



## CBP Seizes Over \$13.2M in Counterfeit Computers and Parts in FY 2020

Through the third quarter of fiscal year (FY) 2020, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) seized over **75** shipments of counterfeit computers and components. The seized merchandise is estimated to have a Manufacturer’s Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) of over **\$13.2 million**.

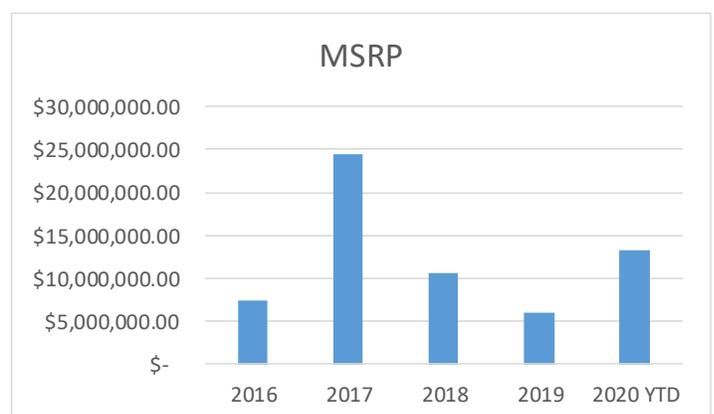
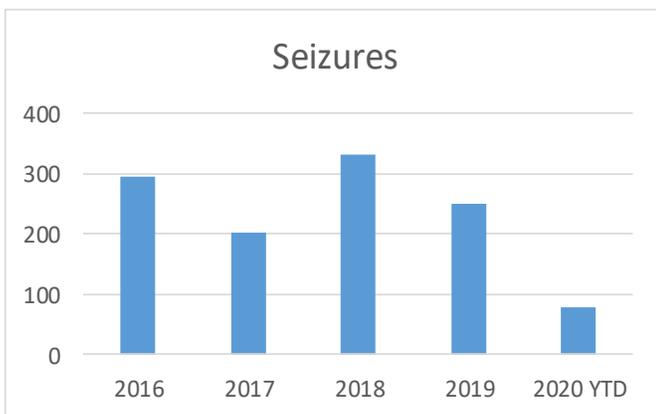
With the advent of COVID-19, the country’s reliance on computers for working, learning, and connecting to family and friends from home has become increasingly notable. As a result, many retailers of computers and components have



A CBP officer examines seized computer components. (CBP photo)

been deemed essential by many states. Given this increasing dependence on such technology for everything from daily entertainment to the management of finances and bill paying, it is necessary that computers and their components be genuine in order to maintain dependability and security.

Accordingly, it is important that consumers are aware of the expansive risks related to counterfeit computers and components. For the individual consumer, for example, counterfeit computers and parts can be a health and safety hazard due to an increase in the probability of malfunction or fire hazard. The introduction of counterfeit components can also lead to pre-installed malware, which can affect the security of users’ information. Additionally, such counterfeit merchandise can also pose a national security risk as they can be installed in equipment used in government agencies, which can introduce vulnerabilities into government systems. These risks highlight the importance of consumer awareness when purchasing computers and their respective components.



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