Software is ubiquitous. It is at the heart of every aspect of modern life. We depend on software at the office, at school, at home, in our leisure time, when we travel, and when we communicate. Software helps us be more effective, more creative, and more efficient. BSA | The Software Alliance has commissioned this expert analysis by The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) on the economic contributions of the software industry in both the EU28 and its five biggest Member States: France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the United Kingdom. The research findings provide important insights on how the European Union (EU) can take advantage of software’s potential.

Software delivers a total value-added (direct, indirect, and induced) GDP of €910 billion — over 7 percent of the EU28 total GDP. This contribution comes from all sectors and all levels of the economy: farming, manufacturing, services, education, and health care.

EUROPEAN UNION

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**EMPLOYMENT**

**Direct:**
3.1 million jobs
1.4% of total EU jobs

**Total:**
11.6 million jobs
5.3% of total EU jobs

From software developers and web designers to futurists, project coordinators, administrative assistants, and accountants, software creates jobs for a wide variety of professionals in today’s workplaces. These numbers capture jobs created directly by the software industry, as well as jobs the software industry supports through indirect and induced impacts.

**WAGES**

**Average Annual Wage for Software Industry:**
€45,333

* by comparison...*

All industries: €33,790
Service sector: €25,214

The EU average wage for the software industry is 34 percent higher than the EU average wage and 80 percent higher than the EU average wage for the services sector.

**Total annual wages paid by the software industry:**
€139.2 billion

**R&D**

**€12.7 billion**
Software R&D expenditures

7.3% of R&D expenditures by business enterprise

Software companies in the EU invest strongly in software R&D — almost €12.7 billion in 2013.