2025 SME COUNTRY FACT SHEET

GERMANY

- In 2024, SMEs experienced a year of stagnation, with employment levels remaining unchanged, while inflation-adjusted value added declined by -1.8%. This decline followed growth of 2.3% in 2023. The two largest NACE sections, Wholesale, and retail trade (G) and Manufacturing (C), contracted in employment terms, by -0.5% and -0.4%, respectively. Furthermore, their real value added decreased by -1.5% and -4.7%, respectively. However, three NACE sections – Information and communication (J), Real estate activities (L), and Professional, scientific, and technical activities (M) – demonstrated more resilience, with modest growth in both employment and real value added.
- The forecasts for 2025 show a recovery in SME real value added, with a growth rate of 0.5%, but employment is expected to drop by -0.2%. All SME size classes are expected to grow in inflation-adjusted value added, but see a decline in employment, with the exception of micro-firms that are anticipated to maintain their employment levels. NACE section G is expected to experience a similar decline with -0.5% in employment terms, whereas in NACE section C will see a further contraction of -1.4%. Moreover, it is anticipated that their actual value added will decline further, by -0.1% and -1%, respectively.
- Energy – Renewables is the industrial ecosystem that achieved the highest growth (1.3%) in SME employment during 2024, but its weakest performance in inflation-adjusted value-added terms (a drop of -6.2%) intensified the decline in productivity. Nevertheless, the forecasts for 2025 are optimistic, as real value added will grow by 2.5% – the biggest increase among all ecosystems – and employment by 0.5%, the third-best forecast after Digital and Construction ecosystems. Cultural and Creative Industries is the sole ecosystem that grew in both indicators in the 2024-2025 period.

SME development 2023-2024

NUMBER OF ENTERPRISES	NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED	REAL VALUE ADDED
+0.1%	+0.0%	-1.8%

SMEs in the 'non-financial business sector'. Estimates produced by JRC.

Enterprises by number of employees

	ENTERPRISES		PERSONS EMPLOYED		VALUE ADDED	
	NUMBER	SHARE	NUMBER	SHARE	€ BILLION	SHARE
Micro (0-9 persons employed)	2 169 052	83.9%	6 220 617	20.3%	415.8	16.5%
Small (10-49 persons employed)	352 150	13.6%	6 572 687	21.5%	424.7	16.8%
Medium (50-249 persons employed)	52 337	2.0%	5 072 498	16.6%	408.7	16.2%
Total SMEs (0-249 persons employed)	2 573 539	99.6%	17 865 802	58.4%	1 249.2	49.4%
Large enterprises (250+ persons employed)	10 903	0.4%	12 752 018	41.6%	1 278.4	50.6%

The data for 2024 are estimates produced by JRC, based on 2008-2023 figures from national and Eurostat databases.

The SME Performance Review monitors SME-related developments across the EU. For more information, please see: https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/sme-strategy/performance-review_en