

Intellectual Property Rights at the JPO: Statistics (2018)

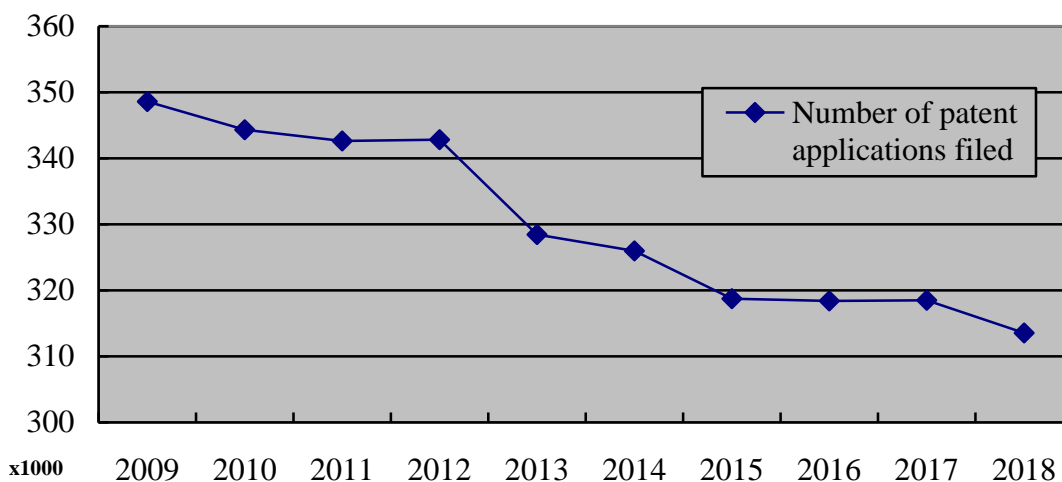


FIG. 1. Number of patent applications (in thousands) filed at the JPO per calendar year. Since 2013, there has been a 3% decrease in the number of patent applications filed at the JPO.

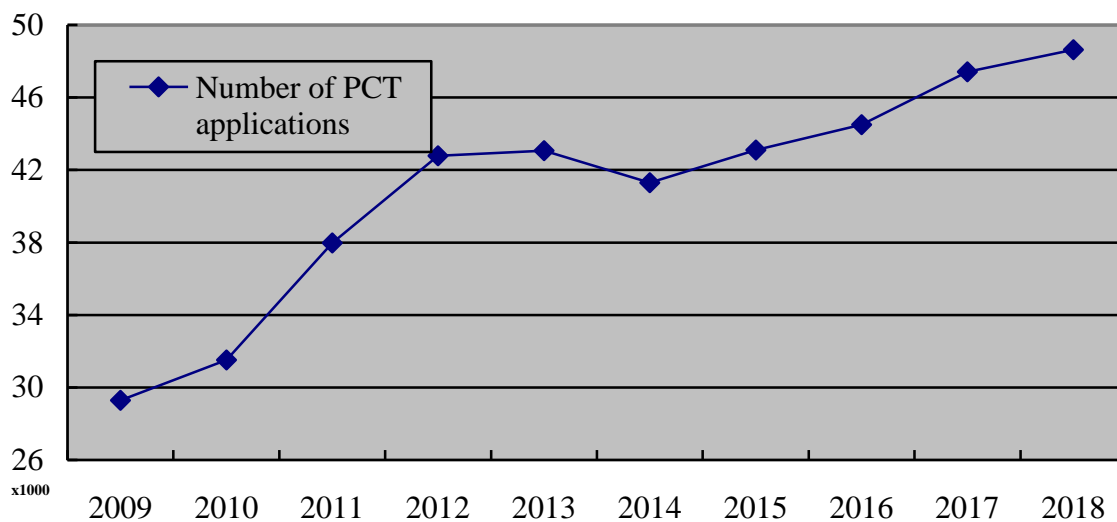


FIG. 2 Number of applications (in thousands) filed under the PCT at the JPO per calendar year

In 2018, the number of PCT applications filed with the JPO increased by 2.5% to 48,630 applications compared to 2017. The number of PCT applications filed at the JPO has steadily increased by over 40% since 2009.

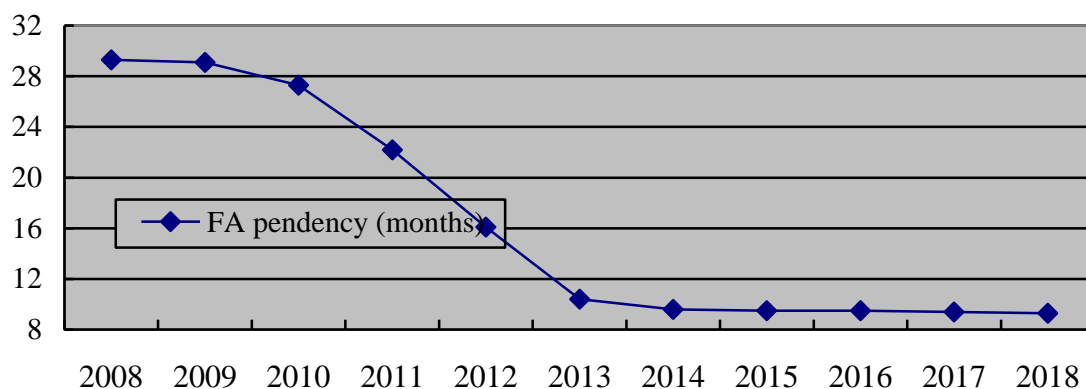


FIG. 3 Average time until First Action (FA) issued for an application at the JPO per calendar year

The number of International Search Reports (ISR) produced by the JPO increased from 40,529 in 2012 to 47,934 in 2018.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Decision to Grant Patent	260,046	205,711	173,015	191,032	183,919	177,852
Number of FAs	356,179	255,001	235,809	246,879	239,236	232,701

Table 1: Number of granted patents and First office actions (FA) at the JPO. The number of FAs issued have dropped by about 34% since 2013. This may be due to the general decline in applications filed at the JPO and the influx of new examiners at the JPO.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Applications Filed by Foreign Applicants (%)	17.3	18.4	18.7	18.3	18.3	19.1
Patent Registrations by Foreign Applicants (%)	19.0	21.8	22.5	*	*	

Table 2: Applications filed and patent registrations made by foreign applicants at the JPO. Values are percent relative to those

filed or registered by Japanese nationals.

*Data was incomplete as of May 2019.

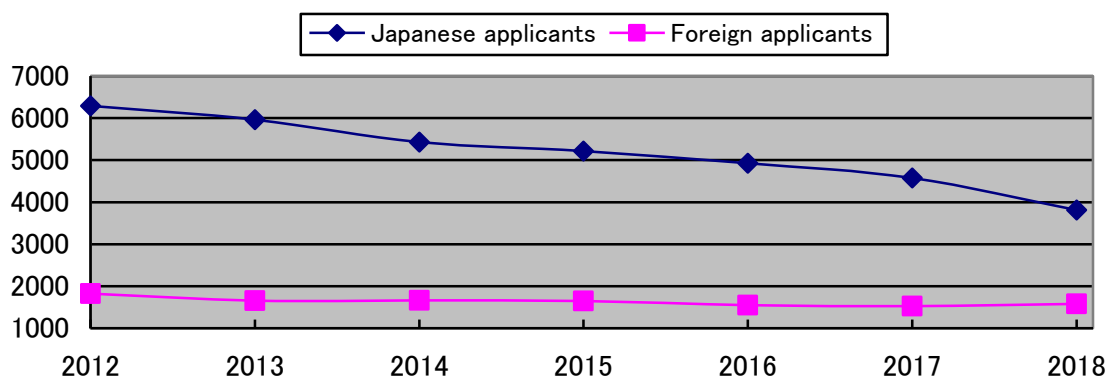


FIG. 4. Number of Utility Model applications filed at the JPO by Japanese and foreign applicants. Since 2011, the number of Utility Model applications by Japanese applicants has been gradually decreasing while the number of Utility Model applications by foreign applicants has remained relatively stable.

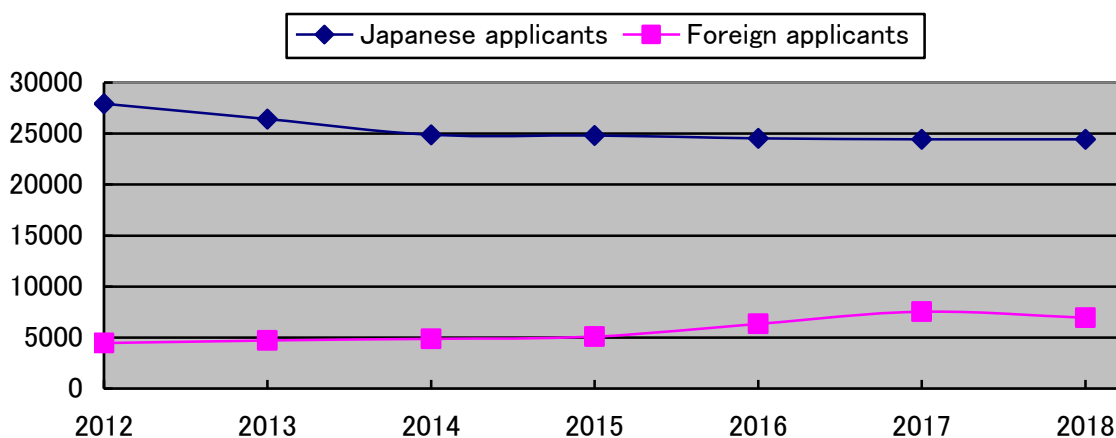


FIG. 5. Number of applications for Design Registration filed at the JPO by Japanese and foreign applicants. The percentage of foreign applicants for Design Registration filed at the JPO has steadily increased from 13.76% of all applications in 2012 to 22.21% of all applications in 2018 and represents large and steady increase from 2015. As the JPO began to accept International Design applications under the Hague Agreement in May 2015, this increase is not surprising.

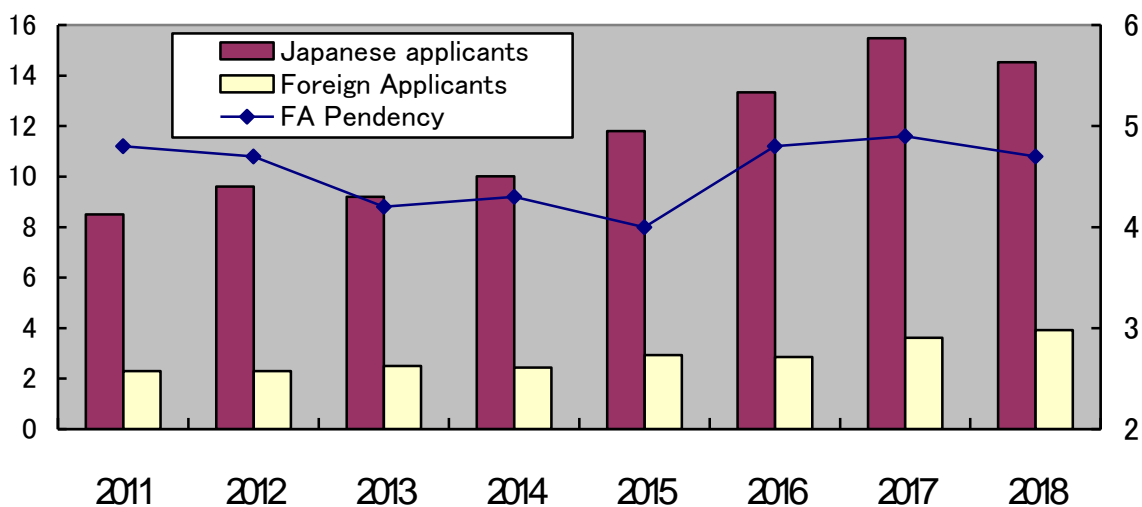


FIG. 6. Number of Trademark applications (excluding International applications for trademark registration) filed at the JPO by Japanese and foreign applicants and the average pendency of the application. The number of applications is displayed in units of 10,000, whereas the pendency (left side of graph) is displayed in months. The number of Trademark applications by Japanese applicants has been steadily increasing in recent years. The number of Trademark applications by foreign applicants has steadily increased from about 23,300 in 2011 to 39,209 in 2018, and the average pendency for a trademark application has decreased from 7.9 months in 2008 and tends to fluctuate between 4 and 5 months.

Trials and Appeals

The number of appeals against an examiner's decision of refusal for a patent application and utility model had remained within the range of 24,000 to 28,000 per year since 2009. However, in 2018, the number of requests for appeal against an examiner's decision of refusal for a patent application and utility model fell to 16,536 cases. In 2018, the number of requests for appeal against an examiner's decision of refusal for a trademark application was 838 which represent a significant decrease from the number of requests filed in 2009 (1,415). There has been a generally steady decline in the number of requests for appeal against an examiner's decision of refusal for a design application from 2009 (513 cases) to 2018 (239 cases).

Requests for Trials for Invalidation and Oppositions

Since 2006, the number of requests for a trial for invalidation of a patent has remained within the range of 217 and 292 cases per year, however in 2018, the number of requests fell to 159 for patents. Since 2011, approximately 54% of the appeals against an examiner's decision of refusal have been accepted. In 2018, the processing period during such a trial was approximately 12.4 months.

The number of requests for a trial for invalidation of a utility model has been ten or fewer per year since 2008. The number of requests for a trial for invalidation of a design registration has been less than 30 since 2008. Lastly, the number of requests for a trial for invalidation of a trademark registration has remained within a range of 89 to 140 per year since 2008.

In the case of trademarks, oppositions had been gradually falling from 615 in 2007. In 2015, accompanying the adoption of a new patent opposition system by the JPO, opposition filings have soared from 364 in 2015 to 1,172 in 2018. Additionally, after a surge in 2015, the number of Advisory Opinions (Hantei) requested has decreased to 25.

Ex-parte appeals include appeals against an examiner's decision of refusal, appeals against an examiner's ruling to dismiss amendments, and trials for correction. The number of ex-parte lawsuits decreased to 7 for trademarks compared to the previous year, was 5 for designs, and remained relatively unchanged for patents and utility models (37 cases).

Inter-partes trials include trials for invalidation and trials for rescission. 81 inter-partes trials for patent and utility models representing a 26% reduction from 2017, 4 inter-partes trials for designs, and 40 inter-partes trials for trademarks were conducted in 2018.

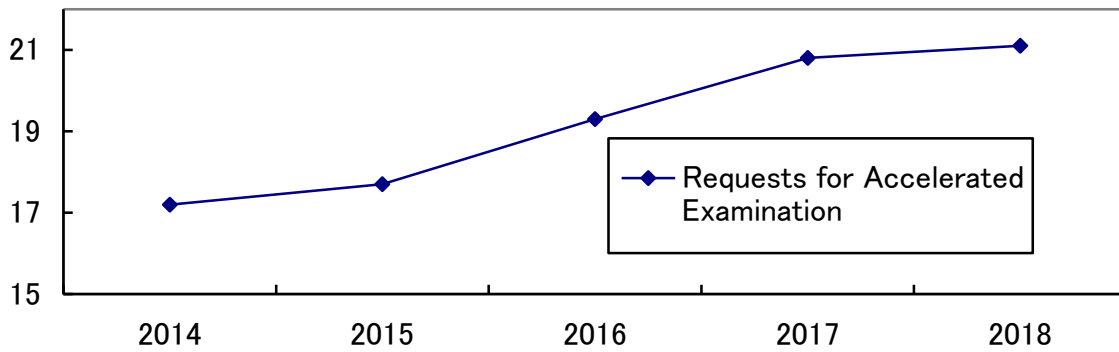


Fig. 7. Change in the number of requests for accelerated examination (units: 1,000). There has been a continuous upward trend in the number of accelerated examinations requested since 2014. Patent applications and trademark applications for which accelerated examination was requested had an average first action pendency of 2.3 and 1.7 months respectively in 2018. Super-accelerated patent examinations had an average first action pendency of 0.7 months in 2018. Accelerated examination is available for applications which meet certain criteria summarized [here](#).

Non-Traditional Trademarks

In April 2015, the Japan Patent Office began to accept non-traditional trademark applications. These applications include color, sound, position, motion, and holograms, as well as regional collective trademarks. The number of non-traditional trademark applications submitted to the JPO in 2017 was 1,746 (8% increase relative to 2017) and 433 non-traditional trademarks were registered (23% increase relative to 2017). 1,224 applications for regional collective trademarks were filed in 2018 and 645 registrations were made. More information regarding non-traditional trademarks and regional collective trademarks can be found [here](#).

Collective Examinations for IP Portfolios (summarized in detail [here](#))

In 2018, 41 applications for collective examination (including applications for patents, trademarks, and designs filed together) were filed.

Utilization of New Broad Classification Codes

In order to better classify inventions related to IoT which may span multiple fields, the JPO created a series of new classifications (Steps taken by the JPO as well as the Japanese government, organizations and industry to prepare for the influx of IoT-related applications can be found [here](#)). As of March 2018, over 1400 gazettes assigned with the new classifications were issued by the JPO.

All of the above statistical information was obtained from the JPO and WIPO and was culled from numerous reports on the state of Intellectual Property at various patent offices throughout the world.