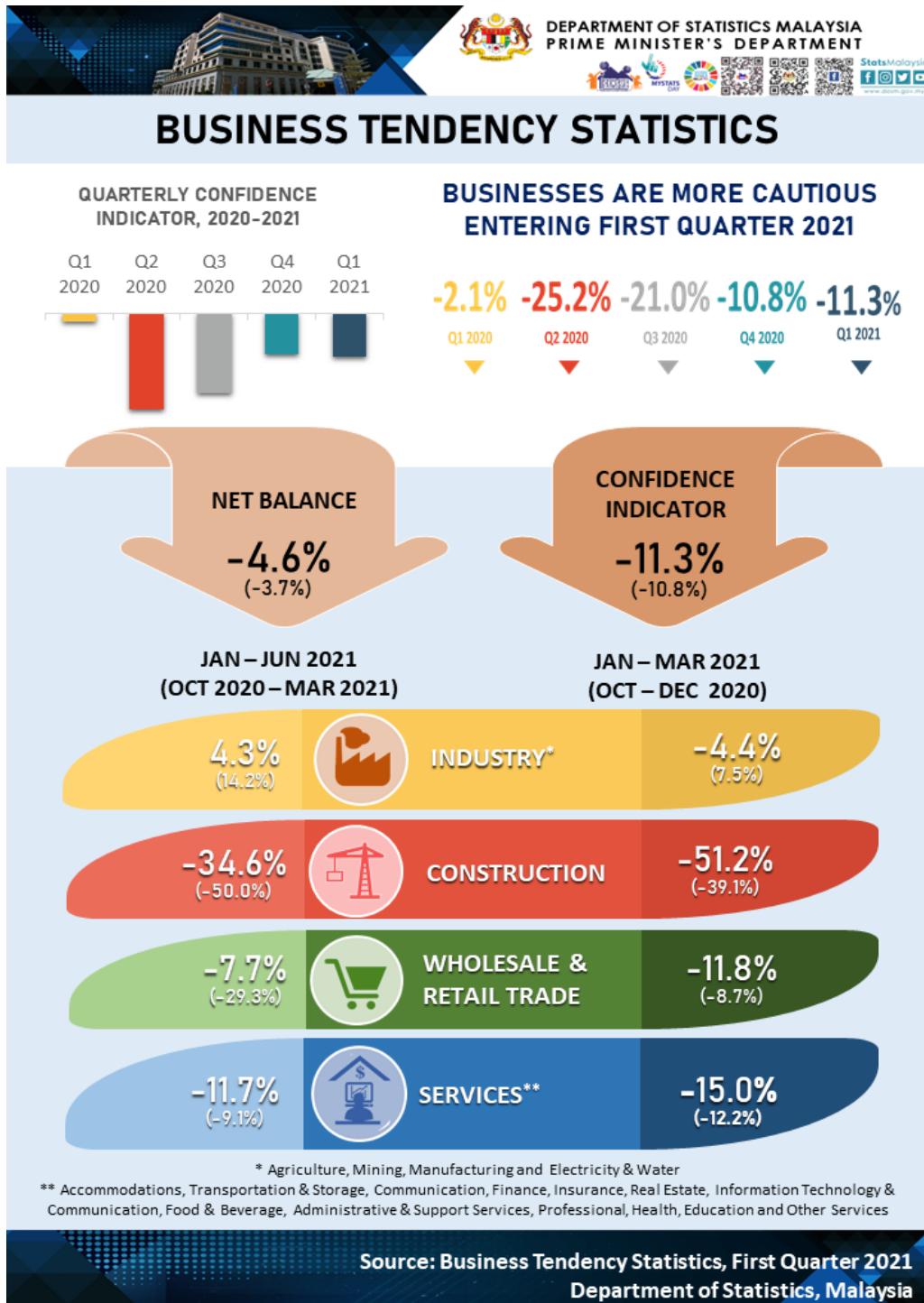




## BUSINESS TENDENCY STATISTICS FIRST QUARTER 2021



### FORECAST OF BUSINESS PERFORMANCE FOR THE FIRST QUARTER 2021

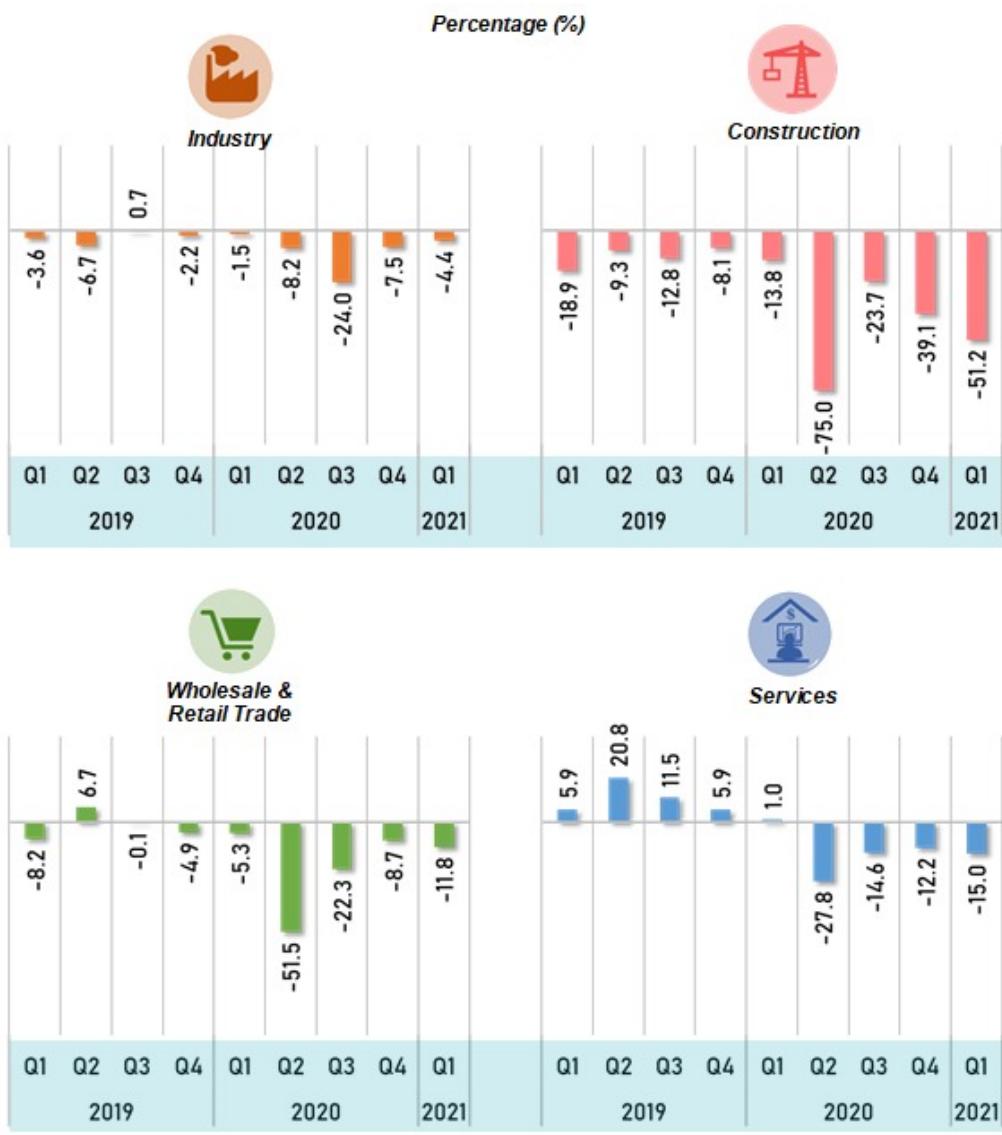
Businesses are forecasting challenging business performance in the first quarter of 2021 by registering -11.3 per cent as against -10.8 per cent in the last quarter.

Among all the sectors covered, Industry foresees better performance in the first quarter of 2021 as compared to the previous quarter though continue in pessimistic sentiment. This expectation is reflected

by the improvement in the confidence indicators of the Industry with -4.4 per cent as against -7.5 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2020. Nevertheless, Services and Wholesale & Retail Trade sectors predict decreases in the first quarter of 2021 that is -15.0 per cent and -11.8 per cent compared to -12.2 per cent and -8.7 per cent in the last quarter respectively.

Whereas, the Construction sector remains unfavourable sector with -51.2 per cent in this quarter as against -39.1 per cent in the previous quarter.

#### Exhibit I: Quarterly Confidence Indicator by Sector, Malaysia, 2019-2021



## Expectations of Gross Revenue and Number of Employees

In terms of gross revenue, 25.5 per cent of respondents predict their gross revenue to increase in the first quarter of 2021 whilst 36.5 per cent expect reduction which further leads to a net balance of -10.9 per cent. Simultaneously, 38.0 per cent of respondents anticipate their gross revenue to persist.

In the same quarter, 75.9 per cent of establishments expect their number of workforce to remain despite the net balance of -7.3 per cent. Correspondingly, 8.4 per cent of establishments predict to increase their workforce, while 15.7 per cent intend to reduce their workforce in the first quarter of 2021.

### Exhibit II: Expected of Net Balance Gross Revenue and Number of Employees, 2019-2021

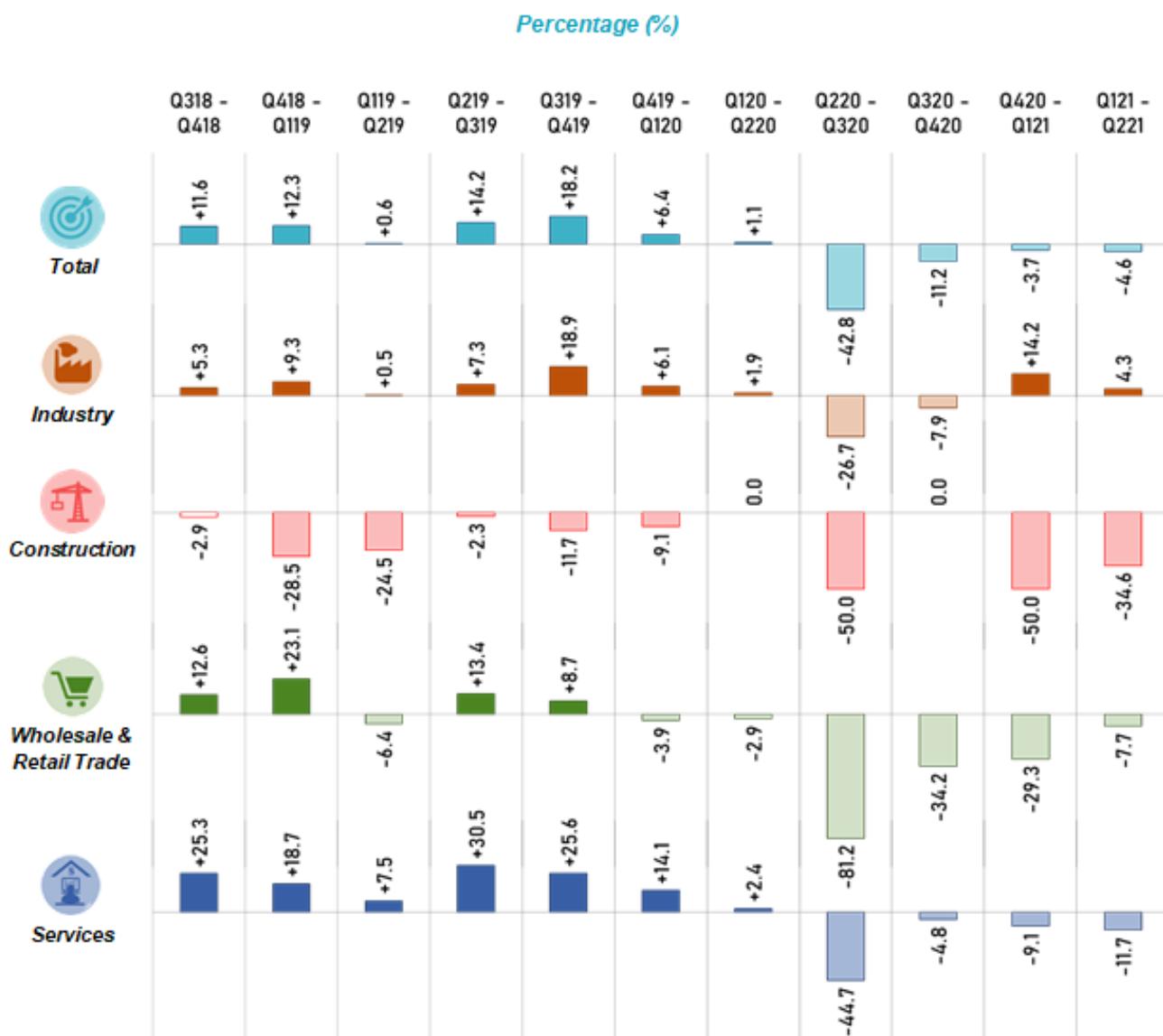


## EXPECTATIONS OF BUSINESS PERFORMANCE IN JANUARY TILL JUNE 2021

Expectation of businesses slowed for January till June 2021, with the overall net balance registered -4.6 per cent as against -3.7 per cent recorded previously. Industry sector remains optimistic towards business performance with positive net balance 4.3 per cent for January till June 2021. This performance is driven by the positive business situation of Agriculture, Manufacturing and Electricity & Water subsectors. Concurrently, the Construction and Wholesale & Retail Trade sectors foresee better business prospects despite negative territory for the next six months with a net balance of -34.6 per cent and -7.7 per cent compared to -50.0 per cent and -29.3 per cent recorded for the period of October 2020 till March 2021 respectively.

The Services sector also anticipates challenging business performance in the forthcoming six months with a net balance of -11.7 per cent compared to -9.1 per cent for the period of October 2020 till March 2021.

**Exhibit III: Net Balance of Business Performance Expectation for Upcoming Six Month by Sector, Malaysia, 2018-2021**



The full publication of the Business Tendency Statistics First Quarter 2021 can be downloaded through [eStatistik](#) portal.



**Released By:**

**DATO' SRI DR. MOHD UZIR MAHIDIN**  
**CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS, MALAYSIA**  
 DrUzir\_Mahidin   Dr\_Uzir

**#myHariBulan# #myBulan# #myTahun#**

**Contact person:**

Mohd Yusrizal Ab Razak  
Public Relation Officer  
Strategic Communication and International Division  
Department of Statistics, Malaysia  
**Tel :** +603-8885 7942  
**Fax :** +603-8888 9248  
**Email :** yusrizal.razak[at]dosm.gov.my

**Contact person:**

Baharudin Mohamad  
Public Relation Officer  
Strategic Communication and International Division  
Department of Statistics Malaysia  
Tel : +603-8090 4681  
Fax : +603-8888 9248  
Email : baharudin[at]dosm.gov.my

**Copyright ©2026 Department of Statistics Malaysia Official Portal. All Rights Reserved.**