

Figure 2.1.
Number of international organizations by type
Edition 53, 2016/2017 (data collected in 2015)

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	0.36	38	97.44	0.42	39	0.42
B. Universal membership organizations	37	6.41	13.45	540	93.59	5.99	577	6.22
C. Intercontinental membership organizations	36	2.18	13.09	1616	97.82	17.94	1652	17.80
D. Regionally oriented membership organizations	201	2.87	73.09	6814	97.13	75.64	7015	75.57
TOTAL: CONVENTIONAL BODIES	275	2.96	100.00	9008	97.04	100.00	9283	100.00
GROUP: OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES								
E. Org's emanating from places, persons, bodies	907	21.85	39.15	3244	78.15	19.81	4151	22.21
F. Organizations of special form	705	12.62	30.43	4883	87.38	29.83	5588	29.90
G. Internationally oriented national organizations	155	1.85	8.77	8245	98.15	50.36	8400	46.31
TOTAL: OTHER BODIES	2317	12.40	100.00	16372	87.60	100.00	18689	100.00
TOTAL Types E + F	1612	16.55		8127	83.45		9739	
TOTAL Types A B C D E F	1887	9.92		17135	90.08		19022	
TOTAL Types A B C D E F G	2042	7.45		25380	92.55		27422	
GROUP: SPECIAL TYPES								
H. Dissolved or apparently inactive organizations	842	14.12	15.00	5120	85.88	14.41	5962	14.49
J. Recently reported bodies - not yet confirmed	62	5.30	1.10	1108	94.70	3.12	1170	2.84
K. Subsidiary and internal bodies	266	25.24	4.74	788	74.76	2.22	1054	2.56
N. National organizations	1	0.03	0.02	3375	99.97	9.50	3376	8.20
R. Religious orders and secular institutes	0	0.00	0.00	907	100.00	2.55	907	2.20
S. Autonomous conference series	88	11.56	1.57	673	88.44	1.89	761	1.85
T. Multilateral treaties, intergov'tal agreements	2432	100.00	43.31	0	0.00	0.00	2432	5.91
U. Currently inactive nonconventional bodies	1924	7.55	34.27	23568	92.45	66.32	25492	61.94
TOTAL: SPECIAL TYPES	5615	13.64	100.00	35539	86.36	100.00	41154	100.00
TOTAL Types H + U	2766	8.79		28688	91.21		31454	
TOTAL ALL TYPES	7657	11.17		60919	88.83		68576	