

Figure 2.1.
Number of international organizations by type
Edition 56, 2019/2020 (data collected in 2018)

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	2.63	0.35	37	97.37	0.38	38	0.38
B. Universal membership organizations	37	6.28	12.85	552	93.72	5.73	589	5.94
C. Intercontinental membership organizations	38	1.96	13.19	1899	98.04	19.71	1937	19.52
D. Regionally oriented membership organizations	212	2.88	73.61	7145	97.12	74.17	7357	74.16
TOTAL: CONVENTIONAL BODIES	288	2.90	100.00	9633	97.10	100.00	9921	100.00
GROUP: OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES								
E. Org's emanating from places, persons, bodies	945	21.78	51.72	3393	78.22	18.98	4338	22.02
F. Organizations of special form	723	12.04	39.57	5283	87.96	29.55	6006	30.48
G. Internationally oriented national organizations	159	1.70	8.70	9201	98.30	51.47	9360	47.50
TOTAL: OTHER BODIES	1827	9.27	100.00	17877	90.73	100.00	19704	100.00
TOTAL Types E + F	1668	16.13		8676	83.87		10344	
TOTAL Types A B C D E F	1956	9.65		18309	90.35		20265	
TOTAL Types A B C D E F G	2115	7.14		27510	92.86		29625	
GROUP: SPECIAL TYPES								
H. Dissolved or apparently inactive organizations	892	14.58	15.84	5225	85.42	14.46	6117	14.64
J. Recently reported bodies - not yet confirmed	53	3.90	0.94	1305	96.10	3.61	1358	3.25
K. Subsidiary and internal bodies	199	26.68	3.53	547	73.32	1.51	746	1.79
N. National organizations	1	0.03	0.02	3349	99.97	9.27	3350	8.02
R. Religious orders and secular institutes	0	0.00	0.00	907	100.00	2.51	907	2.17
S. Autonomous conference series	88	9.61	1.56	828	90.39	2.29	916	2.19
T. Multilateral treaties, intergov'tal agreements	2453	100.00	43.57	0	0.00	0.00	2453	5.87
U. Currently inactive nonconventional bodies	1944	7.50	34.53	23981	92.50	66.35	25925	62.06
TOTAL: SPECIAL TYPES	5630	13.48	100.00	36142	86.52	100.00	41772	100.00
TOTAL Types H + U	2836	8.85		29206	91.15		32042	
TOTAL ALL TYPES	7745	10.85		63652	89.15		71397	

