

Patent Stats

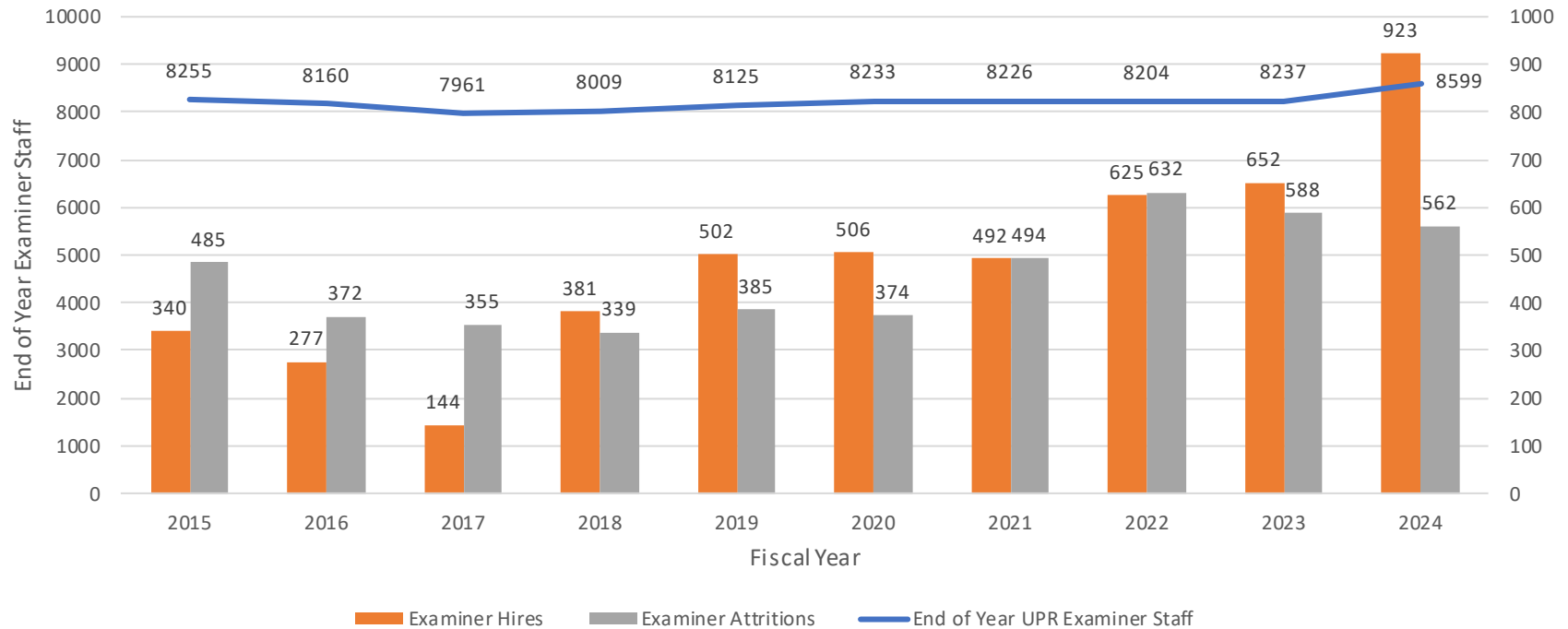
2/25/2025



UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE ®

Examiner Staffing

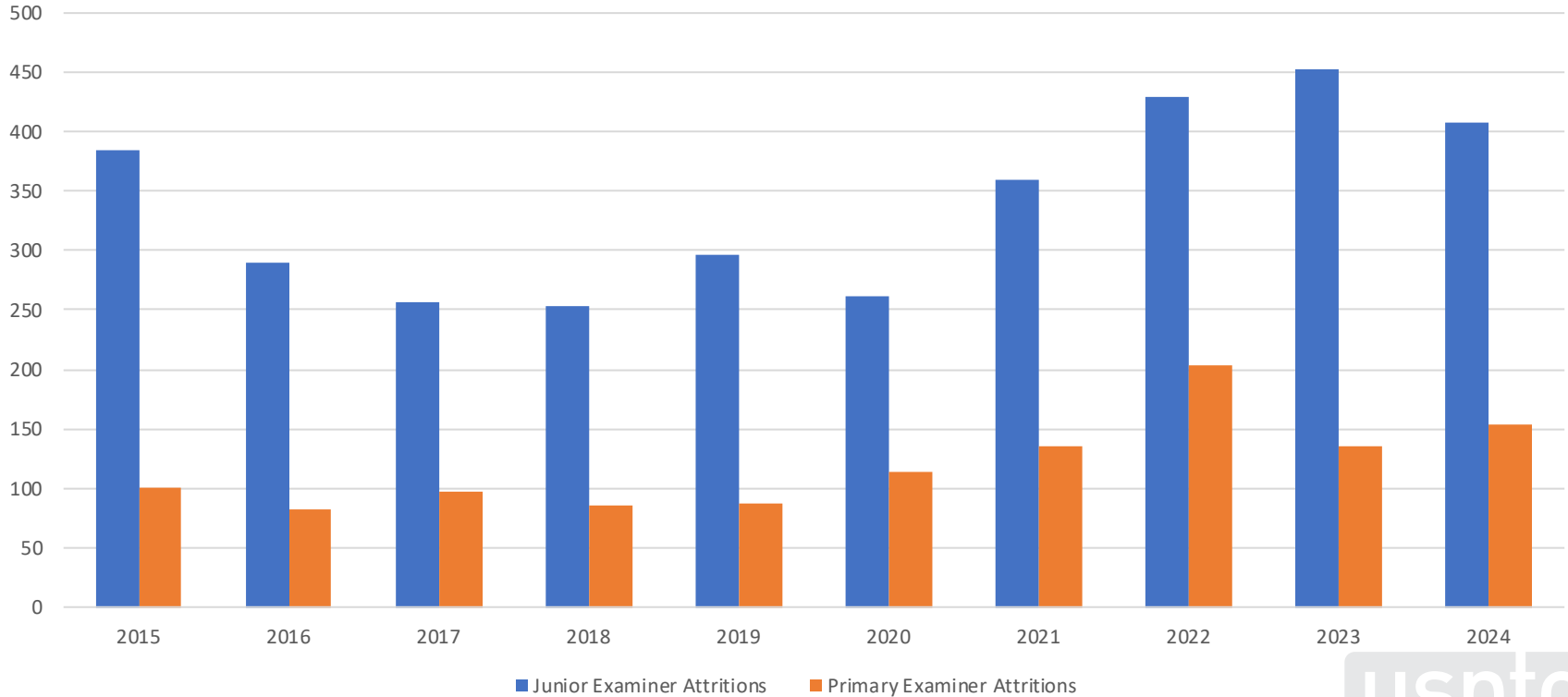
Examiner Staffing, Hires, and Attrition



- UPR Examiner Staff: Number of patent examiners at the USPTO, not including design patent examiners.
- Examiner Hires: Number of UPR examiner hires completed within the fiscal year.
- Examiner Attritions: Number of UPR examiners that left, either voluntarily or involuntarily.

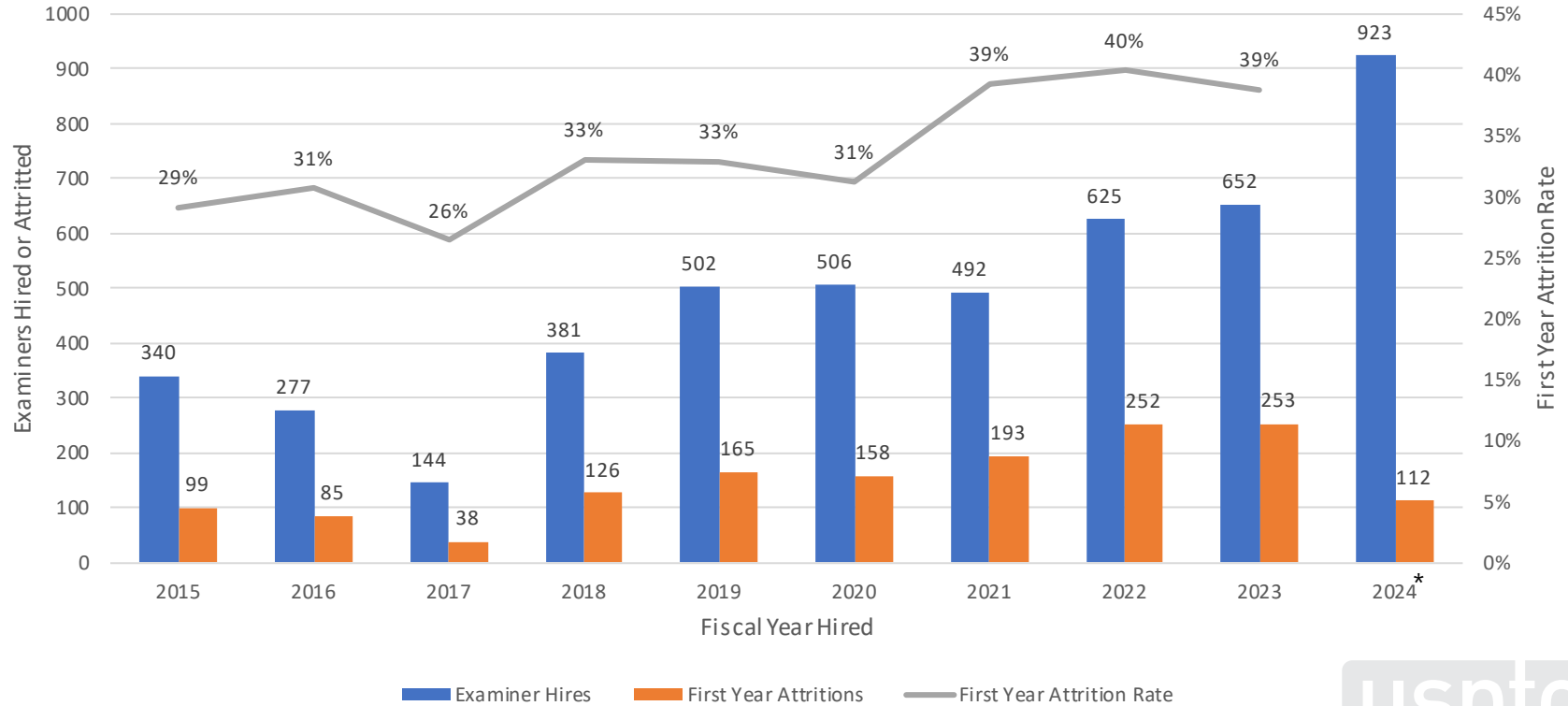


Annual Attrition



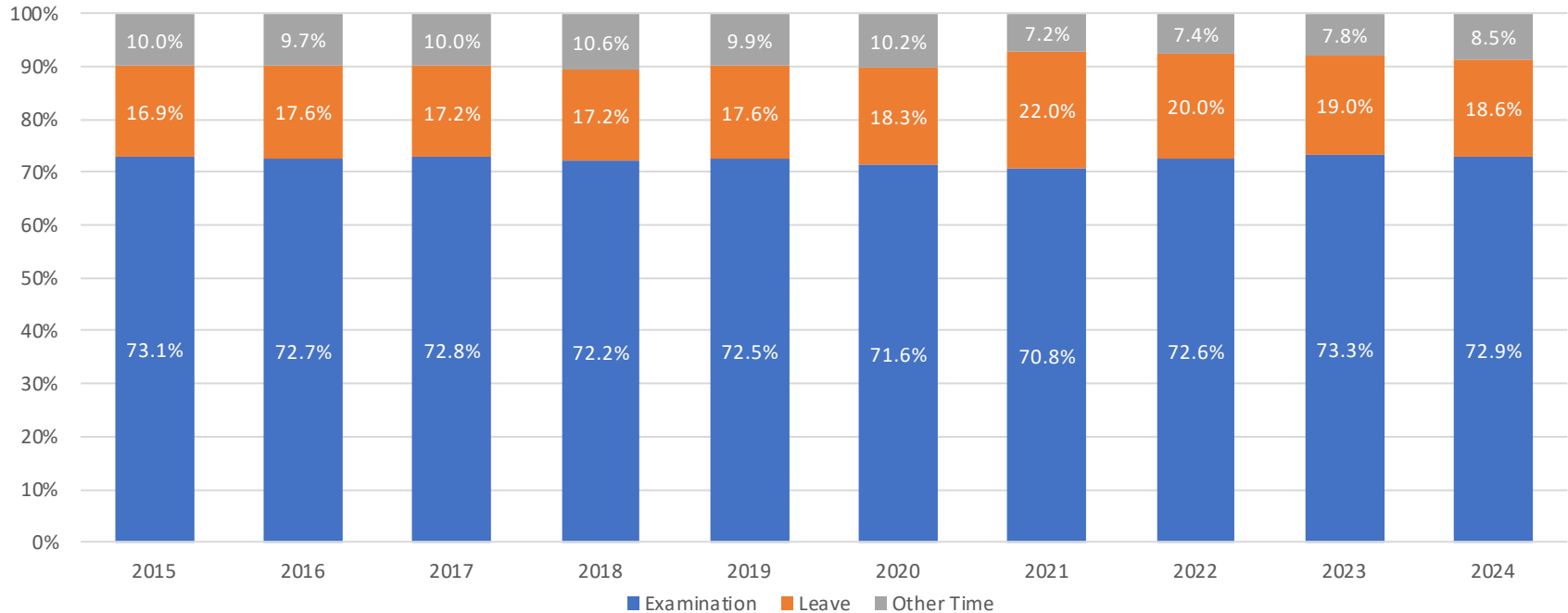
- Junior Examiner: A patent examiner who is not authorized to legally approve office actions.
- Primary Examiner: A patent examiner authorized to legally approve office actions.

First Year Attrition



*FY2024 first year attrition rate is omitted since employees hired in FY2024 are still within their first year.

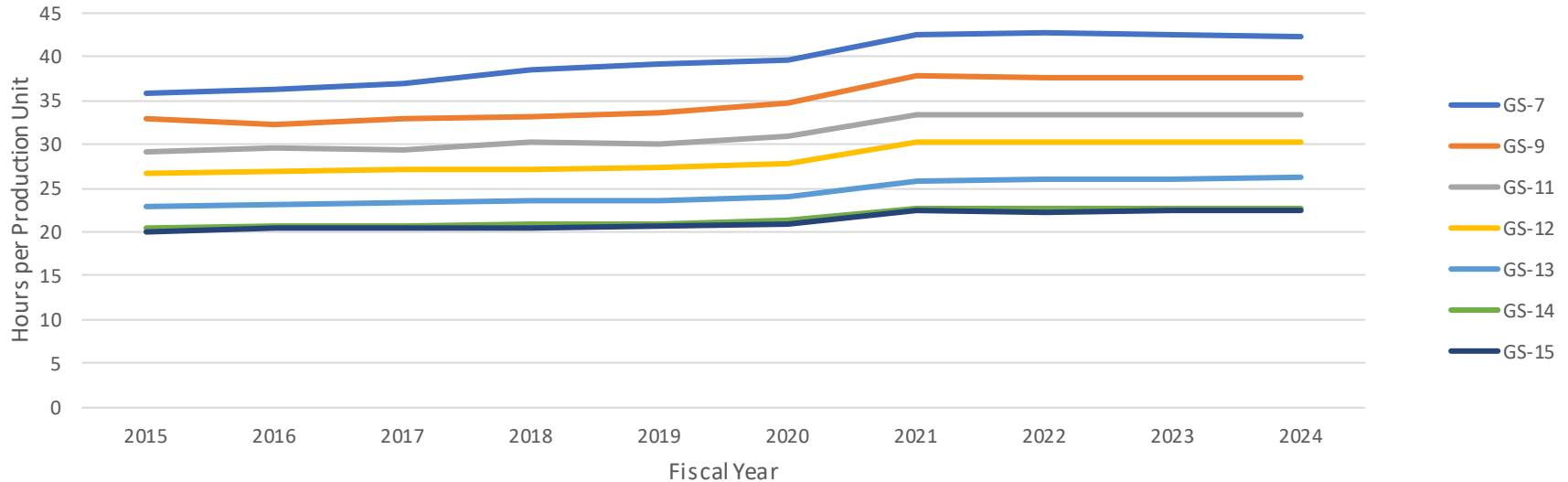
Examination Time



- Examination Time: The time a patent examiner spends examining patents.
- Leave includes all types of leave (sick, annual, holiday).
- 5 • Other time includes everything else, including all training, staff meetings, and time associated for various initiatives.

Examination Time per Case

Hours per Production Unit by Grade

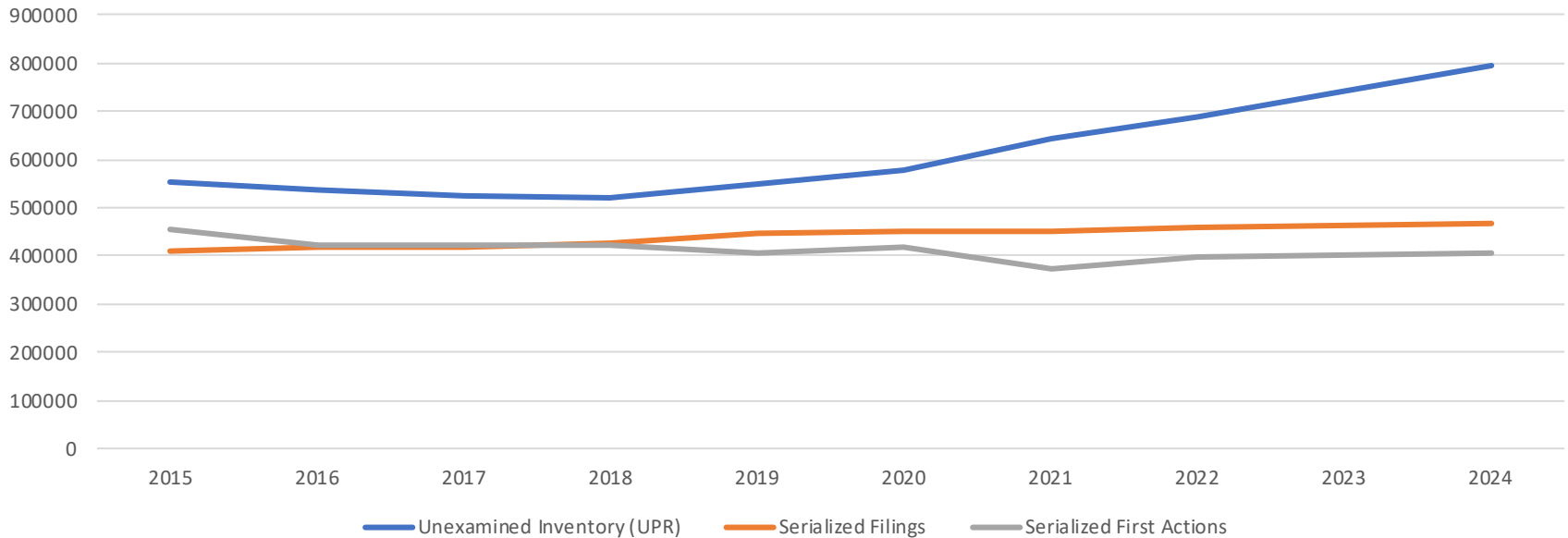


- Hours per Production Unit – the average number of examining hours taken by an examiner to examine an application from start to finish. Lower graded examiners are allotted more time to examine an application than more experienced higher graded examiners.



Unexamined Inventory

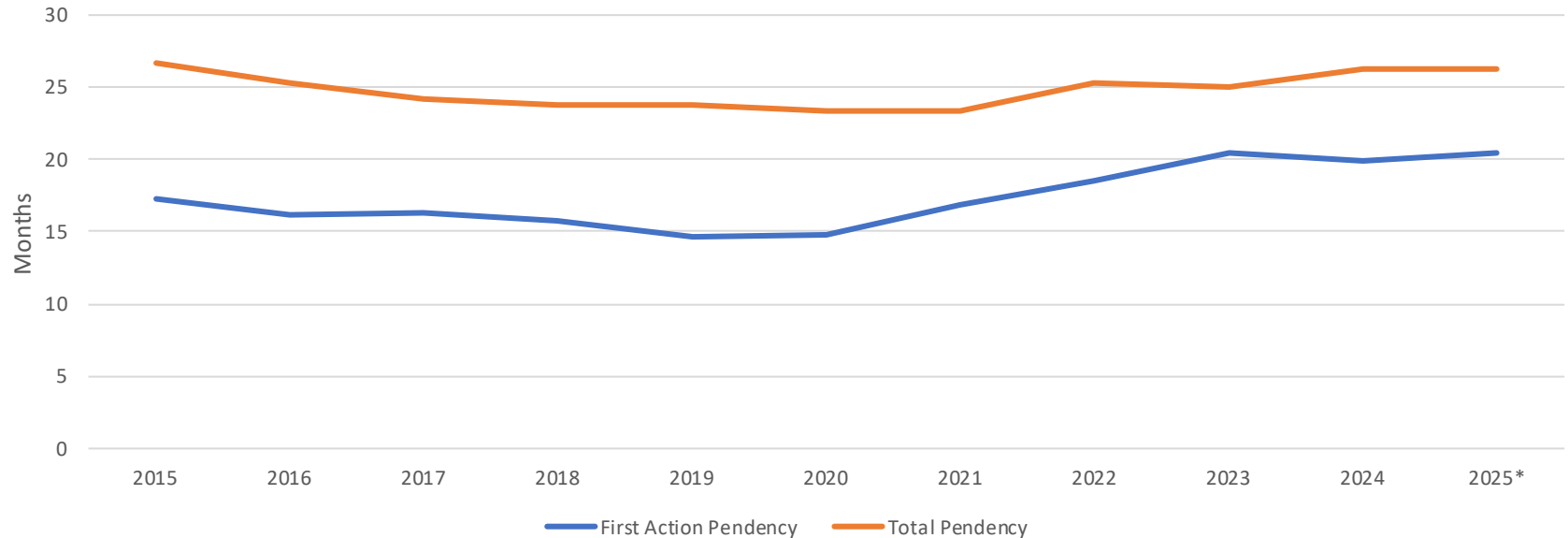
Inventory, Filing, and First Actions



- Unexamined Inventory: The unexamined patent application inventory is the number of new utility, plant, and reissue (UPR) patent applications in the pipeline at any given time which are awaiting a First Office Action by the patent examiner.
- Serialized filings and actions refer to new cases filed or acted upon, as distinct from RCE filings and first actions.



Average Pendency



- Average Pendency: The term "pendency" refers to the fact that the application is pending or awaiting a decision.
- First Action Pendency includes the time until a first action by the USPTO, as well as any time awaiting a reply from an applicant to submit all parts of their application.
- Total Pendency includes the time from the patent application filing date to the date the application has reached final disposition (e.g., issued as a patent or abandoned) which is called a "disposal".

