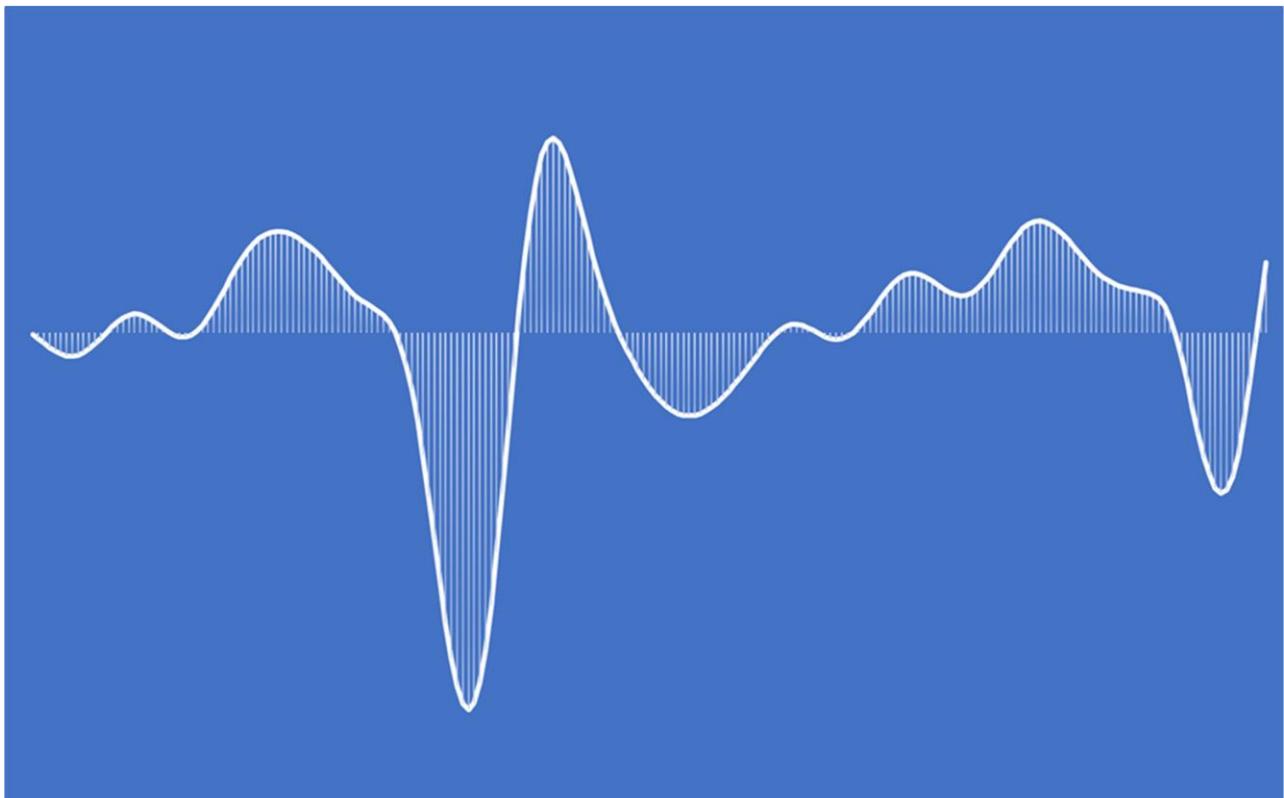


## Economic performance of IPR indicators March 2021 update



# ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OF IPR INDICATORS MARCH 2021 UPDATE

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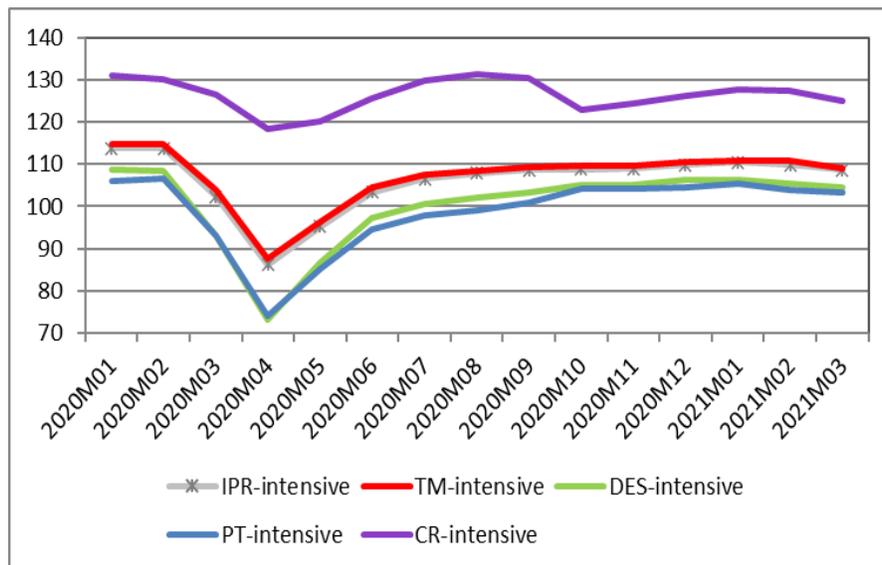
In May 2021 the EUIPO presented [The economic impact of COVID-19 on IPR-intensive industries](#) with data until December 2020, including indicators for all intellectual property rights (IPR), trade marks (TM), designs (DES), patents (PT) and copyright (CR).

The Observatory will update IPR indicators quarterly to monitor the recovery phase during 2021 and beyond, for the European Union (EU) and for the four largest Member States (MS).

## EU indicators

In March 2021 all IPR indicators in the EU were below the level recorded in February 2020. The IPR, trade mark and copyright indicators were 5 points below their pre-crisis levels while the patent and design indicators were about 3 points below levels indicated before the pandemic. This was explained by the different composition of each IPR indicator, with patent and design-intensive industries more affected by the sharp decline but also the faster recovery in manufacturing industries.

Figure 1: Indicators of IPR-intensive industries in the EU (2020 and 2021).

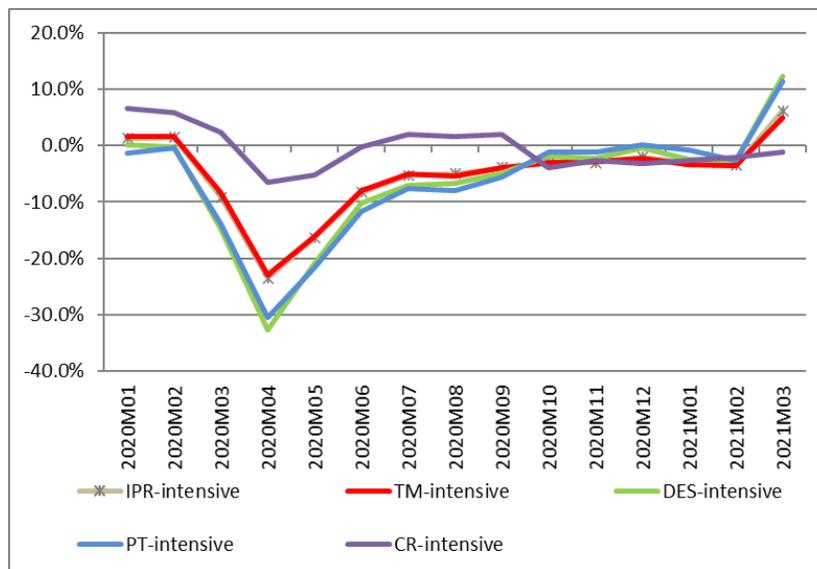


Annual rates compare the value of the indicator in each month with the same month of the previous year, so March 2021 was compared with the first month partially affected by confinement measures.

Trade mark, design, patent, as well as IPR-intensive industries registered positive rates in March 2021 for the first time in one year. As expected, patent and design-intensive industries registered a stronger and faster recovery with rates of change over 10% in March 2021.

Copyright-intensive industries registered positive rates in the summer (July to September 2020) but afterwards registered a second decline (explained by the service sector being more affected by social distancing practices) and negative rates of between -1% to -3%.

Figure 2: Annual rates of change (%) of IPR indicators in the EU.



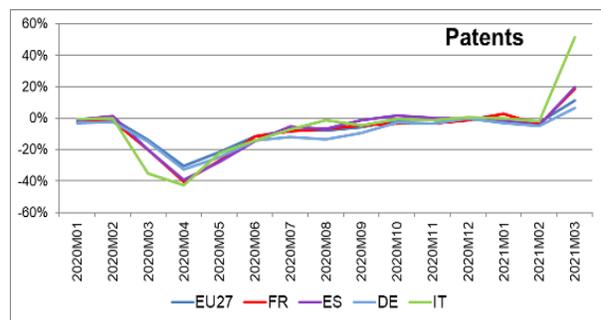
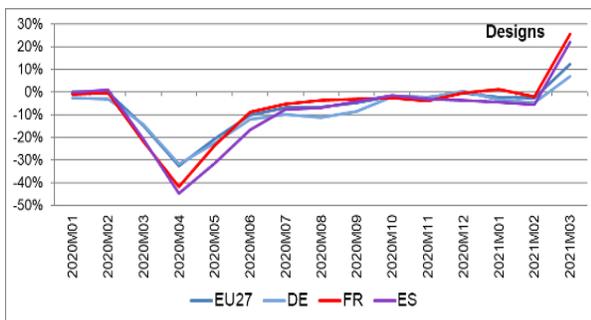
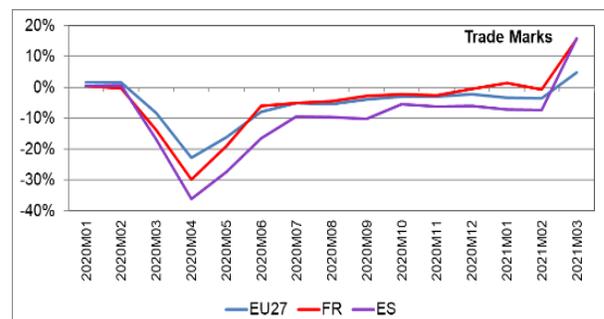
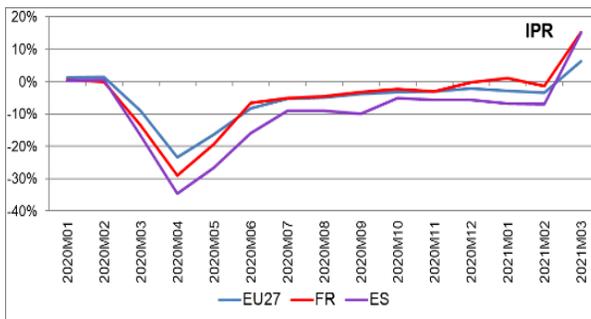
## Results at Member State level

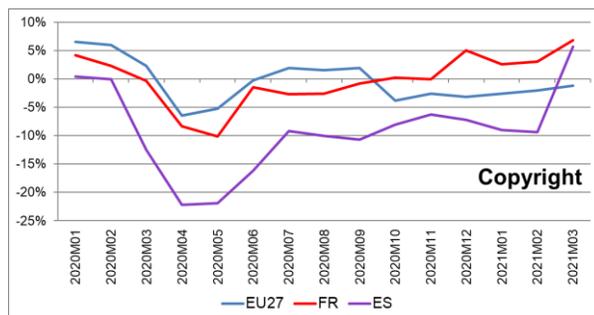
The performance of IPR-intensive industries in the four largest EU Member States shows a similar trend to the EU average but with different magnitudes in their growth rates.

The indicators for all IPR, trade mark and copyright-intensive industries were only available for France and Spain, due to data availability issues. Design indicators were estimated for Germany, France and Spain and patent indicators were estimated for the four largest EU Member States.

In general, the higher the decline in March-April 2020, the higher the growth rates in March 2021.

Figures 3 to 7: Annual rates of change (%) of IPR indicators in the four largest EU Member States.





The French and Spanish indicators registered double-digit rates in March 2021 with the only exception being copyright.

**Spanish** manufacturing industries performed better in 2020 but worsened in the first few months of 2021. In the IPR-intensive wholesale and service sectors, Spanish indicators showed poorer performance (higher decline) due to their dependence on tourism-related activities. As a result, all Spanish indicators were still below pre-crisis levels, about 5 points below in every indicator except copyright, which remained 8 points below the level recorded in February 2020.

The **French** trade mark indicator has already reached its pre-crisis level, the IPR indicator is very close and the copyright indicator is 6.5 points above the level recorded in February 2020. This is explained by the resilience shown by some French IPR-intensive industries in the service sector.

**German** indicators for design and patent-intensive industries showed lower annual rates in March 2021 than in France and Spain. Both indicators were still below their pre-crisis level: design-intensive industries were 4.5 points below its previous level in February 2020 while patent-intensive industries were more than 6 points below.

Patent indicators were calculated for the four largest EU countries, with **Italian** patents almost reaching their level in February 2020 with an annual rate above 50% in March 2021. The French patent-intensive industries level in March 2021 was still 4 points below its pre-crisis level while the Spanish patent indicator was 5 points below and the German patent indicator was 6 points below.

In April 2021 very high annual rates were expected in design and patent indicators in the four countries.

## IPR indicators: difference to pre-crisis levels

### March 2021

	EU	Germany	France	Italy	Spain
<b>IPR</b>	-5.0		-0.3		-4.9
<b>TM</b>	-5.7		+0.1		-4.8
<b>DES</b>	-3.8	-4.5	-1.0		-4.3
<b>PT</b>	-3.3	-6.2	-4.4	-0.2	-5.2
<b>CR</b>	-5.1		+6.5		-8.3

The table shows the difference between the IPR indicators values in March 2021 and February 2020, with red numbers showing indicators that are still below pre-crisis levels and green numbers indicating cases where the indicator has reached or surpassed its pre-crisis level.