Standard-documentation
Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

Innovation Survey (CIS)

This documentation is valid for the reference period:

2006-2008 – 2014-2016

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Executive Summary

The Community Innovation Survey (CIS = Community Innovation Survey) is a statistical survey among enterprises with 10 or more employees in Austria with a voluntary participation. The following industries according to NACE Rev. 2 are covered in the survey: Mining and quarrying (NACE B), Manufacturing (C), Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (D), Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (E), Services (only selected industries: 46, H, J, K, 71, 72, 73). Reference period are the three previous calendar years. The Community Innovation Survey (CIS) was carried out since the reference period 2002-2004 (CIS 4) biennially. This documentation is valid since the CIS 2008 (reference period 2006-2008). The CIS 2016 was carried out about the calendar years 2014-2016. The Austrian survey methodology for innovation statistics is based on international standards and recommendations of the Oslo Manual. Due to the complex definition of "innovation", the distinction of the subject is not always simple, though. It is possible that enterprises report activities and give quantitative information, although these activities are only "innovation-related". On the contrary, it is also possible that innovative enterprise assess their activities as "non-innovative". This is also due to the fact that innovation activities in firms were statistically measured only for a relatively short time. Therefore the term "innovation" could have undergone a change of meaning over time.

Definition of innovation:

Innovations are new or significantly improved goods or services, which were introduced on the market by the enterprise or new or significantly improved processes, new organisational methods or marketing methods which were introduced in the enterprise. The innovation must be new to the enterprise, but does not need to be new to the market and does not have to be developed by the enterprise itself.

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 or were abandoned completely within the reference period.

Goal and purpose of innovation surveys is to compile standardised statistical data on type and extent of innovation activities of Austrian enterprises which are comparable on national and international level. 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 impetus towards a "knowledge-based economy" and for the improvement of competitiveness in a globalised environment. Innovation activities in economic theory (e.g. Joseph Schumpeter) are understood as an important factor for economic growth and the increase of productivity. In contrast to the statistics on research and experimental development (R&D) innovation statistics also produces output-oriented indicators. It has to be pointed out that 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)".

Most important data source is a statistical sample survey among approximately 5,500 Austrian enterprises, while the population comprises around 17,000 enterprises. The stratified random sample, which is based on the methodological recommendations of Eurostat, is drawn from the statistical business register of Statistics Austria. For single indicators (turnover) data from the Structural Business Survey (SBS) and the business register of Statistics Austria are used. The most important indicators are product innovations, shares of turnover of product innovations, process innovations, type of innovation activities, innovation expenditure, innovation cooperation, marketing innovations and organisational innovations.

Due to different conceptual approaches the longitudinal comparability of the various CIS surveys is restricted.

Because of a methodological requirement of Eurostat, 10% of the non-responding enterprises are subject to a non-response survey, when the overall response rate is less than 70%. This

survey should clarify if this unit non-response leads to a bias of the results. The outcome of the non-response survey is taken into account for the grossing-up procedure.

Response rates were between 51% (CIS 2016) and 66% (CIS 2008).

In all CIS survey the requested non-response surveys were carried out (Response rate CIS 2008, CIS 2010, CIS 2012, CIS 2014, CIS 2016).

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 does not allow a regional classification by “main location”.

Innovation survey from 2006-2008 onwards – Main features	
Subject Matter	Capturing innovation activities of enterprises
Population	Austrian enterprises with 10 and more employees 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	Direct information from enterprises Structural Business Survey (SBS) for turnover Statistical business register Stratified sample survey by industry, size, region
Reference period or due day	The last three calendar years before each odd calendar year (e.g. for the CIS 2016 the years 2014-2016), while turnover-related indicators refer to the last calendar year
Periodicity	Every two years
Survey participation (in case of a survey)	Voluntary
Main legal acts	Commission implementing regulation (EU) No 995/2012 of 26 October 2012 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Decision No 1608/2003/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the production and development of Community statistics on science and technology
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 10% of the non-responding enterprises