2026 SME COUNTRY FACT SHEET

GERMANY

- In 2025, German SME employment declined by -0.4% and their real value added fell by -1.3%. Large enterprises performed similarly, experiencing decreases of -0.2% and -0.7%, respectively. Nevertheless, some SME sections managed to grow in both indicators. For instance, Transportation and storage (H) grew by 2.0% in employment and by 1.4% in real value added.
- The forecasts for 2026 predict a recovery in both indicators: SME employment is forecast to increase by 0.2% and SME real value added is expected to grow by 1.4%. Regarding the latter, this would be the first growing year after a three-year period of decline. Micro firms are forecast to have the biggest growth rate in employment, at 0.4%, while medium-sized firms are expected to grow more intensively in real value added, by 1.8%. Large enterprises are also expected to grow in both indicators in 2026, by 0.5% in employment and by 1.4% in real value added.
- Two national industrial ecosystems achieved growth in both indicators in 2025: Proximity, Social Economy, and Civil Security, and Cultural and Creative Industries. Energy – Renewables grew its employment by 0.2%, but declined in real value added by -1.7%. All other industrial ecosystems experienced decreases, with the most significant declines witnessed in Electronics (-1.8% in employment and -3.0% in real value added) and in Energy Intensive Industries (-1.7% and -3.0%, respectively).
- Regarding 2026, all national industrial ecosystems are forecast to grow in real value added terms. Aerospace and Defence would increase by 0.7% in this indicator, after four consecutive negative years. Furthermore, the decline in employment in this ecosystem would be milder in 2026 compared to 2025 (-0.4% versus -1.4%).

SME development (2024-2025)

NUMBER OF ENTERPRISES **+0.2%**

NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED **-0.4%**

REAL VALUE ADDED **-1.3%**

SMEs in the 'total business economy'. Estimates produced by JRC.

Enterprises by size classes (2025)

	ENTERPRISES		PERSONS EMPLOYED		VALUE ADDED	
	NUMBER	SHARE	NUMBER	SHARE	€ BILLION	SHARE
Micro (0-9 persons employed)	2 759 128	84.7%	7 278 587	18.9%	418.4	14.2%
Small (10-49 persons employed)	418 672	12.8%	7 782 183	20.2%	483.1	16.4%
Medium (50-249 persons employed)	65 618	2.0%	6 254 263	16.2%	451.3	15.3%
Total SMEs (0-249 persons employed)	3 243 418	99.5%	21 315 033	55.3%	1 352.8	46.0%
Large enterprises (250+ persons employed)	15 072	0.5%	17 231 728	44.7%	1 589.7	54.0%

The data for 2025 are estimates produced by JRC, based on 2008-2024 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
Please note that 2026 estimates were done prior to the economic tensions arising from the Middle East crises, bringing uncertainty that is still difficult to assess in terms of its impact on SMEs.