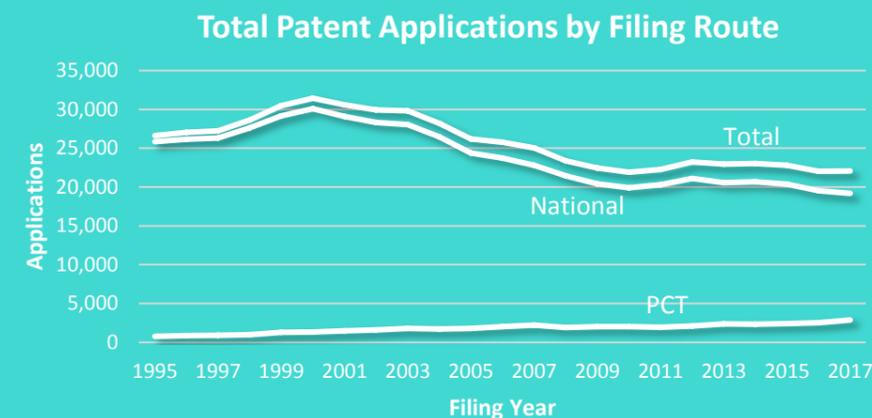


+40%

Although the total number of granted patents by the UKIPO has been on a slight decrease since 2005, an increase of EPO grants designating UK has been very significant since 2000 and in 2016 this increase has spiked to 94,539 from 67,090 in 2015 which is the highest amount of increase since 1995. This may be in relation to the *reorganisation at EPO*, trying to reduce the backlog of applications waiting to be examined. However, this may also be related to the alleged *decrease of examination quality at the EPO*.

Overall the number of applications at EPO designating UK for protection increased dramatically since 1995 indicating that applicants are taking the EPO route more as it gives more options in a number of territories to obtain protection.



UK national applications has been on a steady decrease since 2000. PCT applications increased their share compared to UK nationals despite the total number of PCT applications also decreasing slightly but steadily since 2001. This may also be an indication of applicants choosing the EPO route with more decisiveness, rather than filing nationally or via PCT and prolonging the prosecution period. Another potential cause of decrease in total number of patent applications is believed to be the move towards other forms of protection (e.g. trade secrets).

Direct national applications at UKIPO decreased slightly.

IP TRENDS

1995-2017

Another important finding from the study is the residency of the applications. This is especially important because the applicant's country of residence indicates where ownership or control of the invention lies. In the recent years, it appears that the number of resident applicants have decreased while non-resident applications have risen. UKIPO suggests further analysis is needed to understand the reasons behind this trend.



The trends in granted applications by applicant residency show that in the past, the number of applications filed by non-resident applicants proceeded to grant has been higher than the resident applicants. This suggests that UK residents are using the local Intellectual Property system to assess the potential to obtain protection for their application but then moving on to broader routes such as PCT, using the filing date of the local application. However, this trend has changed since 2015, resident application grants making up 52% of all grants in 2017. Similar trend applies to the Inventor residency for granted applications.



The report also lays out the share of publications from top applicant countries by technologies between 2012-2017 which gives an accurate overview on what each top applicant country has been focusing on. Most significant areas in this respect appear to be civil engineering, transport, engines/pumps/turbines and digital communication being held by Norway (32%), Germany (19%), France (29%) and Japan (24%) respectively.



Trends in the share of published patent applications in past 10 years show an increase in Chinese applications at UKIPO. This increase appears to be a direct impact of the intellectual property policy changes Chinese government have been implementing.