

# TREND REPORT

## Application to grant ratio in China



JANUARY 2024

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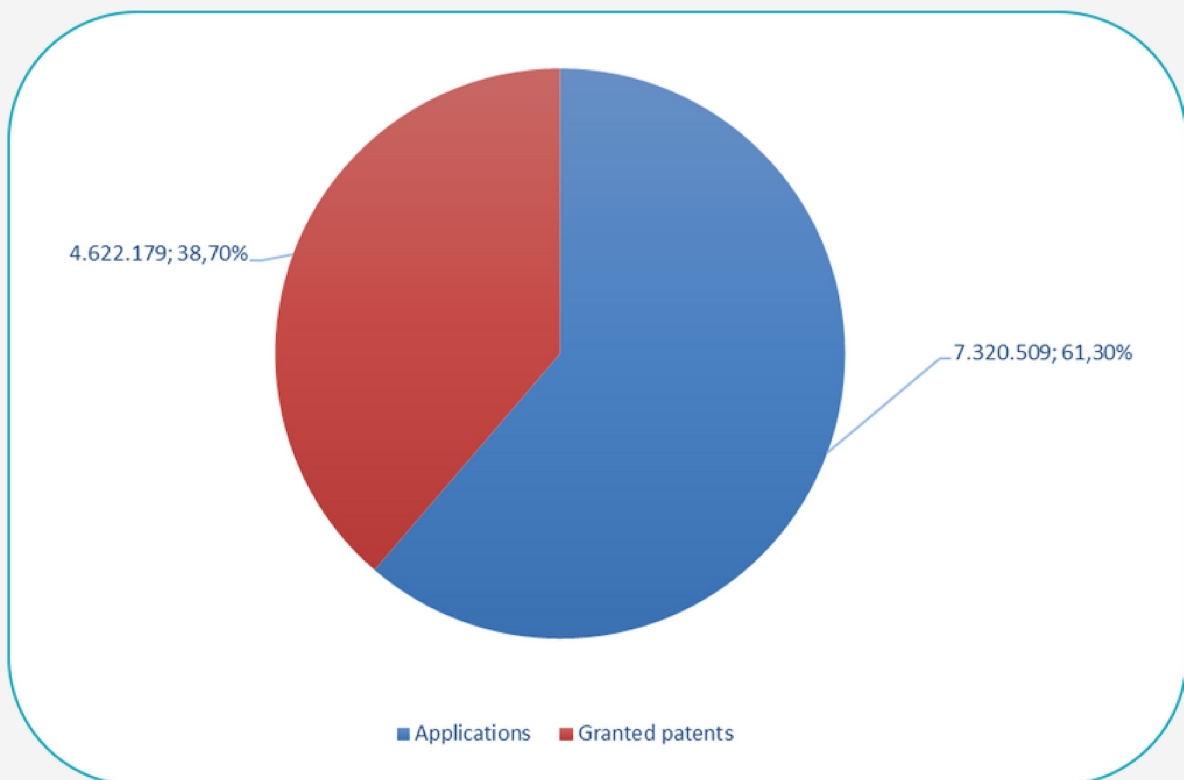
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# Introduction

The patent grant ratio can reflect the quality and examination standards of a country's patents. As the country with the highest volume of patent applications, China's patent grant ratio will be revealed in this report. Only invention patents are considered for this report. (Data as of January 31, 2023).

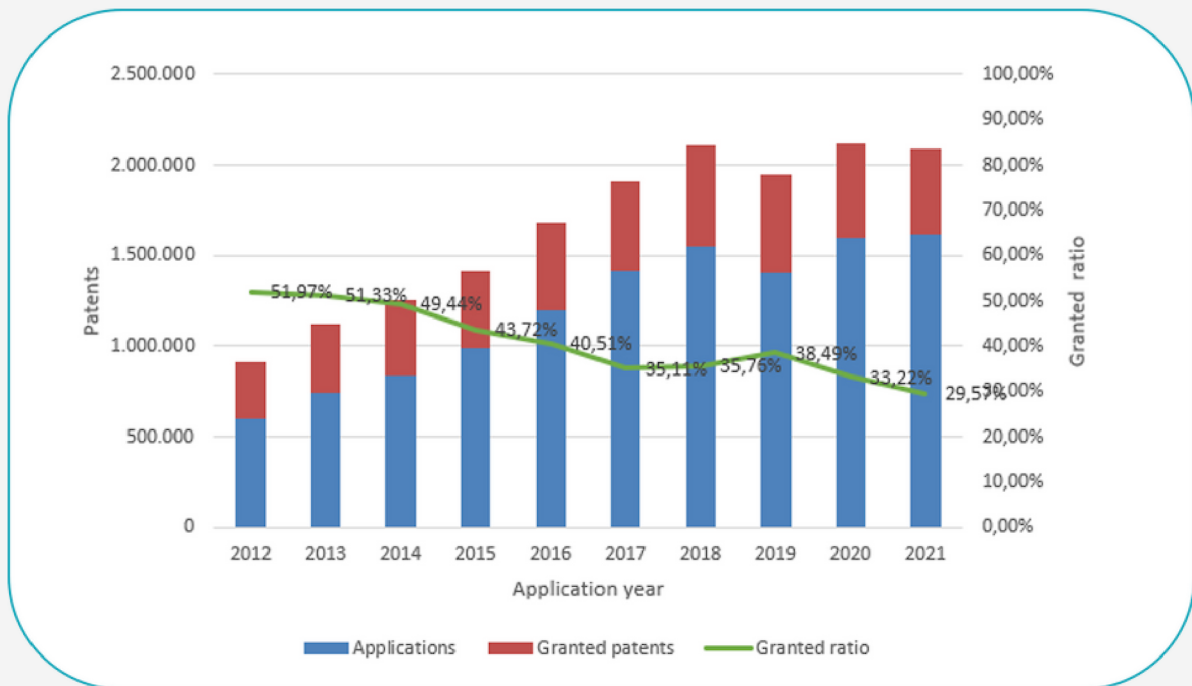
# Part 1: General information

In the recent years (2012-2021), China has publicly disclosed a total of 11,942,688 invention patents, of which 4,622,179 have been granted (there are no statistics for 2022/2023 mainly because many patents filed in the past two years are probably still pending). The overall grant ratio is 38.70% (as shown in [Figure 1](#)).



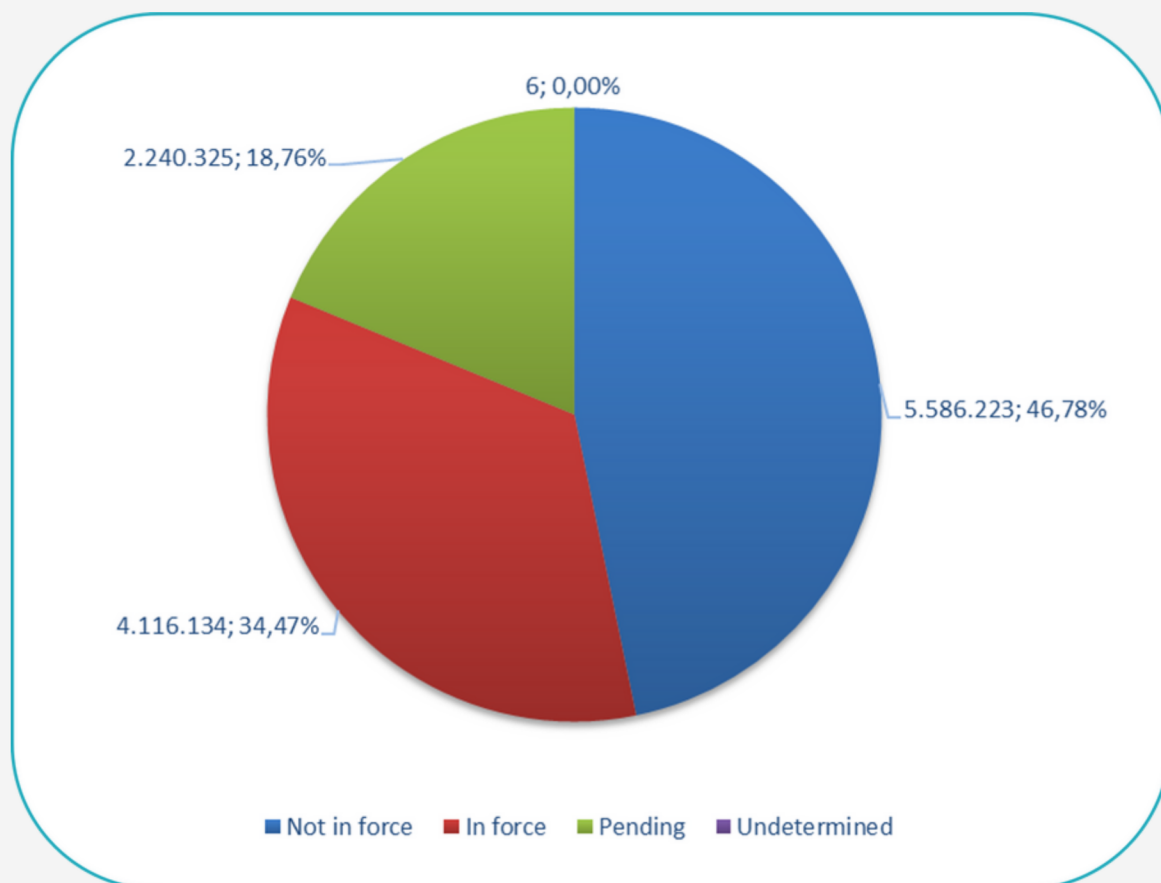
**Figure 1 Applications and granted patents in China (2012-2021)**

Further analyzing the patent grant ratio for each year from 2012 to 2021: the patent grant ratio in China showed a downward trend from 2012 to 2017 and remained relatively stable from 2017 to 2020. The patent grant ratio further decreased from 2020 to 2021, perhaps due to many patents still pending (as shown in [Figure 2](#)).



**Figure 2 Application to grant ratio in China (2012-2021)**

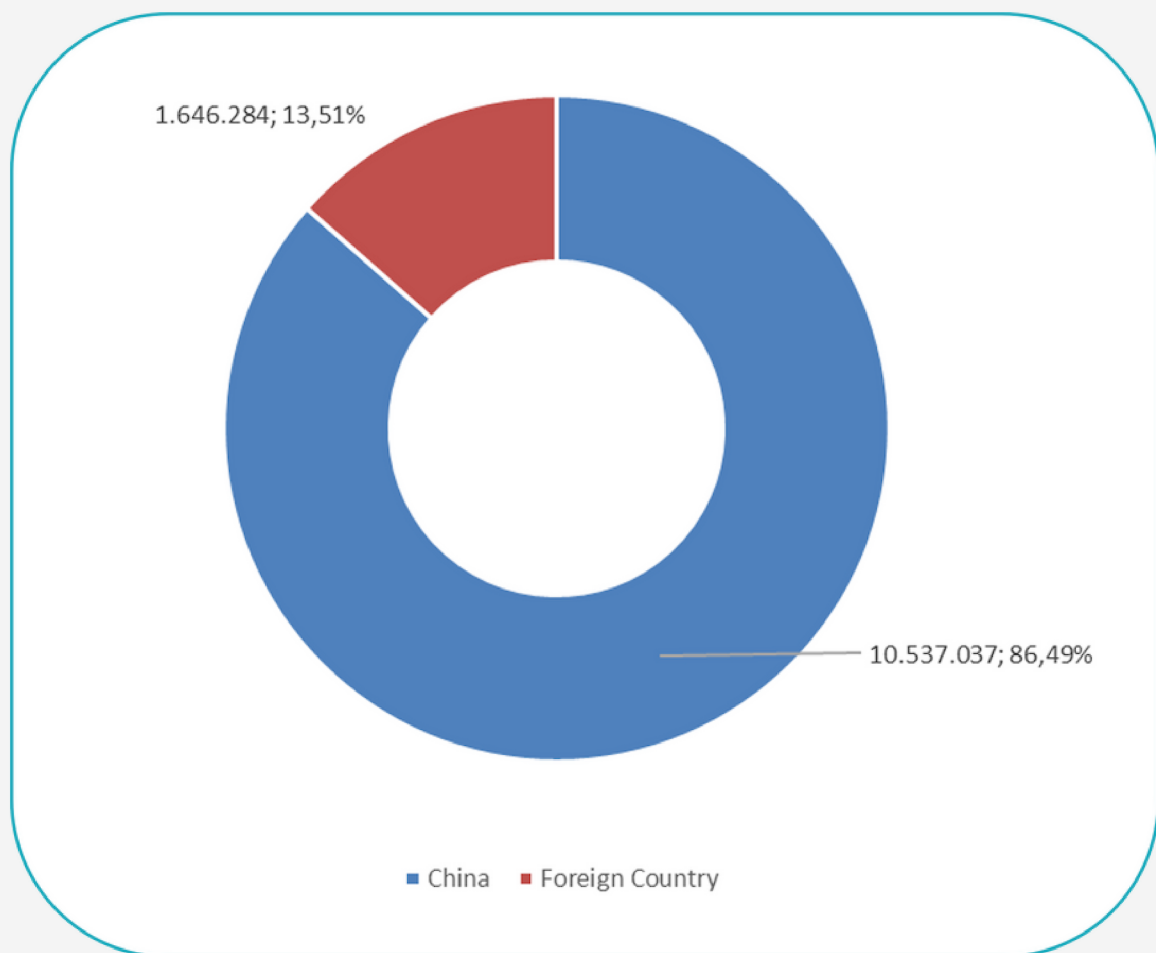
In fact, 18.76% of patents are still pending (as shown in [Figure 3](#)).



**Figure 3** Legal status

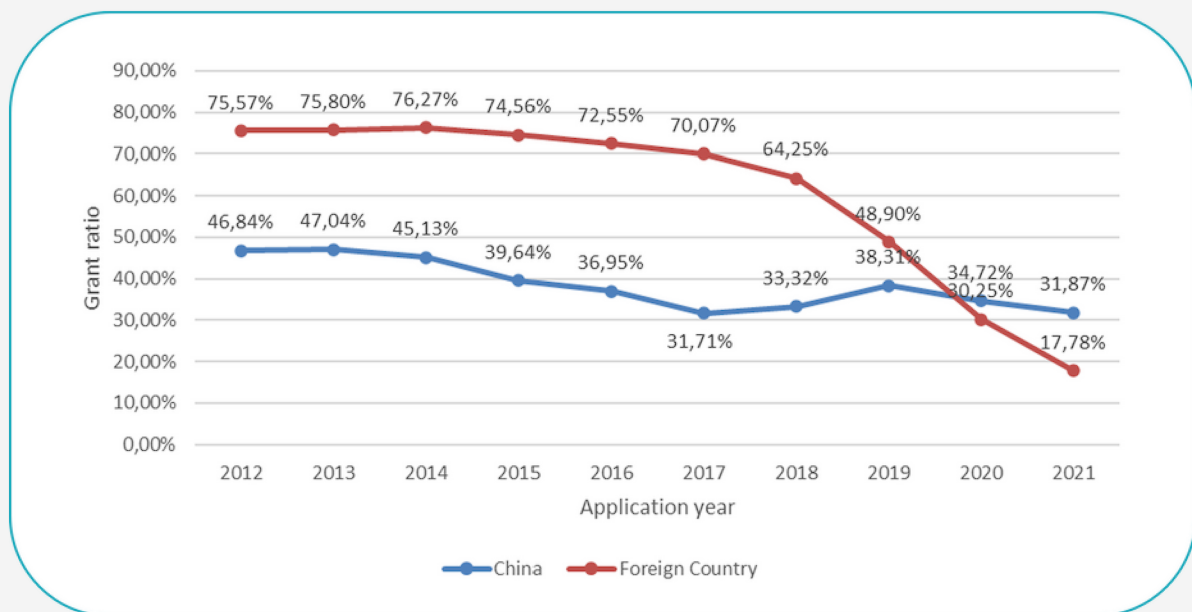
# Part 2: Geographic Territories

Analyzing the patent grant rates in China and abroad: in 2012-2021, most of China's patents come from domestic filers, with 13.51% of patent applications from abroad (as shown in [Figure 4](#)).



**Figure 4 Patent origin**

Further analysis reveals that the patent grant ratio from foreign applicants has shown a downward trend from 2012 to 2021. Before 2018, the foreign patent grant ratio was very high, which was significantly higher than that of domestic patents. After 2018, the patent grant ratio of foreign applicants has significantly decreased, perhaps due to the longer examination cycle of PCT patents or the increasingly strict examination of PCT patents in China (as shown in [Figure 5](#)).

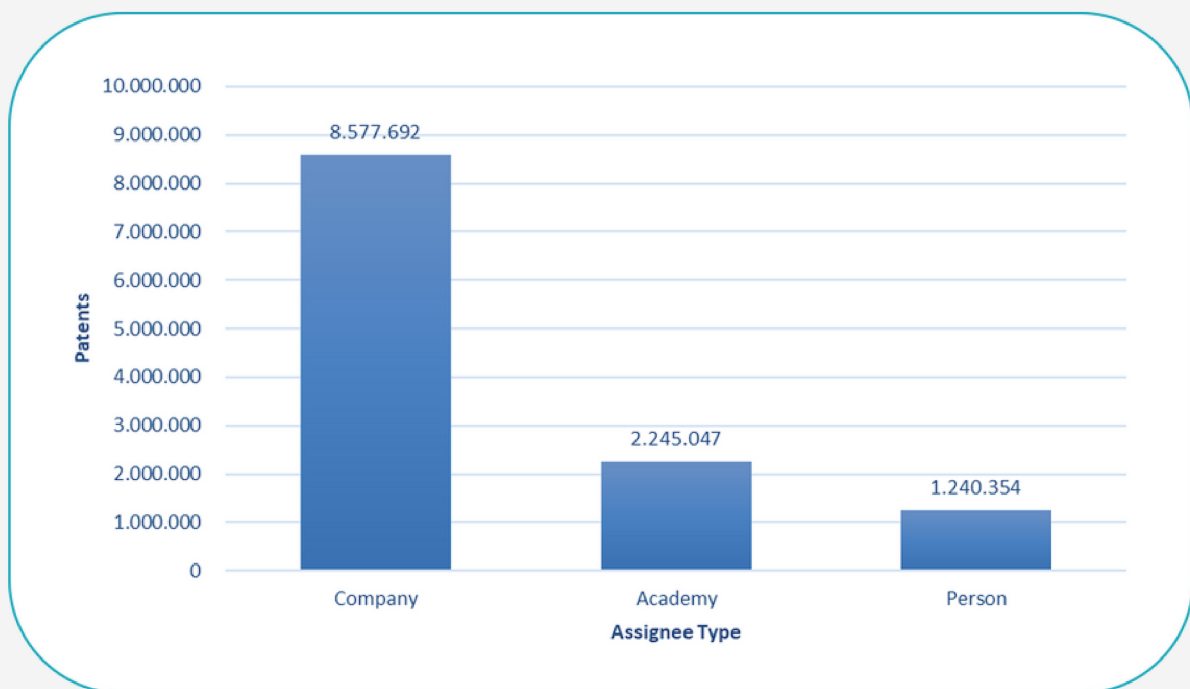


**Figure 5 Patent grant ratio from both domestic and foreign country in China (2012-2021)**



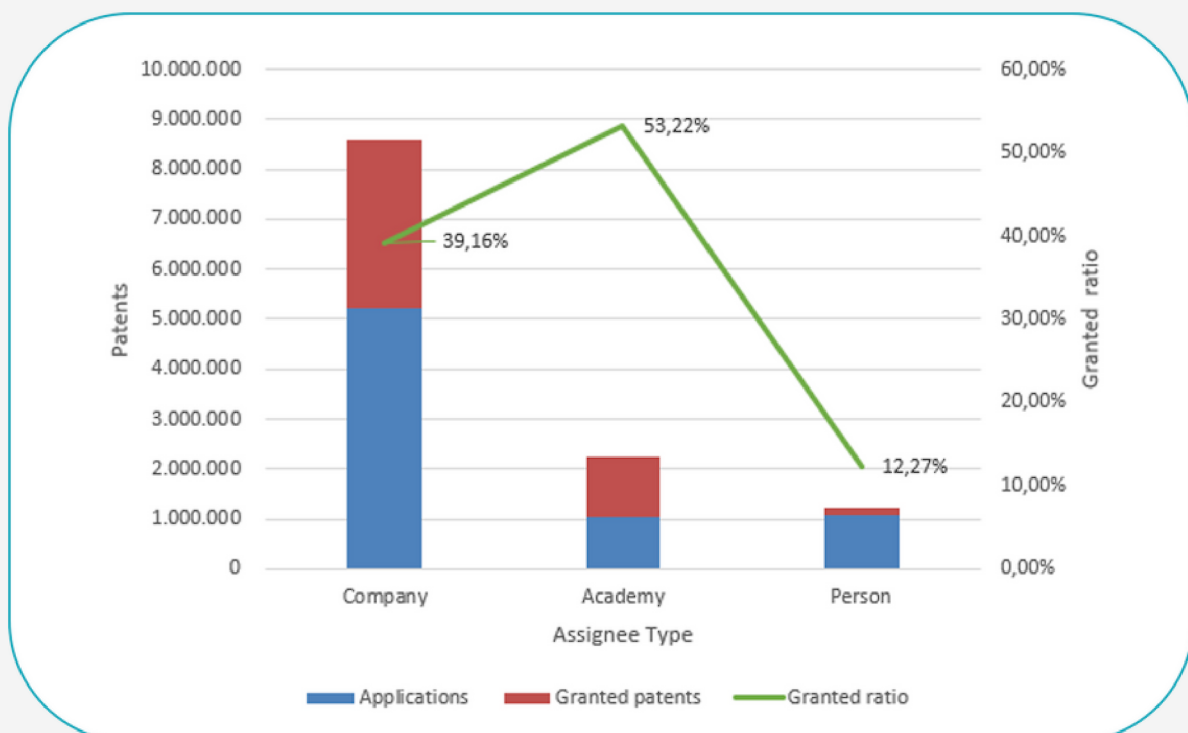
# Part 3: Assignee Type

Analyzing the patent grant ratio corresponding to different types of applicants shows that the types of Chinese applicants generally include companies, academies, persons, government departments, banks, etc. Among them, companies, academies, and individuals have applied for a larger number of patents, which is statistically significant (as shown in [Figure 6](#)).



**Figure 6 Main Assignee types**

In the past decade, companies have obtained the highest number of granted patents, but the patent grant ratio of academy is even higher, reaching 53.22%. In addition, the patent grant ratio of persons is only 12.27% (as shown in [Figure 7](#)). This reflects significant differences in patent quality among different types of applicants.



**Figure 7 Patent grant ratio of main Assignee types**

# 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.

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