C 3 Innovation behaviour in the private sector

The Europe-wide Community Innovation Surveys (CIS) are conducted every two years and provide the underlying data for the international comparison of the private sector's innovation behaviour (C 3-1).[451] Coordinated by Eurostat and based on a harmonised methodology, the CIS are conducted in all EU member states and a number of other European countries. The CIS are based on a largely uniform questionnaire and directed at businesses with ten or more employees in the manufacturing industry and selected services sectors. The current analysis relates to 2014 (CIS 2014). In that year, the innovation intensity of the research-intensive industries in Germany amounted to 7.0 percent. It was thus higher than that of most reference countries. However, Sweden's innovation intensity was considerably higher at 11.1 percent in the research-intensive industries.

The data on innovation behaviour in the German private sector, as shown in charts C 3-2 to C 3-4, are based on the Mannheim Innovation Panel (MIP), an annual innovation survey that has been conducted by the Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW) since 1993.[452] Data from the MIP constitute the German contribution to the CIS. In addition to the data to be reported to Eurostat, the panel also includes data on businesses with five to nine employees.

The innovation intensity (C 3-2) of R&D-intensive industries amounted to 8.8 percent in 2015, thus again equalling the peak figure reached in 2013. In other industry the figure was much lower at 1.4 percent. After a decline in 2014, innovation intensity in the knowledge-intensive services (excluding financial services) rose by 0.5 percentage points to 5.3 percent in 2015. In the field of financial services, the rate was 0.7 percent in 2015, as in the previous year. The level of innovation intensity was the same in other services in 2015.

The percentage of turnover generated by new products in 2015 in the R&D-intensive industries was significantly higher, at 34.1 percent, than in knowledge-intensive services (10.4 percent), other industry (7.4 percent) or other services (4.9 percent).

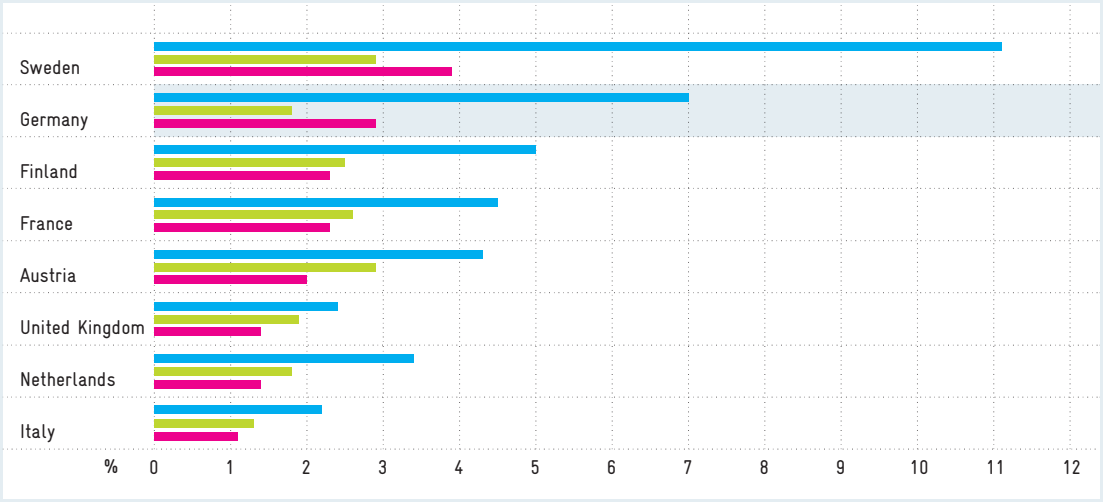
Standardisation is an important factor in the commercialisation of innovative technologies. At the international level, standards are developed by the committees of the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO). By participating in these committees, a country can make a significant impact on global technical infrastructures (C 3-4).[453] German companies are more frequently involved in the work of the ISO than those of any other country.

Fig. C 3-1

Download data

Innovation intensity in 2014 by European comparison (as percentage)

Innovation intensity: innovation expenditure by companies as a percentage of their total turnover.



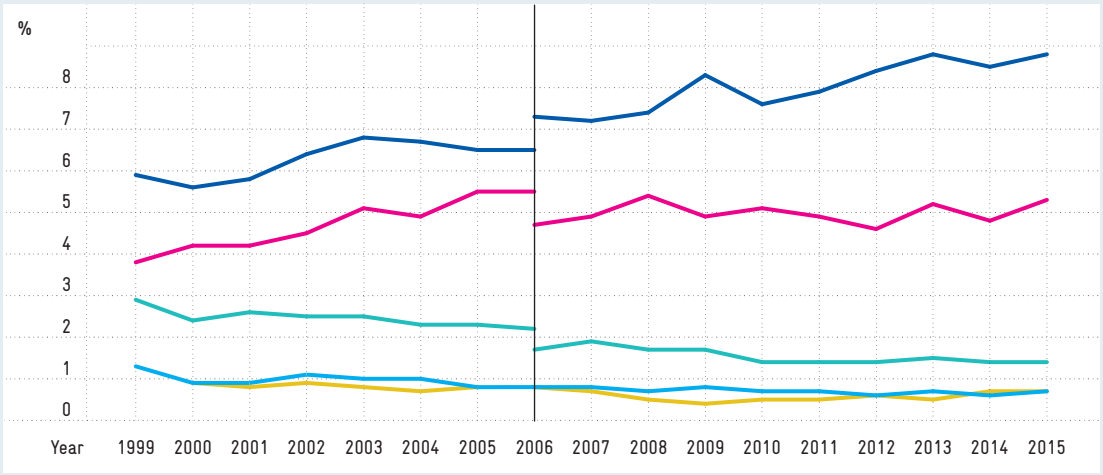
1) Research-intensive industry: divisions 19-22, 25-30 of WZ classification. Since data are not available for all sectors in all countries, the definition of research-intensive industries used in the European comparison differs from the definition normally used by the EFI.
2) Knowledge-intensive services: divisions 58-66, 71-73 of WZ classification. Since data are not available for all sectors in all countries, the definition of knowledge-intensive services used in the European comparison differs from the definition normally used by the EFI.
3) All sectors: divisions 5-39, 46, 49-53, 58-66, 71-73 of WZ classification.
Source: Eurostat, Community Innovation Surveys 2014. Calculations by ZEW (Centre for European Economic Research).

Fig. C 3-2

Download data

Innovation intensity in industry and knowledge-intensive services in Germany (as percentage)

Innovation intensity: innovation expenditure by companies as a percentage of their total turnover.

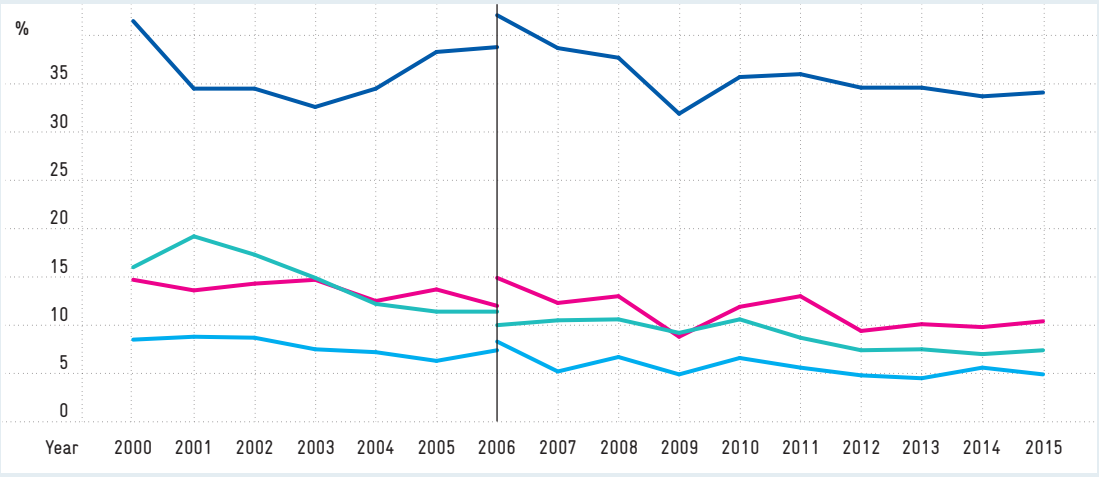


2006: break in the time series. Figures for 2015 are provisional.
Source: Mannheim Innovation Panel. Calculations by ZEW (Centre for European Economic Research).

Fig. C 3-3

Download data

Percentage of turnover generated by new products in industry and knowledge-intensive services

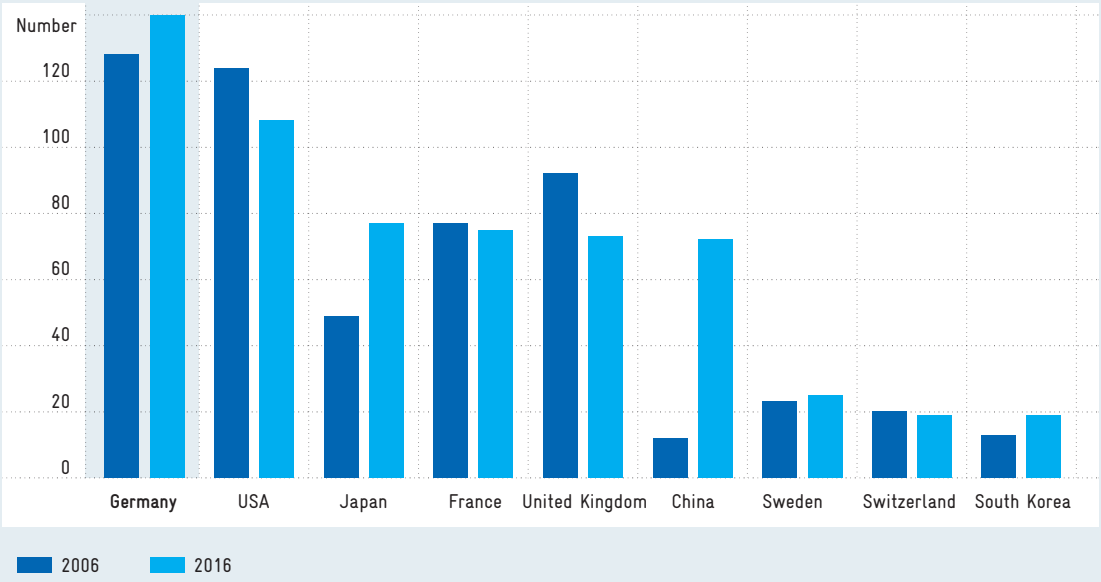


2006: break in the time series. Figures for 2015 are provisional.
Source: Mannheim Innovation Panel. Calculations by ZEW (Centre for European Economic Research).

Fig. C 3-4

Download data

Number of secretariats listed by the technical committees and subcommittees of the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO)



Source: own diagram based on ISO (2007: 15) and
http://www.iso.org/iso/home/about/iso_members.htm (last accessed on 07 November 2016).