

## KERATAN AKHBAR

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TARIKH : 28 FEBRUARI 2024

AKHBAR : THE SUN

MUKA SURAT : 13

### Business confidence continues to rise, says chief statistician

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**PETALING JAYA:** Businesses are confident about the first quarter of 2024, with a positive confidence indicator of 4.2%, continuing its increasing trend since the third quarter of 2023, Chief Statistician Malaysia, Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said yesterday

“All sectors expect stronger business conditions in the first quarter of 2024. Sentiment in the wholesale & retail trade sector returns positive after recording negative trend for the previous three quarters, posting +4.7% as compared to -3.6% in the fourth quarter of 2023,” he said, adding that the business confidence for services sector continues to be optimistic, with the confidence indicator increasing to +8.6% as against +6.3% in the last quarter.

Looking ahead, Mohd Uzir said business perception for the first half of 2024 improved marginally with a net balance of +10.0% as against +9.8% recorded previously, with all sectors showing positive signs.