

TREND REPORT



EPO Patent Trends 2010-2022

APRIL 2023

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Introduction

European Patent Office (EPO) was established in 1977 and currently has 39 member states. It is responsible for examining and granting European patents that can take effect in 42 countries. This report analyzes EPO patent trends from 2010 to 2022.

Part 1: General information

From 2010 to 2015, the volume of patents published by EPO remained basically stable, but since 2016, the growth rate of the volume of patents published by EPO has been significant. In 2022, EPO has released over 300,000 patents (as shown in [Figure 1](#)).

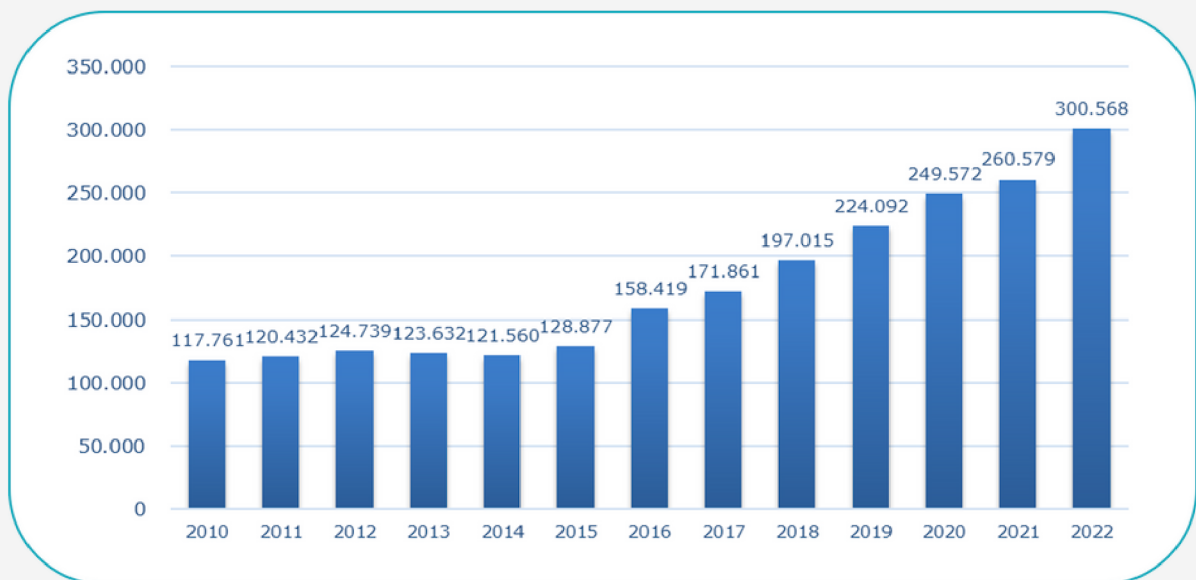


Figure 1 Patent publication trend of EPO

Part 2: Geographic Territories

From the perspective of technology origin countries, the United States is the largest patent applicant of EPO, accounting for 33.30% of the total number of EPO patents, followed by Japan and Germany (as shown in [Figure 2](#)).

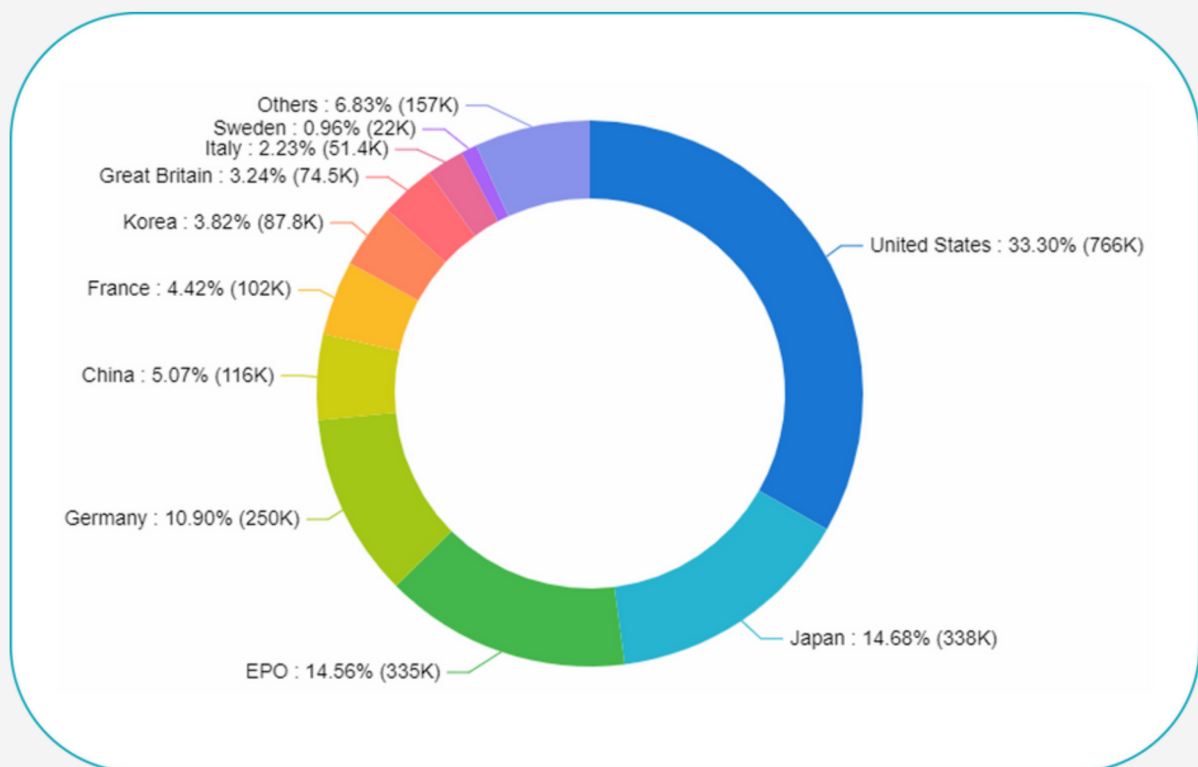


Figure 2 Top countries of origin

By analyzing the trend of the above-mentioned countries' patent publications in EPO, it can be found that, the volume of patents from the United States has significantly increased in recent years, while those from Japan and Germany have remained stable (as shown in [Figure 3](#)).

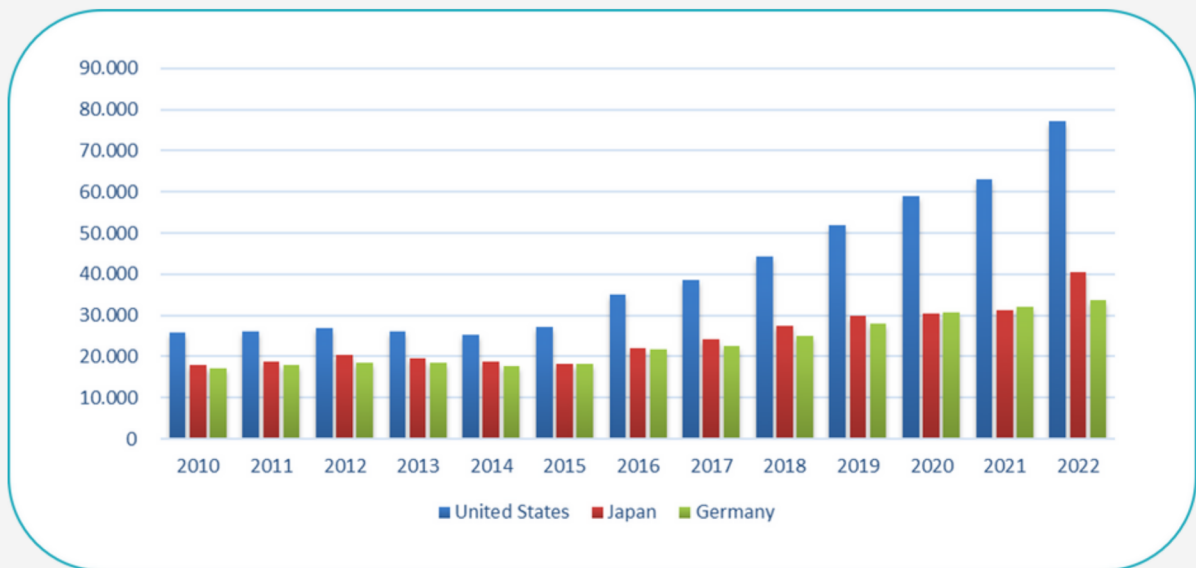


Figure 3 Top countries of origin publication trend

Part 3: Key Technologies

According to the statistics on the technical fields of EPO publication patents in recent years, it is found that the patents in preparations for medical, dental or toiletry purposes related technical fields (A61k) account for the largest proportion. Followed by electronic digital data processing (G06F) and digital information transmission (H04L) (as shown in [Figure 4](#)).

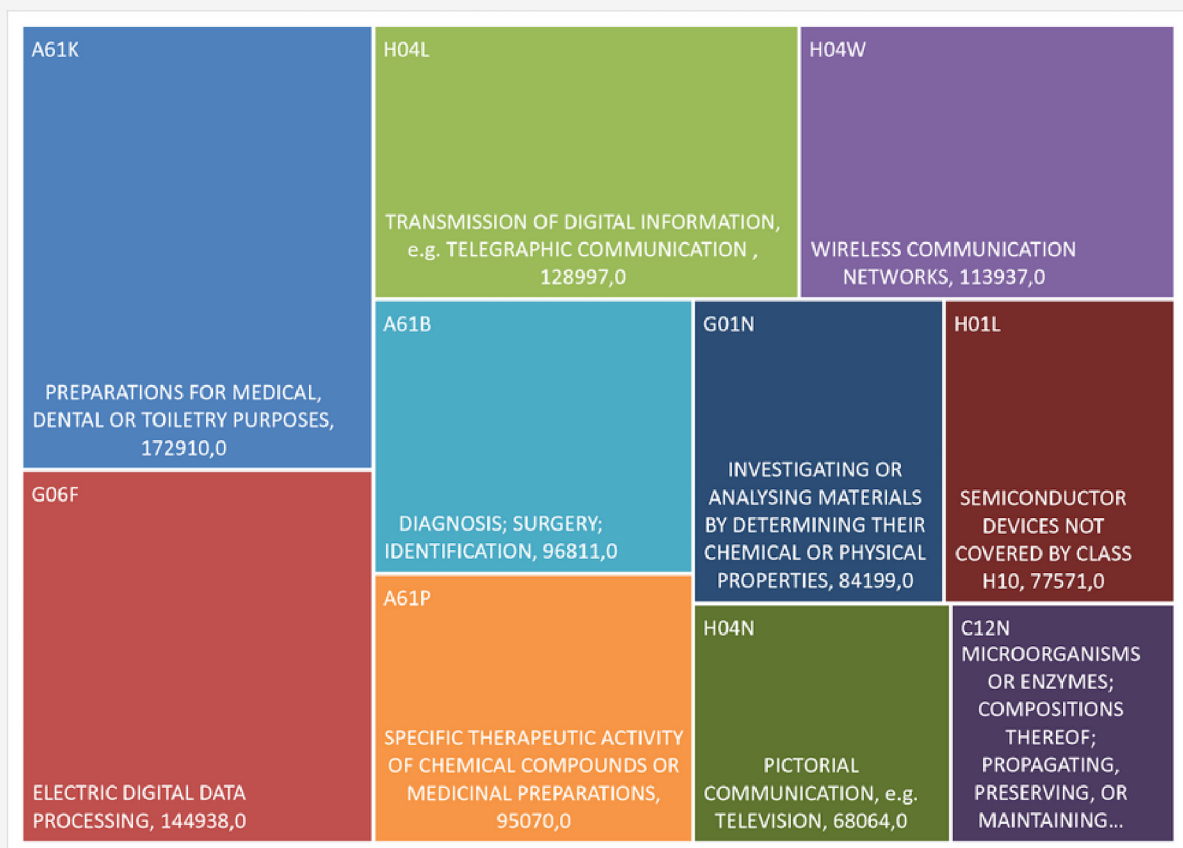


Figure 4 The top 10 IPC classification numbers

Analyzing the patent publication trend corresponding to the top ranked IPC classification numbers, it can be found that since 2016, the volume of patents corresponding to these IPC has also been increasing year by year (as shown in [Figure 5](#)).

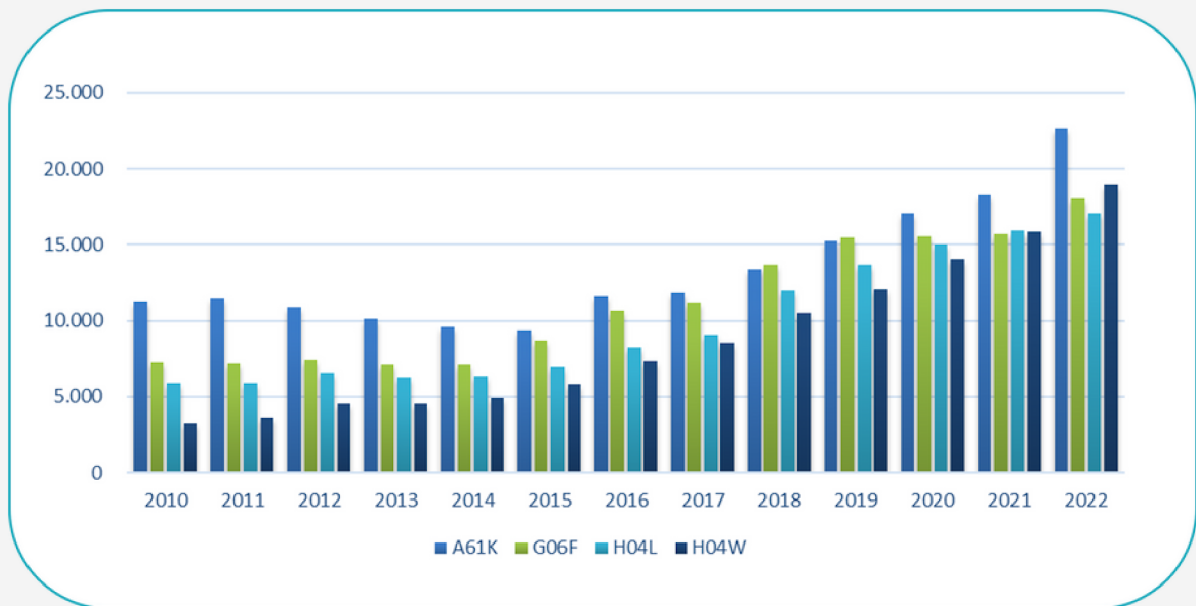


Figure 5 Top IPC publication trend

Part 4: Standardized Current Assignees

Among all EPO patent applicants, SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS has applied for the largest number of patents, followed by HUAWEI and QUALCOMM (as shown in [Figure 6](#)).

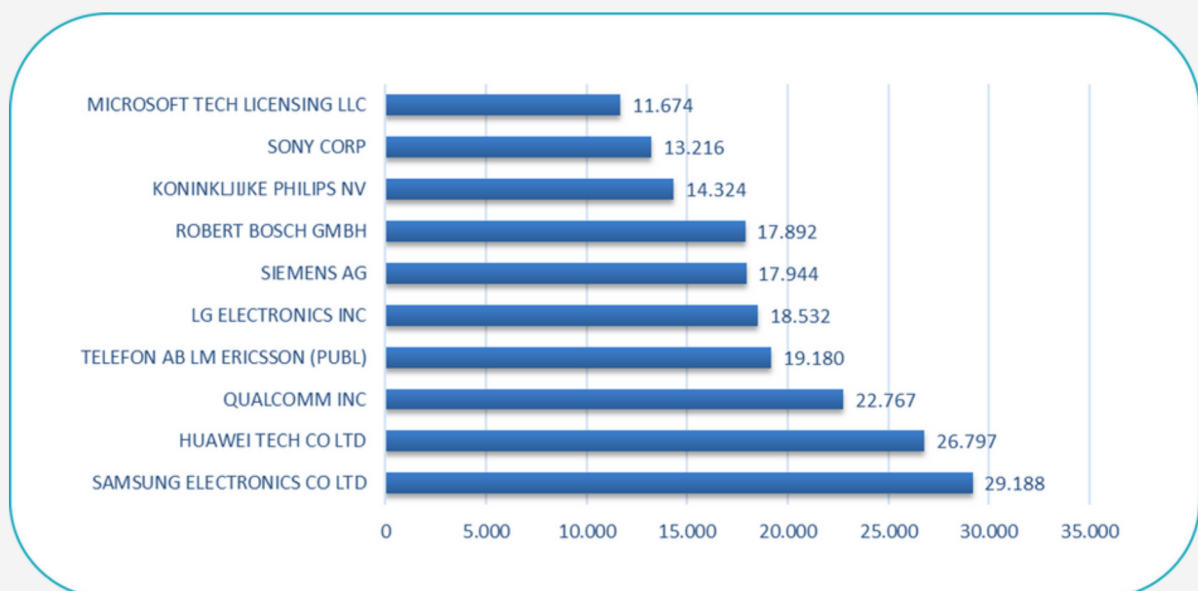


Figure 6 The top 10 standardized current assignees

Analyzing the patent publication trend of the three applicants mentioned above, it can be found that the volume of patents published by the three companies has been continuously increasing in recent years, especially Huawei's patent growth rate is significant, and after 2020, Huawei has the highest number of patents published in EPO annually (as shown in [Figure 7](#)).

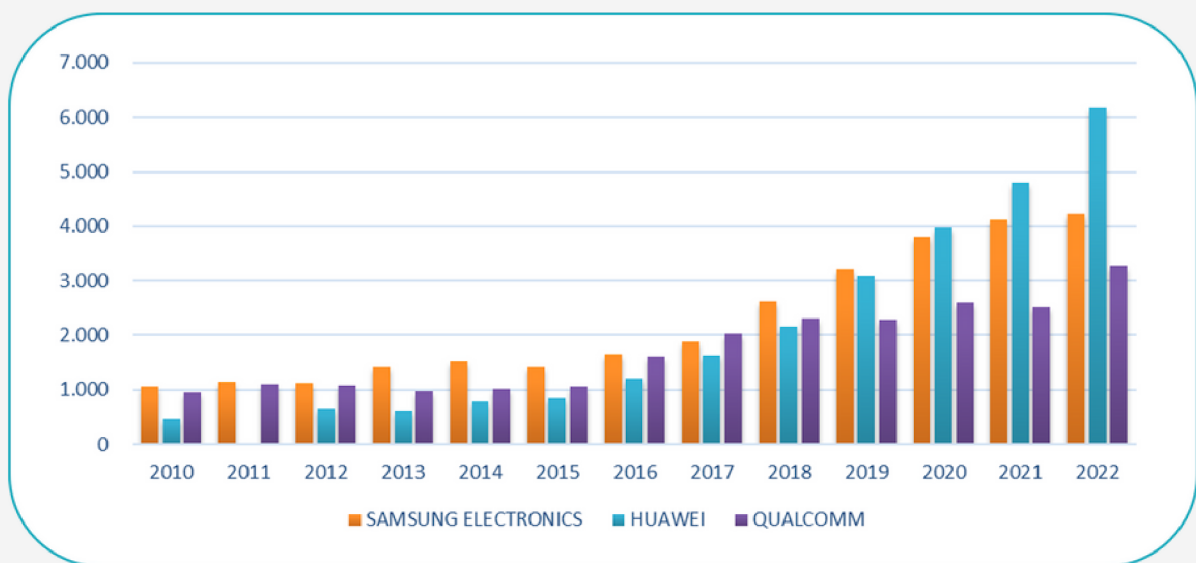


Figure 7 Top standardized current assignees publication trend

Conclusion

In recent years, the volume of patents published by the EPO has shown a growing trend. Especially in recent years, despite the impact of the COVID-19, the volume of patents published by EPO has reached a new high every year, reflecting the continuous improvement of technological innovation capabilities of countries around the world.

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.

Tupolevlaan 81, 1119 PA Schiphol-Rijk
Telephone +31 85 800 0024
info@lighthouseip.com

lighthouseip.com

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