Table 1 Views on expected changes in business situation, volume of business/output, number of persons engaged and selling price/service charge, Q1 2014 as compared with Q4 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	17	69	14	+3	20	67	13	+7	16	78	7	+9	10	82	8	+2	
Construction	29	63	7	+22	31	55	14	+17	26	67	7	+19	37	59	3	+34	
Import/export trade and wholesale	6	74	20	-14	6	74	20	-14	4	86	10	-6	3	93	4	-1	
Retail	21	69	10	+11	27	60	12	+15	23	77	0	+23	13	85	2	+11	
Accommodation and food services ⁽⁶⁾	10	74	16	-6	8	81	11	-3	13	83	3	+10	12	80	7	+5	
Transportation, storage and courier services	19	62	19	0	23	62	15	+8	22	76	2	+20	14	86	0	+14	
Information and communications	24	67	9	+15	21	74	5	+16	15	85	0	+15	3	95	3	0	
Financing and insurance	34	62	4	+30	36	58	7	+29	20	79	1	+19	10	90	0	+10	
Real estate ⁽⁷⁾	13	78	9	+4	13	80	7	+6	14	86	0	+14	13	87	0	+13	
Professional and business services ⁽⁸⁾	20	71	9	+11	20	73	7	+13	18	76	6	+12	13	85	2	+11	
All sectors above ⁽⁹⁾	18	69	12	+6			•		_	•				•			

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.