Trends in patenting 2021

Europe is an attractive technology market for European and international companies.

Total patent applications at the European Patent Office

- 2019: 181,532 applications
- 2020: 180,417 applications
- 2021: 188,600 applications

+4.5% growth

Countries of origin:
The 38 member states of the EPO account for almost half of all European patent applications.

US (25%)

9% P.R. China

11% Japan

44% Other EPO states

EPO states

Growth in filings from the five leading patent territories

- US (+5.2%)
- Japan (-1.2%)
- Other EPO states (+2.8%)
- R. Korea (+3.4%)
- P.R. China (+24.0%)

Top technology fields: Strong growth in digital technologies

- Digital communication: +9.4%
- Medical technology: +0.8%
- Computer technology: +9.7%
- Electrical, machinery, apparatus, energy: +5.7%
- Transport: +4.5%
- Measurement: +6.5%
- Pharmaceuticals: +6.9%
- Biotechnology: +6.6%

Top applicants for European patents in 2021

1. Huawei: 3,544 applications +13.8%
2. Samsung: 3,439 applications +5.0%
3. LG: 2,422 applications -16.7%
4. Ericsson: 1,884 applications +15.3%
5. Siemens: 1,720 applications +5.8%

Growth in filings from the five leading patent territories

- Sweden (+12%)
- Italy (+6.5%)
- Switzerland (+3.9%)
- Netherlands (+3.1%)
- Germany (+0.3%)

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