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# BIWEEKLY REPORT

## PATENTING TRENDS IN SOUTH AFRICA

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NOVEMBER 2022



# INTRODUCTION

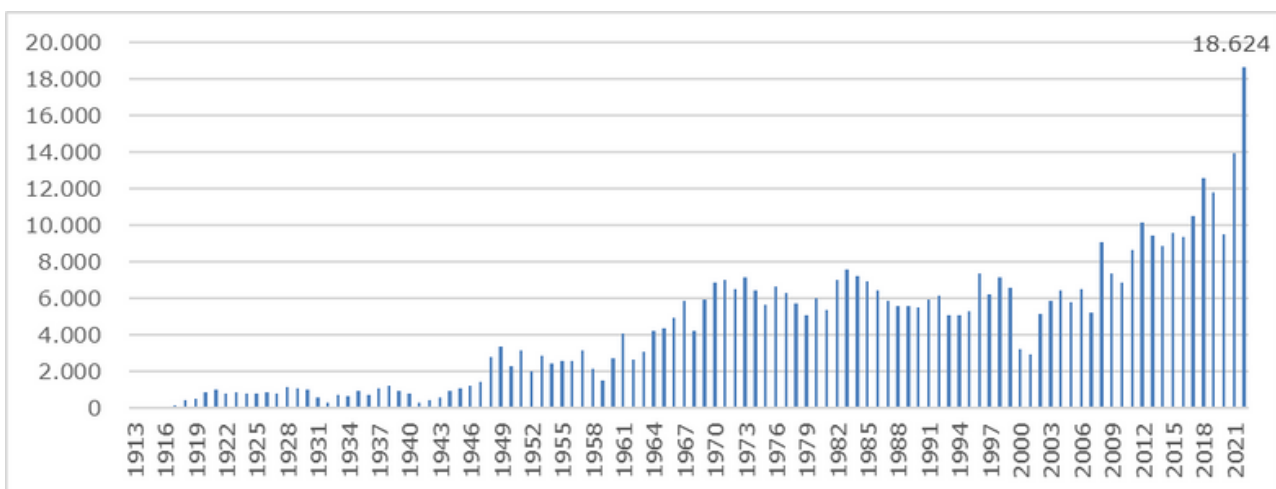
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In Africa, South Africa is the most developed country and the country with the best development of intellectual property. Due to its important economic status and patent system that is very friendly to applicants, South Africa's patents have received extensive attention from the world, and its patent volume is far greater than that of other countries. In view of this, this report analyzes the patenting trends in South Africa.



# GENERAL INFORMATION

The patent industry of South Africa has a long history. The earliest patent published in South Africa can be traced back to 1913. In the development of more than a century, the number of patent applications in South Africa has generally maintained a trend of increasing year by year, especially in the last two years, the number of patent applications in South Africa has increased significantly. Up to the present position, the number of patents published in South Africa will reach 18,624 in 2022, an increase of 33.9% compared with 2021 (as shown in **Figure 1**).

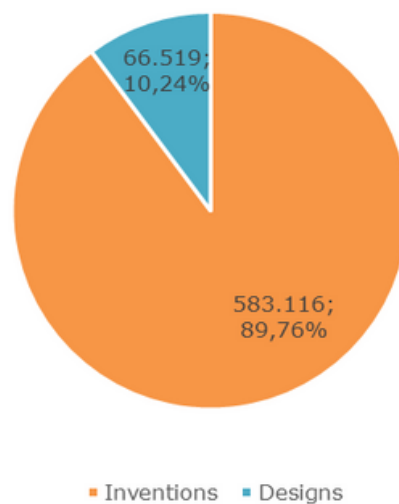


**Figure 1 Patent publication trend in South Africa**



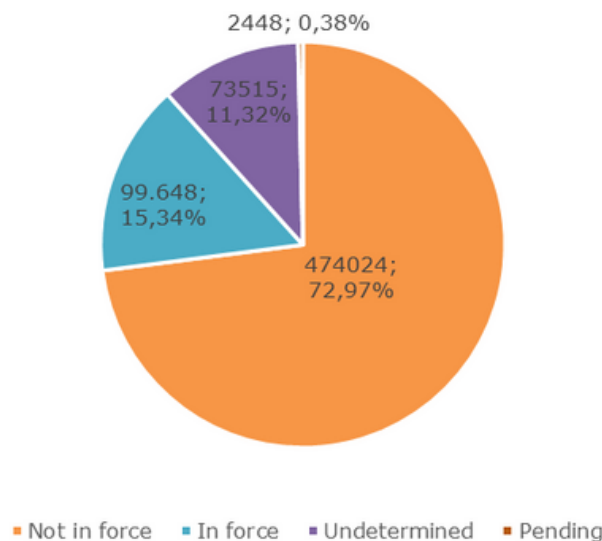
# GENERAL INFORMATION

South Africa's patents consist of invention and design, excluding utility models. Among them, invention patents account for 89.76%, while the proportion of design is 10.24% (as shown in **Figure 2**).



**Figure 2 Types of patents published by South Africa**

Most of South Africa's patents are not in force, but there still nearly 100,000 patents are in force (as shown in **Figure 3**).



**Figure 3 Legal status of patents published by South Africa**



# GEOGRAPHIC TERRITORIES

The proportion of patents from home and from other countries is close to 1:1 in South Africa. The United States, Germany and the United Kingdom have the largest volume of patent applications except South Africa (as shown in **Figure 4**).

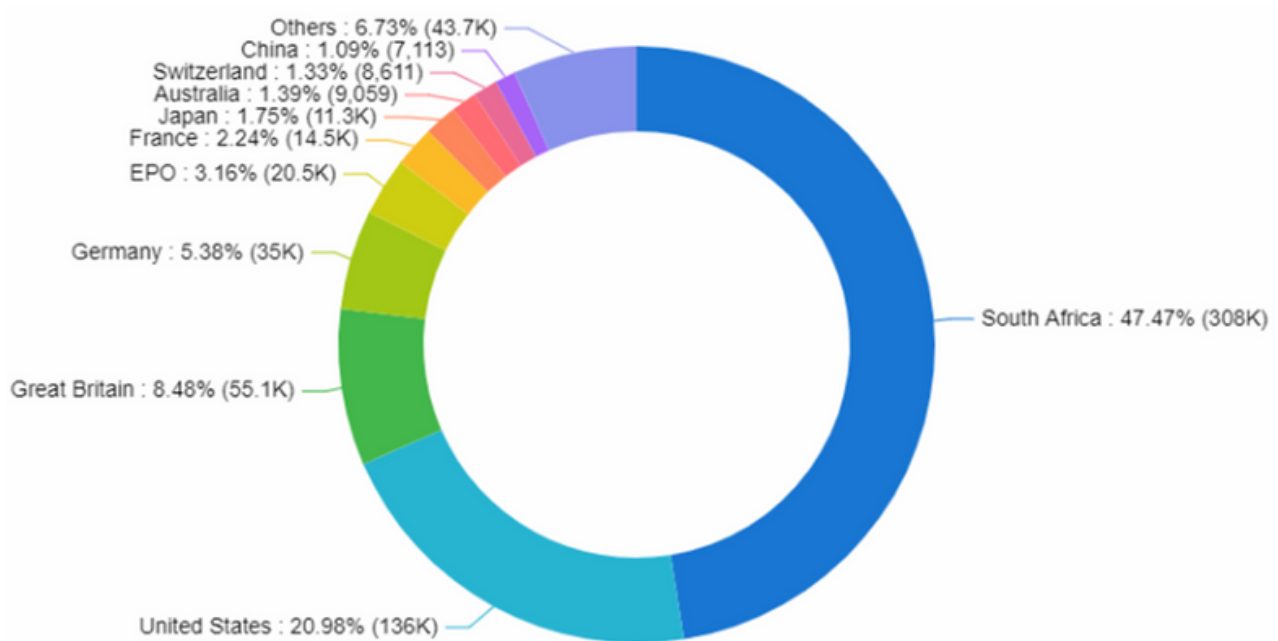


Figure 4 Top countries of origin



# GEOGRAPHIC TERRITORIES

From the perspective of application trend, the volume of patents applied by most countries in South Africa each year has remained stable, but it is worth noting that the volume of patents applied by China in South Africa has increased rapidly in recent years (as shown in **Figure 5**).

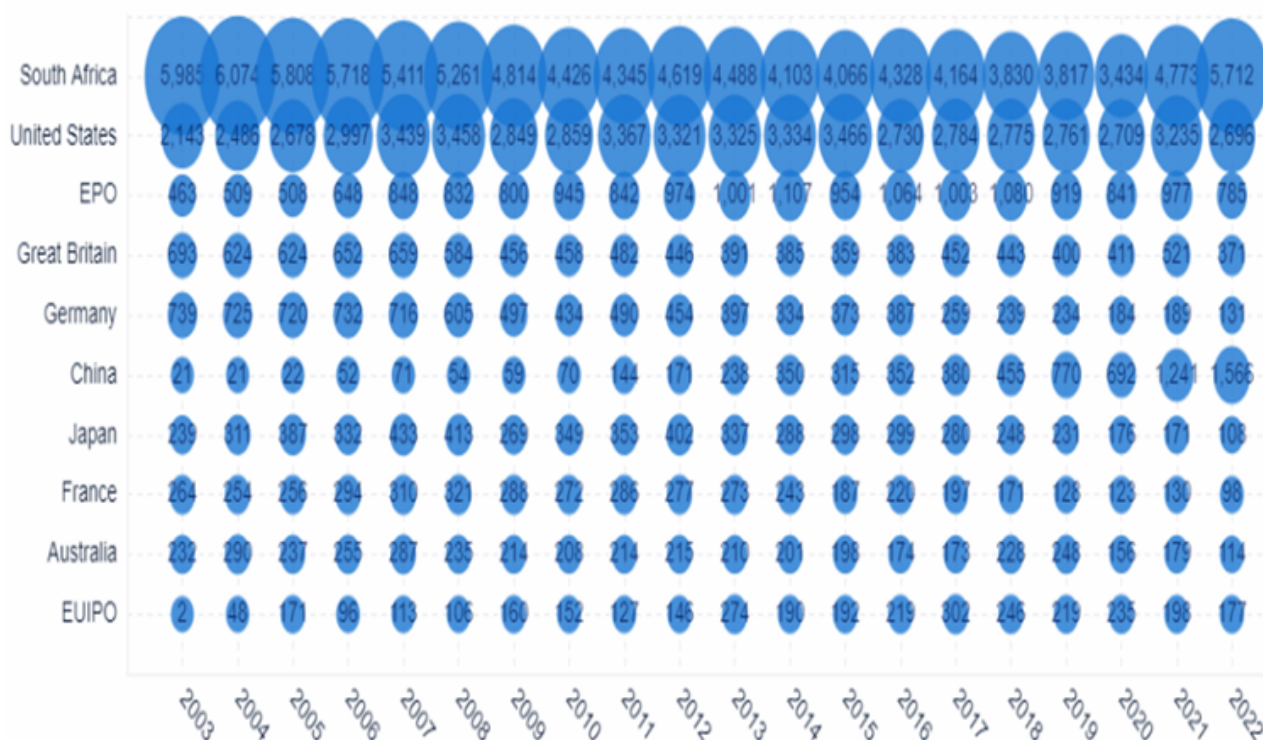
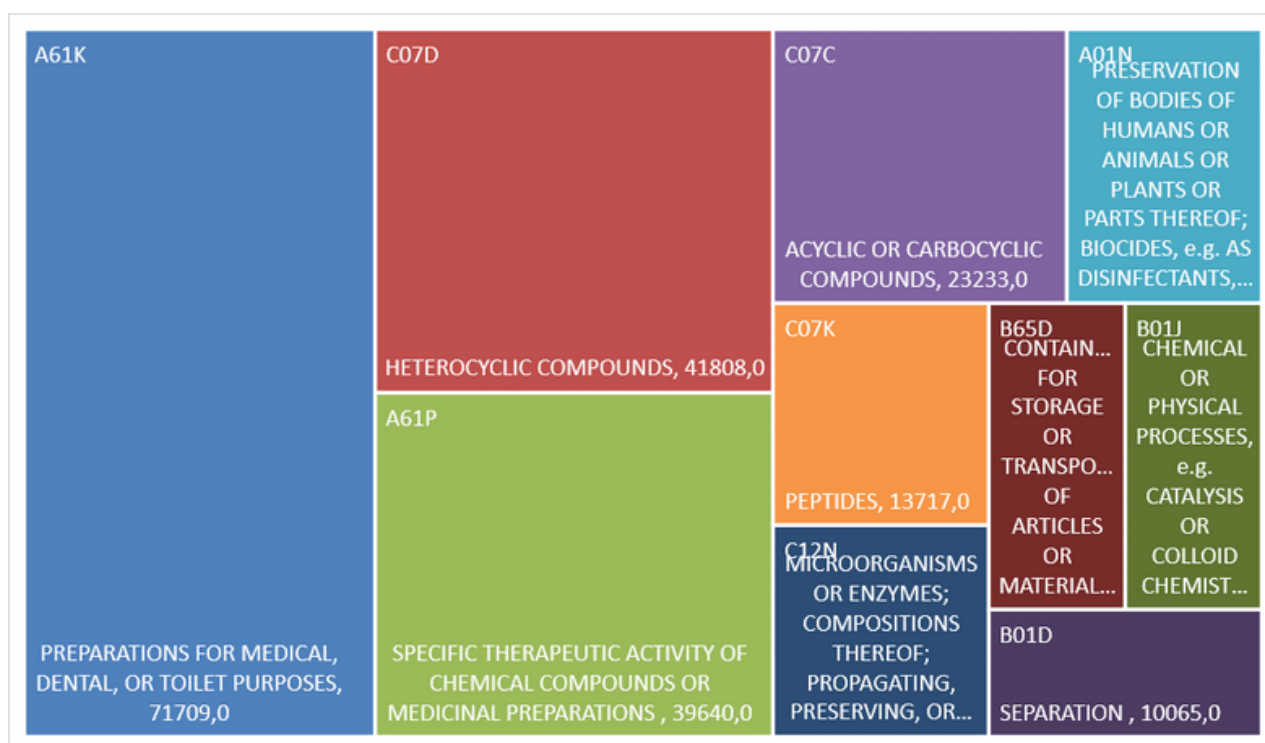


Figure 5 Patent application trend of top countries



# KEY TECHNOLOGIES

In South Africa, pharmaceutical and chemical related patents have received high attention. Most of the technical fields represented by the top ten IPC classification numbers are pharmaceutical or chemical related (as shown in **Figure 6**).



**Figure 6 The top 10 IPC classification numbers**



## STANDARDIZED CURRENT ASSIGNEES

The applicants with the largest number of patent applications in South Africa are all foreign multinational companies, and these companies mainly focus on daily chemicals and medicine (as shown in **Figure 7**). The most patent applications of these companies in South Africa are mainly in medicine and organic chemistry (as shown in **Figure 8**).

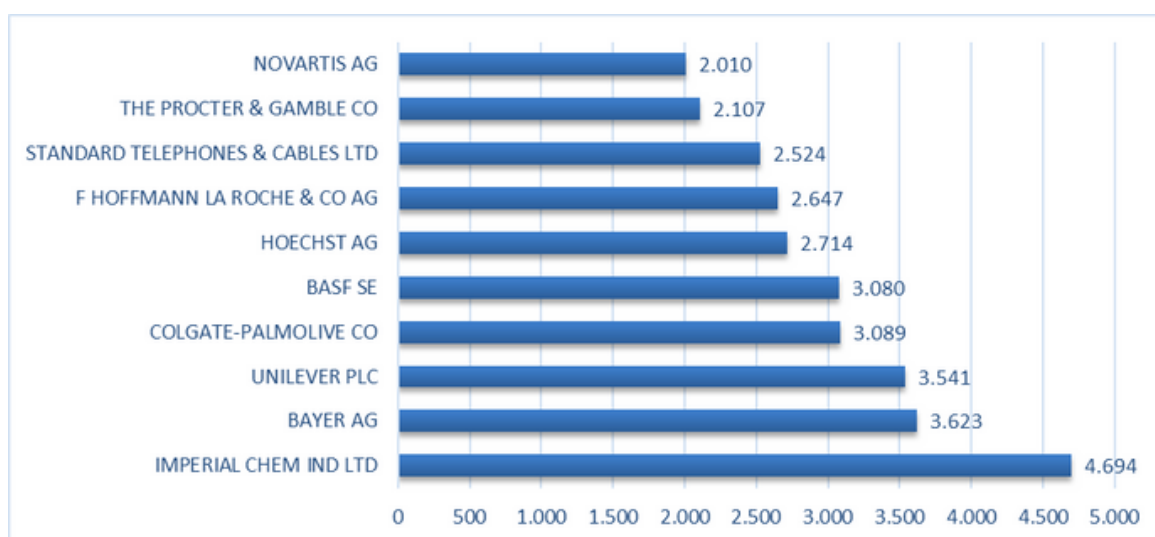


Figure 7 The top 10 standardized current assignees

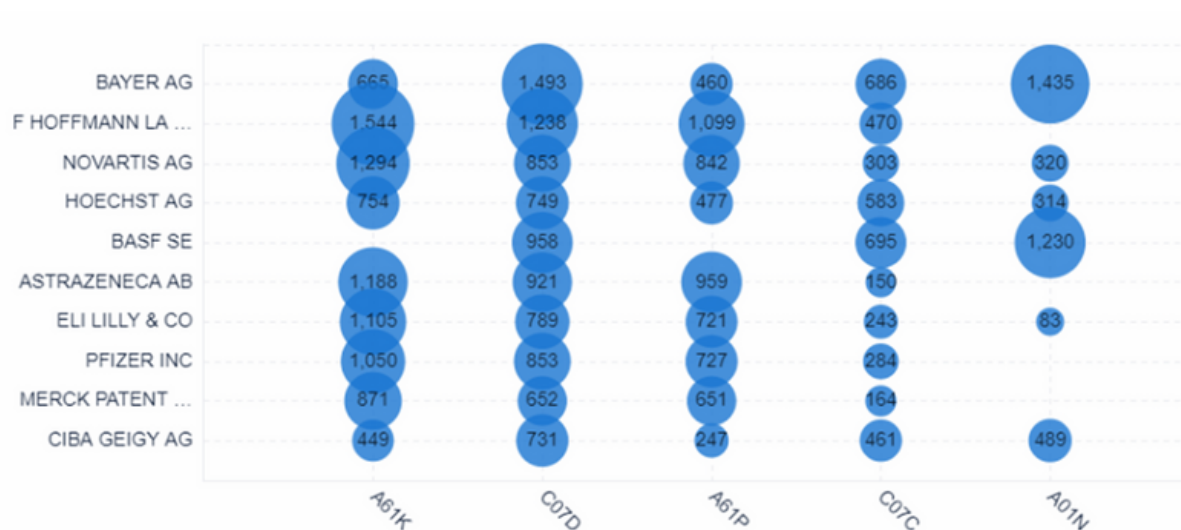


Figure 8 Technical fields concerned by main applicants



# CONCLUSION

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South Africa's important position in Africa and even in the world economic system has provided strong support for its patent development. At present, many large transnational corporations have distributed a large volume of patents in South Africa. In the future, with the further development of South Africa, the market competition in this region will be more intense, and more patent applications will inevitably follow.

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