

2022

ANNUAL REPORT

רשות הפטנטים
ISRAEL PATENT OFFICE
سلطة براءات الاختراع



משרד המשפטים
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE | وزارة العدل

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The description in this Annual Report is not meant to provide an exhaustive review of the law; it does not amount to legal advice or present a binding opinion on behalf of the ILPO regarding its policy. The purpose of the description is to provide the reader with a general idea regarding the ILPO roles and the legislation by which it acts. As such, the description is general and highly simplified. It should not be relied upon for any commercial or other legal purpose.

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Opening Remarks by the Minister of Justice

I welcome the issuance of the ILPO Activity Summary Report for 2022.

It is my belief that a modern, up-to-date regulatory environment is essential to the activity of any organization, particularly the activity of an organization engaged in the rapidly changing and evolving field of innovation.

I also welcome the ILPO's numerous initiatives and hope that these will facilitate matters for the various interested parties in this important field.

My sincere thanks to the ILPO personnel for their activity.

**Sincerely,
Yariv Levin
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice**

Opening Remarks by the Director General of the Ministry of Justice

We hereby present the Annual ILPO Activity Report for 2022. The data show that the ILPO has been dealing with an ever-increasing volume of work, but nevertheless has managed to maintain a high level of service and has even shortened the waiting time for a response in the various domains of activity.

The ILPO boasts a customer-oriented service, reflected by the steady improvements made for the benefit of the citizen. This includes, among other things, the shift to delivering examination reports in the English language at the customer's request, the setting-up of an interface with the Israeli Corporations Authority, and the initiatives for legislative amendments and modifications for the general public benefit.

As is evident from the report, the ILPO's international activity is impressive and showcases the positive side of Israel in the international arena, including in UN agency World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

I congratulate ILPO personnel and managers on their achievements.

**Sincerely,
Itamar Donenfeld
Director-General of the Ministry of Justice**



Opening Remarks by the ILPO Director

I am pleased to present the annual report summarizing the Israel Patent Office's activities in 2022.

The purpose of the Israel Patent Office is to enable an adequate and accessible intellectual property protection environment, with the aim of encouraging innovation and protecting competition. The conditions needed for such an environment are appropriate rules (legislation, regulations and work procedures), professional and readily available service from the relevant entities in the government and court system, exploitation of opportunities, and also dealing with changes in the external environment and the technological developments.

On June 9, 2022, the Ministry of Justice held an "Open Doors" conference, inviting the public to participate in discussions on topics relating to the ILPO's activities : necessary legislative amendments, provision of information to the public on intellectual property rights, the need for a specialized intellectual property court, and deepening of the connection between the ILPO and the professional associations of intellectual property attorneys and patent attorneys, primarily in the tailoring of the law to technological developments. The ILPO's work program in 2022 was tailored to some of the aforesaid topics.

In the domain of legislation, the regulations that would allow filing a provisional application were not completed in 2022, due to the adjournment of the 24th Knesset in June 2022. It is my hope that the Knesset will approve these regulations this year. The Patent Law Memorandum is set to be published and will include clauses such as application of a grace period in Israel, a shift to the method of examination by request, and a shift to a written certification exam for patent attorneys. Also in the pipeline are amendments regarding video conference hearings, an amendment to the Patents Regulations regarding opposition proceedings, amendments supplanting the representative's requirement to submit a power of attorney to the ILPO with the requirement to declare possession of a power of attorney, and amendments regarding fees for a name and address change. These will make it easier for the applicants and reduce the bureaucratic burden entailed in filing applications.

Amendments that need to be carried out in the future include simplification of the trademark registration opposition proceedings. It is also necessary to examine whether the changes in the patent opposition procedures will indeed cut the length and cost of the proceedings. Another topic at the focus of the discussions of international forums and the Israel Patents Office is the protection desired for AI-created works. The ILPO is involved in these discussions and follows up on the latest developments in this domain in other countries.

The participants of the Open Doors Conference raised a clear demand to increase the ILPO's involvement in providing public accessibility to all intellectual property rights, the reason being that the ILPO is seen as an entity that provides reliable and objective information. The ILPO addressed this aspect in the form of basic guides on trademarks and designs, explaining these subjects in simple and accessible terms to those who lack legal education, and a guide on patents that is currently near completion.

Another topic that the committee participants were unanimous on was the need for a specialized court for intellectual property in Israel. However, a study conducted by the ILPO showed that the quantity of patent, trademark and design files is not high, casting doubt on the justification for establishing a specialized intellectual property court. Perhaps a more appropriate approach would be to deepen the existing trainings in the court system on intellectual property topics for judges in this area of law.

The ILPO follows up on the technological developments that could influence intellectual property law and on emerging global trends in these areas. Additionally, it works to deepen the collaboration between the ILPO and the professional organizations that engage in the field in Israel, such as the AIPPI, the Israel Patent Attorneys Association, and the Intellectual Property Committee of the Israel Bar Association.

In 2022, the number of patent applications filed in Israel was up 5% from the previous year, making that an increase of 35% over the past five years. The number of trademark applications filed was similar to that in the previous year, but the number of classes grew 9% year-over-year, and rose a total of 25% over the past five years.

¹Summary of the public meeting is available at: <https://govextra.gov.il/justice/public/home/home-open-doors>

Design registration applications decreased by 8% compared to the prior year, standing at 1,727 over the average for the last five years. To date, contrary to expectations, Israel's joining the Hague System failed to bring about a significant increase in the number of design registration applications in Israel. Some 30 patent opposition proceedings were initiated, like previous years, while in the trademarks domain 195 proceedings were initiated, a 20% decrease relative to the previous year.

The ILPO departments have fully met the examination targets set for them at the beginning of the year. In 2022, the largest-ever number of patent applications were examined, including 6,700 Israeli applications and 1,470 applications within the framework of the International Searching Authority. In addition, 7,000 continued examination reports were issued. In the field of trademarks, 25,424 classes underwent an initial examination and 21,207 classes underwent a re-examination. In the field of designs, 1,650 design registration applications underwent an initial examination, while 1,000 underwent a re-examination.

The past year saw average examination pendency for patents continue to decrease, with average pendency reduced by two months for most teams. This is an optimal wait time, considering that the Israel Patent Office is a "second filing office," i.e., patent examination applications are filed there in addition to being filed in one of the large markets, such as the U.S., Europe and China; therefore, it is advisable that the examination at the Israeli office be carried out following the examination in these markets. In the field of biotechnology, pendency has increased by 4 months, due to a surge of 56% in the number of applications in this field over the last five years. The ILPO is endeavoring to deal with this increase by changing how applications are assigned among the teams and by recruiting more examiners for this field. However, these steps are not expected to improve wait times in the foreseeable future.

In the field of trademarks, average first examination pendency in 2022 stood at 5 months, while total time until the publication of oppositions stood at only 6.5 months. In the field of designs, average first examination pendency stood at 6.3 months, while total examination time stood at 7.5 months. There is room for further reduction of wait times in these areas, and our hope is that this goal will be achieved in the coming years.

At the start of 2022, the ILPO allowed applicants to select English (and not Hebrew) as the language of the examination reports for as-yet unexamined applications; over 75% of the users selected this option.

During 2021, the ILPO made available for public use the AI-based search software Similari, which it uses to search for prior art. In 2022, around 600 searches were made by public users via this software.

In the area of computerization, search possibilities were enhanced on the patent search site, and the option to save searches and receive alerts about saved searches was also added. In the field of trademarks, the interface with the Registrar of Companies was completed, enabling company name and address changes registered at the Registrar of Companies to be made automatically also in the Trademarks Register. Likewise, work was carried out on the ILPO operating systems.

Apart from application examinations, the major part of the ILPO's work program for 2023 is in the area of legislation: promotion of the legislative proceedings mentioned above and a possible legislative change to the Israeli Trademarks Ordinance. This change concerns removal of the interference proceedings in Section 29 of the Trademarks Ordinance as a mechanism to determine which application among applications for identical or similar trademarks is to be awarded priority, and its replacement by the "first to file" system prevailing in many countries, by which the application of the first applicant is accepted, unless a third party has a right to prevent the use of the mark by the applicant at the time the application is filed.

Computerization plans for 2023 include adapting the patent filing website for filing provisional applications, revising the sites for filing a new patent application and filing a new trademark registration application, improving how documents are viewed in the examination files on the trademark search site, converting various inquiries submitted on inquiry sites to "smart" inquiries that do not require the attachment of documents, and making improvements to ILPO systems.

As part of its efforts to make information accessible to the public, the ILPO is currently in the process of establishing an instruction and public policy department that will centralize the administration of public relations and spokespersonship, the ILPO website, the digital domain as well as the in-house and extra-organizational instruction. The aim is to deepen the connection with the public and to increase the ILPO's scope of activity in these areas.

I thank the ILPO personnel for their dedicated work. They are the ones responsible for all the numerous achievements presented in this report.

My sincere thanks to the Minister of Justice Yariv Levin for his willingness to help the Patent Office with any matter required, to the previous Director General of the Ministry of Justice Adv. Eran Davidi for his support of the Patent Office during his tenure as director-general of the ministry, and to the Director General of the Ministry of Justice Itamar Donenfeld for committing to help promote the matters handled by the Patent Office. I would also like to express my thanks to Carmit Yulis, Deputy Attorney General (Civil Law), and to the personnel of the Intellectual Property Cluster at the Civil Law Department in the Legal Counsel and Legislative Affairs Department for the cooperation and intensive work in promoting the legislative proceedings over the past year.

I will be ending my tenure as Director of the Israel Patent Office and Commissioner of Patents, Designs and Trademarks in the second half of 2023. Over the past six years, I have had the privilege of meeting dedicated workers among ILPO's personnel and management, in the Justice Ministry's management and in the public sector, who faithfully serve the public. I have endeavored to be counted among them. I am grateful for the privilege that has come my way to serve in the public sector in general, and in the Israel Patent Office in particular, and hope that I have helped to advance the Patent Office even if only a little.

Finally, my thanks to Yael Faina, Director of Public Relations at the Patent Office, for producing the report.

Sincerely,

Adv. Ofir Alon

Director of the Israel Patent Office

Commissioner of Patents, Designs and Trademarks



ILPO ACTIVITIES

IN THE FIELD OF PATENTS



In 2022, the Patent Department successfully met the set target, carrying out a first examination on 7,469 national applications. Of 680 applications first filed in Israel, 43% underwent an expedited examination. In addition, 5,952 applications underwent a re-examination. Furthermore, 1,436 international applications were examined in the PCT Chapter I phase and 88 international applications in the PCT Chapter II phase, in the framework of the ILPO's activity as an international search and examination authority.

All the teams successfully met the examination wait times to which the ILPO committed in its service charter. In the biotechnology field, the ILPO failed to comply with the service charter, due to a continuing rise in the number of divisional applications filed. In 2022, 37% of the applications examined by the teams were divisional applications, which resulted in a delay in the examination of applications waiting in the examination queue.

In 2022, the Department launched a new service of production of examination reports in English at the applicant's request. This service obviates the need to translate the examination reports that are provided to foreign applicants, who account for a majority of those filing applications to register patents in Israel. The service is in great demand, and 76% of the first-examination reports issued in 2022 were in English.

In accordance with the ILPO work plan, revisions were

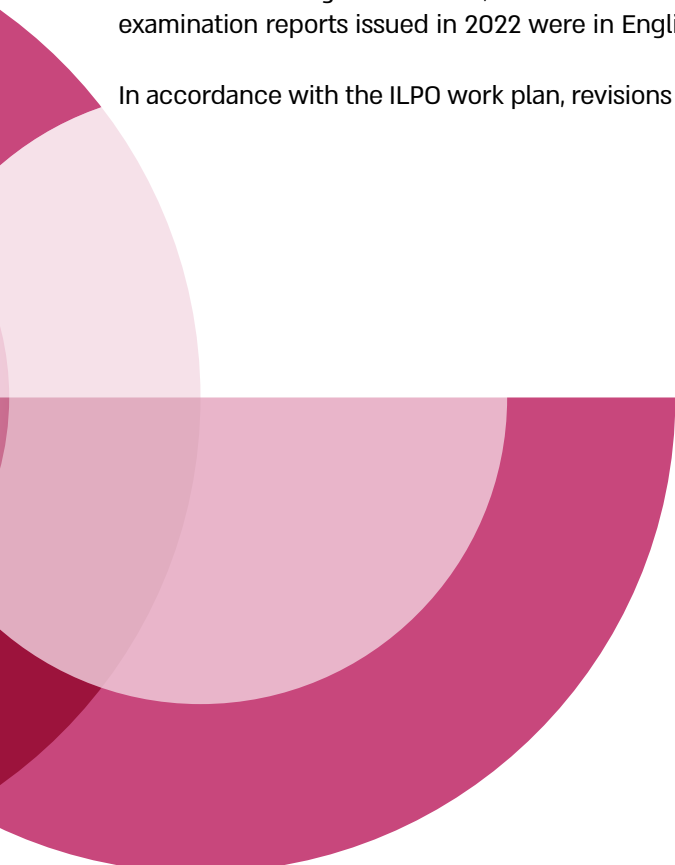
made to the following annexes to the work guidelines: Annex A – Guidelines on the use of foreign examination reports, amendments following the issuance of a notification prior to allowance, and return for re-examination of an application examined under Section 17(c) of the Law, where the corresponding patent is involved in an opposition proceeding; Annex D – Section 8 of the Law – Unity of invention; Annex I – Guidelines for searching for prior art; and Annex L – Section 12 of the Law – Description of the invention in the application's specification (including guidelines on the manner of submission of sequence files according to WIPO Standard ST.26).

A new feature was added to the BI tool, which serves as the primary tool for management and in-depth analysis of examination data and forecasting future loads – the ability to build dashboards enabling control over all the Department's activities, from the level of examiner to the level of the entire Department.

In the field of training, the five examiners recruited in September 2021 graduated to the second year of the cadet training program, after passing the tests at the end of the first year.

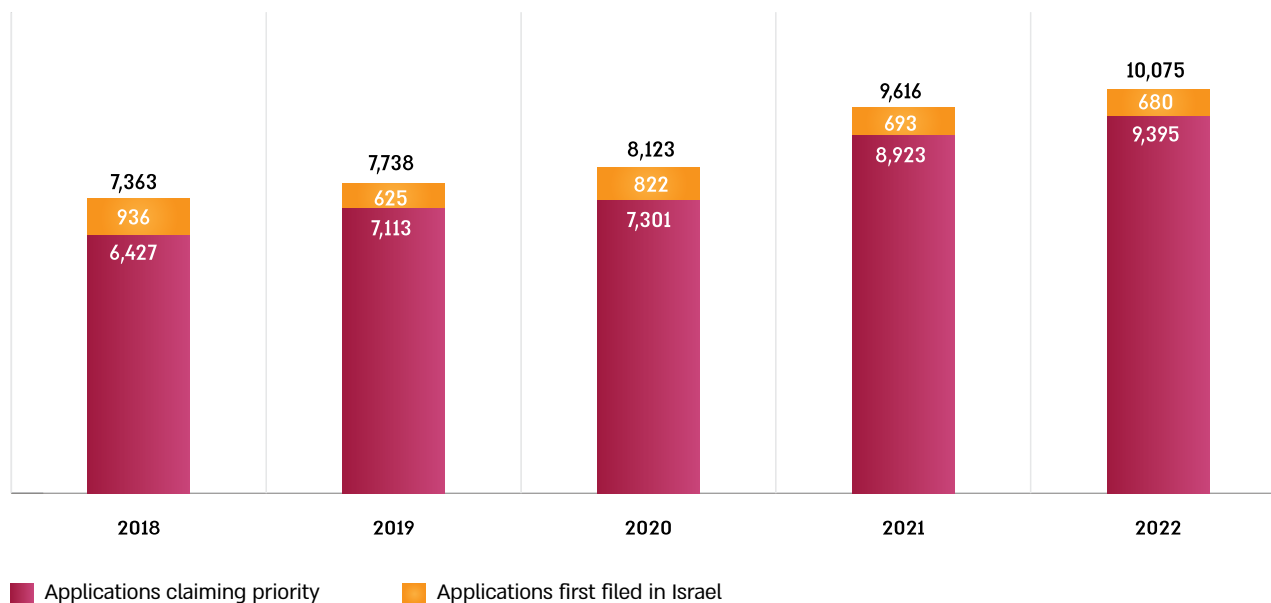
In addition, in light of the increasing number of patent applications in the cyber field, the examiners dealing with this field attended a 60-hour course on "Information and Cyber Security," in order to deepen their familiarity with the technological innovations and challenges in this field.

In the computing field, a feature has been added to the patent search site that enables saving searches and receiving alerts at a predetermined frequency regarding any change that has occurred in the search results or in specific files. In the Patents Journal, the information on patents has been expanded to include also the patent lapse dates and the patent expiration date.



A. Patent Application Data

Chart 1. Number of Applications Filed, 2018-2022



Recent years have seen a steady increase in the number of applications filed, due in part to the sharp rise in the number of divisional applications (see breakdown in Chart 5 below). In 2022, divisional applications accounted for 14% of all applications filed.

Chart 2. Israeli Applicants versus Foreign Applicants, 2018-2022 (percentage)

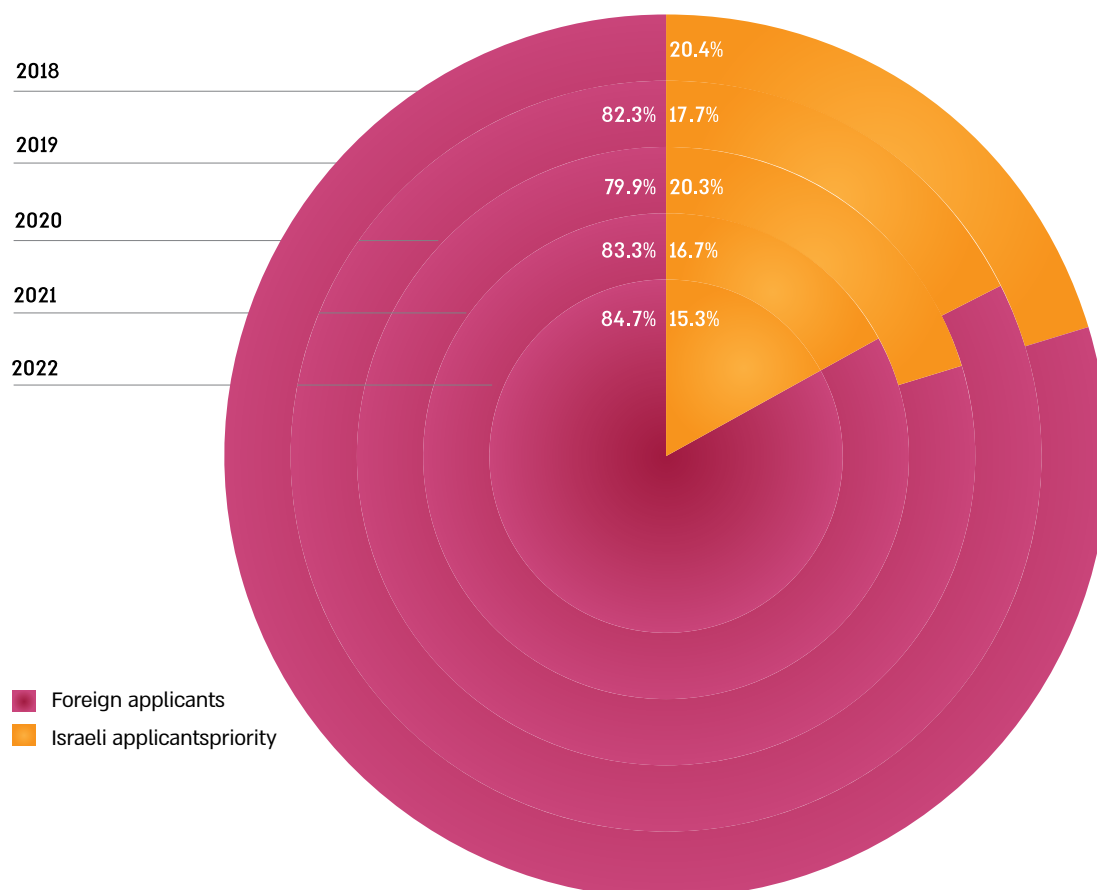


Table 1. Leading Israeli Applicants in Filing Patent Applications in 2022

Applicant Name	Number of Applications
Biosense Webster (Israel) Ltd.	173
Yeda Research and Development Company Ltd.	39
Israel Aerospace Industries Ltd.	24
Lumus Ltd.	24
Tel Hashomer Medical Research, Infrastructure and Services Ltd.	24

Table 2. Leading Foreign Applicants in Filing Patent Applications in 2022

Applicant Name	Number of Applications
REGENERON PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.	128
F. HOFFMANN-LA ROCHE AG	93
MAGIC LEAP, INC.	88
ASML NETHERLANDS B.V.	87
NOVARTIS AG	84



Chart 3. Patent Applications Filed with the ILPO in 2022 - by Country of Origin

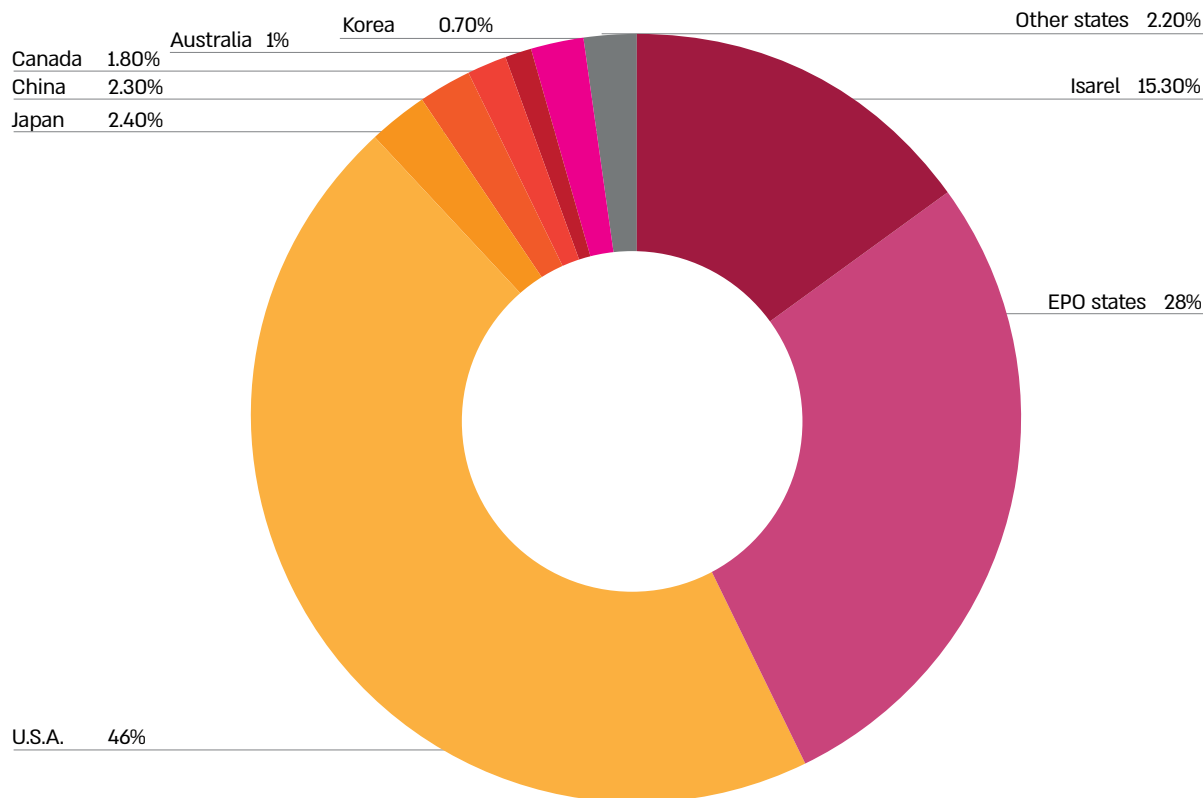
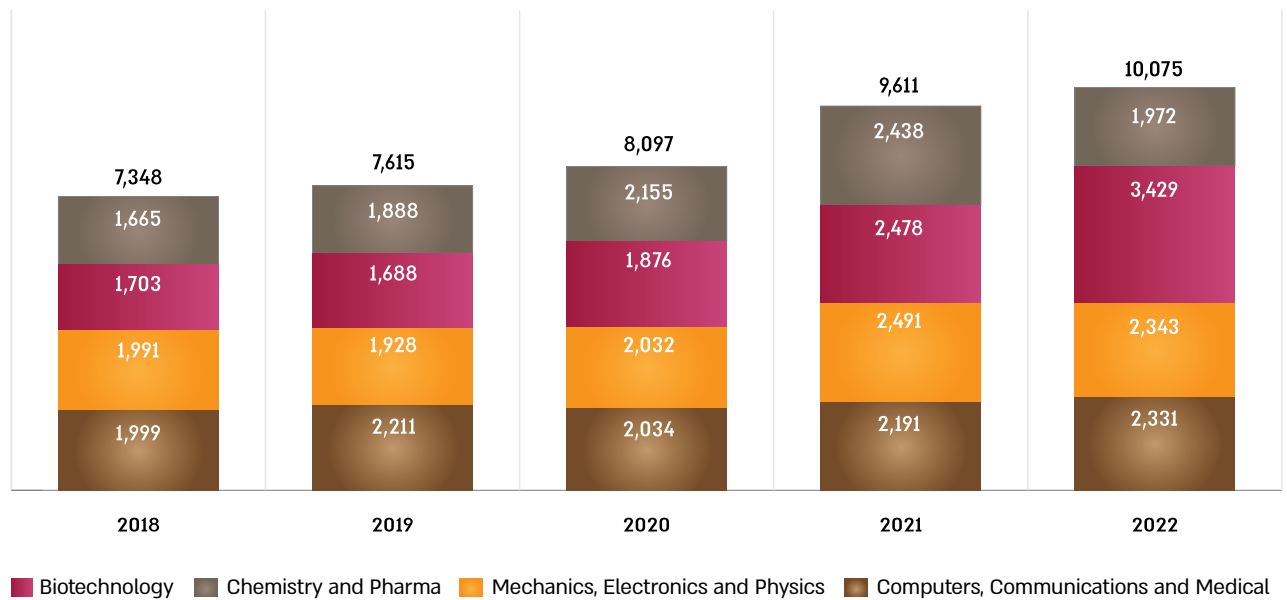
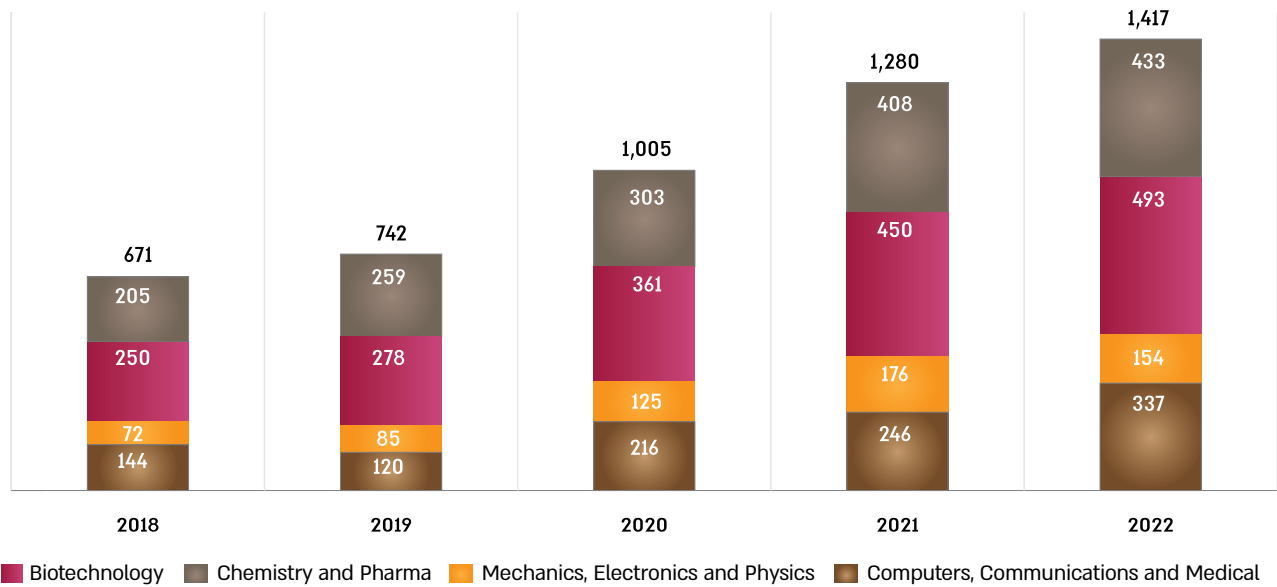


Chart 4. Patent Applications by Fields, 2018-2022



In recent years, there has been an upward trend in the submission of patent applications in the fields of biotechnology, chemistry and pharma, compared to stability in the fields of mechanics, electronics, physics and computers, communications and medical devices.

Chart 5. Divisional Patent Applications by Departments, 2018-2022



The sharp rise in the number of divisional applications filed since 2019 is apparently attributable to the change that occurred in 2019 in the work guidelines to examine for overlapping in divisional applications.

B. Patents Granted

Chart 6. Israeli Applicants versus Foreign Applicants, 2018-2022 (percentage)

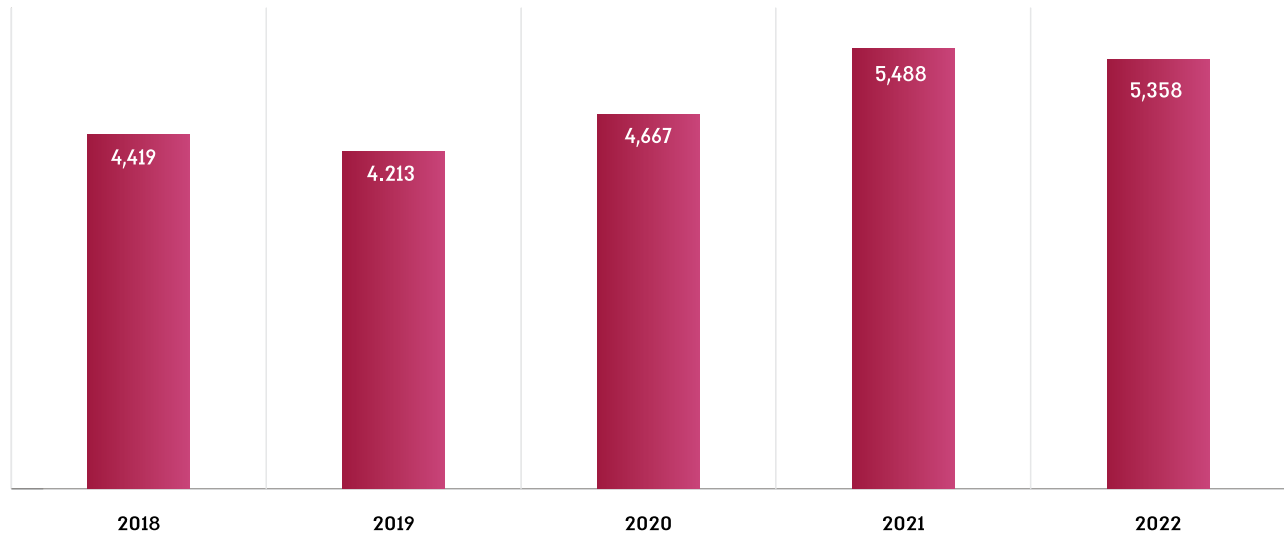


Table 3. Leading Israeli Applicants in Patent Registration in 2022

Applicant Name	Number of Applications
Biosense Webster (Israel) Ltd.	103
Israel Aerospace Industries Ltd.	33
Elbit Systems Ltd.	29
Elta Systems Ltd.	18
Stratasys Ltd.	16

Table 4. Leading Foreign Applicants in Patent Registration in 2022

Applicant Name	Number of Applications
MAGIC LEAP, INC.	85
RAYTHEON COMPANY	74
GUANGDONG OPPO MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORP., LTD.	52
KLA CORPORATION	45
REGENERON PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.	44

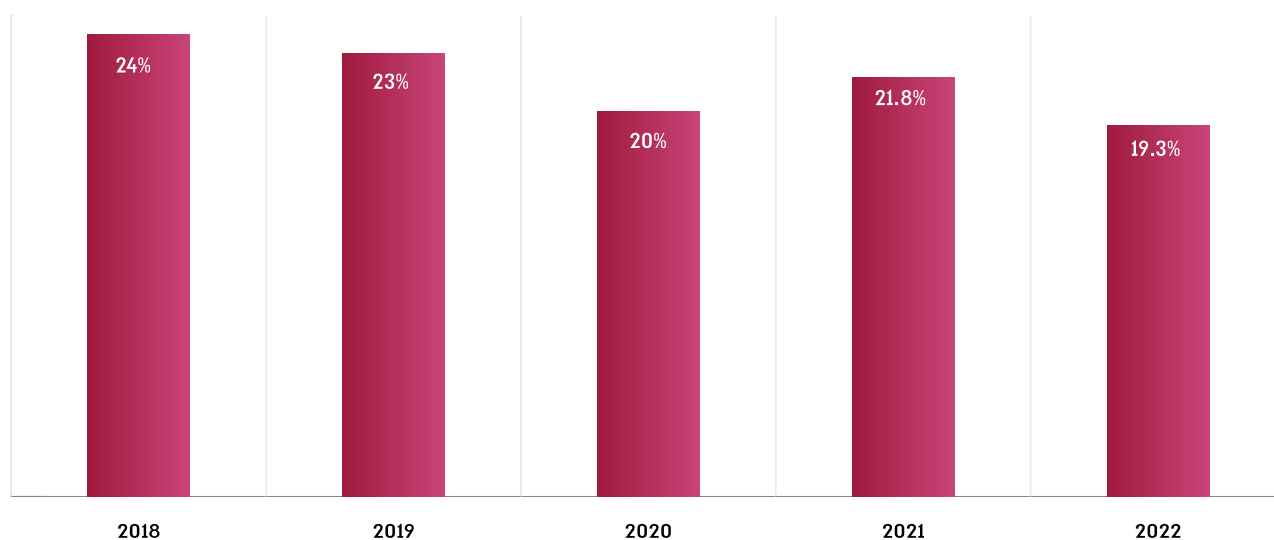
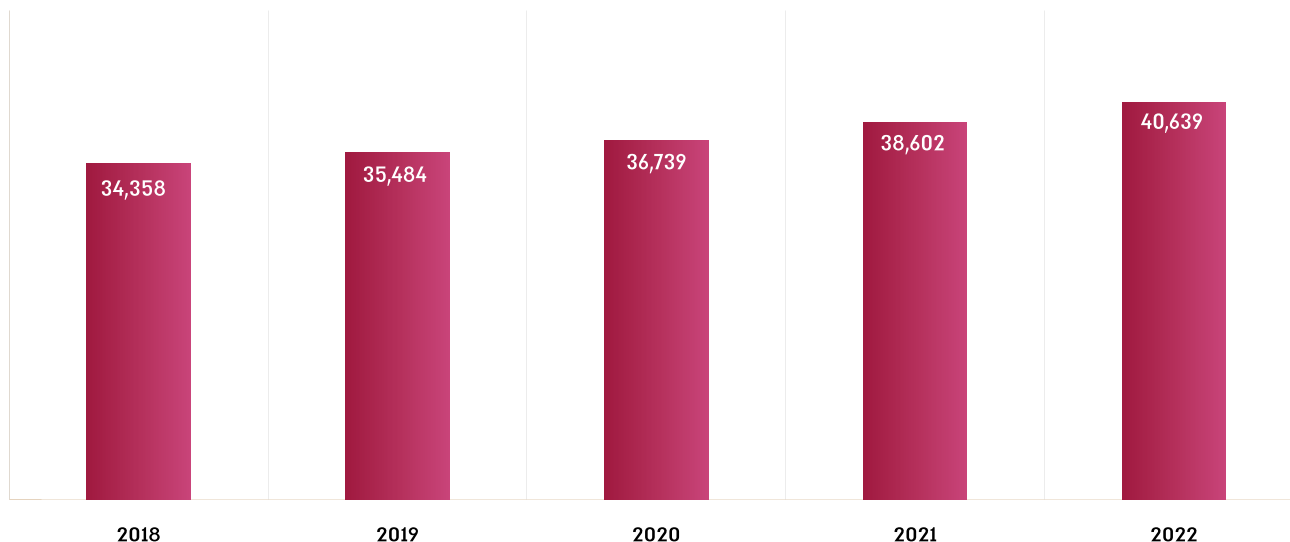
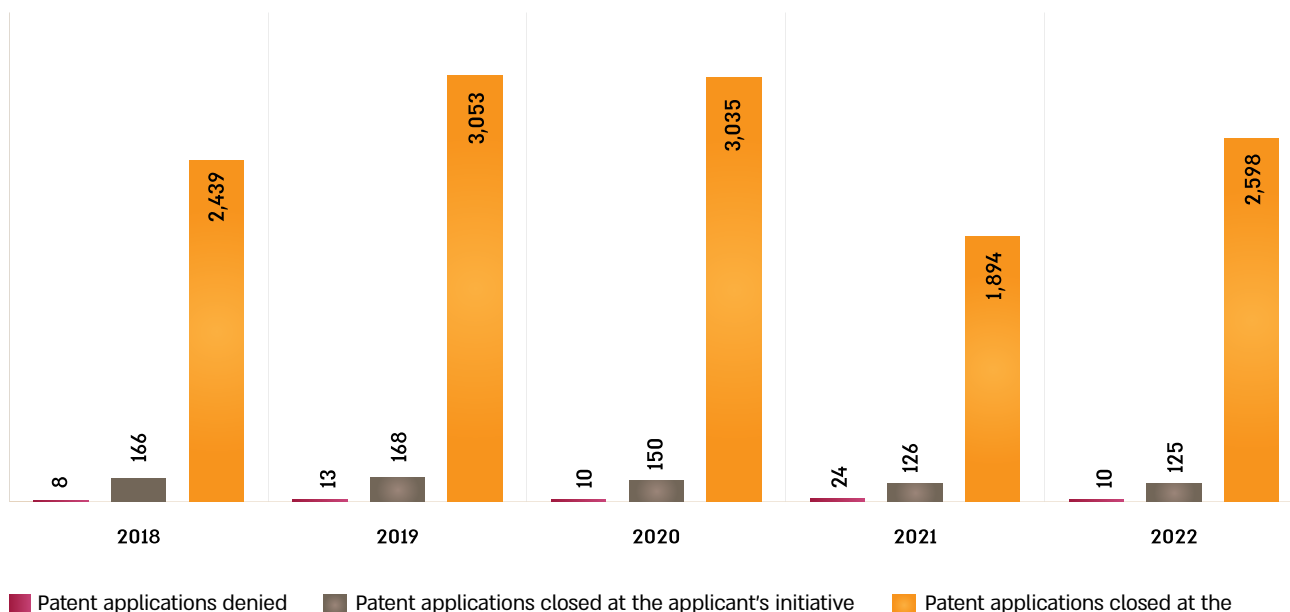
Chart 7. Applications Examined under Section 17(c) of the Patents Law out of Total Applications Accepted (percentages), 2018-2022

Chart 8. Patents in Force, 2018-2022



C. Patent Applications Not

Chart 9. Patent Applications Denied, Abandoned or Closed at the Applicant's Initiative, 2018-2022 (Before and After Examination)



Abandoned applications are those in which the applicant chooses to abandon the application or not to respond to ILPO notices, as a result of which the application is closed. Applications closed at the applicant's initiative are those in which the applicant has actively requested to close the application.

D. Examination Data

Chart 10. Applications Approved after First Examination out of Applications First Examined in the Same Year (percentages)

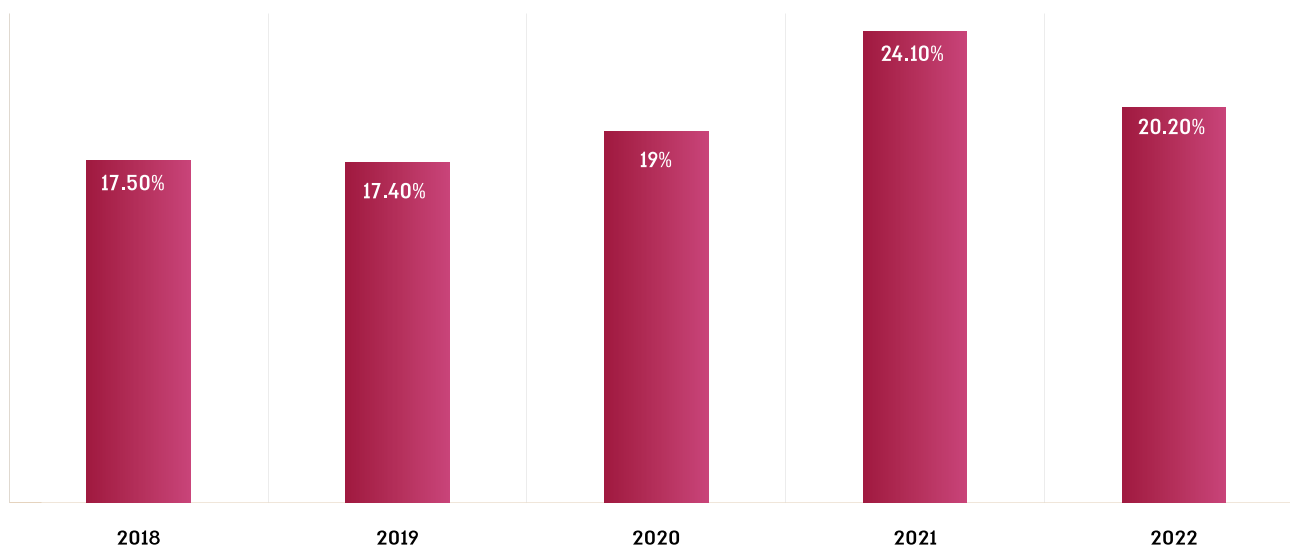


Chart 11. Examinations by Departments in 2022

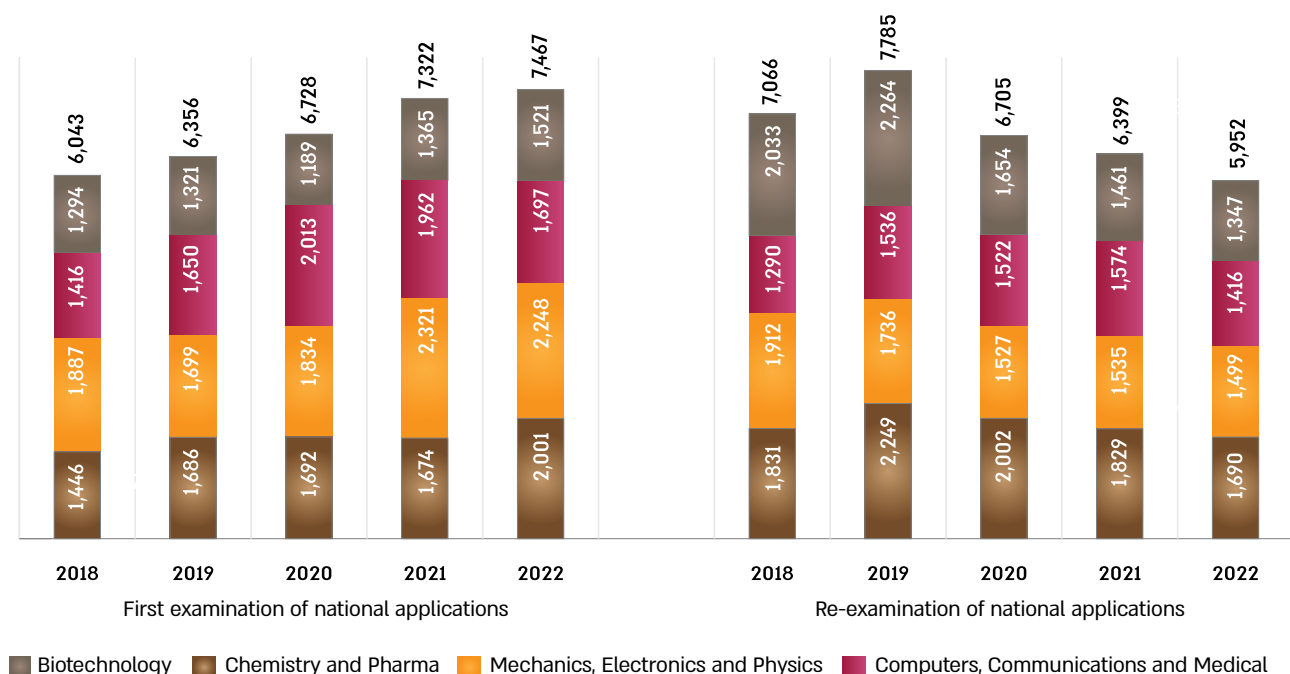
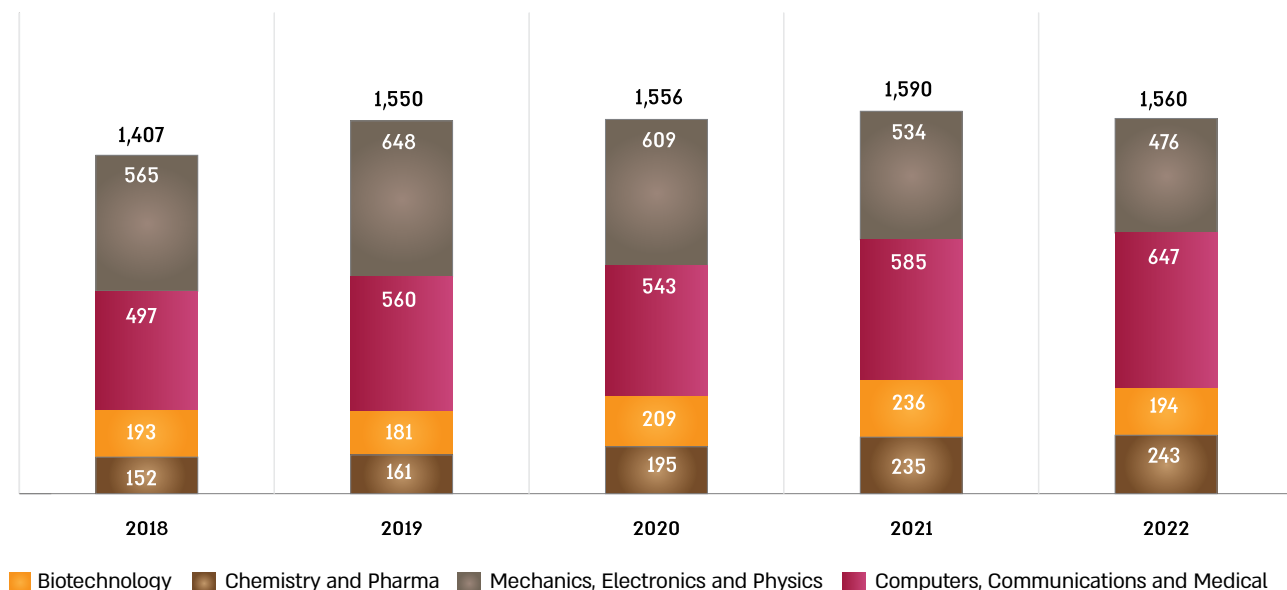
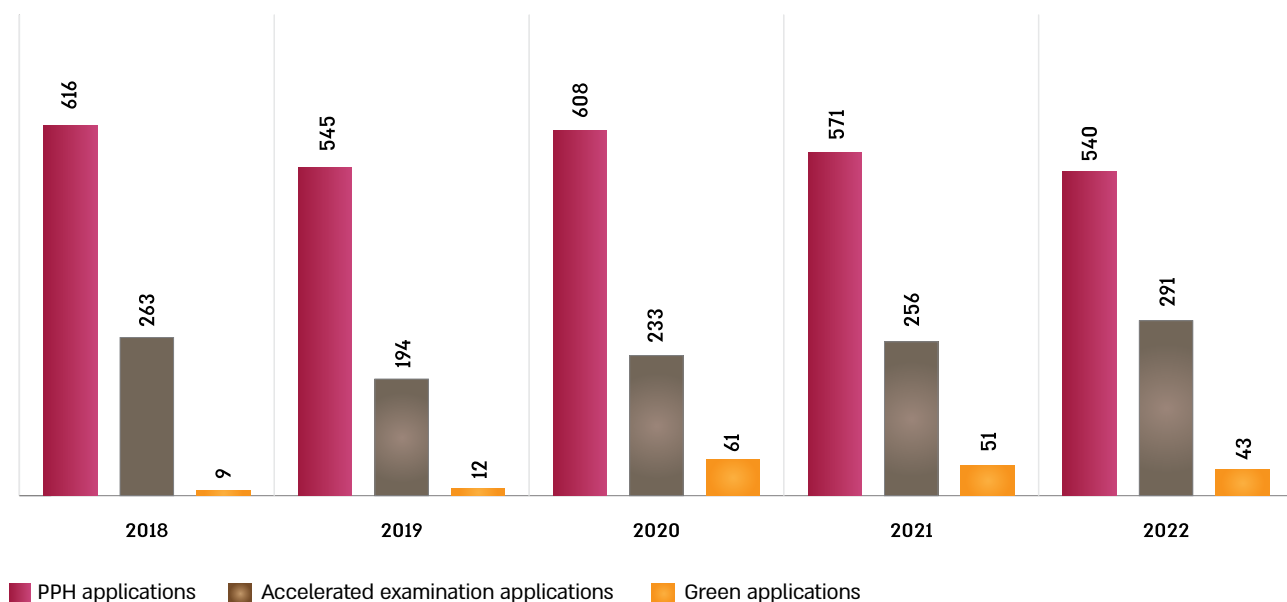


Chart 12. International Examinations by Fields, 2018-2022



E. Requests to Expedite

Chart 13. Applications in Which a Request to Expedite the Examination Was Approved, 2018-2022



Of 680 applications first filed in Israel in 2022, 43% underwent an accelerated examination.

For these applications, a search report is issued in the format of an international search report plus an examination report in English within three months. These reports enable the applicant to formulate a strategy for the invention in light of the examination results.

F. Examination Pendency

Chart 14. Average Pendency from the Filing Date to Completion of the Examination, 2018-2022 (in months)

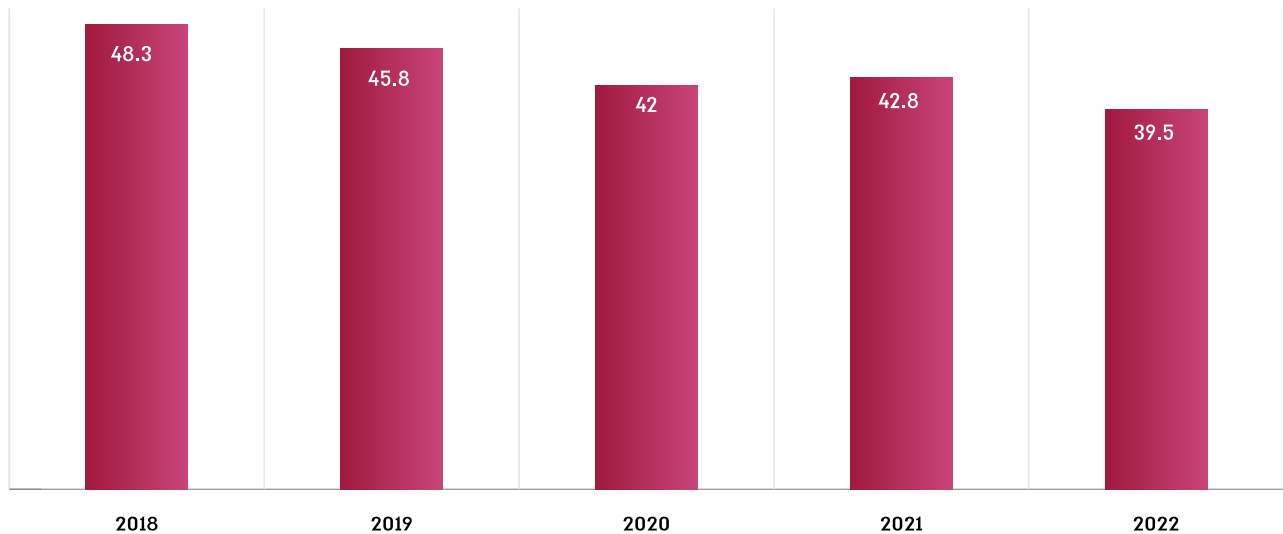


Chart 15. Average Pendency from the Filing Date to Completion of the Examination, by Departments, 2018-2022 (in months)

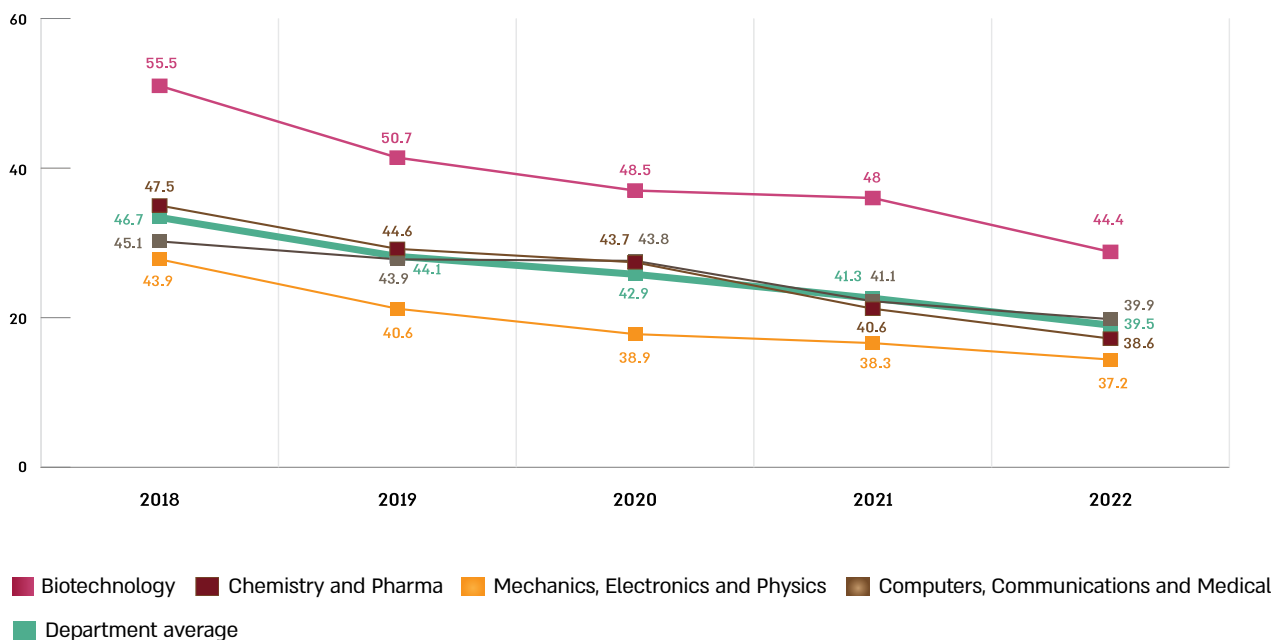


Chart 16. Average Pendency for Re-Examination, 2018-2022 (in months)

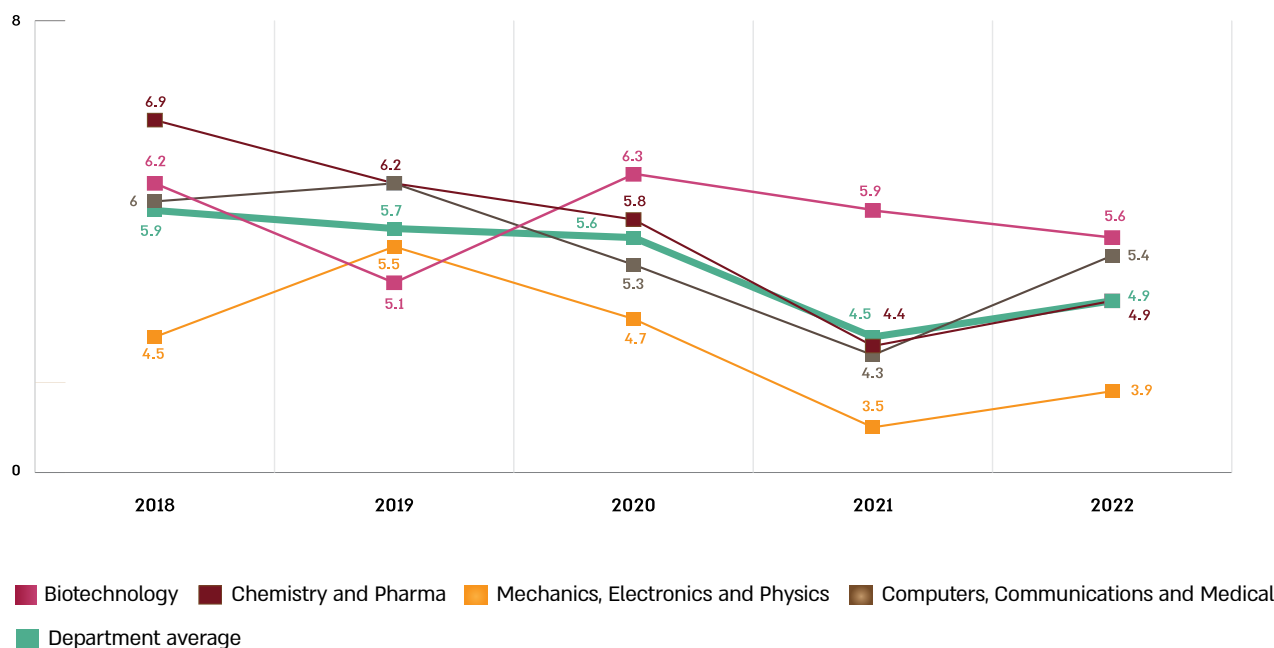
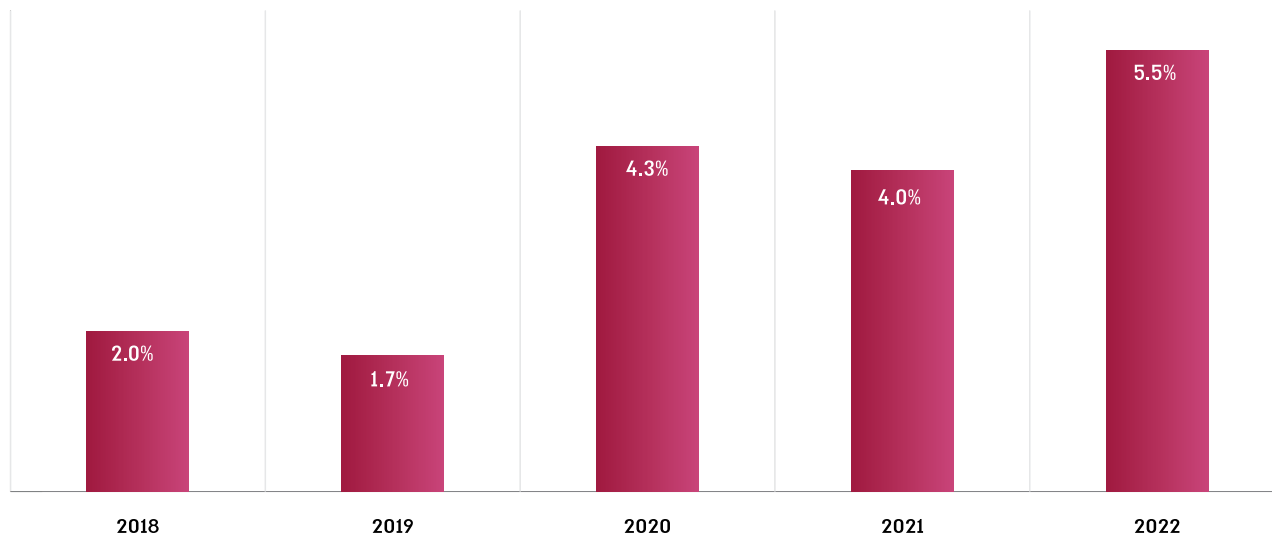


Chart 17. Applications in Which an Examination Suspension Was Approved, 2018-2022 (in months)



In accordance with Commissioner Circular 35/2017, an applicant may suspend the examination after complying with Section 18 of the Law. Suspensions add some 14 months to the average time until the start of the examination.

G. Patent Term Extension (PTE)

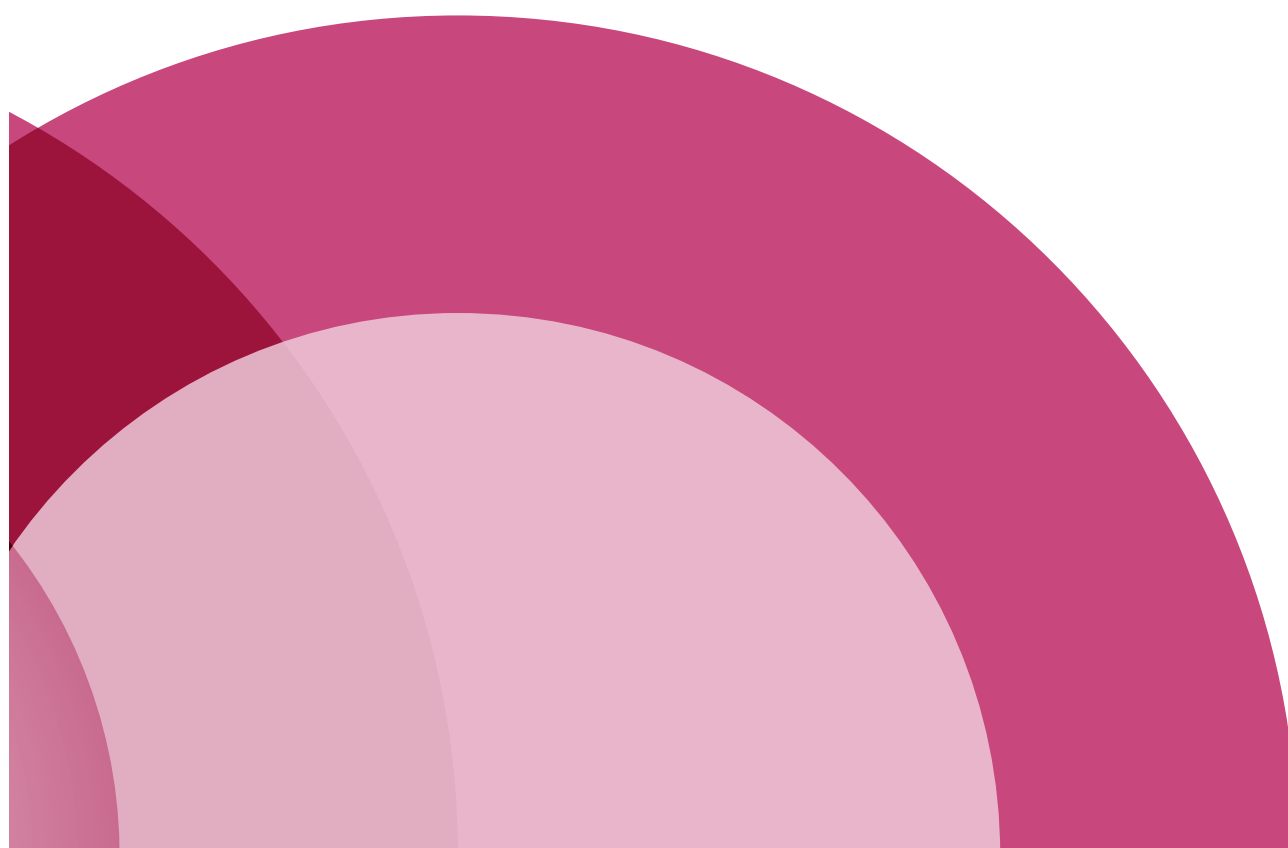
The data reflect the number of applications for patent term extension orders filed in a certain year, and the number of extension orders issued in that year. Note that the number of extension orders granted does not correspond to the number of applications filed.

Extension order applications undergo examination and then are published for public opposition. During that timeframe, the Commissioner might review appeals made against an examiner's decision not to grant an extension application, or he might hear oppositions to an extension order application.

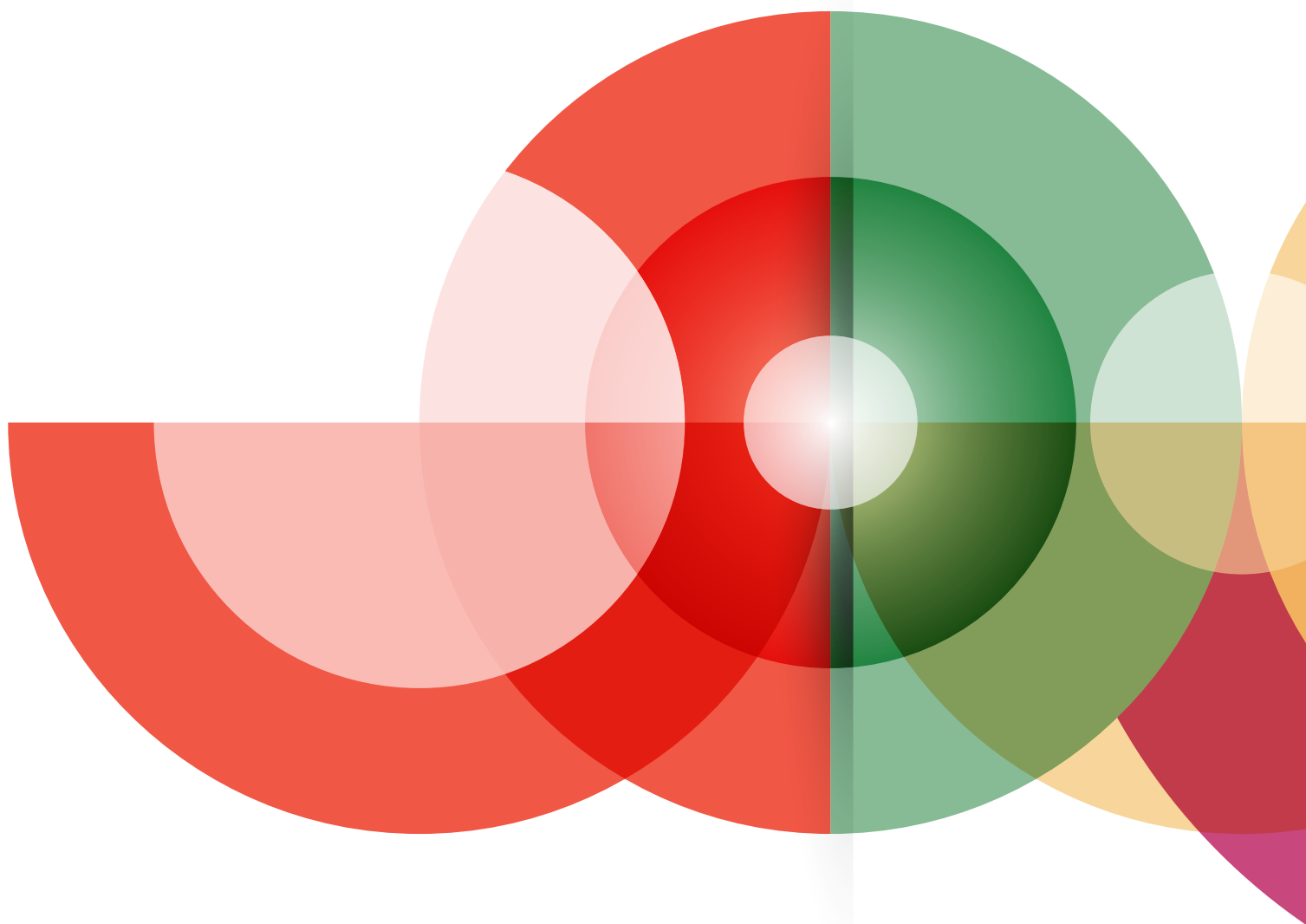
In addition, in the case of applications published for opposition under Section 64E(e)(1) of the Patents Law, an extension order will not be granted until extension orders have been issued for the reference patents in other countries.

Table 5. Extension Order Applications and Extension Orders Issued, 2018-2022

Year	Extension Order Applications	Extension Orders Granted
2018	13	13
2019	15	13
2020	26	15
2021	20	20
2022	19	11



ILPO ACTIVITIES UNDER THE PCT



The Patent Office's Activities as Receiving Office (RO/IL)

The year 2022 was characterized by a decrease in the number of international applications filed with the ILPO as Receiving Office. During the year, 1,417 international applications were filed by Israeli applicants, compared with 1,563 applications in the previous year. 67% of Israeli applicants (a total of 945 applications) that filed international applications with the ILPO as a Receiving Office, designated the Patent Office as an International Searching and Examining Authority. (The percentage was similar in 2021, and stood at 70% in 2020.) The rest of the Israeli applicants designated the European or US Searching and Examining Authorities (329 and 143 applications, respectively).

All international applications were filed online, via the ILPO's electronic filing system.

The Patent Office's Activities as International Searching and Examining Authorities (ISA/IPEA/IL)

In 2022, 1,431 international applications were filed with the ILPO as a searching and examining authority.

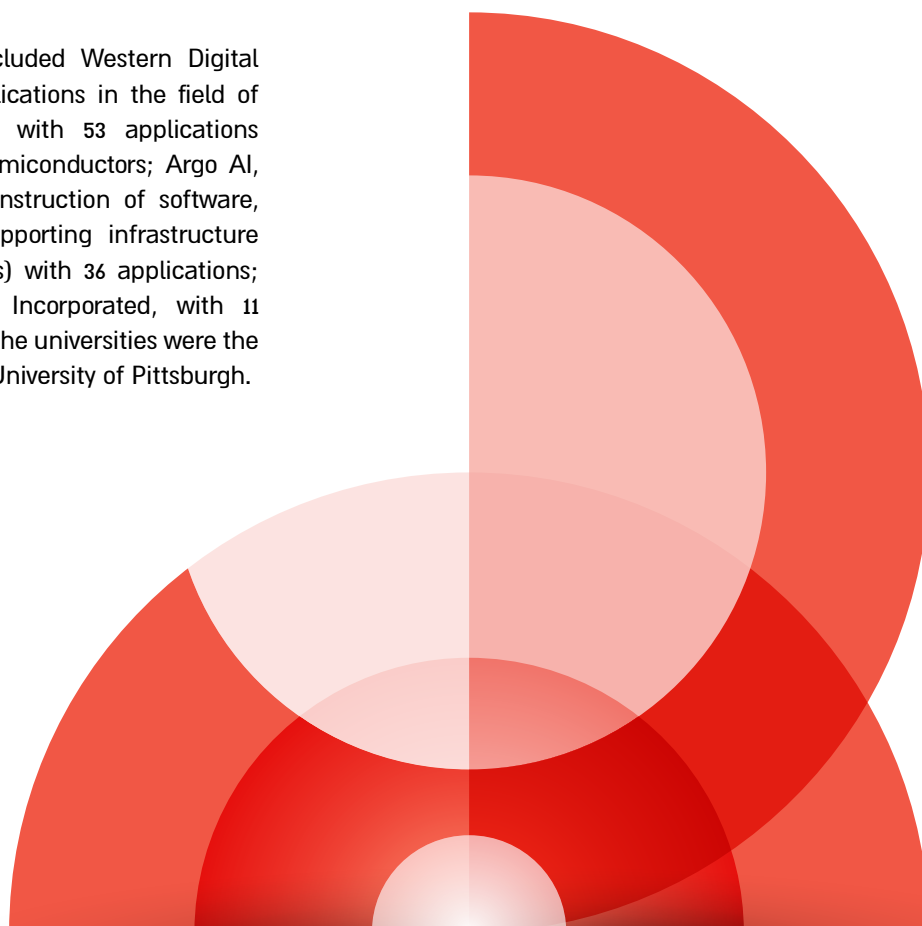
216 of the aforesaid applications were filed with the WIPO's International Bureau in Geneva as a Receiving Office, and 270 applications were transferred from the US Receiving Office. A considerable proportion of the applications received from the US came from companies in the field of physics and electronics (60%) and from universities (13%).

The leading US applicants included Western Digital Technologies, Inc., with 79 applications in the field of physics; SanDisk Technologies with 53 applications in the field of electronics – semiconductors; Argo AI, LLC (which engages in the construction of software, hardware, maps and cloud-supporting infrastructure for driving autonomous vehicles) with 36 applications; and MasterCard International Incorporated, with 11 applications. Prominent among the universities were the University of California and the University of Pittsburgh.

Issuance of International Search and Examination Reports

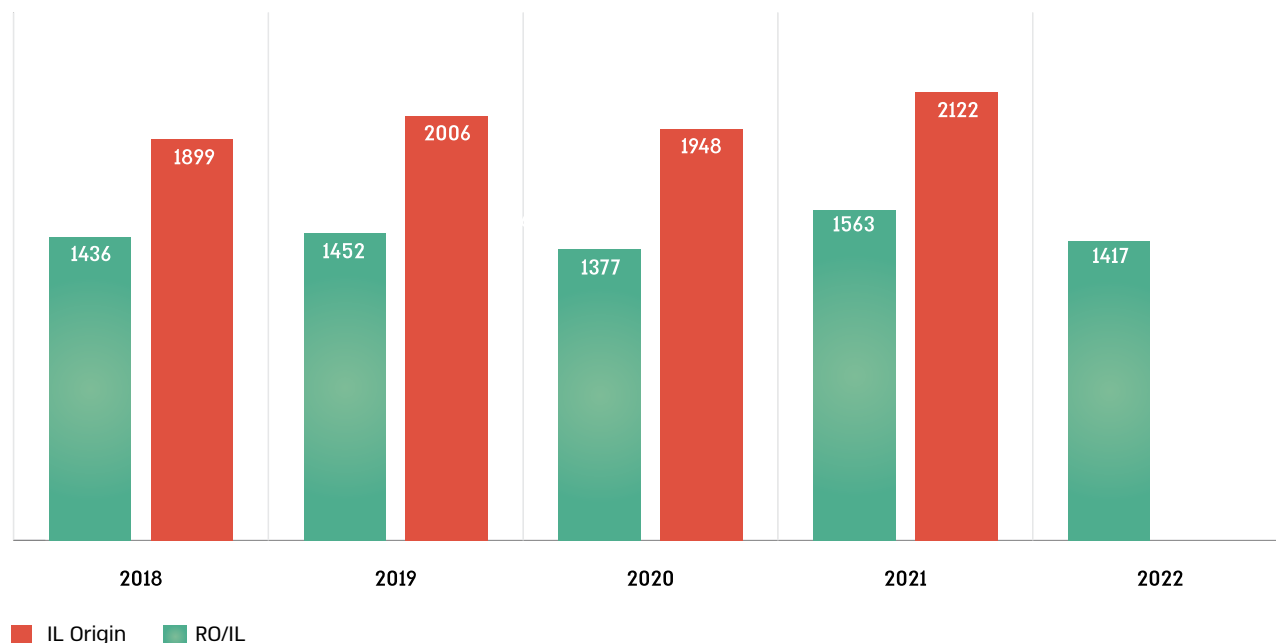
During 2022, the ILPO issued 1,436 international search reports (1,179 for Israeli applicants and 257 for US applicants) and 88 international preliminary examination reports, as compared with 1,519 search reports (1,212 for Israeli applicants and 307 for US applicants) and 83 preliminary examination reports in 2021. From WIPO's report it emerges that with respect to citations in search reports for international applications in 2021, the Israeli International Searching Authority ranks with the leading searching authorities in the world, in terms of the parameters examined.

Around 85% of the reports issued by the ILPO included at least one X and/or Y category citation, and some 15% of the reports contained only an A category citation – a positive report, similar to the European searching authority.



A. The ILPO's Activities as Receiving Office (RO/IL)

Chart 18. PCT Applications Filed by Israelis in 2018-2022



The ILPO has no comparative data on PCT applications by country of origin for 2022.

The data shown below is taken from: Patent Cooperation Treaty Yearly Review 2021

wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_pub_901_2021.pdf

IL Origin – Total number of Israelis who filed PCT applications; RO/IL – Israelis who filed PCT applications with the Israeli Receiving Office.

Chart 19. PCT Applications with At Least One Woman Inventor in 2018-2021 (percentages)

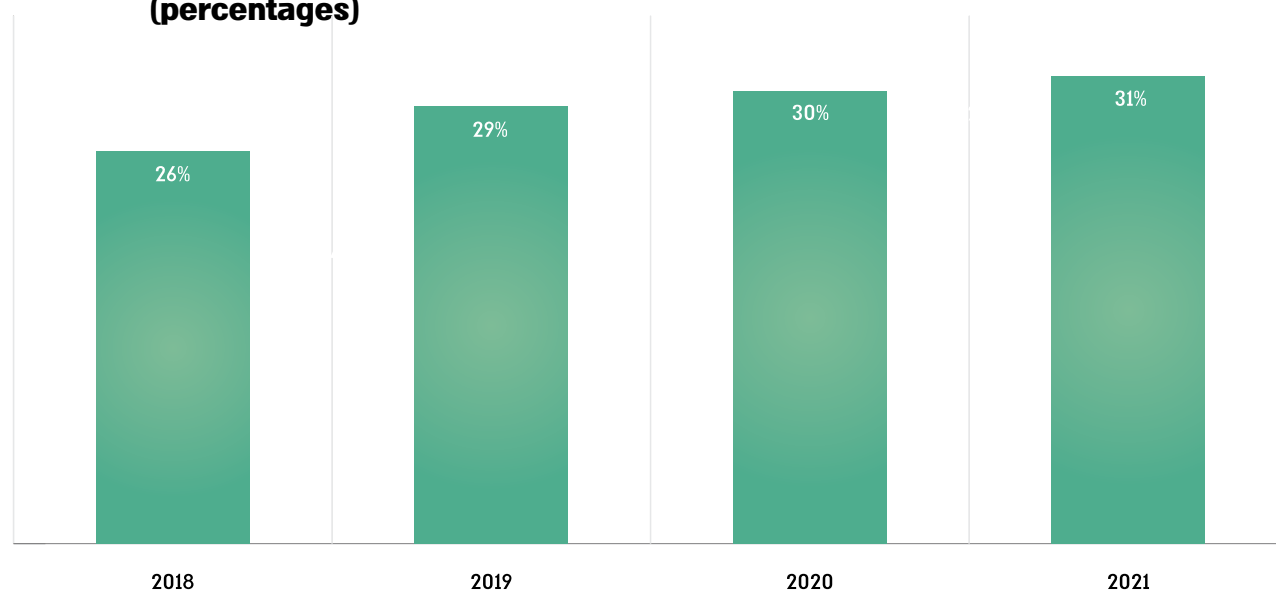
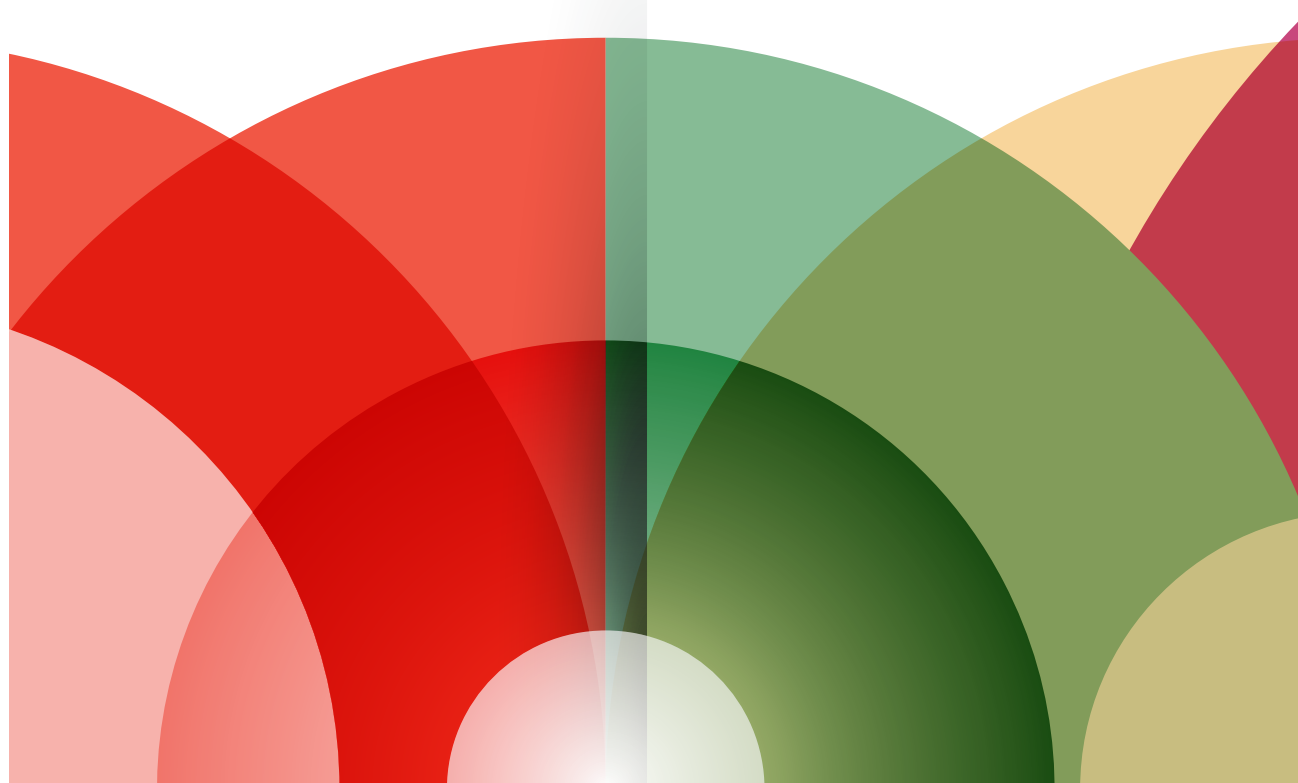


Table 6. Leading PCT Applicants that Filed with the ILPO as Receiving Office in 2022

Applicant	Number of files
Ramot At Tel-Aviv University Ltd.	64
Yeda Research And Development Co. Ltd	51
Yisum Research Development Company Of The Hebrew University Of Jerusalem Ltd.	40
Mazor Robotics Ltd.	34
Technion Research & Development Foundation Limited	32



B. The ILPO's Activities as International Searching and Examining Authority (ISA/IPEA/IL)

Chart 20. International Search Reports (ISRs) issued in 2018-2022

Distribution of ISRs by ISA/IL

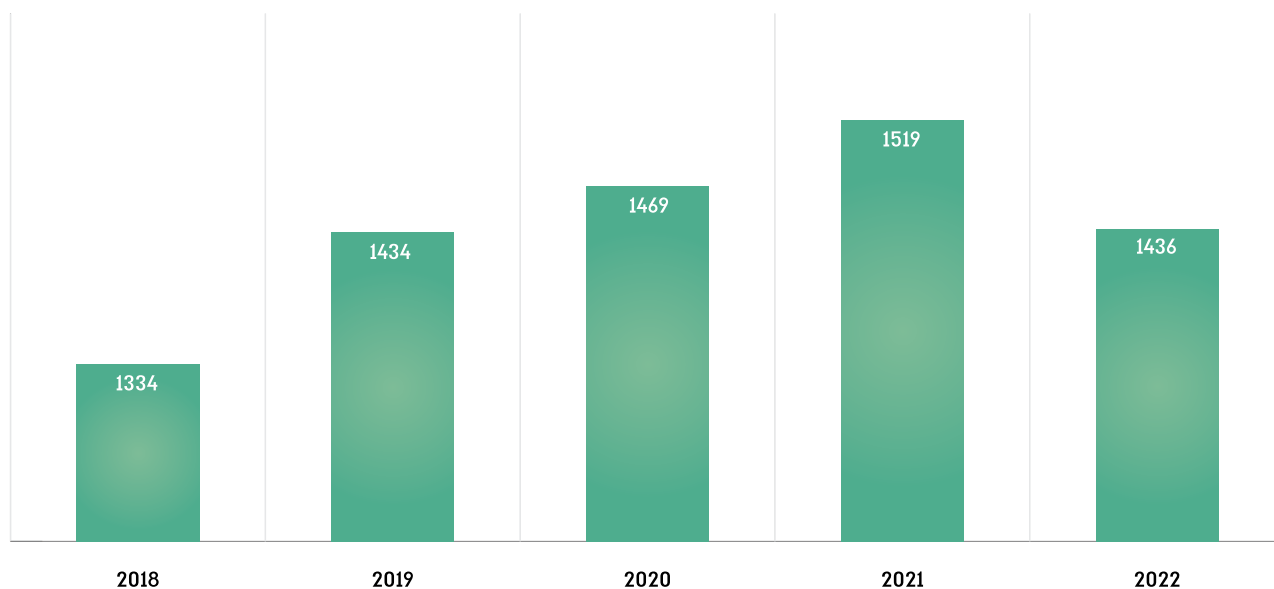


Chart 21. International Preliminary Examination Reports (IPERs) issued in 2018-2022

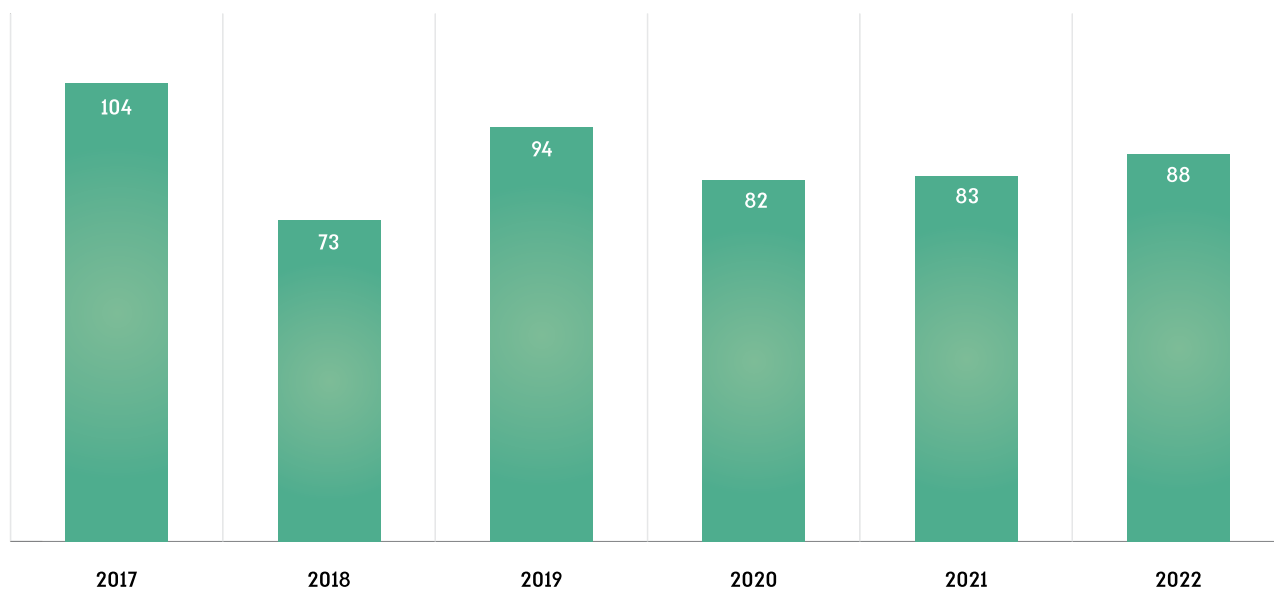
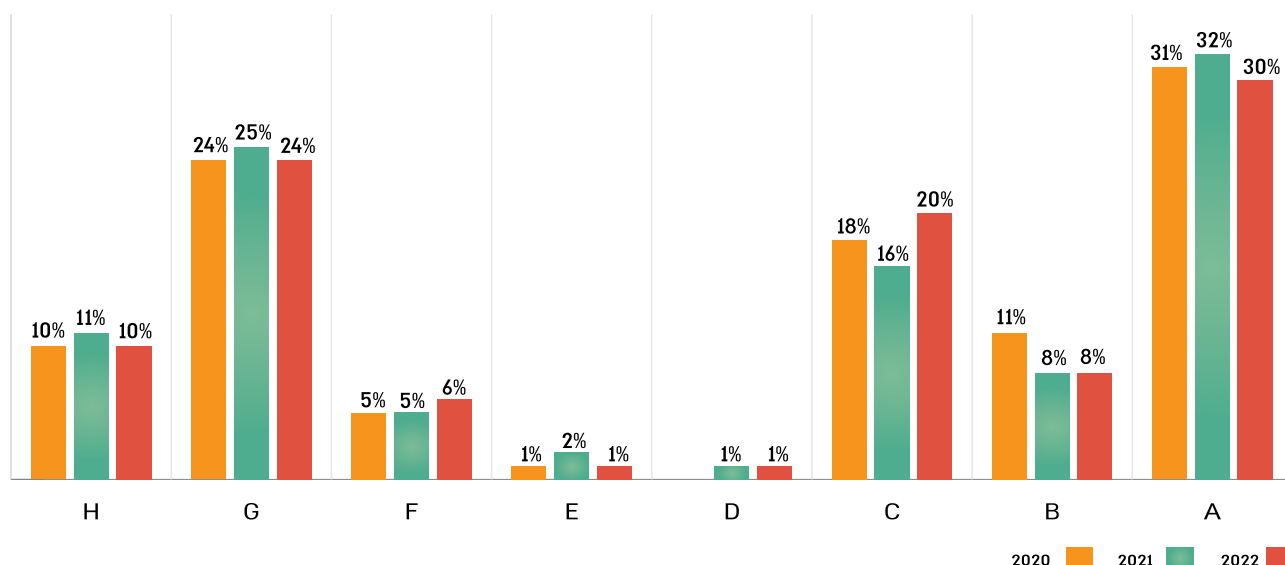
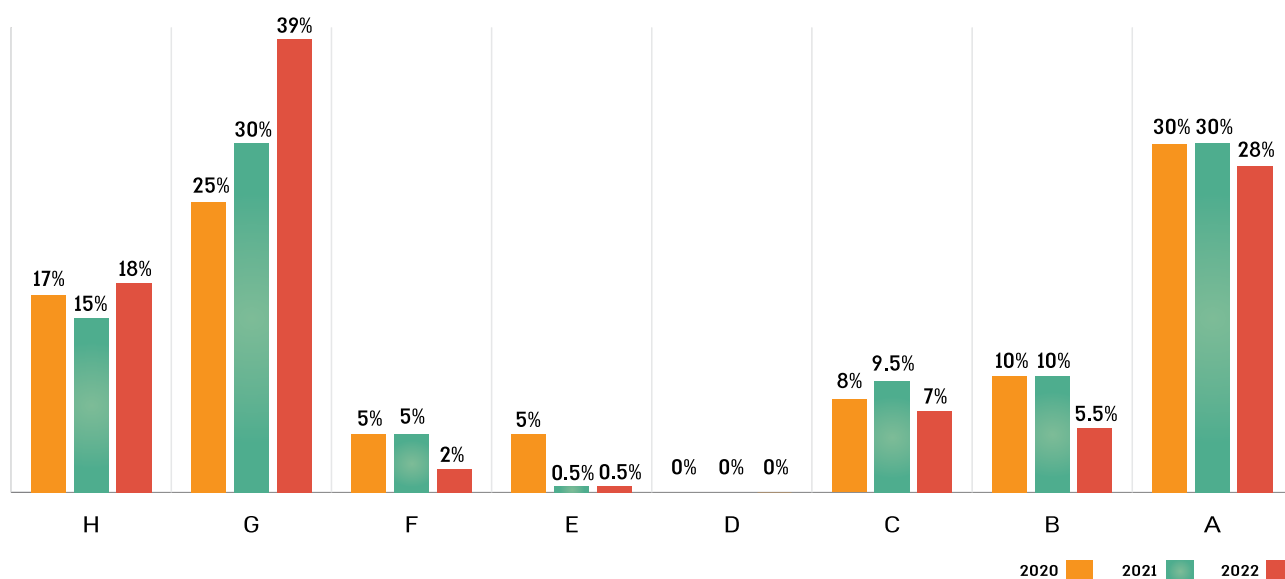


Chart 22. PCT Applications Filed by Israelis that Designated the ILPO as Receiving Office and Searching Authority – by Field, 2020-2022



A-Human Necessities; B-Performing Operations, Transporting; C-Chemistry, Metallurgy; D-Textiles, Paper; E-Fixed Constructions; F-Mechanical Engineering, Lighting, Weapons, Blasting; G-Physics; H-Electricity

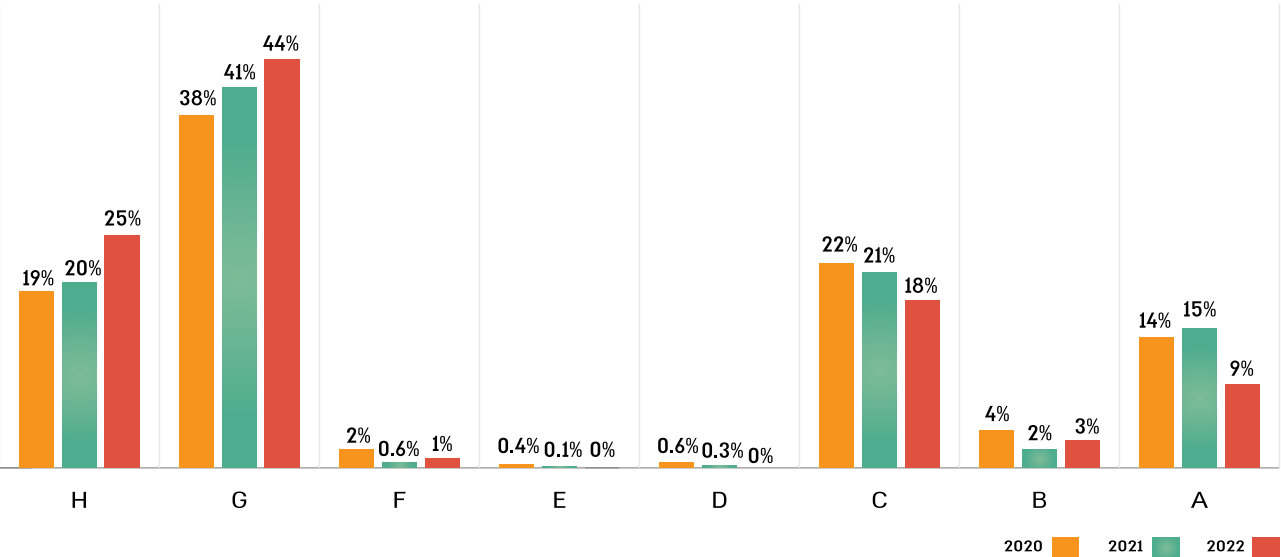
Chapter 23. Applications Filed by Israelis with the International Bureau and Transferred to Israel for Search and Examination – by Field, 2020-2022



The Covid-19 pandemic may have caused a change in the technology fields in which Israelis file international applications. There is a noticeable trend whereby the number of search and examination applications in the health-related technology fields (medical technology, pharma) has increased relatively, while applications in the information and communication technologies, mainly computerization and digital communication – the leading fields in Israel in 2020 –are steadily declining.

It may be assumed that the change reflects the importance Israeli applicants see in protecting patents beyond Israel's borders.

Chart 24. US Applicants' Applications Transferred to Israel for Search and Examination – by Field, in 2020-2022



The leading US applicants that applied for search and examination in Israel are companies in the fields of physics, electronics and software/hardware construction.



Chart 25. Designation of International Searching Authorities by Israeli Applicants in 2018-2022

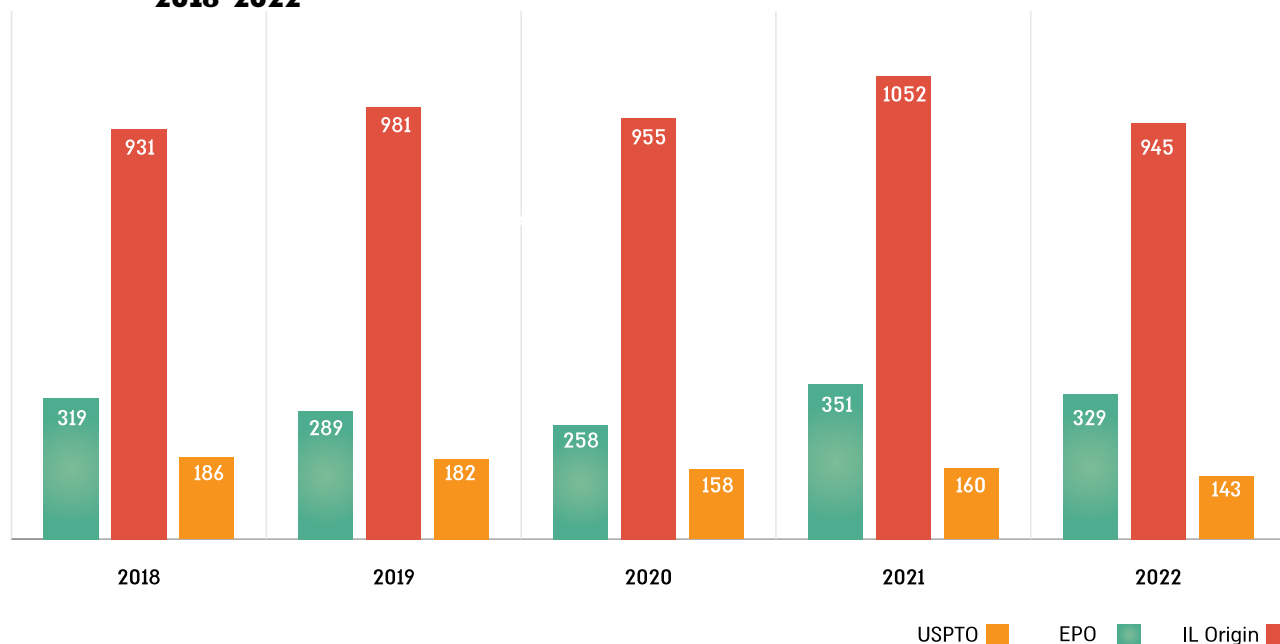
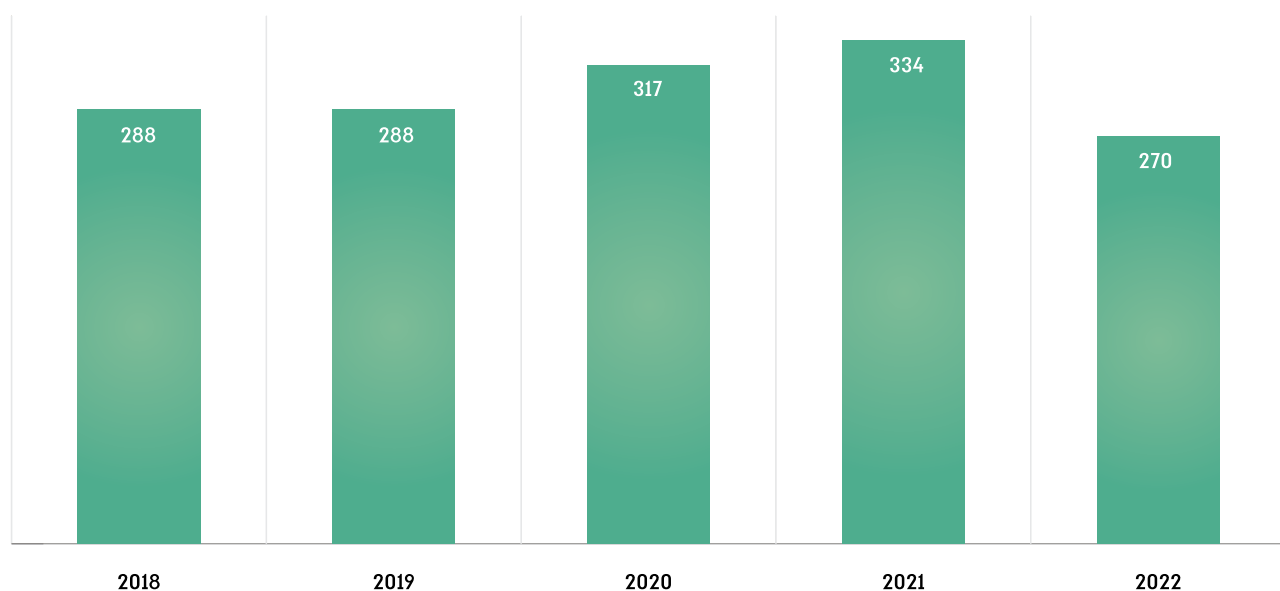


Chart 26. Designation of the Israeli International Searching Authority by US Applicants in 2018-2022



The Israeli International Searching Authority limits the number of applications from the US to 100 per quarter.

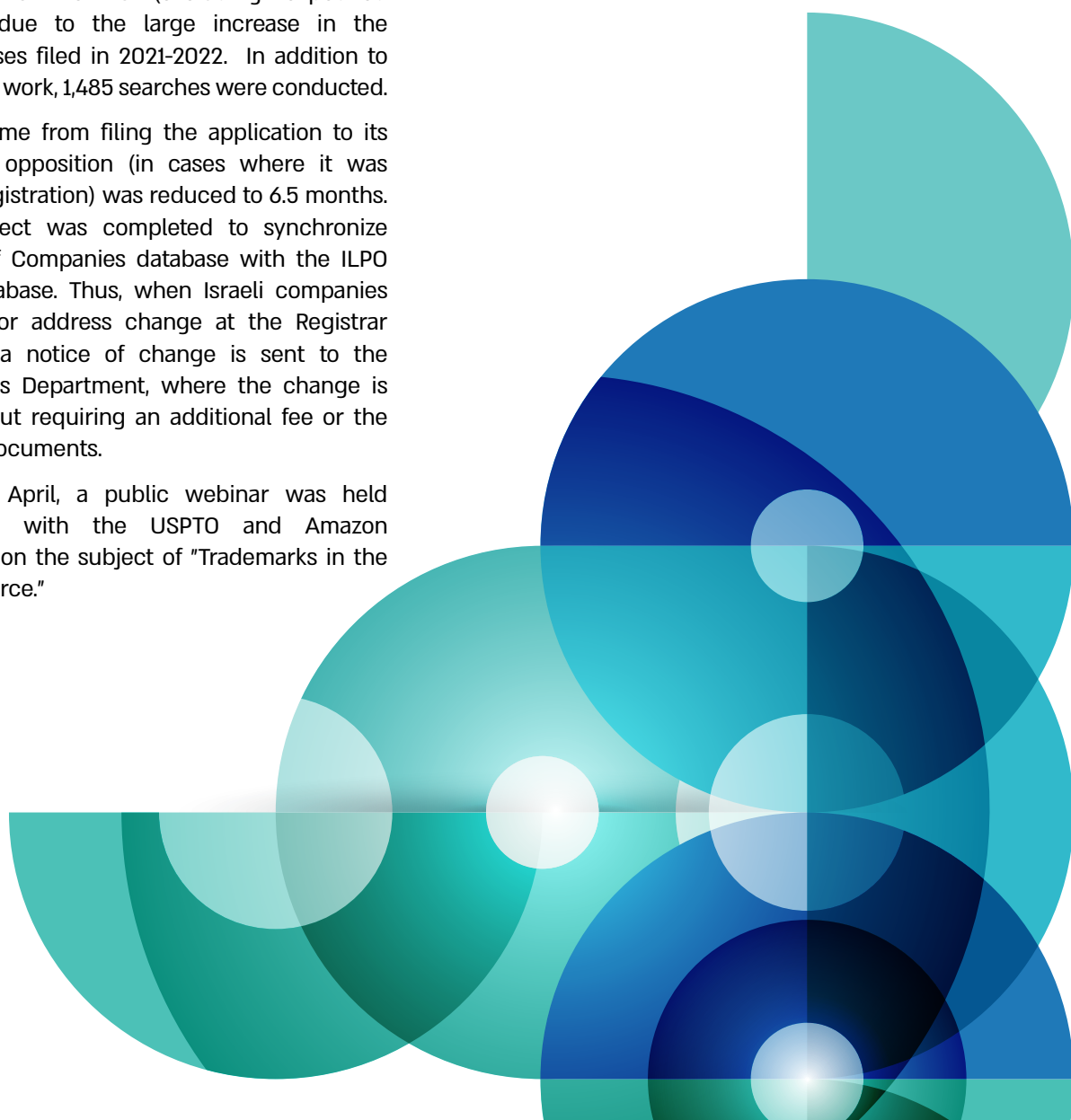
ILPO ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF TRADEMARKS

The number of trademark applications filed in 2022 was similar to the previous year, but there was a 9% increase in the number of classes .

In 2022, there was an 18% increase in the number of classes initially examined compared to the previous year, and the average pendency for examination has reached 4.5 months (excluding expedited examinations), due to the large increase in the number of classes filed in 2021-2022. In addition to the examination work, 1,485 searches were conducted.

Total average time from filing the application to its publication for opposition (in cases where it was accepted for registration) was reduced to 6.5 months. In April a project was completed to synchronize the Registrar of Companies database with the ILPO trademarks database. Thus, when Israeli companies make a name or address change at the Registrar of Companies, a notice of change is sent to the ILPO Trademarks Department, where the change is executed, without requiring an additional fee or the submission of documents.

Additionally, in April, a public webinar was held in cooperation with the USPTO and Amazon representatives on the subject of "Trademarks in the Era of E-Commerce."



In November, a new video was uploaded to the ILPO website (hyperlink: <https://youtu.be/3MZWWhq1tdgU>) aimed to explain to the general public, in simple and accessible terms, what a trademark is and why it is advisable to protect it. Furthermore, the applicant trademark registration guide, containing answers to questions on trademarks and their protection, was updated and now appears on the ILPO website in a more convenient format.

In 2021, an audit was conducted at the Trademarks Department on behalf of the Audit Division of the Ministry of Justice. The main deficiency concerned lack of correlation between the amount of payments paid to the Department and the amount of payment that was supposed to be paid for the services provided.

In 2022, the Trademarks Department invested significant resources in fixing these deficiencies and tracking down cases where a fee was paid to the Patent Office without the appropriate service being provided. In these cases customers were located (if possible) and the request was made for refund the fees to a large number of them.

In recent years, there has been a steady increase in the number of classes filed for registration. Nevertheless, the Trademarks Department has managed to maintain examination pendency times. In 2023, the Department will continue with this effort.

Future plans for 2023 include an upgrade of the trademark filing website designed to simplify and streamline the filing process, as well as upgrade the documents viewing interface on the Trademarks Department search site.

Evaluation of the Level of Awareness of Trademark Registration with the Israel Patent Office in Israel's Arab Sector

Israel has a high per-capita ranking in patents, but a low ranking in trademark registration applications. The Patent Office sought to examine the level of awareness of trademark registration in Israel's Arab sector, versus the Jewish sector.

To this end a telephony survey was conducted from November 2022 to January 2023. The target population included senior managers (owners or employees) at small to medium companies and businesses in both the Arab and Jewish sectors. The sample size was 603 respondents, of whom 401 were from the Arab sector and 202 from the Jewish sector.

The survey was conducted by the Sarid Research Institute.

Main findings:

- Most Arab-owned businesses (66%) and Jewish-owned businesses (79%) use a trademark (registered or unregistered).
- Only 27 respondents had filed a trademark registration application with the Patent Office.
- Most Arab-owned businesses (66%) and Jewish-owned businesses (79%) use a trademark (registered or unregistered).
- Only 27 respondents had filed a trademark registration application with the Patent Office.
- Jewish-owned businesses are less likely to protect their trademarks than Arab-owned businesses.
- A large proportion of respondents feel that there is no importance to the registration of trademarks.
- Most respondents (78% of businesses in the Arab sector and 84% of businesses in the Jewish sector) are not concerned about trademark copying.
- When the respondents were asked to elaborate and explain why they are not concerned about trademark copying, a greater percentage of Arab-owned businesses (40%) than Jewish-owned businesses (21%) testified that the main reason for the lack of concern about copying was that "the trademark is not important to the business."

The survey findings suggest that there is a low level of awareness of trademark registration in Israel's Arab sector. The Patent Office plans to develop and implement a comprehensive awareness-raising campaign targeted at businesses to raise awareness of the importance of registering trademarks, particularly for small and medium businesses.

The complete findings of the survey are available on the ILPO website



A. Examination Data

Chart 27. Applications and Classes Filed in 2018-2022

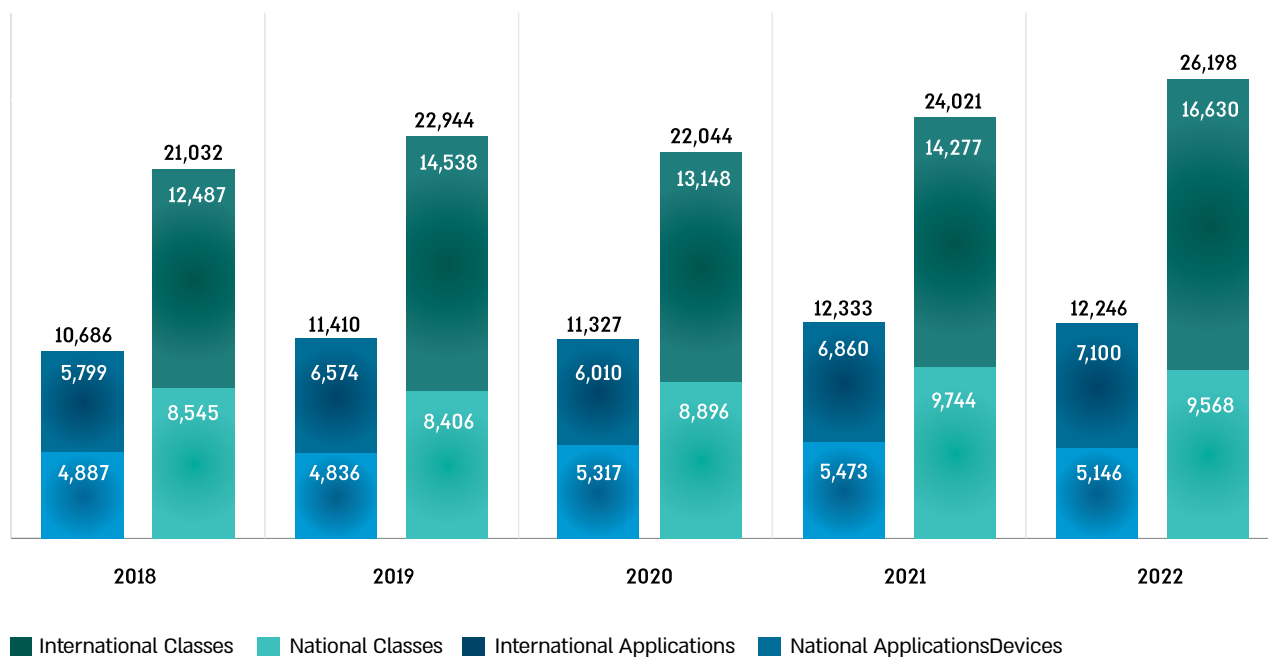
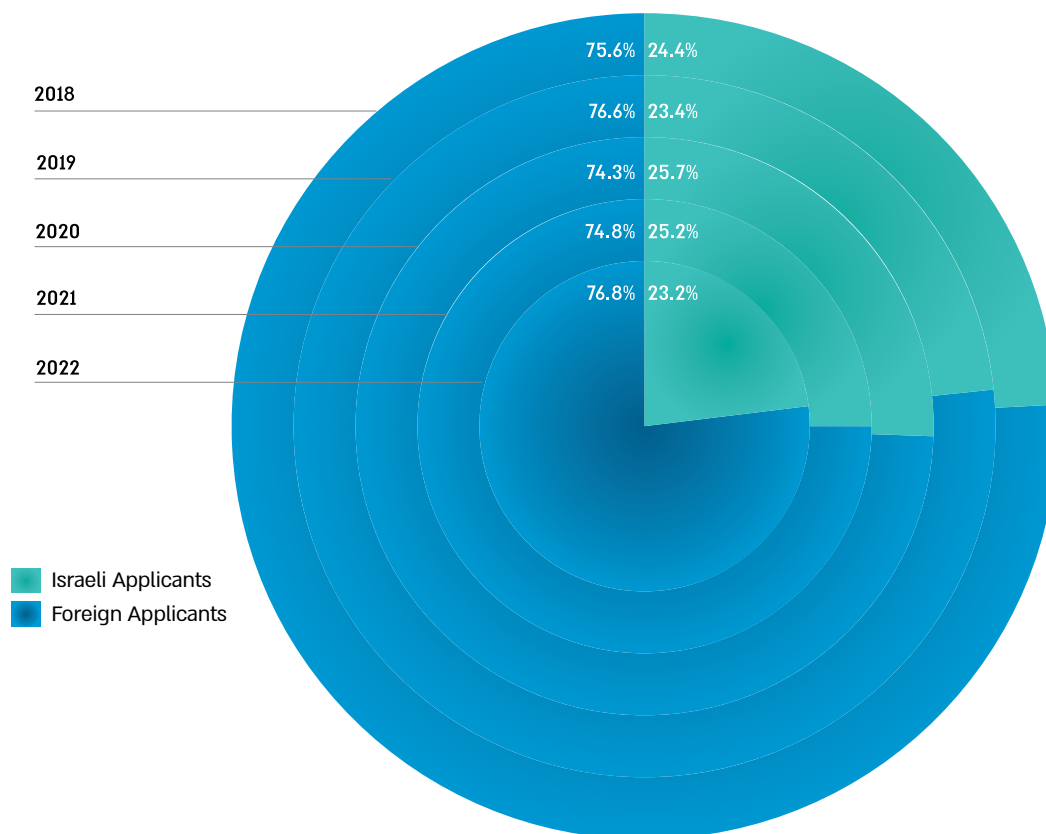
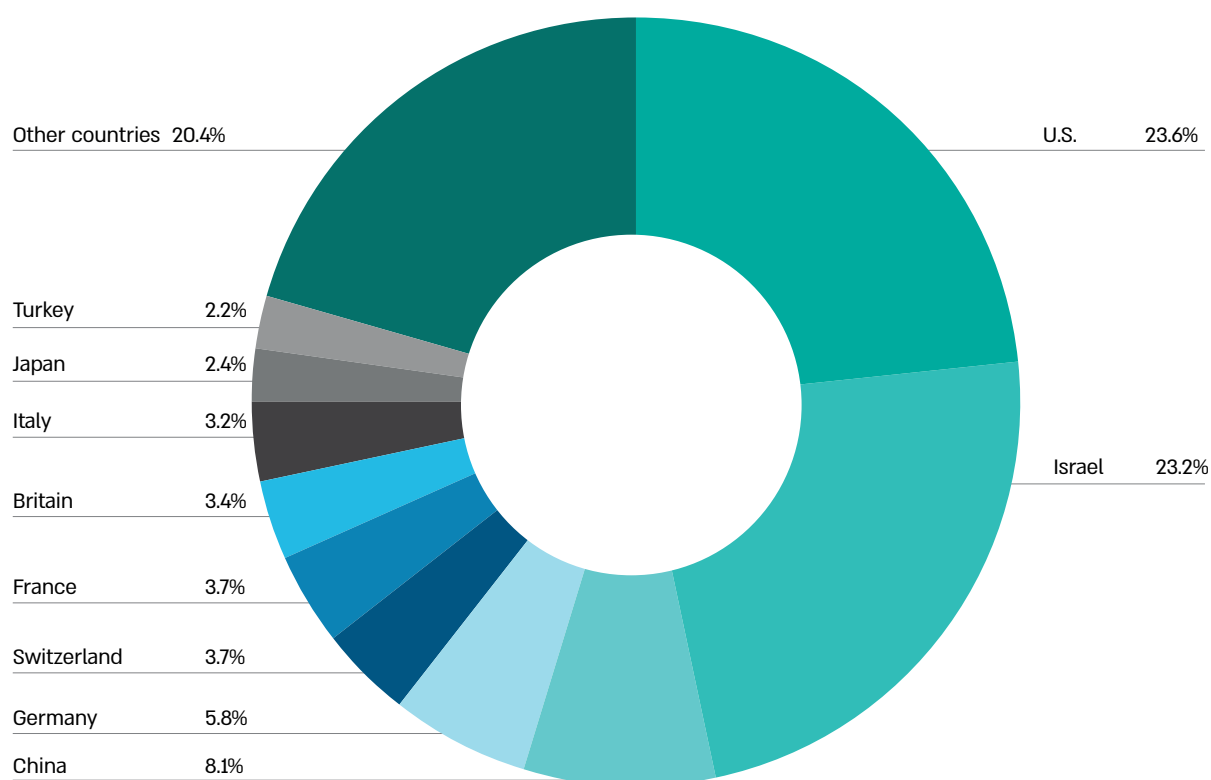


Chart 28. Applications Filed by Israeli and Foreign Applicants in 2018-2022 (percentages)



Of 2,839 applications filed by Israeli applicants, 1,172 applications were filed by applicants that did not previously own a trademark.

Chart 29. Trademark Applications by Country of Origin in 2022 (percentages)

The data was compiled based on the applicant's address.

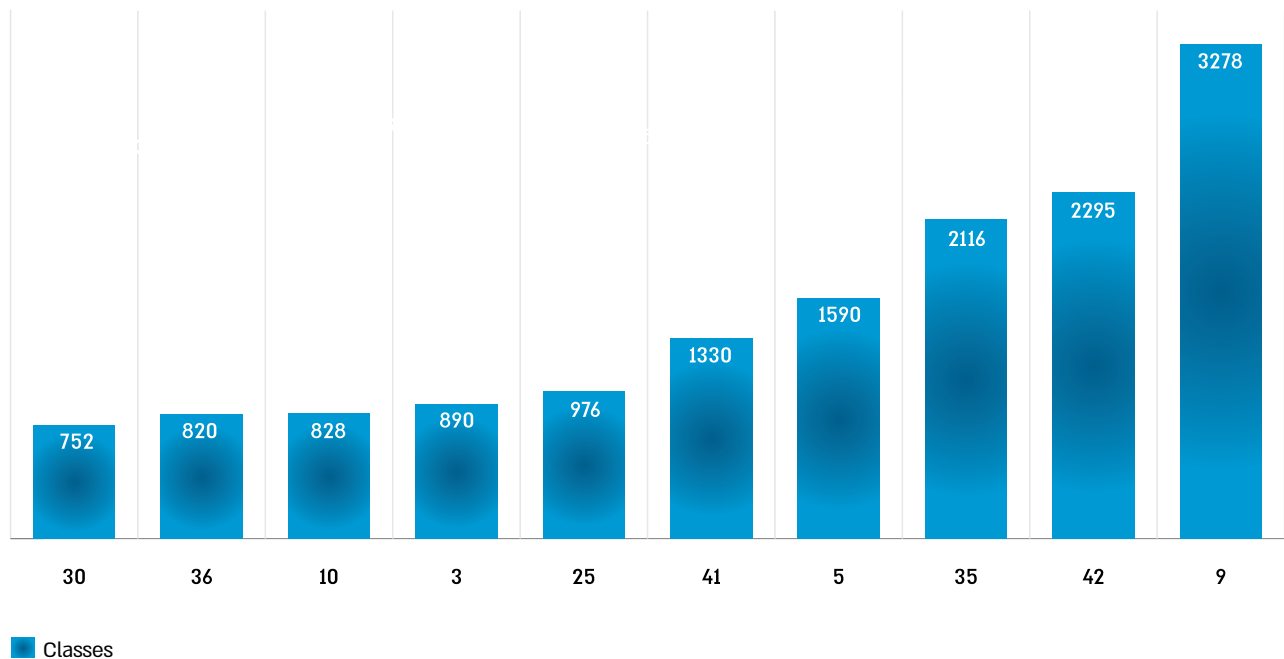
Table 7. Top Foreign Trademark Applicants in 2022

Applicant	No. of National Applications	No. of International Applications	Total
International Foodstuffs CO. LLC	91	0	91
Philip Morris Products S.A.	34	39	73
Hyundai Motor Company	66	3	69
Amazon Technologies Inc.	62	0	62

Table 8. Top Israeli Trademark Applicants in 2022

Applicant	Number of Applications
Israeli Public Broadcasting Corporation	30
Home Center (Do-It-Yourself) Ltd.	29
Shaniv Paper Industries Ltd.	17
Free TV Plus Ltd.	10
JoyTunes Ltd.	10
R.N. Nuts Champion Marketing & Distribution Ltd.	10
Weiss Fashion Ltd.	10

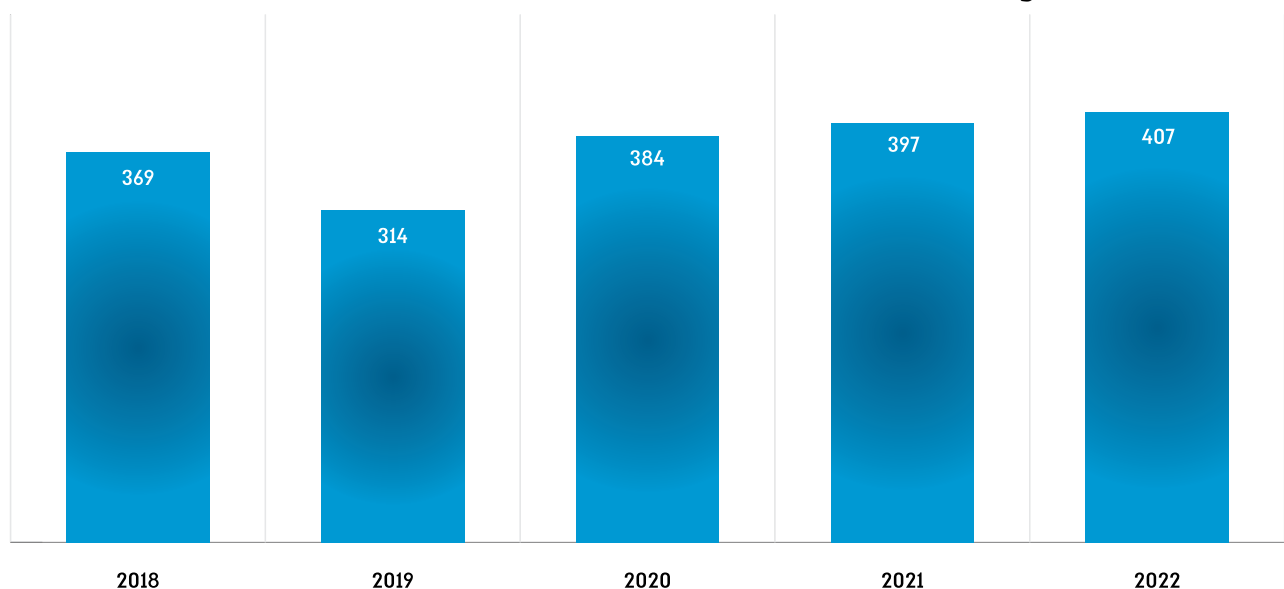
Chart 30. Leading Classes in Trademark Applications in 2022



Class 9 has been the leading class in the last decade in trademark applications. This class includes goods such as scientific, electrical and computer communications devices, computer software, etc. In 2022, class 9 was filed for registration in 3,278 applications, accounting for 27% of applications filed. Ranking behind Class 9 are Class 42 (scientific and technological services, programming), Class 35 (advertisements and trade), Class 5 (pharmaceutical preparations), and Class 41 (education and entertainment).

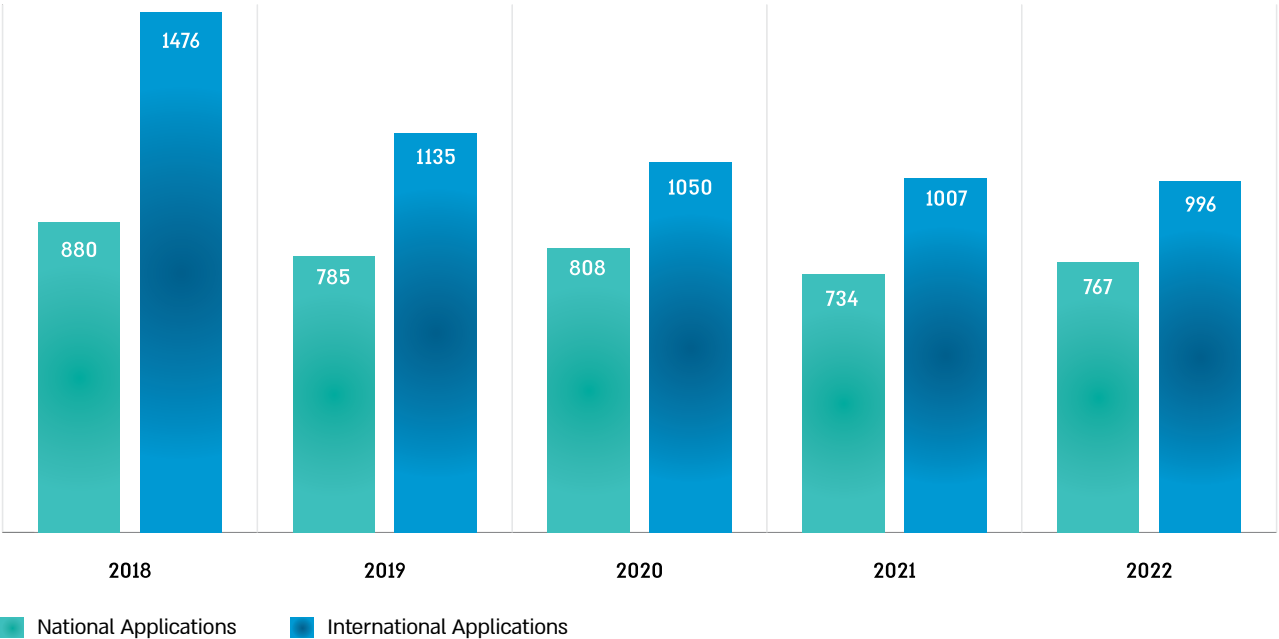
We would note that among Israeli applicants, Class 35 is the leading class, followed by Class 9, Class 41, Class 42, Class 43 and Class 36.

Chart 31. International Applications Filed by Israel as Country of Origin in 2018-2022



The Madrid system enables international trademark registration and maintenance in member countries, collectively, using a single form, for a single fee, in a relatively efficient and simple manner, significantly saving on registration and maintenance costs. 2022 saw a small increase of 4% in the number of Israeli companies choosing to protect their trademark abroad via the Madrid Protocol by filing an international application following a national Israeli application/registration. We would note that in 2022, Israel ranked 21 in the filing of international applications as country of origin.

Chart 32. National and International Applications Closed in 2018-2022

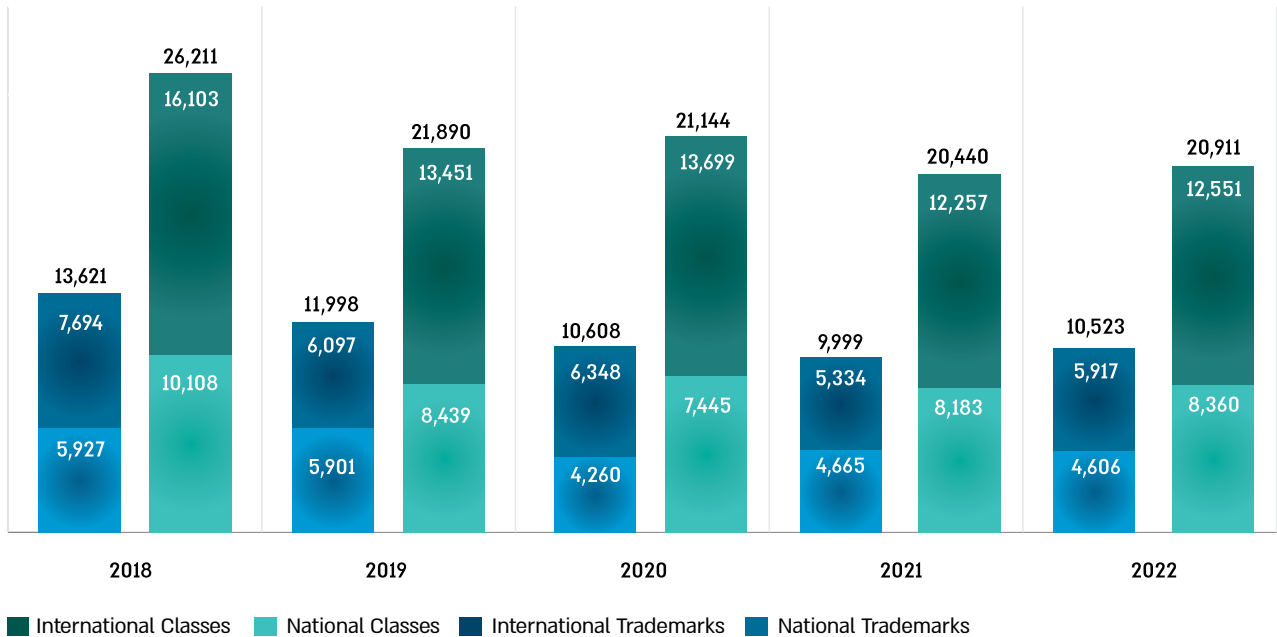


This chart presents the number of closed applications during the examination stage due to lack of response, or client's request, or notice of abandonment from the International Bureau, or a decision by the Commissioner/Adjudicator. During the same period, 124 national applications and 92 international applications were revived. In the absence of the applicant's response, national applications are abandoned in their entirety, whereas international applications are abandoned only with respect to goods or services which have been refused. A notice of termination of international registration can be received from the International Bureau either following an applicant's request to renounce the application or following the ceasing of effect of the basic application in the country of origin during the five-year dependency period.



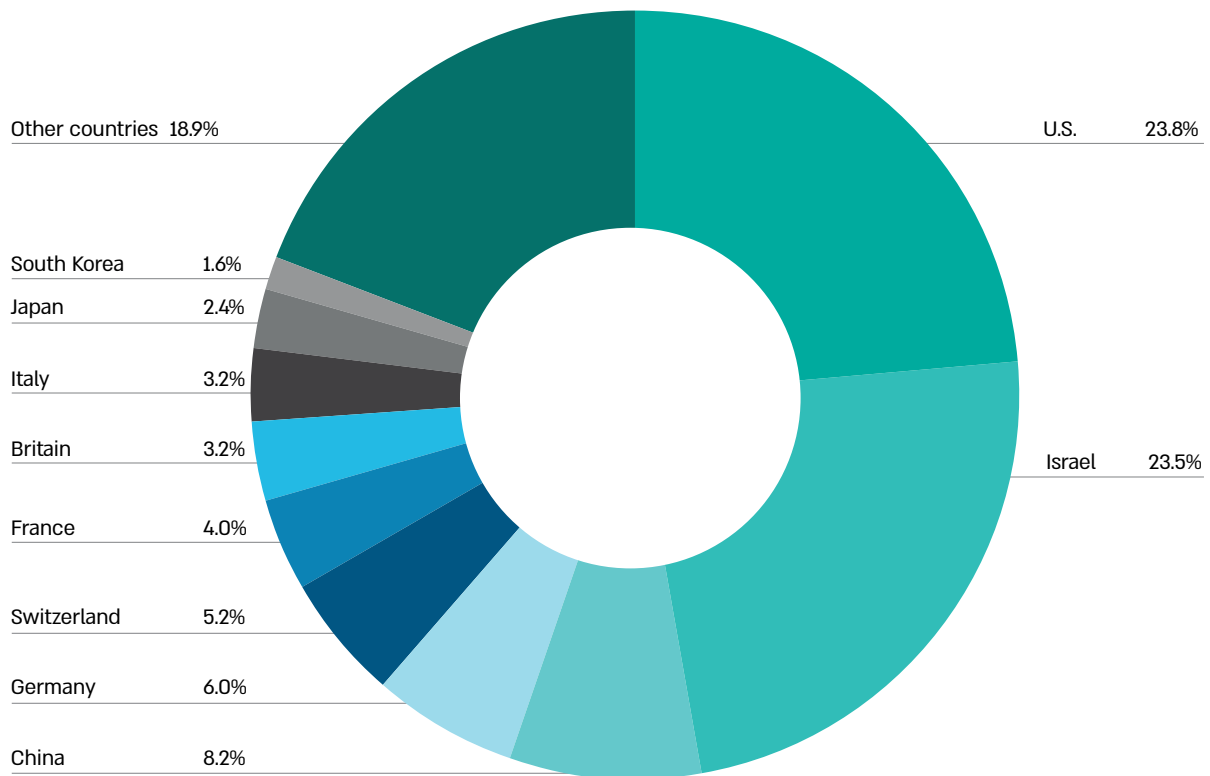
B. Trademarks Granted

Chart 33. Trademarks and Classes Granted in 2018-2022



The data was collected using the address provided by applicants.

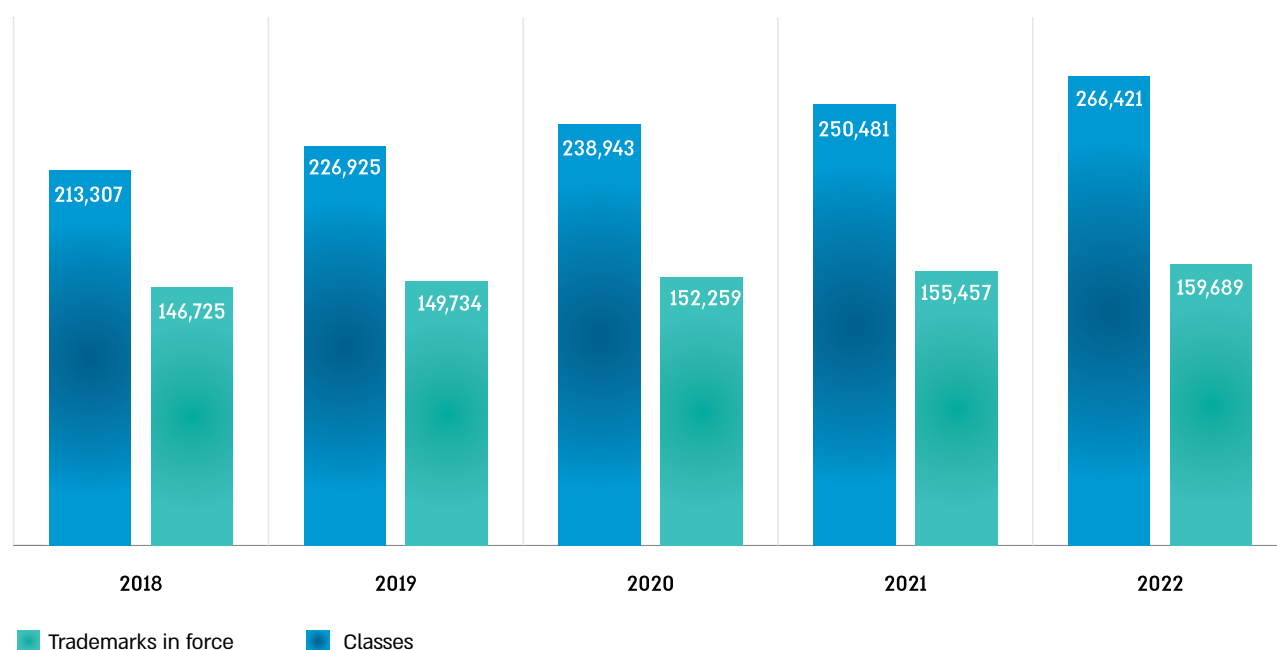
Chart 34. Trademarks Granted by Country of Origin in 2022 (percentages)



The data was collected using the address provided by applicants.

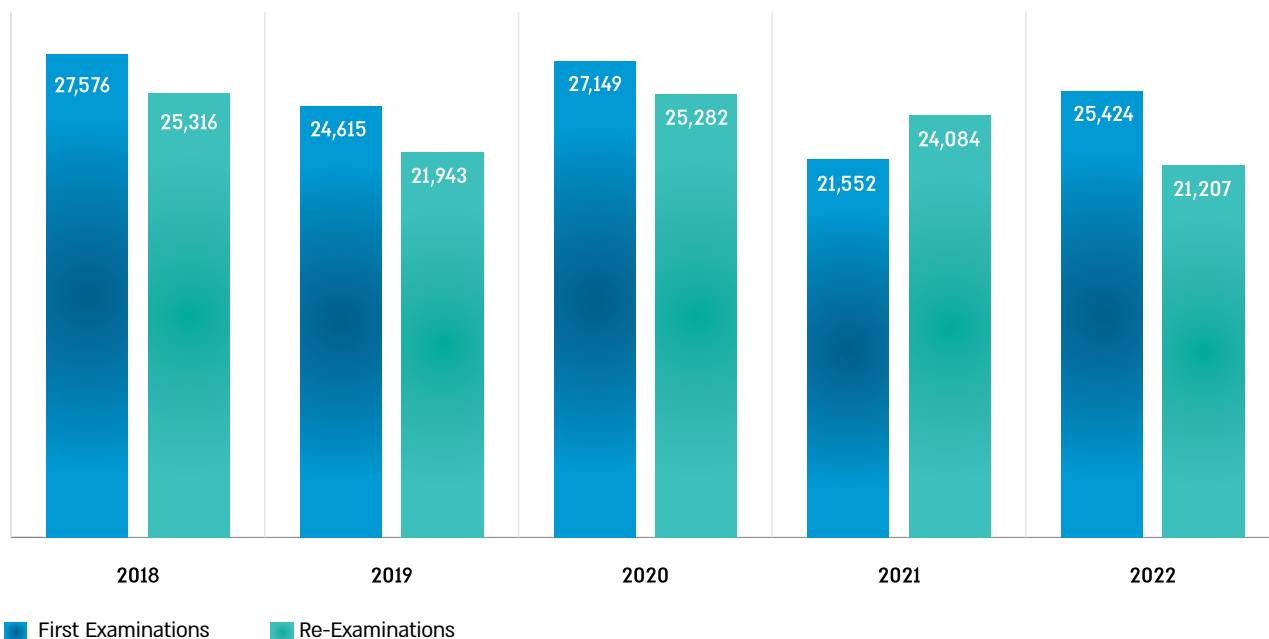
Table 9. Applicants with the Highest Number of Trademarks in 2022

Applicant	No. of National Registrations	No. of International Registrations	Total
Philip Morris Products S.A.	55	25	80
Apple Inc.	5	56	61
Novartis AG	51	6	57
Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd.	2	52	54
Johnson & Johnson	39	0	39

Chart 35. Trademarks and Classes in Force in Israel in 2018-2022

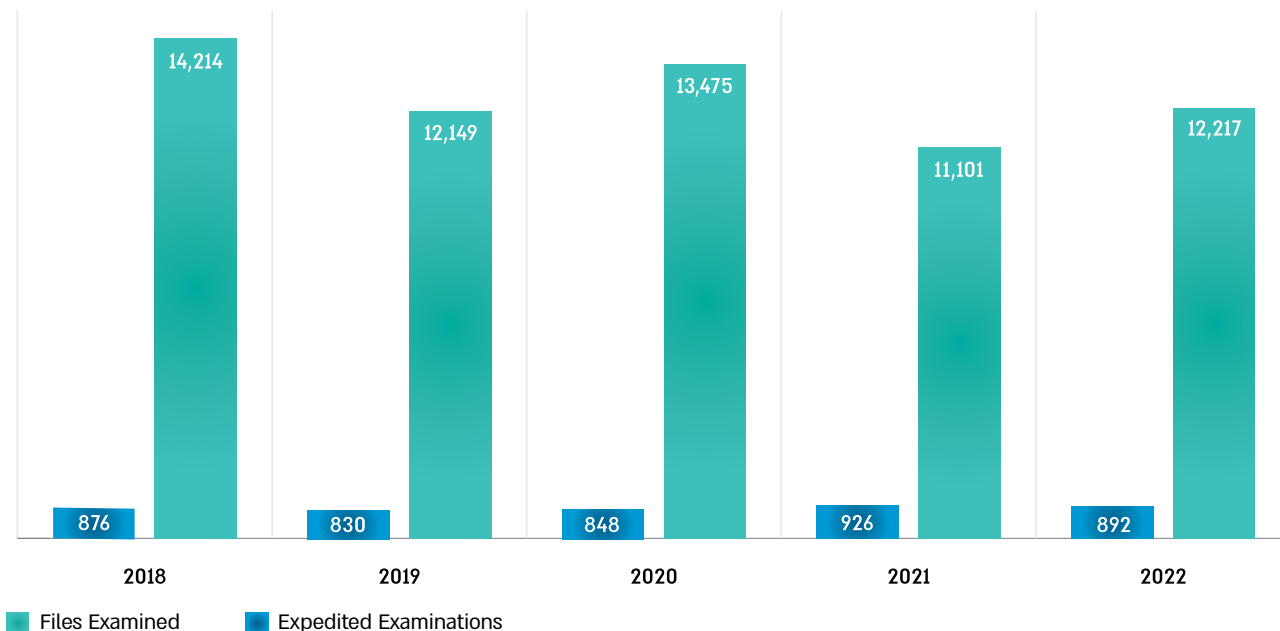
In 2022, a total of 6,485 registered trademarks were removed from the register due to non-payment of the renewal fee.

Chart 36. Classes Examined in Initial and Re-Examination in 2018-2022



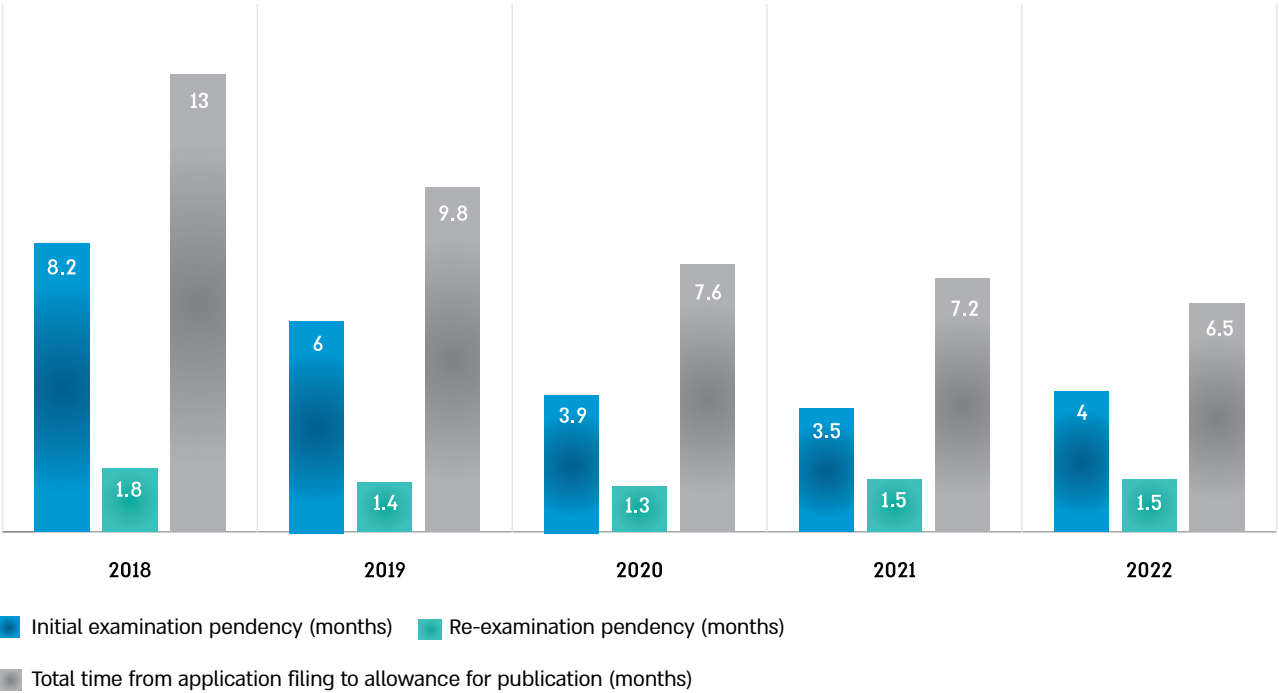
An initial examination refers to all the files examined in an initial examination, following which a notice of acceptance of the application for publication was issued or an examination report was delivered. Re-examination refers to the issuance of a response (refusal or acceptance) to the applicant's response to the examination report, and to the processing of international applications in which no response to the examination report was received.

Chart 37. Expedited Examinations and Total Applications Examined in 2018-2022



In 2022, 7% of applications underwent an expedited examination process.

Chart 38. Average Pendency for Initial Examination and Re-Examination, and Total Pendency, in 2018-2022 (months)



Average pendency for initial examination increased to 4 months, while a slight decrease was noted in total time from application filing to allowance for publication.

ILPO ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF DESIGNS



In 2022, emphasis was placed on improving service, pursuant to the round table held in December 2021, which was devoted to elucidating cross-sectional issues and ILPO's work policy in the field of designs. In the wake of the issues raised at the meeting, the following changes have been made:

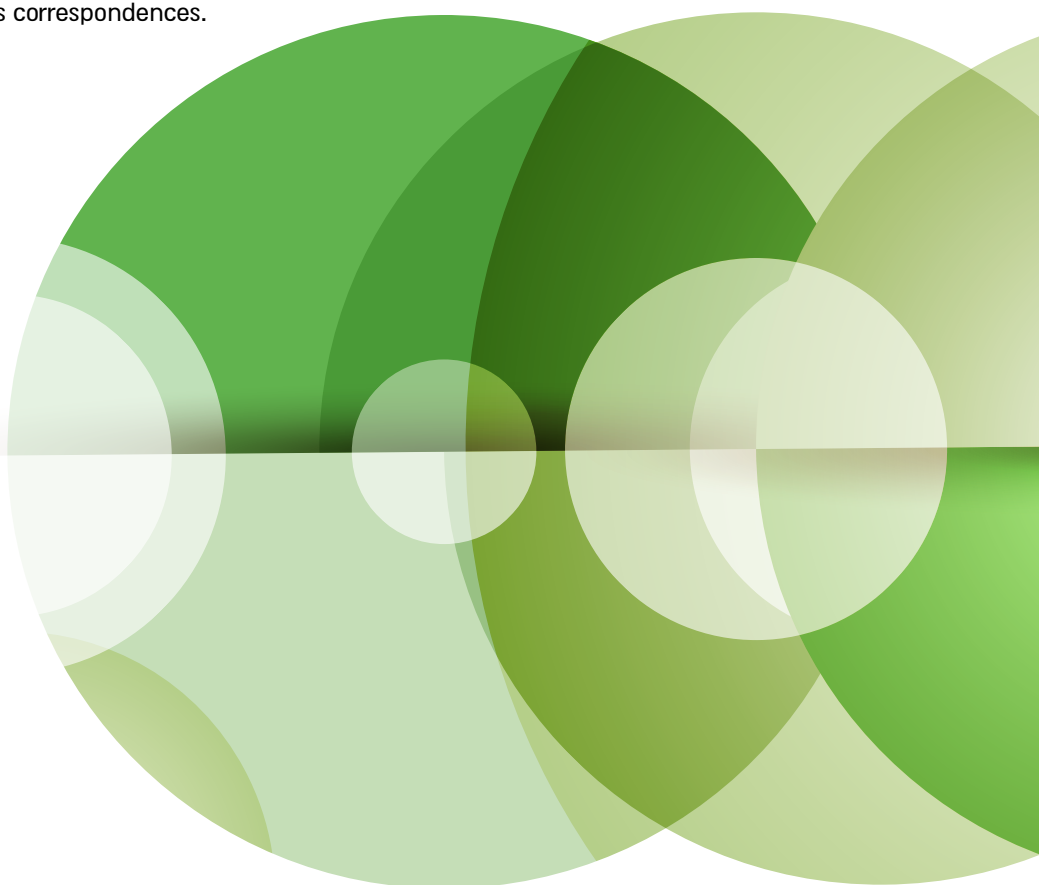
- Information on divisional applications and additional design applications has been added to the summarizing form generated upon completion of the online application filing process.
- The online system now offers the possibility to request a longer than month-long deadline extension also in a joint request for over six applications.
- An option has been added to specify the levies and the drawing numbers on a separate page.
- Information on divisional applications and additional design applications has been added to the filing confirmations and registration certificates.
- All the images submitted with the filing of the application, and not only the main image, are now added to the filing confirmations.
- The design application numbers in Israel have been added to the international refusal notices.
- The phone number and role of the letter's author have been added to the department's correspondences.

Additionally, over the past year the correspondence formats were revised and amended, with the wording replaced with simpler and clearer language. Likewise, some of the department's guides on the ILPO website were updated and replaced: Guide for the Design Registration Applicant was superseded by a new and up-to-date guide; a new guide was introduced on the subject of depositing and receiving priority documents via the DAS system. Another new guide was uploaded concerning a special applicant who is eligible for a reduction on the application filing fee.

In addition, Israel joined two search databases containing information on designs, from patent and intellectual property offices around the world: the Global Design Database of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO); and DesignView, a design database of the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO).

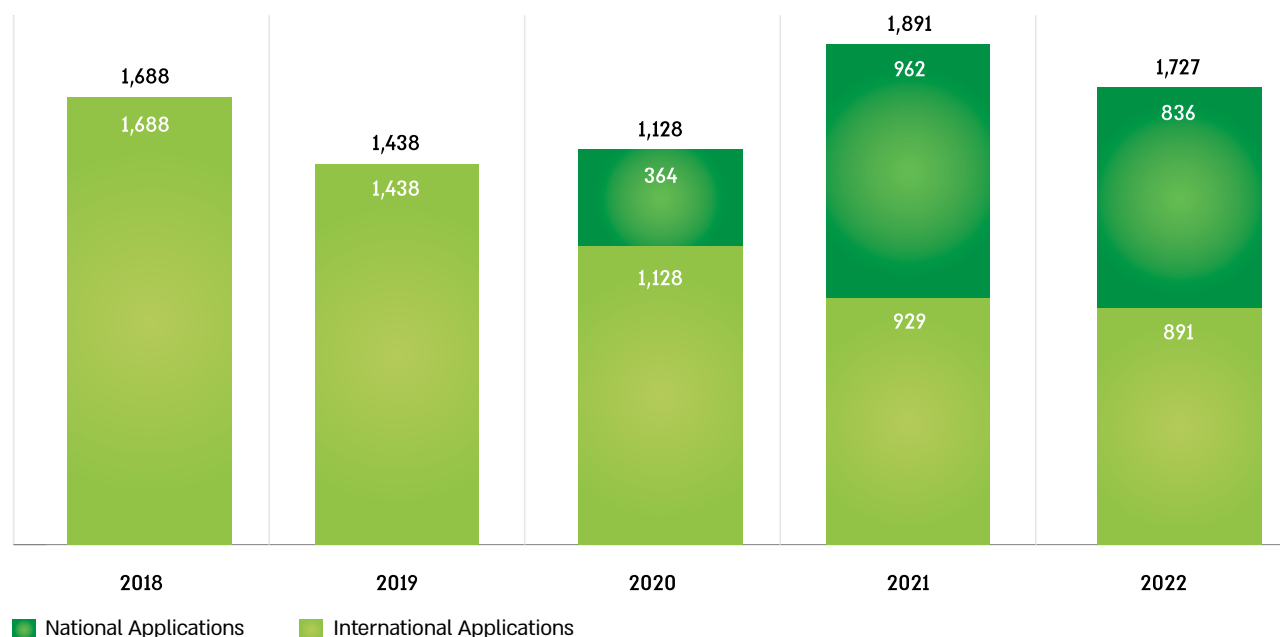
In September 2022, an online refresher training course on the Hague System was held in collaboration with WIPO, following requests raised in a customer satisfaction survey carried out at the start of the year.

In the course of 2023, amendments to the work directives for examining design registration applications will be published for public comment.



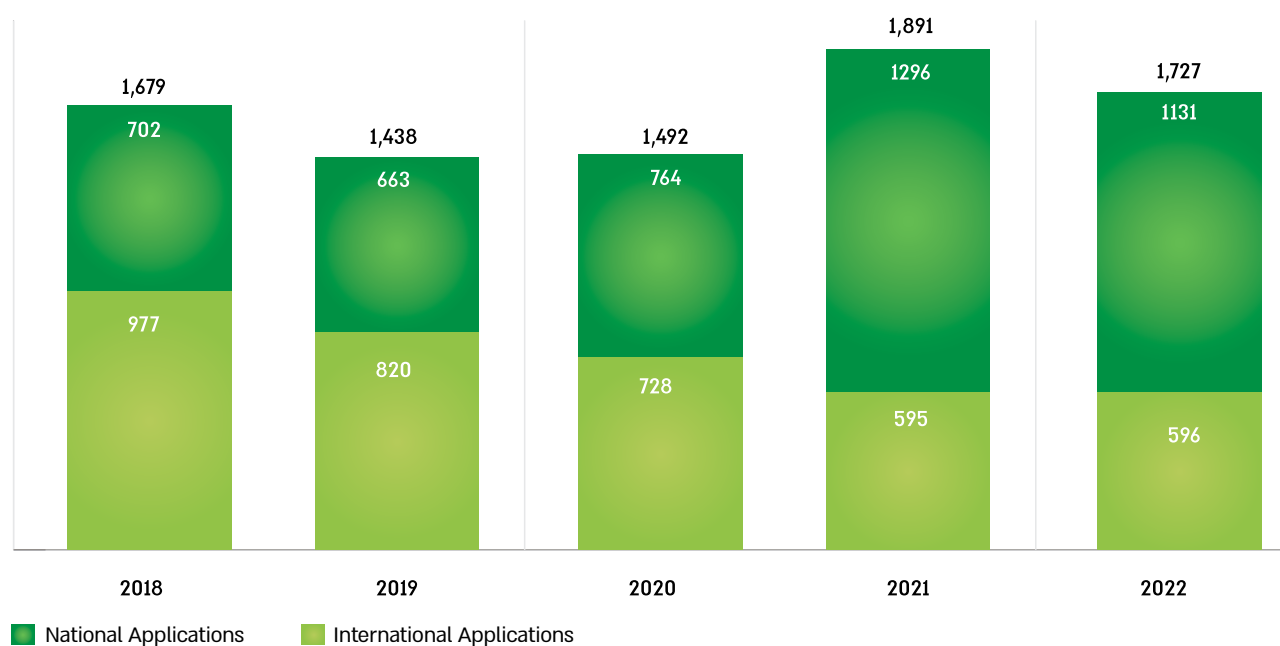
A. Examination Data

Chart 39. Design Applications Filed in 2018-2022



In 2022, a total of 1727 new design registration applications were filed, of which 891 applications were filed directly in Israel and 836 international applications were filed through the Hague System. Unlike in 2021, most of the design applications in the past year were filed directly in Israel, although the difference involved is not great. Despite the decline relative to 2021, the number of design applications filed is slightly higher compared with previous years.

Chart 40. Applications Filed by Israeli and Foreign Applicants in 2018-2022



It appears that the possibility to file international design registration applications through the Hague System encourages foreign applicants to designate and file their applications also in Israel.

Chart 41. Design Registration Applications by Country of Origin in 2022 (percentages)

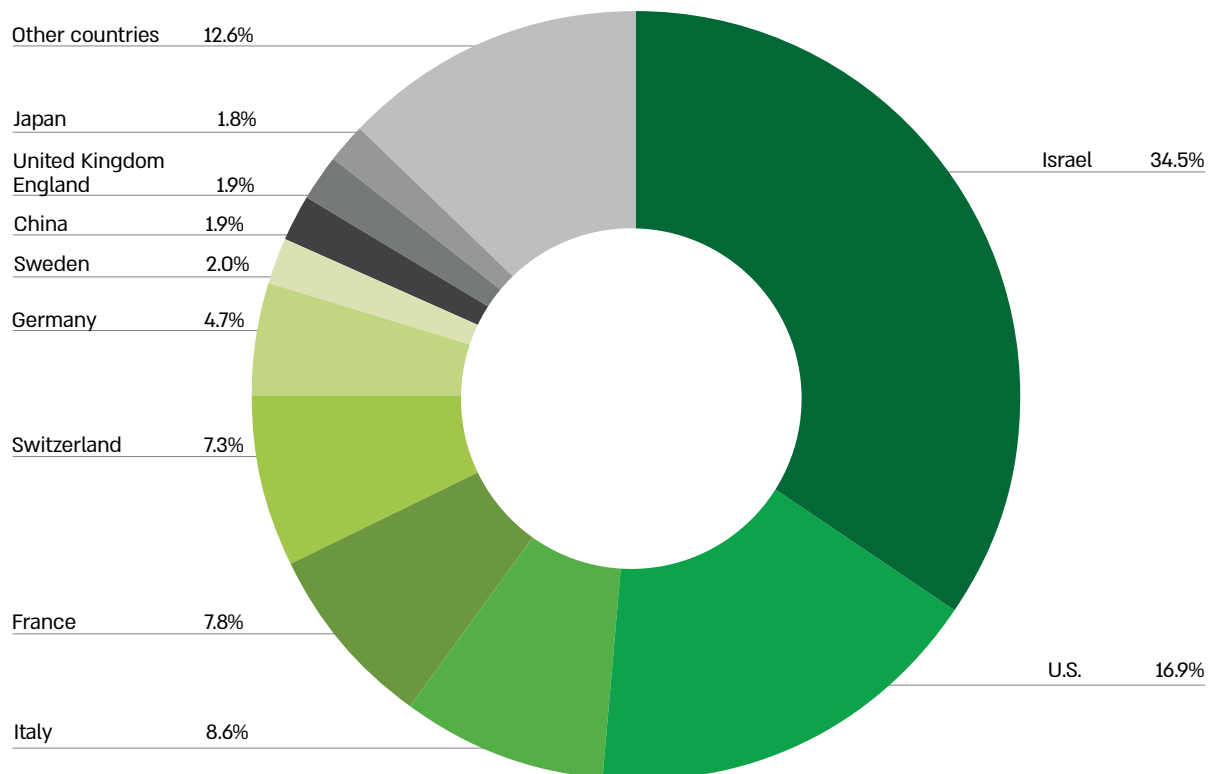
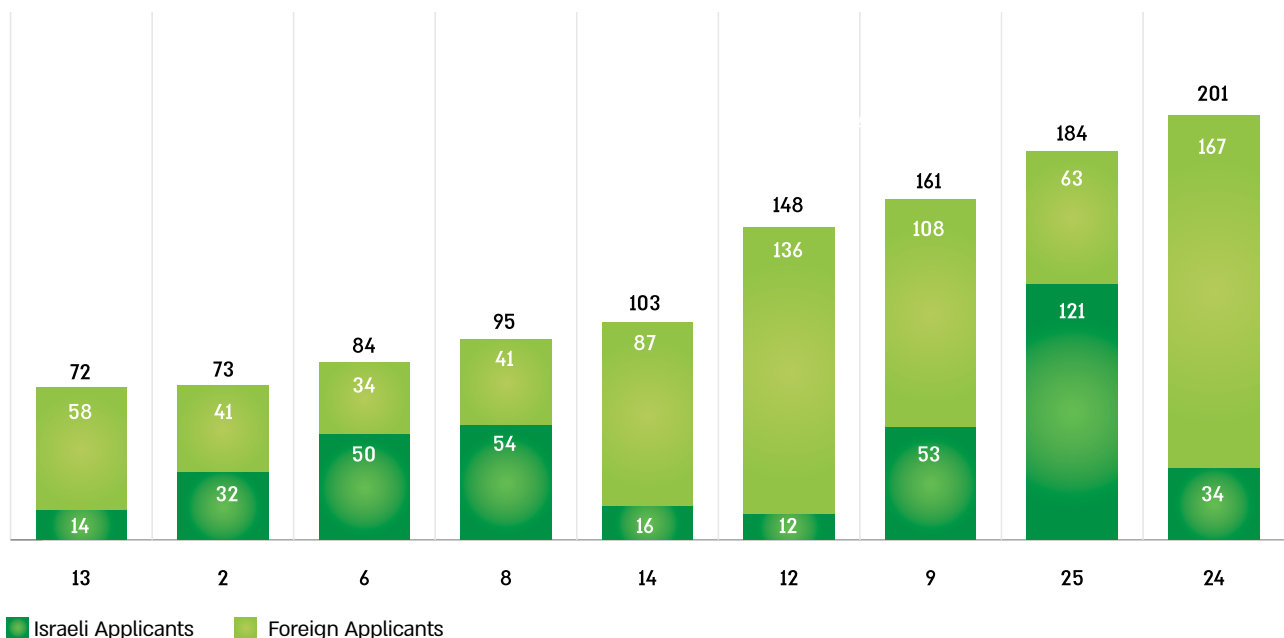


Chart 42. Leading Classes in Design Applications in 2022



It is evident that in 2022 the highest number of applications were filed in the following classes: Class 24 – medical equipment and lab equipment; Class 25 – building units and construction elements; Class 9 – packages and containers for the transport or handling of goods; Class 12 – means of transport or hoisting; and Class 14 – recording, communication or information retrieval equipment. [For list of classes click here.](#)

Table 10. Leading Israeli Applicants in Filing Design Applications in 2022

Applicant	No. of Applications
Klil Industries Ltd.	61
Keter Home and Garden Products Ltd.	25
Shoket Aluminum Ltd.	16
Strauss Water Ltd.	14
Dims Technologies Ltd.	13

Table 11. Leading Foreign Applicants in Filing Design Applications in 2022

Applicant	No. of Applications
PSA AUTOMOBILES SA	64
DALLAN S.P.A.	52
Cilag GmbH International	36
Apple Inc.	32
AMGEN INC.	29



B. Designs Registered

Chart 43. Designs Registered in 2018-2022

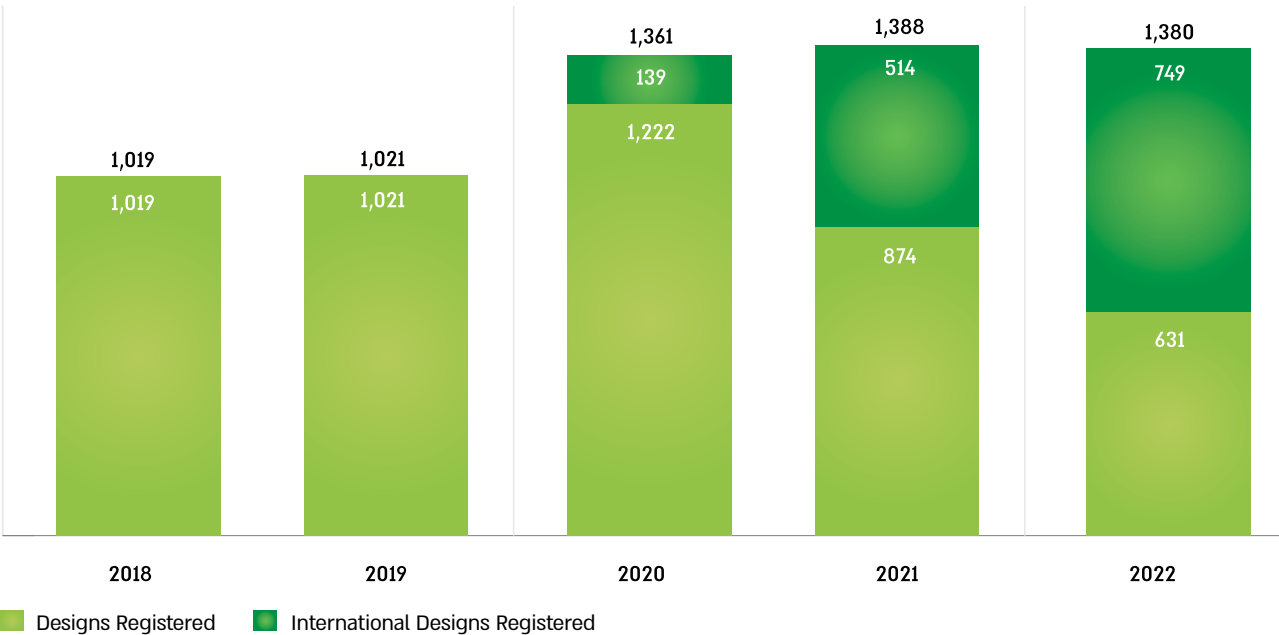


Chart 44. Designs Registered by Country of Origin, 2022 (percentages)

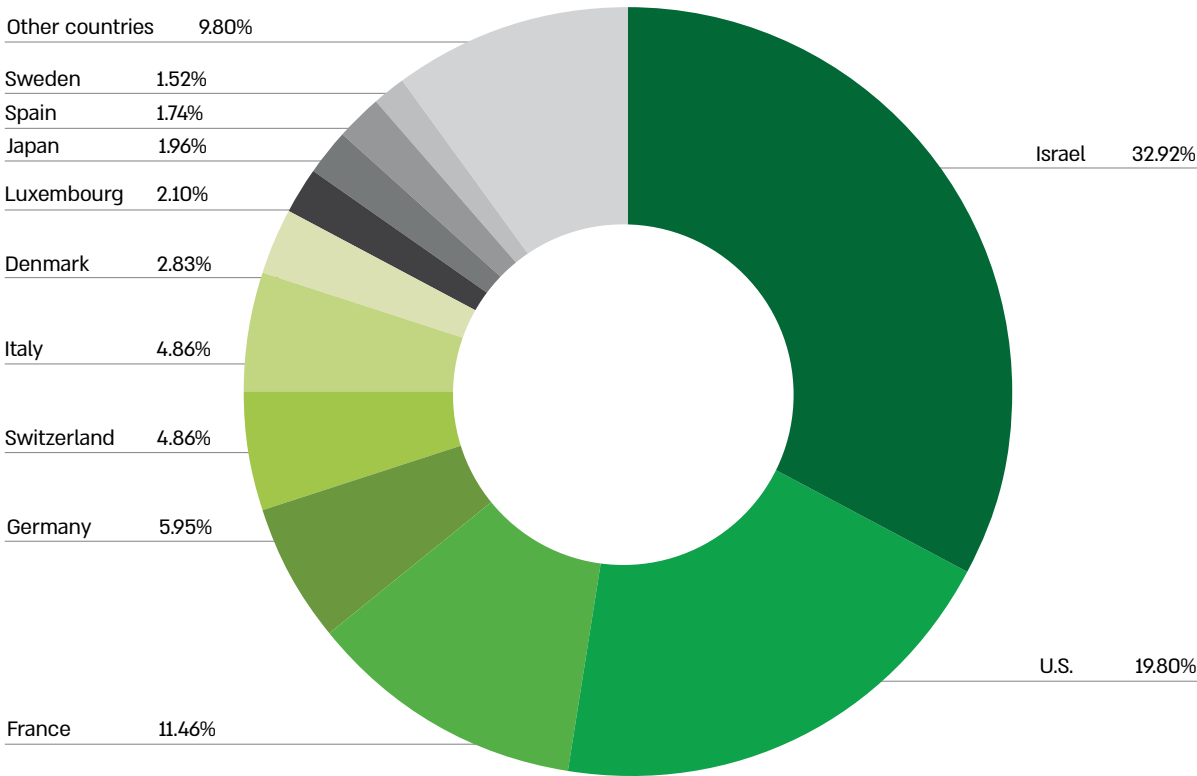


Chart 45. Renewal of Design Registration in 2018-2022

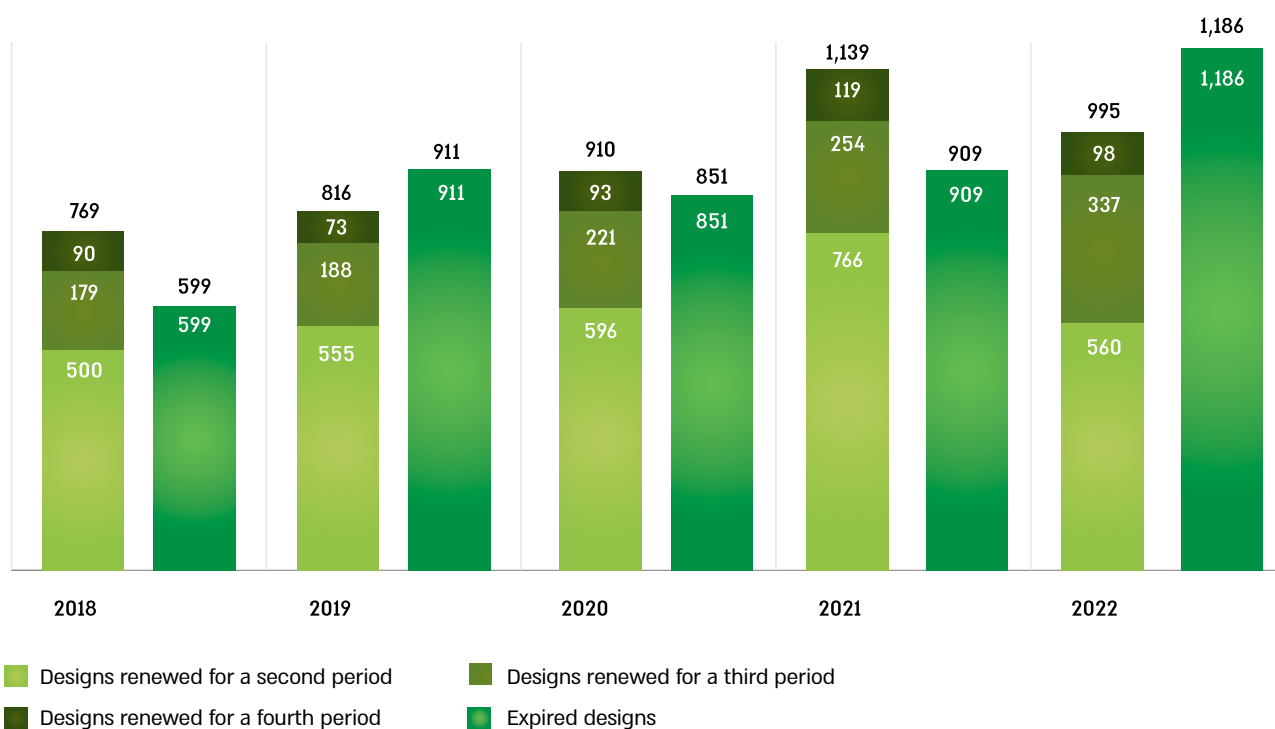
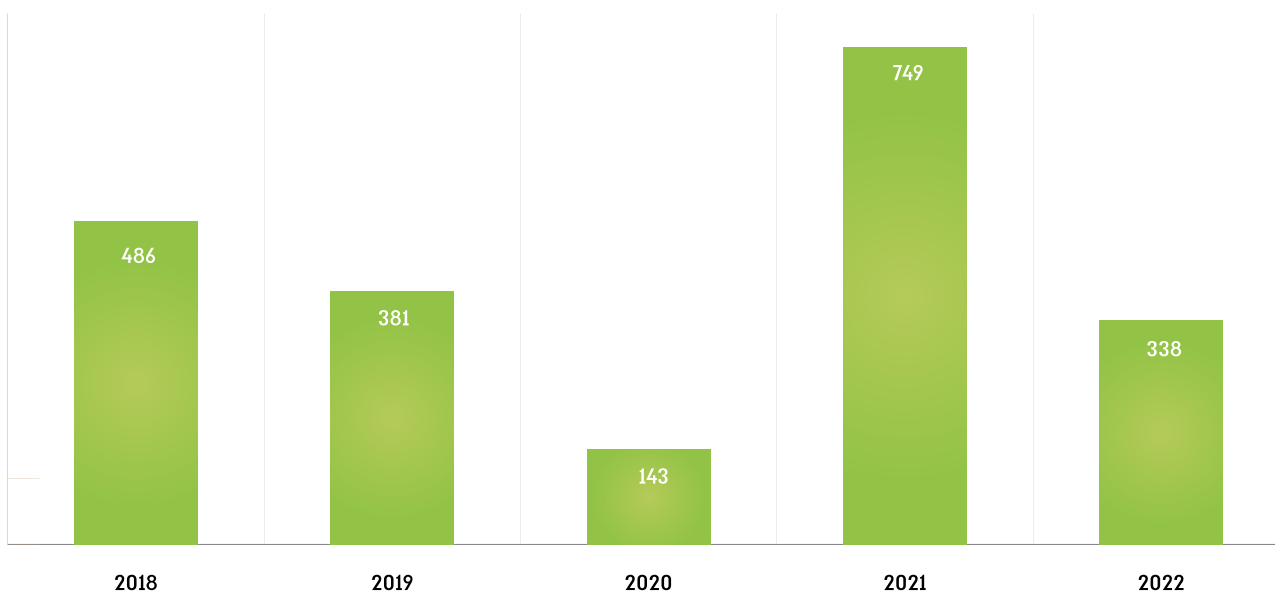


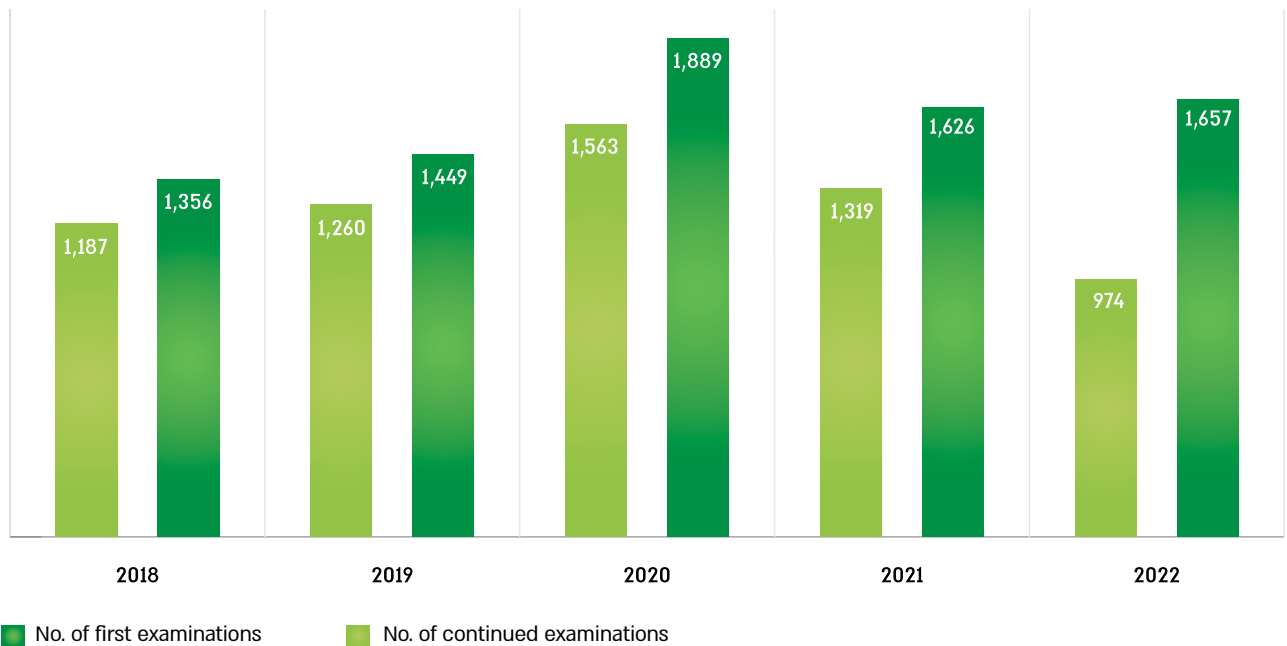
Chart 46. Design Applications Not Granted Registration in 2018-2022



The number of applications not granted registration in 2022 returned to the usual level, after being higher than recent years' average in 2021, due to the small number of applications closed in 2020 (given the deadline extensions and relaxations granted in closing files that year because of the Covid-19 pandemic). Many files not granted registration in 2020 and whose examination report had not received a response, were refused and closed in 2021.

The Department's Examination Activities

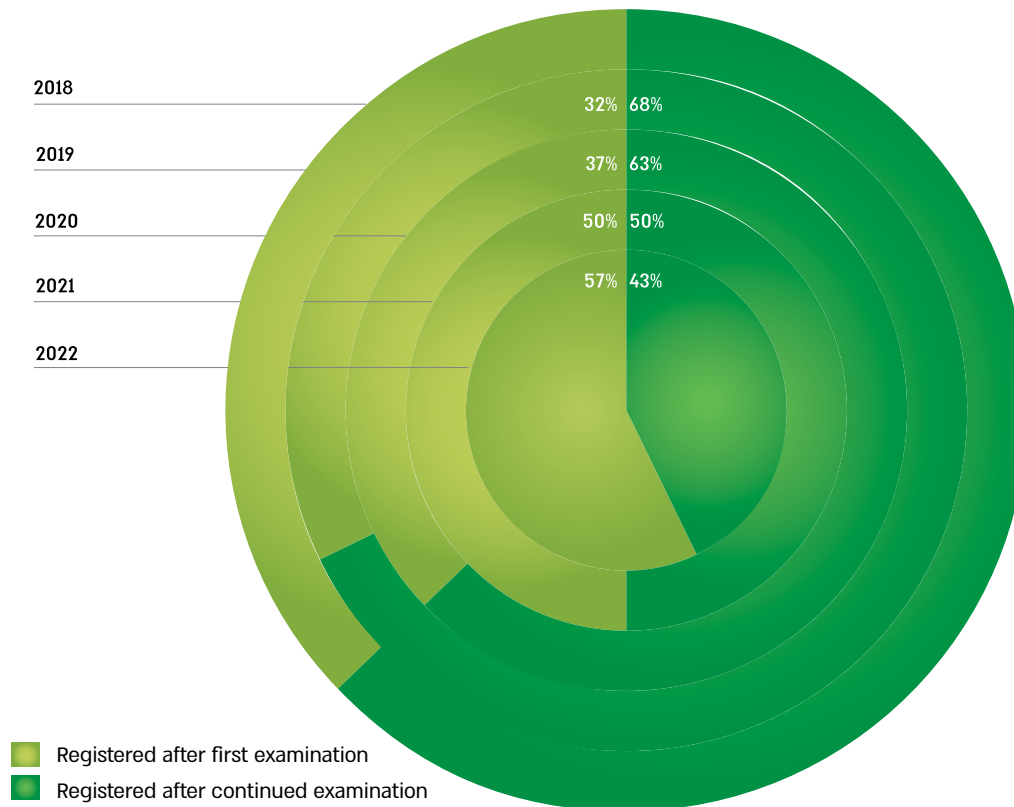
Chart 47. First Examinations versus Continued Examinations in 2018-2022



Continued examinations are all the examinations carried out in a design registration application, in addition to the first examination.

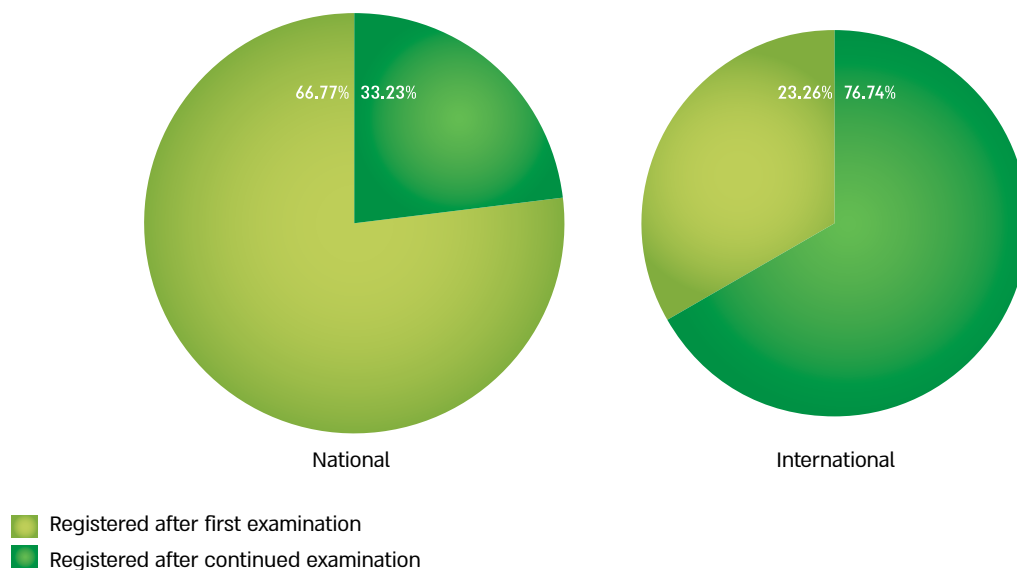


Chart 48. Designs Registered After First Examination vs. Continued Examination in 2018-2022



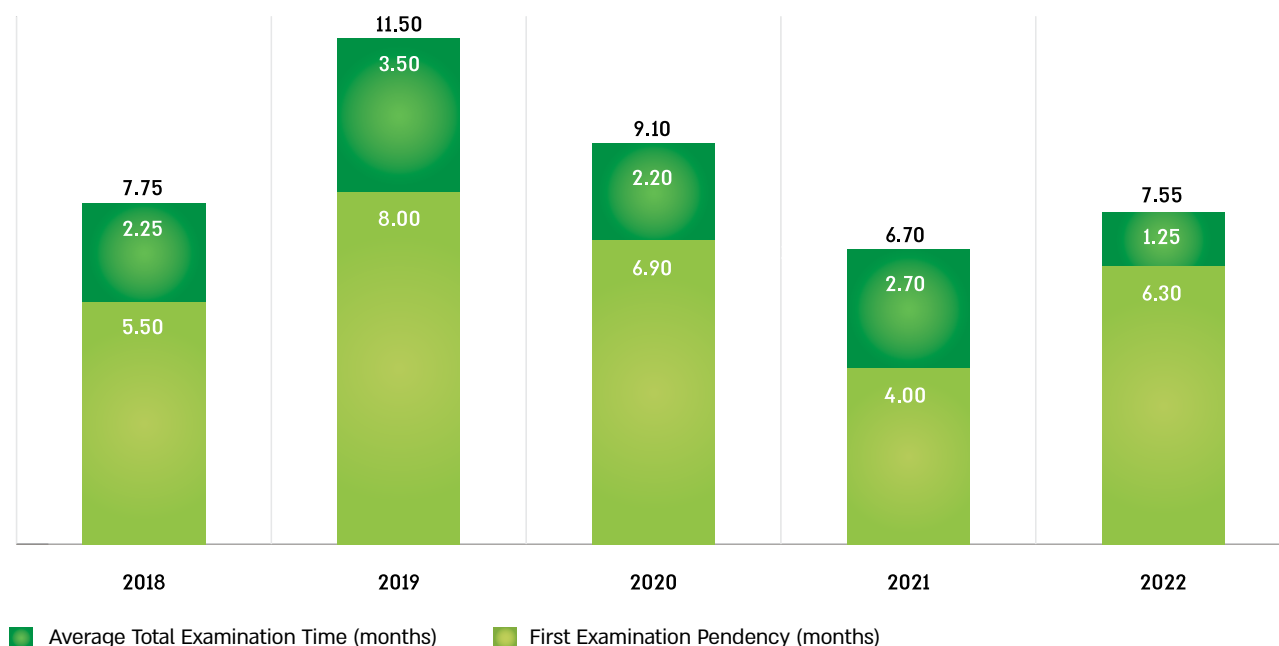
In 2022, 57% of all designs registered, were registered after a first examination report, while 43% were registered after a continued examination. As already mentioned, continued examinations refer to all the examinations carried out in a design registration application, in addition to the first examination.

Chart 49. Designs Registered After First Examination vs. Continued Examination, in Israeli and International Applications in 2022



The percentage of international applications accepted for registration after a first examination is significantly higher than the percentage of local applications accepted for registration after a first examination, because some of the deficiencies in the applications are corrected already at the formal examination stage at WIPO. Hence, as regards international applications, examiners in Israel have few reservations in this matter.

Chart 50. First Examination Pendency and Average Total Examination Time, 2018-2022



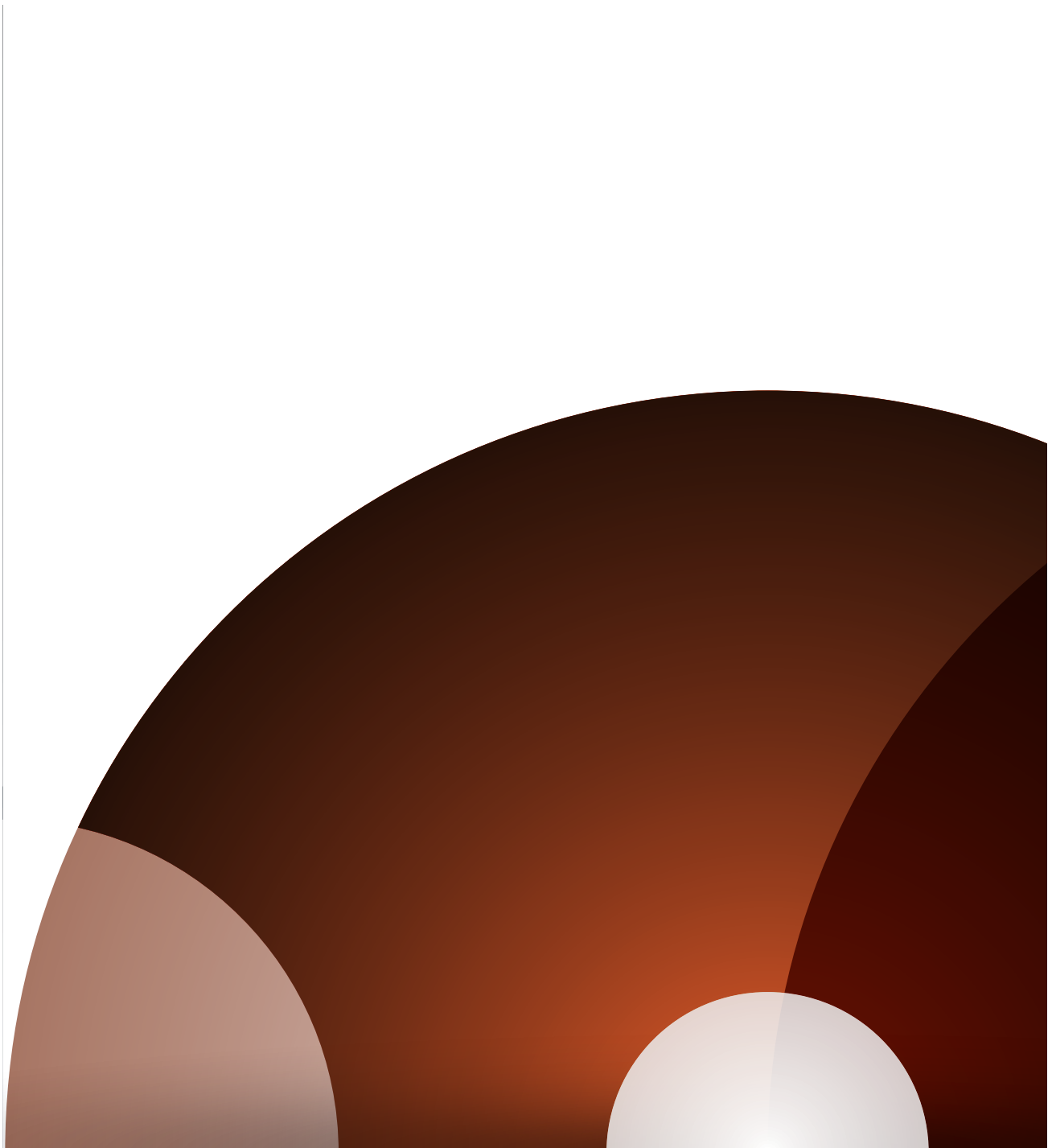
The overall figure at the top of each column refers to total time from the filing of the design registration application until design registration. First examination pendency refers to the length of time from the filing of the application until the start of the examination. Average total examination time refers to average examination duration from the time it begins until registration of the design.

As already mentioned, in 2021, a particularly high number of design registration applications were filed. The number of applications filed in 2022 was also above the average for recent years, due to entry into the Hague System. Given the high number of applications filed, examination pendency in 2022 rose to 6.3 months. However, average examination duration decreased, due to the percentage of international registration applications received after first examination. Therefore, total time from application filing until design registration did not change significantly.



ILPO ACTIVITIES

IN THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT



Legislative Initiatives

Due to a delay in legislative proceedings, the enactment of regulations that would enable the filing of provisional patent applications was not completed. We anticipate that the Patents Law and accompanying RIA (Regulatory Impact Assessment) report will be published in the coming months.

At the same time, the Patent Office is promoting additional legislative amendments, among others, in the chapter on patent attorneys in the Patents Law, including the institution of ethics regulations for patent attorneys, regulations regulating the management of proceedings before the Registrar via video conference hearings, amendment of patent opposition procedures, and regulations designed to reduce the need to submit a power of attorney, and more.

Proceedings

A large part of the Department's resources is devoted to handling judicial and quasi-judicial proceedings that take place at the Office. The data relating to the proceedings is presented below. The Department has met the targets set out in the Service Charter for the issuance of interim decisions and final decisions on proceedings.

The number of proceedings in 2022 decreased compared to 2021. A decline was observed in both trademark proceedings and patent proceedings.

Licensing Patent Attorneys

Like every year, the Legal Department administered the licensing procedures of the patent attorneys' profession. In 2022, examinations were held twice in patent drafting and law.

During 2022, 47 candidates were examined (a candidate who took the exams on two different dates or took several exams was counted several times). In 2022, 10 new patent attorneys were certified.

Under the law, a disciplinary committee handles complaints in respect of patent attorneys. The committee is appointed ad hoc by the Minister of Justice. In 2022, two issues were pending before the committee.



A. Legal Proceedings

Table 12. Legal Proceedings Initiated in 2018-2022

Patents

Year	Opposition	Application for patent reinstatement	Application for cancellation	Ex-parte proceeding	Application to list inventor's name	Opposition to grant of patent term extension order	App. to revoke or change extension order period	Opposition to correction under Section 170(c) of the law	Total
2018	28		2	20			1		51
2019	32		8	9					50
2020	31		6	16		1		1	55
2021	37		6	30			1		74
2022	29	40	3	4	1				77

Data on applications for patent reinstatement are presented this year for the first time separately. In previous years, patent reinstatement applications with pleadings were classified as ex-parte proceedings, while applications without pleadings were not classified as a legal proceeding at all.

Trademarks

Year	Competing applications	Opposition	Ex-parte proceeding	Cancellation/ amendment of register	Total
2018	12	136	64	40	252
2019	9	120	48	31	208
2020	8	131	50	39	228
2021	14	128	59	49	250
2022	8	97	50	40	195

Designs/Industrial Designs

Year	Application for cancellation	Ex-parte proceeding	Deletion/ cancellation/ amendment of register	Application for correction of entries and documents	Total
2018	2	5			7
2019	5	9			14
2020	1	12			13
2021	1	2			3
2022	2	1	1	1	5

Table 13. Legal Proceedings Closed in 2018-2022**Patents**

Year	Opposition	Application for cancellation	Ex-parte proceeding	Opposition to amendment of specification	Opposition to grant of patent term extension order	Opposition to patent reinstatement	Total
2018	41	6	23		1		71
2019	46	3	10	1			60
2020	30	6	12	2			60
2021	31	5	30		1		58
2022	20	7	9			38	74

Trademarks

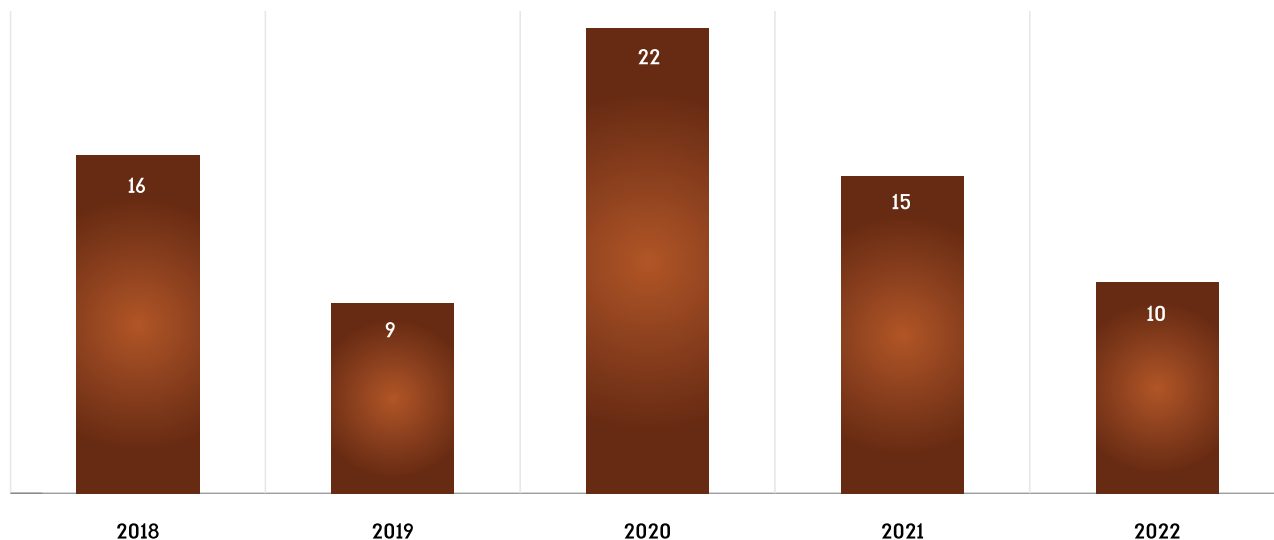
Year	Competing applications	Opposition	Ex-parte proceeding	Deletion/ cancellation/ amendment of register	Total
2018	8	107	31	41	187
2019	13	133	74	44	264
2020	15	110	53	41	219
2021	11	111	64	47	233
2022	12	105	47	29	193

Designs/Industrial Designs

Year	Application for cancellation	Ex-parte proceeding	Total
2018	2	13	15
2019	2	4	6
2020	5	15	21
2021		3	3
2022		1	1

B. Appeals

Chart 51. Appeals Filed on Decisions of the Commissioner of Patents, the Deputy Commissioner, and the IP Adjudicator in 2018-2022

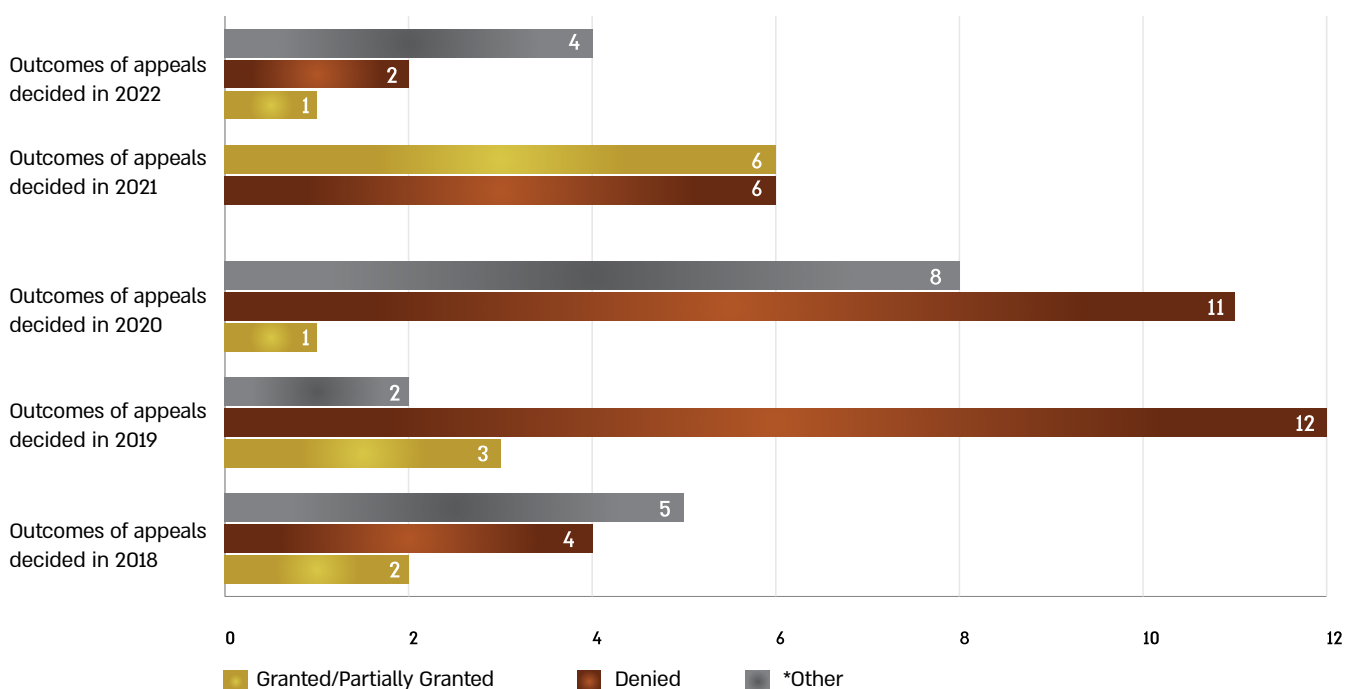


Data on appeals and leaves to appeal to which the Commissioner is not a party are self-reported by the parties and therefore may be underreported.

8 appeals against the ILPO were filed in 2022 with the District Court.

2 appeals were filed with the Supreme Court.

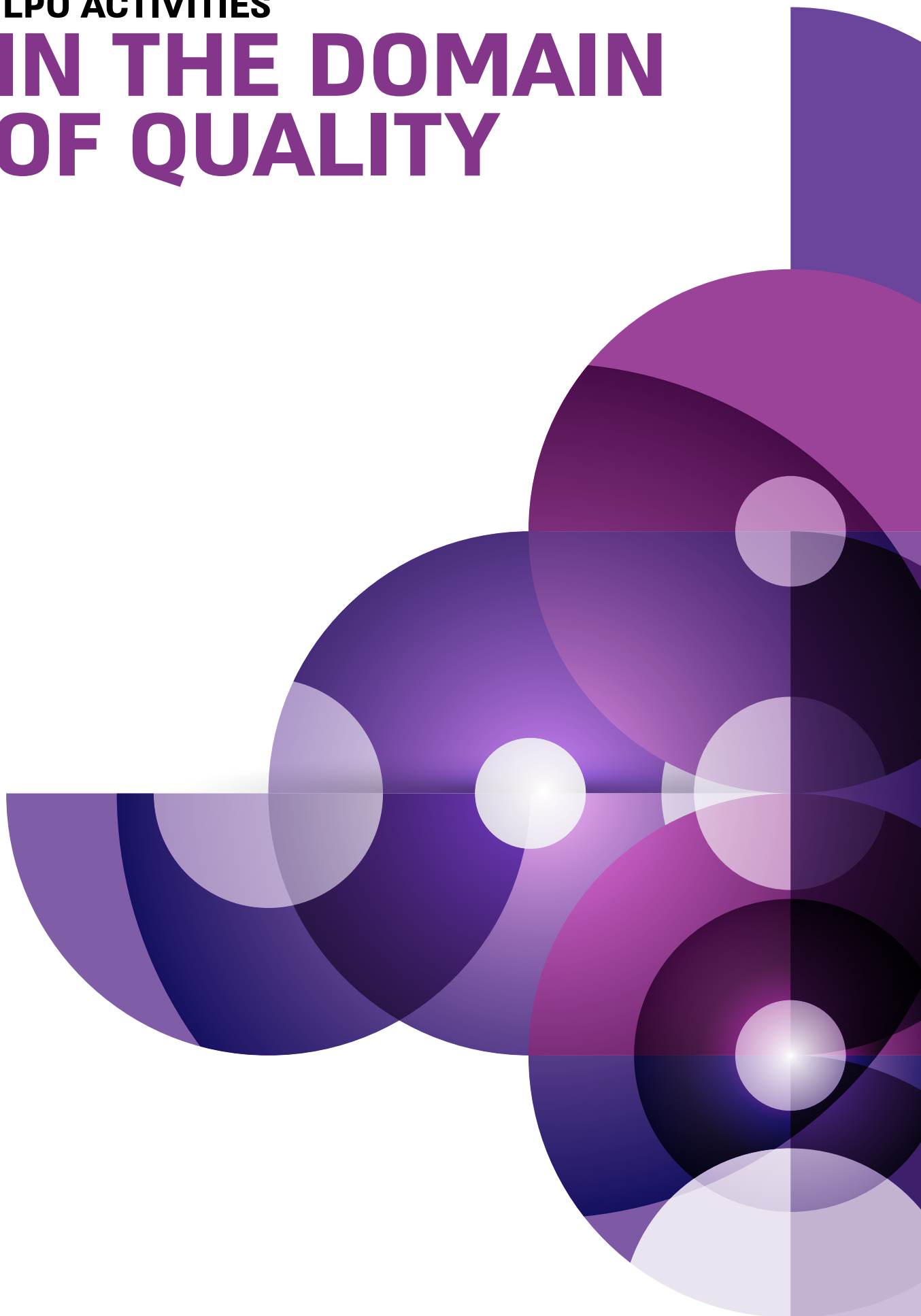
Chart 52. Outcomes of Judgments Given by the District Court in Appeals on Decisions of the Commissioner of Patents, the Deputy Commissioner, and the IP Adjudicator in 2018-2022



Data on appeals and leaves to appeal to which the Commissioner is not a party are self-reported by the parties and therefore may be underreported.

**"Other" – appeals struck out / cases settled / case remanded for rehearing / appellant requested to withdraw appeal.

ILPO ACTIVITIES IN THE DOMAIN OF QUALITY



As of 2010, the ILPO is certified to ISO standard 2001. All ILPO departments and activities successfully passed the Israel Standards Institute test in 2022, which is a condition for continued possession of the certificate of competency for 2023.

Pursuant to quality standard requirements, quality control inspections are performed to review examination reports and correspondences issued at all ILPO departments. The inspection checks compliance with service charter timeframes and examines the content of correspondences. Additionally, a quality inspection examines the changes in registers at ILPO departments and the work of the ILPO secretariat. At the Patents Secretariat, an inspection is performed to check the integrity of documents and the proper matching of categories to documents' content. Generally, the inspection at all ILPO departments constitutes 5% of the scope of activity.

An inspection of 100% of the applications is conducted at the following departments:

1. Patents Secretariat – in respect of patentable patent applications. The inspection examines the integrity of documents and proper categorization of documents.
2. PCT Department – in respect of all applications accepted for registration.
3. Trademarks Department – in respect of applications undergoing re-examination.
4. Patents Department – in respect of expedited and "green" applications, applications for which no citations were found in the first examination, examination reports of new examiners, notices before refusal, refusal notices, applications in which Section 17(d) of the law was invoked, and applications in which a deficiency was cited in respect of the following: ambiguity of claims that does not allow complete search and examination of invention patentability, pursuant to Sections 4 and 5 of the Law; the application is not within a patentable technology field; lack of utility and unity of invention.

The quality control data are documented and statistically analyzed for the purpose of carrying out remedial actions, and are presented to the ILPO's management.

Updating the Work Instructions

Work instructions are updated once a year as necessary, and are published for the public on the ILPO website. Internal work instructions (not published for the public), are updated as necessary and passed on to the relevant managers and employees.

Service Charter

A report detailing the compliance of the ILPO departments with the service charter timeframes in 2022, and the service charter targets and objectives for 2023, has been published for the public and is available on the ILPO website at the address:

<https://www.gov.il/he/departments/policies/service-declaration>.

Customer Satisfaction Survey

In 2022, a customer satisfaction survey was conducted. The survey included verbal remarks and numerical results in respect of the actions at the ILPO departments. The survey's results, including the verbal remarks, were studied and lessons were drawn. The commendations appearing in the verbal remarks were conveyed to the relevant employees and departments.

Each year the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is sent a report on the changes and improvements made during the work year in the domain of quality, at the PCT Department and Patents Department.

The report is available at the following address:

<https://www.wipo.int/pct/en/quality/authorities.html>



ILPO ACTIVITIES

HUMAN RESOURCES AND FINANCIAL DATA



Chart 53. ILPO Structure in 2022

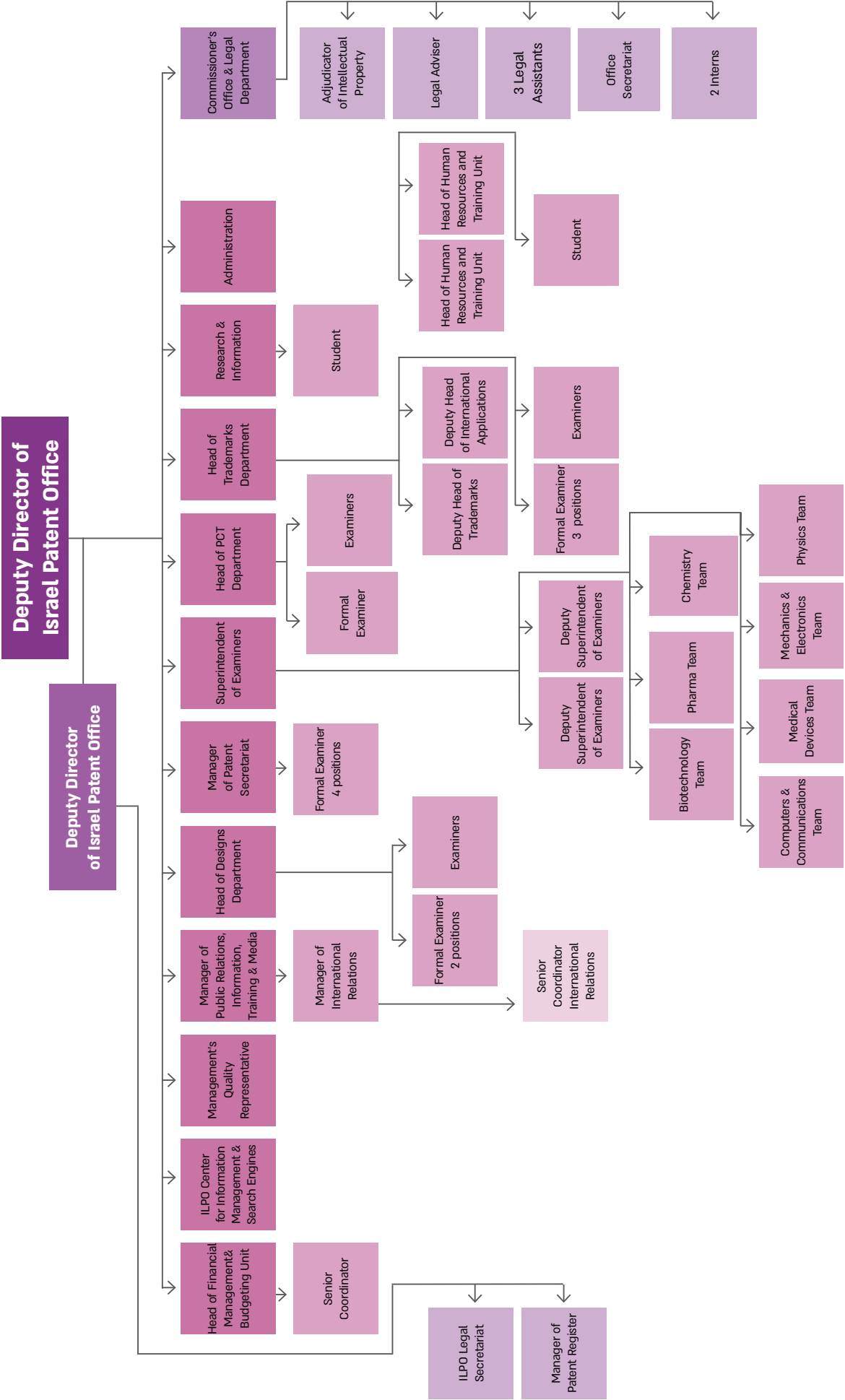
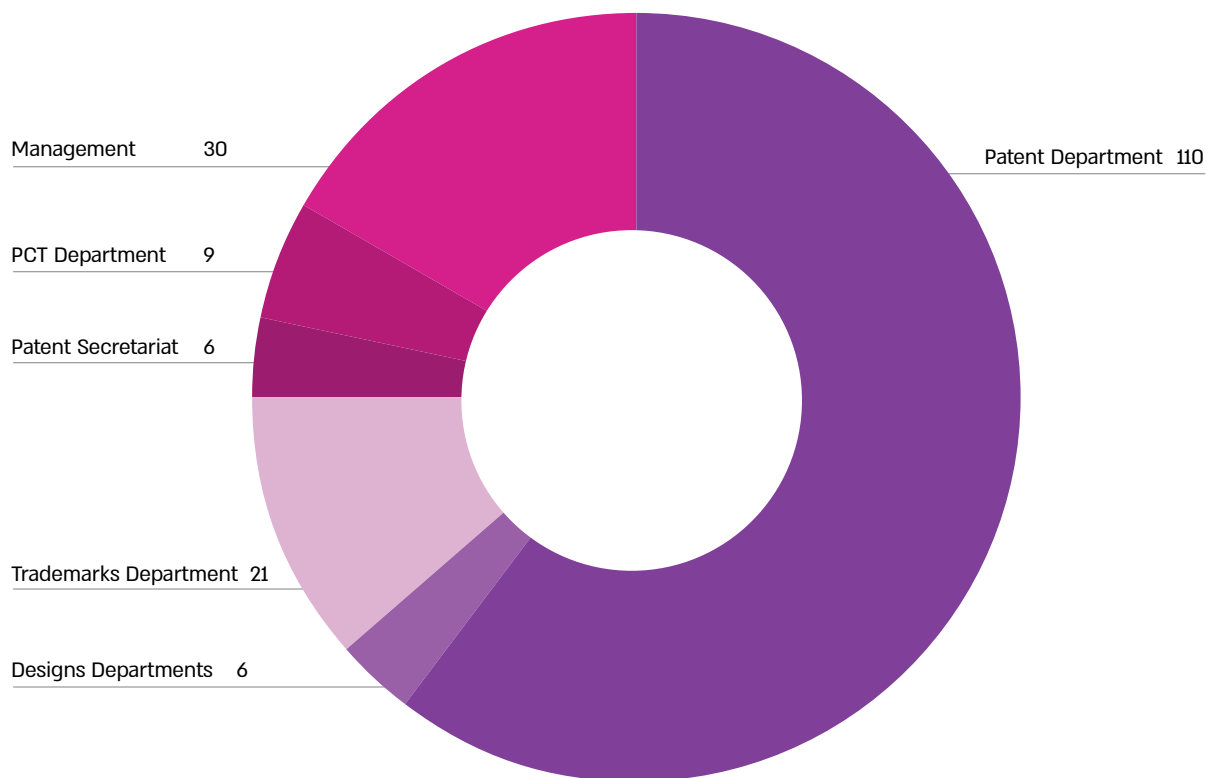


Chart 54. Segmentation of ILPO Employees by Department



Total 182 employees of which 114 women and 66 men

Chart 55. Segmentation of ILPO Employees by Age

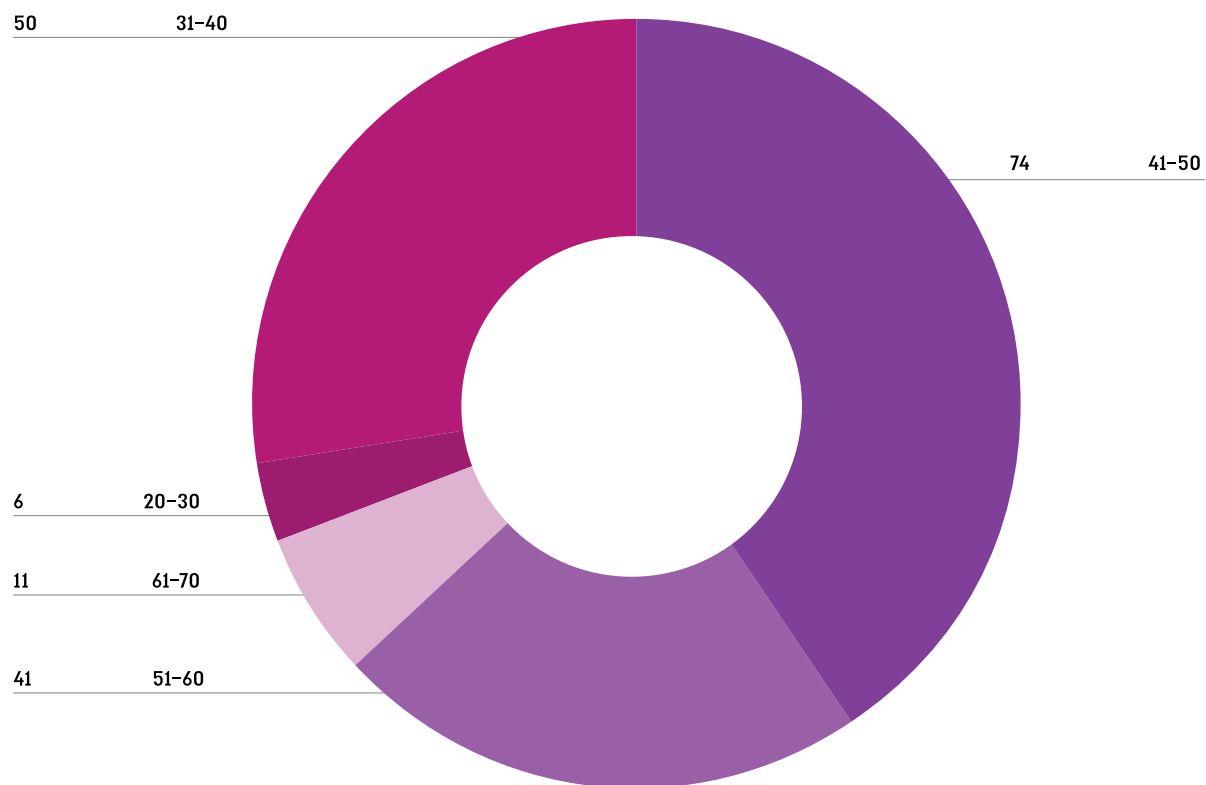


Table 14. ILPO Revenue and Expenses, 2022

Revenue	2021	2022
Revenue from patent fees	60,805,228	63,817,753
Revenue from trademark fees	72,441,165	80,307,760
Revenue from PCT fees	6,275,960	6,018,585
Revenue from design fees	1,399,026	1,377,085
Total revenue	140,921,379	151,521,183

Expenses	2021	2022
Personnel and non-permanent positions	41,058,964	42,733,000
Operating expenses (procurement, computing, professional courses)	23,351,290	27,150,000
Housing expenses	6,850,000	6,850,000
Total expenses	71,260,254	76,733,000

Chart 56. Patent Department – Distribution of Revenue from Fees, 2021-2022

2021 ■ 2022 ■

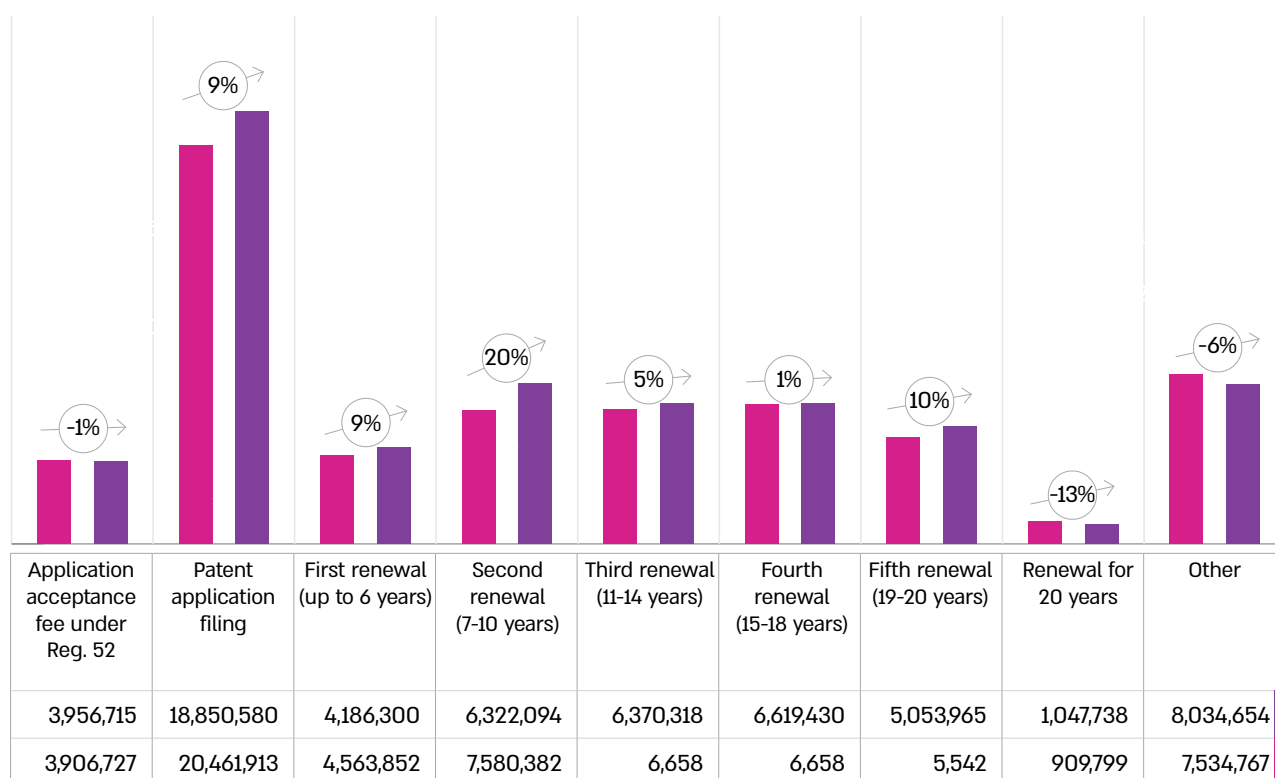


Chart 57. PCT Department – Distribution of Revenue from Fees, 2021-2022

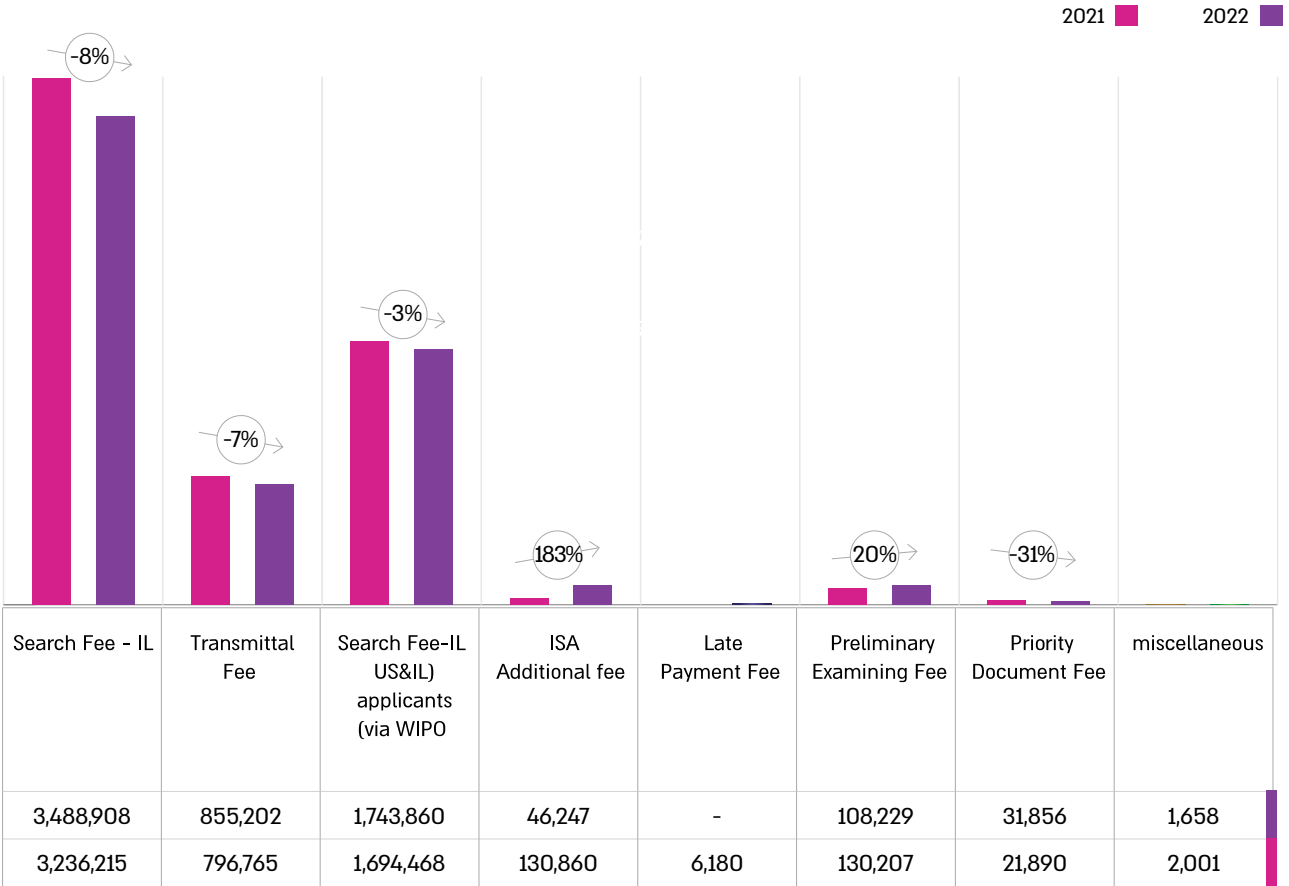


Chart 58. Trademarks Department – Distribution of Revenue from Fees, 2021-2022

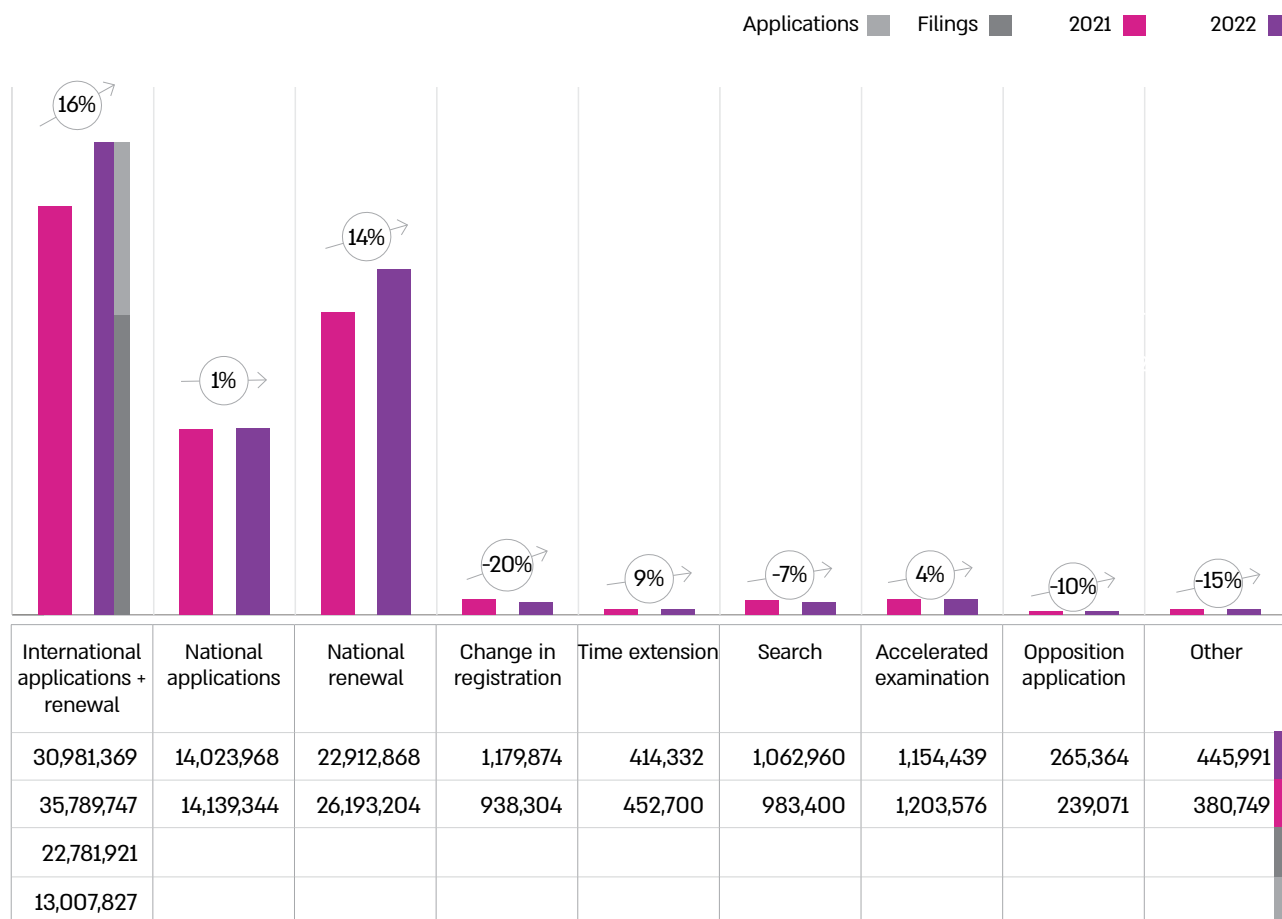
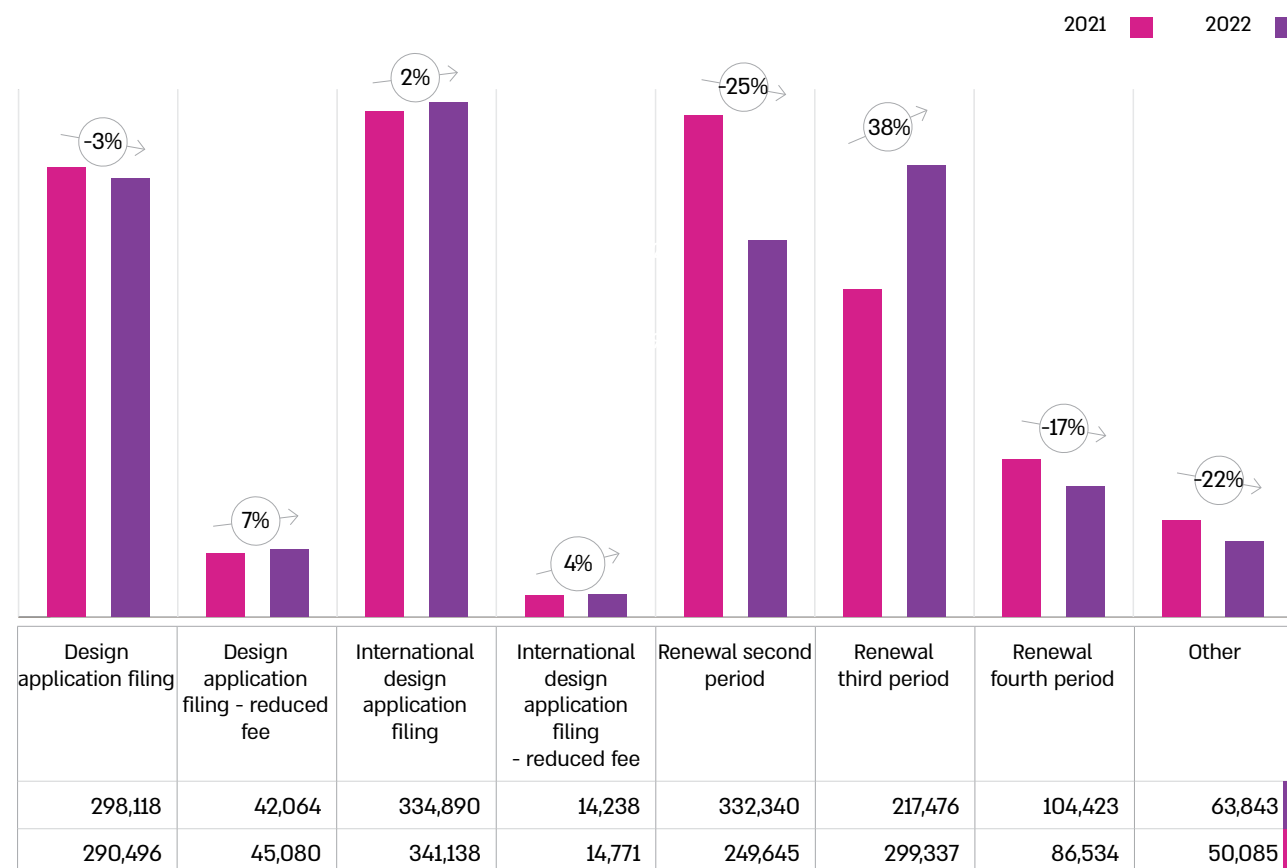


Chart 59. Designs Department – Distribution of Revenue from Fees, 2021-2022



ILPO Contact Information



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Telephone

ILPO call center – call router to all the
departments
972-73-3927100



Email

Public inquiries

Ms. Tamar Koby
Commissioner of Public Inquiries
patent@justice.gov.il

International Relations Department

IntlILPO@justice.gov.il

Department	Telephone No.	Fax	Description of Services
Patent Department (Secretariat)	073-3927122	02-6467774	Handling of new patent applications, extensions, renewals, reinstatements, etc.
Patent Department (Examiners)	073-3927121	02-6467774	
PCT Secretariat	073-3927250	02-6468070	Filing of international applications and explanation on entry into the national phase
Trademarks Secretariat	073-3927314	02-6467026	Handling of new trademark applications, extensions, renewals, revivals, etc..
Designs/Industrial Designs Secretariat	073-3927275	02-6467777	Handling of new industrial design applications, extensions, renewals, etc.
Legal Proceedings	073-3927290	02-6467708	