W&B IP Newsletter

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Contents

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Patent

The grant rate for invention patents from January to June 2025 stood at 55%, marking a 28% decrease year-on-year. Grants to higher education institutions fell by 26% and individuals experience a sharp drop, falling by 47%. The grant rate for utility model patents saw a 21.7% decrease year-on-year.

According to key intellectual property statistics released by the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) for the period of January-June 2025, there have been notable shifts compared to the same period in 2024:

Invention patent grants decreased by 159,187 , a 28.75% year-on-year decline.

Utility model patent grants saw a reduction of 209,83 ,a 21.71% decrease year-on-year.

Design patent grants increased by 9,503 , a 3.12% rise year-on-year.

As of June 2025, the total number of valid patents across these three categories reached 20,803,618.

Patent Data Comparison: January-June				
	Invention Grants	Utility Model Grants	Design Grants	Total
2025	394462	756682	314457	1465601
2024	553649	966514	304954	1825117
Change	-159187	-209832	9503	
Valid Patents	5939800	11743794	3120024	20803618
June	-28.75%	-21.71%	3.12%	
May	-28.04%	-17.89%	2.76%	
April	-26.02%	-11.62%	3.95%	

Grant Rate for Invention Patent in 2025				
	Number of Concluded Examinations	Number of Grants	Number of Rejections	Grant Rate
January to March, 2025	365000	199012		**54.52%**
Data for March	120000	71066	35260	59.20%
January to April, 2025	496000	267945		**54.03%**
Data for April	130000	68933	31070	53.00%
January to May, 2025	604000	332140		**54.99%**
Data for May	108000	64195	28213	59.20%
January to June, 2025	713000	394462		**55.32%**
Data for June	109000	62322	20693	57.00%

Patent

The grant rate for invention patents from January to June 2025 stood at 55.32%. The rate for the month of June was 56.98%. Overall, the grant rate for invention patents has remained stable, fluctuating between 54% and 55%.

Note: Invention Patent Grant Rate=Number of Grants/Number of Concluded Examinations

An analysis of domestic patent grants by patentee type for the first half of 2025 shows a universal decline in grants for all five types of utility model patentees.

Grants to individuals saw a significant 46.12% decline;

Grants to higher education institutions dropped by 35.13%;

Grants to scientific research institutions decreased by 35.48%;

Grants to enterprises fell by 19.92%.

Domestic invention patent grants decreased by 27.75% year-on-year with all five patentee types experiencing a decline:

Grants to scientific research institutions declined by 21.66%;

Grants to higher education institutions were down 26.65%;

Grants to individuals experienced the sharpest drop, falling by 46.98%;

Grants to enterprises fell by 28.32%.

Domestic Patent Grant Statistics by Patentee Type: January-June							
		Higher Education Institutions	Scientific Research Institutions	Enterprises	Public Institutions	Individuals	Total
Invention	2025	64021	19159	264579	8051	4422	360232
	2024	87287	24456	369087	9419	8340	498589
	June	-26.65%	-21.66%	-28.32%	-14. 52%	-46.98%	-27.75%
	May	-28.01%	-22.91%	-27. 48%	-13.00%	-43.02%	-27.33%
Utility Model	2025	18916	5090	686514	22322	21727	754569
	2024	29160	7889	857338	29262	40326	963975
	June	-35.13%	-35.48%	-19.92%	-23.72%	-46.12%	-21.72%
	May	-29.70%	-34.95%	-16. 24%	-13.36%	-41.69%	-17.79%
Design	2025	6529	611	230974	1788	65613	305515
	2024	6696	701	210018	1344	75615	294374
	June	-2.49%	-12.84%	9.98%	33.04%	-13.23%	3.78%
	May	-4.87%	-15.41%	9.65%	32.61%	-14.53%	3.07%

(Source: CNIPA)

2024 Patent Survey Report Series – Special Topic Five: Enterprises Actively Promoting Green Patent Technology Innovation

The 2024 Patent Survey indicates that in 2024, nearly half of China's enterprises have initiated or plan to undertake green technology innovation, with the energy and high-energy-consumption sectors exhibiting higher proportions of green technology innovation. The Survey also reveals that green and low-carbon invention patents have longer R&D cycles and higher R&D investment costs, and their industrialization level still requires improvement.

Patent

(I) Green Technology Innovation Progress Relatively Rapid in Energy and High-Energy-Consumption Sectors

1. One-Quarter of Enterprise Patent Holders Engaged in Green Technology Innovation

The Survey shows that 24.5% of enterprise patent holders in China have already engaged in green technology innovation. Among these, enterprises in the electricity, heat production, and supply industries have the highest proportion of green technology innovation at 49.5%. This is followed by the non-metallic mineral products industry, accounting for 37.3%. The proportion of green technology innovation in energy and high-energy-consumption industries is relatively high. (See Figure 41).

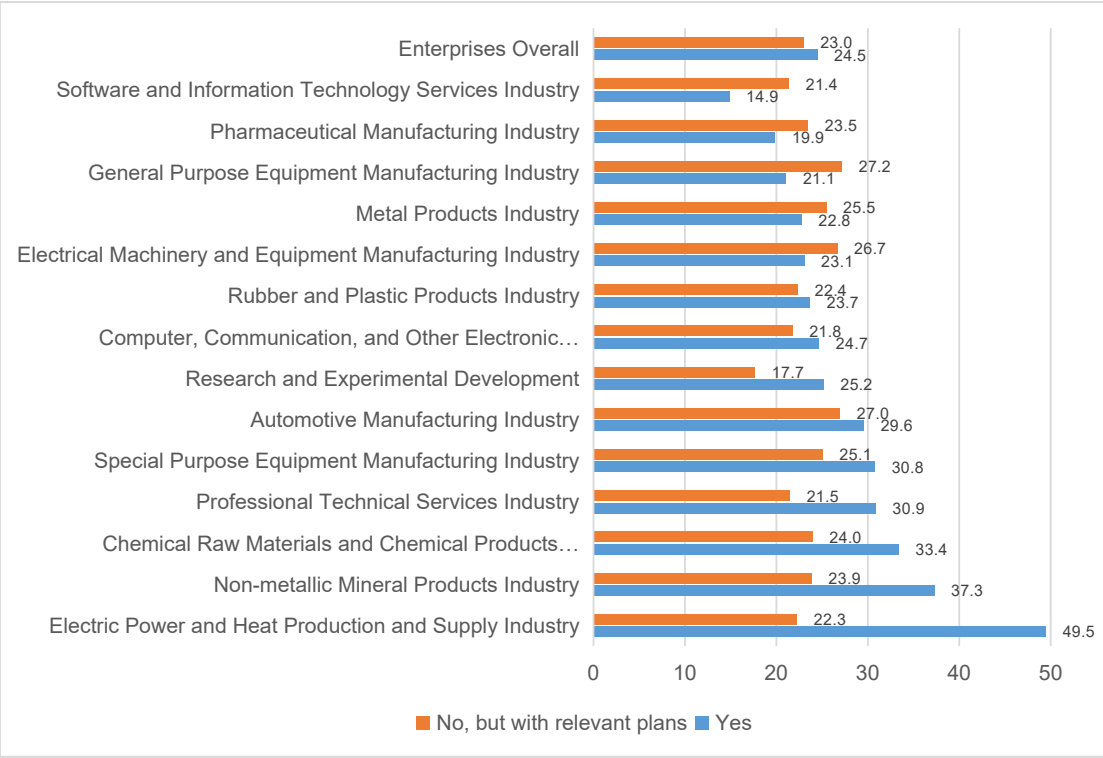


Figure 41: Green Technology Innovation Status (Initiated or Planned) Among Enterprises in Different Industries (Unit: %)

2. Nearly 30% of Enterprises in Strategic Emerging Industries Engaged in Green Technology Innovation

The proportion of enterprises in strategic emerging industries that have engaged in green technology innovation is 30.9%, significantly higher than enterprises in non-strategic emerging industries (23.9%). The proportion of enterprises that have neither engaged in green technology innovation nor have related plans is 15.7%, which is 2.6 percentage points lower than in non-strategic emerging industries (18.3%) (See Figure 42)

Patent

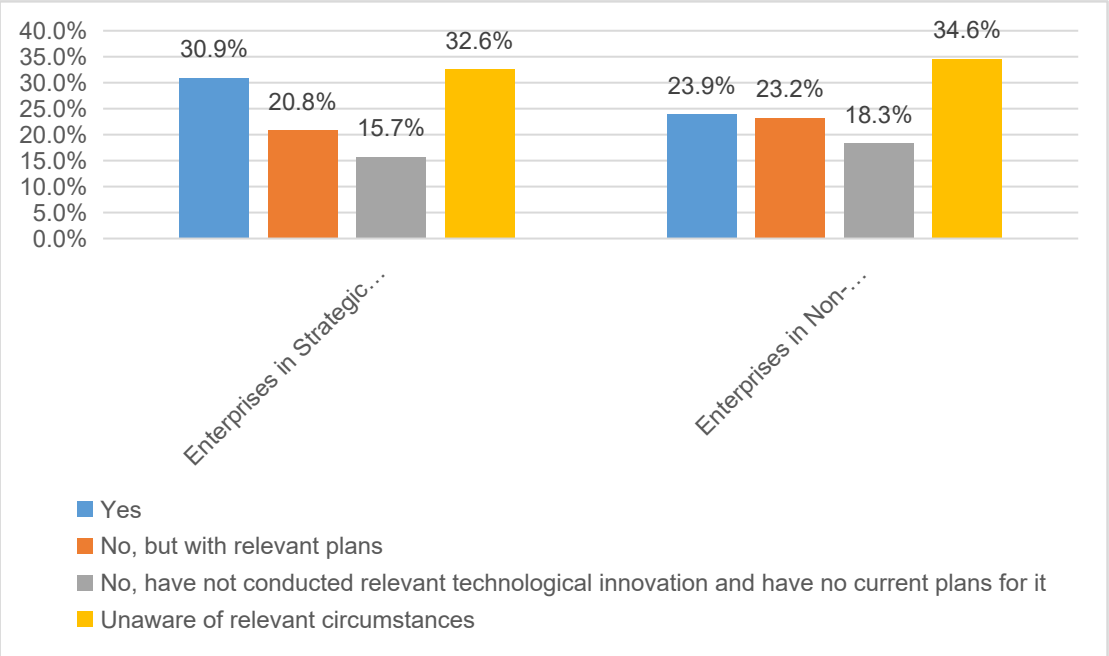


Figure 42: Green Technology Innovation Status Among Enterprises in Strategic Emerging Industries

(II) Green and Low-Carbon Technology Innovation Requires Greater R&D Investment

1. Green and Low-Carbon Invention Patents Have Relatively Longer R&D Cycles

The Survey indicates that the proportion of enterprises with R&D cycles of less than six months and between six months and one year for green and low-carbon invention patents are 7.4% and 31.2%, respectively. Both figures are lower than those for non-green and low-carbon invention patents. Conversely, the proportions for R&D cycles of 1-2 years and over 2 years are 44.0% and 17.4%, respectively, which are 6.0 and 0.9 percentage points higher than for non-green and low-carbon invention patents. The R&D cycles for green and low-carbon invention patents are relatively longer than for non-green and low-carbon invention patents (See Figure 43).

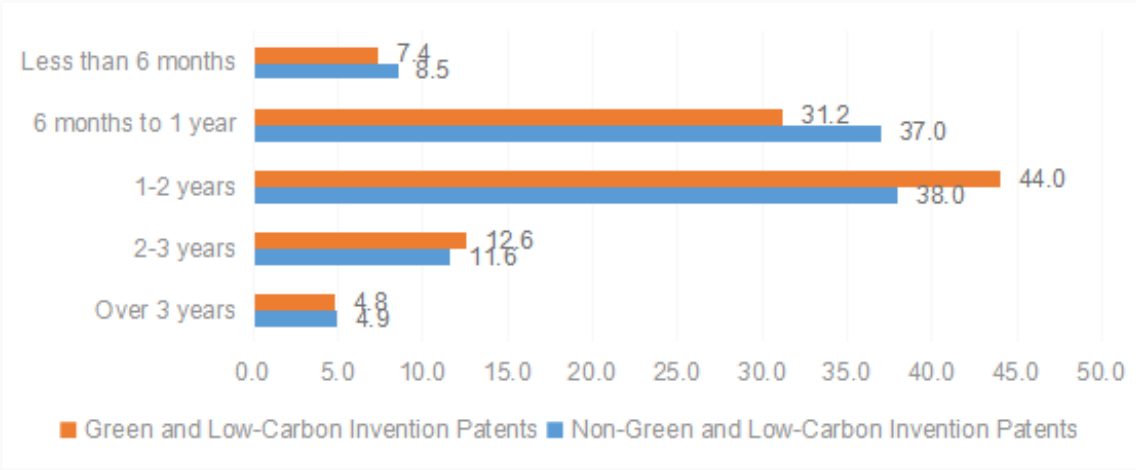


Figure 43: R&D Cycles for Green and Low-Carbon Enterprise Invention Patents (Unit: %)

Patent

2. R&D Expenditure for Green and Low-Carbon Invention Patents is Relatively Higher

In terms of R&D expenditure, the overall R&D expenditure for green and low-carbon invention patents by enterprises is slightly higher than for non-green and low-carbon invention patents. The proportion of enterprises with R&D expenditure exceeding RMB 1 million for green and low-carbon invention patents is 20.7%, which is 3.0 percentage points higher than for non-green and low-carbon invention patents (17.7%) (refer to Figure 44).

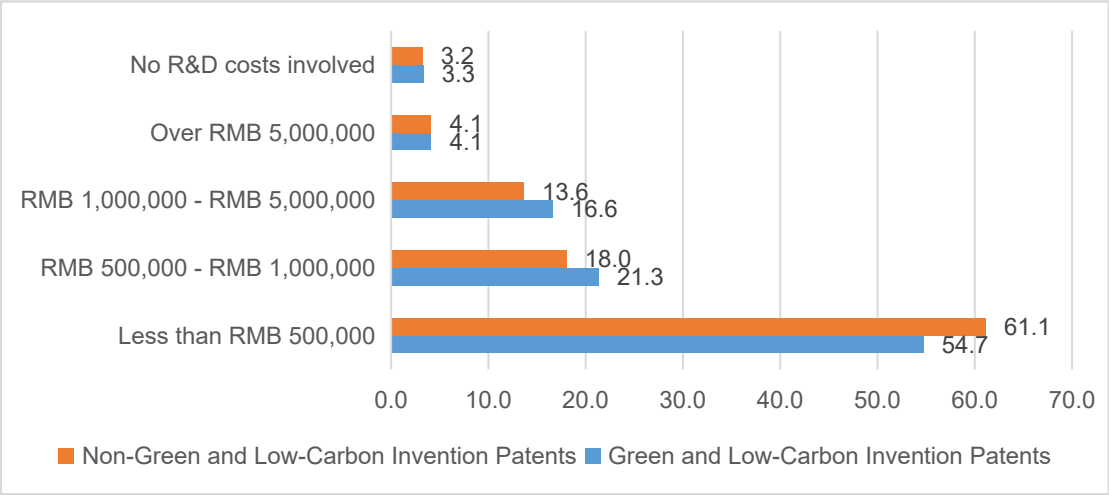


Figure 44 R&D Expenditure for Green and Low-Carbon Invention Patents

3. Green and Low-Carbon Technology Innovation More Reliant on Industry-Academia-Research Collaboration

The Survey shows that the proportion of green and low-carbon invention patents acquired through transfer is 16.7%, higher than for non-green and low-carbon invention patents (13.3%). Among green and low-carbon invention patents acquired through transfer, the proportions from universities and research institutes are 18.5% and 6.7%, respectively, both higher than for non-green and low-carbon invention patents (13.8% and 4.8%) (See Figure 45)

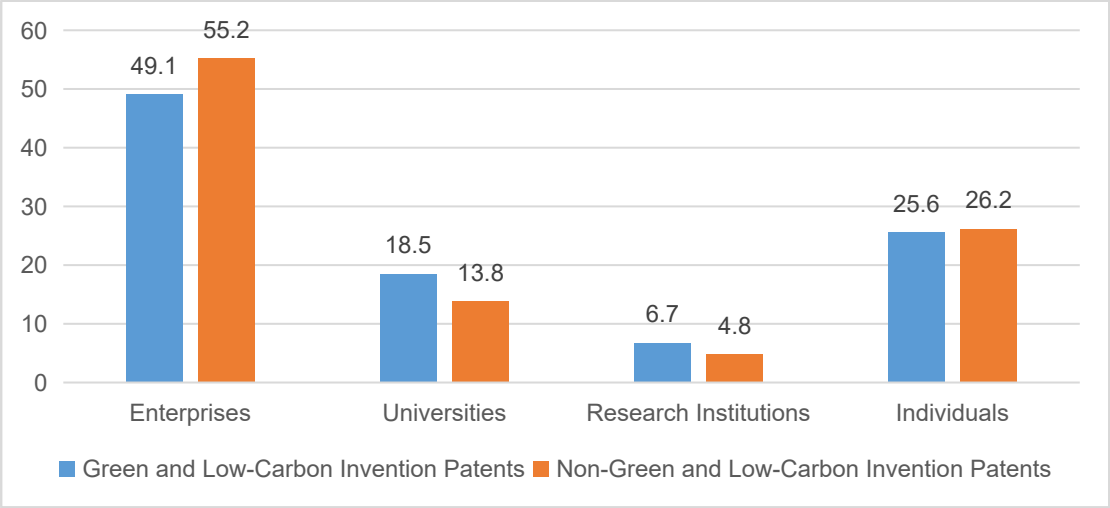


Figure 45: Sources of Acquired Patents in Green and Low-Carbon Fields by Enterprises (Unit: %)

Patent

The proportion of enterprise green and low-carbon invention patents acquired through R&D is 83.3%, of which 93.4% are from independent R&D, largely on par with non-green and low-carbon invention patents (93.1%). Among green and low-carbon invention patents acquired through collaborative R&D, the proportion of collaboration with universities is 57.3%, significantly higher than for non-green and low-carbon invention patents (46.7%), indicating that university scientific and technological innovation effectively supports the development of the green and low-carbon industry (See Figure 46).

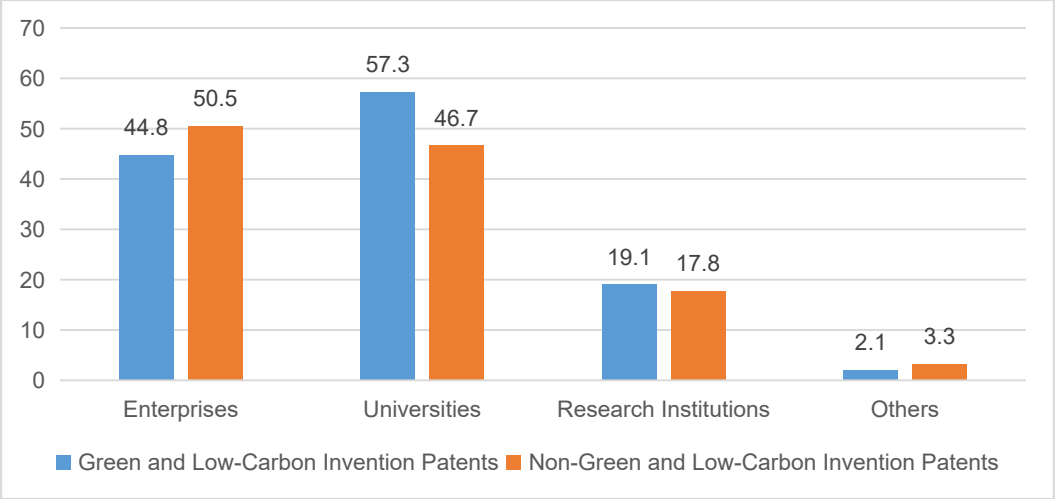
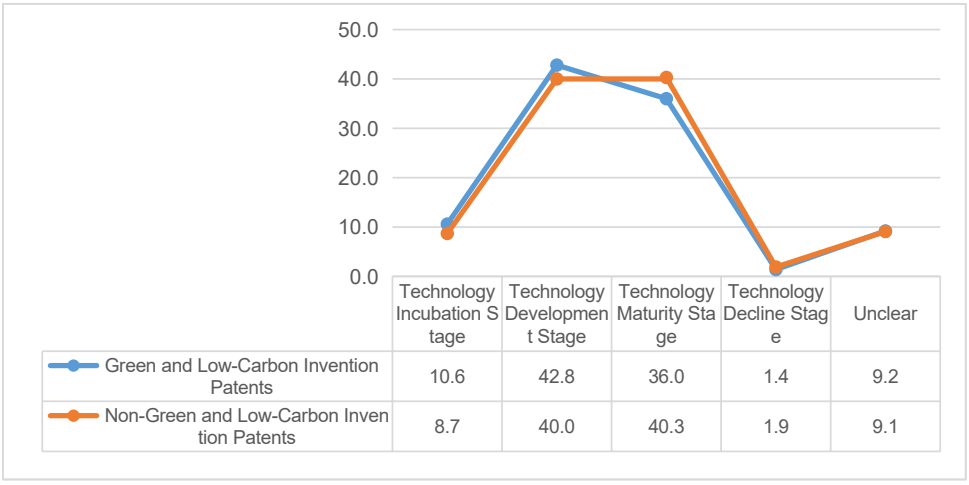


Figure 46: Collaborative R&D Partners for Green and Low-Carbon Invention Patents (Unit: %)

(III) Green and Low-Carbon Invention Patent Commercialization Rate Remains Relatively Low

1. Over Half of Green and Low-Carbon Invention Patents at the Forefront of the Technology Lifecycle

The Survey reveals that the proportions of enterprise green and low-carbon invention patents in the technology germination and growth stages are 10.6% and 42.8%, respectively, both higher than for non-green and low-carbon invention patents. The proportion of non-green and low-carbon invention patents in the technology maturity stage is higher than for green and low-carbon invention patents (refer to Figure 47).



	Technology Incubation Stage	Technology Development Stage	Technology Maturity Stage	Technology Decline Stage	Unclear
Green and Low-Carbon Invention Patents	10.6	42.8	36.0	1.4	9.2
Non-Green and Low-Carbon Invention Patents	8.7	40.0	40.3	1.9	9.1

Figure 47: Technology Lifecycle of Green and Low-Carbon Invention Patents (Unit: %)

2. Green and Low-Carbon Invention Patent Commercialization Rate is Relatively Low

The Survey shows that the commercialization rate of green and low-carbon invention patents is 48.2%, lower than for non-green and low-carbon invention patents (53.6%). In terms of the commercialization cycle for green and low-carbon invention patents, the proportion of those with a commercialization cycle exceeding one year is 77.1%, higher than for non-green and low-carbon invention patents (72.7%) (See Figure 48).

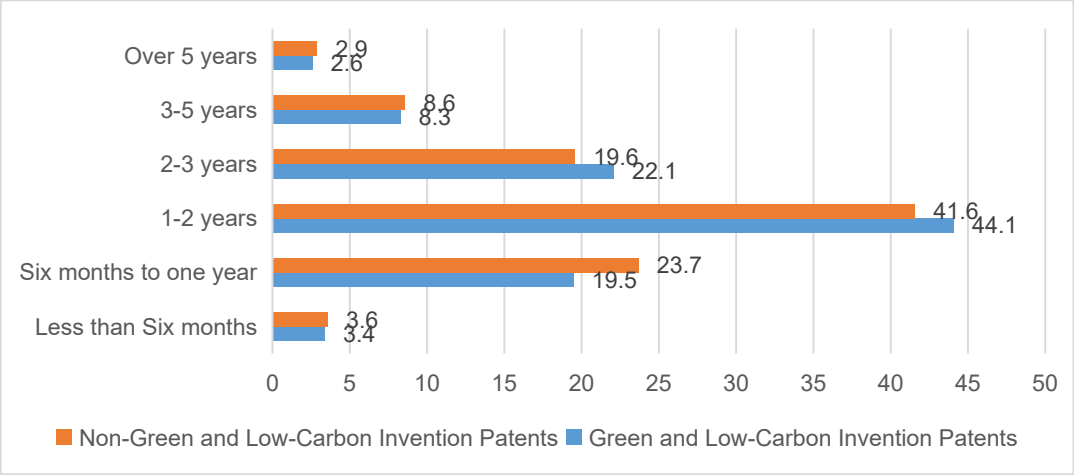


Figure 48: Commercialization Cycle for Green and Low-Carbon Invention Patents (Unit: %)

3. Enterprises Have a Stronger Willingness to Convert and Implement Green and Low-Carbon Patents

The Survey indicates that among the planned methods for converting and implementing green and low-carbon patents by enterprises that have already engaged in green technology innovation, self-commercialization is the most common method, with a proportion of 72.0%. This is followed by licensing, with a proportion of 22.2%.

(IV) Funding Support Needed to Strengthen Creation and Commercialization of Green and Low-Carbon Patents

1. Lack of Funding and Talent are Primary Reasons for Enterprises Not Undertaking Green Technology Innovation

The Survey shows that among enterprises that have not engaged in green technology innovation, 42.7% cite a lack of necessary R&D funding as the main reason, while 36.0% attribute it to a deficiency in technological innovation capabilities or specialized talent.

2. Enterprises Have Strong Policy Demands for Promoting Green Technology Patent Commercialization

The Survey indicates that 49.7% of patent holders believe that "strengthening policy guidance and support, such as financial subsidies, tax incentives, and special funds" is needed to promote the commercialization of green technology patents. Furthermore, 32.9% believe that "establishing a green technology patent information sharing platform to facilitate the matching of supply and demand" is necessary**.** Enterprises in future industries and green industries are relatively clearer about their policy needs for promoting the commercialization of green technology patents, with the proportion of enterprises stating they are unsure about policy needs for the conversion and application of green technology patents being 8.7% and 8.8% respectively, significantly lower than the overall level (22.6%).

(Source: CNIPA)

Trademark

CNIPA: Trademark Statistics for January-June 2025

In the first six months of 2025, the number of trademark registrations was 2,127,687, a decrease of 335,113 (a 13.61% decline) compared to the same period in 2024. There was also a year-on-year decrease in several types of applications:

-Requests for invalidation declined by 13.22%;

-Applications for review of refused trademarks fell by 13.4%;

-Applications for review of trademark cancellation decreased by 2.69%.

Trademark Data Comparison: January-June						
	Registrations (Cumulative)	Valid Registrations	Opposition Application	Review of Rejection	Invalidation Application	Review of Registraito
2025	2127687	51151706	55580	145799	30738	9088
2024	2462800	48043693	61789	168354	35421	9339
Change	-335113		-6209	-22555	-4683	-251
June	-13.61%		-10.05%	-13.40%	-13.22%	-2.69%
May	-16. 94%		-12.77%	-16.57%	-13.25%	-3.27%
April	-19. 27%		-13.18%	-17.23%	-14.11%	-7.99%

(Source: CNIPA)

2024 Survey on Chinese Enterprises' IP Disputes in the U.S. (Trademark Chapter)

1. New Filings Overview

According to the 024 Survey Report on Overseas Intellectual Property Disputes Involving Chinese Enterprises released by the China Intellectual Property Research Society, a total of 668 new trademark litigation cases were filed in 2024, involving 10,965 instances of Chinese enterprises. Chinese enterprises were plaintiffs in only 43 cases, defendants in 576 cases, and in 49 cases, both plaintiffs and defendants included Chinese enterprises.

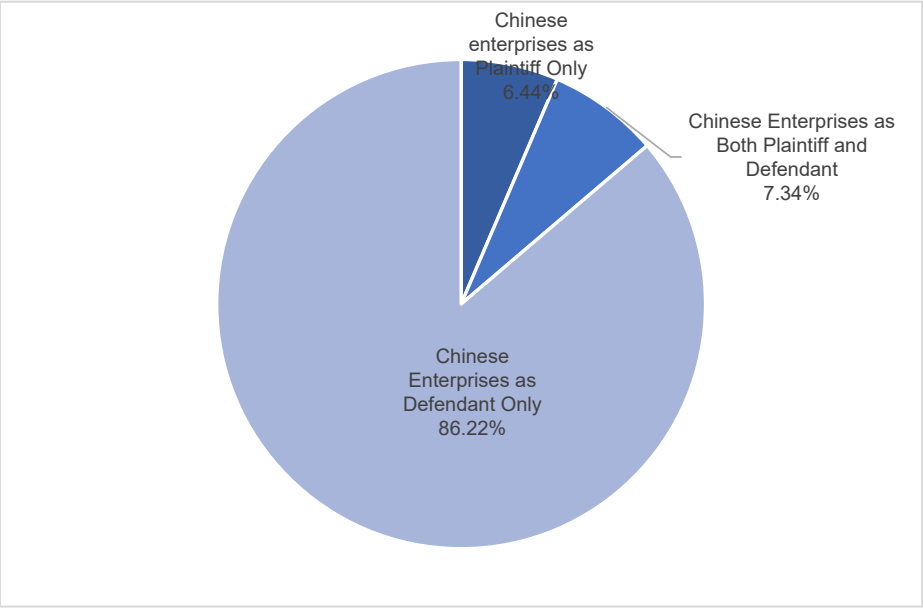


Figure 3-1: Proportion of Trademark Litigation Cases Involving Chinese Enterprises as Plaintiffs and Defendants

Trademark

(1) Parties Involved

In 625 cases where Chinese enterprises were defendants, a total of 10,865 instances of Chinese enterprises were involved as defendants. The primary plaintiffs in trademark litigation cases include Nike, Inc. and Merch Traffic, LLC.

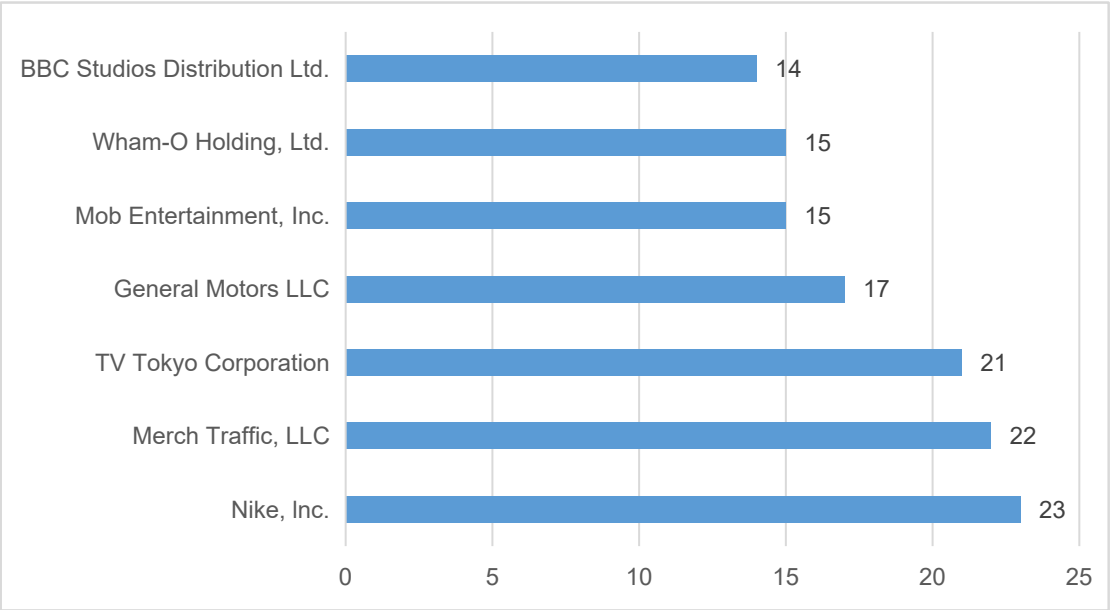


Figure 3-2: Major Plaintiffs in Trademark Litigation

(2) Industry Distribution

Trademark litigation cases are predominantly concentrated in the wholesale and retail sector, with 507 cases, accounting for 75.90%. Other cases involve the software and information technology services industry, technology promotion and application services industry, business services industry, and manufacturing of cultural, educational, arts and crafts, sports, and entertainment products, among others.

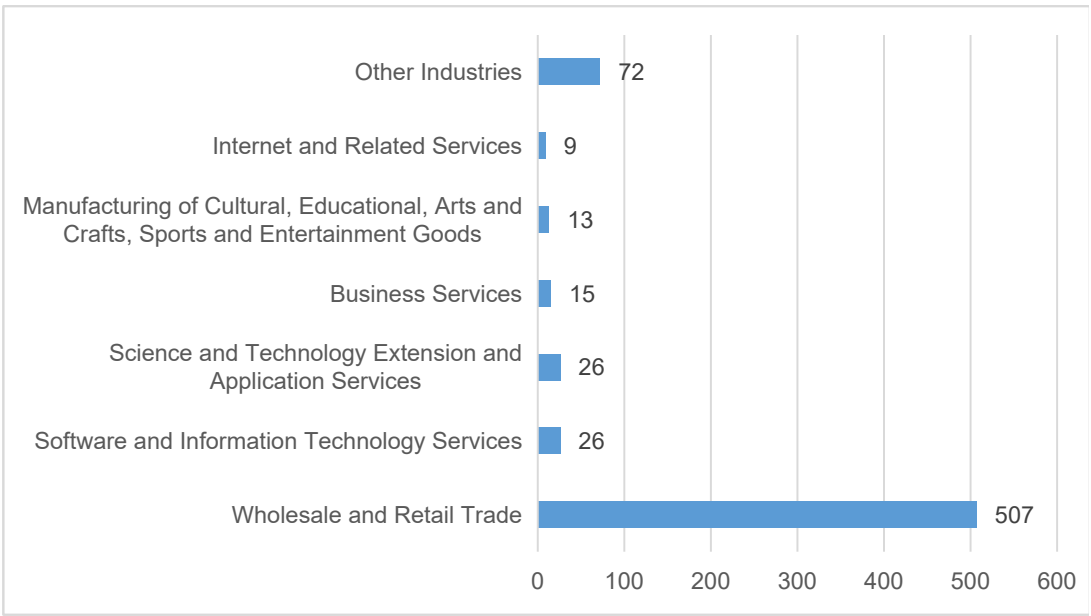


Figure 3-3: Industry Distribution of Trademark Litigation Cases

Compared to 2023, the proportion of cases in the wholesale and retail sector has decreased in the industry distribution of trademark litigation cases in 2024; however, the industry distribution of cases is broader.

(3) Competent Courts

The competent courts for trademark litigation cases are relatively concentrated. The primary courts include the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois (N.D. Il.) with 535 cases, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida (S.D. Fla.) with 61 cases, the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California (C.D. Cal.) with 15 cases, and the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York (S.D. N.Y.) with 12 cases.

(4) Law Firms

In 246 cases, Chinese enterprises commissioned law firms to respond to lawsuits. Among the law firms accepting these commissions, firms such as Au, The Keleher Appellate Law Group, and Palmer Law Group handled a significant number of cases.

In addition, the law firms primarily commissioned by plaintiff enterprises include Greer, Burns & Crain, Hughes Socol Piers Resnick & Dym, and JiangIP. Notably, Greer, Burns & Crain, Hughes Socol Piers Resnick & Dym, and JiangIP have filed lawsuits against numerous Chinese enterprises in the cross-border e-commerce sector.

II.Closed Cases Overview

A total of 786 trademark litigation cases involving Chinese enterprises in the U.S. were resolved in 2024.

(1) Case Resolution Cycle

The average resolution cycle for these 786 cases was 192 days. The longest duration was 2,245 days, nearly six years, after which the case proceedings were terminated.

(2) Types of Case Closure

There are 11 types of case closure. Among these, 504 cases resulted in a default judgment in favor of the plaintiff, accounting for 64.12%. In 200 cases, the plaintiff withdrew the case due to a settlement between the parties, representing 25.45%. Forty-two cases concluded with a consent judgment in favor of the plaintiff, representing 5.34%.

Notably, a total of 30 instances of Chinese enterprises as plaintiffs ultimately won their cases.

Table 3-2: Types of Closed Trademark Litigation Case

No.	Types of Case Closure	Quantity
1	Claimant Win: Default Judgment	504
2	Likely Settlement	200
3	Claimant Win: Consent Judgment	42
4	Procedural: Dismissal	21
5	Procedural: Consolidation	5

6	Procedural: Contested Dismissal	2
7	Claim Defendant Win: Default Judgment	1
8	Defendant Win: Judgment on the Pleadings	1
9	Claimant Win: Summary Judgment	1
10	Procedural: Interdistrict Transfer	1
11	Procedural: Stay	1
12	Not disclosed	7

(3) Awarded Damages

In 201 cases, defendants were ordered to pay damages, totaling USD 50.4463 million, with an average awarded amount of USD 251,000. Among these, 14 cases involved Chinese enterprises as both plaintiff and defendant, while the others involved Chinese enterprises solely as defendants. The highest single awarded amount was USD 8 million, with Nike, Inc. as the plaintiff.

(Data Source: "2024 Survey Report on Chinese Enterprises' International Intellectual Property Disputes")

At a Glance: Key Data of the CNIPA's Regular Press Conference for June 2025

(Source: CNIPA)