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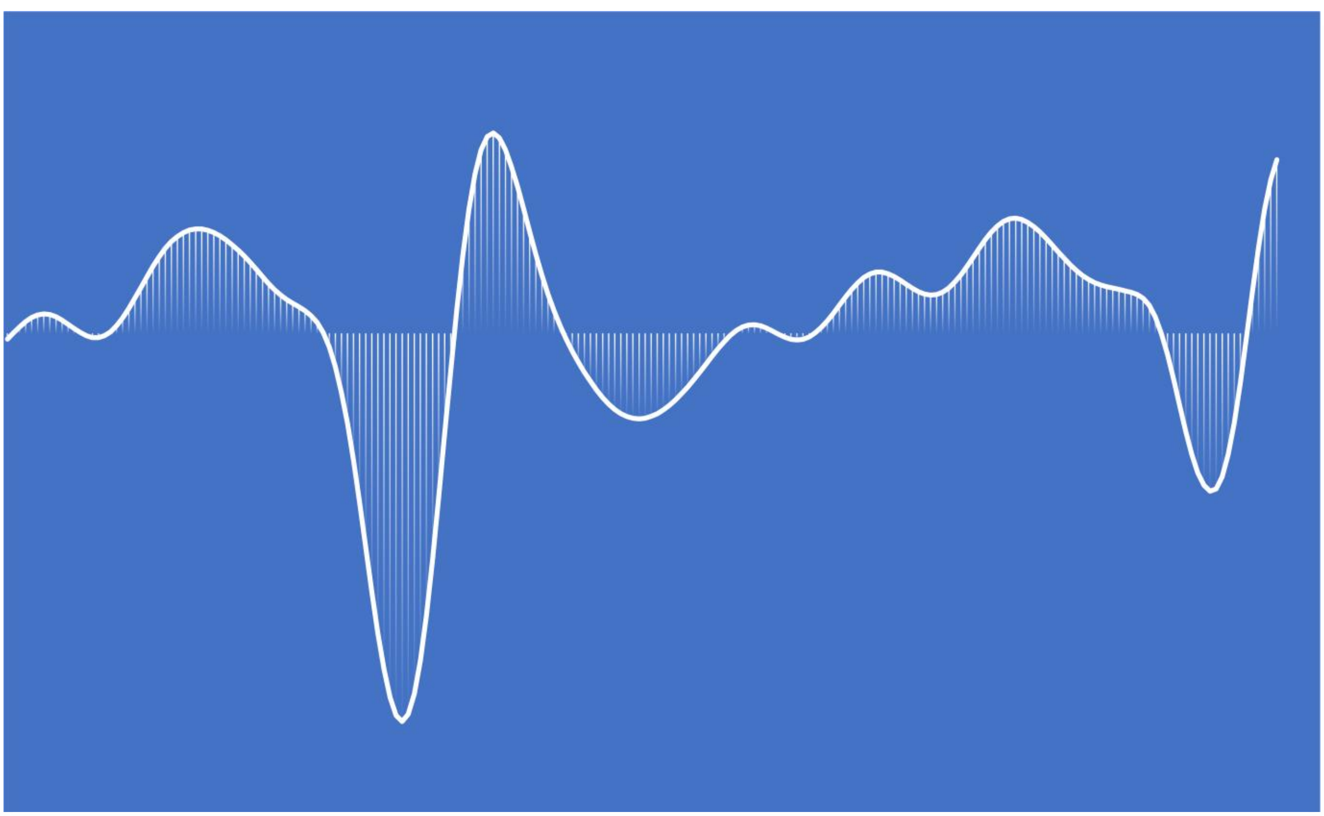
Economic performance of IPR indicators
June 2021 update



September 2021

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OF IPR INDICATORS
JUNE 2021 UPDATE

In May 2021 the EUIPO presented the Economic impact of COVID-19 crisis in 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 updates 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). The first update was published in June with data until March 2021 and now the Observatory presents results for the first half of 2021.

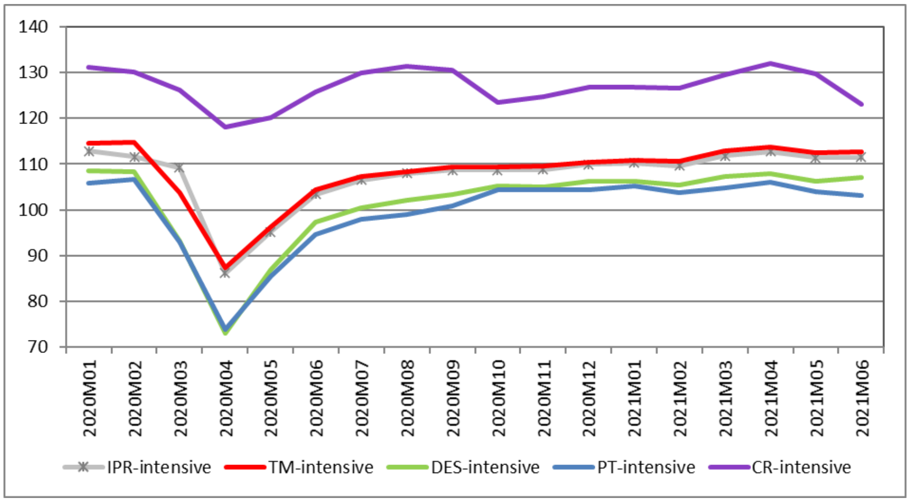
EU indicators

In June 2021 all IPR indicators in the EU were below the level recorded in February 2020, even though the indicator for all IPRs was very close to the pre-crisis level. Compared with the levels in March 2021, all indicators were at a lower level, with the highest decrease in the second quarter of the year in the copyright indicator.

As a result, the copyright indicator was still 7 points below its pre-crisis level, the patent indicator still 3.5 points below the level reached before the pandemic and the trade mark indicator 2 points below.

The different composition of each IPR indicator is reflected in their trend, with patent- and design-intensive industries more affected by the sharp decline but also faster recovery in manufacturing industries. The patent indicator also showed a slowing-down of its annual rates in the month of June. This could be explained by the global chip shortage and other supply chain problems affecting vehicle production across Europe.

Figure 1: Indicators of IPR-intensive industries in the EU (2020 and 2021), base 2015 = 100.



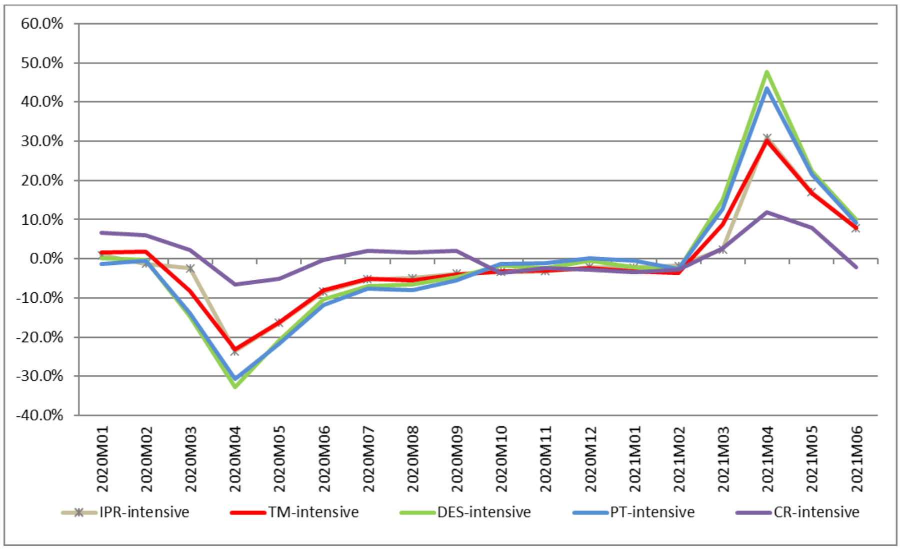
Annual rates compare the value of the indicator in each month with the same month of the previous year. The high annual rates in the month of April 2021 in all IPR indicators is then not surprising because it is being compared with the first month affected by total confinement measures in many countries.

Figure 2 shows a symmetric behaviour of the annual rates of the indicators: the highest the trough in April 2020, the highest the peak in April 2021. All the IPR indicators linked in June 2021 4 months of positive annual rates with accumulated rates in the first half of the year ranging from 2 % in the copyright indicator to more than 12 % in the design and patent indicators.

A peak in growth rates is registered in April 2021 in all the indicators: patent- and design-intensive industries registered an annual growth rate of more than 40 % (with a correspondent trough one year before of -30 %); the annual growth rate for IPR- and trade mark-intensive industries was +30 % and -20 % in the same month of 2020; and copyright-intensive industries showed a peak of +12 % growth with a decline of about 6 % in the same month of 2020.

Nevertheless, more time is still needed to cancel out the long year of negative growth. Since the beginning of 2020 IPR-, design- and patent-intensive industries have registered 13 months of consecutive negative annual rates. Trade mark-intensive industries accumulated 12 months of annual decreases and copyright-intensive industries – while more volatile – still registered 9 negative rates in the 18 months since January 2020, including the last month of the period, June 2021.

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



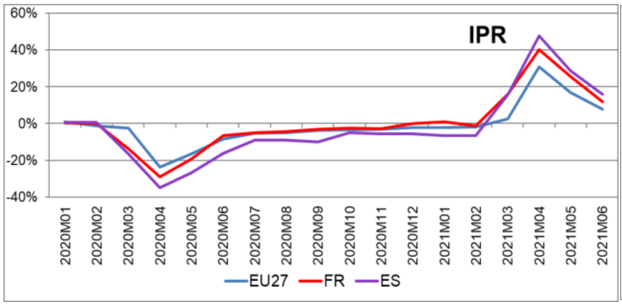
Results at Member State level

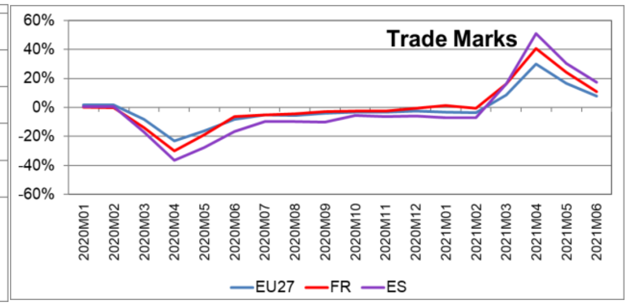
The performance of IPR-intensive industries in the four largest EU Member States shows a similar trend to the EU average but with different magnitudes in their growth rates.

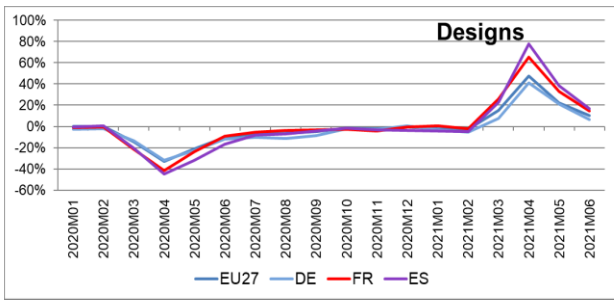
The indicators for all IPR-, trade mark- and copyright-intensive industries were only available for France and Spain, due to data availability issues. Design indicators were estimated for Germany, France and Spain and patent indicators were estimated for the four largest EU Member States.

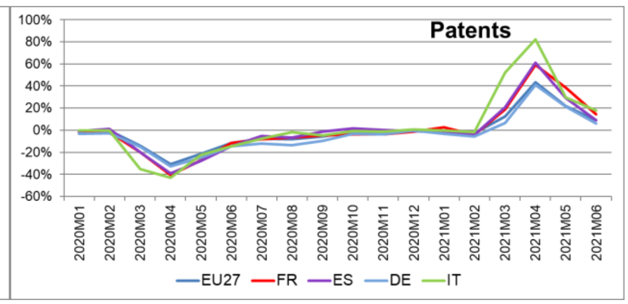
As was the case with the EU indicators, the higher the decline in March-April 2020, the higher the growth rates in the same months of 2021.

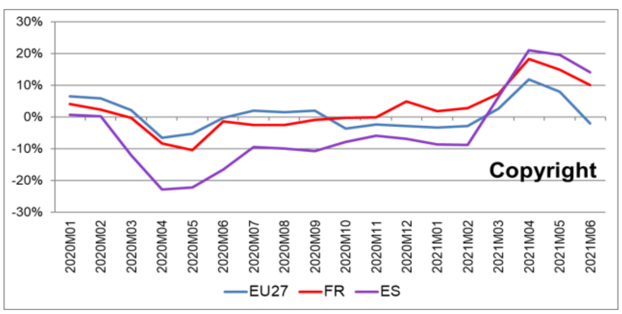
Figures 3 to 7: Annual rates of change (%) of IPR indicators in the four largest EU Member States.











The French and Spanish indicators registered double-digit annual rates in every month between March and June 2021.

Spanish manufacturing industries performed better in 2020, while the wholesale and service sectors showed poorer performance (higher decline) due to their dependence on tourism-related activities. Nevertheless, since March 2021 the copyright-intensive industries have registered very good rates, with 6 % average growth in the first half of the year, although this is still half the growth rate of the IPR- and trade mark-intensive industries and one third the rate of the design-intensive industries. As a result, all Spanish indicators were still below pre-crisis levels, about 2 points below in IPR, trade mark and design indicators and 5 points below the copyright indicator. The patent indicator has deteriorated with a modest 9 % growth in June 2021 and remains 6 points below the level recorded in February 2020.

All the **French** indicators have already reached their pre-crisis levels: the IPR, trade mark and design indicators are 4 points above their pre-crisis levels and the copyright indicator is 9 points above the level recorded in February 2020 after 7 consecutive months with positive annual rates. This is explained by the resilience shown by some French IPR-intensive industries in the service sector such as 'Information service activities', 'Computer programming and consultancy' or 'Other professional, scientific and technical activities'.

German indicators for design- and patent-intensive industries showed the lowest decreases in April 2020 but both indicators also registered the lowest growth rates in the first half of 2021. As a consequence, the indicators were still 5 and 8 points below their pre-crisis levels, respectively. The performance of NACE 2910 class 'Manufacture of motor vehicles', which has the highest weighting in the patent-intensive industries (>10 %), has been striking and in June 2021 reached a value of 50 (base 100 in 2015) with an annual decrease above 20 %.

Patent indicators were calculated for the four largest EU countries, with the **Italian** patent indicator surpassing its level in February 2020 and showing an average rate in the first half of 2021 of +24 %, the highest rate of all the indicators estimated for the EU and the four largest MS.

IPR indicators: difference to pre-crisis levels

June 2021

	EU	Germany	France	Italy	Spain
IPR	-0.2		+4.3		-2.6
TM	-2.1		+4.0		-2.1
DES	-1.4	-5.3	+4.4		-2.8
PT	-3.5	-8.1	+0.9	+1.6	-6.4
CR	-7.1		+9.4		-4.6

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