



## Intellectual property statistical country profile 2021

### Republic of Korea

[► WIPO IP Statistics Data Center](#)

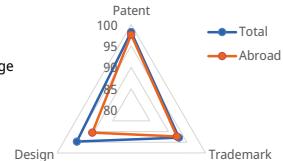
[► Find out more about the Global Innovation Index ranking](#)

#### Patent

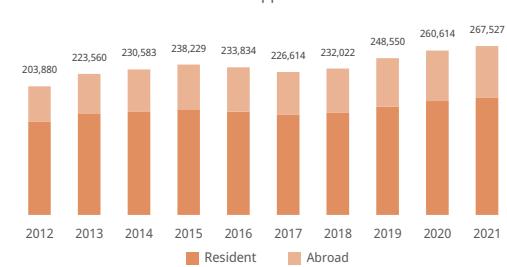
##### Patent applications filed by applicants residing in this country

Patent applications; <a href="#">global rank</a>	267,527 (+2.7%)	4
Resident applications	186,245	
Abroad applications; <a href="#">global rank</a>	81,282 (+1.4%)	5
Regional average; <a href="#">regional rank</a> and share	47,564 (Asia) 3 (11.5%)	
	317,511 (East Asia) 3 (12.0%)	
Resident applications per million inhabitants; <a href="#">global rank</a>	3,599	1
Resident applications per 100 billion USD GDP; <a href="#">global rank</a>	8,159	1
Utility model applications; <a href="#">global rank</a>	4,709 (-15.8%)	5
PCT international applications; <a href="#">global rank</a>	20,723 (+3.4%)	4
PCT applications per million inhabitants; <a href="#">global rank</a>	400	3
PCT publications relating to renewable energy (2019-2021)	963	1.8%
Share of university applications (2019-2021)	7.7%	
Share of women inventors (2019-2021)	15.6%	
PCT national phase entries; <a href="#">global rank</a>	36,925 (+6.9%)	5
Share of abroad applications using the PCT System	43.6%	
PCT top applicants (2019-2021)		
	Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.	8,468
	LG Electronics Inc.	7,290
	LG Chem, Ltd.	3,822
	LG Innotek Co. Ltd.	821
	Posco	730

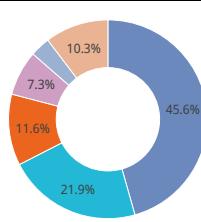
Percentile rank according to country's IP filing performance.  
The score indicates the percentage of countries that this country surpasses.



##### Patent applications



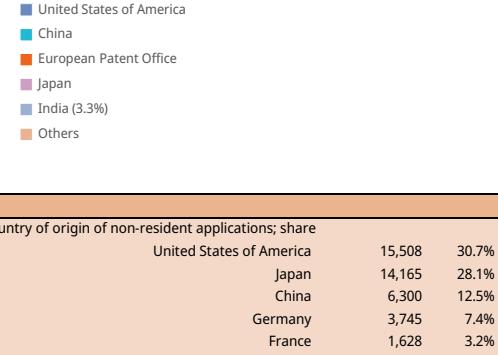
##### Top technical fields; share



##### National Intellectual Property Office - Patent statistics

Total applications; <a href="#">global rank</a>	237,998 (+5.0%)	4
Resident; share	186,245	78.3%
Non-resident; share	51,753	21.7%
Patent Grants	145,882 (+8.2%)	
Patents in force; <a href="#">global rank</a>	1,153,320	4
National IP office - applications per examiner	249.7	
National IP office - grant delay in months	15.9	

##### Top foreign destinations; share



#### Trademark

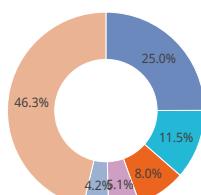
##### Trademark class count in applications filed by applicants residing in this country

Trademark filings; <a href="#">global rank</a>	471,552 (+9.5%)	15
Resident filings	299,621	
Abroad filings; <a href="#">global rank</a>	171,931 (+6.7%)	16
Regional average; <a href="#">regional rank</a> and share	298,673 (Asia) 6 (3.2%)	
	1,765,682 (East Asia) 3 (3.8%)	
Resident filings per million inhabitants; <a href="#">global rank</a>	5,790	3
Resident filings per 100 billion USD GDP; <a href="#">global rank</a>	13,125	5
Madrid international applications; <a href="#">global rank</a>	1,983 (+25.3%)	11
Madrid applications per million inhabitants; <a href="#">global rank</a>	38.3	26
Abroad filings via the Madrid System	72,307 (+12.3%)	13
Share of abroad filings using the Madrid System	42.1%	
Madrid top applicants (2019-2021)		
	Amorepacific Corporation	145
	Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.	126
	Coupang Corp.	110
	Hyundai Motor Company	86
	LG Corp.	67

##### Trademark class count in applications



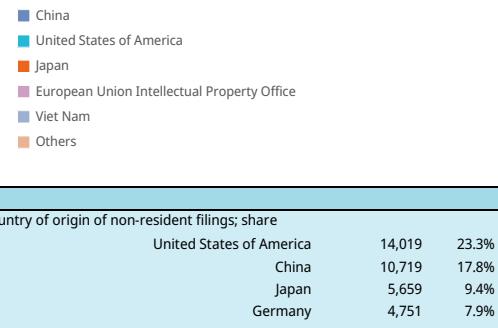
##### Top Nice classes; share



##### National Intellectual Property Office - Trademark statistics

Total filings; <a href="#">global rank</a>	360,474 (+12.7%)	11
Resident; share	299,621	83.1%
Non-resident; share	60,853	16.9%
Number of Classes Specified in Trademark Registrations	184,201 (+14.0%)	
Trademarks in force; <a href="#">global rank</a>	1,467,728	8
National IP office - applications per examiner	2,419.3	
National IP office - registration delay in days	369.0	

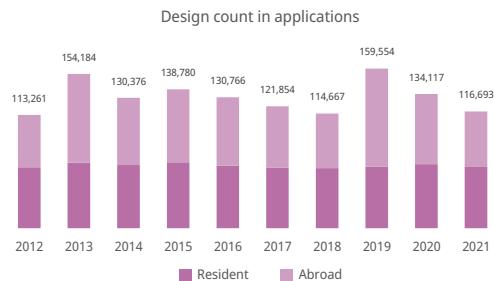
##### Top foreign destinations; share



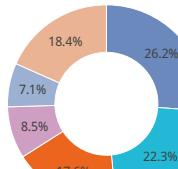
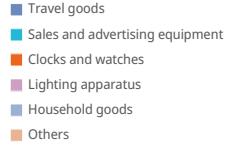
## Industrial design

### Industrial design count in applications filed by applicants residing in this country

Designs in applications: <a href="#">global rank</a>	116,693 (-13.0%)	9
Resident filings	61,233	
Abroad filings: <a href="#">global rank</a>	55,460 (-20.9%)	14
Regional average; <a href="#">regional rank</a> and share	39,169 (Asia) 2 (6.1%)	
	250,417 (East Asia) 2 (6.7%)	
Resident filings per million inhabitants; <a href="#">global rank</a>	1,183	1
Resident filings per 100 billion USD GDP; <a href="#">global rank</a>	2,682	3
Hague international filings; <a href="#">global rank</a>	1,419 (+15.0%)	6
Abroad filings via the Hague System	36,542 (-18.8%)	5
Share of abroad filings using the Hague System	65.8%	
Hague top applicants (2019-2021)		
LG Electronics Inc.	1,439	
Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.	504	
Hyundai Motor Company	321	
Kia Motors Corporation	69	
Dae Han Steel Co., Ltd	28	



### Top Locarno classes; share



### Top foreign destinations; share



### National Intellectual Property Office - Design statistics

Total filings: <a href="#">global rank</a>	69,248 (-2.2%)	4
Resident; share	61,233	88.4%
Non-resident; share	8,015	11.6%
Number of Designs in Industrial Design Registrations	57,796 (+11.0%)	
Industrial designs in force; <a href="#">global rank</a>	388,500	2
National IP office - applications per examiner	1,731.2	
National IP office - registration delay in days	192.0	

### Geographical indications

Geographical indications in force by product category	Geographical indications in force by legal means

### Plant variety

Plant variety applications filed by applicants residing in this country	Plant variety in force
Resident	5,999
Abroad	530
Regional	99
	Community Plant Variety Office
	2

### Note

- (1) For trademarks, filings refer to the number of classes specified in applications.
- (2) For industrial designs, filings refer to number of designs contained in applications.
- (3) Statistics are produced regardless of whether the home office of the applicants supplied statistics or not. An asterisk symbol indicates that the home IP office did not supply statistics.
- (4) Statistics relating to "technical fields" are extracted from the Patstat database and are based on the publication date.
- (5) The indicator "resident applications per million population" is available for countries with a population greater than one million. The "indicator per GDP" is available for countries whose total GDP exceeds 10 billion US Dollar.
- (6) Shares of the top foreign destinations are based on absolute count of applications, that is, one application filed at a regional office is counted as one application only.
- (7) One application filed at the Eurasian Patent Organization, the African Intellectual Property Organization, the Benelux Office for Intellectual Property, the European Union Intellectual Property Office or the Patent Office of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf is multiplied by the corresponding number of member states. One application filed at the European Patent Office or the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization is counted as one application abroad if the applicant does not reside in a respective member state, or as one resident application and one application abroad if the applicant resides in a respective member state.
- (8) Percentage with a plus or minus symbol indicates the percentage change from the previous year.
- (9) Both national and regional data are used to establish the list of countries relating to non-resident filings.

Source: WIPO statistics database; last updated: 3/2023