

TREND REPORT

Patenting trends in Spain



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Introduction

Some international news reports show that as one of the major member states of the European Union, Spain's innovation capabilities have been controversial in recent years. Patents, as the main indicator of innovation capability, can to some extent reflect Spain's innovation capability. This report will analyze the development of patents in Spain over the past 20 years (Data as of December 13, 2023).

Part 1: General information

In the past two decades, the number of local patent applications in Spain has exceeded 540,000. It is significant that after 2014, the number of patent applications in Spain has been decreasing year by year (as shown in [Figure 1](#)). The number of patents from 2021 to 2023 is very small, possibly because some patents have not been publicly disclosed.

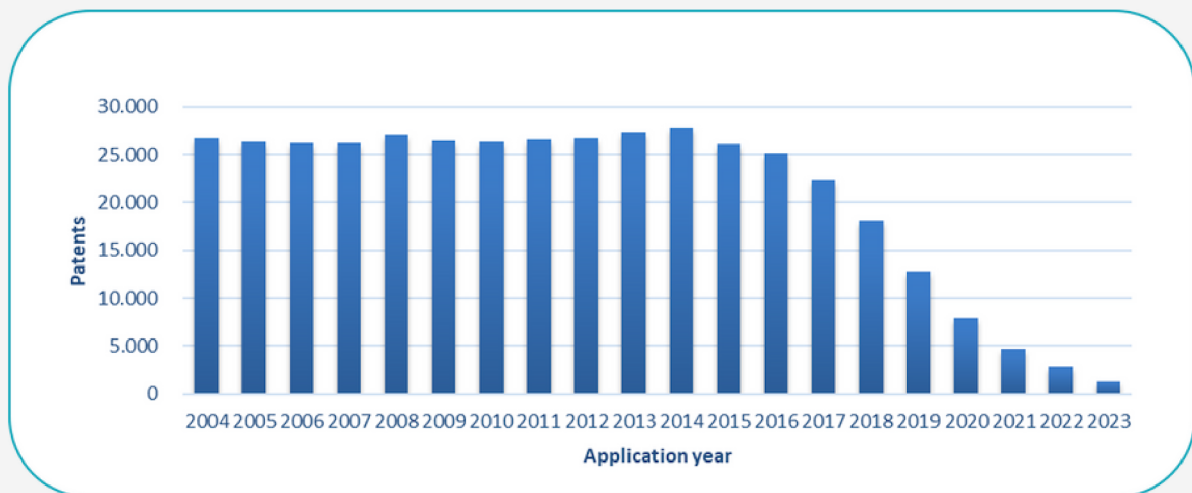


Figure 1 Patent application trend in Spain

In terms of patent types, the majority of patents in Spain are invention patents, accounting for 85.74%, with a relatively low proportion of utility models and design patents (as shown in [Figure 2](#)).

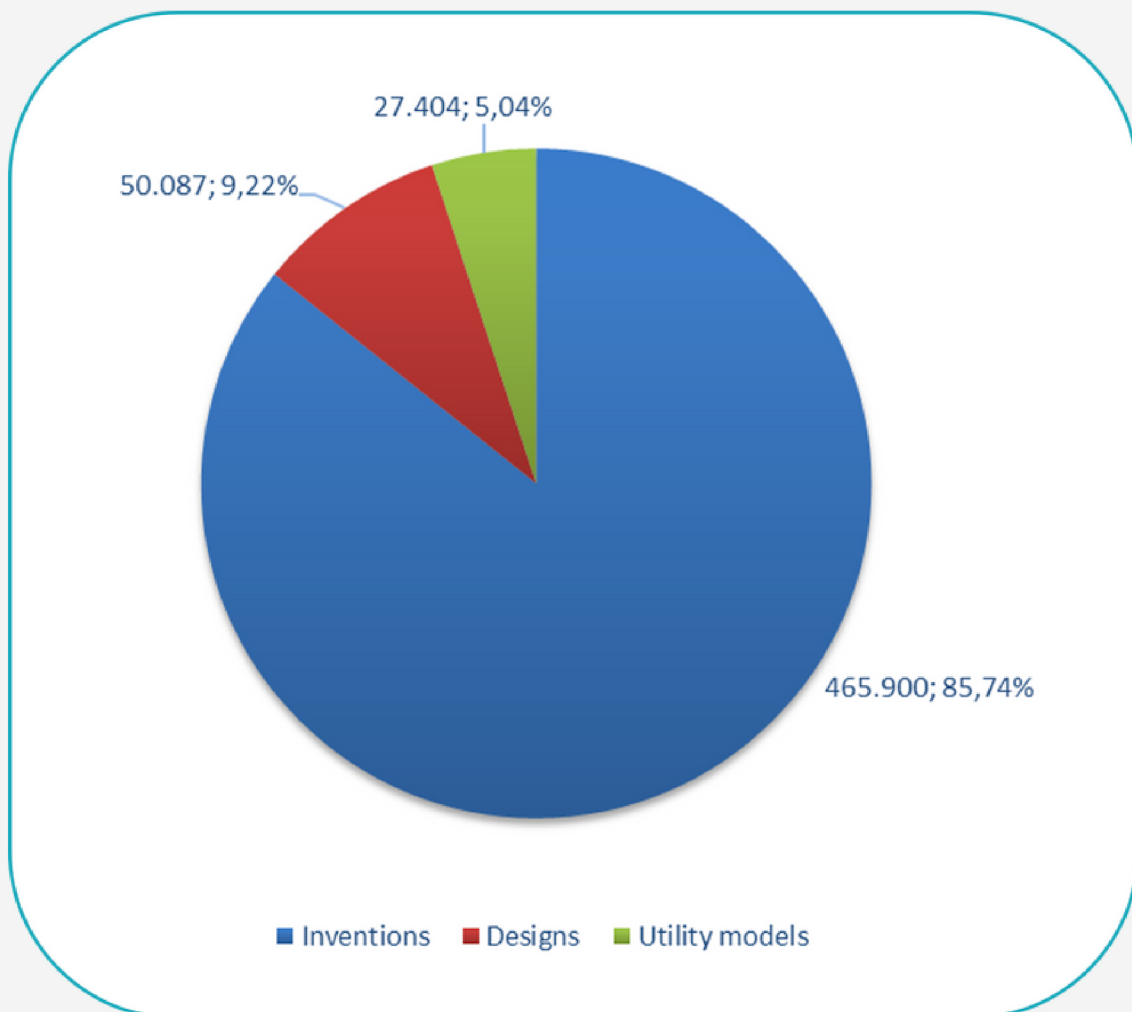


Figure 2 Patent types

From the perspective of legal status, currently 41.76% of patents are in force, while 52.37% are not in force (as shown in [Figure 3](#)). At the same time, there are very few patents pending or undetermined, which also reflects the low number of patent applications in Spain in recent years.

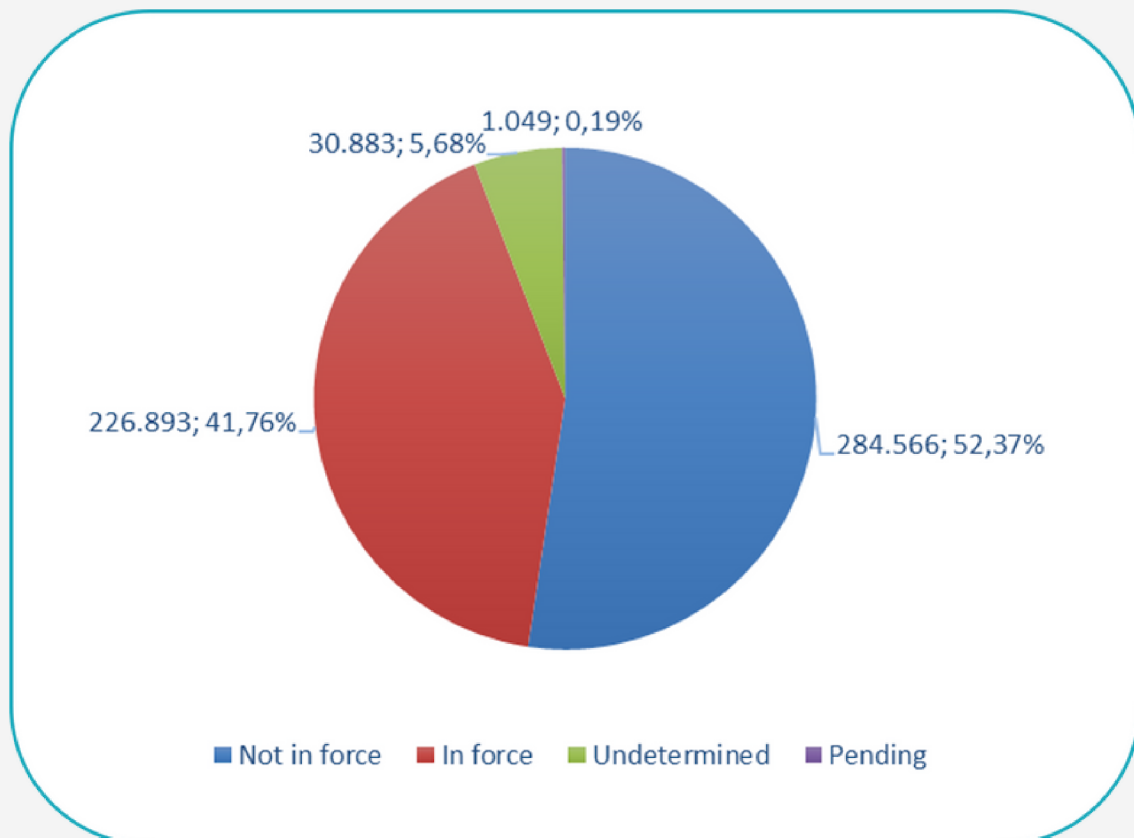


Figure 3 Legal status

Part 2: Geographic Territories

In terms of patent technology origin, the proportion of patents applied for domestically in Spain is 30.13%, while the remaining nearly 70% of patents come from foreign filers. Among foreign filer, the United States and Germany have applied for the most patents in Spain (as shown in [Figure 4](#)).

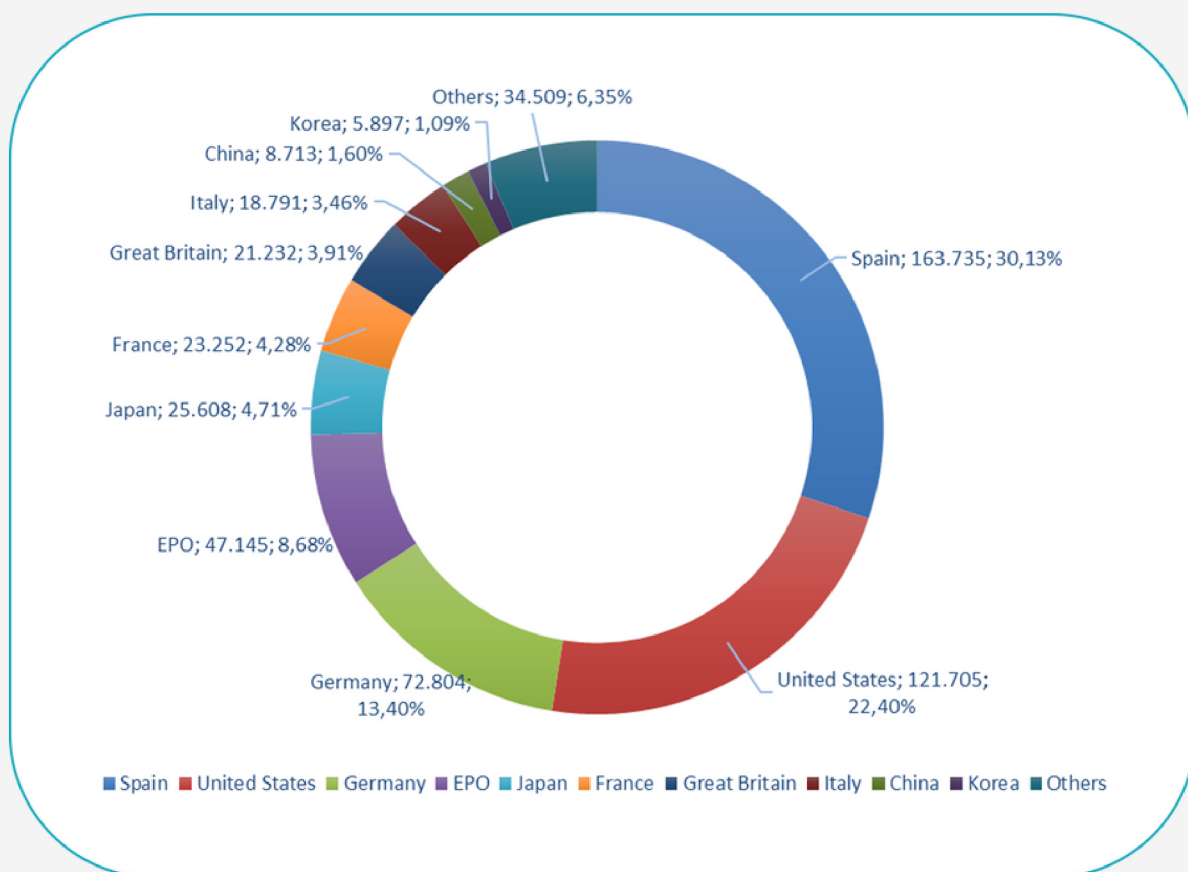


Figure 4 Top regions of origin

Analyzing the trend of patent applications in Spain's main technology origin countries, it can be seen that Germany's patent application volume in Spain has been on a downward trend. The United States has been continuously decreasing its patent application volume in Spain since 2014, while Spain has been continuously decreasing its patent application volume since 2017 (as shown in [Figure 5](#)). It can be seen that the decrease in the number of patent applications in Spain is influenced by both domestic factors and foreign filers.

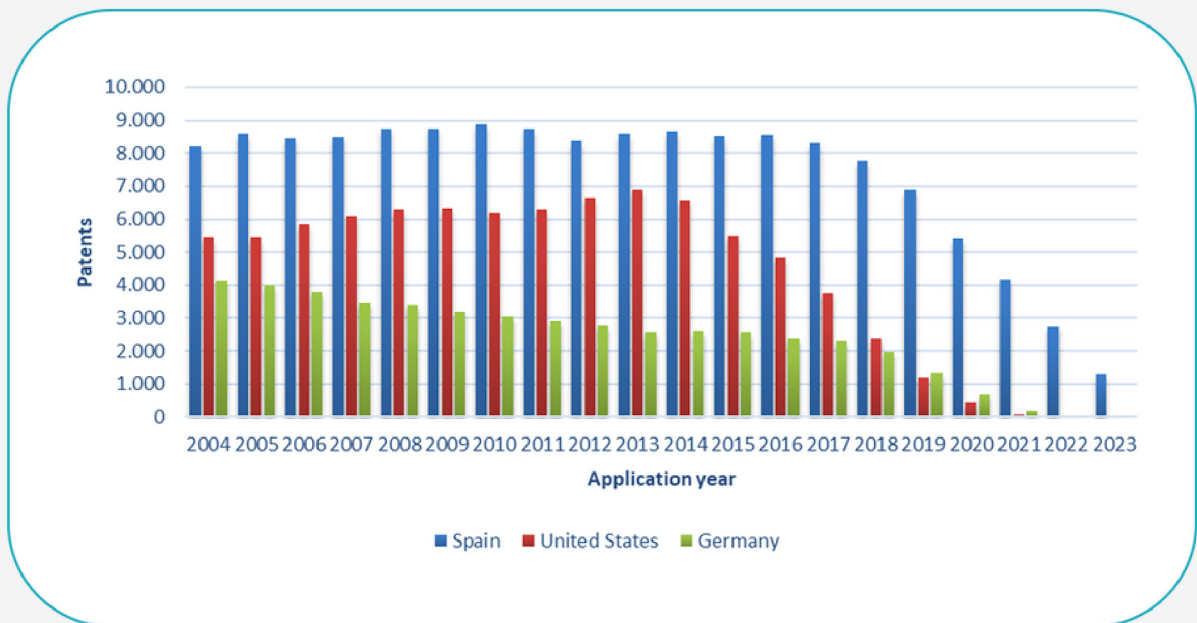


Figure 5 Patent application trend of top countries

Part 3: Key Technologies

From a technical perspective, in the past two decades, Spain's patents have mainly been concentrated in the fields of medicine and chemistry, with many of the top ten IPC classification numbers corresponding to these two technical fields (as shown in [Figure 6](#)).

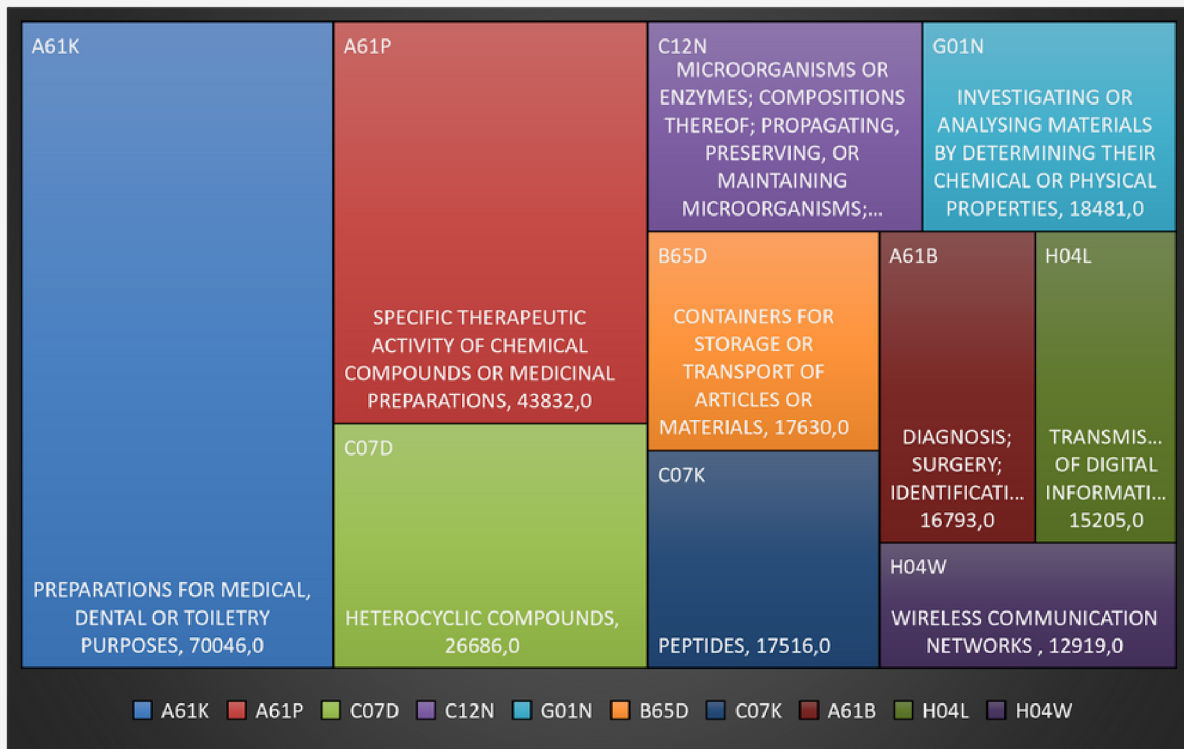


Figure 6 The top 10 IPC classification numbers

Part 4: Standardized Current Assignees

In terms of patent filers, the top ten patent filers in Spain are all foreign companies, with BASF having the highest number of patent applications, followed by Qualcomm and Siemens (as shown in [Figure 7](#)). At the same time, it can also be seen that even these large multinational corporations have a relatively low number of patent applications in Spain.

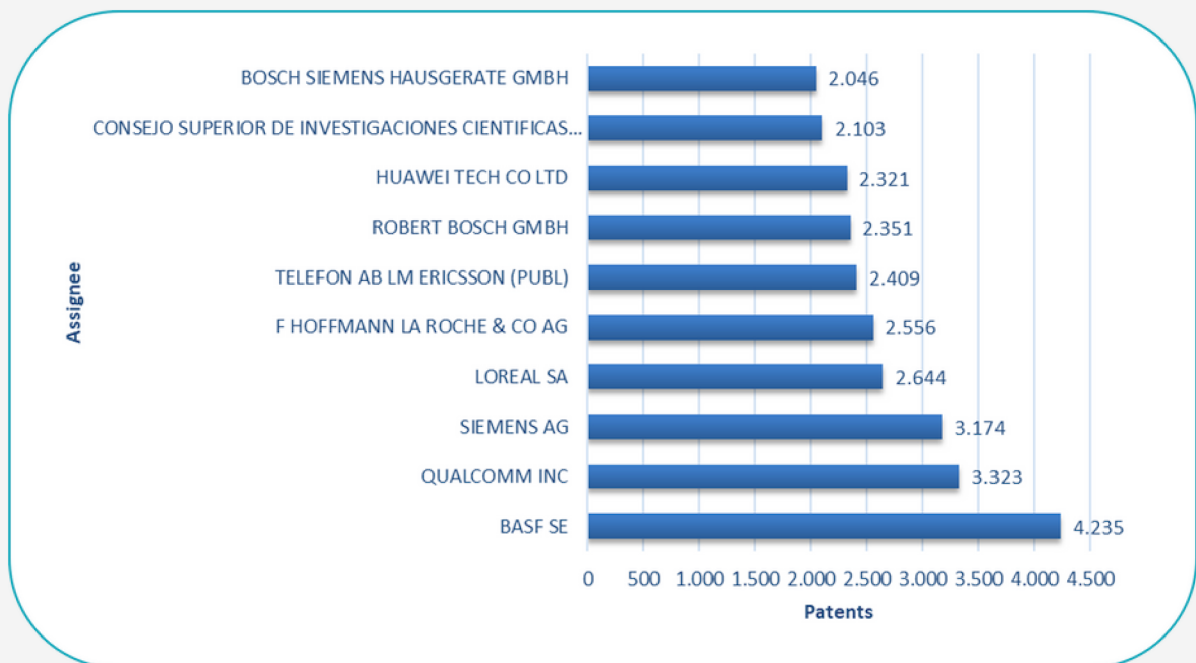


Figure 7 The top 10 standardized current assignees

Conclusion

In recent years, the number of patent applications in Spain has been continuously decreasing, with a significant decrease in the number of patents applied by domestic and foreign applicants, reflecting that Spain's innovation capability is facing enormous challenges.

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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