**Background**

The study, carried out jointly by the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market and the European Patent Office, aims to provide the first broad, credible assessment of the combined contribution of industries that make intensive use of the various types of intellectual property rights (IPR) to the economies of the EU as a whole and of the individual member states.¹

The study covers a broad range of IP rights – trade marks, patents, designs, copyright and geographical indications (GIs) – and considers a variety of economic indicators, in particular gross domestic product (GDP), employment, wages and external trade. It makes no policy recommendations, as this is not within its scope. Instead, it is designed to provide evidence that can be used by policymakers in their work, and to serve as a basis for raising awareness of intellectual property among Europe’s citizens.

**Main findings**

The main findings of the study are set out below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic indicator</th>
<th>Contribution of IPR-intensive industries</th>
<th>Contribution of patent-intensive industries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU employment</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>direct</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>indirect</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU GDP</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU wage premium</td>
<td>+ 41%</td>
<td>+ 64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of total EU imports</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of total EU exports</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IPR-intensive industries are defined as those having an above-average use of IPR per employee. The present study shows that about half of European industries (321 out of 615 industries) can be considered IPR-intensive.

It should be emphasised, however, that virtually all industries use IP rights to some extent. By focusing only on the IPR-intensive industries, the study arguably understates the real contribution of IP rights to the European economy.

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¹ Croatia became the EU’s 28th member state on 1 July 2013, but is not included, as not enough data for Croatia was available when the analysis was conducted in autumn 2012 and spring 2013. This will be remedied in a future update of the study.
EU employment

Such IPR-intensive industries are shown to have directly generated almost 26% of all jobs in the EU during the period 2008-2010, with 10% in patent-intensive industries. On average, over this period, 56.5 million Europeans were directly employed in IPR-intensive industries, out of a total employment of approximately 218 million. A further 20 million jobs were indirectly generated in industries that supply goods and services to IPR-intensive industries. Taking indirect jobs into account, the total number of IPR-dependent jobs rose to just under 77 million (35%). In patent-intensive industries, the total number of directly and indirectly created jobs was 35 million (16%).

EU GDP

Over the same period, IPR-intensive industries generated almost 39% of total economic activity (GDP) in the EU, with a value of €4.7 trillion. Patent-intensive industries were responsible for almost 14% of EU GDP (€1.7 trillion).

EU wage premium

IPR-intensive industries also pay significantly higher wages than other industries, with a premium of 41%. This is consistent with the fact that the value added per worker is higher in IPR-intensive industries than elsewhere in the economy. The wage premium is even higher in patent-intensive industries, where it amounts to 64% (€831 per week).

EU trade

The bulk of EU trade is in IPR-intensive industries. A very high share of imports (88%) is IPR-intensive. This is because even industries producing commodities such as energy are IPR-intensive, while many non-IPR-intensive activities are non-tradable. An even higher share of EU exports (90%) is accounted for by IPR-intensive industries. The share of patent-intensive industries in EU imports and exports is somewhat lower but still high.

The full report is available for download on www.epo.org/ip-intensive-industries