

Applications

Application by IPR type

(unit: cases)

Category	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Patents	208,830	204,775	209,992	218,975	226,759
Utility models	7,767	6,811	6,232	5,447	4,981
Subtotal	216,597	211,586	216,224	224,422	231,740
Designs	64,678 (66,728)	62,528 (64,986)	62,823 (65,434)	64,111 (66,637)	66,354 (68,695)
Trademarks	170,347 (204,012)	168,556 (202,539)	185,968 (232,109)	204,998 (252,309)	243,935 (290,207)
Total	451,622 (696,167)	442,670 (485,922)	465,015 (513,767)	493,531 (543,368)	542,029 (590,642)

Note: Figures in parentheses include multiple applications.

PCT applications (KIPO as the Receiving Office)

(unit: cases)

Category	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of applications	15,595	15,790	16,991	18,885	19,675
Growth rate	6.8%	1.2%	7.6%	11.1%	4.2%

International trademark applications under the Madrid System

(unit: cases)

Category	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Korea as office of origin	942	1,053	1,322	1,419	1,599
Korea as designated office	11,259	14,362	14,373	16,509	13,998

International design applications under the Hague System

(unit: cases)

Category	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Korea as office of origin	104	133	116	178	250
Korea as designated office	981	925	857	928	1,229

Comparison of domestic and foreign applications

(unit: cases)

Category			2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Patents	Domestic	Cases	163,424	159,095	162,576	171,606	180,484
		Ratio	78.3%	77.7%	77.40%	78.4%	79.6%
	Foreign	Cases	45,406	45,680	47,416	47,396	46,275
		Ratio	21.7%	22.3%	22.60%	21.6%	20.4%
	Total		208,830	204,775	209,992	218,975	226,759
Utility models	Domestic	Cases	7,395	6,448	5,768	4,975	4,595
		Ratio	95.2%	94.7%	92.60%	91.3%	92.3%
	Foreign	Cases	372	363	464	472	386
		Ratio	4.8%	5.3%	7.40%	8.7%	7.7%
	Total		7,767	6,811	6,232	5,447	4,981
Designs	Domestic	Cases	61,491 (62,618)	59,085 (60,379)	58,699 (60,021)	59,877 (61,204)	62,698 (63,939)
		Ratio	95.1% (93.8%)	94.5% (92.9%)	93.4% (91.7%)	93.3% (91.8%)	94.5% (93.1%)
	Foreign	Cases	3,187 (4,110)	3,443 (4,607)	4,124 (5,413)	4,234 (5,433)	3,656 (4,756)
		Ratio	4.9% (6.2%)	5.5% (7.1%)	6.6% (8.3%)	6.7% (8.2%)	5.5% (6.9%)
	Total		64,678 (66,728)	62,528 (64,986)	62,823 (65,434)	64,111 (66,637)	66,354 (68,695)
Trademarks	Domestic	Cases	157,107 (183,612)	155,674 (181,229)	170,545 (207,958)	190,204 (228,530)	230,318 (269,332)
		Ratio	92.2% (90.0%)	92.4% (89.5%)	91.7% (89.6%)	92.8% (90.6%)	94.4% (92.8%)
	Foreign	Cases	13,240 (20,400)	12,882 (21,310)	15,423 (24,151)	14,794 (23,779)	13,617 (20,875)
		Ratio	7.8% (10.0%)	7.6% (10.5%)	8.3% (10.4%)	7.2% (9.4%)	5.6% (7.2%)
	Total		170,347 (204,012)	168,556 (202,539)	185,968 (232,109)	204,998 (252,309)	243,935 (290,207)
Total	Domestic	Cases	389,417 (417,049)	380,302 (407,151)	397,588 (436,323)	426,662 (466,315)	478,095 (518,350)
		Ratio	86.2% (85.6%)	85.9% (85.0%)	85.5% (84.9%)	86.5% (85.8%)	88.2% (87.8%)
	Foreign	Cases	62,205 (70,288)	62,368 (71,960)	67,427 (77,444)	66,869 (77,053)	63,934 (72,292)
		Ratio	13.8% (14.4%)	14.1% (15.0%)	14.5% (15.1%)	13.5% (14.2%)	11.8% (12.2%)
	Total		451,622 (487,337)	442,670 (479,111)	465,015 (513,767)	493,531 (543,368)	542,029 (590,642)

Note: Figures in parentheses include multiple applications.

Patent and utility model applications by technological field in 2020

(unit: cases)

Classification	Patents			Utility models		
	Domestic	Foreign	Subtotal	Domestic	Foreign	Subtotal
Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	13,304	3,056	16,360	231	42	273
Audio-visual technology	5,406	1,454	6,860	92	10	102
Telecommunications	2,618	654	3,272	38	10	48
Digital communication	6,571	2,804	9,375	7	-	7
Basic communication processes	517	323	840	-	-	-
Computer technology	10,672	2,796	13,468	51	11	62
IT methods for management	12,251	449	12,700	31	-	31
Semiconductors	7,615	3,847	11,462	3	11	14
Optics	2,864	2,075	4,939	41	9	50
Measurement	7,159	1,644	8,803	84	6	90
Analysis of biological materials	602	208	810	3	-	3
Control	4,193	424	4,617	65	2	67
Medical technology	9,776	2,093	11,869	223	55	278
Organic fine chemistry	3,757	2,271	6,028	4	2	6
Biotechnology	3,475	2,147	5,622	9	-	9
Pharmaceuticals	3,264	1,975	5,239	3	1	4
Macromolecular chemistry, polymers	2,111	1,866	3,977	-	-	-
Food chemistry	4,132	246	4,378	14	2	16
Basic materials chemistry	3,007	1,586	4,593	11	2	13
Materials, metallurgy	2,743	1,293	4,036	4	-	4
Surface technology, coating	2,046	1,460	3,506	15	4	19
Micro-structural and nano-technology	42	21	63	-	-	-
Chemical engineering	3,785	937	4,722	83	4	87
Environmental technology	3,082	355	3,437	65	4	69
Handling	4,278	719	4,997	288	29	317
Machine tools	3,525	1,042	4,567	133	9	142
Engines, pumps, turbines	2,538	795	3,333	50	7	57
Textile and paper machines	1,686	547	2,233	25	1	26
Other special machines	7,238	1,421	8,659	346	7	353
Thermal processes and apparatus	3,324	331	3,655	105	13	118
Mechanical elements	2,854	960	3,814	132	12	144
Transport	9,675	1,197	10,872	265	11	276

(unit: cases)

Classification	Patents			Utility models		
	Domestic	Foreign	Subtotal	Domestic	Foreign	Subtotal
Furniture, games	6,128	528	6,656	630	61	691
Other consumer goods	7,355	1,060	8,415	857	46	903
Civil engineering	9,500	461	9,961	361	4	365
Others	7,391	1,230	8,621	326	11	337
Total	180,484	46,275	226,759	4,595	386	4,981

Note: Figures for 2020 are preliminary.

Patent applications in biotechnology

(unit: cases)

Category	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio
Domestic	6,700	75.1%	7,328	74.9%	7,239	72.2%	7,269	71.0%	7,878	71.0%
Foreign	2,222	24.9%	2,462	25.1%	2,794	27.8%	2,973	29.0%	3,218	29.0%
Total	8,922	100%	9,790	100%	10,033	100%	10,242	100%	11,096	100%

Note1: Figures for 2020 are preliminary.

Note2: Based on the following biotechnological categories of the Eighth Edition of the International Patent Classification: A01H; A01K 67/00-67/04; A01N 63/00-65/00; A61K 8/97-8/99; A61K 8/64-8/68; A61K 35/12-35/76; 36/00-36/9068; A61K 38/00-38/58, 39/00-39/44, 48/00, 51/00-51/10; C02F; C07H 19/00-21/04; C07K; C12C-M; C12N; C12P; C12Q; C12S; G01N 33/50-33/98.

Patent applications in business methods

(unit: cases)

Category	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio
Domestic	9,381	94.7%	8,852	95.2%	9,754	94.8%	10,321	95.1%	12,251	96.5%
Foreign	522	5.3%	446	4.8%	536	5.2%	534	4.9%	449	3.5%
Total	9,903	100%	9,298	100%	10,290	100%	10,855	100%	12,700	100%

Note1: Figures for 2020 are preliminary.

Note2: Based on the Ninth Edition of the International Patent Classification.

Applications by residents of foreign countries/regions in 2020

(unit: cases)

Countries/Regions	Patent & Utility models		Designs		Trademarks		Total
	Domestic	PCT	Domestic	Hague	Domestic	Madrid	
United States of America	1,679	11,703	1,359 (1,913)	117 (550)	3,525 (6,111)	2,905 (5,258)	21,288 (27,214)
Japan	4,077	9,969	691 (830)	136 (287)	1,616 (2,849)	1,418 (3,183)	17,907 (21,195)
China	770	3,685	782 (842)	144 (236)	4,981(5,877)	2,190 (3,715)	12,552 (15,125)
Germany	615	3,045	68 (90)	136 (469)	182 (348)	1,526 (4,298)	5,572 (8,865)
France	152	1,303	88 (98)	156 (257)	276 (481)	780 (1,907)	2,755 (4,198)
United Kingdom	67	1,045	72 (110)	22 (39)	461(1,017)	604 (1,764)	2,271 (4,042)
Switzerland	152	1,159	64 (206)	107 (242)	228 (366)	732 (1,728)	2,442 (3,853)
Italy	58	371	39 (65)	89 (152)	155 (261)	725 (1,494)	1,437 (2,401)
Netherlands	142	781	174 (181)	60 (239)	66 (90)	233 (546)	1,456 (1,979)
Taiwan, Province of China	1,273	113	53 (56)	-	385 (580)	-	1,824 (2,022)
Sweden	80	643	37 (63)	21 (106)	71 (129)	234 (630)	1,086 (1,651)
Australia	19	208	18 (18)	1 (1)	150 (204)	343 (852)	739 (1,302)
Canada	26	377	17 (25)	4 (18)	242 (410)	125 (305)	791 (1,161)
Singapore	57	165	11 (37)	8 (26)	223 (374)	181 (425)	645 (1,084)
Denmark	16	207	46 (67)	18 (51)	44 (80)	165 (388)	496 (809)
Spain	6	139	5 (6)	2 (2)	75 (92)	252 (423)	479 (668)
Finland	33	226	8 (8)	3 (15)	27 (98)	126 (384)	423 (764)
Austria	41	283	4 (5)	3 (8)	16 (52)	123 (334)	470 (723)
Belgium	11	251	4 (10)	32 (37)	21 (33)	116 (237)	435 (579)
Israel	48	315	10 (10)	10 (11)	33 (56)	89 (158)	505 (598)
Russian Federation	7	88	4 (4)	12 (12)	19 (23)	131 (314)	261 (448)
Ireland	35	137	9 (13)	2 (4)	28 (60)	78 (136)	289 (385)
Luxembourg	11	113	22 (23)	5 (8)	29 (43)	81 (159)	261 (357)
Cayman Islands	4	72	1 (4)	-	73 (229)	13 (60)	163 (369)
Turkey	1	33	4 (4)	6 (7)	11 (15)	101 (192)	156 (252)
Norway	2	110	-	7 (17)	17 (39)	46 (131)	182 (299)
New Zealand	5	27	25 (25)	-	35 (52)	65 (116)	157 (225)
Thailand	13	39	3 (3)	-	63 (81)	37 (45)	155 (181)
Poland	4	31	-	2 (5)	13 (21)	49 (156)	99 (217)
India	10	106	1 (1)	1 (1)	33 (39)	26 (60)	177 (217)
Viet Nam	1	1	-	-	60 (74)	48 (87)	110 (163)
Cyprus	1	9	1 (1)	-	14 (19)	47 (133)	72 (163)
Saudi Arabia	1	131	-	-	17 (28)	-	149 (160)
Portugal	3	17	1 (1)	2 (2)	9 (9)	43 (76)	75 (108)

(unit: cases)

Countries/Regions	Patent & Utility models		Designs		Trademarks		Total
	Domestic	PCT	Domestic	Hague	Domestic	Madrid	
Czech Republic	4	18	6 (6)	5 (5)	2 (6)	31 (70)	66 (109)
United Arab Emirates	-	5	-	-	52 (69)	3 (9)	60 (83)
Mexico	2	11	2 (2)	1 (1)	29 (56)	14 (16)	59 (88)
The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China	-	-	2 (2)	-	39 (89)	-	41 (91)
Malaysia	11	15	-	-	34 (42)	11 (17)	71 (85)
Liechtenstein	8	27	1 (2)	2 (10)	1 (3)	21 (51)	60 (101)
Indonesia	1	-	3 (3)	-	12 (13)	31 (62)	47 (79)
Virgin Islands (British)	-	-	2 (2)	-	26 (43)	12 (19)	40 (64)
Monaco	-	2	-	-	8 (16)	15 (55)	25 (73)
Malta	4	11	1 (1)	-	5 (5)	15 (51)	36 (72)
Brazil	-	20	3 (3)	-	13 (14)	14 (25)	50 (62)
Chile	-	6	-	-	34 (37)	-	40 (43)
Barbados	10	7	9 (10)	-	2 (5)	11(22)	39 (54)
South Africa	1	14	2 (2)	-	22 (34)	-	39 (51)
Hungary	1	16	-	1 (1)	1 (1)	13 (34)	32 (53)
Lithuania	-	2	-	2 (3)	5 (9)	14 (28)	23 (42)
Estonia	-	3	-	1 (1)	-	14 (37)	18 (41)
Greece	3	22	-	1 (1)	1 (6)	7 (14)	34 (46)
Ukraine	-	2	-	2 (2)	1 (1)	12 (32)	17 (37)
Latvia	-	1	-	2 (3)	-	13 (32)	16 (36)
Philippines	-	2	-	-	11 (16)	8 (14)	21 (32)
Antigua and Barbuda	-	43	-	-	-	-	43 (43)
Croatia	-	2	-	4 (16)	-	10 (10)	16 (28)
Slovenia	-	8	-	2 (4)	-	7 (19)	17 (31)
Qatar	-	-	-	-	6 (18)	2 (8)	8 (26)
Bulgaria	-	6	-	-	-	9 (17)	15 (23)
Argentina	-	1	-	-	11 (18)	-	12 (19)
Slovakia	-	5	-	1 (1)	-	6 (16)	12 (22)
Belarus	-	3	-	-	-	7 (16)	10 (19)
Iceland	-	2	-	-	-	6 (17)	8 (19)
Romania	-	1	-	-	9 (9)	1 (3)	11 (13)
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	1	2	-	-	5 (6)	2 (4)	10 (13)
Mauritius	-	1	-	-	9 (9)	-	10 (10)

(unit: cases)

Countries/Regions	Patent & Utility models		Designs		Trademarks		Total
	Domestic	PCT	Domestic	Hague	Domestic	Madrid	
Pakistan	1	-	-	-	7 (9)	-	8 (10)
Uzbekistan	2	-	-	-	3 (3)	3 (5)	8 (10)
Mongolia	2	-	3 (3)	-	1 (1)	1 (4)	7 (10)
Serbia	-	-	-	1 (5)	-	3 (5)	4 (10)
Kazakhstan	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	5 (6)	6 (7)
San Marino	-	-	-	-	2 (2)	3 (5)	5 (7)
Bermuda	-	1	-	-	3 (3)	2 (3)	6 (7)
Bahamas	-	-	-	-	5 (5)	1 (1)	6 (6)
Lebanon	-	-	-	-	4 (8)	-	4 (8)
Seychelles	4	-	-	-	2 (5)	-	6 (9)
Kuwait	1	-	-	-	5 (5)	-	6 (6)
Tajikistan	-	-	-	-	5 (6)	-	5 (6)
Panama	-	-	-	-	3 (7)	-	3 (7)
Egypt	-	2	-	-	3 (5)	-	5 (7)
Andorra	1	-	-	-	1 (3)	2 (3)	4 (7)
Curacao	-	-	-	-	1 (2)	3 (3)	4 (5)
Cuba	-	5	-	-	1 (1)	1 (1)	7 (7)
EUIPO	-	-	-	-	4 (4)	-	4 (4)
Peru	-	2	-	-	3 (3)	-	5 (5)
Samoa	-	-	-	-	3 (5)	-	3 (5)
Colombia	-	1	-	-	2 (4)	-	3 (5)
Sri Lanka	-	1	-	-	3 (3)	-	4 (4)
Isle of Man	-	-	-	-	-	1 (6)	1 (6)
Puerto Rico	-	-	-	-	2 (2)	1 (2)	3 (4)
Armenia	-	-	-	-	2 (2)	1 (1)	3 (3)
Republic of Moldova	-	-	-	-	-	2 (4)	2 (4)
Tunisia	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (3)
Costa Rica	-	1	-	-	2 (3)	-	3 (4)
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	-	-	-	-	-	1 (4)	1 (4)
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	1 (2)	2 (3)
Georgia	-	-	-	-	-	2 (2)	2 (2)
Saint Kitts and Nevis	-	4	-	-	-	-	4 (4)
Gibraltar	-	-	-	-	-	1 (3)	1 (3)

(unit: cases)

Countries/Regions	Patent & Utility models		Designs		Trademarks		Total
	Domestic	PCT	Domestic	Hague	Domestic	Madrid	
Guernsey	-	1	-	-	-	1 (1)	2 (2)
Marshall Islands	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	1 (1)
Cambodia	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	1 (1)
Ecuador	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	1 (1)
Kyrgyzstan	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	1 (1)
Jordan	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	1 (1)
Uruguay	-	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	1 (1)
Iraq	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	1 (1)
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	1 (1)
Zimbabwe	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	1 (1)
Sudan	-	-	1 (1)	-	-	-	1 (1)
Nepal	1	-	-	-	-	-	1 (1)
Albania	1	-	-	-	-	-	1 (1)
Dominican Republic	-	1	-	-	-	-	1 (1)
Bangladesh	1	-	-	-	-	-	1 (1)
Belize	-	1	-	-	-	-	1 (1)
Syrian Arab Republic	-	1	-	-	-	-	1 (1)
Others	-	-	-	-	5 (10)	-	5 (10)
Total	9,480	37,181	3,656 (4,756)	1,132 (2,856)	13,617 (20,875)	13,980 (30,457)	79,046 (105,605)

Note: Figures in parentheses include multiple applications.

Examinations

Patents and utility models

(unit: cases)

Category		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Patents	First Action	Approval of registration	7,872	9,891	9,126	9,637	11,483
		Notice of preliminary rejection or amendment	163,347	158,013	148,772	158,527	170,299
		Other notices	991	1,012	1,202	1,613	1,990
		Withdrawal or abandonment	2,582	2,196	2,190	2,594	2,723
		Total	174,792	171,112	161,290	172,371	186,495
	Final Decisions	Approval of registration	101,678	110,408	106,129	115,302	126,228
		Rejection or cancellation	66,055	62,869	55,613	50,944	47,331
		Withdrawal abandonment, annulment, or rejection	4,320	3,841	3,636	3,914	3,997
		Total	172,053	177,118	165,378	170,160	177,556
	Utility models	First Action	Approval of registration	317	337	235	225
Notice of preliminary rejection or amendment			6,848	6,161	5,258	4,739	4,007
Other notices			25	13	12	21	14
Withdrawal or abandonment			131	122	113	109	99
Total			7,321	6,633	5,618	5,094	4,336
Final Decisions		Approval of registration	2,935	3,040	2,619	2,329	1,994
		Rejection or cancellation	4,214	3,729	3,282	2,815	2,254
		Withdrawal abandonment, annulment, or rejection	268	234	196	217	174
		Total	7,417	7,003	6,097	5,361	4,422

Designs and trademarks

(unit: cases)

Category		2015	2016	2017	2019	2020		
Designs	First Action	Publication/approval of registration	31,398 (32,755)	29,453 (30,598)	27,559 (28,708)	31,029 (32,218)	31,232 (32,640)	
		Notice of preliminary rejection	31,540 (33,951)	30,275 (32,647)	29,654 (31,962)	29,303 (31,778)	27,068 (29,055)	
		Other notices	-	-	-	-	-	
		Total	62,938 (66,706)	59,728 (63,245)	57,213 (60,670)	60,332 (63,996)	58,300 (61,695)	
	Final Decisions	Approval of registration	55,783 (58,302)	51,166 (53,480)	50,161 (52,750)	53,987 (56,989)	51,407 (54,101)	
		Rejection	8,396 (9,496)	7,190 (7,978)	7,356 (8,089)	7,343 (8,055)	7,095 (7,776)	
		Total	64,179 (67,798)	58,356 (61,458)	57,517 (60,839)	61,330 (65,044)	58,502 (61,877)	
	Trademarks	First Action	Publication/approval of registration	98,921 (112,521)	94,490 (107,033)	96,236 (109,983)	98,557 (112,244)	94,942 (108,405)
			Notice of preliminary rejection	73,377 (106,332)	69,393 (97,656)	73,376 (106,978)	77,623 (116,298)	67,433 (99,287)
			Other notices	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	172,298(218,853)	163,883 (204,689)	169,612 (216,961)	176,180 (228,542)	162,375 (207,692)	
Final Decisions		Approval of registration	136,948(173,024)	133,378 (166,963)	133,359 (168,237)	145,794 (187,392)	133,882 (173,499)	
		Rejection	33,015 (41,813)	31,773 (39,414)	29,873 (36,697)	32,014 (41,658)	28,219 (37,267)	
	Total	169,963(214,837)	165,151 (206,377)	163,232 (204,934)	177,808 (229,050)	162,101 (210,766)		

Note: Figures in parentheses include multiple applications.

Average first office action pendency

(unit: month)

Category	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Patents / Utility models	10.6	10.4	10.3	10.8	11.1
Trademarks	4.8	5.0	5.5	6.8	8.9
Designs	4.7	4.9	4.9	5.4	4.6

Average total pendency

(unit: month)

Category	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Patents / Utility models	16.2	15.9	15.8	15.6	15.8
Trademarks	9.6	9.8	10.4	11.1	13.2
Designs	5.9	6.2	6.3	6.7	6.0

PCT international search reports and preliminary examinations undertaken by KIPO

(unit: cases)

Category	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
International Search Reports	28,176	25,955	24,123	27,167	28,547
International Preliminary Examinations	209	169	131	131	100

Note: Based on KIPO data

Registrations

Registrations by IPR type

(unit: cases)

Category	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Patents	108,875	120,662	119,014	125,661	134,766
Utility models	2,854	2,993	2,715	2,417	2,056
Subtotal	111,729	123,655	121,729	128,078	136,822
Designs	55,602	49,293	49,905	52,850	50,694
Trademarks	119,255	116,704	115,025	125,594	116,153
Total	286,586	289,652	286,659	306,522	303,669

Note: Trademark registration renewals are excluded.

Comparison of domestic and foreign registrations

(unit: cases)

Category			2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Patents	Domestic	Cases	82,400	90,847	89,229	94,852	103,881
		Ratio	75.7%	75.3%	75.0%	75.5%	77.1%
	Foreign	Cases	26,475	29,815	29,785	30,809	30,885
		Ratio	24.3%	24.7%	25.0%	24.5%	22.9%
	Total		108,875	120,662	119,014	125,661	134,766
	Utility models	Domestic	Cases	2,694	2,810	2,521	2,238
Ratio			94.4%	93.9%	92.9%	92.6%	89.6%
Foreign		Cases	160	183	194	179	214
		Ratio	5.6%	6.1%	7.1%	7.4%	10.4%
Total		2,854	2,993	2,715	2,417	2,056	
Designs		Domestic	Cases	50,242	44,052	44,150	46,011
	Ratio		90.4%	89.4%	88.5%	87.1%	89.1%
	Foreign	Cases	5,360	5,241	5,755	6,839	5,525
		Ratio	9.6%	10.6%	11.5%	12.9%	10.9%
	Total		55,602	49,293	49,905	52,850	50,694

(unit: cases)

Category			2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Trademarks	Domestic	Cases	99,934	96,993	94,532	102,333	94,892
		Ratio	83.8%	83.1%	82.2%	81.5%	81.7%
	Foreign	Cases	19,321	19,711	20,493	23,261	21,261
		Ratio	16.2%	16.9%	17.8%	18.5%	18.3%
	Total		119,255	116,704	115,025	125,594	116,153
	Total	Domestic	Cases	235,270	234,702	230,432	245,434
Ratio			82.1%	81.0%	80.4%	80.1%	80.9%
Foreign		Cases	51,316	54,950	56,227	61,088	57,885
		Ratio	17.9%	19.0%	19.6%	19.9%	19.1%
Total		286,586	289,652	286,659	306,522	303,669	

Patent and utility model registrations by technological field in 2020

(unit: cases)

Classification	Patents			Utility models		
	Domestic	Foreign	Subtotal	Domestic	Foreign	Subtotal
Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	8,294	2,317	10,611	135	17	152
Audio-visual technology	3,865	1,142	5,007	46	13	59
Telecommunications	2,106	492	2,598	13	-	13
Digital communication	3,934	1,853	5,787	1	-	1
Basic communication processes	367	279	646	-	1	1
Computer technology	6,506	2,032	8,538	14	14	28
IT methods for management	4,581	277	4,858	4	-	4
Semiconductors	4,942	3,226	8,168	6	13	19
Optics	2,677	1,431	4,108	14	5	19

(unit: cases)

Classification	Patents			Utility models		
	Domestic	Foreign	Subtotal	Domestic	Foreign	Subtotal
Measurement	4,744	1,115	5,859	40	7	47
Analysis of biological materials	459	131	590	-	-	-
Control	2,409	312	2,721	30	1	31
Medical technology	4,672	1,088	5,760	86	13	99
Organic fine chemistry	2,297	1,252	3,549	1	-	1
Biotechnology	2,153	856	3,009	-	-	-
Pharmaceuticals	1,828	736	2,564	-	-	-
Macromolecular chemistry, polymers	1,389	1,289	2,678	-	-	-
Food chemistry	1,825	135	1,960	8	1	9
Materials, metallurgy	2,232	864	3,096	6	1	7
Surface technology, coating	1,559	905	2,464	6	-	6
Micro-structural and nano-technology	49	17	66	-	-	-
Chemical engineering	2,429	586	3,015	36	5	41
Environmental technology	2,189	316	2,505	41	4	45
Basic materials chemistry	2142	1172	3314	2	2	4
Handling	2,600	620	3,220	158	12	170
Machine tools	2,607	822	3,429	67	6	73
Engines, pumps, turbines	1,871	903	2,774	25	9	34
Textile and paper machines	1,181	443	1,624	15	3	18
Other special machines	4,170	968	5,138	147	10	157
Thermal processes and apparatus	2,223	225	2,448	38	3	41
Mechanical elements	1,957	774	2,731	64	24	88
Transport	5,087	1,027	6,114	124	8	132
Furniture, games	2,965	348	3,313	240	15	255
Other consumer goods	2,857	587	3,444	262	21	283
Civil engineering	6,715	345	7,060	213	6	219
Total	103,881	30,885	134,766	1,842	214	2,056

Note: Figures for 2020 are preliminary.

Patent registrations in biotechnology

(unit: cases)

Category	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio
Domestic	3,507	78.6%	4,709	80.9%	4,524	79.3%	4,534	78.4%	4,969	79.0%
Foreign	955	21.4%	1,111	19.1%	1,149	20.3%	1,249	21.6%	1,321	21.0%
Total	4,462	100%	5,820	100%	5,673	100%	5,783	100%	6,290	100%

Note1: Figures for 2020 are preliminary.

Note2: Based on the following biotechnological categories of the Eighth Edition of the International Patent Classification: A01H; A01K 67/00-67/04; A01N 63/00-65/00; A61K 8/97-8/99; A61K 8/64-8/68; A61K 35/12-35/76; 36/00-36/9068; A61K 38/00-38/58, 39/00-39/44, 48/00, 51/00-51/10; C02F; C07H 19/00-21/04; C07K; C12C-M; C12N; C12P; C12Q; C12S; G01N 33/50-33/98.

Patent registrations in business methods

(unit: cases)

Category	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio	Cases	Ratio
Domestic	3,145	93.9%	3,782	93.7%	3,560	93.1%	3,500	93.6%	4,581	94.3%
Foreign	204	6.1%	253	6.3%	262	6.9%	241	6.4%	277	5.7%
Total	3,349	100%	4,035	100%	3,822	100%	3,741	100%	4,858	100%

Note1: Figures for 2020 are preliminary.

Note2: Based on the Ninth Edition of the International Patent Classification.

Registrations by resident of foreign countries/regions in 2020

(unit: cases)

Countries/Regions	Patent & Utility models		Designs		Trademarks		Total
	Domestic	PCT	Domestic	Hague	Domestic	Madrid	
United States of America	7,726	805	1,329	174	2,606 (4,725)	2,216 (3,922)	14,856 (18,681)
Japan	9,825	1006	806	201	1,476 (2,838)	1,342 (2,984)	14,656 (17,660)
China	1,904	220	688	59	3,301 (3,979)	1,629 (2,619)	7,801 (9,469)
Netherlands	603	61	246	129	53 (118)	180 (487)	1,272 (1,644)
Switzerland	617	70	144	195	170 (259)	635 (1,397)	1,831 (2,682)
Germany	2,343	260	103	278	176 (354)	1,251 (3,669)	4,411 (7,007)
France	926	113	84	181	273 (396)	709 (1,698)	2,286 (3,398)

(unit: cases)

Countries/Regions	Patent & Utility models		Designs		Trademarks		Total
	Domestic	PCT	Domestic	Hague	Domestic	Madrid	
Sweden	513	60	79	22	30 (68)	192 (500)	896 (1,242)
United Kingdom	489	67	71	33	338 (694)	561 (1,453)	1,559 (2,807)
Italy	230	28	68	207	100 (151)	559 (1,151)	1,192 (1,835)
Taiwan, Province of China	817	94	53	-	333 (476)	-	1,297 (1,440)
Denmark	87	8	26	31	24 (59)	148 (365)	324 (576)
Cayman Islands	261	19	26	-	36 (125)	6 (12)	348 (443)
Canada	186	20	25	4	204 (417)	31 (54)	470 (706)
Luxembourg	84	5	24	1	6 (10)	59 (126)	179 (250)
Australia	90	7	22	-	104 (144)	247 (553)	470 (816)
Israel	153	11	20	2	26 (39)	70 (113)	282 (338)
Singapore	82	13	18	1	126 (250)	142 (349)	382 (713)
Liechtenstein	10	1	16	22	-	26 (44)	75 (93)
Thailand	17	3	9	-	63 (91)	28 (36)	120 (156)
Belgium	130	16	7	10	12 (15)	92 (192)	267 (370)
New Zealand	25	-	6	-	32 (49)	55 (130)	118 (210)
Finland	177	24	6	13	45 (93)	93 (307)	358 (620)
Ireland	107	6	5	21	34 (61)	52 (86)	225 (286)
Hungary	6	1	3	2	-	12 (24)	24 (36)
Turkey	15	-	2	2	8 (13)	46 (81)	73 (113)
Virgin Islands (British)	11	-	2	-	43 (97)	10 (28)	66 (138)
Mongolia	-	-	2	-	-	-	2 (2)
South Africa	12	2	2	-	4 (4)	1 (1)	21 (21)
Spain	77	8	2	4	64 (76)	185 (360)	340 (527)
Barbados	38	6	2	-	13 (54)	-	59 (100)
Norway	53	5	2	5	3 (5)	63 (209)	131 (279)
The Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China	-	-	2	-	3 (3)	-	5 (5)
Greece	8	2	1	2	6 (13)	9 (17)	28 (43)
Mexico	12	3	1	-	30 (42)	3 (7)	49 (65)
Indonesia	1	-	1	-	34 (45)	5 (7)	41 (54)
Pakistan	-	-	1	-	3 (3)	-	4 (4)
Austria	204	15	1	1	11 (84)	100 (258)	332 (563)
India	41	7	1	-	16 (16)	29 (42)	94 (107)
Brazil	12	1	1	-	8 (16)	-	22 (30)

(unit: cases)

Countries/Regions	Patent & Utility models		Designs		Trademarks		Total
	Domestic	PCT	Domestic	Hague	Domestic	Madrid	
Malaysia	7	-	1	-	29 (85)	5 (15)	42 (108)
Portugal	3	2	1	2	7 (7)	21 (41)	36 (56)
Bulgaria	3	-	-	-	-	10 (19)	13 (22)
Russian Federation	48	5	-	1	16 (19)	87 (250)	157 (323)
Republic of Moldova	-	-	-	-	-	3 (4)	3 (4)
Saudi Arabia	51	10	-	-	6 (8)	-	67 (69)
Belarus	-	-	-	-	7 (7)	4 (6)	11 (13)
Gibraltar	-	-	-	-	-	2 (2)	2 (2)
Cuba	3	1	-	-	-	2 (2)	6 (6)
Saint Kitts and Nevis	-	-	-	-	2 (4)	-	2 (4)
Mauritius	1	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	2 (2)
Romania	1	-	-	-	1 (1)	6 (27)	8 (29)
Lebanon	-	-	-	-	3 (5)	-	3 (5)
Myanmar	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	1 (1)
Cambodia	1	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	2 (2)
Ukraine	1	-	-	3	1 (1)	11 (13)	16 (18)
Bahamas	2	1	-	-	-	-	3 (3)
Lithuania	2	1	-	-	2 (2)	6 (14)	11 (19)
Tunisia	-	-	-	-	-	8 (8)	8 (8)
Andorra	1	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	2 (2)
Marshall Islands	-	-	-	-	-	2 (5)	2 (5)
Uruguay	1	-	-	-	-	-	1 (1)
Malta	7	-	-	-	3 (5)	10 (24)	20 (36)
Philippines	2	1	-	-	11 (22)	5 (10)	19 (35)
Jersey(U.K.)	11	1	-	-	-	2 (11)	14 (23)
Iceland	-	-	-	1	-	7 (17)	8 (18)
United Arab Emirates	5	-	-	-	22 (30)	3 (5)	30 (40)
Serbia	-	-	-	5	-	1 (1)	6 (6)
Lao People's Democratic Republic	-	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	1 (1)
Curacao	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	1 (1)
Slovakia	4	-	-	-	-	3 (5)	7 (9)
Egypt	-	-	-	-	-	3 (5)	3 (5)
Bangladesh	2	-	-	-	-	-	2 (2)
Iraq	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	1 (1)
Monaco	1	-	-	-	5 (5)	12 (30)	18 (36)
Latvia	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	10 (20)	11 (21)
Estonia	3	1	-	1	1 (1)	11 (27)	17 (33)

(unit: cases)

Countries/Regions	Patent & Utility models		Designs		Trademarks		Total
	Domestic	PCT	Domestic	Hague	Domestic	Madrid	
Slovenia	4	-	-	-	-	7 (9)	11 (13)
Croatia	2	-	-	-	2 (2)	2 (4)	6 (8)
Antigua and Barbuda	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	1 (1)
Qatar	2	-	-	-	8 (13)	-	10 (15)
Jordan	3	-	-	-	-	-	3 (3)
Argentina	-	-	-	-	3 (3)	1 (1)	4 (4)
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	-	-	1 (2)	1 (2)
Costa Rica	-	-	-	-	4 (7)	-	4 (7)
Bermuda	1	-	-	-	4 (6)	4 (6)	9 (13)
Viet Nam	-	-	-	-	29 (33)	37 (65)	66 (98)
Uzbekistan	1	-	-	-	7 (7)	-	8 (8)
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	-	1	-	-	-	3 (4)	4 (5)
Armenia	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	4 (4)	5 (5)
Seychelles	2	-	-	-	3 (3)	-	5 (5)
Syrian Arab Republic	-	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	1 (1)
Poland	9	1	-	1	3 (4)	41 (84)	55 (99)
Cyprus	17	1	-	2	4 (5)	22 (46)	46 (71)
Czech Republic	7	-	-	-	5 (10)	34 (68)	46 (85)
Morocco	-	-	-	-	-	1 (3)	1 (3)
Kazakhstan	-	-	-	-	6 (6)	1 (3)	7 (9)
Belize	1	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	2 (2)
Samoa	1	-	-	-	2 (4)	-	3 (5)
Ghana	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	1 (1)
Bahrain	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	1 (1)
Georgia	-	-	-	-	-	2 (3)	2 (3)
Colombia	-	-	-	-	2 (4)	-	2 (4)
Peru	-	-	-	-	2 (4)	-	2 (4)
The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China	-	-	-	-	12 (18)	-	12 (18)
Chile	2	1	-	-	22 (24)	-	25 (27)
Panama	-	-	-	-	5 (7)	-	5 (7)
Kuwait	1	-	-	-	2 (2)	-	3 (3)
Tajikistan	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	1 (1)
Others	-	-	-	-	-	11 (30)	11 (30)
Total	28,105	2,994	3,909	1,616	10,067 (16,258)	11,194 (24,177)	57,885 (77,059)

Note: Figures in parentheses include multiple applications

Trials and appeals

Trials and appeals requested

(unit: cases)

Category		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Appeal against examiner's decision to reject application	Patents	5,470	4,351	3,624	2,820	2,110
	Utility models	200	180	162	128	59
	Designs	109	90	102	58	50
	Trademarks	1,626 (2,284)	1,569 (2,295)	1,437 (2,046)	1,330 (1,868)	1,021 (1,615)
	Subtotal	7,405 (8,063)	6,190 (6,916)	5,325 (5,934)	4,336 (4,874)	3,240 (3,834)
Appeals against examiner's decision to dismiss amendment	Patents	1	1	1	-	-
	Utility models	-	-	-	-	-
	Designs	5	1	-	-	-
	Trademarks	5 (11)	-	-	3	-
	Subtotal	11 (17)	2	1	3	-
Appeals against examiner's decision of cancellation	Patents	-	-	-	-	-
	Utility models	-	-	-	-	-
	Designs	2	-	1	3	3
	Trademarks	-	-	-	-	-
	Subtotal	2	-	1	3	3
Trials for correction	Patents	145	136	128	127	119
	Utility models	9	4	-	2	3
	Designs	-	-	-	-	-
	Trademarks	-	-	-	-	-
	Subtotal	154	140	128	129	122
Invalidation	Patents	548	529	460	478	383
	Utility models	50	27	21	15	20
	Designs	247	194	207	215	188
	Trademarks	492 (553)	433 (486)	472 (559)	472 (541)	372 (433)
	Subtotal	1,337 (1,398)	1,183 (1,236)	1,160 (1,247)	1,180 (1,249)	963 (1,024)

(unit: cases)

Category		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Trials to confirm scope of IP right	Patents	632	671	512	348	374
	Utility models	47	29	20	21	17
	Designs	149	136	151	136	169
	Trademarks	101 (170)	90 (102)	158 (175)	103 (123)	108 (129)
	Subtotal	929 (998)	926 (938)	841 (858)	608 (628)	668 (689)
Cancellation trials on trademark registration	Patents	-	1	1	-	-
	Utility models	-	-	-	-	-
	Designs	-	-	17	-	-
	Trademarks	2,122 (2,526)	2,124 (2,474)	2,523 (3,011)	2,574 (3,193)	2,497 (3,003)
	Subtotal	2,122 (2,526)	2,125 (2,475)	2,541 (3,029)	2,574 (3,193)	2,497 (3,003)
Opposition of patent/utility model	Patents	-	109	150	174	146
	Utility models	-	1	4	1	9
	Designs	-	1	-	-	-
	Trademarks	-	-	-	-	-
	Subtotal	-	111	154	175	155
Grand total	Patents	6,796	5,689	4,876	3,947	3,132
	Utility models	306	240	207	167	108
	Designs	512	421	478	412	410
	Trademarks	4,346 (5,544)	4,216 (5,357)	4,590 (5,791)	4,482 (5,728)	3,998 (5,180)
	Total	11,960 (13,158)	10,566 (11,565)	10,151 (11,352)	9,008 (10,254)	7,648 (8,830)

Note1: Figures in parentheses include multiple applications.

Note2: Opposition of patents / Utility model has been enforced from March, 2020

* Rejection refers to appeals against examiners' decisions of refusal and appeals against examiners' decisions to dismiss utility models.

** Invalidation refers to invalidation trials and trials for invalidation of corrections.

Successful petitions

(unit: cases)

Category		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
		Accep-tance	Ratio	Accep-tance	Ratio	Accep-tance	Ratio	Accep-tance	Ratio	Accep-tance	Ratio
Ex partes	Patents	1,036	29.0%	1,078	30.3%	1,370	31.1%	1,977	36.3	1,341	39.9
	Utility models	32	33.0%	33	26.0%	40	20.5%	48	24.2	45	24.9
	Designs	50	43.1%	43	31.9%	21	20.6%	27	32.5	20	40.8
	Trademarks	655 (1,053)	48.4% (53.1%)	605 (896)	54.8% (58.9%)	1,026 (1,648)	58.3% (63.1%)	1,017 (1,607)	55.2 (60.4)	693 (1,063)	55.9 (60.4)
	Subtotal	1,773 (2,171)	41.5% (37.6%)	1,759 (2,050)	35.7% (38.4%)	2,457 (3,079)	38.0% (42.1%)	3,069 (3,659)	40.5 (43.6)	2,099 (2,469)	43.4 (46.1)
Inter partes	Patents	526	42.2%	616	46.2%	552	49.1%	653	53.4	382	42.8
	Utility models	52	50.5%	45	54.9%	19	35.2%	16	35.6	8	24.2
	Designs	164 (166)	54.8% (55.1%)	187	47.9%	210	51.0%	142	48.3	140	53.8
	Trademarks	1,436 (1,691)	65.2% (64.0%)	2,436 (2,760)	78.1% (76.9%)	1,747 (1,962)	70.1% (70.2%)	2,753 (3,173)	74.0 (73.6)	1,877 (2,351)	70.6 (72.4)
	Subtotal	2,178 (2,435)	56.6% (56.7%)	3,284 (3,608)	66.7% (66.9%)	2,528 (2,743)	61.9% (62.6%)	3,564 (3,984)	67.5 (67.8)	2,407 (2,881)	62.6 (65.0)
Grand total	Patents	1,562	32.4%	1,694	34.6%	1,922	34.7%	2,630	39.4	1,723	40.5
	Utility models	84	42.0%	78	37.3%	59	23.7%	64	26.3	53	24.8
	Designs	214 (216)	51.6% (51.8%)	230	43.8%	231	44.9%	169	44.8	160	51.8
	Trademarks	2,091 (2,744)	58.8% (59.3%)	3,041 (3,656)	72.0% (71.5%)	2,773 (3,610)	65.2% (66.8%)	3,770 (4,780)	67.8 (68.5)	2,570 (3,414)	65.9 (68.2)
	Total	3,951 (4,606)	43.9% (45.8%)	5,043 (5,658)	51.2% (52.7%)	4,985 (5,822)	47.3% (49.8%)	6,633 (7,643)	51.6 (53.6)	4,506 (5,350)	51.9 (54.7)

Note1: Figures in parentheses include multiple applications.

Note2: The successful petitions refer to the number of petitions granted. These figures exclude cases where the registration was decided on the basis of an examiner's reconsideration before a trial and invalidation of a patent process. The figures in parentheses indicate the percentage of the petitions granted.

- Ex partes: Appeals against examiners' decisions of refusal / Appeals against examiners' decisions of cancellation / Appeals against examiners' decisions to dismiss amendments / Trials for correction

- Inter partes: Invalidation trials / Trials to confirm scope of IP rights / Trials for invalidation of correction / Trials for granting non-exclusive licenses / Trials for invalidation of registrations for extension of patent right term / Trials for invalidation of registration for renewals of trademark right term / Cancellation trials on trademark registrations / Cancellation trials on registrations of exclusive or non-exclusive licenses / Trials for invalidation on registrations for conversion of classification of goods

Comparison of domestic and foreign trial requests

(unit: cases)

Category		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Patents	Domestic	3,891	3,499	3,214	2,545	2,064
	Foreign	2,905	2,190	1,662	1,402	1,068
Utility models	Domestic	301	237	201	164	102
	Foreign	5	3	6	3	6
Designs	Domestic	459	373	419	381	386
	Foreign	53	48	59	31	24
Trademarks	Domestic	3,014	2,703	3,077	2,939	2,780
	Foreign	2,530	1,513	1,513	1,543	1,218
Total		13,158	10,566	10,151	9,008	7,648

Note: Multiple applications for trademarks and designs are treated as single applications.

Income and expenditures / KIPO staff

Income

(unit: USD)

Category	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Income from fees	397,276,404	428,025,022	446,163,758	443,443,731	484,871,681
Income carried over from the previous year	22,901,485	28,072,668	42,855,898	17,542,755	9,997,345
Internal income and others	90,568,774	119,661,120	148,403,121	115,788,238	109,041,593
Total	510,746,664	575,758,810	637,422,777	576,774,723	603,910,619

Expenditures

(unit: USD)

Category	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Non-personnel resources (projects)	360,459,363	393,025,808	455,687,588	413,003,996	400,492,035
Personnel resources	99,443,391	106,532,589	116,102,191	116,951,668	122,678,761
Deposit for special fund	23,621,577	35,270,004	47,461,470	37,046,713	33,516,814
Total	483,524,330	534,828,401	619,251,249	567,002,377	556,687,611

KIPO staff

(unit: number of positions)

Category	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Examiners	Patents and utility models	734	832	875	839	850
	Designs and trademarks	162	165	162	191	193
Administrative judges	95	103	107	107	107	
Administrative staff	601	527	517	604	618	
Total	1,592	1,627	1,661	1,741	1,768	

Academic and professional credentials of KIPO examiners

(unit: number of staff)

Category	Ph. D	Master's degrees	Patent attorney certificate only	Lawyer certificate only	Professional engineer certificate only	
Examiners	Patents and utility models	329	102	36	5	16
	Trademarks	7	10	5	1	0
	Designs	2	9	0	0	0
	Total	338	121	41	6	16