



I Quality First: IP Application and Development



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01 Patent

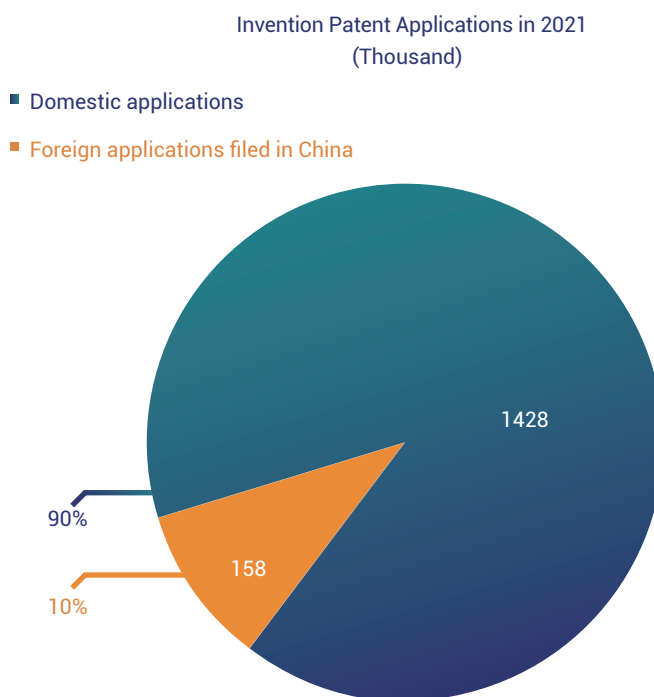
1.1 Patent application

In 2021, a total of 1.586 million invention patent applications were filed in China, a year-on-year increase of 5.9%. Among them, 1.428 million were domestic applications, accounting for 90.0% of the total, a year-on-year increase of 6.2%; 158,000 were foreign applications filed in China, accounting for 10.0% of the total, a year-on-year increase of 3.6%.

Among the domestic invention patent applications, 1.314 million were applications for service inventions, accounting for 92.0%, with a year-on-year increase of 8.2%.

66.8% of domestic invention patent applications were filed by enterprises, 6.1 percentage points higher than the previous year.

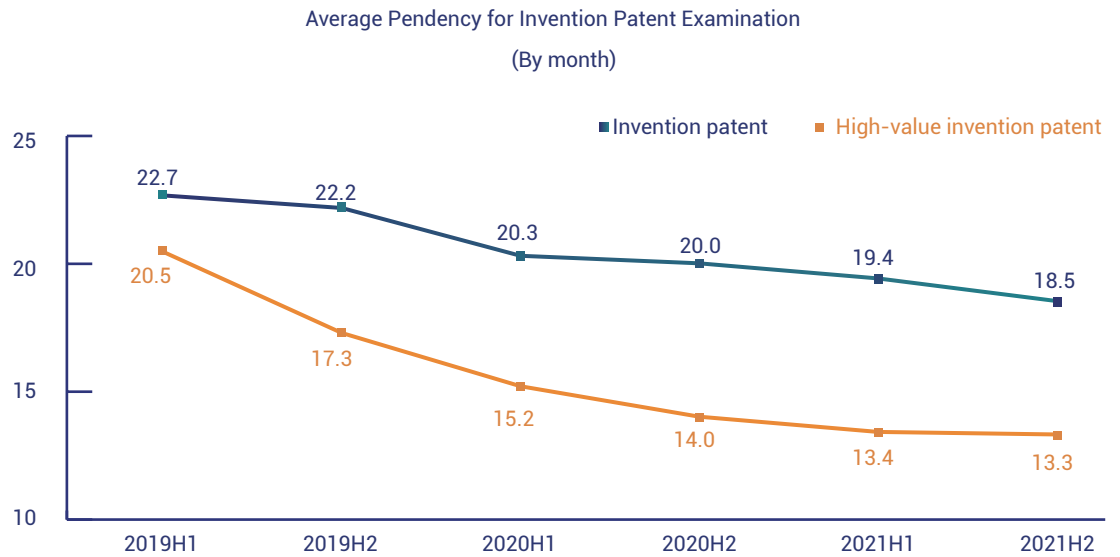
In 2021, 2.852 million utility model patent applications and 806,000 industrial design patent applications were filed in China, registering a decrease of 2.5% and an increase of 4.6% respectively.



1.2 Patent examination

In 2021, 1.266 million invention patent applications were examined and concluded. The average pendency for high-value invention patent applications was reduced to 13.3 months, which fulfilled the task set out by the State Council on deepening the reform to streamline administration, delegate power, improve regulation and upgrade services ahead of schedule. The average pendency for invention patents was reduced to 18.5 months. A special campaign was launched to sort out long-pending cases, and 217,000 such cases were concluded throughout the year.

In accordance with the *Special Implementation Plan for Improving the Quality and Efficiency of Invention Patent Examination (2019-2022)*, CNIPA took concrete steps to ensure strict legal compliance in the examination process, impose rigorous standards on granting and confirmation of patent rights, and enhance the quality and efficiency of patent examination. The user satisfaction rating on patent examination quality in 2021 reached 85.7, keeping in the satisfactory range for 12 consecutive years.



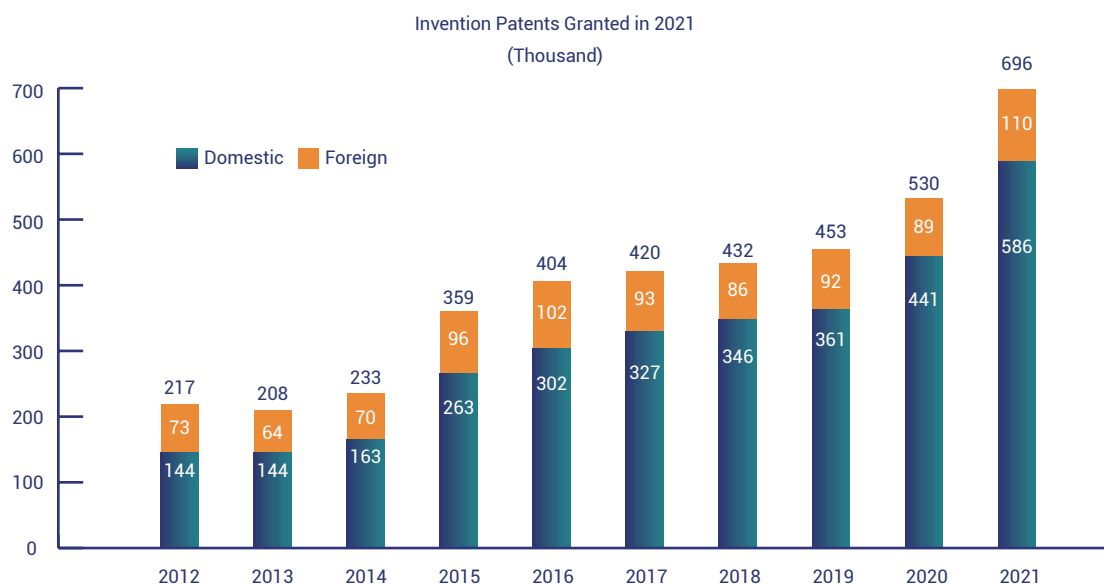
Conference on Patent Examination

1.3 Patent granting

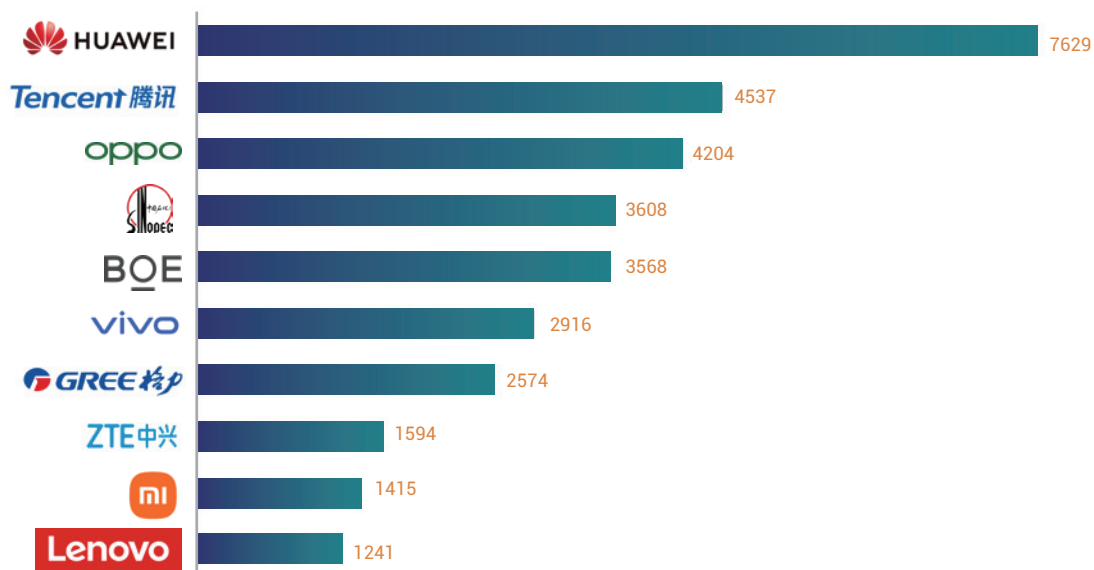
In 2021, 696,000 invention patents were granted, a year-on-year increase of 31.3%. Among them, 586,000 were granted to domestic applications, accounting for 84.2% of the total; 110,000 were granted to foreign applications filed in China, a year-on-year increase of 23.0%. Among the granted domestic invention patents, 565,000 were service inventions, accounting for 96.4%,

a year-on-year increase of 33.3%; 21,000 were non-service inventions, accounting for 3.6%, a year-on-year increase of 23.0%.

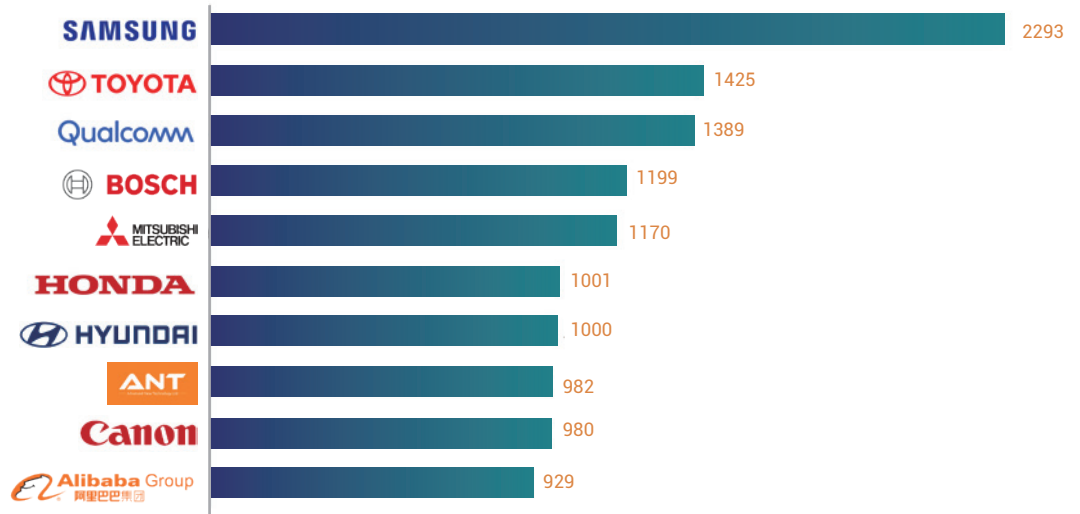
In 2021, 3.12 million utility model patents were granted, a year-on-year increase of 31.2%; 786,000 design patents were granted, a year-on-year increase of 7.3%.



Top 10 Domestic Enterprises in Terms of Invention Patents Granted in 2021



Top 10 Foreign Enterprises in Terms of Invention Patents Granted in 2021



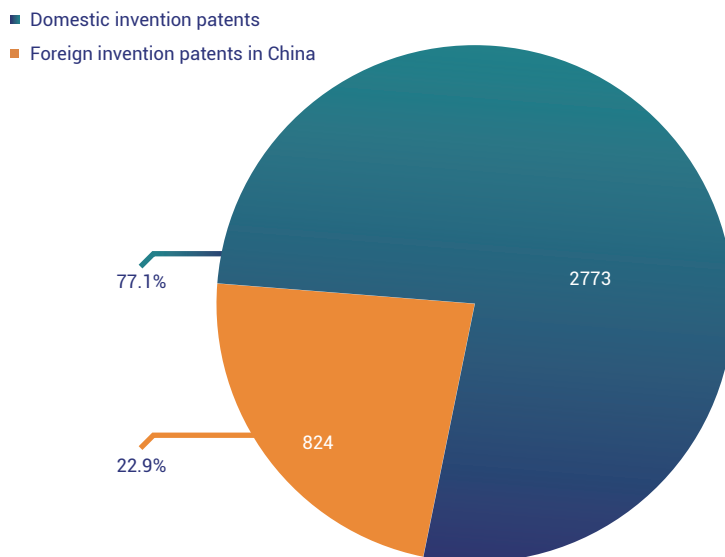
1.4 Valid invention patents

As of the end of 2021, the total number of invention patents granted and maintained valid in China reached 3.597 million, a year-on-year increase of 17.6%. Among them, 2.773 million were domestic invention patents, accounting for 77.1% of the total, an increase of 21.7%; 824,000 were foreign invention patents in China,

accounting for 22.9% of the total, a year-on-year increase of 5.8%.

As of the end of 2021, the number of high-value invention patents per 10,000 population in China (not including HKSAR, MSAR and Taiwan Province of China) reached 7.5.

Valid Invention Patents in China as of the End of 2021
(Thousand)

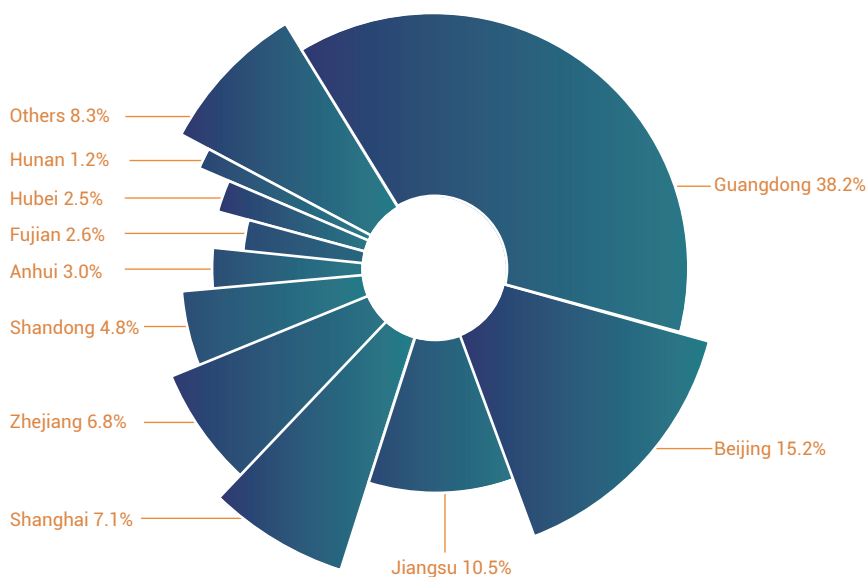


1.5 PCT applications

In 2021, a total of 73,000 PCT applications were received, a year-on-year increase of 1.5%. Among them, 68,000 were from China, an increase of 2.1%. A total of 78,000 international search reports were completed, with a year-on-year increase of 11.6%. Since 1994, a total of 521,000 PCT applications have been received, and 485,000 PCT international search reports have been completed by CNIPA.

In 2021, 107,000 PCT applications entering the national phase in China were received, a year-on-year increase of 6.3%, including 106,000 invention patent applications and 916 utility model patent applications. Since 1994, CNIPA has received a total of 1.419 million PCT applications entering the national phase in China.

Distribution of PCT Applications by Province in 2021



1.6 Patent reexamination and invalidation

In 2021, 76,000 patent reexamination requests were received, an annual increase of 39.2%; 54,000 cases were concluded, an annual increase of 12.4%. The average pendency for patent reexamination cases was 16.4 months.

In 2021, 7,628 requests for patent invalidation were received, a year-on-year increase of 23.5%; 7,065 cases were concluded, a decrease of 1.1%. The average pendency for patent invalidation cases was 5.8 months.

Since 1985, 401,000 patent reexamination requests and 75,000 patent invalidation requests have been received, and 320,000 reexamination cases and 70,000 invalidation cases have been concluded, cumulatively.

Increasing number of reexamination and invalidation

requests were filed through the E-filing system for patent reexamination and invalidation. As shown by related statistics, as of the end of 2021, 92.3% reexamination requests and 80.4% invalidation requests were filed electronically nationwide.

Circuit hearing of patent reexamination and invalidation cases was carried forward. Throughout the year, 27 cases were heard at circuit boards in Shanghai, Guangdong, Jiangsu, and Hunan. As of the end of 2021, 25 multimedia circuit boards and 35 multimedia collegial panels were established. A peer-to-peer remote hearing system was set up for the hearing boards in IP protection centers of Beijing, Nanjing, Zhejiang and Pudong District of Shanghai, covering offline face-to-face hearings, remote hearings via the Internet, remote hearings by the protection centers, and other hearing modes.

| TYPE | 2021 | 2020 |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Reexamination requests | 76093 | 54670 |
| Invention patent | 73601 | 49988 |
| Utility model patent | 2153 | 4073 |
| Design patent | 339 | 609 |
| Reexamination cases concluded | 54006 | 48046 |
| Invention patent | 48131 | 37771 |
| Utility model patent | 5300 | 9868 |
| Design patent | 575 | 407 |

| TYPE | 2021 | 2020 |
|------------------------------|------|------|
| Invalidation Requests | 7628 | 6178 |
| Invention patent | 1713 | 1442 |
| Utility model patent | 3330 | 2664 |
| Design patent | 2585 | 2072 |
| Invalidation cases concluded | 7065 | 7144 |
| Invention patent | 1671 | 1604 |
| Utility model patent | 3061 | 2987 |
| Design patent | 2333 | 2553 |

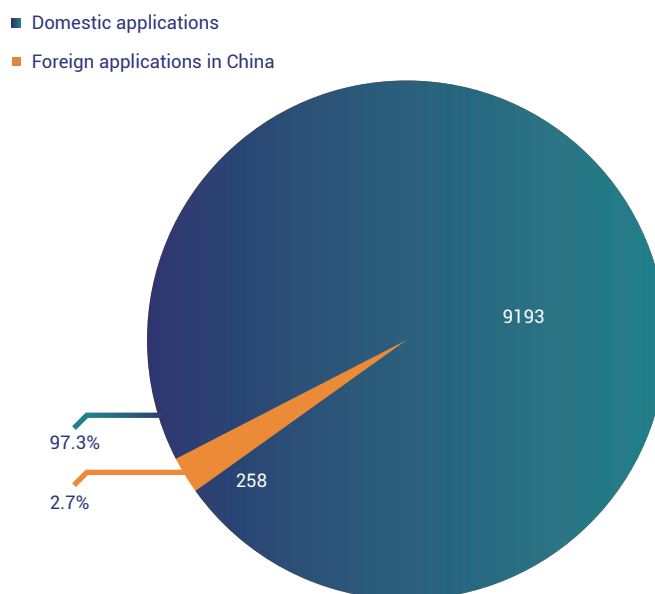
02 Trademark

2.1 Application for trademark registration

In 2021, a total of 9.451 million applications for trademark registration were filed in China, including 9.193 million domestic applications, accounting for 97.3% of the total, a rise of 0.8% year on year, and 258,000 foreign applications in China, accounting for

2.7% of the total, a year-on-year increase of 11.6%. In the applications for trademark registration filed throughout the year, 3.22 million were applications for service trademarks, accounting for 34.1% of the total, a year-on-year increase of 7.3%.

Applications for Trademark Registration 2021
(Thousand)



2.2 Trademark examination

In 2021, a total of 10.568 million applications for trademark registration were examined, a year-on-year increase of 20.3%. The average pendency for trademark examination was stabilized at 4 months, and the average pendency for trademark registration under general circumstances was reduced to 7 months. Quality management was further strengthened in the entire process of trademark registration, and the examination quality was further improved, with the passing rate in the sampling quality inspection on trademark examination at above 97%.

The mechanism for trademark examination and issuance of decisions was reformed. The new

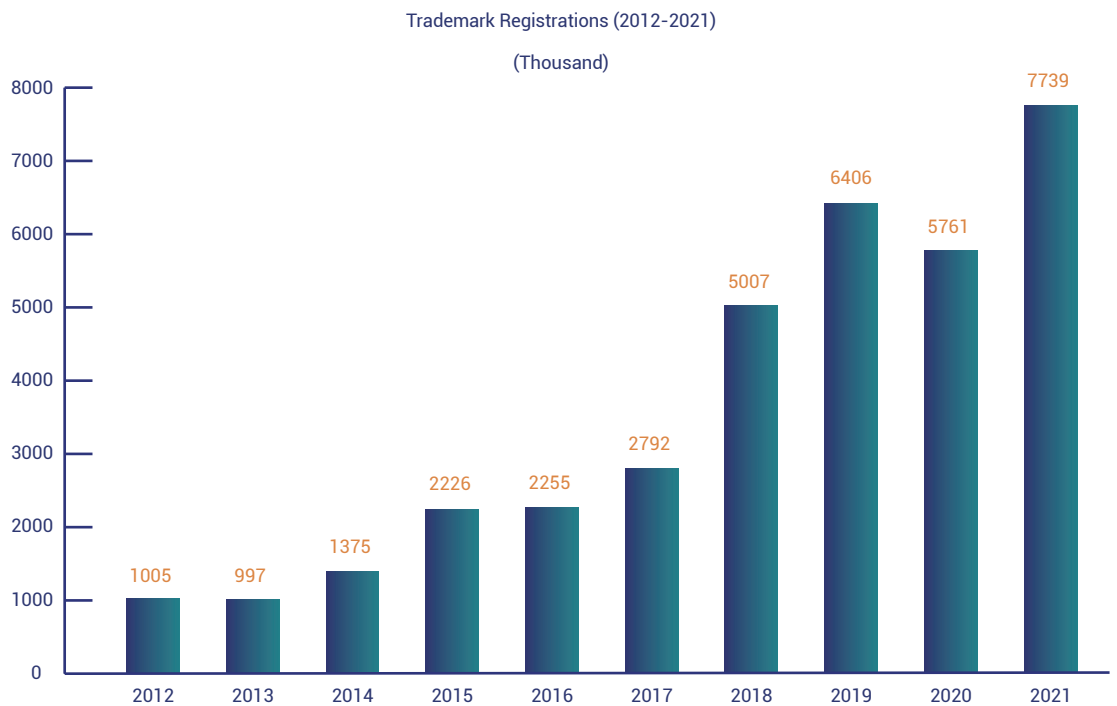
mechanism featuring shared responsibility of examination, verification and issuance of decisions was officially put into operation, in which applications were examined and verified at local trademark examination cooperation centers, and decisions were issued by the Trademark Office of CNIPA, so as to effectively strengthen the central authority on trademark examination. A fast-track examination mechanism was established, and the *Measures for Fast-Track Examination of Applications for Trademark Registration (For Trial Implementation)* were formulated, aiming at further improving the efficiency in granting and confirmation of trademark rights.

2.3 Trademark registration

In 2021, a total of 7.739 million trademarks were registered, a year-on-year increase of 34.3%. Among them, 7.545 million were domestic trademark registrations, accounting for 97.5% of the total, an annual increase of 35.3%; 194,000 were foreign trademarks registered in China, accounting for 2.5% of

the total, a year-on-year increase of 5.2%.

In 2021, in the examination decisions issued on trademark registration, preliminary approvals, partial refusals and refusals accounted for 56.9%, 15.2% and 27.8%, respectively¹.



2.4 Valid registered trademarks

As of the end of 2021, there were 37.24 million valid trademarks in China, a year-on-year increase of 23.4%. Among them, 35.323 million were domestic trademarks, accounting for 94.9% of the total, a year-

on-year increase of 24.4%; 1.917 million were foreign trademarks registered in China, accounting for 5.1% of the total, a year-on-year increase of 7.7%.

¹International trademark applications designating China under the Madrid system were not included in the statistics on the proportion of preliminary approvals, partial refusals and refusals.

2.5 Application for international registration of trademarks under the Madrid system

In 2021, a total of 5,928 applications for international registration of trademarks under the Madrid system filed by Chinese applicants were received. As of the end of 2021, the number of valid Madrid international trademark registrations by Chinese applicants amounted to 49,000 in total. All the procedures for Madrid international trademark registration could be handled online, and the electronic application rate reached 97%. The E-filing system provided an alternative to the relatively unstable international postal system during the COVID-19 pandemic, and effectively shortened the application cycle. As of the end of 2021,

the pendency for formalities examination of Madrid international trademark applications filed by Chinese applicants was shortened to 2 months.

In 2021, 27,000 requests for territorial extension of international registration to China under the Madrid system were filed by foreign applicants. The average pendency for examining territorial extension requests was shortened to 4 months. The pendency for examining requests for assignment, change and renewal of international registration was shortened to 1 month, hitting a new record.

2.6 Trademark opposition

In 2021, 176,000 trademark opposition requests were received, a year-on-year increase of 31.1%; formalities examination of 172,000 opposition requests was completed, with the related pendency shortened to 2.5 months on average. 164,000 opposition proceedings were completed, with a year-on-year increase of 10.1%, and the pendency was shortened to 11 months on

average.

All the opposition decisions were published at the website of the Trademark Office¹. In 2021, 162,000 decisions were published for the transparency of trademark opposition.

2.7 Trademark review and adjudication

In 2021, a total of 473,000 requests for trademark review and adjudication were received, a year-on-year increase of 28.8%. Among them, 383,000 were requests for review on rejection, and 90,000 were complicated cases involving both parties. A total of 383,000 review and adjudication cases were handled and concluded, including 308,000 cases of review on rejection and

74,000 complicated cases involving both parties.

Circuit hearing of trademark review and adjudication cases was carried forward, and 4 circuit boards were set up in Tianjin, Jinan, Chengdu and Yantai, so as to facilitate related parties with fast, intelligent, accurate and transparent trademark review and adjudication services.



¹. <http://sbj.cnipa.gov.cn/>.

| TYPE | 2021 | 2020 |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Requests for review | 472728 | 367029 |
| (1) Reviews on rejection | 382728 | 298171 |
| (2) Complicated cases | 90000 | 68858 |
| (a) Invalidation declaration | 68435 | 53019 |
| (b) Cancellation of registration | 16994 | 12615 |
| (c) Disapproval of registration | 4513 | 3222 |
| (d) Others | 58 | 2 |

| TYPE | 2021 | 2020 |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Reviews concluded | 382771 | 358285 |
| (1) Reviews on rejection | 308313 | 299880 |
| (2) Complicated cases | 74458 | 58405 |
| (a) Invalidation declaration | 57800 | 42778 |
| (b) Cancellation of registration | 13006 | 13396 |
| (c) Disapproval of registration | 3626 | 2177 |
| (d) Others | 26 | 54 |

03 Geographical Indication (GI)

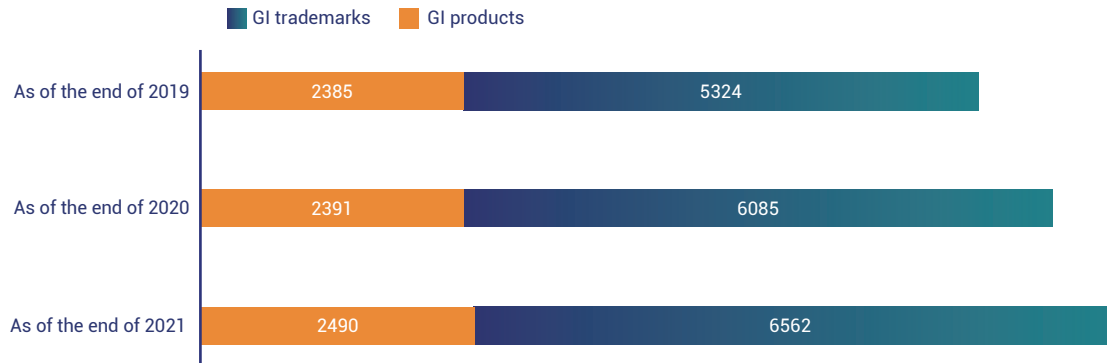
3.1 GI products

In 2021, 22 applications for protection of GI products were received; 99 GI products were approved for protection; and 7,677 market entities¹ were authorized to use the special sign for GI products. As

of the end of 2021, 2,490 GI products were approved for protection, and 17,000 market entities were authorized to use the special sign for GI products, cumulatively.

1. The market entities in these statistics were legitimate users of the special sign for GI products who had been authorized to download the vector of the sign, including: producers authorized to use the special sign for GI products, members of a group with GI registered as a collective mark, and licensees of GIs registered as certification marks.

GI Products and GI Trademarks (2019-2021)



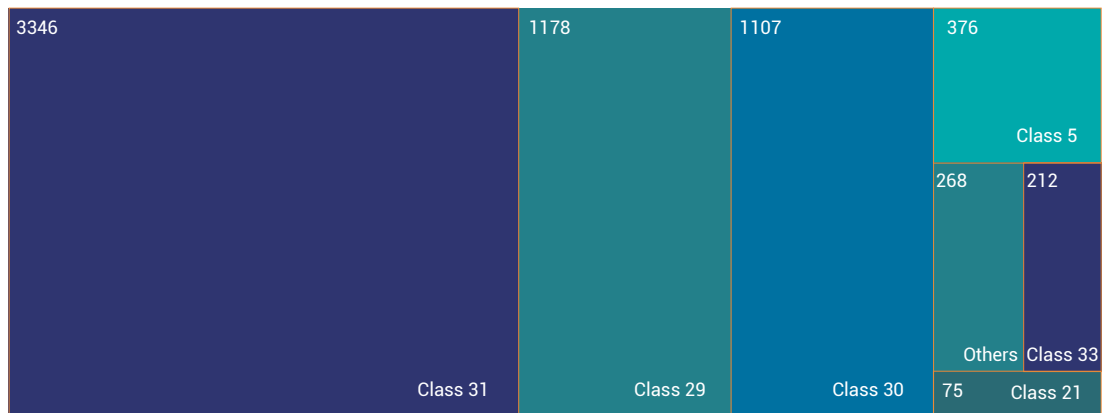
3.2 GI trademarks

In 2021, a total of 477 GI trademarks were registered; by the end of 2021, 6,562 GI trademarks were registered cumulatively, of which 215 were registered by foreign applicants.

Among the registered GI trademarks, the largest proportion were from products under Class 31 (agricultural products, fresh fruits, vegetables, etc.), which totaled

3,346, accounting for 51.0% of the total, followed by Class 29 (meat, fish and eggs, milk, etc.) and Class 30 (coffee, tea, rice, honey, etc.), numbered 1,178 and 1,107, accounting for 18.0% and 16.9%, respectively. As is shown by the statistics, GI trademarks were mainly registered for agricultural products and their primary processed products, Chinese medicinal materials, tea and porcelain, and they were most closely related to agriculture.

Registered GI Trademarks by Class

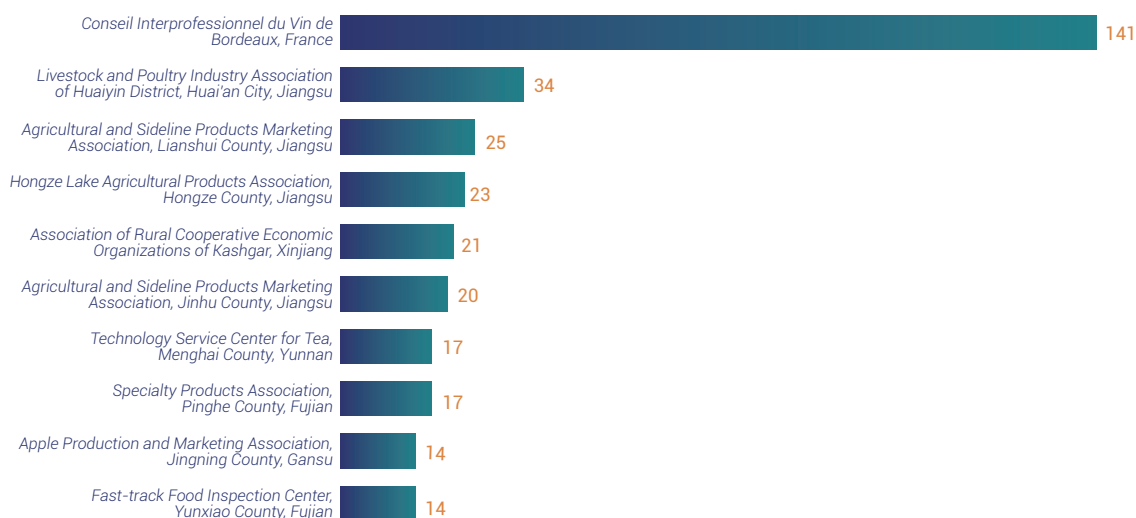


The top 5 provinces in terms of the number of registered GI trademarks were Shandong (855), Fujian (594), Sichuan (552), Hubei (500) and Jiangsu (379). They accounted for 43.9% of the total in China.

were registered in China, a year-on-year increase of 2.4%. The top 3 source countries were France (154), Italy (24) and the United States (14). They account for 89.3% of the total foreign GI trademark registered in China, aggregately.

As of the end of 2021, a total of 215 foreign GI trademarks

Top 10 Single Market Entities in Terms of Ownership of GI Trademarks



04 Layout design of integrated circuit

In 2021, a total of 20,000 applications for the registration of layout designs of integrated circuits (IC) were received, a year-on-year increase of 41.6%. 13,000 certificates were issued, a year-on-year increase of 11.6%. Since the *Regulations on the Protection of Layout Designs of Integrated Circuits* took effect on October 1, 2001, a total of 66,000 applications for the registration of IC layout designs

have been received, and 52,000 certificates have been issued.

As of the end of 2021, a total of 24 requests for revocation of IC layout designs were received, including 4 requests received in 2021, and 18 cases were concluded, cumulatively.