

Survey on Research and Development Activities of Firms in the Private Sector 2022

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ABSTRACT

The National Institute of Science and Technology Policy (NISTEP), Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), conducts an annual survey on research and development (R&D) activities of firms in the private sector. The survey of FY2022 covered 3,784 companies (1,959 responding companies) with capital of 100 million yen or more that conduct internal R&D. The survey also examined the status of R&D investment, employment of R&D personnel, intellectual property activities, R&D activities in each company's main industry sector, collaboration with other organizations, use of government policies and programs related to science and technology, and the impact of the outbreak of the new coronavirus infection on R&D activities.

The percentage of companies that hired R&D personnel (new graduates) was 45.4% in FY2021, a decrease of 1.1 percentage points from the previous year, but the third highest since 2011. However, recruitment of PhDs remained weak.

The percentages of companies that supported graduate school attendance as a working graduate student and doctoral degree acquisition through a doctoral dissertation to improve R&D capabilities were 16.4% and 14.5%, respectively, higher than the percentage of companies that hired doctoral graduates (9.3%).

The status of mergers and acquisitions (M&A) by companies was surveyed for the first time, and it was revealed that while there were a certain number of cases where the purpose was to launch a new business or to strengthen the R&D department, the purpose was much more often to expand existing businesses, and that the percentage of start-up mergers and acquisitions (M&A) was not large.

With regard to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the military invasion of Ukraine by Russia on corporate R&D, the percentage of companies that narrowed down their R&D themes and projects decreased from FY2021 to FY2022, while the percentage of companies that launched new R&D projects or new external collaborations increased, suggesting that the negative impact was not significant.