The economic cost of IPR infringement in handbags and luggage

Quantification of infringement in Manufacture of luggage, handbags and the like, saddlery and harness (NACE 15.12)

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OFFICE FOR HARMONIZATION
IN THE INTERNAL MARKET
(TRADE MARKS AND DESIGNS)

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Acknowledgements

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Executive Summary

The European Observatory on infringements of Intellectual Property Rights (the Observatory) was created to improve the understanding of the role of Intellectual Property and of the negative consequences of IPR infringements.

In a study carried out in collaboration with the European Patent Office (EPO)[1], the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM), acting through the Observatory, calculated that 39% of total economic activity in the EU is generated by IPR-intensive industries, and approximately 26% of all employment in the EU is provided directly by these industries, with a further 9% of jobs in the EU stemming from purchases of goods and services from other industries by IPR-intensive industries.

Another study compared economic performance of European companies that own IPRs[2] with those that do not, finding that IPRs owners' revenue per employee is 29% higher on average. Although only 9% of SMEs own registered IPRs, the firms that do have almost 32% more revenue per employee than firms that do not.

Perceptions and behaviours of European citizens regarding Intellectual Property and counterfeiting and piracy[3] were also assessed as part of an EU-wide survey. This survey revealed that although citizens recognise the value of IP in principle, they also tend to justify infringements at individual level in certain cases.

The Observatory has now embarked on an effort to complete the picture by assessing the economic impact of counterfeiting and piracy.

This exercise is challenging from a methodological point of view, as it attempts to shed light on a phenomenon that by its very nature is not directly observable. To pave the way towards quantification of the scope, scale and impact of IPR infringements in the European Union, as identified in its mandate, the Observatory has developed a step by step approach to evaluate the negative impact of counterfeiting and its consequences for legitimate businesses, governments and consumers, and ultimately society as a whole.

Several IPR intensive industries whose products are known or thought to be subject to counterfeiting have been selected. This report presents the results of the sixth sectorial study, covering the luggage and handbags sector[4]. The EPO/OHIM study revealed that trade marks and designs were used intensively in this sector.

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1 - "Intellectual Property Rights intensive industries: contribution to economic performance and employment in the European Union", September 2013

2 - "Intellectual Property Rights and firm performance in Europe: an economic analysis", June 2015.

3 - "European citizens and intellectual property: perception, awareness and behaviour", November 2013

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It is estimated that the legitimate industry loses approximately €1.6 billion of revenue annually due to the presence of counterfeit handbags and luggage in the EU marketplace, corresponding to 12.7% of the sector's sales.

These lost sales translate into direct employment losses of approximately 12,100 jobs. This figure does not take account of the effect of imports, since in those cases the associated employment impacts occur outside of the EU. Estimated employment losses in the EU therefore relate to goods produced and consumed within the EU.

If we add the knock-on effects on other industries and on government revenue, when both the direct and indirect effects are considered, counterfeiting in this sector causes approximately €3.2 billion of lost sales to the EU economy, which in turns leads to employment losses of about 25,700 jobs and a loss of €516 million in government revenue.

It is important to note that in contrast to the first two reports in this series[5], the impacts of counterfeiting for handbags and luggage refers only to manufacturing and so does not include wholesale and retail trade[6]. For that reason, the absolute numbers in this report cannot be directly compared to those previously presented for cosmetics and personal care and for clothing and footwear.

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4 - The handbags and luggage sector analysed here, comprises the four digit NACE code 15.12 "Manufacture of luggage, handbags and the like, saddlery and harness". NACE is the official classification of economic activity used by Eurostat, the statistical office of the EU.

5 - That is, the reports on cosmetics and personal care products and on clothing, footwear and accessories.

6 - The reason is that the data provided by Eurostat does not distinguish between retail sales of handbags and luggage and retail sales of other goods which are not part of this NACE code. It is therefore not possible to calculate the trade margins for handbags and luggage.

1. Introduction

A major problem which has hindered the effective enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in the EU is related to a lack of knowledge in relation to the precise scope, scale and impact of IPR infringements. Many attempts to quantify the scale of counterfeiting and its consequences for businesses, consumers and society as a whole have suffered from the absence of a consensual and consistent methodology for collecting and analysing data on counterfeiting and piracy across various sectors. Different approaches have been used, such as surveys, mystery shopping, monitoring of online activities, making it all the more difficult to aggregate results for the whole economy. The very nature of the phenomenon under investigation makes it extremely challenging to quantify reliably, as obtaining comprehensive data for a hidden and secretive activity is by necessity difficult.

These challenges have in turn hindered the tasks of those involved in enforcing IP rights and in charge of establishing precise priorities, programmes and targets for enforcement, as they limit the possibilities to design more focused policies as well as evidence-based public awareness campaigns.

To help overcome these challenges while taking fully into account of methodological constraints, the Observatory developed a specific approach that has so far been applied to the Cosmetics and Personal Care; Clothing, Footwear and Accessories; Sports Goods; and Games and Toys, jewellery and watches sectors.

In the present report the Observatory focuses its attention on the sector officially labelled *Manufacture of luggage, handbags and the like, saddlery and harness* by Eurostat, that covers different products, such as:

▌ Luggage, handbags and the like, of leather, composition leather or any other material, such as plastic sheeting, textile materials, vulcanised fibre or paperboard, where the same methodology is used as for leather;

▌ Saddlery and harness;

▌ Non-metallic watch bands (e.g. fabric, leather, plastic);

▌ Diverse articles of leather or composition of leather: driving belts, packings etc. ;

▌ Shoe-lace, of leather;

▌ Horse whips and riding crops.

The approach in this study aims to estimate the scale of the two major economic impacts of counterfeiting which cover the direct and indirect costs to industry and the wider costs to government and society.

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1) Direct costs to industry

The costs to industry are mainly composed of lost sales due to counterfeiting. Estimation of lost sales is therefore a necessary first step, both because it constitutes a major economic consequence in itself and because it drives other consequences, for example the loss of public fiscal revenue.

The methodology builds on an adaptation of a methodology developed for the European Commission[7] so that it can be used on a sectorial level rather than on a firm level which proved very difficult to apply in practice.

Variations in a sector's sales are analysed using statistical techniques which allow the researcher to relate them to economic and social factors and thereby estimate the amount of sales lost by rights holders due to counterfeiting.

Loss of sales also leads to loss of employment in the affected sector, which can be derived from European statistical data on employment for the sector in question.

2) Indirect effects of counterfeiting

In addition to the direct loss of sales in the identified sector, there are also impacts on other sectors of the EU economy. These indirect effects are a result of the fact that the different sectors of the economy buy goods and services from each other for use in their production processes. If one sector's sales are reduced because of counterfeiting, then this sector will also buy fewer goods and services from its suppliers, causing sales declines and corresponding employment effects in other sectors.

3) Impacts on public finances

Since the activity in question is illegal, it is likely that those engaged in manufacture of counterfeit goods do not pay taxes on the resulting revenues and incomes. Therefore, an additional impact of counterfeiting is the resulting losses of tax revenue by government, specifically income taxes and social contributions, corporate taxes, and indirect taxes such as excise taxes or VAT.

In order to approximate these costs, several relationships are estimated. The methodology is fully explained in the Appendices and is briefly outlined below.

Step 1: Estimation of lost sales due to counterfeiting

Predicted sales of the sector are generated and compared with actual sales in each country, as reported in official statistics. The difference can then be partly explained by socio-economic factors such as GDP growth. In addition, factors related to counterfeiting are considered, such as behaviour of consumers, and the characteristics of a country's markets and its legal

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7 - RAND (2012): Mesure des atteintes aux DPI dans le marché intérieur. Rapport préparé pour la Commission
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and regulatory environments[8]. The difference between forecast and actual sales is analysed in order to extract the effect of counterfeit consumption on legitimate sales.

Step 2: <u>Translation of lost sales into lost jobs and lost public revenue</u>

Since the legitimate industry sells less than it would have sold in the absence of counterfeiting, it also employs fewer workers. Data from Eurostat on employment in this sector is used to estimate the employment lost related to the reduction of legitimate business as a result of lost sales due to counterfeiting.

In addition to the direct loss of sales in the sector being analysed, there are also indirect impacts on other sectors as this sector will also buy fewer goods and services from its suppliers, causing sales declines and corresponding employment effects in other sectors.

Furthermore, the reduced economic activity in the private sector has an impact on government revenue, essentially tax revenue such as VAT, household income tax and tax on company profits, but also social security contributions.

It should be noted that the indirect effect of sales lost due to counterfeiting only includes losses in sectors that provide inputs to manufacture of legal products in the EU. Possible positive effects of inputs provided for production of illicit goods that could be manufactured inside or outside the EU, are ignored in this study. In other words, the indirect effect calculated is a gross effect that does not take into account the long-term effect of sales displacement from legal to illegal producers. The net employment effect could therefore be smaller than the gross effect calculated here.

Similarly, while illicit activities do not generate the same levels of tax revenue as legal activities, to the extent that sales of counterfeits happen in the legitimate sales channels, some amount of direct and indirect taxes are levied on these products, and so the net reduction in government revenue may be smaller than the gross effect calculated here.

Unfortunately, data currently available do not allow for calculation of these net effects with any degree of accuracy.

The next section presents the main findings of the study.

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8 - Perceptions of corruption by citizens from Eurobarometer and one of the Worldwide Governance Indicators from the World Bank are used in this study.

2. Impact of counterfeiting in the Handbags and Luggage Sector

The starting point of this analysis is the estimation of consumption of these products in each EU Member State. Based on official data from Eurostat on production and intra and extra EU trade, it is estimated that the total consumption of handbags and luggage in the EU (without wholesale and retail trade margins) was €12 billion in 2012[9].

Information on wholesale and retail trade of handbags and luggage cannot be obtained from official statistics, so estimation of consumption for these products is at producers prices and thus does not include the value of trade margins paid to distributors and retailers.

In the same year, there were approximately 96 thousand people employed in the handbags and luggage manufacturing sector.

More than half of the EU's total manufacture of products in NACE 1512 takes place in Italy (€6.5 billion). The country also accounts for 40% of the EU's extra exports and 35% of the sector's total EU employment. France is the second largest producer (€2.7 billion) and accounts for 19% of all employment in this sector within the EU.

The industry in the EU is comprised of 12,351 enterprises, most of which are SMEs, with an average of 8.2 workers per firm. The importance of SMEs in this sector is even more pronounced in countries such as Italy, where the average number of workers per enterprise stands at of 6.8.

Based on country-level consumption data, the difference between forecast sales and actual sales has been estimated for each country (Appendix A), and analysed using statistical methods (Appendix B), relating the sales shortfall to factors (called variables in economic parlance) such as:

▌ **GDP growth** (socio-economic variable);

▌ The percentage of the population that accept or tolerate corruption[10] in the Eurobarometer on corruption and the **World Bank Index of Rule of Law**[11] (variables related to counterfeiting).

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9 - In 2012, EU production amounted to €11.3 billion. Net imports from third countries were €500 million, leaving nearly €12 billion (at producer prices) for consumption in the EU.

10 - According to WCO (2012), "the predominance of the informal economy is then associated with corruption and the degree of regulation..." So, to the extent that counterfeiting is part of the informal economy, a measure of corruption could be considered explanatory for counterfeiting.

11 - The World Bank Index of Rule of Law captures perceptions of the extent to which agents have confidence in and abide by the rules of society, and in particular the quality of contract enforcement, property rights, the police and the courts, as well as the likelihood of crime and violence.

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The resulting estimates of the lost sales due to counterfeiting for all Member States are shown in the figure below. This is the direct impact of counterfeiting discussed above, although as noted, for this sector, due to limited available information, we only consider the impacts on the manufacturing industry, as opposed to wider considerations incorporating the wholesale and retail trade sectors.

For each country, the bar indicates the impact of counterfeiting on the sector, expressed as a percentage of sales, while the diamonds indicate the 95% confidence interval of that estimate[12]. The figures represent an annual average for the 6 years 2007-2012.
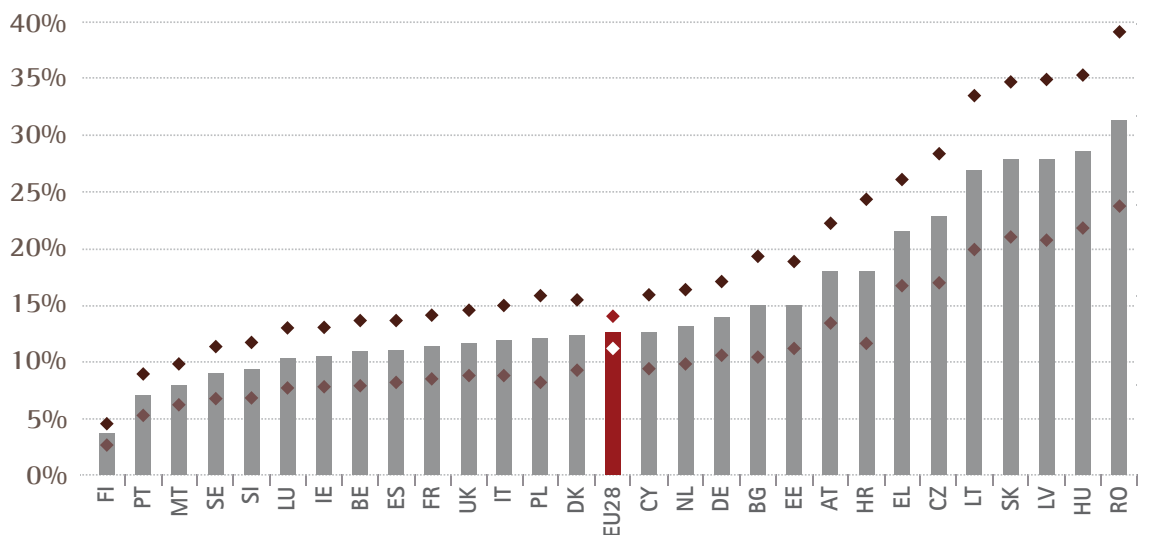
For the EU as a whole[13], the estimated total counterfeiting effect amounts to 12.7% of consumption (€1.6 billion). This is a direct estimate of sales lost by legitimate handbags and luggage manufacturers in the EU each year due to counterfeiting.

Since the legitimate industry sells less than it would have sold in the absence of counterfeiting, it also employs fewer workers[14] Data from Eurostat on sectorial employment-to-sales ratios are used to estimate the corresponding employment lost in the legitimate handbags and luggage sector due to counterfeiting, resulting in a total of 12,100 lost jobs across the EU.

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12 - The 95% confidence interval is a statistical calculation which means that there is a 95% probability that the true figure lies between the lower and upper bounds of that interval. For example, for the EU as a whole, the estimated percentage of lost sales is 12.7%, with a 95% probability that the true percentage lies between 11.3% and 14%.

13 - The estimation was performed using with data from 20 Member States, as these countries account for 93% of total consumption of EU28. It is reasonable to apply the resulting coefficients to the remaining eight Member States for which data on the dependent variable is not available.

14 - The total lost sales figure of €1.6 billion is not used to calculate employment impacts, since €200 million of this total is attributable to imports. Therefore, the figure used to estimate employment impacts within the EU is €1.4 billion, representing the difference between estimated total lost sales and imports.

Country-level estimates of lost sales, including 95% confidence intervals, expressed both as a percentage of total sales and in € million, are shown in the table below:

	Lower 95%	Average	Upper 95%	Lost sales (€ million)
AUSTRIA	13.5	17.9	22.3	32
BELGIUM	8.1	10.9	13.7	28
BULGARIA	10.6	15.0	19.4	2
CYPRUS	9.6	12.7	15.9	4
CZECH REP.	16.9	22.7	28.4	41
GERMANY	10.5	13.9	17.3	231
DENMARK	9.4	12.4	15.5	15
ESTONIA	11.3	15.1	18.8	2
GREECE	16.7	21.4	26.2	40
SPAIN	8.4	11.1	13.8	123
FINLAND	2.8	3.7	4.6	4
FRANCE	8.6	11.4	14.3	99
CROATIA	11.7	18.0	24.3	20
HUNGARY	21.9	28.5	35.2	52
IRELAND	7.9	10.5	13.2	10
ITALY	8.9	12.0	15.1	520
LITHUANIA	20.0	26.8	33.6	3
LUXEMBOURG	7.8	10.4	13.0	2
LATVIA	20.8	27.8	34.9	4
MALTA	6.2	8.1	10.0	1
NETHERLANDS	9.9	13.2	16.5	41
POLAND	8.3	12.1	16.0	40
PORTUGAL	5.3	7.1	9.0	12
ROMANIA	23.7	31.4	39.0	30
SWEDEN	6.8	9.1	11.4	17
SLOVENIA	6.9	9.3	11.8	11
SLOVAKIA	20.9	27.8	34.6	14
UNITED KINGDOM	8.9	11.8	14.6	184
EU28	11.3	12.7	14.0	1,581

The biggest absolute impact of counterfeiting (€520 million) is observed in Italy, which is an unsurprising result, given the extent of consumption in the country. Germany and the United Kingdom both suffer relative significant losses as well, with fourteen and twelve percent of sales lost due to counterfeiting respectively.

Employment lost as a result of lost sales totals approximately 12,100 jobs in the EU and relates to countries where the products are manufactured, not where they are sold. The table below shows the nine countries with the highest employment losses.

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Lost employment	Person employed	%
ITALY	4,078	12.3
FRANCE	1,015	5.7
HUNGARY	1,083	24.5
POLAND	1,070	18.7
GERMANY	976	17.0
SPAIN	842	13.8
ROMANIA	608	8.8
CZECH REPUBLIC	536	15.4
UNITED KINGDOM	408	15.4
EU28	12,097	12.7

Direct employment impacts are calculated at the country level by estimating lost sales by that country's handbags and luggage manufacturing sector across the entire EU market. For example, the direct sales lost by Italian industry as a result of counterfeiting are estimated by adding sales lost in Italy to Italian sales lost in other EU countries. The latter total is calculated from the differing counterfeiting rates prevalent within each of the Member States.

Indirect impact

In addition to the direct loss of sales in the luggage and handbags sector, there are also impacts on other sectors of the EU economy, as the sector suffering lost sales due to counterfeiting will also buy fewer goods and services from its suppliers, causing sales declines and corresponding employment effects in other sectors.

To assess this indirect impact, data from Eurostat[15] are used, showing how much the luggage and handbag sector buys in the EU from other sectors in order to produce what it delivers[16].

Final demand for handbags and luggage, as estimated in this report, includes imported goods and not only the value of EU production. Analysis of these import figures reveals that on balance the EU is a net importer of handbags and luggage from countries outside of the EU. Employment and indirect effects arising from these imports occur outside of the EU and therefore are not included in our calculations. Consequently, of the total lost sales figure of €1.6 billion, only the value of domestic production (€1.4 billion) is used to calculate indirect impacts[17].

15 - Input-Output Tables (IOT) published by Eurostat provide the structure of input requirements for the production of a certain final demand acknowledging whether the origin of these inputs is either domestic or imported.

16 - The input-output tables are provided by Eurostat at division level (2 digit NACE level) or aggregation of divisions instead of class level (4 digit level). This means that for calculating the impact of the sales reduction in 15.12 NACE class, it is necessary to use the structure of 'Textile, wearing apparel and leather products' as a whole (NACE 13-15).

17 - On the other hand, this report only estimates the effect on sales of the handbags and luggage sector within the EU marketplace. So, to the extent that counterfeit products in non-EU markets displace exports of legitimate EU manufacturers, there is a further employment loss in the EU which is not captured here.

Total direct and indirect effects in the EU of lost sales due to counterfeiting as an annual average for the period 2007–2012 amounts to €3.2 billion.

Total effects estimated are assigned to the following industries (in million EUR):

Textiles, wearing apparel and leather	1,803
Imported goods	198
Wholesale trade	149
Chemical industry	95
Electricity and gas	69
Legal and accounting	66
Land transport	59
Financial services	54
Real estate	51
Other industries	661
TOTAL	3,205

Thus, beyond the direct effects on the manufacture of handbags and luggage (€1.6 billion in annual sales), a similar amount is lost in other sectors of the economy due to counterfeiting. This is the indirect effect of counterfeiting[18].

Turning to employment, if we add losses in the supplier sectors to the direct employment loss in the manufacture of handbags and luggage, the total employment loss resulting from counterfeiting is estimated at 25,700.

Finally, the reduced economic activity in the legitimate private sector has an impact on government revenues[19] as well. If we accept this assumption, the lost taxes that sales of handbags and luggage valued at €1.6 billion would have generated can be calculated, as well as the tax revenues corresponding to the total (direct + indirect) loss of € 3.2 billion calculated above.

The three main types of tax considered are[20]: Value Added Tax (VAT), taxes on household income, and taxes on the income or profits of companies.

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18 - As mentioned in Section 1, this calculation assumes that the counterfeit products are produced outside the EU. If they are (partly) produced inside the EU, then the indirect impact would be less than shown in the table since those illicit producers would presumably source some of their inputs from EU producers.

19 - According to WIPO (2010) and OECD (2008), most of the empirical work assumes that counterfeiting occurs in informal markets that usually do not generate tax revenues.

20 - National Accounts tax aggregates are published by Eurostat and provide information on total payments for these three taxes to all levels of government.

1) 1)The lost VAT is estimated on the basis of household consumption of direct lost sales in handbag and luggage sector (€1.6 billion)[21], accounting for €224 million.

2) Lost household income tax, estimated on the basis of the share of wages generated by employment lost to total wages, considering direct and indirect effects on employment, amounts to €110 million.

3) The lost tax on corporate profits is estimated from the share of direct and indirect costs to industry and amounts to €41 million.

In addition, social security contributions linked to the direct and indirect employment losses are also estimated. Social security contributions data by industry are available in Eurostat, so that social security contributions per employee in each industry can be used to calculate lost contributions as a consequence of counterfeiting. These lost social security contributions amount to €141 million.

The total loss of government revenue (household income taxes and social security contributions, corporate income taxes and VAT) can be roughly estimated at €516 million.

21 - VAT generated by indirect effects is not estimated because inputs are intermediate uses that in general do not pay VAT.

3. Conclusions and perspectives

The six studies attempting to quantify the scale and impact of IPR infringements in cosmetics and perfumes, clothing and footwear, sports goods, toys and games, jewellery and watches and now handbags and luggage, have provided coherent estimates of the size of the problem of counterfeiting for legitimate businesses and society in terms of lost sales, leading to lost jobs and loss of public revenue. These studies have used a common methodology and demonstrated the benefits from working in cooperation with stakeholders to take advantage of their knowledge of market conditions, while relying on harmonised European statistical data for the analysis.

These sectorial studies will be followed in the coming months by other similar studies covering additional sectors, applying the same methodology and combining it with market insights from industry stakeholders. These sectors include medicines; tobacco; alcoholic beverages covering beer, wine and spirits; computers; and other sectors, depending on availability of data.

In parallel, the Observatory has embarked on a joint study with the Organization for Cooperation and Development (OECD) to estimate the value of counterfeit goods in international trade, and on studies of infringements in the music, film and e-book industries, in this case with the support of the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission.

Taken together, these studies complement each other and will provide a complete and objective picture of the impact of IPR infringements in Europe, in order to help policy makers develop effective enforcement policies.

Appendix A:
The first stage forecasting model

Employing the first stage of the two stage model, we generate annual forecasts of consumption for each of the Member States. The process of producing the forecasts and estimating the impact of counterfeiting is depicted in the diagram below.
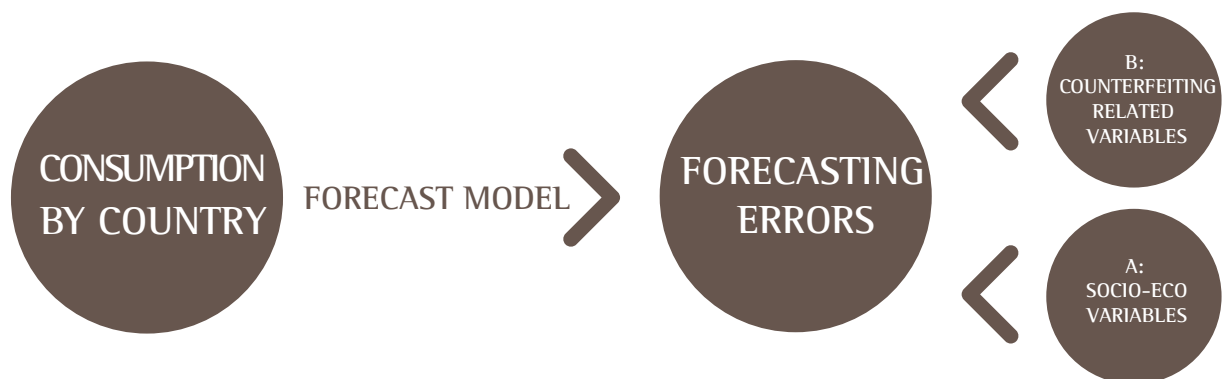
The simplest available comparable forecasts, across all member states, are produced via the use of ARIMA modelling. These models only use the past values of consumption to produce a forecast of future consumption. The forecast error, between the ARIMA forecast and observed sales, represents an estimate of the expected lost sales, notwithstanding adjustments for the impact of socio-economic factors.

The forecasting error is the difference between predicted and actual consumption and for the purposes of comparability is expressed as a proportion of actual consumption. For instance,

$$q_{it}^* = \frac{\hat{Y}_{it} - Y_{it}}{Y_{it}}$$

where Y_{it} is the consumption of games and toys in country i and year t (measured in euros) and $\hat{Y}_{it}$ is the forecast of Y_{it} obtained from the univariate model using consumption expenditure information up to and including the period t-1.

The relative error q_{it}^* measures the extent to which the forecasting model has predicted a higher or lower value (as a share of actual consumption) versus the actual level of consumption observed from the Eurostat data.

Step-wise forecasting errors for the six years from 2007 to 2012 are constructed for 20 Member States for which sufficient data is available.

The forecasting errors are presented in the following table. It is evident that these errors exhibit a large degree of variability, swinging from sizeable negative errors in the initial periods to similar positive magnitudes in 2008 and 2009. However, the forecasting errors are not interesting in themselves. The purpose of this study is not to produce a "good" forecast but rather to generate a set of relative forecasting errors which can then be quantitatively analysed to construct estimates of counterfeiting. Forecasts are produced using univariate models and using an automatic procedure, which ensures that they are comparable and "unpolluted" by a priori knowledge of factors influencing changes in demand.

RELATIVE ERRORS (%)	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
AUSTRIA	-8.8	-9.6	-10.9	-14.4	17.2	-8.4
CYPRUS	-12.2	-7.3	38.3	-25.7	-13.0	-7.5
CZECH REPUBLIC	-9.1	-11.5	-7.0	-1.0	22.6	55.0
GERMANY	3.7	6.0	4.2	1.5	-14.2	-22.9
DENMARK	-5.0	-6.7	36.9	13.6	-11.7	-9.0
ESTONIA	-42.8	-18.2	108.7	5.2	-39.0	-5.0
SPAIN	-1.7	2.5	37.9	18.7	16.7	4.3
FINLAND	5.8	-13.5	24.3	-10.7	-17.1	-19.1
FRANCE	-26.3	11.5	58.1	23.5	-12.6	-25.4
IRELAND	7.0	20.1	9.1	-13.9	3.7	-30.6
ITALY	-20.4	-6.4	35.0	11.3	-9.0	36.5
LUXEMBOURG	-22.6	1.4	3.6	-11.7	0.7	-3.6
LATVIA	-2.1	41.7	90.3	-26.5	-4.2	14.6
NETHERLANDS	-20.5	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
POLAND	-64.0	15.2	87.6	-0.5	-28.1	-15.6
PORTUGAL	-8.4	-14.4	-5.9	-11.9	8.5	16.1
ROMANIA	-50.7	-13.8	99.9	40.0	-1.6	22.2
SLOVENIA	30.3	45.3	-0.5	-27.7	-26.2	52.6
SLOVAKIA	-7.6	-1.7	64.3	65.4	18.7	-19.3
UNITED KINGDOM	-11.6	4.6	18.4	-10.0	3.0	-4.9

The second part of the estimation process seeks to determine to what extent these forecast errors can be explained by economic and subsequently counterfeiting factors.

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Appendix B:
The second-stage econometric model

Counterfeiting might be one of a number of factors impacting on the level of legal sales of games and toys, but there are, as outlined earlier, a series of other economic factors which can explain the differential, such as variables related to the economic capacity of households, or consumer demographics (e.g. population growth) or any other driver of consumption expenditure.

Having accounted for the influence of economic variables on the sales differential, we look to assess the extent to which counterfeiting variables, or relevant proxies, can explain the propensity to purchase fake games and toys. These variables might include measures of consumer and market characteristics, as well as the evolution of a country's legal environment.

Combining the economic and counterfeiting variables allows us to specify a model, whose aim is to explain the aggregate differential (forecast errors) between expected and real sales. The model is specified in the following format.

$$q_{it}^* = \alpha * X_{it} + \beta * Z_{it} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

Where X_{it} is a matrix of explanatory economic variables unrelated to counterfeiting and Z_{it} a matrix of variables related to counterfeiting. Finally, ε_{it} is the remaining error.

Economic variables considered to have explanatory power, <u>unrelated to counterfeiting</u> include:

1. Gross Disposable Income (GDI) of the household sector: per capita income and growth;
2. GDP per capita and GDP growth;
3. Exchange rate of Euro vs. other EU currencies;
4. Population growth.

The second term of the equation, Z_{it}, contains the matrix of <u>variables thought to be related to counterfeiting</u>[22]. These variables include:

1. Population at risk of poverty or social exclusion, as a share of total population and growth;
2. Distribution of income by quartiles (including the share attributed to the lowest quartile and the ratio between the highest and lowest quartiles);
3. Gini coefficient (a measure of income inequality);
4. Several variables selected from the Observatory's IP Perception study[24] and from Eurobarometer (including counterfeiting and corruption related variables);
5. Corruption Perceptions Index, CPI (level and growth);

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22 - A list of factors affecting demand and consumption for counterfeit goods is available in OECD (2008).

23 - Available at: https://oami.europa.eu/ohimportal/en/web/observatory/ip_perception.

6. Intellectual Property Right Index;

7. Worldwide Governance Indicators (World Bank) covering Government effectiveness, regulatory quality, rule of law and control of corruption (level and growth);

8. World Bank International Tourism Index;

9. Sales in stalls and markets (from survey to trade enterprises);

10. Internet purchasers (as a percentage of population and growth).

Variables 1 to 4 in the list are considered to be consumer-related drivers of demand for counterfeiting. The population at risk of poverty, the share and concentration of income in quartiles of the household income distribution, along with the Gini coefficient are all variables that describe degrees of income inequality.

The variables considered for inclusion in the Z matrix from the IP Perception study and the Eurobarometer include; the percentage of the population that has bought counterfeit products intentionally or been misled into the purchase of counterfeit products and the percentage of the population that considered, in certain circumstances, buying counterfeit products to be acceptable.

Corruption variables considered for inclusion in the Z matrix from the Eurobarometer survey include[24]; the percentage of the population declaring that corruption is widespread, that it is in the business culture, that it is a major problem and the percentage of the population that believed corruption had increased over the last three years. And from the Tolerance Index to Corruption, the measure covering the percentage of the population that declares that corruption in public administration or public service is acceptable was considered.

Variables 5 to 7 are considered to be drivers of counterfeiting related to institutional characteristics of each country.

The Corruption Perception Index (CPI) is published by Transparency International and measures how corrupt public sectors are seen to be by the public in each country. In this study the updated index is used as a time invariant variable with reference year 2012.

The Intellectual Property (IP) Rights Index used is published by Property Rights Alliance and measures the strength of protection accorded to IP. The 2010 index is used in this study and the same value is used for each country across the six years studied as a time invariant variable.

The Worldwide Governance Indicators reflect the perception of government effectiveness, regulatory quality, rule of law and corruption. They are published annually and range from 2.5 for favourable aspects of governance to -2.5 for poor. These indicators are considered as potential proxies for the perceived risk of buying or selling counterfeit goods, in much a similar way as considered in the 2010 WIPO study. These indices have a high negative correlation with poverty indicators and with the variables from the IP Perception study and Eurobarometer.

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24 - In WCO (2012) it is stated that: 'The predominance of the informal is then associated with corruption and the degree of regulation...' So, to the extent that counterfeiting is part of the informal economy, a measure of corruption could be considered explanatory for counterfeiting.

Finally, variables 8 to 10 reflect country market characteristics that might be related to counterfeiting.

Altogether, 45 different explanatory variables were tested and different econometric techniques were applied in order to select a model with robust econometric results and a clear interpretation.

Some of the variables considered in the modelling process are clearly correlated with each other. High correlation coefficients between explanatory variables (referred to as multicollinearity) present a common problem in econometric analysis. If correlated explanatory variables are included in the model, the estimated coefficients for these variables could be mistakenly considered as insignificant (small t-statistics), although possessing a high overall significance for the model as measured by the F-test. This situation can pose problems when trying to interpret the meaning and significance of parameter estimates and when testing the significance of other variables in the model specification.

For instance, per capita GDI of the household sector and per capita GDP are highly correlated.

We therefore include in the model only those variables with the greatest explanatory power in order to avoid the problems described.

Having defined the model and acknowledged potential estimation issues (multicollinearity) we begin testing the specified model. Our first observation is that there is correlation between the residuals of the specified model and the variations in the sales differential, namely our dependent variable.

This relationship indicates that we might have a problem with heteroscedasticity, which implies that the variance of our estimated residuals is non-stable (variance stability is a key assumption behind the statistical validity of Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) method). This is a problem that must be addressed; otherwise, the estimators using OLS will be inefficient and the confidence intervals will be invalid.

Different tests were employed to detect the presence of heteroscedasticity (White Test and Breusch and Pagan Test) considering different specifications for residual variance (standard errors of the ARIMA forecasts and groupwise heteroscedasticity). Results from those tests suggested estimation of the 2nd stage model via Groupwise Two-Steps Least Squared (2SLS) method assuming a common variance by country that is estimated based on OLS residuals.

Finally, residuals of the 2SLS method were analysed to check compliance with the usual assumptions of regression models. The tests comprised a White test and residuals plots for heteroscedasticity; a tolerance analysis and Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) test for multicollinearity; and the Jarque-Vera test for normality of the residuals. Test results indicated that the residuals complied with regression assumptions, with the possible exception of normality[25].

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25 - All results of diagnostic tests are available on request.

Model results

The specified model produces the following results:

Variable	Coefficient	Standard Error	t Statistic	95% Confidence interval	
				Lower	Upper
Constant	-0.1079	0.0377	-2.8617 ***	-0.1826	-0.0332
GDP growth	-0.0334	0.0036	-9.3397 ***	-0.0405	-0.0263
Tolerance Index to Corruption (EB13)	0.3883	0.1199	3.2375 ***	0.1506	0.6260
WB Index Rule of Law (growth)	-0.2085	0.0577	-3.6107 ***	-0.3229	-0.0941

R square = 50.1%
F statistic = 28.4 ***

* significant at 90% confidence level
** significant at 95% confidence level
*** significant at 99% confidence level

This model explains 50% of total variance of the stage 1 residuals using a combination of economic and counterfeiting-related variables. For each variable, the first column shows the estimated coefficient, the second column shows the standard error, while the third column indicates the statistical significance of the parameter estimates. As indicated all such estimates are significant at the 99% of confidence level[26].

The economic variable, **GDP growth,** has a negative coefficient, meaning that countries with a higher GDP growth are associated with smaller forecasting errors.

The remaining two variables in the model relate to counterfeiting and include the percentage of the **population declaring that corruption is accepted or tolerated** in the Eurobarometer (2013), and the growth rate of the **World Bank Index of Rule of Law.** The World Bank Index captures the extent to which agents have confidence in and abide by the rules of society, and in particular the quality of contract employment, property rights, the police and the courts, as well as the likelihood of crime and violence.

The Eurobarometer variable is time invariant and its coefficient has a positive sign. This implies that a higher percentage of the population declaring that corruption is accepted, has a positive relationship with forecast errors estimated in the 1st stage. The World Bank Rule of Law Index growth variable has a negative coefficient, so that a higher value of this index corresponds to better governance and is related to smaller forecasting errors.

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24 - If, for example, an estimated coefficient is significant at the 95% confidence level, then one can say that the probability that the true coefficient is zero and the estimated value was obtained solely by chance is 5%. The "t-statistic" shown in the third column is simply the estimated coefficient divided by its standard error. The last two columns show the 95% confidence interval for the coefficient; in other words, the true coefficient lies in the interval between the lower and upper bounds with a 95% probability.

As the main objective of the model is to estimate the coefficients of the counterfeiting variables, it is clear that the characteristics of these coefficients should be investigated.

To check the stability of these coefficients, other explanatory variables were introduced into the 2nd stage model and different methods employed. The resulting estimated coefficients of the counterfeiting-related variables are presented in the following table.

	Corruption Index	Rule of Law
1	0.3883	-0.2085
2	0.3223	-0.3573
3	0.4394	-0.0964
4	0.3919	-0.1567
5	0.3794	-0.2853
6	0.4923	-0.2788
7	0.4703	-0.2794
8	0.4257	-0.1652
9	0.4750	

As can be seen, the coefficients of variables related to counterfeiting remain stable even when explanatory variables are added or different methods of estimation are used. Such stability is a strong indication that the model is correctly specified.

Having optimised this second stage specification for multicollinearity and heteroscedasticity we estimate the impact of counterfeiting via the following relationship

$$C_{it}^* = \widehat{\beta_1} * Z_{1_i} + \widehat{\beta_2} * Z_{2_{it}}$$

Where C_{it}^* represents the sales lost due to counterfeiting in country i and year t (expressed as the fraction of the sector's actual sales), Z_{1_i} is the percentage of population that indicates that corruption is widespread, and $Z_{2_{it}}$ is the value of the World Bank Index of Rule of Law growth in that country and year[27]. The β's are the estimated coefficients from the table at the beginning of this section.

Taking Finland as an example, the percentage of the population that tolerates and accepts corruption is 9.51% as reflected in the Eurobarometer 2013; and the growth rate of the World Bank Index of Rule of Law as an average in years 2007-2012 is 0.12%. Then, the counterfeiting effect for Finland is calculated as:

0.3883*0.0951 - 0.2085*0.0012 = 0.037, or 3.7%

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27 - It should be noted that in this case, the value of Z1i is the same for all t since the variable is time-invariant during the period covered by this study.

This is a direct estimate of lost sales of handbags and luggage in Finland due to counterfeiting. Put another way, in the absence of counterfeiting and all else being equal, sales of the legitimate sector in the Finnish market would be 3.7% higher than they actually are.

In a similar manner, the counterfeiting effect can be calculated for all 28 EU Member States, applying values of the explanatory variables to the coefficients estimated in the model above.

22 - It should be noted that in this case, the value of z_{1i} is the same for all t since the variable is time-invariant during the period covered by this study.

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The economic cost of IPR infringement in handbags and luggage

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