

Standard documentation Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

Innovation statistics

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2016-2018

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Executive Summary

Goal and purpose of innovation surveys (CIS = Community Innovation Survey) is to compile standardised statistical data on type and extent of innovation activities in Austrian enterprises which can be compared nationally and internationally. Data are important inputs for decision making in national and international innovation and technology policy and for further scientific and economic analyses. Innovations are particularly seen as an important contribution to a “knowledge-based economy” and to competitiveness in a globalised economy. In economic theory, innovation activities are considered as an important factor for economic growth and the increase of productivity (e.g. Joseph Schumpeter). In contrast to statistics on research and experimental development (R&D) innovation statistics also produces output-oriented indicators (such as the share of turnover generated by innovations or the used of IPRs for innovations). Innovation conceptually includes R&D activities, but also goes far beyond those. Results of the innovation surveys are also published in the framework of the “[European Innovation Scoreboard \(EIS\)](#)”.

Innovations are defined as followed in the innovation survey: Innovations are new or improved product or business processes that differ significantly from the firm’s previous goods, services or business processes and which were introduced on the market or by the enterprise.

The innovation survey is a statistical survey among around 5 800 enterprises with 10 or more employed persons in Austria with a voluntary participation. The stratified random sample, which is based on the methodological recommendations from Eurostat, is drawn from the statistical business register of Statistics Austria. For single indicators (turnover, persons employed) data from the [Structural Business Survey \(SBS\)](#) and the business register of Statistics Austria are used. The most important indicators collected are product innovations, shares of turnover of product innovations, business process innovations, innovation expenditure, innovation cooperation, and hampering factors for innovation.

Reference period are the three previous calendar years. For the CIS 2020, these were the years 2018-2020. The CIS was carried out since the reference period 2002-2004 (CIS 4) biennially. This documentation is valid since the CIS 2018 (reference period 2016-2018). The Austrian survey methodology for innovation statistics is based on international standards and recommendations of the [Oslo Manual](#). The methods and definitions described in this documentation are based on this edition, while the previous innovation surveys followed recommendations of the [Oslo Manual 3](#). Due to modified definitions in the Oslo Manual 2018 comparability over time with the previous survey CIS 2016 is restricted.

Due to the complex definition of “innovation“, the distinction of the subject is not always simple, though. It is possible that enterprises report innovation activities, although these activities are only “innovation-related“. On the contrary, it is also possible that innovative enterprise assess their activities as “non-innovative“.

A key indicator is the share of innovation active enterprises. An enterprise is considered “innovation active“ if it has introduced one of the above mentioned innovations or had activities targeting at the

implementation of those which were still ongoing at the end of the reference period, abandoned completely within the reference period, or completed without having implemented an innovation.

If less than 70% of enterprises participate in the general survey, a non-response survey must be conducted. At least 10% of the non-responding enterprises must then be surveyed additionally with a very short questionnaire. This survey should clarify if this unit non-response leads to a bias in the results. As the voluntary character of the CIS results in a response rate of less than 70% such non-response surveys must be carried out.

Even when the drawn sample is stratified by NUTS1 regions, final results are only published on the national level for Austria. This is due to the voluntary character of the survey which unavoidably leads to non-responses of enterprises with regional significance as well as the fact that the “enterprise” as the statistical unit allows a regional classification by main location only.

Innovation statistics – Main Key Points

Subject matter	Capturing innovation activities of enterprises
Population	Austrian enterprises with 10 and more persons employed in the sectors: Mining and quarrying (NACE B), Manufacturing (C), Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (D), Water supply (E), Services (selected industries only: 46, H, J, K, 71, 72, 73)
Type of statistics	Primary survey; selected indicators from secondary sources (Structural Business Survey)
Data sources/Survey techniques	Sample survey, stratified by industry, size region Information from enterprises Structural Business Survey (SBS) for turnover Statistical business register
Reference period or due day	The last three calendar years before each odd calendar year (e.g. for the CIS 2020 the years 2018-2020), while some indicators refer to the last calendar year only (e.g. turnover, innovation expenditure)
Periodicity	Every two years
Survey participation (in case of a survey)	Voluntary
Main legal acts	Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and the Council of 27 November 2019 on European business statistics, repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics
Most detailed regional breakdown	Austria
Availability of results	Final data: t + 18 months
Other	If the response rate is below 70%, a non-response survey about selected main indicators is carried out regularly among 50% of the non-responding enterprises