

# KERATAN AKHBAR

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## 'Malaysia's business outlook stays positive'

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### 'Malaysia's business outlook stays positive'

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia's business outlook remains positive in the six months of April to September, with a net balance of +14.9 per cent from +12.1 per cent previously, said the Statistics Department.

The department said in a statement yesterday the services sector was the most optimistic, registering an improved net balance of +30.1 per cent against +28 per cent for the first half of 2023, with all services sub-sectors seeing favourable business conditions over the six months.

Concurrently, it said the industry sector recorded a brighter net balance with +15.6 per cent in the forthcoming six months compared to +2.4 per cent recorded

previously.

"Conversely, the construction sector anticipates a less favourable business situation for the six months ending September, with a net balance of -7.7 per cent from +7.1 per cent previously.

"Similarly, sentiments within the wholesale and retail trade sector turned pessimistic with a net balance of -4.7 per cent compared to +16.7 per cent in the period of January until June."

In its latest business tendency statistics report, the Statistics Department said business sentiment in the near term had turned pessimistic as the confidence indicator decreased to -3.1 per cent in the second quarter of 2023



The construction sector anticipates a less favourable business situation for the six months ending September, says the Statistics Department. FILE PIC

from +3.6 per cent in the last quarter.

It said this expectation is in line with the global economic slowdown amid persistent challenges including inflationary pressures.

It noted that three sectors,

namely construction, wholesale and retail trade, as well as industry, anticipated challenging business conditions in the second quarter.

The business confidence for the construction sector remained

in a negative trajectory with the confidence indicator at -26.9 per cent in the reference quarter, while wholesale and retail trade and industry sectors turned pessimistic in the same quarter, it said. **Bernama**