Key numbers

Patent grant rate

2017	2018
74.6%	75.3%

*Please note that patent grant rate in 2019 has not been announced.

Number of JPO filings

2018	2019
313,567	307,969

The average period for OAs/Decision

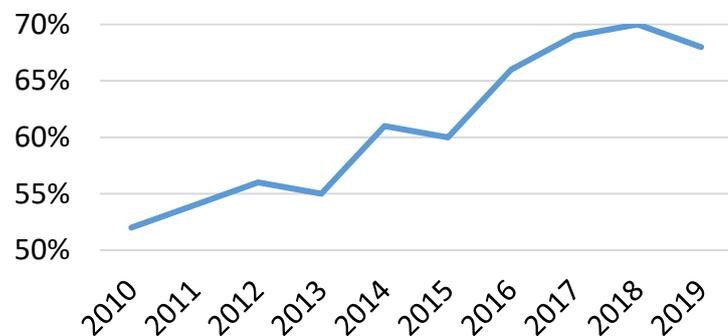|	1st OAs	Decision issued on Examination Stage
JPO	9.3	14.1
USPTO	15.6	23.8
EPO	4.4	25.1
CNIPA	15.4	22.5
KIPO	10.3	15.8 (Months)

✓ Patent grant rate and number of JPO filings have not fluctuated from the previous year.
✓ Chinese applicants are becoming a main contributor in pushing up the number of JPO filings in terms of overseas applicants in recent years.
✓ JPO has successfully shortened the examination period as a result of an initiative that JPO has been working on for a long time.
✓ The success rate of appeal trials in 2019 is 68%. The rate has been increasing in recent years.
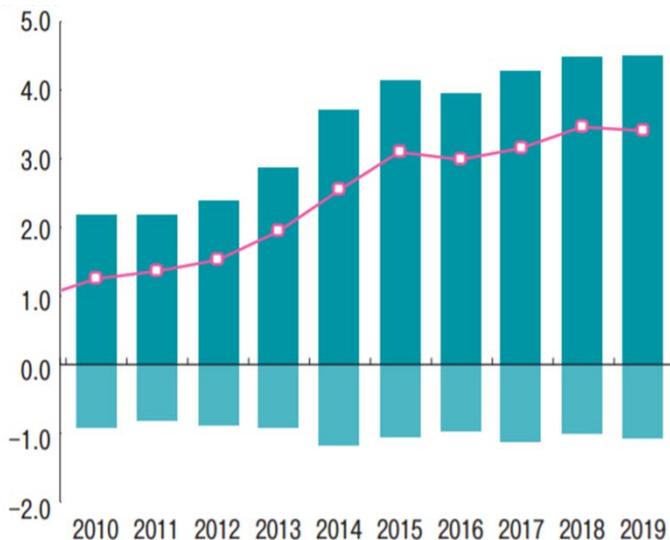
The Success Rate of Appeal Trial

International Balance of
Payments for Royalties of Industrial Property Rights

(Trillion JPY
*=roughly 10M USD)

Note: The graph is prepared by the JPO.

In the midst of Japanese companies accelerating toward globalization, international transactions in intellectual property have been more robust. According to the Balance of Payments Statistics released by the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Japan, charges for use of intellectual property in 2019 have amounted 3.4 trillion JPY in surplus.

■ Income
■ Outcome
-○- Balance

SHIGA INTERNATIONAL PATENT OFFICE

Technical Trends

The JPO releases technology trend reports for patent applications every year. The reports focus on promising technologies which should be advanced as part of the national policy and which may lead to market creation.

In Japan, as infrastructure that was intensively developed after 1960 has aged and **efficient maintenance and management of infrastructure** are in urgent need. In a view of the number of applications and its growth, China takes the lead, followed by Japan and South Korea. The JPO has analyzed Japanese companies' competitive edge referring to statistics of the number of applications in each country. The report uncovers the advanced technical capabilities of Japanese companies in "road-related IoT technology", in particular, for the sub-groups "land-based vehicles", "cameras", "image analysis" and "prediction/estimation". Hopefully, Japanese companies will provide a business solution that would put these core technologies together and go global.

1. IoT-based maintenance management technology for infrastructural facilities
2. Sports-related technology
3. Spacecraft
4. Welfare equipment
5. 3D printer
6. Technology related to controlled radical polymerization
7. Materials informatics
8. Image processing using AI
9. V2X (Vehicle to everything) communication technology
10. Embedded electronic component

V2X communication technology is a wireless communication technology that connects vehicles with all kinds of things. Such connective capabilities include vehicle-to-vehicle and road-to-vehicle communications, and vehicle-to-vehicle and server-to-vehicle communications that utilize cellular network technology. It is being researched and developed as a key for designing connected cars and self-driving cars. The market size of systems that use the technology will most likely expand in the future. The number of applications related to V2X communication technology is on the rise, especially those filed by Chinese and Korean applicants since 2015.

Number of applications by universities has increased

The number of applications and workings of inventions by universities is slightly increasing. The ranking on the right shows that top ten universities account for more than 30% of published patents by all universities. In terms of the number of PCT applications filed in 2019, The University of Tokyo has ranked 12th among all universities worldwide while the University of California in the US has taken first place.

Top 10 Applicants	No.
1. The University of Tokyo	300
2. Tohoku University	268
3. Osaka University	263
4. Nagoya University	190
5. Kyoto University	173
6. Tokyo Institute of Technology	170
7. Kyushu University	136
8. Hokkaido University	125
9. Shinshu University	111
10. Keio University	110

Small talks about the JPO

1. In April 2020, the JPO started a pilot program of interactive oral proceedings, giving concerned parties opportunities to have multiple non-public oral inquiries for patent invalidation trials in order to further enhance the quality of proceedings of patent invalidation trials. The program applies to cases designated by Chief Trial Examiners upon a request from the parties concerned.
2. The JPO has developed a unique self-made search system, "ADPAS", which enables users to search patent documents using AI. The JPO plans to conduct patent examinations using this system.
3. Discussion on whether or not to introduce secret patent is now underway in a bid to protect prominent technologies in Japan.
4. JPO's Remedial Measures for COVID-19
   The JPO has taken remedial measures for COVID-19, which apply not only to designated time limits but also statutory time limits. (last updated on June 10, 2020) If you are not able to carry out procedures within the time limits due to COVID-19, please refer to the JPO's website or feel free to contact us. Depending on the backgrounds of each case, actions to be taken will differ.