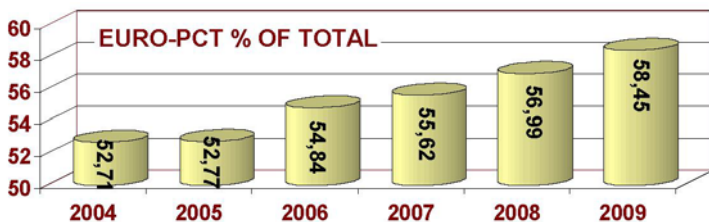
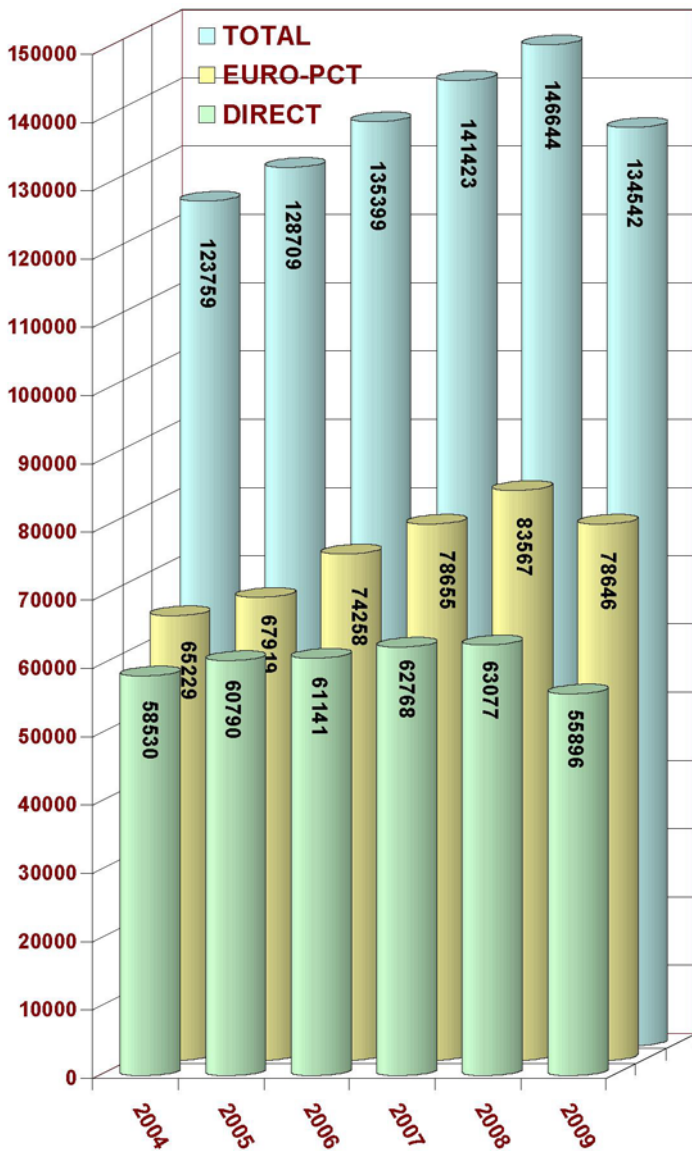


November 2010

European Patent Office Annual Report For 2009

The EPO Annual Report indicates that the trend of growth in the total number of European patent applications filed ended in 2009. The number of applications filed in 2009 fell below the number of applications filed in 2008. The last time such a fall in the number of applications filed occurred was 2002.



2009 – A Difficult Year

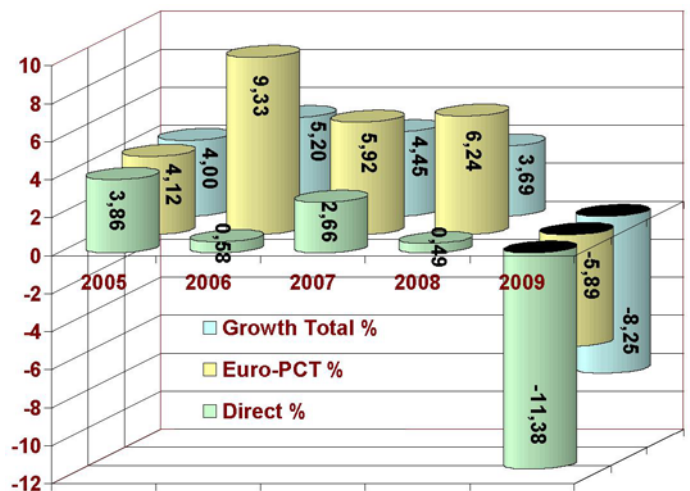
The total number of European patent applications filed in 2009 fell below the 2008 level by about 12,000, representing a decline of over 8%.

The number of Euro-PCT applications decreased least. Euro-PCT applications (i.e. International applications designating the European Patent Office which actually entered the European regional phase at the EPO in the year concerned) fell by almost 6% compared to 2008.

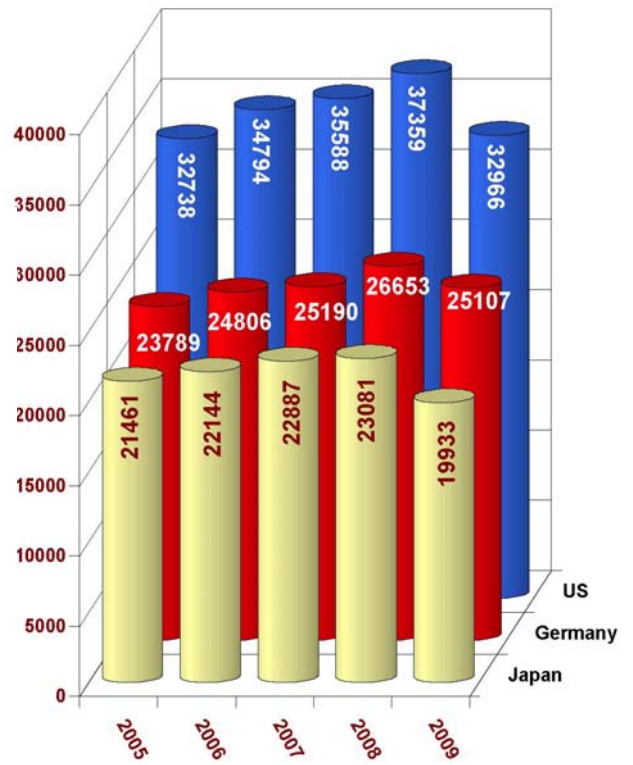
Direct European applications fell by more than 11% as compared with 2008.

In 2009 Euro-PCT applications accounted for over 58% of total European applications filed.

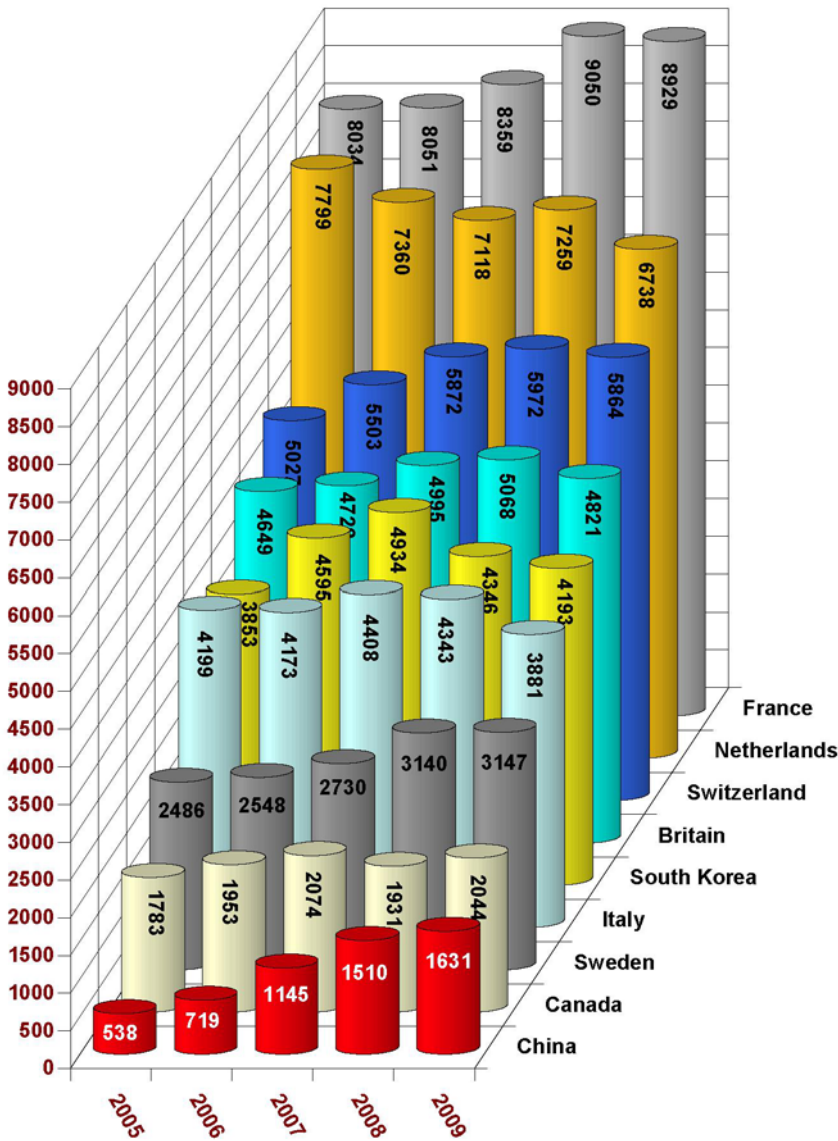
Fortunately, 2010 looks better.



US, German and Japanese applicants still file the greatest numbers of European patent applications. In 2009, applications by US and Japanese applicants decreased by over 10% and applications by German applicants decreased by nearly 6%.

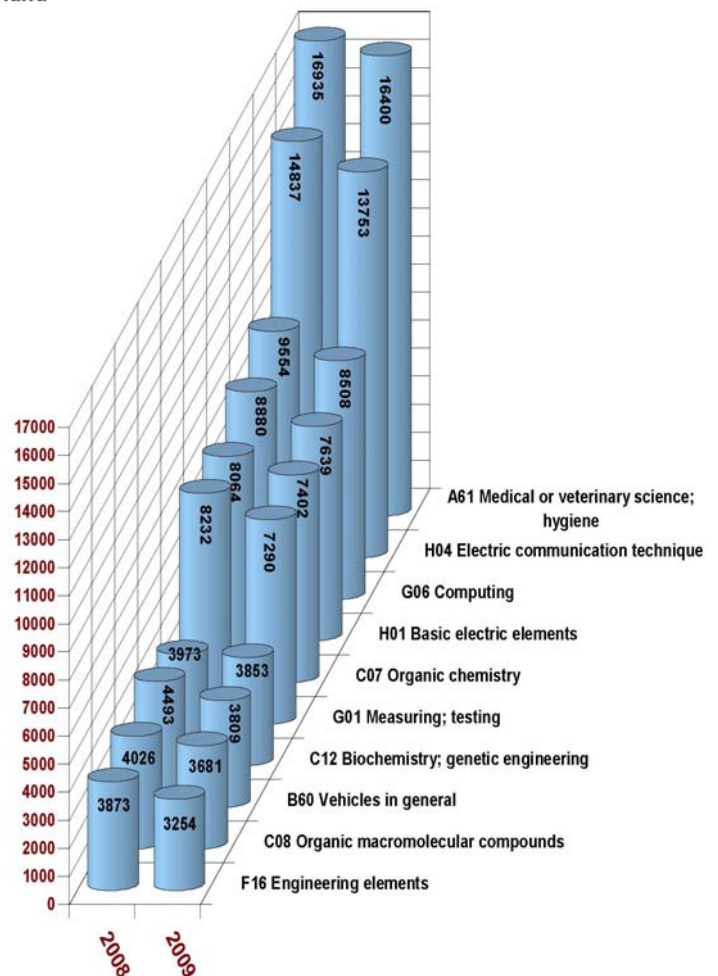


The numbers of applications filed by other high ranking countries also generally showed falls in 2009. Canada and China were exceptions: filings by applicants from these countries increased by 6% and 8%.

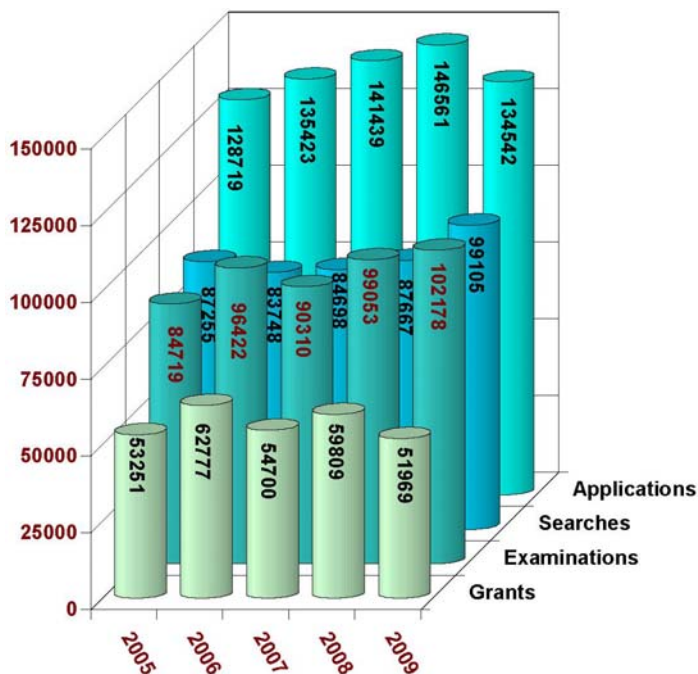


Over 50% of all European patent applications relate to 10 general technical fields. In 2009 the numbers of applications filed fell in each of those technical fields.

The greatest fall in the number of applications, from 2008 to 2009, was in the field of basic electric elements (H01). The smallest fall was in the field of biochemistry and genetic engineering (C12).



The full EPO Annual Report for 2009 contains much more than the outline information provided here. The Annual Report is available on the EPO website:-
<http://www.epo.org/about-us/office/annual-reports/2009.html>



Processing of European Patent Applications - Search – Examination - Grant

In 2009, the EPO received 196,000 requests for search, a 4.7% decrease on 2008. The EPO completed 203,500 searches, 9% more than in 2008. 99,100 searches related to European patent applications, while 81,000 were performed by the EPO as a PCT searching authority. 23,000 further searches were completed on behalf of national offices of contracting states or others. The number of outstanding searches fell by 4% to 188,000. The EPO completed European searches after an average of 9.5 months.

In 2009, requests for examination of European patent applications decreased by 6% to 118,900. Requests for International Preliminary Examination of PCT applications fell by 12% to 8,900.

102,200 European examinations and 9,600 PCT preliminary examinations were completed in 2009, a 3% increase over 2008. Of European examinations completed in 2009, 42% ended with patent grant. In 24% of cases the application was abandoned after the search was completed, and in 34% of cases the application was refused or abandoned during the substantive examination phase. The number of patents granted in 2009 decreased by over 10% compared to 2008. For patents granted in 2009, on average the time taken to reach grant was 43.1 months after the application was received. The time taken to grant varies significantly between technologies, from 35 months for Vehicles and General Technology to 57 months for Biotechnology. Average completion time for all procedures, irrespective of their outcome, was 39 months. Despite the increased number of examinations completed, the number of European examination files awaiting a final outcome rose by 3.2% to 501,100.

Top Filing Countries – Growth/Decline in European Patent Applications 2009

Rank 2009(2008)	Country	Filings		Growth/Decline	
		2009	2008	Filings	Percent
12 (15)	China	1631	1510	121	8,01
11 (11)	Canada	2044	1931	113	5,85
24 (-)	Luxembourg	293	274	19	6,93
16 (16)	Austria	1504	1492	12	0,80
10 (10)	Sweden	3147	3140	7	0,22
21 (22)	Ireland	490	484	6	1,24
22 (21)	Norway	489	490	-1	-0,20
25 (25)	Singapore	264	282	-18	-6,38
18 (18)	Israel	1095	1118	-23	-2,06
19 (19)	Taiwan	1006	1057	-51	-4,82
17 (17)	Spain	1258	1322	-64	-4,84
15 (14)	Denmark	1488	1586	-98	-6,18
6 (6)	Switzerland	5864	5972	-108	-1,81
23 (23)	India	321	439	-118	-26,88
4 (4)	France	8929	9050	-121	-1,34
8 (8)	South Korea	4193	4346	-153	-3,52
20 (20)	Australia	845	1056	-211	-19,98
7 (7)	United Kingdom	4821	5068	-247	-4,87
13(12)	Belgium	1630	1900	-270	-14,21
14 (13)	Finland	1447	1780	-333	-18,71
9 (9)	Italy	3881	4343	-462	-10,64
5 (5)	Netherlands	6738	7289	-551	-7,56
2 (2)	Germany	25107	26653	-1546	-5,80
3 (3)	Japan	19933	23081	-3148	-13,64
1 (1)	USA	32966	37359	-4393	-11,76

Top 25 Filing Countries – Growth/Decline in Applications in 2009

The table on the left illustrates the levels of growth/decline in applications by applicants from the top 25 countries filing European patent applications filed in 2009. Most countries showed declines in the numbers of applications filed.

38 Contracting States - Member Countries of the European Patent System -	
Code	Member state
AL	Albania
AT	Austria
BE	Belgium
BG	Bulgaria
CH	Switzerland
CY	Cyprus
CZ	Czech Republic
DE	Germany
DK	Denmark
EE	Estonia
ES	Spain
FI	Finland
FR	France
GB	United Kingdom
GR	Greece
HR	Croatia
HU	Hungary
IE	Ireland
IS	Iceland
IT	Italy
LI	Liechtenstein
LT	Lithuania
LU	Luxembourg
LV	Latvia
MC	Monaco
	Former Yugoslav
MK	Republic of Macedonia
MT	Malta
NL	Netherlands
NO	Norway
PL	Poland
PT	Portugal
RO	Romania
RS	Serbia
SE	Sweden
SI	Slovenia
SK	Slovakia
SM	San Marino
TR	Turkey
	(at 1 October 2010)
	2 Extension states
ME	Montenegro
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina

Top Filing Countries - European Patent Applications 2009				
Rank 2009 (2008)	Country	Filings		
		2009	2008	
1 (1)	USA	32966	37359	
2 (2)	Germany	25107	26653	
3 (3)	Japan	19933	23081	
4 (4)	France	8929	9050	
5 (5)	Netherlands	6738	7289	
6 (6)	Switzerland	5864	5972	
7 (7)	United Kingdom	4821	5068	
8 (8)	South Korea	4193	4346	
9 (9)	Italy	3881	4343	
10 (10)	Sweden	3147	3140	
11 (11)	Canada	2044	1931	
12 (15)	China	1631	1510	
13 (12)	Belgium	1630	1900	
14 (13)	Finland	1447	1780	
15 (14)	Denmark	1488	1586	
16 (16)	Austria	1504	1492	
17 (17)	Spain	1258	1322	
18 (18)	Israel	1095	1118	
19 (19)	Taiwan	1006	1057	
20 (20)	Australia	845	1056	
21 (22)	Ireland	490	484	
22 (21)	Norway	489	490	
23 (23)	India	321	439	
24 (-)	Luxembourg	293	274	
25 (25)	Singapore	264	282	

Top Filing Companies - European Patent Applications 2009			
Rank 2009 (2008)	Company	Filings	
		2009	2008
1(1)	PHILIPS	2556	2857
2(2)	SIEMENS	1708	1863
3(4)	BASF	1699	1664
4(3)	SAMSUNG	1337	1677
5(5)	ROBERT BOSCH	1284	1425
6(7)	LG	1221	1108
7(8)	PANASONIC	1020	1104
8(6)	QUALCOMM	969	1134
9(10)	TOYOTA	926	869
10(11)	SONY	913	802
11(-)	ALCATEL-LUCENT	850	(-)
12(16)	MITSUBISHI	849	688
13(15)	BAYER	838	697
14(19)	ERICSSON	827	633
15(18)	GENERAL ELECTRIC	681	652
16(25)	HUAWEI	672	572
17(-)	FUJITSU	654	(-)
18(12)	HONEYWELL	653	791
19(-)	RIM	649	(-)
20(13)	HITACHI	630	741
21(24)	THOMSON LICENSING	607	586
22(23)	CANON	602	588
23(17)	NOKIA	600	686
24(9)	NXP	591	981
25(14)	IBM	585	720

Further information on top filing companies can be found at:-
<http://www.epo.org/about-us/office/statistics/top-applicants.html>

HASELTINE LAKE  **LLP**
 EUROPEAN PATENT & TRADE MARK ATTORNEYS

<p>Munich Office Theatinerstrasse 3, D-80333, Munich, Germany</p> <p>Tel: +49 (0) 89 6227 1760 Fax: +49 (0) 89 485 686</p>	<p>London Office Lincoln House, 5th Floor, 300 High Holborn, London WC1V 7JH, UK</p> <p>Tel: +44 (0) 207 611 7900 Fax: +44 (0) 207 611 7901</p>
<p>Bristol Office Redcliff Quay, 120 Redcliff Street, Bristol BS1 6HU, UK</p> <p>Tel: +44 (0) 117 910 3200 Fax: +44 (0) 117 910 3201</p>	<p>Hague Office Bezuidenhoutseweg 161, 2594 AG, The Hague, The Netherlands</p> <p>Tel: +31 (0)70 8200810 Fax: +31 (0)70 8200811</p>