

Figure 2.1.
Number of international organizations by type
Edition 52, 2015/2016 (data collected in 2014)

Presented in this figure is the number of international organizations currently listed in the database of the *Yearbook of International Organizations*. The organizations are totalled by type (see 1.3 "Types of organization") and by whether they are intergovernmental or not. In addition, totals are given for certain groupings of types ("conventional", "other" and "special"). For other groupings of types, see Figure 2.5.

This figure suggests different answers to the question "How many international organizations are there?"

1. Conventional intergovernmental organizations, when attaching importance to the non-recognition of international non-governmental organizations in terms of international law. (Multilateral treaties, Type T, might be added as closely related international "instruments".)
2. Conventional international bodies, both governmental and non-governmental, when attaching importance to the existence of autonomous international bodies as a social reality.
3. Conventional bodies (Types A to D) plus special forms (Type F), when recognizing the importance of organizational substitutes and unconventional form. (To the latter might be added conference series, Type S, and multilateral treaties, Type T, as forms of organization substitute.)
4. Conventional bodies (Types A to D), special forms (Type F) and religious orders (Type R), when attaching importance to the social reality of the latter as independent actors.
5. Conventional bodies (Types A to D), other international bodies (Types E to G), religious orders (Type R), and multilateral treaties (Type T), when recognizing the international impact of semi-autonomous and nationally tied organizations. (Documentalists might also include inactive bodies, Type H, which figure in the "authority lists" of international organizations.)

Types by group	Intergovernmental			Nongovernmental			Total	
	No. of this type	% of this type	% of this group	No. of this type	% of this type	% of this group	No. of this type	% of this group
GROUP: CONVENTIONAL INTERNATIONAL BODIES								
A. Federations of international organizations	1	2.56	0.37	38	97.44	0.42	39	0.42
B. Universal membership organizations	37	6.50	13.55	532	93.50	5.93	569	6.15
C. Intercontinental membership organizations	36	2.26	13.19	1560	97.74	17.38	1596	17.26
D. Regionally oriented membership organizations	199	2.82	72.89	6846	97.18	76.27	7045	76.17
TOTAL: CONVENTIONAL BODIES	273	2.95	100.00	8976	97.05	100.00	9249	100.00
GROUP: OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES								
E. Org's emanating from places, persons, bodies	920	22.39	51.54	3189	77.61	19.86	4109	23.03
F. Organizations of special form	713	12.79	39.94	4863	87.21	30.28	5576	31.25
G. Internationally oriented national organizations	152	1.86	8.52	8007	98.14	49.86	8159	45.72
TOTAL: OTHER BODIES	1785	10.00	100.00	16059	90.00	100.00	17844	100.00
TOTAL Types E + F	1633	16.86		8052	83.14		9685	
TOTAL Types A B C D E F	1906	10.07		17028	89.93		18934	
TOTAL Types A B C D E F G	2058	7.60		25035	92.40		27093	
GROUP: SPECIAL TYPES								
H. Dissolved or apparently inactive organizations	812	14.17	14.25	4919	85.83	13.96	5731	14.20
J. Recently reported bodies - not yet confirmed	61	6.46	1.07	884	93.54	2.51	945	1.85
K. Subsidiary and internal bodies	324	25.71	5.69	936	74.29	2.66	1260	3.33
N. National organizations	1	0.03	0.02	3400	99.97	9.65	3401	8.43
R. Religious orders and secular institutes	0	0.00	0.00	906	100.00	2.57	906	2.22
S. Autonomous conference series	138	17.02	2.42	673	82.98	1.91	811	1.96
T. Multilateral treaties, intergov'tal agreements	2412	100.00	42.32	0	0.00	0.00	2412	5.91
U. Currently inactive nonconventional bodies	1951	7.66	34.23	23519	92.34	66.75	25470	62.10
TOTAL: SPECIAL TYPES	5699	13.92	100.00	35237	86.08	100.00	40936	100.00
TOTAL Types H + U	2763	8.86		28438	91.14		31201	
TOTAL ALL TYPES	7757	11.40		60272	88.60		68029	