

Annual Report 2012 – Five-year review

Five-year overview

| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| European patent filings | | | | | |
| Direct European applications | 63 109 | 62 557 | 71 392 | 55 950 | 62 737 |
| PCT international patent applications | 194 635 | 182 377 ¹ | 164 338 | 155 406 | 163 240 |
| Total European patent filings | 257 744 | 244 934 | 235 730 | 211 356 | 225 977 |
| European patent applications filed with the EPO | | | | | |
| Direct European applications | 63 109 | 62 557 | 71 392 | 55 950 | 62 737 |
| PCT applications entering the regional phase | 85 385 | 80 285 | 79 648 | 78 583 | 83 510 |
| Total European patent applications filed with the EPO | 148 494 | 142 842 | 151 040 | 134 533 | 146 247 |
| Searches carried out | | | | | |
| European searches | 103 601 | 104 638 | 100 010 | 99 105 | 87 667 |
| Other searches | 100 724 | 101 501 | 101 504 | 104 404 | 99 167 |
| For national offices and third parties | 23 899 | 26 227 | 27 818 | 22 941 | 17 104 |
| International | 76 825 | 75 274 | 73 686 | 81 463 | 82 063 |
| Total searches | 204 325 | 206 139 | 201 514 | 203 509 | 186 834 |
| Examinations and oppositions | | | | | |
| International preliminary examinations | 7 995 | 7 529 | 7 128 | 9 601 | 10 430 |
| European examinations | 111 860 | 110 331 | 114 991 | 102 178 | 99 053 |
| European patents granted | | | | | |
| Patents opposed | 2 994 | 2 945 | 2 766 | 2 695 | 2 840 |
| Decisions in opposition cases | 2 021 | 2 234 | 2 309 | 2 314 | 1 982 |
| Appeals | | | | | |
| Received | | | | | |
| Technical Boards of Appeal | 2 602 | 2 657 | 2 542 | 2 475 | 2 362 |
| Settled | | | | | |
| Enlarged Board of Appeal | | | | | |
| – Petitions for review | 15 | 21 | 21 | 16 | 3 |
| – Referrals | 1 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 1 |
| Technical Board of Appeal | 2 027 | 1 874 | 1 959 | 1 893 | 1 737 |
| Legal Board of Appeal | 19 | 15 | 23 | 21 | 13 |
| Disciplinary Board of Appeal | 7 | 12 | 16 | 24 | 50 |
| Staff | | | | | |
| Total staff | 6 710 | 6 726 | 6 778 | 6 816 | 6 685 |
| Examiners | 3 987 | 3 949 | 3 952 | 3 965 | 3 856 |

Source: EPO databases/March 2013
 1 WIPO March 2013