

Innovation in Italian enterprises

Years 2012-2014

In 2012-2014, 44.6% of Italian enterprises with at least ten persons employed undertook innovation activity. As compared to the previous period 2008-2010, the propensity to innovate decreased greatly, from 51.9 to 44.6% (-7.3 percentage points). The decrease was largely explained from the reduction of investments in organizational and marketing innovations.

The innovation propensity decreased largely among small enterprises (41.3%, -8 percentage points compared with the previous period) compared with the medium-sized ones (64.9%, -3.9 percentage points). On the other hand it rose slightly among large enterprises (83.3%, +0.8), for which innovation can be considered a structural characteristic.

Industry was still the most innovative sector: 50.5% of enterprises with innovation activities, followed by Services with 42.2% and Construction with 30.5%.

31.9% of enterprises (against 35.5% per of period 2010-2012) was involved in product-process innovation activities (innovative enterprises strictly-speaking).

3.4% of enterprises declared they were still performing or had abandoned innovation projects at the end of 2014.

Adopting integrated innovations practices was confirmed as a tendency: 45.6% of innovative enterprises was involved in developing new products-processes and at the same time introduced organization or marketing innovations: 46.5% of innovative enterprises strictly speaking innovated both products and productive processes.

In 2014 Italian enterprises expenditure for product-process innovative activities was 23.2 billion euro, 4.3% less than in 2012. R&D was nearly half of the overall expenditure.

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 about 6,200 euros, a slight decrease compare to 2012 (6,300 euros). Highest values were registered in industry (8,000 euros), particularly the in large-sized industries (9,000 euros).

23.6% of product-process innovation active enterprises received a public funding for innovation (it was 20.7% in the previous period).

The capacity to innovate through cooperation with other enterprise was still low even though the growth was quickly rising, and it regarded 19.8% of enterprises (were 12.5% in the previous period).

Innovation was still highly concentrated at the territorial level. Two-thirds of innovation enterprises were based in five regions: Lombardia, Piemonte, Veneto, Emilia-Romagna e Lazio. These five accounted for three-fourths of national innovation expenditure.

MAIN INNOVATION INDICATORS FOR ENTERPRISES WITH AT LEAST 10 PERSONS EMPLOYED BY MACRO-SECTOR AND SIZE CLASS. Years 2012-2014, 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)	Innovation expenditure per person employed (thousands of euros) Year 2014	Enterprises that had cooperation arrangements on innovation activities that had co-operation arrangements on innovation activities (c)
Industry	50.5	40.4	36.8	8.0	17.9
Construction	30.5	17.7	15.0	2.8	23.1
Services	42.2	26.5	23.2	4.3	22.5
10-49 persons employed	41.3	28.7	25.5	6.6	17.0
50-249 persons employed	64.9	51.9	47.2	6.5	27.7
250 and over persons employed	83.3	72.0	66.4	5.9	41.3
North-West	47.0	34.9	31.9	7.1	20.4
North-East	49.5	36.7	33.6	6.1	16.7
Centre	42.1	29.9	25.1	5.4	21.7
South	35.9	21.6	19.3	4.9	21.5
Islands	35.3	22.1	16.9	3.7	26.8
Total	44.6	31.9	28.5	6.2	19.8

(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

Contact person:

Valeria Mastrostefano (mastrost@istat.it).

phone: +39 06 4673.6137

Istat – National Institute of Statistics