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Germany’s hospitality revenue rose 1.2% in September

Restaurants remained below year-earlier levels in real terms after price increases lifted nominal sales

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Germany’s hospitality industry posted a 1.2% increase in real revenue in September from August, a modest monthly rebound that still left the sector below its level a year earlier and highlighted continuing pressure on restaurants after price increases.

On Thursday, Germany’s Federal Statistical Office, Destatis, said hospitality revenue in September 2026, adjusted for prices, seasonal effects and calendar effects, rose 1.2% from August. In nominal terms, which are not adjusted for inflation, revenue increased 1.9% over the month.

The monthly gain offered some relief after a weaker August, but the year-over-year picture remained softer. Compared with September 2025, real hospitality revenue fell 0.9%, while nominal revenue rose 6.5%, according to Destatis. The gap between nominal and real results suggests businesses took in more money in euro terms, but sold less in inflation-adjusted terms.

That pattern was especially clear in restaurants and catering. Destatis said gastronomy revenue in September rose 1.4% in real terms from August and 1.6% in nominal terms. But compared with September 2025, real revenue in gastronomy fell 2.1%, even as nominal revenue increased 6.1%.

For restaurant operators, that means higher receipts did not translate into a full recovery in underlying activity. The figures indicate that price increases continued to support headline sales, while the volume of business, once adjusted for inflation, remained weaker than a year earlier.

Hotels and other accommodation providers performed better than food service businesses in the annual comparison. Revenue in lodging rose 0.6% in real terms and 2.9% in nominal terms from August to September. Compared with September 2025, real lodging revenue increased 2.8% and nominal revenue rose 7.8%.

The September release was published as a correction on Thursday. Destatis said the press statement issued on November 19 was corrected because of an error in the chart, which was replaced. The office did not indicate any change to the written revenue figures in the release.

Destatis also revised the August data. It said hospitality revenue in August 2026 declined 1.1% in real terms from July, compared with an earlier estimate of a 1.3% drop. Nominal revenue in August fell 1.0%, revised from a previously reported 1.2% decline.

The data are preliminary, and Destatis said monthly updates are common because the office incorporates late responses from reporting units. It also noted that the hospitality survey underwent a broad methodological overhaul starting with the June 2026 reporting month.

According to Destatis, the changes included shifting to a new base year of 2021, introducing Laspeyres indices, and changing the reporting unit from legal entities to business fields within legal entities. The office said those changes should allow more consistent and harmonized reporting across industry levels and a more precise assignment of economic activity to each branch. At the same time, it warned that the improvements can produce relatively large revisions in some reporting months.

Destatis said the statistics measure net revenue, excluding value-added tax, and use a corresponding net-price index to calculate real, inflation-adjusted results. It also stressed that different comparisons serve different purposes. Month-to-month figures,

adjusted for seasonal and calendar effects, are meant to show short-term economic momentum. Calendar-adjusted year-over-year comparisons are intended to show broader level changes over time.

The office cautioned that hospitality revenue data can differ from tourism statistics, especially in summer months, because revenue at accommodation businesses does not always occur in the same period as overnight stays. Methodological differences between the two statistical systems can also lead to different results.

For the broader German hospitality market, the September figures point to a sector that is stabilizing month to month but remains uneven beneath the surface. Accommodation businesses have moved ahead of their year-earlier level in real terms, while restaurants are still losing ground after adjusting for inflation.

That split matters for a sector that depends on both travel demand and household spending. Lodging providers benefited from stronger annual growth in September, but gastronomy businesses continued to face the harder task of turning higher menu prices into real growth.

The figures from Destatis suggest that hospitality in Germany improved from August to September, but the recovery was incomplete. The sector as a whole recovered some lost ground over the month, yet restaurants remained below their September 2025 level in real terms, underlining how inflation continues to shape reported sales across the industry.