

TREND REPORT

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trends

JULY 2024

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Introduction

In recent years, countries around the world have attached increasing importance to intellectual property rights, which has promoted the rapid development of patents. This report reveals the development of patents over the past decade (Data as of July 19, 2024).

Part 1:

General information

The total number of patents applied for globally in the past decade has exceeded 56 million. The global annual patent application volume showed an upward trend from 2015 to 2020, reaching 7.4 million in 2020. In the following years, the number of patent applications decreased, with a significant decrease in 2023 mainly due to patents not yet being published (as shown in [Figure 1](#)).

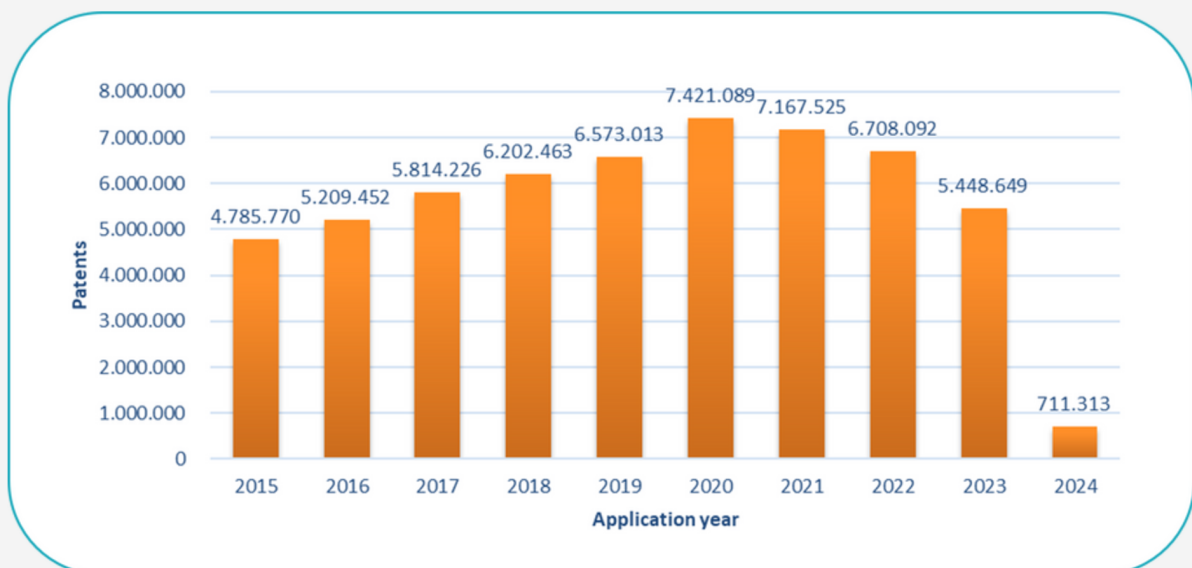


Figure 1 Patent application trend

From the perspective of patent types, the majority of global patent applications have been for inventions, accounting for 53.93%, followed by utility models with 31.59%, and design with the lowest proportion at 14.49% (as shown in [Figure 2](#)).

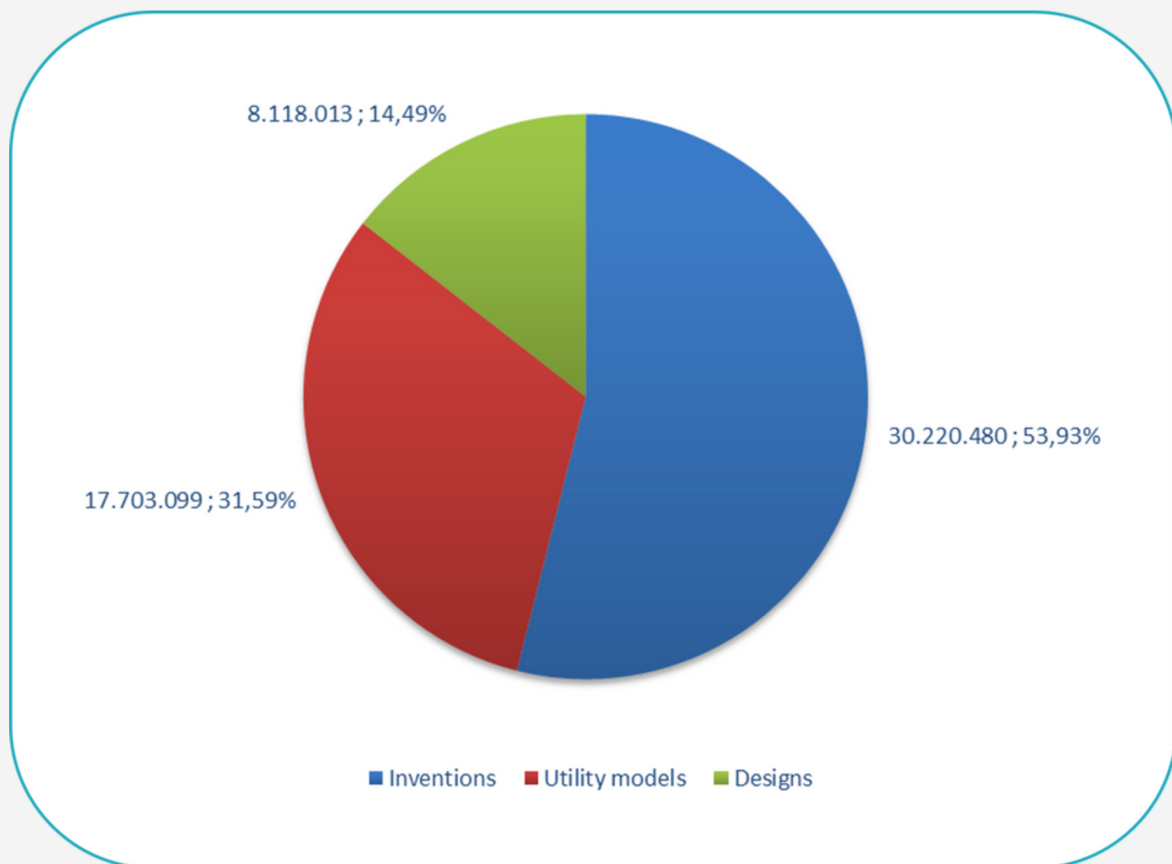


Figure 2 Patent types

From the perspective of legal status, 49.62% of patents are in force, 30.89% are not in force, 14.76% are pending (as shown in [Figure 3](#)).

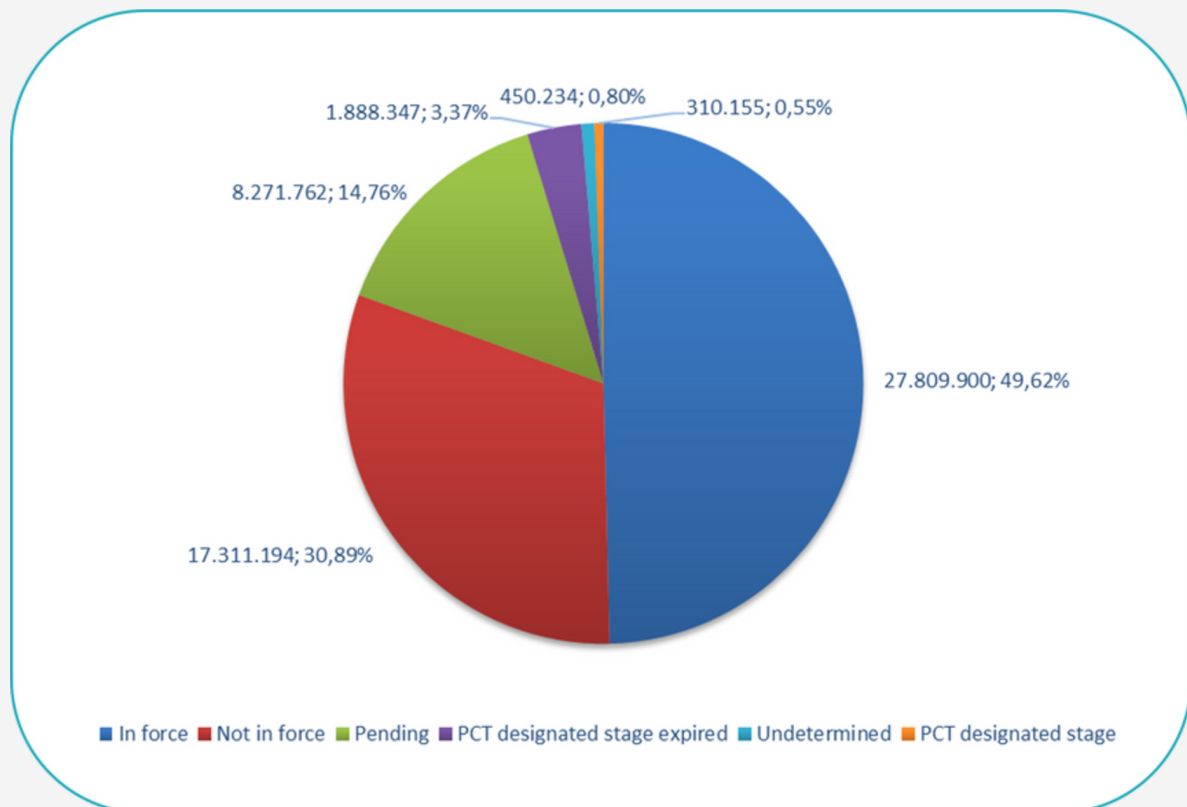


Figure 3 Legal status

Part 2: Geographic Territories

In terms of the volume of patent publications, China had the highest volume of patents, accounting for 64.07% of the total volume, followed by the United States and Japan (as shown in [Figure 4](#)).

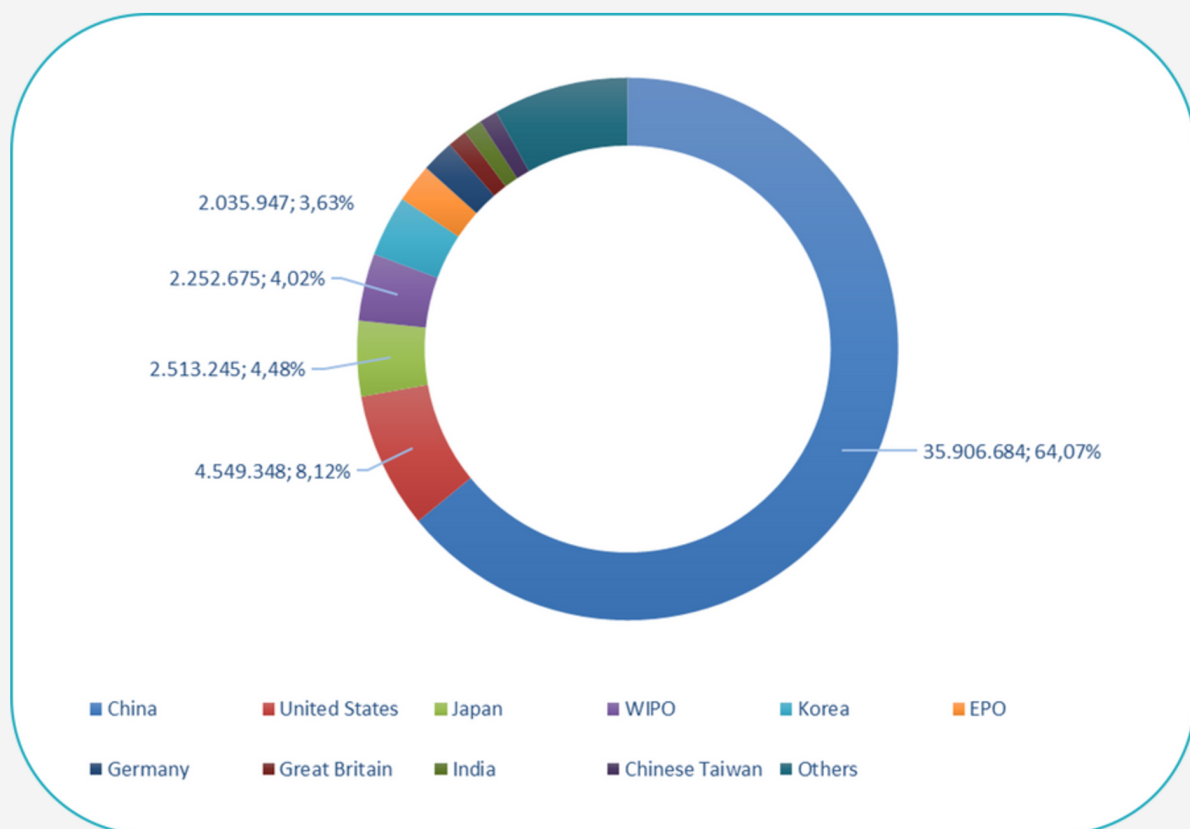


Figure 4 Top patent offices

The reason why China has such a large number of patent applications is partly due to national policy support and numerous applicants, and partly because almost half of the patents applied for in the country are utility model patents, which are relatively simple to apply for (as shown in [Figure 5](#)). In the past decade, China has applied for 17,026,379 utility model patents, accounting for 96.18% of the total global utility model patents.

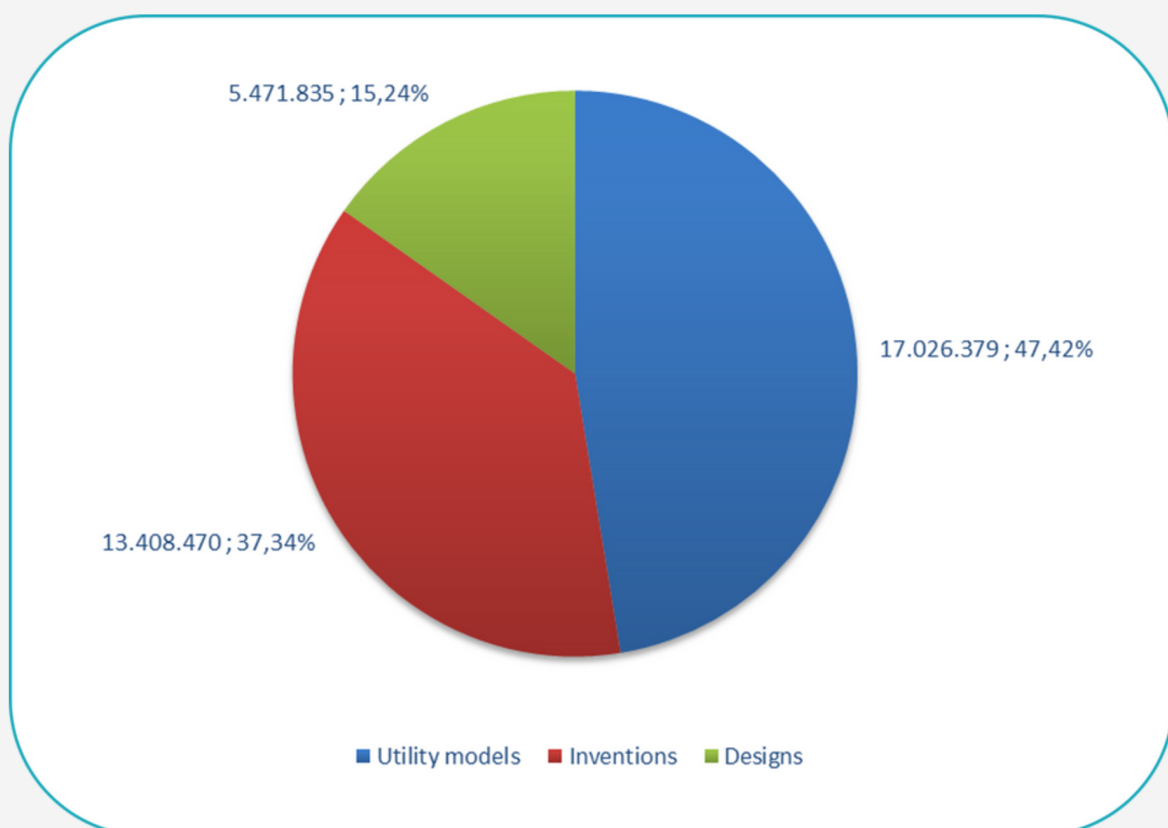


Figure 5 Patent types of China

Part 3: Key Technologies

From a technical perspective, IPC: G06F (Electric digital data processing) corresponds to the field with the most patents involved, followed by G01N and A61K. Overall, the majority of patents are concentrated in high-tech industries (as shown in [Figure 6](#)).

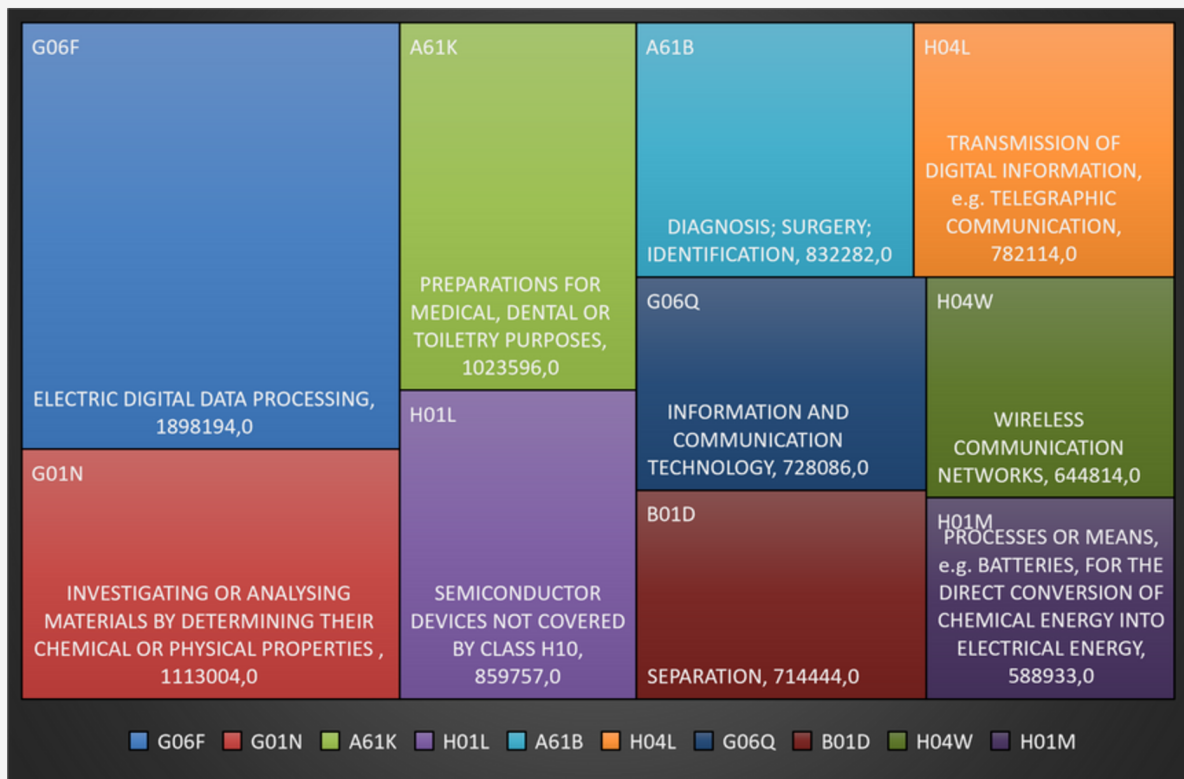


Figure 6 The top 10 IPC classification numbers

Part 4: Standardized Current Assignees

Analyzing the applicants with the highest volume of published patents, it can be found that Samsung Electronics had the highest volume of patents, followed by Huawei (as shown in [Figure 7](#)).

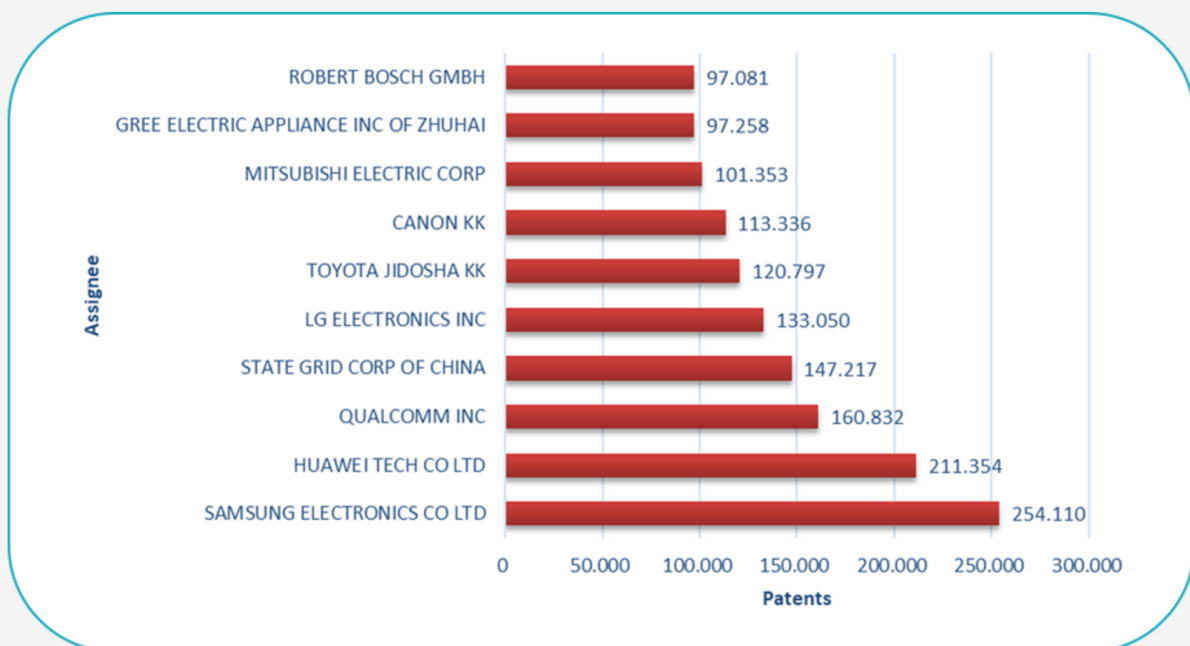


Figure 7 The top 10 standardized current assignees

Conclusion

In the past decade, the global patent application volume has shown a trend of first increasing and then decreasing. These patented technologies mainly come from IP5, and large technology companies such as Samsung and Huawei have contributed a lot of patented technologies.

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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