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OE-A Business Climate Survey: Solid growth for the flexible and printed electronics industry

- **Revenue growth forecast for 2026: +14 percent compared to 2025**
- **Growth expectations for 2025 slightly clouded**
- **Despite global uncertainties: Research and employment in printed electronics are picking up**

Frankfurt, Germany, October 21, 2025 – "The results of our business climate survey show that the printed electronics industry remains on track, even though the conditions are challenging. We see a mixed but overall stable and positive picture. Companies are acting cautiously, investing specifically in research and development, and retaining their employees. Despite the turbulent situation caused by wars and US tariff policy, the industry is looking ahead," says Dr. Klaus Hecker, Managing Director of the OE-A, commenting on the results of the latest business climate survey.

The biannual survey is conducted by the OE-A, an international working group within the VDMA. The survey reveals different trends: while just under 60 percent of companies anticipate industry growth this year, this figure was significantly higher at 77 percent in the previous survey in spring. The industry expects sales growth of 7 percent for 2025, which is a slight decline compared to the previous survey in February 2025 (9 percent). Expectations for order intake are also lower than in the spring survey.

"The current survey results highlight pressure to adjust, investments in production are only being increased very cautiously, with 54 percent of companies stating that they are scaling back their investments in production. The consequences of the geopolitical situation and the crisis in the automotive industry are also reflected in the results," explains Hecker.

Sales growth of 14 percent for 2026

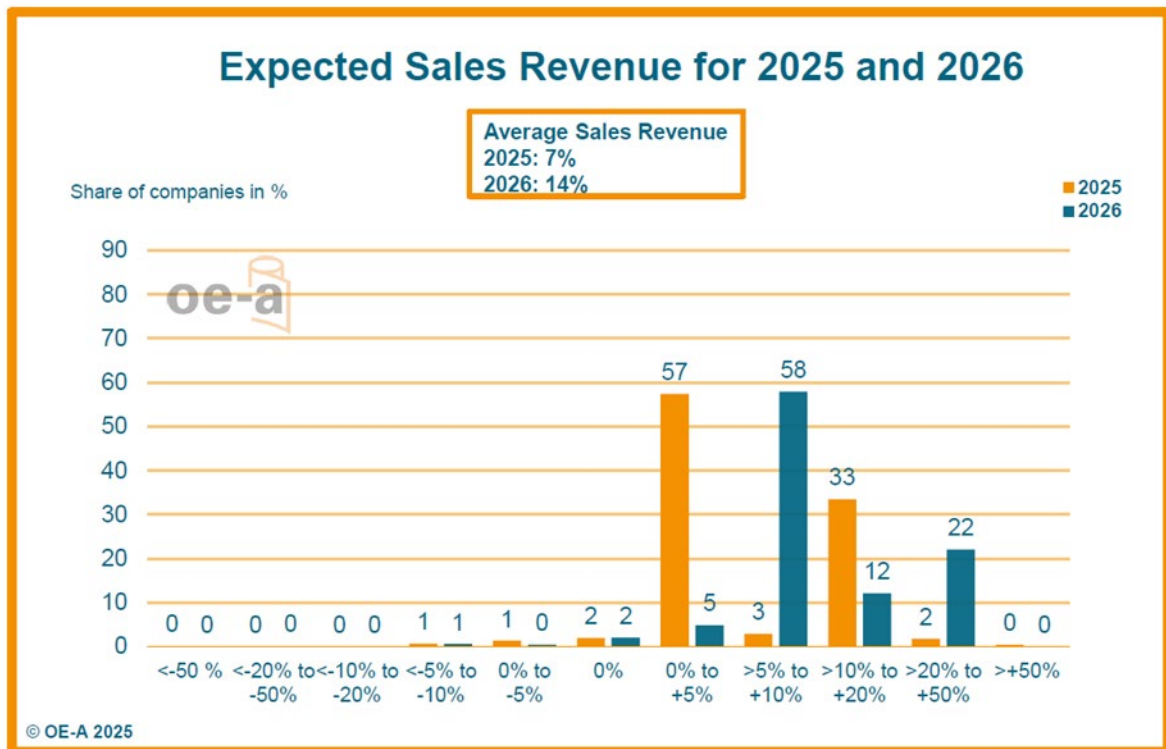
For 2026 the industry has more positive expectations, with a sales forecast of +14 percent, which has even increased slightly compared to the beginning of the year. Further encouraging signs include improved employment prospects. 30 percent of companies plan to increase their workforce in the coming months — up from 10 percent in February. The remaining 70 per cent expect stable employee numbers. Research and development is also developing positively: 74 percent of the companies surveyed want to further expand their R&D activities, which is a significant increase compared to the last survey.

Industry remains cautious – slight recovery visible compared to February

Despite navigating a challenging market environment, there are indications that 2026 will bring a more positive outlook. A trend reversal is particularly evident in employment and research. "This clear commitment to innovation underscores our industry's determination to strengthen competitiveness and adapt to changing market conditions," says Klaus Hecker. "By investing specifically in research and development, companies are setting the course for further product innovation and long-term growth. This innovative strength will be on impressive display at productronica next month and at LOPEC 2026."

Visit the joint OE-A and VDMA Productronics booth at [productronica](#) in Munich at **B2.453** from November 18-21, 2025 and the [Printed Electronics Pavilion](#) powered by LOPEC in B2. Join the free OE-A seminars on Printed Electronics at the [Innovation Forum](#), in the afternoon of November 19 and 20.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Klaus Hecker, OE-A Managing Director, phone: +49 69 66 03-13 36, e-mail: klaus.hecker@oe-a.org



The OE-A business climate survey forecasts a 7 % increase in turnover for industry this year. For 2026 a plus of 14 % is expected. © OE-A ([image in higher resolution](#))



Organic and Printed Electronics Association

The OE-A (Organic and Printed Electronics Association) is the leading international industry association for flexible, organic, and printed electronics. The OE-A represents the entire value chain of this emerging industry. Our members are world-class global companies and institutions, ranging from R&D institutes, mechanical engineering companies and material suppliers to producers and end-users.

200 companies from Europe, Asia, North America, and Africa are working together to promote the establishment of a competitive production infrastructure for organic and printed electronics.

The vision of the OE-A is to build a bridge between science, technology, and application. The OE-A is a working group within [VDMA](#). More than 3,600 member companies from the engineering industry make VDMA the largest industry association in Europe.

www.oe-a.org

Flexible, organic, and printed electronics

Flexible, organic, and printed electronics stands for a revolutionary new type of electronics: they are thin, lightweight, flexible, robust, and produced at low cost. It enables new applications, including single-use devices enabling ubiquitous electronics.

LOPEC 2026

The OE-A and Messe München are the hosts of LOPEC, the premier international exhibition and conference for the printed electronics industry. It addresses end-users, engineers, scientists, manufacturers, and investors. LOPEC 2026 will be held February 24-26, 2026. www.lopec.com

OE-A (Organic and Printed Electronics Association)

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