

# **Report on FY2025 Annual User Satisfaction Survey on Patent Examination Quality**

**September 2025  
Japan Patent Office**



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The JPO expresses its sincere gratitude to all respondents for their valuable cooperation in participating in the annual user satisfaction survey on patent examination quality.

In addition, the JPO greatly appreciates the continued support of users in its efforts to conduct the survey and to improve patent examination and other operational practices based on the results of the survey, which will ultimately lead to improved examination quality.

Since FY2012 (the fiscal year ended March 2013), the JPO has been conducting annual user satisfaction surveys on the quality of patent examinations and has incorporated user opinions into its quality management measures.

The FY2025 Survey Report, in which 566 users evaluated the quality of patent examination at the JPO, was published in both Japanese and English versions on the JPO website in September 2025.

[<https://www.jpo.go.jp/e/resources/report/user/>](https://www.jpo.go.jp/e/resources/report/user/)

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# 1. OVERVIEW OF THE SURVEY

## 1.1 Background

Globally reliable, high-quality patent examination and proper granting of patents by the Japan Patent Office (JPO) are important for supporting smooth business expansion worldwide, promoting innovation, and maintaining a sound transaction order. Based on this premise, in 2014, the JPO issued its Quality Policy on Patent Examination (hereinafter referred to as the "Quality Policy"), which outlines the fundamental principles of its quality management policies with the aim of achieving patent examination that is the utmost quality in the world. Under one of its six fundamental principles, "We meet wide-ranging needs and expectations," the Quality Policy states that "the JPO understands and respects the broad-ranging needs of, and expectations for, patent examination so that it may contribute to the benefit of Japanese society and the satisfaction of people connected with the patent system."

Genuinely listening to user opinions is important for understanding the current status of examination quality and for strengthening efforts to maintain and improve examination quality. Since FY2012 (the fiscal year ended March 2013), the JPO has been conducting annual user satisfaction surveys on the quality of patent examinations and has incorporated user opinions into its quality management measures.

This report summarizes the results of the FY2025 Annual User Satisfaction Survey on Patent Examination Quality, which covers patent examinations conducted by the JPO in the previous fiscal year, FY2024.

## 1.2 Objectives

The objectives of the survey are to collect feedback on the quality of patent examination<sup>1</sup> from users in order to evaluate the current status of the examination quality and to make suggestions for future improvements. In other words, this survey corresponds to the "check" phase of the PDCA (Plan, Do, Check, and Act) cycle outlined in the "Quality Management Manual for Patent Examination." In accordance with the Quality Policy, which states that "we continually improve operations," the JPO will use the survey results to continually improve its patent examination practices.

## 1.3 Methodology

The FY2025 survey questionnaire consisted of two sheets. **Sheet 1** (see **Appendix**) was related to the satisfaction level of the quality of the patent examination for national applications in FY2024. **Sheet 2** was related to the satisfaction level of the quality of the international search and international preliminary examination at the JPO for PCT applications in FY2024. The survey was an online questionnaire in that respondents were asked to choose from five levels<sup>2</sup> for each evaluation item. An individual password was

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<sup>1</sup> The term "patent examination" here in this report means examination on inventions, including International Search and International Preliminary Examination under the PCT, and establishment of Reports of Utility Model Technical Opinion, as defined in the Quality Policy. Any reference to "patent examination" in the context of national applications means examination on inventions in national applications.

<sup>2</sup> The five levels are: "satisfied," "somewhat satisfied," "neutral," "somewhat unsatisfied," and "unsatisfied."

sent to the survey targets by email. Respondents can choose to provide their names or respond anonymously. The response period was from April to June 2025.

**Tables 1 and 2** show how and how many survey targets were selected for each questionnaire sheet. There were 648 targets on **Sheet 1** and 370 targets on **Sheet 2**, for a total of 714 targets, excluding the overlap between the sheets.

**Table 1:** Method of selecting the targets for Sheet 1

	Method of selecting targets	Number of targets	Total
<b>Quality of patent examination on national applications (Sheet 1)</b>	Non-individual <u>domestic residents</u> who filed 50 or more national applications as the head applicant in FY2023 <sup>3</sup>	497	648
	Non-individual <u>foreign residents</u> who filed 50 or more national applications as the head applicant in FY2023 <sup>3</sup>	67	
	<u>Small-scale applicants</u> <sup>4</sup> who filed less than 50 national applications as the head applicant in FY2023	34	
	Top 50 <u>patent attorneys</u> who filed the most applications in FY2023	50	

**Table 2:** Method of selecting the targets for Sheet 2

	Method of selecting targets	Number of targets	Total
<b>Quality of international search and preliminary examination on PCT applications (Sheet 2)</b>	Non-individual <u>domestic residents</u> who filed 18 or more PCT applications as the head applicant in FY2023	322	370
	<u>Small-scale applicants</u> <sup>2</sup> who filed less than 18 PCT applications as the head applicant in FY2023	18	
	Top 30 <u>patent attorneys</u> who filed the most PCT applications in FY2023	30	

<sup>3</sup> Targets who received one or more transcripts of the final decisions for their published applications in FY2024 were targeted.

<sup>4</sup> Small-scale applicants were selected from manufacturers with capital of not more than 300 million yen or fewer than 300 employees, and which had previously experienced interviews or discussions with the JPO.

## 1.4 Response rate

**Sheet 1** had 510 responses, with a response rate of 78.7%. With a response rate of 83.5%, **Sheet 2**'s respondents were 309. The number of respondents is 566 out of 714, excluding those overlapping in **Sheets 1 and 2**. **Table 3** shows year-on-year trends in response rates, and **Table 4** provides a breakdown of respondents by industrial sector.

**Table 3:** Response rate of Questionnaire Sheets<sup>5</sup>

	FY2025 survey responded / targeted	FY2024 survey	FY2023 survey	FY2022 survey	FY2021 survey	FY2020 survey	FY2019 survey	FY2018 survey	FY2017 survey	FY2016 survey	FY2015 survey	FY2014 survey	FY2013 survey	FY2012 survey
Sheet 1	78.7% 510/648	83.8%	80.4%	84.9%	87.3%	87.0%	88.0%	90.0%	90.6%	89.3%	85.5%	86.8%	91.8%	91.4%
Sheet 2	83.5% 309/370	86.9%	82.0%	85.9%	88.4%	85.1%	90.5%	93.5%	92.3%	91.2%	87.4%	88.7%	90.6%	91.8%

**Table 4:** Breakdown of respondents<sup>6</sup>

Attribute (Industrial Sector)		Sheet 1		Sheet 2	
		Respondents	Percentage	Respondents	Percentage
Domestic applicants	Metal	24	4.7%	14	4.5%
	Construction	12	2.4%	10	3.2%
	Machinery	91	17.8%	63	20.4%
	Chemistry	71	13.9%	42	13.6%
	Food and medicine	14	2.7%	7	2.3%
	Electronics	70	13.7%	39	12.6%
	Others (manufacturing)	10	2.0%	7	2.3%
	Others (non-manufacturing)	43	8.4%	27	8.7%
	Education and public institutions	17	3.3%	10	3.2%
Patent attorneys		27	5.3%	20	6.5%
Foreign-resident applicants		15	2.9%	0	0.0%
Anonymous respondents		116	22.7%	70	22.7%
Total		510	100.0%	309	100.0%

<sup>5</sup> Questionnaire **sheets A and C**, which were used in previous surveys, were replaced with **sheets 1 and 2** in the FY2020 survey. In **Table 3**, the response rates of **sheets 1 and 2** before and in FY2019 indicate those of **sheets A and C**.

<sup>6</sup> Due to rounding and other factors, the percentages may not add up to exactly 100%. The same applies to the percentages on the following pages.

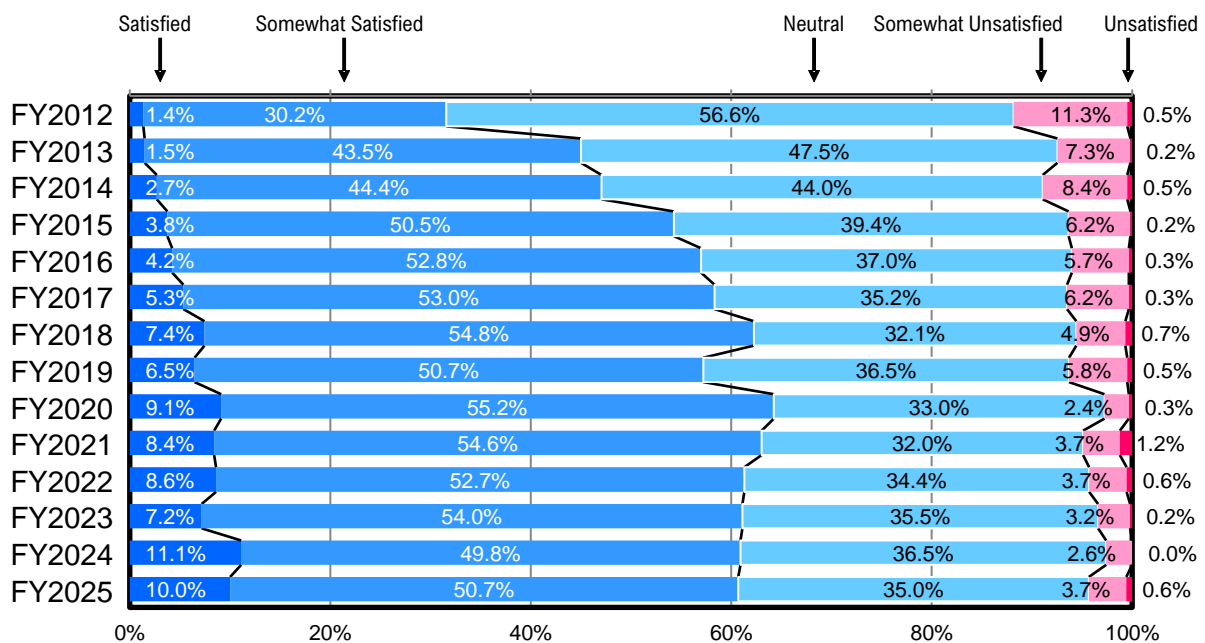
## 2. RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

### 2.1 Quality of the patent examination for national applications

#### 2.1.1 Overall quality

Responses to **Sheet 1** on the patent examination quality for national applications show that 60.7% of the respondents (compared to 60.9% in the previous survey) rated the overall patent examination quality positively<sup>7</sup>, and 95.7% (cf. 97.4%) rated it as "neutral" or higher. This overall evaluation indicates that not much has changed from the previous year.

**Fig. 1** shows year-to-year changes in the satisfaction level of the overall quality of patent examination for national applications<sup>8</sup>.



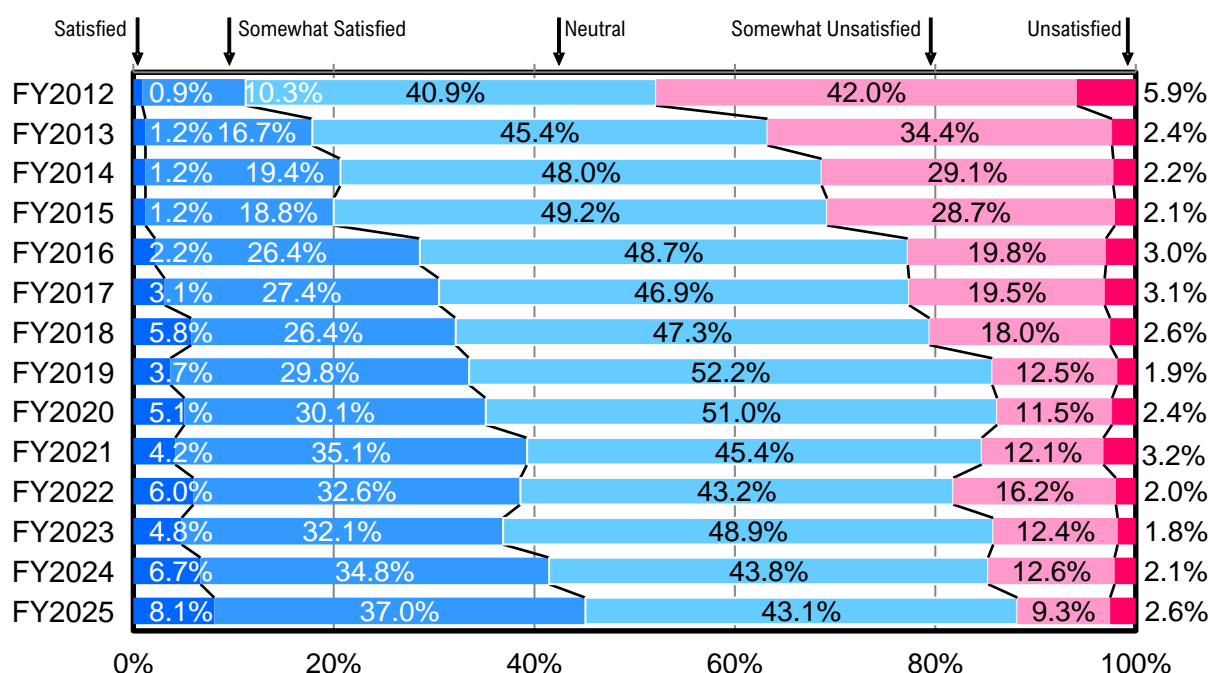
**Fig. 1:** Overall quality of patent examination for national applications

<sup>7</sup> A positive rating hereinafter means that they were either "Satisfied" or "Somewhat satisfied."

<sup>8</sup> In all figures showing year-to-year changes in this report, the vertical axis represents the fiscal year of the survey. Because the survey asks each year about user satisfaction with examinations conducted by the JPO in the previous fiscal year, the FY2025 survey covers examinations conducted in FY2024.

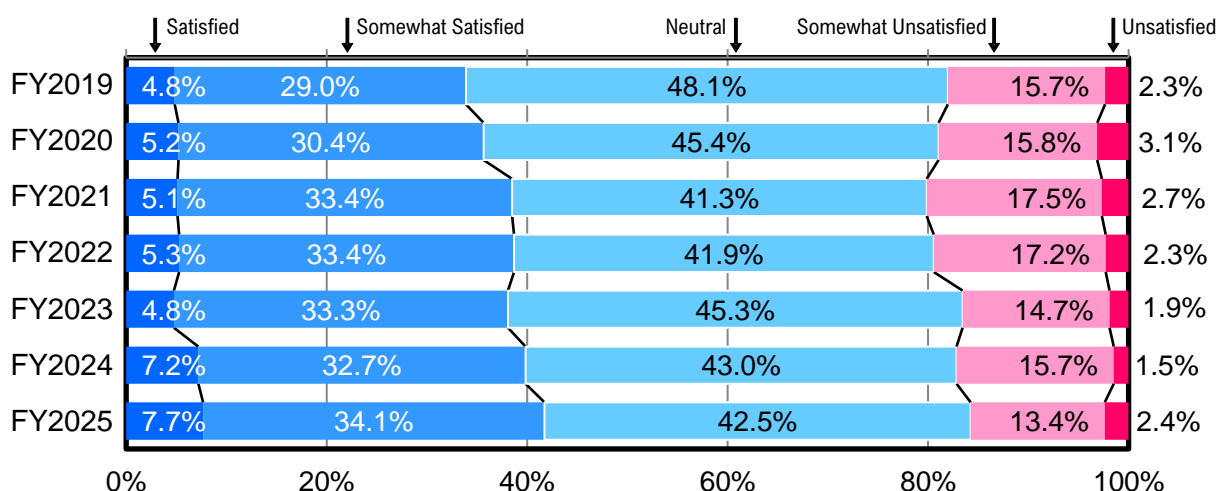
## 2.1.2 Consistency of judgments among examiners

Regarding "consistency of judgments among examiners," 45.1% of the respondents (cf. 41.5%) rated it positively, and 88.1% (cf. 85.3%) rated it as "neutral" or higher (see **Fig. 2**). The previous survey had identified this item as a priority issue<sup>9</sup> to be addressed.



**Fig. 2:** Consistency of judgments among examiners for national applications

Regarding "consistency of judgments among examiners on the Patent Act Article 29(2): inventive step," which is a sub-item of "consistency of judgments among examiners," 41.8% of the respondents (cf. 39.9%) rated it positively, and 84.2% (cf. 82.8%) rated it as "neutral" or higher (see **Fig. 3**). The previous survey had also identified this item as a priority issue.

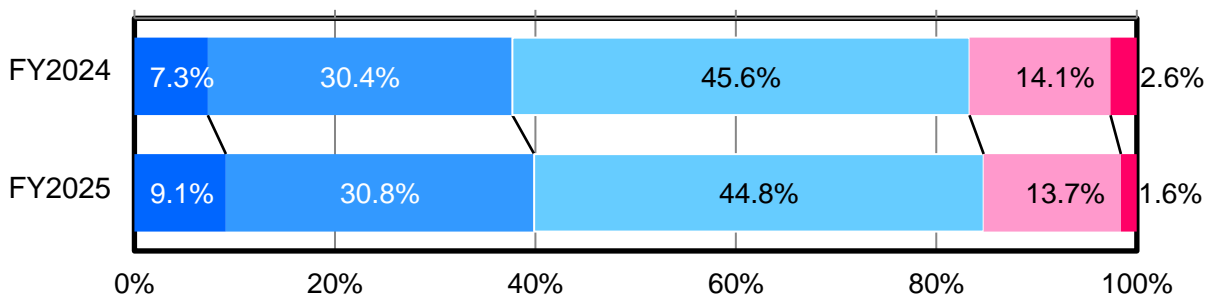
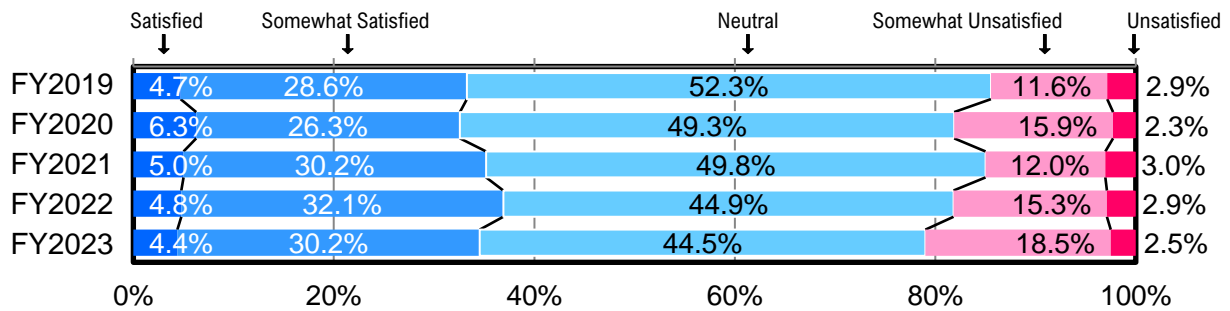


**Fig. 3:** Consistency of judgments among examiners on the Patent Act Article 29(2) "inventive step" for national applications

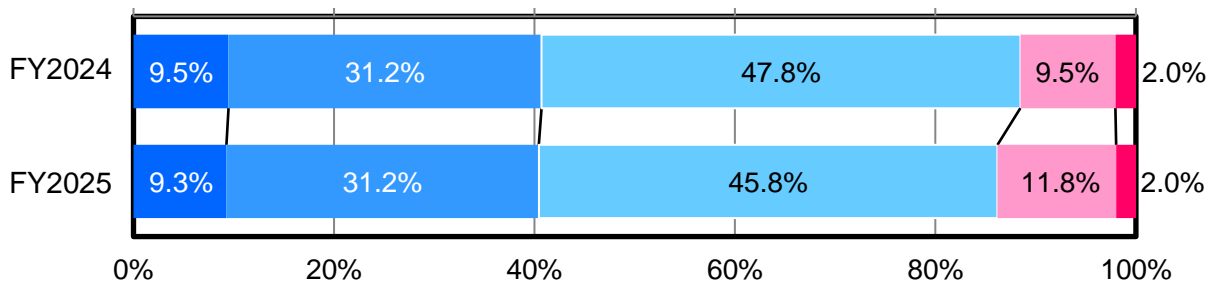
<sup>9</sup> A priority issue can be identified as an evaluation item that has low satisfaction level despite having a strong correlation with overall quality. See **Section 2.4**.



Another sub-item of "consistency of judgments among examiners" is "consistency of judgments among examiners on the Patent Act Article 36: description requirements," as shown in **Fig. 4**. Until the FY2023 survey, there was only one question about "description requirements." Starting with the FY2024 survey, however, this question will be divided into two: one regarding "enablement and support requirements" and another regarding "clarity requirements."



Patent Act Articles 36(4)(i) & 36(6)(i) "enablement & support requirements"



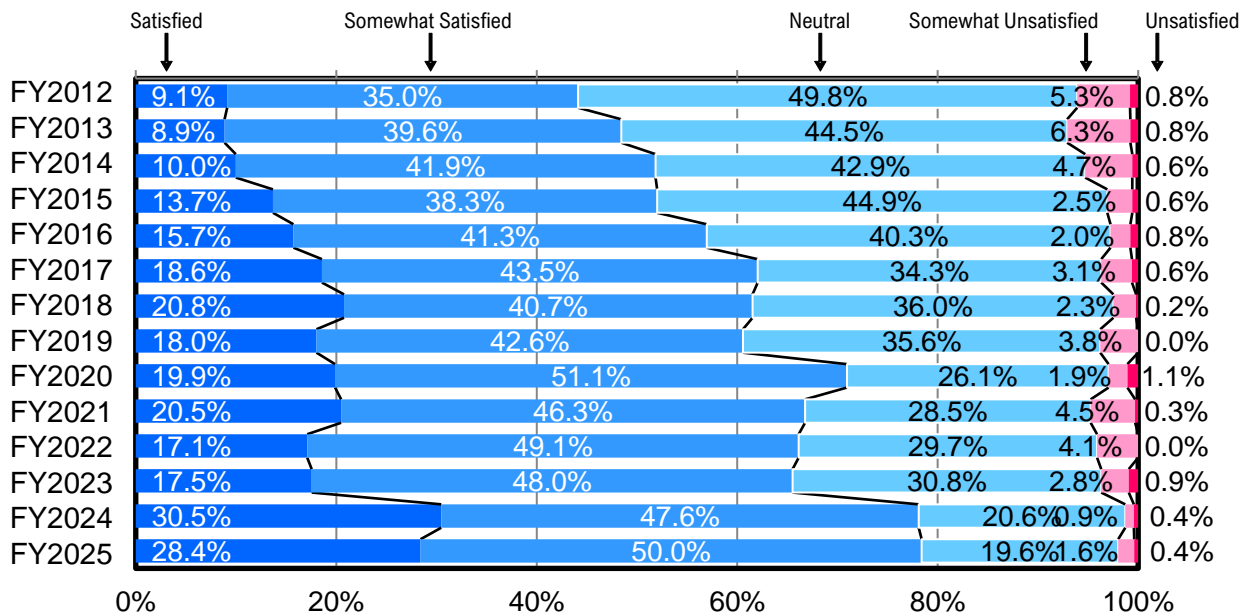
Patent Act Article 36(6)(ii) "clarity requirements"

**Fig. 4:** Consistency of judgments among examiners on the Patent Act Article 36 "description requirements" for national applications

Some respondents felt that there were discrepancies among examiners regarding the "inventive step," "support requirements," and "clarity requirements." Others felt that there were fewer discrepancies compared to other offices. These opinions were expressed in the free comment section.

### 2.1.3 Communication with examiners

Regarding "communication with examiners in face-to-face interviews and telephone conversations," 78.4% of the respondents (cf. 78.1%) rated it positively, and 98.0% (cf. 98.7%) rated it as "neutral" or higher (see **Fig. 5**). This item relates to the JPO's quantitative goals for patent examinations. The figure of 78.4% exceeds the JPO's goal of 65% or higher for FY2024.

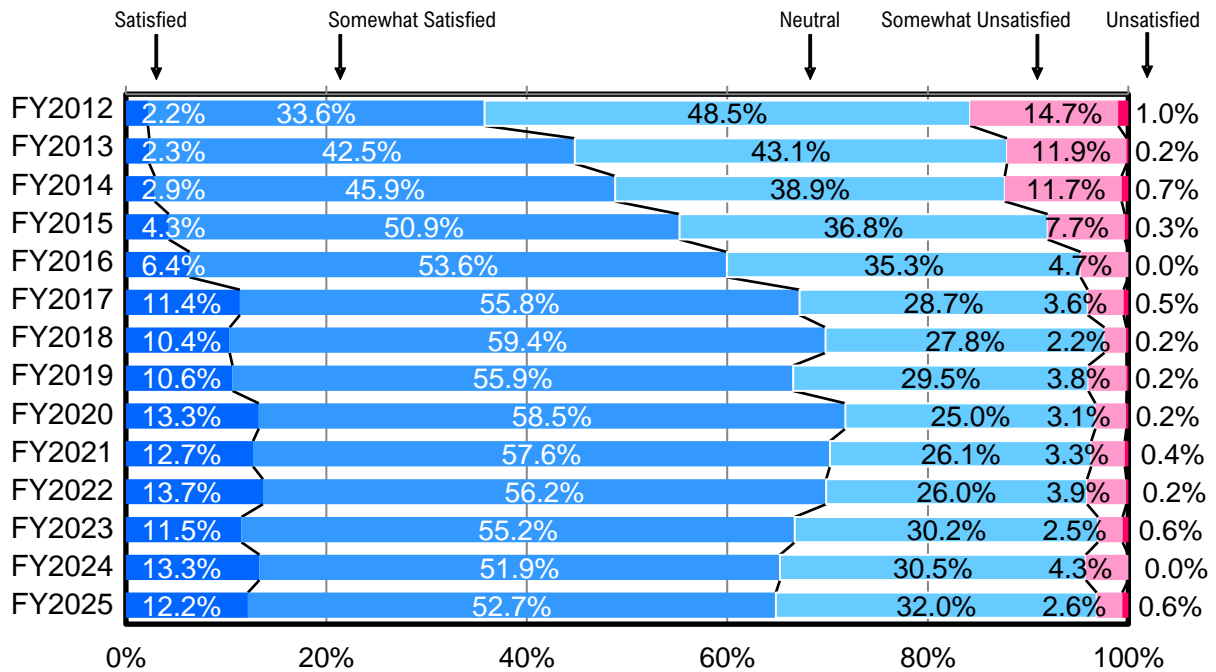


**Fig. 5:** Communication with examiners in face-to-face interviews and telephone conversations for national applications

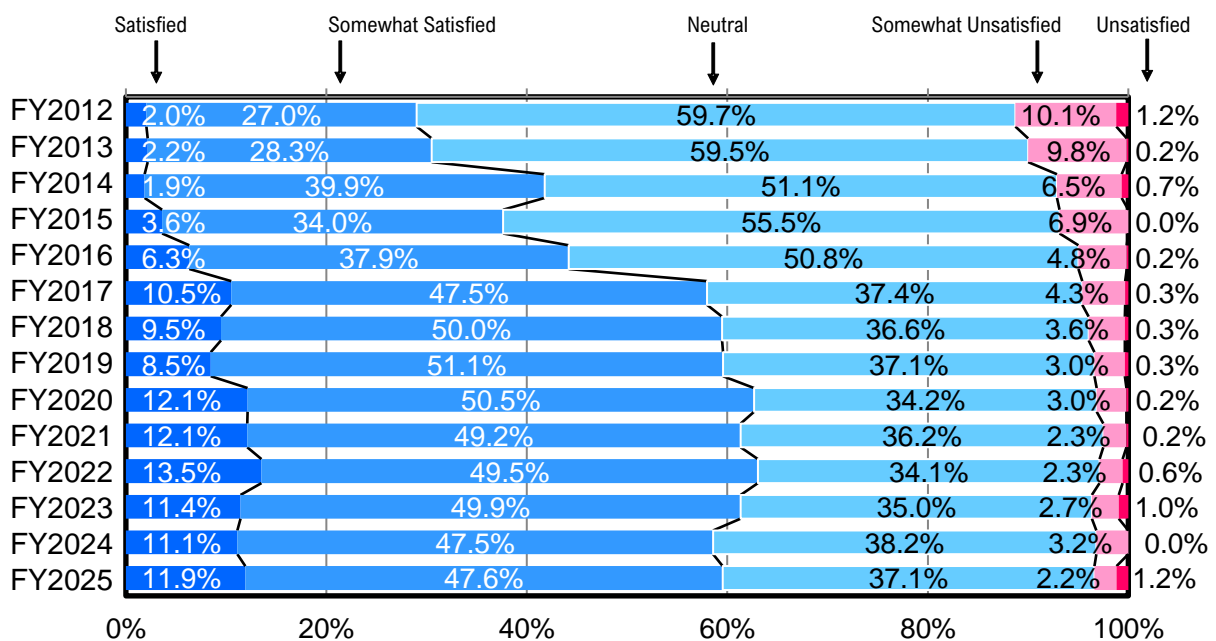
In the free comment section, many respondents gave positive evaluations of the thoughtful responses of the examiners, the usefulness of communicating with them, and their friendly offers of helpful suggestions.

## 2.1.4 Other evaluation items

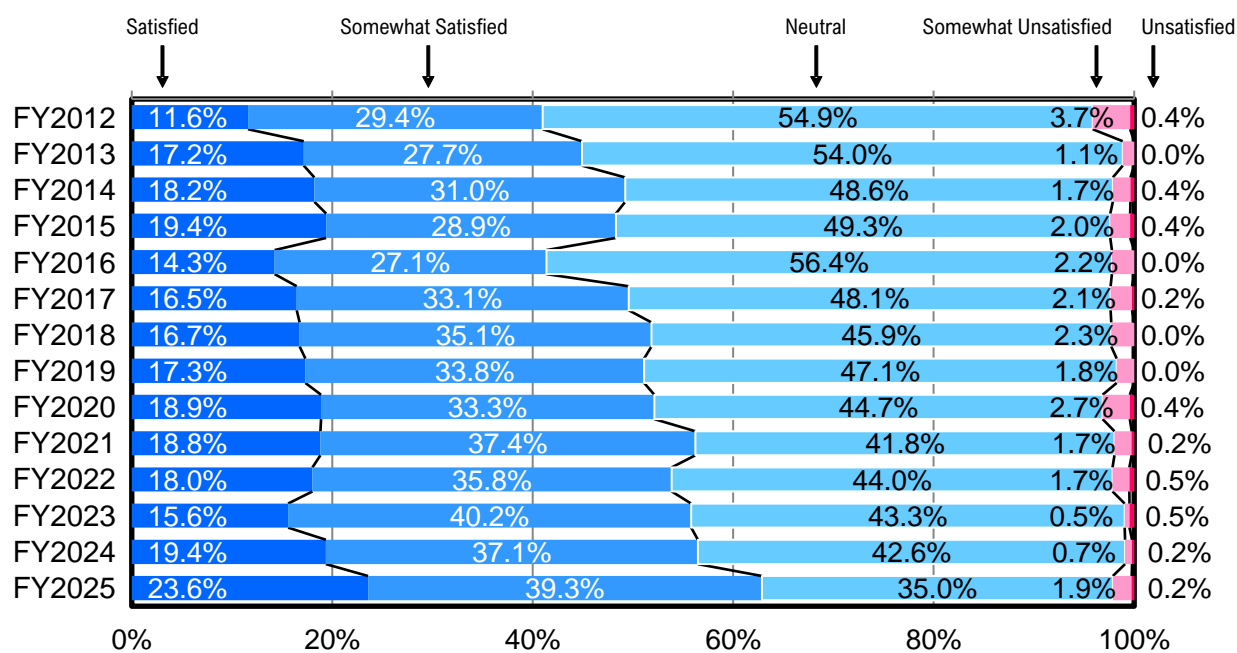
**Figs. 6 through 19** show year-to-year changes in the satisfaction level of other evaluation items on the quality of patent examination for national applications.



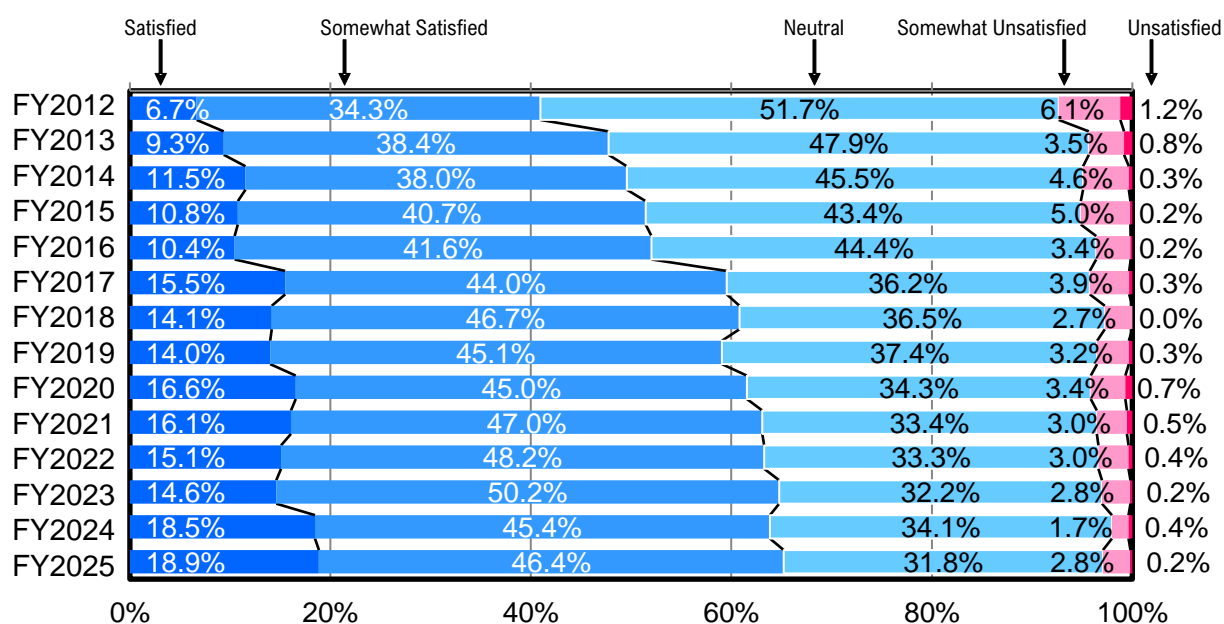
**Fig. 6:** Thorough and easy-to-understand description in notifications of reasons for refusal for national applications



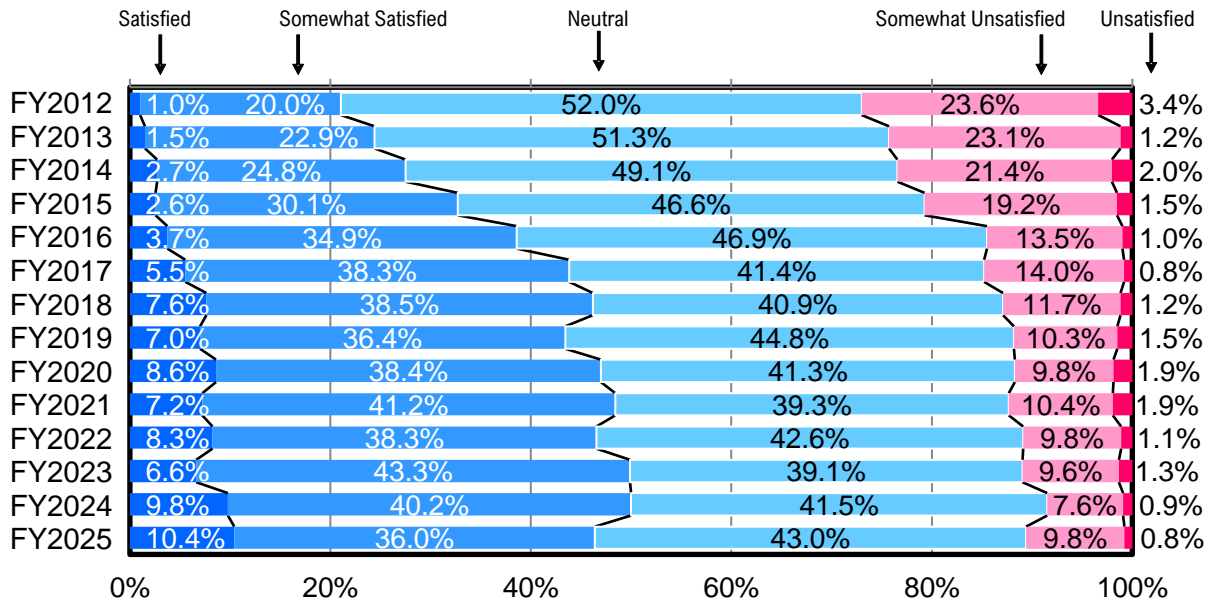
**Fig. 7:** Thorough and easy-to-understand description in decisions of refusal for national applications



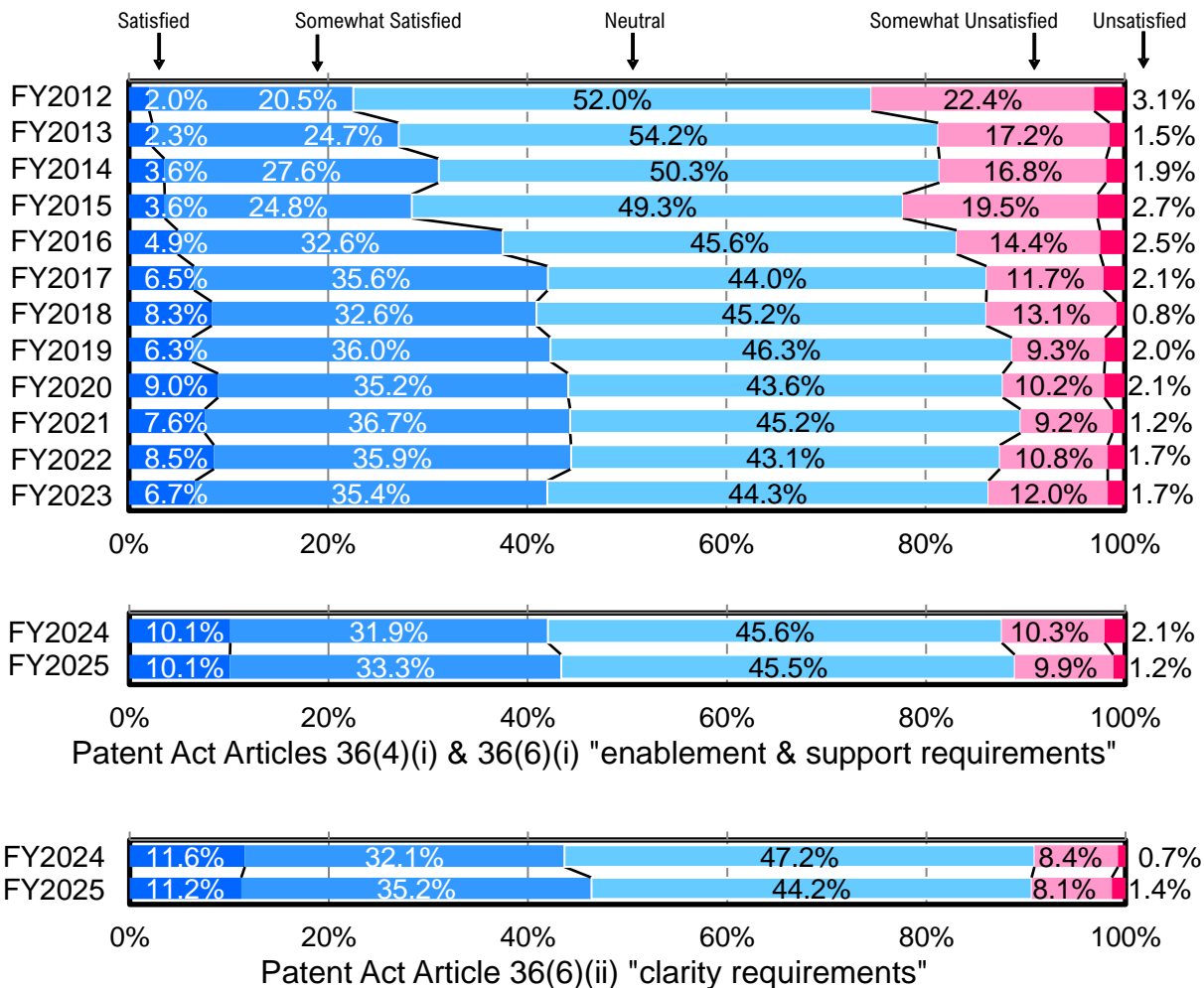
**Fig. 8:** Application of the main paragraph of the Patent Act Article 29(1) "eligibility for patent and industrial applicability" for national applications



**Fig. 9:** Application of the Patent Act Article 29(1) "novelty" for national applications

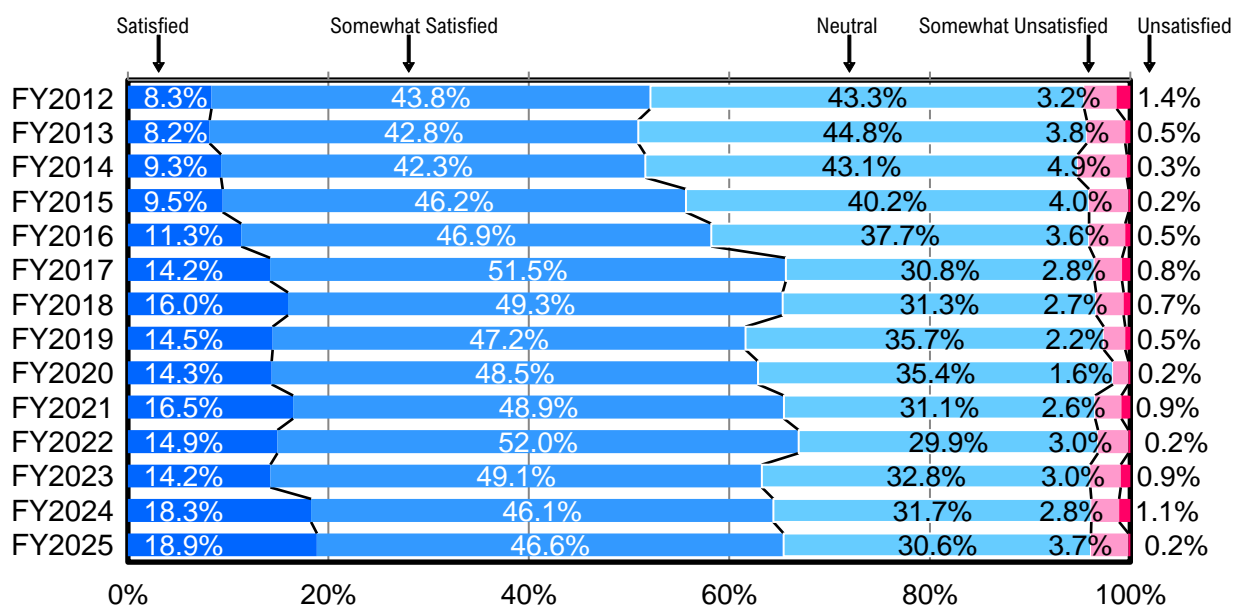


**Fig. 10:** Application of the Patent Act Article 29(2) "inventive step" for national applications

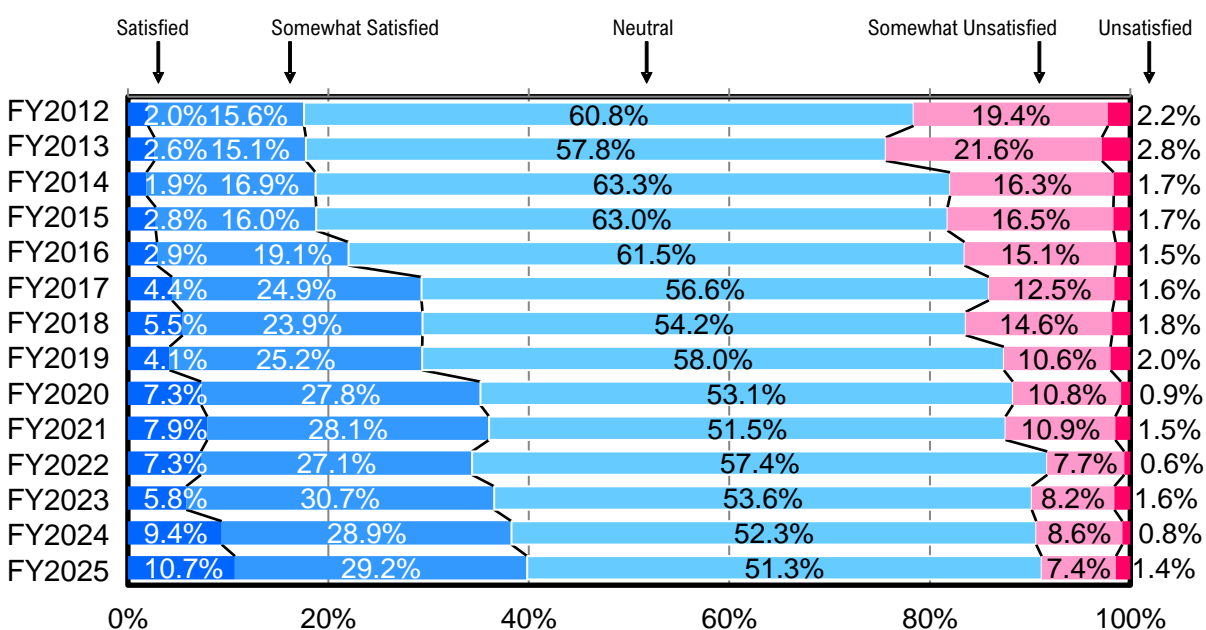


**Fig. 11:** Application of the Patent Act Article 36 "description requirements"<sup>10</sup> for national applications

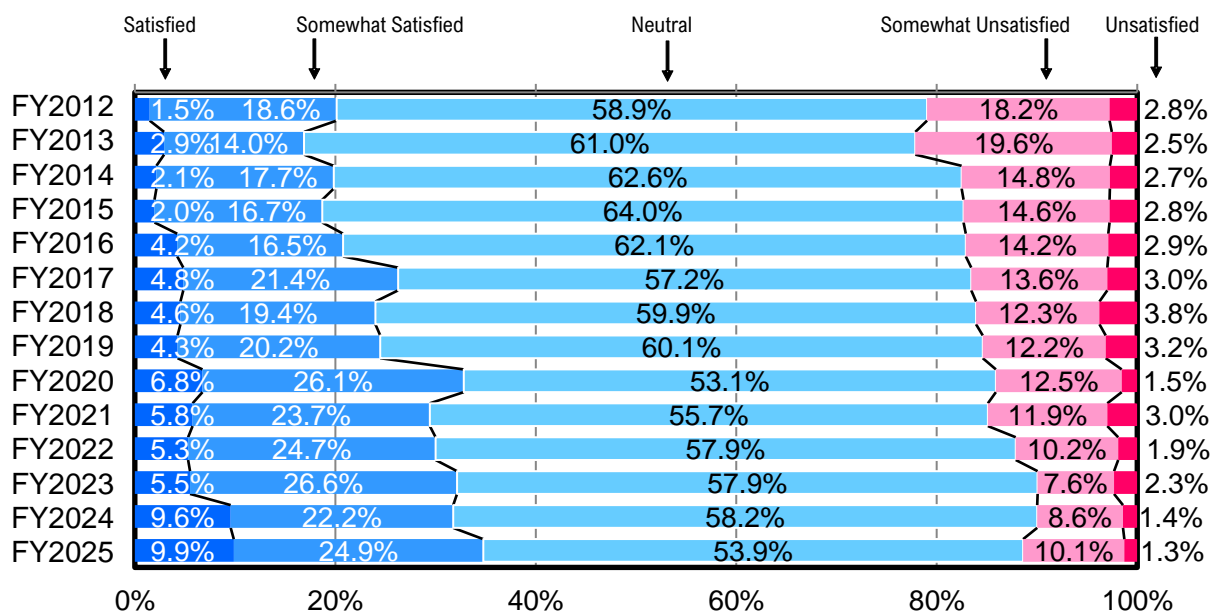
<sup>10</sup> Until the FY2023 survey, there was only one question about "description requirements." Starting with the FY2024 survey, this question will be divided into two: one regarding "enablement and support requirements" and another regarding "clarity requirements."



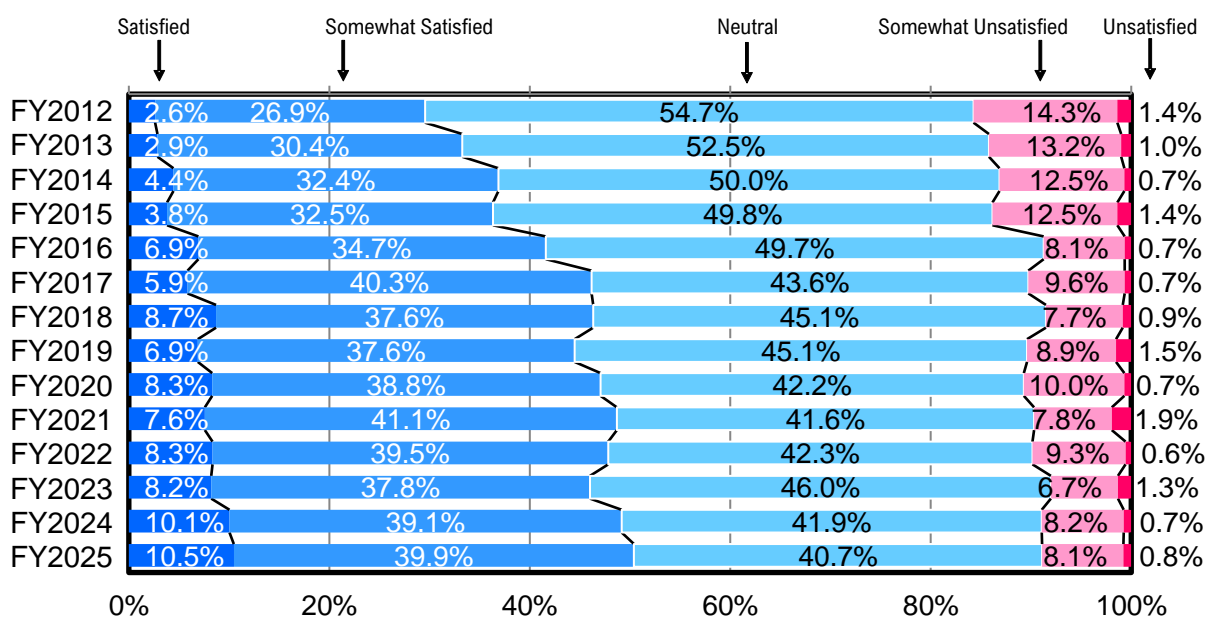
**Fig. 12:** Domestic patent literature searches for national applications



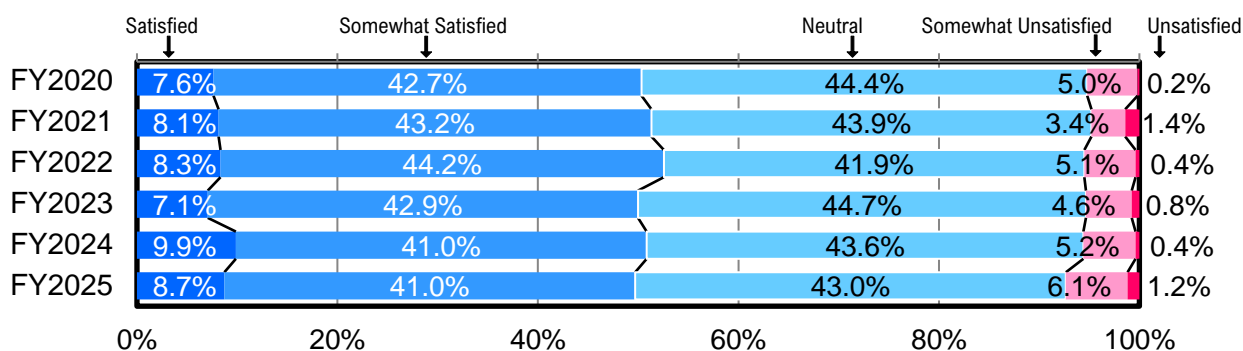
**Fig. 13:** Foreign patent literature searches for national applications



**Fig. 14:** Non-patent literature searches for national applications

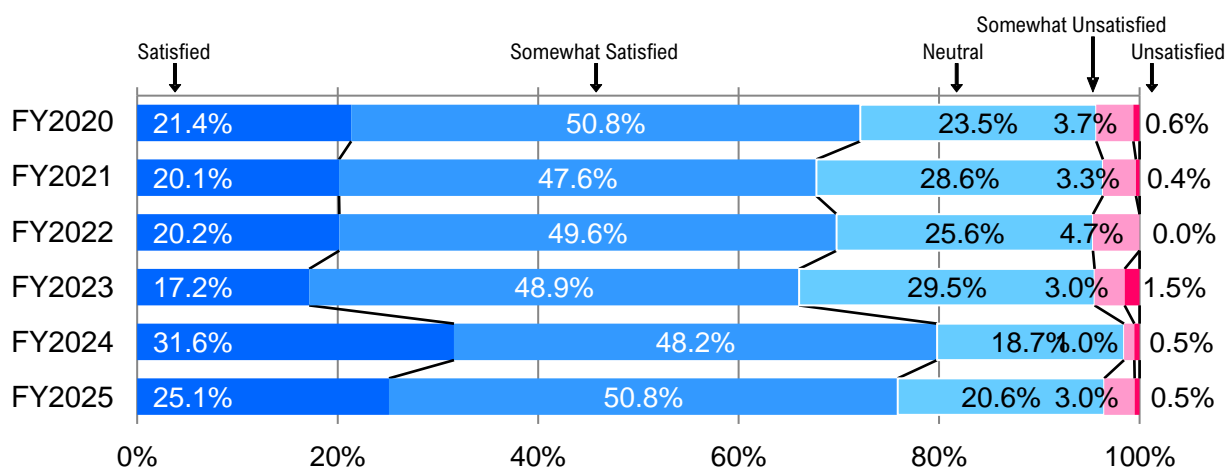


**Fig. 15:** Level of examiners' expertise in technical details for national applications

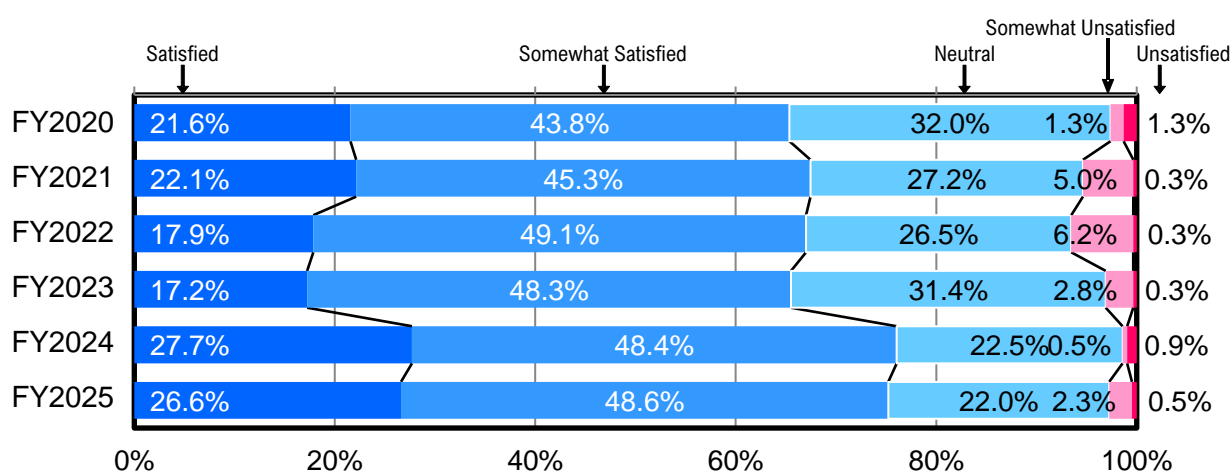


**Fig. 16:** Responses to written opinions for national applications

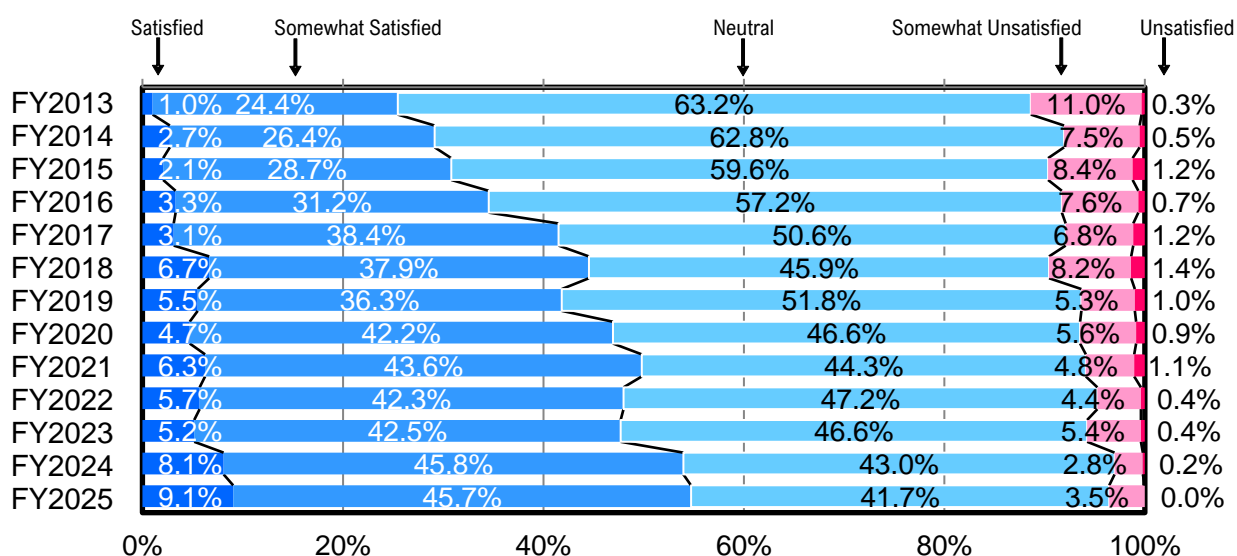




**Fig. 17:** Communication with examiners in face-to-face interviews for national applications



**Fig. 18:** Communication with examiners in telephone conversations for national applications



**Fig. 19:** Scope of patents granted after examination for national applications

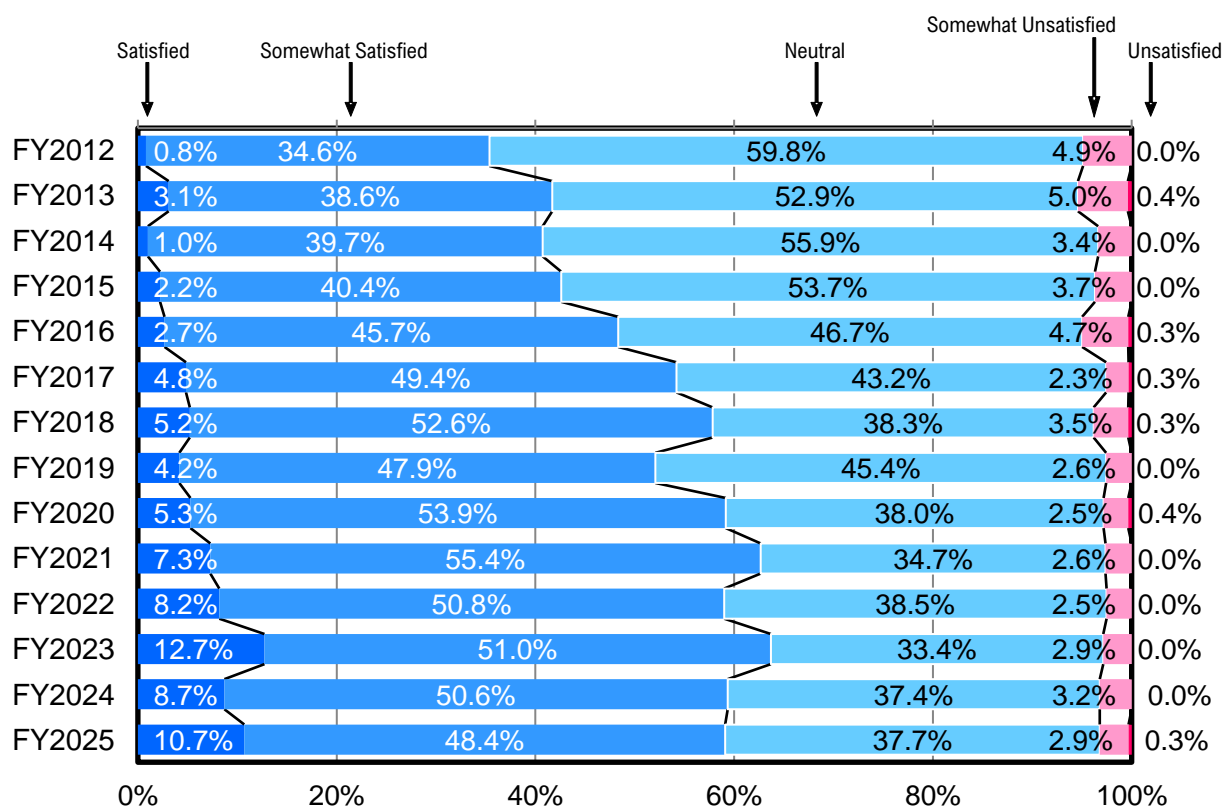


## 2.2 Quality of the international search and international preliminary examination at the JPO for PCT applications

### 2.2.1 Overall quality

Responses to **Sheet 2** on the international search and international preliminary examination at the JPO for PCT applications show that 59.1% of the respondents (compared to 59.4% in the previous survey) rated the overall quality positively, and 96.8% (cf. 96.8%) rated it as "neutral" or higher. This overall evaluation indicates that not much has changed from the previous year.

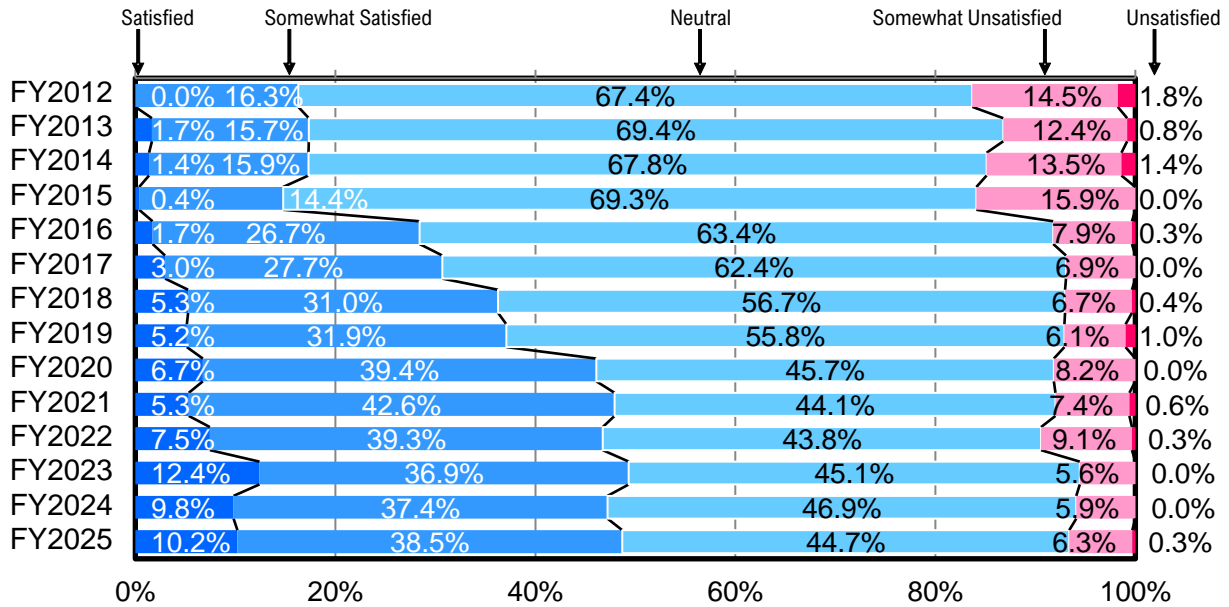
**Fig. 20** shows year-to-year changes in the satisfaction level of the overall quality of international search and international preliminary examination for PCT applications.



**Fig. 20:** Overall quality of international search and international preliminary examination at the JPO for PCT applications

### 2.2.2 Consistency of judgments in the international phase

Regarding "consistency of judgments in the international phase," 48.7% of the respondents (cf. 47.2%) rated it positively, and 93.4% (cf. 94.1%) rated it as "neutral" or higher (see **Fig. 21**).

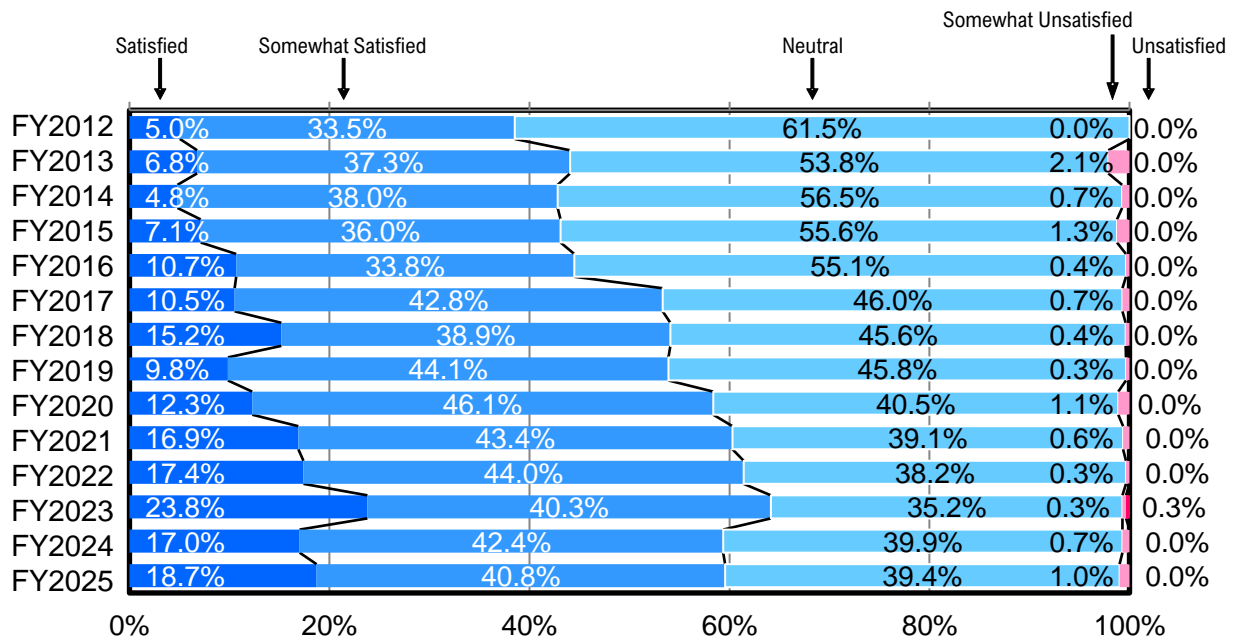


**Fig. 21:** Consistency of judgments in the international phase for PCT applications

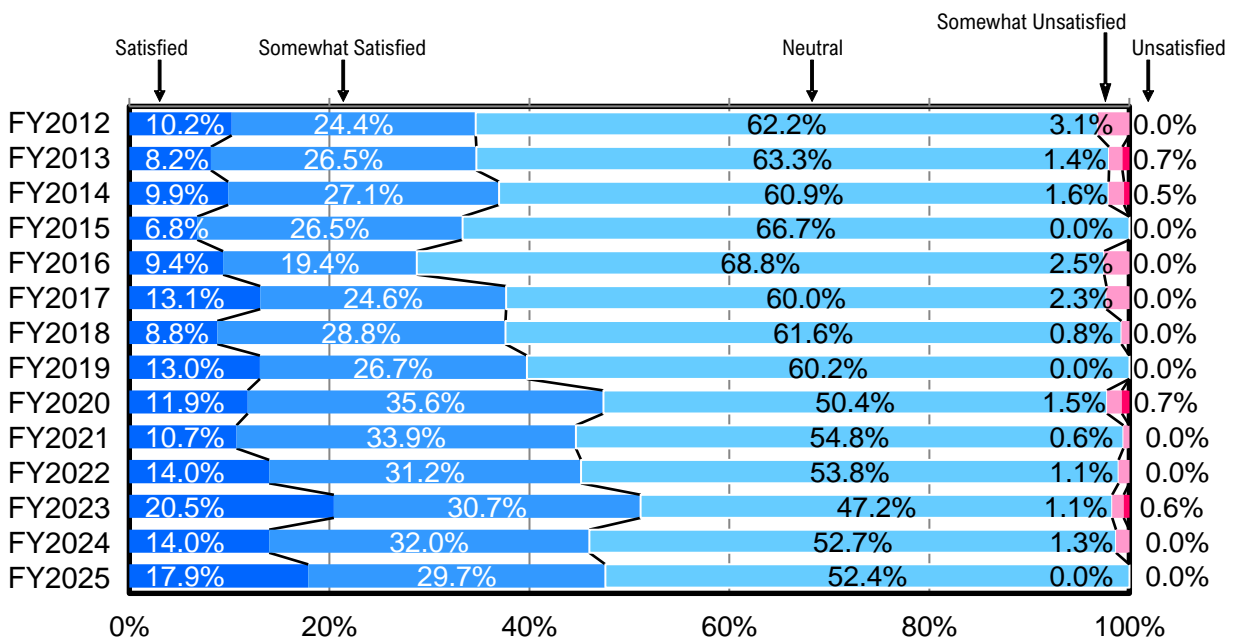
In the free comment section, some respondents noted inconsistencies in judgments among examiners, while others observed no significant inconsistencies and considered them to be within an acceptable range.

### 2.2.3 Other evaluation items

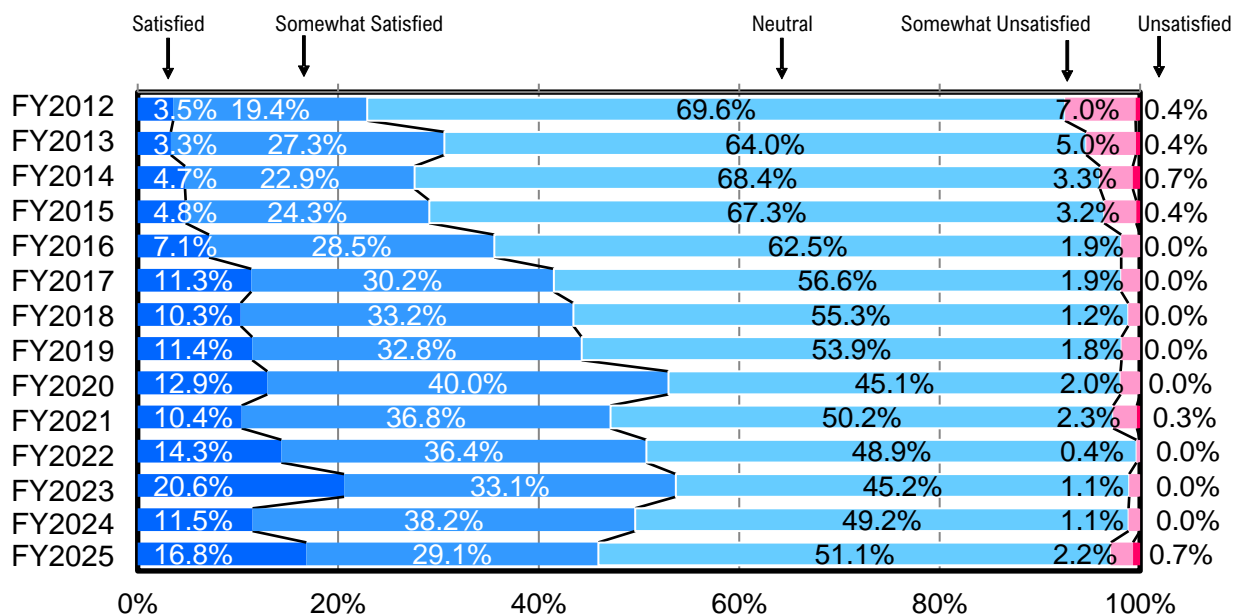
**Figs. 22 through 32** show year-to-year changes in the satisfaction level of other evaluation items on the quality of international search and international preliminary examination at the JPO for PCT applications.



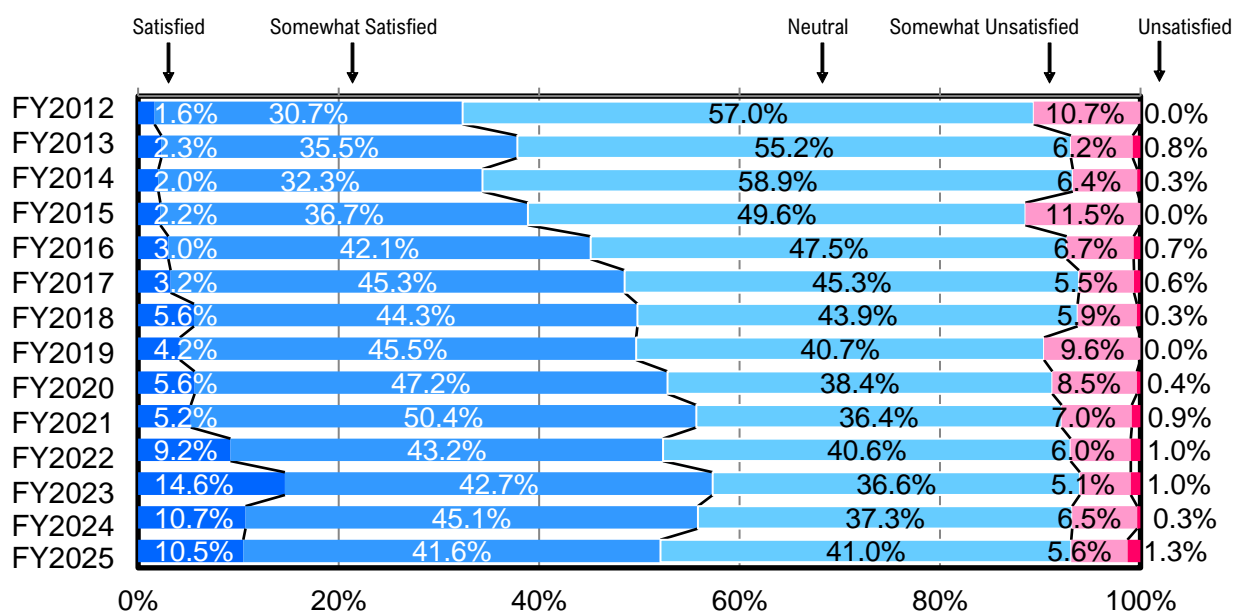
**Fig. 22:** IPC accuracy for PCT applications



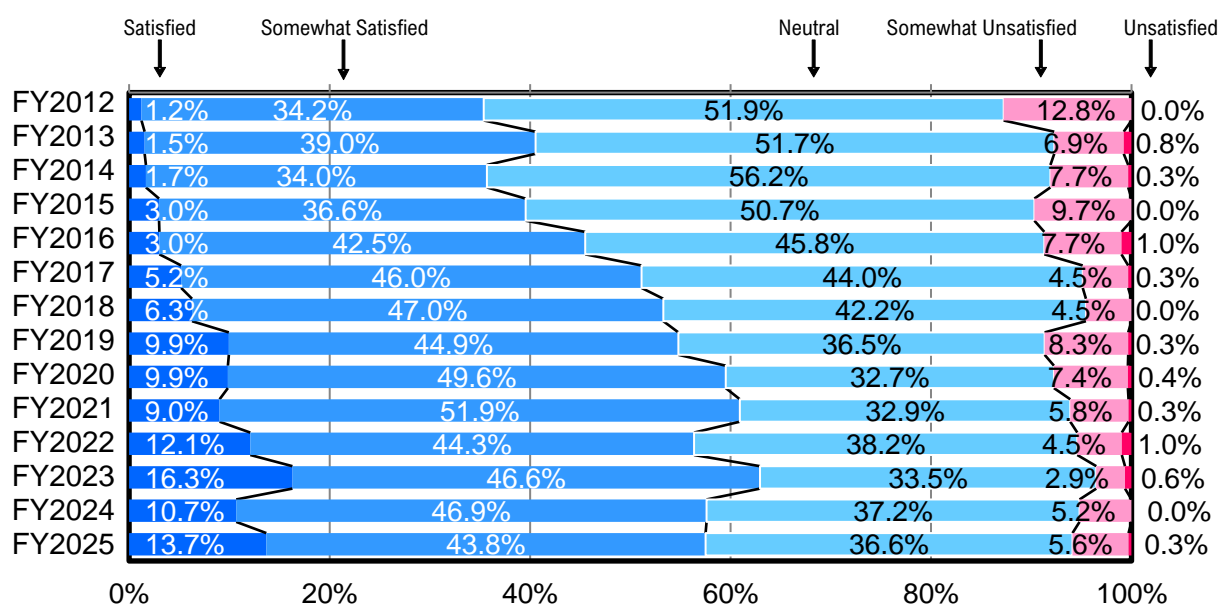
**Fig. 23:** Judgment on excluded subject matter from searches for PCT applications



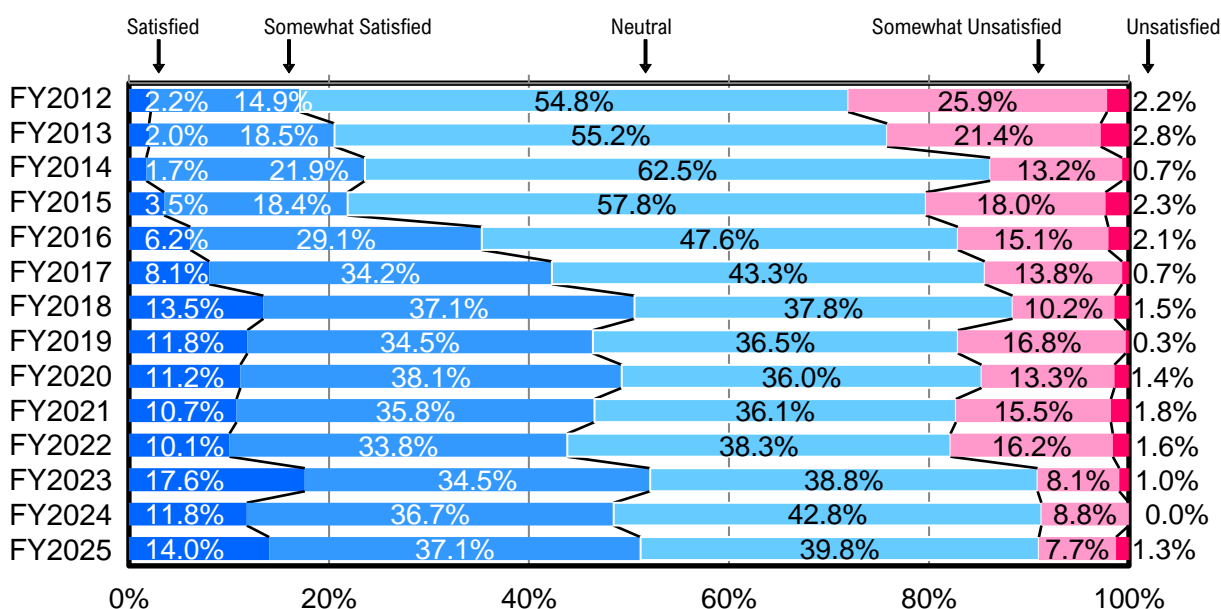
**Fig. 24:** Judgment on "unity of invention" for PCT applications



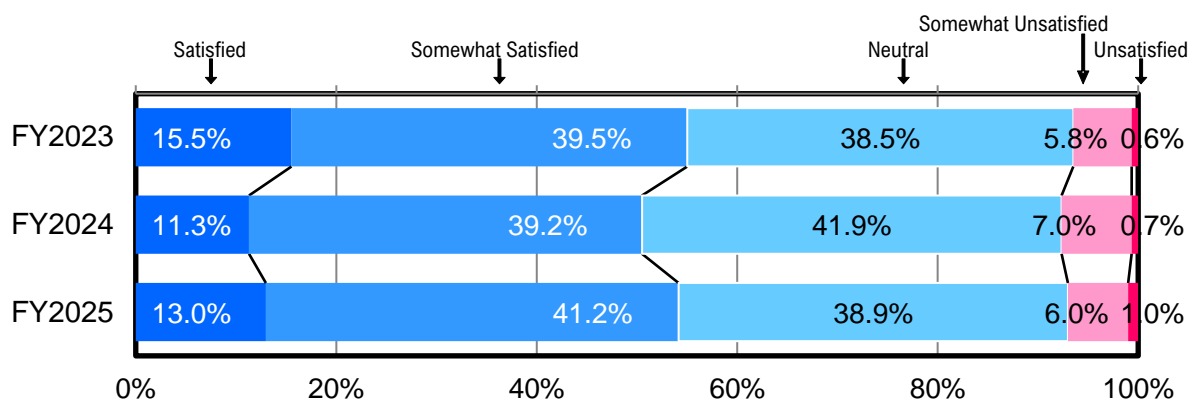
**Fig. 25:** Judgment on "novelty and inventive step" for PCT applications



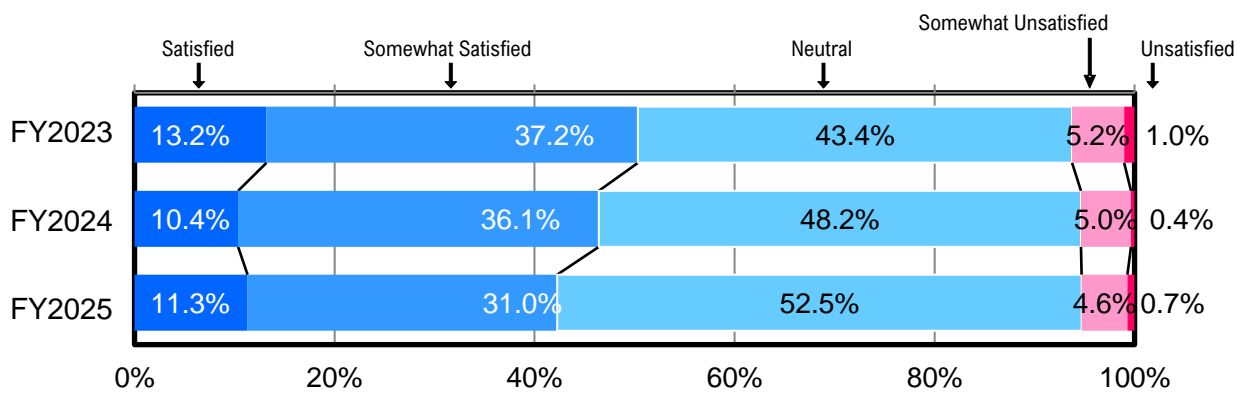
**Fig. 26:** Reasoned statement on "novelty and inventive step" for PCT applications



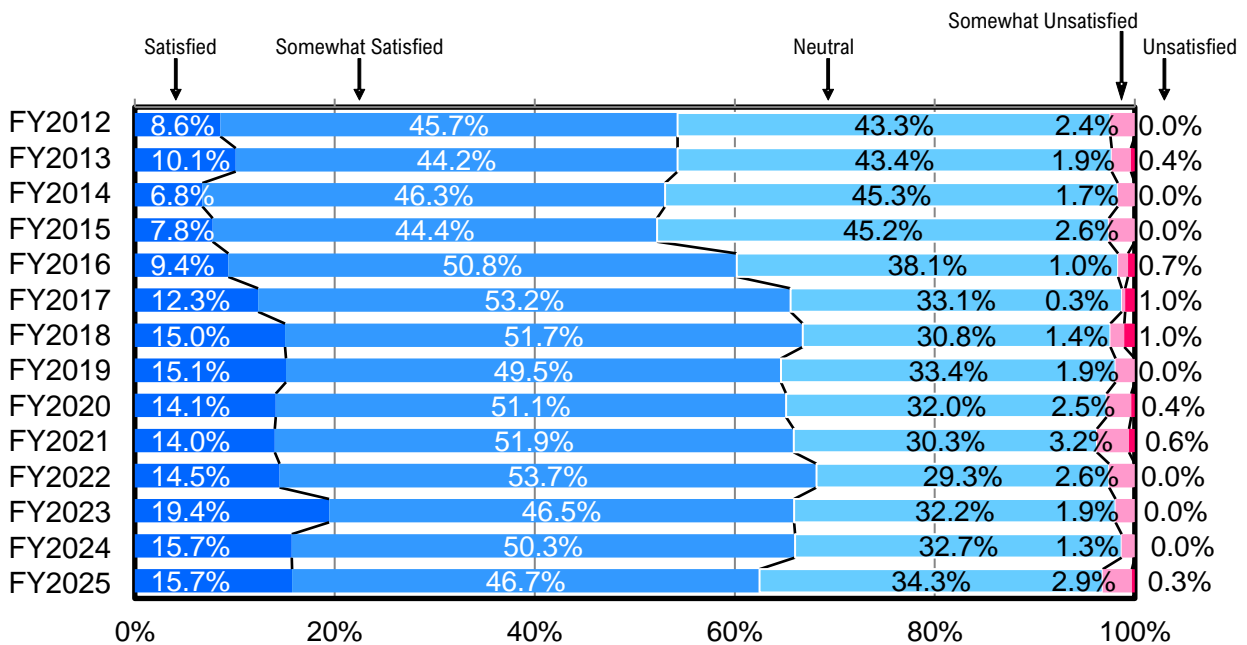
**Fig. 27:** Consistency of judgments in the international and national phases for PCT applications



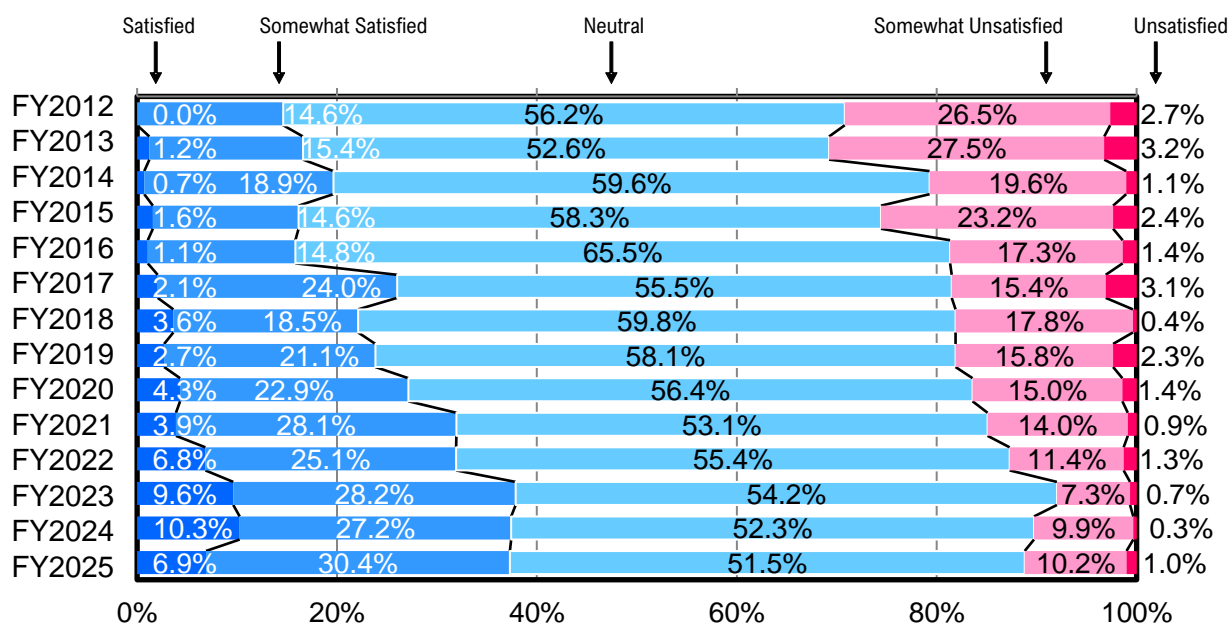
**Fig. 28:** Consistency of judgments in the international and national phases on "novelty and inventive step" for PCT applications



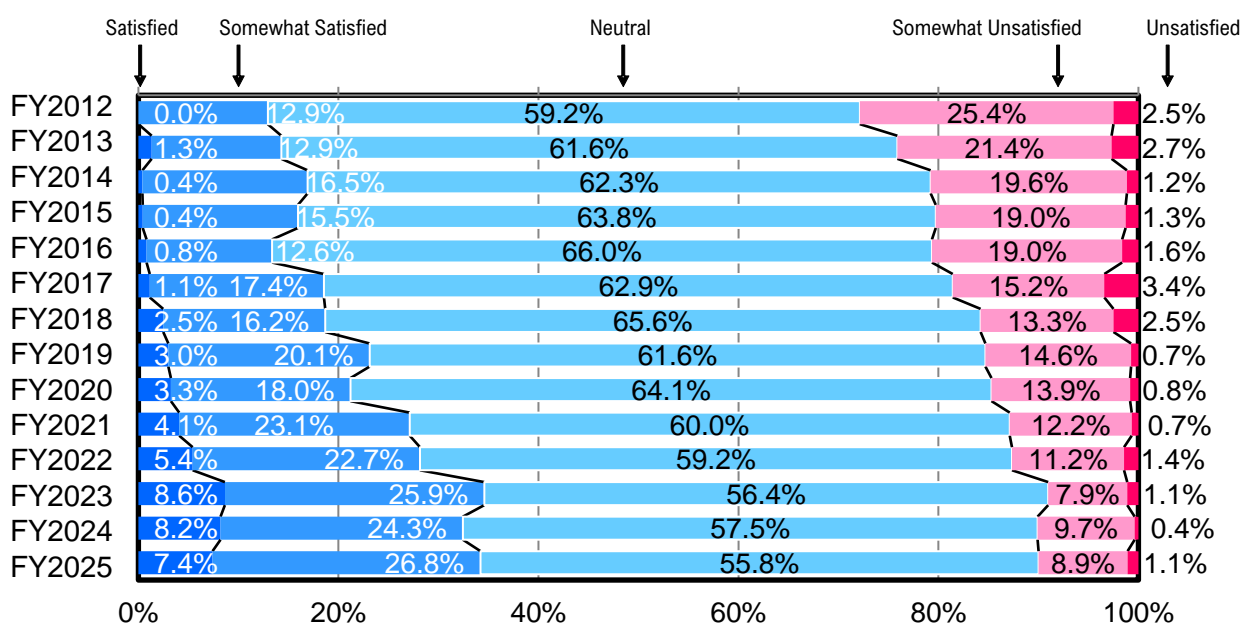
**Fig. 29:** Consistency of judgments in the international and national phases on description requirements for PCT applications



**Fig. 30:** Domestic patent literature searches for PCT applications



**Fig. 31:** Foreign literature searches for PCT applications



**Fig. 32:** Non-patent literature searches for PCT applications

## 2.3 Comparison with other national and regional patent offices

The survey asked multiple-choice questions on which of the IP5 offices was superior or preferable to the other offices for ten evaluation items in patent examination, including "thorough and easy-to-understand description in notifications of reasons for refusal," "judgment on the novelty and inventive step," and "prior art searches" (see **Table 5**, where JPO stands for the Japan Patent Office; USPTO is the United States Patent and Trademark Office; EPO is the European Patent Office; CNIPA is the China National Intellectual Property Administration; and KIPO is the Korean Intellectual Property Office).

The results showed that the JPO received the most support from the respondents for each evaluation item.

In the free comment section, some respondents noted that the JPO's examinations resulted in fewer inconsistent judgments compared to those of other offices.

**Table 5:** Offices that respondents rated as excellent or desirable in each evaluation item among the five patent offices<sup>11</sup>

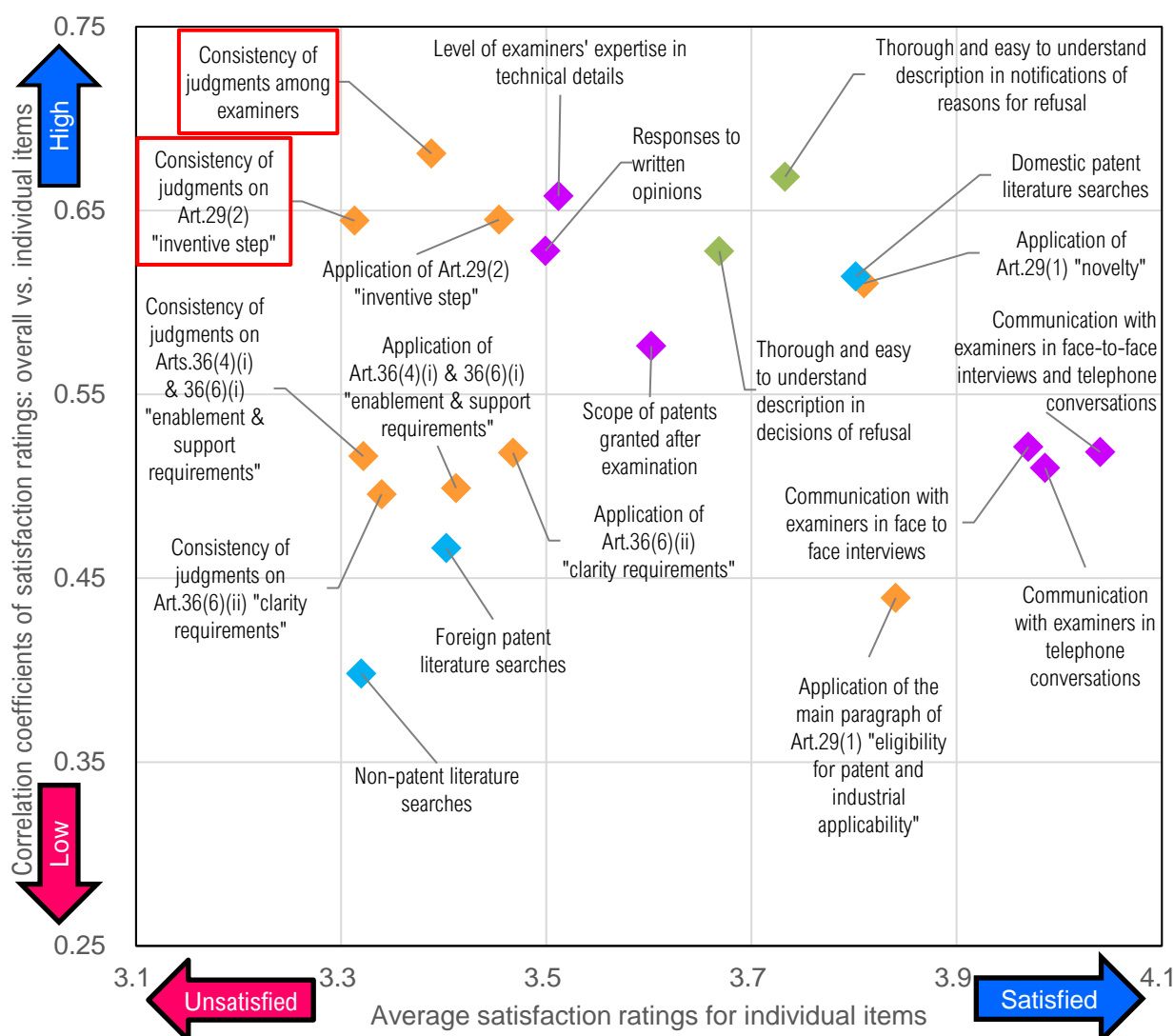
Evaluation Item	JPO	USPTO	EPO	CNIPA	KIPO
Thorough and easy-to-understand description in notifications of reasons for refusal	140 (43.2%)	44 (13.6%)	63 (19.4%)	37 (11.4%)	40 (12.3%)
Judgment on eligibility for patent and industrial applicability	89 (48.1%)	22 (11.9%)	33 (17.8%)	19 (10.3%)	22 (11.9%)
Judgment on novelty and inventive step	113 (42.2%)	24 (9.0%)	76 (28.4%)	26 (9.7%)	29 (10.8%)
Judgment on requirements for description and claims	88 (45.8%)	27 (14.1%)	39 (20.3%)	20 (10.4%)	18 (9.4%)
Consistency of judgments among examiners	112 (52.3%)	7 (3.3%)	67 (31.3%)	12 (5.6%)	16 (7.5%)
Prior art searches	94 (38.1%)	32 (13.0%)	79 (32.0%)	30 (12.1%)	12 (4.9%)
Level of examiners' expertise in technical details	109 (47.4%)	15 (6.5%)	64 (27.8%)	21 (9.1%)	21 (9.1%)
Responses to written opinions	109 (50.0%)	29 (13.3%)	43 (19.7%)	17 (7.8%)	20 (9.2%)
Communication with examiners in face-to-face interviews and telephone conversations	88 (52.7%)	46 (27.5%)	9 (5.4%)	13 (7.8%)	11 (6.6%)
Scope of patents granted after examination	104 (49.3%)	29 (13.7%)	35 (16.6%)	15 (7.1%)	28 (13.3%)

<sup>11</sup> The JPO counted the respondents to **Sheet 1** who did not select any office in response to the question, "If you do not have a sufficient number of applications examined by the office(s)," i.e., those who could compare across all five offices. The lower row of each cell in **Table 5** indicates the percentage of each response relative to the total number of responses counted.



## 2.4 Identification of priority issues within the evaluation items

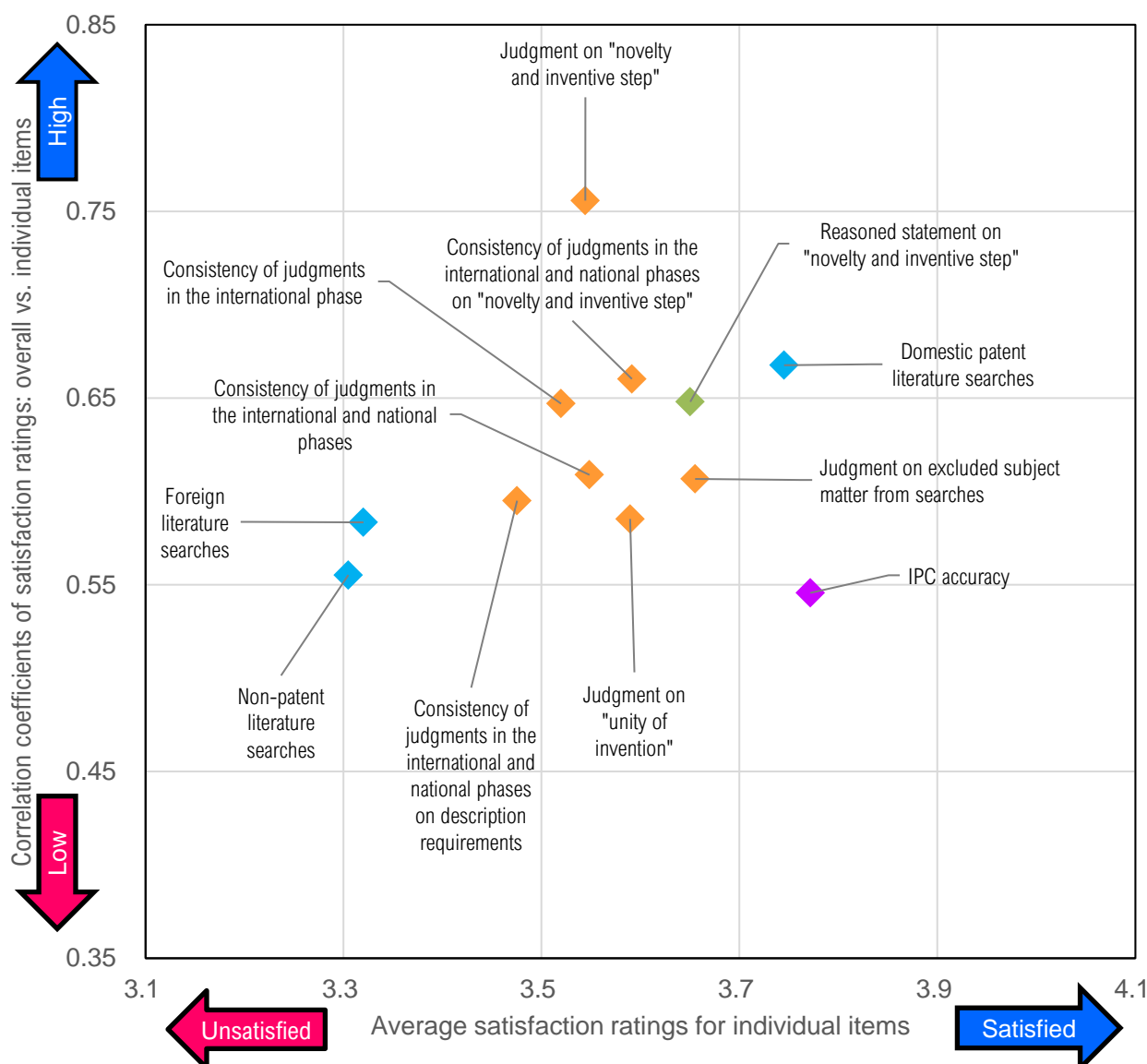
The analysis here uses correlation coefficients to quantify the relationship between overall satisfaction and satisfaction for each individual evaluation item. The survey rated the quality of patent examination for national applications using 20 items: **Fig. 33** plots each item's average satisfaction score<sup>12</sup> (horizontal axis) and its correlation with overall satisfaction (vertical axis). For PCT applications, 12 items were used, and **Fig. 34** presents similar data. In both figures, items on the left have lower ratings, while those at the top correlate more strongly with overall satisfaction, suggesting greater impact. The JPO prioritizes items in the upper left corner for improvement. In **Fig. 33**, two priority issues for national applications were identified: "consistency of judgments among examiners" and "consistency of judgments among examiners on Patent Act Article 29(2): inventive step."



**Fig. 33:** Average satisfaction ratings for individual evaluation items and correlation coefficients of satisfaction ratings between the overall and individual items (national applications)<sup>13</sup>

<sup>12</sup> The average satisfaction score, ranging from 1 to 5, is calculated from the five-level ratings: "satisfied" gives 5, "somewhat satisfied" gives 4, "neutral" gives 3, "somewhat unsatisfied" gives 2, and "unsatisfied" gives 1.

<sup>13</sup> This figure has been simplified and no longer shows changes from the previous survey results. Each evaluation item is labeled in a simplified form. Light blue dots indicate items from prior art searches, orange dots indicate items from examiner judgments, green dots indicate items from descriptions in notices, and purple dots indicate other items.



**Fig. 34:** Average satisfaction ratings for individual evaluation items and correlation coefficients of satisfaction ratings between the overall and individual items (PCT applications)<sup>14</sup>

<sup>14</sup> This figure has been simplified and no longer shows changes from the previous survey results. Light blue dots indicate evaluation items from prior art searches, orange dots indicate items from examiner judgments, a green dot indicates an item from reasoned statements, and a purple dot indicates the other item.

### **3. SYNOPSIS IN BRIEF**

Regarding the overall quality of the patent examination for national applications in the FY2025 survey, 60.7% of the respondents (compared to 60.9% in the previous survey) rated it positively, and 95.7% (compared to 97.4% in the previous survey) rated it as "neutral" or higher. This overall evaluation indicates that not much has changed from the previous year.

Based on the satisfaction scores of individual evaluation items and their correlation with the overall satisfaction score, the JPO considers that "consistency of judgments among examiners" and "consistency of judgments among examiners on Patent Act Article 29(2): inventive step" remain priority issues.

Regarding the overall quality of the international search and international preliminary examination at the JPO for PCT applications in the FY2025 survey, 59.1% of the respondents (compared to 59.4% in the previous survey) rated the overall quality positively, and 96.8% (compared to 96.8% in the previous survey) rated it as "neutral" or higher. This overall evaluation indicates that not much has changed from the previous year.

### **4. NEXT STEP**

While making steady progress in current examination quality improvement measures and initiatives, the JPO will address issues such as "consistency of judgements among examiners" identified in this survey with the help of its other series of survey results.

The results of this survey will be the basis for discussions on what to improve in the implementation status and quality management system in the Subcommittee on Examination Quality Management under the Intellectual Property Committee of the Industrial Structure Council.

The JPO will continue the survey in the coming years to further understand the needs of users. The JPO may also review and improve the timing and method of the survey, methods for selecting targets to be surveyed, and survey questions, among other things.

# APPENDIX: QUESTIONNAIRE SHEET 1

Please note that this report does not include an English translation of Sheet 2. As indicated in Table 2 of the main text, Sheet 2 was intended for domestic targets only, and the English version was never used in the actual survey.

[Patent (Sheet 1)] Overall Quality of Patent Examination on National Applications								
<b>Respondent Information</b>								
Company/Corporate name								
*If this field is left blank, your response will be treated as anonymous.								
Contact Information	Name							
	TEL							
	E-mail							
*We may contact you to clarify your response.								
<b>Please answer the questions [1] to [4], according to your experience in the patent examination process (excluding appeal examination) at the JPO in Fiscal Year 2024*.</b> <span style="float: right; font-size: small;">*From April 2024 to March 2025, hereinafter FY2024.</span>								
[1] How would you rate the overall quality of patent examination at the JPO in FY2024? <b>[Required]</b>		Satisfied 5	Somewhat Satisfied 4	Neutral 3	Somewhat Unsatisfied 2	Unsatisfied 1	TBD	
		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
[2] How would you rate the following items in patent examination at the JPO in FY2024? <b>[All items are required]</b>		Satisfied 5	Somewhat Satisfied 4	Neutral 3	Somewhat Unsatisfied 2	Unsatisfied 1	Not Sure / No Experience	
1. Thorough and easy-to-understand description in notifications of reasons for refusal		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	TBD
2. Thorough and easy-to-understand description in decision of refusal		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	TBD
3. Application of the clauses	3-1. eligibility for patent and industrial applicability the main paragraph of Article 29 (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	TBD
	3-2. Novelty Article 29 (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	TBD
	3-3. Inventive step Article 29 (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	TBD
	3-4. Support Requirement and Enablement Requirement Article 36 (4) (i) and Article 36 (6) (i)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	TBD
	3-5. Clarity Requirement Article 36 (6) (ii)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	TBD
4. Consistency of judgments among examiners		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	TBD
	4-1. Inventive step Article 29 (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	TBD
	4-2. Support Requirement and Enablement Requirement Article 36 (4) (i) and Article 36 (6) (i)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	TBD
	4-3. Clarity Requirement Article 36 (6) (ii)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	TBD
		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	TBD
5. Prior art searches	5-1. Domestic patent literature searches	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	TBD
	5-2. Foreign patent literature searches	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	TBD
	5-3. Non-patent literature searches	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	TBD
6. Level of examiners' expertise in technical details		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	TBD
7. Responses to written opinions		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	TBD
Have you communicated directly with examiners in face-to-face interviews and/or telephone conversations in FY2024? Please rate 8.~8-2. only if you answered "Yes" above.		<input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO					TBD	
8. Communication with examiners in face-to-face interviews and/or telephone conversations		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	TBD
8-1. Communication with examiners in face-to-face interviews		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	TBD
8-2. Communication with examiners in telephone conversations		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	TBD
9. Scope of patents granted after examination ※whether the scope of granted patent is sufficient or not, in view of the contents of the application and prior art		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	TBD
		5	4	3	2	1	Not Sure / No Experience	
There are required items that have not been answered.		Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Unsatisfied	Unsatisfied		

**Please provide specific cases, if any, behind your evaluations of the items in [2] above.**

**[Voluntary]**

\*If available, please include application numbers to easily identify the case, whether it is your own or someone else's.

\*If you have multiple cases to share, please enter them consecutively in the same box.

\*For "Consistency of judgments among examiners," please provide as many cases as possible, including ones to be compared with.

We would appreciate your understanding and cooperation in providing feedback to the examiner in charge of your case, including the application number and the content of your comments, for the purpose of improving quality.

Please tick the box on the right if you do not want it.

\*With or without a tick, the response information will be shared with relevant examination divisions as management-only information.

☐ No feedback to the examiner in charge

**[3] We would like to ask you about the quality of patent examinations at the five IP offices. [Voluntary]**

**1) Please tick the box(es) below if you do not have a sufficient number of applications examined by the Office(s) to make a meaningful comparison.**

JPO	USPTO	EPO	CNIPA	KIPO
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**2) Please select all Offices you think are superior at (or preferable for) the following items in patent examinations.**

\*You don't need to consider the Offices you checked above.

\*Please leave all boxes unchecked if you feel that no office is superior at any item or if you are unable to compare.

	JPO	USPTO	EPO	CNIPA	KIPO
1. Thorough and easy-to-understand description in notifications of reasons for refusal and decision of refusal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Judgment on eligibility for patent and industrial applicability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Judgment on novelty/inventive step	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Judgment on requirements for description and claims	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Consistency of judgments among examiners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prior art searches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Level of examiners' expertise in technical details	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Responses to written opinions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Communication with examiners in face-to-face interviews and telephone conversations Please leave the box(es) unchecked if you did not communicate with examiners in face-to-face interviews or telephone conversations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Scope of patents granted after examination whether the scope of granted patent is sufficient or not, in view of the contents of the application and prior art	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

JPO: Japan, USPTO: United States, EPO: Europe, CNIPA: China, KIPO: Korea

**[4] Please provide any comments/requests/suggestions regarding the quality of patent examination on national applications. [Voluntary]**

**Follow-up survey on your response**

We may do a follow-up survey to understand circumstances behind your response, which will lead to improvement of the quality of patent examination. Please tick the box on the right if you do not wish to take the survey.

☐ No follow-up survey

**There are required items that have not been answered.**