

France fines Apple \$1.2 billion for anti-competitive acts

March 16 2020



In this March 15, 2020 file photo, a worker cleans the Apple Store on the Champs-Elysees avenue in Paris. French regulators fined Apple 1.1 billion euros (\$1.2 billion) on Monday March 16, 2020 for striking deals to keep prices high, in the biggest-ever such sanction by France's Competition Authority. (AP Photo/Christophe Ena,File)

French regulators fined Apple 1.1 billion euros (\$1.2 billion) on Monday for striking deals to keep prices high, in the biggest-ever such sanction by France's Competition Authority.

The agency said Apple and top re-sellers agreed to align prices with Apple's own pricing for its iPads and some other products. The [deals](#) did not concern iPhones.

Calling the fine "disheartening," Apple defended its operations in a statement saying its "investment and innovation supports over 240,000 jobs across the country."

Apple added that: "It relates to practices from over a decade ago and discards thirty years of legal precedent that all companies in France rely on with an order that will cause chaos for companies across all industries."

Two "premium" French Apple re-sellers, Tech Data and Ingram Micro, were also fined a total of 139 million euros (\$155 million). The competition authority said Apple and the re-[sellers](#) agreed not to compete.

"Apple abusively exploited" distributors' dependence on the tech giant, the authority wrote, and "prevented competition among different Apple distribution channels." And that, in turn, hurt consumers.

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