



German Patent
and Trade Mark Office

Annual Report 2025



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OVERVIEW

IP rights in figures

Patents		
 158,848 patents in force on 31/12/2025	 45,839 (+1.3%) examination procedures concluded	 24,475 (+2.2%) grants published
62,050 +4.7% Applications in total and change in %	19,701 +2.8% including applications from abroad	91.8% Online applications (National patent applications)
Utility models		
 62,944 utility models in force on 31/12/2025	 10,838 (+9.2%) registration procedures concluded	 9,750 (+7.6%) with registration
11,427 +19.3 % Applications in total and change in %	5,163 +19.2% including applications from abroad	67.3% Online applications (National utility model applications)
Trade marks		
 909,659 Trade marks in force on 31/12/2025	 82,542 (+10.2%) registration procedures concluded	 55,863 (+11.7%) with registration
93,291 +20.8% National applications in total and change in %	14,569 +109.3% including applications from abroad	90.0% Online applications (National trade mark applications)
Designs		
 226,690 Designs in force on 31/12/2025	 3,667 (-8.6%) procedures concluded for a total of 27,161 designs	 3,259 (-8.2%) with registration for a total of 25,377 designs
25,377 -9.5% Registered designs in total and change in %	1,244 -39.5% including applications from abroad	93.5% Online applications (Design applications)

PREFACE

Dear readers,

if you want to describe how quickly our world is evolving, you can use the following number: every minute, around 40 IP rights are filed world-wide. This was calculated by the World Intellectual Property Organization last year. And it means that almost every second, someone somewhere is applying for an IP right — for example, because they invented something new or developed a new design. Or because they want to use a trade mark for the distribution of new products and services. By the time you finish reading this text, around 100 additional creative accomplishments will have been registered. What a tremendous potential for change!

Sometimes the crises in our world cast a dark shadow over our mood; at times, it is difficult to still believe in productive solutions. This is why I find it incredibly rewarding to work in an environment where we see proof of the creative power of humanity every day. And the application numbers all over the world show: the option to protect intellectual property enables us to harness this power. Even Werner von Siemens back then considered patent protection to be crucial for advancing industrial progress. Let me put it in more general terms: the protection of intellectual property is a driving force for solving social challenges.

Our annual report illustrates what this means in practice: quantum technology is considered to be the next key technology with as much ground-breaking potential as artificial intelligence. For example, in research, high-performance computers using this technology could carry out simulations of complex processes. Instead of testing multiple substances in a laboratory, they could calculate their effect without using a single real test subject. Our analysis shows that the number of published patent applications with effect for Germany in this field has increased significantly in the last ten years. The same applies to patent applications in the field of battery technology, which enables electromobility and the effective use of renewable energy. And the number of inventions for solar technology and wind turbines remains high as well. At the same time, the enormous increase in trade mark applications is proof of the general huge interest to operate on the German market.

The German Patent and Trade Mark Office actively supports these developments with our strong commitment to offer examinations of the highest quality and to carry out procedures as efficiently as possible: we have noticeably increased the number of completions in almost all divisions. But we also play a significant role in raising awareness of the value of IP rights, especially among SMEs, and in educating the public about the importance of intellectual property. You can find out what we do and how to use our services on the

following pages. Because one thing is clear: the protection of IP rights is not the exclusive right of a few experts or big enterprises. It offers advantages for everyone and is there for all of us!

I hope you enjoy this report — and stay innovative!

Yours, Eva Schewior



President of the German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA)
Eva Schewior

TASKS AND ORGANISATION

The German Patent and Trade Mark Office: first-hand service and quality



Every day, our staff experience first-hand what it means to be part of the “Land of Ideas”. It is the ideas of our customers who consciously choose the German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA) to protect their know-how. This is because effective action against plagiarism and counterfeiting is possible, above all, on the basis of IP rights: Patents, utility models, trade marks and designs effectively protect intellectual property — be it a technical invention, a creative trade mark or the colours and shapes of a new product.

The DPMA is the German centre of expertise for the protection of intellectual property. A higher federal authority, it is subordinate to the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection. With the examination of IP rights and the provision of services, our office promotes the innovative power and creativity of industry and plays an essential role in the international IP system. We examine inventions, grant patents, register trade marks, utility models and designs and manage, and inform the public of, IP rights. As the largest national patent office in Europe and the sixth largest national patent office in the world, our office stands for the future of Germany as a country of inventors in a globalised economy.

Its staff of approximately 2,800 at four locations provide services to inventors and companies.

» **Munich**

DPMA headquarters including senior management, administration and legal divisions as well as patent, trade mark and utility model divisions, arbitration boards

» **Jena**

Sub-office with administrative and IT units as well as design division, an additional trade mark division and three patent divisions that are being established

» **Berlin**

DPMA Information and Service Centre (DPMA-IDZ)

» **Hauzenberg**

Branch office with several teams for provision of information and for Customer Care and Services

In organisational terms, the DPMA is divided into four Directorates General:

Directorate General 1 — Patents and Utility Models

- » More than 1,000 patent examiners organised in five clusters (Mechanical Engineering, Mechanical Technology, Electrical Engineering, Chemistry and Medical Engineering as well as Physics) with 40 patent divisions in total
- » Utility model and topography division
- » Patent and utility model administration

Directorate General 2 — Information

- » Information services for the public and internal information services: database search, library, classification systems, Customer Care and Services, Internet editorial office
- » Support for the 15 German patent information centres
- » Operation and further development of all information technologies of the DPMA

Directorate General 3 — Trade Marks and Designs

- » 13 teams in three divisions for trade mark examination
- » Trade mark cancellation division
- » Design division with design unit

Directorate General 4 — Administration and Law

- » 16 specialist areas in four divisions, occupational health management
- » All administrative tasks, including personnel and facility management, organisation as well as budget and legal affairs
- » Patent attorneys and other agents as well as supervision of collective management organisations under the Act on Collective Management Organisations (*Verwertungsgesellschaftengesetz*)

[Organisation chart](#)

Senior management



President
Eva Schewior



Vice-President
Bernd Maile



Vice-President
Dr. Maria Skottke-Klein

Heads of the Directorates General



Directorate General 1
Patents and Utility Models

Dr. Bernd Läßiger



Directorate General 2
Information

Robert Lemperle



Directorate General 3
Trade Marks and Designs

Katharina Mirbt



Directorate General 4
Administration and Law

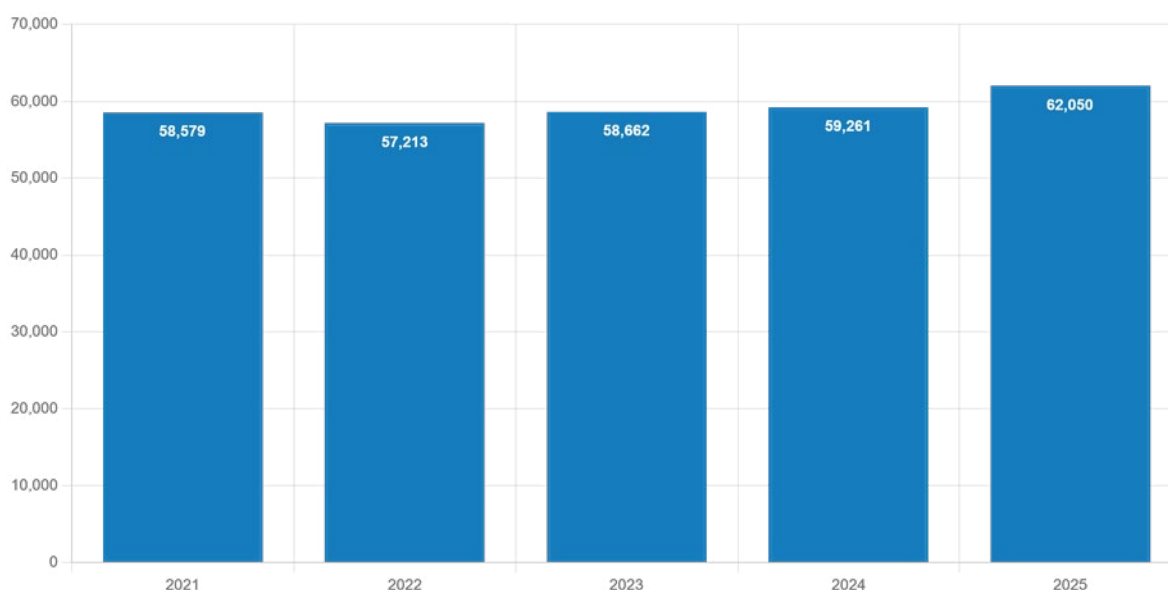
Marion Kreß

PATENTS

OVERVIEW

Development and origin of patent applications

Performance figures in patent examination



Patent applications at the German Patent and Trade Mark Office

In 2025, a total of 62,050 patent applications (national applications and PCT applications upon entry into the national phase) were filed with the German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA), 4.7% more than in the previous year. Thus, there were more than 60,000 applications for the first time in five years. From a German perspective, it is pleasing that the German applicants' contribution to this growth was above average. While 42,349 applications came from German companies, research institutions and independent inventors (+5.6%), 19,701 applications were from abroad (+2.8%).

In economically difficult times, companies obviously turn to investing in research and development. In this context, the targeted protection of technical inventions remains an indispensable element to protect innovations against imitation, safeguard investments and thus strengthen one's own competitiveness.

Upon filing of a patent application at the DPMA, a period of seven years commences, within which applicants can initiate the examination procedure by filing an examination request. Last year, there was again a slight increase (+2.9%) in such examination requests,

too. The DPMA received 45,628 examination requests, which shows that applicants continue to appreciate the examination quality delivered by the DPMA. At the same time, the office once again proved its efficiency and increased the number of concluded examination procedures by 1.3% (45,839). The high number of granted patents is particularly pleasing (24,475, +2.2%). In 21,364 cases, though, the patent was not granted, since the examining sections refused the application, the applicants withdrew it or fees due were not paid. Correspondingly, the grant rate was 53.4% (2024: 52.9%).

This development clearly shows that patents are a key success factor for companies. They do not only protect technologies, but also shape global competition, economic sustainability and entrepreneurial capacity to act.

In 8,055 cases (previous year: 8,179), the examining sections refused an application. This corresponds to a proportion of 17.6% of the concluded procedures (2024: 18.1%).

Within nine months after publication of the grant of a patent, notice of opposition to the patent can be given. If, after expiry of this period, no notice of opposition has been given, the patent will become valid. In the year under review, 226 notices of opposition were given. In total, the DPMA handled 246 opposition proceedings. In 155 cases, patents were confirmed or at least maintained with limitations (63%). Only 59 patents were revoked, and 32 opposition proceedings were terminated as the opposition was found inadmissible.

Development of patent applications

In 2025, applicants filed 55,654 patent applications directly with the DPMA (+6.5% compared to the previous year). In addition, we received 6,396 PCT applications entering the national phase through the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva.

Any person seeking patent protection abroad must, as a rule, file separate applications with the respective national patent offices – a complex and costly process. The PCT Cooperation Treaty makes this procedure much easier: by filing a single application, applicants can enjoy the effect of a national application in 158 PCT contracting states.

The PCT procedure starts with the international phase (PCT application and global search). Following this central preliminary examination, the national phase, in which the relevant national offices decide on the grant of the patent, begins.

Electronic filing remained the most important filing option: 91.8% of all national patent applications received were online applications.

At the end of 2025, 158,848 national patents were in force (+3.4%).

Origin of patent applications

The number of applications filed by applicants having their residence or principal place of business in Germany rose by 5.6%. In total, they filed patent applications for 42,349 inventions. This means that the percentage of domestic applications increased to 68.2% (2024: 67.7%).

The number of applications from abroad increased, too. With 19,701 applications, it was 2.8% above the previous year's figure. Of these foreign applications, 3,605 originated from European countries (2024: 3,487) and 16,096 from non-European countries (2024: 15,675). The most significant increase was recorded in applications from Belgium (+25.5%). The number of applications from Austria also rose (885, +9.0%), as did those from Switzerland (+5.3%). The number of applications from Japan fell slightly (6,493, -1.5%). By contrast, the number of applications from the USA rose

significantly again (6,197, +5.3%). Patent applications from China rose sharply by 19.3% to 975.

Patent applications in 2025 by countries of origin (applicant's seat or place of residence) (national applications at the DPMA and PCT applications in the national phase)

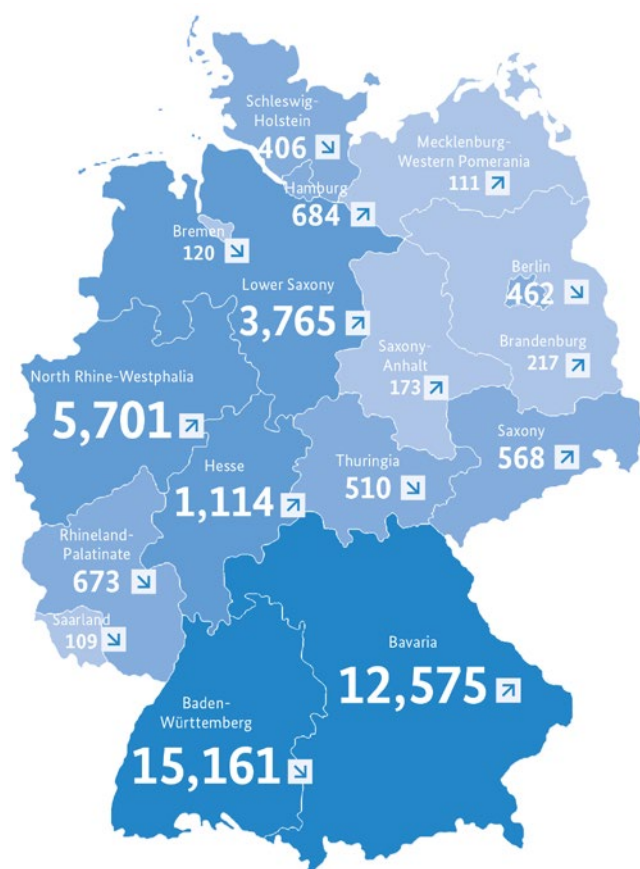
Countries of origin	Applications	Percentage
Germany	42,349	68.2
Japan	6,493	10.5
United States	6,197	10.0
Republic of Korea	1,314	2.1
China	975	1.6
Switzerland	949	1.5
Austria	885	1.4
Taiwan	555	0.9
France	360	0.6
Sweden	301	0.5
Other	1,672	2.7
Total	62,050	100

Patent applications by German Länder and the most active companies and institutions

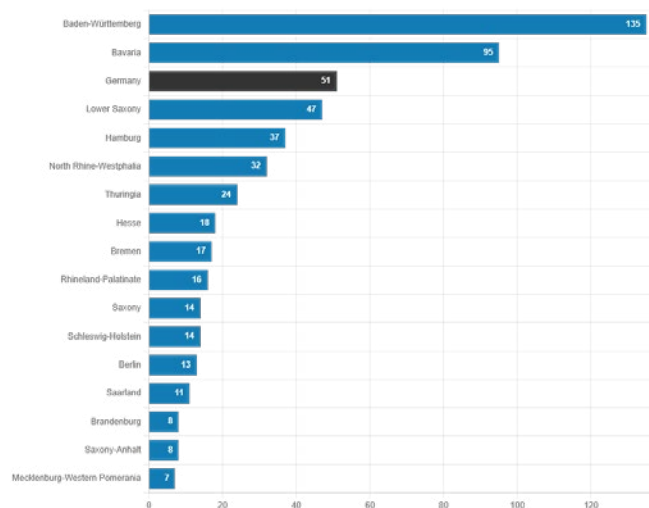
The automotive industry remained the strongest one in the patent area. As in the previous years, the top ten countries in terms of applications included carmakers and suppliers only. Combined, they filed around 30% of all patent applications. 2025 was the 18th year in a row in which Robert Bosch GmbH came in first, with 4,109 applications and a large lead. It was followed by Mercedes-Benz Group AG (2,726) and Bayerische Motoren Werke AG (2,553) in second and third places, respectively. With 1,912 applications, Audi AG was fourth, dropping Dr. Ing. h.c. F. Porsche AG to sixth place. Volkswagen AG came in fifth with 1,627 applications. With GM Global Technology Operations LLC (1,193) and Ford Global Technologies LLC (859), two US companies were once again among the strongest applicants at the DPMA. The DPMA records patent applications according to the applicant's data, considering each company and each institution individually, irrespective of group affiliations.

German patent applications can be attributed to the individual German Länder according to the applicants' residence or the company's principal place of business. In the German Länder ranking, Baden-Württemberg was again first with 15,161 applications (-2.2%), followed by Bavaria, which considerably increased its applications to 12,575 (+10.6%), in second place. As in the previous year, North Rhine-Westphalia finished in third with 5,701 applications (+6.7%). If you compare the number of applications to the respective population, Baden-Württemberg, with 135 patent applications per 100,000 population, was ahead of Bavaria (95)

and Lower Saxony (47). These are the German *Länder* where the big German carmakers are based.



Patent applications in 2025



Patent applications per 100,000 inhabitants 2025, broken down by German *Länder*, see also Statistics, Table 1.10

Inventors and applicants

In the case of applications filed by companies and research institutions, the DPMA distinguishes between the organisation filing the application and the natural person designated as the inventor.

In the case of independent inventors or employees with inventions released by their employers, the applicant and the inventor are usually the same person. In 2025, this was the case for 5.2% of the applications (2024: 3.6%).

Furthermore, the DPMA also tracks how many patent applications can be attributed to individual applicants. In 2025, 5% of our applicants filed more than ten applications each (2024: 5.5%). These applicants are referred to as large patent applicants; they accounted for as many as 74.3% of all applications (2024: 75.1%).

While the continuing digitisation and the rapid technical progress promote innovations, they make it increasingly difficult for independent, non-institutional inventors to commercially exploit their ideas. The implementation of and patent protection for innovative concepts require important organisational resources and are very costly.

Main technical areas of patent activity

The International Patent Classification (IPC) is the global standard for the qualification of technological contents. A structured code consisting of letters and numbers systematically divides the entire area of technology into more than 70,000 categories. The competent examining sections attribute every patent application received by the DPMA to one or several IPC classes according to its technological content.

In an IPC concordance table, the World Intellectual Property Organization allocates these classes to fields of technology, which it combines into sectors. These technology sectors are “Electrical engineering”, “Instruments” (technical), “Chemistry”, “Mechanical engineering” and “Other fields”. Last year, the strongest sector at the DPMA was once again “Mechanical engineering” with 24,338 applications (+2.2%), followed by “Electrical engineering” (19,436, +9.1%), “Instruments” (9,376, +1.9%), “Chemistry” (4,613, +5.2%) and “Other fields” (3,895, -0.3%), which combines civil engineering, furniture, games and other consumer goods.

The strong growth in “Electrical engineering” (+9.1%) was mainly driven by the considerable innovative activity concerning digital technologies and battery technology. In the strong “Computer technology” field, patent applications rose by 10.9% to 3,679. This field includes inventions relating to image data processing and speech recognition, many of which use artificial intelligence. The increase was even stronger in the “Digital communication” field (1,222; +19.2%), where many inventions are related to the latest mobile network standards (5G/6G) and are thus important for the digital connectedness in a number of key technologies.

The development of the technology field “IT methods for management” was particularly dynamic with an increase of just under 60% (867). The field includes, for example, processes for energy and water supply, for manufacturing and production, for workflow

control and for materials and inventory management — mostly with a view to increasing management efficiency. A specific example is the communication of electric vehicles with the recharging infrastructure. Related inventions doubled to almost 150. In some areas, the strong growth is driven by the new possibilities the use of artificial intelligence provides.

In the technology field “Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy”, there was also a significant rise in patent activity (+7.5%). This field includes the strongest of all subclasses (H01M), which combines batteries and fuel cells and which also experienced a considerable increase (+13.4%). The most active applicants in this field are car-makers and suppliers from Germany and abroad.

Application numbers continued to be high especially with respect to electric drives. As a consequence, “Transport”, where most applicants belong to the automotive industry, was once again by far the strongest technology field with 11,604 applications (+3.9%).

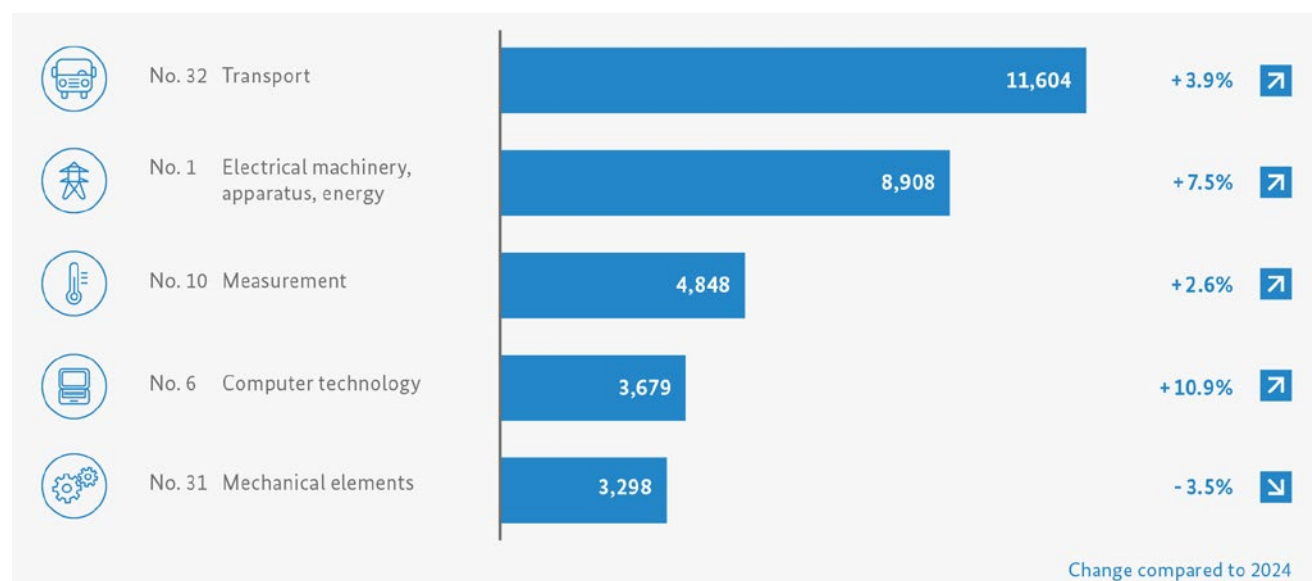
The advancement of electric drives and related components remains a growing innovative field. The development of informa-

tion and entertainment systems in cars (infotainment) is also playing an increasing role. The subclass that includes, among other things, car instruments once again rose significantly. For example, innovations include new displays (head-up displays) and options to operate instruments in the driver’s cab by voice and gestures. Furthermore, there is an increase in inventions enhancing the user-friendliness of the instrumentation in cars — for example, by saving individual driver profiles to personalise the vehicle. In addition to convenience-oriented functions, applications concerning safety-relevant electrical components, for example for autonomous driving or innovative solutions for a fail-safe power supply in cars, also rise considerably.

The trend towards a decline in applications concerning inventions for internal combustion engines continued, albeit at a lower level. In 2025, after some years of decline, the technology field “Engines, pumps, turbines”, which is particularly relevant in this regard, rose again by 2.7%. While there was a fall in applications by German companies, the DPMA received considerably more applications from abroad, especially from Japan and the United States of America, compared to the previous year.

Top 5 Fields of Technology

(According to WIPO IPC concordance table, available at: www.wipo.int/ipstats/en/index.html#resources)



Selected data on patent examination and search procedures

The number of requests for examination pursuant to section 44 of the Patent Act (Patentgesetz) increased slightly by 1.9% to 45,628 requests in total. On the basis of such requests, the competent examining sections conduct a comprehensive search regarding the relevant state of the art for the assessment of the application. Subsequently, an examination is conducted as to whether

the subject matter of the application is new, involves an inventive step and is industrially applicable and whether possible exclusions from patentability exist. It is also examined whether the application documents describe the technical invention entirely and in such a way as to enable the carrying out of the invention. Applicants are notified of the examination result in a detailed office action, which usually also requests them to comment on or correct the patent application in order to dispel possible doubts.

Selected data on patent procedures

patent procedures	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Examination requests received	43,355	43,474	44,824	44,351	45,628
- including requests filed together with applications	22,694	22,685	23,994	23,673	25,424
Search requests pursuant to section 43 Patent Act	14,971	14,672	15,623	16,413	16,500
Concluded searches pursuant to section 43 Patent Act	15,168	14,818	14,797	15,901	15,908
Examination procedures concluded	48,523	45,534	42,678	45,263	45,839
Examination procedures pending at the end of the year	222,960	220,580	222,445	221,311	220,410

At the end of the procedure, the examining section finally decides whether and to what extent a patent can be granted or whether the application must be refused.

Pursuant to section 43 of the Patent Act, applicants can file a search request in order to have the state of the art identified for their application. The search result is an objective basis for assessing the patentability and often helps decide whether to file subsequent applications with other offices. The number of search requests once again increased slightly to 16,500 (2024: 16,413). With 15,908 concluded searches pursuant to section 43 of the Patent Act, the performance of the examining sections remained constant compared to the previous year (2024: 15,901).

Appeal proceedings at the Federal Patent Court

Parties can challenge decisions of the German Patent and Trade Mark Office by lodging an appeal with the Federal Patent Court. Such appeals can concern a patent not granted as requested, the refusal of a patent application or a decision in opposition proceedings.

A Board of Appeal of the Federal Patent Court decides whether an appeal is admissible and well-founded. The individual boards, with an equal number of female and male members, consist of legally and technically qualified judges. It is from these technical experts from science and engineering that the Federal Patent Court gains its specific expertise, since all judges at other courts (for example, civil courts) are usually lawyers. The technically qualified judges participate in all proceedings under patent law that concern the technical assessment of an invention. This includes, in particular, proceedings regarding the grant of a patent, actions for the revocation of patents and other disputes about the validity or extent of patents.

In 2025, too, we once again saw a decrease in appeal proceedings brought before the Technical Boards of Appeal: a total of 168 appeal proceedings were received, which represents a decrease of 24.3%.

IN FOCUS

Quantum technology and renewable energy sources



Quantum technology

Quantum technologies use the special physical properties of microparticles such as atoms, electrons or protons to process, transfer or make extremely precise measurements of information in an entirely new way. This opens up a variety of new application areas: from high-performance quantum computers, which could enable complex calculations in cryptography, materials research or the development of active substances, to tap-proof quantum communication to highly sensitive quantum sensors, which can be used in navigation, medicine or environmental measurements, for instance.

For this analysis, we considered five of the sub-fields relevant in quantum technology: quantum computing, quantum communication, quantum optics, quantum components and other quantum applications, for example quantum sensor technology.

Our analysis takes into account published patent applications with effect in Germany at the DPMA and the European Patent Office (EPO), without double counting. Patent applications are normally published after 18 months. Consequently, inventions newly filed in 2025 are not included in the analysis.

Since 2016, the development of the number of applications relating to quantum technology has been highly dynamic and increased almost sevenfold. In particular, there has been a strong growth in quantum computing, possibly as a result of the increased use of artificial intelligence applications. Most applications concerning quantum technology originate from the United States, followed by Germany and the Republic of Korea in second and third places, respectively.

The top applicants were Fujitsu Limited from Japan, LG Display Co. Ltd. and Samsung Display Co. Ltd. (both from Korea). These companies mainly produce displays. There is no German company in the top 5 because these applications are distributed among many different applicants from industry and research.

Quantum computing

Quantum computing is one of the most fascinating technologies of the 21st century. It has the potential to overcome current

computational limitations, but it also faces considerable technical challenges. Currently, corresponding research is very dynamic, as can be seen from the significant increase in applications. In 2025, applications rose by 46.2% compared to the previous year. Quantum computing is a ground-breaking calculation paradigm based on the principles of quantum mechanics and capable of solving certain problems exponentially faster than classic computers. While traditional computers use bits (0 or 1), quantum computers use qubits (quantum bits), which can exist in multiple states simultaneously – a phenomenon called superposition. This enables quantum computers to process a multitude of calculation methods simultaneously; in particular, they will be able to make artificial intelligence applications significantly faster, such as machine learning algorithms.

Quantum communication

Quantum communication uses the principles of quantum mechanics to enable tap-proof data transfer and quantum-encrypted communication. This makes it one of the key technologies for the secure transfer of data in the future. Despite current challenges concerning scalability, costs and standardisation, research teams worldwide are pressing ahead with the implementation of quantum communication. When these hurdles have been passed, quantum communication can fundamentally change the way data are encrypted and transferred. In this field, too, application numbers have consistently grown in the past years (+13%; 174 applications in 2025).

Quantum optics

Quantum optics (32 applications; +18.5%) is an interdisciplinary field of research that combines the principles of quantum mechanics and those of quantum optics. It explores the behaviour of light and matter at the quantum-mechanical level and has led to ground-breaking technologies such as lasers, which are now widely used, for example in medicine (laser surgery) or in communication (fibre optic cable).

Quantum components

With 209 applications, the quantum components segment as the second strongest field increased by 14.8% in 2025. Quantum components are needed for quantum information technology and enable the development of quantum computers, quantum communication systems and quantum sensors. Unlike traditional electronic components, they use quantum phenomena such as superposition, entanglement and interference. These components are often extremely sensitive to interferences and require special cooling and insulating methods. The future development of quan-

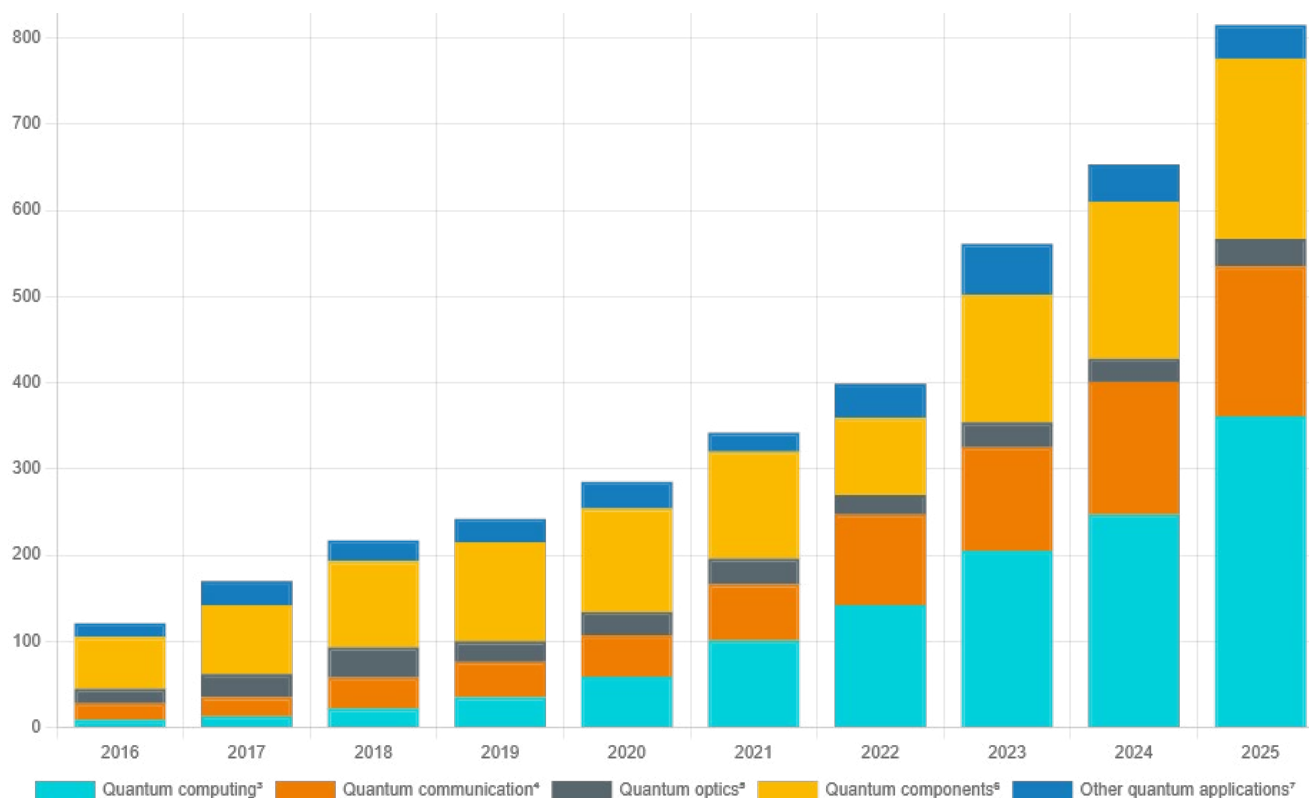
tum information technology significantly depends on how fast the development of error-free, scalable quantum components will be.

Other quantum applications

Quantum physics opens up a broad range of applications that go far beyond quantum computers and quantum communication. Many of these technologies are at the research stage or at an early stage of commercial use, while other technologies might change the world in the coming decades.

Quantum sensors use quantum phenomena for high-precision measurements that could not be made using traditional sensors. They revolutionise medical diagnosis through extremely precise measurements of magnetic fields and small molecules. This might enable contactless real-time ECGs and improved MRIs (up to 10,000 times more sensitive) in the future. In the long term, this can significantly improve the early detection of diseases such as strokes and cancer.

Development of patent applications effective in Germany¹ in fields of quantum technologies



¹ Applications published by the DPMA and the EPO, avoiding double counts.

² Based on a Depatis search using search terms in combination with relevant IPC fields. IPC classes valid at the time of retrieval counted proportionately. Not exhaustive. Results may also include other uses.

³ IPC fields: B82Y 10, G06N 10.

⁴ IPC field: H04.

⁵ IPC fields: B82Y 20, G02F 1.

⁶ IPC fields: H01L 21/20, H10.

⁷ Including quantum sensor technology, including scanning tunnelling microscopy and other applications, in particular semiconductor laser applications or random number generation. IPC fields: G01Q 60, G01R 33/26, G06F 7/58, H01S 5.

Renewables and batteries

Current figures show that innovative activity regarding climate-friendly technologies continues to be high. Especially concerning batteries needed for storing renewable energy, the number of inventions is seeing a considerable ongoing increase. Obviously, German companies, too, put a strong focus on climate-neutral innovations. For this analysis, we have considered patent applications published by the DPMA and the EPO with effect in Germany concerning the fields of renewables and battery technology. In particular in the field of batteries we saw a considerable upswing in patent applications published compared to the previous year (+25.8%).



Renewables

Renewables include central fields of technology such as wind and solar energy, biomass, geothermal energy and hydropower. Their common goal is the efficient use of natural resources for a climate-neutral energy supply. By transforming renewable resources into electricity, warmth or fuels and by using natural processes (for example, biogas or geothermal energy), these technologies make a crucial contribution to slowing down human-caused climate change.

In the field of wind turbines Germany saw a significant increase in application numbers (+24.2%) and firmly remains in second place behind Denmark with a share of 27.8% of all applications in the country ranking. In solar technology, on the contrary, the number of published German applications decreased considerably. With a share of 21.8% of all applications, Germany lost its leading position and ranks second behind China (23.8% of all applications).



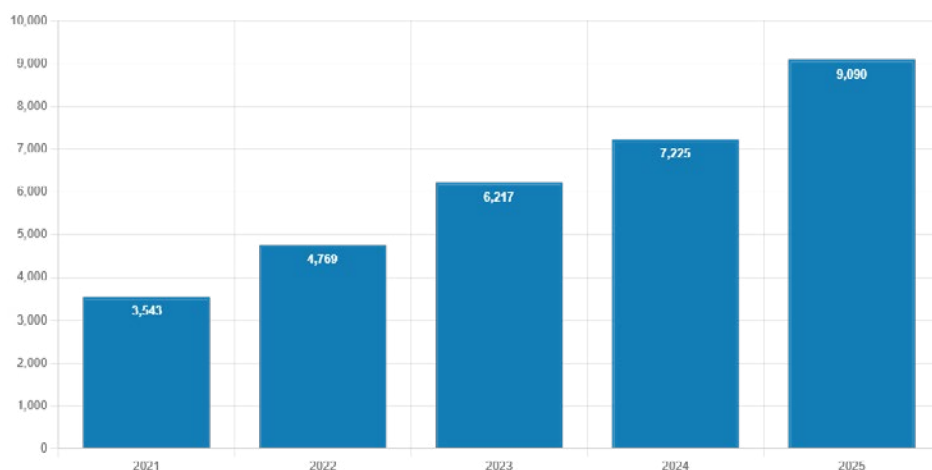
Batteries

The considerable upward trend of battery technology also continues in 2025. The sector benefits from a wave of innovation that is above all driven by the rapid development of electric mobility. Compared to the previous year application numbers rose by 25.8%. With a considerable increase of 33.4%, the Republic of Korea continues to be the country with most applications (2,419) in this area. As in the previous years, China follows with 1,749 applications in second place (+10.8%). If one were to add together the registrations from China and Hong Kong, this would result in an increase of just under 38 per cent (2024: 1,578 + 133; 2025: 1,749 + 608). Application numbers from Japan showed a particularly strong growth (+28.2%). With 1,340 applications (+20.6%), Germany ranks fourth, as it did last year.

The ranking of applicants in the field of batteries is led by two Korean companies: LG Energy Solution, Ltd. (1,148 applications) and Samsung SDI Co. Ltd. (740 applications). Contemporary Amperex Technology (Hong Kong) Limited comes third with 577 applications. With GM Global Technology Operations LLC in fifth place there is also a US-enterprise among the top 5 applicants.

The vast majority of patent applications in this sector focuses on the development of sustainable and environmentally friendly battery technologies. At the same time, these batteries must be produced at low cost, but also must have a high energy efficiency and demonstrate long-term stability in performance.

Development of patent applications effective in Germany¹ in the field of batteries

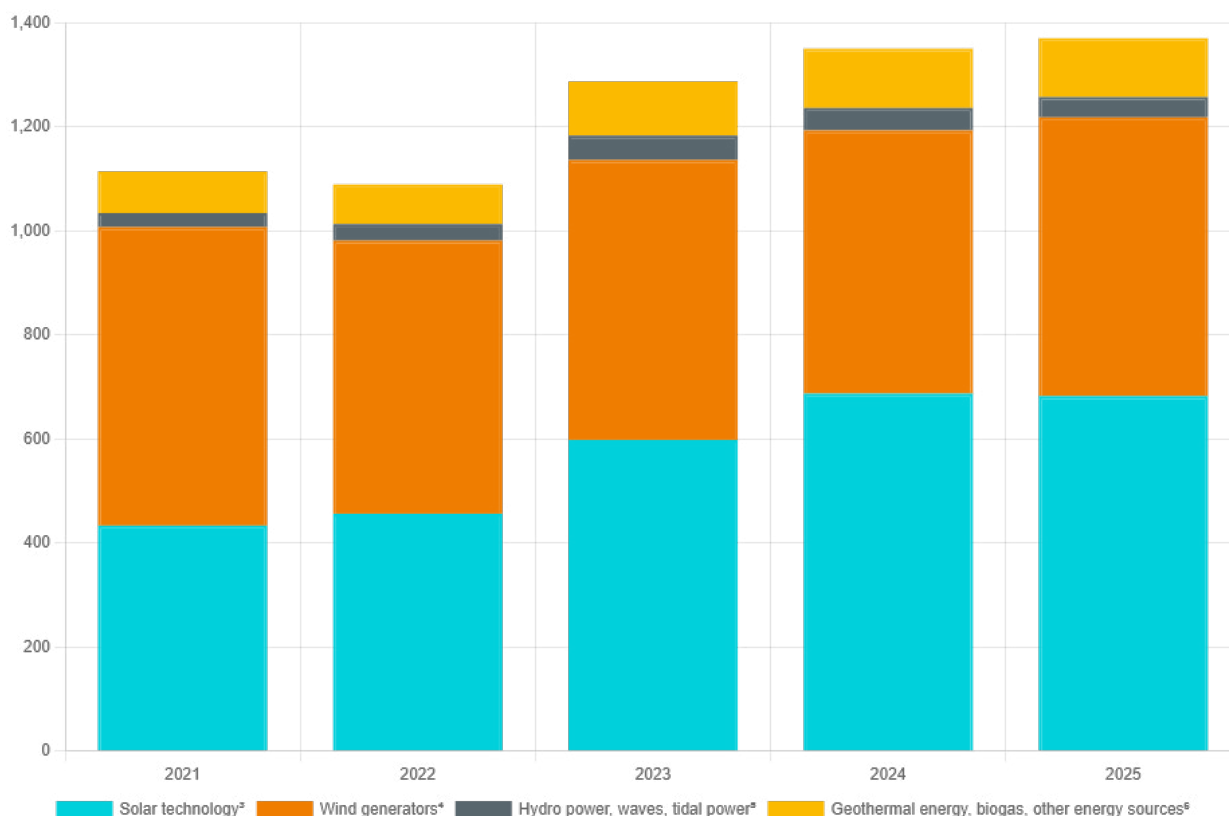


¹ Applications published by the DPMA and the EPO avoiding double counts.

² IPC classes valid at the time of retrieval counted proportionately. Without claim to completeness. Results may include automotive and other applications.

³ B60L 50/64, B60L 53/53, H01M 2, H01M 4/02, H01M 4/04, H01M 4/13 - H01M 4/84, H01M 10, H01M 50, H02J 3/28, H02J 3/32, H02J 15/00.

Development of patent applications effective in Germany¹ in selected fields of renewable energy



¹ Applications published by the DPMA and the EPO, avoiding double counts.

² Based on a Depatis search using search terms in combination with relevant IPC fields. IPC classes valid at the time of retrieval counted proportionately. Not exhaustive. Results may also include other uses.

³ IPC fields: B82Y 10, G06N 10.

⁴ IPC field: H04.

⁵ IPC fields: B82Y 20, G02F 1.

⁶ IPC fields: H01L 21/20, H10.

⁷ Including quantum sensor technology, including scanning tunnelling microscopy and other applications, in particular semiconductor laser applications or random number generation. IPC fields: G01Q 60, G01R 33/26, G06F 7/58, H01S 5.

BRIEFLY EXPLAINED: PARTICIPATION OF THE DPMA IN THE WIPO GREEN INITIATIVE

Helping green innovations achieve a breakthrough



International online platform for technology exchange: since September 2025, the DPMA is partner of the WIPO GREEN initiative. By participating in the WIPO GREEN programme, the DPMA supports providers and users of innovative green technologies to connect with each other, thus driving the development and distribution of these technologies. The platform already has over 130,000 entries.

Renewable energy (solar and wind energy), energy efficiency, circular economy, green IT and sustainable mobility minimise environmental damage, increase the efficient use of natural resources and promote sustainability of the economy and in our daily life. Green technologies therefore make an important contribution to overcoming global challenges, for example to adjusting to climate change or to sustainable farming. Markets for green innovations also play a key role for sustaining our basis of life and meeting basic needs.

For such innovations, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) created the online platform WIPO GREEN in 2013. It connects inventors of environmentally friendly technologies with investors and partners from industry via their database, their network and their funded projects. By bringing together key players, it promotes partnerships and strengthens a global ecosystem for green technologies. Moreover, WIPO GREEN not only provides a platform for market-ready technologies protected by IP law, but also supports the development of sustainable new solutions.

In 2024, WIPO GREEN listed over 130,000 registrations of technologies, technology “needs” and experts. Over 150 partners work together, among them small and medium-sized enterprises as

well as Fortune 500 companies, that is companies with the highest total revenue in their respective sector. More than 2,500 users world-wide make use of the platform, which has led to over 1,000 connections via databases, events and projects. On WIPO GREEN, you can find about 15,000 inventions from Germany – sourced from a WIPO database as well as actively uploaded by German companies in 200 cases.

The DPMA as centre of expertise in the field of industrial property protection in Germany is committed to promoting environmentally friendly technologies. We will further strengthen the cooperation with WIPO, actively support the activities of WIPO GREEN and – for example by means of raising IP awareness – foster the technology transfer in the field of environmental technologies. In this way, the DPMA makes an important contribution to achieving the goal of making the EU climate-neutral by 2050.

Further information and free access to WIPO GREEN can be found here on the [webpages of WIPO](#).

IN FOCUS

The German patent: commercial use and legal enforcement



Patents protect innovations and open up commercial opportunities. At the same time, patent proprietors need to be in the position to enforce their IP right and protect it from attacks. The German patent system provides a legal framework that allows enforcement even abroad.

A granted patent is a strong IP right. If used correctly, it is an important economic instrument: it can help to protect resources expended on research and development and to plan new investments. It leads to an increase in value and can be beneficial to receiving funding. Thanks to the targeted protection of a technical invention, companies can effectively confront competitors and create a sustainable competitive advantage.

A patent protects one's own invention, but, of course, limits the business activity of others. Therefore, it is possible to take action against patents. This means that the procedure does not end upon a patent being granted: patent proprietors need to be in the position to enforce their IP right when it is infringed by competitors and to simultaneously defend themselves against attacks on its validity.

Patent proprietors can allow third parties to use their invention against payment of a fee. Such licence agreements are an established way to generate income, develop new markets or engage in cooperation projects without patent proprietors having to produce or sell products themselves.

But if you own a patent granted in Germany, you also have the right to prohibit the use of the invention in Germany. If third parties violate this right, the patent proprietor may demand a cease-and-desist declaration in infringement proceedings before the patent senate of a regional court and may also claim damages. The court can even order the infringing products to be destroyed or recalled.

Cross-border enforcement

German courts have a lot of expertise in this respect and have a top position even by European standards: around half of all European infringement proceedings are conducted before German courts. Indirectly, such infringement proceedings can also have a cross-border effect outside Germany: where infringers having their residence or principal place of business in Germany offer a patented product and produce it abroad, they can be prosecuted by a German court. Likewise, it is possible to take action against the infringement of a patented process used across borders if a process step is made in Germany.

If companies or individuals feel that their rights are restricted by a patent, they can file a notice of opposition within the first nine months of the publication of the patent grant. As a rule, any person may give notice of opposition in a written statement — except for the patent proprietor themselves. Proving one's own legal or economic interest is not required for such a notice of opposition.

In the opposition proceedings, a panel consisting of at least three members of the competent patent division will then assess whether and to what extent the statutory grounds for revocation are fulfilled. Ultimately, the panel can maintain the challenged patent as granted, maintain it with limitations or revoke it.

A patent may even be challenged after the expiry of the opposition period or following the conclusion of opposition proceedings. To this end, a revocation action can be brought before the Federal Patent Court. If a patent is then revoked by court, it will be retroactively invalid, meaning invalid from the outset. In such a case, the patent proprietor can incur significant costs, as they are required not only to bear the costs of the proceedings, but also to repay any licence fees generated.

Infringement and revocation: separate proceedings at different courts

In Germany, infringement and nullity proceedings often take place simultaneously. If someone is sued for a patent infringement, they almost always defend themselves by challenging the validity of the patent. In Germany, what is known as the "separation principle" leads to two separate proceedings concerning the same patent: the infringement proceedings before the regional courts and the nullity proceedings before the Federal Patent Court. The nullity boards at the Federal Patent Court, whose members also include technically qualified judges with expertise in engineering or sciences, assess whether there are the statutory grounds for revocation of the patent. And the patent senates at the regional courts, which consist exclusively of lawyers, assess whether any person has infringed an existing patent.

The technical and legal specialisation of the courts ensures the high quality of the decisions in both proceedings. However, the two proceedings often differ in duration, which can result in a time gap between the decisions.

A German patent is a powerful tool to protect and commercially use technical innovations and position oneself in competition.

Its enforcement and licensing open up opportunities, but it also involves legal and financial risks. Therefore, the careful filing, strategic use and realistic evaluation of one's own form of protection are crucial for long-term success.

[Additional information on patent protection](#) is also available on our website.

IN FOCUS: OUR NEW PUBLICATION *erfinden*

Searching for solutions in the world of patents



From portable rovers that can search for life on Mars to recycling super magnets for wind turbines: our publication *erfinden* offers fascinating articles from the world of patents and shows how IP rights contribute to the solutions for tomorrow's world. It's inspiring, profound — and the result of a substantial relaunch.

Are we really alone in the universe? Or is there other life out there? Two very philosophical questions — that also affect intellectual property. Why? Because the search for extraterrestrial life is full of innovations protected by patents: autonomous rovers, self-flying drones and underwater vehicles that navigate on their own all enable the search for signs of life on other planets. This exciting journey through patent literature is part of *erfinden*, which has replaced our previous publication “Erfinderaktivitäten”.

Articles by patent examiners

The contributions of our patent examiners to *erfinden* are inspired by the technological inventions they encounter during their daily work. These range from procedures to reduce optical irritations in car displays to more precise thunderstorm forecasts to the production of super strong magnets with fewer rare-earth elements.

About solutions that matter for society

The articles show how technical IP rights offer solutions for social challenges. One example: reducing the use of rare-earth elements

for super strong magnets. These high-performance permanent magnets are needed for the motors of electric vehicles as much as for wind turbines. The production of super strong magnets often includes the use of rare-earth elements — critical raw material that we usually have to import from other parts of the world. Finding a way to do this with fewer rare-earth elements contributes to the protection of the environment and promotes our national economy's raw material sovereignty during the energy transition.

For a broad target audience

With *erfinden*, we want to reach readers of the general public as well as experts of their respective fields. Large photos, illustrations and explanations: the captivating design presents the topics in a straight-forward way, and the combination of text and visual elements adds to the accessible nature of the magazine.

Content on all channels

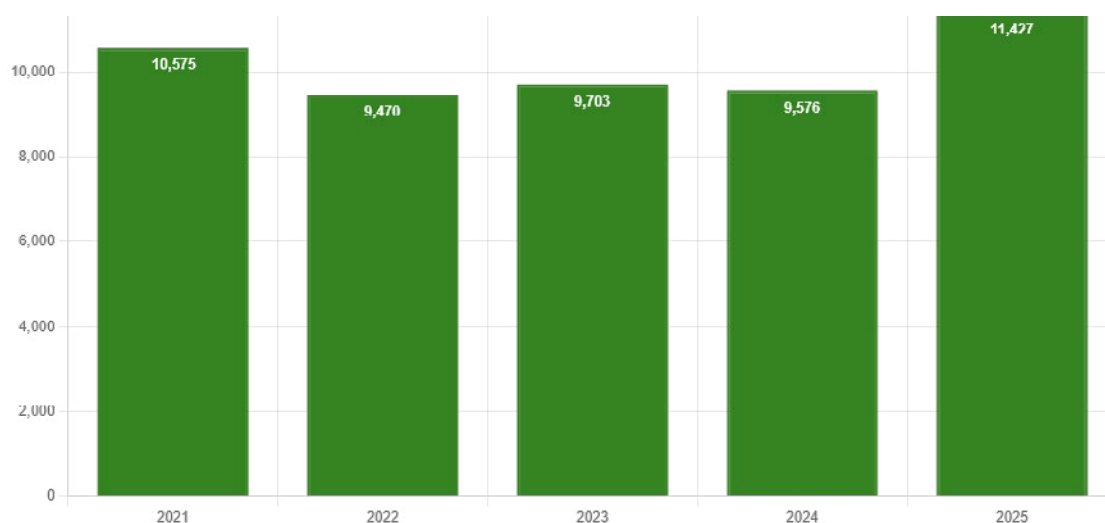
The publication *erfinden* will be released annually in autumn. The substantial relaunch comes with a sustainable approach for the new content: the print edition of *erfinden* will be made available to a broad readership via public libraries, universities, patent information centres and DPMA events. The individual topics will also be showcased on our webpages and on social media via LinkedIn. Meaning that on all our channels, we can't help but wonder: Are we really alone in the universe? Or is there other life out there?

UTILITY MODELS

OVERVIEW

Development and origin of utility model applications

Development of utility model applications



Utility model applications at the German Patent and Trade Mark Office

Technical inventions can also be protected by utility models, which offer quick protection for devices and apparatus in particular. Unlike patents, however, the DPMA does not examine utility models for novelty and inventive step prior to registration. Compared to patents, it is often individuals that apply for utility models. Applications by natural persons from Germany played a key role in the strong growth seen last year. Applications from this group rose by just under 47 per cent.

In total, the DPMA received 11,427 utility model applications in the year under review (2024: 9,576), a significant increase of 19.3% compared to the previous year. The share of applications by natural persons rose by approximately 5 percentage points to 39.5%. What was also remarkable was the increase in applications by Chinese companies (+35.9%).

In 2025, “Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy” continued to be by far the most important technology field with 1,480 applications (+31.6%). In the second-strongest technology field, “Furniture, games (other fields)”, 1,036 utility models were filed (+13.1%). As with patents, the technology field “Transport” experi-

enced a moderate increase of 2.4% in utility models, too. Another dynamic technology field was “Medical technology”, which once again rose considerably by 13.9%.

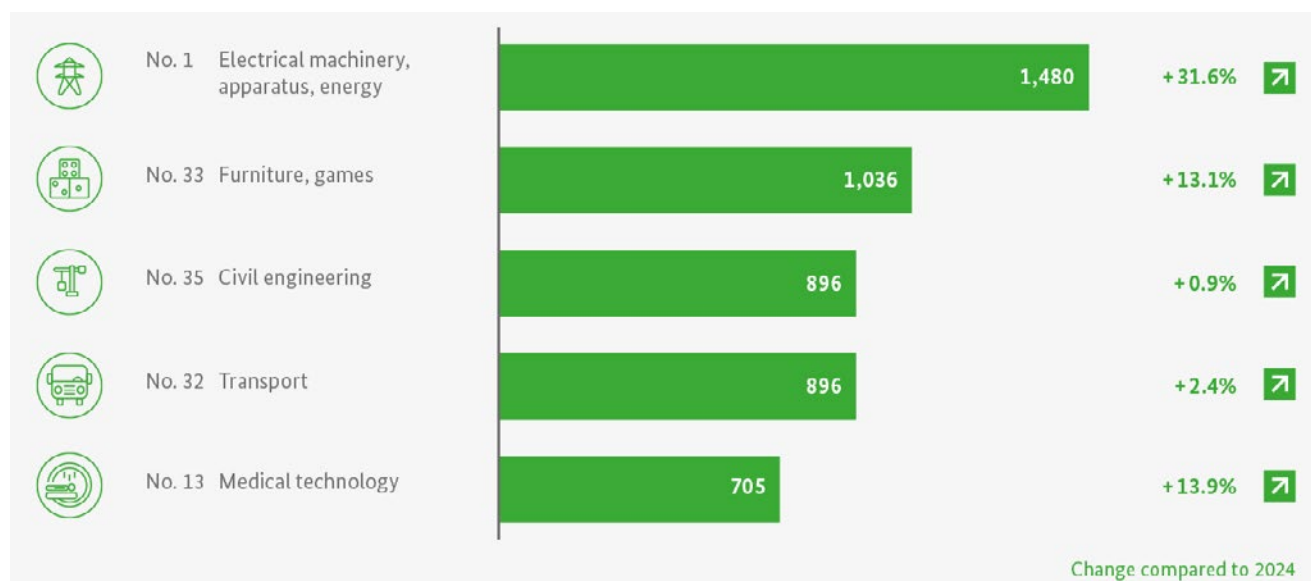
The percentage of electronic filings fell to 67.3%, which corresponds to a decrease by 8.9 percentage points compared to the previous year.

In 2025, a total of 9,750 utility models were registered in the register (+7.6%). This means that 90.0% of the registration procedures handled in 2025 were successfully concluded (previous year: 91.3%).

In total, 1,088 applications were not registered in 2025, for example because of refusals, withdrawals of applications or for other reasons (2024: 859). The term of protection was renewed for a total of 14,984 utility models after payment of the maintenance fee (previous year: 16,146).

A utility model lapses if it is not renewed or the maximum term of protection has expired. The number of lapsed utility models decreased by 10.5% to 10,830.

Thus, at the end of 2025, 62,944 valid utility models were registered at the DPMA (previous year: 64,010).



Top 5 Fields of technology

According to WIPO IPC concordance table, available at: www.wipo.int/ipstats/en/index.html#resources

Origin of utility model applications

International demand for German utility models remained high. Following the growth seen in the previous year, we recorded a sharp rise in applications from abroad in 2025. Their number rose by 19.2% to 5,163 (2024: 4,333), which corresponds to 45.2% of all utility model applications.

The number of PCT applications in the national phase also increased again, by +21.1% to 517.

In total, 6,264 utility model applications were received from Germany. Thus, the percentage of applications from Germany was 54.8% (previous year: 54.8%).

As in the previous year, most of the foreign applications came from non-European countries (4,148, 2024: 3,345). Applications received from Europe slightly increased by 2.7 percentage points to 1,015.

With a share of 18.9% of all applications, the People's Republic of China, with 2,157 applications, continues to lead the country ranking for applications from abroad by a clear margin (previous year: 1,620). Chinese companies systematically use utility models to ensure extensive IP rights for product variants and allow themselves strategic room for future innovations and market positioning.

The United States of America took second place with 491 applications (+45.3%), just ahead of India (485 applications).

Taiwan was fourth with 413 applications. Among the European countries, the ranking remained unchanged: Switzerland was first with 208 applications, followed by Austria and Italy with 177 applications and 147 applications, respectively.

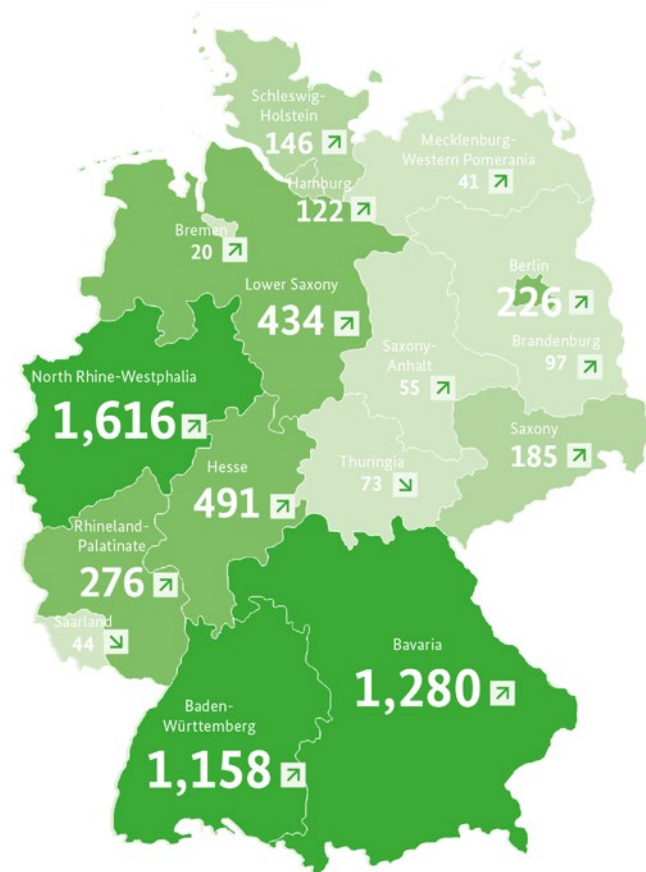
countries of origin	Applications	Percentage
Germany	6,264	54.8
China	2,157	18.9
United States	491	4.3
India	485	4.2
Taiwan	413	3.6
Republic of Korea	211	1.8
Switzerland	208	1.8
Austria	177	1.5
Italy	147	1.3
Japan	88	0.8
Others	786	6.9
Total	11,427	100

Utility model applications in 2025 by countries of origin (national applications at the DPMA and PCT applications in the national phase)

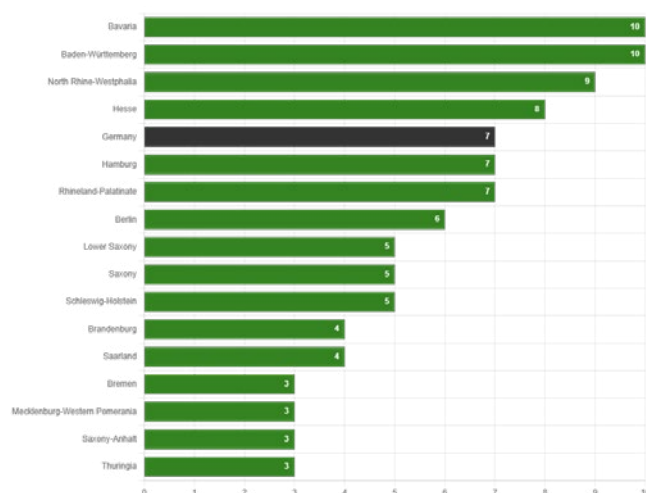
Utility model applications by German Länder

In 2025, North Rhine-Westphalia once again took first place with 1,616 applications (25.8% of all domestic applications), followed by Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg with 1,280 applications (20.4%) and 1,158 applications (18.5%), respectively. With a considerable

61.5% increase and 491 applications, Hesse came in fourth. In relation to the respective population, Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg shared first place with ten applications per 100,000 population each. North Rhine-Westphalia came in second with nine applications and Hesse third with eight applications.



Utility model applications in 2025, broken down by German Länder (residence or principal place of business of the applicant)



Utility model applications per 100,000 inhabitants in 2025, broken down by German Länder, see also Statistics, Table 2.4

Split-off option

A split-off utility model is a quick and cost-saving addition to a patent and allows you to protect your innovations against imitation. It serves as a transitional protection option during the pending patent procedure, from filing to grant. Upon registration of the split-off utility model, full protection takes effect – irrespective of whether the patent will be granted at a later date. Furthermore, retroactive protection applies: applicants can use the date of filing of the earlier patent application for the later utility model application. With respect to split-off utility models, too, we saw a significant increase of 18% compared to the previous year (2025: 1,139 split-off utility models, 10% of all utility model applications).

Search pursuant to section 7 of the Utility Model Act

Unlike patents, utility models are simply registered, without an examination of the protection requirements. Therefore, it is much faster and cheaper for applicants to obtain a utility model. But as no examination is conducted, a utility model is less legally secure. Any third party can at any time file a request for the cancellation of a registered utility model. Such a request must be accompanied by a statement of reasons. Applicants can mitigate this risk by filing an early search request with the DPMA. The examining sections will then conduct a comprehensive search for the state of the art that is relevant to evaluate the protectability of the subject matter of the utility model application.

In 2025, we received 1,285 effective search requests (previous year: 1,199). The number of concluded searches decreased slightly to 1,201 (previous year: 1,237).

Cancellation of utility models

Cancellation proceedings are an efficient instrument to subsequently clarify the protectability of an initially unexamined utility model. In 2025, the DPMA received 59 new requests for cancellation, which is a small increase on the previous year (56).

A utility model is only cancelled upon request. Anyone can file a cancellation request, even without there being the looming risk of an infringement dispute or an economic interest. A fee of 300 euros is due upon filing the request. The party filing the request and the proprietor of the utility model are then the parties to the cancellation proceedings.

The most frequent reason for cancellation is the lack of protectability. An invention can be protected if it is new compared to the state of the art and involves an inventive step. Other reasons for cancellation include an inadmissible extension of the subject matter, usurpation and existing rights due to earlier patent or utility model applications.

A request for cancellation must provide a sufficient statement of reasons. If, for example, a lack of protectability is submitted as the

reason for cancellation, the conflicting prior art should be cited in the request.

The Utility Model Division decides on the request for cancellation. Its panel consists of three persons: a lawyer as the chairperson and two patent examiners specialised in the relevant technological field as reporting and associate judges. As in civil cases, the losing party must usually bear the costs of the proceedings. As in civil cases, the losing party must usually bear the costs of the proceedings.

In most cases, the Utility Model Division makes its decision on the request for cancellation following an oral hearing. Since the spring of 2025, the oral hearings have taken place in our new office building on Anzinger Straße. In six cases, a decision was made in written proceedings without an oral hearing. In two suitable cases, the oral hearing happened by video.

In the year under review, 73 proceedings in total were concluded.

IN FOCUS: INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON OF UTILITY MODELS

Different countries, different protection



Quick protection and moderate costs: whether individuals, small enterprises, start-ups or international groups, utility models are often a good option for them to protect inventions. In Germany, demand for utility models is, once again, increasing considerably. Yet utility models are by no means offered in every country – and the requirements for them differ from one country to the next.

“Coffee filter with a base that is curved and recessed on the underside and with inclined flow holes” – this somewhat cumbersome title describes Melitta Bentz’s famous coffee filter, which is possibly Germany’s most renowned utility model. In 1908, Melitta Bentz, the Dresden-born entrepreneur, applied for protection for her invention with the Imperial Patent Office (Kaiserliches Patentamt). This utility model resulted in a spectacular success story and an international group: Melitta.

At the time, Melitta Bentz obviously appreciated what many inventors, small enterprises and start-ups still need today: a flexible option to protect technical innovations at short notice. But not only small enterprises, large groups too like to use utility mod-

els – often as a quick initial form of protection accompanying a patent application, for example as a split-off from a patent application. In combination with patents, utility models have thus become established as an integral part of modern IP strategies. And after some years of declining application numbers, the “little brother” of the patent is once again on the rise: last year, the number of utility model applications at the DPMA increased by 19.3%.

But what has always been part of the IP portfolio in Germany is not a given thing in many other countries, where utility models have another scope of protection or are not available at all. At international level, utility model protection has hardly been harmonised. The attempt to harmonise it in the European Union failed

around the turn of the millennium and has not been restarted since.

Utility model protection in Germany considered to be particularly sophisticated

In Germany, utility models are subject to the same requirements as patents: the technical invention must be new, involve an inventive step and be susceptible of industrial application and being carried out. Unlike with patents, however, these requirements are not examined until there are legal disputes with competitors in cancellation or infringement proceedings. In other words, the lack of a substantive examination may result in utility models being less legally valid than patents. Then again, utility models are registered within a few weeks and, upon registration of a utility model, the related invention is protected for a period of up to ten years.

Utility model protection in Germany is considered to be particularly sophisticated; but the picture is different around the world. There is no international treaty on the introduction of a utility model system subject to certain rules. The Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) does not refer to utility models either. Nevertheless, many countries have created relevant protection systems in order to protect small or incremental technical innovations and provide a flexible complement to the patent system.

A number of developed countries with an Anglo-Saxon legal system — including the USA, the UK, Canada or Australia — do not provide utility model protection. By contrast, many other coun-

tries, especially in Europe and Asia, use utility models as a targeted instrument in their innovation policy.

Differences in law around the world

IP rights comparable to utility models differ in their requirements as to the inventive effort and the term of protection. These requirements are often lower than those for patents. There are different terms for the IP rights concerned, such as “utility model”, “utility innovation”, “petty patent” or “innovation patent”. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) uses the term “utility model”.

In some countries, utility model protection can be obtained only for certain technological sectors and solely for product inventions. For example, technical, chemical or biological processes are sometimes not protectable there. In the case of international PCT applications via WIPO, applicants should consider the respective utility model and patent frameworks in the country in question carefully and on a case-by-case basis.

Nevertheless, the attractiveness of utility models is also increasing internationally. According to WIPO, application numbers worldwide have continuously climbed in the past years. In 2024, a total of 3.3 million utility model applications were filed globally.

[Additional information on utility model protection](#) is available on our website.

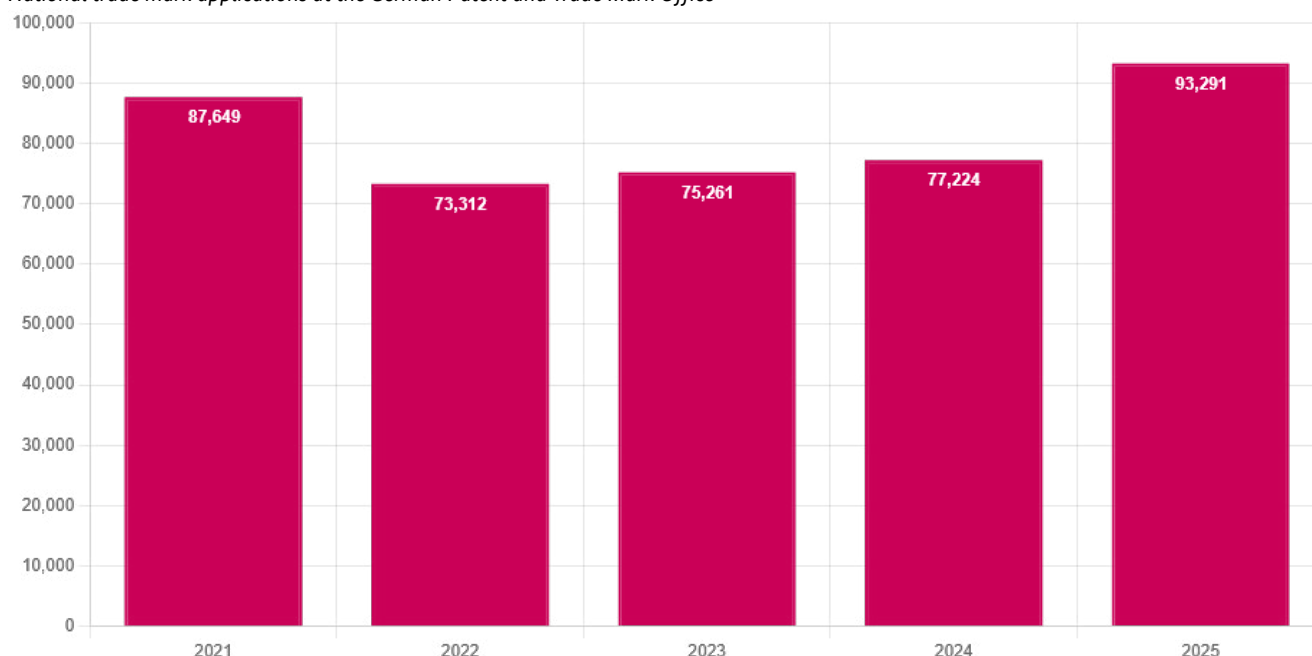
TRADE MARKS

OVERVIEW

Development and origin of trade mark applications

Development of trade mark applications

National trade mark applications at the German Patent and Trade Mark Office



In 2025, the DPMA saw a significant increase in trade mark applications. In total, we received 96,328 trade mark applications, up 19.8% compared to the previous year (80,376 applications). National applications even rose by 20.8% — from 77,224 to 93,291 —, whereas the requests for protection in Germany based on international registrations of marks decreased by 3.6%, from 3,152 to 3,037.

One of the main reasons for the rise is the rapidly grown demand from China. In 2025, we received 10,027 applications from China, an increase of 196.2% on the previous year (3,385 applications). Applications from the USA also rose considerably, from 549 to 1,103 (+100.9%). For one thing, this shows a strong interest in being present in the German market. For another, the fact that large online marketplaces offer vendors with an officially registered trade mark advantages over and leverage against third parties may also play a crucial role. That likely also triggered the considerable increase in applications from Germany (+12%), with domestic ap-

plicants accounting for the majority (around 84%) of applications at the DPMA.

However, the possibility of preventing third parties from using protected trade marks on marketplaces also attracts bad-faith users, who try to file trade marks that are not their own with the DPMA. The best way to avoid this is an early registration of one's own trade marks, as many applicants have obviously done. Our examiners are aware of this issue and, when examining trade mark applications, pay particular attention to identifying bad-faith applications early and to preventing market obstacles.

At the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), applications from China also increased significantly, from 27,589 applications in 2024 to 31,306 applications in 2025 (+13.5%). The increase was less significant than at our office, but started from a higher base. Nonetheless, compared to the development of the total of EU trade mark applications at the EUIPO (from 180,512

applications to 196,957 applications, +9.1%), it was above average. German applications at the EUIPO also experienced an above-average increase, from 21,930 applications in 2024 to 24,960 applications in 2025 (+13.8%).

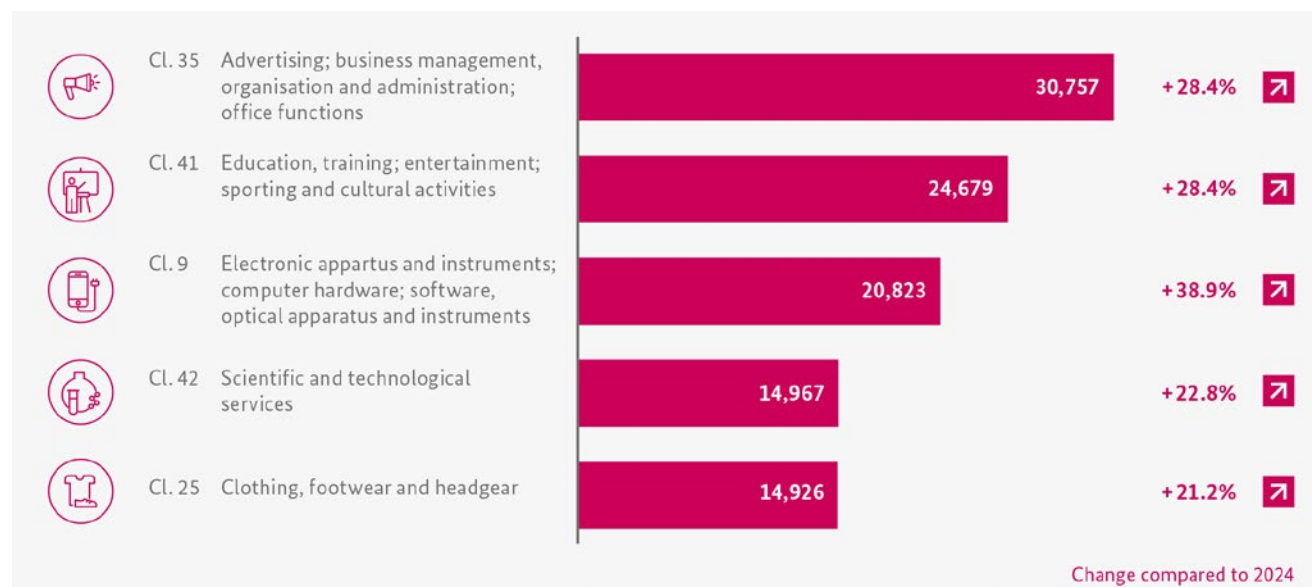
Trade mark applications by classes

With respect to the classes most frequently applied for, the ranking remained unchanged from the previous years. Indicated in 30,757 applications, class 35 (advertising; business management, organisation and administration; office functions) was the class most frequently indicated. It was followed by class 41 (providing

of training; entertainment; sporting and cultural activities), which was indicated in 24,679 applications. Class 9 (electrical apparatus and instruments; computer hardware; software; optical apparatus and instruments), which was indicated in 20,823 applications, came in third.

It is remarkable that the increases were disproportionately high in all three classes. The growth rate of classes 35 and 41 was 28.4%, that of class 9 even 38.9%. The latter rate is probably due to the rise in applications from China, since many Chinese applicants offer electrical goods.

Top 5¹ Classes² of goods and services



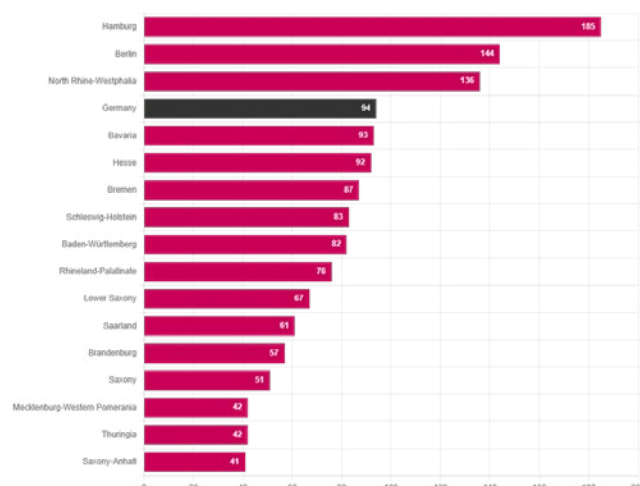
¹ Class heading according to current version of Nice Classification, available here:...

www.dpma.de/english/trade_marks/classification/goods_and_services/nice_classification/index.html

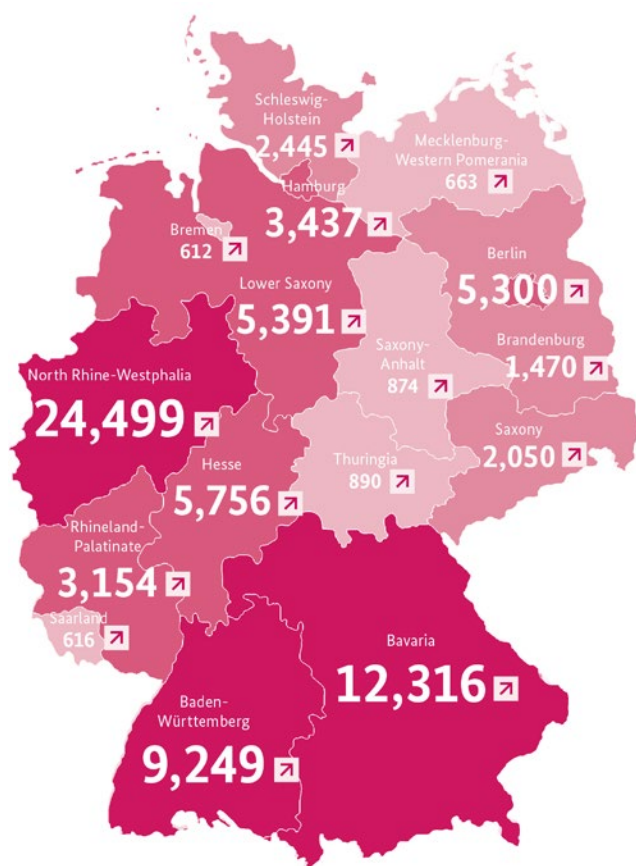
² A trade mark application can be attributed to several classes.

Trade mark applications by German Länder

In 2025, most applications came from North Rhine-Westphalia (24,499). In relation to the population, North Rhine-Westphalia also did very well and came in third with 136 applications per 100,000 population, behind the city states of Hamburg (185 applications per 100,000 population) and Berlin (144 applications per 100,000 population). Among the territorial states, Bavaria took second place in absolute numbers (12,316 applications) and fourth place in relation to the population (93 applications per 100,000 population).



Trade mark applications per 100,000 inhabitants in 2025, broken down by German Länder (residence or principal place of business of the applicant)



Top companies in terms of registrations

In the 2025 ranking, Sunday Natural Products GmbH tops the list with 47 registrations, followed by adRock Media FZCO with 45 registrations and Lippische Consulting und Beteiligungen GmbH with 43 registrations.

Selected data on trade mark procedures

In 2025, 55,863 trade marks were registered, which represents an increase of 11.7% on the previous year (50,016 registrations). On the other hand, there were 18,982 withdrawals and 7,503 refusals. This means that most applications result in a registration: fewer than 10% of the trade marks are refused due to substantive or formal grounds for refusal. As a result of the high application numbers, pending procedures rose from 29,024 at the end of 2024 to 39,886 at the end of 2025, so we were not able to conclude all procedures as quickly as usual.

Since the introduction of the certification mark, the filing behaviour concerning collective and certification marks has changed a lot. While in 2019 there were 146 collective mark applications and 60 certification mark applications, in 2025 there were only 40 applications for a collective mark and as many as 154 applications for a certification mark. But many applicants misunderstand the purpose of a certification mark — although precise information is provided in the digital filing procedures (DPMAdirektWeb and DPMAdirektPro) and on the paper form. Unlike a normal trade mark, which the proprietor uses as the name for their products,

a certification mark certifies a certain quality of the products. It is not used by its proprietor, who only carries out the quality test, but by persons who want to highlight the quality of their goods and services. A certification mark can fulfil this specific function only if it indicates somehow that a test has been conducted in this regard and certain characteristics are certified.

Selected data on trade mark procedures

Selected data	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
New applications	87,649	73,312	75,261	77,224	93,291
Registrations	68,644	53,643	48,699	50,016	55,863
Refusals	9,634	7,793	6,629	7,343	7,503

Revocation and invalidity proceedings

In the fifth year after the amendment of the legal provisions on revocation and invalidity proceedings, there was a considerable increase in related applications received by the DPMA. While it has been possible to request the cancellation of a trade mark due to absolute grounds for refusal since the entry into force of the Trade Mark Act (Markengesetz) in 1995, a declaration of invalidity (because of the existence of earlier rights) or revocation (for non-use) had to be claimed in court for a long time. Since 1 May 2020, there has been the option to file an application for revocation and a declaration of invalidity with the DPMA and have the proceedings conducted at the DPMA. In 2025, the office received 155 applications for a declaration of invalidity because of the existence of earlier rights (previous year: 102) and 409 applications for revocation intended to obtain a substantive decision (previous year: 320). In addition, 151 applications for a declaration of invalidity because of absolute grounds for refusal were filed (previous year: 149), 72 of which concerned the ground for refusal that a trade mark had been filed in bad faith (previous year: 68).

In particular, applications for revocation prove the attractiveness of the amended legal provisions. While court proceedings involve the risk of high costs, the cost-saving proceedings at the DPMA usually eliminate the cost risk because both parties bear their own costs.

Trade mark administration

At the Jena location, around 40 staff of the trade mark administration deal with secondary procedures after the definitive registration of a trade mark. In particular, secondary procedures include renewals, the recording of changes, restrictions on disposal, divisions, licensing procedures and cancellations. Other horizontal tasks the trade mark administration staff perform are issuing priority documents, certifications of origin and other register extracts as well as providing internal services, for example quality assurance tasks, including corrections of the trade mark register.

At the end of 2025, the register for the first time contained more than 900,000 trade marks, 909,659 trade marks to be precise, which corresponds to a slight increase compared to the previous year (897,771 registrations; +1.3%). With respect to 95,488 trade marks, the parties made changes concerning proprietors, representatives or addresses of service. At 43,957, the number of trade mark cancellations due to the non-renewal of the term of protection, a surrender or an opposition or following the conclusion of revocation or invalidity proceedings was slightly higher than the previous year's figure (41,033). There was also a slight increase in renewals to 37,418 (2024: 35,891). Furthermore, declarations of

willingness to license or sell/transfer continued to gain importance: the DPMA received non-binding declarations of willingness to grant licences from the respective proprietors with respect to 36,184 trade marks (previous year: 31,890); however, a licence was only entered in the register for 25 trade marks. It also received declarations of willingness to sell/transfer with respect to 17,955 trade marks (previous year: 16,072).

For further statistical data on trade mark administration, please see the Statistics chapter.

IN FOCUS: TRADE MARK PROTECTION IN THE DIGITAL WORLD

Identifying risks and securing rights



Branded products are as important in the digital world as they are offline — but they face increasing pressure there, too. Fake shops, cybersquatting and new AI technologies such as large language models not only offer new opportunities, they can also pose a risk to the protection of trade marks. If you want to effectively protect your trade mark, you need to recognise these dangers and act as early as possible.

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) also has its dark sides: AI applications can make our work easier, but they can be used for illicit purposes as well. For example, third parties may use AI to search for trade marks that are already in use on the market but are not yet registered, and then register them in their own name. Such applications are called “applications made in bad faith”. What makes this especially problematic is that many online shopping platforms offer holders of registered IP rights comprehensive tools to exclude others from using a trade mark — even entitled users. Our recommendation: register your own product and monitor the

trade mark register to prevent your IP right being abused by third parties.

From fake shops to cybersquatting

Moreover, AI makes it harder to recognise fake shops, which often copy the website of a known producer. They use the same photos and/or texts and thus infringe not only trade mark rights, but also copyrights. In addition, large language models and translation programs make it easier for fraudsters to create a website that looks legitimate. The times where fake shops could easily be spotted by wrong or non-sensical translations are mostly over. One

frequent consequence is that consumers never receive the alleged brand products they bought for a seemingly great price.

Another issue related to fake shops is cybersquatting: third parties take advantage of a brand's good reputation and register domains that have not yet been secured by the actual trade mark proprietor. By doing so, they not only exploit the brand's reputation to lure users to their fake website, they might also try to sell the domains to the trade mark proprietor for a large amount of money. Registering domains containing your trade marks as early as possible (around the time of the trade mark application) helps to prevent cybersquatting.

New technology — new opportunities to enforce your rights

But we should not forget that new technological possibilities also offer a lot of great opportunities, such as enabling us to prove the authenticity of goods in a tamper-resistant way, for example via certificates saved in a blockchain (non-fungible tokens, NFTs). Software, too, can help with monitoring the market by automatically detecting and reporting products that infringe your sign on an e-commerce platform.

For [more information on effective trade mark protection](#), please visit our website.

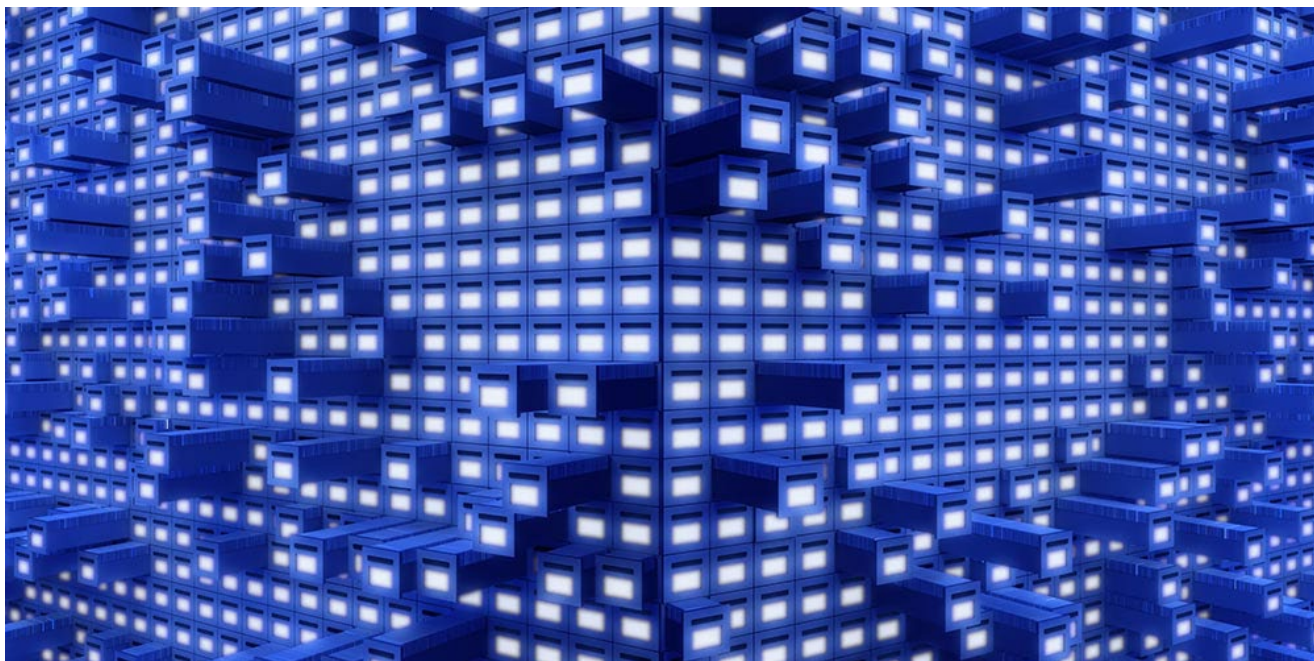
In addition, you can find an [anti-counterfeiting and anti-piracy technology guide](#) on the website of the European Union Intellectual Property Office.



The digital world does not only pose challenges to trade mark protection — patents, utility models, designs and copyright need to be defended as well. The DPMA wants to raise more awareness for this topic among rightholders: whether online shops, apps, 3D printing or AI — our new brochure “IP in the digital world” gives you an overview of how you can effectively protect your ideas, innovations and content in the digital world with patents, trade marks, utility models and designs. So far, the brochure is only available in German (PDF). An [English version](#) will be available soon.

BRIEFLY EXPLAINED: NICE CLASSIFICATION

Sorting the colourful world of trade marks



Nougat, nail polish and neuromorphic engineering — the world of trade marks and services is as colourful as it is big. The “Nice Classification” provides an international classification system for categorising goods and services in trade mark applications. On 1 January 2026, a new version came into force.

From a legal point of view, a trade mark is a sign that identifies a provider’s goods and services and distinguishes them from those of other companies. Thus, the application for the registration of a trade mark requires at least one applicant, a sign and the designation of the goods and/or services for which the trade mark is filed. If all this information is provided with sufficient clarity, the trade mark can claim seniority (this is important, since the trade mark that was registered earlier takes precedence over the later trade mark).

The goods and/or services indicated in the application define which field, meaning which class of goods or services, the subject of protection for which the trade mark was filed belongs to. The trade mark is only protected in the classes of goods and/or services applied for and can only defend itself against similar trade marks with less seniority that are from the same field. For example, the trade mark “Hansmayer”, which is protected in the category “sandwiches; food and drink catering”, could not successfully take legal action against the trade mark “Hansmayer” for “clothing for sports”.

Goods and services for which trade marks can be applied for cover all tradeable goods — so there is an almost infinite number of terms. To create a uniform and clear structure, the contracting states established the “Nice Agreement Concerning the Interna-

tional Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks” at the Nice Diplomatic Conference in 1957. This “Nice Classification” offers a classification system that categorises all conceivable goods and services into 45 classes. 34 of those refer to goods, the other 11 to services. Based on concrete terms and especially headings, the Nice Classification assigns all goods and services to a certain class. Germany ratified the Classification in 1962.

For applicants, this mainly matters in regard to the fees to be paid. The basic application fee of 290 euros (for an electronic application, otherwise 300 euros) includes three classes of goods or services. For each additional class, applicants need to pay another 100 euros. The more comprehensive the protection, the more expensive the application. This pattern continues with the renewal of the trade mark’s term of protection after 10 years. Therefore, applicants should carefully consider which classes of goods and services they really need and then also make good use of them.

When it comes to international cooperation, the classification provides participating trade mark offices with a quick overview of the subject of protection of a foreign trade mark. For example, if you have a Brazilian trade mark with 150 Portuguese terms in the register, the classification makes it easy to determine in which fields it is protected.

For our office, the Nice Classification also plays an important role for the division of work and assigning the competent persons in charge: They work in teams, each of which is responsible for different classes. When filing an application, applicants should always indicate the focus of their application as the leading class. The leading class then determines which team will process the application. This enables us to process all applications in a specialised and effective way.

In the end, what's decisive for the subject of protection of a trade mark is the actual term that is used for the goods or services. Even during an examination of the similarity of goods or services due

to a trade mark dispute, the classification is not the crucial factor. But it does create a uniform and clear structure and order in the application. This is why it is used in more than 140 countries.

To keep the Nice Classification up-to-date, it is continuously revised and a new edition is usually published every three years. On 1 January 2026, the 13th edition of the Nice Classification came into force. For an [overview of all current lists of classes for goods and services](#) as well as further information regarding your trade mark application, please go to our webpages.

Geographical indications



Knives from Solingen, porcelain from Meißen, cuckoo clocks from the Black Forest: traditional know-how preserves cultural diversity and value creation in many German regions. Geographical indications protect producers against imitations and misuse. And now, producers of craft and industrial products that are related to a specific region too can apply for Europe-wide protection for the names of their products at the DPMA and have them registered as geographical indications.

The EU has extended the uniform protection previously offered only to wine, spirit drinks and agricultural products (Agricultural Geographical Indications, AGRI-GIs) to cover craft and industrial products (Craft and Industrial Geographical Indications, CIGIs). As of 1 December 2025, the names of such products can be protected by their central, EU-wide registration as geographical indications. This IP right is based on Regulation (EU) 2023/2411 and the German implementing provisions in sections 129a to 136 of the Trade Mark Act.

Protection requirements for CIGIs

The IP right registers the names of products originating in a specific geographical area whose quality, reputation or other characteristics are essentially attributable to their particular origin. At least one production step must take place within this geographical area.

All products that are manufactured by hand or in a standardised way and by using machines can be protected. This includes, among others, clocks, cutlery, fabrics, porcelain, woodwork, jewellery, textiles, natural stones and glass. In the view of the EU, potential products can range from wooden art from the Ore Mountains to Jena glass and Mittenwald violins to ties from Krefeld or ball bearings from Schweinfurt. You can find a [list of products](#) from many German regions on the webpages of the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO).

Application and examination procedure for CIGIs

Applications can be submitted electronically to the DPMA via the GIportal of the EUIPO. To submit an application in writing, please use application form W 7007 from our website. The processes for receiving submissions and other relevant processes in the DPMA's IT environment have been adapted to enable the fully electronic processing of the relevant documents and data as well as the management of the specific processes.

The examination procedure has two phases: in the national phase, the DPMA examines the application, manages the national opposition procedure, if any, and, following the positive completion of the examination, submits the application to the EUIPO. In the second phase, the EUIPO continues the procedure at Union level and finally decides on the registration. For more information, please visit the [website of the EUIPO](#). The names of craft and industrial products for which the registration as a geographical indication has been applied for or which are already registered as geographical indications can be found in the electronic Union register of the EUIPO. In addition, you can find detailed information in the search database DPMAregister already during the processing of the application at the DPMA.

For more information about the new IP right and how to apply for it, please [visit our website](#).

Change of responsibility for agricultural products (AGRI-GIs)

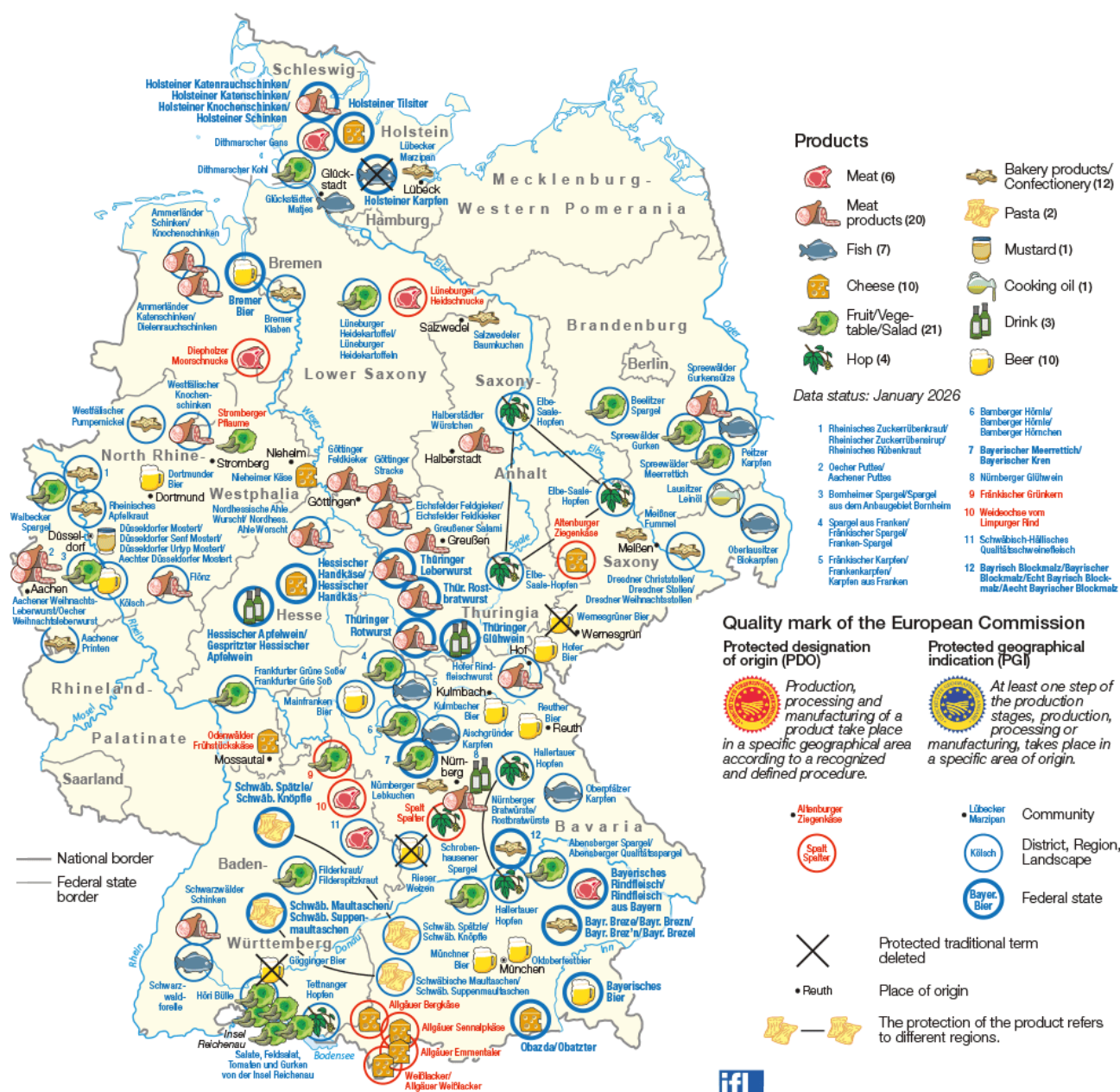
The DPMA has transferred its responsibility for applications regarding AGRI-GIs pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2024/1143 (formerly Regulation (EU) No. 1151/2012) at national level to the Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE). As of 16 January 2026, all new applications and requests regarding ARG1-GIs – i.e. applications for registering a protected indication and for amending the product specification, requests for cancelling a protected indication as well as cross-national oppositions – have to be submitted to the BLE.

Applications and decisions regarding AGRI-GIs in 2025

In 2025, the DPMA received a new application for the registration of the designation “Nürnberger Rotbier” (Nuremberg red beer) as

protected geographical indication (PGI). For the PGI “Bayerisches Bier” (Bavarian beer), an application for amending the product specification was submitted. For the PGI “Meißner Fummel” (a hollow pastry), a request for cancellation was filed; the request for cancellation regarding the PGI “Salzwedeler Baumkuchen” (cake from Salzwedel) already pending before the DPMA was withdrawn by the persons who had filed the request.

After the positive completion of the examination, the DPMA forwarded the application for protection of the PGI “Witzenhäuser Kirschen” (cherries from Witzenhausen) to the European Commission for the final examination. In the amendment procedure regarding the PGIs “Abensberger Spargel” (asparagus from Abensberg) and “Schrobenhausener Spargel” (asparagus from Schrobenhausen), the DPMA approved the requested standard amendments.



Sources: European Commission 2026. [Nationalatlas.de](https://nationalatlas.de)

Food with protected geographical status



© Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography 2026

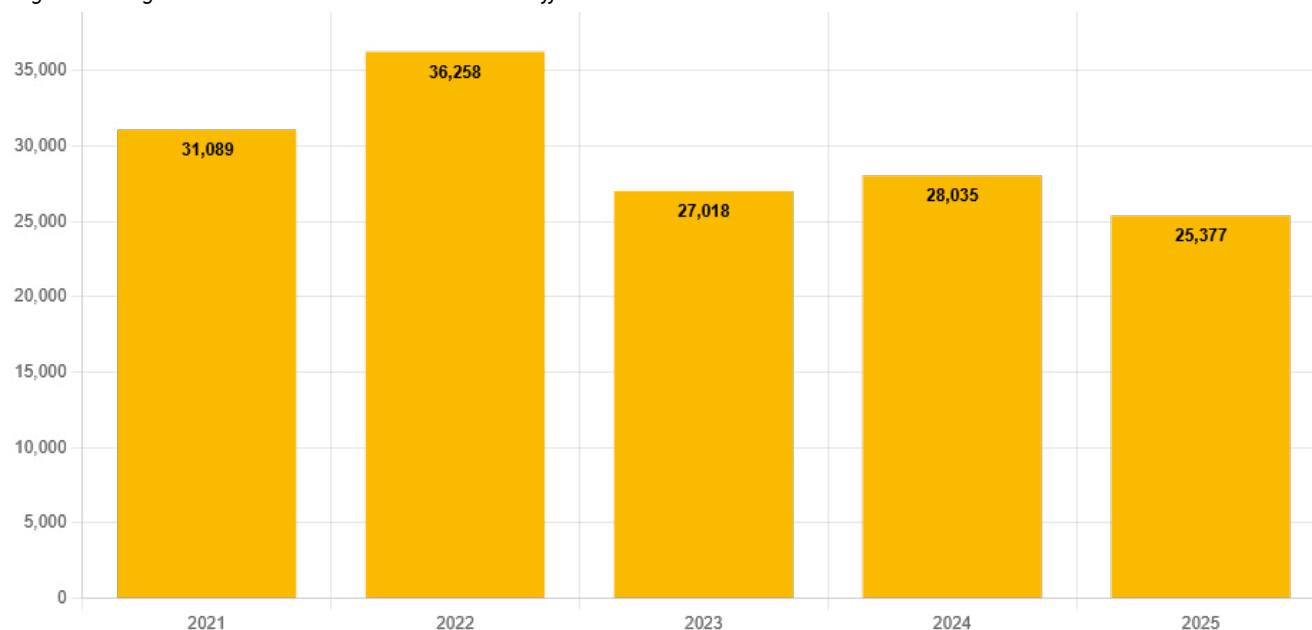
DESIGNS

OVERVIEW

Development and origin of design applications

Development of design applications

Registered designs at the German Patent and Trade Mark Office



Although the economic situation in 2025 continued to be difficult, designs once again had a good year. Compared to the previous year, the number of design applications filed with the DPMA in 2025 considerably increased for the second year in a row, to 4,183 (+5.9%). After the constant decline in design applications in the previous years, this might be a sign of a reversal of the trend.

Applicants once again made extensive use of the option to combine several designs in a multiple application. It is possible to combine up to a total of 100 designs in multiple applications filed via the DPMAdirektPro software or on paper. The web-based filing platform DPMAdirektWeb allows multiple applications comprising up to 20 designs to be filed. In 2025, two-thirds of applicants (66.5%) took advantage of this service.

In 2025, applicants filed, on average, 10.2 designs in a multiple application. In total, the DPMA received 29,687 designs filings.

Last year, we were able to conclusively process requests for entry in the register for a total of 27,161 designs. The time needed by the Design Unit until registration was about three months. We entered 25,377 designs in the design register; this means that the percentage of positive completions was 93.4% (2024: 91.4%).

At the end of 2025, 226,960 designs were registered at the DPMA, that is 4.8% fewer than in the previous year.

Origin of registered designs

Last year, with 95.1%, most of the designs registered at the DPMA once again came from Germany (which means from holders having their residence or principal place of business in Germany). Thus, the proportion of design registrations from abroad decreased slightly compared to the previous year. A total of 727 registered designs came from other European countries (2024: 1,376), 517 from non-European countries (2024: 681). In 2025, the

majority of designs registered from abroad originated from China (286), followed by Austria with 264 registered designs.

Registered designs in 2025 by countries of origin

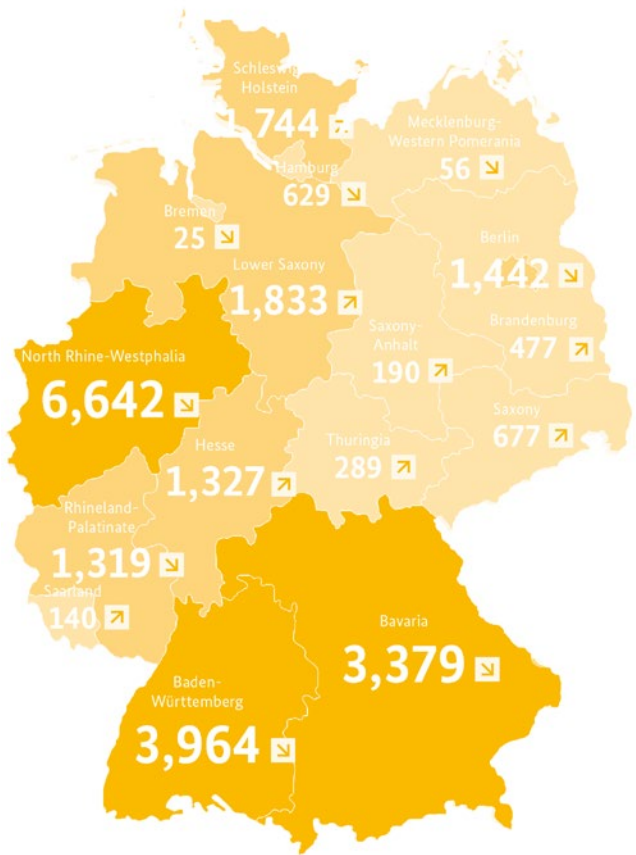
countries of origin	Registered designs	Percentage
Germany	24,133	95.1
China	286	1.1
Austria	264	1.0
Czech Republic	164	0.6
Switzerland	88	0.3
USA	71	0.3
United Kingdom	59	0.2
Japan	56	0.2
Taiwan	49	0.2
Poland	44	0.2
Others	163	0.6
Total	25,377	100

Registered designs by German Länder

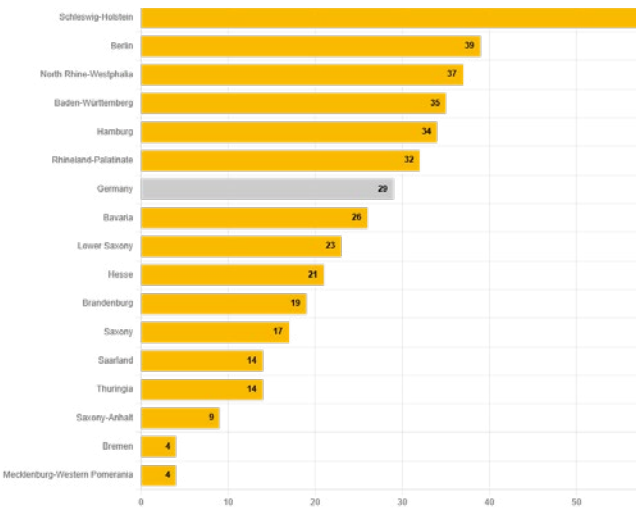
With 27.5%, most of the 24,133 domestic designs registered in 2025 came from North Rhine-Westphalia (6,642 registered designs). This means that North Rhine-Westphalia has now been at the top of the list of German Länder for more than 15 years. In 2025, it was followed by Baden-Württemberg with 3,964 registered designs (16.4%), just ahead of Bavaria with 3,379 registered designs (14%).

The map shows the registered designs in 2025 and the registered designs per 100,000 population as well as the percentage change,

broken down by German Länder (residence or principal place of business of the holder).



Registered designs per 100,000 in 2025, broken down by German Länder (residence or principal place of business of the owner)

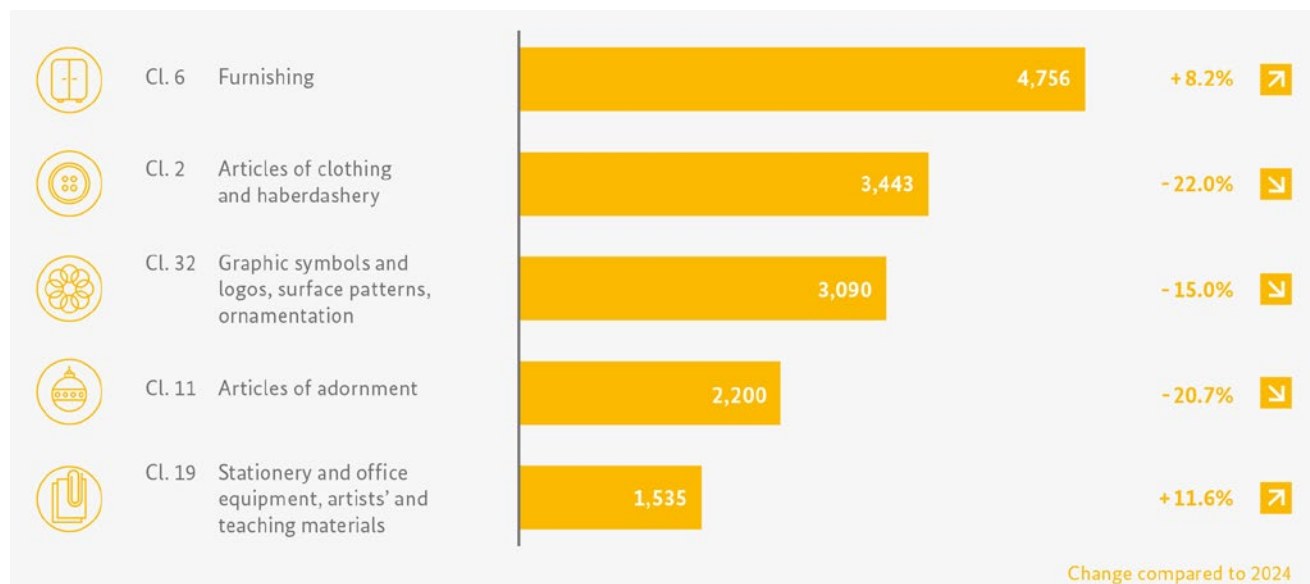


Registered designs by classes of goods

In 2025, most designs (4,756, which is 15.9%) were registered in class 6 (furnishing). Class 2 (articles of clothing and haberdashery) was second with 11.5% (3,443 designs), with class 32 (graphic symbols and logos, surface patterns, ornamentation, arrangement

of interiors and exteriors) again in third place with 10.4% (3,090 designs). In some classes, there was a trend towards increased application numbers concerning intermediate products of 3D-printed products.

Top 5 Classes of goods of registered designs¹ 2025



¹ A design can be attributed to several classes of goods.

Post-registration procedures

A registered design may enjoy protection for a maximum period of 25 years, starting from the date of filing. During that period, various procedures can lead to changes in the register entry:

» Renewal or cancellation

A term of protection corresponds to five years. Renewal fees must be paid at the end of each term to renew protection. Otherwise, design protection will lapse. A corresponding comment concerning the registered design will then be made in the register.

» Extension

If a design has initially only been registered for a 30-month period of protection from the filing or priority date, deferring the publication of the representation, the holder may pay a fee to extend the period of protection to the first five years after the filing date. In this case, we will make a comment concerning the extension in the design register and publish the reproductions of the design.

» Recording of changes

We will record a change to an IP right in the register if, for example, it is transferred from the owner to another person or if there is a change of representative.

Design invalidity proceedings

In 2025, 26 applications for determination or declaration of invalidity were filed (2024: 22). We will serve the application for determination or declaration of invalidity on the holder of the challenged design after receipt of a fee of 300 euros and examination of further admissibility requirements. If the application is not contested within one month, the Design Division will determine, by decision and without further substantive examination, invalidity and cancel the design in question from the design register after the decision has become final. If the application is contested in due time, the Design Division will conduct an official examination of the submitted grounds of invalidity (the appearance of the product does not constitute a design, lack of novelty or individual character; exclusion from design protection; conflicting earlier rights). Subsequently, the Design Division will make a decision in proceedings that — also with regard to the costs to be borne — are essentially based on the Code of Civil Procedure (*Zivilprozessordnung*). In 2025, a total of 22 design invalidity proceedings were concluded (2024: 34).

PERSPECTIVE: DR. HENNING HARTWIG, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

Design law and copyright law — rivals or sisters?

The protection of creative works is an important element of our legal system and encourages innovation. Especially with respect to product designs, creative people have the right to exclusively market their work and to prohibit any unauthorised use. In addition to design protection, copyright law may also apply. In this respect, a decision of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) recently caused a radical change in the interpretation of the law.

*Dr. Henning Hartwig is a partner and attorney-at-law at BARDEHLE PAGENBERG in Munich. He has authored numerous publications on European design and copyright law. He is also the editor of the four-volume case law collection *Design Protection in Europe* (2007, 2008, 2009 and 2012) and the *Research Handbook on Design Law* (2021).*



Like siblings, design law and copyright law are fairly similar. Both fields of law protect the appearance of a product — for example, contours, colours and material. And in both cases, the validity or the “value” of the protected subject matter is not examined in the first instance (this requires a third party), the term of protection is limited (unlike under trade mark law) and the date of creation (copyright law) or the date of filing (design law) is decisive.

As a result of this similarity, legal action is sometimes taken both under design law and under copyright law, as in a case decided on 13 January 2026 by the Brussels Appeal Court with regard to the design of the well-known Longchamp bag “Le Pliage” (2018/AR/957). However, the German practice has always made efforts to make a sufficient distinction in order to avoid double protection. In short: design law and copyright law are siblings, but not twins.

On 4 December 2025, in its ground-breaking decision “Mio/konektra” (C-580/23 and C-795/23), the ECJ basically affirmed this approach. In particular, it established that under copyright law — contrary to a nice hike in the mountains — the journey is not the reward, but that only the result — the “work” — matters. This means that it is not necessary to consider the creative process or what the performer had in mind. Likewise, it is irrelevant for the legal assessment whether famous works of applied art are displayed in renowned venues such as the Museum of Modern Art. Furthermore, as regards the creation of rights, the ECJ emphasises that the conditions for design protection (novelty/individual character) on the one hand and copyright protection (originality) on the other must not be confused.

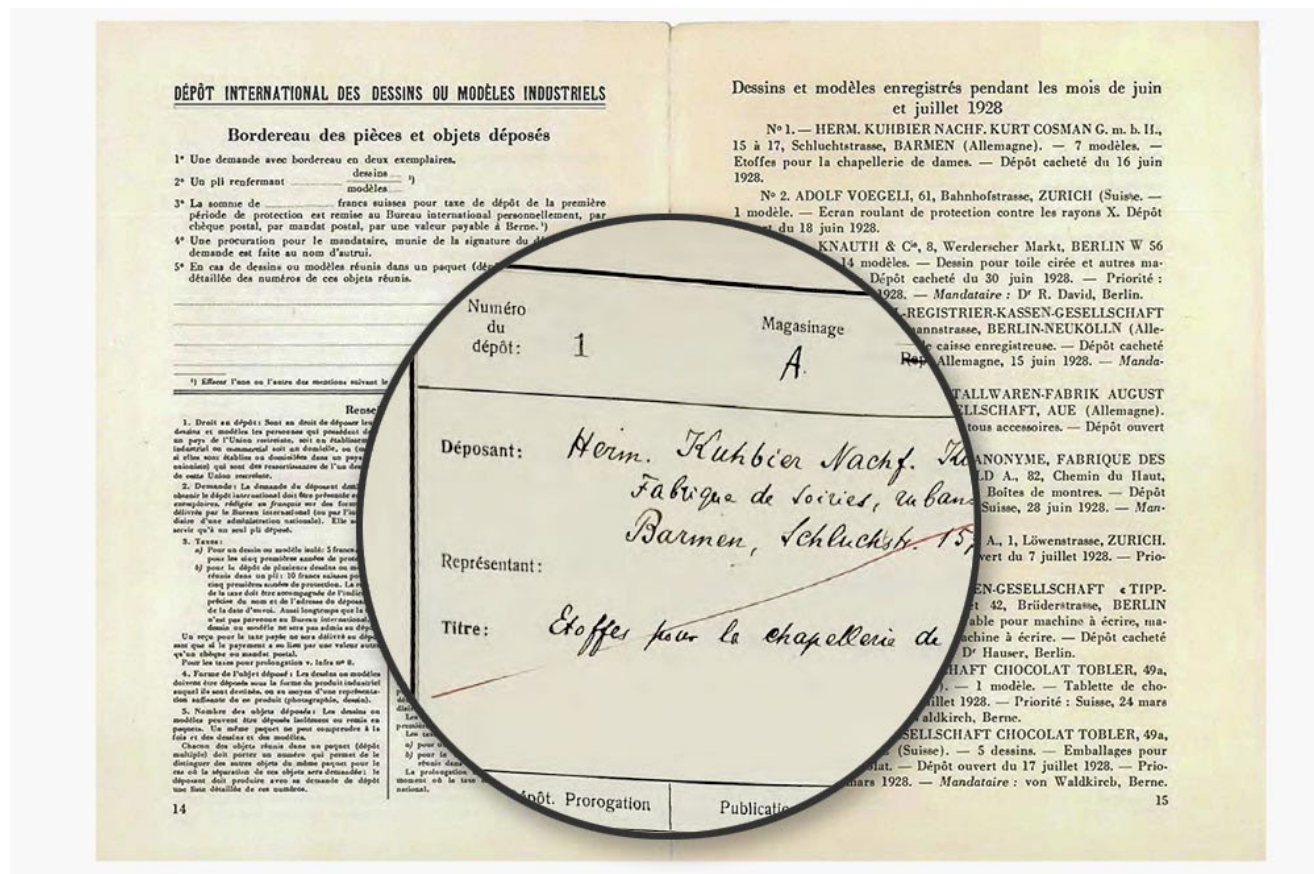
As regards the enforcement of law, the ECJ clarifies that, unlike under design law, the degree of the creative freedom and the degree of originality are not relevant for the determination of the scope of protection or the establishment of a copyright infringement. In other words, if a subject matter is protected as a work under copyright law, such protection is absolute — this means that a work of applied art is either protected or it is not.

Under design law, however, the protection of a design is relative (high, medium or low level), so there are “strong” and “weak” designs alike. This means that it may be easier for third parties to refute accusations of a design infringement than in the case of a copyrighted work of applied art. Thus, there is still good reason to also file variations in addition to the “basic design” (multiple application) so as to at least hamper product launches of third parties. The graded, degressive fees of the DPMA are an additional incentive.

It remains to be seen how courts will handle the requirements set by the ECJ. Overall, the discussion about the relationship between design law and copyright law is reminiscent of rival siblings or the phrase “same same but different”. Even though both legal instruments have the same origin (protection of product designs), they significantly differ in their specific laws.

100 YEARS AGO: SIGNING OF THE HAGUE AGREEMENT

From hat fabric to high-tech design



From the first registered hat fabric to iconic industrial and product designs: for a century now, the Hague System has provided for the international protection of designs and thus supported their development over generations.

6 November 2025 was the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Deposit of Industrial Designs. The Agreement was adopted in The Hague in 1925. Germany was one of the founding countries. The Agreement marked the beginning of international design protection as a success story that has continued up to the present day.

Design no. 1: fabrics for women's hats

In 1928, the first registration was documented by the "Bureau international de l'Union pour la propriété industrielle" in Bern – the predecessor of today's WIPO. It bears the French description "étoffes pour la chapellerie de dames" (fabrics for women's hats) and was filed by Kurt Cosman from Germany. This registration was the beginning of the new international protection system. Even back then, there was a strong presence of German designers and companies: five of the first ten registered designs originated from Germany.

VW Golf, Playmobil, Birkenstock: many successful German designs

Since then, a number of German designs have shaped the Hague System, which is now open to designers from nearly 100 countries, and set international standards. The PUMA Formstrip represents athletic dynamism and high brand recognition, while the Braun T 1000 World Receiver embodies functional clarity and creative reduction. The Bosch SA12 dishwasher shows how a technical design can easily be integrated into everyday use.

Classics such as the PLAYMOBIL figure, the Volkswagen Golf II or the Birkenstock Arizona Big Buckle illustrate the global impact of German designs. With new innovations – such as the Adidas Al Rihla ball or the all-electric Mercedes-Benz G Class EQ – this tradition continues. These and many more international designs appear in a book published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) on the occasion of the anniversary.

FROM THE DPMA

INTERVIEW: DPMA PRESIDENT EVA SCHEWIOR

“German IP rights are highly attractive”

Sovereignty, competitiveness, prosperity: DPMA President Eva Schewior talks about the importance of IP rights for the German economy, the advantages of the national IP system for start-ups and middle-sized enterprises — and about how the DPMA wants to become even more accessible to users in the future.



DPMA President Eva Schewior

In 2025, application numbers for German IP rights saw a significant increase. In your view, what does this mean for Germany as a centre of innovation?

In my opinion, it is a positive sign in difficult economic times. The increasing numbers show that enterprises continue to rely on the protection of their intellectual property and that they use it as an essential instrument to ensure and strengthen their future competitiveness. The consistent protection of intellectual property is an important strategic tool for our country's future on several levels: it strengthens our technological sovereignty, promotes tech-

nological solutions for major social challenges and boosts growth and prosperity for all of us. The increasing application numbers also show that Germany as the biggest economy in Europe and third-biggest in the world continues to play a central role in the strategies of national and international companies.

The number of trade mark applications in particular has risen sharply. Why?

There has indeed been an enormous rise. With more than 96,000 trade mark applications in 2025, we reached the level of our all-

time high. Only at the turn of the millennium did we have slightly more applications. Back then, the increase was mainly due to the founding of many new internet enterprises. The current growth can partly be traced back to the fact that big online retail platforms require providers to have a trade mark. A second important cause is the soaring demand from China and the USA: applications from China have increased by almost 200%, those from the USA by around 100%. This indicates a significant growth in economic activity of both countries on the German market.

For patents, the applications from German companies in particular have increased significantly.

That's true — and of course we are very happy about it. Patent applications notably decreased during the COVID-19 pandemic. But I'm deliberately saying "during" and not "because of". Because the consequences of the pandemic were just one of multiple reasons. According to our observations, another reason was the structural change in innovative activity. In many technological fields, where Germany has traditionally been highly innovative — for example combustion engines or classical engineering — the application numbers have been stagnating or even decreasing over the past years. In contrast, fields in which other countries are very active have seen a boom here, such as digital technologies or battery technology. The electrical engineering sector accounts for an ever-increasing share of the applications. Our numbers now show that German companies, too, are becoming more active in the growing technology fields. In the field of "Computer technology", to which a big part of inventions in regard to artificial intelligence are attributed, Germany has even gained ground recently — at least when it comes to the number of patent applications. That is definitely one reason why the application numbers from Germany are rising again. Under no circumstances must we let up promoting future technologies. Which the federal government also emphasises with its High-Tech Agenda.

Two years ago, the patent system underwent the most important reform of the last decades with the introduction of the European unitary patent. What is your conclusion so far?

I'm happy the European Unitary Patent and the Unified European Court have had such a good start. The new regulations offer great benefits to many patent applicants. In my view, it's good that the new court incorporated important elements of the successful German system — especially the focus on a high degree of technical expertise. This fosters trust in the Unitary Patent and helps promote its acceptance. Another positive development for us is that the German patent system has not lost any of its attractiveness because of the Unitary Patent. That applies to the industry, as our numbers show. And it applies especially to innovative start-ups and middle-sized enterprises, in particular because there are fewer obstacles to enforcement compared to the German system. Time has proven: the European and the national system comple-

ment each other and offer companies many attractive options for a successful IP strategy.

How does the DPMA want to secure the attractiveness and effectiveness of the Office in the field of patents?

We have a clear mission: we want to provide IP rights of the highest quality — and we want to do this as efficiently as possible. To achieve this aim, we analysed user interests and want to adapt our services correspondingly. We are already working on specific measures.

How does the office stay attractive when it comes to IT?

We want to continue to play a leading role among the German authorities. Of course, we see the various challenges regarding the federal budget, but we have clear ideas. When it comes to using AI, for example, we have already set up the organisational structures — as we are already using several individual AI-based applications at the DPMA. And we have many ideas about where else AI can help us to better manage certain challenges. Our "Innovation Lab" team will systematically test possible AI applications. And an interdisciplinary task force that was set up specifically for this purpose will not only examine the technical, but also the legal requirements, so we can not only work efficiently, but also in compliance with the law.

Another important project is our web-based user portal. This portal will make the electronic access to the DPMA and the management of one's IP rights much easier and also provide many new features. We have already launched this project, and I'm very happy that we will be able to offer our clients even better digital services in the future.

Another important change was the introduction of section 26a of the Patent Act four years ago, which concerns the Office's duty to raise awareness about IP rights especially among small and medium-sized enterprises. How important is this task to you?

This task is of immense importance, and we are deeply committed to it. Around 100 million people in Europe are employed by small and medium-sized enterprises, so they can truly be called the backbone of our national economies. In addition, many SMEs are highly innovative, technology-driven start-ups, which are incredibly important for our innovation ecosystem. These start-ups urgently depend on valid IP rights. And we take this responsibility very seriously. This is also why we conducted a study about how start-ups manage IP rights.

And what was the result?

The study was supported by the World Intellectual Property Organization and conducted by the OTH Regensburg, which boasts a very high level of IP competence. The OTH Regensburg evaluated

data from almost 13,000 start-ups from research-intensive industries and held 30 in-depth interviews. For me, two key insights are especially important: technology-driven start-ups benefit greatly from IP rights and also recognise the advantages they offer. At the same time, there is still a high need for information and many strategic points where we can improve these enterprises' access to the IP system. We are currently evaluating the results — and we will then draw our conclusions and develop suitable measures.

Another measure is about to be launched: You want to tour German regions with a new event format.

Yes, in the course of the year we will start a road show to raise interest in IP rights among SMEs, start-ups and founders. For this and next year, we have 16 events in total planned for every region in Germany. We go where the SMEs are. For these events, we work together with the patent information centres of the German Länder, regional chambers of commerce and industry as well as with the association for IP experts, VPP. We want to spread knowledge on IP rights. But we will also have companies that are already using IP rights illustrating their case. This way, companies have the opportunities to network and, ideally, learn from each other.

For the DPMA to be able to pursue its strategic goals, it needs skilled staff. How attractive is the DPMA as an employer?

Our tasks are crucial for economy and industry. By protecting intellectual property, by protecting innovation, we contribute directly to facing social challenges, to promoting prosperity and getting our country ready for the future. To play a part in all of this simply feels good. And our highly skilled experts in the patent examination department in particular work at the edge of innovation. What could be more appealing to people with an interest in technology? But we also offer many tangible benefits: our colleagues enjoy a high degree of flexibility in carrying out their tasks. We offer the option of working from home and part-time work, so that they can tailor their working arrangement in terms of location and hours — and thus strike the best possible balance between career and personal circumstances. As an employer in the public sector, we provide fair compensation and of course a high degree of security, which understandably is of particular importance to many people in difficult economic times. In short: there have probably been never so many good reasons to apply to the DPMA. Give it a try!



President Eva Schewior at the DPMA Nutzerforum

INSIGHT: DPMAimpuls, OUR EVENT FORMAT WITH THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Encouraging dialogue, fostering innovation

How can intellectual property rights be utilised even more effectively as a strategic tool to strengthen Germany as a business location? And what specifically do companies need to make ideal use of the IP system? As global competition is increasingly driven by technological innovations, these questions become more and more important. With “DPMAimpuls”, we have established a forum bringing together key stakeholders to strategically develop the role of IP.



With the format “DPMAimpuls”, the German Patent and Trade Mark Office provides a structured space for the open exchange between administration, industry, science and other stakeholders of the innovation system. In November 2025, true to the motto “IP competence in Germany’s innovation network”, the participants of the third edition of “DPMAimpuls” collected practical approaches that enable innovations to be translated more quickly into economic growth. It was discussed that more real-world laboratories for future technologies and more venture capital were needed, but also a more intensive transfer from science to industry. The topic of decarbonisation as an opportunity for enterprises across all regions was also addressed, as was the Germany-wide network of innovation consultants of the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Moreover, IP was identified as the linchpin of collaborations between industrial and academic partners. Property rights and rights to use, development and marketing li-

cences, and the right to publish information about an innovation: a wide range of topics was debated at “DPMAimpuls”.

The format of the dialogue focuses on bringing together different perspectives. Representatives from enterprises, associations, research institutions and the legal profession share their experiences and discuss current challenges – from innovative dynamics to technology transfer to competitiveness and regulation issues. Who is responsible for which tasks in basic research, applied research and the transfer of results to industry? This was the subject of an involved debate at the most recent “DPMAimpuls” event.

A key feature of “DPMAimpuls” is the combination of expert insights and in-depth exchange. Presentations provide targeted food for thought while leaving sufficient room for plenary discussions and detailed discussions on specific technical aspects in smaller groups. To name an example: a workshop on computer-implemented inventions (that is inventions based on software) provided patent examiners with the opportunity to exchange experiences with businesses. Discussions particularly focused on the criterion of technical character for patentability. The most recent “DPMAimpuls” event was followed by a workshop that specifically addressed the needs of the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries.

The format provides the German Patent and Trade Mark Office with the opportunity to directly talk with users and gain an even better understanding of their expectations. Feedback from real-world experience is incorporated into the further development of information services and procedural workflows.

In this way, “DPMAimpuls” supports our office’s customer-focused approach. At the same time, the initiative helps to strengthen IP expertise in Germany. “DPMAimpuls” thus exemplifies a modern, dialogue-oriented administration: open to feedback, connected with key stakeholders and geared towards the requirements of a changing innovation system.

CAREER AT THE DPMA

Are you looking for a new career venture? Are you interested in a varied job with a wide range of development opportunities at the cutting edge of technology? At the same time, you would like to be able to balance work and personal life?

As a federal authority, we have a lot to offer to you – both as a central provider of IP services and as a family-friendly employer

with flexible working hours. You can find our current job openings, apprenticeship positions, employee profiles, and further information about your career opportunities at the DPMA on our newly redesigned website, “[Your Career at the DPMA](#).”

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#).

NEW: [DPMA Careers](#) on LinkedIn

THE DPMA USER ADVISORY COUNCIL ON PATENTS AND UTILITY MODELS

New members, new perspectives

The DPMA User Advisory Council (*DPMANutzerbeirat*) strengthens the direct exchange between the DPMA and its main user groups. Currently in its third term of appointment, the committee unites expertise from industry, mid-sized enterprises, science and innovation promotion. It provides clear impetus and advice on the strategic advancement of IP and fosters a consistent user orientation.



Shaping Ideas Together – The Expert Panel Meets with DPMA President Eva Schewior (6th from left) and Representatives of the DPMA.

The DPMA User Advisory Council on Patents and Utility Models has long been a vital centrepiece of the successful dialogue with our users.

In the spring of 2025, the third term of appointment of this expert advisory committee, which has been in place since 2019, started upon its constituent meeting. It consists of 15 members who represent the most important user groups of the DPMA. These include IP experts from big industry, representatives of SMEs and universities as well as patent attorneys, complemented by other relevant institutions and stakeholders of the IP system. From this term on, the committee also includes newly appointed members from the Federal Agency for Breakthrough Innovation (SPRIND) and the German Startup Association. The new appointments emphasise the immense importance of technology start-ups for a forward-looking innovation ecosystem and add expertise from the field of promotion of innovation.

DPMA User Advisory Council as a source of impetus

The work of the committee is based on dialogue and is focused on solutions: at the meetings, the members analyse current IP trends and identify fields of action. In the period between the meetings, impetus from the advisory council members feeds into the work of the DPMA's specialist areas. This makes the DPMA User Advisory Council a permanent, rather than occasional, giver of feedback on what our customers need. The interdisciplinary exchange on the DPMA User Advisory Council facilitates a shift in perspective and helps us identify and understand our users' needs at an early stage.

In its capacity as a strategic advisory committee, the DPMA User Advisory Council advises on crucial projects of the DPMA and contributes practical considerations to existing and future measures and strategic goals. The committee has already made a lot of valuable suggestions, especially when it comes to patent quality, increasing patent awareness and advancing procedures for the benefit of our users.

In the year under review, the DPMA User Advisory Council focused on how to further raise IP awareness. The committee discussed activities that could be initiated in addition to the measures already under way, focusing in particular on communicating the benefits of IP rights to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

The wishes of applicants for a modernisation of the requirements as to the form of patent and utility model applications were another key topic in 2025.

The value added by the DPMA User Advisory Council is evident in many ways. The dialogue with our main stakeholders gives us

reliable feedback that contributes to informed decisions. At the same time, the committee promotes the mutual understanding, accelerates improvement processes and helps us proactively enhance our role in the dynamic innovation environment.

Thank you to all members for the lively exchange and the trusting collaboration.

[Additional information on the DPMA User Advisory Council and a list of the current members](#) are available on our website.

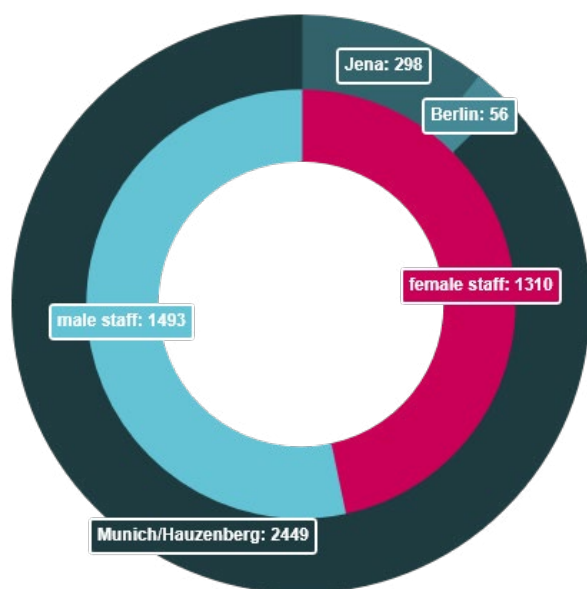
AT A GLANCE

Personnel and finances

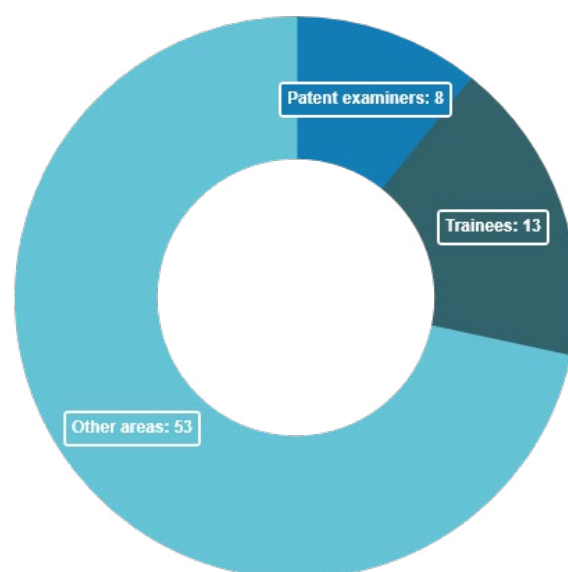
Staff and recruiting numbers

The DPMA had a total of 2,803 staff at the end of 2025 (-1.2% compared to 2024).

In 2025 we hired 74 new staff.



1,310 female staff and 1,493 male staff: 298 in Jena, 56 in Berlin and 2,449 in Munich and Hauzenberg



8 patent examiners, 13 trainees and 53 in other areas



In 2025, 38.53% of **management positions** were held by women.



The proportion of **part-time employees in management positions** was 14.45%.

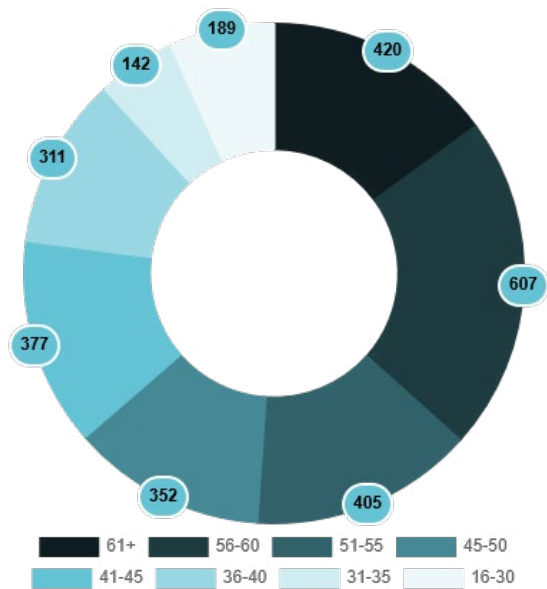


49 Nations



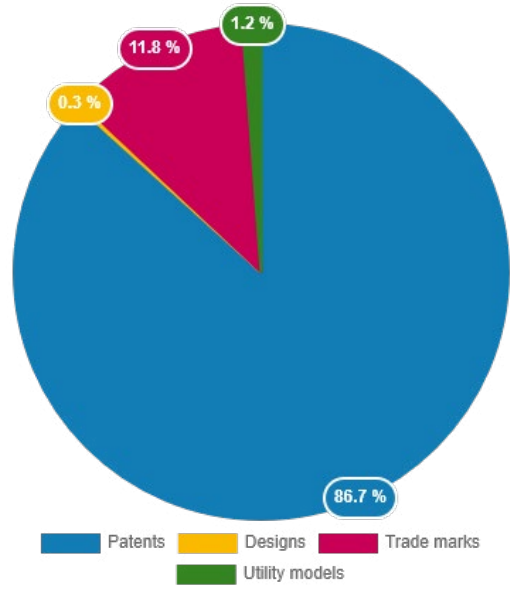
242 people with disabilities

Age structure



Age structure of employees at the DPMA 2025

Breakdown of income by type of IP



Patents, Designs, Trade Marks, Utility models

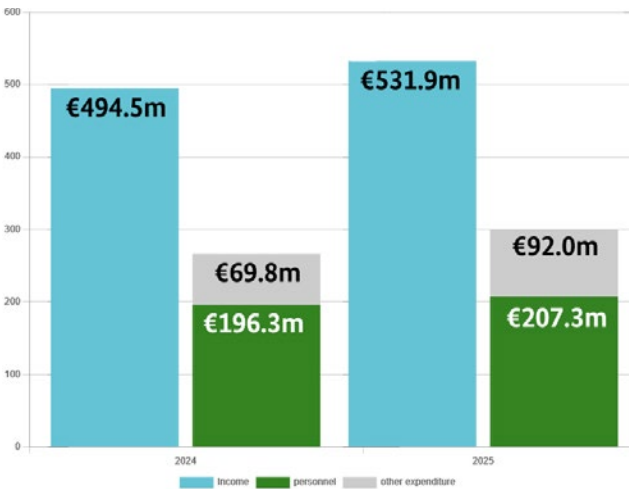
Vocational and further training

A total of 37 trainees were trained in five occupations (IT specialist, Media and information services clerk, Management assistant in office communications, Carpenter and Administrative employee) in Munich. As of December 31, 2025, two trainees in the “IT specialist” (Fachinformatiker/in) field were in training in Jena.

Further training

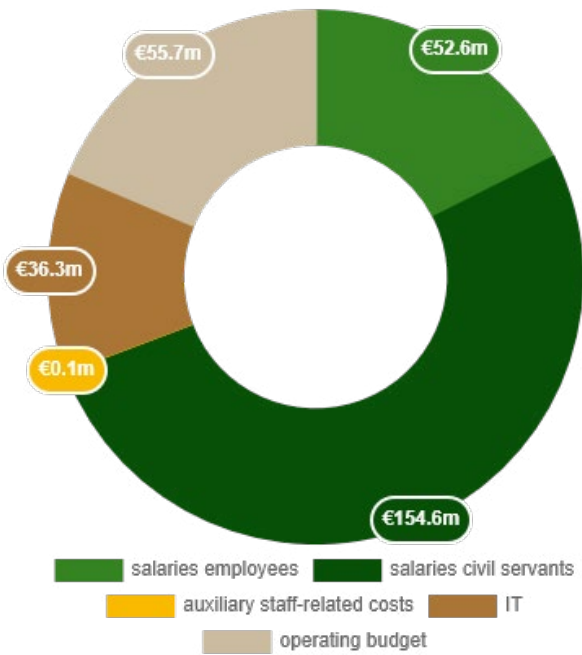
On average, employees used 2.57 training days for professional development in 2025.

Finances



Income and expenditure 2024 compared to 2025

Total expenditure DPMA €299.3m in 2025



Total expenditure DPMA €299.3m in 2025

OUR SERVICES

Information for you, interaction with you

Do you have any questions about the application procedure, the costs or searches? Whether you are just getting started or are an experienced user of our databases: we are here to support you. You can already find a lot of useful information on our webpages. For individual enquiries, do not hesitate to contact our Customer Care and Services.

We are here for you.

Phone: +49 89 2195 1000
(Mon–Tue 08:00–16:00, Fri 08:00–14:00)

General enquiries: info@dpma.de
Search support: datenbanken@dpma.de
IT support, technical support (DPMAdirekt):
dpmadirekt@dpma.de

Our addresses:

Munich: Zweibrückenstraße 12, 80331 München

Berlin: Gitschiner Straße 97, 10969 Berlin

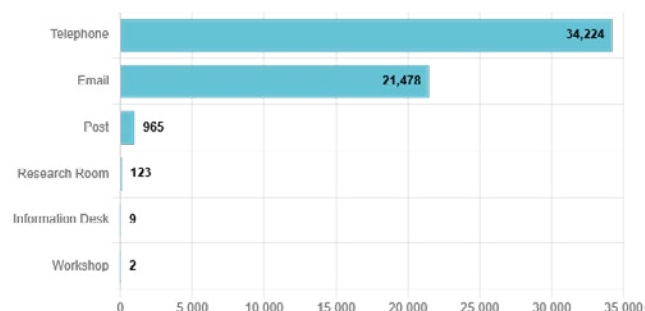
Mailing address:

Deutsches Patent- und Markenamt, 80297 München

Make an on-site appointment, call us or write to us. Customer Care and Services is happy to advise you on the correct filing of an IP application or update you on the status of a procedure.

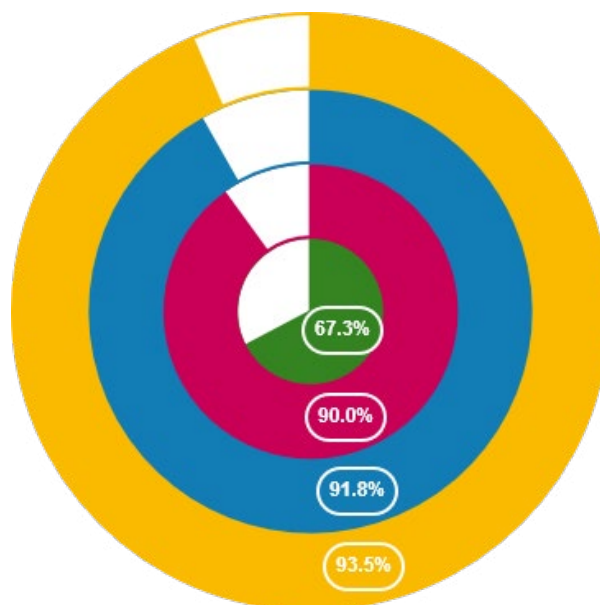
Please note: submissions for pending procedures cannot to be sent by e-mail, as they will have no legal force. Please send them by post or use our secure digital channels via DPMAdirektWeb or DPMAdirektPro, always indicating the file number. This is the only way we can ensure your request is handled in compliance with legal requirements.

In 2025, we provided advice and information in 56,801 cases — a significant increase compared to the previous year.



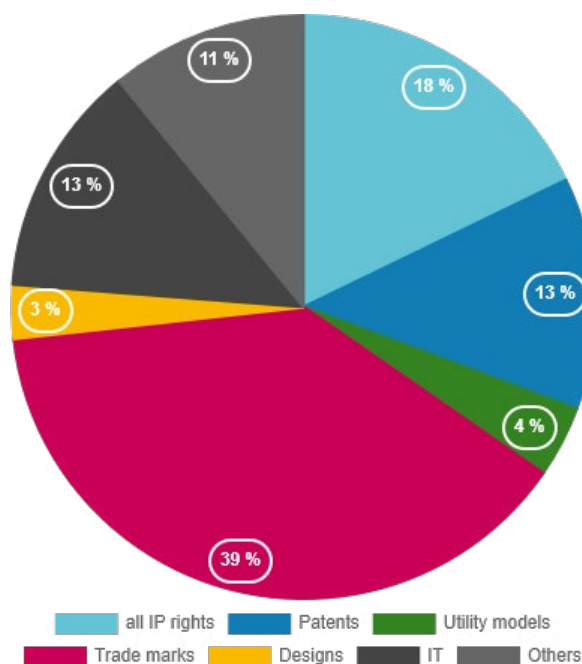
Customer contacts by communication channel in 2025

Online applications 2025



Design applications (93.5%); National patent applications (91.8%); National trade mark applications (90.0%); National utility model applications (67.3%)

Customer enquiries in 2025



E-services: take advantage of our many options

DPMAregister and DEPATISnet: both databases are freely accessible at any time online at no charge. You can use them to search for patents, utility models, trade marks and designs. DPMAregister allows you to inspect files and check the legal and procedural status of IP applications. DEPATISnet provides you with an overview of the worldwide state of the art. And with DPMAKurier, you can monitor IP rights and get the results e-mailed to you automatically.

DPMAconnect-Plus enables you to access all official information regarding registration and publication from DPMAregister automatically online as well as to download patent and utility model specifications from the document archive DEPATIS.

DPMAdirektPro/Web are our solutions for legally compliant electronic applications. With DPMAdirektPro, you can apply electronically for patents, utility models, trade marks and designs. DPMAdirektWeb, on the other hand, lets you submit online applications for trade marks and designs as well as international registrations of marks and applications for determination or declaration of invalidity of a registered design.

Search support

We provide support for your search by phone or e-mail. In Berlin and Munich, we are also happy to help you on site. Feel free to make an appointment — also at short notice.

Initial consultation for inventors

All over Germany, we offer free initial consultations for inventors by patent attorneys in cooperation with the Chamber of Patent Attorneys. In Munich and Berlin, these consultations are also offered on the premises of the DPMA. For questions regarding non-technical IP rights, there are also lawyers available.

To make an appointment, please contact Central Customer Care and Services well in advance by phone on +49 89 2195-1000 or e-mail us at info@dpma.de using the subject “Terminvereinbarung – Erfinderberatung in München” (appointment for consultation for inventors in Munich) or “Terminvereinbarung – Erfinderberatung in Berlin” (appointment for consultation for inventors in Berlin), depending on where you want to schedule the appointment. Please visit our webpages for more information.

Workshops and seminars

We regularly offer hands-on seminars to provide basic information on intellectual property to small and medium-sized enterprises in particular, but also to interested individuals, law firms or chambers of industry and commerce. Our aim is to raise awareness for intellectual property and IP rights, to expand people's knowledge and to create easy access to our databases DPMAregister and DEPATISnet.

In 2025, we introduced two new seminar formats: the “Brown Bag Seminars”, a short format for lunch breaks, and the “Step-by-Step Seminars”, which offer insights into the practical aspects of IP rights and search options.

You can find our current programme for workshops and seminars on our [webpages](#).

The DPMA lecture services — more popular than ever!

Our lecture services gained further traction in 2025 and were in high demand; we also significantly increased their reach. In 2024, we reached more than 500 participants in cooperation with the hosts; in 2025, as many as 1,116 people participated in 29 events, more than twice as many as in the previous year. With an average of around 38 participants per event, the lecture services have established themselves as an effective and scalable format. In lectures, workshops and seminars, the DPMA's experts relay practical knowledge about patents, trade marks and designs as well as search options and other topics concerning industrial property rights. The lecture services are aimed especially at small and medium sized businesses, start-ups as well as universities, institutions of higher education and schools. They play an important part in raising awareness for the protection of IP rights and at the same time strengthen the DPMA's visibility and public image.

If you too want to take advantage of our services, be it online or on site, please do not hesitate to contact us (vortragsservice@dpma.de).

Our print and online publications

Anyone who wants to know more about the services of the DPMA can get information via numerous channels and in different formats — and almost all content is not only provided in German, but also in English. Our webpages as well as our various print publications offer comprehensive information on patents, utility models, trade marks and designs, on geographical indications, copyright and enforcing IP rights. In addition, they highlight search options, our electronic services and interesting events.

Besides our official publications, including announcements, important notices and notices of the President, and essential information on our IP rights, we also offer in-depth articles regarding the protection of industrial property as well as new developments in research and technology. We also issue various newsletters and special publications: for example, our brochure on copyright provides an overview of the most important regulations in Germany, while the publication “erfinden” showcases the role inventions and IP rights play in solving social challenges. And the monthly gazette “Blatt für Patent-, Muster- und Zeichenwesen” covers legal questions, with a special focus on court decisions and notifications regarding representation.

We also have another special feature in store: if you want to explore the world of IP rights and go beyond laws and regulations, you can discover many valuable and fascinating facts in our columns “Milestones” and “Background” on the DPMA website. Here, everyone can find out what the essential purpose of protecting IP rights is. It is definitely worth a closer look!

Our social media activities — we inform, explain and connect

On our social media channels, we provide targeted, up-to-date and accessible information about the DPMA's various duties and services. LinkedIn and YouTube in particular allow us to reach many different target groups — from founders to companies to expert circles and the interested public — and to create transparency around the topic of IP rights.

In 2025, we further expanded our reach. With 14,400 followers on LinkedIn, we again achieved a significant growth, and the numbers for our YouTube channel kept increasing with more than 900 subscribers. We consciously provide a broad spectrum of content: besides information about our services and events, posts regarding the prevention of counterfeiting, the Global Innovation Index, the DPMA Nutzerforum as well as our new publication “erfinden” are especially popular.

Of course, one particular focus lies on easily understandable expert information and explainer videos — our topics include trade marks, IP strategies and the DPMA's digital offerings. We want to present complex topics in a clear manner and offer easy access to our services. Follow us and stay up to date:

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/dpma

YouTube: www.youtube.com/DeutschesPatentundMarkenamt-DPMA

We appreciate your interest, the exchange and your connection to the DPMA!

Trade fairs

Trade fairs are places of innovation and development. But how well are IP rights and their limits known? At trade fairs, we often see that there is still quite the need for information. What are

IP rights, what do they have to do with me and my product and how can I apply for one? The questions are many and very diverse, whether we are on site with a booth or roaming the halls with a mobile team. But always, our presence results in interesting conversations where we can provide individuals and companies with helpful information. At the same time, we counteract counterfeiting and raise awareness for how to deal with fakes — a win-win situation for all. We look forward to meeting you at a trade fair! You can find our current trade fair calendar for the year 2026 here (in German).

Cooperation with the patent information centres

Stronger together: we have been collaborating with the patent information centres (PIZ) for many years now. They are our exclusive regional partners and provide valuable information about IP rights and searches at locations all over Germany. In addition, they give advice regarding IP strategies and possible exploitation. To find out more about all their services, which target SMEs, start-ups, founders and institutions of higher education in particular, visit our website.

Complaints management: let us know!

You are not happy with our service? Let us know and send us your complaint at info@dpma.de or by post. Please note: contacting the complaints management is not a substitute for the required submissions and responses in IP proceedings. To those, the regulations and procedures for the respective IP rights apply. Please make sure to comply with all requirements to avoid any adverse consequences.

Your general written complaints will be assessed together with all the sections involved, and you will receive a response to them. This process often reveals new areas for improvement. Thank you for making us aware of these.

OVERVIEW

News from the IT services

Submission of files to the Federal Archives

At the end of the year, the DPMA launched a new interface of its systems DPMAmarken and DPMApatente/gebrauchsmuster with the Federal Archives. Our specialist areas use this interface to submit selected IP case files to the Federal Archives for permanent archiving after the legal retention period for these files has expired and before they are deleted from the DPMA's database. In particular, we submit files to the Federal Archives when our specialist areas attach great technical importance to them. The content of such files is deemed relevant for the public and, due to its particular technical importance, it is to remain permanently available.

For example, this concerns files relevant to the development of the law, knowledge building and training courses. The same holds true for files containing special court decisions or decisions that can serve as precedents as well as for files of particular technical importance and files relating to innovation prizes and inventions by public figures.

The legal basis for the submission is provided by the Federal Archives Act, which requires federal authorities to offer the Federal Archives documents which they no longer need for the performance of their duties or which they are not permitted to retain any longer. The Federal Archives then determines whether the documents offered are worthy of archiving.

User survey on the DPMA's electronic filing platform

At the end of 2024, with the project "Identity and Access Management", the DPMA took initial steps towards a modern solution for the electronic communication with the users of its systems. In 2025, the DPMA carried out comprehensive analytical and conceptual works to gain a solid understanding of the current and future requirements for digital services, technical framework conditions and access-related issues. The findings from this form the basis for strategic decisions and the advancement of the DPMA's digital services.

An important milestone was a survey of users that was conducted to gain insight into the needs and expectations of our users, their perception of the DPMA filing services, the usability and functional range of these services as well as the users' satisfaction with the technical support.

The analysis of the results revealed a need for modernisation.

The users spoke out for a modern, intuitive, browser-based and operating system-independent web solution as a standard for their daily interaction with the DPMA. They wanted for a user-friendly and uncomplicated software with an easier user guidance to improve flexibility and quality.

Furthermore, the survey respondents rated alternative authentication processes. Thus, we wanted to learn which technically and legally suitable processes enable an easy and accessible user experience.

The findings formed the basis for initiating necessary changes in relevant ordinances and thus for laying the foundations for a new generation of electronic services provided by the DPMA. It is intended to develop them in close consultation with the users.

Subsequent filing of documents in pending trade mark and design procedures in DPMAdirektWeb

Since April 2025, DPMAdirektWeb has provided an easy option to subsequently file documents in pending trade mark and design procedures without an electronic signature. Among other things, the function "*Nachreichung zu einer Marken- oder Designanmeldung*" (subsequent filing concerning a trade mark or design application) enables users to electronically

- » reply to a communication or an office action of the DPM
- » submit additional documents;
- » submit new (design) representations;
- » amend the application data;
- » request priority documents.

To ensure that the subsequent filing is made by the entitled person, they must only indicate the *file number of the application and the document reference number (DRN)*. The DRN is confidential and indicated in the acknowledgement of receipt or confirmation of application which applicants can download upon filing via DPMAdirektWeb.

Subsequent filings concerning documents filed via DPMAdirektPro or by post are not possible in DPMAdirektWeb. They still require the DPMAdirektPro software.

OVERVIEW

Electronic services

The following e-services are available to our customers:

DPMAreger

- » Online search of bibliographic data as well as legal and procedural status data
- » You can produce an uncertified excerpt from the register yourself
- » You can inspect the various parts of a patent case file online
- » You can choose between three different search modes: basic, advanced or expert
- » **NEW:** Convenient input of Nice Classification classes for trademark searches and courier monitoring via a selection assistant
- » **NEW:** Convenient input of image classes (Vienna Classification) for trademark searches
- » **NEW:** Once logged in, you can permanently save and retrieve your search favourites from the history of expert searches
- » **NEW:** Convenient input of Locarno classes for design searches

DEPATISnet

- » Document archive with well over 135 million records from about 100 countries, of which almost 60% are available directly as PDFs
- » You can conduct online searches for prior art published in patent literature from all over the world

DPMAdirektPro / DPMAdirektWeb

DPMAdirektPro

- » Legally valid online filing of applications for all IP rights
- » You need special software, which we provide to you free of charge, as well as a qualified signature card
- » You can register for the electronic document mailing service

DPMAdirektWeb

- » Legally valid online filing of applications for trade marks and designs, as well as international trademark registrations
- » Unlike DPMAdirektPro, no signature card or special software is required

DPMAkurier

- » Legal status monitoring of certain IP rights
- » You can subscribe to receive IP gazettes/journals by e-mail
- » You can submit combinations of applicant/inventor/owner as well as of classification symbols
- » **NEW:** You can choose whether to be informed at your selected delivery interval or only when news/changes occur

DPMAdirectPlus

- » Establishment of an interface, which provides automated access to all official register and publication data from DPMAreger
- » You can download patent and utility model documents from the DEPATIS document archive through an interface, Facsimile documents of DE, DD, EP and WO documents as well as optionally the corresponding bibliographic data
- » We provide you weekly with the current data and documents of the German IP rights in the form of data packages

IPC search tool

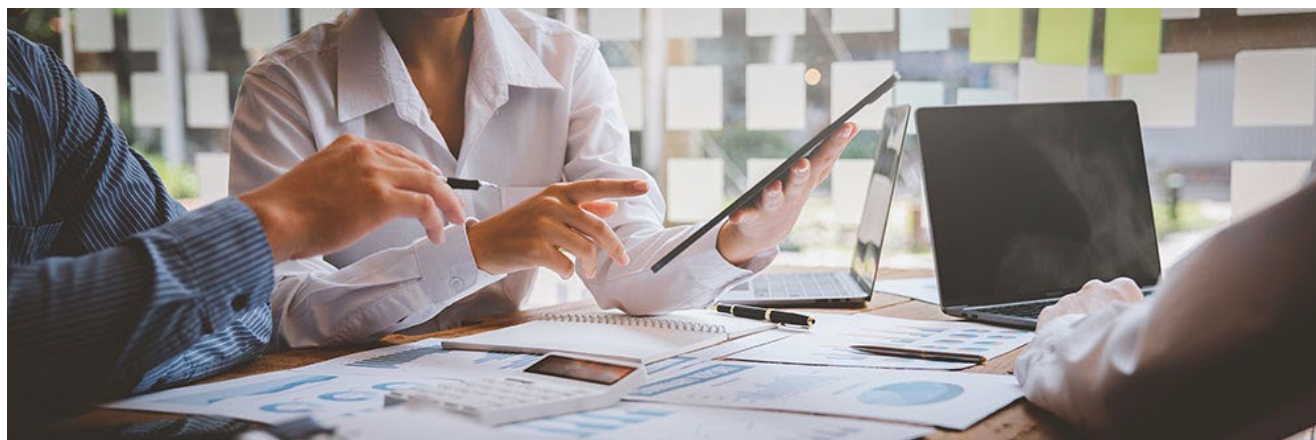
- » **NEW:** Link truncation is possible when searching for keywords
- » **NEW:** Additional elements in the results list now include a hierarchy display showing the structure of the parent symbol
- » **NEW:** When searching for IPC symbols, the directory opens directly at the searched location instead of showing a results list
- » **NEW:** The expanded/collapsed state of the search and concordance menu sections is saved, so the same state appears next time you open the browser
- » **NEW:** The sorting of results lists, searches, and the state (expanded/collapsed) of all directory configurations (search, comparison view, and concordance) is saved
- » **NEW:** In directory configurations, clicking "Apply directory configuration" no longer closes the configuration; it remains open

Detailed information on our IT developments and e-services is available on our website.

[E-filing of IP applications](#) and [Search](#)

INSIGHT

Our Strategy



We continued the consistent implementation of our strategic processes in 2025.

As before, the focus remained on our users and services. It is our goal to continuously drive the DPMA forward and, notwithstanding the ever-changing environment, offer customised services that efficiently support and help our clients. For this purpose, we maintain a close dialogue with our users.

In order to achieve our strategic goals, we are constantly defining tailored measures. In 2025, we successfully completed several measures and simultaneously launched new ones.

Sustainability remains a high priority for the DPMA. We completely implemented our first measure in this area, thus aligning our office with the federal government's sustainability strategy. In doing so, we take a holistic view of the topic of sustainability and don't limit ourselves to purely ecological aspects — even though, of course, these continue to be particularly important. To develop this topic in a transparent and visible manner, we have now also embedded sustainability within our organisational structure and set up a follow-up measure for the introduction of EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) as well as for the management of mobility and energy data.

In order to intensify the structured exchange with our users, we were able to successfully complete the measure "Survey service". Our office's survey service has become well-established and will continue to feed back important suggestions and recommendations from external sources to the DPMA. You can find more detailed information about this topic in our Annual Report 2024.

One key pillar that keeps all of our operations running is our IT department:

To ensure that our processes run smoothly, we not only need our expert applications, but also a modern and efficient infrastructure. We are therefore modernising our data centre to prepare for upcoming technologies. While doing so, data security, data protection and a high availability are of the highest priority for us.

When it comes to designs, we are still working on the introduction of the electronic IP case file. The implementation is scheduled for March 2027, immediately followed by the adjustments due to the design reform.

With DPMAdirektPro und DPMAdirektWeb, we offer two established and professional tools for filing applications for trade marks and patents. In the future, we aim to combine them in one homogenous, modern and intuitive application portal. For this, the perspective of our users is very important to us. We have already gathered suggestions and wishes via our User Advisory Council and are continuing this process with selected user groups. We have also already begun planning for the new user portal and started working on it.

In 2025, we also continued to expand our office-wide business process management. To embed this even further within the DPMA, we initiated a corresponding follow-up measure.

OUR PROJECT: MOVE TO THE NEW OFFICE BUILDING

Concentrated technical expertise

In Munich, the moving boxes were getting packed up: for a long time, the patent and utility model divisions at the DPMA's headquarters were spread across three locations. Now they share a new home in a modern office building. For our organisation this means: an incredible amount of technical expertise concentrated under one roof.



At the beginning of 2025, we successfully completed a key project: the Munich colleagues of Directorate General 1 “Patents and utility models” moved into a new office building at Anzinger Straße. The staff of Directorate General 1 includes the patent examiners – experts from various fields of technology and science who examine technical inventions and grant them protection if they fulfil the corresponding requirements.

The successful completion of the project is mainly the result of strong teamwork: staff from our specialist areas, facility management, IT departments, interest representatives and external partners worked hand in hand to keep day-to-day operations running. Even unexpected challenges – such as technical outages or delays in construction – were overcome together. The move thus became a project that also strengthened the organisation's culture.

The scale of the move can best be expressed in numbers: the teams emptied around 1,000 rooms, moved around 14,500 pieces of furniture and set up 1,294 new IT workspaces. In only 80 days, files, furniture and technology changed their location. Due to the complex IT systems for sensitive data, the move was also a major project for the IT department.

The new building offers our staff a modern work environment with private spaces for focused work as well as areas that foster interaction and exchange. The building also has a cafeteria as well as a library and a nursery. For exercise and mobility, there are a sports room and a big parking area for bikes in the on-site underground car park.

The move to the new office building marks the beginning of a new chapter. The colleagues of the Directorate General 1 in Munich now all have their workplace under one roof. The distances have become shorter, the exchange more direct, the cooperation closer. While before people had to communicate across different locations, now spontaneous meetings are possible in the hallway or while getting a coffee. The building creates space for exactly this kind of connection. At the same time, it offers modern working conditions: a high-performance IT infrastructure, up-to-date workspaces and flexible options to combine working at the office with mobile working. All this leads to an environment that not only enables more efficient processes, but also a more attractive workplace in general.

The neighbourhood itself provides further impetus: the new office is located in the middle of the Munich Werksviertel, one of the most dynamic areas of the city. Right next to us, start-ups develop innovative ideas, new business models arise and creative networks are built. Institutions like start-up centres and innovation platforms shape the atmosphere – this is an environment that not only thinks the future, but creates it. For an organisation whose daily business consists of technical inventions and their protection, this closeness is more than a locational advantage: it is an inspiration.



FURTHER DUTIES

Patent attorney training

Patent attorneys bring together law and technology. They know how to combine legal requirements with technological innovations and support companies as well as inventors in protecting their inventions and enforcing their IP rights. The DPMA is responsible for the training and the examination of aspiring patent attorneys.



The DPMA's role as training institution

To meet the high demands of the profession, aspiring patent attorneys have to complete a training of almost three years — after completing a university degree in natural sciences or engineering. However, the training can be waived if aspiring patent attorneys have already worked in an advisory or representative position as a patent administrator (Patentsachbearbeiterin/Patentsachbearbeiter) for (usually) 10 years. To be admitted as patent attorney by the Chamber of Patent Attorneys, the candidates need to pass the patent attorney examination. The German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA) is responsible for all aspects of the training and examination.

The training in detail

The patent attorney training follows a set order of phases that build upon each other and aim to prepare the candidates for this highly demanding profession. To be admitted to the training, a candidate must have a university degree in natural sciences or engineering and have at least one year of practical work experience in a technical job.

The patent attorney training consists of three phases:

First training phase: the first phase starts after the DPMA has admitted a candidate to the training and lasts at least 26 months.

During this stage, the patent attorney candidates work in a patent law firm or in the patent department of a company to gain practical experience and a deeper understanding of the profession's demands. At the same time, they also participate in regional study groups that are organised by the Chamber of Patent Attorneys and led by experienced patent attorneys.

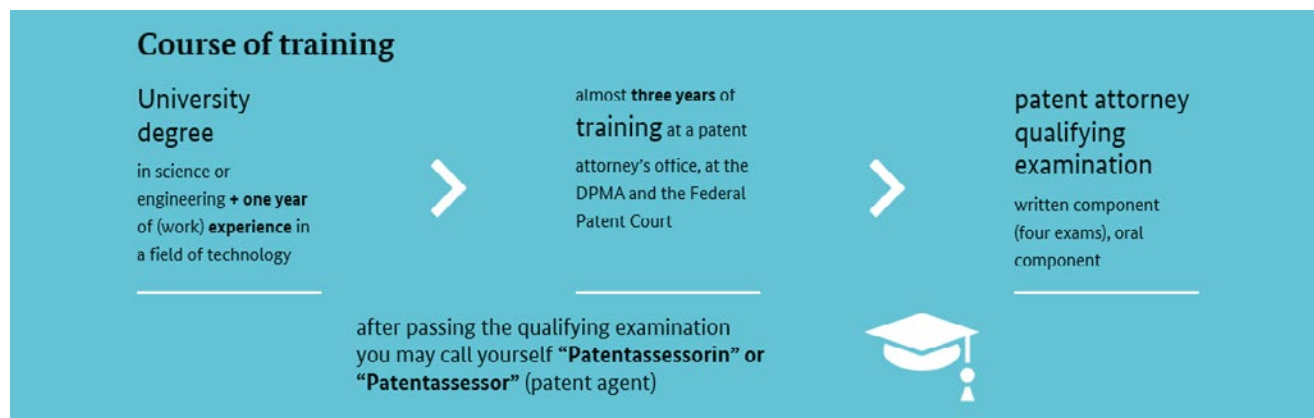
Second training phase: the second phase takes place at the DPMA for two months. To gain practical experience in the two most important IP fields, the patent attorney candidates are assigned to a patent as well as a trade mark division for one month each.

Third training phase: the third and final phase of the patent attorney training (six months) is spent at the Federal Patent Court. For practical training, the future patent attorneys are assigned to a board of appeal for trade marks for two months and to a technical board of appeal for four months.

Alongside their training, they also need to take classes in general law – these courses are usually taken at the FernUniversität in Hagen. This study programme serves to complete the theoretical training and as preparation for the final patent attorney examination.

For more detailed information about the training and examination of aspiring patent attorneys, please visit [our website](#) and the web-

site of the [Chamber of Patent Attorneys](#) (Patentanwaltskammer, PAK).



Course of training

The year 2025 in numbers — increasing admission numbers

The admission numbers for the patent attorney training increased significantly last year. This development is due to a greater interest in jobs in the field of IP and reflects the need for skilled personnel. In 2025, 164 people (last update: 22 January 2026) were admitted to the training — that is an increase of 38.0 per cent.

The same year, 141 candidates took the patent attorney examination. 113 of them had completed the training in the field of IP rights, and 28 were experienced patent administrators that signed up for the examination. In total, 126 people passed the examination.

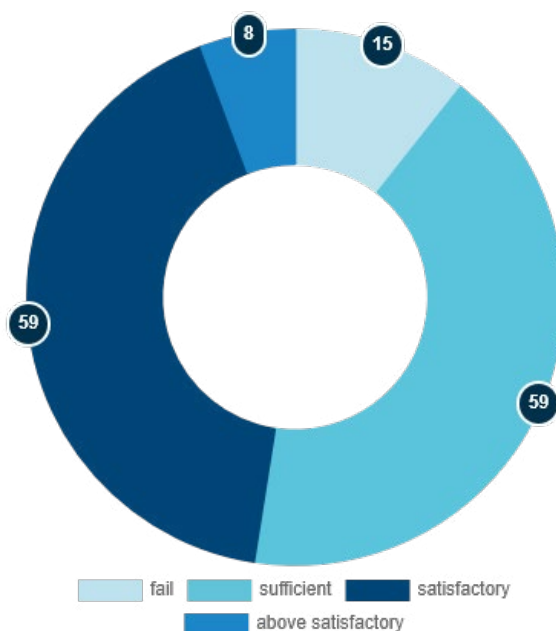
New examination board for the term from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2029

Effective from 1 January 2025, the DPMA has newly appointed the examination board for patent attorneys for the term of office lasting until 31 December 2029. The board took up its duties at the beginning of the new year.

The new examination board consists of the chair, five deputy chairs, 20 judges from the Federal Patent Court as well as members of the DPMA and 86 patent attorneys or Patentassessorinnen/Patentassessoren.

Grade	Participants (in %)
excellent	0.0%
good	0.0%
above satisfactory	5.67%
satisfactory	41.84%
sufficient	41.84%
fail	10.64%
Total	100%

Qualifying examinations for patent attorneys in 2025



Qualifying examinations for patent attorneys in 2025

New vocational training committee for trained IP paralegals

Effective from 11 October 2025, the DPMA has also newly appointed the members of the vocational training committee for trained IP paralegals (Berufsbildungsausschuss für Patentanwaltsfachangestellte, BBiA). The term of the current vocational training committee runs until 10 October 2029.

The vocational training committee consists of six employers' representatives, six employees' representatives and six vocational school teachers. Each of the 18 members has a representative. The German Trade Union Confederation (Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund) and RENO e. V., a special interest group for paralegals, including notary and IP paralegals, suggested the members for the employees' side. The Chamber of Patent Attorneys made the suggestions for the employers' side, while the Standing Con-

ference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (KMK) proposed the teachers.

The vocational training committee for trained IP paralegals is responsible for ensuring the quality and timeliness of the training

for IP paralegals and the final examination. It also continuously refines the training contents, examinations and the framework.

Supervision under the Act on Collective Management Organisations

From authors to composers to other owners of copyrights: they are all entitled to appropriate remuneration for the use of their works. Collective management organisations (CMOs) help rightholders to enforce their rights – and the DPMA acts as the supervisory authority for these CMOs.



The DPMA currently supervises 14 collecting societies – now including one for the games industry.

Numerous authors as well as related rightholders have organised themselves in private-law organisations, the collective management organisations. They have the right to receive appropriate remuneration for each use of their respective works and artistic performances. However, since their works are often used in many different ways, it is almost impossible for rightholders to keep track of every single use process themselves, especially in today's increasingly digitised world. This is why many creatives have CMOs exercise their rights. CMOs serve as a point of contact for creatives on the one hand and the users of artistic works and performances on the other hand. They grant licenses for the use of the content that was transferred to them according to the conditions set up in their tariffs and distribute the resulting revenue according to internal division rules among the creatives, their members and related rightholders.

Since most of the time CMOs are specialised in one particular artistic field (e.g. the GEMA in musical works, the VG Wort in literary works), they usually occupy a de facto monopoly position. Due to the risks resulting from this and because they act in a fiduciary capacity for their rightholders, the CMOs are subject to government supervision by the DPMA.

As supervisory authority, our office only acts in the public interest. We make sure the organisation of CMOs complies with the statutory provisions of the Act on Collective Management Organisations (CMO Act – Verwertungsgesellschaftengesetz) and monitor whether the CMOs carry out their duties to rightholders as well as users as defined in the CMO Act.

Some examples: We check whether the distribution plans according to which the CMOs distribute the revenue among the right-holders are free from arbitrariness. Our duties also include making sure the CMOs comply with the legal requirements for setting tariffs. To carry out our supervisory tasks, we have a comprehensive right to information as well as the option to attend the meetings of the CMOs' various boards, to name just a few.

New collective management organisation for the gaming industry

In September 2025, the DPMA, in agreement with the Federal Cartel Office, granted the *Verwertungsgesellschaft für die Herstell-*

er von Games mbH (VHG), a collective management organisation for the producers of games, authorisation to conduct business. The VHG enforces legal claims to remuneration against the manufacturers of devices and storage mediums for private screenshots or recordings of the gameplay of computer and video games. It is the 14th CMO in Germany and acts as fiduciary trustee on behalf of game developers and publishers.

Together, the 14 CMOs currently authorised by the DPMA achieved a revenue of around 2.05 billion euros in 2024. The following table shows the amounts generated by each CMO.

Revenues of the collective management organisations in 2024

Collective Management Organisations		Total budget ¹ in 2024
AGICOA GmbH	AGICOA Urheberrechtsschutz-Gesellschaft mbH	€31.781m
Corint Media	Corint Media GmbH	€71.290m
GEMA	Gesellschaft für musikalische Aufführungs- und mechanische Vervielfältigungsrechte, rechtsfähiger Verein kraft Verleihung	€1,332.015m
GÜFA	Gesellschaft zur Übernahme und Wahrnehmung von Filmaufführungsrechten mbH	€4.472m
GVL	Gesellschaft zur Verwertung von Leistungsschutzrechten mbH	€257.876m
GWFF	Gesellschaft zur Wahrnehmung von Film- und Fernsehrechten mbH	€41.767m
GWVR	Gesellschaft zur Wahrnehmung von Veranstalterrechten mbH	€0.370m
TWF	Treuhandgesellschaft Werbefilm mbH	€4.381m
VFF	Verwertungsgesellschaft der Film- und Fernsehproduzenten mbH	€34.593m
VG Bild-Kunst	Verwertungsgesellschaft Bild-Kunst, rechtsfähiger Verein kraft Verleihung	€70.829m
VG F	Verwertungsgesellschaft für Nutzungsrechte an Filmwerken mbH	€11.768m
VG Musikedition	Verwertungsgesellschaft Musikedition, rechtsfähiger Verein kraft Verleihung	€11.539m
VG Wort	Verwertungsgesellschaft WORT, rechtsfähiger Verein kraft Verleihung	€175.550m
VHG	Verwertungsgesellschaft für die Herstellung von Games mbH	€0.203m
Total		€2,048.434m

¹ Revenues include income from licences and claims to remuneration, income from interest and securities and other operating income.

Oversight of authorised entities under the Copyright Act

The DPMA also acts as the supervisory authority for authorised entities under the Copyright Act. These are institutions which provide education, accessible reading or information access on a non-profit basis to people with a visual impairment or a reading disability. Authorised entities are legally obligated to notify the DPMA of their activities. This can be done via a form on the DPMA website. There you can also find an accessible list of all authorised entities which have notified the DPMA as well as an FAQ section with more information about this topic.

Register of anonymous and pseudonymous works

The DPMA also maintains a register for anonymous and pseudonymous works. Here authors who have created or published works anonymously or pseudonymously can have their real names registered and thus extend the copyright to its regular duration of 70 years after the death of the author. Without the registration of the real name, the copyright protection would already expire 70 years after the creation or publication of a work since the true author would be unknown. Please see the statistics part of the annual report for the current numbers.

Arbitration boards at the German Patent and Trade Mark Office

In a dispute, independent arbitrators can often be helpful. Two such independent arbitration boards are located at the DPMA: the Arbitration Board under the Employee Inventions Act (*Gesetz über Arbeitnehmererfindungen*) and the Arbitration Board under the Act on Collective Management Organisations (*Verwertungsgesellschaftengesetz*). Their task is to mediate an out-of-court settlement – and there are a large variety of contentious issues out there.

Arbitration Board under the Employee Inventions Act

Provisions under the Employee Inventions Act

Did you know that more than 90% of all patent applications filed with the German Patent and Trade Mark Office derive from the work of employees?

For these inventions, too, the “inventor principle” applies, which states that inventors have the right to the patent for their invention (section 6 of the Patent Act). However, under labour laws, work results are considered as the employer’s property and as already compensated by the employee’s pay.

To achieve an appropriate balance of interests in this situation, employees are obligated under the Employee Inventions Act to report to their employer any inventions made during the term of an employment contract. If the employer claims the invention for themselves, they are obligated to secure the right to the patent with a patent application, but they may also transfer this right to their ownership. In return, the employee is entitled to an appropriate compensation.

This means that the transfer of ownership of the inventor’s right converts the employee’s right to the patent into a claim for compensation against the employer.

Right to compensation

To establish the amount of compensation, “the commercial applicability of the service invention, the duties and position of the employee in the enterprise, and the enterprise’s contribution to the invention” have to be considered under section 9 of the Employee Inventions Act. This way, the employee can obtain the appropriate share of the economic advantages (share factor) which the employer receives from their right to the patent (invention value).

Because the amount of the compensation is determined by these undefined legal terms, differing point of views can easily arise between the company and its inventors. However, according to the government’s wishes, these should not lead to a deterioration of the relationship between employer and employee.

The duties of the Arbitration Board

For this reason, the state created the Arbitration Board under the Employee Inventions Act at the DPMA. It usually consists of a chairperson who is qualified for judicial office as well as two patent examiners. While the chairperson’s position is permanent, the DPMA appoints the patent examiners to the respective arbitration proceedings based on their particular technical knowledge. This ensures that the Arbitration Board can always draw on the best possible legal and technical expertise.

First, the Arbitration Board gives employees and employers the opportunity to present their point of view. Then, it submits a settlement proposal to the parties. If they accept the proposal, a contract under private law is concluded, which ends the dispute. If they object to the proposal, the arbitration board proceedings are legally deemed to have failed. The participants still have the option to solve their dispute in another way, either in or out of court. Often, they settle based on the settlement proposal, even if they objected to it, while court proceedings only rarely occur.

The Arbitration Board is the first point of contact when the dynamics of the technical and economic development lead to new questions regarding the inventor’s rights. This is why the Arbitration Board regularly publishes selected disputes in an anonymised form.

In the year 2025, the Arbitration Board concerned itself with the following questions, among others:

- » Reporting of confidential company information as invention – Arb.Erf. 02/23
- » Distinguishing service inventions from free inventions – Arb.Erf. 22/24.
- » Questions regarding the limitation period for service inventions that have become free – Arb.Erf. 46/23
- » Value of the invention within the company, order development or use by the company? – Arb.Erf. 25/23

- » Rights of the employer in case of a community of joint inventors — Arb.Erf. 11/24
- » Calculating a lump sum payment for an invention — Arb.Erf. 30/22
- » Lump sum approaches for calculating the invention value in case of complex parts — Arb.Erf. 07/24

For more details about these or other selected cases and information about our Arbitration Board and employee invention law, please visit our webpages.

Statistics

Requests	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Receipt of requests	53	60	53	52	56
Arbitration proceedings concluded by					
Settlement proposals and compromises	44	43	36	35	34
Proposals accepted (%)	65.9	67.4	61.1	62.9	64.7
Refusals to participate in arbitration proceedings	16	6	9	11	8
Other cases concluded, in particular, by withdrawal of request, order, provisional proposals, etc.	8	2	6	7	6
Total of cases concluded	68	51	51	53	48
Arbitration proceedings pending at the end of the year	73	82	84	83	91

Arbitration Board under the Employee Inventions Act

Arbitration Board under the Act on Collective Management Organisations

The Arbitration Board under the Act on Collective Management Organisations (*Verwertungsgesellschaftengesetz; VGG*) concerns itself with disputes between users or their associations and collective management organisations (CMOs). In particular, it examines whether the tariffs set by the CMOs are appropriate and applicable and it decides on the conditions of general agreements between CMOs and user associations. The Board can also order the empiric investigation of devices and storage media.

Collecting societies such as GEMA make it easier for users and rightholders to conclude licence agreements for the daily large-scale transactions that regulate the use of works protected by copyright. In addition, they collect remuneration for uses permitted by law that have to be paid for. In the tariffs, the CMOs define the conditions for granting the rights they exercise. Users can have the Arbitration Board check if the tariffs are reasonable.

Current proceedings before the Arbitration Board

In the reviewed period, the number of pending procedures once more decreased. At the end of the year, 112 procedures were still pending, 75 procedures were completed and 45 newly initiated, including a request to carry out an empirical investigation.

Among other things, in the period under review, the Arbitration Board looked at the compensation for the use of music in on-board entertainment systems on long-distance trains and suggested a compensation of 1.29 euro per seat and year (Sch-Urh 02/22).

The Arbitration Board also decided that the printing of a work of fine arts in a museum catalogue, which was permitted by a licensing agreement, does not have to be compensated separately, since the contractual permission has priority over the legal permission (Sch-Urh 07/22).

For the use of literary works on the intranet of public institutions of higher education, the Arbitration Board suggested an annual compensation of 12,275 million euro for the years 2020 to 2022 as well as 12,845 million euro starting from the year 2023 in general agreement proceedings. In these proceedings, the Board also looked at the relation between contractual and legal permissions. In addition, it examined the interpretation of the Creative Commons licensing conditions as well as the question of whether the respective internet use constitutes a public use (Sch-Urh 90/20).

All decisions mentioned above and many more are published in anonymised form [here](#).

Statistics

Requests / Cases concluded	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Requests					
Total requests received	58	61	55	57	45
including inclusive contracts under Sec. 92(1), no. 3 CMO Act	1	1	1	2	0
Cases concluded by					
Settlement proposals of the Arbitration Board	95	56	43	48	49
Partial settlement proposal of the Arbitration Board	13	0	0	0	1
Order	111	55	59	19	26
Total (without partial settlement proposals)	206	111	102	67	75
Requests pending at the end of the year	248	198	151	141	112
Payment of security / provisional settlement					
Requests	4	12	14	3	4
Orders	37	6	16	4	1

Arbitration Board under the Act on Collective Management Organisations (CMO Act)

Raising awareness on intellectual property

About 99% of all companies in Germany as well as in the European Union are small and medium-sized enterprises. Throughout Europe, they secure around 100 million jobs and are considered a source of entrepreneurial spirit and innovation. By offering a comprehensive range of information and training on the use and enforcement of IP rights, the DPMA makes an important contribution to strengthening the competitiveness of many companies.



Image from a DPMA poster campaign

The DPMA continued to successfully expand its information and networking activities concerning intellectual property in 2025. At the same time, it consolidated its role as a point of contact and co-ordination for the various activities of the European Union Intellectual Property Office as well as for federal and state authorities.

Effectiveness through collaboration

As in the previous years, the exchange with national and international players of the IP ecosystem on established best practices formed the basis of our work. This knowledge transfer is essential for jointly scheduling and implementing initiatives such as the SME Fund grant scheme. At the same time, it gives us information

that allows us to better understand our stakeholders and to create even more customized services.

In 2025, as part of these efforts, the DPMA participated in a joint research project with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and OTH Regensburg. For this project, the DPMA carried out detailed interviews with German start-ups from particularly innovative sectors. WIPO will publish the study in 2026. It aims to show how innovative start-ups in Germany protect their IP and which obstacles they face when scheduling and implementing their IP strategy.

Useful and free of charge — IP information for everybody

An important field of action when raising awareness is informing the public, especially SMEs and founders.

In order to pursue this goal, the DPMA strengthened existing co-operations with universities and institutions for training teachers, whilst also implementing new measures to raise awareness. Since spring 2025, for example, we have offered the accessible Brown Bag Seminars on the topics “Copyright” and “Industrial Property Rights at a Glance”. These are short and informative trainings which can be completed during lunch break (while having your brown-bag-lunch).

Via these and other workshops and seminars, the DPMA made thousands of participants aware of the benefits of IP rights in 2025.

Our Office also successfully introduced new print and online publications in 2025. Amongst others, we published the leaflet “Intellectual Property in the digital world”[MS1.1] for the first time. Our publications are widely used. At times they achieve four-digit monthly download figures.

In November 2025, as part of the global “start-up week”, we made successful use of new ways to address the public: with the poster campaign “Dream. Create. Protect. Repeat” we advertised SME support services on numerous public advertising spaces in Berlin and Munich — and we received a lot of positive feedback.

How can we fight counterfeiting?

Counterfeiting costs the German economy billions of euros every year. Moreover, fake goods can harm consumers. For this reason, the DPMA has extended its range of information about enforcing IP rights against plagiarism.

The DPMA devised and organised a one-week special training for judges held at the German Judicial Academy on the topic of criminal liability for trade mark and product counterfeiting. For the third time, criminal investigators from public prosecution, police departments and market surveillance authorities were invited by the DPMA to participate in the symposium “IP Awareness and Enforcement”. The participants made intensive use of the event for networking and professional exchange, also across the borders of the German Länder. Last year, the focus was placed on revealing fake shops on the internet as well as illegal online streaming.

The DPMA on radio and television

True to the credo that messages are most efficient when they are communicated and perceived by the relevant target groups via different channels, the DPMA gave interviews for various reports and articles in the media concerning product and trade mark counterfeiting last year. Economic and consumer programmes on radio and television, in particular, regularly draw on the expertise of our Office.

Further useful information and an overview of our services can be found at the [information pages for small and medium-sized enterprises](#).

OUR PARTNERS

OVERVIEW

National cooperation projects

Joint action for innovation: the network of the patent information centres

The protection of intellectual property often starts at a local level — and this is exactly where the patent information centres (*Patentinformationszentren; PIZ*) are, the central partner of the German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA). With 15 locations all over Germany and together with the DPMA, they provide an effective and closely aligned consulting network. The PIZ in their role as regional points of contact combine professional expertise with their closeness to the economy and thus greatly contribute to strengthening Germany as a country of innovation. In particular, the PIZ help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), start-ups and people interested in founding their own companies to strategically protect and advance their innovations. They offer individual consultations, thorough searches for patents, trade marks and designs as well as support for developing suitable IP strategies. The PIZ are a neutral and professional point of contact that helps people gain a better overall understanding, recognise opportunities and avoid risks. The close and confidential cooperation between the DPMA and the patent information centres ensures that knowledge and support are provided exactly where they are needed: directly to the innovators. Together, we contribute to raising awareness for the value of IP rights and to establishing easy access to the protection of innovation. And this strong partnership will continue to be a central component of our commitment for innovation and competitiveness in Germany.

PIZnet Action Week 2025

The German-wide PIZnet Action Week has become an annual key event for many small and medium-sized businesses. In 2025, for one week, the PIZ once more offered free, confidential and neutral initial consultations regarding the protection and strategic use of IP rights. This offer in particular targets SMEs, start-ups and people interested in founding their own company who want to protect their ideas, take advantage of their innovative potential and identify economic risks early on. In individual talks, the consultants analyse a company's IP situation and point out possible options. The high demand and the participants' positive feedback prove the great value of this format. During the PIZnet Action Week 2025, the patent information centres held 40 consultations

with SMEs — this corresponds to around 72 hours full of know-how, practical expertise and individual support. But not only the numbers show the format's success: when asked if the consultation offer met their expectations, the participants' average rating was an excellent average of 4.76 on a scale of 1 to 5. Each of the SMEs surveyed would also recommend the offer.

The German Patent and Trade Mark Office supports the PIZnet Action Week together with the patent information centres and welcomes the positive reception. The Action Week raises companies' awareness of the strategic use of IP rights and helps them secure their innovative strength — and it will continue to do so in 2026!



📍 Locations of the patent information centres

Contact and further information: www.piznet.de

📍 Locations of the German Patent and Trade Mark Office

PIZ Conference 2025

In her welcome speech, DPMA President Eva Schewior emphasised the central role of the partnership between the patent information centres and the DPMA for Germany as a country of innovation. In view of various economic developments, she said, it was crucial to translate the potential of research and development even more consistently into protected innovations. The exchange at the PIZ Conference, she added, contributed essentially to helping regional IP service providers connect with the DPMA and to advancing the strategic cooperation.

Besides the current developments at the DPMA, the focus was mostly on topics regarding the future, among them the development of new approaches to support SMEs as well as the knowledge transfer at institutions of higher education. In this area especially the patent information centres play a key role, as they have become a regional convergence point for science, economy and the IP system. The participants also presented specific cooperation projects, such as joint event formats and the roadshow initiative, and worked on advancing them. These help to raise awareness for the strategic management of IP rights among companies, start-ups and research institutions in particular and to facilitate the access to information about IP.

The PIZ Conference 2025 once more showed that the grown partnership between the DPMA and the patent information centres provides a solid foundation for promoting innovation and technology transfer.



Networking in action: Participants at the 2025 PIZ Conference exchanged views on strategies, projects and future-oriented topics.

Strong partnerships for the protection of IP rights

The protection of IP rights can only reach its full potential if it is consistently enforced and all involved stakeholders work closely together. Besides the successful cooperation with the patent information centres, the DPMA also focused on extending the collaboration with additional key partners in 2025. It's our goal to strengthen the enforcement of IP rights, to effectively combat product and trade mark piracy and to raise long-term awareness for the value of intellectual property.

Among our most important partners is German customs, especially the Central Industrial Property Office of the Customs Criminological Office. As key operational body in combatting counterfeits, customs authorities confiscated fake goods worth 417 million euros in 2024 alone. Thanks to the close exchange of expertise, the DPMA supports the authorities in charge with its IP know-how and contributes to efficiently accompanying and advancing measures for enforcing legal rights. The DPMA has also intensified the cooperation with trade fair companies and initiatives for raising awareness among the public and industry. For example, the DPMA was at the international consumer goods trade fair "Ambiente 2025" in Frankfurt am Main together with Aktion Plagiarismus. On 6 February 2026, at the fair, Aktion Plagiarismus e.V. for the 50th time awarded the anti-prize "Plagiarismus", which turns the spotlight on the producers and distributors of particularly audacious product counterfeits and thus increases the awareness for the importance of intellectual property. At the joint booth, the DPMA informed about the various options to protect innovations and illustrated the economic and social consequences of counterfeits. Such collaborations significantly contribute to strengthening prevention and the use of IP rights in industry and society. In addition, the DPMA as a central networking partner strategically brings together authorities and institutions that are involved in the enforcement of IP rights. At the network meeting "IP Awareness and Enforcement", which took place for the third time in November 2025 and was hosted by the DPMA in Munich, the representatives of investigative and law enforcement authorities, prosecutor's offices, state criminal police offices and market surveillance authorities discussed current challenges they are facing. At expert events, the DPMA also offered practical know-how about the legal prosecution of IP infringements, thereby strengthening cooperation and enhancing the confidence of the institutions involved in taking action.

These numerous collaborations illustrate the DPMA's key role within the network of law enforcement. As centre of expertise for IP rights, the office strategically applies its expert skills, supports the exchange between institutions and significantly contributes to efficiently combatting product and trade mark piracy as well as protecting innovation and competition in Germany.

INTERVIEW WITH STEFFI JANN, HEAD OF THE PATENT AND TRADE MARK CENTRE SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN

“We must think more strategically about protecting intellectual property”

The head of the patent and trade mark centre Schleswig-Holstein, Steffi Jann, draws attention to the attractive PIZ services for small and medium-sized enterprises as well as start-ups, praises the successful cooperation with the German Patent and Trade Mark Office and explains why there should be an even greater focus on IP protection in Germany.



Steffi Jann

A survey published by the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) reveals that Europe-wide, just about ten percent of SMEs make use of patents, utility models, trade marks or designs. However, IP protection is a key factor for the success of small and medium-sized enterprises.

As far as our experience goes, it is not due to a lack of innovativeness of SMEs, but rather owing to structural and practical barriers. The greatest obstacles are costs, complexity and a lack of internal know-how; in addition, there are uncertainties about the actual commercial benefit and doubts concerning the enforceability vis-à-vis larger competitors.

Many start-ups and SMEs don't know which IP right comes into question, when the best time for applying is, how the filing process works and how IP rights can be used strategically. They don't have a patent division entrusted with these issues which provides structured support for innovation processes and which secures

inventions worth protecting. Decision-makers often concentrate on the operative core business; for developing and pursuing an IP strategy, however, a long-term perspective is required. Yet there is support for enterprises. However, due to the high workload of the persons in charge, the information and advice services of patent information centres (PIZ), most of which are available free of charge, are not made sufficient use of.

You have many years of experience in advising on intellectual property. Has awareness of the importance of IP rights changed over the last years?

Yes, that's the impression I get. Our advisory work shows us that IP awareness has diminished in many companies. The world has become more complex — new technologies and shorter innovation cycles, new markets, new legal requirements —, in general and of course also in the field of IP. However, there is neither more time nor more money nor more staff available. IP is not a simple topic. Due to the complexity of the task and the related costs it is often neglected for the sake of other prioritised issues and duties. Demographic change also plays a role. Experienced staff are retiring, leaving behind large gaps, especially a lack of knowledge in the field of IP management. In addition, there is a shortage of young academics coming from universities that have of a deep understanding of intellectual property as an economic factor of success, because this topic is unfortunately neglected in their training. Owing to such developments, the great strategic importance of IP rights fades into the background.

How problematic is this?

We, the patent information centres, are following this development with great concern. Especially because we see a development in the opposite direction in international competition: countries such as China consider IP rights as a key strategic instrument. This increasing pressure of competition, which also utilises IP rights, can't be ignored by the numerous innovative SMEs in Germany. There is no getting around protecting one's own innovations with IP rights. Nevertheless, in many companies, leading developers have to work hard to convince their management to grant personnel and a budget for this purpose. In our working groups, there are more and more discussions about how to better explain the relevance of IP within the companies.

What else can we do?

We have to raise awareness of intellectual property and the benefits of IP rights among the people. I deliberately put it like this, as it should be obvious: after all, IP rights are rights that have to be respected by everybody — and their infringement can cause high costs.

In order for this to become a normality and for the economic relevance to be communicated adequately, a clear positioning is required: a national IP strategy that outlines the goal, sets priorities, defines specific measures and provides financial support for them. Without such a political sign, it is hard for everyone involved to place greater emphasis on the protection of innovations.

Which services does your PIZ provide?

PIZ Kiel belongs to a strong institution. As part of WTSH GmbH, we benefit from close collaboration with our colleagues, particularly from those working in the field of innovation consulting and the technology clusters. We are entrusted with the task to inform founders, start-ups and SMEs about the importance of IP and to help them to effectively protect IP rights. Specifically, this means that we carry out searches for our customers in patent, trade mark and design databases, provide statistical analyses concerning patents and provide support for developing a suitable IP strategy. Moreover, we help enterprises to systematically keep an eye on relevant technologies and competitors. In addition, we offer specialised events, training sessions and consultation days, both for companies and for the general public. In a nutshell, we do not only see us as a service provider, but also as a partner of enterpris-

es. It is our goal to empower them to successfully use the most important resource of our country: creative and innovative ideas.

How does the DPMA support your work?

For about 20 years now, we have been enjoying a successful co-operation showing positive results on many levels. The PIZ act as a regional point of contact in their respective German Länder: we provide information, raise awareness for IP rights and, at some locations, we act as receiving office. The DPMA, in turn, refers customers to the nearest PIZ via its Customer Care and Services and other public relations activities. This way, PIZ Kiel is able to support companies based in Schleswig-Holstein in a direct and uncomplicated way.

The professional exchange with the DPMA is particularly valuable: for example, the PIZ benefit from trainings by patent examiners — we are visited by experts for our seminars, and we receive support securing funds for SMEs, which the DPMA raises for us on a European level.

In the field of marketing, we are also strongly connected; the DPMA advertises central formats such as the yearly PIZnet Action Week — in 2025 with the motto “IP strategies for SMEs” — and it makes visible the PIZ services via its website and social media channels.

Last but not least, I would like to mention that the PIZ are an important user group which is represented in the DPMA Nutzerbeirat. The direct exchange and networking with other relevant IP actors in this committee is extremely enriching.

International cooperation

In a globally connected world, cooperation with other national and international organisations is crucial for the German Patent and Trade Mark Office. As the largest national patent office in Europe and the sixth largest patent office in the world, our intense exchange with other national and international offices and organisations significantly contributes to advancing the international IP systems. Aside from many other contacts and ongoing cooperation projects, the following high-level meetings took place last year.



Cooperation with Japan

In 2025, in well-established tradition, we continued the particularly close cooperation with Japan. The DPMA received several Japanese delegations and professional visitors to an in-depth exchange on IP. A delegation of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) visited us to learn more about the latest advancements in our office; in subsequent discussions, current topics were addressed in detail. In April, the focus was also on a professional dialogue when two representatives of the Japan Patent Office (JPO) visited the DPMA and spoke about artificial intelligence and machine translations. In return, the experts of the DPMA presented their current developments. The following discussion considered both challenges and opportunities of AI as well as its impact on patent offices.

Furthermore, during the course of the year, the DPMA welcomed several representatives of Japanese applicants as well as Japanese patent attorneys in Munich. They gained insight into the duties, organisation and current developments of the office, with the meetings being shaped by intensive exchanges and constructive questions. A delegation from the Japan Intellectual Property Association (JIPA) once again visited our office, too: in November, they were given a presentation on the way we work, the current application numbers and the latest developments. In addition, they gained insight into search and examination methods and into the training of patent examiners.

Patent examiner exchange with the JPO

For more than 20 years now, there has been an exchange of patent examiners with the JPO. The resulting face-to-face exchange is very beneficial to all parties involved and cannot be replaced by virtual meetings. Three Japanese patent examiners visited the DPMA in December. In a number of lectures, for example on in-

ternational cooperation, artificial intelligence and quality management, both offices gained experience and insight into how the other office works. Furthermore, the examiners exchanged views and information on parallel applications in the field of medical technology beyond the respective examination practice.



Patent examiner exchange with the JPO

Visit from a delegation of Romanian judges

In late April, a delegation of judges from Romania visited the DPMA under the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) scheme of the European Union, which aims to promote the exchange on expert knowledge in the public sector among EU member states.

During their visit, the judges were provided with an overview of the DPMA, patent infringements and enforcement, IP protection and prosecution in IP proceedings. After the presentations, the visitors discussed several topics in person with experts of the DPMA.

Visit from a delegation from the Ukrainian National Office for Intellectual Property and Innovations (UANIPIO)

On 7 May, DPMA Vice-President Dr Maria Skottke-Klein, received a delegation of eight representatives of the Ukrainian National Office for Intellectual Property and Innovations (UANIPIO) and the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine. The delegation was led by two Deputy Directors of UANIPIO, Ms Liubov Maidanyk and Mr Mykola Pototskyi.

The meeting took place as part of the international cooperation project “TIPSTER” (Trade, Intellectual Property Support and Technical Regulation). The objective of the project is to strengthen the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises in Ukraine and devise a national export strategy. It is funded by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and supported by the DPMA.

The visit focused especially on the rapprochement of Ukraine towards the European Union. During the ongoing accession negotiations, the harmonisation of Ukrainian law with EU law is becoming more and more important, in particular with respect to IP. Specialist departments of the DPMA provided detailed insight into the legal situation in Germany. Lively discussions ensued, new contacts were made and the DPMA and its visitors agreed to continue their close collaboration. The DPMA Vice-President emphasised how important the visit was, asserting that the DPMA would also remain available as a contact point after the visit.

Head of the Korean patent office visiting the DPMA

On 30 April 2025, DPMA President Eva Schewior and Vice-President Dr Maria Skottke-Klein met the Commissioner (head) of the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), Kim Wan Ki, for an expert exchange.

The talks centred on current topics such as the use of AI in patent procedures, the examination guidelines for AI-related inventions and the further enhancement of the cooperation. For example, the Korean office envisages an accelerated examination of AI-related applications.

The resumption of the patent examiner exchange after the COVID-19 pandemic was also discussed. Furthermore, it is planned to afford the opportunity to participate in an exchange not only to experts from the patent area, but also from other areas, such as information technology.

In a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the two offices agreed on the future activities they want to undertake jointly. By signing the memorandum, the two offices confirmed their intention to improve the services for users and intensify the regular exchange of information.

This was already the second meeting of the senior management in just a year, which emphasises the close and friendly partnership between the two offices.



Meeting with the KIPO President

DPMA President Schewior at the GITEX fair in Berlin

The “Gulf Information Technology Exhibition” (GITEX) Europe is the European part of the trade fair series from Dubai. Its organisers intend to make it Europe’s most important meeting of technology pioneers, start-ups, industry leaders and innovators, who will shape the future of digital transformation.

DPMA President Eva Schewior participated in the panel discussion “IP: The New Global Currency of Economic Growth?”. Other participants were Adam Williams (CEO of the Intellectual Property Office of the United Kingdom) and Gilles Requena (Chief Patent Research and Policy Officer at the European Patent Office).

The discussion revolved around strategies and initiatives to make IP rights more accessible. The speakers also stressed the importance of IP protection, in particular for key technologies. DPMA President Schewior commented on the legal situation concerning the examination of computer-implemented inventions in Germany.

In addition, it was discussed which benefits IP rights offer small and medium-sized enterprises and start-ups and how the respective offices support such enterprises.

Ms Schewior referred to the DPMA’s duty to provide the public with information about IP rights, emphasising that the protection of innovations was crucial for the competitiveness of technology-oriented businesses and thus an investment in the future. At an exhibition stand, colleagues informed visitors about the duties and services of the DPMA in the IP system.

WIPO Assemblies in Geneva

In early July, the DPMA's senior management participated in the WIPO Assemblies of the IP offices in Geneva. On the margins of the assemblies, DPMA President Eva Schewior had top-level talks with the heads of the patent offices of the United States of America, Canada, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, Japan, Israel and Ukraine. The talks focused on the challenges all patent offices worldwide face, including the digitisation of the offices, the modernisation of the IT systems and the recruitment of skilled personnel. It was agreed to intensify collaboration and the exchange of experience.

Furthermore, DPMA President Schewior met Nikola Gillhoff, the German Ambassador to the United Nations, and Daren Tang, Director General of WIPO.

The meeting addressed, among other topics, the DPMA's partnership with WIPO Green, WIPO's international platform for the exchange of green technologies. By joining WIPO Green, the DPMA contributes to the global efforts to support companies, organisations and individuals in identifying innovative green technologies. WIPO Green is an important instrument to tackle the challenges of the global climate change.



The German and WIPO delegations together with WIPO Director General Daren Tang (5th from left) and DPMA President Eva Schewior (3rd from left)

DPMA President Schewior visiting the EUIPO

The German Patent and Trade Mark Office and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) work closely together on many levels. By visiting the EUIPO, DPMA President Eva Schewior strengthened the relationships further. Sven Stürmann, President of the Boards of Appeal of the EUIPO, also took part in the meeting in November 2025 with João Negrão, Executive Director of the EUIPO.



DPMA President Eva Schewior and EUIPO Executive Director João Negrão

Ms Schewior and Mr Negrão mainly discussed the development of trade mark and design applications in Germany and Europe. In particular, there was a significant increase in trade mark applications in 2025. They also discussed ways to facilitate examination procedures through artificial intelligence. EUIPO experts showed the delegation from Germany a specifically equipped room for the testing and development of AI applications, since the DPMA participates in the corresponding cooperation project with the EUIPO.

The collaboration between the DPMA and the EUIPO is also close in other European working groups. The aim is to harmonise the legal framework and the examination practice in the EU single market (convergence). The heads of offices also talked about the support and funding for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) for the protection of their intellectual property. The DPMA President thanked the EUIPO for its excellent management of the SME Fund, from which grants for IP applications are provided, and advocated further support for SMEs.

For [more information on our international collaborations](#), please go to our website.

Inventor and innovation awards

Innovation awards put the focus of public interest on those people who day by day and mostly without any media attention carry out important research and development work, thus creating forward-looking solutions in technical fields. But the awards also impressively demonstrate the importance of protecting innovations. The DPMA has therefore been actively supporting multiple renowned awards for years.



DPMA President Eva Schewior and the winning team from Robert Bosch GmbH: Kai Weeber, Pierre Andrieu and Christoffer Uhr (from left to right)

“The winners are the outstanding teams that are given a major platform for their developments. The winner is Germany as a business location, which gains new impetus. And the winner is also our society, as all examples show that protected innovations can help tackle social challenges and improve people’s lives.”

This is what DPMA President Eva Schewior said at the Deutscher Zukunftspreis. But the recognition could just as well apply to the other innovation awards supported by the DPMA.

The President and other senior staff of the DPMA serve as members of juries or are part of boards of trustees. Patent examiners contribute their expertise to various evaluation processes.

Deutscher Zukunftspreis – the Federal President’s Award for Technology and Innovation

www.deutscher-zukunftspreis.de/en

The *Deutscher Zukunftspreis* award honours outstanding research and development projects and pioneering technologies. For the selection of the award winners, the scientific-technological degree of innovation and the potential for incorporating this achievement into sustainable jobs are crucial factors. The award comes with a prize money of 250,000 euros and is personally awarded by the Federal President.

The DPMA President is a member of the board of trustees, which determines the direction of the selection decisions. Moreover, the DPMA is entitled to propose promising innovations to the jury.

The 29th Deutscher Zukunftspreis was presented by Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier to the team of Robert Bosch GmbH (Stuttgart) consisting of Christoffer Uhr, Kai Weeber and Pierre Andrieu for developing a new fuel cell system for long-haul trucks.



Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier (fifth from the left) and the 2025 award winners and nominees

While batteries are a good solution for passenger cars, they are only a limited option for heavy goods vehicles. In view of the performance required here, they would have to be very big. As a consequence, they would become too heavy and their charging times would get too long. Contrary to this, fuel cells enable a long range, quick refuelling and a considerably higher payload.

Unlike battery-powered vehicles, which use electricity stored in batteries, a fuel cell generates electrical energy directly through the chemical reaction of hydrogen and oxygen to form water. The team has developed an entire suitable “Fuel Cell Power Module” and a complex regulation. The power module is not only highly efficient, but also functional and economic under extreme conditions. The system has already gone into series production and is used in thousands of trucks. However, for the solution to be truly environmentally friendly, it is crucial to use green hydrogen which is produced from renewable energies

The following teams were also nominated for the Deutscher Zukunftspreis award 2025: **Dr Anne Lamp, Sina Spingler and Niklas Rambow** (traceless materials GmbH, Hamburg) with their project “Biomass instead of microplastics – innovative biomaterials replace fossil plastics” as well as **Dr Mark Bischoff, Dirk Mühlhoff and Dr Gregor Stobrawa** (Carl Zeiss Meditec AG, Jena) with their project “Vision correction for millions of people – ultra-short light pulses permit minimally invasive laser eye surgery”. The innovative eye laser surgery was submitted as proposal for the contest by the DPMA.

Let us know about your innovation and send us your ideas and projects. Proposals for the Deutscher Zukunftspreis 2027 can be

submitted until the beginning of November 2026. For more information, please visit our [webpages](#).

Young Inventors Prize

www.epo.org

In 2025, the European Patent Office awarded the Young Inventors Prize at a separate event for the first time. The Young Inventors Prize and the European Inventor Award will now be awarded alternately each year.

The prize rewards people for inventions that have contributed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. It is awarded to persons up to 30 years old and serves to show how solutions of clever young people can change the world. Moreover, it honours remarkable young people who shape a sustainable future.

You can read more about the award winners of the respective categories on the webpages of the Young Inventors Prize.



The prize winners 2025

Bavarian Innovation Prize

www.innovationspreis-bayern.de

The Bavarian Innovation Prize is awarded every two years. The next award ceremony will take place in 2026. The DPMA is represented by Vice-President Bernd Maile as a member of the jury.

Thuringia Innovation Award

www.innovationspreis-thueringen.de

The Thuringia Innovation Award is one of Germany's most prestigious awards for innovative ideas and reflects the innovative strength of the region. For 28 years now, the award has recognised developments coming from Thuringia that have made a significant contribution to economic, technological and social progress.

The Thuringia Innovation Award is a contest of the Thuringian Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Rural Areas, the Foundation for Technology, Innovation and Research Thuringia, TÜV Thüringen e. V. and the Ernst Abbe Foundation.



Thuringia Innovation Award: The prize winners 2025

The DPMA was once again represented in the 13-member jury by Markus Ortlieb, Head of the Jena sub-office.

The prize winners of the individual categories can be found on the webpages of the Thuringia Innovation Award.

Jugend forscht contest

www.jugend-forscht.de

60 years of Jugend forscht — and relevant as ever

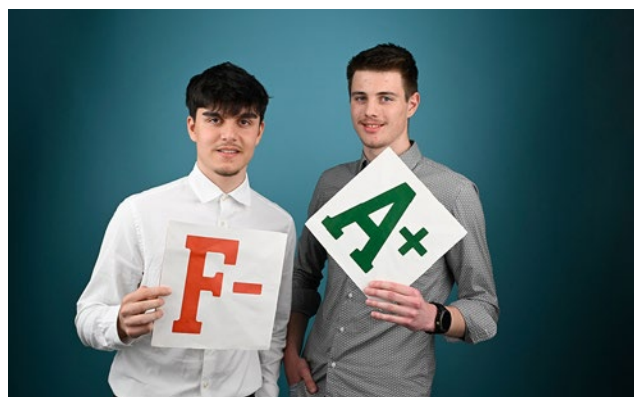
“We are looking for the scientists of tomorrow!” And we have been doing so ever since Henri Nannen, chief editor of the magazine stern, initiated the first round of Jugend forscht in 1965. For six decades, the competition has inspired young people to take an interest in science, technology and innovation and has recognised outstanding achievements.

This year, 10,350 young scientists registered for the Jugend forscht contest. They participated with 5,664 projects in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, of which 112 projects qualified for the federal contest.



David Rutkevich, national winner for the best interdisciplinary project

Many of these projects dealt with AI applications across all disciplines. Jugend forscht winner David Rutkevich was honoured for the “best interdisciplinary work”: his project involves the invention of a self-learning AI model that helps complete missing or incomplete image information. It can be used to detect tumours in MRI images more precisely.



Oskar Rost and Marius Strauß were awarded the Federal President's Prize for outstanding work.

The Federal President's prize for “outstanding work” went to Oskar Rost and Marius Strauß from Thuringia. The two students want to enable greater transparency and fairness in the assessment of school performance. For this purpose, they have developed an AI-based software that automates error detection, point deductions and grade suggestions in exams. The results underwent a reality test and indicated significant time saving in the evaluation process and a more transparent error analysis. This way, the participants showed that they also carry out intensive research regarding the use of AI in diverse areas, thus becoming the “scientists of tomorrow”.

We wish all prize winners continued success in the future!

EVENTS / OUTLOOK

WHAT WAS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO US

Press releases 2025



Minister Dr Hubig (3rd from left), State Secretary Schmierer (3rd from right) and BMJV Head of Dept. Dr Meyer-Seitz (right) with the DPMA management

- » **12 March 2025**
DPMA annual figures for 2024: considerable increase in patent applications from Germany
- » **24 March 2025**
DPMA Nutzerforum 2025: creating the framework conditions for a catch-up race in new technologies
- » **23 April 2025**
“Feel the beat of IP”: DPMA celebrates World Intellectual Property Day
- » **22 May 2025**
DPMA Annual Report 2024: Sharp rise in patent applications from Germany on renewable energies
- » **28 May 2025**
Concentrated expertise on industrial property protection
- » **8 July 2025**
Enjoy your vacation — say no to fakes!
- » **9 July 2025**
Boom in investments in research, software and intellectual property
- » **14 July 2025**
Artificial intelligence, examiner exchange and IT cooperation
- » **15 July 2025**
“Further strengthening the DPMA’s expertise”
- » **26 August 2025**
Intellectual property: Free advice for SMEs and start-ups nationwide



“Feel the beat of IP”: World Intellectual Property Day



DPMA President Eva Schewior and the winning team from Robert Bosch GmbH, Kai Weeber, Pierre Andrieu and Christoffer Uhr

» **1 September 2025**

Seven German cities and regions among the world's strongest innovation clusters

» **5 September 2025**

German Patent and Trade Mark Office further expands patent examination in Jena

» **16 September 2025**

Global Innovation Index 2025: Germany no longer among the top 10 countries

» **17 September 2025**

Deutscher Zukunftspreis 2025: Innovative eye surgery, attractive plastic alternative, climate-friendly truck drive system

» **25 September 2025**

Computer and video games: German Patent and Trade Mark Office grants permission to collective management organisation for games industry

» **15 October 2025**

Patent offices offer a 'showcase' for green innovations

» **30 October 2025**

Expansion bolts, tea bags, airbags: independent inventors are an important part of the innovation system

» **17 November 2025**

Protecting innovation is a 'key issue for our industrial location'

» **19 November 2025**

Deutscher Zukunftspreis 2025: DPMA President congratulates Robert Bosch GmbH team

» **11 December 2025**

Gift Responsibly: Say No to Fakes!

You can find out which topics, events and anniversaries have been on our agenda in 2025 on our [website](#).

A glance at 2026



View from the DPMA building in Munich

On the Road: Innovation Roadshow 2026/2027

Through a nationwide roadshow in 2026 and 2027, the DPMA will specifically raise awareness among small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and startups about the strategic benefits of intellectual property rights. A total of eight events are planned for 2026 and another eight for 2027, organized in close cooperation with the Patent and Information Centers and the Chambers of Industry and Commerce and the Association of Intellectual Property Professionals (VPP). The focus is on a practical exchange

“by SMEs, for SMEs”: Success stories, best practices, and openly shared challenges and “lessons learned” are intended to highlight the economic significance of intellectual property rights. The goal is to further strengthen the existing network of multipliers and to visibly support innovation in the regions. The roadshow deliberately draws on the combined expertise and reach of all its partners—because promoting sustainable innovation is most successful when done collaboratively. You can find the current schedule for the roadshow on our [website](#).

Online: New LinkedIn Channels: Careers and SMEs

DPMA Karriere

What you can expect:

- Insights into different professional fields
- Experience reports and career paths
- Information on entry opportunities
- Background information on working methods and projects
- Current job vacancies

Who should follow us:

- Students
- Professionals in technology, law, natural sciences or IT
- People interested in working at the DPMA



We are expanding our digital communication: With two new LinkedIn channels — [Careers](#) and [SMEs](#) — we are specifically targeting different audiences and creating tailored information resources.

DPMA KMU

What you can expect:

- Compact information on trademarks, patents and designs
- Practical tips for start-ups and SMEs
- Strategic advice on protecting innovations
- Short, easy-to-understand explanations
- Current funding and support offers

Who should follow us:

- Founders
- Small and medium-sized enterprises
- Entrepreneurs interested in innovation



The Careers channel strengthens our employer brand, while the SMEs channel provides concise and easy-to-understand content on intellectual property rights for founders and small businesses. Both channels are part of our strategic expansion of digital communication.

OVERVIEW

DPMA Trade fair calendar 2026

Date	Trade fair	Venue	Info
February			
6 to 10 February 2026	Ambiente	Frankfurt	Booth with Plagiarius
10 to 12 February 2026	E-world energy & water	Essen	Mobile IP experts
March			
15 to 17 March 2026	ProWein	Düsseldorf	Mobile IP experts
24 to 26 March 2026	LogiMAT	Stuttgart	Mobile IP experts
April			
11 to 12 April 2026	Velo Berlin	Berlin	Mobile IP experts
16 to 19 April 2026	FIBO	Cologne	Mobile IP experts
May			
4 to 7 May 2026	IFAT	Munich	Mobile IP experts
June			
9 to 11 June 2026	PCIM Expo	Nuremberg	Mobile IP experts
11 June 2026	Innovationstag Mittelstand BMW	Berlin	Booth
23 to 25 June 2026	Power2Drive ees Europe intersolar Europe EM-Power Europe	Munich	Mobile IP experts
30 June to 1 July 2026	GITEX Europe	Berlin	Booth together with European Patent Office (EPO)
July			
15 July 2026	Tag der gewerblichen Schutzrechte	Stuttgart	Booth
September			
8 to 12 September 2026	Automechanika	Frankfurt	Mobile IP experts
22 to 25 September 2026	Inno Trans	Berlin	Mobile IP experts
22 to 25 September 2026	WindEnergy	Hamburg	Mobile IP experts
October			
12 to 6 October 2026	Fakuma	Friedrichshafen	Mobile IP experts
31 October to 2 November 2026	IENA	Nuremberg	Booth
November			
10 to 13 November 2026	electronica	Munich	Mobile IP experts
10 November 2026	Potsdamer Gründertag	Potsdam	Booth

An up-to-date version of our trade fair and event calendar is available on our [website](#).

Statistics

To generate the statistical data, we use the dynamic statistics system DPMAstatistik. Due to this dynamic, the values can change over time, for example, when a legal status change has a retrospective effect. For this reason, the values depend on the respective date of retrieval.

[More detailed statistics are available on our website](#) and in the March edition of the gazette *Blatt für Patent-, Muster- und Zeichnwesen (Blatt für PMZ)*, published by Carl Heymanns Verlag.



The DPMA has received funding from the European Union's NextGenerationEU programme to improve the technical infrastructure and the data basis of the in-house statistical system.

PATENT APPLICATIONS AND PATENTS

- » 1.1 National patent applications at the DPMA and international patent applications effective in Germany
- » 1.2 Patent applications before entry into the examination procedure
- » 1.3 Patent applications in the examination procedure
- » 1.4 Patents in force (granted by the DPMA)
- » 1.5 Opposition proceedings
- » 1.6 Percentage of patent applications where the applicant is identical with the inventor, broken down by residence or principal place of business of the applicant
- » 1.7 Breakdown of domestic patent applicants by filing activity
- » 1.8 Patent applications by country of origin
- » 1.9 Patent applications (applications at DPMA and PCT applications in the national phase) by German Länder (residence or principal place of business of the applicant)
- » 1.10 Patent applications, shares and applications per 100,000 inhabitants by German Länder
- » 1.11 Leading fields of technology in the individual German Länder in 2025
- » 1.12 Patent applications filed by universities by German Länder
- » 1.13 Patent applications by technology fields with the largest number of applications in 2025
- » 1.14 Companies and institutions with the highest numbers of patent applications in 2025

1.1 National patent applications at the DPMA and international patent applications effective in Germany

Year	National applications ¹			PCT applications in the national phase			Patent Applications		
	Domestic ²	Foreign ²	Total	Domestic ²	Foreign ²	Total	Domestic ²	Foreign ²	Total
2021	38,987	12,692	51,679	843	6,057	6,900	39,830	18,749	58,579
2022	36,519	13,689	50,208	687	6,318	7,005	37,206	20,007	57,213
2023	37,771	13,448	51,219	737	6,706	7,443	38,508	20,154	58,662
2024	39,319	12,940	52,259	780	6,222	7,002	40,099	19,162	59,261
2025	41,636	14,018	55,654	713	5,683	6,396	42,349	19,701	62,050

¹ Applications for a German patent filed with the DPMA. / ² Residence or principal place of business of the applicant.

1.2 Patent applications before entry into the examination procedure

Year	Total applications received ¹	Procedures concluded before filing of examination request ²	Patent applications pending at the end of the year	
			Total	Applications for which formal examination has been concluded
2021	51,773	21,412	143,796	138,738
2022	50,295	18,407	140,121	134,442
2023	51,324	16,775	137,905	132,108
2024	52,331	16,665	137,086	131,007
2025	55,730	17,392	137,088	129,558

¹ New applications and cases referred back by the Federal Patent Court, allowed appeals, reinstatements.

² Withdrawals, non-payment of application or annual renewal fees, examination request not filed and refusals.

1.3 Patent applications in the examination procedure

Year	Examination requests received		Examination procedures concluded	Patent grants published
	Total	Examination requests received along with application		
2021	43,355	22,694	48,523	21,113
2022	43,474	22,685	45,534	23,591
2023	44,824	23,994	42,678	22,363
2024	44,351	23,673	45,263	23,944
2025	45,628	25,424	45,839	24,475

1.4 Patents in force (granted by the DPMA)

Year	Patents entered into force	Patents no longer in force	Patents in force at the end of the year
2021	21,145	18,742	134,734
2022	23,622	15,685	142,672
2023	22,394	16,702	148,364
2024	23,975	18,673	153,657
2025	24,505	19,299	158,848

1.5 Opposition proceedings

Year	Oppositions received	Opposition proceedings concluded				Opposition proceedings pending at the end of the year ²
		Total	Patent revoked	Patent maintained or patent maintained in amended form	Including other ¹	
2021	252	250	80	114	56	1,140
2022	230	310	93	160	57	1,060
2023	276	292	89	154	49	1,043
2024	237	284	69	173	42	996
2025	226	246	59	155	32	976

¹ Termination of the proceedings, inadmissibility of the objection.

² Including a substantial part of the proceedings pending before the Federal Patent Court.

1.6 Percentage of national patent applications where the applicant is identical with the inventor, broken down by residence or principal place of business of the applicant

Origin	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Domestic	6.9	5.9	5.1	4.5	6.6
Foreign	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.1
Total	5.6	4.7	4.1	3.6	5.2

1.7 Breakdown of domestic patent applicants by filing activity (%)

Percentage of applicants having filed	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
one application	66.7	65.3	63.4	63.7	64.5
2 to 10 applications	28.7	29.6	31.4	30.8	30.5
11 to 100 applications	4.0	4.5	4.5	4.9	4.3
more than 100 applications	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Percentage of applications by applicants having filed	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
one application	12.7	11.2	10.0	9.4	10.0
2 to 10 applications	18.3	17.6	17.0	15.5	15.7
11 to 100 applications	19.7	21.1	20.9	21.2	18.1
more than 100 applications	49.3	50.2	52.0	53.9	56.2
Total	100	100	100	100	100

1.8 Patent applications by country of origin (residence or principal place of business of the applicant, applications at the DPMA and PCT applications in the national phase)

Country	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Germany	39,830	37,206	38,508	40,099	42,349
Japan	6,131	6,339	6,404	6,592	6,493
United States	5,893	6,850	6,695	5,886	6,197
Republic of Korea	1,558	1,636	1,421	1,325	1,314
China	568	702	928	817	975
Switzerland	868	863	997	901	949
Austria	782	867	878	812	885
Taiwan	753	497	558	588	555
France	400	428	318	369	360
Sweden	320	360	319	323	301
Other	1,476	1,465	1,636	1,549	1,672
Total	58,579	57,213	58,662	59,261	62,050

1.9 Patent applications (applications at DPMA and PCT applications in the national phase) broken down by German *Länder* (residence or principal place of business of the applicant)

German <i>Länder</i>	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Baden-Württemberg	13,573	13,444	14,654	15,505	15,161
Bavaria	11,880	10,552	10,819	11,365	12,575
Berlin	526	484	477	472	462
Brandenburg	257	229	196	202	217
Bremen	102	104	109	136	120
Hamburg	463	377	401	445	684
Hesse	1,479	1,202	1,090	1,044	1,114
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	98	177	122	58	111
Lower Saxony	2,985	2,792	2,826	3,142	3,765
North Rhine-Westphalia	5,675	5,292	5,538	5,343	5,701
Rhineland-Palatinate	856	805	606	682	673
Saarland	178	137	98	113	109
Saxony	604	592	546	544	568
Saxony-Anhalt	154	122	141	98	173
Schleswig-Holstein	475	426	384	430	406
Thuringia	525	471	501	520	510
Germany	39,830	37,206	38,508	40,099	42,349

1.10 Patent applications, shares and applications per 100,000 inhabitants by German *Länder* (residence or principal place of business of the applicant)

German <i>Länder</i>	2024			2025			Change from 2024 to 2025 (%)
	Applications	Share in %	Applications per 100,000 inhabitants	Applications	Share in %	Applications per 100,000 inhabitants	
Baden-Württemberg	15,505	38.7	138	15,161	35.8	135	-2.2
Bavaria	11,365	28.3	86	12,575	29.7	95	+10.6
North Rhine-Westphalia	5,343	13.3	30	5,701	13.5	32	+6.7
Lower Saxony	3,142	7.8	39	3,765	8.9	47	+19.8
Hesse	1,044	2.6	17	1,114	2.6	18	+6.7
Hamburg	445	1.1	24	684	1.6	37	+53.7
Rhineland-Palatinate	682	1.7	17	673	1.6	16	-1.3
Saxony	544	1.4	13	568	1.3	14	+4.4
Thuringia	520	1.3	25	510	1.2	24	-1.9
Berlin	472	1.2	13	462	1.1	13	-2.1
Schleswig-Holstein	430	1.1	15	406	1.0	14	-5.6
Brandenburg	202	0.5	8	217	0.5	8	+7.4
Saxony-Anhalt	98	0.2	5	173	0.4	8	+76.5
Bremen	136	0.3	19	120	0.3	17	-11.8
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	58	0.1	4	111	0.3	7	+91.4
Saarland	113	0.3	11	109	0.3	11	-3.5
Germany	40,099	100	48	42,349	100	51	+5.6

1.11 Leading fields of technology¹ in the individual German Länder in 2025

German Länder	No.	Fields of technology	Patent applications	Change from 2024 to 2025 (%)
Baden-Württemberg	32	Transport	3,345	-4.2
	1	Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	2,147	-5.8
	10	Measurement	1,482	+0.7
Bavaria	32	Transport	3,212	+25.8
	1	Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	1,905	+5.1
	10	Measurement	931	+17.3
Berlin	13	Medical technology	49	+6.5
	1	Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	36	+38.5
	6	Computer technology	35	-27.1
	32	Transport	35	-7.9
Brandenburg	27	Engines, pumps, turbines	39	+30.0
	30	Thermal processes and apparatus	19	+375.0
	35	Civil engineering	15	+7.1
Bremen	10	Measurement	34	+13.3
	1	Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	17	-54.1
	32	Transport	14	+40.0
Hamburg	14	Organic fine chemistry	137	+149.1
	32	Transport	110	+25.0
	25	Handling	49	-15.5
Hesse	13	Medical technology	132	+18.9
	10	Measurement	98	+3.2
	1	Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	88	+8.6
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	6	Computer technology	14	-
	10	Measurement	13	+1,200.0
	1	Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	12	+300.0
Lower Saxony	32	Transport	1,059	+9.2
	1	Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	577	+84.3
	10	Measurement	280	+7.3
North Rhine-Westphalia	1	Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	717	+11.7
	35	Civil engineering	520	-8.0
	10	Measurement	435	+14.2
Rhineland-Palatinate	35	Civil engineering	92	+8.2
	32	Transport	89	+12.7
	31	Mechanical elements	43	-15.7
Saarland	6	Computer technology	16	+433.3
	23	Chemical engineering	14	+55.6
	31	Mechanical elements	10	-56.5
Saxony	1	Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	55	-23.6
	10	Measurement	53	+3.9
	6	Computer technology	39	+2.6
Saxony-Anhalt	8	Semiconductors	35	+118.8
	10	Measurement	19	+375.0
	6	Computer technology	12	+300.0
Schleswig-Holstein	13	Medical technology	45	+9.8
	10	Measurement	40	+48.1
	19	Basic materials chemistry	38	-22.4
Thuringia	9	Optics	100	-22.5
	13	Medical technology	81	-13.8
	10	Measurement	64	+14.3

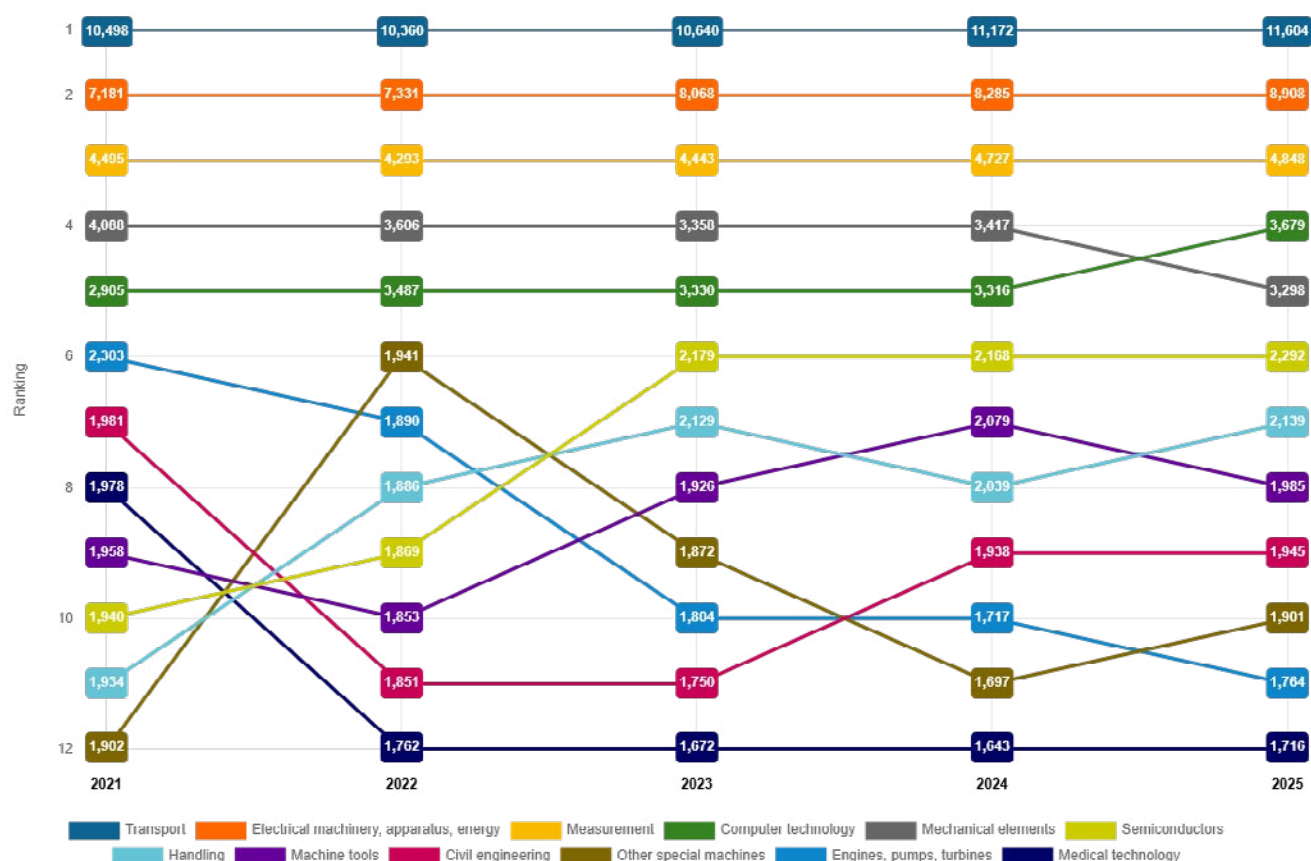
¹ According to the WIPO IPC-Technology Concordance Table: www.wipo.int/ipstats/en/index.html#resources.

1.12 Patent applications filed by universities by German *Länder* (applications at DPMA and PCT applications in the national phase)

German <i>Länder</i>	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Baden-Württemberg	72	49	42	52	49
Bavaria	44	58	43	51	49
Berlin	12	15	10	12	11
Brandenburg	15	12	5	10	13
Bremen	8	12	7	10	12
Hamburg	16	7	9	9	11
Hesse	44	22	33	24	21
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	20	11	8	7	13
Lower Saxony	29	29	26	25	29
North Rhine-Westphalia	131	114	116	134	135
Rhineland-Palatinate	15	13	14	14	13
Saarland	7	2	1	5	3
Saxony	109	105	96	75	76
Saxony-Anhalt	26	10	17	8	10
Schleswig-Holstein	17	15	21	9	13
Thuringia	24	28	26	27	26
Germany ¹	588	502	469	473	481

¹ Due to rounding differences the sum of the figures may differ from the figure for Germany..

1.13 Patent applications by technology fields¹ with the largest number of applications in 2025 (applications at DPMA and PCT applications in the national phase)



¹ According to the WIPO IPC-Technology Concordance Table: www.wipo.int/ipstats/en/index.html#resources.

1.14 Companies and institutions with the highest numbers of patent applications in 2025 (applications at DPMA and PCT applications in the national phase)

Rank	Applicant ¹	Principal place of business		Applications
1	Robert Bosch GmbH	DE		4,109
2	Mercedes-Benz Group AG	DE		2,726
3	Bayerische Motoren Werke AG	DE		2,553
4	AUDI AG	DE		1,912
5	VOLKSWAGEN AG	DE		1,627
6	Dr. Ing. h.c. F. Porsche AG	DE		1,437
7	Schaeffler Technologies AG & Co. KG	DE		1,338
8	GM Global Technology Operations LLC		US	1,193
9	Ford Global Technologies, LLC		US	859
10	ZF Friedrichshafen AG	DE		697
11	Toyota Jidosha K.K.		JP	660
12	Mitsubishi Electric Corporation		JP	548
13	Intel Corporation		US	496
14	AUMOVIO Germany GmbH	DE		459
15	NVIDIA Corporation		US	412
16	Carl Zeiss SMT GmbH	DE		397
17	Infineon Technologies AG	DE		396
18	YAZAKI Corporation		JP	331
19	Miele & Cie. KG	DE		330
20	Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V.	DE		329
21	MAHLE International GmbH	DE		323
22	FANUC Corporation		JP	307
23	KRONES AG	DE		290
24	Hyundai Motor Company		KR	268
25	Kia Corporation		KR	267
26	Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der angewandten Forschung e.V.	DE		264
27	ams-OSRAM International GmbH	DE		234
27	DENSO Corporation		JP	234
29	LG Display Co. Ltd.		KR	233
30	Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd.		TW	232
31	Andreas Stihl AG & Co. KG	DE		230
32	Henkel AG & Co. KGaA	DE		229
33	BSH Hausgeräte GmbH	DE		211
33	Valeo Schalter und Sensoren GmbH	DE		211
35	SEW-EURODRIVE GmbH & Co KG	DE		204
36	Siemens Healthineers AG	DE		201
37	Deere & Company		US	199
38	Stellantis Auto SAS		FR	198
39	Hewlett Packard Enterprise Development LP		US	197
40	Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation		US	190
41	HELLA GmbH & Co. KGaA	DE		186
42	Siemens Energy Global GmbH & Co. KG	DE		179
43	CARIAD SE	DE		175
44	Continental Reifen Deutschland GmbH	DE		173
45	Illinois Tool Works Inc.		US	170
46	Kiekert Aktiengesellschaft	DE		167
47	Siemens Mobility GmbH	DE		166
48	Apple Inc.		US	160
49	Voith Patent GmbH	DE		154
50	Elmos Semiconductor SE	DE		151
50	Infineon Technologies Austria AG		AT	151

¹ Proportional counting in the case of several applicants; without taking into account any business intra-group affiliations.

UTILITY MODELS AND TOPOGRAPHIES

- » 2.1 Utility models
- » 2.2 Topographies under the Semiconductor Protection Act (*Halbleiterschutzgesetz*)
- » 2.3 Utility model applications by German Länder
- » 2.4 Utility model applications, percentages and applications per 100,000 inhabitants by German Länder

2.1 Utility models (applications at DPMA and PCT applications in the national phase)

Year	Filings				Procedures concluded		
	New applications	Domestic applications	Other ¹	Total	By registration	Without registration	Total
2021	10,575	7,028	15	10,590	9,972	1,363	11,335
2022	9,470	5,524	14	9,484	8,765	1,082	9,847
2023	9,703	5,516	9	9,712	8,325	994	9,319
2024	9,576	5,243	22	9,598	9,064	859	9,923
2025	11,427	6,264	19	11,446	9,750	1,088	10,838

Year	Pending registration procedures at the end of the year	Utility models in force at the end of the year	Renewals	Lapsed utility models
2021	3,163	72,738	18,178	12,129
2022	2,792	70,254	17,632	11,272
2023	3,183	67,020	16,833	11,593
2024	2,851	64,010	16,146	12,101
2025	3,447	62,944	14,984	10,830

¹ Cases referred back by the Federal Patent Court, allowed appeals, reinstatements.

2.2 Topographies under the Semiconductor Protection Act (*Halbleiterschutzgesetz*)

Year	New applications received	Procedures concluded			Pending applications at the end of the year	Lapsed due to expiry	Registrations in force at the end of the year
		By registration	Without registration	Total			
2021	3	1	2	3	0	1	20
2022	2	1	0	1	1	2	19
2023	1	1	0	1	1	8	12
2024	3	3	1	4	0	2	13
2025	1	0	0	0	1	0	13

2.3 Utility model applications (applications at DPMA and PCT applications in the national phase) by German Länder (residence or principal place of business of the applicant)

German Länder	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Baden-Württemberg	1,292	1,092	1,002	935	1,158
Bavaria	1,535	1,204	1,254	1,229	1,280
Berlin	254	189	200	139	226
Brandenburg	97	62	69	71	97
Bremen	32	28	24	18	20
Hamburg	128	97	90	94	122
Hesse	493	330	377	304	491
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	55	37	61	33	41
Lower Saxony	541	419	344	351	434
North Rhine-Westphalia	1,699	1,399	1,472	1,419	1,616
Rhineland-Palatinate	283	208	198	218	276
Saarland	49	26	29	45	44
Saxony	198	150	156	152	185
Saxony-Anhalt	69	60	59	37	55
Schleswig-Holstein	175	137	107	109	146
Thuringia	128	86	74	89	73
Germany	7,028	5,524	5,516	5,243	6,264

2.4 Utility model applications, shares and applications per 100,000 inhabitants by German Länder (residence or principal place of business of the applicant)

German Länder	2024			2025			Change from 2024 to 2025 (%)
	Applications	Share in %	Applications per 100,000 inhabitants	Applications	Share in %	Applications per 100,000 inhabitants	
North Rhine-Westphalia	1,419	27.1	8	1,616	25.8	9	+13.9
Bavaria	1,229	23.4	9	1,280	20.4	10	+4.1
Baden-Württemberg	935	17.8	8	1,158	18.5	10	+23.9
Hesse	304	5.8	5	491	7.8	8	+61.5
Lower Saxony	351	6.7	4	434	6.9	5	+23.6
Rhineland-Palatinate	218	4.2	5	276	4.4	7	+26.6
Berlin	139	2.7	4	226	3.6	6	+62.6
Saxony	152	2.9	4	185	3.0	5	+21.7
Schleswig-Holstein	109	2.1	4	146	2.3	5	+33.9
Hamburg	94	1.8	5	122	1.9	7	+29.8
Brandenburg	71	1.4	3	97	1.5	4	+36.6
Thuringia	89	1.7	4	73	1.2	3	-18.0
Saxony-Anhalt	37	0.7	2	55	0.9	3	+48.6
Saarland	45	0.9	4	44	0.7	4	-2.2
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	33	0.6	2	41	0.7	3	+24.2
Bremen	18	0.3	3	20	0.3	3	+11.1
Germany	5,243	100	6	6,264	100	7	+19.5

NATIONAL TRADE MARKS

- » 3.1 Applications and registrations
- » 3.2 Opposition proceedings
- » 3.3 Cancellations, renewals, trade marks in force
- » 3.4 Procedures for the international registration of marks
- » 3.5 National trade mark applications by German Länder
- » 3.6 Trade mark applications, shares and number of applications per 100,000 inhabitants by German Länder
- » 3.7 Classes of national trade marks applied for
- » 3.8 Top companies and institutions in terms of trade mark registrations in 2025

3.1 Applications and registrations

Year	Filings					Registration pursuant to section 41 Trade Mark Act (<i>Markengesetz</i>)
	Total	New applications	Domestic applications	Proportion of services (%) ¹	After being concluded by the Federal Patent Court	Total
2021	87,649	81,817		44.0	282	87,931
2022	73,312	68,191		44.3	286	73,598
2023	75,261	69,577		42.7	252	75,513
2024	77,224	70,264		42.4	253	77,477
2025	93,291	78,722		42.2	172	93,463

¹ Proportion of claimed service classes in all claimed classes in national trade mark applications, as a trade mark application may be assigned to several classes.

3.2 Opposition proceedings

Year	Oppositions received			Opposition proceedings concluded		
	Trade marks challenged by oppositions	Number of oppositions	Number of opposing signs	Without affecting the trade mark	Cancellation in full or in part	Procedure obsolete ¹
2021	3,305	3,565	5,700	1,784	428	680
2022	2,764	2,983	4,955	1,750	530	638
2023	2,161	2,294	3,833	1,738	590	548
2024	2,205	2,377	3,824	1,504	525	534
2025	2,353	2,511	4,284	1,319	475	517

¹ (Partial) cancellations in particular due to the surrender of the proprietor.

3.3 Cancellations, renewals, trade marks in force

Year	Cancellations as well as other disposals	Renewals	Trade marks in force at the end of the year
2021	45,818	35,945	868,565
2022	41,521	34,369	880,675
2023	40,536	34,296	888,816
2024	41,033	35,891	897,771
2025	43,957	37,418	909,659

3.4 Procedures for the international registration of marks

Year	Applications for international registration of trade marks originating from Germany			
	Applications received	Procedures concluded		Cases pending at the end of the year
		Applications transmitted to WIPO ¹	Applications withdrawn or refused	
2021	4,958	4,779	125	351
2022	4,385	4,386	119	231
2023	3,612	3,528	104	212
2024	3,359	3,320	67	184
2025	3,119	3,018	96	189

Year	Extension of protection of international registrations of marks originating from Madrid Union countries to Germany						
	Requests received ²	Full grant of protection	Procedures concluded		Cases pending at the end of the year	Requests received	
			Grant of protection in part	In particular: refusal of protection, renunciation, and cancellation in the International Register		Oppositions	Appeals
2021	4,686	2,969	371	1,226	3,579	171	26
2022	4,118	3,558	286	715	3,138	145	34
2023	3,433	3,272	262	729	2,310	115	23
2024	3,152	2,542	203	517	2,200	109	16
2025	3,037	2,648	146	508	1,936	109	9

¹ Not including requests for the extension of protection under Art. 3ter(2) Madrid Agreement; 51 requests for the extension of protection were received in 2025, and 48 requests were transmitted to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

² Not including other requests and not including renewals.

3.5 National trade mark applications by German *Länder* (residence or principal place of business of the applicant)

German <i>Länder</i>	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Baden-Württemberg	9,992	8,361	8,342	8,057	9,249
Bavaria	14,846	12,519	11,190	11,423	12,316
Berlin	6,009	5,193	4,785	4,762	5,300
Brandenburg	1,388	1,166	1,167	1,127	1,470
Bremen	749	533	486	567	612
Hamburg	4,188	3,258	3,186	3,114	3,437
Hesse	6,445	5,272	5,270	5,123	5,756
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	852	614	574	555	663
Lower Saxony	6,086	4,692	5,069	5,054	5,391
North Rhine-Westphalia	19,858	17,709	20,360	21,502	24,499
Rhineland-Palatinate	3,805	2,801	3,042	2,858	3,154
Saarland	639	499	541	569	616
Saxony	2,276	1,840	1,931	1,839	2,050
Saxony-Anhalt	818	707	705	815	874
Schleswig-Holstein	2,789	2,148	2,136	2,162	2,445
Thuringia	1,077	879	793	737	890
Germany	81,817	68,191	69,577	70,264	78,722

3.6 Trade mark applications, shares and number of applications per 100,000 inhabitants by German *Länder* (residence or principal place of business of the proprietor)

German <i>Länder</i>	2024			2025			Change from 2024 to 2025 (%)
	Applications	Share in %	Applications per 100,000 inhabitants	Applications	Share in %	Applications per 100,000 inhabitants	
North Rhine-Westphalia	21,502	30.6	119	24,499	31.1	136	+13.9
Bavaria	11,423	16.3	86	12,316	15.6	93	+7.8
Baden-Württemberg	8,057	11.5	72	9,249	11.7	82	+14.8
Hesse	5,123	7.3	82	5,756	7.3	92	+12.4
Lower Saxony	5,054	7.2	63	5,391	6.8	67	+6.7
Berlin	4,762	6.8	129	5,300	6.7	144	+11.3
Hamburg	3,114	4.4	167	3,437	4.4	185	+10.4
Rhineland-Palatinate	2,858	4.1	69	3,154	4.0	76	+10.4
Schleswig-Holstein	2,162	3.1	73	2,445	3.1	83	+13.1
Saxony	1,839	2.6	45	2,050	2.6	51	+11.5
Brandenburg	1,127	1.6	44	1,470	1.9	57	+30.4
Thuringia	737	1.0	35	890	1.1	42	+20.8
Saxony-Anhalt	815	1.2	38	874	1.1	41	+7.2
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	555	0.8	35	663	0.8	42	+19.5
Saarland	569	0.8	56	616	0.8	61	+8.3
Bremen	567	0.8	80	612	0.8	87	+7.9
Germany	70,264	100	84	78,722	100	94	+12.0

3.7 Classes¹ of national trade marks applied for

Rank	Class	Class essentially includes ²	2024	2025	Change (%)
1	35	Advertising; business management, organisation and administration; office functions	23,951	30,757	+28.4
2	41	Education; providing of training; entertainment; sporting and cultural activities	19,227	24,679	+28.4
3	9	Electrical apparatus and instruments; computer hardware; software; optical apparatus and instruments	14,994	20,823	+38.9
4	42	Scientific and technological services	12,191	14,967	+22.8
5	25	Clothing, footwear and headgear	12,312	14,926	+21.2
6	16	Office requisites; stationery	10,643	13,141	+23.5
7	21	Household and kitchen utensils and containers; articles for cleaning purposes; tableware, dishes; glassware	8,288	10,796	+30.3
8	28	Games, sports articles	6,844	8,644	+26.3
9	44	Medical services; hygienic and beauty care; agriculture, horticulture and forestry services	6,763	8,219	+21.5
10	30	Foodstuffs of plant origin; pastries, pasta and confectionery; seasonings, condiments; coffee, tea and cocoa; sugar	6,066	6,955	+14.7
11	36	Insurance and financial services; real estate affairs	6,006	6,667	+11.0
12	43	Services for providing food and drink; temporary accommodation	5,863	6,549	+11.7
13	3	Cleaning preparations; cosmetics; perfumery	5,269	6,226	+18.2
14	5	Pharmaceuticals; materials for dressings; disinfectants; dietary supplements	5,265	6,220	+18.1
15	20	Furniture and home decorations	4,953	6,114	+23.4
16	18	Leather products; luggage and carrying bags	5,161	6,103	+18.3
17	37	Building, construction and repair services; installation services	5,312	5,831	+9.8
18	11	Heating; ventilation; apparatus and installations for sanitary purposes	4,152	5,694	+37.1
19	32	Non-alcoholic beverages; beers	4,235	4,943	+16.7
20	38	Telecommunications services	4,667	4,781	+2.4
21	45	Legal services; security services for the physical protection of individuals	3,985	4,759	+19.4
22	7	Machines, motors and engines	3,328	4,234	+27.2
23	39	Transport and travel arrangement; packaging and storage of goods	3,952	4,040	+2.2
24	24	Woven material and blankets; household linen	3,864	3,955	+2.4
25	29	Foodstuffs of animal origin; milk products; processed fruits and vegetables	3,308	3,785	+14.4
26	33	Alcoholic beverages	3,417	3,611	+5.7
27	10	Medical apparatus and instruments; orthopaedic articles	2,616	3,360	+28.4
28	12	Vehicles	2,848	3,324	+16.7
29	40	Treatment of materials; printing services	3,323	3,231	-2.8
30	14	Jewellery, clocks and watches	3,020	3,210	+6.3
31	6	Common metals and goods made thereof for building and construction; small items of metal hardware	2,471	2,930	+18.6
32	31	Agricultural, horticultural and forestry products; foodstuffs for animals	2,446	2,661	+8.8
33	8	Hand tools; cutlery	1,918	2,426	+26.5
34	19	Non-metallic building and construction materials	1,700	1,841	+8.3
35	1	Chemicals; fertilizers; unprocessed plastics and artificial resins	1,835	1,714	-6.6
36	26	Haberdashery; decorative articles for the hair	1,391	1,659	+19.3
37	4	Industrial oils and lubricants; fuels	1,374	1,443	+5.0
38	27	Floor coverings and mats; wall coverings and ceiling lining	1,128	1,229	+9.0
39	17	Insulating materials; semi-processed goods; flexible pipes, tubes and hoses, not of metal	894	1,139	+27.4
40	22	Ropes; tents, tarpaulins and sails	899	1,107	+23.1
41	2	Paints; varnishes; lacquers; printing inks	734	859	+17.0
42	34	Tobacco, smokers' articles	967	719	-25.6
43	15	Musical instruments	485	545	+12.4
44	13	Firearms	283	368	+30.0
45	23	Yarns and threads	208	239	+14.9
Not classified			40	48	
Total			224,596	271,471	+20.9

¹ A trade mark application can be attributed to several classes. / ² Class headings in accordance with the current version of the [Nice Classification](#).

3.8 Top companies and institutions in terms of trade mark registrations in 2025 (registrations of trade marks pursuant to section 41 of the Trade Mark Act)

Rank	Proprietor ¹	Principal place of business		Registrations
1	Sunday Natural Products GmbH	DE		47
2	Adrock Media FZCO		AE	45
3	Lippische Consulting und Beteiligungen GmbH	DE		43
4	VOLKSWAGEN AG	DE		36
5	Remexian Pharma GmbH	DE		34
6	August Storck KG	DE		33
7	BASF SE	DE		31
8	BellMeda Gesellschaft für Präventivmedizin mbH	DE		29
9	Boehringer Ingelheim International GmbH	DE		27
9	Enzyrna Pharma GmbH & Co. KG	DE		27
9	Henkel AG & Co. KGaA	DE		27
9	Rotkäppchen - Mumm Sektkellereien GmbH	DE		27

¹ Proportional counting in the case of several proprietors; without taking into account any business intra-group affiliations.

DESIGNS

- » 4.1 Applications and procedures concluded
- » 4.2 Registered designs by German *Länder*
- » 4.3 Pending designs (applied for) and registered designs in force; invalidity proceedings
- » 4.4 Registered designs, shares and designs per 100,000 inhabitants by German *Länder*
- » 4.5 Top companies and institutions in terms of registered designs at the DPMA in 2025

4.1 Applications and procedures concluded

Year	Filings				Procedures concluded			
	Applications with multiple designs	Applications with one design	Total	Designs in domestic applications	By registration	Domestic	Without registration	Total
2021	34,988	2,261	37,249	33,985	31,089	28,329	3,390	34,479
2022	32,666	1,180	33,846	31,806	36,258	34,132	3,602	39,860
2023	28,110	1,149	29,259	27,564	27,018	25,411	2,733	29,751
2024	28,908	1,225	30,133	28,093	28,035	25,978	2,650	30,685
2025	28,286	1,401	29,687	28,082	25,377	24,133	1,784	27,161

4.2 Registered designs by German *Länder* (residence or principal place of business of the proprietor)

German <i>Länder</i>	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Baden-Württemberg	4,869	5,868	4,762	4,610	3,964
Bavaria	4,853	5,227	4,246	4,681	3,379
Berlin	1,875	2,362	1,579	1,544	1,442
Brandenburg	150	277	200	284	477
Bremen	135	185	257	110	25
Hamburg	719	681	697	758	629
Hesse	1,351	1,511	1,091	1,306	1,327
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	134	88	294	128	56
Lower Saxony	1,729	2,670	1,582	1,723	1,833
North Rhine-Westphalia	9,178	10,581	7,785	7,352	6,642
Rhineland-Palatinate	930	2,089	1,012	1,456	1,319
Saarland	115	110	123	124	140
Saxony	953	903	657	585	677
Saxony-Anhalt	220	244	164	152	190
Schleswig-Holstein	925	788	712	887	1,744
Thuringia	193	548	250	278	289
Germany	28,329	34,132	25,411	25,978	24,133

4.3 Pending designs (applied for) and registered designs in force; invalidity proceedings

Year	Pending designs (applied for) at the end of the year	Extensions of registered designs ¹	Designs maintained / renewed ¹	Cancellations	Registered and in force at the end of the year	Invalidity proceedings Applications filed	Proceedings concluded
2021	15,122	3,168	16,237	51,199	270,487	19	28
2022	9,105	2,414	15,324	46,340	260,405	36	26
2023	8,596	2,305	13,362	38,520	248,903	15	21
2024	8,038	2,162	13,515	38,730	238,208	22	34
2025	10,562	1,224	12,855	36,895	226,690	26	22

¹ Data correction compared to the previous year's statistics.

4.4 Registered designs, percentages and designs per 100,000 inhabitants by German *Länder* (residence or principal place of business of the proprietor)

German <i>Länder</i>	2024			2025			Change from 2024 to 2025 (%)
	Registered designs	Share	Registered designs per 100,000 inhabitants	Registered designs	Share	Registered designs per 100,000 inhabitants	
North Rhine-Westphalia	7,352	28.3	41	6,642	27.5	37	-9.7
Baden-Württemberg	4,610	17.7	41	3,964	16.4	35	-14.0
Bavaria	4,681	18.0	35	3,379	14.0	26	-27.8
Lower Saxony	1,723	6.6	22	1,833	7.6	23	+6.4
Schleswig-Holstein	887	3.4	30	1,744	7.2	59	+96.6
Berlin	1,544	5.9	42	1,442	6.0	39	-6.6
Hesse	1,306	5.0	21	1,327	5.5	21	+1.6
Rhineland-Palatinate	1,456	5.6	35	1,319	5.5	32	-9.4
Saxony	585	2.3	14	677	2.8	17	+15.7
Hamburg	758	2.9	41	629	2.6	34	-17.0
Brandenburg	284	1.1	11	477	2.0	19	+68.0
Thuringia	278	1.1	13	289	1.2	14	+4.0
Saxony-Anhalt	152	0.6	7	190	0.8	9	+25.0
Saarland	124	0.5	12	140	0.6	14	+12.9
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	128	0.5	8	56	0.2	4	-56.3
Bremen	110	0.4	16	25	0.1	4	-77.3
Germany	25,978	100	31	24,133	100	29	-7.1

4.5 Top companies and institutions in terms of registered designs at the DPMA in 2025 (excluding partnerships organised under the German Civil Code)

Rank	Proprietor ¹	Principal place of business	Registered designs
1	Betty Barclay Group GmbH & Co. KG	DE	906
2	The House of Art GmbH	DE	537
3	monari GmbH	DE	492
4	SWING Collections GmbH	DE	393
5	SHOE CONZEPT Handels GmbH	DE	390
6	Mercedes-Benz Group AG	DE	378
7	Metzler GmbH	DE	351
8	MB Brand Collection UG (haftungsbeschränkt)	DE	295
9	Innostyle-Möbelvertriebs GmbH & Co. KG	DE	264
10	Goebel Porzellan GmbH	DE	214
11	Bluespoon GmbH	DE	209
12	Schuh-Import und Export GERLI GmbH	DE	205
13	VDV Benefit GmbH	DE	200
14	Valhalla Invest GmbH & Co. KG	DE	190
15	"GIFT COMPANY" Geschenke Vertriebs GmbH	DE	187
15	Wolf Möbel GmbH & Co. KG	DE	187
17	Bela Living GmbH	DE	178
18	Duo Collection Import Vertriebsgesellschaft mbH	DE	168
19	Wohnmanufactur Grünberger s.r.o.	CZ	163
20	Wilhelm Johann Meier GmbH	DE	158

¹ Proportional counting in the case of several proprietors; without taking into account any business intra-group affiliations.

OTHER TOPICS

- » 5. Register of anonymous and pseudonymous works
- » 6. Patent attorneys and representatives

5. Register of anonymous and pseudonymous works

Year	Works in respect of which the author's true name was filed for registration	Applicants ¹	Procedures concluded		Pending applications at the end of the year
			By registration	Without registration	
2021	2	2	6	1	0
2022	6	5	4	1	1
2023	0	0	1	0	0
2024	15	3	14	1	0
2025	11	2	10	1	0

¹ Some applicants may have submitted several applications or applications for several works.

6. Patent attorneys and representatives

Year	Patent attorneys ¹			European and foreign patent attorneys as members of the German Chamber of Patent Attorneys (section 20 Act on the Activities of European Patent Attorneys in Germany, section 157 Patent Attorney Code) ¹	Patent attorney companies ^{1,2}
	Entered in register	Cancellations	Registered at the end of the year		
2021	158	81	4,099	40	35
2022	199	93	4,205	44	184
2023	161	120	4,246	49	328
2024	143	115	4,274	47	354
2025	159	84	4,349	51	368

Year	Qualifying examination for patent attorneys		General powers of attorney		
	Number of examinees	Successful candidates	Entered in the register	Cancelled	Registered at the end of the year
2021	174	166	707	369	34,687
2022	168	161	545	558	34,674
2023	147	138	426	389	34,711
2024	138	129	490	833	34,368
2025	141	126	505	2,017	32,856

¹ Source: German Chamber of Patent Attorneys.

² As a rule, all professional practice companies (Berufsausübungsgesellschaften) have been required to obtain admission by the German Chamber of Patent Attorneys (section 52f (1) Patent Attorney Code) since 1 August 2022.

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