

Snap | 10 June 2026

ITALY

Italian industrial production proves resilient in April

This was the third consecutive monthly expansion, which is good news. Still, as the underlying drivers of the demand boost might still prove temporary, the data should be interpreted with caution. Call it resilience, nothing more



April data points to a decent start to the second quarter, allowing Italy to avoid a GDP contraction

The impact of the war in the Middle East on Italian industrial production has so far been contained. In April, the seasonally adjusted industrial production print was up 0.5% on the month (after +0.6% in March) – the third consecutive monthly improvement. The working days adjusted measure was up 1.3% on the year and the average of calendar adjusted production over the first four months of 2026 is 0.6% higher than in the same period of 2025.

Progress was not evenly spread across the main industry groups, though. The bulk of gains rests with investment and intermediate goods, with consumer goods marginally down on the month notwithstanding a solid monthly rebound in the durable component.

Sector wise, the main highlight was a solid monthly rebound in chemical products and confirmed solid growth in production of machinery and transport equipment, the latter remaining by far the best performing sector year to date – likely helped by incentives on car purchases. The monthly rebound in the production of refined oil products might reflect an

increase in demand following supply disruptions in the Middle East because of the war.

All in all, April production data points to the relative resilience of manufacturing versus services. However, we are talking about resilience within the framework of a very tentative turnaround: nothing more, for the time being. This is a pattern which might continue in May, if published business surveys are any guide. The EU Commission manufacturing business confidence index was stable in May, supported by a marginal improvement in orders and in stocks of finished goods. The manufacturing PMI May release was even more upbeat, posting the strongest reading since April 2022. Again, at the heart of the improvement was a combination of new orders and precautionary stock building by customers. The very nature of such a demand boost should induce necessary prudence in calling any new trend, as it might prove temporary. Furthermore, the soft start of German production, notwithstanding a potentially strong fiscal push, calls for a prudent approach in interpreting Italian developments, given the strong interlinks between the two economies.

Having said that, April data points to a decent start to the second quarter, where industry and services might balance out, allowing Italy to avoid a GDP contraction after a surprisingly strong first quarter.

Author

Paolo Pizzoli

Senior Economist, Italy, Greece

paolo.pizzoli@ing.com

Disclaimer

This publication has been prepared by the Economic and Financial Analysis Division of ING Bank N.V. ("ING") solely for information purposes without regard to any particular user's investment objectives, financial situation, or means. *ING forms part of ING Group (being for this purpose ING Group N.V. and its subsidiary and affiliated companies).* The information in the publication is not an investment recommendation and it is not investment, legal or tax advice or an offer or solicitation to purchase or sell any financial instrument. Reasonable care has been taken to ensure that this publication is not untrue or misleading when published, but ING does not represent that it is accurate or complete. ING does not accept any liability for any direct, indirect or consequential loss arising from any use of this publication. Unless otherwise stated, any views, forecasts, or estimates are solely those of the author(s), as of the date of the publication and are subject to change without notice.

The distribution of this publication may be restricted by law or regulation in different jurisdictions and persons into whose possession this publication comes should inform themselves about, and observe, such restrictions.

Copyright and database rights protection exists in this report and it may not be reproduced, distributed or published by any person for any purpose without the prior express consent of ING. All rights are reserved. ING Bank N.V. is authorised by the Dutch Central Bank and supervised by the European Central Bank (ECB), the Dutch Central Bank (DNB) and the Dutch Authority for the Financial Markets (AFM). ING Bank N.V. is incorporated in the Netherlands (Trade Register no. 33031431 Amsterdam). In the United Kingdom this information is approved and/or communicated by ING Bank N.V., London Branch. ING Bank N.V., London Branch is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and is subject to regulation by the Financial Conduct Authority and limited regulation by the Prudential Regulation Authority. ING Bank N.V., London branch is registered in England (Registration number BR000341) at 8-10 Moorgate, London EC2 6DA. For US Investors: Any person wishing to discuss this

THINK economic and financial analysis

report or effect transactions in any security discussed herein should contact ING Financial Markets LLC, which is a member of the NYSE, FINRA and SIPC and part of ING, and which has accepted responsibility for the distribution of this report in the United States under applicable requirements.

Additional information is available on request. For more information about ING Group, please visit www.ing.com.