

# Press Release

Zurich, 2 February 2017, 9.00 a.m.

## Growing Concentration of R&D Activities in Switzerland New KOF Study on innovation activities in the Swiss economy

**Swiss companies are still among the most innovative enterprises in the world. However, there has been a slight decline in the percentage of companies that develop innovations. Nevertheless, among the companies that generated innovations, the innovation expenditure to turnover ratio has gone up. These are the results of the 10th Innovation Survey for the period 2012 to 2014 which KOF has conducted on behalf of SECO.**

According to the results of the latest Innovation Survey, the R&D expenditure to turnover ratio of Swiss companies has risen steadily since 2001. However, over time, the percentage of companies engaging in R&D activities has declined, leading to growing concentration of R&D activities in Switzerland. The percentage of enterprises carrying out R&D activities dropped particularly in the high-tech industry – albeit at a high level – and among traditional service providers (e.g. retail/wholesale, transport/logistics). The survey also shows that the frequency of cost savings through process innovation is rising.

According to the respondents, the main barriers to innovation consist of high research and development costs and excessive amortisation periods. Cooperation on R&D projects has been gaining importance – since 2009.

### Note:

The results of the latest Innovation Study will be presented by Dr. Martin Wörter, Section Head of KOF's Innovation Economics Division, at today's KOF Economic Forum (at 4.15 p.m.). Please register for the event. Registration and further information at: [www.kof.ethz.ch/wirtschaftsforum/](http://www.kof.ethz.ch/wirtschaftsforum/) →

The study entitled 'Die Entwicklung der Innovationsaktivitäten in der Schweizer Wirtschaft 1997–2014' is available at: <https://www.kof.ethz.ch/publikationen/kof-studien.html/> →

Every three years, KOF conducts a survey on the innovation activities of the Swiss economy on behalf of the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO). This is the tenth study conducted via a written survey among 5,908 companies based on the KOF enterprise panel. The response rate was 30.1 per cent.

### Contact

Martin Wörter | Phone +41 44 632 51 51 | [woerter@kof.ethz.ch](mailto:woerter@kof.ethz.ch)