

**Table 1 Views on Expected Changes in Business Situation, Volume of Business/Output, Number of Persons Engaged and Selling Price/Service Charge, Q3 2006 as Compared with Q2 2006<sup>(1)</sup>**

| Sector                           | Business situation                    |           |             |  | Volume of business/output <sup>(2)</sup> |           |            |   | Number of persons engaged             |           |            |   | Selling price/service charge <sup>(3)</sup> |           |            |   |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|--|--|-----------|------------|---|---------------------------------------|-----------|------------|---|---|-----------|------------|---|
|                                  | Percentage of establishments choosing |           |             | Net balance <sup>(4)</sup> = Difference between the % of establishments choosing "better" over that choosing "worse"<br>(iv)=(i)-(iii) | Percentage of establishments choosing    |           |            | Net balance <sup>(4)</sup> = Difference between the % of establishments choosing "up" over that choosing "down"<br>(iv)=(i)-(iii) | Percentage of establishments choosing |           |            | Net balance <sup>(4)</sup> = Difference between the % of establishments choosing "up" over that choosing "down"<br>(iv)=(i)-(iii) | Percentage of establishments choosing       |           |            | Net balance <sup>(4)</sup> = Difference between the % of establishments choosing "up" over that choosing "down"<br>(iv)=(i)-(iii) |
|                                  | Better (i)                            | Same (ii) | Worse (iii) |  | Up (i)                                   | Same (ii) | Down (iii) |   | Up (i)                                | Same (ii) | Down (iii) |   | Up (i)                                      | Same (ii) | Down (iii) |   |
| Manufacturing                    | 26                                    | 62        | 12          | <b>+14</b>   | 42                                       | 31        | 27         | <b>+15</b>  | 15                                    | 75        | 11         | <b>+4</b>   | 3   | 87        | 10         | <b>-7</b>   |
| Construction                     | 54                                    | 44        | 2           | <b>+52</b>   | 47                                       | 35        | 17         | <b>+30</b>  | 43                                    | 44        | 12         | <b>+31</b>  | 28  | 68        | 5          | <b>+23</b>  |
| Wholesale and Retail             | 33                                    | 56        | 12          | <b>+21</b>   | 47                                       | 41        | 11         | <b>+36</b>  | 30                                    | 69        | 1          | <b>+29</b>  | 11  | 78        | 11         | <b>0</b>  |
| Import and Export Trade          | 41                                    | 52        | 7           | <b>+34</b>   | 48                                       | 47        | 5          | <b>+43</b>  | 18                                    | 77        | 5          | <b>+13</b>  | 6   | 80        | 15         | <b>-9</b>   |
| Restaurants and Hotels           | 28                                    | 72        | 0           | <b>+28</b>   | 32                                       | 58        | 10         | <b>+22</b>  | 28                                    | 72        | 0          | <b>+28</b>  | 16  | 78        | 6          | <b>+10</b>  |
| Transport and Related Services   | 30                                    | 58        | 12          | <b>+18</b>   | 49                                       | 45        | 6          | <b>+43</b>  | 37                                    | 62        | 2          | <b>+35</b>  | 20  | 77        | 3          | <b>+17</b>  |
| Communications                   | 48                                    | 47        | 5           | <b>+43</b>   | 49                                       | 46        | 5          | <b>+44</b>  | 23                                    | 68        | 9          | <b>+14</b>  | 10  | 83        | 7          | <b>+3</b>   |
| Real Estate                      | 34                                    | 60        | 6           | <b>+28</b>   | 33                                       | 61        | 6          | <b>+27</b>  | 54                                    | 45        | 1          | <b>+53</b>  | 20  | 80        | 0          | <b>+20</b>  |
| Business Services                | 28                                    | 71        | 1           | <b>+27</b>   | 20                                       | 76        | 4          | <b>+16</b>  | 11                                    | 89        | 0          | <b>+11</b>  | 10  | 90        | 0          | <b>+10</b>  |
| Banks, Financing and Insurance   | 46                                    | 54        | 1           | <b>+45</b>   | 54                                       | 42        | 4          | <b>+50</b>  | 32                                    | 68        | 0          | <b>+32</b>  | 24  | 71        | 4          | <b>+20</b>  |
| All Above Sectors <sup>(5)</sup> | 38                                    | 56        | 6           | <b>+32</b>   |  |           |            |   |                                       |           |            |   |   |           |            |   |

Notes :

- (1) In collecting views on the quarter-to-quarter changes, if the variable in question may be subject to seasonal variations, respondents are asked to provide the expected changes after excluding the normal seasonal variations.
- (2) The exact variable asked in the questionnaire varies slightly according to the characteristics of the sector : "Volume of Production" in manufacturing; "Volume of Construction Output" in construction; "Volume of Sales" in the wholesale and retail, and import and export trade; and "Volume of Business" in other sectors.
- (3) The exact variable asked in the questionnaire varies slightly according to the characteristics of the sector : "Selling Price" in manufacturing, wholesale and retail, and import and export trade; "Tender Price" in construction; "Price of Food Provided" in restaurants; "Premium Rate" in insurance; "Price of Properties Sold/Management Fee/Commission Rate" in real estate; and "Charge for Services Rendered" in other sectors.
- (4) The "net balance", with its appropriate sign, indicates the direction of expected change in the variable concerned. A positive sign indicates a likely upward trend while a negative sign, a likely downward trend.
- (5) Figures are weighted averages of sectoral figures.