

Statistical Overview of 2012

IPR applications

In 2012, the total number of applications for industrial property rights increased for the second consecutive year reaching 396,996, a 7% growth from 371,116 in 2011. Industrial property applications saw a rise until 2007; however, the trend for applications continuously decreased from 2008 due to the global economic crisis. This trend was reversed in 2011 and a new record for the number of applications was set in 2012 as a result of future-oriented investment by companies dominating new technologies and brands.

By right, applications for patents increased year-on-year by 5.6% to 188,915, utility models by 4.8% to 12,424, trademarks by 7% to 132,522, and industrial designs by 11.7% to 63,135. There has been a noticeable rise in the number of patent applications for three consecutive years since 2010.

Patent application competitiveness

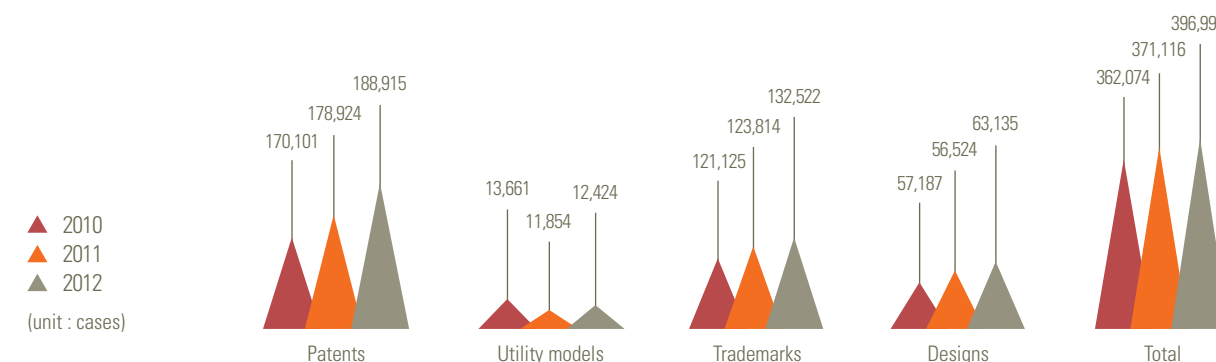
According to the World IP Indicator unveiled by WIPO in December 2012, Korea ranked first for five consecutive years from 2007 to 2011 in terms of the number of resident patent applications per GDP or R&D investment.

PCT & Madrid

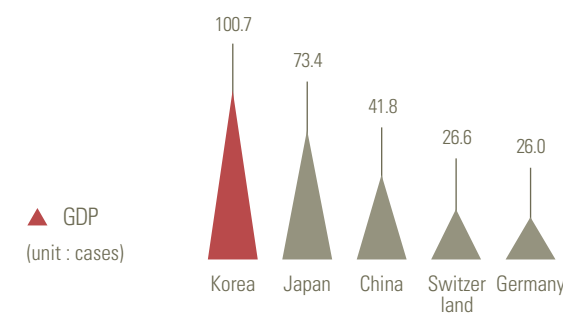
According to WIPO preliminary statistics in March 2013, the number of global international applications filed under the PCT increased by 6.6 percent from 182,379 in 2011 to 194,400 in 2012. Korea increased its number of PCT applications by 13.4 percent from 10,447 in 2011 to 11,848 in 2012, accounting for 6.1 percent of all PCT applications and the 5th largest amount by country of origin. International applications filed under the PCT by Korean applicants have steadily increased on an annual basis primarily due to a clearer understanding of the advantages of the PCT system, rising awareness of the importance of IPRs, and continued efforts to consolidate patent rights abroad.

Meanwhile, the total number of international trademark applications under the Madrid System increased by 4.1 percent from 42,270 in 2011 to 44,018 in 2012. Korea increased its number of Madrid international applications by 3.5 percent from 485 in 2011 to 502 in 2012, the 18th largest amount by country of origin. The number of Madrid international applications by foreigners designating Korea reached 10,090 in 2012, a 2.7 percent growth from 9,821 in 2011.

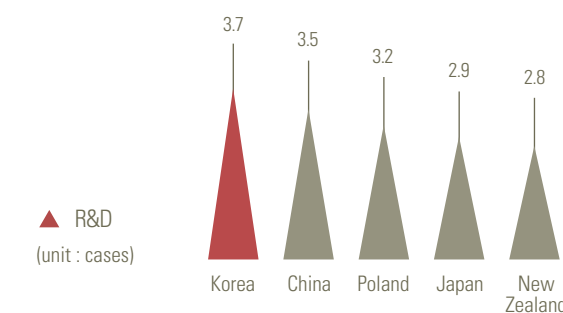
IPR applications



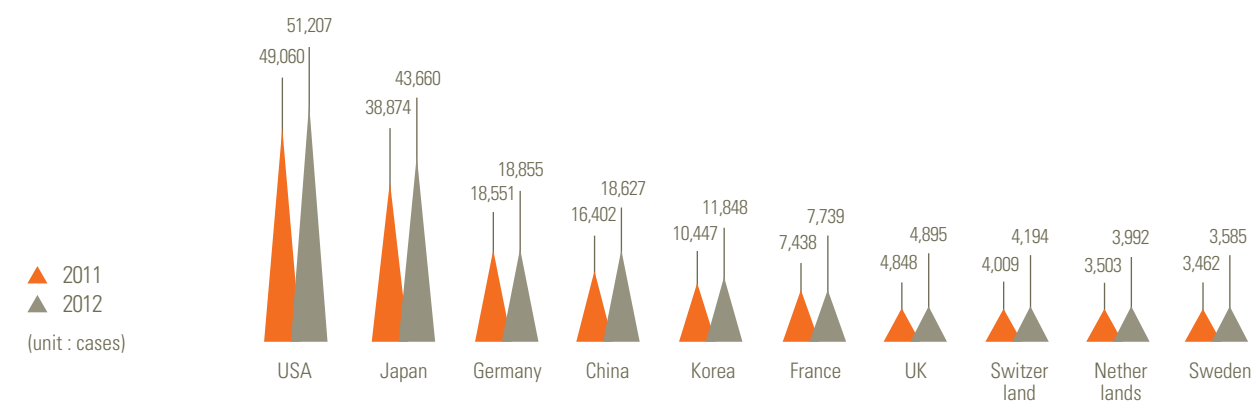
Resident applications per billion GDP (2005 PPP \$)



Resident applications per million R&D (2005 PPP \$)



PCT applications in the top 10 countries



International search reports and international preliminary examinations

According to WIPO's PCT Yearly Review 2013, the number of international search reports received by KIPO totaled 27,442 in 2012, a 1.1 percent rise from 27,139 in 2011. Of these, the number of requests submitted by Korean applicants reached 11,781, a 15.2 percent increase from 2011.

The number of international preliminary examinations received by KIPO in 2012 was 249 (may be incomplete), almost the same amount as 2011. The numbers have continuously decreased over the last few years due to the amendments to PCT regulations in 2002, which extended the time taken to enter the designated states from 20 months to 30 months, even if international preliminary examination has not been requested. This trend is also partly due to the International Searching Authority reviewing the patentability of applications since 2004.

Average pendency period for examinations

The average first office action pendency period by right in 2012 was 14.8 months for patents and utility models, 8.9 months for trademarks, and 8.8 months for designs. The average total pendency period by right in 2012 was 21.6 months for patents and utility models, 13.5 months for trademarks, and 10.5 months for designs.

Registrations

The total number of registrations for industrial property rights in 2012 reached 243,869, a 14 percent growth from 214,013 in 2011. The registration trend for IPRs showed an increase for three consecutive years since 2010.

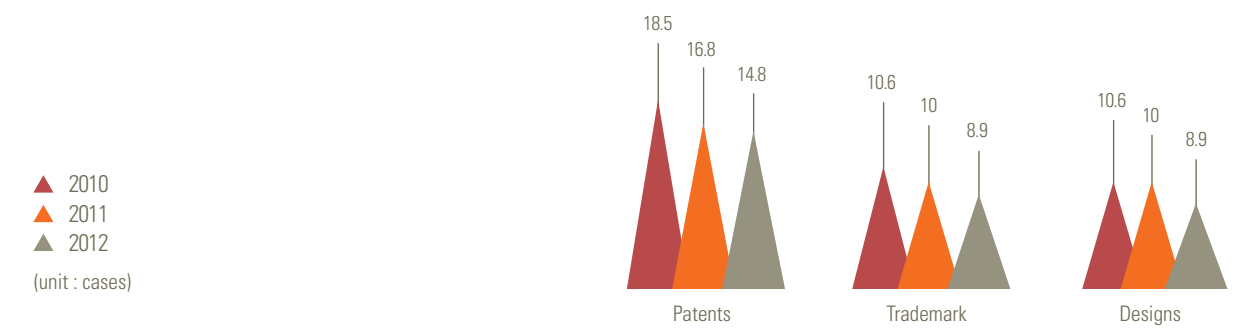
Registrations for all industrial property rights increased compared to the previous year. Registration for patents increased by 19.8 percent year-on-year reaching 113,467, utility models increased by 8.5 percent to 6,353, trademarks by 9.3 percent to 77,903 and designs by 9.4 percent to 46,146.

Trials

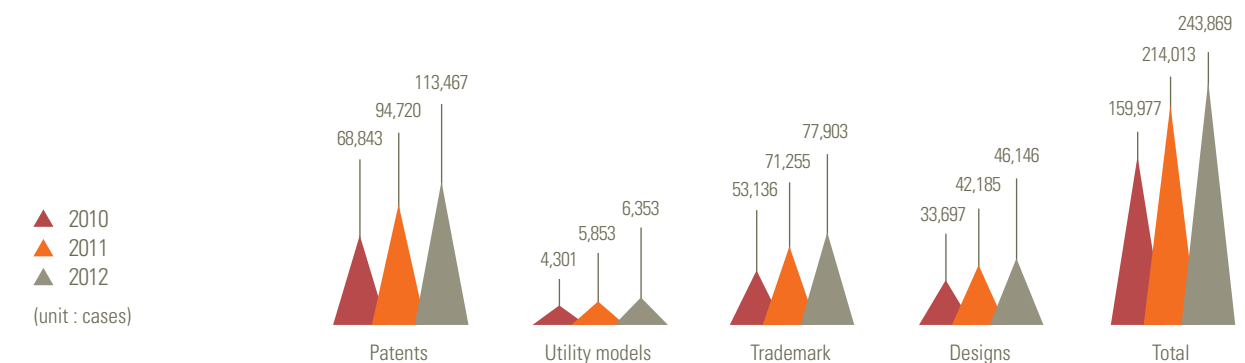
The number of requests for trial increased by 2.2 percent year-on-year to 14,747, in 2012. By right, patents increased by 3.9 percent reaching 10,039, designs increased by 29.9 percent reaching 569, utility models decreased by 15 percent to 402, and trademarks increased by 3.1 percent to 3,737.

The number of closed trial cases totaled 10,362 in 2012 (5,581 patents, 424 utility models, 489 designs, and 3,868 trademarks) decreasing by 2.2 percent year-on-year. Only trials for patents increased slightly, by 2.0 percent, while others showed a decrease.

Average first office action pendency period



IPR registrations



Requests for trial

