



THE ISO SURVEY OF MANAGEMENT SYSTEM STANDARD CERTIFICATIONS – 2017 – EXPLANATORY NOTE

Background

The ISO Survey of Certifications is an annual survey of the number of valid certificates to ISO management system standards worldwide.

In order to compile the information in this survey, we contact accredited* certification bodies and request information about the number of valid certificates they have as at 31 December 2017. (ISO itself does not perform certification and therefore does not issue certificates). This results in the most comprehensive overview of certifications to these standards currently available, despite the fluctuations in the number of certificates from year to year due to differences in the number of participating certification bodies and the number of certificates they report.

Results

The detailed results for each standard are available on [ISO website](#).

The decrease of ISO 9001 total and country variations are explained after the table.

	Number of certificates in 2016	Number of certificates in 2017	Change	Change in %
ISO 9001	1 105 937	1 058 504	-47 433	-4
ISO 14001	346 147	362 610	16 463	5
ISO 50001	20 216	21 501	1 285	6
ISO 27001	33 290	39 501	6 211	19
ISO 22000	32 139	32 722	583	2
ISO 13485	29 585	31 520	1 935	7
ISO 22301	3 853	4 281	428	11
ISO 20000-1	4 537	5 005	468	10
ISO 28000	356	494	138	39
ISO 39001	478	620	142	30
TOTAL	1 576 538	1 556 758	-19 780	-1

* Accredited certification bodies are those that have been independently evaluated by accreditation body members of the [IAF](#), the world association of conformity assessment accreditation bodies

Participation of certification bodies

The number of certification bodies participating was very similar as that for the 2016 edition, including all the large international ones, as for previous years. For all countries, the majority of the data comes from the same certification bodies as last year. There were a small number of bodies that failed to participate, having a slight impact on the total, however these were only those that provide relatively small amounts of data.

Variation in the data provided

Each year, it is the large international certification bodies that report a high proportion of the number of certificates issued, however, for a few of them, their data fluctuates from one year

to another to a relatively large extent. Before publishing the results, ISO asks them to explain those fluctuations and, while some are real changes coming from the market, others are due to changes in the way the data was reported. This year, the majority of those fluctuations originate from changes in the reporting and have had a significant impact on the overall results, in particular for ISO 9001.

Countries impacted

The above explains the substantial decrease in the number of certificates for ISO 9001 compared to 2016 for Italy and, to a lesser extent, for Germany, Brazil, India, Japan, Poland, Slovakia, Switzerland, Taipei, Thailand and Turkey. For all of them, the variation in the data provided explains for a large part of the decrease but not for all of it.

For other countries experiencing a decrease, a substantial part of it is explained by certification bodies not participating in the survey (but participated in 2016). Those are the United States, Japan, Vietnam, Spain, Serbia, Taipei, Russia and Poland.

Suppression of data on “sites”

Past surveys results included data on number of “sites” in addition to the number of “certificates”. The goal was to show the coverage of certification by including data on the number of sites that were covered by all the certificates reported. However, the data collected was incomplete and thus often not reported, leading to inconsistent results for many countries. Based on this, it was decided to stop the collection of data on the number of “sites” and to only show the number of valid “certificates”.