

# The NewsLine

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## GERMANY

### Industry roars into new year

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The steep 3.2% jump in industrial production in January over December shows that concerns about the economy fueled mainly by the slide in oil prices are overdone. With an appreciable rise in industrial production in the first quarter of this year now on the cards, the prospects are good that economic growth accelerated substantially at the beginning of this year. The rise in purchasing power on the back of the oil price and the healthy developments on the labor market are also boosting demand in many service industries. We now put gross domestic product growth at 0.6% in the first quarter of this year after 0.3% in the final quarter of last year.

The automotive industry provided a hefty boost in January, recording a 7.6% rise in output on the previous month. At the end of last year the sector had cut back production sharply. But chemicals, metal production and processing also saw substantial increases. Although this positive trend is unlikely to continue unabated in the coming months, there also no grounds for pessimism. New orders from abroad, which went into sharp retreat from the middle of last year, have picked up again appreciably since November. Demand from within the eurozone has already been heading up for a while now, but non-eurozone orders have also bounced back in recent months. This suggests that the global slowdown is not set to worsen. We think it more likely that world trade will get back into stride in the course of this year

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These assessments are, as always, subject to the disclaimer provided below.

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Together with its customers and sales partners, Allianz is one of the strongest financial communities. About 85 million private and corporate customers insured by Allianz rely on its knowledge, global reach, capital strength and solidity to help them make the most of financial opportunities and to avoid and safeguard themselves against risks. In 2014, around 147,000 employees in over 70 countries achieved total revenues of 122.3 billion euros and an operating profit of 10.4 billion euros. Benefits for our customers reached 104.6 billion euros.

This business success with insurance, asset management and assistance services is based increasingly on customer demand for crisis-proof financial solutions for an aging society and the challenges of climate change. Transparency and integrity are key components of sustainable corporate governance at Allianz SE.

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