

Figure 2.1.
Number of international organizations by type
Edition 54, 2017/2018 (data collected in 2016)

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	0.36	38	97.44	0.41	39	0.41
B. Universal membership organizations	37	6.39	13.41	542	93.61	5.91	579	6.13
C. Intercontinental membership organizations	35	2.00	12.68	1715	98.00	18.69	1750	18.51
D. Regionally oriented membership organizations	203	2.87	73.55	6881	97.13	74.99	7084	74.95
TOTAL: CONVENTIONAL BODIES	276	2.92	100.00	9176	97.08	100.00	9452	100.00
GROUP: OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES								
E. Org's emanating from places, persons, bodies	901	21.61	50.93	3269	78.39	19.40	4170	22.40
F. Organizations of special form	715	12.52	40.42	4995	87.48	29.65	5710	30.67
G. Internationally oriented national organizations	153	1.75	8.65	8585	98.25	50.95	8738	46.93
TOTAL: OTHER BODIES	1769	9.50	100.00	16849	90.50	100.00	18618	100.00
TOTAL Types E + F	1616	16.36		8264	83.64		9880	
TOTAL Types A B C D E F	1892	9.79		17440	90.21		19332	
TOTAL Types A B C D E F G	2045	7.29		26025	92.71		28070	
GROUP: SPECIAL TYPES								
H. Dissolved or apparently inactive organizations	859	14.23	15.30	5179	85.77	14.52	6038	14.63
J. Recently reported bodies - not yet confirmed	48	4.12	0.86	1116	95.88	3.13	1164	2.82
K. Subsidiary and internal bodies	226	26.28	4.03	634	73.72	1.78	860	2.08
N. National organizations	1	0.03	0.02	3329	99.97	9.34	3330	8.07
R. Religious orders and secular institutes	0	0.00	0.00	907	100.00	2.54	907	2.20
S. Autonomous conference series	88	11.41	1.57	683	88.59	1.92	771	1.87
T. Multilateral treaties, intergov'tal agreements	2446	100.00	43.58	0	0.00	0.00	2446	5.93
U. Currently inactive nonconventional bodies	1945	7.55	34.65	23809	92.45	66.77	25754	62.40
TOTAL: SPECIAL TYPES	5613	13.60	100.00	35657	86.40	100.00	41270	100.00
TOTAL Types H + U	2804	8.82		28988	91.18		31792	
TOTAL ALL TYPES	7658	11.04		61682	88.96		69340	