

Statistical Overview of 2011

Applications

The total number of applications for industrial property rights in 2011 reached 371,116, a 6.3 percent growth (21,873) from 349,243 (new applications excluding applications for trademark registration renewal) in 2010. The industrial property rights trends by year show that the number of applications steadily declined from 2007 due to the global economic recession, recording 380,203 in 2007, 372,697 in 2008, and 364,990 in 2009. But this number has increased since 2010 as a result of investment by Korean companies in future-oriented R&D.

Application trends by right shows that while applications for patents increased by 5.2 percent year-on-year reaching 178,924, those for utility models dropped by 13.2 percent to 11,854 and designs by 1.2 percent to 56,524. In addition, applications for trademarks increased by 2.2 percent to 123,814 during the same period.

According to WIPO statistics (interim), the world's international applications under the PCT increased by 10.8 percent from 164,334 in 2010 to 182,185 in 2011. This is due to a rapid rise in international applications

under the PCT filed by the United States (8.0 percent) with the greatest number of PCT applications, and Asian countries such as China (33.4 percent), Korea (8.0 percent), and Japan (21.0 percent). Korea increased PCT applications by 8.0 percent in 2011 to 10,447, accounting for 5.7 percent of the total PCT applications and the fifth largest amount after the United States, Japan, Germany and China. International applications under the PCT by Korean applicants have steadily increased annually primarily due to a clear understanding of the advantages of the PCT system, rising awareness of the importance of IPRs, and continued efforts to consolidate patent rights abroad.

The total number of the world's international trademark applications under the Madrid System increased by 2,583 (6.5 percent) in 2011 reaching 42,270 from 2010 (39,687). Korea recorded 489 applications, which is a 38.1 percent jump from 354 in 2010, recording the world's 16th largest amount (17th in 2010) (WIPO statistics). Madrid applications submitted with KIPO as the office of origin amounted to 536 (excluding 40 of subsequent designation) in 2011 which is a 32.3 percent jump from 405 in 2010. The

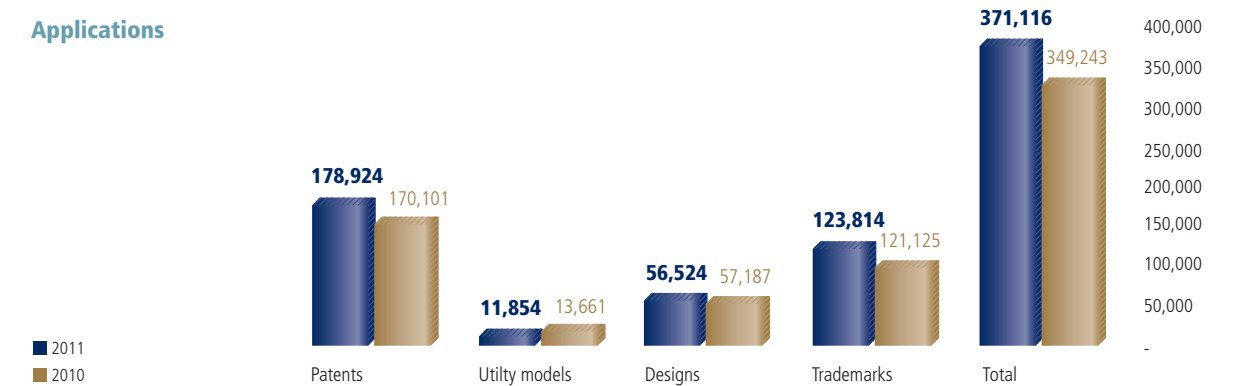
number of applications under the Madrid Protocol by foreigners designating Korea reached 10,420 in 2011, a 30.0 percent growth from 8,017 in 2010.

Examinations

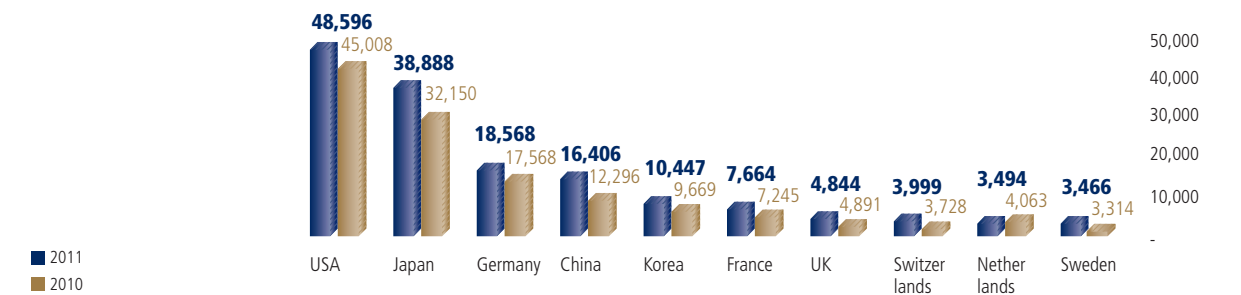
The number of first office actions reached 371,090 in 2011, which is 26.7 percent greater than 292,908 in 2010. By right, patents amounted to 174,283, utility models 17,796, trademarks 123,773, and designs 55,081, all increasing year-on-year by 38.7 percent, 47.8 percent, 14.7 percent, and 15.7 percent, respectively. The rising number of examined applications is the result of the additional recruitment of 93 examiners (70 for patents and utility models, 23 for trademarks and designs) in 2011 and enhanced examination efficiency.

The number of final office actions on patent applications reached a total of 151,184 in 2011, which is 37.0 percent greater than 2010. Of those, 65.5 percent (98,979) were registered and 32.5 percent (49,204) were rejected. This is a 2.8 percent rise in registration rate and a 2.1 percent drop in rejection rate year-on-year. The number of withdrawals, abandonments, and invalidations

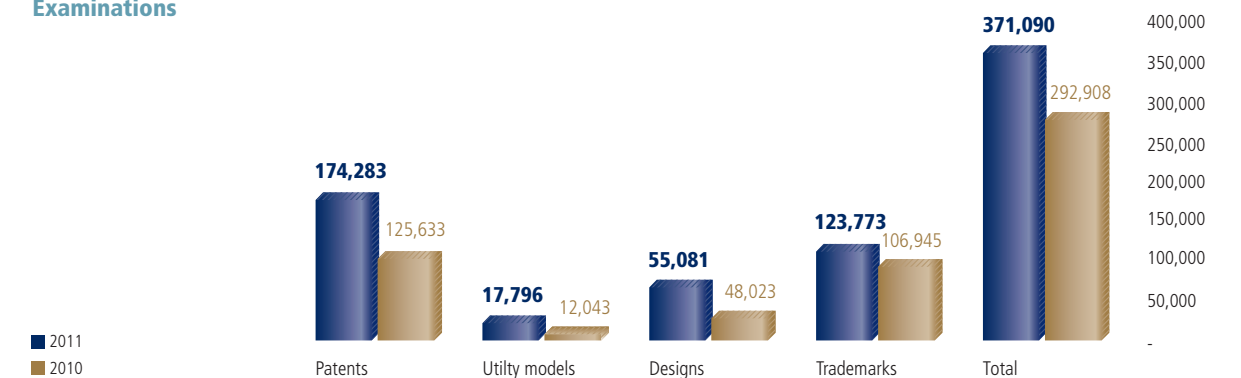
Applications



PCT applications of the top 10 countries



Examinations



of applications amounted to 3,001 (2.0 percent) of the total and 0.7 percent drop from 2010.

The number of final office actions on utility model applications rose by 39 percent from 11,216 in 2010 to 15,559 in 2011.

The number of final office actions on trademark applications reached 127,733, of which 74.3 percent (94,913) were registered and 25.7 percent (32,820) were rejected, recording a slight drop in the trademark registration rate year-on-year.

The number of final office actions on design applications amounted to 58,222, of which 84.7 percent (49,330) were registered and 15.3 percent (8,892) were rejected, recording a slight rise in the registration rate year-on-year.

International searches and international preliminary examinations

The number of international searches received by KIPO totaled 25,666 in 2011, a 13.0 percent rise from 22,707 in 2010. Of these, the number of requests submitted by Korean applicants reached 9,950, a 12.7 percent increase from 2010. The number of requests made by foreign applicants, including those of the United States, amounted to 15,716 or 13.3 percent more than 2010. The number of requests made by applicants of the United States accounted for 59.1 percent of all international searches received by KIPO and 96.5 percent of all foreign international searches.

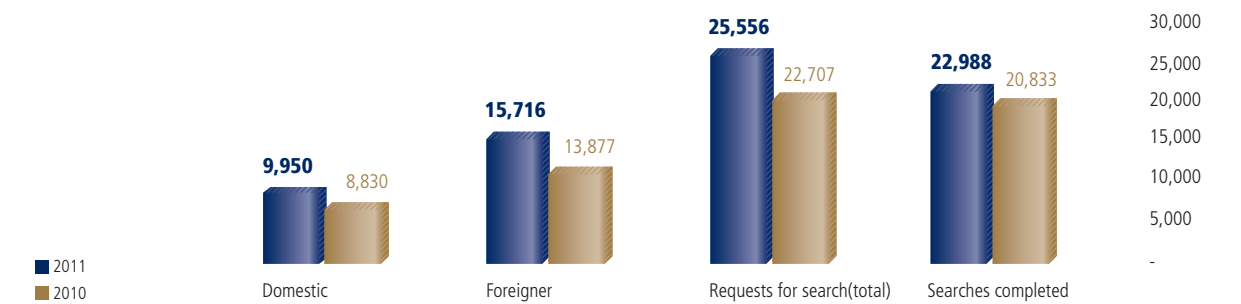
The number of international preliminary examinations received by KIPO in 2011 was 226, a 16.3 decrease from 270 in 2010. This decreasing trend has continued for the last few years due to the amendments of the PCT regulations in 2002 which automatically extend the time it takes to enter the designated states from 20 months to 30 months, even if not requesting an international preliminary examination. This trend is partly due to the fact that the International Searching Authority has reviewed the patentability of applications since 2004.

The number of international search reports of international patent applications under the PCT increased by 10.3 percent from 2010 to 22,988 in 2011. Conversely, PCT international preliminary examination reports plunged by 30.9 percent from 2010 to 224.

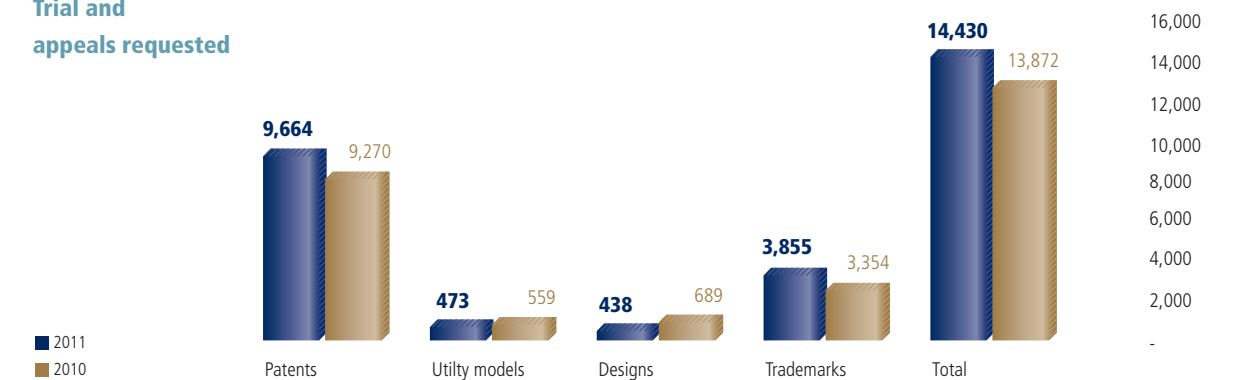
Trials

The number of requests for trials slightly increased by 4.0 percent year-on-year to 14,430 in 2011. By right, patents increased by 4.3 percent reaching 9,664, utility models decreased by 15.4 percent at 473, designs decreased by 36.4 percent at 438, and trademarks increased by 14.9 percent at 3,855. The number of closed trial cases totaled 10,570 in 2011 (5,471 patents, 543 utility models, 619 designs, and 3,937 trademarks) increasing by 14.0 percent year-on-year. By right, patents and trademarks increased by 10.1 percent and 23.7 percent, respectively.

PCT international searches



Trial and appeals requested



Trial and appeals closed

