

IP Statistics 2026

Seiwa Patent & Law

(Tokyo, JAPAN)

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Abstract: This article summarizes recent statistical data relating to matters of intellectual property, such as patents, utility models, designs and trademarks, available from the Japan Patent Office (JPO), the Supreme Court of Japan (SCJ), the Intellectual Property High Court (IPHC) and WIPO, etc. **This edition includes updates based on the IPHC statistical data updated in June 2026, and the JPO Annual Report 2026 Edition published in July 2026, etc.**

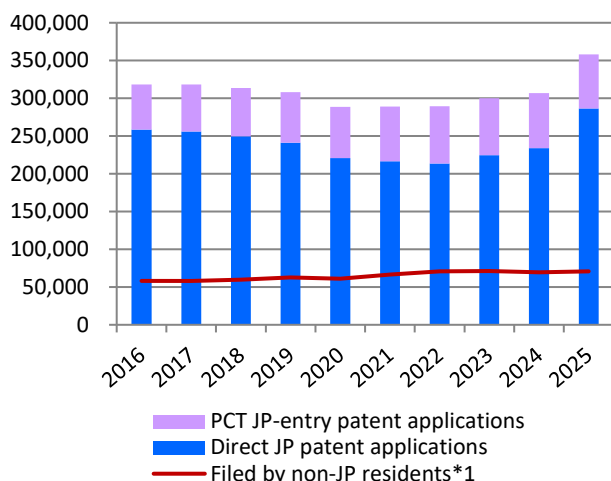
- In 2025, patent applications filed with the JPO totaled 358,317 (up 16.8% year-on-year), including 286,306 direct JP patent applications (up 22.4%) (p.2, Graph P1-1).
- Average examination pendency and patent grant rates at examination and pre-appeal reexamination at the JPO remained broadly unchanged from the previous year (p.3, Graphs P2-1, P2-2, P3-1 and P3-2).
- The revocation rate in patent opposition proceedings (three-year moving average) rose from 9.4% in 2024 to 11.2% in 2025, while the invalidation rate in patent invalidation trials (also a three-year moving average) remained broadly unchanged at 13.8% (p.4, Graph P4-3).
- Design applications filed with the JPO totaled 31,853 in 2025, down 0.7% year-on-year. International design applications designating Japan increased by 16.7% to 5,274 (p.10, Graph D1-1).
- Trademark applications filed with the JPO totaled 168,114 in 2025, up 5.9% year-on-year, marking the first increase in four years (p.12, Graph T1-1).

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Statistics: Patents

Patent applications and registrations at the JPO

Graph P1-1: Patent applications at the JPO



Graph P1-2: Patent registrations at the JPO

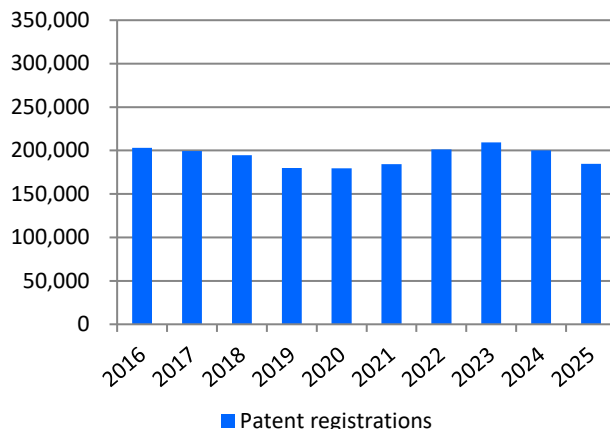
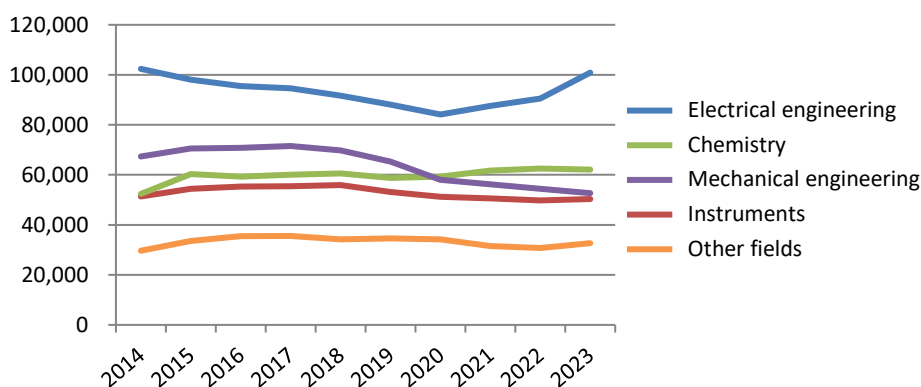


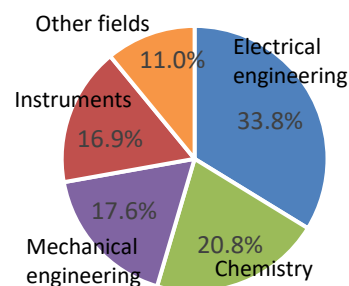
Table P1

Calendar Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	y/y
JP patent applications in total	289,200	289,530	300,133	306,855	358,317	16.8%
PCT JP-entry patent applications	72,782	75,892	75,687	72,888	72,011	-1.2%
Direct JP patent applications	216,418	213,638	224,446	233,967	286,306	22.4%
Patent registrations	184,372	201,420	209,368	200,284	184,807	-7.7%

Graph P1-3: Patent applications at the JPO by sectors of technology*2



Graph P1-4: Proportions of patent applications at the JPO by sectors of technology in 2023



*1 Sum of PCT JP-entry and direct-JP patent applications filed by foreign applicants.

*2 The classification is based on the technology sectors according to the International Patent Classification (IPC and Technology Concordance Table) established by WIPO.

Electrical engineering: electrical machinery, electrical apparatus, electrical energy, audio-visual technology, telecommunications, digital communications, basic electronic elements, computer technology, IT methods for management, and semiconductors.

Chemistry: organic chemistry, agrochemicals, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, macromolecular chemistry, polymers, food chemistry, basic materials chemistry, inorganic materials, metallurgy, surface processing, microstructure, nanotechnology, chemical engineering, and environmental chemistry.

Mechanical engineering: handling machinery, machining tools, engines, pumps, turbines, textiles, paper manufacturing, other special machinery, heat treatment mechanisms, machine components, and transportation.

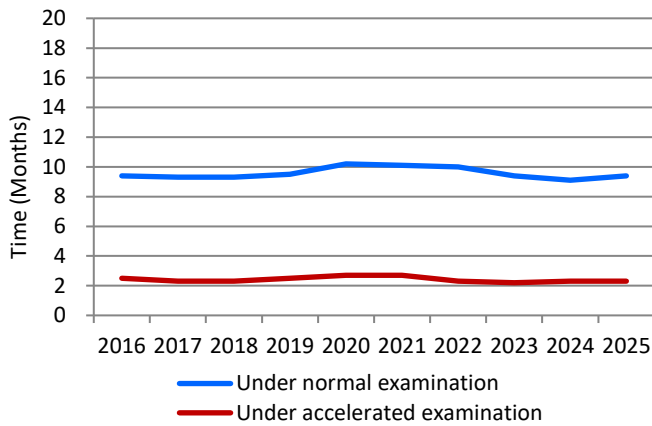
Instruments: optics, measurement, analysis of biological materials, control devices, and medical devices.

Other fields: furniture, gaming, other consumer goods, and civil engineering.

Average time of pendency

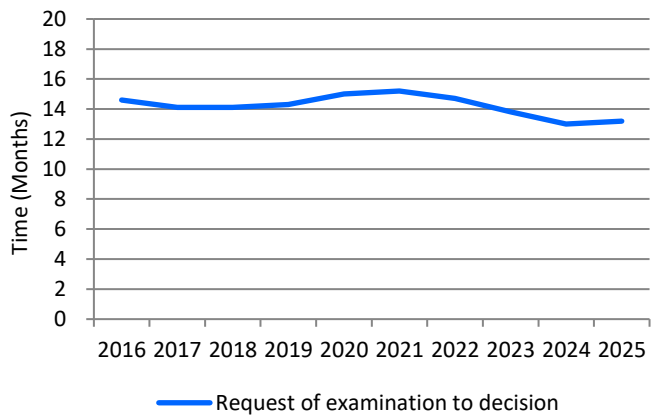
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Graph P2-1: Pendency from request of examination to 1st OA

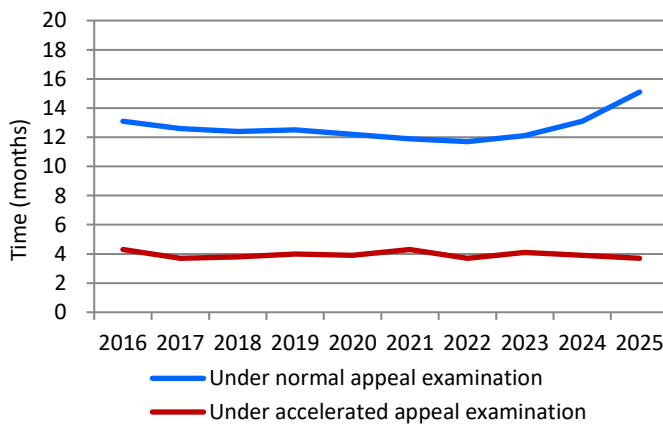


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Graph P2-2: Pendency from request of examination to a final disposition*¹



Graph P2-3: Pendency from demand of appeal trial to appeal decision

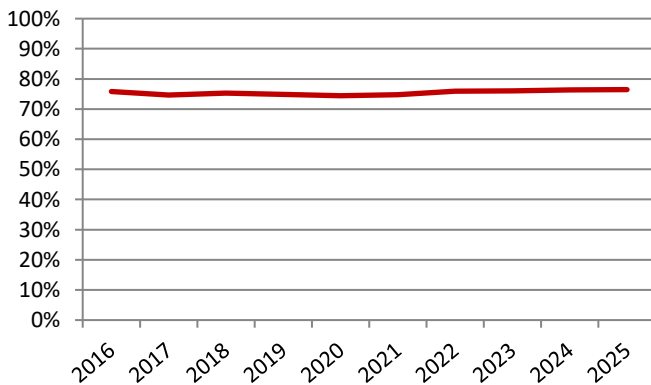


The JPO works to maintain prompt examinations by securing the necessary number of examiners and outsourcing prior art searches. At the same time, to grant high-quality rights, the JPO promotes initiatives aimed at achieving the world's highest quality patent examinations based on the "Patent Examination Quality Policy" and the "Quality Management Manual for Patent Examination", which outlines quality control measures and their implementation framework.

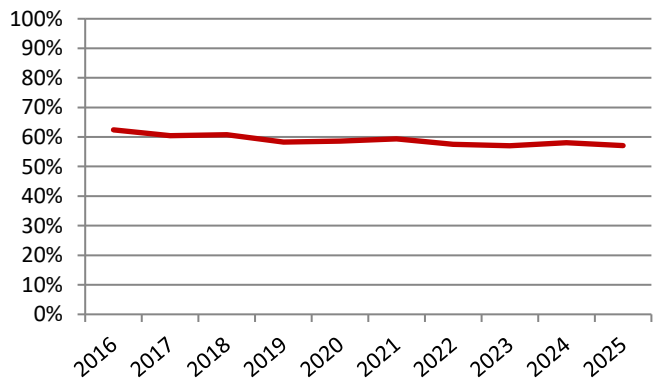
Grant rate at the JPO

Updated

Graph P3-1: Grant rate at examination*²



Graph P3-2: Grant rate at preappeal reexamination*³

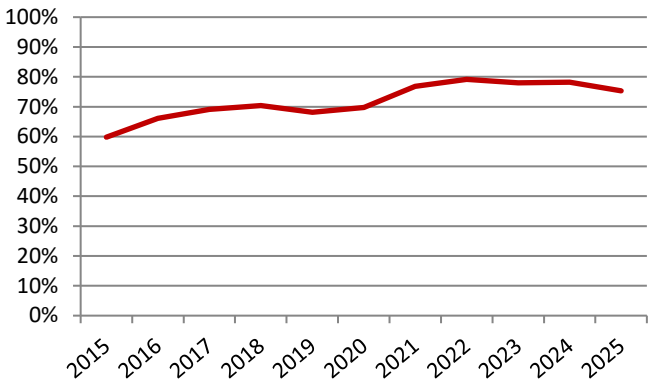


*¹ Withdrawal/Abandonment or Decision of Allowance or Decision of Rejection. Cases with extended Office Action response periods are excluded. Regular examination: fiscal years; accelerated examination and appeals: calendar years.

*² Grant rate at examination = decisions of grant at examination / (decisions of grant at examination + decisions of rejection at examination + withdrawal or abandonment after request for examination)

*³ Grant rate at pretrial reexamination = decisions of grant at pretrial reexamination / (decisions of grant at pretrial reexamination + cases transferred to appeal + withdrawal or abandonment at pretrial reexamination)

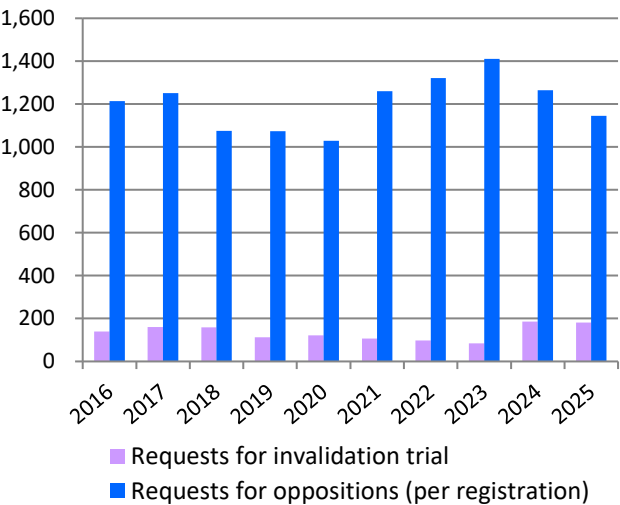
Graph P3-3: Grant rate at appeal*1



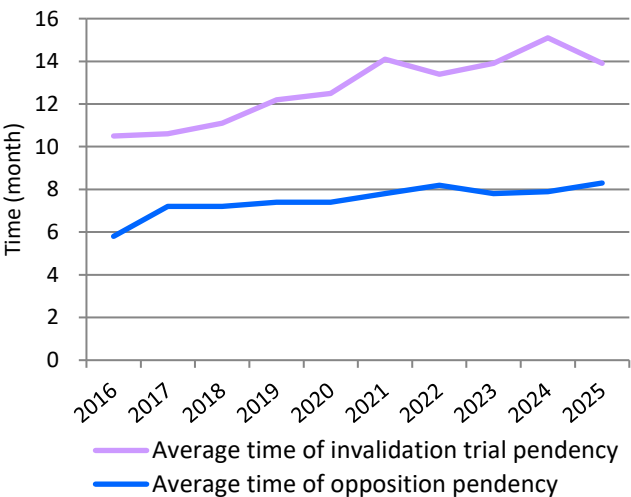
The patent grant rates in examination, pre-appeal and appeal examination at the JPO have remained consistently high in recent years. This trend can be attributed to several factors, including a shift in corporate IP strategies from focusing on quantity to prioritizing quality.

Opposition & Invalidation Trial

Graph P4-1: Requests for opposition & invalidation trial

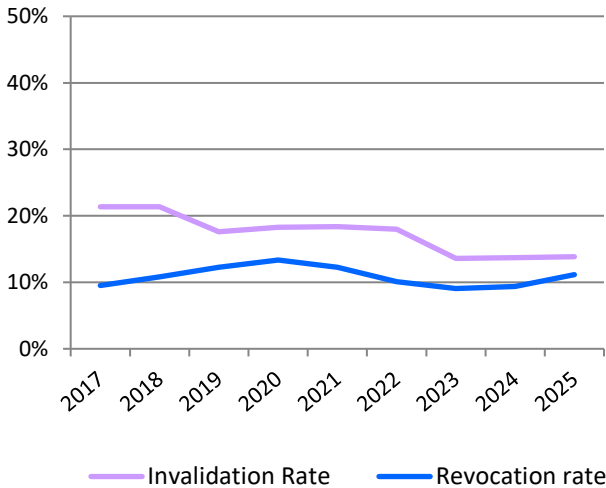


Graph P4-2: Average time of pendency at opposition & invalidation trial*2



Updated

Graph P4-3: Rate of invalidation and revocation of patent (all or some claims)*3



*1 Grant rate at appeal = appeal decisions of grant / (appeal decisions of grant + appeal decisions of rejection)

*2 Opposition: from request to Notice of Reasons for Revocation (Advance Notice of Decision) or Decision Invalidation Trial: from request to Advance notice of Decision or Decision

*3 Rate of Invalidation of Patent (all or some claims) = Trial Decisions to Invalidate all or some claims of Patent / (Trial Decisions to Invalidate all or some claims of Patent + Trial Decisions to Maintain Patent)

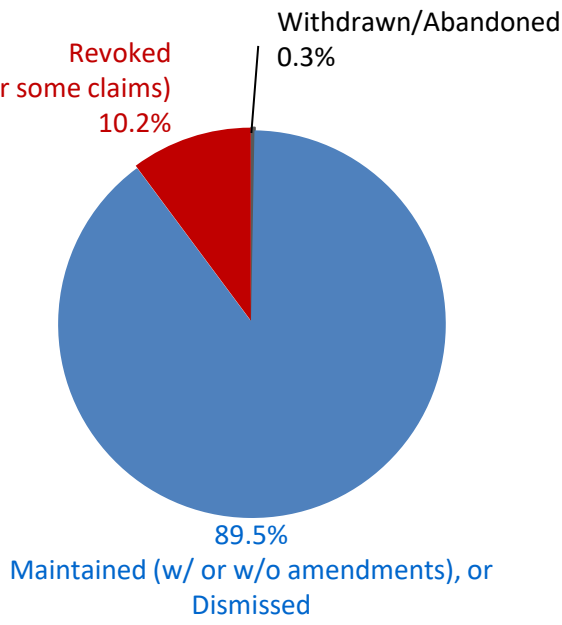
Rate of Revocation of Patent (all or some claims) = Trial Decisions to Revoke all or some claims of Patent / (Trial Decisions to Revoke all or some claims of Patent + Trial Decisions to Maintain Patent)

The rate of invalidation and rate of revocation are calculated as a three-year moving average.

Breakdown of Oppositions & Invalidation Trials Results

Updated

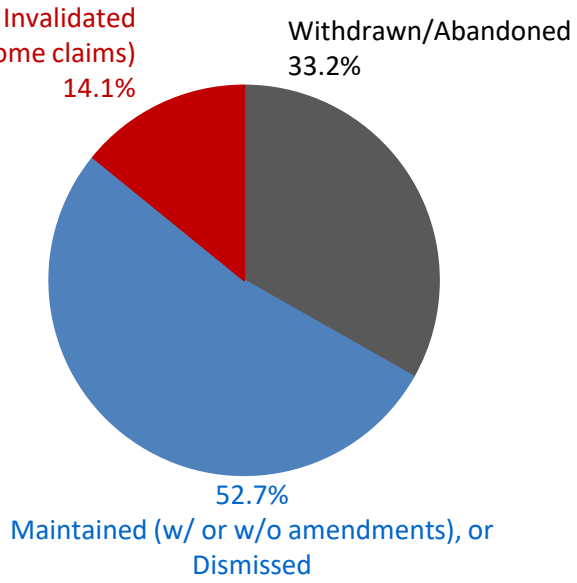
Graph P4-4: Results of Oppositions



Outcomes of oppositions
disposed from Jan. 2021 to Dec. 2025

Updated

Graph P4-5: Results of Invalidation Trials

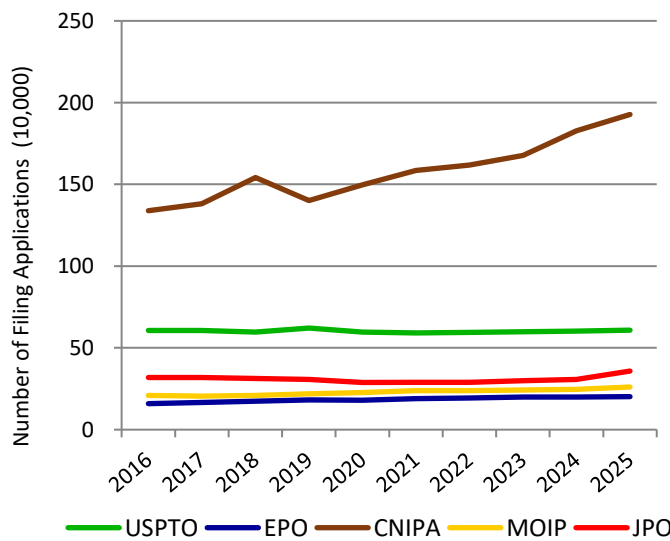


Outcomes of Invalidation trials
disposed from Jan. 2021 to Dec. 2025

Comparison between the five IP offices

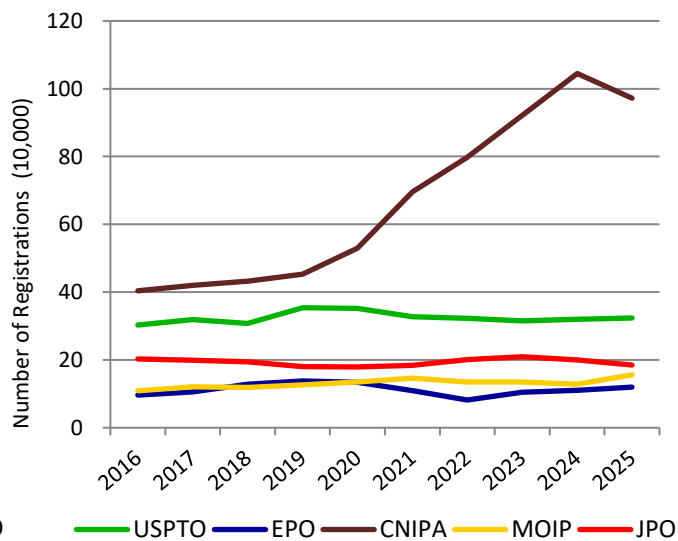
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Graph P5-1: Patent applications at the five IP offices



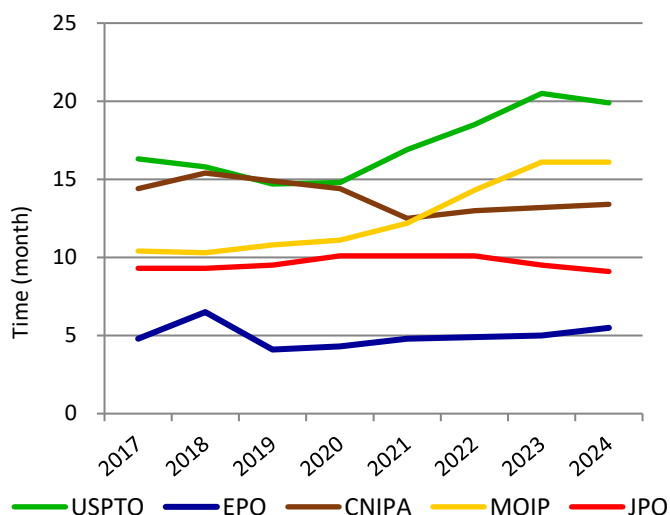
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Graph P5-2: Patent registrations at the five IP offices

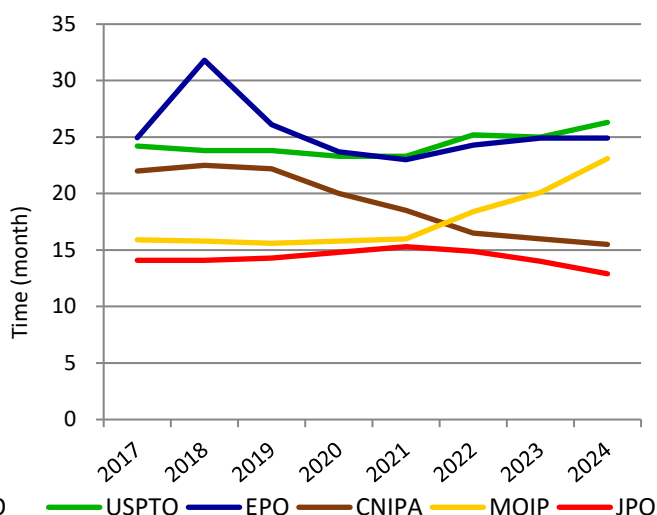


Note: 2025 US and Korean application and registration figures are provisional.

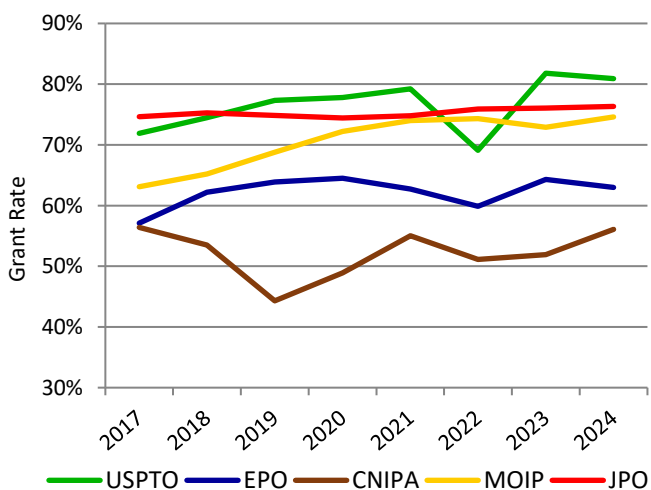
Graph P5-3: Average time of examination pendency to 1st OA*¹



Graph P5-4: Average time of examination pendency to disposition*²



Graph P5-5: Patent grant rate at the five IP offices*³



*1 Average time of examination pendency to 1st OA:
JPO = average time of from requesting examination to 1st OA
USPTO = average time of from filing date to 1st OA
EPO = median time of from filing date to Extended European Search Report
KIPO = average time of from requesting examination to 1st OA
CNIPA = average time of from starting examination to 1st OA

*2 Average time of examination pendency to decision:
JPO = average time of from requesting examination to withdrawal, abandonment, or Decision of Allowance or Decision of Rejection
USPTO = average time of from filing date to abandonment or a final disposal (including reexamination)
EPO = median time of from starting examination to final disposal
KIPO = (total examination period of patent applications disposed in the year) / (total number of patent applications disposed in the year)

*3 Grant Rate at Examination:

JPO = Decision of Grant at Examination / (Decision of Grant at Examination + Decision of Rejection at Examination + Withdrawal or Abandonment after Request for Examination)

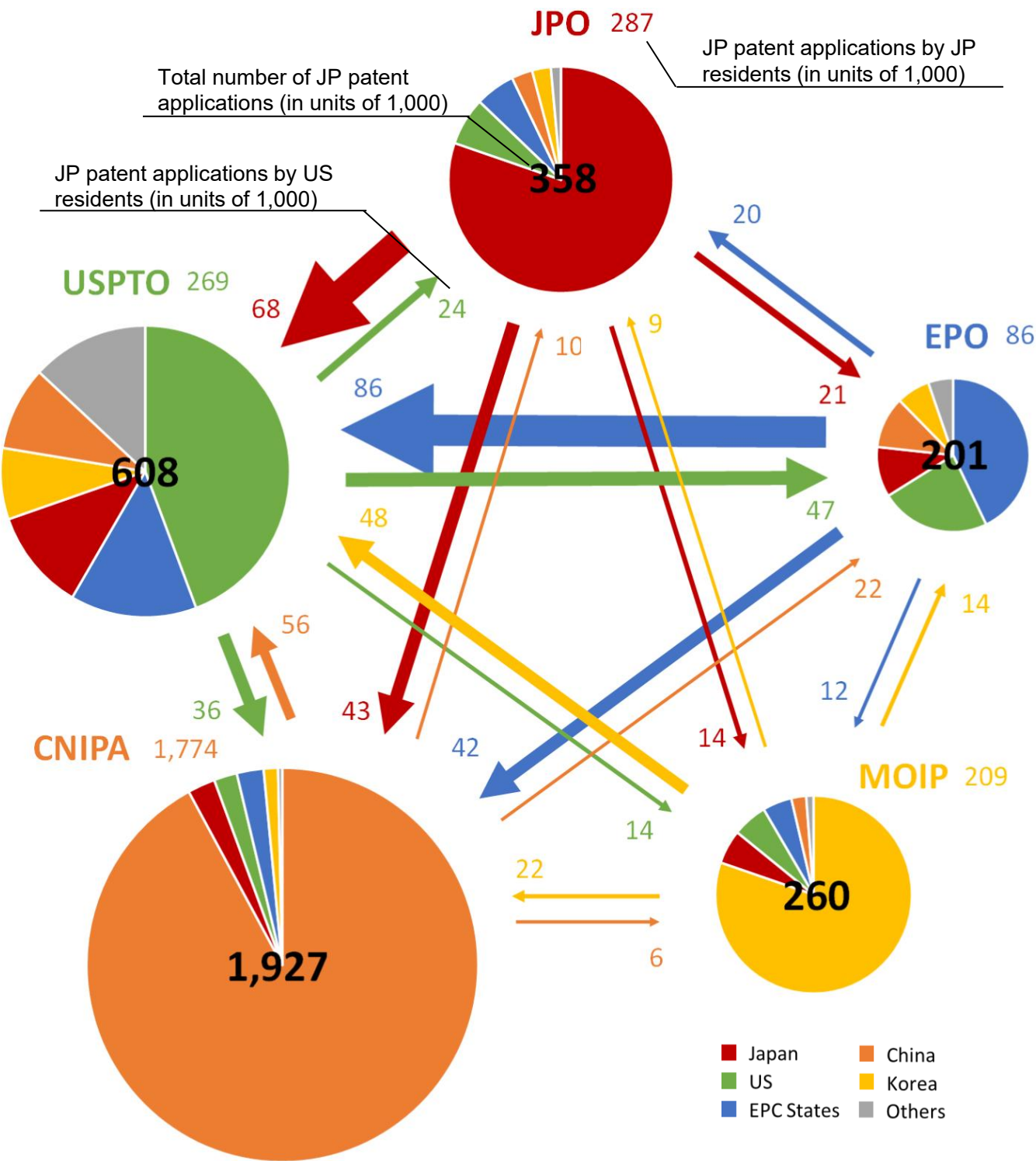
USPTO = Patent Grants / Disposals

EPO = Decision of Grant at Examination / (Decision of Grant at Examination + Decision of Rejection at Examination + Abandonment)

KIPO = Decision of Grant at Examination / (Decision of Grant at Examination + Decision of Rejection at Examination + Withdrawal after Request for Examination)

CNIPA does not disclose the definition of the Grant Rate at Examination.

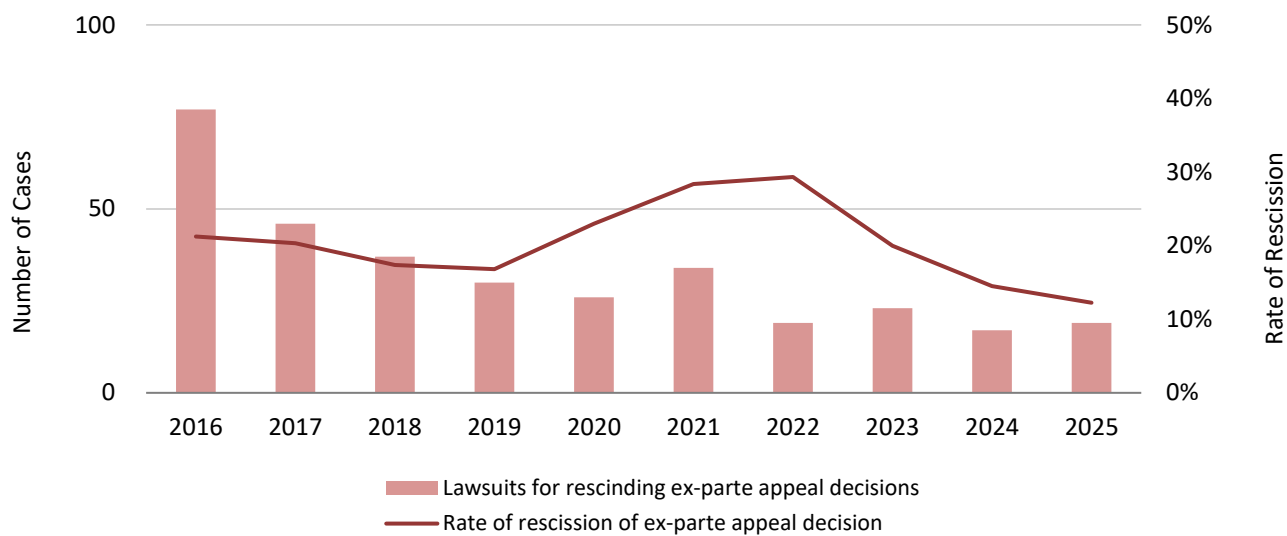
Graph P6: Patent applications filed at the five IP offices by origin*1 (in 2025)



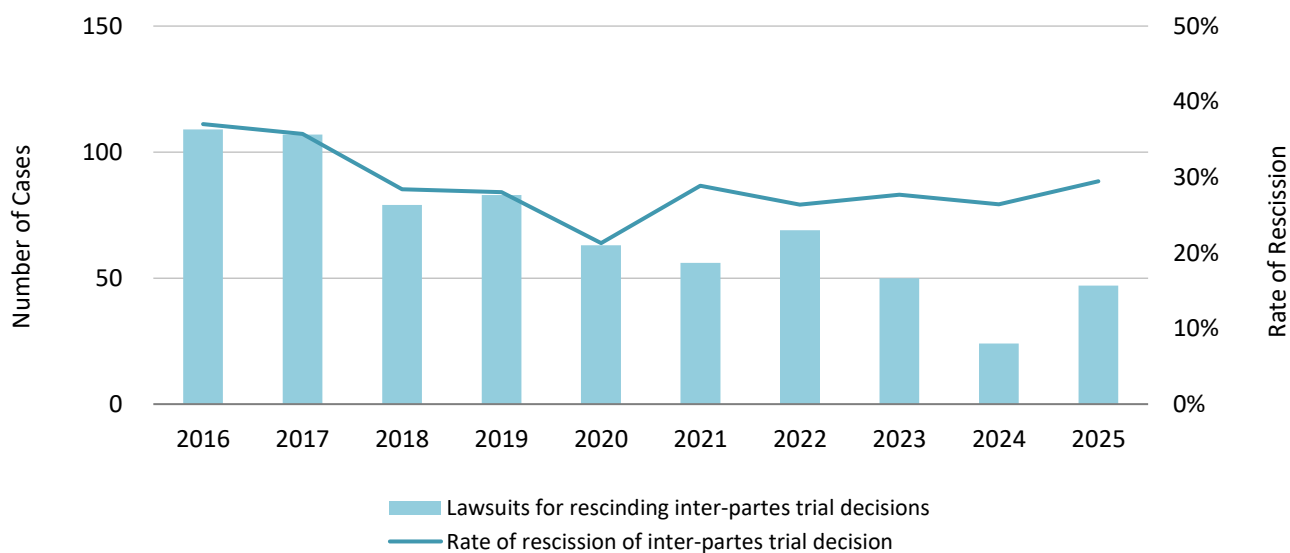
*1 The origin is based on residence of first named applicants. Figures are rounded down to thousands. 2025 JPO, USPTO and MOIP figures are provisional.

Lawsuits against the JPO’s Appeal/Trial Decisions in relation to Patent

Graph P7-1: Lawsuits against *Ex-Parte* Appeal/Trial Decisions in relation to Patent Applications and their Total Rate of Rescission*¹



Graph P7-2: Lawsuits against *Inter-Partes* Appeal/Trial Decisions in relation to Patent Rights and their Total Rate of Rescission*²



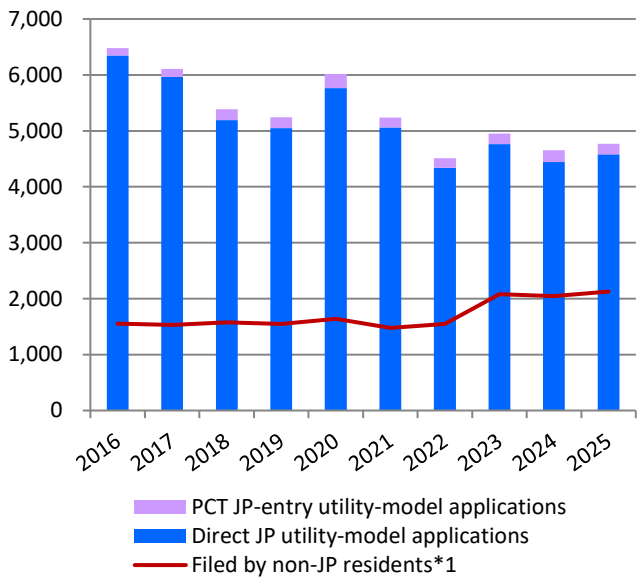
*1 These data include lawsuits against Trial Decisions of Rejection and Dismissal of Amendment in relation to patent applications. The rate of rescission is a three-year moving average.

*2 These data include lawsuits against Trial Decisions of Invalidation and Correction Trials in relation to patent rights. The rate of rescission is a three-year moving average.

Statistics: Utility Models

Utility model applications and registrations at the JPO

Graph U1-1: Utility model applications at the JPO



Graph U1-2: Utility model registrations at the JPO

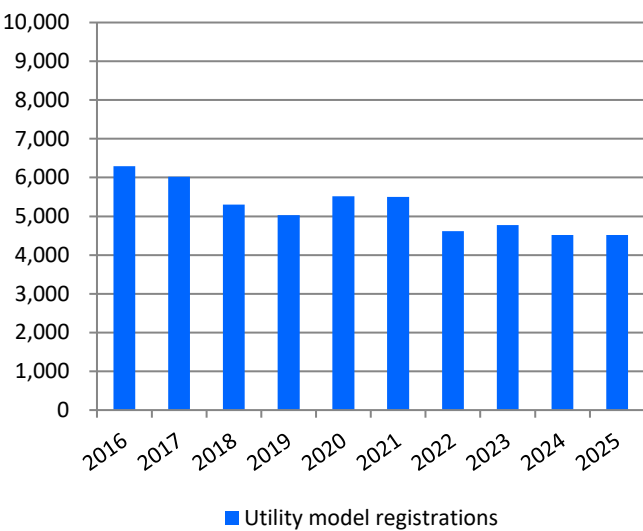
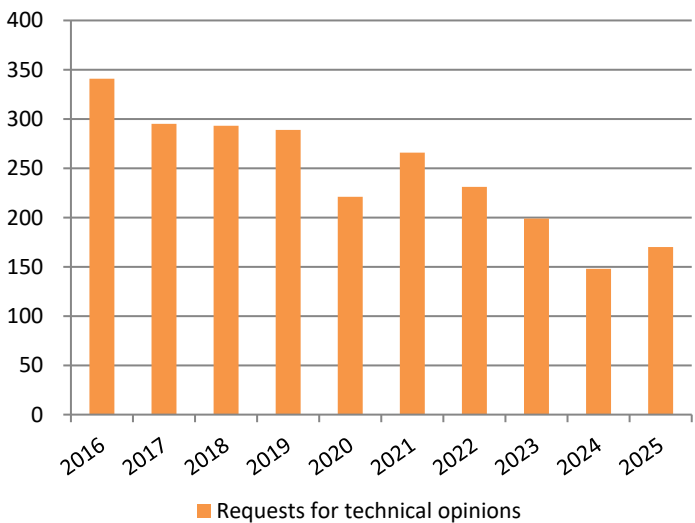


Table U1

Calendar Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	y/y
JP utility-model applications in total	5,239	4,513	4,949	4,655	4,768	2.4%
PCT JP-entry utility-model applications	180	173	186	213	191	-10.3%
Direct JP utility-model applications	5,059	4,340	4,763	4,442	4,577	3.0%
Utility model registrations	5,499	4,615	4,772	4,514	4,517	0.1%
Requests for technical opinions	266	231	199	148	170	14.9%

Requests for Technical Opinions*2

Graph U2



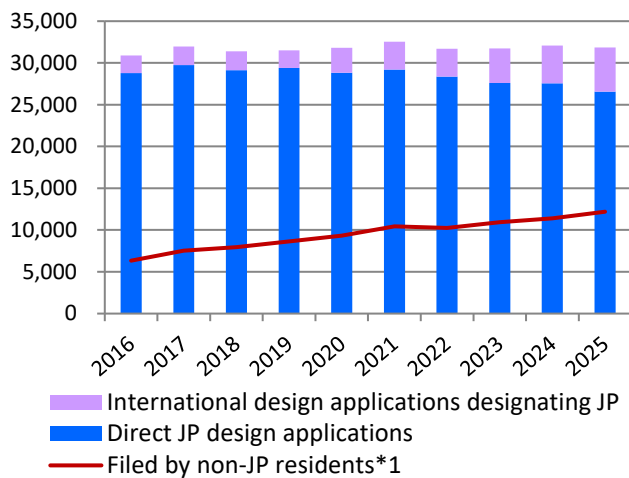
*1 Sum of PCT JP-entry and direct-JP utility-model applications filed by foreign applicants.

*2 A utility model right owner cannot enforce its utility model right without warning an opposing party in advance with indicating a technical opinion by the examiner.

Statistics: Designs

Design applications and registrations at the JPO

Graph D1-1: Design applications at the JPO



Graph D1-2: Design registrations at the JPO

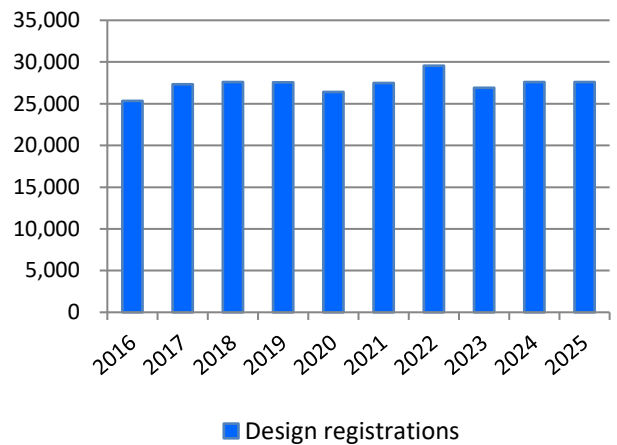


Table D1-1

Calendar Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	y/y
JP design applications in total	32,525	31,711	31,747	32,065	31,853	-0.7%
International design applications designating JP	3,303	3,353	4,160	4,518	5,274	16.7%
Direct JP design applications	29,222	28,358	27,587	27,547	26,579	-3.5%
Design registrations	27,490	29,540	26,908	27,598	27,613	0.1%

The number of applications and registrations for new types of design (from April 1, 2020 to March 2, 2026)

Table D1-2

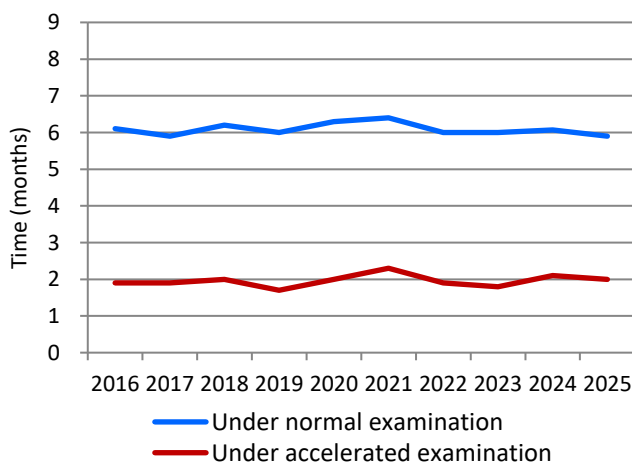
	Applications	Registrations
Graphic Images	7,953	6,338
Buildings	2,158	1,762
Interior Designs	1,396	1,043

It became possible to protect graphic images, buildings and interior designs from April 1, 2020. This table shows the number of applications and registrations for these new types of design from April 1, 2020 to March 2, 2026.

Average time of pendency

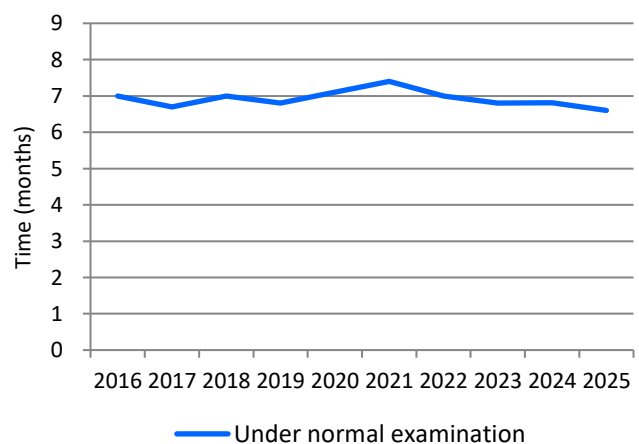
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Graph D2-1: Examination pendency to 1st OA



Updated

Graph D2-2: Design examination pendency to a final disposition*2

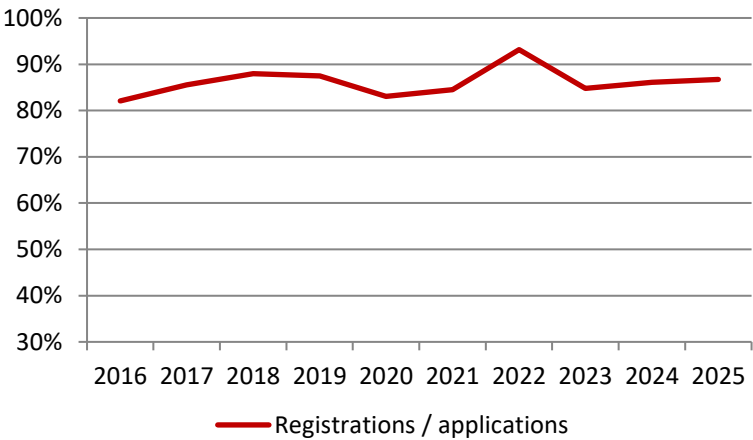


*1 Sum of international design applications designating JP and direct-JP design applications filed by foreign applicants.

*2 Withdrawal/Abandonment or Decision of Allowance or Decision of Rejection. Cases with extended Office Action response periods are excluded. Regular examination: fiscal years; accelerated examination: calendar years.

Ratio of design registrations to applications*1

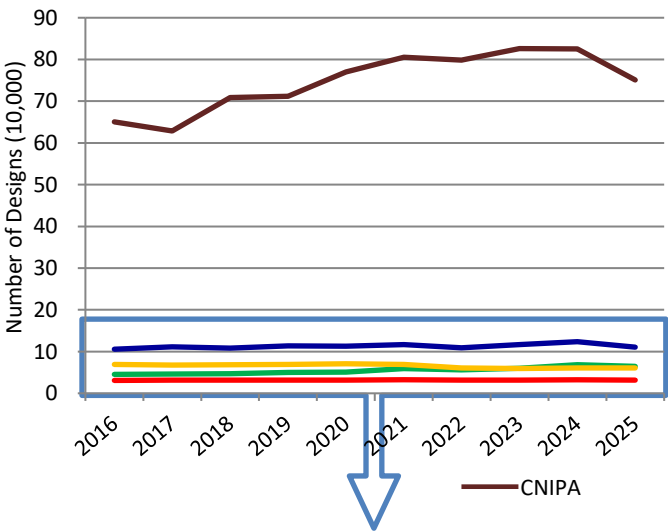
Graph D3: Registrations / applications



Comparison between the five IP offices

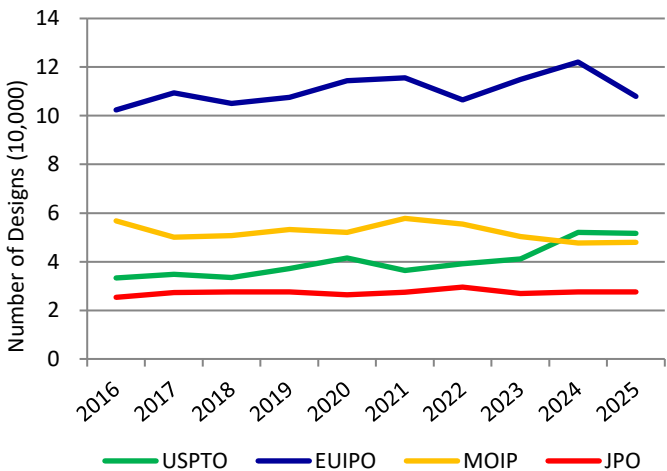
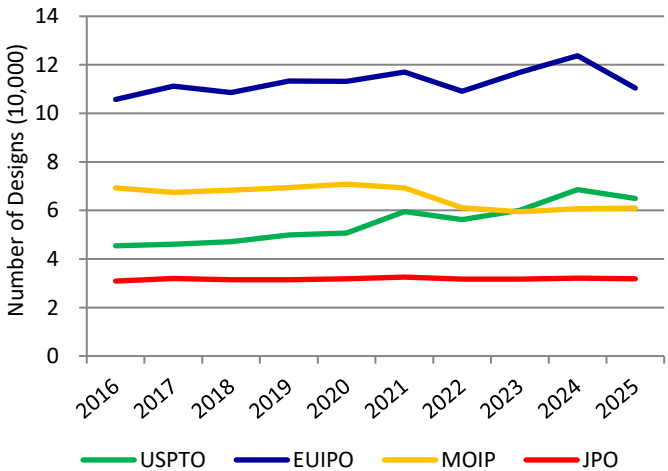
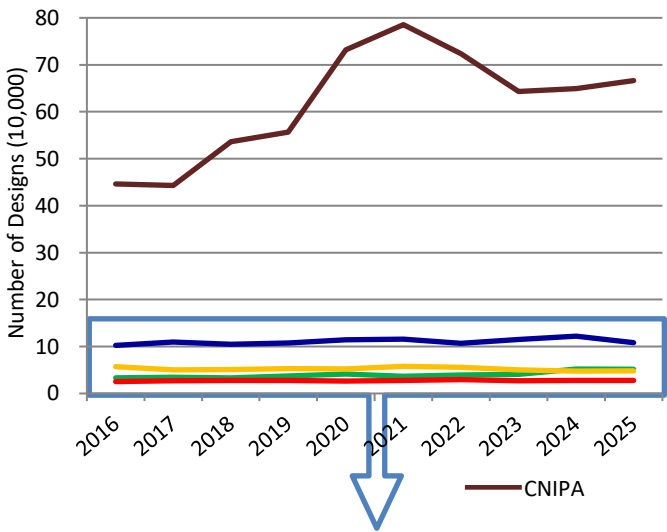
Updated

Graph D4-1: Designs in applications at the five IP offices



Updated

Graph D4-2: Designs in registrations at the five IP offices



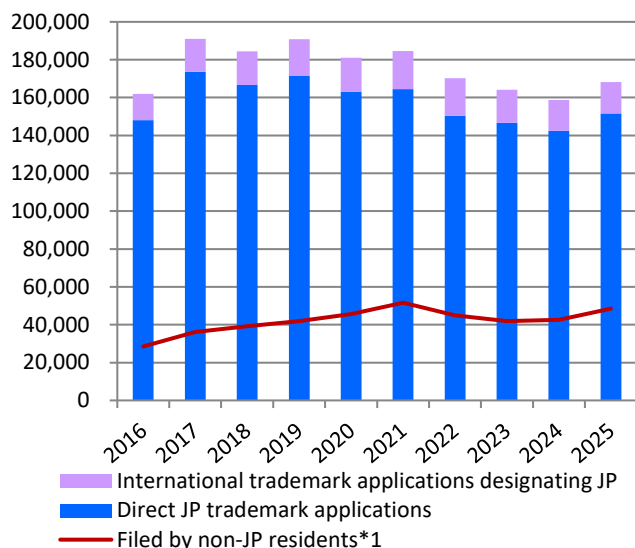
*1 Ratio = Design registrations / Design applications

Note: 2025 figures for offices other than the JPO are provisional.

Statistics: Trademarks

Trademark applications and registrations at the JPO

Graph T1-1: Trademark applications at the JPO



Graph T1-2: Trademark registrations at the JPO

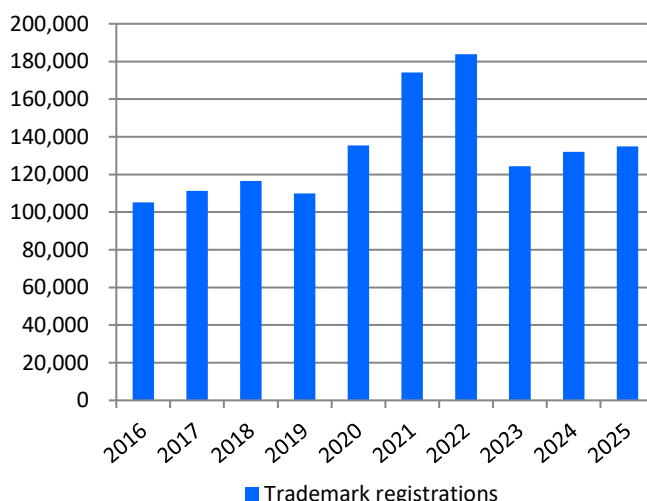


Table T1-1

Calendar Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	y/y
JP trademark applications in total	184,631	170,275	164,061	158,792	168,114	5.9%
International trademark applications designating JP	20,094	19,769	17,397	16,252	16,570	2.0%
Direct JP trademark applications	164,537	150,506	146,664	142,540	151,544	6.3%
Trademark registrations	174,098	183,804	124,334	132,011	134,798	2.1%

Updated

Applications and registrations for non-traditional marks*2

Table T1-2

Calendar Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
3D / Applications	265	286	269	242	275	327	308	267	261	292
Registrations	149	141	137	125	155	160	202	159	157	144
Sound / Applications	133	80	51	37	20	22	19	21	31	21
Registrations	74	113	49	32	28	18	11	16	12	15
Motion / Applications	38	8	26	24	18	22	18	20	18	19
Registrations	47	31	8	17	20	16	27	10	19	12
Position / Applications	80	51	42	44	40	44	30	33	40	28
Registrations	14	21	19	16	15	13	28	27	17	11
Color / Applications	42	22	20	8	5	6	6	8	7	4
Registrations	0	2	5	1	0	0	1	0	2	1
Hologram / Applications	3	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	7
Registrations	8	2	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0

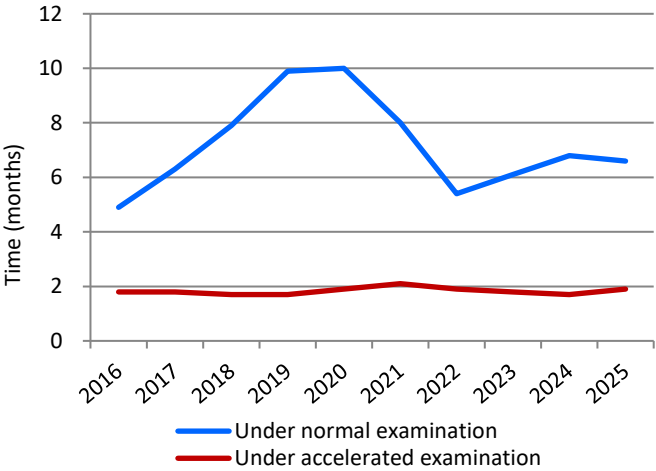
*1 Sum of international trademark applications designating JP and direct-JP trademark applications filed by foreign applicants.

*2 These data do not include the numbers of international trademark applications designating JP.

Average time of pendency

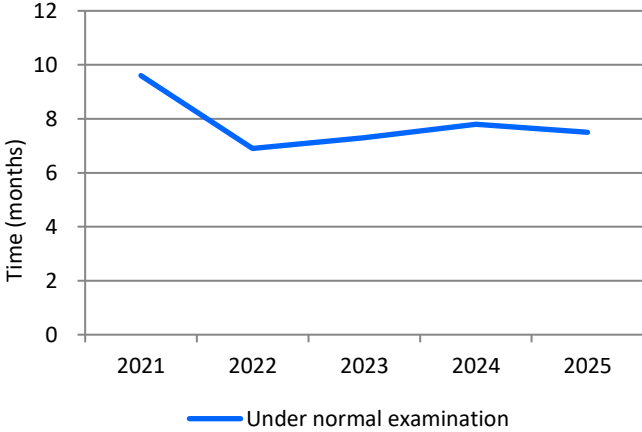
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Graph T2-1: Trademark examination pendency from filing to 1st OA^{*1}



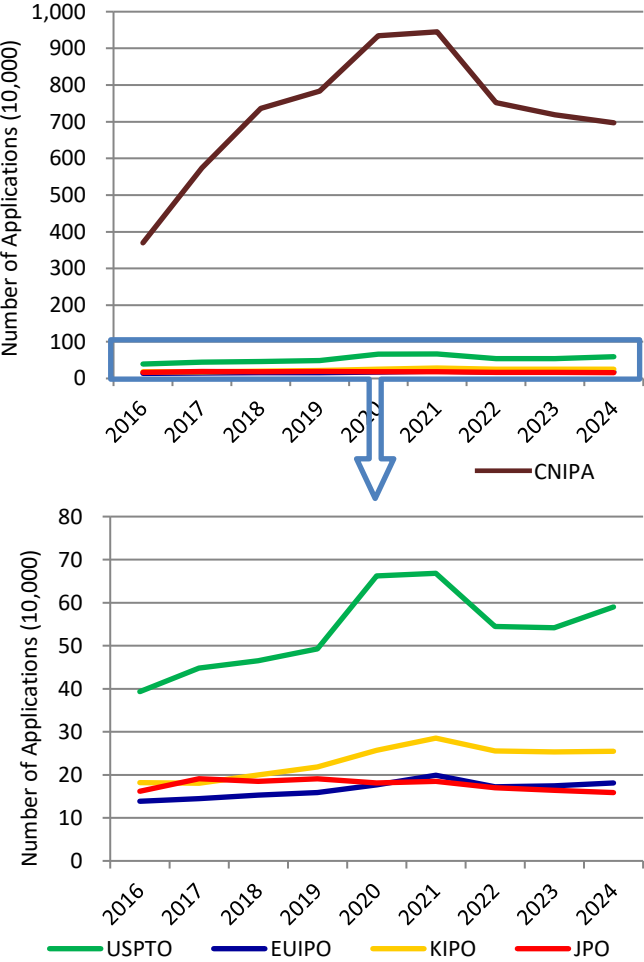
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Graph T2-2: Trademark examination pendency from filing to a final disposition^{*2}

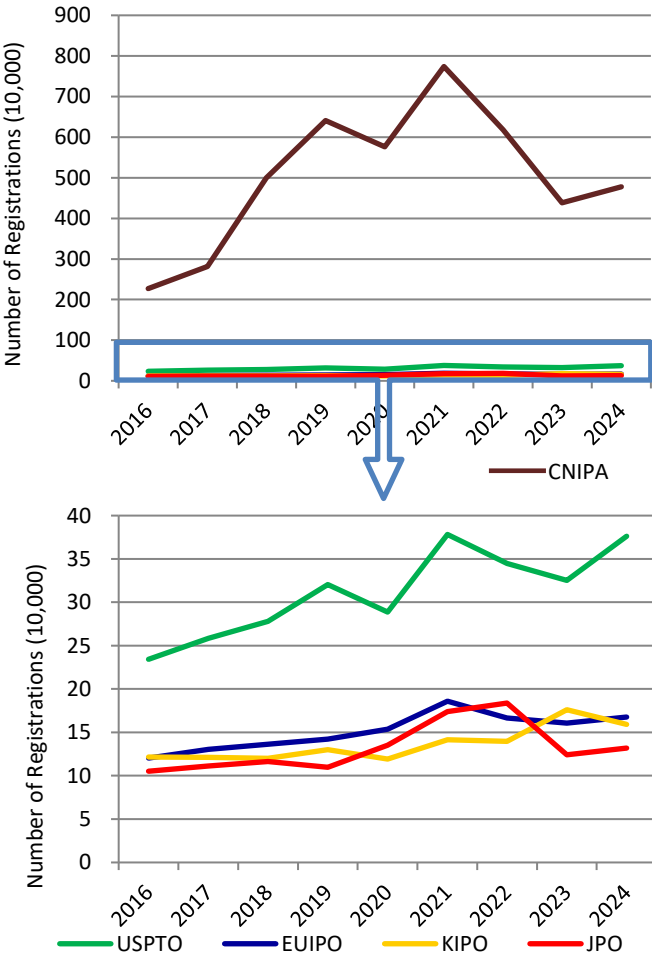


Comparison between the five IP offices

Graph T3-1: Trademark applications at the five IP offices^{*3}



Graph T3-2: Trademark registrations at the five IP offices^{*3}



^{*1} New types of trademarks and regional collective trademarks are excluded. Fast Track Examination was suspended at the end of March 2023.

^{*2} Withdrawal/Abandonment or Decision of Allowance or Rejection. Cases with extended Office Action response periods are excluded. Regular examination: fiscal years; accelerated examination: calendar years.

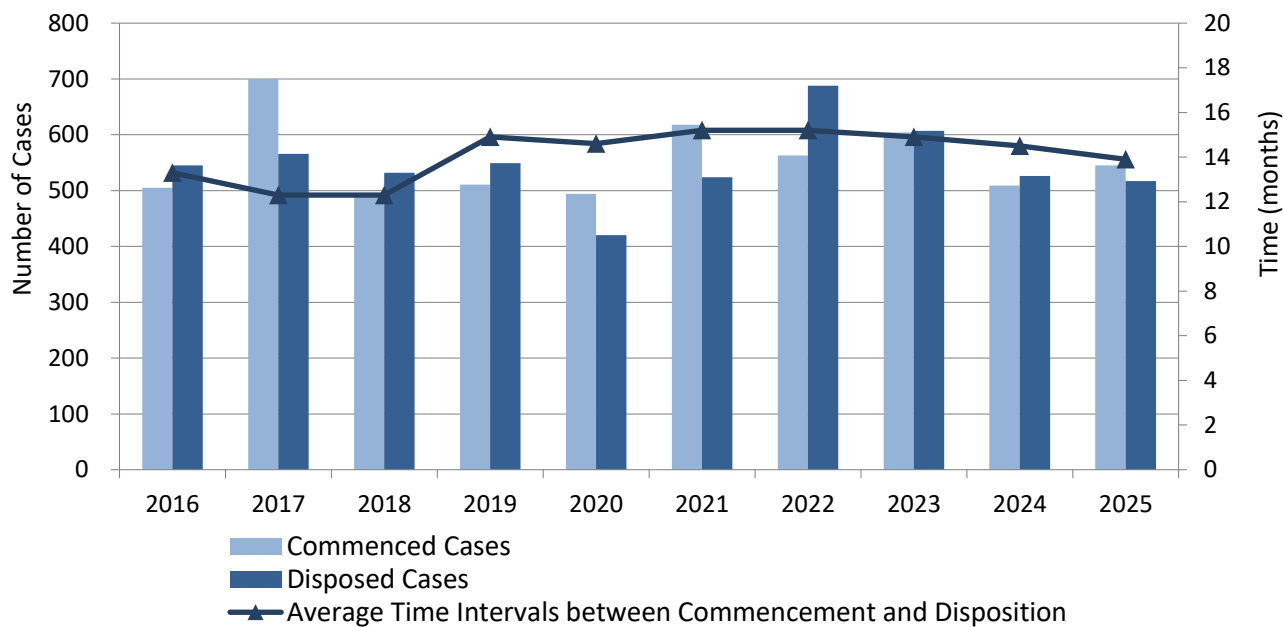
^{*3} CNIPA application and registration figures are trademark class counts.

Statistics: Litigation

Infringement Suits and other IP-Related Civil Cases*¹

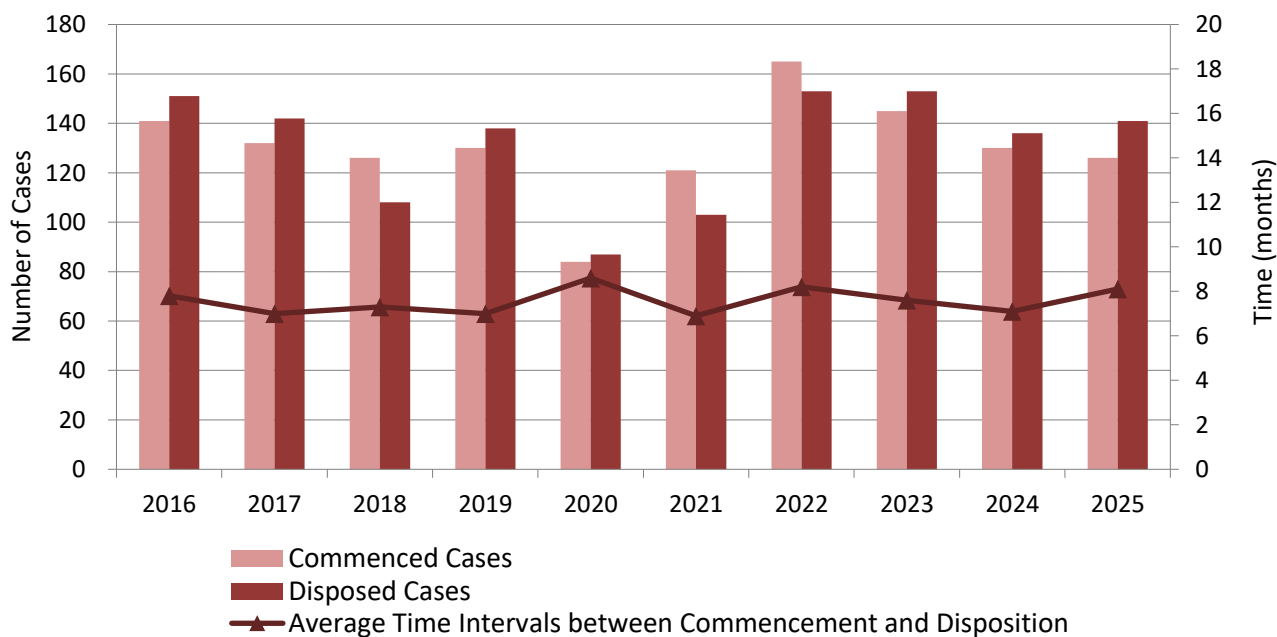
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Graph L1-1: IP-Related Civil Cases at all District Courts (First Instances)



Updated

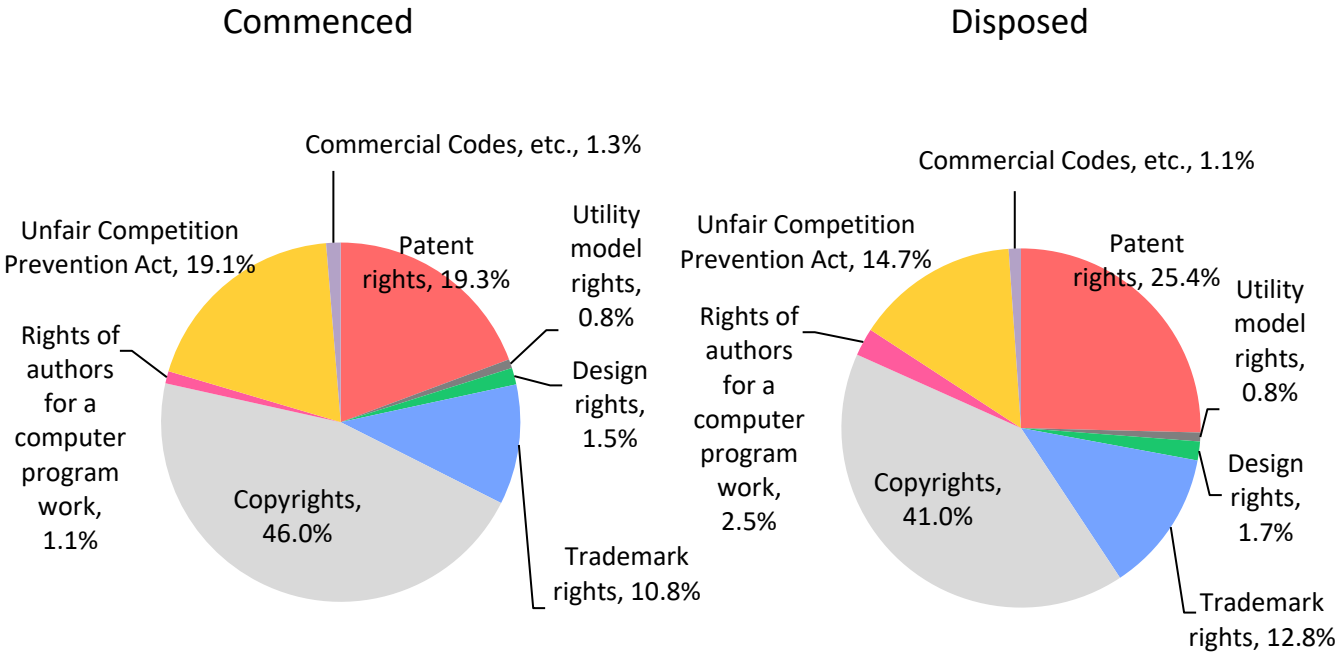
Graph L1-2: IP-Related Civil Cases at all High Courts (Second Instances)



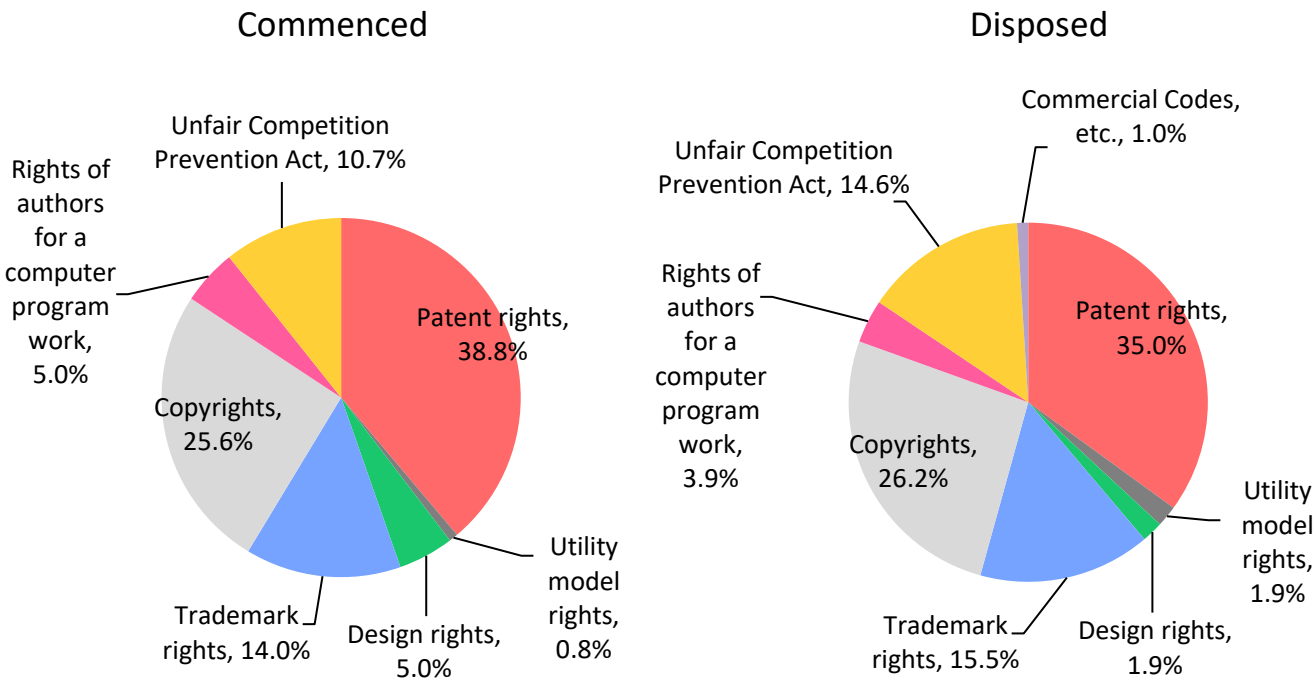
*1 These data include all the civil cases relating to patents, utility model registrations, design registrations and trademark registrations.

Breakdown of IP-Related Civil Cases by IP Rights*¹ (2021)

Graphs L2-1: All District Courts



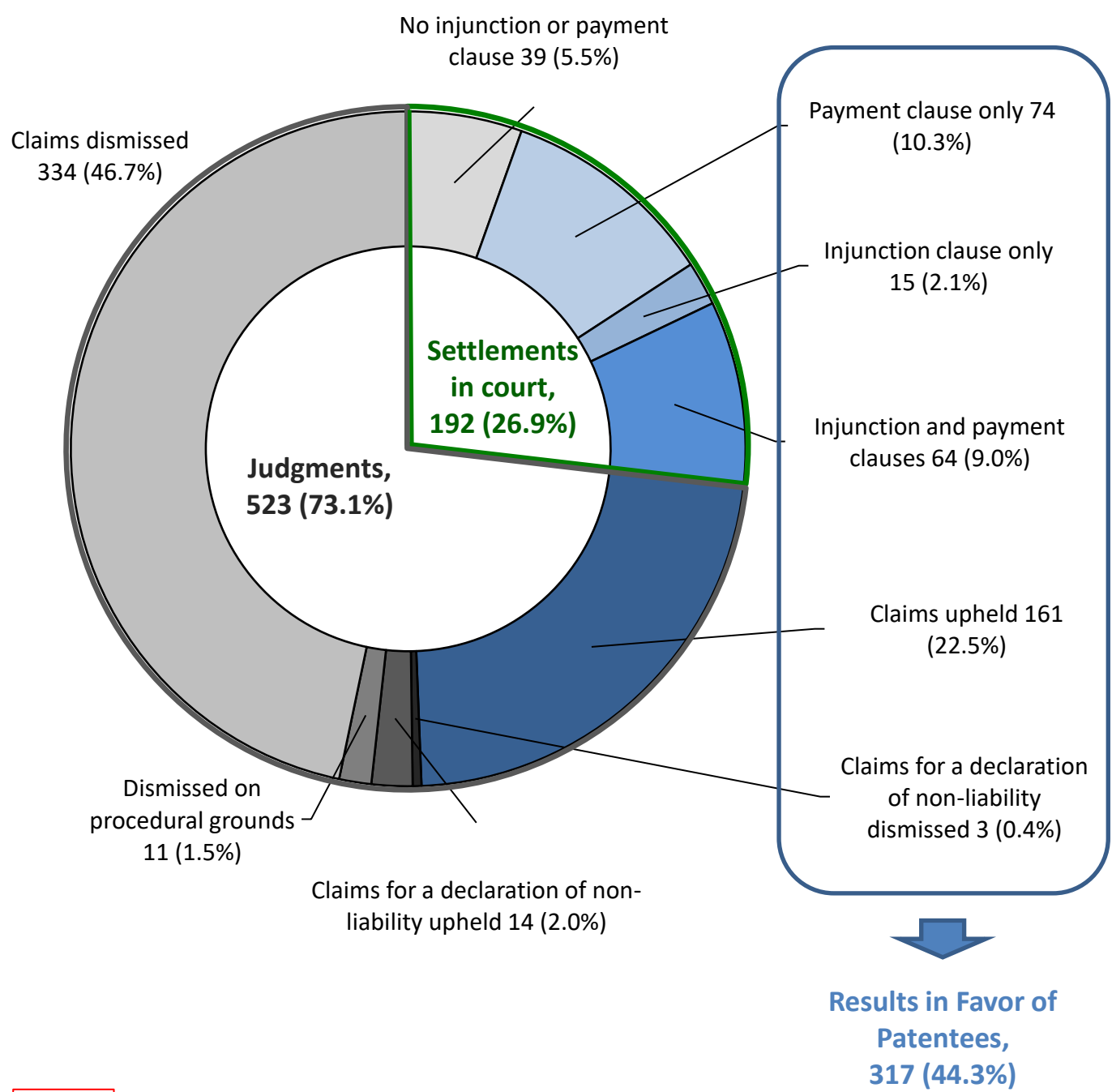
Graphs L2-2: All High Courts



*1 These figures cover civil cases and exclude actions to rescind JPO decisions. The 2021 percentages are based on a publication issued in 2023. The case counts on page 14 incorporate later revisions and therefore come from a different version of the statistics.

Updated

Graph L3: Breakdown of the Results of Patent Infringement Suits at the Tokyo & Osaka District Courts*¹ (2016 to 2025)



Updated

Table L1

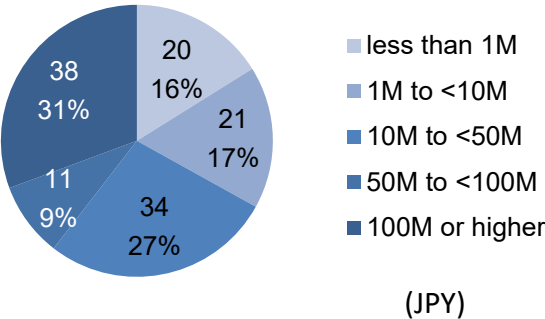
	2014-2019	2014-2020	2014-2021	2014-2022	2014-2023	2015-2024	2016-2025
Results in favor of patentees	44.7%	45.8%	45.8%	45.4%	45.0%	44.8%	44.3%

*1 Claims upheld include partial awards. Figures for 2016–2025 are provisional.

Amounts Awarded in Judgments and agreed to be paid in settlements in court in patent infringement cases (2016 to 2025)*¹

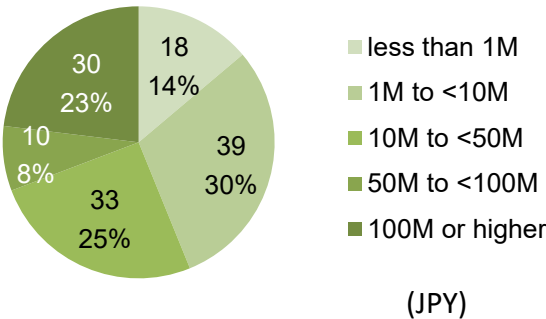
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Graph L4-1: Number and proportion of amounts awarded in judgments



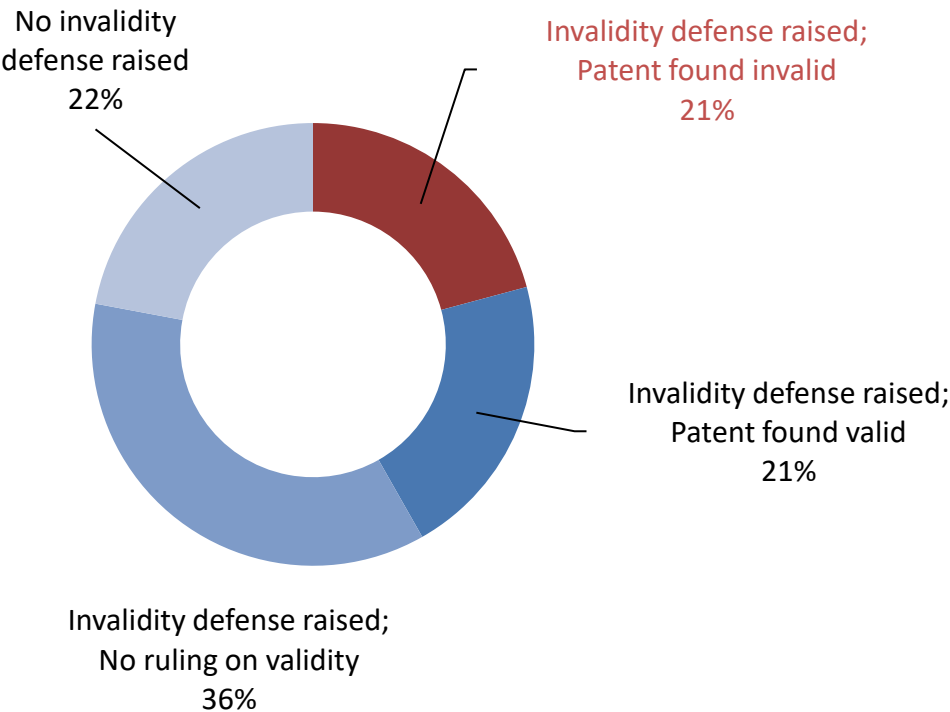
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Graph L4-2: Number and proportion of amounts agreed to be paid in settlements



Updated

Graph L5: Invalidity defenses and their outcomes in patent infringement cases (2016 to 2025)*²



*1 Judgment amounts exclude ancillary claims and litigation costs; settlements exclude litigation and settlement costs and cases with no fixed amount. Figures for 2016–2025 are provisional.

*2 The unit is patent rights asserted in cases concluded by judgment. Two patents asserted in one case count as two rights. Each right is classified by whether an invalidity defense was raised and whether validity was decided.