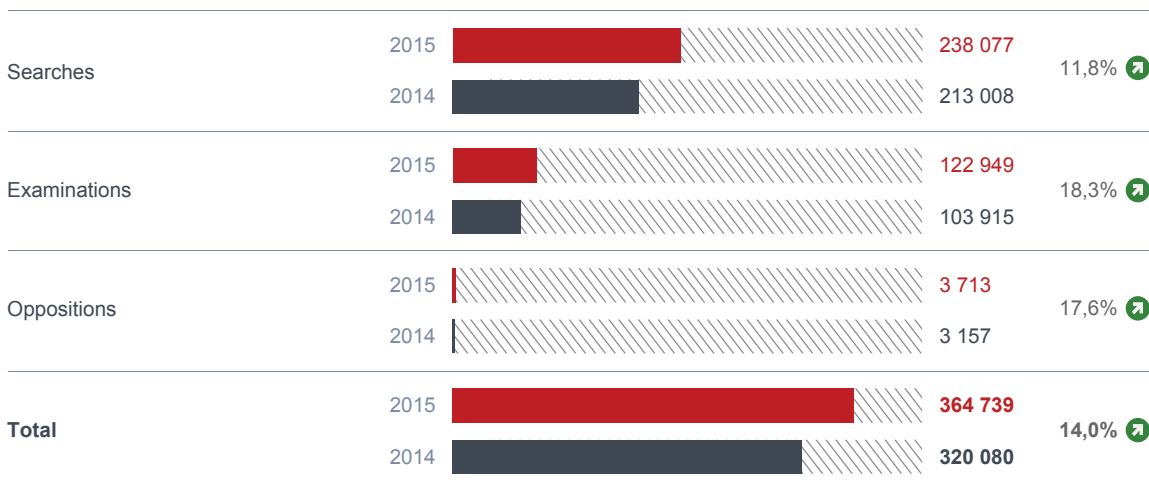


Searches, examinations, oppositions

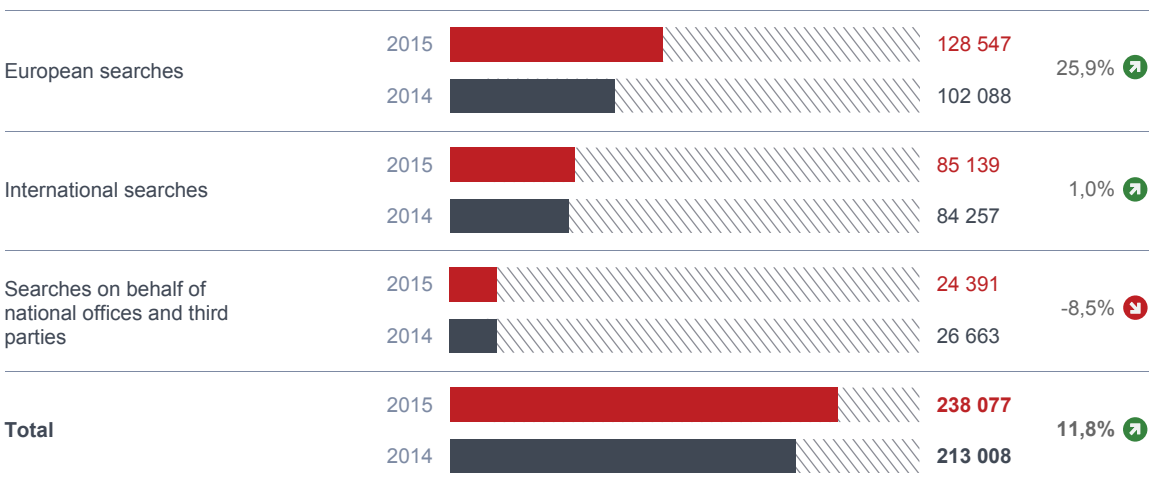
Production

Total products – Searches, examinations, oppositions










In response to the ongoing continued growth in demand for patent protection in Europe, the EPO has taken significant steps in the past few years to modernise its internal structures and increase efficiency, while further improving its patent quality. The 2015 annual results show that the reforms are paying off: The number of products delivered by EPO patent examiners grew by 14% in 2015 to 365 000.



Searches carried out



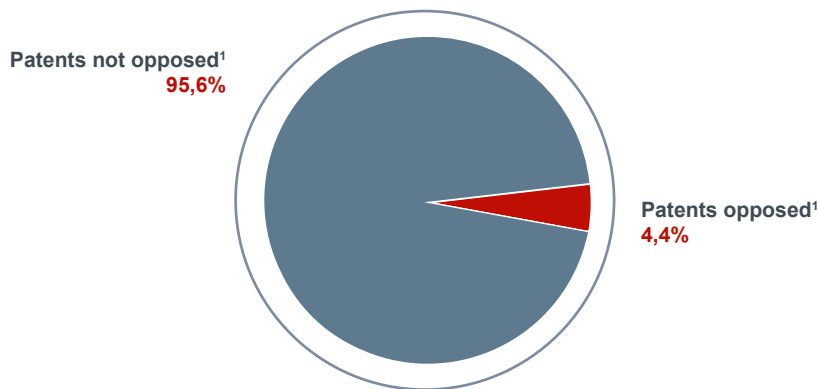
Examinations

European examinations	2015		113 586	18,2% 
	2014		96 062	
International preliminary examinations	2015		9 363	19,2% 
	2014		7 853	
Total	2015		122 949	18,3% 
	2014		103 915	

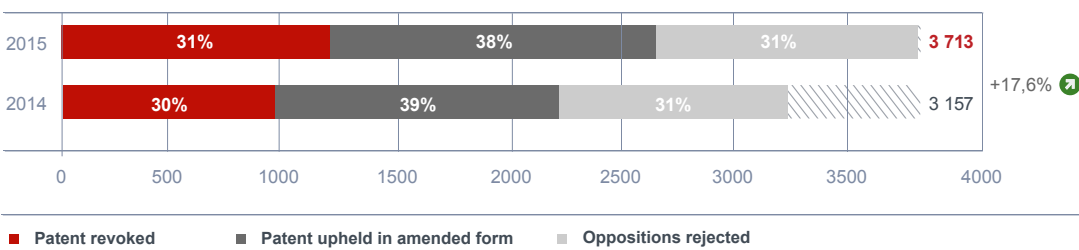
Decisions in Oppositions

The EPO offers a system of internal legal remedies to review its procedures and safeguard the quality of its patents. Anyone may oppose a European patent within a period of nine months from the mention of its grant. In 2015 the EPO issued around 3 713 opposition decisions and the opposition rate was 4,4%. In these cases, some 70% of the patents were upheld either as granted or in an amended form.

Patents opposed



Decisions in opposition cases



1) Oppositions must be filed at the EPO within nine months of the grant of the respective European patent. www.epo.org/applying/european/oppositions