

TREND REPORT

Regional patent trends in China



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Introduction

Chinese filers apply for numerous patents every year. This report will focus on invention patents and analyze the patent trends in different regions of China over the past 10 years (Data as of October 10, 2024).

Part 1: General information

In the past 10 years, the total number of invention patents applied for by Chinese filers has reached 14,114,036, and except for 2019, the annual patent application volume of Chinese filers has shown an upward trend (as shown in [Figure 1](#)). The reason for the decline in the number of invention patent applications in China in 2019 may be due to the government's increased quality requirements for invention patents. It should be noted that the statistics for 2023-2024 are not complete as patents still have to be published from these years.

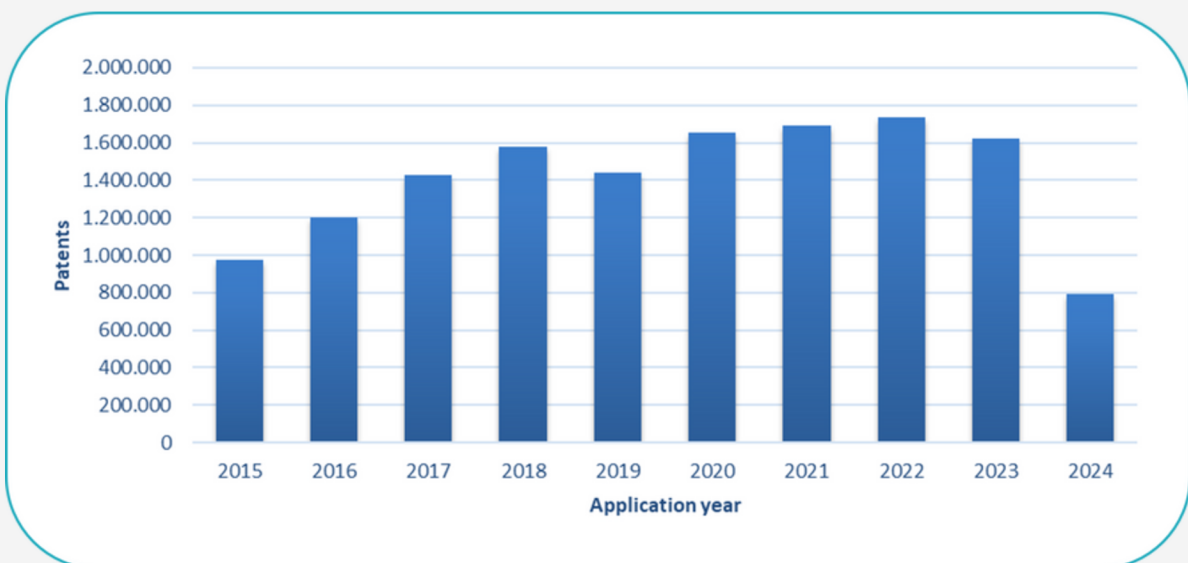


Figure 1 Patent application trend

From the perspective of legal status, looking at patents where this information is available, 32.23% are in force, 37.57% are not in force, and 30.20% of patents are still under review (as shown in [Figure 2](#)).

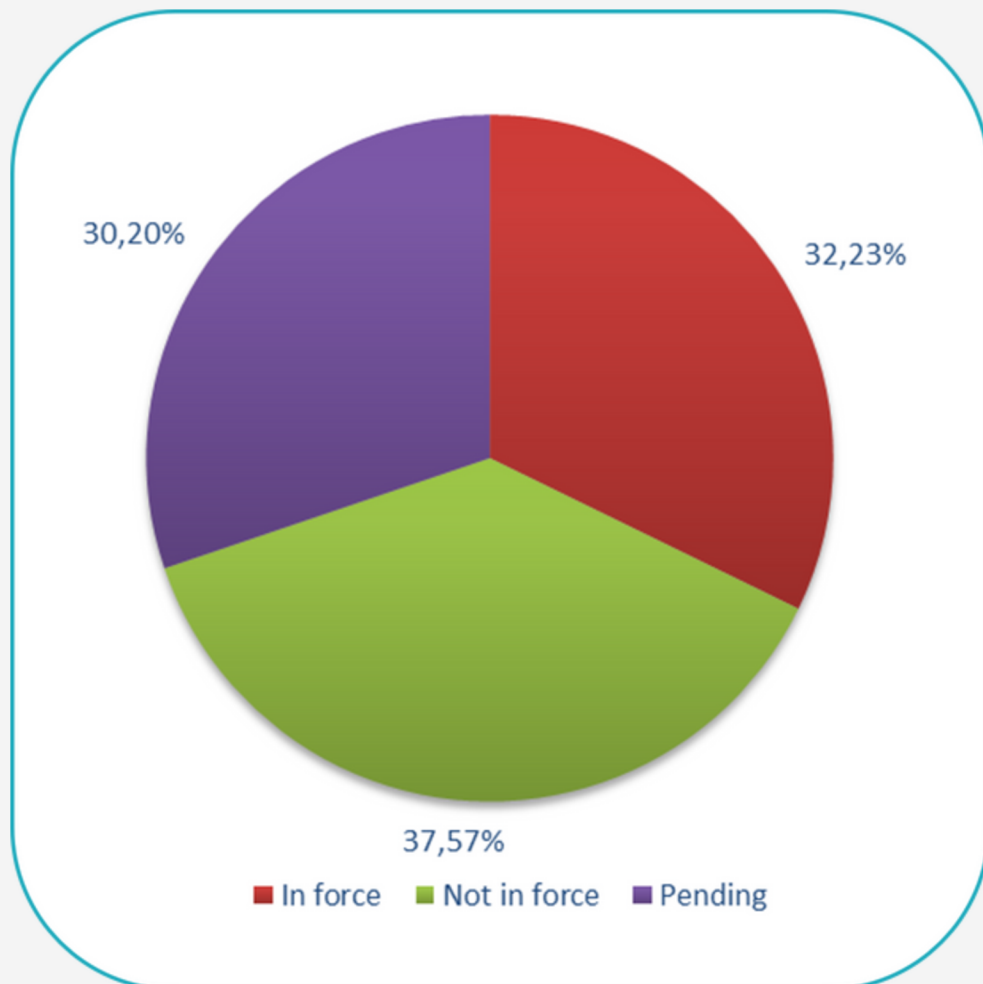


Figure 2 Legal status

Analyzing the granted status of patents, nearly one-third of patents have been granted, while the rest have not been granted or are pending (as shown in [Figure 3](#)).

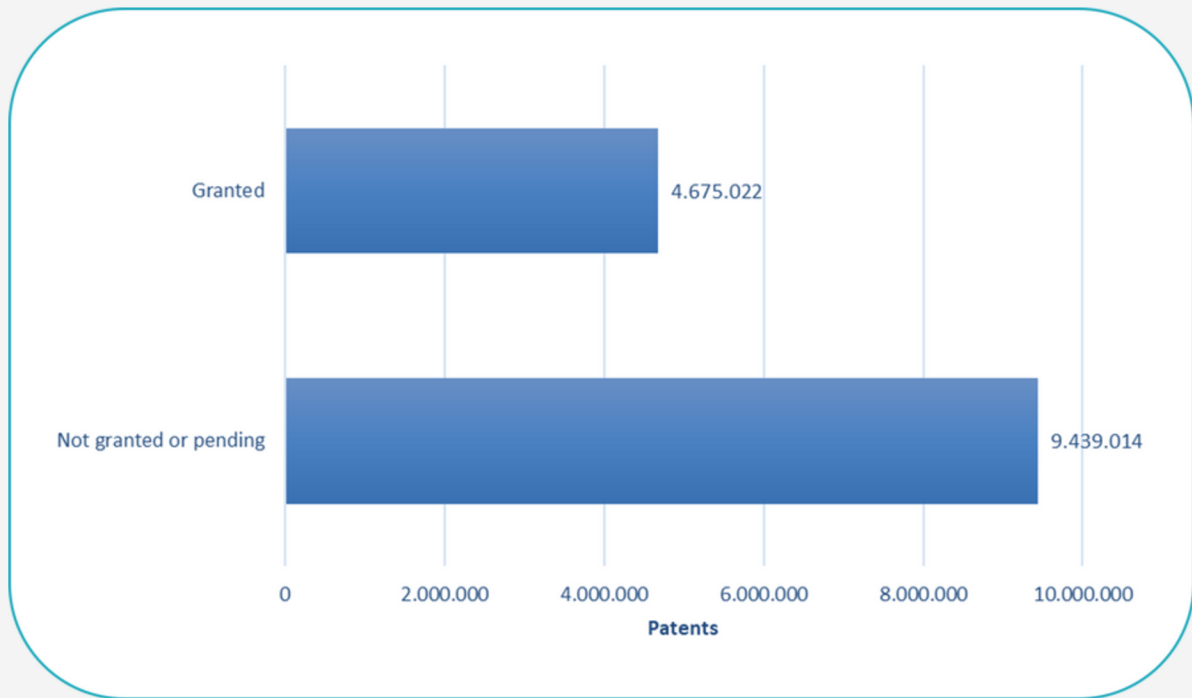


Figure 3 *Granted status*

Part 2: Geographic Territories

Among all provinces and municipalities, Guangdong is the region with the highest number of patents in China, followed by Jiangsu, Beijing, and Zhejiang. These regions have had over one million patent applications in the past decade (as shown in [Figure 4](#)).

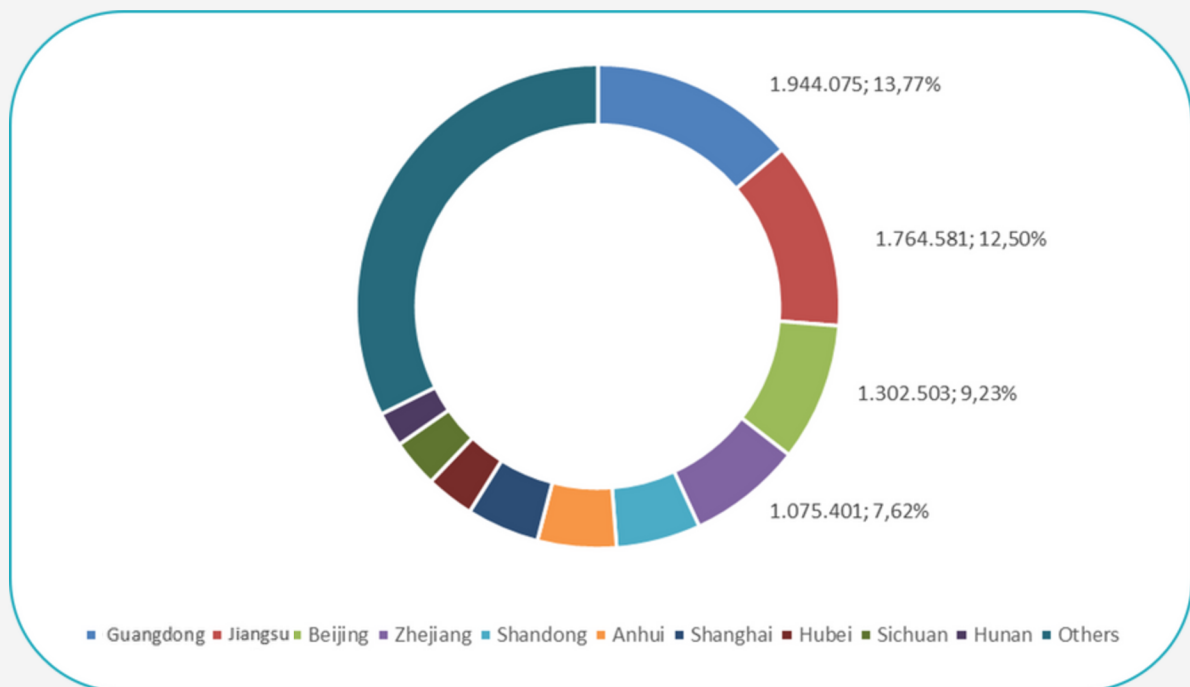


Figure 4 Top provinces or municipalities

Analyzing the application trends in major regions, prior to 2017, Jiangsu applicants applied for more patents annually than Guangdong, but later fell behind Guangdong (as shown in [Figure 5](#)).

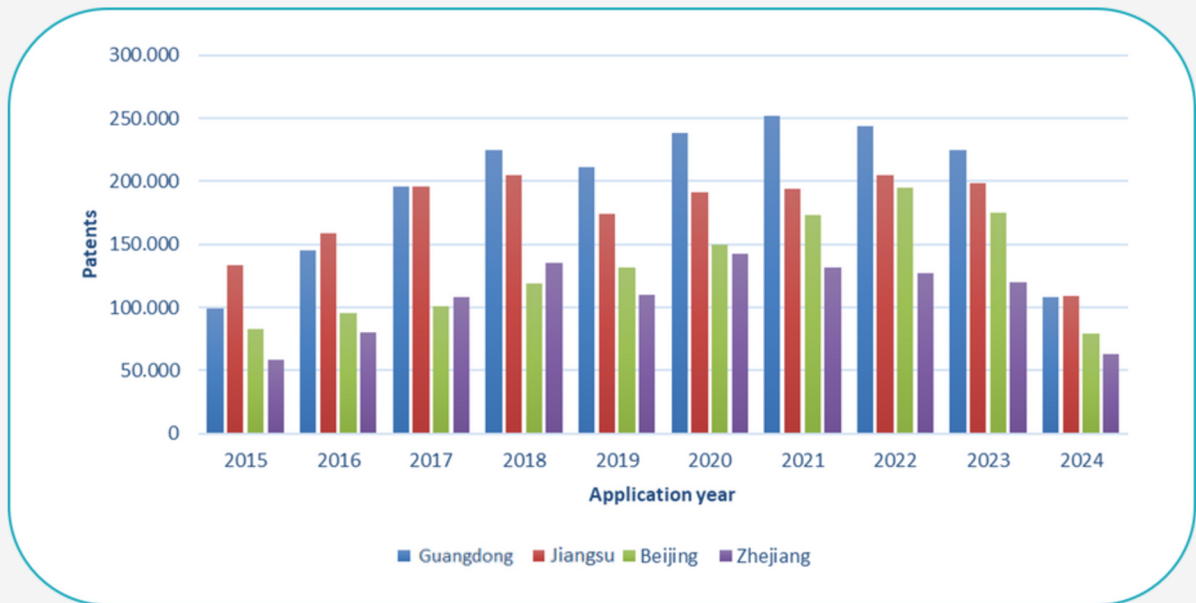


Figure 5 Patent application trend of top provinces or municipalities

Part 3: Key Technologies

Analyzing the technology fields that have been publicly patented, IPC classification number G06F corresponds to the most patented technologies, indicating that electronic digital data processing has the highest level of attention (as shown in [Figure 6](#)).

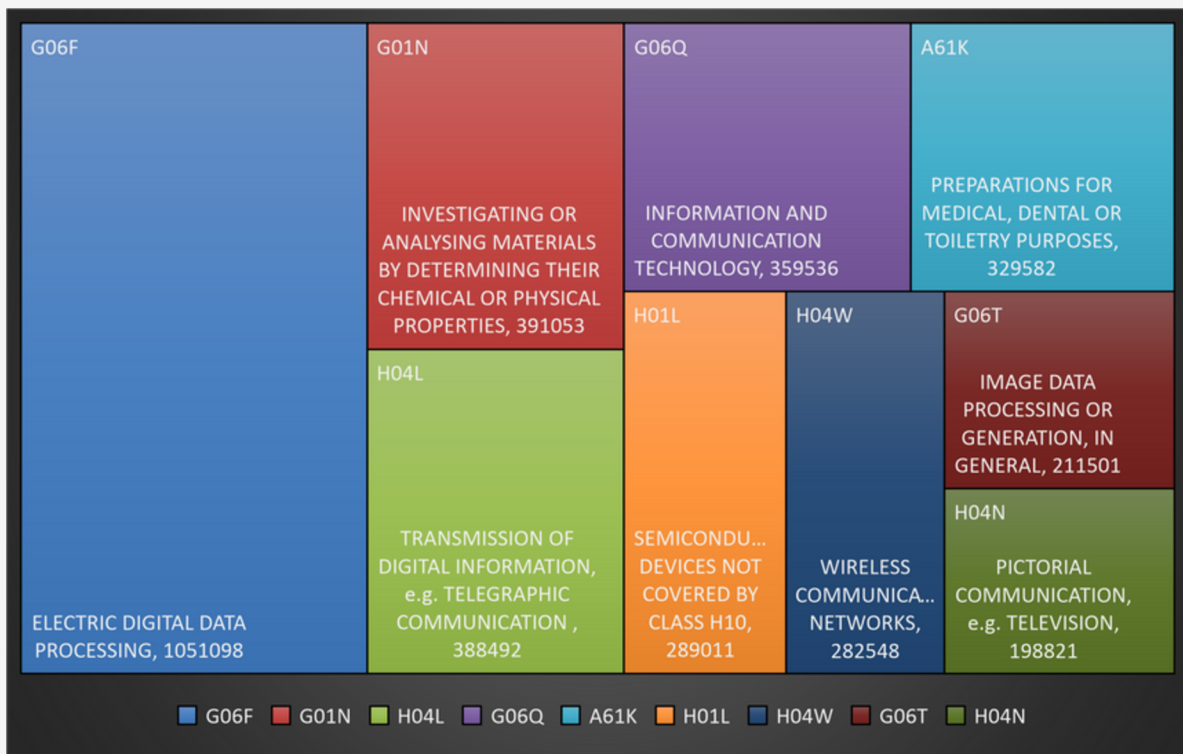


Figure 6 The top 9 IPC classification numbers

Part 4: Standardized Current Assignees

In terms of patent filers, Huawei has applied for the most patents (as shown in [Figure 7](#)). Meanwhile, the top ten applicants are mostly from Guangdong.

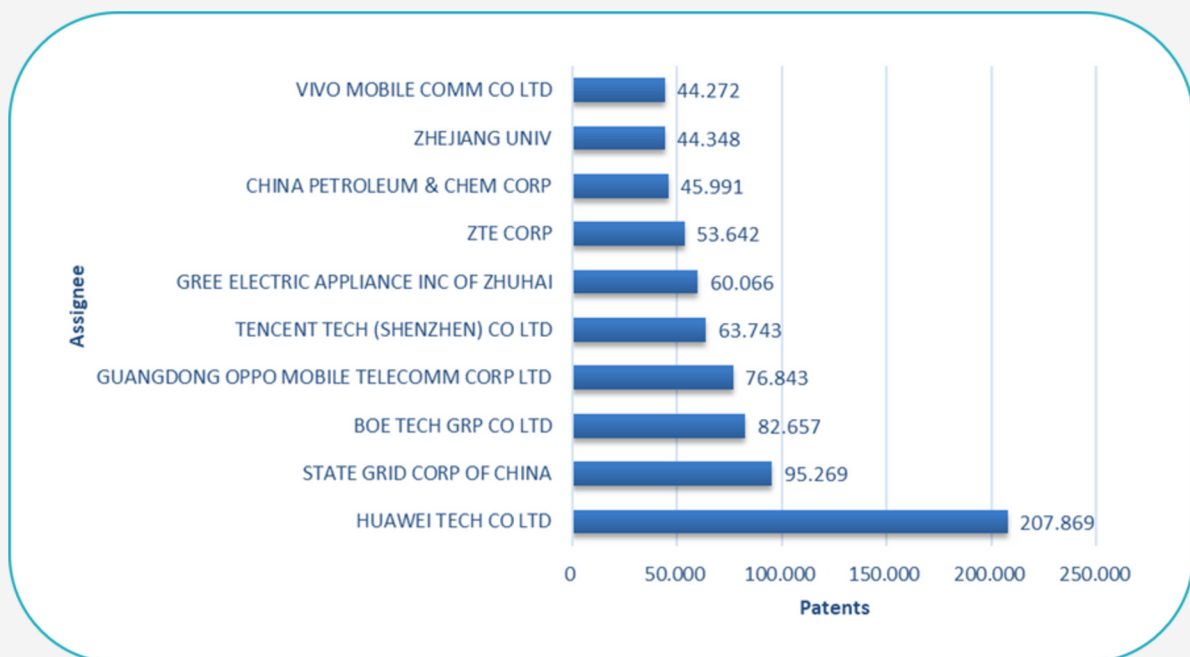


Figure 7 The top 10 standardized current assignees

Conclusion

The Chinese province Guangdong relies on large technology companies such as Huawei, OPPO, Tencent, etc., making it the region with the strongest innovation capability in China and generating many invention patents.

Note: All numbers used and statements made in this report are indicative and for information purposes only. No warranty or liability is given nor accepted for anything published in this report.

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