

Figure 2.1.
Number of international organizations by type
Edition 55, 2018/2019 (data collected in 2017)

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	0.35	38	97.44	0.40	39	0.40
B. Universal membership organizations	37	6.32	12.98	548	93.68	5.83	585	6.04
C. Intercontinental membership organizations	37	2.01	12.98	1806	97.99	19.20	1843	19.02
D. Regionally oriented membership organizations	210	2.91	73.68	7012	97.09	74.56	7222	74.54
TOTAL: CONVENTIONAL BODIES	285	2.94	100.00	9404	97.06	100.00	9689	100.00
GROUP: OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES								
E. Org's emanating from places, persons, bodies	930	21.62	51.27	3372	78.38	19.40	4302	22.41
F. Organizations of special form	725	12.35	39.97	5145	87.65	29.60	5870	30.58
G. Internationally oriented national organizations	159	1.76	8.77	8865	98.24	51.00	9024	47.01
TOTAL: OTHER BODIES	1814	9.45	100.00	17382	90.55	100.00	19196	100.00
TOTAL Types E + F	1655	16.27		8517	83.73		10172	
TOTAL Types A B C D E F	1940	9.77		17921	90.23		19861	
TOTAL Types A B C D E F G	2099	7.27		26786	92.73		28885	
GROUP: SPECIAL TYPES								
H. Dissolved or apparently inactive organizations	879	14.46	15.62	5199	85.54	14.51	6078	14.66
J. Recently reported bodies - not yet confirmed	55	4.50	0.98	1168	95.50	3.26	1223	2.95
K. Subsidiary and internal bodies	204	25.82	3.63	586	74.18	1.64	790	1.91
N. National organizations	1	0.03	0.02	3312	99.97	9.24	3313	7.99
R. Religious orders and secular institutes	0	0.00	0.00	906	100.00	2.53	906	2.19
S. Autonomous conference series	88	10.68	1.56	736	89.32	2.05	824	1.99
T. Multilateral treaties, intergov'tal agreements	2454	100.00	43.61	0	0.00	0.00	2454	5.92
U. Currently inactive nonconventional bodies	1946	7.52	34.58	23928	92.48	66.77	25874	62.40
TOTAL: SPECIAL TYPES	5627	13.57	100.00	35835	86.43	100.00	41462	100.00
TOTAL Types H + U	2825	8.84		29127	91.16		31952	
TOTAL ALL TYPES	7726	10.98		62621	89.02		70347	