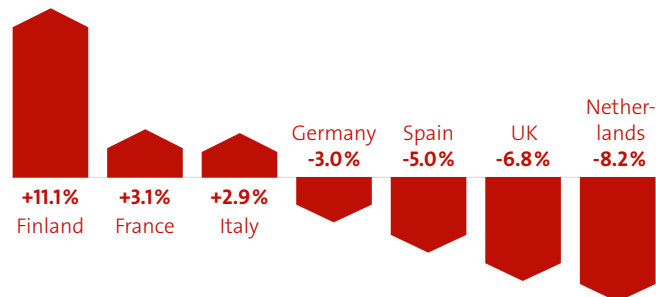# Trends in patenting
2020

Europe is an **attractive technology market** for European and international companies

Patent applications
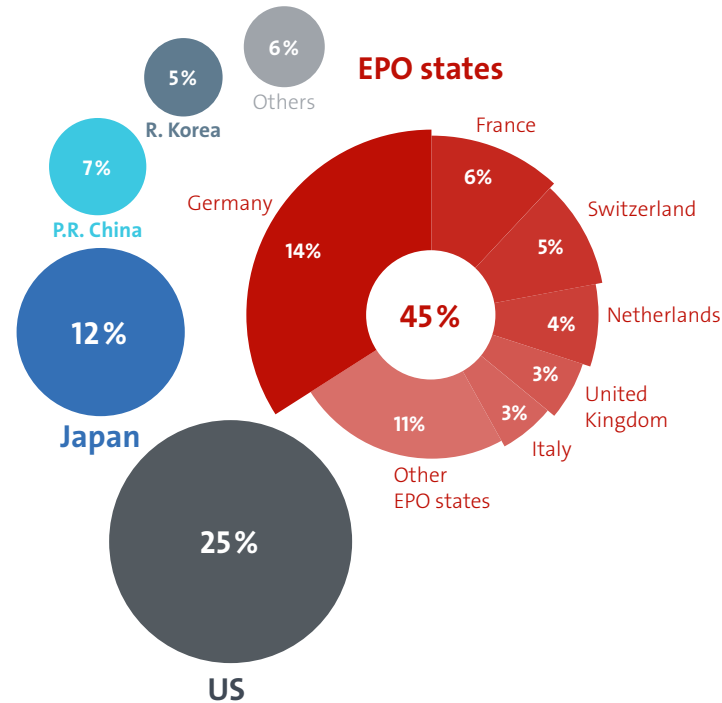at the European Patent Office 2018 - 2020

174 481 2018
181 532 2019
180 250 2020 **-0.7%**

Countries of origin:
The 38 member states of the EPO account for almost half of all European patent applications

6% Others
5% R. Korea
7% P.R. China
12% Japan
25% US

EPO states

45%
- France 6%
- Germany 14%
- Switzerland 5%
- Netherlands 4%
- United Kingdom 3%
- Italy 3%
- Other EPO states 11%

Top technology fields: Strong growth in healthcare

Field	Value	Change
Medical technology	14 295	+2.6%
Digital communication	14 122	+1.0%
Computer technology	13 097	+1.9%
Electrical, machinery, apparatus, energy	11 346	+0.4%
Transport	9 020	-5.5%
Pharmaceuticals	8 589	+10.2%
Measurement	8 582	-5.2%
Biotechnology	7 246	+6.3%

Companies from Europe: Relative growth compared with 2019

- **+11.1%** Finland
- **+3.1%** France
- **+2.9%** Italy
- Germany **-3.0%**
- Spain **-5.0%**
- UK **-6.8%**
- Netherlands **-8.2%**
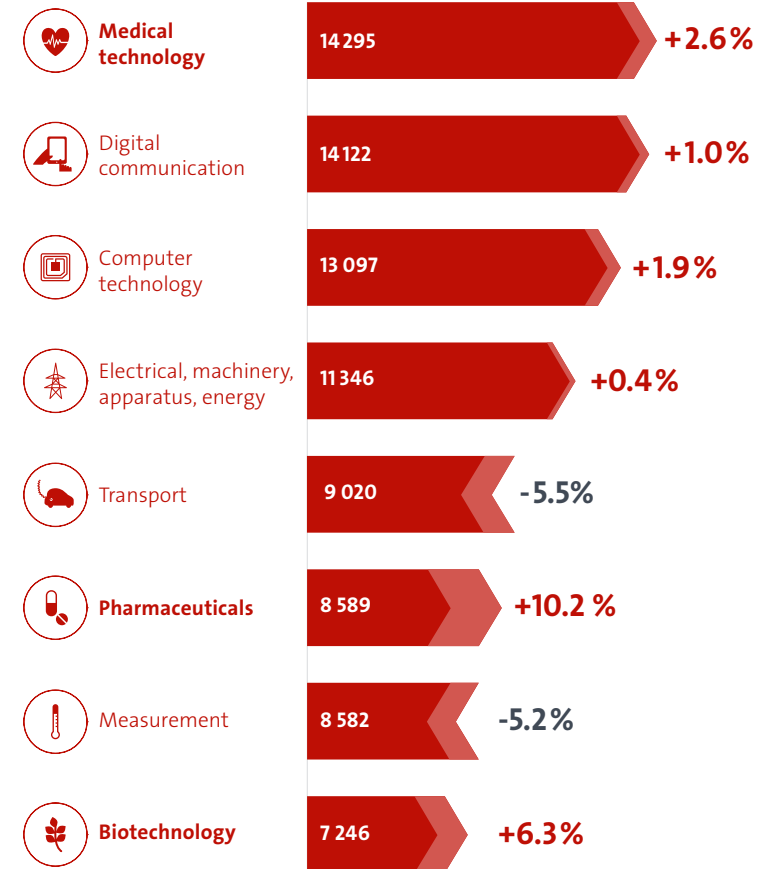
EPO states filing more than 1 000 applications; changes in filing volumes greater than +/- 2%

Growth in filings from the five leading patent territories

- US **-4.1%**
- EPO states **-1.3%**
- Japan **-1.1%**
- R. Korea **+9.2%**
- P.R. China **+9.9%**
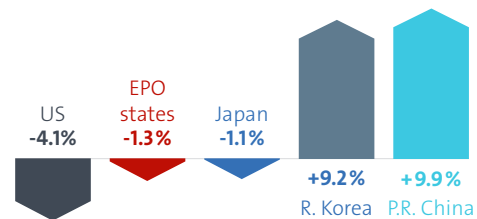
All figures are based on European patent applications. Status: 1.2.2021.
epo.org/patent-index2020

Top applicants for European patents in 2020

Rank	Applicant	Value
1.	Samsung	3 276
2.	Huawei	3 113
3.	LG	2 909
4.	Qualcomm	1 711
5.	Ericsson	1 634

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