

Businesses expect better market in 3Q

PETALING JAYA: Businesses foresee an improving business environment in the third quarter of 2023 (3Q23), with the confidence indicator turning positive to 0.7% from minus 3.1% in 2Q23, according to the Statistics Department.

Chief statistician Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said this was supported by factors such as the stability of the job market, the upsurge in domestic tourism and optimistic expectation in the health tourism industry.

“In 3Q23, positive business expectation is bolstered by the services and industry sectors,” he said in a statement on business tendency statistics for the quarter.

The department said the services sector remained optimistic about its outlook, with a confidence indicator of 6.1% versus 3.9% in the previous quarter.

Simultaneously, sentiment within the industry sector swung to a positive trajectory by posting 1.3% from minus 2.1% in 2Q23.

The department said the better perception in the industry sector was supported by two sub-sectors, namely, agriculture and mining, both of which anticipated favourable business conditions in the current quarter.

On the other hand, the construction sector persisted in anticipating negative business conditions with a confidence indicator of minus 26.9% in 3Q23, it said.

“Likewise, the wholesale and retail trade sector remains pessimistic (but) with an improved confidence indicator of minus 1.5% in the reference quarter from minus 10.2% in 2Q23,” it added.

Looking at the business sentiment for the six months ahead ending December 2023, the department said businesses remained upbeat, albeit at a lower net balance of 13.9% from 14.9% recorded in the preceding quarter. — Bernama