Table 1 Views on expected changes in business situation, volume of business/output, number of persons engaged and selling price/service charge, Q4 2023 as compared with Q3 2023 (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 | 22 | 54 | 24 | -2 | 31 | 49 | 20 | +11 | 16 | 79 | 5 | +11 | 10 | 90 | 0 | +10 | |
| Construction | 18 | 65 | 17 | +1 | 17 | 68 | 15 | +2 | 12 | 79 | 10 | +2 | 7 | 81 | 12 | -5 | |
| Import/export trade and wholesale | 18 | 69 | 13 | +5 | 21 | 68 | 10 | +11 | 4 | 93 | 3 | +1 | 9 | 89 | 2 | +7 | |
| Retail | 41 | 50 | 9 | +32 | 45 | 48 | 7 | +38 | 16 | 81 | 2 | +14 | 2 | 93 | 5 | -3 | |
| Accommodation and food services ⁽⁶⁾ | 47 | 39 | 14 | +33 | 48 | 38 | 14 | +34 | 29 | 65 | 6 | +23 | 23 | 77 | 0 | +23 | |
| Transportation, storage and courier services | 14 | 82 | 3 | +11 | 16 | 81 | 3 | +13 | 10 | 88 | 2 | +8 | 9 | 87 | 4 | +5 | |
| Information and communications | 13 | 83 | 4 | +9 | 7 | 93 | 0 | +7 | 2 | 93 | 4 | -2 | 0 | 98 | 2 | -2 | |
| Financing and insurance | 16 | 78 | 6 | +10 | 18 | 75 | 7 | +11 | 12 | 87 | 2 | +10 | 11 | 87 | 2 | +9 | |
| Real estate ⁽⁷⁾ | 8 | 90 | 2 | +6 | 10 | 88 | 2 | +8 | 19 | 81 | 0 | +19 | 2 | 96 | 2 | 0 | |
| Professional and business services ⁽⁸⁾ | 12 | 78 | 11 | +1 | 13 | 78 | 9 | +4 | 12 | 82 | 6 | +6 | 5 | 92 | 4 | +1 | |
| All sectors above ⁽⁹⁾ | 17 | 74 | 9 | +8 | | • | • | - | _ | • | | _ | | • | | - | |

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% due 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.