

Figure 2.1.
Number of international organizations by type
Edition 58, 2021/2022 (data collected in 2020)

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	0.34	37	97.37	0.36	38	0.36
B. Universal membership organizations	37	6.13	12.67	567	93.87	5.56	604	5.76
C. Intercontinental membership organizations	39	1.77	13.36	2167	98.23	21.27	2206	21.05
D. Regionally oriented membership organizations	215	2.82	73.63	7419	97.18	72.81	7634	72.83
TOTAL: CONVENTIONAL BODIES	292	2.79	100.00	10190	97.21	100.00	10482	100.00
GROUP: OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES								
E. Org's emanating from places, persons, bodies	984	21.77	52.15	3536	78.23	18.89	4520	21.94
F. Organizations of special form	746	11.62	39.53	5672	88.38	30.31	6418	31.15
G. Internationally oriented national organizations	157	1.62	8.32	9508	98.38	50.80	9665	46.91
TOTAL: OTHER BODIES	1887	9.16	100.00	18716	90.84	100.00	20603	100.00
TOTAL Types E + F	1730	15.82		9208	84.18		10938	
TOTAL Types A B C D E F	2022	9.44		19398	90.56		21420	
TOTAL Types A B C D E F G	2179	7.01		28906	92.99		31085	
GROUP: SPECIAL TYPES								
H. Dissolved or apparently inactive organizations	906	14.65	16.05	5279	85.35	14.07	6185	14.33
J. Recently reported bodies - not yet confirmed	58	3.54	1.03	1582	96.46	4.22	1640	3.80
K. Subsidiary and internal bodies	156	23.78	2.76	500	76.22	1.33	656	1.52
N. National organizations	1	0.03	0.02	3430	99.97	9.14	3431	7.95
R. Religious orders and secular institutes	0	0.00	0.00	910	100.00	2.43	910	2.11
S. Autonomous conference series	90	5.17	1.59	1650	94.83	4.40	1740	4.03
T. Multilateral treaties, intergov'tal agreements	2482	100.00	43.96	0	0.00	0.00	2482	5.75
U. Currently inactive nonconventional bodies	1953	7.48	34.59	24168	92.52	64.42	26121	60.51
TOTAL: SPECIAL TYPES	5646	13.08	100.00	37519	86.92	100.00	43165	100.00
TOTAL Types H + U	2859	8.85		29447	91.15		32306	
TOTAL ALL TYPES	7825	10.54		66425	89.46		74250	

