

W&B IP Newsletter



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Patent

Patent Applications in Europe Reach Record Level in 2021

According to the latest statistics released by the EPO on April 5, the EPO received 16,665 patent applications filed by Chinese companies, which meant a new record high for China in its number of patent applications filed with the EPO, at the fastest annual growth rate of 24% among the 30 major countries for patent applications.

As revealed by the statistics, the European Patent Office (EPO) received 188,600 applications in 2021, up 4.5% on the previous year and the highest number to date. The top five countries of origin for applications in 2021 were again the US - accounting for 25% of total filings - followed by Germany (14%), Japan (11%), China (9%) and France (6%). The growth in patent applications at the EPO in 2021 was mainly fueled by filings from China (+24% compared with 2020) and the US (+5.2%).

Top 50 countries for patent applications 2021

TOP 50

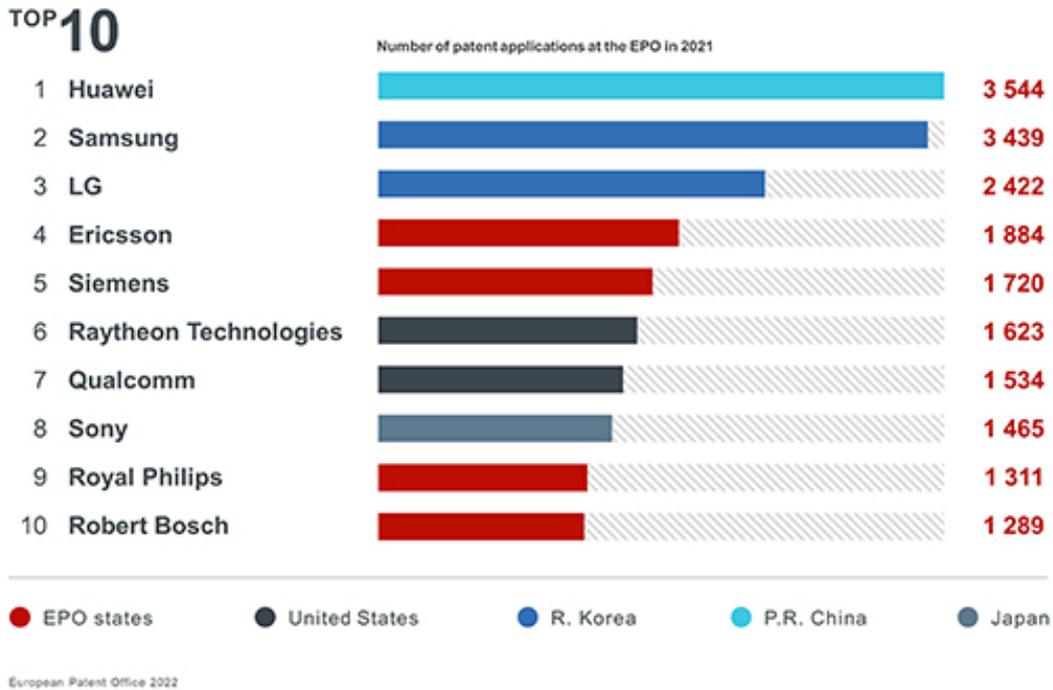
	2021	Change		2021	Change		2021	Change			
1	United States	46 533	+5.2%	18	Israel	1 717	+2.0%	35	Czech Republic	203	-1.5%
2	Germany	25 969	+0.3%	19	Chinese Taipei	1 472	+7.7%	36	Greece	198	+46.7%
3	Japan	21 681	-1.2%	20	Australia	1 019	+5.5%	37	Brazil	181	+13.1%
4	P.R. China	16 665	+24.0%	21	Ireland	956	-2.4%	38	Hong Kong SAR (China)	180	+18.4%
5	France	10 537	-0.7%	22	India	817	+16.5%	39	Hungary	118	+8.3%
6	R. Korea	9 394	+3.4%	23	Turkey	732	+21.0%	40	Slovenia	116	-29.7%
7	Switzerland	8 442	+3.9%	24	Singapore	711	+17.1%	41	Thailand	98	+53.1%
8	Netherlands	6 581	+3.1%	25	Norway	640	-1.8%	42	South Africa	86	-5.5%
9	United Kingdom	5 627	-1.2%	26	Poland	539	+12.8%	43	Puerto Rico	78	-75.2%
10	Sweden	4 954	+12.0%	27	Liechtenstein	494	+12.5%	44	Lithuania	73	+46.0%
11	Italy	4 919	+6.5%	28	Luxembourg	430	+7.0%	45	Antigua and Barbuda	71	-27.6%
12	Denmark	2 642	+9.2%	29	Saudi Arabia	377	-23.7%	46	Estonia	69	+21.1%
13	Belgium	2 485	+3.3%	30	Cayman Islands	295	-34.9%	47	United Arab Emirates	65	-9.7%
14	Austria	2 317	+0.5%	31	Barbados	293	+13.6%	48	Iceland	62	+51.2%
15	Finland	2 111	+11.2%	32	Portugal	286	+13.9%	48	Mexico	62	+19.2%
16	Canada	2 083	+18.4%	33	Russian Federation	272	+1.1%	50	Malta	51	-19.0%
17	Spain	1 954	+8.9%	34	New Zealand	226	+15.3%				

European Patent Office 2022

In terms of the applicants, Huawei was the leading patent applicant at the EPO in 2021 (with 3,544 applications), followed by Samsung and LG, while Ericsson and Siemens both moved up a position, to fourth and fifth respectively. The top ten includes four companies from Europe, two from South Korea, two from the US, and one from each of China and Japan. Besides, OPPO, ZTE, Baidu, Xiaomi and Tencent are also among the top 50 applicants.

Patent

Top ten applicants 2021



According to the EPO, the big increase in patent applications in digital communication and computer technology areas demonstrates the digital transformation, for example in smart urban mobility. Patent activity in pharmaceuticals (+6.9%) and biotechnology (+6.6%) also continued to boom, underlining high levels of innovation in vaccines and other areas of healthcare.

(Source: European Patent Office)

Trademark

Statistics on China's Trademark Examination and Review in 2021

On November 16, 2021, China National Intellectual Property Office ("CNIPA") promulgated the Guidelines for Trademark Examination and Review. The Guidelines incorporates 44 chapters in two sections and adopts over 1,000 opinions and suggestions from the courts and domestic and foreign experts and institutes within specific industries.



商标审查审理指南

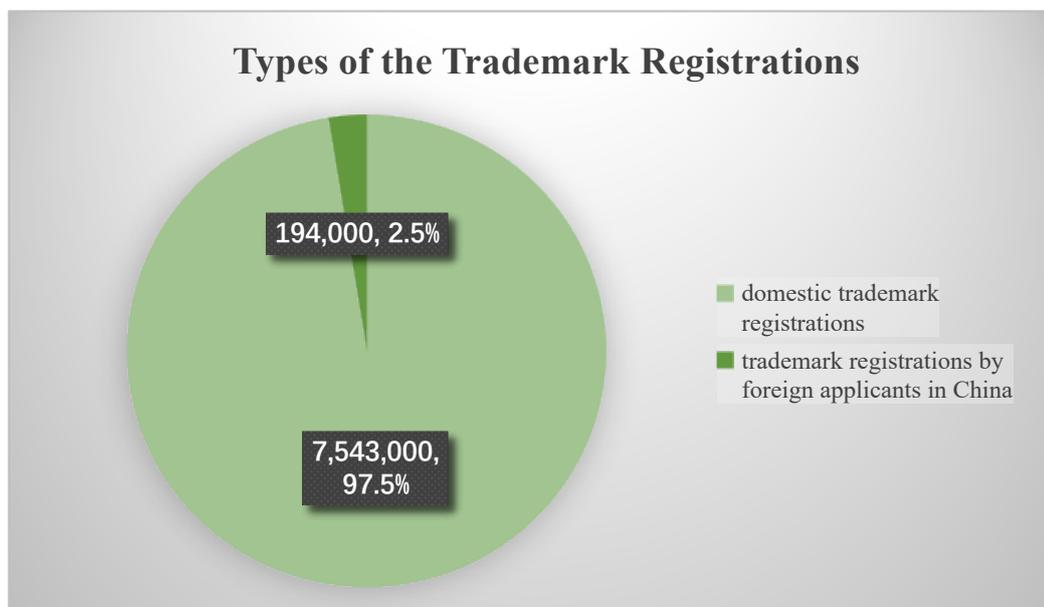
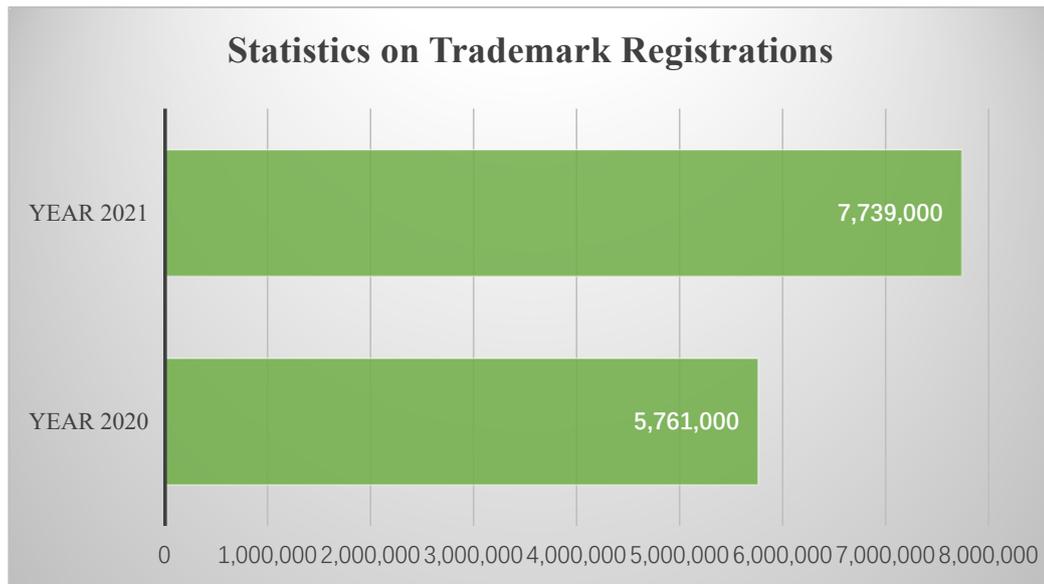
2021

国家知识产权局 制定

In 2021, CNIPA concluded over 14 million cases of trademark examination or review, of which the number of substantial examinations of trademark registration exceeded 10.5682 million, reaching an annual growth rate of 20.31%.

Statistics on Examination and Review in 2021		
	Number (classes/applications/cases)	Annual Growth Rate
Substantial examination on application for Madrid territorial extension	61,343	/
Examination of trademark oppositions	170,100	12.5%
Examination of collective marks	2,895	/
Examination of certification marks	2,844	/
Various examination/review cases	382,800	6.83%
Subsequent trademark examination Substantial examination on revocation based on non-use in three consecutive years	3,408,300	/

Trademark



In 2021 CNIPA cracked down on a total of 482,000 malicious applications for registered trademarks that were filed not for the purpose of use. Also, CNIPA rejected a total of 1,628 malicious preemptive trademark registrations that were identified to harm public interests, and invalidated by authority 1,729 registered trademarks.

In 2021, CNIPA received 5,928 new Madrid applications, leading China to the third place in the Madrid Union countries.

(Source: official website of Trademark Office of China National Intellectual Property Administration)

Copyright

Statistics on Copyright Registration in China in 2021

Statistics on Copyright Registration in China in 2021		
	Quantity	Annual Growth Rate
Copyright of Works	3,983,943	20.13%
Copyright of Computer Software	2,280,063	32.34%
Total of Copyrights Registered in China	6,264,378	24.30%

Details of Registration of Copyright of Works

In 2021, the quantity of copyrights of works registered in China presented an overall steady increase.

The quantity of copyrights of works registered in Beijing reached 1,025,511, accounting for 25.74% of the total.

Compared with the statistics in 2020, the increase rates in the quantities of copyrights of works registered in Hunan, Hebei, Yunnan and Anhui all exceeded 100%.

In terms of the types of the works:

Type of Work	Quantity	Proportion
Fine art works	1,670,092	41.92%
Photography works	1,553,318	38.99%
Literary works	295,729	7.42%
Film and television works	244,538	6.14%

The subtotal of said four types of registered copyrights of works accounted for 94.47% of the total quantity of registered copyrights of works.

Details of Registration of Copyright of Computer Software

In terms of the regional distribution of the registrations,

Computer software registrations were mainly distributed in the eastern region, which grasped a subtotal quantity of registrations of about 1,440,000, accounting for 63.1% of the total.

In terms of the quantities of registrations in different regions,

The top 10 provinces (cities) for computer software registration are, by sequence of the registration quantity: Guangdong, Shanghai, Jiangsu, Beijing, Zhejiang, Sichuan, Shandong, Hubei, Fujian and Shaanxi.

The subtotal quantity of computer software copyright registrations in said provinces and cities was approximately 1,630,000, accounting for 71.5% of the total.

Among them, the quantity of computer software registrations in Guangdong was around 270,000, accounting for 11.8% of the total.

(Source: www.iprchn.com)