

PRESS RELEASE

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German machine tool makers close 2021 with full order books

Frankfurt am Main, 15 February 2022. – Orders received by the German machine tool industry in the fourth quarter of 2021 were 51 percent up on the previous year's figure. Orders from Germany rose by 62 percent. Foreign orders were 46 percent higher than in the previous year. In 2021 as a whole, the level of orders received by German manufacturers rose by 58 percent. Domestic orders were 51 percent higher than in the previous year, foreign orders 62 percent.

"This great result reveals how German manufacturers have worked their way out of the Covid crisis," says Dr Wilfried Schäfer, Executive Director of the VDW (German Machine Tool Builders' Association), Frankfurt am Main, commenting on the result. "Orders are also 11 percent higher than in 2019, the year before Covid," Schäfer adds.

The recovery in foreign order levels is broad-based across all the different regions. Europe recorded the strongest growth at 90 percent. The Americas and Asia were up 66 and 61 percent, respectively, on the previous year. Within Europe, both Italy and Austria were supported by massive investment funding programs and came back very strongly, as did the Czech Republic. While the level of orders from Austria only returned to normal in the second half of the year, that from Italy remained at a high level throughout the year. The two lead

markets, China and the USA, also performed strongly. Overall, however, the USA has shown stronger momentum and narrowed the gap to China.

"All in all, there are great prospects of the sector having a good year in 2022," Schäfer concludes. "We are expecting the wave of Covid-19 infections to weaken in the coming weeks and many restrictions to fall away. Most manufacturers also expect supply problems to ease in the second half of the year. In particular, the bottlenecks in the logistics chains should resolve themselves, allowing companies to process their orders and deliver their machines more smoothly."

Background

The German machine tool industry ranks among the five largest specialist groupings in the mechanical engineering sector. It provides production technology for metalworking applications in all branches of industry, and makes a crucial contribution towards innovation and enhanced productivity in the industrial sector as a whole. Due to its absolutely key role for industrial production, its development is an important indicator for the economic dynamism of the industrial sector as such. In 2021, with an average of 64,500 employees (firms with more than 50 staff), the sector produced machines and services worth around 12.7 billion euros.

Picture:

Dr. Wilfried Schäfer, Executive Director of the VDW (German Machine Tool Builders' Association), Frankfurt am Main

Graphic: Order bookings in the German machine tool industry

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