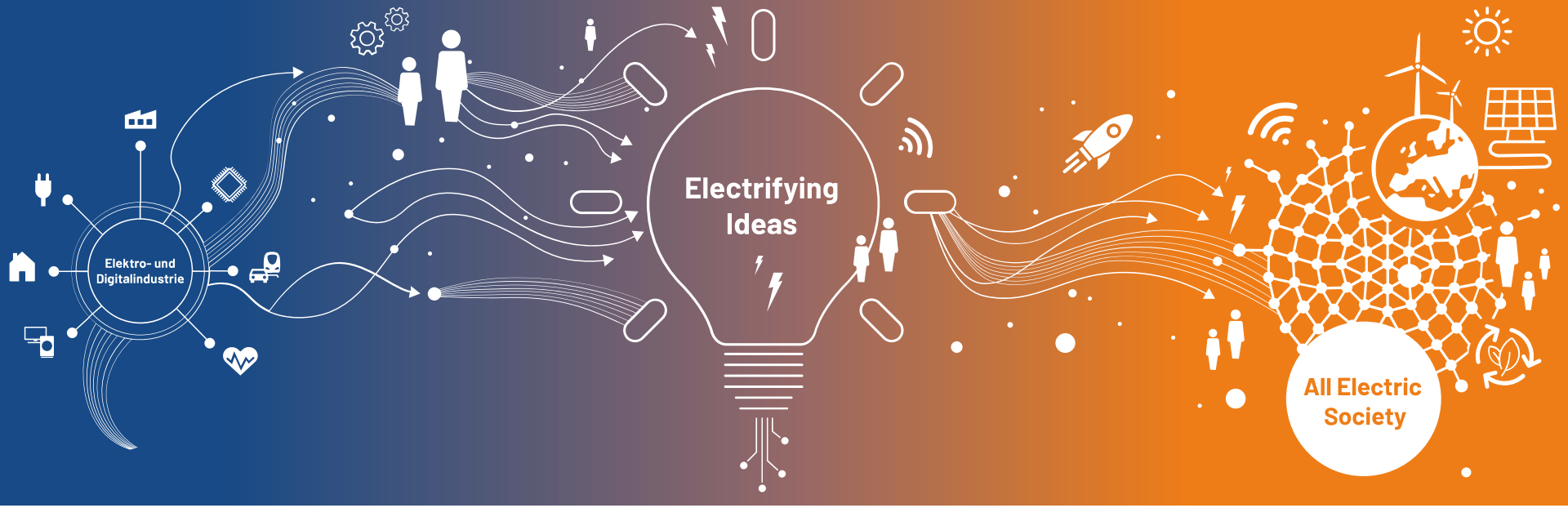


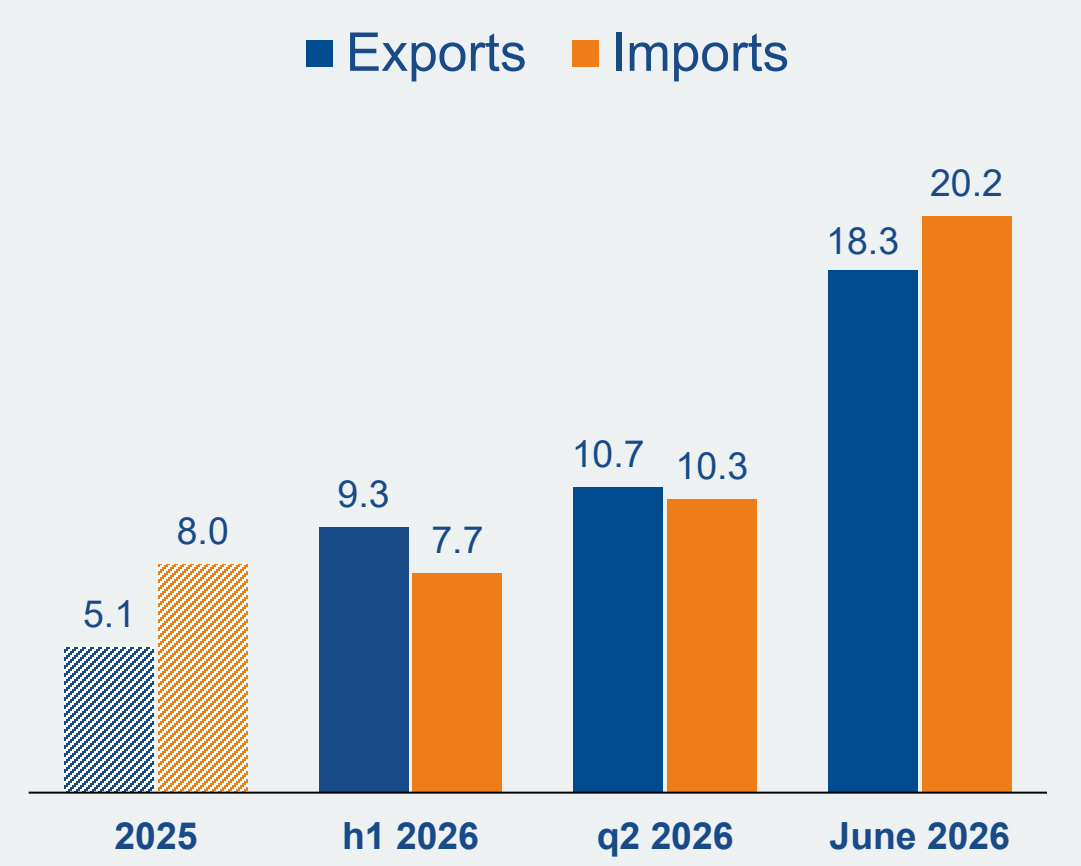
ZVEI Foreign Trade Report

Edition August 2026

zvei
electrifying ideas

German electro and digital industry
Exports and imports

% change on year earlier



Source: Destatis and ZVEI's own calculations

Exports of the German electro and digital industry advanced very strongly in **June 2026**. With €24.5bn, they exceeded their pre-year value by 18.3%.

In the full **first half-year**, growth in our sector's deliveries abroad was only half as high as in June alone. However, with a plus of 9.3% (year over year) to €138.5bn, exports grew dynamically here, too.

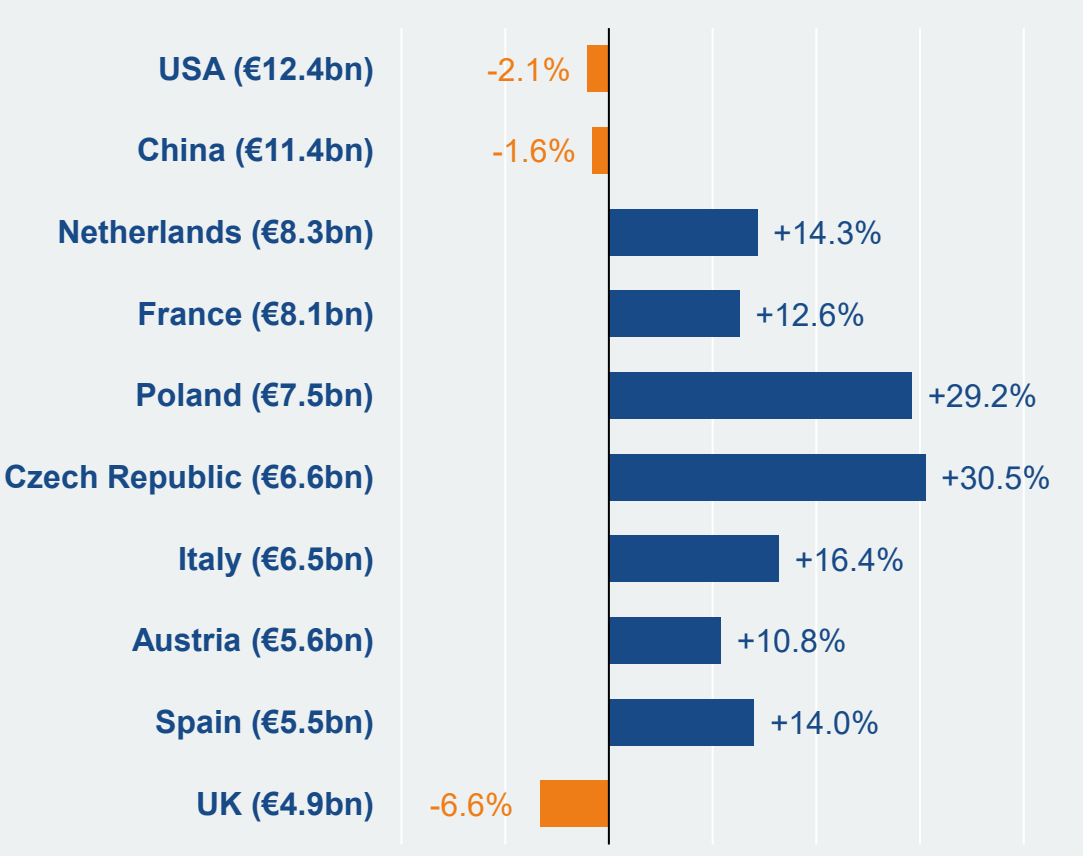
Imports of electrical and electronic products to Germany were up by one-fifth (+20.2%) in June, reaching €25.1bn.

In the overall period from January through June, electro imports moved forward somewhat more slowly than exports. In fact, they increased by 7.7% (again year-on-year rate) to €143.8bn.

Hence, within the course of this year so far, the **sectoral trade deficit** laid slightly above €5bn. The figure was smaller than in the first half-year of 2025.

German electro and digital industry
Top 10 export destinations in the first half of 2026

1st half of 2026, % change on year earlier



Source: Destatis and ZVEI's own calculations

In the first half of 2026, the **USA** was once again the **biggest single foreign customer country** of the German electro and digital industry. Although exports there fell by 2.1% compared with the previous year to €12.4bn, the decline looks quite modest given the unpredictability of today's U.S. trade policy.

Exports to **China** (**ranked 2nd**) declined by 1.6% to €11.4bn.

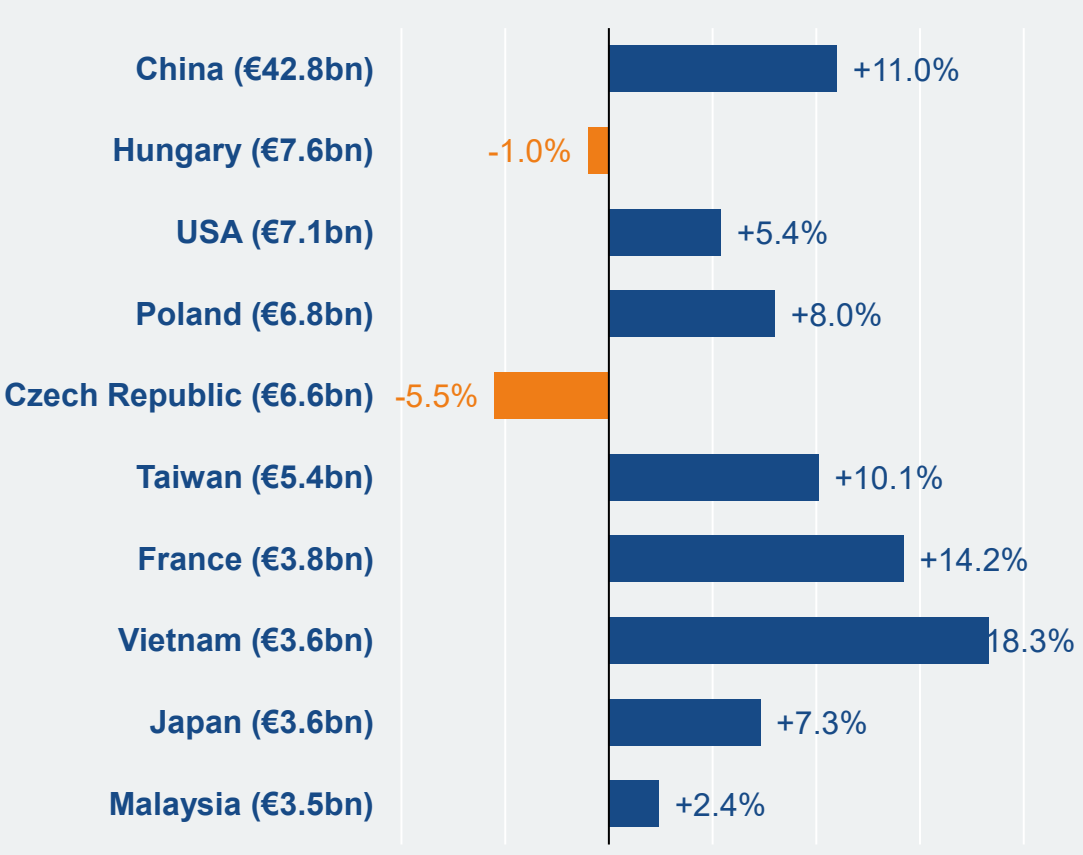
Positions three through nine were all occupied by EU countries, which ultimately drove total export growth in the first half of the year. So, exports to the **Netherlands** (in **3rd position**) increased by 14.3% (year-on-year) between January and June, reaching €8.3bn.

Strong growth was also recorded for our deliveries to **France** (+12.6% to €8.1bn), Poland (+29.2% to €7.5bn), the Czech Republic (+30.5% to €6.6bn), Italy (+16.4% to €6.5bn), Austria (+10.8% to €5.6bn) and Spain (+14.0% to €5.5bn).

In contrast, the sector's deliveries to the **UK**, which took the 10th place, fell by 6.6% to €4.9bn.

German electro and digital industry
Top 10 suppliers in the first half of 2026

1st half of 2026, % change on year earlier



Source: Destatis and ZVEI's own calculations

With imports worth €42.8bn between January and June, **China** was again by far the **biggest supplier country** of electrical and electronic goods for the German market. And in contrast to our falling exports to China, imports from there grew by 11.0% (year over year) in the first half-year.

Deliveries from **Hungary**, **number two** on the list of suppliers, amounted to €7.6bn – a decline of 1.0% (year-on-year). The **United States ranked 3rd**, with imports from there rising by 5.4% to €7.1bn.

Next on the list came Poland (+8.0% to €6.8bn), the Czech Republic (-5.5% to €6.6bn), Taiwan (+10.1% to €5.4bn) and France (+14.2% to €3.8bn). Places 8 to 10 were held by Vietnam (+18.3% to €3.6bn), Japan (+7.3% to €3.6bn) and Malaysia (+2.4% to €3.5bn).

An insight from the comparison between export destinations and supplier countries: While seven of the ten largest target markets are located in the EU, **five of the ten biggest supplier countries are in Asia**. This comes in addition to China's already dominant position, accounting for 30% of total imports alone.

German electro and digital industry
Key figures on foreign trade

	2025	2026 June	2026 Jan - Jun
Exports in total, billion € *(% change on year earlier)*	257.5 (+5.1%)	24.5 (+18.3%)	138.5 (+9.3%)
Top ten receiving countries (2025)			
1. USA	24.1 (-3.0%)	2.3 (+18.4%)	12.4 (-2.1%)
2. China	23.5 (-6.2%)	2.0 (-3.9%)	11.4 (-1.6%)
3. Netherlands	15.9 (+7.3%)	1.6 (+22.4%)	8.3 (+14.3%)
4. France	15.8 (+4.8%)	1.6 (+28.8%)	8.1 (+12.6%)
5. Poland	13.9 (+17.7%)	1.2 (+20.6%)	7.5 (+29.2%)
6. Italy	12.2 (+9.9%)	1.2 (+16.7%)	6.5 (+16.4%)
7. Austria	11.3 (+9.7%)	1.0 (+21.7%)	5.6 (+10.8%)
8. Czech Republic	11.2 (+8.0%)	1.4 (+57.4%)	6.6 (+30.5%)
9. Spain	10.5 (+15.9%)	1.0 (+20.9%)	5.5 (+14.0%)
10. United Kingdom	9.9 (+8.8%)	0.8 (-11.4%)	4.9 (-6.6%)

	2025	2026 June	2026 Jan - Jun
Imports in total, billion € *(% change on year earlier)*	274.9 (+8.0%)	25.1 (+20.2%)	143.8 (+7.7%)
Biggest supplying countries (2025)			
1. China	82.8 (+9.9%)	8.1 (+24.0%)	42.8 (+11.0%)
2. Hungary	16.0 (+9.7%)	1.5 (+16.4%)	7.6 (-1.0%)
3. Czech Republic	14.7 (+13.9%)	1.2 (-0.3%)	6.6 (-5.5%)
4. USA	13.6 (+8.7%)	1.3 (+10.1%)	7.1 (+5.4%)
5. Poland	13.2 (-3.4%)	1.4 (+46.2%)	6.8 (+8.0%)
6. Taiwan	9.7 (+6.2%)	0.9 (+28.0%)	5.4 (+10.1%)
7. Malaysia	6.9 (+0.7%)	0.6 (+4.1%)	3.5 (+2.4%)
Export prices	+0.4%	+4.0%	+2.2%
Import prices	-1.8%	+5.2%	+1.7%

Source: Destatis and ZVEI's own calculations

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