

Table 1 Views on expected changes in business situation, volume of business/output, number of persons engaged and selling price/service charge, Q1 2018 as compared with Q4 2017⁽¹⁾

[illegible]

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. The magnitude of the "net balance" reflects only the prevalence of optimism or pessimism, but not the magnitude of expected change.
- (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.