
Section 2: How many international organizations are there?

Where no year is indicated in the title, the current edition applies.

Titles written in roman type refer to statistical tables.

Titles written in italic type refer to visualizations (charts, graphs).

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Figure 2.1.
Number of international organizations by type
Edition 49, 2012/2013 (data collected in 2011)

Presented in this table 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 table 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	0.38	38	97.44	0.45	39	0.45
B. Universal membership organizations	36	6.78	13.74	495	93.22	5.91	531	6.14
C. Intercontinental membership organizations	34	2.62	12.98	1264	97.38	15.08	1298	15.02
D. Regionally oriented membership organizations	191	2.82	72.90	6585	97.18	78.56	6776	78.39
TOTAL: CONVENTIONAL BODIES	262	3.03	100.00	8382	96.97	100.00	8644	100.00
GROUP: OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES								
E. Org's emanating from places, persons, bodies	879	22.47	50.78	3033	77.53	19.73	3912	22.88
F. Organizations of special form	707	13.41	40.84	4566	86.59	29.71	5273	30.84
G. Internationally oriented national organizations	145	1.83	8.38	7770	98.17	50.56	7915	46.29
TOTAL: OTHER BODIES	1731	10.12	100.00	15369	89.88	100.00	17100	100.00
TOTAL Types E + F	1586	17.27		7599	82.73		9185	
TOTAL Types A B C D E F	1848	10.37		15981	89.63		17829	
TOTAL Types A B C D E F G	1993	7.74		23751	92.26		25744	
GROUP: SPECIAL TYPES								
H. Dissolved or apparently inactive organizations	780	14.31	13.72	4669	85.69	13.74	5449	13.74
J. Recently reported bodies - not yet confirmed	60	9.05	1.06	603	90.95	1.78	663	1.67
K. Subsidiary and internal bodies	367	25.10	6.45	1095	74.90	3.22	1462	3.69
N. National organizations	1	0.03	0.02	3057	99.97	9.00	3058	7.71
R. Religious orders and secular institutes	0	0.00	0.00	907	100.00	2.67	907	2.29
S. Autonomous conference series	137	18.36	2.41	609	81.64	1.79	746	1.88
T. Multilateral treaties, intergov'tal agreements	2399	100.00	42.19	0	0.00	0.00	2399	6.05
U. Currently inactive nonconventional bodies	1942	7.78	34.15	23030	92.22	67.80	24972	62.97
TOTAL: SPECIAL TYPES	5686	14.34	100.00	33970	85.66	100.00	39656	100.00
TOTAL Types H + U	2722	8.95		27699	91.05		30421	
TOTAL ALL TYPES	7679	11.74		57721	88.26		65400	