

Glossary: Intellectual property right

Statistics Explained

Intellectual property rights , abbreviated as IPRs, refers to the general term for the assignment of property rights through patents, copyrights and trademarks. These property rights allow the holder to exercise a monopoly on the use of the item for a set period.

By restricting imitation and duplication IPRs confer monopoly power, but the social costs of monopoly power may be offset by the social benefits of higher levels of creative activity encouraged by the monopoly earnings. Ownership of ideas includes literary and artistic works (protected by copyright), inventions (protected by patents), signs for distinguishing goods of an enterprise (protected by trademarks) and other elements of industrial property.

Related concepts

- [Patent](#)

Statistical data

- [Patent statistics](#)

Source

- [OECD glossary of statistical terms](#)