

# TREND REPORT



## Foreign filers report: Development in the United States

DECEMBER 2023

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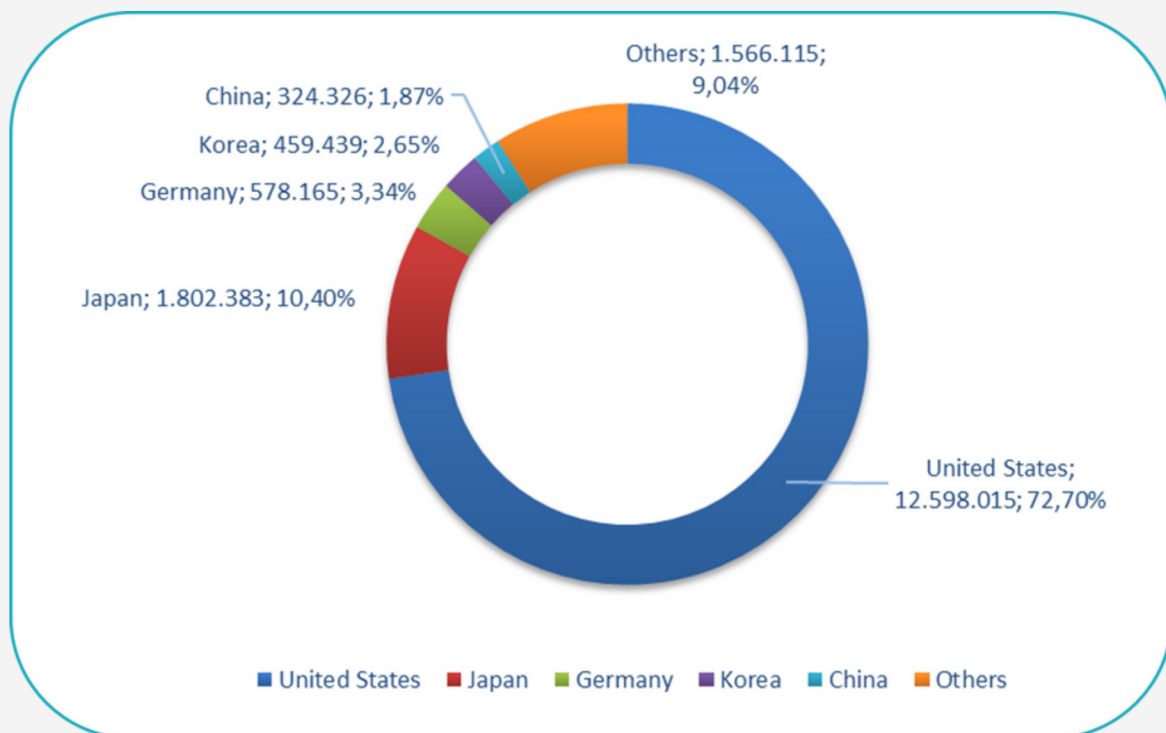
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# Introduction

As the world's largest economy, the market competition in the United States is particularly fierce. Patents, as the core of numerous products and technologies, inevitably lead to numerous global filers laying out patents in the United States. This report will discuss the status of foreign filers applying for patents in the United States (Data as of December 1, 2023).

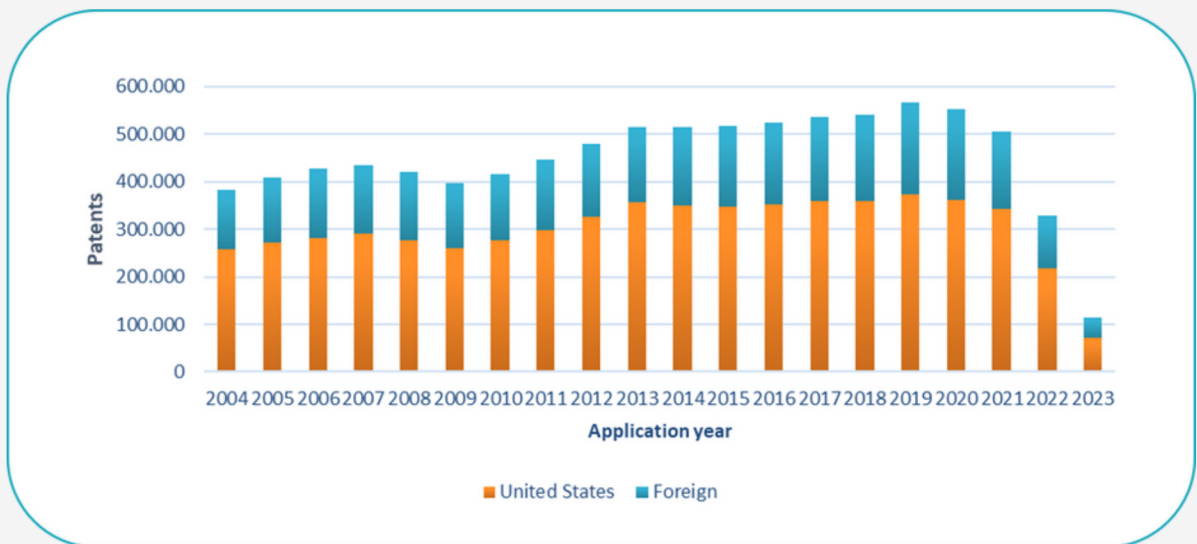
# Part 1: General information

From the first patent in 1790 to the present day, the total number of patents in the United States has exceeded 17 million, with the majority coming from the United States, accounting for 72.70%. In terms of foreign countries, Japan has applied for the most patents in the United States, accounting for 10.40%, followed by Germany, South Korea, and China (as shown in [Figure 1](#)).



**Figure 1** Top countries of origin

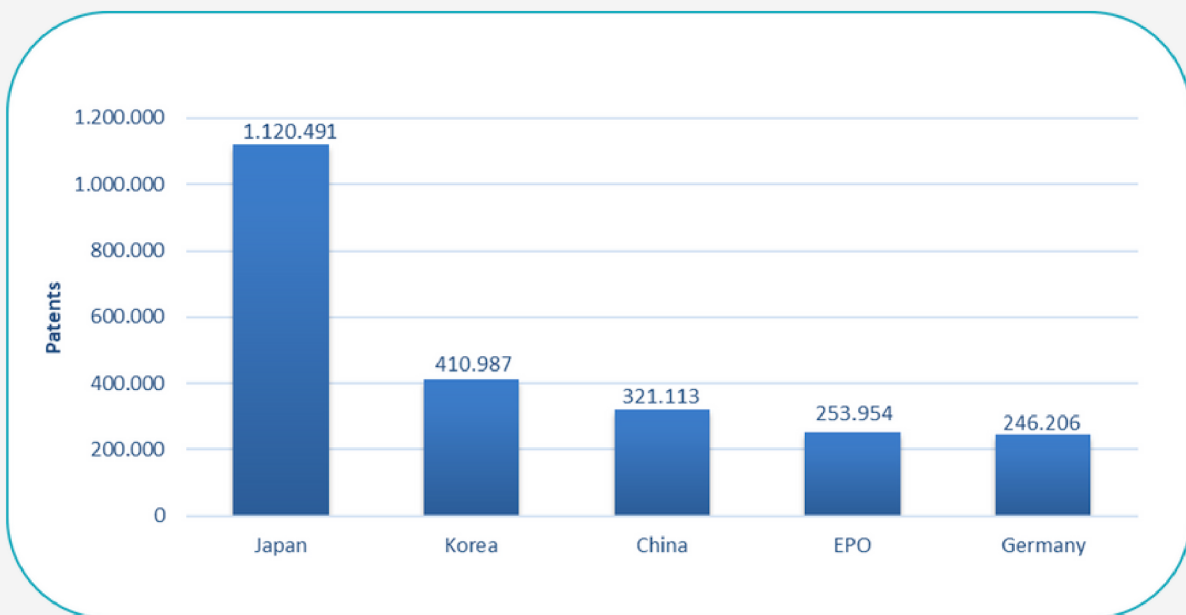
From 2004 to 2010, the annual number of patent applications in the United States was around 400,000. From 2010 to 2013, the annual number of patent applications in the United States increased rapidly and remained above 500,000 per year in the following years (the decrease in recent years was mainly due to patents not being publicly disclosed). Overall, in the past 20 years, the United States domestic filers have applied for approximately 70% of the total volume of patents annually, while foreign filers have applied for over 30% of the total number of patents (as shown in [Figure 2](#)).



**Figure 2 Patent application trend of the United States**

# Part 2: Geographic Territories

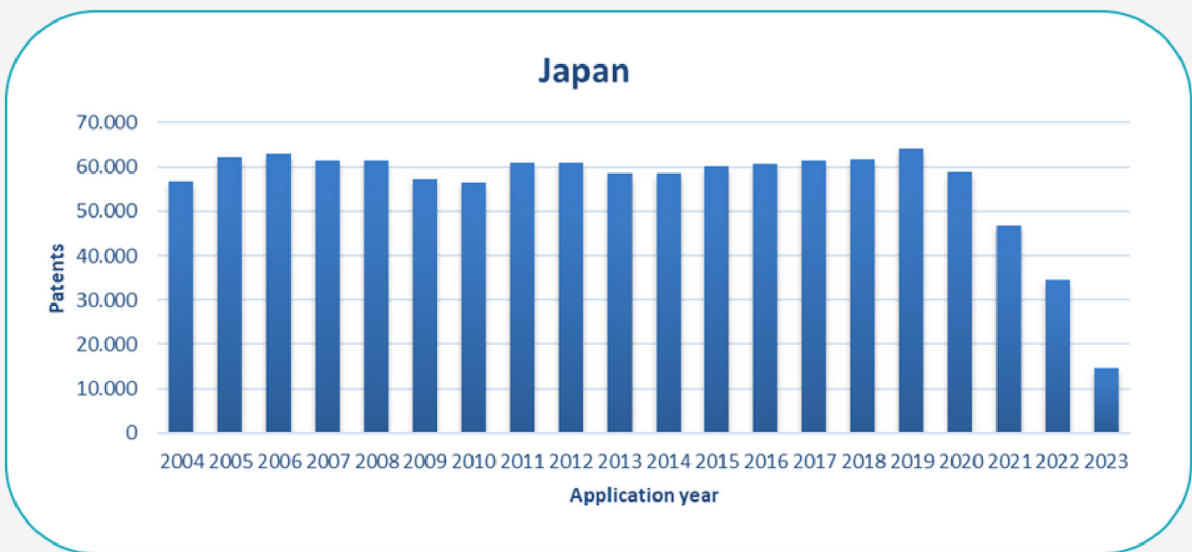
According to the statistics of patents applied by foreign filers in the United States during the 20 years from 2004 to 2023, Japan, South Korea, China, EPO, Germany are the main countries of origin (as shown in [Figure 3](#)). Meanwhile, the number of patents applied by Japanese filers is almost equivalent to the total number of others.



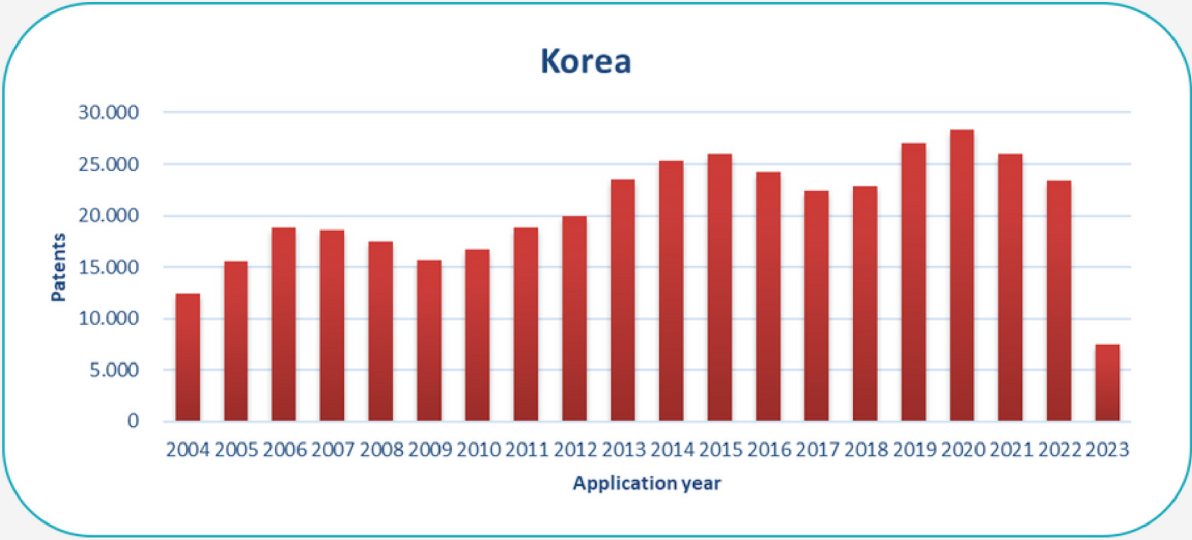
**Figure 3** Top 10 countries or regions for foreign patent applications

Further analysis of the patent applications in the United States by filers from the aforementioned countries reveals that Japan maintains a high volume of patent applications in the United States every year (as shown in [Figure 4](#)).

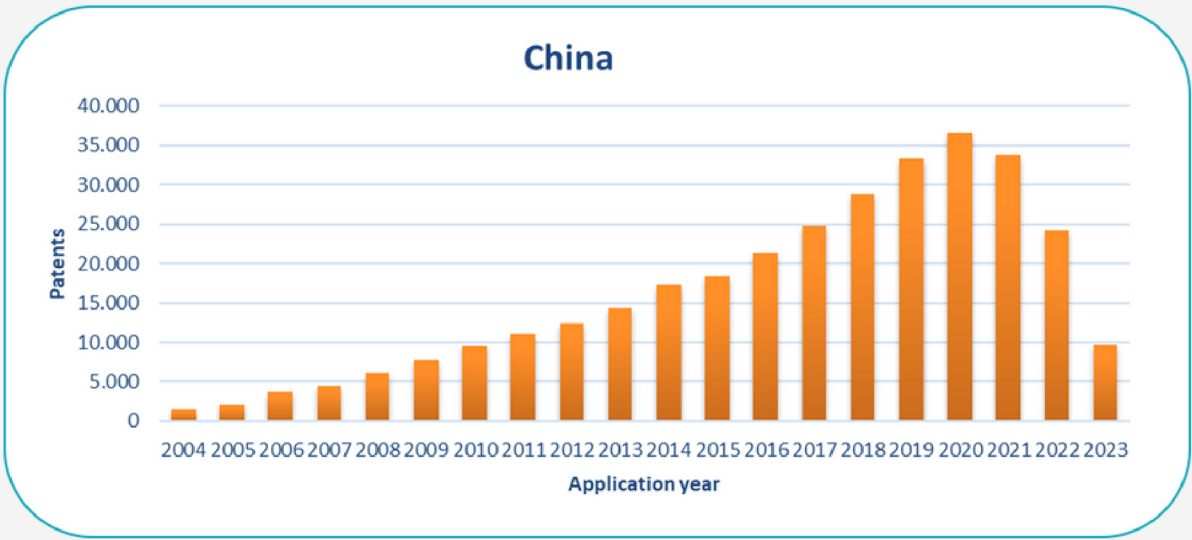
The number of patent applications filed by Korean and German filers in the United States shows significant fluctuations (as shown in [Figure 5](#) and [Figure 8](#)), while the number of applications filed by China and EPO continues to gradually increase (as shown in [Figure 6](#) and [Figure 7](#)), especially in China, the number of patent applications has gradually increased from over 1,000 in 2004 to over 300,000 annually.



**Figure 4 Patent application trend of Japan**



**Figure 5 Patent application trend of Korea**

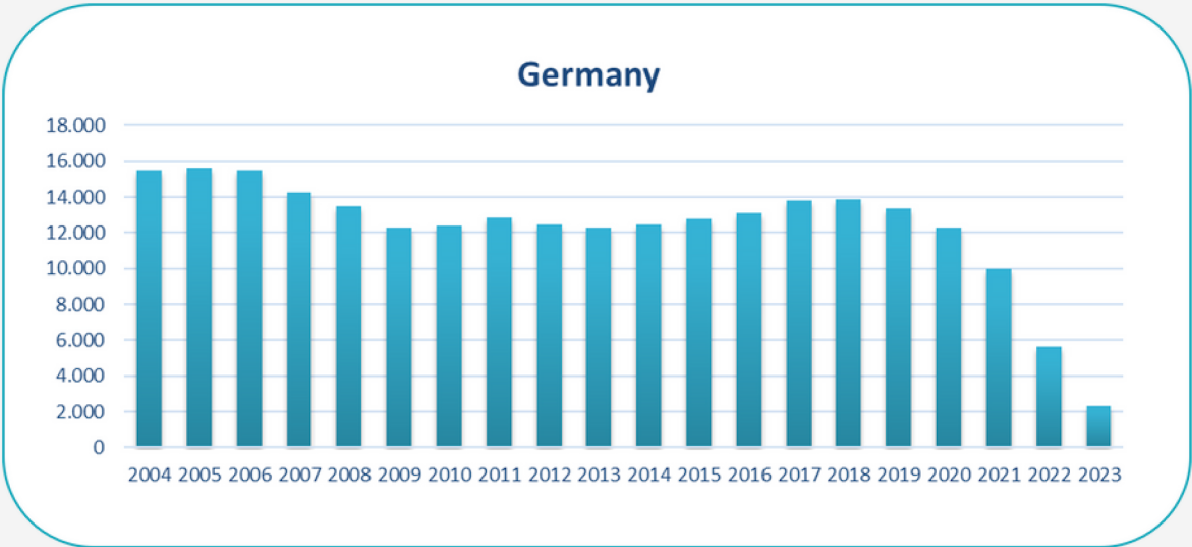


**Figure 6 Patent application trend of China**





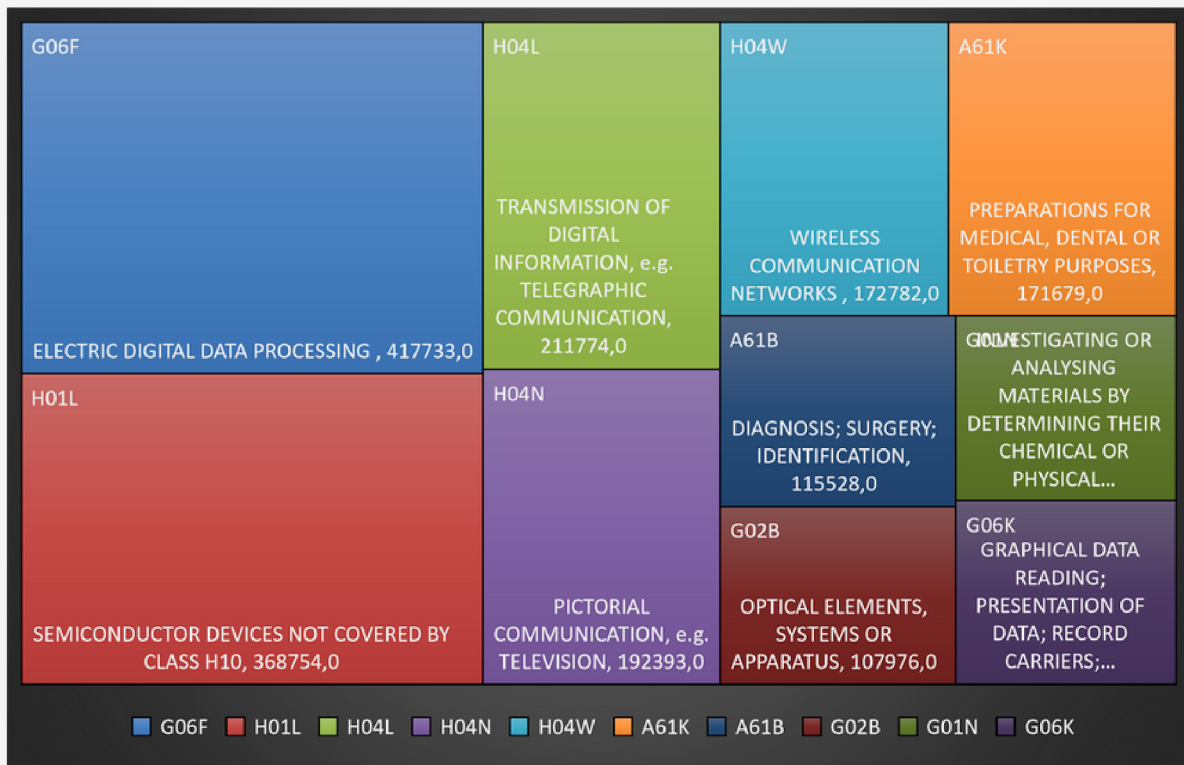
**Figure 7 Patent application trend of EPO**



**Figure 8 Patent application trend of Germany**

# Part 3: Key Technologies

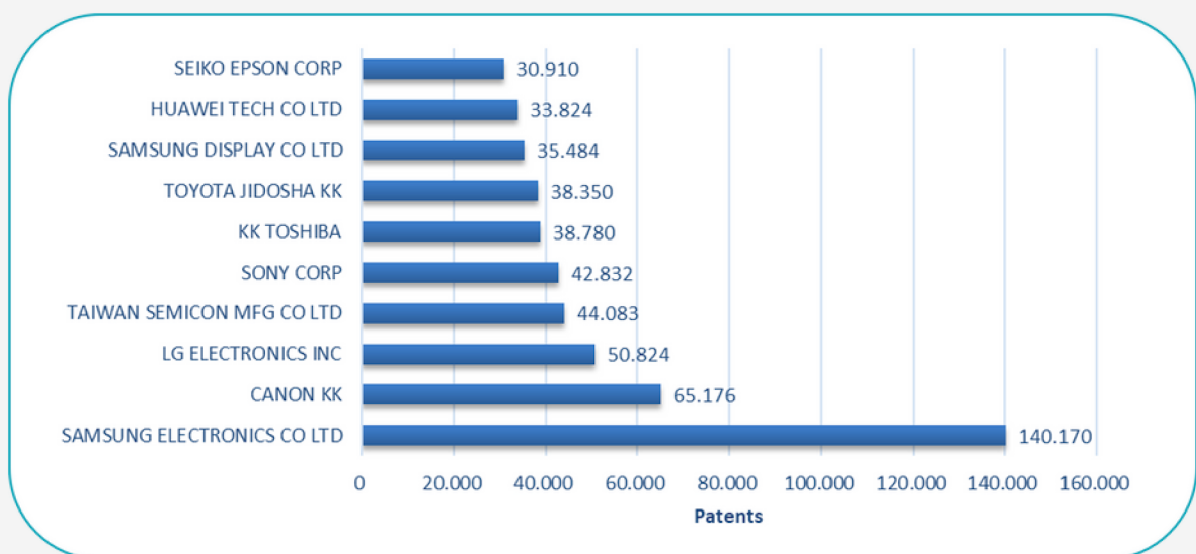
An analysis of the main technical fields in which foreign applicants applied for patents in the United States in the past 20 years shows that electronic digital data processing and semiconductor devices involve the most patents (as shown in [Figure 9](#)).



**Figure 9** The top 10 IPC classification numbers

# Part 4: Standardized Current Assignees

Among major foreign filers, Samsung Electronics has filed the most patents in the United States in the last 20 years, followed by Canon and LG (as shown in [Figure 10](#)). At the same time, it can be found that the top 10 foreign filers are all from Japan, South Korea, and China.



**Figure 10** The top 10 standardized current assignees

# Conclusion

The foreign patent filers in the United States mainly come from Japan, Korea, and China, which have a large number of patents in the fields of electronic communication and semiconductors, in order to cope with the fierce market competition in the United States.

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](https://lighthouseip.com)

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