

# QUALITY REPORT FOR STATISTICAL SURVEY

## Patents, 2024

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## 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 (NN, No. 16/20)

Patent Regulation (NN, No. 55/20)

Decision on the National Classification of Activities 2025 – NKD 2025. (NN, No. 47/24)

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

The National Classification of Statistical Regions 2021 (HR\_NUTS 2021) (NN, No. 125/19)

Other international standards

Patent Statistics Manual, OECD, Paris, 2009

International Patent Classification (IPC), WIPO – classification system

- Classification system

International Patent Classification (IPC)

The National Classification of Statistical Regions 2021 (HR\_NUTS 2021) (NN, 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 (SIPO).

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.

Utility model is a form of invention protection that is registered without a substantive examination procedure of the patentability condition. The utility model can only protect products that are not in the field of biotechnology and that are not chemical or pharmaceutical substances. In addition, inventions whose commercial exploitation would be contrary to public policy or morality cannot be protected. A utility model lasts for 10 years, counting from the date of filing the application.

The process of registering a utility model is faster, cheaper and more suitable for simpler inventions, as well as for individuals and small and medium-sized enterprises compared to granting a patent.

The definitions and explanations have been taken over from the web site of the State Intellectual Property Office [www.dziv.hr/en](http://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, then in 2015 and 2022, and the last one at the end of 2024. The results can be checked out on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics <https://dzs.gov.hr/highlighted-themes/quality/user-satisfaction-surveys/686>.

### 1.2. Completeness

The survey was carried out in the Croatian Bureau of Statistics pursuant to the Annual Implementation Plan for Statistical Activities of the Republic of Croatia in 2025 (NN, No. 29/25) and the Official Statistics Act (NN, Nos 25/20, 155/23 and 124/25 – corr.). Legal basis of the European Union for this survey is 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 (OJ L 327, 17 December 2019), and 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).

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 – [https://dzs.gov.hr/General Revision Policy of the CBS](https://dzs.gov.hr/General%20Revision%20Policy%20of%20the%20CBS).

### 2.3.2. Data revision – practice

There has been no data revision so far. The 2024 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 2025](#).

## **4. Accessibility and clarity**

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

### **4.1. News release**

Survey data are released in the First Release [ZTI-2025-2-4 “Patents, 2024”](#).

### **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 Access and Use of Confidential statistical Data of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics for Scientific Purposes](#) (NN, No. 5/23).

### **4.3. Documentation on methodology**

Methodological documents are available in the First Release in electronic version on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics.

## **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 data are comparable to data from the previous years (from 2012).

#### **5.2.1. Length of comparable time series**

Length of comparable time series is 12.

#### **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**

An analysis of the burden on reporting units has not been carried out.