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German courts recorded 2,067 corporate insolvency applications in August

From January through August, requested insolvencies rose 6.6%, with the highest rates in transportation, warehousing and hospitality

Saturday, November 14, 2026



German local courts recorded 2,067 corporate insolvency applications in August, 4.4% more than in August 2025, according to figures released Friday, November 13 by the Federal Statistical Office, known as Destatis.

The increase adds to a broader rise in business failures this year. From January through August, courts registered 17,252 requested corporate insolvencies, up 6.6% from the same period in 2025. Destatis said the figures reflect only business closures that went through formal insolvency proceedings, not companies that shut down for other reasons or before acute payment problems emerged.

The agency said the timing of the data requires caution. Insolvency applications enter the statistics only after the insolvency court has made an initial decision, and the actual filing date is in many cases roughly three months earlier. That means the August registrations largely reflect financial distress that began earlier in the year.

Despite the rise in the number of cases, the total claims tied to those insolvencies fell. Creditors’ claims from the corporate insolvencies reported between January and August were estimated at about 25.9 billion euros, down from about 37.2 billion euros in the same period of 2025. Destatis said the decline, even as more companies entered insolvency, was due to the fact that the first eight months of 2025 included more economically significant companies filing for insolvency than in 2026.

Measured against the size of the business population, Germany recorded 48.7 corporate insolvencies for every 10,000 companies between January and August. The highest insolvency rate was in transportation and warehousing, at 97.6 cases per 10,000 companies. Hospitality ranked second, with 80.1 cases per 10,000, followed by construction at 71.9.

The high rate in hospitality stands out because it is well above the economy-wide average and affects a sector that is closely tied to consumer demand, tourism and operating costs. It also points to possible strain for parts of the drinks industry that rely on restaurants, bars, hotels and other hospitality businesses in Germany. Wineries, breweries, distillers and beverage distributors that supply those venues could face higher commercial risk if more operators run into payment trouble or leave the market.

Destatis also reported a smaller increase in consumer insolvencies. German courts recorded 6,301 consumer insolvencies in August, up 2.8% from a year earlier. For January through August, consumer insolvencies reached 52,344, a rise of 1.2% from the same period in 2025.

The data offer one of the clearest official snapshots of financial stress across the German economy, but the figures do not capture every business closure. Because the statistics are limited to formal insolvency proceedings, they can understate the full number of companies that stop operating. At the same time, the sector breakdown shows where pressure has been most concentrated.

Transportation and warehousing remained the most affected area by incidence, but the hospitality sector’s position near the top is likely to draw attention from suppliers and lenders. Insolvency rates in that sector can have wider effects because many small and medium-sized businesses depend on steady trade from food service and lodging customers. For beverage producers and wholesalers, especially those with heavy exposure to on-premise sales, the figures may signal a need to watch counterparty risk more closely in the German market.

Destatis said its frequency calculations were based on the statistical business register and define companies as legal units, including corporations, limited liability companies, partnerships and sole proprietorships. More detailed results are available in the agency’s insolvency tables and on its business registrations and insolvencies topic page.