–2025 accounted for nearly one-quarter of total PCT applications, combined.

A28. Top 50 PCT clusters, 2021–2025

Ranking	Change in position from 2020–2024	Cluster	Origin	PCT applications	Share of total PCT applications (%)	Change from 2020–2024 (%)
1	0	Tokyo–Yokohama	Japan	132,669	10.1	–1.8
2	0	Shenzhen–Hong Kong–Guangzhou	China / China, Hong Kong SAR	120,095	9.2	2.2
3	0	Seoul	Republic of Korea	73,770	5.6	3.4
4	1	Beijing	China	54,298	4.1	9.0
5	–1	San Jose–San Francisco, CA	US	50,255	3.8	–1.1
6	0	Shanghai–Suzhou	China	45,295	3.5	5.8
7	0	Osaka–Kobe–Kyoto	Japan	36,830	2.8	–3.9
8	0	San Diego, CA	US	27,742	2.1	3.9
9	0	Boston–Cambridge, MA	US	19,326	1.5	0.0
10	1	Paris	France	16,654	1.3	2.0
11	1	Daejeon	Republic of Korea	16,501	1.3	10.5
12	–2	Nagoya	Japan	16,083	1.2	–3.8
13	0	New York City, NY	US	13,355	1.0	–2.6
14	1	Hangzhou	China	11,309	0.9	1.6
15	–1	Los Angeles, CA	US	11,266	0.9	–4.8
16	0	Munich	Germany	10,646	0.8	–2.6
17	0	Seattle, WA	US	9,643	0.7	–11.4
18	0	Stuttgart	Germany	9,216	0.7	0.4
19	2	Eindhoven	Netherlands	7,924	0.6	–0.7
20	0	Nanjing	China	7,882	0.6	–4.4
21	10	Ningde	China	7,693	0.6	38.7
22	0	Houston, TX	US	7,650	0.6	–1.9
23	–4	Qingdao	China	7,480	0.6	–10.3
24	1	London	UK	7,360	0.6	5.4
25	–2	Wuhan	China	7,049	0.5	–6.3
26	2	Washington, DC–Baltimore, MD	US	6,659	0.5	6.3
27	–3	Tel Aviv–Jerusalem	Israel	6,605	0.5	–7.8
28	–2	Minneapolis, MN	US	6,581	0.5	–1.1
29	–2	Cologne	Germany	6,224	0.5	–5.8
30	0	Philadelphia, PA	US	5,875	0.4	2.1
31	2	Singapore	Singapore / Malaysia	5,708	0.4	5.5
32	–3	Stockholm	Sweden	5,614	0.4	–5.4
33	–1	Frankfurt am Main	Germany	5,372	0.4	–2.1
34	0	Bengaluru	India	5,262	0.4	5.6
35	0	Hefei	China	4,979	0.4	5.4
36	0	Amsterdam–Rotterdam	Netherlands	4,542	0.3	4.1
37	2	Heidelberg–Mannheim	Germany	4,125	0.3	4.8
38	0	Zürich	Switzerland	4,031	0.3	0.9
39	–2	Chicago, IL	US	3,898	0.3	–7.3
40	0	Taipei–Hsinchu	Taiwan, Provience of China	3,831	0.3	0.7
41	0	Denver, CO	US	3,559	0.3	2.5
42	7	Helsinki	Finland	3,263	0.2	8.3
43	–1	Dallas, TX	US	3,201	0.2	–2.7
44	1	Cambridge	UK	3,189	0.2	1.5
45	2	Copenhagen	Denmark	3,124	0.2	0.4
46	–2	Berlin	Germany	3,008	0.2	–5.6
47	–4	Nuremberg–Erlangen	Germany	2,996	0.2	–7.5
48	9	Chengdu	China	2,989	0.2	12.7
49	–1	Raleigh, NC	US	2,976	0.2	–2.2
50	8	Montréal, QC	Canada	2,823	0.2	6.8

Note: For further details on methodology, refer to the Special theme of the 2020 edition of the *PCT Yearly Review*. Data presented in previous years may vary slightly due to constant improvements in geocoding.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Over 36% of PCT applications from Daejeon related to electrical machinery in 2021–2025.

A29. Top 15 technology fields for the top 20 PCT clusters, 2021–2025

Rank	Cluster	Digital communication	Computer technology	Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	Medical technology	Audio-visual technology	Measurement	Semiconductors	Pharmaceuticals	Biotechnology	Transport	Telecommunications	Optics	IT methods for management	Organic fine chemistry	Other consumer goods	All other fields
		Field of technology															
1	Tokyo–Yokohama	6.6	9.7	8.3	4.6	4.9	5.4	5.1	1.2	1.7	4.3	2.3	4.7	3.9	1.9	2.0	33.8
2	Shenzhen–Hong Kong–Guangzhou	27.4	17.3	7.0	3.1	7.5	3.4	2.3	1.4	1.4	2.4	5.7	3.0	1.0	0.6	2.9	13.7
3	Seoul	13.5	12.3	6.6	7.0	6.9	3.0	4.2	3.9	3.3	1.9	4.6	2.7	3.6	2.0	3.7	21.0
4	Beijing	32.5	19.0	2.4	2.3	7.3	2.9	7.4	2.5	2.2	1.3	2.9	3.0	1.8	1.2	0.3	10.7
5	San Jose–San Francisco, CA	12.4	23.0	4.1	7.3	5.3	4.0	6.0	5.9	6.3	1.7	2.3	3.8	2.5	1.8	0.4	13.2
6	Shanghai–Suzhou	8.6	11.9	7.1	7.2	2.6	4.4	3.7	8.4	5.1	3.4	1.3	2.3	1.1	5.3	1.5	26.2
7	Osaka–Kobe–Kyoto	2.1	3.5	14.0	4.8	4.1	6.0	7.3	2.4	2.4	2.1	2.3	4.2	1.3	1.8	1.0	40.6
8	San Diego, CA	44.9	8.9	1.2	4.2	4.0	4.0	2.0	5.6	5.0	0.6	8.9	1.0	0.5	2.0	0.2	6.9
9	Boston–Cambridge, MA	1.5	6.9	3.3	12.2	1.5	4.0	1.3	21.4	18.1	1.0	0.8	1.8	0.9	5.5	0.7	18.7
10	Paris	6.6	6.7	7.5	3.9	1.6	5.1	0.6	3.9	3.4	13.4	1.6	2.1	0.9	5.9	2.0	34.9
11	Daejeon	1.5	3.4	36.2	2.3	1.7	6.6	2.9	2.9	2.4	2.8	0.8	1.2	0.9	4.0	2.1	28.2
12	Nagoya	3.2	2.6	22.3	3.7	5.6	5.8	3.6	0.8	1.2	11.2	0.7	1.3	0.8	0.8	0.6	35.9
13	New York City, NY	4.9	14.3	1.9	9.8	1.0	3.0	1.9	17.2	8.9	0.7	1.3	1.1	4.8	8.1	1.9	19.0
14	Hangzhou	7.6	27.7	3.8	6.5	3.5	4.8	1.8	5.3	3.9	3.1	1.4	1.5	4.7	2.9	0.5	21.0
15	Los Angeles, CA	4.1	14.6	3.3	21.2	8.8	3.5	0.9	7.1	4.6	3.2	1.4	3.1	2.8	1.4	1.8	18.0
16	Munich	15.6	11.7	9.4	3.2	2.4	5.6	1.6	2.3	1.9	13.5	3.4	1.6	1.3	0.7	1.1	24.9
17	Seattle, WA	12.2	43.5	1.8	3.8	3.8	2.1	1.2	5.4	5.3	0.9	2.2	2.2	5.0	0.9	0.5	9.1
18	Stuttgart	3.4	6.8	16.5	2.6	2.6	10.5	1.5	1.0	1.2	12.9	1.0	2.1	0.5	0.2	0.7	36.6
19	Eindhoven	3.1	9.9	15.7	26.8	2.4	6.5	2.8	0.3	0.5	1.0	2.0	11.6	0.7	0.1	2.2	14.3
20	Nanjing	6.7	11.2	6.8	4.5	2.2	6.2	1.4	8.9	6.4	2.2	2.7	1.4	2.2	4.2	1.0	31.6

Note: For further details on methodology, refer to the Special theme of the 2020 edition of the PCT Yearly Review. The WIPO IPC technology concordance table (available at: www.wipo.int/web/ip-statistics) was used to convert IPC symbols into 35 corresponding technology fields.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Statistical table

A30. PCT applications by office and origin, 2024–2025

Name	PCT applications filed in 2025 (international phase)		PCT applications filed in 2024 (international phase)	
	At receiving office	By country of origin	At receiving office	By country of origin
African Intellectual Property Organization	4	n.a.	4	n.a.
African Regional Intellectual Property Organization	2	n.a.	1	n.a.
Albania	2	141	4	9
Algeria	12	14	14	15
Andorra	n.a.	6	n.a.	4
Angola (c)	0	0	0	0
Antigua and Barbuda	0	0	0	0
Argentina	n.a.	40	n.a.	28
Armenia	1	10	0	3
Australia	1,491	1,660	1,407	1,561
Austria	480	1,509	516	1,528
Azerbaijan	12	20	7	8
Bahrain	0	2	0	5
Barbados (c)	0	2	0	4
Belarus	5	19	14	13
Belgium	0	1,295	0	1,310
Belize	0	2	0	0
Benin (d)	0	0	0	0
Bermuda	n.a.	8	n.a.	4
Bosnia and Herzegovina	6	8	3	4
Botswana	0	0	0	0
Brazil	604	619	617	634
Brunei Darussalam	0	0	0	0
Bulgaria	37	60	25	38
Burkina Faso (d)	0	0	0	1
Cabo Verde	0	0	0	0
Cambodia	0	0	0	0
Cameroon (d)	0	1	0	3
Canada	1,788	2,449	1,743	2,398
Central African Republic (d)	0	0	0	0
Chad (d)	0	0	0	0
Chile	162	201	186	218
China	78,641	73,721	74,630	69,997
Colombia	10	63	10	71
Comoros (d)	0	0	0	0
Congo (d)	0	0	0	0
Costa Rica	6	10	1	2
Côte d'Ivoire (d)	0	1	0	0
Croatia	11	30	10	25
Cuba	3	3	7	7
Curaçao	n.a.	0	n.a.	1
Cyprus	2	73	0	53
Czech Republic	142	181	120	142
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	4	6	7	7
Democratic Republic of the Congo	n.a.	0	n.a.	1
Denmark	250	1,349	333	1,543
Djibouti	0	0	0	0
Dominica	0	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	5	18	3	3
Ecuador	4	38	2	21
Egypt	46	59	55	62
El Salvador	1	1	2	3
Equatorial Guinea (d)	0	0	0	0
Estonia	1	68	0	51
Eswatini (a)	0	0	0	0
Ethiopia	n.a.	0	n.a.	1
Eurasian Patent Organization	49	n.a.	13	n.a.
European Patent Office	39,330	n.a.	39,084	n.a.
Finland	743	2,885	767	2,004

Name	PCT applications filed in 2025 (international phase)		PCT applications filed in 2024 (international phase)	
	At receiving office	By country of origin	At receiving office	By country of origin
France	1,300	7,775	1,681	8,128
Gabon (d)	0	4	0	0
Gambia (a)	0	0	0	0
Georgia	16	20	11	14
Germany	1,331	16,441	1,374	16,754
Ghana	0	6	0	1
Greece	66	94	51	100
Grenada	0	0	0	0
Guatemala	0	2	0	2
Guernsey	n.a.	0	n.a.	1
Guinea (d)	0	0	0	0
Guinea-Bissau (d)	0	0	0	0
Holy See	n.a.	1	n.a.	0
Honduras	0	1	0	0
Hungary	121	169	142	164
Iceland	15	68	19	54
India	2,119	3,071	2,412	4,543
Indonesia	9	16	66	99
International Bureau	14,247	n.a.	14,006	n.a.
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	53	425	30	410
Iraq	5	11	5	5
Ireland	13	645	11	719
Israel	1,190	1,583	1,244	1,703
Italy	345	3,296	306	3,102
Jamaica	1	2	1	1
Japan	46,404	47,924	46,750	48,413
Jordan	8	14	6	12
Kazakhstan	28	33	42	45
Kenya	17	24	7	8
Kuwait	0	4	0	1
Kyrgyzstan	0	3	0	0
Lao People's Democratic Republic (c)	0	0	0	1
Latvia	24	48	16	28
Lebanon	n.a.	2	n.a.	4
Lesotho	0	1	0	0
Liberia	0	0	0	1
Libya	3	5	1	1
Liechtenstein (b)	0	164	0	160
Lithuania	0	37	1	22
Luxembourg	0	422	0	384
Madagascar (c)	0	0	0	2
Malawi	0	0	0	0
Malaysia	101	129	110	118
Mali (d)	0	0	0	0
Malta	0	40	0	41
Marshall Islands	n.a.	1	n.a.	1
Mauritania (d)	0	1	0	0
Mauritius	1	43	0	43
Mexico	121	179	94	154
Monaco	0	18	0	20
Mongolia	0	8	0	0
Montenegro (c)	0	8	0	8
Morocco	54	72	64	72
Mozambique (a)	0	0	0	0
Namibia (a)	0	2	0	0
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	659	4,239	710	4,301
New Zealand	115	261	140	278
Nicaragua	0	0	0	0
Niger (d)	0	0	0	0
Nigeria (c)	0	9	0	5
North Macedonia	6	5	5	6
Norway	216	630	293	717
Oman	6	12	3	6
Pakistan	n.a.	3	n.a.	2
Panama	1	14	0	5
Papua New Guinea	0	0	0	0

Name	PCT applications filed in 2025 (international phase)		PCT applications filed in 2024 (international phase)	
	At receiving office	By country of origin	At receiving office	By country of origin
Paraguay	n.a.	0	n.a.	1
Peru	41	49	32	31
Philippines	31	33	33	35
Poland	137	308	162	328
Portugal	37	256	48	234
Qatar	10	11	1	6
Republic of Korea	24,948	25,016	23,637	23,842
Republic of Moldova	1	5	2	5
Romania	13	49	32	49
Russian Federation	851	826	732	701
Rwanda	0	0	0	0
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0	1	0	0
Saint Lucia (c)	0	0	0	0
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (c)	0	0	0	0
Samoa	0	1	0	1
San Marino	0	4	0	4
Sao Tome and Principe (c)	0	0	0	0
Saudi Arabia	71	480	42	498
Senegal (d)	0	3	0	1
Serbia	13	26	17	27
Seychelles	0	6	0	5
Sierra Leone (a)	0	0	0	0
Singapore	835	2,188	840	1,930
Slovakia	27	46	24	46
Slovenia	29	96	41	118
South Africa	75	199	75	166
Spain	833	1,597	832	1,520
Sri Lanka (c)	0	21	0	23
Sudan	1	0	0	0
Sweden	1,268	3,858	1,181	3,760
Switzerland	34	5,012	59	5,351
Syrian Arab Republic	3	3	1	3
Tajikistan	0	0	0	0
Thailand	85	166	76	158
Togo (d)	0	1	0	0
Trinidad and Tobago	0	0	0	0
Tunisia	5	9	4	8
Türkiye	2,183	2,119	1,970	1,983
Turkmenistan	0	1	0	1
Uganda	5	7	2	6
Ukraine	73	114	73	113
United Arab Emirates (c)	0	215	0	163
United Kingdom	2,810	5,808	3,167	5,890
United Republic of Tanzania (a)	0	0	0	0
United States of America	49,022	52,640	51,623	54,224
Uruguay	n.a.	11	n.a.	11
Uzbekistan	2	7	3	6
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	n.a.	1	n.a.	1
Viet Nam	4	20	16	30
Yemen	n.a.	1	n.a.	0
Zambia	0	1	0	0
Zimbabwe	0	3	0	0
Others	4	125	0	191
Total	**275,900**	**275,900**	**273,911**	**273,911**

Note: Data for 2025 are WIPO estimates.

(a) The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) is the competent receiving office.

(b) The Office of Switzerland is the competent receiving office.

(c) The International Bureau is the competent receiving office.

(d) The African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) is the competent receiving office.

n.a. indicates not applicable, either because it is not an office of a PCT member state, or else the office does not act as a PCT receiving office.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

B. Statistics on PCT national phase entries

Highlights

In 2024, PCT national phase entries dropped for a second consecutive year

About 645,100 PCT national phase entries (NPEs) were initiated worldwide in 2024 – the latest year for which data are available (figure B1).[1] This represents a 3.7% decline from 2023, driven mainly by a decrease in NPEs from applicants residing in the United States of America (US). This is the second consecutive year of decline. In 2023, NPEs had dropped by 0.5%.

In 2024, non-resident applications accounted for 84.4% of all NPEs. Resident NPEs were concentrated at a few offices, led by the Japan Patent Office (JPO) and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), which accounted for 40.1% and 19.3%, respective ly (figure B11).

Most of the top 20 offices saw a decrease in PCT NPEs in 2024

In 2024, Asia remained the region with the highest PCT NPE activity, initiating 38.9% of all NPEs (figure B2). This marks a notable increase from 2014, when Asia accounted for nearly 31% of global NPEs. Europe and Northern America followed in 2024, representing 29.7% and 28.9% of all NPEs, respectively. Together, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), and Oceania made up 1.7% of global NPEs.

The European Patent Office (EPO) (119,687) received the highest number of NPEs in 2024, followed by the USPTO (108,187), the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) (87,259), the JPO (72,888), and the Ministry of Intellectual Property of the Republic of Korea (MOIP) (43,545) (figure B10). Every one of these top five offices recorded a decline in NPEs, ranging from 1.5% at the USPTO to 4.3% at MOIP. Among the top 20 offices, only Viet Nam (+14.9%), Indonesia (+1.4%) and India (+0.6%) received more NPEs in 2024 than in the previous year. By contrast, Israel (–13.1%), New Zealand (–12.3%) and South Africa (–11.1%) experienced the steepest declines.

In 2024, applicants from the US initiated 6.3% fewer NPEs than in 2023

In 2024, applicants residing in the US initiated 178,256 NPEs, followed by applicants from Japan (124,639), China (66,039), Germany (47,444) and the Republic of Korea (39,155) (figure B5). Together, the US and Japan accounted for 47% of all NPEs initiated worldwide, representing 27.6% and 19.3% of total NPEs, respectively. Overall, the top 20 origins accounted for almost 95% of total NPEs.

Among the top 10 origins, only the Kingdom of the Netherlands (+1.5%) and China (+0.1%) initiated slightly more NPEs in 2024 than in the previous year. The remaining eight origins recorded a decline, with Sweden (–12.3%), Switzerland (–11.2%), the US (–6.3%), the UK (–5.6%) and Germany (–4.6%) showing the sharpest decreases.

1 The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) modified its methodology for extracting NPE data in 2025, by removing requests for continued examination (RCE), and has revised its NPE data for the period 2000–2023. Due to the high number of NPEs initiated at the USPTO, the NPE data presented in this section may differ from those in earlier editions.

Of the 108,187 NPEs received at the USPTO, applicants from Japan (20.4% of the total), the US (19.3%) and China (13.9%) initiated the largest shares (figure B11). Combined, these same three economies also accounted for the majority of NPEs initiated at every top 20 office, apart from those of Saudi Arabia (47.8%) and South Africa (46.8%). Applicants from either the US (15 offices) or Japan (5) accounted for the largest share of NPEs at every top 20 office.

In 2024, just over 53% of patent applications filed abroad used the PCT System

A total of 544,700 non-resident PCT NPEs were initiated in 2024, accounting for 53.3% of non-resident patent applications filed worldwide (figure B12). This represents a 2.3 percentage point decrease from the previous year. The PCT global share peaked at 55.7% in 2021 and 2022, respectively. The 2024 share (53.3%) is about the same as during 2014–2020 period (53%).

In 2024, 477,700 non-resident patent applications were filed directly at patent offices (Paris route). From 2010 to 2024, the PCT route expanded faster than the Paris route, with average annual growth rates of 2.4% and 2%, respectively. However, from 2020 to 2024, PCT growth slowed to 1.6% per year, while the Paris route almost maintained its earlier pace, growing 1.9% annually, on average.

Among the top 20 offices for non-resident patent applications, 17 received most of their non-resident filings through the PCT route (figure B14). The offices of Brazil, Indonesia and Israel had PCT shares above 90%, whereas the offices of Germany, the UK and US had much lower PCT shares.

Among the top 20 origins filing abroad, applicants from the US (67.6%) and Italy (61.2%) relied most heavily on the PCT route (figure B13). In contrast, applicants from Canada (33.6%) and India (30.6%) filed a large proportion of applications directly at foreign offices via the Paris route.

Applicants residing in Denmark and Switzerland initiated a high average number of NPEs per PCT application filed – about four NPEs per PCT application (figure B7). By comparison, applicants from China and Türkiye averaged only 0.9 and 0.7 NPEs per PCT application, respectively.

Between 2020 and 2022, half of the top 50 applicants in foreign-oriented patent families mainly used the PCT System to file internationally

Huawei of China maintained its position as the company that has created the highest number of foreign-oriented patent families using the PCT route, with 12,261 such families established between 2020 and 2022 (figure B16). Following Huawei were Samsung Electronics, Qualcomm, LG Electronics and BOE Technology, each with between 8,700 and 5,500 families. Among the top 10 companies, LG Energy Solution (+55.4%), Qualcomm (+41.4%) and Sony Group (+23%) witnessed the sharpest increases in foreign-oriented patent families created using the PCT compared to the 2019–2021 period.

Between 2020 and 2022, 25 of the top 50 applicants in terms of foreign-oriented patent families relied primarily on the PCT System to protect innovations abroad (table B17). Ericsson Telefon, Nippon Telegraph & Telephone, Qualcomm, Tencent Tech Shenzhen and ZTE used the PCT route for over 99% of foreign-oriented patent families. Compared to 2017–2019, 31 of the top 50 applicants increased their use of the PCT route in 2020–2022. BOE Technology has seen its share of foreign-oriented patent families using the PCT route increase from 60.8% in 2017–2019 to 84.9% in 2020–2022. In contrast, several top 50 applicants in foreign-oriented patent families have relied on the PCT System in only a small way, for instance, Ford Global Technologies, Seiko Epson and SK Hynix.

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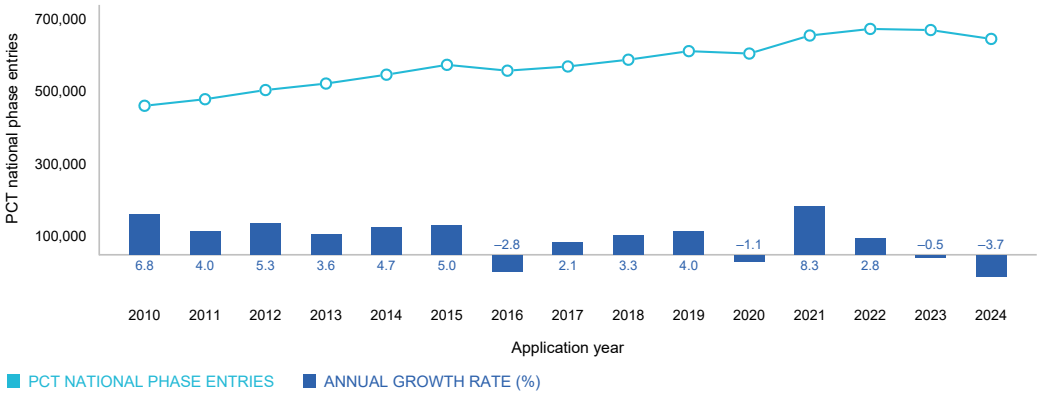
B18. PCT national phase entries by office and origin, 2023–2024 50

Global trends in PCT national phase entries

In 2024, PCT national phase entries initiated worldwide dropped by 3.7%.

B1. Trend in PCT national phase entries, 2010–2024

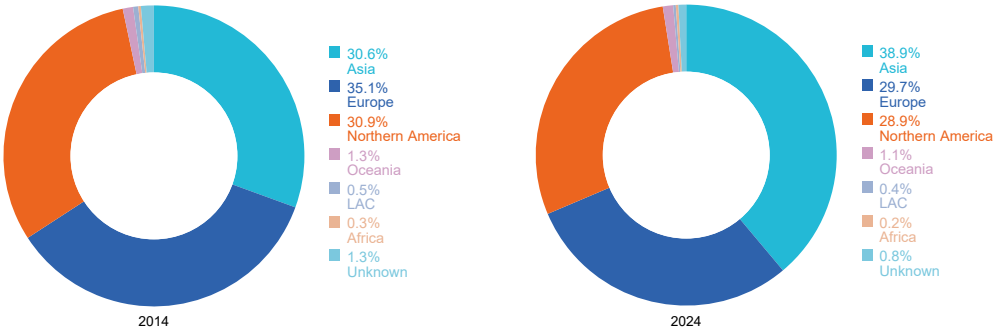


Note: WIPO estimates. National phase data from patent offices are available up to 2024. Data may differ from previous editions due to a change in methodology at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), where requests for continued examination are now excluded from the USPTO national phase entry count.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Asia's share has grown markedly over the past decade.

B2. PCT national phase entries by region, 2014 and 2024



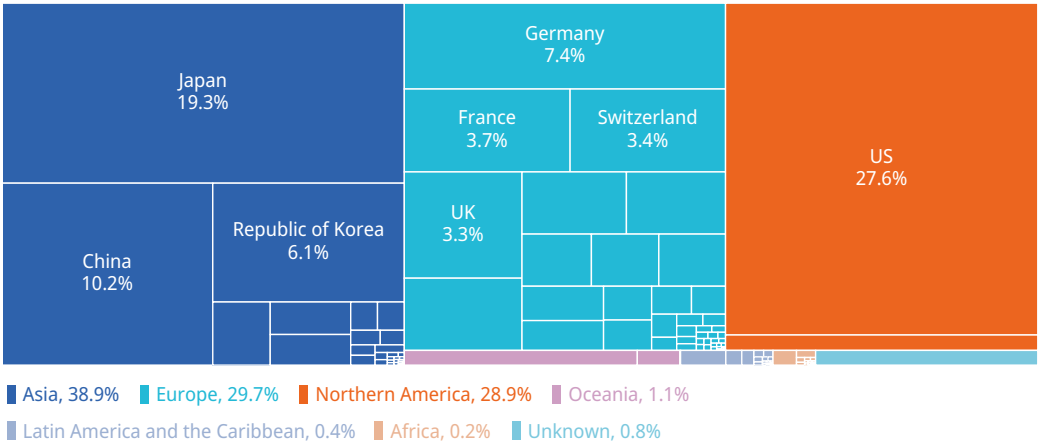
Note: Regions include the following number of origins: Africa (28), Asia (35), Europe (46), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) (25), Northern America (3) and Oceania (4).

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

National phase entries by origin

Applicants from the US initiated almost 28% of all PCT national phase entries in 2024.

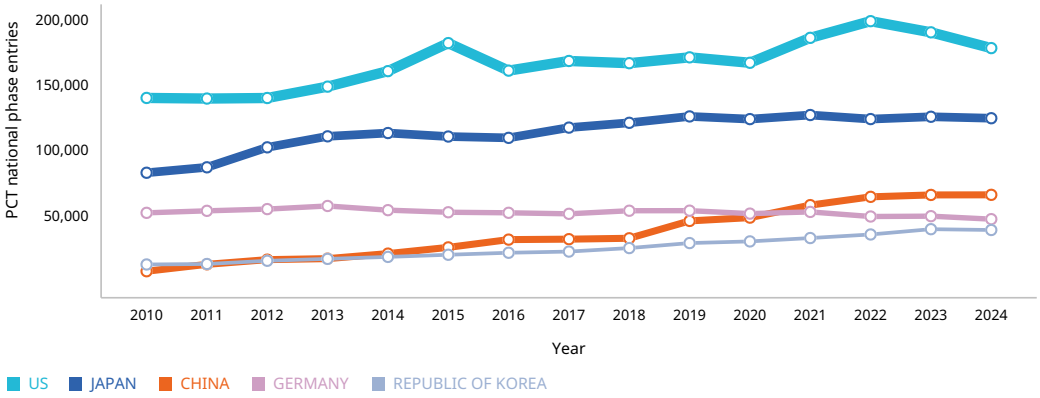
B3. Distribution of PCT national phase entries by region and origin, 2024



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Since 2010, US applicants have initiated by far the highest number of PCT national phase entries worldwide.

B4. Trends in PCT national phase entries for the top five origins, 2010–2024

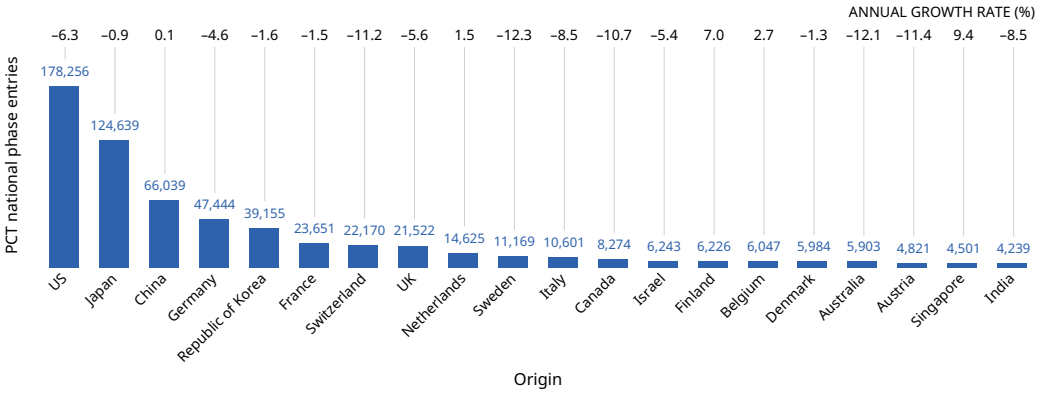


Note: Data may differ from previous editions due to a change in methodology at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), where requests for continued examination are now excluded from the USPTO national phase entry count.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

In 2024, only five of the top 20 origins saw an increase in PCT national phase entries.

B5. PCT national phase entries for the top 20 origins, 2024



Note: Netherlands is the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Every geographical region experienced a decline in PCT national phase entries in 2024.

B6. PCT national phase entries for the top origins by region, 2022–2024

Region	Origin	2022	2023	2024	Regional share 2024 (%)	Change from 2023 (%)
Africa	South Africa	682	671	595	55.1	–11.3
	Mauritius	177	156	234	21.7	50.0
	Egypt	39	34	39	3.6	n.a.
	Morocco	35	111	32	3.0	–71.2
	Algeria	5	10	28	2.6	180.0
	Namibia	12	1	14	1.3	1,300.0
	Tunisia	12	29	12	1.1	–58.6
	Others	69	107	125	11.6	16.8
	Total*	**1,031**	**1,119**	**1,079**	**0.2**	**–3.6**
Asia	Japan	123,972	125,747	124,639	49.7	–0.9
	China	64,509	65,966	66,039	26.3	0.1
	Republic of Korea	35,722	39,773	39,155	15.6	–1.6
	Israel	7,099	6,600	6,243	2.5	–5.4
	Singapore	3,760	4,114	4,501	1.8	9.4
	India	4,487	4,634	4,239	1.7	–8.5
	China, Hong Kong SAR	411	394	1,304	0.5	231.0
	Türkiye	1,335	1,438	1,304	0.5	–9.3
	Saudi Arabia	1,389	1,256	743	0.3	–40.8
	Thailand	432	396	438	0.2	10.6
	Others	1,340	1,302	2,022	0.8	55.3
	Total*	**244,456**	**251,620**	**250,627**	**38.9**	**–0.4**
Europe	Germany	49,456	49,725	47,444	24.7	–4.6
	France	25,048	24,004	23,651	12.3	–1.5
	Switzerland	24,003	24,978	22,170	11.6	–11.2
	UK	22,555	22,809	21,522	11.2	–5.6
	Netherlands	14,787	14,412	14,625	7.6	1.5
	Sweden	12,852	12,739	11,169	5.8	–12.3
	Italy	10,740	11,587	10,601	5.5	–8.5
	Finland	5,311	5,821	6,226	3.2	7.0
	Belgium	5,931	5,890	6,047	3.2	2.7
	Denmark	6,364	6,061	5,984	3.1	–1.3
	Others	23,411	22,604	22,463	11.7	–0.6
	Total*	**200,458**	**200,630**	**191,902**	**29.7**	**–4.4**
Latin America and the Caribbean	Brazil	1,499	1,395	1,146	48.9	–17.8
	Chile	410	369	404	17.3	9.5
	Mexico	346	393	308	13.2	–21.6
	Colombia	147	94	108	4.6	14.9
	Cuba	123	213	104	4.4	–51.2
	Argentina	124	98	75	3.2	–23.5
	Uruguay	46	11	47	2.0	327.3
	Peru	45	22	40	1.7	81.8
	Barbados	80	92	37	1.6	–59.8
	Antigua and Barbuda	66	9	16	0.7	77.8
	Others	169	136	57	2.4	–58.1
	Total*	**3,055**	**2,832**	**2,342**	**0.4**	**–17.3**
Northern America	US	198,858	190,324	178,256	95.5	–6.3
	Canada	9,826	9,270	8,274	4.4	–10.7
	Others	84	57	66	0.0	15.8
	Total*	**208,768**	**199,651**	**186,590**	**28.9**	**–6.5**
Oceania	Australia	6,763	6,715	5,903	84.3	–12.1
	New Zealand	1,295	1,426	1,080	15.4	–24.3
	Others	23	4	16	0.2	300.0
	Total*	**8,081**	**8,145**	**6,999**	**1.1**	**–14.1**
Unknown*		6,951	5,703	5,561	0.9	–2.5
World		**672,800**	**669,700**	**645,100**	**n.a.**	**–3.7**

Note: Netherlands is the Kingdom of the Netherlands. World totals are WIPO estimates. This table shows the top countries in each region (with a maximum of 10 countries per region) where applicants filed more than 10 PCT national phase entries in 2024. Data for all origins are reported in statistical table B18.

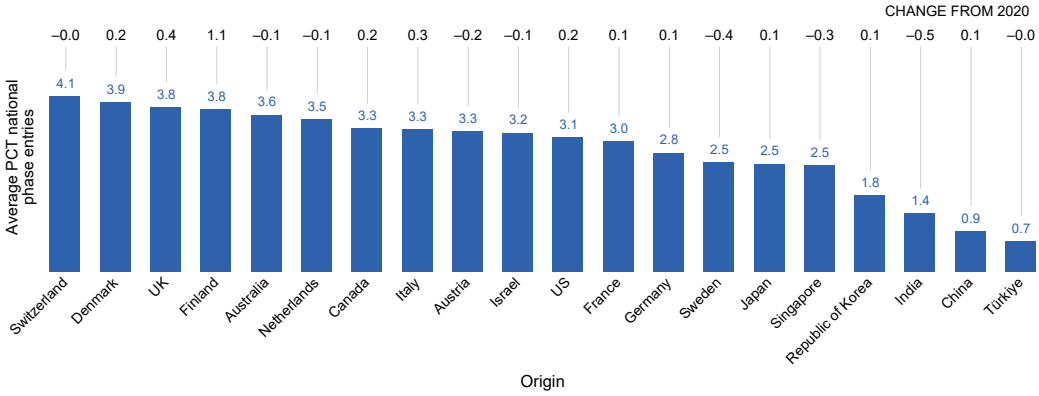
* indicates share of world total.

n.a. indicates not applicable.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Applicants residing in Switzerland initiated an average of 4.1 NPEs per PCT application.

B7. Average number of national phase entries per PCT application for the top 20 origins, 2024



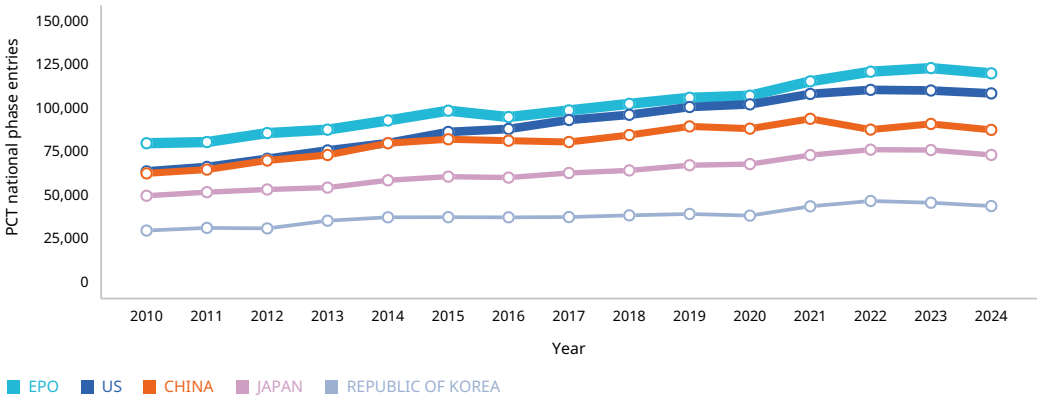
Note: Netherlands is the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The average is defined as the number of national phase entries initiated in 2024 divided by the average number of PCT applications filed in the two preceding years.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

National phase entries by office

The EPO attracted the most PCT national phase entries in 2024.

B8. Trends in PCT national phase entries for the top five offices, 2010–2024

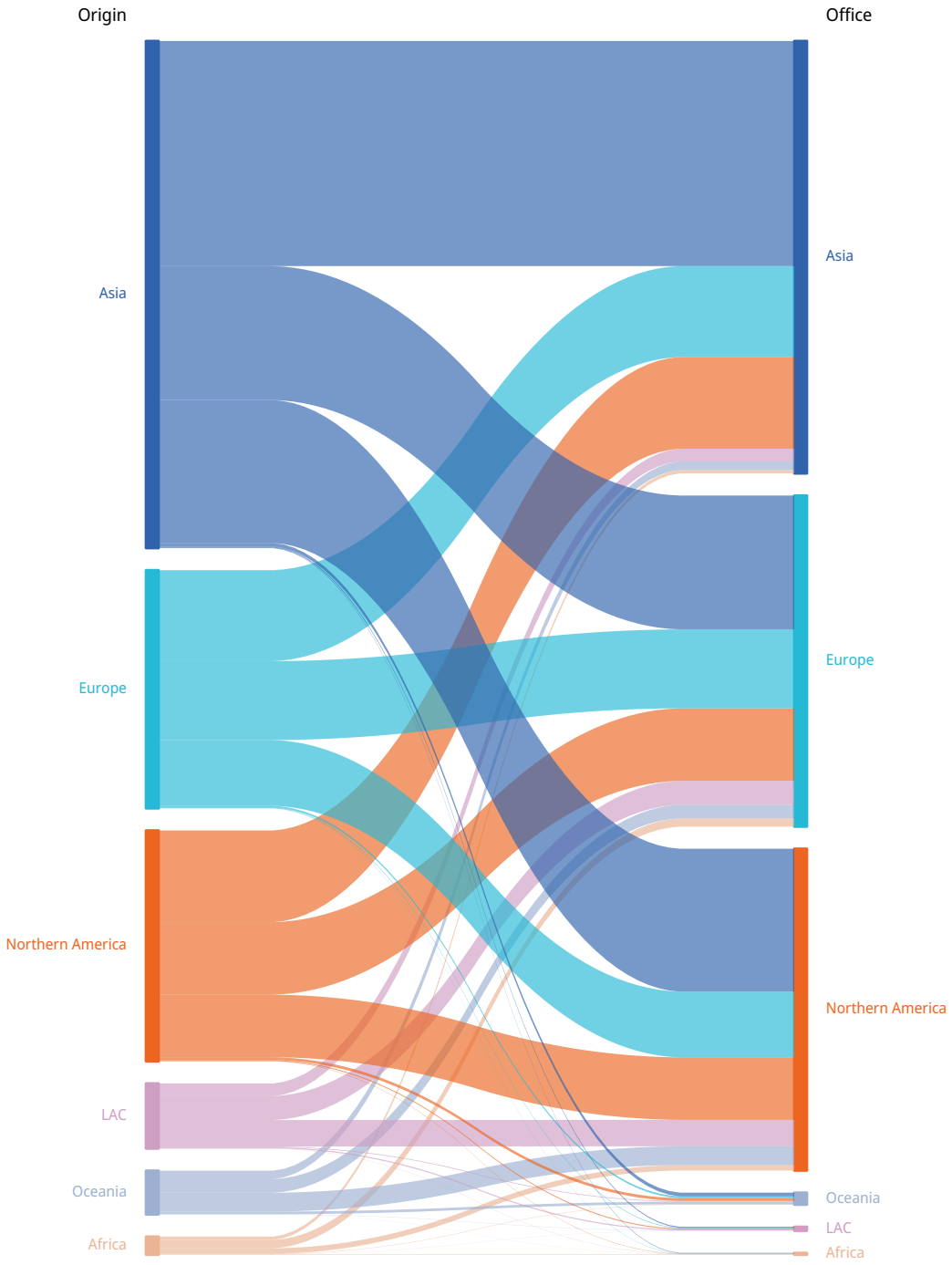


Note: EPO is the European Patent Office. Data may differ from previous editions due to a change in methodology at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), where requests for continued examination are now excluded from the USPTO NPE count.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Applicants residing in Asia initiated a large proportion of national phase entries in their home region.

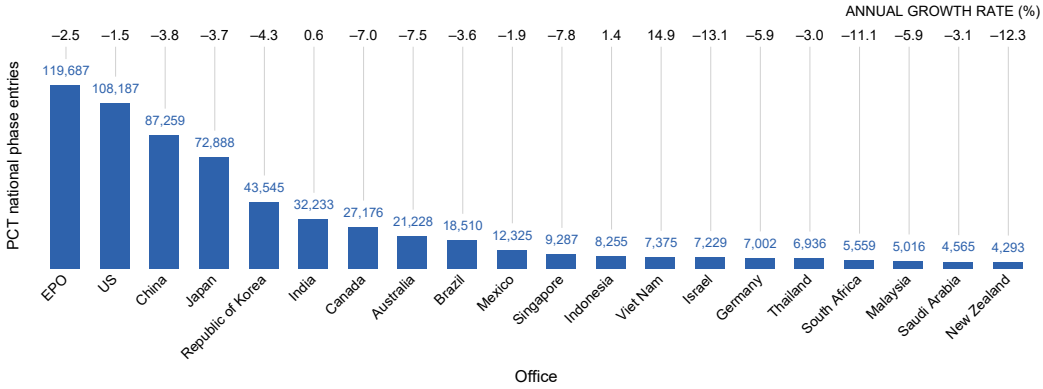
B9. Flow of national phase entries between region of origin and regions of destination, 2024



Note: LAC is Latin America and the Caribbean.
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Among top 20 offices, only India, Indonesia and Viet Nam saw growth in PCT national phase entries in 2024.

B10. PCT national phase entries for the top 20 offices, 2024



Note: EPO is the European Patent Office. This table shows data for the 20 offices that received the most PCT national phase entries. NPE data may not be available from some offices.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Applicants residing in the US were responsible for 27.2% of PCT national phase entries initiated at the European Patent Office.

B11. Flow of national phase entries for the top 20 offices and the top 10 origins as a percentage of total national phase entries at respective offices, 2024

	Origin										
Office	US	Japan	China	Germany	Republic of Korea	France	Switzerland	UK	Netherlands	Sweden	Other origins
EPO	27.2	12.9	13.6	8.8	7.1	4.9	3.2	3.1	2.4	2.3	14.5
US	19.3	20.4	13.9	8.6	7.7	4.4	2.0	3.7	2.2	2.0	16.1
China	25.6	29.5	0.9	10.4	8.6	3.8	3.6	2.5	2.8	1.6	10.8
Japan	20.4	40.1	9.9	5.2	6.3	2.5	3.1	2.2	1.7	0.9	7.5
Republic of Korea	32.4	23.0	11.3	6.9	4.7	3.0	3.2	2.8	2.0	1.3	9.4
India	34.2	12.5	11.0	6.4	7.7	3.1	3.3	3.1	2.3	1.9	14.4
Canada	44.3	3.9	5.7	5.8	2.6	4.1	4.1	4.7	1.8	1.8	21.3
Australia	40.1	5.4	9.2	4.7	2.6	2.7	4.7	5.4	2.0	2.1	21.3
Brazil	35.5	5.5	10.5	6.9	2.2	4.2	6.1	4.3	3.5	2.5	18.8
Mexico	42.7	6.3	8.6	6.5	2.2	3.2	5.2	3.4	3.1	1.9	16.8
Singapore	32.7	13.2	18.9	3.9	2.3	3.0	4.0	3.1	1.3	1.1	16.5
Indonesia	21.5	20.7	17.4	3.4	9.5	2.0	3.4	2.5		1.0	18.8
Viet Nam	31.5	18.8	15.2	3.3	12.1	1.6	1.9	2.4	1.5	1.0	10.8
Israel	47.6	3.2	4.1	4.8	1.1	2.8	5.4	5.2	2.8	1.2	21.9
Germany	16.9	54.4	6.7	11.1	2.4	0.5	1.8	0.5	0.7	0.5	4.6
Thailand	18.8	35.3	12.7	4.4	4.1	2.4	3.0	2.1	2.2	1.2	13.9
South Africa	29.7	2.4	14.7	5.8	1.6	3.5	5.8	8.3	2.2	2.3	23.8
Malaysia	21.5	18.6	16.3	4.8	4.8	2.2	5.0	6.7	2.2	2.0	15.8
Saudi Arabia	35.5	4.4	8.0	5.2	2.8	4.1	3.0	4.8	6.1	1.1	25.1
New Zealand	43.0	4.3	6.0	4.7	1.5	2.5	4.6	5.1	1.9	2.3	24.1

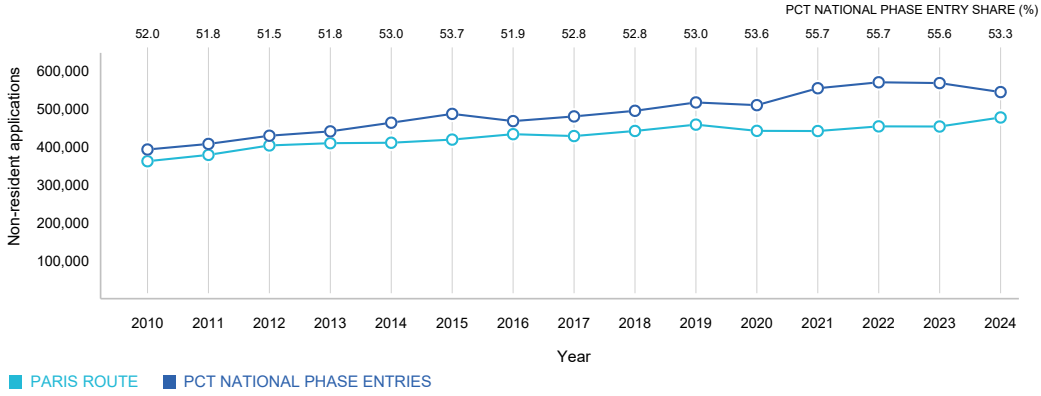
Note: EPO is the European Patent Office and Netherlands is the Kingdom of the Netherlands. This table shows data for the 20 offices that received the most PCT national phase entries and the 10 origins that entered the most PCT national phase entries. NPE data by origin may not be available from some offices.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Patent applications by filing route

The share of PCT national phase entries in all non-resident patent applications filed worldwide dropped to 53.3% in 2024.

B12. Trend in non-resident patent applications by filing route, 2010–2024

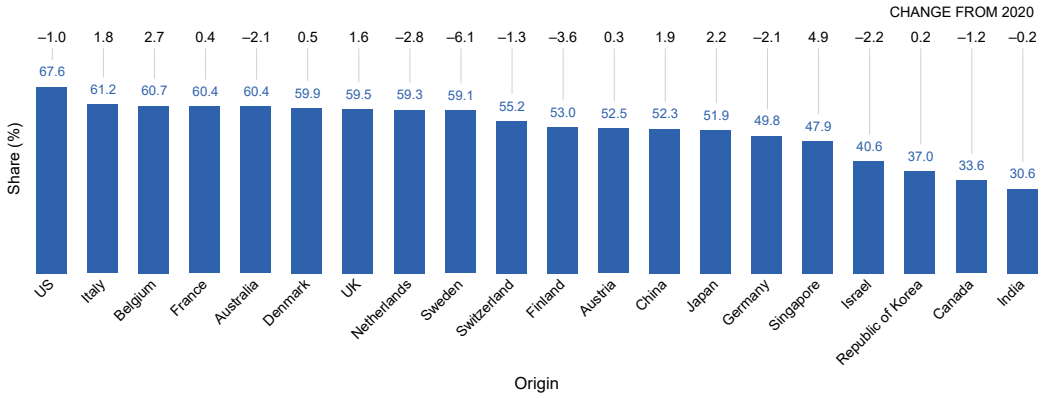


Note: Data are WIPO estimates. Data may differ from previous editions due to a change in methodology at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), where requests for continued examination are now excluded from the USPTO NPE count.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Applicants from the US filed about two-thirds of patent applications abroad via the PCT route.

B13. Share of PCT national phase entries in total filings abroad for the top 20 origins, 2024

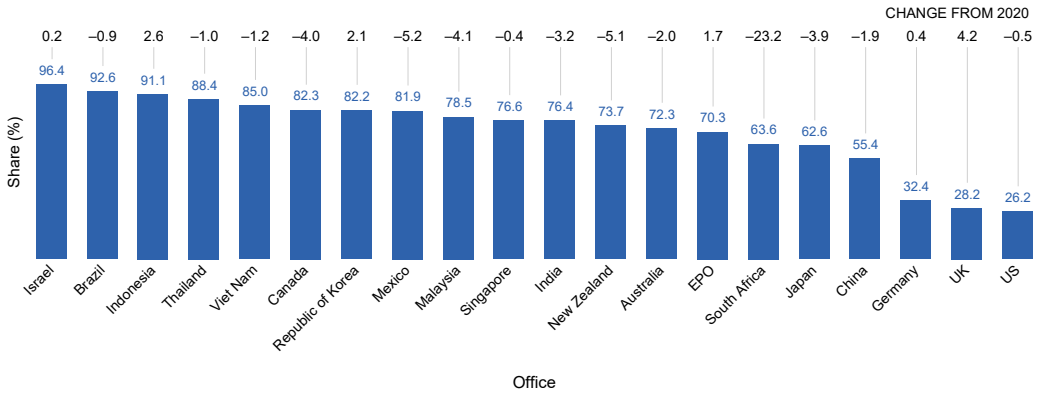


Note: Netherlands is the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Share is defined as the number of PCT national phase entries initiated abroad divided by the total number of patent applications filed abroad. It includes data from the 20 origins that filed the most applications abroad in 2024.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Brazil, Indonesia and Israel received more than 90% of non-resident patent applications via the PCT route in 2024.

B14. Share of PCT national phase entries in total non-resident filings for the top 20 offices, 2024



Note: EPO is the European Patent Office. Share is defined as non-resident PCT national phase entries initiated divided by the total number of non-resident patent applications filed. It includes data from the 20 offices that received the most non-resident filings in 2024; that is, data from countries that are members of the PCT System and who provided data broken down by filing route.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Applicants from Sweden and the UK used the PCT route for all patent applications filed at the office of Indonesia.

B15. Share of PCT national phase entries in total non-resident filings for the top 10 origins and the top 20 offices, 2024

	Origin									
Office	US	Japan	China	Germany	Republic of Korea	France	Switzerland	UK	Netherlands	Sweden
US	n.a.	30.3	27.7	34.6	18.5	44.3	37.4	32.5	45.7	40.7
China	56.5	56.9	n.a.	55.7	35.7	71.9	58.2	70.3	72.4	58.4
EPO	68.0	73.1	81.4	n.a.	64.4	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Japan	59.0	n.a.	72.3	65.7	56.6	73.8	62.1	69.4	74.6	68.6
Republic of Korea	90.4	72.3	87.0	82.7	n.a.	88.4	85.1	93.4	76.9	81.8
India	80.2	76.5	86.5	67.6	65.3	75.2	77.0	85.4	80.2	89.4
Canada	77.6	88.8	84.6	85.1	87.5	85.3	88.6	89.8	84.4	90.8
Australia	66.5	76.9	76.9	81.6	65.6	79.3	80.3	83.1	73.3	85.4
Brazil	92.4	92.9	95.5	88.3	98.3	90.5	94.9	93.2	96.2	94.0
Germany	20.0	57.8	57.4	n.a.	12.8	8.7	13.7	15.3	34.8	11.8
China, Hong Kong SAR	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mexico	76.2	90.5	81.0	86.2	73.7	93.4	89.0	90.3	90.5	91.0
Singapore	75.7	76.1	87.2	75.9	45.4	86.5	81.6	80.5	79.2	79.8
Viet Nam	95.3	88.7	91.0	90.5	64.0	96.6	90.2	98.9	100.0	100.0
Indonesia	97.9	84.0	94.4	94.3	88.0	94.2	98.2	100.0	n.a.	100.0
South Africa	87.6	91.8	26.8	90.5	91.6	92.3	97.9	92.0	86.8	94.7
UK	44.9	32.4	54.8	3.1	11.7	10.9	3.5	n.a.	29.9	2.9
Thailand	98.2	85.0	88.6	95.9	87.1	97.1	93.2	100.0	98.7	100.0
Israel	97.2	82.9	96.4	95.9	94.0	90.5	98.0	99.2	99.5	98.8
Malaysia	75.3	75.9	80.7	82.4	76.2	93.9	91.6	90.9	80.4	92.5

Note: EPO is the European Patent Office and Netherlands is the Kingdom of the Netherlands. This figure includes data from the 20 offices that received the most non-resident filings in 2024, regardless of whether or not they accept applications for entry into the national phase.

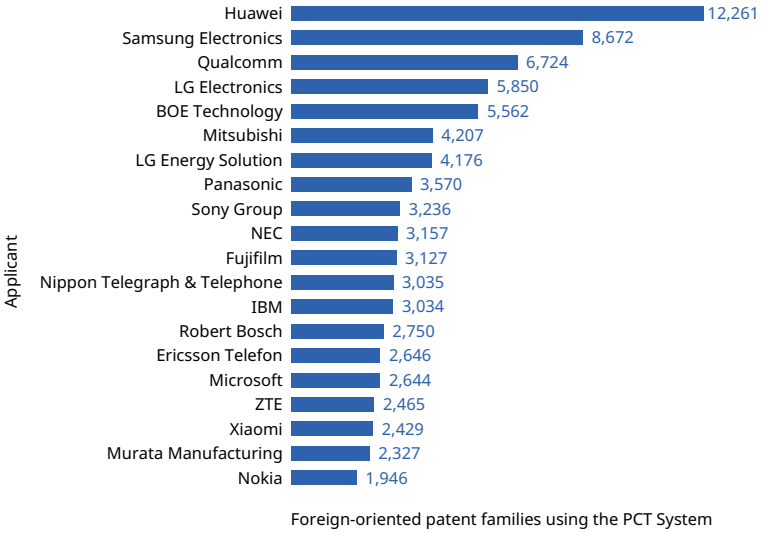
n.a. indicates not applicable.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Top applicants in foreign-oriented patent families

Huawei had by far the highest number of foreign-oriented patent families using the PCT route in 2020–2022.

B16. Top 20 applicants in foreign-oriented patent families using the PCT System, 2020–2022



Note: Xiaomi is Beijing Xiaomi Mobile Software Co Ltd and Nokia is Nokia Technologies Oy. The number of patent applications in foreign-oriented patent families as reported in the autumn 2025 edition of PATSTAT may be incomplete for the most recent years. A patent family is a set of interrelated patent applications filed at one or more offices to protect the same invention. Patent applications in a family are interlinked by one or more of the following: priority claim, PCT national phase entry, continuation, continuation-in-part, internal priority, and addition or division. Foreign-oriented patent families have at least one filing at an office other than the applicant's home office.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database and EPO PATSTAT Database, March 2026.

Half of the top 50 applicants in foreign-oriented patent families in 2020–2022 relied primarily on the PCT System to protect innovations abroad.

B17. Top 50 applicants in foreign-oriented patent families, 2017–2019 and 2020–2022

		Foreign-oriented patent families		Foreign-oriented patent families using the PCT route (%)	
Rank	Applicant	2017–2019	2020–2022	2017–2019	2020–2022
1	SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO LTD	13,482	17,030	49.6	50.9
2	HUAWEI TECH CO LTD	9,361	12,557	97.4	97.6
3	CANON KK	9,199	8,491	11.4	11.8
4	TOYOTA MOTOR CORP	7,489	7,942	3.1	2.5
5	SAMSUNG DISPLAY CO LTD	4,817	7,473	6.2	6.4
6	LG ELECTRONICS INC	7,378	7,306	64.2	80.1
7	BOSCH GMBH ROBERT	6,460	7,136	46.6	38.5
8	QUALCOMM INC	1,763	6,751	97.3	99.6
9	BOE TECHNOLOGY GROUP CO LTD	8,415	6,551	60.8	84.9
10	HYUNDAI MOTOR CO LTD	4,706	6,065	1.7	5.5
11	HONDA MOTOR CO LTD	6,469	6,036	23.7	13.2
12	KIA CORP	649	5,842	0	5.5
13	MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORP	5,984	5,064	87.7	83.1
14	IBM	2,636	4,442	64.1	68.3
15	LG ENERGY SOLUTION LTD	218	4,285	86.2	97.5
16	BAYERISCHE MOTOREN WERKE AG	4,321	4,085	26.9	35.6
17	FUJIFILM CORP	3,866	4,072	82.7	76.8
18	SEIKO EPSON CORP	4,340	4,052	2.0	0.2
19	NEC CORP	3,029	3,813	91.3	82.8
20	PANASONIC IP MAN CO LTD	3,796	3,769	80.5	94.7
21	FORD GLOBAL TECH LLC	6,085	3,687	2.0	0.8
22	SONY GROUP CORP	470	3,405	92.8	95.0
23	MURATA MANUFACTURING CO	2,922	3,316	65.5	70.2
24	BEIJING XIAOMI MOBILE SOFTWARE CO LTD	1,562	3,071	66.1	79.1
25	NIPPON TELEGRAPH & TELEPHONE	2,697	3,047	99.8	99.6
26	INTEL CORP	2,945	2,934	26.1	19.1
27	SAUDI ARABIAN OIL CO	1,149	2,928	99.6	48.5
28	NOKIA TECHNOLOGIES OY	1,698	2,828	76.1	68.8
29	UNIV NORTHEASTERN	5,030	2,781	5.7	2.2
30	DENSO CORP	3,622	2,730	60.9	66.3
31	MICROSOFT TECHNOLOGY LICENSING LLC	2,857	2,673	97.5	98.9
32	ERICSSON TELEFON AB L M	2,424	2,671	97.4	99.0
33	SK HYNIX INC	2,505	2,590	0.4	0.1
34	SIEMENS AG	4,090	2,579	62.8	64.6
35	LG DISPLAY CO LTD	2,129	2,514	2.7	2.3
36	ZTE CORP	1,985	2,470	99.2	99.8
37	MICRON TECHNOLOGY INC	1,992	2,309	55.2	26.0
38	TOKYO ELECTRON LTD	1,867	2,287	28.4	39.0
39	HITACHI LTD	2,283	2,275	40.3	38.6
40	TOSHIBA CORP	2,534	2,253	9.5	9.8
41	RICOH CO LTD	2,678	2,190	10.5	12.5
42	FUJITSU LTD	3,118	2,134	17.9	26.0
43	PANASONIC IP MAN CORP	2,612	2,063	35.1	43.7
44	FUJIFILM BUSINESS INNOVATION CORP	114	2,041	0.9	1.1
45	SONY SEMICONDUCTOR SOLUTIONS CORP	1,761	1,963	98.2	98.8
46	KIOXIA CORP	931	1,947	3.9	2.9
47	TENCENT TECH SHENZHEN CO LTD	1,155	1,907	99.3	100.0
48	SUMITOMO ELECTRIC INDUSTRIES	2,142	1,902	77.2	81.4
49	CHANGXIN MEMORY TECH INC	133	1,862	100.0	87.1
50	UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BEIJING	..	1,859	n.a.	0.8

Note: The number of patent applications in foreign-oriented patent families as reported in the autumn 2025 edition of PATSTAT may be incomplete for the most recent years. A patent family is a set of interrelated patent applications filed at one or more offices to protect the same invention. Patent applications in a family are interlinked by one or more of the following: priority claim, PCT national phase entry, continuation, continuation in part, internal priority, and addition or division. Foreign-oriented patent families have at least one filing at an office other than the applicant's home office.

.. indicates data unknown.

n.a. indicates not applicable.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database and EPO PATSTAT Database, March 2026.

Statistical table

B18. PCT national phase entries by office and origin, 2023–2024

	PCT national phase entries in 2024		PCT national phase entries in 2023	
Name	At designated office	By country of origin	At designated office	By country of origin
African Intellectual Property Organization	288	n.a.	328	n.a.
African Regional Intellectual Property Organization	741	n.a.	754	n.a.
Albania	..	20	1	4
Algeria	329	28	590	10
Andorra	n.a.	25	n.a.	10
Angola	67	67	78	0
Antigua and Barbuda	4	16	4	9
Argentina	n.a.	75	n.a.	98
Armenia	5	29	1	17
Australia	21,228	5,903	22,939	6,715
Austria	375	4,821	462	5,442
Azerbaijan	39	6	30	3
Bahamas	n.a.	4	n.a.	15
Bahrain	375	2	456	13
Bangladesh	n.a.	3	n.a.	1
Barbados	12	37	35	92
Belarus	31	7	44	11
Belgium (c)	..	6,047	..	5,890
Belize	23	2	39	8
Benin (d)	..	0	..	1
Bhutan	n.a.	1	n.a.	0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	9	4	6	9
Botswana	3	0	3	13
Brazil	18,510	1,146	19,206	1,395
Brunei Darussalam	137	0	..	1
Bulgaria	3	61	8	87
Burkina Faso (d)	..	0	..	0
Cabo Verde	..	0	..	0
Cambodia	50	0	31	15
Cameroon (d)	..	1	..	0
Canada	27,176	8,274	29,221	9,270
Central African Republic (d)	..	0	..	0
Chad (d)	..	0	..	0
Chile	2,765	404	2,806	369
China	87,259	66,039	90,663	65,966
China, Hong Kong SAR	n.a.	1,304	n.a.	394
China, Macao SAR	n.a.	1	n.a.	0
Colombia	1,609	108	1,712	94
Comoros (d)	..	0	..	1
Congo (d)	..	0	..	0
Cook Islands	n.a.	0	n.a.	1
Costa Rica	434	12	481	38
Côte d'Ivoire (d)	..	1	..	0
Croatia	5	28	3	34
Cuba	28	104	32	213
Curaçao	n.a.	1	n.a.	24
Cyprus (c)	..	151	..	127
Czech Republic	18	521	17	552
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	4	13	4	7
Denmark	63	5,984	81	6,061
Djibouti	..	0	..	0
Dominica	..	0	2	0
Dominican Republic	180	1	219	8
Ecuador	365	8	383	8
Egypt	1,245	39	1,350	34
El Salvador	134	2	138	0
Equatorial Guinea (d)	..	0	..	0
Eritrea	n.a.	11	n.a.	0
Estonia	2	76	4	126

Name	PCT national phase entries in 2024		PCT national phase entries in 2023	
	At designated office	By country of origin	At designated office	By country of origin
Eswatini (a)	..	2	..	2
Eurasian Patent Organization	1,983	n.a.	2,527	n.a.
European Patent Office	119,687	n.a.	122,700	n.a.
European Union	n.a.	35	n.a.	44
Finland	20	6,226	26	5,821
France (c)	..	23,651	..	24,004
Gabon (d)	..	2	..	0
Gambia	..	0	..	0
Georgia	86	3	129	12
Germany	7,002	47,444	7,443	49,725
Ghana	..	1	14	2
Greece (c)	..	244	..	243
Grenada	..	0	..	1
Guatemala	239	4	270	1
Guernsey	n.a.	1	n.a.	3
Guinea (d)	..	0	..	0
Guinea-Bissau (d)	..	0	..	0
Guyana	n.a.	0	n.a.	0
Haiti	n.a.	1	n.a.	0
Honduras	169	2	163	0
Hungary	94	451	43	457
Iceland	..	125	..	113
India	32,233	4,239	32,049	4,634
Indonesia	8,255	256	8,139	35
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	367	115	363	86
Iraq	77	0	..	1
Ireland (c)	..	2,797	..	2,941
Israel	7,229	6,243	8,320	6,600
Italy (c)	197	10,601	180	11,587
Jamaica	44	0	15	8
Japan	72,888	124,639	75,687	125,747
Jordan	265	23	287	24
Kazakhstan	242	28	196	16
Kenya	..	3	93	52
Kuwait	634	4	725	0
Kyrgyzstan	3	0	6	3
Lao People's Democratic Republic	31	0	39	0
Latvia (c)	..	82	..	59
Lebanon	n.a.	20	n.a.	20
Lesotho	..	0	..	0
Liberia	..	3	158	1
Libya	..	3	..	1
Liechtenstein (b)	..	366	..	446
Lithuania (c)	..	108	..	82
Luxembourg	223	1,638	253	1,579
Madagascar	22	1	23	1
Malawi	..	0	..	0
Malaysia	5,016	411	5,331	421
Mali (d)	..	1	..	1
Malta (c)	..	173	..	121
Marshall Islands	n.a.	3	n.a.	0
Mauritania (d)	..	0	..	9
Mauritius	..	234	..	156
Mexico	12,325	308	12,567	393
Monaco (c)	..	34	..	61
Mongolia	89	2	96	0
Montenegro	..	5	..	0
Morocco	2,112	32	2,074	111
Mozambique	19	0	8	2
Namibia	..	14	..	1
Netherlands (Kingdom of the) (c)	..	14,625	..	14,412
New Zealand	4,293	1,080	4,897	1,426
Nicaragua	..	0	..	1
Niger (d)	..	2	..	0
Nigeria	..	11	..	6
North Macedonia	..	12	..	7
Norway	440	2,512	514	2,694

Name	PCT national phase entries in 2024		PCT national phase entries in 2023	
	At designated office	By country of origin	At designated office	By country of origin
Oman	29	23	774	10
Pakistan	n.a.	3	n.a.	5
Panama	279	12	..	20
Papua New Guinea	..	0	..	0
Paraguay	n.a.	1	n.a.	1
Peru	1,034	40	1,107	22
Philippines	3,503	79	3,866	34
Poland	32	996	41	877
Portugal	12	565	20	484
Qatar	1,038	39	793	76
Republic of Korea	43,545	39,155	45,484	39,773
Republic of Moldova	5	8	3	13
Romania	14	76	23	75
Russian Federation	4,141	1,925	4,886	1,595
Rwanda	..	0	2	0
Saint Kitts and Nevis	3	3	2	0
Saint Lucia	..	1	..	0
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	4	0	7	0
Samoa	..	13	..	3
San Marino	..	54	..	7
Sao Tome and Principe	..	1	..	0
Saudi Arabia	4,565	743	4,709	1,256
Senegal (d)	..	9	..	0
Serbia	9	78	10	55
Seychelles	..	2	10	9
Sierra Leone	..	1	..	1
Singapore	9,287	4,501	10,077	4,114
Slovakia	3	154	14	167
Slovenia (c)	..	224	..	193
South Africa	5,559	595	6,256	671
Spain	80	4,182	265	3,952
Sri Lanka	176	27	221	52
Sudan	..	1	..	3
Sweden	46	11,169	62	12,739
Switzerland	83	22,170	69	24,978
Syrian Arab Republic	16	18	23	3
Tajikistan	..	0	..	3
Thailand	6,936	438	7,148	396
Togo (d)	..	0	..	0
Trinidad and Tobago	87	3	131	0
Tunisia	211	12	192	29
Türkiye	378	1,304	371	1,438
Turkmenistan	..	0	..	0
Uganda	..	1	3	1
Ukraine	1,404	69	1,721	61
United Arab Emirates	3,063	384	3,083	299
United Kingdom	2,473	21,522	2,901	22,809
United Republic of Tanzania	..	0	..	0
United States of America	108,187	178,256	109,851	190,324
Uruguay	n.a.	47	n.a.	11
Uzbekistan	224	0	227	0
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	n.a.	0	n.a.	2
Viet Nam	7,375	43	6,418	18
Zambia	12	0	9	0
Zimbabwe	1	1	..	1
Others	1,486	6,080	1,455	5,829
Total	**645,100**	**645,100**	**669,700**	**669,700**

Note: World totals are WIPO estimates. Offices of destination are designated and/or elected offices.
(a) The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization is the competent designated or elected office.
(b) The Office of Switzerland is the competent designated or elected office.
(c) The European Patent Office is the competent designated or elected office.
(d) The African Intellectual Property Organization is the competent designated or elected office.
.. indicates data unknown.
n.a. indicates not applicable.
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

C. Statistics on the performance of the PCT System

Highlights

The International Bureau

In addition to its role as a receiving office (RO), the International Bureau (IB) of WIPO is responsible for functions relating to the international phase of the PCT System, including examining formalities, translating parts of PCT applications and patentability reports, and publishing PCT applications.

PCT applications published in Chinese and English represented, combined, two-thirds of the 2025 total

In 2025, PCT applications published in English accounted for 42.6% of the total, followed by Chinese at 24.2% and Japanese at 17.4% (figure C1). The remaining seven languages together made up 15.9% of the total. Over the past 15 years, the share of applications published in Chinese has risen sharply – from 6.8% in 2011 to 24.2% in 2025 – while the share published in English declined from 54.3% to 42.6% over the same period.

Only a marginal proportion of PCT applications were filed on paper in 2025

Applicants filed 99.4% of PCT applications electronically in 2025, with the remaining 0.6% submitted on paper (figure C2). Since electronic filing first became available, its use has steadily increased. In 2015, PCT applications filed electronically accounted for 93.7% of the total.

The ePCT-filing service was used for nearly 45% of PCT applications filed in 2025

In 2025, 122,705 PCT applications were filed using ePCT, the online service for filing and managing PCT applications (figure C3). This marked a 7% increase on the previous year and accounted for 44.5% of all PCT applications filed in 2025. Applicants from the US used ePCT the most, with 38,787 applications, followed by those from the Republic of Korea (24,981), Germany (8,771), France (5,536) and Switzerland (4,060) (figure C4). Among the top 10 origins filing the highest number of PCT application via ePCT, Germany (+42.2%), the UK (+34.3%) and Sweden (+16.4%) saw the sharpest increases compared to 2024.

The International Bureau examined over 81% of PCT applications within one week of receipt

In 2025, the IB performed the PCT-required formalities examination for 81.3% of PCT applications within one week of receipt and for 95.6% within two weeks (figure C5). These were the second largest proportions recorded over the past 10 years. By comparison, in 2011 only 53.6% of PCT applications had the formalities examination completed within two weeks.

Nearly 78% of publications occurred within one week after the expiration of the 18-month period from the priority date, and almost all (99.6%) were published within two weeks of that deadline (figure C6). When an international search report (ISR) is unavailable at publication, the application is republished together with the ISR once it

becomes available. In 2025, 96.6% of PCT applications were republished within two months of receipt of the ISR, the highest share during the past decade (figure C7).

The receiving offices

A PCT application is filed with a RO, which can be a national or regional patent office or the IB. ROs are responsible for receiving PCT applications, examining compliance with PCT formality requirements, receiving payment of fees and transmitting copies of an application for further processing to the IB and the appropriate International Searching Authority (ISA).

Eighteen of the top 20 receiving offices received more than 90% of PCT applications electronically in 2025

Of the top 20 ROs, six received all PCT applications electronically in 2025 (figure C12). At 13 of the top 20 offices, electronic filings accounted for more than 99% of PCT applications. By contrast, the Russian Federation (42.2%), France (16.3%) and Germany (6.9%) recorded relatively high shares of PCT applications filed on paper.

On average, receiving offices transmitted PCT applications to the International Bureau within 2.7 weeks

In 2025, ROs transmitted PCT applications to the IB within an average of 2.7 weeks after the international filing date (figure C14). Finland, Israel and the Republic of Korea transmitted all applications to the IB within four weeks of filing (figure C15). Among the top 20 ROs, 15 transmitted more than 90% of PCT applications within four weeks of filing.

The share of PCT applications transmitted by ROs to ISAs within four weeks differed slightly from the share transmitted to the IB (figure C16). This exceeded 80% for 11 of the top 20 ROs and was above 50% for 16 of them.

The International Searching Authorities

Each PCT application must undergo an international search by an ISA. Once an ISA has performed a search, the applicant receives an ISR containing a list of documents relevant to assessing the invention's patentability. The ISA also establishes a written opinion, providing a detailed analysis of the potential patentability of the invention in view of the documents found during the search.

The office of Singapore issued nearly 30% more ISRs in 2025 than in the preceding year

In 2025, about 264,000 ISRs were issued. The EPO issued 81,819 ISRs and the office of China issued 69,143 (figure C17). Together, these two ISAs accounted for 57.2% of all ISRs issued. Among the top 10 ISAs, Singapore (+29.8%), India (+15.1%) and China (+6%) recorded the fastest growth, whereas the US (–18.1%), the EPO (–2.5%), Japan (–1.7%) and Türkiye (–1.7%) saw the steepest declines.

In 2025, 87.7% of ISRs required to be transmitted to the IB within three months of receipt of the application were transmitted within that deadline (figure C20). Seventeen ISAs transmitted more than 90% of such ISRs within this three-month timeframe. For ISRs required to be transmitted within nine months of the priority date, 98.1% met the deadline in 2025 (figure C21). Eleven ISAs transmitted all such ISRs within nine months, and 21 transmitted more than 90% within the required timeframe.

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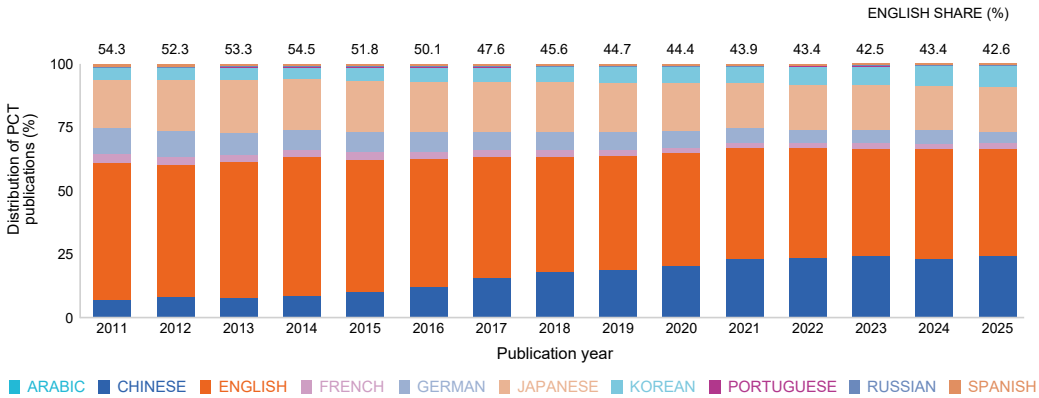
PCT applications by publication language and filing medium

Chinese and English, combined, accounted for two-thirds of PCT applications published in 2025.

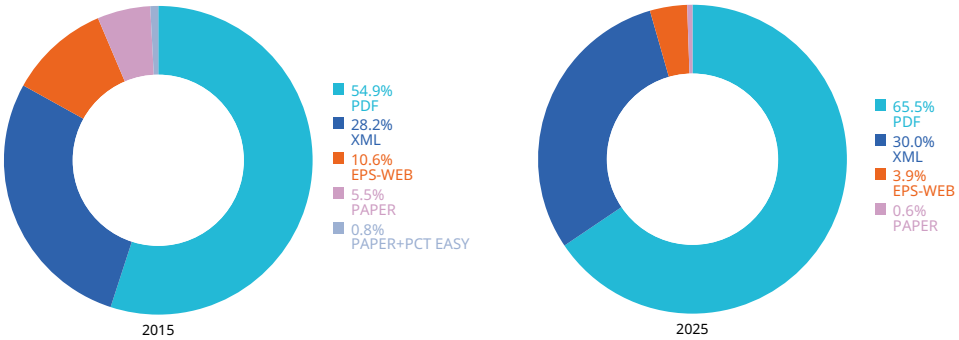
C1. Distribution of PCT applications by language of publication, 2011–2025



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

PCT applications filed electronically accounted for 99.4% of the 2025 total.

C2. Distribution of PCT applications by filing medium, 2015 and 2025



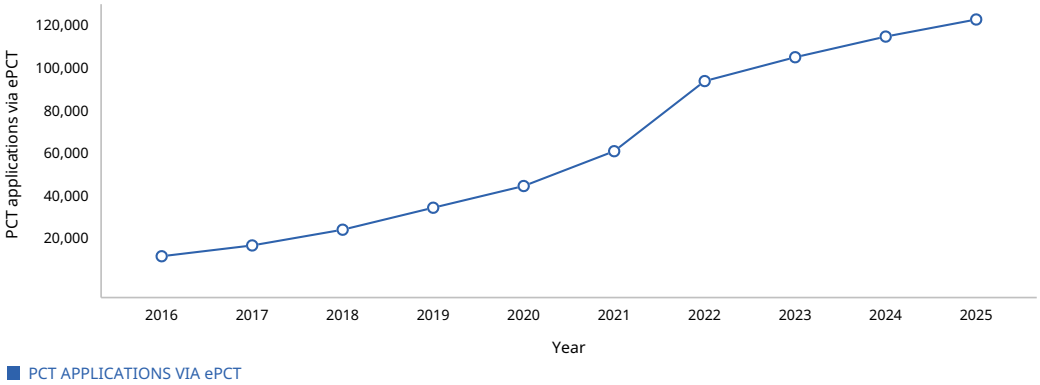
Note: PDF, EFS-WEB and XML are the three fully electronic filing mediums. Since July 2015, PCT applications can no longer be filed using PCT-EASY.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

PCT applications filed using ePCT

About 122,700 PCT applications were filed using ePCT in 2025.

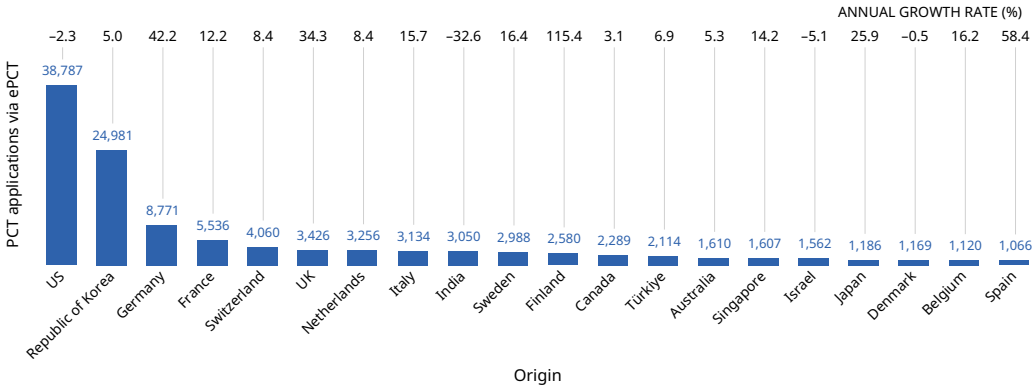
C3. Trend in PCT applications filed using ePCT, 2016–2025



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

In 2025, applicants from Germany, Finland and Spain sharply increased the use of ePCT to file PCT applications.

C4. PCT applications filed using ePCT for the top 20 origins, 2025

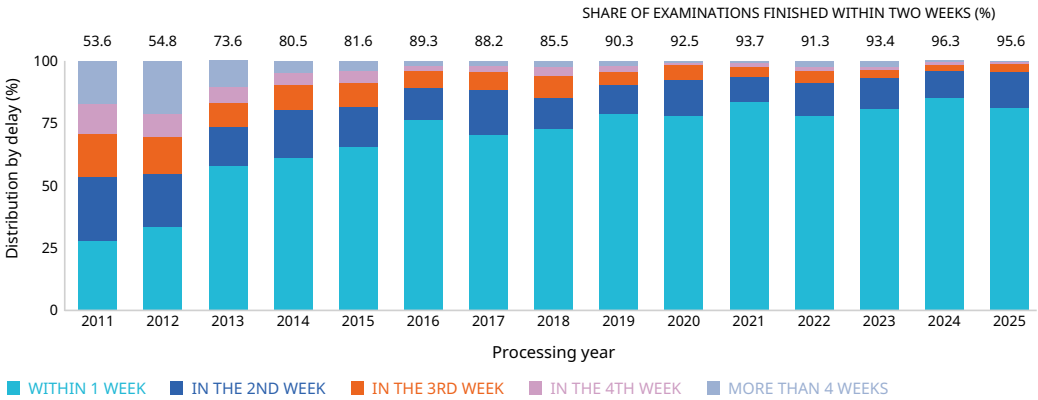


Note: Netherlands is the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Timeliness in processing PCT applications by the International Bureau

In 2025, the International Bureau examined almost 96% of PCT applications within two weeks of receipt.

C5. Timeliness of formalities examination, 2011–2025

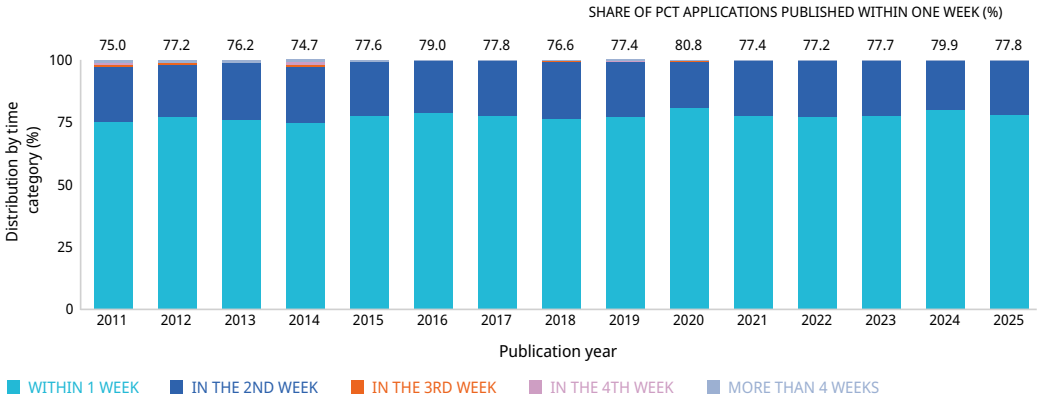


Note: The International Bureau (IB) performs a formality examination of PCT applications and related documents promptly upon receipt. Once the formality examination of a PCT application is completed, the IB sends a form to the applicant acknowledging receipt of the application. Timeliness is calculated as the time between the date of receipt of the record copy of the PCT application and the date of issuance of form PCT/IB/301.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Almost 78% of PCT applications were published within one week of expiration of the 18-month limit in 2025.

C6. Timeliness in publishing PCT applications, 2011–2025

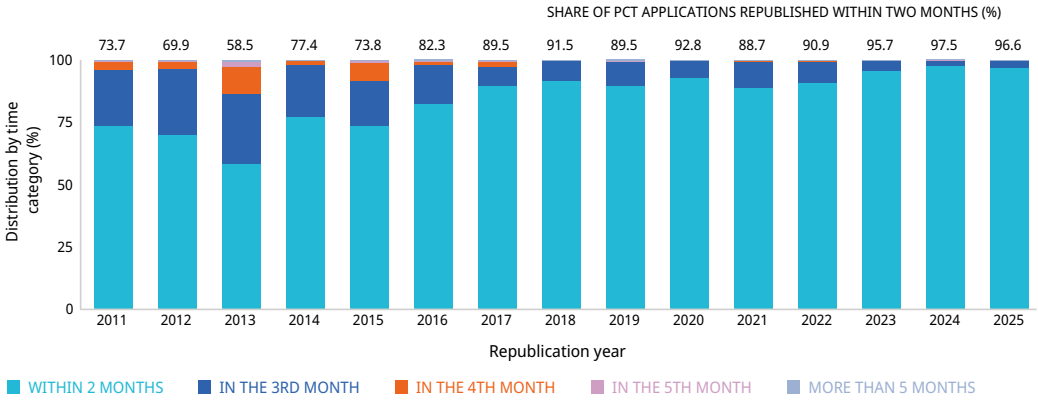


Note: PCT applications and related documents are to be published "promptly" after the expiration of 18 months from the priority date, unless the applicant requests early publication, or the application is withdrawn or considered withdrawn. Timeliness is calculated as the time between the time limit of 18 months from the priority date and the actual publication date.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

In 2025, almost 97% of republications occurred within two months of receipt of an ISR.

C7. Timeliness in republishing PCT applications with international search reports, 2011–2025



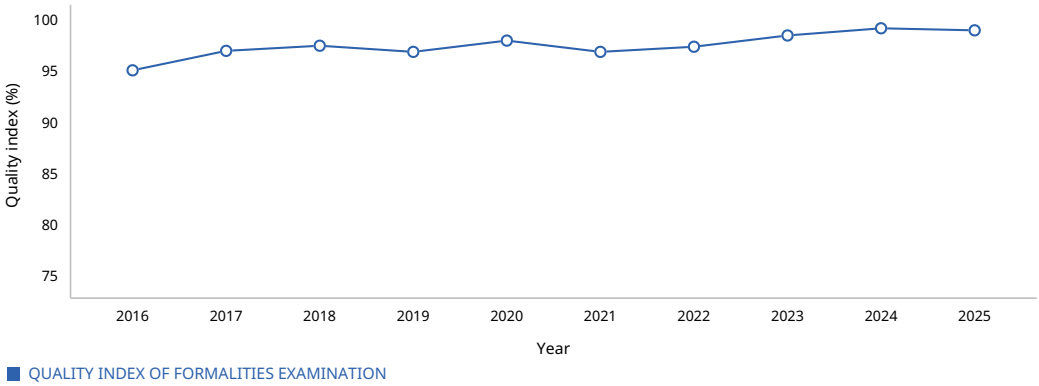
Note: The International Bureau (IB) is required to publish applications even in the absence of an international search report (ISR). In such cases, the application is republished along with an ISR once the report is received. Timeliness is calculated as the time that has elapsed between the date of receipt of the ISR at the IB and the date of republication by the IB.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Efficiency in processing PCT applications by the International Bureau

The formalities examination quality index stood at 99% in 2025.

C8. Formalities examination quality index, 2016–2025

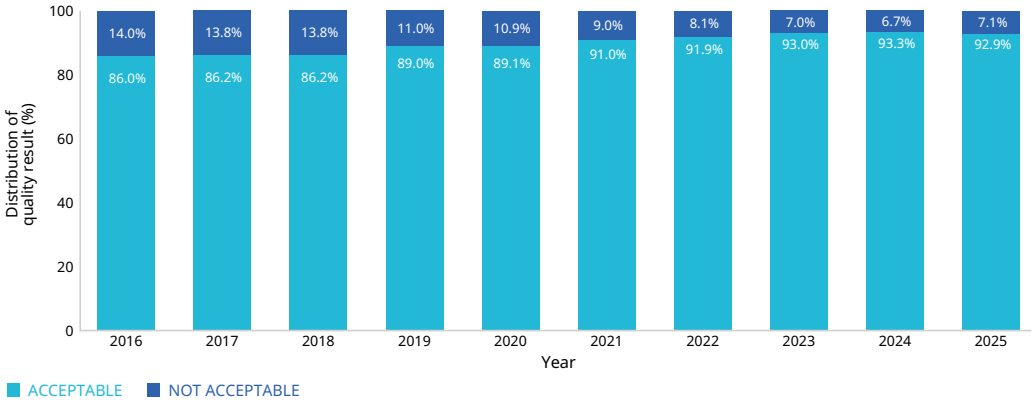


Note: In order to measure the quality of the formalities examination by the International Bureau (IB) in a simple and comprehensive manner, the IB has developed an aggregate quality index, calculated as the average of four lead quality indicators. Three of these indicators are based on the timeliness of key transactions. The quality index is the simple average of: (i) the percentage of PCT/IB/301 forms (notification of receipt of a PCT application) sent within five weeks of the IB receiving a PCT application; (ii) the percentage of PCT applications published within six months and three weeks of the international filing date; (iii) the percentage of republications with an international search report (ISR) within two months of the IB receiving the ISR; and (iv) the PCT Operations quality control error rate.

Source: WIPO, March 2026.

In 2025, the share of IB-provided translations of an acceptable quality was almost 93%.

C9. Translation quality indicator, 2016–2025

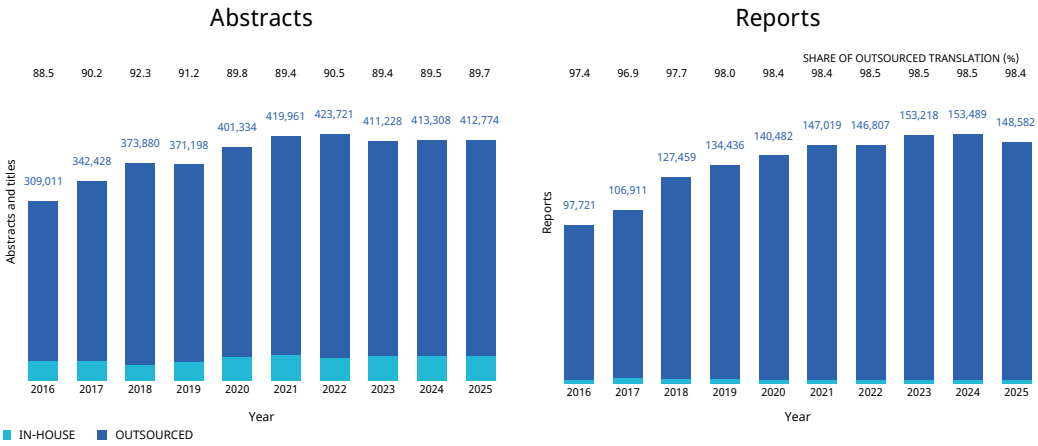


Note: The translation quality indicator shows the average quality of abstracts and reports translated by external suppliers and in-house translators combined, based on the results of regular quality control checks conducted by the IB. This indicator aggregates the results of the quality control performed by the IB across all language combinations and document types.

Source: WIPO, March 2026.

Translations for almost 90% of abstracts and 98% of reports were outsourced in 2025.

C10. Distribution of translation work, 2016–2025

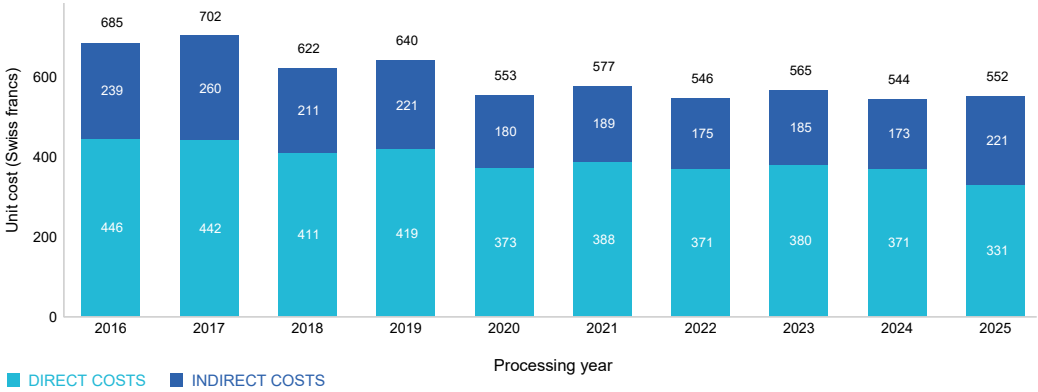


Note: Translations by the International Bureau (IB) are required in accordance with the Treaty and intended to enhance the patent system's disclosure function by making the technological information in PCT applications accessible in languages other than the language in which the original documents were filed. In order to meet this objective, the IB ensures that all titles and abstracts of PCT applications are available in English and French, and that all international search and preliminary examination reports are available in English.

Source: WIPO, March 2026.

The average cost of processing a published PCT application was 552 Swiss francs in 2025.

C11. Unit cost of processing a published PCT application, 2016–2025



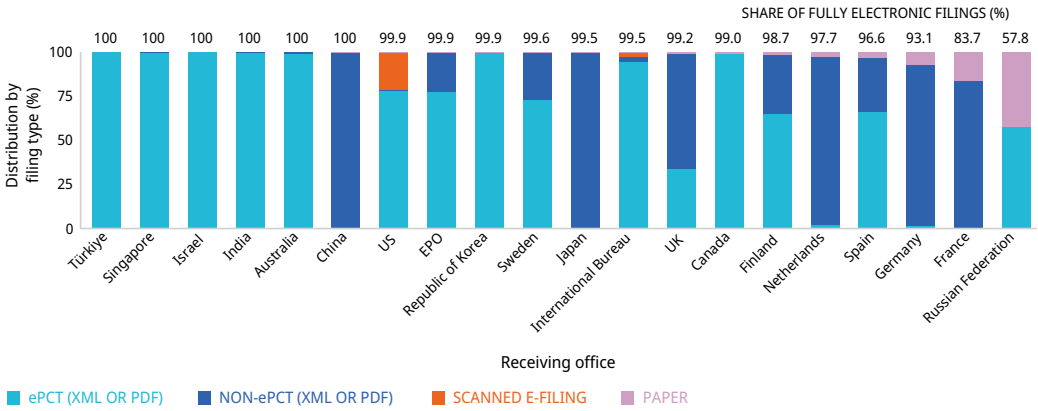
Note: The efficiency of the International Bureau (IB) in processing PCT applications can be measured by the unit cost of processing, defined as the average total cost of publishing a PCT application. Average total cost is determined by total PCT System expenditure, plus a proportion of expenditure on support and management activities. The unit cost includes the cost of all PCT activities, including translation, communication, management, and so on. Costs have direct and indirect components. Direct costs reflect expenditure incurred by the IB in administering the PCT System and related programs. Indirect costs reflect expenditure for support activities, such as buildings and information technology. Indirect costs are weighted in order to take into account only that share attributable to the PCT System. The unit cost is calculated by dividing the total cost of production by the number of PCT applications published.

Source: WIPO, March 2026.

Receiving offices

Electronic filing was the primary method used for PCT applications across all top 20 offices.

C12. Distribution of PCT applications by filing medium, top 20 receiving offices, 2025

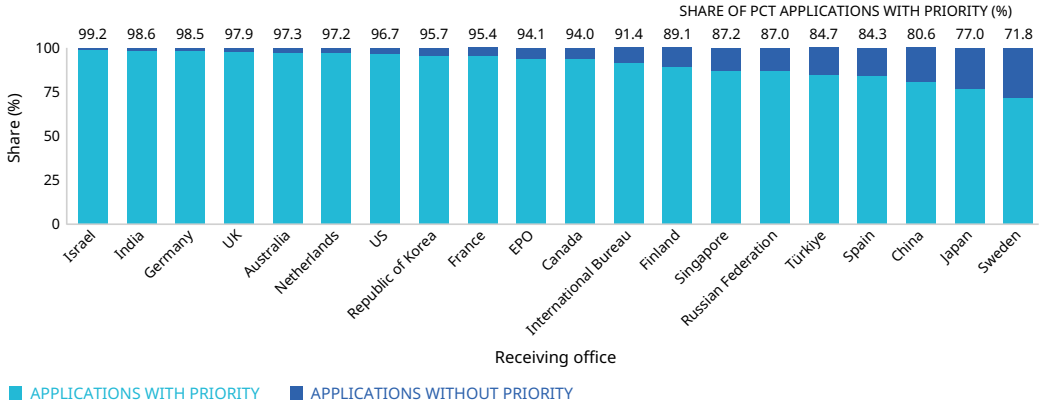


Note: EPO is the European Patent Office and Netherlands is the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Among top 20 offices, Sweden had the highest share of PCT applications without priorities.

C13. Share of PCT applications with priority filings, top 20 receiving offices, 2025

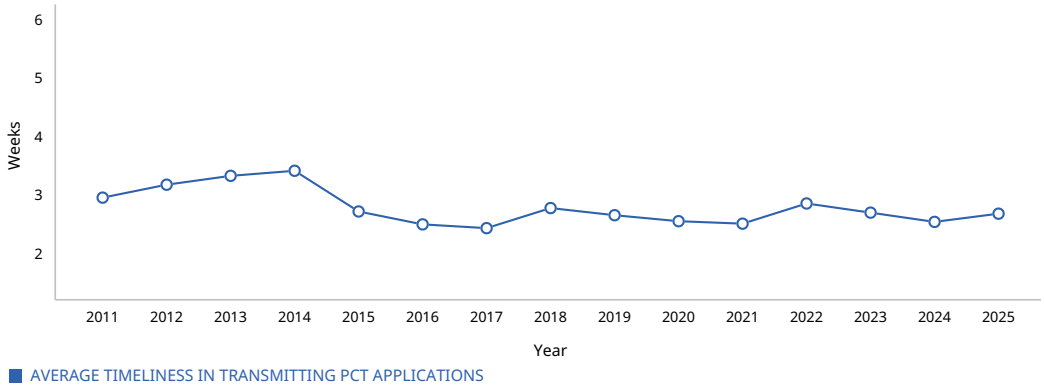


Note: EPO is the European Patent Office and Netherlands is the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

In 2025, receiving offices transmitted PCT applications to the International Bureau in 2.7 weeks on average.

C14. Average timeliness in transmitting PCT applications to the International Bureau, 2011–2025

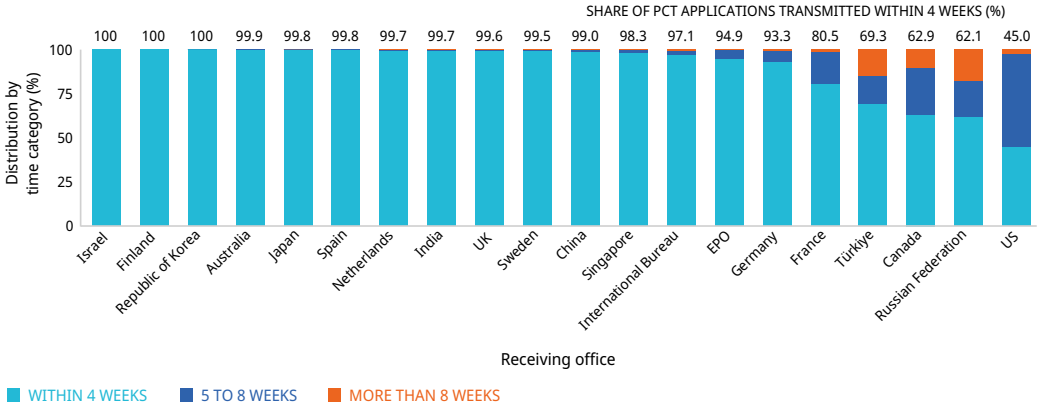


Note: The copy of the PCT application – known as the record copy – sent by the receiving office (RO) must reach the International Bureau (IB) before the expiration of the 13th month from the priority date. PCT applications are usually filed before the expiration of 12 months from the priority date. When this occurs, the IB should receive the application within one month of the international filing date. Timeliness is calculated as the time that has elapsed between the international filing date and the date on which the IB received the PCT application from the RO. Applications transmitted under PCT Rule 19.4 are excluded.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Most of the top 20 receiving offices transmitted at least 99% of PCT applications to the International Bureau within four weeks.

C15. Timeliness in transmitting PCT applications to the International Bureau, top 20 receiving offices, 2025

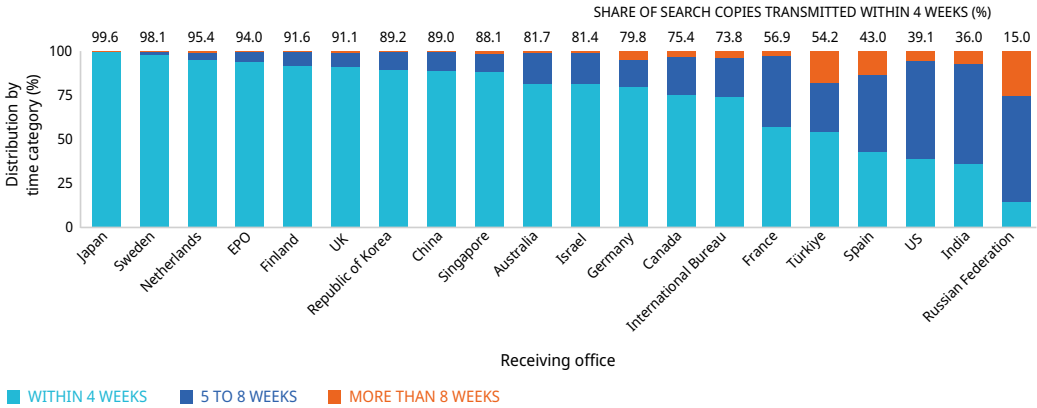


Note: EPO is the European Patent Office and Netherlands is the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The copy of the PCT application – known as the record copy – sent by the RO must reach the IB before expiration of the 13th month from the priority date. PCT applications are usually filed before the expiration of 12 months from the priority date. When this occurs, the IB should receive the application within one month of the international filing date. Timeliness is calculated as the time that has elapsed between the international filing date and the date on which the IB received the PCT application from the RO. Applications transmitted under PCT Rule 19.4 are excluded. Time categories are not linked to legal provisions within the PCT System.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Sixteen of the top 20 receiving offices transmitted most PCT applications to International Searching Authorities within four weeks.

C16. Timeliness in transmitting PCT applications to International Searching Authorities, top 20 receiving offices, 2025



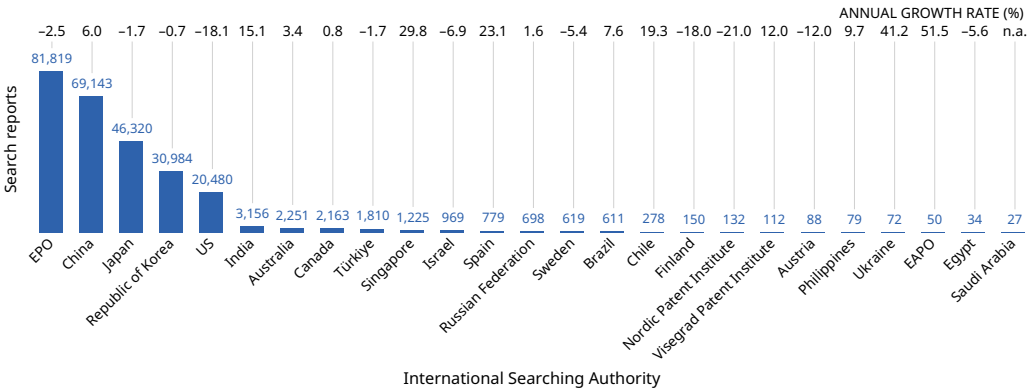
Note: EPO is the European Patent Office and Netherlands is the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Timeliness is calculated as the time that has elapsed between the international filing date and the date on which the International Searching Authority (ISA) received the PCT application – known as the search copy – from the receiving office. Dates of search fee payments are not used, due to the unavailability of data. Applications transmitted under the terms of PCT Rule 19.4 are excluded. Time categories are not linked to legal provisions within the PCT System.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

International Searching Authorities

The office of China saw a 6% increase in international search reports issued in 2025.

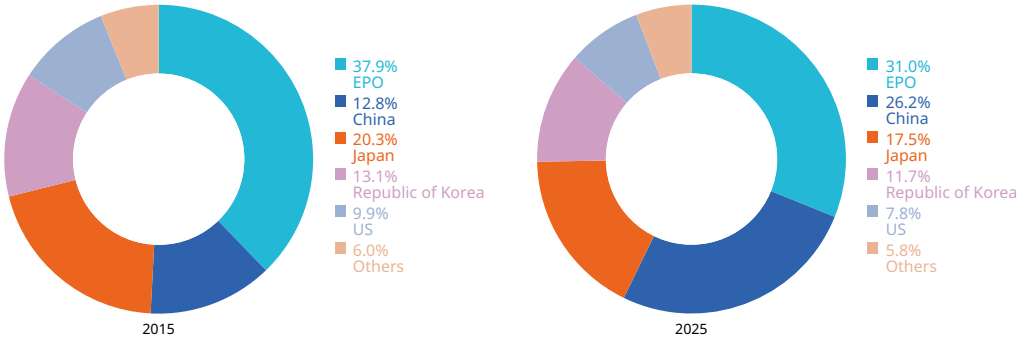
C17. International search reports issued by International Searching Authority, 2025



Note: EAPO is the Eurasian Patent Office and EPO is the European Patent Office.
n.a. indicates not applicable.
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

The share of international search reports issued by the office of China has more than doubled over the past decade.

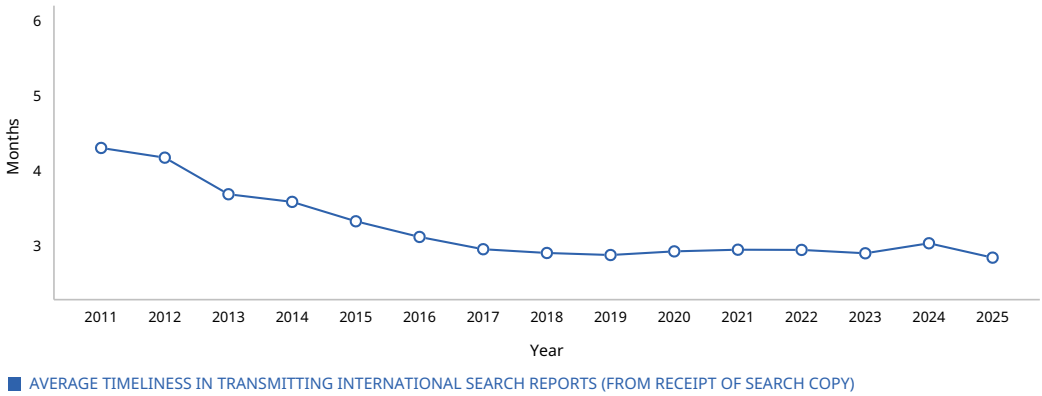
C18. Distribution of international search reports issued by International Searching Authority, 2015 and 2025



Note: EPO is the European Patent Office.
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Since 2016, the average timeliness in transmitting international search reports to the International Bureau has been about three months.

C19. Average timeliness in transmitting international search reports to the International Bureau, measured from the date of receipt of the search copy, 2011–2025

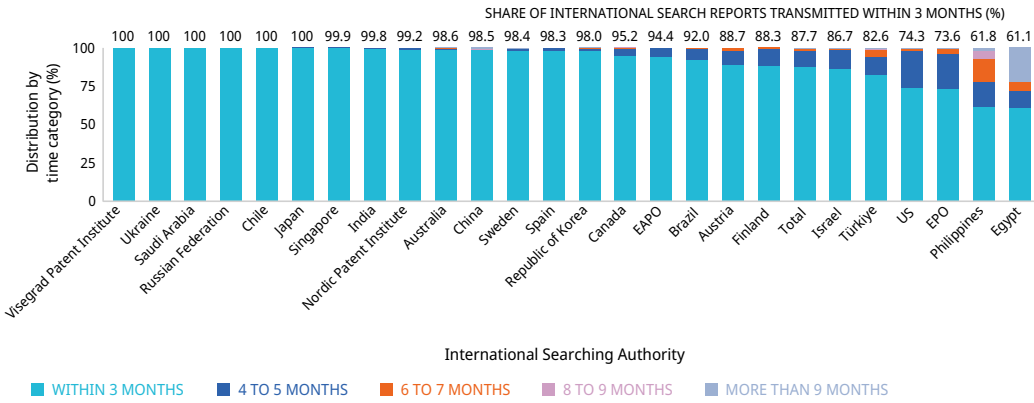


Note: The International Searching Authority (ISA) must establish an international search report (ISR) within three months of receiving a copy of an application – known as the search copy – or nine months from the priority date (or, if no priority is claimed, from the international filing date), whichever expires later. Timeliness is calculated as the time between the date the ISA receives a copy of the PCT application and the date when it transmits the ISR to the International Bureau (or, if applicable, the date of receipt of the declaration under Article 17(2)(a)). This figure shows timeliness in establishing the ISR where the applicable time limit for establishing an ISR under Rule 42 is three months after the date of receipt of the search copy.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

All ISAs met the deadline for transmitting most international search reports to the International Bureau within three months of the date of receipt of the search copy.

C20. Timeliness in transmitting international search reports to the International Bureau, measured from date of receipt of the search copy by International Searching Authority, 2025



Note: EAPO is the Eurasian Patent Office and EPO is the European Patent Office. The International Searching Authority (ISA) must establish an international search report (ISR) within three months of receiving a copy of an application – known as the search copy – or nine months from the priority date (or, if no priority is claimed, from the international filing date), whichever expires later. Timeliness is calculated as the time between the date when the ISA receives a copy of the PCT application and the date when it transmits the ISR to the International Bureau (or, if applicable, the date of receipt of the declaration under Article 17(2)(a)). This figure shows timeliness in establishing an ISR where the applicable time limit for establishing an ISR under Rule 42 is three months from receipt of the search copy. When the date of receipt of the search copy is unknown and the ISA is the same office as the receiving office, we consider the search copy to have been received on the international filing date and calculate the timeliness accordingly.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Eleven International Searching Authorities fully met the deadline to transmit all international search reports to the International Bureau within nine months of the priority date.

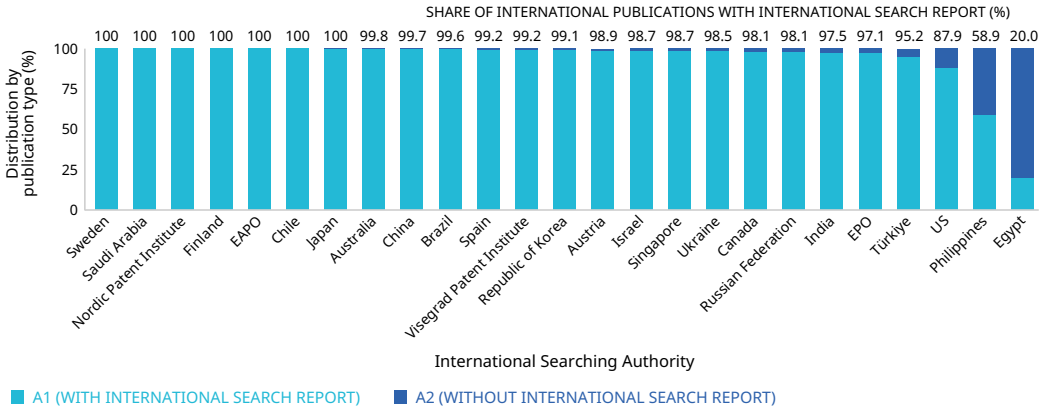
C21. Timeliness in transmitting international search reports to the International Bureau, measured from priority date by International Searching Authority, 2025

Note: EAPO is the Eurasian Patent Office and EPO is the European Patent Office. The International Searching Authority (ISA) must establish an international search report (ISR) within three months of receiving a copy of an application – known as the search copy – or nine months from the priority date (or, if no priority is claimed, from the international filing date), whichever expires later. Timeliness is calculated as the time that has elapsed between the priority date and the date on which the ISA transmits the ISR to the International Bureau (or, if applicable, the date of receipt of the declaration under Article 17(2)(a)) for ISRs where the deadline is nine months from the priority date. This figure shows timeliness in establishing the ISR where the applicable time limit for establishing an ISR under Rule 42 is nine months from the priority date (or international filing date if no priority is claimed). ISRs are excluded when the date of receipt of the search copy is unknown and the ISA is not the same office as the receiving office.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

The International Bureau published more than 90% of PCT applications together with an international search report for 22 International Searching Authorities.

C22. Share of published PCT applications with or without an international search report by International Searching Authority, 2025

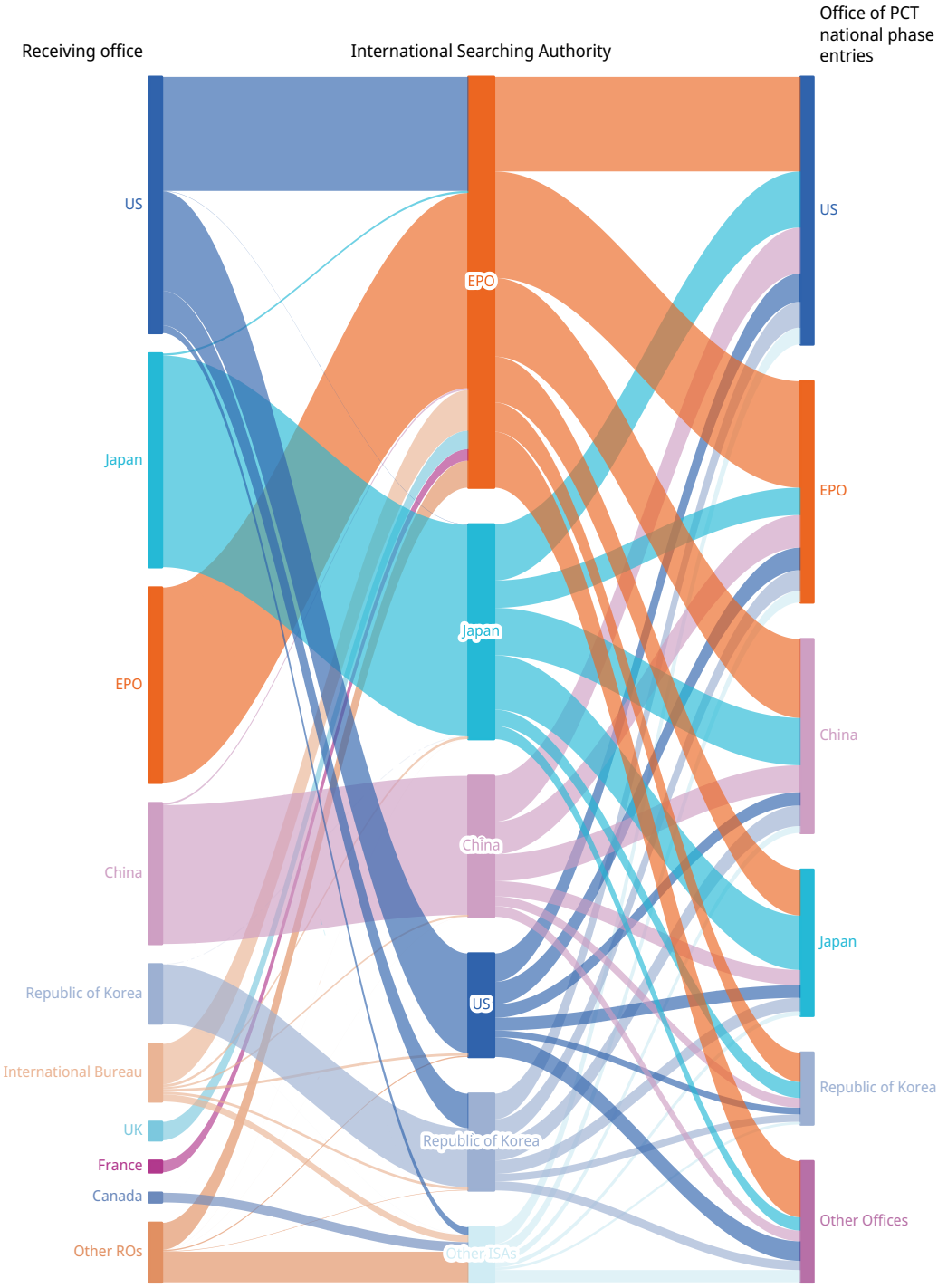


Note: EAPO is the Eurasian Patent Office and EPO is the European Patent Office. A further measure of the performance of an International Searching Authority is the proportion of international search reports transmitted to the IB in time for publication with the PCT application, known as A1 publication.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

A large proportion of PCT applications filed at the office of the US had an international search report produced by the European Patent Office.

C23. Flow of PCT applications transmitted from the top nine receiving offices to the top five International Searching Authorities and the top five offices of PCT national phase entries, 2020–2022



Note: EPO is the European Patent Office. The 2020–2022 period refers to the years of PCT national phase entry and corresponds to the latest available data. National phase entry (NPE) data may be incomplete. This figure shows the flow of PCT applications between selected receiving offices (ROs), International Searching Authorities (ISAs) and offices of NPEs. Data for the offices of NPEs are based on fractional counts of PCT applications. Each RO may specify one or more ISA as competent to act as ISA for PCT applications filed with it.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database and EPO PATSTAT Database, March 2026.

Supplementary International Searching Authorities

The European Patent Office issued 27 of the 35 supplementary international search reports in 2025.

C24. Distribution of supplementary international search reports by Supplementary International Searching Authority, 2023–2025

Supplementary International Searching Authority	Year		
	2023	2024	2025
Austria	3	2	1
European Patent Office	28	22	27
Finland			1
Nordic Patent Institute		1	2
Russian Federation			1
Sweden	1		1
Ukraine		1	1
Visegrad Patent Institute			1
Total	**32**	**26**	**35**

Note: Data for 2025 may be incomplete.
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

International Preliminary Examining Authorities

The number of international preliminary reports on patentability issued by India more than doubled in 2025.

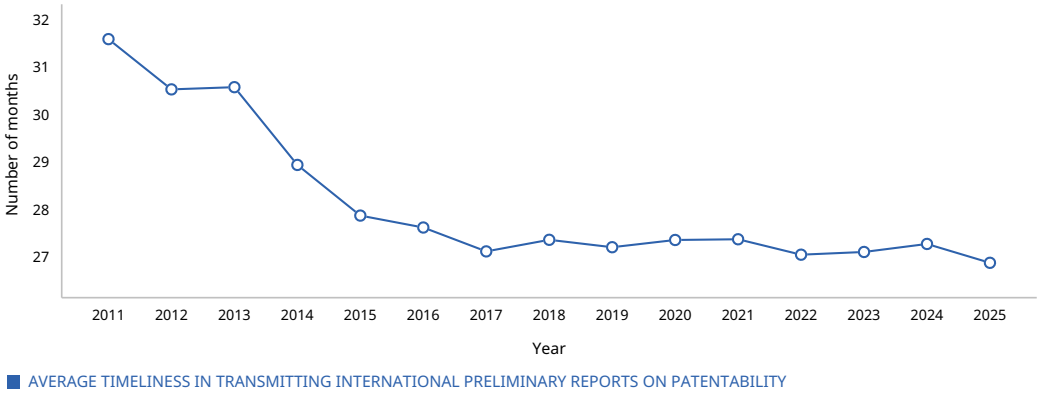
C25. Distribution of international preliminary reports on patentability by International Preliminary Examining Authority, 2023–2025

International Preliminary Examining Authority	Year			2025 share (%)	Change from 2024 (%)
	2023	2024	2025		
Australia	446	330	342	4.6	3.6
Austria	2	3	3	0.0	0.0
Brazil	93	82	91	1.2	11.0
Canada	153	111	115	1.5	3.6
Chile	7	10	11	0.1	10.0
China	254	205	211	2.8	2.9
EAPO	3	2	1	0.0	–50.0
Egypt	8	5	5	0.1	0.0
EPO	4,951	4,655	4,513	60.4	–3.1
Finland	27	16	20	0.3	25.0
India	53	59	136	1.8	130.5
Israel	90	63	51	0.7	–19.0
Japan	1,412	1,381	1,125	15.1	–18.5
Nordic Patent Institute	46	28	18	0.2	–35.7
Philippines		1	1	0.0	0.0
Republic of Korea	114	100	111	1.5	11.0
Russian Federation	29	20	10	0.1	–50.0
Singapore	66	37	54	0.7	45.9
Spain	33	33	46	0.6	39.4
Sweden	62	58	44	0.6	–24.1
Türkiye	34	35	34	0.5	–2.9
Ukraine	2	4	6	0.1	50.0
US	517	1,097	512	6.9	–53.3
Visegrad Patent Institute	1	2	6	0.1	200.0
Total	**8,403**	**8,337**	**7,466**	**100.0**	**–10.4**

Note: EAPO is the Eurasian Patent Office and EPO is the European Patent Office. Data for 2025 may be incomplete.
Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

In 2025, the average timeliness in transmitting international preliminary reports on patentability to the International Bureau was 26.9 months.

C26. Average timeliness in transmitting international preliminary reports on patentability to the International Bureau, 2011–2025

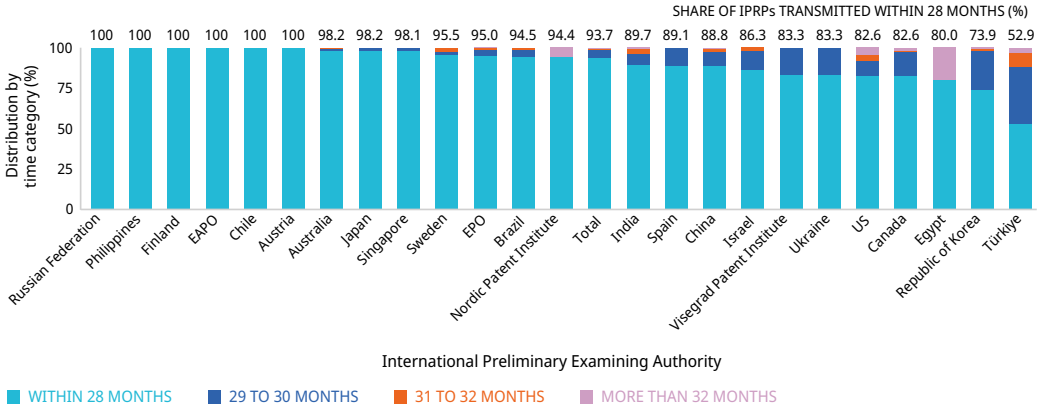


Note: Timeliness is calculated as the time that has elapsed between the priority date and the date on which the International Bureau received an international preliminary report on patentability (IPRP) from an International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA).

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

Six offices transmitted all international preliminary reports on patentability to the International Bureau within 28 months of the priority date.

C27. Timeliness in transmitting international preliminary reports on patentability to the International Bureau by International Preliminary Examining Authority, 2025



Note: EAPO is the Eurasian Patent Office and EPO is the European Patent Office. This figure presents the same timeliness information for 2025 as that presented in figure C26, but breaks it down by International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) and time category. Timeliness is calculated as the time that has elapsed between the priority date and the date when the International Bureau received an international preliminary report on patentability (IPRP) from an IPEA.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2026.

PCT-Patent Prosecution Highway pilots

The US was by far the main office of later examination for PCT-Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) requests in 2025.

C28. Distribution of PCT-PPH requests by office of earlier and later examination, 2025

	Office of earlier examination											
Office of later examination	**EPO**	**Japan**	**US**	**China**	**Republic of Korea**	**Canada**	**Israel**	**Australia**	**Sweden**	**Brazil**	**Others**	**Total**
US	1,346	235	744	887	424	80	39	28	17	1	32	3,833
Japan	423	946	59	120	70	8	3	2	7	0	5	1,643
China	637	216	91	0	85	5	3	0	4	0	13	1,054
Republic of Korea	179	107	54	73	55	5	3	0	1	0	8	485
EPO	0	91	124	124	64	20	5	7	0	1	3	439
Brazil	228	23	50	22	10	7	0	5	5	23	7	380
Canada	154	13	95	18	11	61	2	6	2	1	11	374
Australia	113	16	67	0	8	2	5	0	0	0	7	218
Singapore	65	19	10	32	13	3	2	4	1	0	4	153
Philippines	23	51	54	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	132
Mexico	75	6	14	7	2	3	0	0	0	0	17	124
Israel	45	2	6	5	1	0	17	0	0	0	0	76
Colombia	18	3	30	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	4	60
Russian Federation	17	1	1	17	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	39
Chile	17	2	1	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	1	28
UK	0	8	11	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
EAPO	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
Saudi Arabia	4	1	8	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
New Zealand	0	0	5	0	0	1	0	8	0	0	1	15
Egypt	0	9	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Peru	7	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
Others	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	4
Total	**3,370**	**1,750**	**1,429**	**1,320**	**751**	**199**	**80**	**62**	**39**	**27**	**114**	**9,141**

Note: EPO is the European Patent Office and EAPO is the Eurasian Patent Office. Data for some offices of later examination, such as that of Germany, are unavailable.

Source: WIPO, based on data from the Japan Patent Office, March 2026.

Annexes

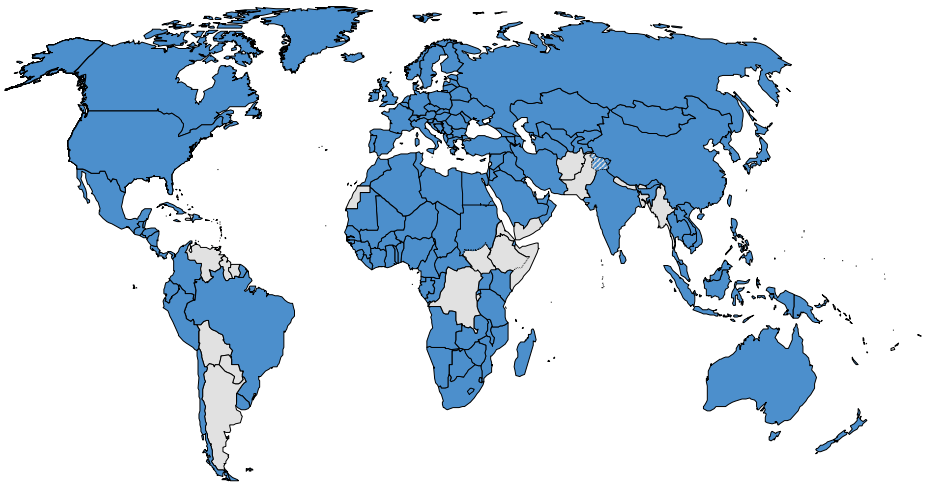
A brief presentation of the Patent Cooperation Treaty

The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) is an international treaty administered by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Since entering into force in 1978, the PCT has served as an alternative to the Paris Convention route for filing patent applications in different countries. The PCT System makes it possible to seek patent protection for an invention simultaneously in multiple countries by filing a single "international" patent application instead of filing several separate national or regional patent applications. When first established, the PCT System comprised 18 members. By the end of 2025, it comprised 158 Contracting States, as shown on the map below. A table listing all PCT Contracting States is provided at the end of this review.

Advantages of the Patent Cooperation Treaty

Applicants and patent offices of Contracting States benefit from uniform formality requirements, international search, supplementary international search and preliminary examination reports, and centralized international publication. Unlike the Paris Convention route, applicants can delay examination procedures at national patent offices, as well as the payment of associated legal fees and translation costs. By deferring national and regional procedures, applicants gain time to make decisions on the potential commercialization of their invention and the markets in which to seek patent protection. The reports produced by the international authorities that applicants receive during the international phase – concerning relevant prior art and the potential patentability of their invention – help them make well-informed decisions.

Contracting States in 2025



Source: WIPO, March 2026.

In addition, the PCT System is intended to reduce unnecessary duplication and support work-sharing between offices. Under the PCT System, an applicant must file a patent application with a receiving office (RO) and have an International Searching Authority (ISA) provide an international search report (ISR) and a written opinion on the potential patentability of the invention in question. The International Bureau (IB) of WIPO then publishes the application on PATENTSCOPE, its online database. Following receipt of the ISR and the written opinion, the applicant can choose to request a supplementary international search (SIS) be undertaken by a Supplementary International Searching Authority (SISA), have an international preliminary examination (IPE) of the application undertaken by an International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA), or take no further action. Under the PCT, an applicant generally has a minimum of 30 months from the earliest filing (priority) date to decide whether to enter the national phase and before which of the patent offices of, or acting for, the PCT member countries the applicant would like to continue to seek patent protection.

International phase

The international phase usually continues for a period of 18 months from the international filing date and mainly involves the filing and formal examination of the application, international search, international publication, optional SIS and optional IPE.

Filing applications

Typically, applicants seeking protection for an invention in more than one country first file a national or regional patent application at their national or regional patent office. Within 12 months of the filing date of that first application (a time limit set by the Paris Convention), applicants must file an international application under the PCT with an RO – the respective national or regional patent office, or the IB – thereby beginning the international phase. Only a national or resident of a PCT Contracting State can file a PCT application. Where several applicants are named in a PCT application, only one needs to comply with this requirement. Because the application has legal effect in all Contracting States, applicants can effectively postpone the requirement to pay certain substantial fees and costs, such as that of translating the application into national languages.

The RO transmits a copy of the application to the IB, which is responsible for:

- receiving and storing all application documents;
- performing a second formality examination;
- translating the title and abstract of the application and certain associated documents into English and/or French, where necessary;
- publishing the application and related documents on PATENTSCOPE; and
- communicating documents to offices and third parties.

International search

Applications are subjected to an international search carried out by an ISA to identify the prior art relevant to the patentability of the invention in question, establish an ISR and provide a written opinion on the invention's potential patentability. The opinion thus provided can assist an applicant in deciding whether to continue seeking protection for their invention. If the written opinion is unfavorable, an applicant can choose to amend the application in order to improve the probability of obtaining a patent, or withdraw the application before international publication and before incurring additional costs, or else do nothing.

Supplementary international search

The SIS service affords applicants the option of requesting additional searches be undertaken by ISAs other than the one that carried out the initial search. This service aims to give applicants the option of obtaining a more comprehensive overview of the prior art in the international phase, by having an additional search performed in an ISA's specialty language. Applicants can request a SIS report by a SISA up to 22 months from the filing (priority) date.

International preliminary examination

After receiving an ISA's written opinion, applicants can request an optional IPE – a second evaluation of the invention's patentability – to be carried out by an IPEA, usually on an amended version of the application (all ISAs are also IPEAs). The resultant international preliminary report on patentability (IPRP) can further assist an applicant in determining whether to enter the national phase and contains useful information for elected offices in the national phase.

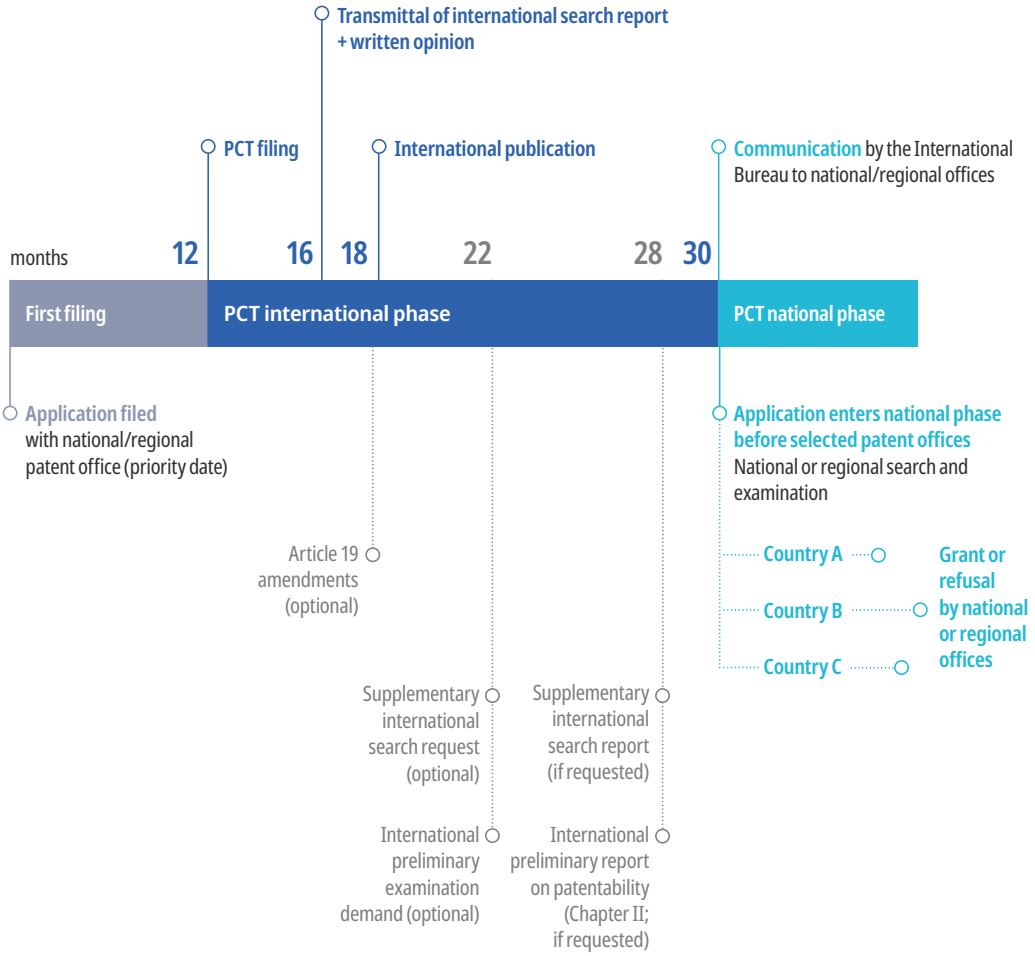
National phase

Applicants have at least 18 months from the international filing date before an application needs to enter the national phase at individual patent offices. This delay affords additional time – compared to that allowed under the Paris Convention – to evaluate the chances of obtaining a patent and plan how to use the invention commercially in those countries in which protection is sought. In the national phase, certain PCT protections continue to apply. During this phase, the particular patent office processes the application in accordance with its national patent laws and decides whether to grant patent protection. The time required for processing varies between patent offices.

Patent Prosecution Highway

PCT-Patent Prosecution Highway (PCT-PPH) pilots are bilateral agreements between patent offices enabling applicants to request the accelerated processing of national phase applications. Under such agreements, an applicant receiving a written opinion or an IPRP indicating that at least one claim in the PCT application has novelty, an inventive step or industrial applicability may request that other participating patent offices take up the processing of the application out of turn. An applicant may request the PCT-PPH procedure when entering the national phase of the PCT in a participating designated state. The advantage for PCT applicants is that patent applications are processed faster and more efficiently by designated (or elected) offices. Participating offices also benefit from having a reduced examination workload, as well as additional knowledge sharing.

Overview of the PCT System



Benefits

- One PCT application with legal effect in all PCT Contracting States
- Harmonized formal requirements
- Receive patentability information to support strategic decision-making
- Postpone significant costs for national processing by 18 months

Source: WIPO, March 2026.

For more information on the PCT, please visit www.wipo.int/pct.

Data description

Data presented in this review were drawn from the WIPO Statistics Database. Due to a delay in transmitting PCT applications to WIPO, the figures for the international phase of the PCT for 2025 are estimates.

Publication of PCT applications usually takes place every Thursday. The years 2014 and 2020 each had 53 Thursdays instead of the 52 in other years, which slightly affects trends in statistics based on published PCT applications.

For the national phase of the PCT System, statistics are based on data supplied to WIPO by national and regional patent offices – data which WIPO may receive six months or more after the end of the year in question. Therefore, the latest year for which data are available is 2024. Data may be missing for some offices and incomplete for some origins. Data are available for most, if not all, of the larger patent offices. With the 2024 data supplied to WIPO corresponding to 99.8% of the world total, only a very small proportion of the total is estimated. Missing data are usually estimated using linear extrapolation and averaging adjacent data points.

In 2024, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) changed its methodology for extracting PCT national phase entry (NPE) data by removing requests for continued examination (RCE). In 2025, it revised its NPE data for the period 2000–2024.

Income groups correspond to those used by the World Bank and groupings by region are based on the United Nations (UN) definition of regions.

The figures cited in this review are subject to revision. Regular updates are available at the WIPO IP Statistics Data Center and Statistical Country Profiles at: www.wipo.int/web/ip-statistics.

Acronyms

ARIPO	African Regional Intellectual Property Organization
CNIPA	China National Intellectual Property Administration
EAPO	Eurasian Patent Organization
EPO	European Patent Office
EFS-WEB	electronic filing system, web based
GPPH	Global Patent Prosecution Highway
IB	International Bureau of WIPO
IP	intellectual property
IPC	International Patent Classification
IPE	international preliminary examination
IPEA	International Preliminary Examining Authority
IPRP	international preliminary report on patentability
ISA	International Searching Authority
ISR	international search report
JPO	Japan Patent Office
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
MOIP	Ministry of Intellectual Property (Republic of Korea)
NPE	national phase entry
OAPI	African Intellectual Property Organization
PCT	Patent Cooperation Treaty
PCT-EASY	Patent Cooperation Treaty – electronic application system
PCT-PPH	Patent Cooperation Treaty-Patent Prosecution Highway
PDF	portable document format
PRO	public research organization
RO	receiving office
SIS	supplementary international search
SISA	Supplementary International Searching Authority (authority specified for supplementary search)
SISR	supplementary international search report
UK	United Kingdom
US	United States of America
USPTO	United States Patent and Trademark Office
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
XML	extensible markup language

Glossary

Applicant: An individual or legal entity that files a patent application. There may be more than one applicant named in an application. For PCT statistics, the place of residence of the first named applicant is used to determine the origin of a PCT application.

Application: The procedure for requesting IP rights at a patent office which then examines the application and decides whether to grant protection. Also refers to a set of documents submitted to an office by an applicant.

Authority specified for supplementary international search (SISA): An International Searching Authority (ISA) that provides a supplementary international search service – also known as a Supplementary International Searching Authority (SISA).

Chapter I of the PCT: The provisions in the PCT regulating the filing of PCT applications, the international searches and written opinions of ISAs, and the international publication of PCT applications – and which provide for the communication of PCT applications plus related documents to designated offices.

Chapter II of the PCT: The provisions in the PCT regulating the optional international preliminary examination (IPE) procedure.

Designated office: A national or regional office of, or acting for, a state designated in a PCT application under Chapter I of the PCT.

Designated state: A Contracting State in which protection for an invention is sought, as specified in the PCT application.

Elected office: The national or regional office of, or acting for, a state elected by an applicant under Chapter II of the PCT where the applicant intends to use the results of the international preliminary examination.

Filing abroad: For statistical purposes, an application filed by a resident of a given state or jurisdiction at an IP office of another state or jurisdiction. For example, an application filed at the Japan Patent Office (JPO) by an applicant domiciled in Lithuania is considered an application abroad from the perspective of Lithuania. This differs from a "non-resident application," which describes an application filed by a resident of a foreign state or jurisdiction from the perspective of the office receiving the application; so, the example above would be a non-resident application from the point of view of the JPO.

Foreign-oriented patent families: A patent family is a set of interrelated patent applications filed at one or more offices to protect the same invention. Patent applications within a family are interlinked by one or more of the following: priority claim, PCT national phase entry, continuation, continuation-in-part, internal priority, and addition or division. Foreign-oriented patent families have at least one filing at an office other than the applicant's home office.

Global Patent Prosecution Highway (GPPH): The GPPH pilot is a single, multilateral agreement between a group of offices. It allows applicants to make a request for accelerated processing at any participating office, based on work products from any of the other participating offices (including PCT reports), using a single set of qualifying requirements.

International application: See "PCT application."

International authority: A national or regional patent office or intergovernmental organization that undertakes specific functions, as prescribed by the PCT.

International Bureau (IB) of WIPO: In the context of the PCT, the IB of WIPO handles certain processing tasks for all PCT applications filed at receiving offices worldwide. It also acts as a receiving office for all PCT applications from Contracting States.

International filing date: The date on which a receiving office receives a PCT application, and confirms that certain formal requirements have been met.

International Patent Classification (IPC): An internationally recognized patent classification system, the IPC has a hierarchical structure of language-independent symbols and is divided into sections, classes, subclasses and groups. IPC symbols are assigned according to the technical features in a patent application. A patent application that relates to multiple technical features can be assigned several IPC symbols.

International phase of the PCT: The international phase consists of five main stages:

1. filing of a PCT application by an applicant and its processing by the receiving office;
2. establishment of an ISR and a written opinion by an ISA;
3. publication of the PCT application and related documents;
4. optional establishment of an SISR by a SISA; and
5. optional establishment of an IPRP by an IPEA.

For further details on the international phase, see annex, A brief presentation of the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA): A national or regional patent office or intergovernmental organization appointed by the PCT Assembly to carry out international preliminary examinations (IPEs). Its task is to establish the IPRP (Chapter II of the PCT).

International preliminary report on patentability (Chapter II of the PCT) (IPRP): A preliminary, nonbinding opinion established by an IPEA at the request of an applicant as to whether a claimed invention appears to be novel, involve an inventive step (i.e., is non-obvious) and be industrially applicable. Prior to January 1, 2004, this report was known as the "International Preliminary Examination Report."

International search report (ISR): A report established by an ISA containing citations of documents (prior art) considered relevant for determining in particular the novelty and inventive step of an invention as claimed. The ISR also includes a classification of the subject matter of an invention and an indication of the fields searched, as well as any electronic databases searched.

International Searching Authority (ISA): A national patent office or intergovernmental organization appointed by the PCT Assembly to carry out international searches. ISAs establish ISRs and written opinions on PCT applications.

Invention: A new solution to a technical problem. To obtain patent rights, an invention must be novel, involve an inventive step and be industrially applicable, as judged by a person skilled in the art.

National phase entry (NPE): The national phase under the PCT follows the international phase of the PCT procedure and consists of the entry and processing of an international application in those individual countries or regions in which the applicant seeks protection for an invention. An entry must in general take place within 30 months from the priority date of the application, although longer time periods are afforded by some offices. NPE involves the payment of fees and, where necessary, the submission of a translation of the PCT application.

Non-resident application: For statistical purposes, a "non-resident" application refers to an application filed at the IP office of, or acting for, a state or jurisdiction in which the first named applicant in an application is not domiciled. For example, an application filed at the Japan Patent Office (JPO) by an applicant residing in Senegal is considered a non-resident application from the perspective of the JPO. Non-resident applications are sometimes referred to as foreign applications.

Origin: For statistical purposes, the origin of an application means the country or territory of residence (or nationality, in the absence of a valid residence) of the first named applicant in an application.

Paris Convention: The Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property is an international convention signed in Paris (France) on March 20, 1883. It is one of the first and most important intellectual property treaties. The Paris Convention establishes, among other things, the "right of priority" principle, which enables a patent applicant to claim a priority of up to 12 months when filing an application in countries other than the original country of filing.

Paris route: Applications for patent protection filed directly with the national/regional office of, or acting for, the relevant state or jurisdiction in accordance with the Paris Convention (as opposed to the "national phase under the PCT"). The Paris route is also called the "direct route" or "national route."

Patent: An exclusive right granted by law to an applicant for an invention for a limited period of time (generally 20 years from the date of filing). The patent system is designed to encourage innovation by providing innovators with time-limited exclusive legal rights, enabling them to appropriate returns from their innovative activity. In return, the applicant is obliged to disclose the invention to the public in a manner that enables others skilled in the art to replicate it. The patent system is also designed to balance the interests of applicants (exclusive rights) with the interests of society (disclosure of the invention). Patents are granted by national or regional patent offices and limited to the jurisdiction of the issuing authority. Patent rights can be sought by filing an application directly with the relevant national or regional office(s), or by filing a PCT application.

Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT): An international treaty administered by WIPO, the PCT allows applicants to seek patent protection for an invention simultaneously in a large number of countries (PCT Contracting States) by filing a single PCT international application. The decision as to the granting of a patent, which remains under the control of a national or regional patent office, takes place during what is called the "national phase."

PATENTSCOPE: Provides access, free of charge, to all published PCT applications along with related documents, and to the national or regional patent collections from numerous offices worldwide. Since April 2006, the PATENTSCOPE search system has been the official publication source for PCT applications.

PCT application: A patent application filed through the WIPO-administered PCT, also known as an international application.

PCT route: The procedure outlined in the PCT, as opposed to the Paris route.

PCT System: The PCT, an international treaty administered by WIPO, facilitates the seeking of patent rights in a large number of jurisdictions. The PCT System simplifies the process of multiple national patent filings by making it unnecessary to file a separate application in each jurisdiction within the 12-month period under the Paris Convention. However, the decision on whether to grant patent rights remains the prerogative of national and regional patent offices, and patent rights remain limited to the jurisdiction of the patent-granting authority. The PCT application process starts with the international phase, during which an international search and, possibly, a preliminary examination are performed, and concludes with the national phase, during which a national or regional patent office decides on the patentability of an invention according to national law.

PCT-Patent Prosecution Highway pilots (PCT-PPH): A number of bilateral agreements signed between patent offices that enable applicants to request an accelerated examination procedure, because of positive patentability findings made by the International Searching and/or International Preliminary Examining Authority, in the written opinion of an International Searching Authority, the written opinion of an International Preliminary Examining Authority or the international preliminary report on patentability.

Prior art: All information disclosed to the public about an invention, in any form, before a given date. Information on prior art can assist in determining whether a claimed invention is new and involves an inventive step (i.e., is non-obvious) for the purposes of international searches and international preliminary examination (IPE).

Priority date: The filing date of an application on the basis of which priority is claimed.

Publication of PCT application: The IB publishes a PCT application and related documents promptly after the expiration of 18 months from the priority date. If a PCT application is withdrawn or considered withdrawn before the technical preparations for publication are completed, the application is not published. An applicant can request early publication of a PCT application.

Receiving office (RO): A patent office – or the IB – at which a PCT application is filed. The role of the RO is to check and process an application in accordance with the regulations governing the PCT.

Resident application: For statistical purposes, a resident application refers to an application filed with the IP office of, or acting for, the state or jurisdiction in which the first named applicant in the application has residence. For example, an application filed with the Japan Patent Office (JPO) by a resident of Japan is considered a resident application by the JPO. Resident applications are sometimes referred to as "domestic applications."

Supplementary international search report (SISR): A report, similar to the ISR, established during the supplementary international search, that allows an applicant to request, in addition to the main international search, one or more supplementary international searches, each to be carried out by an international authority other than the ISA conducting the main international search. The SISR primarily focuses on the patent documentation in the language in which that SISA specializes.

Supplementary International Searching Authority (SISA): See "Authority specified for supplementary international search."

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 intellectual property (IP) system. Established in 1967, WIPO's mandate is to promote the protection of IP globally through cooperation among states and in collaboration with other international organizations.

Written opinion of the ISA (WOSA): For every PCT application filed on or after January 1, 2004, an ISA establishes, at the same time that it establishes the ISR, a preliminary and non-binding written opinion on whether a claimed invention appears to be novel, involve an inventive step and is industrially applicable.

PCT Contracting States

In 2025, the PCT had 158 Contracting States.

Albania	Dominica	Liberia	Saint Lucia
Algeria	Dominican Republic	Libya	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Angola	Ecuador	Liechtenstein	Samoa
Antigua and Barbuda	Egypt	Lithuania	San Marino
Armenia	El Salvador	Luxembourg	Sao Tome and Principe
Australia	Equatorial Guinea	Madagascar	Saudi Arabia
Austria	Estonia	Malawi	Senegal
Azerbaijan	Eswatini	Malaysia	Serbia
Bahrain	Finland	Mali	Seychelles
Barbados	France	Malta	Sierra Leone
Belarus	Gabon	Mauritania	Singapore
Belgium	Gambia	Mauritius	Slovakia
Belize	Georgia	Mexico	Slovenia
Benin	Germany	Monaco	South Africa
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ghana	Mongolia	Spain
Botswana	Greece	Montenegro	Sri Lanka
Brazil	Grenada	Morocco	Sudan
Brunei Darussalam	Guatemala	Mozambique	Sweden
Bulgaria	Guinea	Namibia	Switzerland
Burkina Faso	Guinea-Bissau	Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	Syrian Arab Republic
Cabo Verde	Honduras	New Zealand	Tajikistan
Cambodia	Hungary	Nicaragua	Thailand
Cameroon	Iceland	Niger	Togo
Canada	India	Nigeria	Trinidad and Tobago
Central African Republic	Indonesia	North Macedonia	Tunisia
Chad	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Norway	Türkiye
Chile	Iraq	Oman	Turkmenistan
China	Ireland	Panama	Uganda
Colombia	Israel	Papua New Guinea	Ukraine
Comoros	Italy	Peru	United Arab Emirates
Congo	Jamaica	Philippines	United Kingdom
Costa Rica	Japan	Poland	United Republic of Tanzania
Côte d'Ivoire	Jordan	Portugal	United States of America
Croatia	Kazakhstan	Qatar	Uruguay
Cuba	Kenya	Republic of Korea	Uzbekistan
Cyprus	Kuwait	Republic of Moldova	Viet Nam
Czech Republic	Kyrgyzstan	Romania	Zambia
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Russian Federation	Zimbabwe
Denmark	Latvia	Rwanda	
Djibouti	Lesotho	Saint Kitts and Nevis	

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