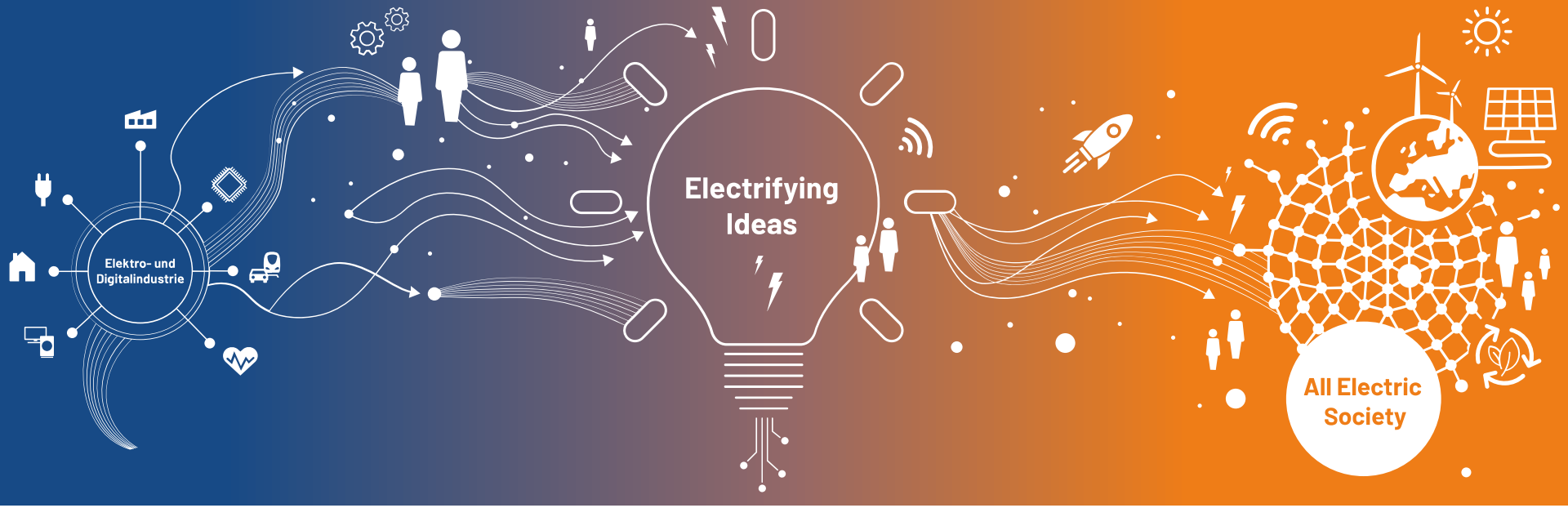


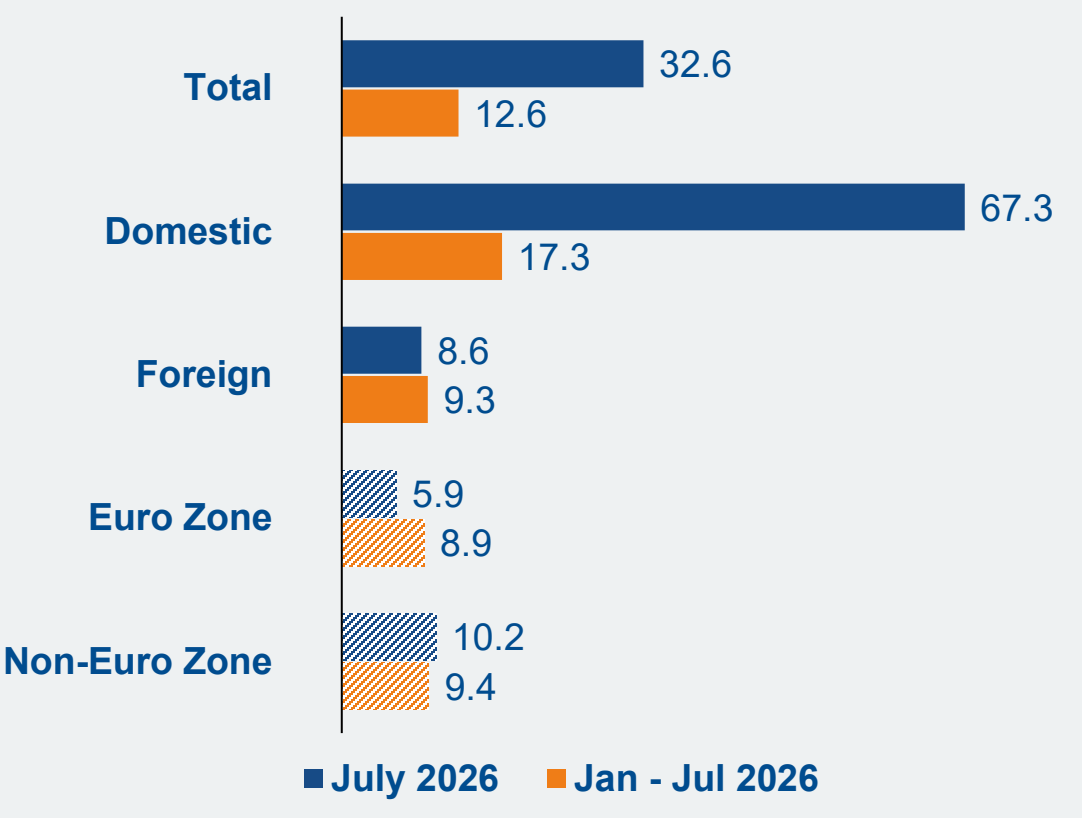
ZVEI Business Cycle Report

Edition September 2026

zvei
electrifying ideas

German electro and digital industry
New orders

Nominal values, % change on year earlier



Source: Destatis and ZVEI's own calculations

New orders in the German electro and digital industry clearly keep heading north. In **July 2026**, they were up by one-third (+32.6%) compared to a year earlier.

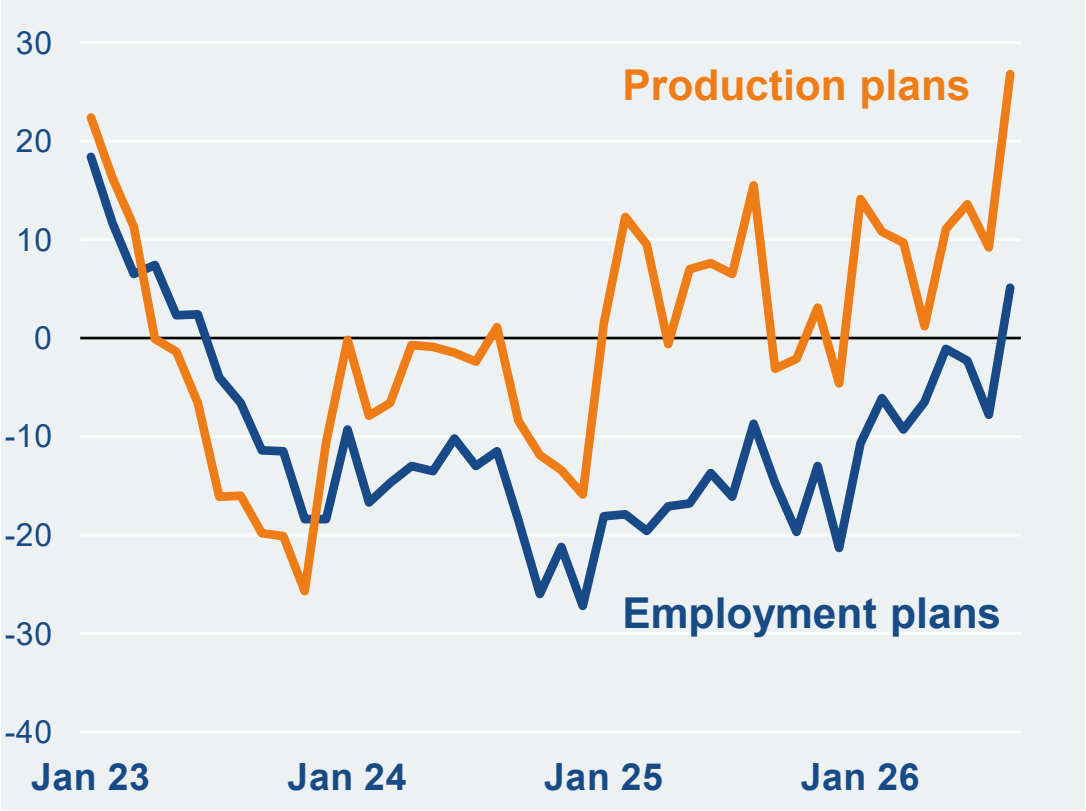
The strong development was once again driven by bulk orders from **domestic clients**, whose overall bookings soared by two-thirds (+67.3%).

Foreign orders were on the rise, too. They grew by 8.6% in July. With it, the bigger stimulus came from third countries outside the euro zone (+10.2%). Business partners from the common currency area raised their bookings by 5.9%.

In the full **first seven months** of this year, total new orders in our sector exceeded their pre-year value by 12.6%. Here, domestic and foreign bookings advanced by 17.3% and 9.3%, respectively. Eventually, bookings from the euro zone increased by 8.9% between January and July and those from third countries by 9.4%.

German electro and digital industry
Production and employment

Balance, %-age points



Source: ifo Institute

Real (i.e., price-adjusted) **production** of electrical and electronic products manufactured in Germany was decently up in **July**, too – namely by 3.2% (year over year). Regarding the entire period **from January through July** 2026, growth in the sector's output stayed at 0.7% (again year-on-year).

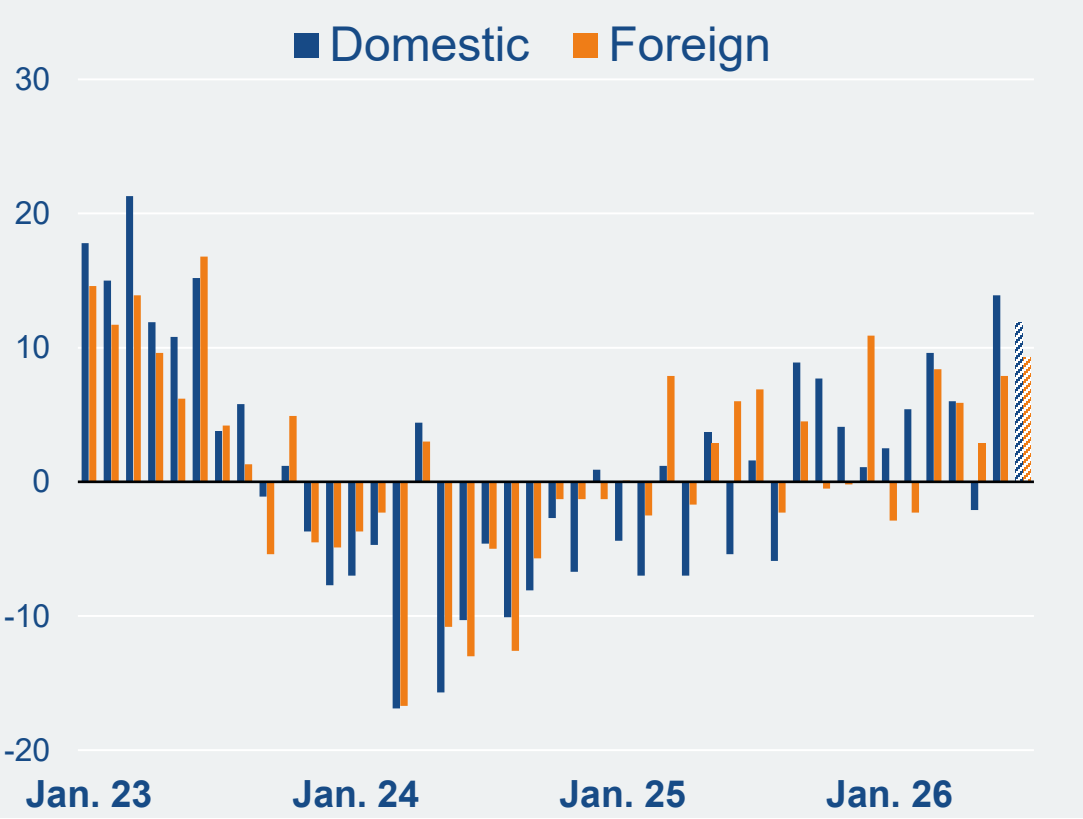
Both the domestic electro companies' **production** and **employment plans** were lifted sharply in **August**.

The net balance of firms intending to raise or rather curtail their output in the next three months soared from +9 to +27 %-age points. In addition, hiring plans turned positive for the first time in more than three years. Here, the aforesaid balance increased from a reading of -8 in July to +5 in August.

The number of **employees** in the German electro and digital industry came to 864,600 at the end of the first half-year of 2026 (-1.5% year over year). Of them, 10,900 (i.e., less than one and a half percent) are working short-time.

German electro and digital industry
Turnover

Nominal values, % change on year earlier



Source: Destatis and ZVEI's own calculations

With €20.4bn, **nominal turnover** of the domestic electro and digital industry came in one-tenth (+10.5%) higher than a year earlier in **July 2026**.

Both **domestic** and **foreign sales** were up in July. The former by 11.9% and the latter by 9.3%. Businesses with customers from third countries (+12.7%), thereby, advanced more dynamically than those with clients from the common euro area (+3.7%).

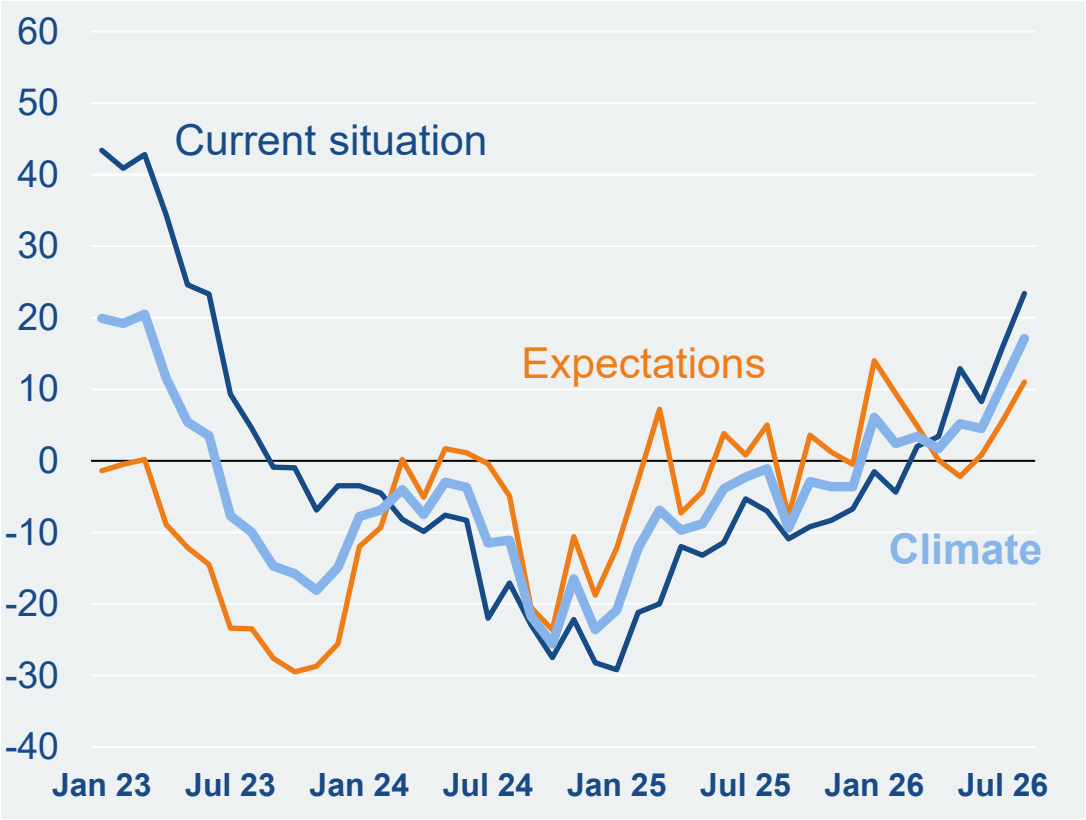
In the **first seven months** of this year taken together, our sector's aggregated revenues summed up to €135.2bn, leaving them 5.5% above their corresponding value in 2025.

Here, sales to nationals and foreigners rose by 6.9% (to €63.6bn) and 4.4% (to €71.6bn), respectively. With it, businesses with the rest of the euro zone (+4.2%) and with third countries (+4.5%) marched forward quite evenly.

Producer prices in the overall German electro sector were, on average, 2.6% higher between January and July than a year earlier.

German electro and digital industry
Business climate

Balance, %-age points



Source: ifo Institute

The **business climate** in the German electro and digital industry was up markedly in August. Both our companies' assessment of their **current situation** as well as their overall **business expectations** thereby changed for the better.

36% of the sector's firms described their present economic situation as good in August. Half of the companies (51%) found it stable, whereas 13% still evaluated it as rather bad.

Concerning the next six months to come, 22% of the electro companies are calculating with rising affairs, while 11% see declines ahead. The majority of 67% reckon with steady businesses.

The more specific **export expectations** made a big step forward in August, too. Here, the net balance of firms reckoning with increasing or rather decreasing deliveries abroad within the next three months to come once again rose from +5 to +13 %-age points.

German electro and digital industry
Business cycle figures

year over year, %	2025	2026 July	2026 Jan - July
New orders	+6.0%	+32.6%	+12.6%
domestic	+0.5%	+67.3%	+17.3%
foreign	+10.4%	+8.6%	+9.3%
euro zone	+8.1%	+5.9%	+8.9%
non-euro zone	+11.7%	+10.2%	+9.4%
Production, real	±0.0%	+3.2%	+0.7%
Turnover, bn €	225.1 +2.3%	20.4 +10.5%	135.2 +5.5%
domestic, bn €	106.3 +0.9%	9.7 +11.9%	63.6 +6.9%
foreign, bn €	118.9 +3.6%	10.7 +9.3%	71.6 +4.4%
euro zone, bn €	43.6 -0.9%	3.7 +3.7%	26.1 +4.2%
non-euro zone, bn €	75.3 +6.3%	7.0 +12.7%	45.5 +4.5%

year over year, %	2025	2026 June	2026 Jan - June
Employees, thousand	872.6 [1] -1.9%	864.6 [1] -1.5%	867.9 [2] -1.4%
Exports, bn €	257.5 +5.1%	24.5 +18.3%	138.5 +9.3%
Imports, bn €	274.9 +8.0%	25.1 +20.2%	143.8 +7.7%

	2025	2026 July	2026 Jan - July
Producer prices	+1.3%	+3.2%	+2.6%
Material prices	+1.0%	+4.7%	+3.3%
Export prices	+0.4%	+4.7%	+2.6%
Import prices	-1.8%	+6.5%	+2.4%

Balance of positive and negative answers	2025	2026 August	2026 July
Business climate	-7	+17	+11
- Economic situation	-13	+23	+16
- Expected business for next 6 months	-1	+11	+5
Export expectations for next 3 months	+5	+13	+5
Production plans for next 3 months	+4	+27	+9
Employment plans	-16	+5	-8

	2025	2026 July	2026 April
Capacity utilization	76.4%	79.8%	79.6%
Reach of unfilled orders, in months	4.1	4.6	4.6

Sources: ifo Institute, Destatis and ZVEI's own calculations; 1) end of period; 2) average

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