

Innovation in Italian enterprises Years 2010-2012

Istat presents the results of the latest Innovation survey in the Italian enterprises. The survey covers innovation activities of the enterprises with at least ten persons employed operating in industry, construction and services in 2010-2012.

The Italian Innovation survey is part of the Eu Community Innovation Survey (CIS), carried out on a two-year basis (from 2004 onwards) by all EU Member States and candidate countries. CIS collects information on a number of dimensions of innovation so as to monitor Europe's progress on innovation. Since 2000, CIS has also become one of the major sources of data for the European Innovation Scoreboard.

CIS has been conducted under the Commission Regulation No 995/2012, which establishes the legal basis for innovation statistics and makes it compulsory to deliver data every two years on some key variables. In order to ensure a satisfying comparability across countries, the CIS is carried out on the basis of a standard core questionnaire and a harmonised survey methodology developed by Eurostat, in close cooperation with the participating countries. The methodological basis of CIS is provided by the OECD Oslo Manual.

For most of the published indicators, breakdowns are given at the level of size-classes (by number of persons employed) and economic activities (in accordance with NACE Rev.2).

Results of the Italian CIS2012 survey are available in the data warehouse I.stat (theme: Enterprises; subtheme: Innovation in enterprises with at least 10 employees-CIS).

In 2010-2012, 51.9% of Italian enterprises with at least ten persons employed undertook innovation activity¹. As compared to the previous period 2008-2010, the propensity to innovate increased slightly (+0.5 percentage points).

35.5% of all enterprises were involved in product-process innovation activities² (+2 percentage points as compared to 2008-2010).

Product-process innovation activity was more frequent in industry than in services and construction: 45.4% of industrial enterprises stated to have carried out these innovation activities in 2010-2012 against 29.5% and 20.3% of the other two sectors. As compared to the years 2008-2010, the percentage of enterprises active in product-process innovation decreased a little (-0.05 percentage points) in industry, while it grew in services and construction (respectively by 2.5 and 2.8 percentage points).

Differences in enterprises' behaviour at size level were confirmed. Large enterprises (250+ persons employed) were the most active in product-process innovation in Italian economy (69.2%), well ahead the medium and small enterprises, that undertook such activities (respectively 54.8% and 32.7% of total).

In 2012, innovation expenditure of the Italian enterprises was estimated to be around 24 billion of euros. The major contribution (about 50%) was given by research and development (R&D) expenditure.

Innovation expenditure per person employed (measured taking into account just the product-process innovative enterprises) was 6,300 euros. Industrial enterprises were the most active investors (8,300 euros), particularly the large-sized ones (9,700 euros).

20.7% of product-process innovation active enterprises have received a public funding for innovation, mainly from local or regional authorities.

¹ The enterprises with innovation activity are those enterprises that undertook activities for new or significantly improved products, processes, organisational methods or marketing methods.

² The enterprises involved in product-process innovation activity are those enterprises that undertook activities for new or significantly improved products or processes. These activities could be ended with the introduction of an innovation, could be abandoned or suspended before completion during the three years 2010 to 2012 or they could be still ongoing at the end of the 2012.

Still few product-process innovation active enterprises chose to cooperate with other enterprises or institutions in 2010-2012 (12.5%). The main co-operation partners were suppliers (6.8% stipulated co-operation agreements with them), while the scientific community was less frequently involved. The co-operation partners were mainly found in Italy (12.2%), while just 4.2% had cooperation with a foreign partner.

For almost half of the enterprises, innovation was strictly related to strategies aimed at reducing costs. More complex strategic behaviours – aimed at the development of new markets and at the introduction of new or significantly improved goods or services – characterise large enterprises.

Price competition, lack of demand and high cost of meeting government regulations or legal requirements were the main obstacles to meeting enterprises' goals, independently of size and economic activity.

MAIN INNOVATION INDICATORS FOR ENTERPRISES WITH AT LEAST 10 PERSONS EMPLOYED BY MACRO-SECTOR AND SIZE CLASS. Years 2010-2012, percentage values (except differently indicated)

Macro-sector size class	Enterprises with innovation activities (a)	Enterprises with product and/or process innovation activities (a)	Enterprises that introduced at least a product or process innovation (a)	Enterprises with combined innovation activities (product-process & organizational-marketing) (a)	Enterprises with product-process innovation activities that were still ongoing or abandoned at the end of 2012 (a)	Product innovative enterprises (only) (b)	Process innovative enterprises (only) (b)	Product and process innovative enterprises (b)	Innovation expenditure per person employed (thousands of euros) Year 2012	Enterprises that had co-operation arrangements on innovation activities (c)
Industry	58.4	45.4	43.1	32.5	2.3	19.5	27.1	53.3	8.3	11.0
Construction	37.6	20.3	17.9	14.8	2.4	24.1	35.1	40.8	3.0	9.3
Services	49.4	29.5	28.0	23.6	1.5	31.2	25.0	43.8	4.2	16.0
10-49 persons employed	49.3	32.7	30.7	23.9	1.9	23.6	28.6	47.7	6.5	10.9
50-249 persons employed	68.8	54.8	52.5	42.8	2.3	25.2	20.5	54.3	6.7	15.6
250 and over persons employed	82.5	69.2	66.7	59.6	2.5	18.1	19.4	62.5	6.0	37.2
Total	51.9	35.5	33.5	26.4	2.0	23.7	27.0	49.3	6.3	12.5

(a) % on total enterprises.

(b) % on total enterprises that introduced at least a product or process innovation.

(c) % on total enterprises with product and/or process innovation activities.

For more details please refer to the Italian version

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