Table 1 Views on expected changes in business situation, volume of business/output, number of persons engaged and selling price/service charge, Q4 2013 as compared with Q3 2013 (1)

		Business situation				Volume of business/output (2)				Number of persons engaged				Selling price/Service charge ⁽³⁾			
	est	ercentage tablishme choosing	ents	Net balance ⁽⁵⁾ = Difference between the % of establishments	Percentage of establishments choosing ⁽⁴⁾		Net balance ⁽⁵⁾ = Difference between the % of establishments	Percentage of establishments choosing ⁽⁴⁾			Net balance ⁽⁵⁾ = Difference between the % of establishments	Percentage of establishments choosing ⁽⁴⁾			Net balance ⁽⁵⁾ = Difference between the % of establishments		
Sector	Better (i)	Same (ii)	Worse (iii)	choosing "better" and that choosing "worse" (iv)=(i)-(iii)	Up (i)	Same (ii)	Down (iii)	choosing "up" and that choosing "down" (iv)=(i)-(iii)	Up (i)	Same (ii)	Down (iii)	choosing "up" and that choosing "down" (iv)=(i)-(iii)	Up (i)	Same (ii)	Down (iii)	choosing "up" and that choosing "down" (iv)=(i)-(iii)	
Manufacturing	16	61	23	-7	22	62	16	+6	11	87	3	+8	5	90	6	-1	
Construction	22	71	6	+16	36	62	2	+34	24	70	6	+18	19	79	2	+17	
Import/export trade and wholesale	15	68	17	-2	15	71	15	0	4	91	5	-1	11	87	2	+9	
Retail	33	61	6	+27	40	55	5	+35	25	75	0	+25	13	87	0	+13	
Accommodation and food services ⁽⁶⁾	29	59	11	+18	32	63	5	+27	17	83	0	+17	25	75	0	+25	
Transportation, storage and courier services	19	72	9	+10	25	70	5	+20	17	78	4	+13	8	92	0	+8	
Information and communications	15	85	0	+15	15	85	0	+15	9	91	0	+9	7	93	0	+7	
Financing and insurance	31	67	2	+29	28	70	2	+26	12	88	0	+12	8	92	0	+8	
Real estate ⁽⁷⁾	18	80	2	+16	18	80	2	+16	20	80	0	+20	16	84	0	+16	
Professional and business services ⁽⁸⁾	10	83	7	+3	12	83	5	+7	14	82	4	+10	0	100	0	0	
All sectors above ⁽⁹⁾	21	70	9	+12		•				•				•			

Notes:

- (1) In collecting views on the quarter-to-quarter changes, if the variable in question is 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 the manufacturing sector; "volume of construction output" in the construction sector; "volume of sales" in the import/export trade and wholesale, and retail sectors; 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 the manufacturing, import/export trade and wholesale, and retail sectors; "tender price" in the construction sector; "price of food provided" in the food services sector; "premium rate" in the insurance sector; "price of properties sold/management fee/commission rate" in the real estate sector; and "charge for services rendered" in other sectors.
- (4) The percentages for the three response categories may not add up to 100% owing to rounding.
- (5) 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.
- (6) Accommodation and food services sector mainly covers services rendered by hotels and restaurants.
- (7) Real estate sector covers real estate development, leasing, brokerage and agency, maintenance management, and other real estate services.
- (8) Professional and business services sector covers professional, scientific and technical services, and administrative and support services.
- (9) Figures are weighted averages of sectoral figures.