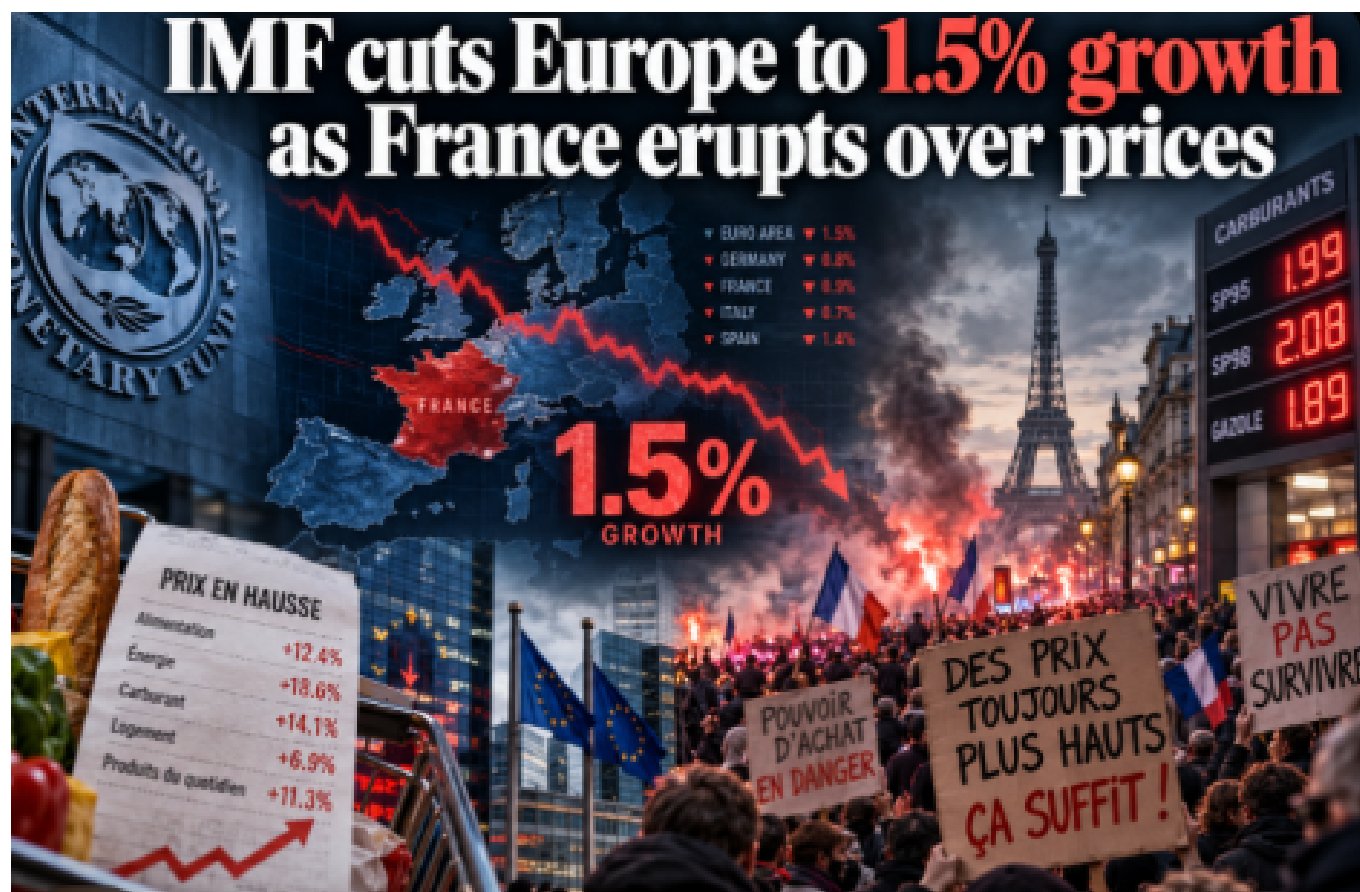


GLOBAL BUSINESS PULSE | EUROPE

IMF cuts Europe to 1.5% growth as France erupts over prices

The Week That Was: The IMF flagged weak growth and sticky inflation for Europe in a week when cost-of-living protests turned violent in France and Ukraine asked for more money.

By **Manasee Kurlekar** | October 18, 2026



The IMF flagged weak growth and sticky inflation for Europe in a week when cost-of-living protests turned violent in France and Ukraine asked for more money.

The fear is, they may only be representing a much wider spread phenomena.

The IMF projected Europe's economy to grow 1.5% in 2026 and 1.6% in 2027, held back by high energy costs, trade barriers and weak productivity.

Among major economies, Germany is expected to grow 1.3% in 2026, Spain 2.5%, Italy 0.8% and France only 0.4%.

Tens of thousands protested across France over rising prices, with more than 150 arrests. Zelenskyy asked for at least €70 billion in additional European aid for 2027 on 16 October.

Read online: <https://worldbusinesswatch.com/global-business-pulse/45/277/-imf-cuts-europe-to-1-5-growth-as-france-erupts-over-prices.html>

© 2026 World Business Watch. All rights reserved.