

EUR 60 billion lost every year across the EU due to counterfeiting in 13 key economic sectors.

New research from the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) shows that EUR 60 billion is lost each year due to counterfeiting in 13 economic sectors.

Over the past 5 years, the EUIPO has been tracking the economic cost of counterfeiting in sectors known to be vulnerable to intellectual property rights (IPR) infringements.

Today's figures show that the direct annual losses of those sectors amount to EUR 60 billion, corresponding to 7.5 % of their sales, as a result of the presence of fake products in the marketplace.

The accumulated losses are equivalent to EUR 116 per EU citizen per year.

Because legitimate manufacturers produce less than they would have in the absence of counterfeiting, thus employing fewer workers, 434 000 jobs are also directly lost in these sectors.

The report estimates that due to the presence of counterfeiting, the 13 sectors lose 8.1 % of direct sales annually in the UK. This is equivalent to approximately EUR 9.2 billion (GBP 6.7 billion), or EUR 141 (GBP 103) per UK inhabitant per year.

The 13 sectors studied are: cosmetics and personal care; clothing, footwear and accessories; sports goods; toys and games; jewellery and watches; handbags and luggage, recorded music; spirits and wine; pharmaceuticals; pesticides; smartphones; batteries and tyres.

These figures form part of a cycle of research work, carried out by the EUIPO over the last 5 years, and released in one single report for the first time. The Synthesis Report, released today, also brings together research on the contribution of intellectual property to the EU economy and the cost of counterfeiting and piracy to international trade. It also synthesises actions being undertaken to combat intellectual property rights infringements by national, regional and international bodies.

The Executive Director of the EUIPO, António Campinos, said:

Over the past 5 years, our reporting and research has given, for the first time, a comprehensive picture of the economic impact of counterfeiting and piracy on the EU economy and job creation, as well as intelligence on how intellectual property rights are infringed. Through our research, we have also shown the positive contribution that intellectual property has on employment and growth. Our work has been carried out so that policymakers and citizens can be in no doubt of the value of intellectual property and the damage that arises from its infringement.

NOTE TO EDITORS

The 13 affected sectors referred to are: cosmetics and personal care; clothing, footwear and accessories; sports goods; toys and games; jewellery and watches; handbags and luggage; recorded music; spirits and wine; pharmaceuticals; pesticides; smartphones; tyres and batteries. The figures given below refer to direct losses in each sector. The currency exchange rates given below are those for 2015, when the data analysis in the report was carried out.

ABOUT THE EUIPO

The EUIPO is a decentralised agency of the EU, based in Alicante, Spain. It manages the registration of the European Union trade mark (EUTM) and the registered Community design (RCD), both of which provide intellectual property protection in all EU Member States. The EUIPO also carries out cooperation activities with the national and regional Intellectual Property offices of the EU. The EUIPO organises the [DesignEuropa Awards](#).

The European Observatory on Infringements of Intellectual Property Rights was established in 2009 to support the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights and to help combat the growing threat of intellectual property infringements in Europe. It was transferred to the EUIPO on 5 June 2012 by Regulation (EU) No 386/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

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