

Figure 2.1.
Number of international organizations by type
Edition 57, 2020/2021 (data collected in 2019)

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 | 0.37 | 38 | 0.37 |
| B. Universal membership organizations | 37 | 6.22 | 12.80 | 558 | 93.78 | 5.61 | 595 | 5.82 |
| C. Intercontinental membership organizations | 39 | 1.88 | 13.49 | 2031 | 98.12 | 20.43 | 2070 | 20.24 |
| D. Regionally oriented membership organizations | 212 | 2.82 | 73.36 | 7314 | 97.18 | 73.58 | 7526 | 73.58 |
| TOTAL: CONVENTIONAL BODIES | 289 | 2.83 | 100.00 | 9940 | 97.17 | 100.00 | 10229 | 100.00 |
| GROUP: OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES | | | | | | | | |
| E. Org's emanating from places, persons, bodies | 958 | 21.70 | 51.76 | 3457 | 78.30 | 18.84 | 4415 | 21.85 |
| F. Organizations of special form | 734 | 11.79 | 39.65 | 5489 | 88.21 | 29.91 | 6223 | 30.80 |
| G. Internationally oriented national organizations | 159 | 1.66 | 8.59 | 9408 | 98.34 | 51.26 | 9567 | 47.35 |
| TOTAL: OTHER BODIES | 1851 | 9.16 | 100.00 | 18354 | 90.84 | 100.00 | 20205 | 100.00 |
| TOTAL Types E + F | 1692 | 15.91 | | 8946 | 84.09 | | 10638 | |
| TOTAL Types A B C D E F | 1981 | 9.49 | | 18886 | 90.51 | | 20867 | |
| TOTAL Types A B C D E F G | 2140 | 7.03 | | 28294 | 92.97 | | 30434 | |
| GROUP: SPECIAL TYPES | | | | | | | | |
| H. Dissolved or apparently inactive organizations | 903 | 14.68 | 15.94 | 5249 | 85.32 | 14.29 | 6152 | 14.51 |
| J. Recently reported bodies - not yet confirmed | 60 | 4.33 | 1.06 | 1327 | 95.67 | 3.61 | 1387 | 3.27 |
| K. Subsidiary and internal bodies | 193 | 26.40 | 3.41 | 538 | 73.60 | 1.46 | 731 | 1.72 |
| N. National organizations | 1 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 3411 | 99.97 | 9.29 | 3412 | 8.05 |
| R. Religious orders and secular institutes | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 907 | 100.00 | 2.47 | 907 | 2.14 |
| S. Autonomous conference series | 90 | 6.93 | 1.59 | 1208 | 93.07 | 3.29 | 1298 | 3.06 |
| T. Multilateral treaties, intergov'tal agreements | 2473 | 100.00 | 43.66 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2473 | 5.83 |
| U. Currently inactive nonconventional bodies | 1944 | 7.47 | 34.32 | 24093 | 92.53 | 65.59 | 26037 | 61.41 |
| TOTAL: SPECIAL TYPES | 5664 | 13.36 | 100.00 | 36733 | 86.64 | 100.00 | 42397 | 100.00 |
| TOTAL Types H + U | 2847 | 8.84 | | 29342 | 91.16 | | 32189 | |
| TOTAL ALL TYPES | 7804 | 10.72 | | 65027 | 89.28 | | 72831 | |

