

2019 Taiwan Patent and Trademark Filing Statistics

Based on statistics reports from the Taiwan Intellectual Property Office, there was a modest increase in both patent and trademark applications of 2019. In total, 74,652 patent applications were filed, representing an overall increase of 1.67%. Among three types of patent applications, invention cases were increased by 1.76%, utility model cases decreased by 1.84% and design cases increased by 8.93%. The total trademark applications accounted to 86,794, with an increase of 2.33%. The key statistics are provided in the following tables.

Table 1: Filing cases of Taiwan Patent Applications for recent three years

	2017	2018	2019
Invention	46,122	47,429	48,268
Utility Model	19,549	17,910	17,580
Design	8,120	8,082	8,804
Total	73,791	73,421	74,652

Table 2: Filing cases of domestic and foreign applicants for Taiwan patent applications

	2017		2018		2019	
	Domestic applicant	Foreign applicant	Domestic applicant	Foreign applicant	Domestic applicant	Foreign applicant
Invention	18,199	27,923	18,365	29,064	18,984	29,284
Utility Model	18,343	1,206	16,661	1,249	16,412	1,168
Design	4,293	3,827	4,252	3,830	4,208	4,596
Total	40,835	32,956	39,278	34,143	39,604	35,048
Percentage Rate	55.33%	44.67%	53.49%	46.51%	53.05%	46.95%

Table 3: Filing cases for major origins of Taiwan patent applications

	2018				2019			
	Invention	Utility Model	Design	Total	Invention	Utility Model	Design	Total
Japan	12,871	74	1,224	14,169	13,195	74	1,329	14,598
USA	6,393	175	777	7,345	6,341	184	912	7,437
Mainland China	2,595	615	296	3,506	2,723	560	415	3,698
South Korea	1,766	12	118	1,896	1,656	16	142	1,814
Germany	1,197	9	305	1,511	-	-	-	-
Hong Kong	-	-	-	-	1,018	118	146	1,282

Note: Patent applications by Hong Kong applicants grew double digits in 2019 and overpassed Germany to take fifth place in 2019.

Table 4: Filing cases of Taiwan trademark applications for recent three years

	2017	2018	2019
Domestic applicants (Percentage)	61,215 (74.05%)	59,840 (70.55%)	61,928 (71.35%)
Foreign applicants (Percentage)	22,587 (26.95%)	24,976 (29.45%)	24,866 (28.65%)
Total	83,802	84,816	86,794

Table 5: Filing cases for major origins of Taiwan trademark applications

	2017	2018	2019
Mainland China	4,830	5,770	6,108
Japan	3,892	4,728	4,748
USA	3,684	4,187	3,621
South Korea	1,521	1,440	1,668
Hong Kong	1,579	1,649	1,617

Note: In 2019, the trademark applications increased 15.83% for Korean applicants and decreased 1.94% for Hong Kong applicants.

Table 6: Filing cases for major classes of Taiwan trademark applications in 2019

Nice classification	Domestic applicants	Nice classification	Foreign applicants
Class 35 (Advertisements, business operation, etc.)	11,040	Class 9 (Computers and technology products, etc.)	4,761
Class 43 (Restaurants, lodging, etc.)	6,620	Class 35 (Advertisements, business operation, etc.)	3,239
Class 30 (Coffee, tea, pastries, etc.)	6,235	Class 3 (Cosmetics, detergents, etc.)	2,902
Class 5 (Pharmaceuticals, medical preparations, etc.)	4,596	Class 5 (Pharmaceuticals, etc.)	2,646
Class 9 (Computers and technology products, etc.)	3,972	Class 41 (Education, entertainment, etc.)	2,005

Table 7: Top applicants of Trademark applications in 2019

Domestic applicants	Number of applications	Foreign applicants	Number of applications
1. Uni-President Enterprises	432	1. Huawei	166
2. Taichung City Government	360	2. Line	138
3. Che Tai International	136	3. Shiseido	97
4. King Car	92	4. Off-White	97
5. China Airlines	84	5. Amore Pacific Xiaomi	87 87

Note: For top patent applicants, please refer to our newsletter of “2019 Taiwan Top 100 Patent applicants.”

Table 8: Examination times for 2019 Taiwan patent and trademark applications

Examination times	Patent Application	Trademark Application
Average time to issue first opinion letter	8.4 months	5.2 months
Average time to issue decision	13.6 months	6.7 months

As can be seen from above, TIPO average examination times for 2019 patent and trademark applications were within 14 months and 7 months, respectively. Generally, applicants can obtain patent and trademark protection faster in Taiwan as compared to other countries. Especially for an invention patent application, the applicant can file a request with TIPO to expedite the examination via AEP (Accelerated Examination Program) or PPH (Patent Prosecution Highway). For trademark application, there is an accelerated examination measure in proposed Trademark Act Amendment which TIPO submitted on November 26, 2019 for public consultation and it may be enforced from late 2020 or in 2021 if passed by Legislative Yuan.