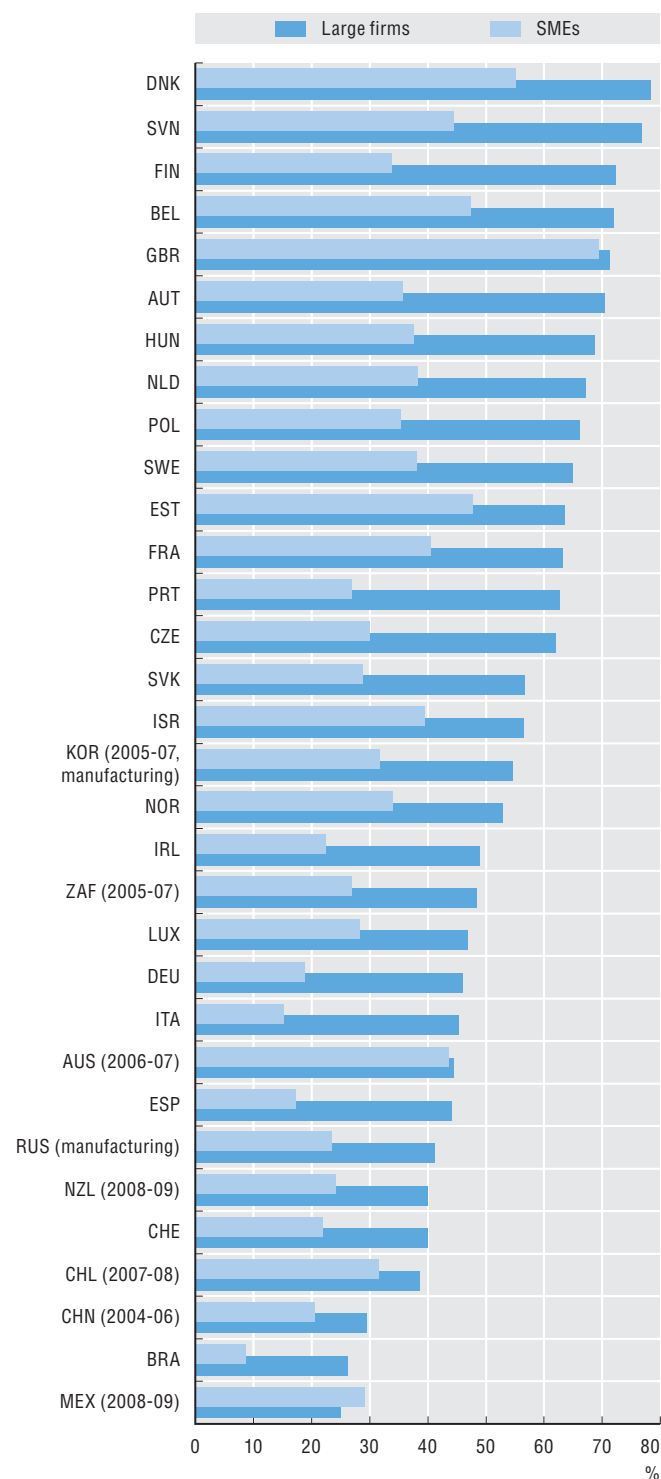


3. CONNECTING TO KNOWLEDGE

8. Collaboration in business value chains

Firms collaborating on innovation activities, by size, 2006-08

As a percentage of innovative firms



Source: OECD, based on Eurostat (CIS-2008) and national data sources, June 2011. See chapter notes.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932486507>

During 2006-08, in the great majority of countries, large firms were significantly more likely to collaborate on innovation than small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Among SMEs, the rate of collaboration is between 25% and 40% of innovative firms in half of the countries surveyed, but it varies widely for large firms. More than 70% of large innovative firms collaborated on innovation in Denmark, Slovenia, Finland, Belgium, the United Kingdom and Austria, while less than one-third did so in China, Brazil and Mexico.

In addition to firm size, patterns of collaboration differ in terms of types of partners. Among large firms, suppliers usually play a main role, but in the United Kingdom, Korea, Luxembourg, Australia and Germany, collaboration with clients is equally or even more important. This may reflect increasing integration along value chains as well as the growing importance of user-driven innovation.

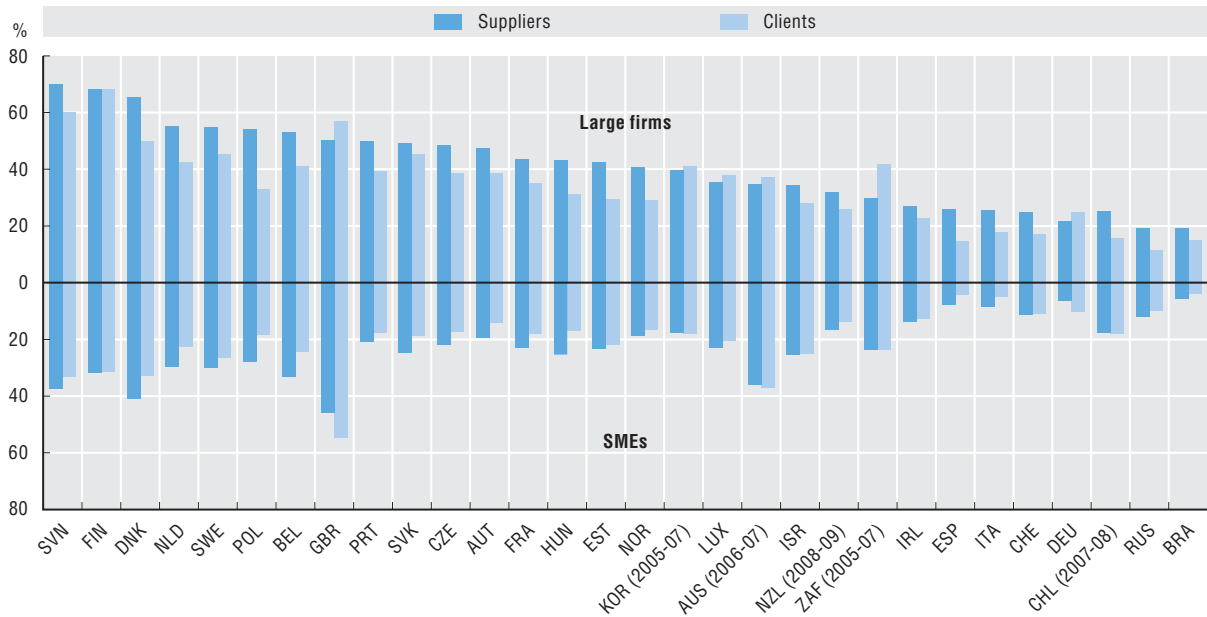
Definitions

The classification of firms by size follows the recommendations of the *Oslo Manual*. It is calculated on the basis of number of employees. SMEs are firms with 10-250 employees, with some exceptions: New Zealand: 6+; the Russian Federation 15+; China: at least CNY 5 million in turnover. For South Africa, firm size is based on turnover.


Collaboration involves “active participation in joint innovation projects with other organisations” but excludes pure contracting out of work. It can involve the joint development of new products, processes or other innovations with customers and suppliers, as well as horizontal work with other enterprises or public research bodies. For Switzerland it only includes collaboration on research and development (R&D).

Firms collaborating on innovation activities with suppliers and clients, by firm size, 2006-08

As a percentage of innovative firms



Source: OECD, based on Eurostat (CIS-2008) and national data sources, June 2011. See chapter notes.

StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932486526>

Measurability

Indicators of collaboration on innovation only reflect the existence of some sort of collaboration, but not the type, frequency or intensity. Collaboration refers to product/process innovation in the Community Innovation Survey (CIS), but to all types of innovation (including non-technological) in some other surveys.

In the CIS, innovative firms have product/process or ongoing/abandoned innovations, but in some other surveys they include all types of innovators (including non-technological).



From:
**OECD Science, Technology and Industry
Scoreboard 2011**

Access the complete publication at:
https://doi.org/10.1787/sti_scoreboard-2011-en

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD (2011), "Collaboration in business value chains", in *OECD Science, Technology and Industry Scoreboard 2011*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1787/sti_scoreboard-2011-29-en

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