

BIWEEKLY REPORT



WIPO designated
states analysis -
development over
the past 10 years

JULY 2023

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Introduction

In 1978, the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) came into force. Since then, more and more patents have been applied through this route. On the basis of efficiency and convenience, it has also left more time for applicants to decide on countries to further apply for patents. In this report, the focus will be on analyzing the designated states that have applied for PCT patents through WIPO over the past decade. All data as of June 28, 2023 has been taken into consideration for our analysis.

Part 1: General information

Overall, over the past decade, the volume of PCT patents has shown a continuous growth trend, reaching 272,671 in 2022 (as shown in [Figure 1](#)). Specifically, the volume of PCT patents in 2014 showed a significant increase compared to 2013, and remained relatively stable in the following three years (2014-2016). The volume of PCT patents increased year by year from 2017 to 2020, while maintaining a relatively stable level from 2020 to 2022.

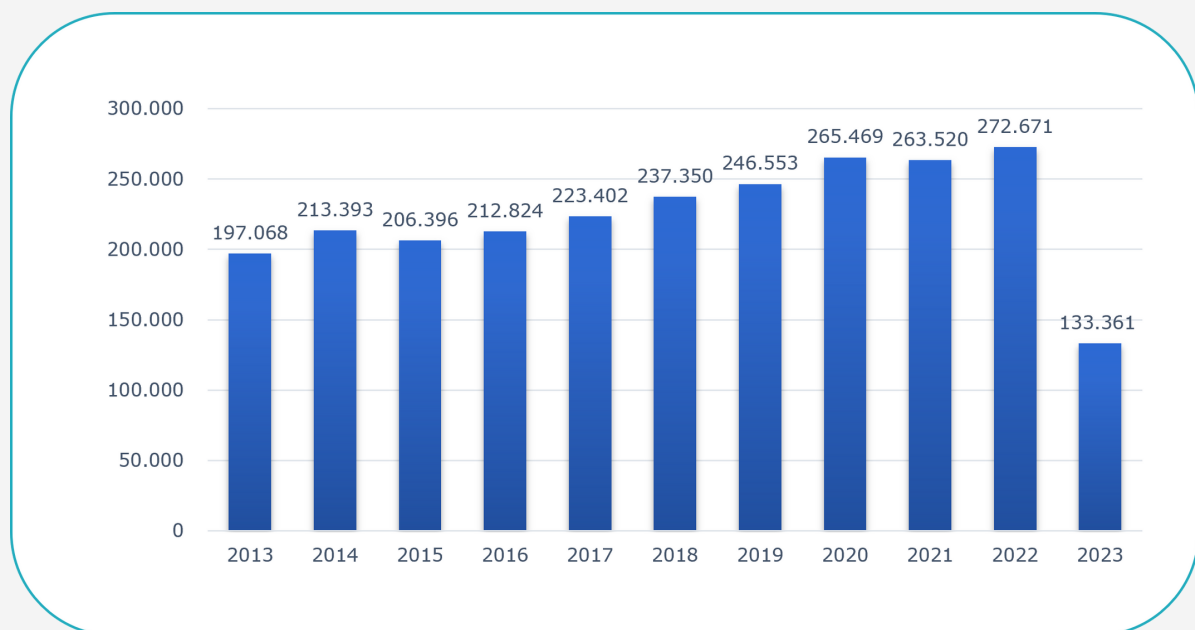


Figure 1 PCT patent publication trend of WIPO

Among the publicly available patents, there are currently 312,174 patents within the designated stage, mainly in the past two years. More patents have exceeded the designated stage due to time constraints (as shown in [Figure 2](#)).

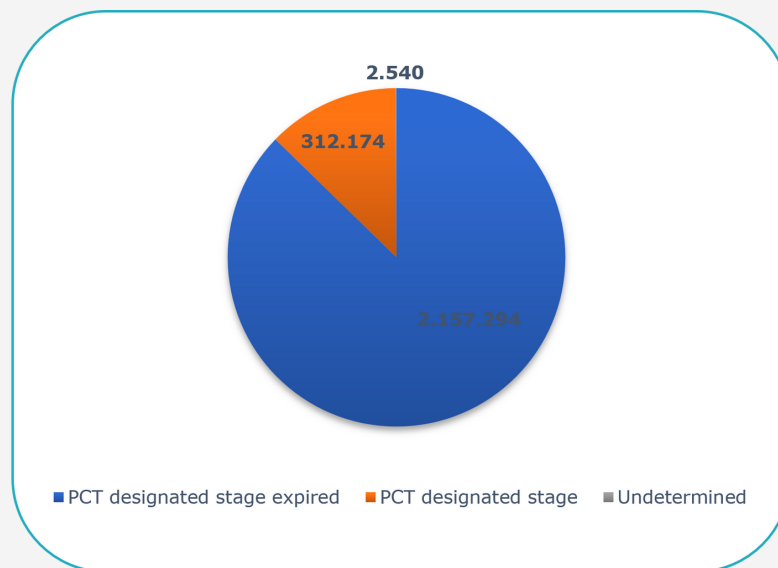


Figure 2 Legal status

Further analysis shows that a total of 1,584,652 patents were finally entered the national stage, which is to apply for patents in other countries through PCT. In addition, 885,920 patents were not entered any country (as shown in [Figure 3](#)).

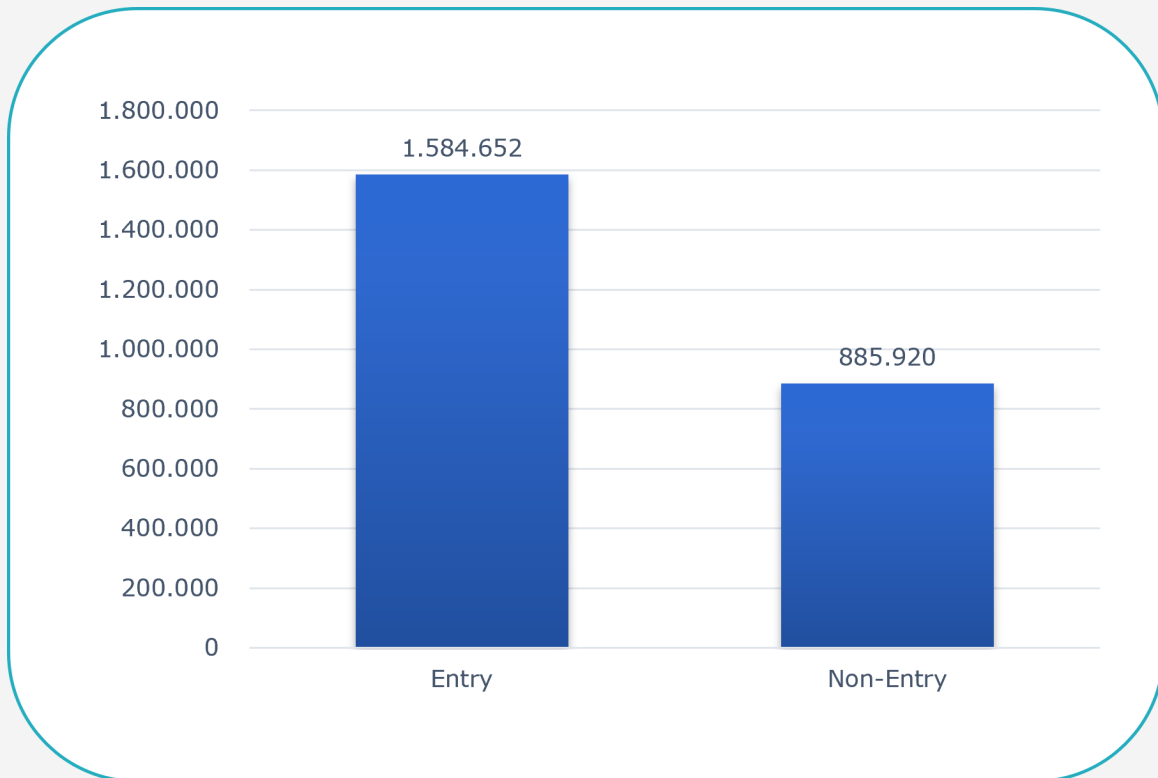


Figure 3 Entry into the country or not

We can see that one-third of the patents were not entered into the national stage, possibly due to three main reasons: firstly, according to the preliminary search report issued by WIPO, the applicant feels that the probability of the patent being granted is relatively low, so they abandon the national stage application. Secondly, due to the long application cycle of PCT, some applicants have not yet decided whether to enter the national stage, or the applicant's patent layout strategy has been adjusted and they have given up on entering the national stage of application. Thirdly, the priority application for PCT patents has not been granted or is still pending.

Part 2: Geographic Territories

From the perspective of origin countries, the United States is the largest patent applicant of WIPO, accounting for nearly 30% of the total number of WIPO patents, followed by Japan and China (as shown in [Figure 4](#)).

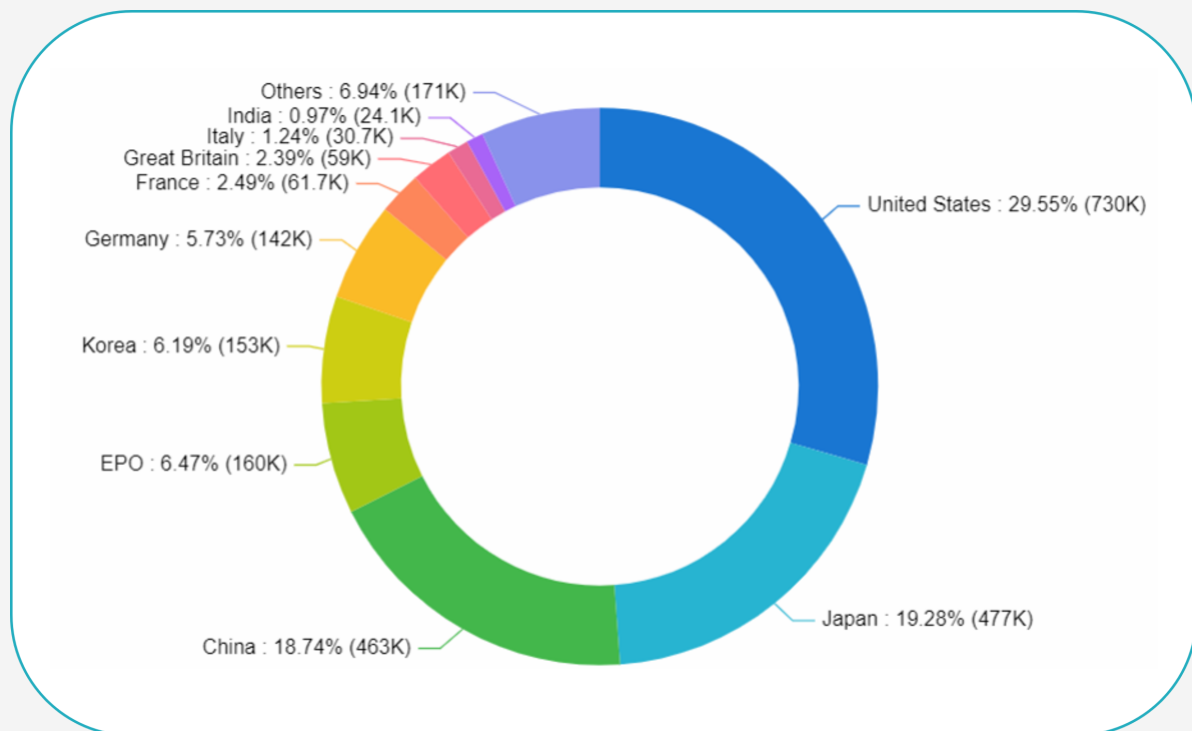


Figure 4 Top countries of origin

Further analysis of the trends in PCT patent applications in the United States, Japan, and China shows that PCT patents applications from the United States and Japan have remained relatively stable, while China's PCT patent applications have shown a significant growth trend and become the country with the highest number of PCT patent applications in 2022 (as shown in [Figure 5](#)).

The rapid growth in the volume of PCT patent applications in China is not only due to the large number of applicants in China, but may also be mainly due to the higher fee reductions and financial subsidies provided by the Chinese government for PCT patent applications.

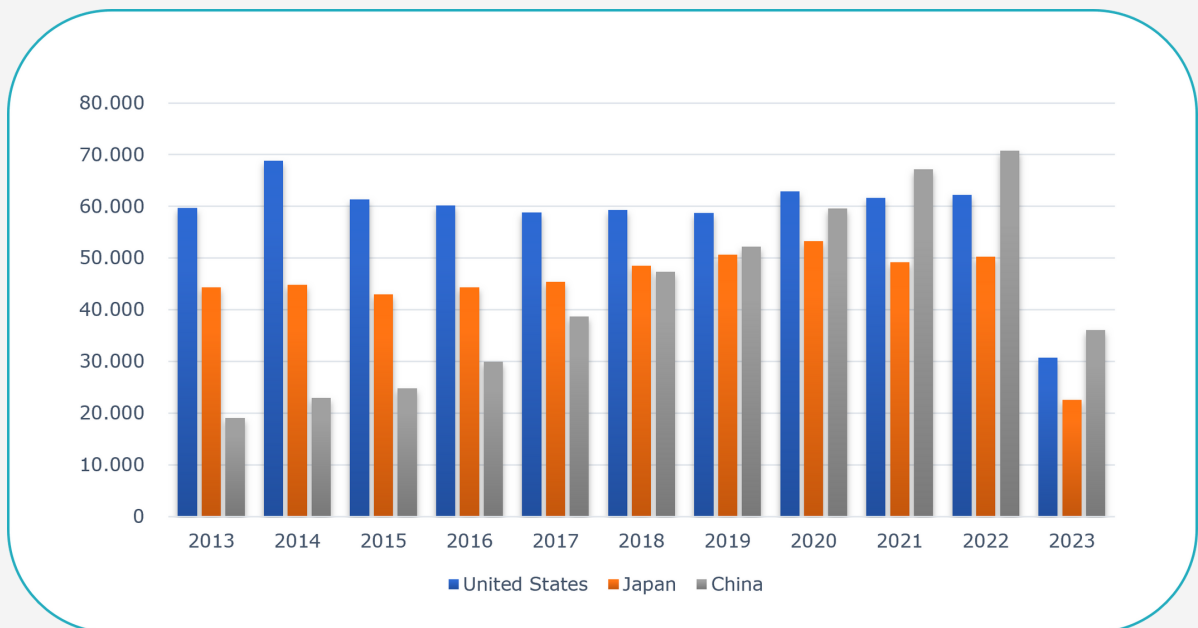


Figure 5 Application trends in the top 3 countries of origin

From the designated countries, the volume of PCTs entering the United States is the highest, exceeding half of the total volume of publicly available PCTs by WIPO. Next is China, followed by Japan (as shown in [Figure 6](#)).

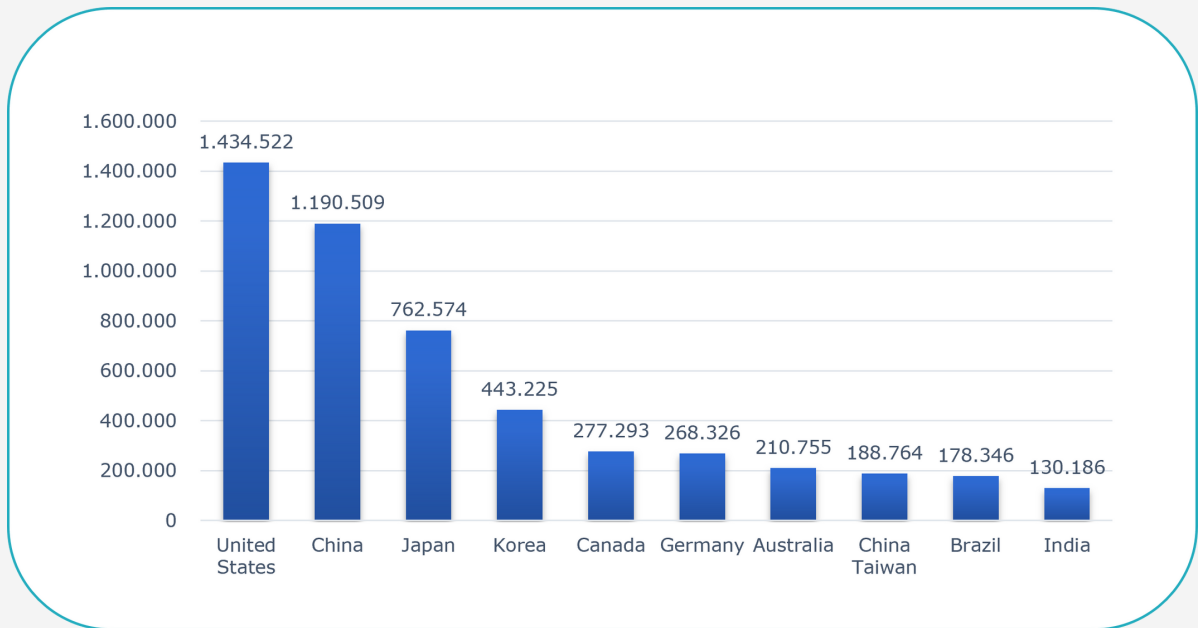


Figure 6 Top countries of designated

Part 3: Key Technologies

According to the statistics on the technical fields of WIPO publication PCT patents, it is found that the most patents related to the field of electrical digital data processing (IPC: G06F), reflecting the willingness of filers in this field to use the PCT route (as shown in [Figure 7](#)).

G06F ELECTRIC DIGITAL DATA PROCESSING, 185481,0	H04W WIRELESS COMMUNICATION NETWORKS, 138586,0	H01L SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICES NOT COVERED BY CLASS H10, 116025,0	A61B DIAGNOSIS; SURGERY; IDENTIFICATION, 97363,0
A61K PREPARATIONS FOR MEDICAL, DENTAL OR TOILETRY PURPOSES, 166894,0	H04L TRANSMISSION OF DIGITAL INFORMATION, e.g. TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION, 116094,0	A61P SPECIFIC THERAPEUTIC ACTIVITY OF CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS OR MEDICINAL PREPARATIONS, 94407,0	H04N PICTORIAL COMMUNICATION, e.g. TELEVISION, 75132,0
		G01N INVESTIGATING OR ANALYSING MATERIALS BY DETERMINING THEIR CHEMICAL OR PHYSICAL PROPERTIES, 83337,0	G06G INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY [ICT] SPECIALLY ADAPTED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE, COMMERCIAL,...

Figure 7 Patent publications in different IPC Sections

Part 4: Standardized Current Assignees

In terms of main filers, Huawei has the highest volume of patent applications to other countries through WIPO, followed by Qualcomm and Samsung Electronics (as shown in [Figure 8](#)).

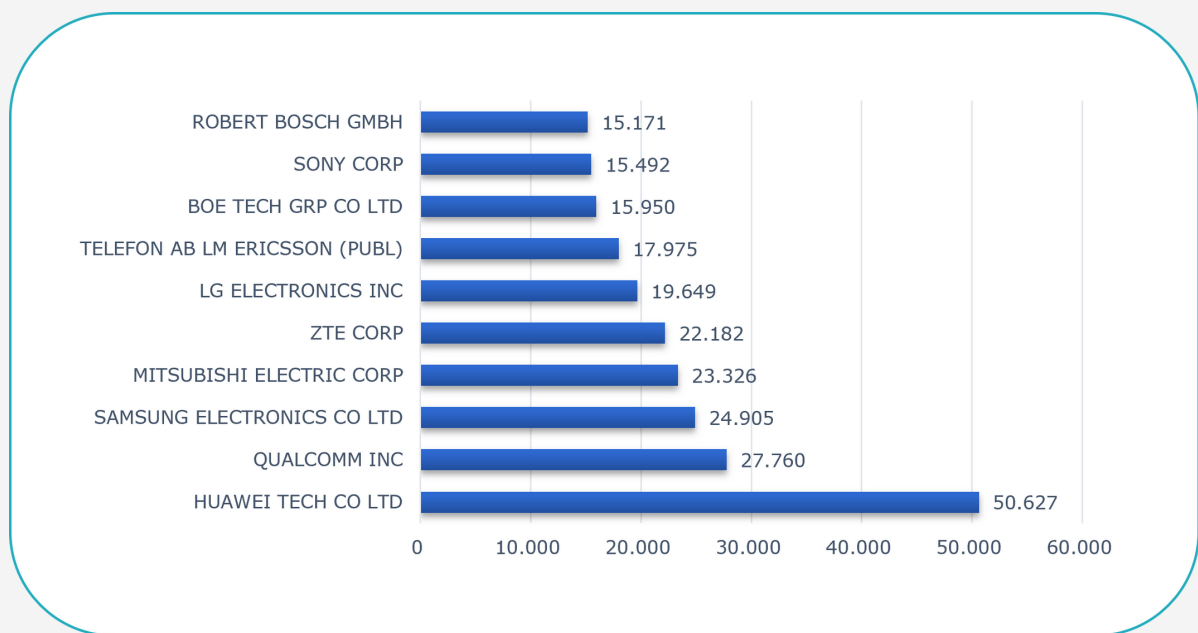


Figure 8 The top 10 standardized current assignees

Conclusion

Over time, more and more filers are willing to apply for patents through PCT in other countries, especially in the United States, Japan, and China. Among the designated states, the United States, China and Japan are also the countries with the most patents involved, reflecting the fierce patent competition among these three countries.

Note: All numbers used and statements made in this report are indicative and for information purposes only. No warranty or liability is given nor accepted for anything published in this report.

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