

Fair Use in the U.S. Economy: 2025

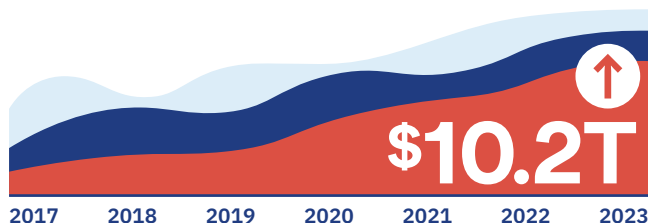
The U.S. has built one of the world's strongest, most innovation-friendly copyright systems, balancing robust enforcement against infringement with critical limitations and exceptions—most notably “fair use”—that drive economic growth and job creation. Fair use benefits a wide range of Internet-enabled industries, delivering broad consumer gains. Sectors from device manufacturing and education to software, cloud services, and web hosting stand to grow even further with the rise of generative AI.

Industries Benefiting From Fair Use

- Manufacturers of consumer devices that allow individual copying and recording
- Educational institutions
- Software developers
- Cloud-based services and data centers
- Internet search and web hosting providers

Revenue

The revenues generated by fair use industries expanded by \$3.2 trillion, or 6.6 percent annually, from 2017 to 2023, reaching **\$10.2 trillion** in 2023.



Value Added

This study finds that in 2023, value added by fair use industries was **18 percent of the U.S. economy**, contributing \$4.9 trillion to US GDP.



Employment

U.S. jobs in fair use industries grew by 2.5 million workers since 2017, to **22 million workers by 2023**. Payrolls expanded rapidly, rising from \$1.7 trillion in 2017 to **\$2.5 trillion during 2023**, an increase of 46%.



Productivity

From 2017 to 2023, the labor productivity of U.S. fair use industries increased by 3.7 percent annually (approximately \$220,000 per worker).



Exports

Exports of goods and services related to fair use industries increased by 33 percent from \$397 billion in 2017 to **\$530 billion in 2023** driven by increases in service-sector exports. The U.S. economy benefits from a substantial trade surplus attributable to fair use services industries.

