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Science, Technology and Innovation Statistics

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Indicators of innovation activities, 2022–2024

The share of business entities with at least one type of innovation is 51.03%. More than 48% of large business entities are innovative, about 58% of medium-sized business entities, while among small business entities about 67% are innovative. Innovative activities are almost equally distributed among business entities engaged in production and service activities – innovations were introduced by about 51% of business entities.

1. Enterprises by innovations, activities and size classes

	Total	Innovators	Non-innovative enterprises	Share of innovators (%)
Total	18426	9403	9023	51.03
Small enterprises	14737	7170	7567	48.65
Medium enterprises	3011	1773	1238	58.88
Large enterprises	678	460	218	67.85
Manufacturing enterprises	4393	2444	1949	55.63
Service enterprises	14033	6959	7074	49.59

Referring to regional distribution, product and process innovations had the share of over 51%, but they were not equally distributed by regions. Regional distribution of product and process innovations ranged from 45.8% (Beogradski region) to 8.7% (Region Južne i Istočne Srbije).

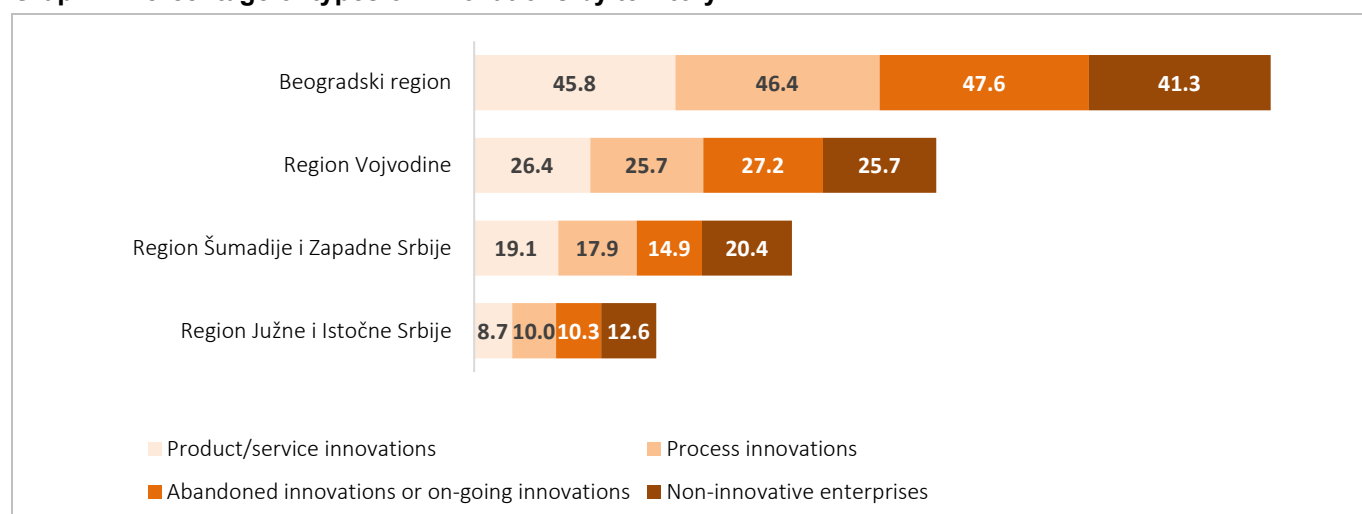
2. Share of types of innovations by territory and size classes of enterprises

Territory	Size class	Innovative enterprises			Non-innovative enterprises
		Product/service innovations	Process innovations	Abandoned innovations or on-going innovations	
REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	Total	7650	7164	1043	9023
	Small	5849	5345	653	7567
	Medium	1419	1422	299	1238
	Large	382	397	91	218
Beogradski region	Total	3502	3327	497	3727
	Small	2704	2494	314	3129
	Medium	643	661	136	491
	Large	155	172	47	107
Region Vojvodine	Total	2021	1842	284	2322
	Small	1535	1386	160	1953
	Medium	384	356	102	305
	Large	102	100	22	64

2. Share of types of innovations by territory and size classes of enterprises (continued)

Territory	Size class	Innovative enterprises			Non-innovative enterprises
		Product/service innovations	Process innovations	Abandoned innovations or on-going innovations	
Region Sumadije i Zapadne Srbije	Total	1464	1280	155	1841
	Small	1115	935	103	1562
	Medium	272	271	37	254
	Large	77	74	15	25
Region Juzne i Istocne Srbije	Total	663	715	107	1133
	Small	495	530	76	923
	Medium	120	134	24	188
	Large	48	51	7	22
Region Kosovo i Metohija	Total

Graph 1. Percentage of types of innovations by territory



3. Enterprises by types of innovations and sections of activities

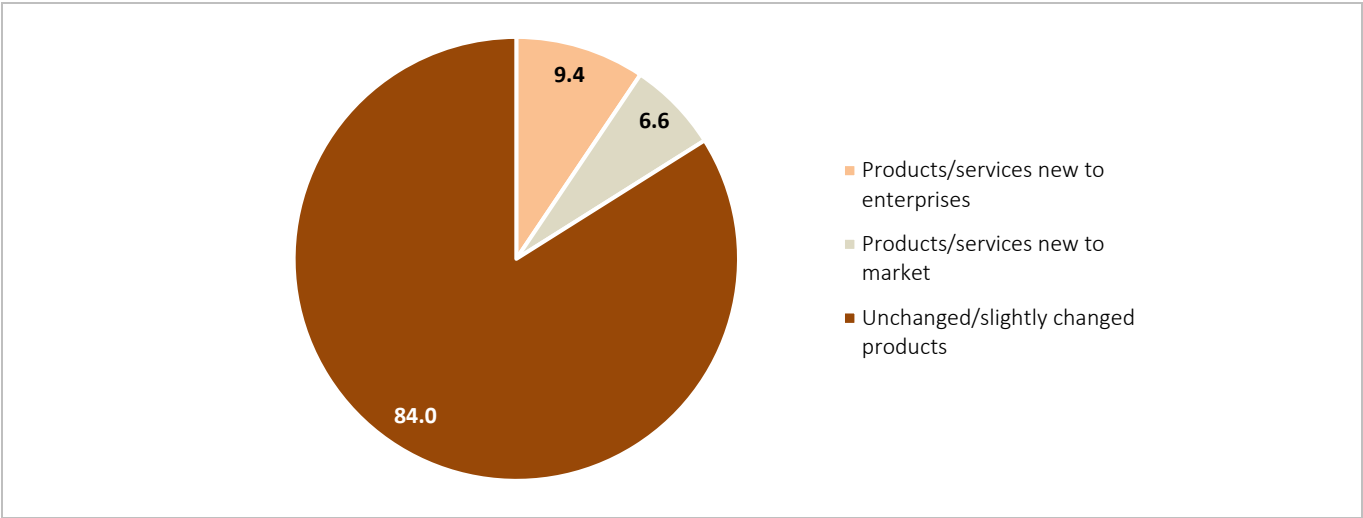
	Innovators								Non-innovators, %
	Total		Product/service innovators		Organizational/marketing innovators		Product/process innovators and organizational/marketing innovators		
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Total	9403	51.0	7650	41.5	7164	38.9	1043	5.7	49.0
A – Agriculture, forestry and fishing	171	43.2	119	30.1	118	29.8	22	5.6	56.8
B – Mining	32	41.6	25	32.5	17	22.1	10	13.0	59.7
C – Manufacturing	2212	57.6	1946	50.7	1602	41.7	270	7.0	42.4
D – Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	29	36.7	13	16.5	25	31.6	4	5.1	63.3
E – Water supply, sewerage and waste management and remediation activities	128	41.6	75	24.4	106	34.4	14	4.5	58.4
F – Construction	578	37.1	419	26.9	449	28.8	39	2.5	62.9
G – Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	2481	49.4	2052	40.9	1852	36.9	203	4.0	50.6
H – Transportation and storage	524	46.5	359	31.9	466	41.4	29	2.6	53.5
I – Accommodation and food service activities	465	54.6	428	50.3	339	39.8	3	0.4	45.5
J – Information and communications	683	55.1	629	50.8	471	38.0	189	15.3	44.9
K – Financial and insurance activities	109	54.0	74	36.6	87	43.1	22	10.9	46.0
L – Real estate activities	109	38.8	77	27.4	71	25.3	4	1.4	61.2
M – Professional, scientific and technical activities	1424	55.8	1128	44.2	1163	45.6	201	7.9	44.2
N – Administrative and support activities	458	51.1	306	34.1	398	44.4	33	3.7	48.6

The largest percentage of innovative enterprises were in the Manufacturing sector, 57.6% and in the Professional, Scientific, Innovation and Technical Activities sector, 55.8%, while the smallest percentage related to innovative enterprises in the Electricity, Gas and Steam Supply sector, 36.7%.

Share in the total income from product/service innovations

In the structure of innovative enterprises’ income, the share of income from sale of unchanged or slightly changed products was predominant and amounted to over 84%, while that of sale of products/services new to the enterprises, and that of sale of products/services new to market totalled to approximately 16%.

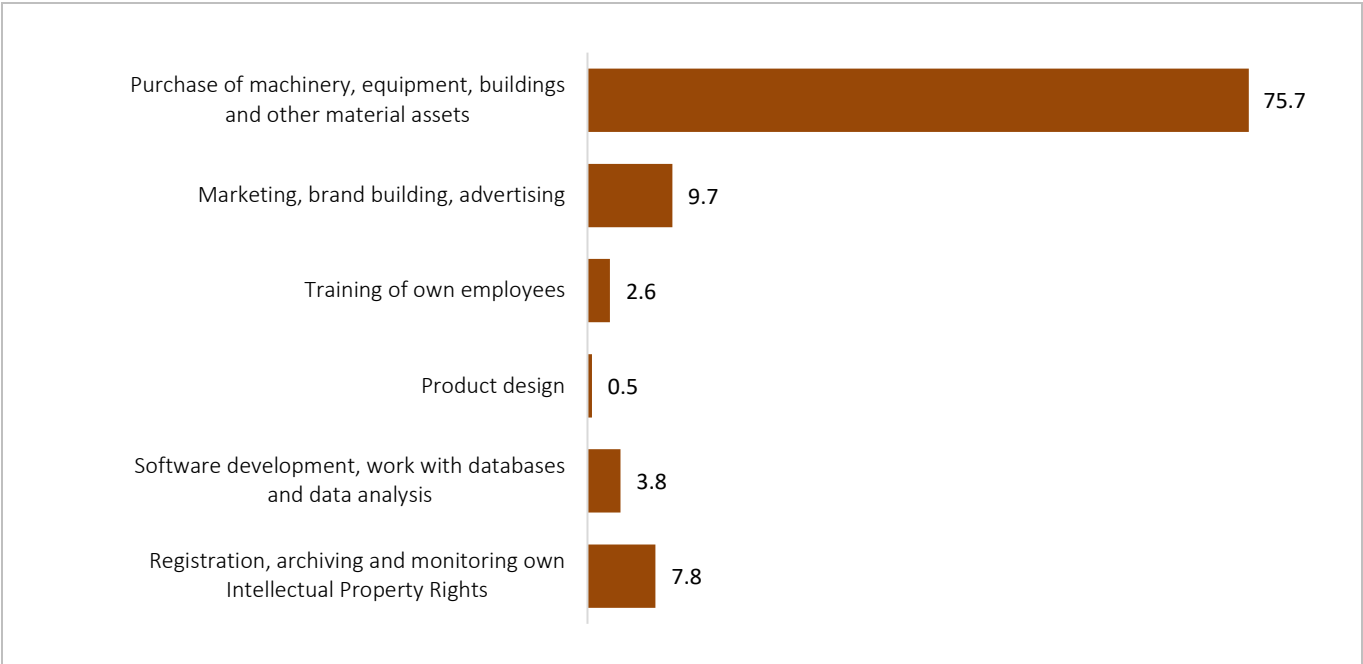
Graph. 2. Structure of innovators’ income



Innovation activities expenditures

The share of costs for the purchase of machinery and equipment is about 76% and represents the largest share of total expenditures for innovative activities of business entities, while about 24% of funds were invested in all other activities.

Chart 3. Structure of total enterprises’ expenditures in 2024 (%)



4. Employees with tertiary education or education after the completed faculty (master. specialist. Mr. PHD)

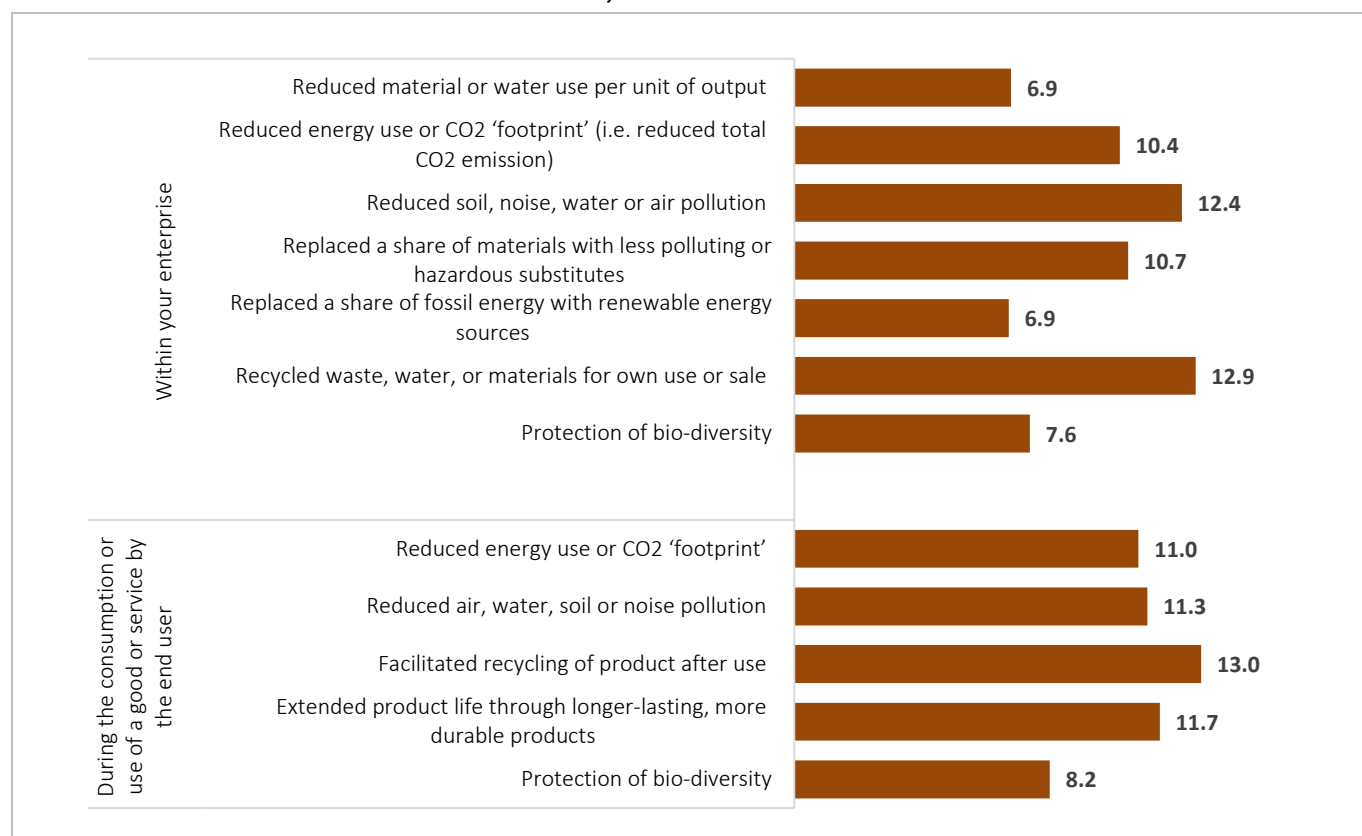
In total population of enterprises, about 7.3% are those with no employees who have completed tertiary education, which mostly refers to small enterprises. The greatest number of enterprises employees from 10% to 24% of tertiary educated persons, while more than a third part of large enterprises was with 10% to 24% of employees who have completed tertiary education.

	Employees with tertiary education or education after the completed faculty						
	0%	1–4%	5–9%	10–24%	25–49%	50–74%	75–100%
Total	7.3	19.3	12.5	22.6	15.4	11.1	11.8
Small	8.9	20.4	11.5	20.2	15.0	11.3	12.7
Medium	1.3	16.2	16.6	31.4	16.1	10.3	8.1
Large	0.3	7.7	15.8	36.8	22.3	10.2	6.9

Tax incentives for scientific research and other innovative activities were used by 1.8% of business entities, while 7.0% of business entities used tax incentives for other types of activities.

Environmental benefits

5. Innovations with environmental benefits, %



Methodological remarks

The data presented in this statistical release are the result of the survey on innovative activities in business entities from 2022 to 2024. In the survey, innovative business entities are defined as business entities that introduced product or innovation process in the observed period or had innovations that have been abandoned or not yet completed. The key factor for the innovative activities of a particular business entity is the size of the entity.

Expenditures on innovative activities includes investments in new product development, investments in the introduction of new products on the market, funds aimed at significant improvement of the existing products, services or processes, as well as funds for innovation projects that have not been completed yet.

This survey includes the following expenditures for innovative activities of enterprises: acquisition of machinery, equipment, buildings and other tangible assets; Marketing, brand building, advertising (include in-house costs and purchased services); Training own staff (include all in-house costs including wages and salaries of staff while being trained, and costs of purchased services from others); Product design (include in-house costs and purchased services); Software development, database work and data analysis (include in-house costs and purchased services), as well as registering, filing and monitoring own Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) and purchasing or licensing IPRs from others.

The survey on the innovation of business entities was conducted on the basis of a representative sample. The sample was allocated to the territory of the Republic of Serbia up to the level of regions, proportionally to the number of enterprises. The sample size was 3 724 small, medium and large enterprises. Large enterprises were fully covered. The sample frame covered active enterprises from the Statistical Business Register, containing 18 426 enterprises. The obtained results were weighted and calculated on the level of the population of enterprises.

The survey on enterprises was carried out on a stratified sample according to the size class of enterprises (small: from 10 to 49 employees, medium: from 50 to 249 employees and large: more than 250 employees) and according to activities (classes of activities according to CA 08) as well as according to territorial distribution up to the level of regions (NSTJ 2). Sample realization was over 80%. Approximately 1.1% of selected enterprises were not on the referent address, while about 18% of enterprises did not respond to the survey.

Starting from 1999 the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia does not have available data for AP Kosovo and Metohija therefore these data are not included in the coverage for the Republic of Serbia (total).

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