

**FOI Release**  
**Information released under the Freedom of Information Act**

**Title:** Filing trends post-EU referendum vote

**Date of release:** 9 September 2016

**Information request:**

I wondered if it would be possible to get an update on the year-on-year increase for patent/trade mark/design filings in August? And also details of the domestic/overseas split and possibly which specific countries are driving the growth?

**Information released:**

There was a 33% increase in TM filings in August 2016 compared to August 2015.

For Aug 2015 the % UK-non-UK was: 90.5%  
For Aug 2016 the % UK-non-UK was: 86%

We attach a spreadsheet which shows the following:

1. The percentage of foreign applicants split by month since Jan 2015
2. The percentage of foreign applications split by year in 2015 and YTD in 2016
3. The top 10 filers by country for August 2015 and August 2016
4. The top 10 filers by country for year 2015 and YTD 2016
5. The volume of TM and Designs monthly input from April 2015 to August 2016, with percentage and volume comparisons for
  - a. The same month in the previous year
  - b. The previous month
  - c. The YTD

It confirms a rise in 2015 to 2016 of the foreign applicant percentage of total applications and also shows a 33% rise in applications in August 2016 from August 2015. The year to date (YTD) input increase is currently 14.5%

In terms of country filings, we can only work on YTD figures but the top 5 countries filing in 2015 match with those in YTD 2016. What is of interest is that China, the USA and, to a lesser extent, Germany, have filed more applications in the first 8 months of this year than in the whole of 2015. Where other countries appear in both lists, the number of applications received so far this year appears to be roughly where we would expect then to be at this point in the year.

The trend is clearly upwards but as you will see from the input figures, the rise in input began long before the EU referendum. The latest daily figures from September so far seem to be more similar in volume to the July input rather than to the August input.

The situation with regard to designs is a little more difficult to assess at this point as we are transitioning to a new system and we have not yet had the opportunity to develop the full range of queries required to assess the migrated data. We have basic input figures but the lower volume of applications as compared with trade marks means that relatively minor changes in filing can lead to large percentage variations between periods. The trend is upwards but again, this increase began well before the referendum.

We regret that patent filing figures are not so readily accessible.