REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
CROATIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

150 YEARS OF CROATIAN STATISTICS

QUALITY REPORT FOR STATISTICAL SURVEY

Patents, 2020

Organisational unit: Innovations, Science and Technologies Unit

Prepared by: Matija Škegro Vdović and Blanka Munjin

June 2025

0. Basic information

- Purpose and subject of the survey

  The patent statistics provides information on the success of research, development and innovation activity in selected fields of technology. The number of patents is one of the measures of the inventive activity of a country that, in addition, displays the capacity to exploit knowledge and translate it into potential economic gains. The International Patent Classification (IPC) enables the classification of patent applications and granted patents into selected fields of technology. The patents are classified according to the technical content of the invention into appropriate classes or subclasses. The classification includes eight technical sections (marked with letters A to H), divided into subsections which are further divided into classes and subclasses.

  The data are the result of processing the data taken over from the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO). It is a state administration body with responsibilities in the field of protection of intellectual property rights. SIPO carries out procedures for granting industrial property rights (patents, trademarks, industrial designs, geographical indications and designations of origin, and topographies of semiconductor products) and performs the accompanying professional and legislative activity. The data acquired from SIPO have been compiled according to a defined set of tables and processed by applying the required methodology.

  The data encompass patent applications submitted to the State Intellectual Property Office and patents granted by SIPO in the national procedure – the total number of patents and the number of granted patents by resident and non-resident applicants, the number of patents by type of applicant, and the number of applications and granting of patents by field of technology.

- Reference period

  Calendar year

- Legal acts and other agreements

  Patent Act (NN, No. 16/20)

  Patent Regulations (NN, No. 55/20)

  Decision on the National Classification of Activities – NKD 2007 (NN, Nos 58/07 and 72/07)

  Ordinance on the Register of Spatial Units (NN, No. 37/20)

  National Classification of Statistical Regions 2021 (HR_NUTS 2021), (NN, No. 125/19)

  Decision No 1608/2003/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 July 2003 concerning the production and development of Community statistics on science and technology (OJ L 230, 16. 9. 2003)

  Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 995/2012 of 26 October 2012 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Decision No 1608/2003/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the production and development of Community statistics on science and technology (OJ L 299, 27. 10. 2012)

  Commission Delegated Regulation 2019/1755 of 8 August 2019 amending the Annexes to Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) (OJ L 270, 24. 10. 2019)

  Relevant international standards

  OECD Patent Statistics Manual, OECD, 2009

- Classification system

  International Patent Classification of the World Intellectual Property Organization (IPC)

  National Classification of Statistical Regions 2021 (HR_NUTS 2021), (NN, No. 125/19)

- Statistical concepts and definitions

  The definitions covering the patent statistics area are based on international methodology – the OECD Patent Statistics Manual, 2009, issued by: OECD, Paris, 2009.

  A patent is an exclusive right granted for an invention that offers a new solution to a technical problem. It is granted for inventions related to a product, procedure or application. The patent provides the exclusive right to the owner to make, use, distribute or sell the invention protected by the patent during a limited period of time, no longer than 20 years from the filing date of the patent application. On expiration of this time, the patent is made a public good, available for public use.

  A patent does not protect an abstract concept but an actual solution to a technical problem. The basic conditions for every invention that must be fulfilled in order for the patent to be granted are that it is new in relation to the existing state of the art, that it involves an inventive step (i.e. non-obviousness) and that it is eligible for industrial application (that is, practical industrial applicability).

  The patent is exercised according to the territorial principle, which means that they are valid only in the territory of a country where they were granted. Patents are granted by an authorised body, on the basis of the examination of the patent application that describes the invention. The authorised body in the Republic of Croatia is the State Intellectual Property Office.

  The patent granting procedure is instituted by filing the patent application and carried out in line with the Patent Act and Patent Regulations. It consists of two main phases, the formal examination of the text of the application prior to its publication in the SIPO official gazette and the examination after the publication. The procedure may result in the grant of a patent for a proposed invention, provided that the prescribed requirements are complied with, or in the refusal of the request for the grant of a patent, if such requirements are not complied with.

  Consensual patent is a special form of patent protection in the Republic of Croatia. Its main characteristic is that it is granted without a substantive examination of the patent application, that is, on the basis of a public consensus, if no opposition to the grant is filed. The term of a consensual patent is no more than ten years.

  The definitions and explanations were taken over from the website of the State Intellectual Property Office www.dziv.hr/en/ where more information is available.

- Statistical unit

  The statistical unit is a resident or non-resident legal entity or natural person that is a patent applicant and/or the same unit that is granted a patent.

- Statistical population

  The population consists of patent applicants and those whose patents were granted by the SIPO, and they can be resident or non-resident legal entities or natural persons.

1. Relevance

1.1. Data users

Users of data on patents include:

- external national users – ministries and other state administration bodies, business entities, the academic community, the media, the public
- external international users – Directorates-General for policies of the European Commission.

1.1.1. User needs

The data satisfy the needs of the users.

1.1.2. User satisfaction

The first user satisfaction survey of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics was conducted in 2013, and the following one in 2015. The results of the surveys are available on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics https://dzs.gov.hr/highlighted-themes/quality/user-satisfaction-surveys/686.

1.2. Completeness

The data are taken over from the State Intellectual Property Office according to a defined set of tables and processed by applying the required methodology.

1.2.1. Data completeness rate

The indicator is not computed.

2. Accuracy and reliability

2.1. Sampling error

Not applicable.

2.1.1. Sampling error indicators

The indicator is not applicable.

2.2. Non-sampling error

Not applicable.

2.2.1. Coverage error

The survey is conducted on all patent applicant units in the Republic of Croatia.

2.2.2. Over-coverage rate

Not applicable.

2.2.3. Measurement errors

Not applicable.

2.2.4. Non-response errors

Not applicable.

2.2.5. Unit non-response rate

Not applicable.

2.2.6. Item non-response rate

Not applicable.

2.2.7. Processing errors

The survey is conducted on the basis of data obtained from the State Intellectual Property Office from the records of submitted applications and patents under the competence of SIPO. These data are processed by applying the required methodology.

2.2.8. Imputation rate

The indicator is not applicable.

2.2.9. Model assumption error

Not applicable.

2.3. Data revision

2.3.1. Data revision – policy

The users of statistical data are informed about revision (preliminary, final data) on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics.

2.3.2. Data revision – practice

There were no data revisions thus far. The data are comparable to those from previous years since 2012.

2.3.3. Data revision – average size

Not applicable.

2.4. Seasonal adjustment

The indicator is not applicable for the survey.

3. Timeliness and punctuality

3.1. Timeliness

Timeliness of statistics relates to the length of time between data availability and the reference period the phenomenon refers to.

3.1.1. Timeliness – first results

Not applicable.

3.1.2. Timeliness – final results

Timeliness of final results is T + 3 months.

3.2. Punctuality

Timeliness of results is T + 3 months.

3.2.1. Punctuality − delivery and publication

The data have been released on time, in line with the Calendar of Statistical Data Issues in 2021.

4. Accessibility and clarity

- website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics – electronic version of the First Release

4.1. News releases

Survey data are released in the First Release ZTI-2021-2-4 “Patents, 2020”.

4.2. Online database

Not applicable.

4.3. Microdata access

Conditions under which certain users can have access to microdata are regulated by the Ordinance on conditions and terms of using confidential statistical data for scientific purposes.

4.4. Documentation on methodology

- website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics – electronic version of the First Release
- intranet of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics – folder of the Innovations, Science and Technologies Unit

5. Coherence and comparability

5.1. Asymmetry for mirror flow statistics

The indicator is not applicable for the survey.

5.2. Comparability over time

The data are comparable to those from previous years since 2012.

5.2.1. Length of comparable time series

Length of comparable time series is 8.

5.2.2. Reasons for break in time series

Not applicable.

5.3. Coherence – short-term and structural data

The indicator is not computed.

5.4. Coherence – national accounts

The indicator is not computed.

5.5. Coherence – administrative sources

The indicator is not applicable.

6. Cost and burden

6.1. Cost

It is not possible to estimate the cost connected to data collection.

6.2. Burden

Not applicable.