

# PATENTING TRENDS IN SOUTH AMERICA

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LIGHTHOUSE IP MONTHLY REPORT

# INTRODUCTION

Compared with other regions, the development of intellectual property in South America is relatively backward. However, with the increasing attention paid to intellectual property by Argentina, Brazil, Chile and other countries, and the help of WIPO to local intellectual property resources, the intellectual property system and service quality in South America have been significantly improved, effectively promoting the good development of local patent industry. This report focuses on the analysis of patent trends in South America in recent years.



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#### GENERAL INFORMATION

In the last 30 years, the patents in South America have shown a ladder like development trend. In 1997-2000 and 2013-2017, the patents in this region grew rapidly, while in the rest of the time, they remained relatively stable. This may be caused by the adjustment of patent systems or policies in some countries or regions in South America (as shown in **Figure 1**). In general, the volume of patents published in South America has maintained a growth trend.

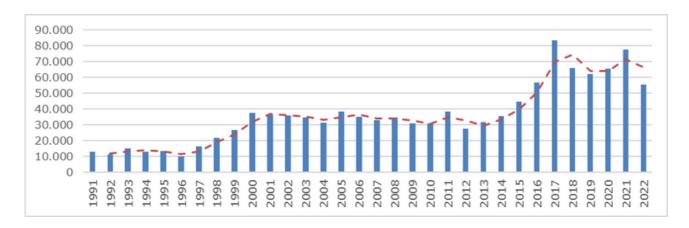


Figure 1 Patent publication trend in South America



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## GENERAL INFORMATION

Among the patents published in South America, the vast majority are invention patents, but the proportion of patents under legal protection is less than 10% (as shown in **Figure 2** and **Figure 3**).

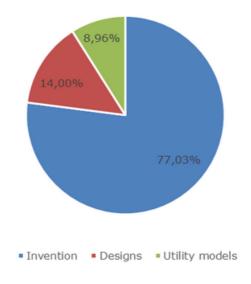


Figure 2 Patent type

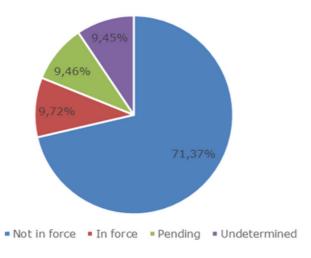


Figure 3 Legal status



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# GEOGRAPHIC TERRITORIES

At present, the total number of patents published in South America is close to 1.5 million, most of which are from Brazil, followed by Argentina, and then Chile (as shown in **Figure 4**). It can be seen that the patent development gap between different countries in South America is large.

After further analysis of the top five countries, it is found that the number of patents in Brazil has increased significantly in recent years, while that in Argentina has decreased relatively, and the other three countries have remained relatively stable (as shown in **Figure 5**). This further reflects Brazil's current importance in the South American patent system.

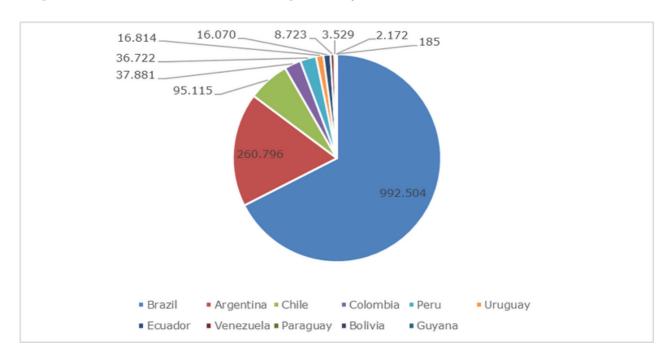


Figure 4 Patent publication volume in different countries of South America



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#### GEOGRAPHIC TERRITORIES

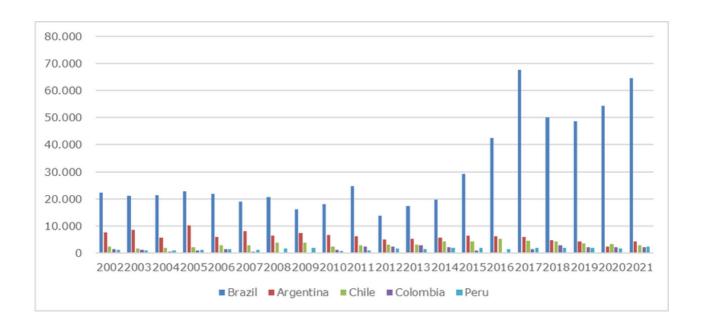


Figure 5 Patent publication trends in the top 5 countries of South America

The main origin of patent technology in South America is the United States, not the native countries. At the same time, Germany, Switzerland, France and other foreign countries have also applied for more patents in South America. Brazil is the only native country with the top 10 patent applications (as shown in **Figure 6**).

Among the major patent application countries, the volume of patents applied by the United States in South America has increased significantly in recent years, while the volume of patents applied by Germany in this region has also maintained a growth trend (as shown in **Figure 7**). This shows that the United States, Germany and other countries are paying more attention to the South American market, so more patents have been distributed.



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## GEOGRAPHIC TERRITORIES

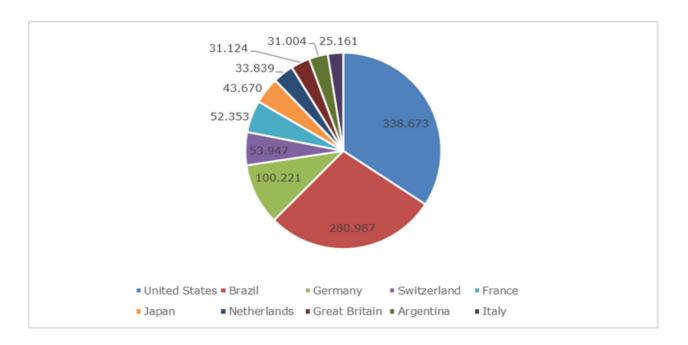


Figure 6 Top countries of origin

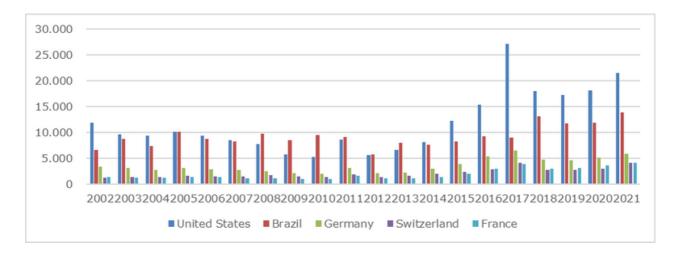


Figure 7 Patent publication trends in the top 5 countries of origin



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#### KEY TECHNOLOGIES

After analyzing the technical fields of patents, it is found that South American patents are mainly concentrated in the pharmaceutical field (as shown in **Figure 8**). This shows that there is a great competition in the patent technology and market related to medicine in South America.



Figure 8 Top 10 technology fields



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# STANDARDIZED CURRENT ASSIGNEES

The analysis of the main patent applicants in South America shows that the top 10 patent applicants are mainly from the United States and Europe, of which P&G has the largest number of patents applied in South America, followed by BASF, Qualcomm and Unilever (as shown in **Figure 9**).



Figure 9 The top 10 standardized current assignees



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#### CONCLUSION

In recent years, with the increase in the volume of patents applied in South America by foreign countries such as the United States, Germany and native countries such as Brazil, the volume of patents published in South America has gradually increased, which has promoted the development of local intellectual property rights to some extent, but there is still a big development space. We should also pay more attention to the patent development in South America.

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