

Industrial production down by 0.4% in euro area

Figures published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, show that in June 2015 compared with May 2015, seasonally adjusted industrial production fell by 0.4% in the euro area (EA19) and by 0.2% in the EU28. In May 2015 industrial production decreased by 0.2% and 0.1% respectively. In June 2015 compared with June 2014, industrial production increased by 1.2% in the euro area and by 1.7% in the EU28. The decrease of 0.4% in industrial production in the euro area in June 2015, compared with May 2015, is due to production of durable consumer goods falling by 2.0%, capital goods by 1.8% and intermediate goods by 0.5%, while production of non-durable consumer goods remained stable. Production of energy rose by 3.2%.

(Source: [Eurostat](#))

Eurozone economy grows by 0.3%

The economies of the 19 eurozone countries grew by about 0.3% between April and June, according to official figures. The first estimate from Eurostat marks a slight slowdown from the 0.4% registered in the first quarter. The statistics agency also announced that inflation in the eurozone was 0.2% in July, unchanged from June's figure. In France, growth in the first three months of the year was revised up from 0.6% to 0.7%, the statistics office Insee said. The German economy grew 0.4%, up from 0.3% in the first quarter. Italy's economy grew 0.2%, slowing from 0.3% the previous quarter. In the wider 28-member EU, GDP grew 0.4%, which was unchanged from the previous quarter, while inflation was 0.1% in July, unchanged from June. Eleven member states reported deflation in the month, with Cyprus recording the biggest drop at -2.4%. Malta reported the most inflation at 1.2%.

(Source: [BBC](#))

Greece agrees bailout deal

Greece and its creditors reached an agreement on the substance for a multi-billion bailout deal to avert an August 20 default. Greece has reportedly agreed the function of a new independent privatisation fund, and how non-performing bank loans will be administered, an official said. A government source told state agency ANA that Athens had committed to a primary deficit of 0.25% of output in 2015, and a surplus in 2016, meaning that no new fiscal measures will be necessary until then. In 2016 the primary surplus -- the balance not including debt service -- will be 0.5%, followed by 1.75% in 2017 and 3.5% in 2018. There was no immediate detail forthcoming from the government on other sticking points with the creditors, including how to deal with approximately 90 billion euros in bad loans burdening banks. Greece needs to reach an agreement on its third bailout by August 20, when it must repay €3.4 billion to the European Central Bank.

(Source: [Euractiv](#))



EU close to sealing deal with United States on data-sharing

The European Commission is working with the United States on the final details of a commercial data-sharing deal that was put up for renegotiation following leaks two years ago that exposed U.S. mass surveillance practices, a document seen by Reuters showed. The EU executive has been negotiating with the United States since January 2014 to reform an existing agreement allowing companies to transfer data easily between the two areas, known as "Safe Harbour". The data-sharing deal originally dates from 2000, but the Commission called for a review in 2013 after former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden leaked details about U.S. spying practices targeting European citizens and some heads of state. Brussels has demanded guarantees from the United States that the collection of EU citizens' data for national security purposes would be limited to what is necessary and proportionate. It has made this a condition for not scrapping Safe Harbour legal protection, which facilitates the everyday business activities of some 4,000 companies, both European and American. Under the new deal, U.S. registered companies will face stricter rules when transferring data to third parties. The new deal would allow both sides to monitor the functioning of Safe Harbour, including how the limitations on U.S. authorities' access to the data are being applied.

(Source: [euractiv](#))

Week ahead

The European Parliament is in summer recess until 1 September 2015.

