

W&B IP Newsletter



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Website: www.watsonband.com

E-mail: mailip@watsonband.com | mail@watsonband.com

Patent

2024 Patent Survey Report Series —Topic One: Continuous Improvement in Patent Creation Quality

The 2024 survey reveals that Chinese enterprises continue to strengthen their patent R&D momentum, demonstrating increased R&D investment, more active industry-academia-research collaboration, and broader utilization of patent information.

(1) Steady Increase in the Proportion of Patents Obtained Through R&D by Enterprises

1. The Proportion of Invention Patents Obtained Through R&D Has Remained High Since the "14th Five-Year Plan"

In 2024, the proportion of invention patents obtained through R&D by Chinese enterprises reached 86.6%, representing an increase of 1.8 percentage points from the previous year and 2.1 percentage points from 2021. This maintains a steady upward trajectory since the commencement of the "14th Five-Year Plan" (see Figure 1).

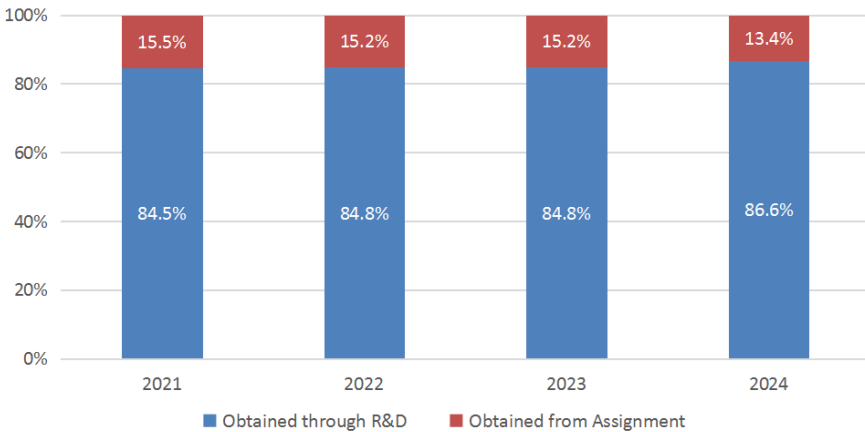


Figure 1 Method of Obtaining Invention Patents by Enterprises from 2021 to 2024

2. Emerging Industries Demonstrate Higher R&D-Driven Patent Development

The survey indicates that in strategic emerging industries and future industries, the proportions of invention patents obtained through R&D were 89.7% and 90.8% respectively, exceeding the overall enterprise average by 3.1 and 4.2 percentage points respectively (see Figure 3).

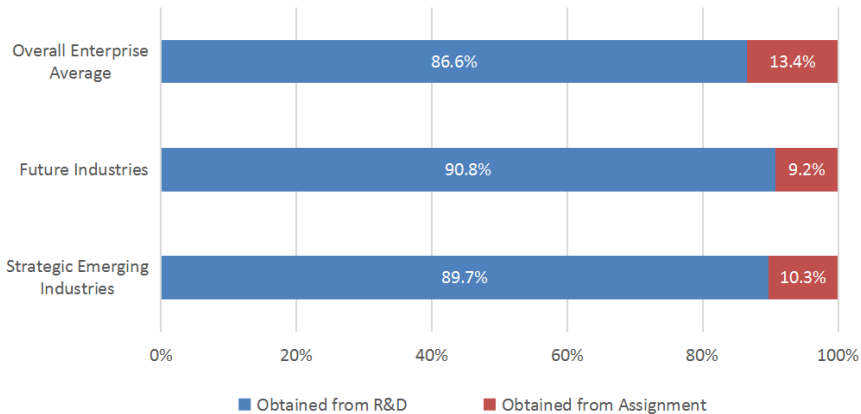


Figure 3 Method of Obtaining Invention Patents by Different Enterprises

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3. Small and Micro Enterprises Favor Collaborative or Commissioned R&D Approaches for Invention Patents

Among invention patents generated through R&D in small and micro enterprises, those obtained via collaborative or commissioned R&D represented 8.1% and 12.8%, respectively. These figures are significantly higher than those observed in large and medium-sized enterprises (see Figure 4).

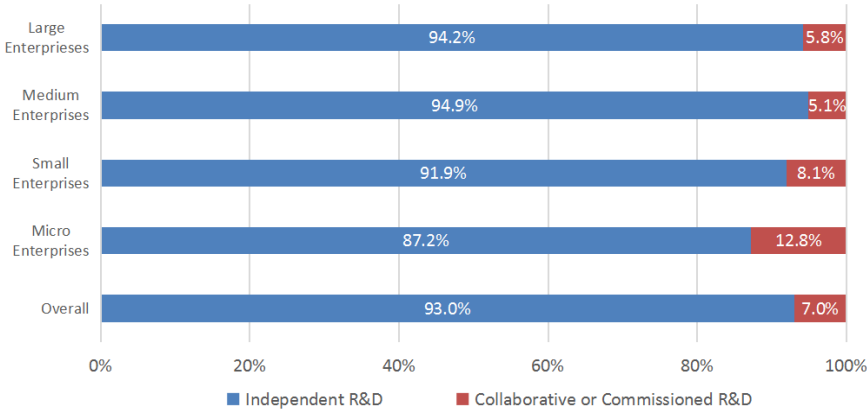


Figure 4 R&D Methods for Invention Patents by Enterprise Size

(2) Steady Increase in Enterprise Patent R&D Investment

1. Continuous Increase in the Proportion of Patents with Higher R&D Expenditure

The 2024 survey reveals that among invention patents acquired through R&D by Chinese enterprises, 18.2% required R&D expenditures between 500,000 and 1 million RMB, while 17.8% required over 1 million RMB. These figures increased by 0.6 and 0.2 percentage points year-on-year, respectively, representing the highest levels since the launch of the “14th Five-Year Plan” (see Figure 5)

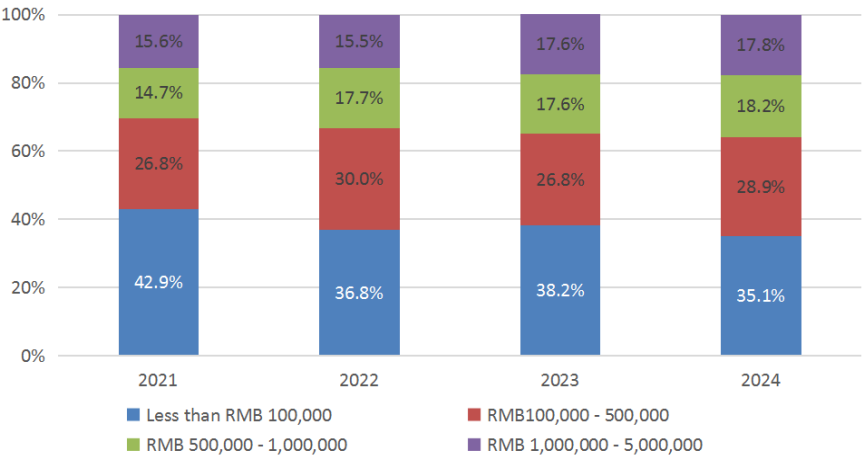


Figure 5 R&D Expenditures by Chinese Enterprises (2021~2024)

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By enterprise size, micro enterprises account for a significantly higher proportion (46.7%) of invention patents with R&D expenditures less than RMB 100,000 compared to other enterprise sizes, reflecting, to some extent, the relative insufficiency of R&D funding for these smaller entities. Large and medium-sized enterprises show notably higher proportions of invention patents with R&D expenditures exceeding RMB 1,000,000 (see Figure 6).

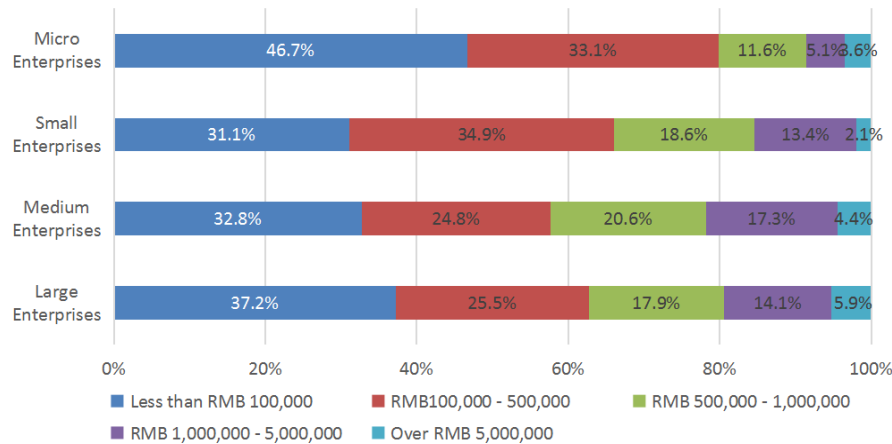


Fig 6 R&D Expenditures on Invention Patents by Enterprise Size

2. Higher R&D Investment for Invention Patents in Emerging Industries

The 2024 survey reveals that in strategic emerging industries and future industries, the proportion of enterprise invention patents with R&D expenditures in higher ranges is comparatively greater.

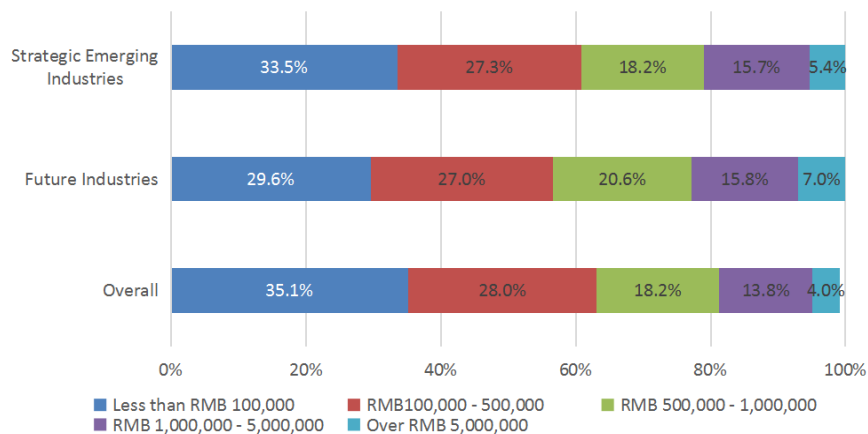


Fig 7: R&D Expenditure on Invention Patents by Enterprises in Strategic Emerging Industries and Future Industries

(3) Gradually Strengthened Leading Role of Enterprises in Industry-Academia-Research Collaboration

1. Over 40% of Enterprise Patentees Engage in Industry-Academia-Research Collaboration

The 2024 survey shows that 41.0% of enterprise patentees collaborate with universities or research institutions.

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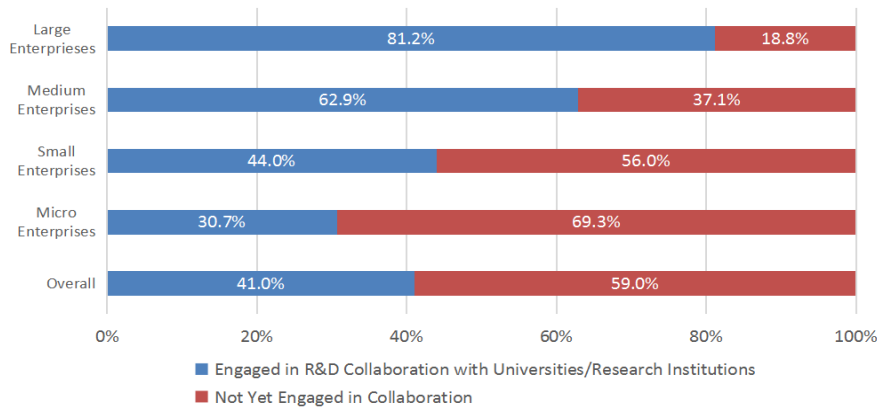


Fig 8 R&D Collaboration Between Enterprises and Research Institutions

2. Enterprises' Dominance in Industry-Academia-Research Collaboration Is Increasing

Regarding cooperation methods, in 2024, joint research based on enterprise needs accounts for the highest proportion at 47.6%, an increase of 4.7 percentage points from the previous year (42.9%). This is followed by commissioning universities or research institutions to provide technical consulting or services at 42.3%, representing a significant decrease of 14.4 percentage points from the previous year.

3. Emerging Industries Have More In-depth Industry-Academia-Research Collaboration

The proportions of enterprises engaging in industry-university-research cooperation in strategic emerging industries and future industries are 60.8% and 68.1% respectively, which are 1.5 and 1.7 times the overall enterprise average.

4. Industry-Academia-Research Collaborative Innovation in Future Industries Focuses On New Technology Application And Core Technology Breakthroughs

(4) Extensive Use of Patent Information in Enterprise R&D Activities

1. Over 80% Of Enterprises Utilize Patent Information in R&D Activities

The 2024 survey reveals that 83.1% of enterprises incorporate patent information during their R&D processes.

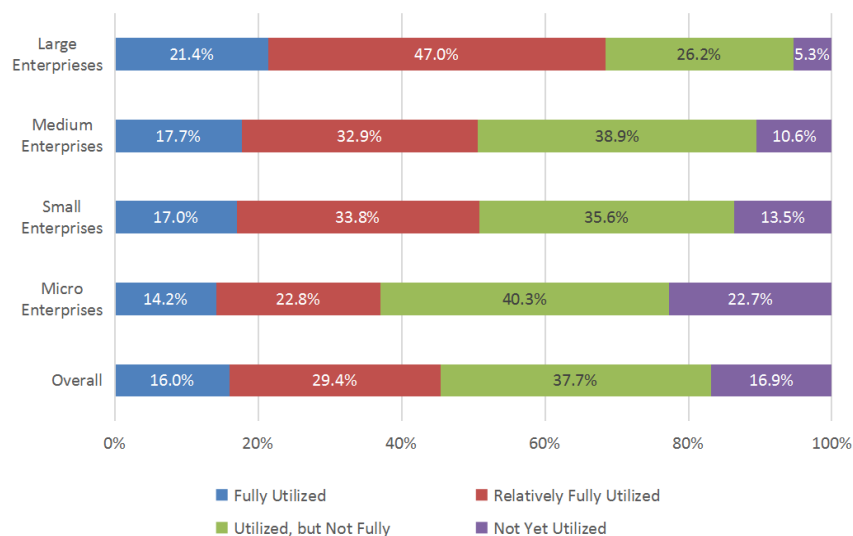


Fig 12 Utilization of Patent Information in Nonnovation and R&D by Enterprises of Different Sizes

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2. Small and Micro Enterprises Rely More Heavily on Public Channels for Patent Information

Analyze by enterprise size shows that large enterprises lead in obtaining patent information primarily through market-based service institutions and products (43.0%), supplemented by public service resources. In contrast, micro enterprises show the highest proportion (27.7%) of relying exclusively on public services to access patent information (see Figure 13).

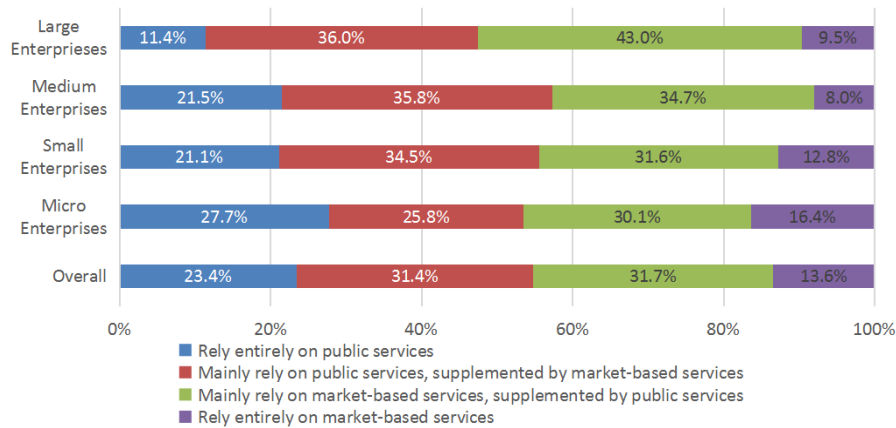


Fig 13 Channels for Enterprises to Obtain Patent Information

3. Skilled Personnel Shortage and Information Currency Are the Primary Barriers to Effective Patent Information Utilization

Enterprises report several significant challenges when utilizing patent information. The most common issues include: "lack of skilled personnel capable of conducting in-depth patent information searches and analyses" (46.4%), "insufficient timeliness of patent information due to publication and examination cycles, particularly when developing cutting-edge technologies" (44.4%), and "difficulty interpreting patent information due to discrepancies between patent terminology and R&D language" (42.6%). Each of these barriers was reported by over 40% of surveyed enterprises.

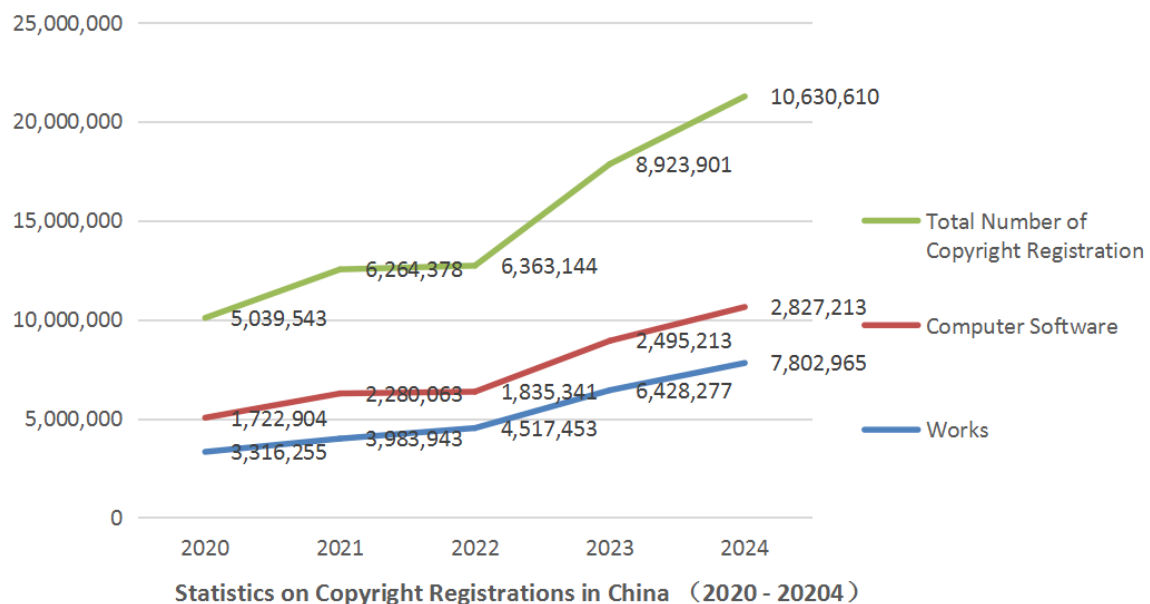
(Source: "2024 Patent Survey Report" by the China National Intellectual Property Administration)

Copyright

National Copyright Administration Releases 2024 National Copyright Registration Statistics

On February 28, 2025, the National Copyright Administration released the 2024 national copyright registration data, revealing that nationwide copyright registrations totaled over 10.63 million, representing a 19.13% year-on-year increase. Of these, work copyright registrations exceeded 7.8 million, growing 21.39% year-on-year, with fine art, photography, and written works comprising the majority. Computer software copyright registrations exceeded 2.82 million, increasing 13.31% year-on-year, predominantly concentrated in eastern regions. Copyright pledge registrations reached 432 cases, showing growth, while contract and guarantee amounts declined. Beijing, Fujian, and Shandong stood out among provinces with significant registration volume growth.

The following is a statistical overview of national copyright registrations over the past five years for readers' reference.



(Source: National Copyright Administration)

Intellectual Property

Notice on the Issuance of the "Comprehensive Pilot Work Plan for Intellectual Property Financial Ecosystem" by the National Financial Regulatory Administration, the China National Intellectual Property Administration, and the National Copyright Administration

On March 4, 2025, the National Financial Regulatory Administration, the China National Intellectual Property Administration, and the National Copyright Administration jointly issued a notice on the "Comprehensive Pilot Work Plan for Intellectual Property Financial Ecosystem." The notice highlights:

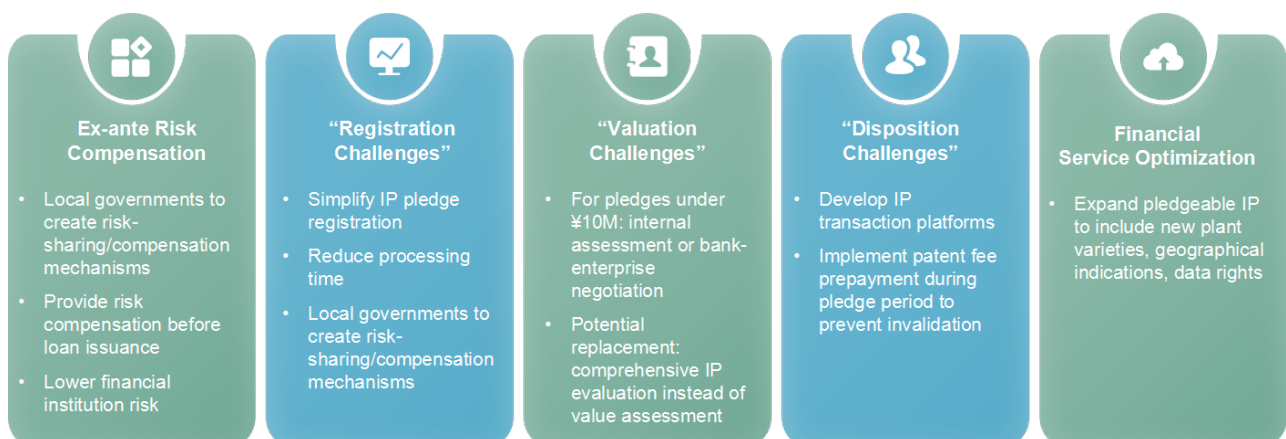
Commercial banks are encouraged to determine the value of intellectual property pledge loans under 10 million yuan per transaction through internal evaluation or bank-enterprise negotiation; government departments are encouraged to provide data, models, and system support for intellectual property value assessment; eligible regions may explore using comprehensive intellectual property evaluation as an alternative to traditional value assessment.

The notice also explores mechanisms for enterprises to prepay patent annual fees during the pledge period to safeguard against patent invalidation due to fee payment lapses.

Attachment:

Joint Document Issued by the National Financial Regulatory Administration, the China National Intellectual Property Administration, and the National Copyright Administration to Launch Comprehensive Pilot Work for Intellectual Property Financial Ecosystems in Beijing, Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Guangdong, Sichuan, Shenzhen, Ningbo, and Other Locations

After in-depth investigation and research, the National Financial Regulatory Administration, in collaboration with the China National Intellectual Property Administration and the National Copyright Administration, has selected regions with high intellectual property concentration and strong foundational infrastructure to implement comprehensive pilot work for intellectual property financial ecosystems. Once breakthroughs are achieved and experience accumulated, these practices will be gradually replicated and promoted. The work plan positions "intellectual property" as a key strategic element, adopts a "problem-oriented" approach, and introduces targeted policy measures addressing critical aspects of the ecosystem, including registration, evaluation, disposal, and compensation mechanisms.



(Source: www.gov.cn)

Intellectual Property

Regulations of the State Council on Handling Foreign-related Intellectual Property Disputes to Take Effect on May 1, 2025

Premier Li Qiang has signed a State Council decree promulgating the Regulations of the State Council on Handling Foreign-related Intellectual Property Disputes (hereinafter referred to as the "Regulations"), which will come into effect on May 1, 2025.

An analysis of the Regulations reveals the following key innovations:

1)Enforcement Support Mechanisms: Reducing costs for enterprises through funds, insurance, and public welfare platforms.

2)National Security Orientation: Directly linking intellectual property disputes with national security interests and countermeasure mechanisms.

3)Digital Compliance: Emphasizing data security protocols and technology export management in navigating cross-border disputes.

Businesses are advised to proactively develop comprehensive compliance systems, monitor forthcoming supporting rules (particularly operational guidelines for countermeasure lists), and leverage government-provided early warning systems and legal aid mechanisms when addressing international disputes.

(Partial Source: www.gov.cn)