

IPR-intensive industries create more than 81 million jobs in the EU and pay better salaries

- **Industries with a high number of intellectual property rights generate almost 4 in 10 jobs in the Member States and pay higher salaries**
- **Their contribution to the EU's GDP amounts to 47 % and they are behind more than 80 % of EU imports and exports**
- **The weight of sectors active in climate change technologies and green trade marks account for 14 % of the EU's GDP and more than 9 % of jobs**

Alicante, October 2022 – Industries that make intensive use of intellectual property rights (IPRs) **generate more than 81 million jobs** in the EU, directly or indirectly. That means almost 4 in 10 jobs in the European Union (**39.4 %**). Furthermore, the contribution of these industries to the EU GDP amounts to **47.1 % of the total gross domestic product**, worth 6.4 trillion EUR.

These are among the main findings of the 2022 edition of the report on [IPR-intensive industries¹ and economic performance in the European Union](#), a major EU-wide study released today by the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) and the European Patent Office (EPO).

The report also reveals that more than **80 % of EU imports and exports are generated by IPR-intensive industries**, producing a trade surplus of 224 billion EUR and helping to keep a positive balance between the EU's trade and the rest of the world.

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

Europe and innovation go hand in hand, and companies that capitalise on their Intellectual Property (IP) are seeing clear benefits while contributing to the functioning of the EU's internal market. The study shows that by strengthening Europe's IP ecosystem, we are strengthening the economy. IPR-intensive industries are a driving force for jobs and trade, and they can support Europe on its path towards economic recovery and the green transition.

The data from the 2022 edition shows that the contribution of IPR-intensive sectors to the EU economy is at its highest level since the period 2008-2010 in all aspects: job creation, GDP

¹ IPR-intensive industries are defined as those having an above-average ownership of IPRs per employee, as compared with other industries.

and export of goods and services. The IPR-intensive industries are thus increasingly important to the EU economy.

These industries employ more than 61 million people in the EU, and an **additional 20 million jobs** in industries that supply goods and services to IPR-intensive industries. They also pay significantly higher wages than other, with a **wage premium of 41 %**.

Impact of climate change and green technologies and trade marks

The study also shows that among IPR-intensive industries, the weight of industries engaged in the development of climate change mitigation technologies (CCMT) and those related to green trade marks² has increased in the latest years, many of them related to energy and transport. Sectors intensive in CCMT patents or green trade marks account for **14 % of GDP** in the EU, **9.3 % of employment** and a **large part of the EU's external trade activity**.

Overall, around 1 in 10 European patent applications from EU applicants was related to CCMTs aimed at reducing or preventing the emission of greenhouse gases. Green trade marks filed by EU-based companies account for a similar share of all EU trade mark applications in 2021.

IPR-intensive sectors in the EU internal market

IPR-intensive industries are the backbone of the EU single market, accounting **for more than 75 % of trade within the EU**.

They are also a major driver of cross-border job creation, as **almost 7 million jobs** in EU countries are created by companies from other Member States, with a share of such jobs in IPR-intensive industries exceeding 30 % in some countries.

While countries such as Germany, France, Italy or the Netherlands are leading in the creation of new IP rights, others such as Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland or Estonia also strongly benefit from the division of labour within IPR-intensive industries.

NOTE TO EDITORS

This is the fourth edition of the industry-level [IP Contribution studies](#), which provide evidence on the value of intellectual property to the EU economy. The study looks at the period 2017-2019 and covers a broad range of IP rights – trade marks, patents, designs, copyright, geographical indications and plant variety rights – as well as a variety of economic indicators. It uses a similar methodology to the previous three studies released in 2013, 2016 and 2019 to provide an updated assessment of the combined contribution of industries that use IP rights

² Trade marks that contain terms related to the environment and sustainability in their goods and services specifications.



intensively. Furthermore, to complement the data from EU Member States, data from Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom has also been included in the study.

ABOUT THE EUIPO

The [EUIPO](#) is one of the largest decentralised agencies of the EU, based in Alicante, Spain. Ranked as the [most innovative IP office in the world](#) in 4 out of the last 5 years, the EUIPO 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. It also cooperates with the national and regional intellectual property offices of the EU and hosts the European Observatory on Infringements of Intellectual Property Rights.

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 infringement 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.

ABOUT THE EPO

With nearly 7 000 staff, the [European Patent Office](#) (EPO) is one of the largest public service institutions in Europe. Headquartered in Munich with offices in Berlin, Brussels, The Hague and Vienna, the EPO was founded with the aim of strengthening co-operation on patents in Europe. Through the EPO's centralised patent granting procedure, inventors are able to obtain high-quality patent protection in up to 44 countries, covering a market of some 700 million people. The EPO is also the world's leading authority in patent information and patent searching.

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