

Geographical indications

In 2017, for the first time, WIPO published statistics on geographical indicators (GIs) in force covering data for 54 jurisdictions. Data were collected from national and regional intellectual property (IP) offices and other competent authorities using three questionnaires.

In 2018, WIPO revised the GI questionnaire and invited national/regional authorities to share their latest GIs in force data with WIPO. In total, 82 authorities responded, which is a considerable improvement on the 54 responses that WIPO received in the previous year. Furthermore, a number of authorities reviewed their previous data submissions and revised their data in order to provide a more comprehensive and refined perspective of GIs in force within their jurisdictions.

It is important to note that GIs can be protected through a variety of legal means (e.g., *sui generis* systems, trademark laws, international agreements, other national legal means, etc.). This can make it challenging to obtain a complete picture of all GIs protected in any particular country. WIPO has made substantial efforts to gather data from all sources. Notwithstanding the improvements mentioned above, in many instances it has not been possible to obtain data from every source. Nonetheless, these statistics offer some insight into how this form of IP is used in different parts of the world.

With the support of its member states, WIPO hopes to improve the geographical coverage and completeness of GI statistics in the coming years.

How many GIs are in force worldwide?

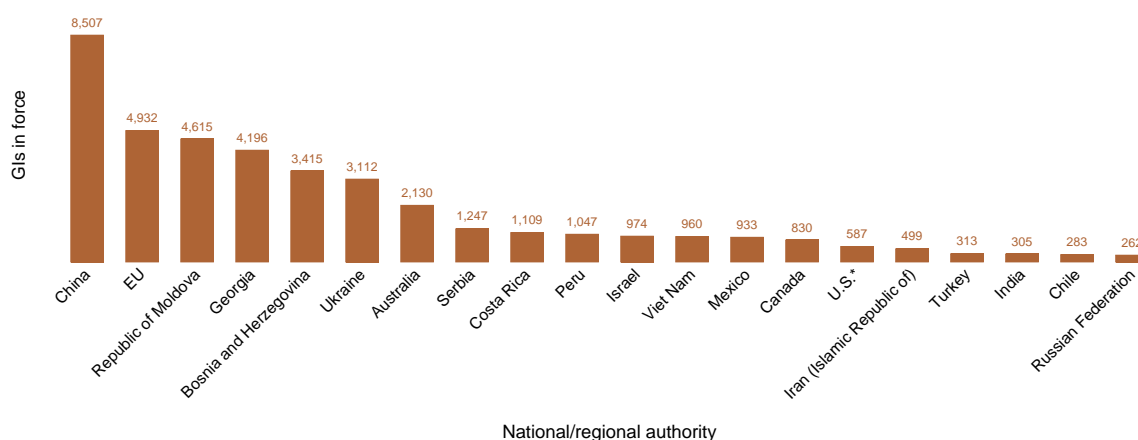
Data received from the 82 national/regional authorities that shared their 2017 data with WIPO reveals the existence of approximately 59,500 protected GIs. This figure excludes the 4,932 European Union (EU) GIs in force in each of the EU member states in order to minimize double counting. The 4,932 EU GIs in force are counted once rather than as 4,932 multiplied by 28 member states.

Figure 5.1 shows the total number of GIs in force for each selected national/regional authority, while figure 5.2 reports data on GIs in force for the EU member states. Germany had the largest number of GIs in force (14,073), followed by Austria (8,749), China (8,507), Hungary (6,646), Czech Republic (6,191), Bulgaria (6,096) and Italy (5,977). Apart from Bulgaria and China, there are several middle-income countries with a large number of GIs in force within their respective jurisdictions. For example, there were 4,615 GIs in force in the Republic of Moldova in 2017, 3,415 in Bosnia and Herzegovina and 3,112 in Ukraine. India (305) and Brazil (63) – two of the large middle-income countries – have considerably lower numbers of GIs in force.

GIs in force relating to “wines and spirits” accounted for 57.1% of the 2017 total, followed by agricultural products and foodstuffs (28.2%) (see figure 5.3). Handicrafts accounted for 2.7% of the total. China, Hungary, India and the Islamic Republic of Iran each had more than 100 GIs for handicrafts in force within their jurisdictions.

China had more than 8,500 GIs in force

5.1. Geographical indications in force for selected national/regional authorities, 2017

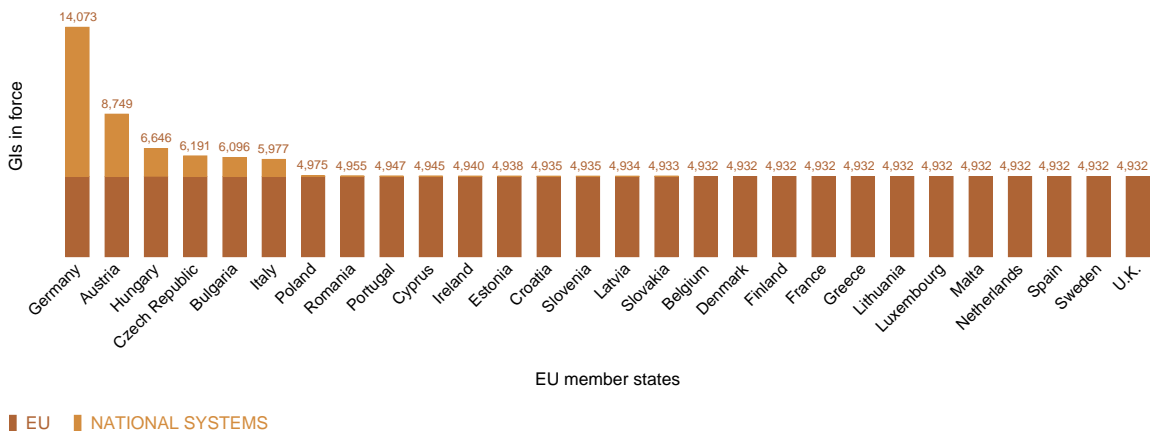


Note: * indicates 2016 data.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2018.

GIs in force based on national systems accounted for 65% of total GIs in Germany

5.2. Geographical indications in force for EU member states, 2017

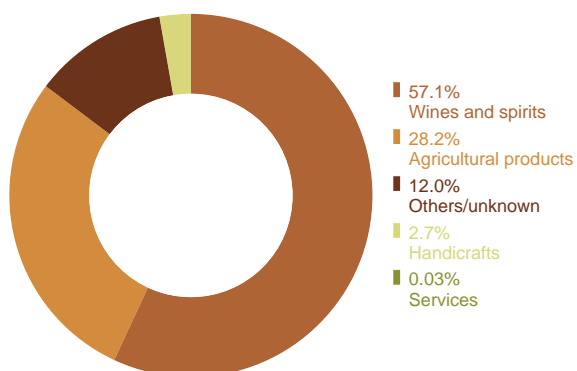


Note: This figure shows the total number of geographical indications in force in the EU member states, broken down by GIs in force based on the EU regional systems and agreements and on national systems. The EU has regional systems for the protection of GIs covering agricultural and foodstuff products, wines and spirits.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2018.

Wine and spirits accounted for 57.1% of GIs in force

5.3. Geographical indications in force by product categories, 2017



Note: GIs in force through the EU regional systems are counted once rather than 28 times as they are in force in all EU member states. This is done to minimize double counting.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2018.

These figures should be interpreted with caution, however. Not only are the data limited to the 82 countries that shared their 2017 data with WIPO, but the submissions made by many countries were incomplete. The questionnaire underlying the data collection asked for information regarding GIs protected through *sui generis* systems, trademark systems, other national legal means, regional systems and international agree-

ments (including GIs in force under the Lisbon System and the Madrid System). As can be seen from table 5.4, many countries were unable to provide statistics on the number of GIs protected through trademark systems, reflecting the difficulty of identifying such GIs among all trademarks (most commonly collective and certification trademarks) registered. In addition, several countries could not provide data on the number of GIs protected through international agreements. Finally, there is likely to be double-counting of GIs protected through two or more legal means.¹

Use of the Lisbon System to protect appellations of origin

The Lisbon System consists of 28 member countries, seven of which are European Union members. In 2017, there were 991 appellations of origin in force via the Lisbon System (see figure 5.5). This represents a 3.7% increase on the previous year, which is mostly driven by strong growth from Italy. France remains the largest user of the Lisbon System. It accounted for 51.4% of the 2017 total, followed by Italy (17%), Czech Republic (7.6%), Bulgaria (5.1%) and the Islamic Republic of Iran (4.1%).

¹ In principle, double-counting of the same subject matter protected by different IP rights also occurs in patent, trademark and industrial design statistics. However, the inclusion of GIs covered in trade agreements adds a layer of complexity, as relevant GIs may, in some cases, only have legal effect once registered at the national level.

5.4. Geographical indications in force in 2017

National/regional authority	Total	<i>Sui generis</i>	Trademarks	Other national legal means	Regional system	Agreements	Unknown
Andorra	7	4	2	..	..	1	..
Argentina	107	107	..	..	..	..	..
Armenia (a)	8	..	8	..	..	..	..
Australia	2,130	116	73	..	..	1,941	..
Austria	8,749	..	..	..	3,399	5,350	..
Azerbaijan (a)	18	..	..	..	..	..	18
Bahamas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bangladesh	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Barbados	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Belarus	34	32	2	..	..	..	..
Belgium	4,932	..	..	..	3,399	1,533	..
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3,415	13	..	..	..	3,402	..
Brazil	63	63	..	..	..	..	..
Bulgaria	6,096	122	..	..	3,399	2,575	..
Cambodia	2	2	..	..	..	..	..
Canada	830	646	..	..	..	184	..
Chile	283	167	..	..	..	116	..
China	8,507	..	3,906	..	..	..	4,601
China, Hong Kong SAR	43	..	43	..	..	..	..
China, Macao SAR	11	1	10	..	..	..	..
Colombia	151	151	..	..	..	..	..
Costa Rica	1,109	4	..	..	..	1,105	..
Côte d'Ivoire	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Croatia	4,935	3	..	..	3,399	1,533	..
Cuba	29	25	..	..	..	4	..
Cyprus	4,945	11	2	..	3,399	1,533	..
Czech Republic	6,191	62	..	..	3,399	2,730	..
Denmark	4,932	..	..	..	3,399	1,533	..
Ecuador	52	4	..	..	..	48	..
Estonia	4,938	6	..	..	3,399	1,533	..
European Union	4,932	3,399	..	..	..	1,533	..
Finland	4,932	..	..	..	3,399	1,533	..
France	4,932	..	..	..	3,399	1,533	..
Georgia	4,196	47	..	..	..	4,149	..
Germany	14,073	7,276	1	..	4,508	2,288	..
Greece	4,932	..	..	..	3,399	1,533	..
Guatemala (a)	32	32	..	..	..	..	..
Honduras	135	..	135	..	..	..	..
Hungary	6,646	24	..	..	3,399	3,223	..
Iceland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
India	305	305	..	..	..	..	..
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	499	499	..	..	..	..	..
Ireland	4,940	8	..	..	3,399	1,533	..
Israel	974	1	..	..	..	973	..
Italy	5,977	..	..	36	3,399	2,542	..
Jamaica	3	2	1	..	..	..	..
Japan	73	58	..	8	..	7	..
Kazakhstan	42	42	..	..	..	..	..
Kenya	5	..	5	..	..	..	..
Latvia	4,934	2	..	..	3,399	1,533	..
Lithuania	4,932	..	..	..	3,399	1,533	..
Luxembourg	4,932	..	..	..	3,399	1,533	..
Malaysia	79	..	..	..	..	..	79
Maldives	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malta	4,932	..	..	..	3,399	1,533	..
Mexico	933	15	..	..	..	918	..
Mongolia	2	..	2	..	..	..	..
Morocco	85	36	49	..	..	..	..
Netherlands	4,932	..	..	..	3,399	1,533	..
New Zealand	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Norway	28	28	..	..	..	..	..
Peru	1,047	10	..	..	..	1,037	..
Philippines	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poland	4,975	43	..	..	3,399	1,533	..

National/regional authority	Total	<i>Sui generis</i>	Trademarks	Other national legal means	Regional system	Agreements	Unknown
Portugal	4,947	15	..	..	3,399	1,533	..
Republic of Moldova	4,615	17	..	..	..	4,598	..
Romania	4,955	23	..	..	3,399	1,533	..
Russian Federation	262	165	..	97	..	..	..
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Serbia	1,247	61	3	214	..	969	..
Singapore	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Slovakia	4,933	1	..	..	3,399	1,533	..
Slovenia	4,935	..	..	3	3,399	1,533	..
Spain	4,932	..	..	..	3,399	1,533	..
Sweden	4,932	..	..	..	3,399	1,533	..
Thailand	13	9	..	..	..	4	..
Togo	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Trinidad and Tobago	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Turkey	313	310	..	..	..	3	..
Uganda	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ukraine	3,112	22	..	..	..	3,090	..
United Kingdom	4,932	..	..	..	3,399	1,533	..
United States of America (a)	587	..	587	..	..	..	..
Uzbekistan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Viet Nam	960	66	894	..	..	..	..
Yemen	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

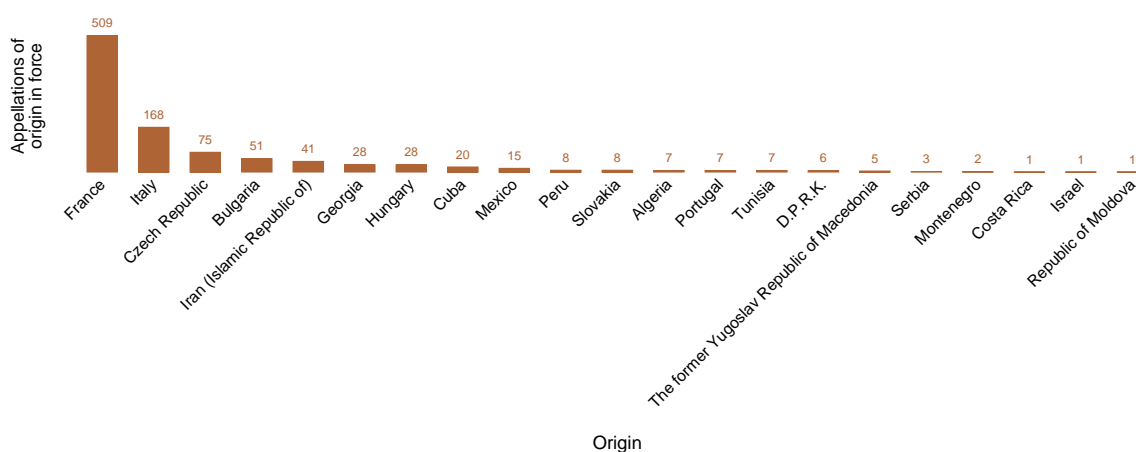
(a) 2016 data.

.. indicates zero.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2018.

France remains the largest user of the Lisbon System

5.5. Appellations of origin in force by origin, 2017



Note: D.P.R.K. is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, September 2018.