

Drop in Chinese Utility Model Grants Accelerates in April 2023 in Shift from Quantity to Quality

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Recently released data for April 2023 from [China’s National Intellectual Property Administration](#) (CNIPA) shows an acceleration in the drop of utility model grants. Cumulatively (from January through April 2023), utility model grants were down almost 37% year-on-year to 757,817 grants and down over 70% in April 2023 to 268,331 grants versus April 2022. Utility model grants were down 21.7% to 600,206 grants in the first quarter of 2023 versus a year ago. This drop, combined with an almost 3% increase in invention patent grants in the first third of 2023, seems to indicate China’s shift from quantity to quality and the continuing crackdown on abnormal (irregular) patent applications.

Data follows:

表1 分国内外专利授权统计表

2023年1-4月 单位：件

按国内外 分组		发 明		实用新型		外观设计	
		授权量	构成	授权量	构成	授权量	构成
合计	小计	252541	100.0%	757817	100.0%	245523	100.0%
	职务	248617	98.4%	706569	93.2%	160684	65.4%
	非职务	3924	1.6%	51248	6.8%	84839	34.6%
国内	小计	223582	100/88.5	755952	100/99.8	242332	100/98.7
	职务	220029	98.4%	704780	93.2%	157641	65.1%
	非职务	3553	1.6%	51172	6.8%	84691	34.9%
国外	小计	28959	100/11.5	1865	100/0.2	3191	100/1.3
	职务	28588	98.7%	1789	95.9%	3043	95.4%
	非职务	371	1.3%	76	4.1%	148	4.6%

注：1. 本报表中，专利授权量均按照授权公告日统计。
2. 本报表中，国内和国外按照申请人（权利人）来源地划分。

	2023(1-4)	2023(1-3)	2023(4)	2022(1-4)	2022(1-3)	2022(4)	April Ch
Invention Patents	252541	162902	89639	245499	160671	84828	4811
Utility Models	757817	600206	157611	1035288	766957	268331	-110720
Designs	245523	183325	62198	260781	170778	90003	-27805

CNIPA announced that it found [815,000 abnormal patent applications in 2021](#), of which over 90% had been withdrawn as of the time of the announcement. CNIPA has also been fining patent agencies for filing abnormal patent applications including [a record 2.49 Million RMB fine in June 2022](#). In 2023, [CNIPA revoked the licenses of several patent agencies for filing abnormal patent applications](#).

The full dataset from CNIPA is available here: [2023\(1-4\)](#) (Chinese only).

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