

**FOI Release**  
***Information released under the Freedom of Information Act***

**Title:** Relationship between IP infringement claims and UK recession

**Date of release:** 17 June 2013

**Information request:**

I'm looking for some information on the relationship between IP infringement claims and any downturn in the UK economy. When the UK economy growth is low, does the number of IP infringement claims increase? Is there any statistical data to back this up?

**Information released:**

I regret that I haven't been able to identify any information which explicitly demonstrates such a relationship, nor it appears, does the Intellectual Property Office collect such information.

We do publish statistics in our annual Facts & Figures on e.g. trade mark oppositions/hearings and patent opinions as to validity or infringement, but we would have to break down the figures further to identify the cases specifically pertaining to infringement.

That may be possible, but they are just a small aspect of IP infringement as this is usually something dealt with in the courts and normally we would only be notified of the outcome of such litigation if a patent or trade mark is revoked. We would be notified then for register-keeping reasons.

There may be something relevant in the research papers and IP Crime Report, available at <http://www.ipo.gov.uk/pro-ipresearch/ipresearch-policy/ipresearch-policy-infringe.htm> and <http://www.ipo.gov.uk/pro-crime-report.htm> .

Our Annual Reports and Facts & Figures are available at <http://www.ipo.gov.uk/ourpublications-review.htm> .