EUROPE INTELLIGENCE BRIEF — FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2026

The Continent On Pause

Germany was the only major European economy to publish figures on Friday. Its output rose 0.2% across industry, construction and energy, while industry alone did not move at all.

That is the second day running that a German headline has flattered a flat reality. Everywhere else the continent simply waited, and watched Washington instead.

Compiled from a sweep of the continent's largest outlets in German, French, Italian, Spanish, Polish, Swedish, Hungarian and English. There is no sport.

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ONE SET OF NUMBERS · A SPLIT COMMITTEE · AN EMPTY CALENDAR

One Country Still Reporting

Europe published almost nothing on Friday. The one country that did read its own figures as generously as the arithmetic allowed.

German output rose 0.2% in June across industry, construction and energy together, credited mainly to a 3.6% jump in car production. One agency headline declared the slide over.

Strip out construction and energy, as the statistics office itself does, and industrial production did not move. It was flat on the month, 0.8% below a year earlier, and May was revised down from 0.9% to 0.7%.

Look inside the rise and it narrows further. Vehicle building beyond cars, which includes aircraft, ships, trains and military vehicles, rose 8.4%, while energy-intensive branches fell 1.8%.

The mood is diligent self-encouragement rather than confidence. Germany is reading itself kindly because the alternative reading is that nothing has changed.

> *Exports of 139.3 billion euros in June, up 0.9%. Industrial production, meanwhile, did not move from the spot: exactly 0.0% against the previous month.*
>
> BOERSE EXPRESS · ON THE GERMAN JUNE FIGURES · AUGUST 7 2026

The outside of the German economy is genuinely working. Exports reached 139.3 billion euros in June, up 0.9% on May.

Imports rose faster still, by 4.4% to 123.9 billion. Demand at home is slowing rather than collapsing, which is a lower bar than it sounds.

Corporate Germany showed the same split. Munich Re cut its revenue outlook to 62 billion euros from 64 after July renewal prices fell 5.5% on a risk-adjusted basis.

It also walked away from business rather than write it cheaply, with renewal volume down 9.1% to 2.9 billion euros. Its profit target was confirmed and the shares were marked down anyway.

Beyond Germany the continent simply stopped. Sweden has nothing to decide until 20 August, and Poland's most recent official projection is a month old.

Britain's rate-setters have been split six to three since 29 July, and nothing has moved since. France, Italy and Spain published nothing at all.

What every European desk actually watched was the American employment report. A continent that outsources its most important Friday number is telling you where the initiative lies.

For readers in Latin America, the lesson is about reading a quiet day correctly. Stillness is not stability, and the unresolved questions simply carry into September.

The Day At A Glance

Here is Friday's news, in order of how much it matters for the economy and markets, after a sweep of the continent's largest outlets in German, French, Italian, Spanish, Polish, Swedish, Hungarian and English. We have skipped what was already covered this week, and there is no sport.

Germany · A Rise That Depends Where You Look

Output rose 0.2% across industry, construction and energy, a third consecutive monthly gain led by carmakers. Industry alone was flat and 0.8% below a year earlier.

Germany · The Second Flattering Headline

Thursday's factory orders jumped 3.1% and fell 0.5% excluding large contracts. Two days, two headlines that read better than the detail.

Germany · Exports Work, Home Does Not

Exports reached 139.3 billion euros in June, up 0.9%. Imports rose faster at 4.4% to 123.9 billion, pointing to slowing rather than collapsing domestic demand.

Germany · Munich Re Cuts Its Outlook

The reinsurer trimmed 2026 revenue expectations to 62 billion euros from 64 after July renewals came in 5.5% cheaper. Quarterly profit still rose 6% to 2.2 billion.

Germany · Thyssenkrupp Votes to Split

An extraordinary meeting considered making the materials division independent as TK Accelis. It continues the dismantling of a conglomerate that once defined German industry.

Sweden · Nothing to Decide Until the Twentieth

The policy rate stands at 1.75% with the next decision on 20 August. Inflation is expected below the 2% target and growth around 2.8%.

Poland · Momentum, But No Fresh Reading

The central bank's July projection sees growth of 3.0% to 4.4% and inflation of 2.4% to 3.3%. Nothing was updated on Friday.

United Kingdom · An Argument Frozen

The Bank of England has held at 3.75% since 29 July on a six to three vote. Britain remains the only large European economy debating a rise.

France, Italy, Spain · An August Silence

French unemployment and trade figures were scheduled and did not reach the wires we monitor. Italy and Spain published nothing at all.

Region · Waiting on Washington

The United States employment report was the day's real European event. It sets the rate expectations that price European bonds and currencies.

The Numbers At A Glance · Europe · Friday August 7, 2026

DE Total output **+0.2%** Third rise	**DE** Industry alone **0.0%** -0.8% year	**DE** Exports **€139.3bn** Up 0.9%	**DE** Imports **+4.4%** Faster still
DE Munich Re **€62bn** Cut from 64	**SE** Policy rate **1.75%** To Aug 20	**PL** Growth range **3.0-4.4%** July view	**UK** Bank Rate **3.75%** Split 6-3

OUR SIMPLE HEALTH CHECK · 10 ECONOMIES

How The Countries Are Doing

This is our simple country-by-country health check, updated Friday on a day when only Germany published figures. Each country is rated from 1 to 5 across five areas, where a lower number is better and a higher one means more strain.

COUNTRY	POLITICS	BUDGET	MONEY	MARKETS	OUTSIDE	WHAT'S DRIVING IT
Germany DAX · euro	2	3	3	2	3	Total output up 0.2% on a 3.6% jump in cars, but industry alone flat and 0.8% below a year ago with May revised down; energy-intensive branches fell 1.8%; exports €139.3bn with imports rising faster.
Sweden OMX · krona	1	2	1	2	2	Policy rate at 1.75% with nothing due until 20 August and inflation expected below target; growth around 2.8%; the advantage of having taken its pain earlier.
Poland WIG · zloty	3	3	2	2	2	July projection sees growth of 3.0-4.4% and inflation of 2.4-3.3%; European funds are the engine and energy prices the drag; fiscal room smaller than in 2022.
UK FTSE 100 · pound	3	4	4	2	3	Held at 3.75% since 29 July on a six to three vote, with three members wanting 4%; the only large European economy where tightening is a live argument.
France CAC 40 · euro	4	4	3	3	3	Nothing published on Friday despite a scheduled calendar; Thursday's figures showed manufacturing down 1.1% and a property market going nowhere.
Italy FTSE MIB · euro	3	4	3	2	3	Silent on Friday after Thursday's 1.0% monthly drop in industrial production; cars and medicines still growing while textiles fall away; growth near 0.5%.
Spain IBEX 35 · euro	2	3	2	2	3	Still the fastest of the large euro economies this year, though Thursday showed industrial growth slowing to 1.1% from 3.1%; nothing new on Friday.
Netherlands AEX · euro	2	2	3	2	3	A steady, open, trade-focused economy exposed to the same weak European demand; technology names tie it to the global chip mood; a quiet week.
Switzerland SMI · franc	1	1	2	2	2	A defensive market with low inflation and steady insurers and medicine-makers; less tied to euro-area rates; central bank reserves data due.
Hungary BUX · forint	4	4	3	3	3	Among the region's more strained economies with persistent inflation pressure and a weaker currency; no fresh readings this week.

How to read the colours: 1 = calm, 2 = fairly good, 3 = mixed, 4 = some strain, 5 = serious strain. Each country's number is the average across the five areas. Updated August 7.

DEEP DIVE · WHAT THE PAUSE CONCEALS · 04

ONE SET OF FIGURES · A FLAT INDUSTRY · AN EMPTY CALENDAR

Three Ways September Could Begin

Three ways Europe's unresolved questions could develop once the continent returns to its desks in September. The chances add up to 100%.

Part 1 · What Was Left Unfinished

German industry has been flat for months, and two flattering headlines in two days did not change that. Orders excluding large contracts fell 0.5%, industrial output did not move, and both months were revised down.

Exports are genuinely strong at 139.3 billion euros, but imports grew faster. The external engine is doing the work the domestic one is not.

Britain's rate-setters have been split six to three for over a week with no meeting to resolve it. Sweden decides nothing until 20 August.

Reinsurance prices fell 5.5% at the July renewals, which Munich Re has now written into its forecasts. None of this was settled on Friday because nobody was there to settle it.

> *A confirmed profit target does not protect a share price when the growth story starts to crumble.*
>
> BOERSE EXPRESS · ON MUNICH RE'S RECEPTION · AUGUST 7 2026

Part 2 · Possibility A — The Recovery Broadens (35%)

In this case car production keeps lifting the wider industrial base and domestic demand follows the export strength. The headline and the detail finally point the same way.

Europe gets a genuine autumn recovery. For Latin America, it means firmer demand for industrial inputs and machinery.

Part 3 · Possibility B — The Split Persists (40%)

Here exports carry Germany while industry stays flat, and the monthly headlines keep depending on which aggregate is quoted. Britain's committee stays divided.

Nothing breaks and nothing improves. For Latin America, it is a reminder to read European data by its components rather than its headline.

Part 4 · Possibility C — The External Engine Stalls (25%)

In this path global demand cools and the export figure joins the flat industrial one. The one part of the German economy that works stops working.

Europe faces a genuinely weak autumn. For Latin America, it would mean softer export demand and weaker commodity prices.

POSSIBILITY	CHANCE	GERMAN INDUSTRY	EXPORTS	WHAT IT MEANS FOR LATIN AMERICA

A · Broadens	35%	Finally moves	Stay strong	Firmer demand for machinery
B · Split persists	40%	Stays flat	Carry the load	Read components, not headlines
C · Engine stalls	25%	Stays flat	Cool too	Softer exports and prices

Source: Rio Times desk · drawing on Destatis, Boerse Express, t-online, dpa-AFX, Sveriges Riksbank and Narodowy Bank Polski. Not financial advice.

WHAT WE ARE WATCHING · 05

OUR OPINION ONLY · NOT FINANCIAL ADVICE

Eight Things We Are Watching

These are just our own opinions, not financial advice. In short: we trust German exports more than German headlines, like Sweden's and Poland's positions, and stay careful on reinsurance pricing.

WHAT	HOW WE SEE IT	OVER WHAT PERIOD	WHY
German exporters	▲ POSITIVE	12 months	Exports of €139.3bn in June are the one part of the economy consistently delivering.
German industrial names	▼ CAREFUL	12 months	Industry alone was flat in June and 0.8% below a year earlier, whatever the headline said.
European reinsurers	▼ CAREFUL	18 months	July renewal prices fell 5.5%, and Munich Re has already written that into its forecasts.
Swedish assets	▲ POSITIVE	12 months	Below-target inflation, a 1.75% policy rate and growth near 2.8% is an enviable combination.
Polish assets	▲ POSITIVE	18 months	Growth of 3.0-4.4% on European funds, with its own currency and central bank for flexibility.
British government debt	▼ CAREFUL	12 months	Three of nine rate-setters want an increase, and the position has not moved since 29 July.
Southern European shares	◆ MIXED	12 months	Spain still leads the large euro economies, but Italian output fell 1.0% on the month.
European industrial data	◆ MIXED	6 months	Read the components rather than the headline; the two have pointed opposite ways twice this week.

POWER PLAYERS · 06

SIX FORCES · IN THE NEWS TODAY

Six Forces Shaping The News

Six institutions and forces whose positions are shaping the continent today.

The Federal Statistical Office

Data · Germany

Its June release showed total output up 0.2% and industrial production flat at 0.0%, with May revised down from 0.9% to 0.7%. How the aggregate is defined has become the whole argument.

German exporters

Trade · Germany

They shipped 139.3 billion euros of goods in June, up 0.9% on the month. They are carrying an economy whose domestic side has not moved.

Munich Re

Reinsurer · Germany

It cut 2026 revenue expectations to 62 billion euros after July renewal prices fell 5.5%, and let renewal volume fall 9.1% rather than write business below its terms. The shares were marked down regardless.

Thyssenkrupp

Industrial group · Germany

An extraordinary meeting considered separating its materials division as TK Accelis. It is another instalment in the slow dismantling of a company that once defined German heavy industry.

The Riksbank

Central bank · Sweden

It has left its policy rate at 1.75% with nothing due until 20 August, and expects inflation below target. Having moved earlier than others, it now has the luxury of doing nothing.

The Bank of England

Central bank · United Kingdom

Its committee has been split six to three since 29 July, with Greene, Mann and Pill preferring 4%. The disagreement has now been frozen in place for over a week.

DAILY BRIEFING · 07

BY COUNTRY · DATA · CORPORATE · POLICY · MARKETS

The Day, Country By Country

All thirteen stories from Friday's sweep, with no sport, and leaving out what was already covered this week. The sweep drew on the continent's largest outlets in German, French, Italian, Spanish, Polish, Swedish, Hungarian and English.

GERMANY — THE DATA

A Rise That Depends Where You Look

Output across industry, construction and energy rose 0.2% in June, credited mainly to car production up 3.6% and other vehicle building up 8.4%, which includes aircraft, ships, trains and military vehicles. Sources: Statistisches Bundesamt, t-online · August 7.

Industry Alone Did Not Move

Excluding energy and construction, as Destatis defines it, industrial production was unchanged and 0.8% below a year earlier; May was revised down from 0.9% to 0.7% and energy-intensive branches fell 1.8%. Sources: Statistisches Bundesamt, Boerse Express · August 7.

Exports Work, Home Does Not

Exports reached 139.3 billion euros in June, up 0.9% on May, while imports rose faster at 4.4% to 123.9 billion, pointing to slowing rather than collapsing domestic demand. Sources: Statistisches Bundesamt · August 7.

GERMANY — THE COMPANIES

Munich Re Cuts Its Outlook

The reinsurer trimmed 2026 revenue expectations to 62 billion euros from 64 after July renewal prices fell 5.5% risk-adjusted, and let volume drop 9.1% to 2.9 billion rather than write underpriced business. Sources: Dow Jones via finanzen.ch, Boerse Express · August 7.

Thyssenkrupp Votes on a Split

An extraordinary general meeting considered making the materials division independent under the name TK Accelis, continuing the long dismantling of the conglomerate. Sources: dpa-AFX · August 7.

A Heavy Reporting Day

Allianz, Daimler Truck, Lanxess, Porsche Automobil Holding and EnBW all reported, with the market punishing weak margins while the index held near a record around 26,344 points. Sources: dpa-AFX, Boerse Express · August 7.

SWEDEN · POLAND

Sweden · Nothing to Decide Until the Twentieth

The policy rate stands at 1.75% with the next monetary decision due on 20 August; inflation is expected below the 2% target and growth around 2.8% this year. Sources: Sveriges Riksbank, Ekonomifakta · August 2026.

Poland · Momentum Without a Fresh Reading

The central bank's July projection puts growth at 3.0% to 4.4% and inflation at 2.4% to 3.3% for 2026, with European funds the engine and energy prices the drag. Sources: Narodowy Bank Polski · July 2026.

UNITED KINGDOM

An Argument Frozen Mid-Sentence

The Bank of England has held Bank Rate at 3.75% since its 29 July meeting, when the vote split six to three, with Greene, Mann and Pill preferring an increase to 4%. Sources: Bank of England · July 29.

Sensitive to the Oil Price

The dissenters need only one more vote and a hot energy month to become a majority, leaving British borrowing costs unusually exposed to fuel prices. Sources: Bank of England · July 29.

FRANCE · ITALY · SPAIN

France · A Scheduled Silence

Unemployment, current account and trade figures were listed for Friday morning and none reached the wires we monitor; Thursday had shown manufacturing output down 1.1%. Sources: economic calendars, prior releases · August 7.

Italy and Spain · Nothing at All

Both published industrial production on Thursday, Italy down 1.0% on the month and Spain slowing to 1.1% annual growth, and neither produced anything on Friday. Sources: Istat, INE · August 6-7.

REGION

Waiting on Washington

The United States employment report was the day's real European event, shaping the interest-rate expectations that price European bonds and currencies for the weeks ahead. Sources: Rio Times desk · August 7.

What the Pause Conceals

German industry is still flat, British rate-setters are still split, and reinsurance prices are still falling; none of it was resolved because nobody was at their desk. Sources: Rio Times desk · August 7.

SECTOR WATCH · CALENDAR

Pipeline, Sectors, And The Calendar

ITEM	TYPE	WHEN	STATUS
German total output	Data	Today	+0.2%, third rise
German industry alone	Data	Today	0.0%, -0.8% year
German exports	Data	Today	€139.3bn, +0.9%
German imports	Data	Today	+4.4%, faster
Munich Re outlook	Corporate	Today	€62bn from €64bn
Thyssenkrupp split vote	Corporate	Today	TK Accelis
German reporting day	Corporate	Today	Allianz, Daimler Truck
Swedish rate decision	Policy	Aug 20	Held at 1.75%
Bank of England split	Policy	Jul 29	Six to three
US employment report	Data	Today	Europe's real event

Sector Watch · Four Things to Track

HEADLINE VERSUS DETAIL

Two German releases in two days have read better in the headline than in the components. Which aggregate is quoted now decides the story.

THE EXTERNAL ENGINE

Exports of 139.3 billion euros are carrying an economy whose domestic side is flat. That is a narrow base for a recovery.

REINSURANCE PRICING

July renewals came in 5.5% cheaper and Munich Re has written it into its forecasts. The pricing cycle has turned.

A FROZEN COMMITTEE

Britain's rate-setters have been split six to three since late July. The disagreement is now over a week old and unresolved.

Calendar · Next 30 Days

DATE	EVENT	WHY IT MATTERS
Today	German output and trade	Headline and detail diverge again
Today	US employment report	Prices European bonds and currencies
Aug 20	Swedish rate decision	First European move of the month
Coming weeks	German industrial trend	Whether industry alone finally moves
Coming weeks	Bank of England dissenters	Whether three become four
Coming weeks	Thyssenkrupp separation	TK Accelis becomes independent
September	European parliaments return	The paused arguments resume
Ongoing	Reinsurance renewal pricing	Down 5.5% in July

Ongoing	French and Italian output	Both weak in Thursday's readings
Ongoing	Spain's narrowing lead	Still fastest, but slowing

WHERE EUROPE STANDS · OUR TAKE

What Today Tells Us

Our take after Friday, drawing on the continent's largest outlets in German, French, Italian, Spanish, Polish, Swedish, Hungarian and English, is that Europe spent the day on hold. Only one country published anything at all.

German output rose 0.2% across industry, construction and energy, led by car production up 3.6%. Industry measured on its own did not move, sits 0.8% below a year ago, and May was revised down.

That is the second day in a row where the German headline has flattered a flat reading. On Thursday factory orders rose 3.1% and fell 0.5% once large contracts were removed.

The external side is genuinely working, with exports at 139.3 billion euros in June. Imports rose faster still, which tells you domestic demand is slowing rather than collapsing.

Munich Re cut its revenue outlook after July renewal prices fell 5.5%, letting volume drop 9.1% rather than write cheap business, and was marked down despite confirming its target.

Elsewhere the continent simply paused. Sweden decides nothing until 20 August, Poland's latest projection is a month old, and Britain's committee has been split since 29 July.

France, Italy and Spain published nothing, and every European desk watched the American employment report instead. A continent that outsources its most important Friday number is telling you where the initiative lies.

For readers in Latin America, the lesson is about reading a quiet day correctly. Stillness is not stability, and the unresolved questions simply carry into September.

Sources & Method

GERMANY — DATA	Statistisches Bundesamt · Boerse Express · t-online · dpa-AFX · August 7 2026 (German).
GERMANY — CORPORATE	dpa-AFX · Boerse Express · finanznachrichten.de · August 7 2026 (German).
SWEDEN	Sveriges Riksbank · Ekonomifakta · 2026 (Swedish).
POLAND	Narodowy Bank Polski · TVN24 Biznes · money.pl · Wprost · July-August 2026 (Polish).
UNITED KINGDOM	Bank of England Monetary Policy Summary and Minutes · July 29 2026 (English).
FRANCE / ITALY / SPAIN	Zonebourse · Istat · INE · economic calendars · August 6-7 2026 (French/Italian/Spanish).
CENTRAL BANKS	European Central Bank · Bank of England · Sveriges Riksbank · Narodowy Bank Polski · August 2026.
LATAM LINK	Brazil's and Mexico's central banks · IDB · S&P; Global · B3 · BMV · Mercosur.

Method. We swept the continent's largest outlets in German, French, Italian, Spanish, Polish, Swedish, Hungarian and English. Where a scheduled release did not produce a confirmed figure, we say so rather than quoting the forecast. Aggregates are named explicitly, because total output and industrial production diverged again this week. The country health check was updated August 7. There is no sport, and the opinions are our own — not financial advice.

Compiled from major European outlets in the continent's main languages · All times local unless noted