

# Intellectual property rights strongly benefit the European economy, EPO-EUIPO study finds

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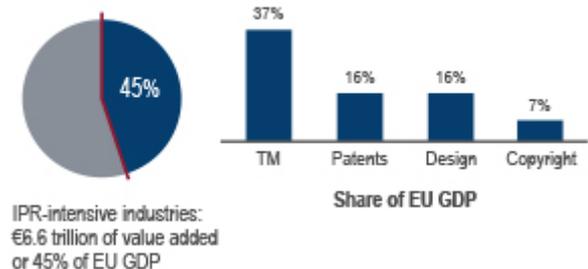
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25 September 2019

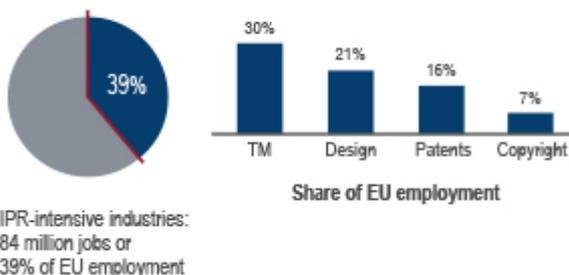
Industries that make intensive use of intellectual property rights (IPRs) such as patents, trademarks, industrial designs and copyright generate 45% of GDP (EUR 6.6 trillion) in the EU annually and account for 63 million jobs (29% of all jobs). A further 21 million people are employed in sectors that supply these industries with goods and services. These are among the findings of a joint report released today by the European Patent Office (EPO) and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) which analyses the importance of IPRs for the EU economy between 2014 and 2016.

## Contribution to EU GDP



[Contribution to EU GDP \(click to enlarge\)](#)

## Contribution to EU employment



[Employment in IPR-intensive industries \(click to](#)

In the period under review, employment in IPR-intensive industries grew by 1.3 million jobs compared with 2011-13, while total employment in the EU declined slightly. The value added per employee in these industries is higher than in the rest of the economy. Accordingly, IPR-intensive industries pay significantly higher wages: on average 47% more than other sectors, with the figure rising to 72% for patent-intensive industries.

enlarge)

The President of the European Patent Office, António Campinos, said:

*"The importance of IPR-intensive industries reflects the strength of the knowledge-based economy in Europe. Businesses in these sectors often file bundles of intellectual property rights in combination to protect their intellectual assets. This strategy creates products and services with high added value, and in doing so helps secure Europe's long-term competitiveness."*

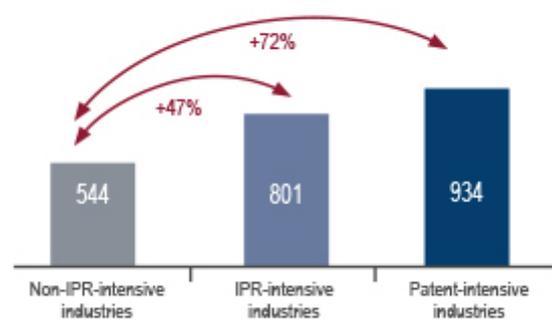
The Executive Director of the EUIPO, Christian Archambeau, said:

*"Industries that use intellectual property rights intensively play a crucial role in making the EU more prosperous and in securing its economic future. These industries are more resilient in the face of economic crisis and more innovative. Our challenge is to ensure that all firms and entrepreneurs can secure their IP rights, particularly SMEs."*

The report is the third in a series that tracks the contribution of industries making an above-average use of trade marks, designs, patents, copyright, geographical indications and plant variety rights to economic growth and employment in the EU.

IPR-intensive industries also account for most of the EU's trade in goods and services with the other regions of the world (81%). The EU as a whole had an **overall trade surplus** in IPR-intensive industries of approximately EUR 182 billion in 2016, counterbalancing a small deficit in non-IPR intensive trade.

Comparison of average wage (€/week)

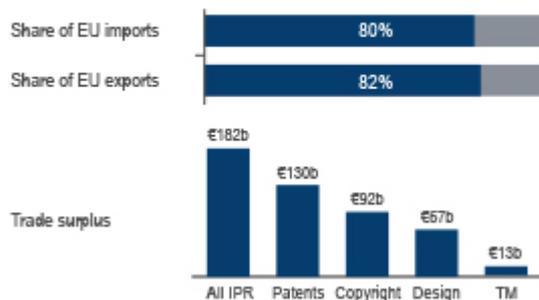


Comparison of average wage (click to enlarge)

## Patents and drivers of economic growth

The report finds that industries making intensive use of patents employ some 24 million people and generate 16% of the EU's total GDP, and also looks at specific technology sectors. In climate change mitigation technologies (CCMTs), for example, patent-intensive industries accounted for 2.5% of employment and 4.7% of GDP in the EU in the period under review. The economic weight of CCMTs is expected to increase as countries work towards the goals set by the Paris Agreement. European firms already play a leading role in this technology sector, with nearly 10% of all patent applications at the EPO from EU applicants in recent years relating to CCMTs.

## IPR-intensive industries in EU external trade in goods and services



IPR-intensive industries in EU external trade  
(click to enlarge)

The report also looks at the patent-intensive industries which make a major contribution to technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and digital transformation in the EU. It finds that these 4IR-intensive industries accounted for 1.9% of total EU employment and 3.9% of GDP in 2014-16, with both figures increasing compared to 2011-13. In terms of wages, 4IR-intensive industries pay more than double the average of non-IPR-intensive industries and 39% above the wage in all IPR-intensive industries.

## Industrial design as job motor

The EU has a rich design tradition, and is a world leader in industrial design. Design-intensive industries have a strong economic impact across the EU-28. In total, industries that use design rights account for 30.7 million direct jobs and contribute 16.2% of the EU's total GDP. Exports in this sector generated a trade surplus of over EUR 66 billion in 2016.

## Trade mark intensive industries

Trade mark registrations are often indicative of future business success, establishing a company's brand and underlining its distinctiveness in the marketplace. Industries that make intensive use of trade marks contribute 37% to the EU's GDP and support 46.7 million jobs. Those industries also pay wages that are 48% higher than industries that do not use intellectual property rights.

## Further information

› [Joint report: Intellectual property rights intensive industries and economic performance in the European Union](#)

➤ [View our short video](#)

› [New patent study confirms growth in Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies](#)

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Last updated: 27.9.2019