

Economic Data
Economy

German Industrial Production Beat Expectations in February; The reading beat a forecast of a 0.3% rise, according to economists polled by The Wall Street Journal.

By Ed Frankl

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Germany's industrial production rose more than expected in February, helped by a recovery in the construction and car industry, as the country looks to exit a recent manufacturing slump.

Output of production in manufacturing, energy and construction ticked up 2.1% compared with the previous month, on a seasonally and calendar-adjusted basis, from an upwardly revised 1.3% rise in January, according to data published Monday by German statistics office Destatis.

The reading beat a forecast of a 0.3% rise, according to economists polled by The Wall Street Journal.

Industry in Europe's largest economy has struggled in recent years, after it turned away from its reliance on cheap Russian gas after the invasion of Ukraine. Low global demand has also hit output, while Germany's domestic environment remains sluggish amid stagnant economic growth.

Compared with the same month of last year, industrial production was 4.9% lower in February, the data said.

Still, there have been some signs of a tentative rebound, with Monday's results coming after data on Friday showed new factory orders climbed 0.2% in February.

Output in construction grew 7.9% on month in February, likely from milder weather, with the car and chemical industries also recording 5.7% and 4.6% rises respectively, Destatis said. Production in energy-intensive industrial branches jumped by 4.2% on month, while in the less-volatile measure that excludes the changeable construction and energy sectors, output rose 1.9%.

However, the rebound in production in both January and February was always likely after big falls toward the end of last year, Franziska Palmas, senior Europe economist at [Capital Economics](#) wrote in a note to clients.

"We still expect [industrial production] to struggle over the rest of 2024 on the back of weak demand and reduced competitiveness," she said.

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