

Geographical indications

Introduction

A geographical indication (GI) is a sign identifying a good as originating from a specific geographical area and possessing a given quality, reputation or other characteristic that is essentially attributable to that geographical origin. Thus, the main function of a GI is to indicate a connection between that quality, reputation or characteristic of that good and its territory of origin.

GIs can be protected through a variety of legal means (e.g., *sui generis* systems, trademark laws, international agreements, other national legal means, etc.). In addition, the protection of GIs at a national level is often shared among several agencies. WIPO has made major 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 valuable insight into how this form of IP is used in different parts of the world.

How many GIs are in force worldwide?

Data received from the 92 national/regional authorities that shared their 2018 data with WIPO reveals that 65,900 protected GIs are in existence. Furthermore, to minimize double counting, the 4,968 European Union (EU) GIs in force in each of the EU member states are counted once only rather than multiplied by the 28 member states.

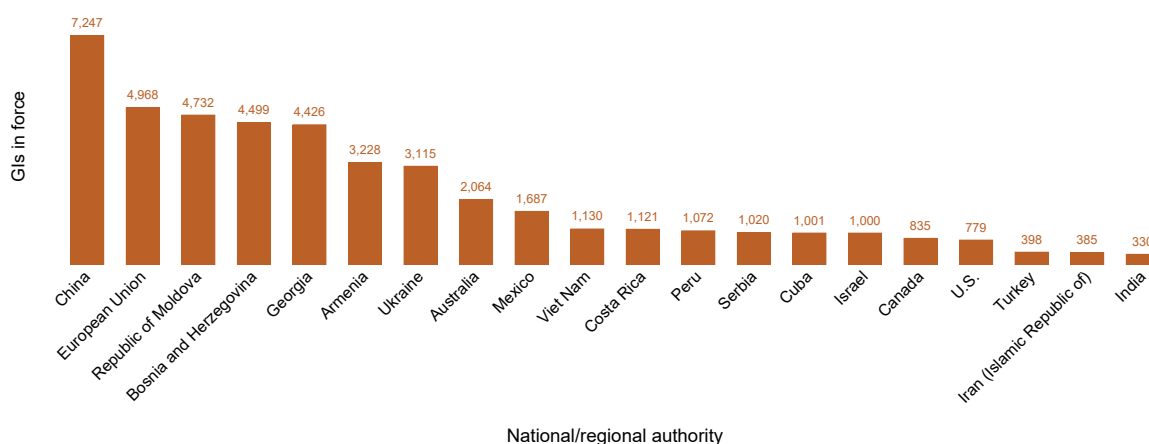
The offices of the upper middle-income countries account for 43% of the total GIs in force in 2018, followed in turn by the offices of the high-income (42.3%) and lower middle-income countries (14.7%). In terms of regional distribution, Europe had the largest number of GIs in force across all regions, accounting for 57.4%, followed by Asia (28.3%) and Latin America and the Caribbean (8.4%).

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 (15,566) in 2018, followed by China (7,247), Hungary (6,683), Czech Republic (6,285), Bulgaria (6,038), Italy (6,015) and Portugal (5,998). There are several middle-income countries with a large number of GIs in force within their respective jurisdictions; for example, in 2018, 4,732 were in force in the Republic of Moldova, 4,499 in Bosnia and Herzegovina and 4,426 GIs in force in Georgia. In contrast, India (330) and Brazil (68) – two of the larger middle-income countries – had considerably fewer GIs in force.

GIs in force relating to “wines and spirits” accounted for 51.1% of the 2018 total, followed by agricultural products and foodstuffs (29.9%) (figure 5.3). Handicrafts accounted for 2.7% of the total. China, Hungary, India and Viet Nam each had more than 100 GIs for handicrafts in force within their jurisdictions in 2018. Indications relating to services amounted to 34 GIs in 2018, mainly reported by the United States of America (U.S.) (17 GIs) and Viet Nam (12 GIs).

China had more than 7,200 GIs in force in 2018

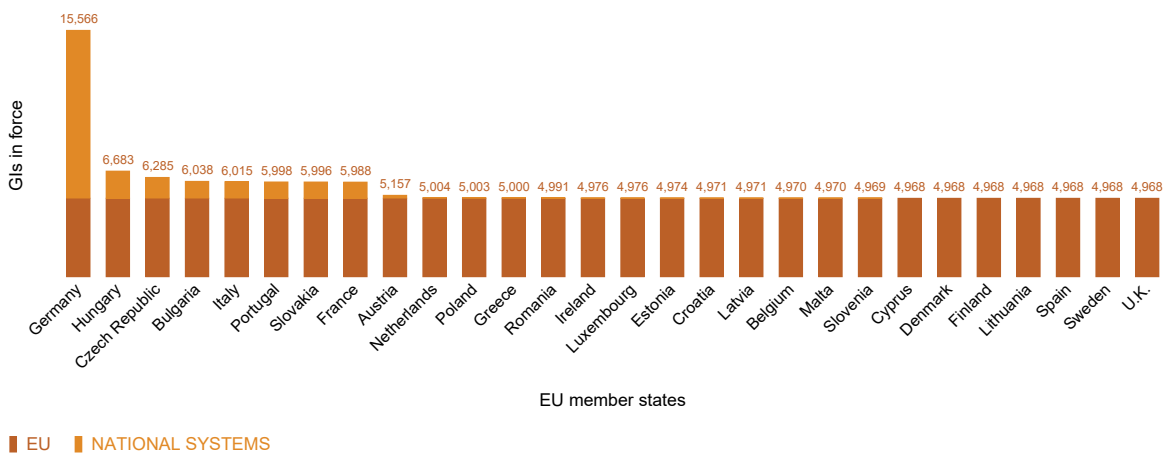
5.1. Geographical indications in force for selected national/regional authorities, 2018



Source: WIPO Statistics Database, August 2019.

GIs in force based on national systems accounted for 68.1% of total GIs in Germany

5.2. Geographical indications in force for EU member states, 2018

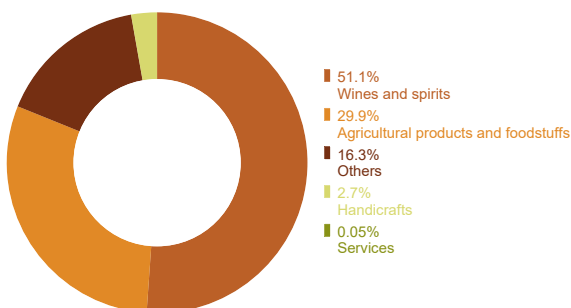


Note: This figure shows the total number of geographical indications in force in the EU member states, broken down by GIs in force based on the EU regional systems and agreements and on national systems. The EU has regional systems for the protection of GIs covering agricultural and foodstuff products,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

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, August 2019.

Wines and spirits accounted for 51.1% of GIs in force

5.3. Geographical indications in force by product categories, 2018



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. The distribution is based on data from 74 jurisdictions for which 2018 data by product category are available.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, August 2019.

The GIs in force data reported here are partial and incomplete and therefore should be interpreted with caution. 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 agreements (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, a reflection of the difficulty in identifying such GIs among all trademarks (most commonly, collective and certification trademarks). In addition, several countries could not provide data on the number of GIs protected through international agreements.

Use of the Lisbon System to protect appellations of origin

As of 2018, the Lisbon System consists of 28 member countries, seven of who are EU members. In 2018, there were 1,012 appellations of origin in force via the Lisbon System (figure 5.5). This represents a 2.1% increase on the previous year, mostly driven by strong growth from Italy and the Islamic Republic of Iran. France remains the largest user of the System. It accounted for 50.3% of the 2018 total, followed by Italy (17.3%), Czech Republic (7.4%), the Islamic Republic of Iran (6%) and Bulgaria (3.9%).

5.4. Geographical indications in force in 2018

National/regional authority	Total	<i>Sui generis</i>	Trademarks	Other national legal means	Regional system	Agreements	Unknown
Andorra	7	4	2	..	..	1	..
Albania	13	..	..	13	..	..	..
Argentina	108	108	..	..	..	..	..
Armenia	3,228	8	..	..	..	3,220	..
Australia	2,064	116	76	..	..	1,872	..
Austria	5,157	..	..	..	3,434	1,723	..
Azerbaijan	35	..	..	..	..	..	35
Bahamas (a)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bangladesh	3	3	..	..	..	..	..
Barbados	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Belarus	33	31	2	..	..	..	..
Belgium	4,970	2	..	..	3,434	1,534	..
Bhutan	11	..	11	..	..	..	..
Bosnia and Herzegovina	4,499	13	..	..	..	4,486	..
Botswana	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
Brazil	68	68	..	..	..	..	..
Brunei Darussalam	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bulgaria	6,038	111	..	..	3,434	2,493	..
Cambodia	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Canada	835	651	..	..	..	184	..
Chile (a)	283	167	..	..	..	116	..
China	7,247	2,380	4,867	..	..	..	..
China, Hong Kong SAR	43	..	43	..	..	..	..
China, Macao SAR	11	2	9	..	..	..	..
Colombia	151	151	..	..	..	..	..
Costa Rica	1,121	4	..	..	..	1,117	..
Côte d'Ivoire (a)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Croatia	4,971	3	..	..	3,434	1,534	..
Cuba	1,001	25	5	..	..	971	..
Cyprus	4,968	..	..	..	3,434	1,534	..
Czech Republic	6,285	62	..	..	3,434	2,789	..
Denmark	4,968	..	..	..	3,434	1,534	..
Dominica	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ecuador	53	5	..	..	..	48	..
El Salvador	139	96	30	..	..	13	..
Estonia	4,974	6	..	..	3,434	1,534	..
European Union	4,968	3,434	..	..	..	1,534	..
Finland	4,968	..	..	..	3,434	1,534	..
France	5,988	7	..	4	3,434	2,543	..
Gambia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Georgia	4,426	48	..	..	..	4,378	..
Germany	15,566	7,276	1	..	4,537	3,752	..
Greece	5,000	16	..	16	3,434	1,534	..
Guatemala	116	3	..	..	..	113	..
Honduras	45	..	45	..	..	..	..
Hungary	6,683	25	..	..	3,434	3,224	..
Iceland	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
India	330	330	..	..	..	..	..
Indonesia	74	74	..	..	..	..	..
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	385	30	..	..	..	355	..
Ireland	4,976	8	..	..	3,434	1,534	..
Israel	1,000	1	..	..	..	999	..
Italy	6,015	36	..	..	3,434	2,545	..
Jamaica	3	2	1	..	..	..	..
Japan	90	73	..	10	..	7	..
Jordan	5	..	5	..	..	..	..
Kazakhstan	47	47	..	..	..	..	..
Kenya	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lao People's Democratic Republic	2	..	..	..	..	..	2
Latvia	4,971	3	..	..	3,434	1,534	..
Lithuania	4,968	..	..	..	3,434	1,534	..
Luxembourg	4,976	..	..	8	3,434	1,534	..
Malaysia	84	84	..	..	..	..	..
Maldives (a)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

National/regional authority	Total	<i>Sui generis</i>	Trademarks	Other national legal means	Regional system	Agreements	Unknown
Malta	4,970	..	2	..	3,434	1,534	..
Mauritius	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mexico	1,687	16	..	..	..	1,671	..
Mongolia	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Morocco	121	66	54	..	..	1	..
Netherlands	5,004	..	..	..	3,434	1,570	..
New Zealand	21	21	..	..	..	..	..
Norway	29	29	..	..	..	..	..
Pakistan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Peru	1,072	10	..	..	..	1,062	..
Philippines (a)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poland	5,003	35	..	..	3,434	1,534	..
Portugal	5,998	20	..	..	3,434	2,544	..
Republic of Moldova	4,732	18	..	..	..	4,714	..
Romania	4,991	23	..	..	3,434	1,534	..
Russian Federation	285	184	..	..	..	101	..
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Serbia	1,020	81	3	..	..	936	..
Singapore	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Slovakia	5,996	20	..	..	3,434	2,542	..
Slovenia	4,969	1	..	..	3,434	1,534	..
Spain	4,968	..	..	..	3,434	1,534	..
Sri Lanka	4	..	4	..	..	..	..
Sweden	4,968	..	..	..	3,434	1,534	..
Thailand	119	119	..	..	..	..	..
Togo (a)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Trinidad and Tobago	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Turkey	398	395	..	..	..	3	..
Uganda	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ukraine	3,115	25	..	..	..	3,090	..
United Kingdom	4,968	..	..	..	3,434	1,534	..
United States of America	779	..	779	..	..	..	..
Uzbekistan (a)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Viet Nam	1,130	69	1,061	..	..	..	..
Yemen (a)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

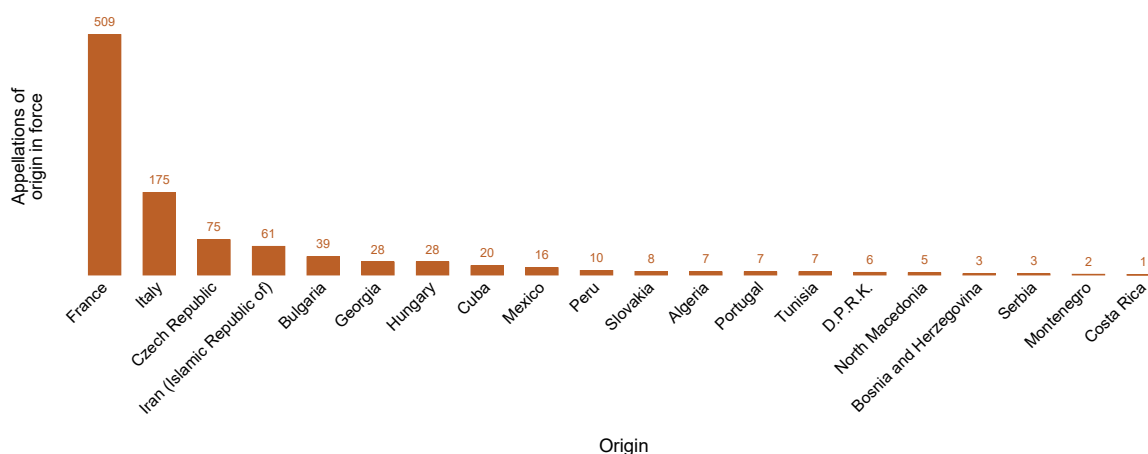
(a) 2017 data.

.. indicates zero.

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, August 2019.

France remains the largest user of the Lisbon System

5.5. Appellations of origin in force by origin, 2018



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

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, August 2019.