QUALITY REPORT FOR STATISTICAL SURVEY

Patents in 2021

Organisational unit: Innovations, Science and Technologies Unit
Prepared by: Matija Škegro Vdović and Blanka Munjin

June 2025

0. Basic information

- Purpose, goal, and subject of the survey

The patent statistics provide information on the success of the 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 the knowledge and translate it into potential economic gains. The International Patent Classification (IPC) enables the classification of patent applications and granted patents into the selected fields of technology. The patents are classified, according to the technical subject matter of the invention, into respective classes or subclasses. The Classification includes eight fields of technology (marked with letters A to H), broken down into subfields further divided into classes and subclasses.

The data are the result of the processing of data taken over from State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO). It is a state administration body with responsibilities in the field of the protection of intellectual property rights. SIPO carries out procedures for granting industrial property rights (patents, trademarks, industrial designs, geographical indications and designations of origin, topographies of semiconductor products) and performs the accompanying professional and legislative activity. The data acquired from SIPO have been compiled according to the 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 in the national procedure conducted by the same Office - total number of patents and number of granted patents by domestic applicants and foreign applicants, number of patents by type of applicant, and number of applications and grant of patents by field of technology.

- Reference period

Calendar year.

- Legal acts and other agreements

Patent Act (OG No. 16/20)

Patent Ordinance (OG, No. 55/20.)

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

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

National classification of statistical regions 2021 (HR_NUTS 2021), (OG, No. 125/19)

Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 on European business statistics, repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics (SL L 327, 17 December 2019)

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1197 of 30 July 2020 laying down technical specifications and arrangements pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European business statistics repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics (OJ L 271, 18 August 2020)

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 October 2019).

Other international standards

Patent Statistics Manual, OECD, Paris, 2009

International Patent Classification (ICP)

- Classification system

International Patent Classification (ICP)

National classification of statistical regions 2021 (HR_NUTS 2021), (OG, No. 125/19)

- Concepts and definitions

The definitions covering the patent statistics area are based on the 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 technical solution to a 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, generally 20 years from the filing date of the application. On expiration of this time, the patent is made a public good, available for public use.

The patent does not protect an abstract concept but an actual technical solution to a problem. The basic conditions for every invention that have to be fulfilled for granting of the patent are that it is new, that it involves an inventive step and that it is eligible for industrial application (that is, practical industrial applicability).

Patents are a territorial right, 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 a request for the grant of a patent, if such requirements are not complied with.

Consensual patent is a special form of the patent protection in Croatia. Its main characteristic is that it is granted without a substantive examination of the patent application, that is, on the basis of the public consensus, if no opposition to the grant is filed. The term of the consensual patent is no more than 10 years.

The definitions and explanations have been taken over from the web site of the State Intellectual Property Office www.dziv.hr/en, where more information is available.

- Statistical units

The statistical unit is a domestic or foreign legal or natural person applying for a patent and/or the same unit to which the patent has been granted.

- Statistical population

The population consists of patent applicants and those whose patent has been recognized by SIPO, and they can be legal or natural persons, domestic or foreign.

1. Relevance

1.1. Data users

Data users on patents include:

- External national users – ministries and other state administration bodies, business entities, the academic community, the media and the public

- External international users – Directorates-General of the European Commission

1.1.1. User needs

The data meet 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 next in 2015. The survey results are available on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics https://dzs.gov.hr/highlighted-themes/quality/user-satisfactionsurveys/686.

1.2. Completeness

The data were 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 applicants in Republic of Croatia.

2.2.2. Overcoverage 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 research is carried out on data obtained from the State Intellectual Property Office from the records of submitted applications and patents under the jurisdiction 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 revisions on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics, on the link – General Revision Policy of the CBS.

2.3.2. Data revision – practice

There has been no data revision so far. The 2021 data are comparable to data for the previous years.

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 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 final results is T + 3 months.

3.2.1. Punctuality − delivery and publication

Data are published within the planned deadline, in accordance with the [Calendar of Statistical Data Issues 2022](#).

4. Accessibility and clarity

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

4.1. News release

Survey data are released in the First Release [ZTI-2-4 "Patents, 2021"](#).

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 Press Release
- intranet pages of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics - map of the Innovation, Science and Technologies Unit

5. Coherence and comparability

5.1. Asymmetry for mirror flows statistics

The indicator is not applicable for the survey.

5.2. Comparability over time

The 2021 data are comparable to data for the previous years (from 2012).

5.2.1. Length of comparable time series

Length of comparable time series is 9.

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 data collection costs.

6.2. Burden

Not applicable.