

2015 Statistical Overview

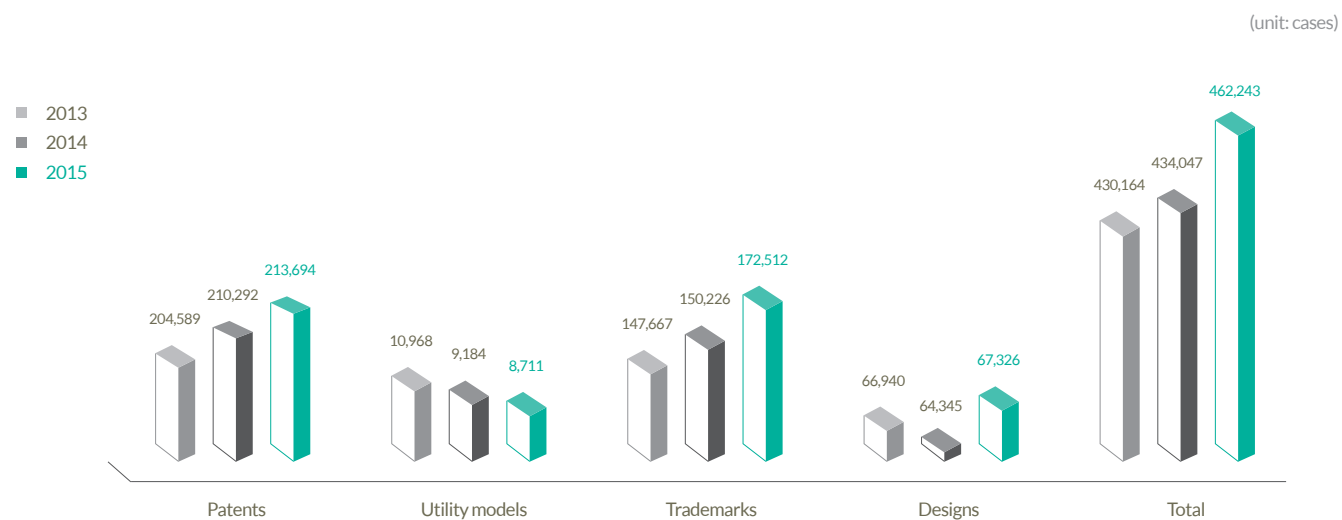
IPR applications

The total preliminary number of IPR applications, including patents, utility models, designs, and trademarks, submitted to KIPO in 2015 amounted to 462,243; this was a 6.5% year-on-year increase. In 2015, patent applications totaled 213,694, showing a 1.6% year-on-year increase, which was the highest growth rate among all IPRs.

Utility model applications decreased 5.2% on a year-on-year basis, totaling 8,711, and design applications increased 4.6% for a total of 67,326. Trademark applications for 2015 totaled 172,512, a 14.8% year-on-year growth rate.

Volatility caused by the financial crisis lowered the number of patent applications by 4.2% in 2009, but this was soon rectified in 2010 by a 4.0% increase which kicked off an upward trend that has since continued unabated. Patent applications stood at around 200 in 1949, before jumping to around 5,000 in 1980, and 100,000 in 2000. This number has more than doubled to over 200,000 throughout the past 13 years.

There were 46,419 foreign applications, accounting for 21.7% of the total number of patent applications. The greatest number of patent applications (15,283) was from Japan, which was a 2.3% year-on-year decrease. This was followed by the United States (14,655, a 4.7% year-on-year increase), Germany (4,087), France (1,984), China (1,947), and Switzerland (1,365).



International search reports and international preliminary examinations

The number of PCT international search reports undertaken by KIPO totaled 28,468 in 2015, this was a 5.6 decrease from 2014 which was 30,160.

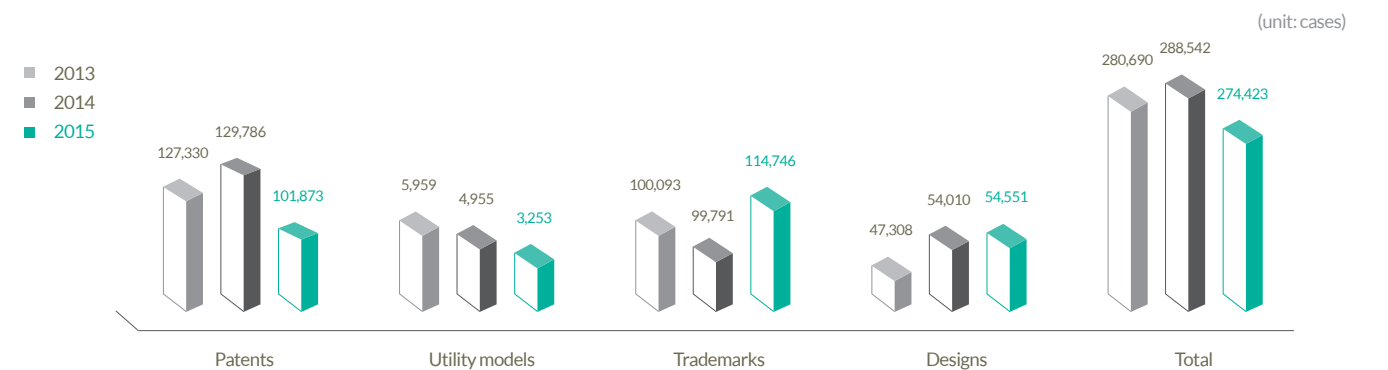
The number of international preliminary examinations undertaken by KIPO in 2015 was 208, a decrease of 11.9% from 236 in 2014. The numbers have continuously decreased over the past few years due to the PCT regulation amendments in 2002, which extended the time taken to enter the designated states from 20 months to 30 months, even if international preliminary examination had not been requested. This trend is also partly due to International Searching Authorities reviewing the patentability of applications since 2004.



Registrations

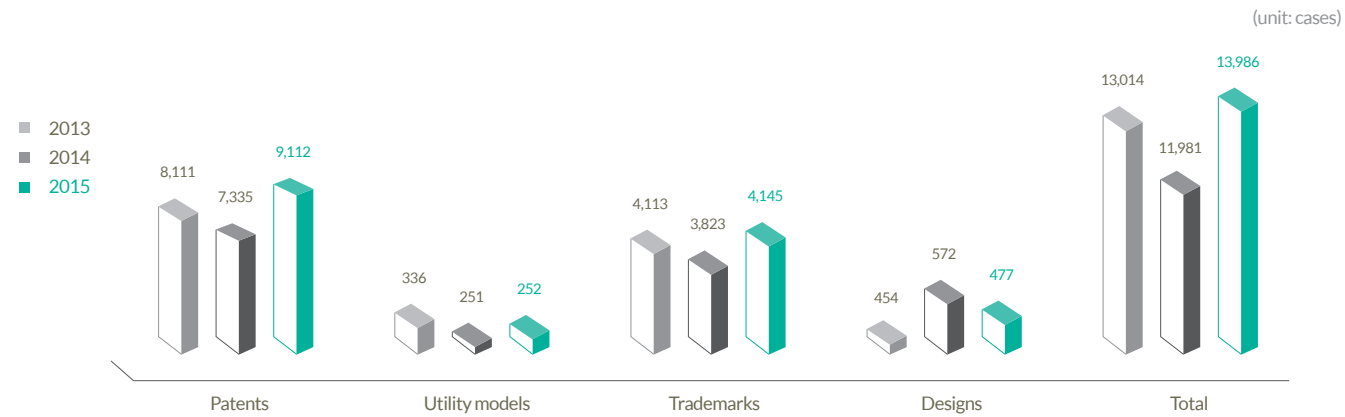
The total number of registrations for intellectual property rights in 2015 reached 274,423, a 4.9% decrease from 288,542 in 2014.

A breakdown of IP rights shows that: patent registrations reached 101,873, a 21.5% decrease rate on a year-on-year basis; utility models decreased by 34.3% to 3,253; and designs increased by 1.0% to 54,551. Further, trademark registrations increased by 15.0%, totaling 114,746.



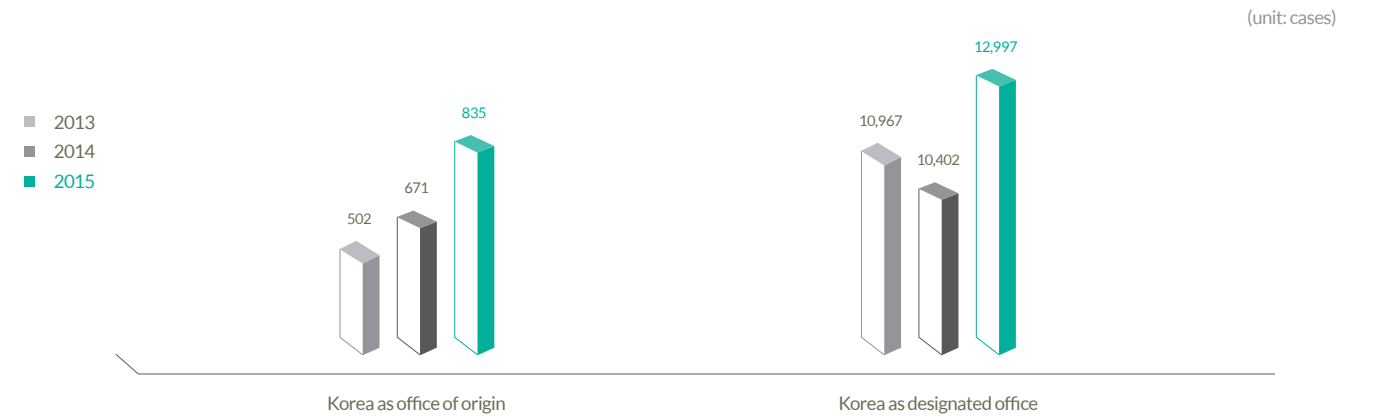
Trials

The number of trial requests increased by 16.7% on a year-on-year basis to 13,986, from 11,981 in 2014. A look at IP statistics shows that: patents increased by 24.2% to total 9,112, utility models increased by 0.4% to total 252, trademarks increased by 8.4% for a total of 4,145, while designs decreased by 16.6% to total 477.



Madrid

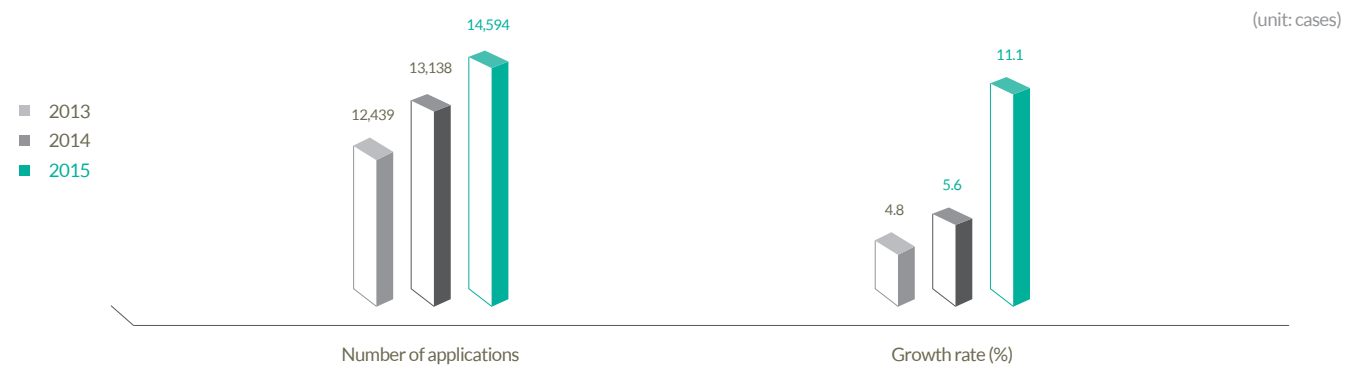
The number of Madrid international applications, that designate Korea, submitted by foreigners reached 12,997 in 2015, a 24.9% increase from 10,967 in 2014.



PCT, Madrid and Hague system

PCT

The number of international applications filed under the PCT by Korean applicants has experienced a steady annual increase primarily due to a clearer understanding of the advantages of the PCT system, increased awareness as to the importance of IPRs, and continued efforts toward the consolidation of international patent rights.



Hague

As a result of Korea joining the Hague Agreement in July 2014, in 2015, we oversaw a total of 153 international trademark applications as the office of origin, and 628 international applications as the designated office.

