

## ACCCIM Malaysia＇s Business and Economic Conditions Survey （M－BECS）Report （2H 2023 and 1H 2024F）

## 中总2023下半年及 2024上半年预测

## 马来西亚商业和经济状况调查报告

1 February 2024

This survey report is prepared by Socio－Economic Research Centre（operating under SERC Sdn．Bhd．），in collaboration with Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman（UTAR）．

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The Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (ACCCIM)'s Malaysia's Business and Economic Conditions Survey (M-BECS) covers Jul-Dec 2023 (2H 2023) and expectations for Jan-Jun 2024 (1H 2024). It was conducted during the period between 6 November 2023 and 5 January 2024 and has received a total of 684 responses.

## M-BECS: Overview and Summary of Key Findings

1. The global economy has experienced slow and uneven growth in 2023. Global growth prospects for 2024 would remain weak given the lagging effects of tighter monetary policy, ongoing geopolitical tensions, withdrawal of fiscal support, and extreme weather events.
2. The Malaysian economy, which has slowed to an estimated $3.8 \%$ growth in $2023(8.7 \%$ in 2022), is expected to improve by an estimated $4.5 \%$ in 2024 , aided by a recovery in exports and continued growth in domestic demand, albeit cautiously.
3. In 2H 2023, most respondents (58.9\% "neutral" and $29.5 \%$ "worse") have expressed a "less favourable" view on the economy. For the year 2023 as a whole, while more than half of respondents ( $57.0 \%$ ) held a "neutral" view on the economy, $27.5 \%$ were pessimistic.
4. In 2024, in anticipation of a gradual recovery in external demand, more than one-third of respondents ( $37.3 \%$ ) expect "better" economic prospects though $45.1 \%$ still having a "neutral" view. The respondents expect a "better" economic outlook in 2H 2024 (40.6\% "better") compared to 1H (28.2\% "better").
5. Businesses were cautious in 2 H 2023 with $54.6 \%$ of respondents reporting "neutral and $29.4 \%$ "worse". More than one-third of respondents indicated worse performance in the tourismrelated sector (38.3\%), manufacturing (36.4\%), as well as wholesale and retail trade (34.6\%). Most sectors are cautiously optimistic about their business conditions in 2024, especially in the second half of the year.
6. For 2024 , while close to $40 \%$ of respondents expect better business prospects ( $17.6 \%$ in 2023), there is still a high percentage of respondents ( $43.6 \%$ in 2024 vs. $56.1 \%$ in 2023) having a "neutral" view. More respondents have positive outlook for business conditions in 2 H 2024 ( $40.1 \%$ vs. $28.9 \%$ in 1H 2024).

## Economic Conditions and Prospects



## Business Conditions and Prospects



## M-BECS: Overview and Summary of Key Findings (cont.)

7. Against a backdrop of softening domestic demand and falling exports, a majority of the respondents have indicated "neutral" cash flow and debtor's conditions in 2H 2023. This cautious view is likely to continue into 1H 2024 amid increasing cost of doing business, inflation risk, and cost of living pressure for the households.
8. "The Ringgit's fluctuation" (51.8\%) tops the list of factors that have adversely impacted respondents' business performance in 2 H 2023, followed by "Increase in prices of raw materials" (45.0\%); "High operating cost and cash flow problem" (38.6\%); "Declining business and consumer sentiment" (35.8\%); and "Lower domestic demand" (35.1\%).
9. Business assessment for 2 H 2023 and 1H 2024:
a) While $46.1 \%$ of respondents indicated an improved sales performance in 2H 2023, at least $40 \%$ of respondents noted overall sales decreases in the manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, and agriculture sectors, dragged by sluggish external and domestic demand as well as the Ringgit's depreciation. Better sales prospects are expected in 1H 2024.
b) More than half of respondents increased their products' prices in 2 H 2023 , factoring in high operating costs and the Ringgit's depreciation. It is likely to continue in 1H 2024.
c) While $46.5 \%$ of respondents increased their production and inventory levels in 2 H 2023 , about $40.0 \%$ in the manufacturing sector reduced their output (compared to $36.7 \%$ reporting an increase). Production is expected to increase in 1H 2024.
d) Cost of local and imported raw materials remained a concern with over $70 \%$ of respondents indicating an increase in 2H 2023 and 1H 2024.
e) $44.9 \%$ of respondents have increased their manpower in 2H 2023 (45.5\% remained unchanged). A similar trend is envisaged in 1 H 2024.
f) Nearly two-thirds of respondents have increased their capital expenditure in 2H 2023 and will continue to invest further in 1 H 2024.

## Business Pulse Diagnosis

| Overall sales revenue |  | Domestic sales revenue |  | Domestic price level |  | $F=F o r e c a s t$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | - Increase |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | Unchanged |
| 46.1\% | 54.1\% | 45.8\% | 53.0\% | 61.5\% | 60.5\% | Decrease |
| 20.5\% | 20.1\% | 22.7\% | 22.9\% |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | 24.8\% | 27.7\% |  |
| 33.4\% | 25.7\% | 31.6\% | 24.1\% | 13.7\% | 11.8\% |  |
| $\begin{gathered} 2 \mathrm{H} \\ 2023 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1 \mathrm{H} \\ 2024 \mathrm{~F} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2 \mathrm{H} \\ 2023 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1 \mathrm{H} \\ 2024 \mathrm{~F} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2 \mathrm{H} \\ 2023 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1 \mathrm{H} \\ 2024 \mathrm{~F} \end{gathered}$ |  |

## Production



## Capital Expenditure



## Topical Issue: Economic and Business Policies as well as the Ringgit

1. Top three business concerns: Reduced consumer purchasing power (as voted by $91.9 \%$ of total respondents); Persistent cost pressures (90.6\%); and Persistently weakening Ringgit (90.3\%).
2. Over the past two years, $52.7 \%$ of respondents have countered the Ringgit's depreciation either through absorbing increased costs or adjusting higher selling prices.
3. Most respondents indicate that the Government's top priorities are to stabilise the Ringgit ( $58.0 \%$ ), ease the cost of doing business (52.0\%), and provide clarity and consistency in business-friendly policies (41.1\%).
4. It is commendable that the Budget 2024 has set the country's direction in the short-and medium-term aligning with the MADANI Economy Framework, National Energy Transmission Roadmap, and the Mid-Term Review of the 12th Malaysia Plan (MTR of 12MP). The respondents view positively the following measures that benefit businesses: Various financing schemes (as ranked by $44.1 \%$ of total respondents), tax deductions on ESG-related expenses (29.1\%), and digitalisation grants (27.7\%).
5. The implementation of e-invoicing (13.3\%) was ranked as having the least benefits to businesses, citing concerns regarding the complexity of implementation and potential penalties associated with errors.
6. $77.4 \%$ of the respondents are concerned about the implementation of the Progressive Wage Model (PWM) as they are worried that it would drive up their overall employment cost though the Government will provide wage financial assistance to ease the financial burden of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) participating in the scheme.

Impact of the Ringgit's Depreciation on
Business


Bear with higher costs and suffer margin squeeze

2 Increase selling price
3 Renegotiating with suppliers

## 52.6\%

47.7\%
29.8\%

## Voluntary Participation in PWM

| Yes | No | Unsure |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $20.5 \%$ | $31.1 \%$ | $48.4 \%$ |

The Government's Top Priorities for Economic \& Business Sustainability

## (1) Stable Ringgit <br> (2) Ease the cost of doing business <br> (3) Clarity and consistency in <br> Benefits of 2024 Budget Measures

 52.0\%41.1\%

## Various financing schemes <br> 44.1\% <br> . Tax deduction on ESGrelated expenses <br> 29.1\% <br> Digitalisation grant <br> 27.7\%

## Expectations for E-Invoicing

马来西亚中华总商会（中总）于2023年11月6日至2024年1月5日进行的马来西亚商业和经济状况调查问卷，涵盖2023年7月至12月（2023下半年）以及2024年1月至6月（2023年上半年）的前景预测。本次调查共收到684份回复。

## M－BECS：调查结果的主要概述与总结

1．全球经济在2023年经历了缓慢且不均匀的增长。鉴于货币政策收紧，地缘政治紧张局势持续，财政支持撤出以及极端气候所带来的滞后效应，2024年全球经济增长前景仍将疲弱。
2．马来西亚经济在2023年估计增长 $3.8 \%$（2022年为 $8.7 \%$ ），预计2024年将改善，增长约 $4.5 \%$ ，受益于出口的复苏和国内需求的持续增长，但整体仍持谨慎态度。

3．在2023年下半年，大多数回复者（ $58.9 \%$＂中立＂和 $29.5 \%$＂更差＂）对经济表达了＂不太好＂的看法。就2023年整体而言，虽然超过一半的回复者（ $57.0 \%$ ）对经济持＂中立＂看法，但仍有 $27.5 \%$ 持悲观的态度。

4．在2024年，由于预期外围需求将逐渐恢复，超过三分之一的回复者（ $37.3 \%$ ）预计经济前景
＂较好＂，虽然仍有 $45.1 \%$ 持＂中立＂看法。回复者预计 2024 年下半年的经济前景＂较好＂
（ $40.6 \%$ ）相较于上半年（ $28.2 \%$ ）。
5．2023年下半年，企业对商业状况持谨慎态度，有 $54.6 \%$ 的回复者报告＂中立＂， $29.4 \%$ 报告
＂更差＂。旅游相关行业（38．3\％），制造业（36．4\％）以及批发和零售贸易（ $34.6 \%$ ）有超过三分之一的回复者表示较差的表现。大多数行业对2024年的商业状况持谨慎乐观态度，特别是在下半年。

6．尽管近 $40 \%$ 的回复者预期2024年的商业前景将更好（2023年为 $17.6 \%$ ），但仍有相当比例的回复者（2024年43．6\％相比 2023年56．1\％）持＂中立＂看法。较高的回复者对2024年下半年商业状况持积极展望（ $40.1 \%$ 相比 2024年上半年的 $28.9 \%$ ）。

## 整体经济状况及展望



## 整体商业状况及展望



## M－BECS：调查结果的主要概述与总结（续）

7．在国内需求疲软和出口下降的背景下，大多数回复者在2023年下半年表明其现金流和债务状况 ＂中立＂。在经营成本，通货膨胀风险以及家庭生活成本压力不断上升的情况下，这种谨慎看法可能会在2024年上半年持续。
8．在2023年下半年影响回复者业绩的因素中，＂马币波动＂位居榜首，其次是＂原材料价格上涨＂ （ $45.0 \%$ ）；＂高经营成本和现金流问题＂（ $38.6 \%$ ）；＂企业和消费者信心下降＂ （35．8\％）；以及＂国内需求下降＂（35．1\％）。

9．2023年下半年和2024年上半年的企业评估：
a）尽管 $46.1 \%$ 的回复者表示2023年下半年销售业绩有所提高，但有至少 $40 \%$ 的回复者指出制造业，批发和零售贸易以及农业领域整体销售下降，主要是受到疲软的国内外需求以及马币贬值的拖累。预计2024年上半年销售前景将更好。
b）超过一半的回复者在2023年下半年提高了产品价格，考虑到高经营成本和马币贬值。这种趋势可能在2024年上半年持续。
c）尽管 $46.5 \%$ 的回复者在 2023 年下半年提高了生产和库存水平，但制造业有约 $40.0 \%$ 的回复者减少了产量（相比 $36.7 \%$ 增加）。预计2024年上半年生产将增加。
d）本地和进口原材料的成本仍然是一个急需关切的问题，超过 $70 \%$ 的回复者表示在 2023 年下半年和2024年上半年有所增加。
e） $44.9 \%$ 的回复者在2023年下半年增加了人力资源（ $45.5 \%$ 保持不变）。预计在 2024 年上半年将出现类似的趋势。
f）近三分之二的回复者在2023年下半年增加了资本支出，并将于2024年上半年增加投资。

企业营运评估
总销售额


回复者百分比（\％）

## 国内售价水平



资本支出

| 2023下半年 | $4.9 \%$ | $31.9 \%$ | $63.2 \%$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2024上半年 <br> （预测） | $6.7 \%$ | $30.7 \%$ | $62.6 \%$ |
|  |  |  |  |

## 当前课题：经济与商业政策以及马币相关之课题

1．前三大企业的担忧：消费者购买力下降（ $91.9 \%$ 的回复者表示担忧）；持续的成本压力 （ $90.6 \%$ ）；以及令吉持续走低（ $90.3 \%$ ）。

2．在过去两年中， $52.7 \%$ 的回复者通过承受更高的成本或调高销售价格来抵御马币的贬值。
3．大多数回复者表示，政府的首要任务是稳定马币（ $58.0 \%$ ），降低经营成本（ $52.0 \%$ ），并提供明确与一致性的亲商政策（ $41.1 \%$ ）。

4．值得赞扬的是，2024年国家财政预算已经确立了大马在短中期内的发展方向，这与昌明经济框架，国家能源转型蓝图以及第12马来西亚计划中期检讨一致。回复者对以下有益于企业的措施持积极态度：各种融资计划（占总回复者 $44.1 \%$ ），针对环境，社会和治理（ESG）相关开销的税务减免（ $29.1 \%$ ），以及数字化补助金（ $27.7 \%$ ）。

5．电子发票的实施（ $13.3 \%$ ）被评为对企业受益最低，原因是担心实施的复杂性和因相关错误而导致的潜在惩罚。

6． $77.4 \%$ 的回复者对渐进式薪金制（PWM）的实施感到担忧，因为他们担心这将推高整体就业成本，尽管政府将提供工资援助来减轻参与该计划的微型，小型和中型企业（MSMEs）的财务负担。

马币贩值对业务的影响

（1）承受更高成本且利润遭受挤压
2 提高售价
（3）与供货商重新协商

## 52．6\％

47．7\％
29．8\％ （既不正面也不负面）

政府对经济和商业可持续性发展的优先事项


## 对电子发票实施的政策期望

## 渐进式䓨金政策的自辱参与度

| 简化电子发票合规流程 |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| 于实施初期提供宽限期 | $52.7 \%$ |

## Background

The Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (ACCCIM)'s Bi-Annual Survey on Malaysia's Economic Situation, which was launched in 1992, is being recognised as an important barometer to gauge the Malaysian business community's assessment and expectations about domestic business and economic conditions.

Starting 1 January 2019, this survey was renamed as Malaysia's Business and Economic Conditions Survey (M-BECS).

This survey, covering the performance in Jul-Dec 2023 (2H 2023) and expectations for Jan-Jun 2024 (1H 2024), contains three sections:
i. Economic and Business Performance and Outlook;
ii. Factors Affecting Business Performance; and
iii. Current Issue Confronting Businesses.

## Significance of M-BECS

- A complementary role to other surveys. M-BECS serves to complement as well as fill the gaps of existing market and industry surveys conducted by various private organisations, namely the Malaysian Institute of Economic Research (MIER), the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM), RAM Holdings Berhad, etc. It can be used to supplement the Department of Statistics, Malaysia (DOSM) to gauge Malaysia's overall economic and business conditions.
- An important input for the national development process. ACCCIM is a major national organisation representing the Malaysian Chinese business community, and has been playing an effective contributory role in providing our perspectives of current economic and business conditions as well as their expectations.
- Gathering of feedback, inputs and suggestions. The respondents' feedback and suggestions concerning pertinent business and economic issues as well as problems faced, will provide a basis for the preparation of memoranda and policy papers/notes for onward submission to the Government and relevant Ministries and agencies for their consideration.
- Reference sources for public and private. M-BECS also serves as a source of reference for the Government, researchers, business community and investors in the formulation of public policy, business expansion and investment planning.

In particular, it helps the Government to gauge the effectiveness of public policies implemented and hence, would consider making the necessary adjustments for future policy formulation.

- The survey period covering the performance in Jul-Dec 2023 ( 2 H 2023 ) and expectations for Jan-Jun 2024 (1H 2024) has gathered respondents' assessment of their business performance and economic outlook, including views about current issues and challenges faced by the Malaysian business community. The survey questionnaire is divided into three sections as follows:


## Section A <br> "Business Background"

- Profile of businesses - type of principal business activity and its size of business operations;
- Share of total sales in domestic vs. overseas market; and
- Number of employees and the proportion of local vs. foreign workers to total employment.


## Section B <br> "Overall Assessment" <br> Section C <br> "Current Issue"

- Identify what the major factors are affecting the business performance; and
- Economic and Business Policies as well as the Ringgit
- Track the performance and outlook of economic and business conditions.
- Survey coverage - The questionnaires covered a wide range of nationwide direct and indirect memberships, including 17 Constituent Chambers and 27 Associate Members, representing Malaysian Chinese companies, individuals, and trade associations. The participation of prominent Chinese businessmen, who are often committee/council members of ACCCIM at the national or state levels ensured a comprehensive representation of the Chinese business community. The questionnaires were distributed using SurveyMonkey as the main distribution channel, while hard copies were provided as an alternative option.
Terengganu CCCI Constituent Members

A total of 684 responses were received throughout the survey period（6 November 2023 to 5 January 2024），covering a broad representation of the economy．The profile of respondents is as follows ${ }^{1}$ ：
\％of respondents

By economics sector
$n=684$


Services 68．0\％


Construction 8．3\％


Agriculture 4．5\％

By size business operations ${ }^{2}$
$\square$ Micro enterprises 23．5\％

Small enterprises 51．2\％

Medium enterprises
16．8\％


## SME

日ص

II
SMEs（91．5\％）


By industry and size of business operations
（\％share of total）

## By sale orientation

$n=683$


Domestic－ market orientation 91．4\％


Export－ market orientation 8．6\％

Note：Domestic－market orientation indicates at least $50 \%$ of total sales are generated from the domestic market；Export－market orientation indicates more than $50 \%$ of sales are generated from overseas markets．

## 



Tourism，shopping，hotels， restaurants，recreation and entertainment（tourism－related） （7．2\％）

Wholesale and retail trade （23．8\％）

Professional and business services （14．9\％）

Finance and insurance
（7．3\％）

| SME | 嵓䂙 |
| :---: | :---: |
| ПЕ |  |
| 80．0\％ | 20．0\％ |

Transportation， forwarding and warehousing
（3．5\％）

Agriculture，forestry and fishery （4．5\％）


Trading （import and export）
（4．2\％）

$96.1 \%$
（4．2\％）

Construction
（8．3\％）


89．5\％


10．5\％

（17．8\％）
［SME


89．3\％


3．4\％


3．9\％


98．0\％
Information and （2．8\％）
${ }^{1}$ Numbers may not add up to $100.0 \%$ due to rounding，which is also applied to the rest of the report．
${ }^{2} A$ business will be deemed as an SME if it meets either one of the two specified qualifying criteria，namely sales turnover or full－time employees，whichever is lower basis，as endorsed by the National SME Development Council（NSDC）and published by SME Corporation Malaysia in 2013．For a detailed definition，please refer to Appendix 1.

## Sentiment Tracker



## Economic Conditions and Prospects


$E=$ Estimation; $F=$ Forecast

- The global economy has experienced slow and uneven growth in 2023. Global growth prospects for 2024 would remain weak given the lagging effects of tighter monetary policy, ongoing geopolitical tensions, withdrawal of fiscal support, and extreme weather events.
- The Malaysian economy, which has slowed to an estimated $3.8 \%$ growth in 2023 ( $8.7 \%$ in 2022), is expected to improve by an estimated $4.5 \%$ in 2024, aided by a recovery in exports and continued growth in domestic demand, albeit cautiously.
- In 2 H 2023, most respondents (58.9\% "neutral" and 29.5\% "worse") indicated a "less favourable" view on economic performance. The respondents are more optimistic in 2H 2024 (40.6\% "better"), compared to 1 H (28.2\% "better").
- Given the sluggish external and domestic demand, coupled with the Ringgit's fluctuations and tightening monetary policy, the manufacturing ( $35.2 \%$ ), wholesale and retail trade ( $34.0 \%$ ), and agriculture ( $32.3 \%$ ) reported deteriorated economic conditions in 2 H 2023.
- For the year 2023 as a whole, high percentage of respondents (27.5\%) were more pessimistic than those (15.5\%) indicating "better" (57.0\% "neutral"). Moving into 2024, in anticipation of a gradual recovery in external demand, more than one-third of respondents ( $37.3 \%$ ) expect better economic prospects though $45.1 \%$ of respondents still having a neutral view.

Business Conditions and Prospects


- Business conditions were generally deteriorating in 2023, especially in 2H 2023 ( $29.4 \%$ "worse" vs. $23.5 \%$ in 1 H 2023 surveyed previously). The tourism-related sectors ( $38.3 \%$ ), manufacturing (36.4\%), wholesale and retail trade (34.6\%), and agriculture (32.3\%) sectors have experienced worse business conditions.
- The respondents' cautious stance about business conditions in 2023 will improve to a slightly positive outlook in 2024. Close to $40 \%$ of respondents see better business prospects in 2024 compared to only $17.6 \%$ in 2023. There remain high percentage of respondents ( $43.6 \%$ in 2024 vs. $56.1 \%$ in 2023) having a "neutral" view.
- There are expectations of improving business conditions in 2024, notably in 2H 2024 (40.1\% "better"; 45.7\% "neutral"). Professional services (48.0\%), agriculture (45.2\%), wholesale and retail trade ( $40.0 \%$ ), manufacturing (39.8\%), and tourism-related ( $37.8 \%$ ) sectors are anticipating improved performance.
- Encouragingly, the granting of visa-free entry to citizens of China and India is expected to significantly bolster stronger revival in the tourism-related sectors.


## Overall Assessment in 2H 2023 and 1H2024F

Cash flow conditions


- Slightly more than one-fifth of respondents have experienced worsened cash flow conditions in 2H 2023. This condition is expected to improve somewhat in 1 H 2024.
- A higher percentage of respondents ( $30.3 \%$ vs. $11.7 \%$ in 2 H 2023 ) anticipate "better" cash flow conditions in 1 H 2024.

Debtors' conditions


- A large majority of businesses (68.1\%) have a "neutral" view about their debtors' conditions in 2 H 2023 and will likely remain unchanged in 1 H 2024.
- A relatively higher percentage ( $25.9 \%$ ) of the respondents (vs. forecasted $21.0 \%$ in the previous survey) indicated that their debtors' conditions were worse off.
- When comparing to previous forecast, the percentage of respondents having "better" debtors' conditions in 2 H 2023 was reduced to $6 \%$ from $14.0 \%$ previously. Close to a quarter of the respondents project "better" debtors' conditions in 1H 2024.
- Overall, businesses remained conservative in their debtors' conditions due to the lack of confidence in a robust recovery in both external and domestic demand amid uncertainties of any escalation in geopolitical tensions, increasing the cost of doing business and cost of living.


## Business Pulse Diagnosis



## Business Pulse Diagnosis

## Factors Affecting Business Performance in 2H 2023

## \#目 The Ringgit's fluctuations

- Since the US Federal Reserve began its aggressive interest rate hiking in March 2022, the Ringgit has joined most global and regional currencies to depreciate against the US dollar. Aggravated by weak investors' sentiment and concerns about persistent sliding of the Ringgit, $51.8 \%$ of respondents voted the Ringgit's fluctuations as the top dampening factor affecting business performance in 2H 2023.
- As of end-December 2023, the Ringgit had depreciated by $10.8 \%$ against the Singapore dollar, 8.4\% against the greenback, $7.6 \%$ against the euro, $6.2 \%$ against the Thai baht, and $5.7 \%$ against the pound sterling, compared to end-March 2022. Overall, the Ringgit was traded between RM4.23 and RM4.79 against the US dollar in 2023.
MYR index against major trading partners

- A significant $52.7 \%$ of respondents also indicated that they were negatively impacted by a depreciating Ringgit over the past two years, with 52.6\% suffering from squeezed margins.
- A stable currency is vital for facilitating business operations and planning. The weakening Ringgit resulted in higher cost of imported inputs and increased prices of consumption goods for consumers.


The Ringgit's fluctuation


Increase in prices of raw materials


High operating cost and cash flow problem


Declining business and consumer sentiment

35.1\%

Lower domestic demand

34.9\%

Changing consumer behaviour


Political climate


Availability of skilled labour
27.5\%
27.3\%

Shortage of workers


## Increase in prices of raw materials

- Despite the ranking of "increase in prices of raw materials" has lowered compared to past surveys, this factor still ranked by $45.0 \%$ of respondents as the second most important factor affecting business performance, especially in the construction (63.2\%) and manufacturing (54.9\%) sectors.
- Among the key drivers were increases in prices globally induced by the supply chains disruption since the COVID-19 pandemic; and the weakening Ringgit.
- In the business assessment section, it was revealed that as high as $77.4 \%$ of the respondents indicated higher costs for both local and imported raw materials.
- The increase in raw material prices is expected to continue, posing an upside risk to selling prices as businesses are unable to absorb these costs on a long-term basis.


## \#3 High operating cost and cash flow problem

- Close to $40 \%$ of the respondents ranked "High operating cost and cash flow problem" as the third impacting factor on their businesses, particularly in the construction (49.1\%) and wholesale and retail trade (48.5\%) sectors.
- While operating costs have been on an increasing trend for years, it has not been effectively addressed.
- Businesses also suffered from worse-thanexpected cash flow and debtors' conditions in 2H 2023, whereby a higher percentage of respondents indicating "worse" compared to the forecast made in the previous survey.
- Moving into 2024, this factor is expected to remain a drag on business costs due to an increase in service tax rate to $8 \%$ and also cover more services, the implementation of subsidy rationalisation on fuel, and water tariffs, as well as higher employment costs arising from the wage and levy policies.


## \#嘓 Declining business and consumer sentiment

- While businesses facing high operating costs and input prices, coupled with the depreciating Ringgit impacting both businesses and consumers, overall business and consumer sentiments have weakened. More than one-third of the respondents (35.8\%) ranked it as the fourth largest factor affecting business performance.
- The deterioration in sentiments was observed in MIER's Business Conditions Index (BCI) and Consumer Sentiment Index (CSI) in the third quarter of 2023, which fell to 79.7 (from 82.4 in 2Q) and 78.9 (from 90.8 in 2Q), respectively.
- Persistent weakness in business and consumer sentiment would dampen business and consumption activities, resulting in lower production and sales, ultimately dragging the economy.


## \#(S) Lower domestic demand

- Lower domestic demand was ranked as the fifth factor that adversely impacted business performance in 2H 2023, with the percentage of respondents increasing to $35.1 \%$, compared to $30.3 \%$ (ranked eighth) in the previous survey.
- Close to half of the respondents in the wholesale and retail trade sector suffered from lower domestic demand, with $41.9 \%$ experiencing a decrease in domestic sales revenue, even as 71.2\% of them increased their selling prices.
- Retail sales growth rate in Jul-Nov 2023 slowed substantially to $5.2 \%$ yoy compared to $13.3 \%$ in Jan-Jun 2023. This indicates a slowdown in consumers' purchasing power, despite a softened headline inflation rate.


## Business Assessment in 2H 2023 and 1H 2024F

## Overall Sales Outlook

## Overall sales showed uneven growth

- In 2H 2023, more than $40 \%$ of respondents indicated a decrease in overall sales, particularly in the wholesale and retail trade, manufacturing, and agriculture sectors, attributed to sluggish external and domestic demand alongside the Ringgit's depreciation.
- In terms of domestic sales performance, the agriculture (48.4\%), as well as wholesale and retail trade (41.9\%) sectors have a higher percentage of respondents reporting negative growth. On the contrary, more than half of the respondents in the professional and business services enjoyed better sales. Additionally, $48.9 \%$ of the respondents in the tourism-related sectors also indicated an increase in sales, thanks to the revival of tourism activities.
- Around half of the respondents increased their domestic and foreign prices in 2 H 2023 to factor in high operating costs and the Ringgit's depreciation. Notably, $52.7 \%$ of respondents, which were affected by the currency depreciation over the past two years, have either absorbed the increased cost, and hence, lower margins (52.6\%), or raised their selling prices (47.7\%).
- In 1H 2024, most respondents anticipate brighter sales prospects, accompanied by higher selling prices. However, profit margins could be eroded by cost pressures and other costs related factors such as subsidy rationalisation, increased service tax rate, new luxury tax, potential higher personnel cost as a result of the Progressive Wage Model, multi-tiered foreign workers' levy, and the implementation of e-invoicing.

Overall sales revenue


- Increase - Unchanged - Decrease


[^0]Domestic level

## Sales revenue



Price level

| 55.2\% | 61.5\% | $\uparrow>10 \%$ : 14.5\% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\uparrow$ 6-10\% : 16.0\% |
|  |  | $\uparrow$ 1-5\% : 31.0\% |
| 29.6\% | 24.8\% |  |
| 15.2\% | 13.7\% | Balance: Net increase 47.8\% of respondents |
| 2 H | 2 H |  |
| 2023F* | 2023A |  |

|ncrease ${ }^{\text {| Unchanged }}$ - Decrease


- Increase - Unchanged - Decrease



## Foreign level

## Sales revenue



Price level

| 47.3\% | 47.3\% | $\uparrow>10 \%$ |  | 9. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | † 6-10\% |  | 13. |
| 34.7\% | 23.3\% | $\uparrow$ 1-5\% | : | 25. |
| 18.0\% |  | Balance: Net increase $17.9 \%$ of respondents |  |  |
| 2 H | 2 H |  |  |  |
| 2023F* | 2023A |  |  |  |

- Increase - Unchanged - Decrease


A=Actual; F=Forecast * Data obtained from previous survey.
Note: Balance=\% of respondents voted "Increase" minus \% of respondents voted "Decrease"

## Business Operations

## A cautious move on production

- In 2H 2023, more than $45 \%$ of respondents increased their production and inventory levels, while $40.0 \%$ in the manufacturing sector reduced production (vs. $36.7 \%$ reporting an increase). Production is expected to improve in 1H 2024.
- Closed to $80 \%$ of respondents were operating below $75 \%$ capacity in 2H 2023. According to the Department of Statistics Malaysia, the manufacturing sector was operating at $79.4 \%$ capacity utilisation in 3Q 2023 while this survey (a smaller sample) showed that only $23.6 \%$ of the respondents in the manufacturing sector recorded at least 75\% utilisation.

Production

| 38.1\% | 46.5\% | $\uparrow>10 \% \quad: ~ 10.2 \%$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\uparrow 6-10 \%$ : 10.2\% |
| 34.9\% | 27.2\% | $\uparrow$ 1-5\% : 26.1\% |
| 26.9\% | 26.3\% | Balance: Net increase 20.2\% of respondents |
| $\begin{gathered} 2 \mathrm{H} \\ 2023 \mathrm{~F}^{*} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2 \mathrm{H} \\ 2023 \mathrm{~A} \end{gathered}$ |  |

## Inventory or stock level



- Increase ${ }^{-}$Unchanged - Decrease
- Increase ${ }^{-}$Unchanged - Decrease



## Capacity utilisation level

Less than $50 \%-50 \%$ to $<75 \%-75 \%$ to $\leq 90 \%$ More than $90 \%$


A=Actual; F=Forecast

* Data obtained from previous survey.

Note: Balance=\% of respondents voted "Increase" minus \% of respondents voted "Decrease"

## Cost of Raw Materials

## Persistent cost pressure on raw materials

- The cost pressure on local and imported raw materials remained a concern, with over $75 \%$ of respondents reporting an increase in 2H 2023.
- Two significant factors impacting business performance: The Ringgit's fluctuations (51.8\%) and an increase in the price of raw materials (45.0\%). These factors are expected to persist in influencing raw material costs over the next six months, with over $70 \%$ indicating an expected increase in the prices of raw materials. The increase in the cost of transport due to the diversion of shipping lines away from the Suez Canal via the Red Sea could result in higher costs of imported raw materials.
- The Producer Price Index (PPI) recorded a slight decline of $1.2 \%$ year-on-year in Jul-Nov 2023 (vs $-1.5 \%$ for the manufacturing sector), attributed to lower global commodity prices. However, the ongoing geopolitical conflicts in Middle East, climate change, and the Ringgit's fluctuations, are expected to continue exerting upside risks to raw material prices.


Manpower

## Sustained labour demand and higher wages

- About $44.9 \%$ of respondents have increased their manpower in 2H 2023, while $45.5 \%$ have maintained their staff pool. A similar trend is expected in 1 H 2024. Malaysia's unemployment rate has returned to the pre-pandemic level of $3.3 \%$ in November 2023, suggesting a natural state of full employment in Malaysia.
- More than half of respondents ( $65.6 \%$ ) increased their employees' wages in 2 H 2023 and it is likely to continue in 1H 2024. Based on the Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF)'s survey, employees are expected to have a $5.27 \%-5.28 \%$ increase in salaries for 2024. The Progressive Wage Model on a voluntary participation basis, under which employers would gradually increase pay for their workers based on their skills, experience, and performance, will start in June 2024 and involve 1,000 companies in a pilot project.

Number of employees

| 40.8\% | 44.9\% | $\uparrow>10$ | 7.6\% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\uparrow$ 6-10 | 11.0\% |
| 49.6\% | 45.5\% | $\uparrow$ 1-5 | 26.2\% |
|  |  | Balance: Net increase $35.2 \%$ of respondents |  |
| $\begin{gathered} 2 \mathrm{H}^{*} \\ 2023 \mathrm{~F}^{\star} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2 \mathrm{H} \\ 2023 \mathrm{~A} \end{gathered}$ |  |  |

Wage growth



- Increase ${ }^{-}$Unchanged - Decrease

A=Actual; F=Forecast * Data obtained from previous survey.
Note: Balance $=\%$ of respondents voted "Increase" minus \% of respondents voted "Decrease"


## Capital Expenditure

## Better investment prospects

- Nearly two-thirds of total respondents (63.2\%) have increased their capital expenditure in 2 H 2023, in line with a gradual improvement in business activities and domestic demand amidst still falling external demand.
- A majority (62.6\%) of respondents (vs. 63.2\% in 2 H 2023 ) plan to invest in 1 H 2024 , while $30.7 \%$ of respondents will likely maintain their capital investment.
- The Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) reported an annual increase of $45.2 \%$ in approved domestic investment in January-September 2023.



## Gurrent Issue:

## Economic and Business Policies as well as the Ringeft



2H 2023

Impact of the Ringgit's Depreciation on Business


Reduced consumer purchasing power

Total concern level: 91.9\%


Service Tax's rate increase and scope expansion

Total concern level: 88.1\%


Progressive Wage Model (PWM)

Total concern level: 77.4\%



Total concern level: 90.6\%



Over-regulation and high compliance cost

Total concern level: 82.4\%

55.7\%

Subsidy rationalisation

Total concern level: 64.8\%

Persistently weakening Ringgit

Total concern level: 90.3\%


Government's fiscal deficit and debt burden response

Total concern level: 77.5\%


Tiered levy of foreign workers

Total concern level: 57.9\%


Note: The parenthesis indicates the ranking within extremely concerned category.

The Government's Top Priorities should Focus on Economic \& Business Sustainability


Progressive Wage Model (PWM): Voluntary Participation and its Impact


Expectations for E-Invoicing Implementation

Simplify the process of complying with e-invoicing

Grace period during the initial phase of implementation

Allow for voluntary participation for micro businesses

Defer a full implementation for all taxpayers to 1 January 2027 as scheduled previously


## Business Concerns \& Government's priorities

- The Malaysian economy and business sector have undergone severe disruptions during the COVID-19 pandemic amid a period of political instability in 2018-2022. Post COVID-19 pandemic recovery and the formation of a Unity Government after the $15^{\text {th }}$ General Election in 2022, the Government has offered new and convincing narratives that Malaysia has to be transformed for the better and re-establish itself as one of ASEAN's premier investment and trading destinations.
- Businesses continue to face challenges (business cost pressures, the shortage of skilled manpower, rising wages, ESG compliance, financing, etc.) and an uneven pace of domestic and external demand as they navigate through weak global growth and a slowing domestic economy in 2023. New cost pressures could come from the implementation of the new tax rate, subsidy rationalization, Progressive Wage Model, and a multi-tiered levy.
- External risks remain emanating from the ongoing political conflicts, the strength of the US and China economy; the lagging impact of higher interest rates; and the unpredictable impact of climate change on food security and commodities.
- Domestic structural issues such as low productivity growth, low investment, low adoption of technology and digitalisation as well as the shortage of skilled and talented manpower require reforms and re-engineering through appropriate facilitation support to businesses.


## Top 3 Business's Concerns

Reduced consumer purchasing power

Persistent cost pressures

Persistently weakening Ringgit

Top 3 Government's Priorities Should-Be


Stable Ringgit

Ease the cost of doing business
Clarity and consistency in businessfriendly policies

Top 3 Business's Extremely Concerns

Persistently weakening Ringgit

Reduced consumer purchasing power
Service tax rate increase and scope of expansion

## Top 3 Business's Somewhat Concerns



Over-regulation and high compliance cost

Persistent cost pressures
Service Tax's rate increase and scope expansion

Reduced Consumer Purchasing Power


MIER Consumer Sentiment Index (CSI)
Threshold = 100


Measures implemented in 2023

- Electricity tariff adjustments ( 2 H 2023 )
- Removal of price control for chicken (Nov 2023)


## New measures implemented in 2024

- Electricity tariff adjustments (1H 2024)
- Increased water tariff (Feb 2024)
- Increased Service Tax rate with the expansion of scope (Mar 2024)
- High-Value Goods Tax (May 2024)
- Diesel subsidy rationalisation (pilot project Feb 2024)
- Sales Tax on Low-Value Goods (Jan 2024)

Measures likely to be implemented in 2024

- Petrol subsidy rationalisation (2H 2024)

Sectors with votes of at least 40\%


Note: $1=$ Agriculture; $2=$ Manufacturing;
$3=$ Construction; $4=$ Wholesale and retail trade;
$5=$ Tourism-related; $6=$ Professional and business service; 7 = Finance and insurance. Not including mining, trading, transportation, real estate and ICT sectors due to a low number of respondents.

- Throughout 2022-2023, high cost of living remained a major concern despite price controls and subsidies on some essential items.
- In line with easing global headline inflation, Malaysia's headline inflation has moderated from its peak in 2022, core inflation, particularly food inflation, has remained higher than the pre-pandemic level. This underlies ongoing challenges of managing elevated costs in the short term.
- The Consumer Sentiment Index dropped to 78.9 in 3Q 2023, the lowest since 2Q 2021, signalling cautious consumer sentiment.
- The introduction of tax measures (higher service tax rate and low-value goods tax), electricity and water tariff adjustment, and targeted subsidy rationalisation are expected to weigh on consumer sentiments in 2024. Businesses also face cost pressures.
- According to the Institute of Strategic Analysis and Policy Research (INSAP), most Malaysians were primarily concerned about sustaining themselves amid stagnating income and rising expenses. Over $80 \%$ of respondents, on average, are urging immediate measures to reduce the cost of living - so do our respondents in this survey.

Persistent Cost Pressures


MIER Business Conditions Index (BCI)
Threshold = 100


Selected top Government's priorities from the respondents

Sectors with votes of at least 40\%

\section*{| Somewhat Concerned | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | <br> Extremely Concerned 14}

Note: 1 = Agriculture; $2=$ Manufacturing;
$3=$ Construction; $4=$ Wholesale and retail trade;
$5=$ Tourism-related; $6=$ Professional and business service; 7 = Finance and insurance. Not including mining, trading, transportation, real estate and ICT sectors due to a low number of respondents.

- Global commodity prices have softened in 1H 2023 and stabilised in 2H 2023. Nonetheless, there are upside risks ahead due to uncertainties, such as persistent food protectionism, higher precious metal prices following the potential US rate cut cycle, as well as broad weather events that could disrupt the supply. The ongoing Red Sea shipping line disruption has resulted in an increase in the cost of transport for both exporters and importers.
- MIER Business Conditions Index (BCI) also dropped to 79.7, the lowest since 2Q 2020 during the Movement Control Order (MCO) 1.0 .
- The implementation of the Employment (Amendment) Act 2022 and adjustments in electricity tariffs have increased the cost of doing business. In addition, special holidays also incurred extra operational expenses for businesses.
- The implementation of the Progressive Wage Model (PWM), multi-tiered levy on foreign workers, and e-invoicing are expected to pose cost challenges for businesses, particularly SMEs. Over 60\% of respondents have raised concerns about a potential rise in operating costs associated with the PWM.

Ease the cost of doing business
Clarity and consistency in businessfriendly policies

Persistently Weakening Ringgit
1
The Ringgit's depreciation has negatively affected our business in the past two years.

Wholesale and retail trade 65.6\%

Tourism
53.1\%

Manufacturing
51.6\%

Construction
50.9\%
(2) To cope with the impact:

Sectors with votes of at least $40 \%$
52.6\% Bear with higher costs and suffered margin squeeze

\section*{| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |}

47.7\% Increase selling price

\section*{| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |}

29.8\% Renegotiating with suppliers
21.5\% Sourcing from cheaper inputs, including domestic materials
16.8\% Still manageable with some increases in prices of imported raw materials
13.3\% Undertake currency hedging

The Ringgit against major and regional currencies (\%)


Selected top Government's priorities from
the respondents the respondents

Stable Ringgit

Sectors with votes of at least 40\%


Note: $1=$ Agriculture; $2=$ Manufacturing;
3 = Construction; 4 = Wholesale and retail trade;
$5=$ Tourism-related; $6=$ Professional and business service; 7 = Finance and insurance. Not including mining, trading, transportation, real estate and ICT sectors due to a low number of respondents.

- The impact of exchange rates is multifaceted. During a depreciation, while exports and domestic tourism sectors stand to benefit, those who import goods, services and travel abroad will have to pay more. Higher costs and inflation will stem from the persistent weakness in the Ringgit.
- An orderly adjustment and the Ringgit's stability facilitate better planning and decision-making, minimise risks, attract investments, and contribute to societal wellbeing.
- Over the past two years, most respondents have encountered the adverse effects of the Ringgit's depreciation either through absorbing the increased cost or raising the selling prices.
- The Ringgit is undervalued. The strong US dollar is a global trend and is not generally indicative of significant fundamental weaknesses in our domestic economy. The Ringgit's depreciation was mainly driven by external factors, such as evolving market expectations concerning higher terminal interest rates in major economies, weak investors' sentiment, and does not reflect Malaysia's economic fundamentals.
- While Bank Negara Malaysia conducts FX operations to stem excessive volatility and ensure orderly market conditions, the Government has to address the structural weaknesses through reforms to enhance economic and financial resilience. These include rebuild the strength of fiscal balance sheet; containing debt and liabilities; strengthening the current account surplus and reserves accumulation; improved the economy through higher quality investment; ensuring stable prices; and better corporate earnings to attract inflows of investible funds.

Service Tax Rate Increase and Scope of Expansion

Federal Government Finance



## Some facts

## 175 countries

 adopted VAT / GST around the world| 袋買 |  | VAT | CIT | PIT |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Malaysia | N/A | 24\% | 30\% |
| ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | Singapore | 9\% | 17\% | 24\% |
|  | Indonesia | 11\% | 22\% | 35\% |
|  | Thailand | 7\% | 20\% | 35\% |
| $\xi$ | Vietnam | 10\% | 20\% | 35\% |
| * | Philippines | 12\% | 25\% | 35\% |
| \% | China | 13\% | 25\% | 45\% |

Sectors with votes of at least 40\%

\section*{| Somewhat Concerned | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | <br> Extremely Concerned <br> 2}

Note: $\quad 1=$ Agriculture; 2 = Manufacturing;
3 = Construction; 4 = Wholesale and retail trade; 5 = Tourism-related; 6 = Professional and business service; 7 = Finance and insurance. Not including mining, trading, transportation, real estate and ICT sectors due to a low number of respondents.

- The Budget 2024 has introduced key measures to build a sustainable deficit, with a lower budget deficit target of $4.3 \%$ of GDP in 2024 (-5.0\% of GDP in 2023).
- These measures include (1) Increased service tax rate to $8 \%$ from $6 \%$ (excluding food and beverages, telecommunication services, parking, and logistic services) and expanded the coverage (including logistics, brokerage, underwriting, and karaoke services); (2) High-Value Goods Tax (5\%$10 \%$ ) and Capital Gain Tax (2\% and 10\%), and (3) $10 \%$ sales tax on Low-Value Goods less than RM500.
- The Public Finance and Fiscal Responsibility Act is aimed to achieve a fiscal balance of $3 \%$ of GDP or less in the next 3-5 years.
- Most respondents are somewhat concerned about the implementation of an increase in service tax rate and its scope. Business community mostly prefers the reintroduction of GST given its transparency and revenue enhancement effect.
- Globally, the GST/ VAT is commonly used as countries move towards indirect taxes from direct taxes on income. Countries tend to reduce personal income tax to offset the GST.
- Concerns over the GST's regressivity on low-income households can be mitigated by giving exemptions on essential items and also GST cash vouchers for the targeted recipients.

Over-Regulation and High Compliance Cost
IMD Business Legislation Efficiency
Ranking (out of 64 economies)


Regional Comparison (Ranking):

|  | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Singapore | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| Indonesia | 40 | 47 | 46 |
| Thailand | 30 | 38 | 31 |
| Philippines | 54 | 52 | 57 |
| China | 33 | 37 | 39 |

Note: It focuses on evaluating the ease of doing business, the clarity and efficiency of business legislation, and the effectiveness of legal frameworks in supporting business operations and economic growth.

## Index of Economic Freedom

Index = 100


## Selected Indicators (2023):

Note: $\quad 80-100=$ Free; 70-79.9 = Mostly Free; 60-69.9 = Moderately Free; 50-59.9 = Mostly Unfree; 0-49.9 = Repressed.
Source: IMD Business School; The Heritage Foundation

Sectors with votes of at least 40\%

| Somewhat Concerned | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

Extremely Concerned
Note: 1 = Agriculture; 2 = Manufacturing;
3 = Construction; 4 = Wholesale and retail trade;
$5=$ Tourism-related; $6=$ Professional and business service; 7 = Finance and insurance. Not including mining, trading, transportation, real estate and ICT sectors due to a low number of respondents.

- Regulation serves diverse purposes, such as to protect and benefit people while fostering fair and competitive environments. Compliance with the regulations prevents monopolistic behavior, collusion, price-fixing, and other practices that could harm competition.
- However, over-regulation can dampen productivity and innovation, and increase compliance costs due to unnecessary and outdated regulations. Most businesses have expressed concerns about the complexity of doing business.
- The Institute for Management Development (IMD)'s indicators suggested a decrease in the perceived efficiency and effectiveness of the legal and regulatory environment for businesses, which could increase their regulatory burden and impose challenges in compliance.
- Malaysia's economic freedom is above the global average (59.3) in 2023 while some sub-sectors are still mostly unfree, suggesting certain investigations are needed to achieve a certain level of free market.
- The degree of compliance varies across industries and businesses, but the Government should consistently and actively enhance the system by embracing a quality digital technology (e.g. moving online) and simplifying the procedures and regulations.
- It is commendable that the establishment of PEMUDAH and recent measures related to digital adoptions, such as National Digital ID, can improve overall efficiency.


## Business Sentiments on Budget 2024

Businesses have always been looking for supportive measures and initiatives in the Budget for driving their business. This section revealed the respondents' viewpoints on the measures and initiatives.


## Various financing scheme

## $\begin{array}{llllllllllllll}1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & X & S & M & L\end{array}$

## Tax deduction on ESG-related expenses



4 Enhanced Reinvestment Allowance (RA)


5 Improve Visa-On-Arrival facilities, Social Visit Pass, and Multiple Entry visa


Sectors / size with votes of at least 40\% Note: 1 = Agriculture; 2 = Manufacturing; 3 = Construction;
Sectors / size with votes of at least $20 \%$

None of the above $15.7 \%$
4 = Wholesale and retail trade; 5 = Tourism-related;
6 = Professional and business service; 7 = Finance and insurance;
X = Micro; S = Small; $M=$ Medium; $L=$ Large enterprises.
Not including mining, trading, transportation, real estate and ICT sectors due to a low number of respondents.

- $44.1 \%$ of respondents were pleased with the various financing schemes, followed by financial incentives related to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) initiatives, digitalisation, and enhanced reinvestment allowance.
- The divergence in perceptions is observed across sectors regarding the relative importance of these measures. For instance, the agriculture sector emphasises reinvestment allowance, while the manufacturing sector places emphasis on tax deductions related to ESG expenses and digitalisation grants.
- However, it is evident that businesses need more facilitation support for the adoption of ESG principles and digitalisation in the coming years given the rapid evolution of new technologies and climate change.
- The expanded roles of MITI and MIDA will greatly facilitate both Domestic Direct Investment (DDI) and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Malaysia. Notably, DDI has been established as a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) for MIDA.
- A highly effective one-stop centre, staffed by competent manpower is important to facilitate investors and businesses. Strengthening collaboration among public sector agencies is essential to streamline investment processes. The ongoing streamlining of Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs), led by MIDA, is a positive step in the right direction.
- Higher service tax rate to $8 \%$ has raised concerns about its potential adverse impact on consumer sentiment in 2024.
- The introduction of e-invoicing, with a shorter implementation period, is expected to curb tax leakages from the shadow economy. However, short-term software costs may increase. Many businesses are still not familiar with the implementation of e-invoicing.
- The survey showed that only $13.3 \%$ of respondents perceived direct benefits for their companies from e-invoicing, despite the cost savings in terms of reduced paper consumption, printing and mailing costs, and reduce manual errors.


## Selected monetary facilitation in the Budget 2024

## Digital and Automation

SME Automation and Digital Facilities (ADF)
SME Technology Transformation Fund
Industry Digitalisation Transformation Scheme
Digitalisation Grants

## Green Environment

Low Carbon Transition Facility (LCTF)
High Tech and Green Facilities (HTG)
Sustainable Development Financing Scheme
Green Technology Financing Scheme (GTFS 4.0)
Tax Deduction On Environmental, Social And Governance Related Expenditures
Further Tax Deduction for Voluntary Carbon Market

## Sectoral Facilities

Agrofood Facilities (AF)
PENJANA Tourism Financing (PTF)
Special Tourism Fund
Tourism Infrastructure Scheme
Sports Industry Financing Scheme (SPIS)
Aerospace and Electrical and Electronics (E\&E) Industry Investment Fund

Sustainable and Green Business Financing
Sustainable Mobility Business Financing

## Trade and Investment

Exporter Sustainability Incentive Scheme (SIP)
HalalBiz Financing Scheme
Market Development Grant
Tax Allowance for Reinvestment under the New Industrial Master Plan 2030

Tax Incentive for Global Services Hub

- In support of fostering the digital economy, the Government has announced the phased implementation of e-invoices. This initiative aims to bolster Malaysia's tax administration management by enhancing operational efficiency.
- The adoption of e-invoices will facilitate near real-time validation and storage of transactions, catering to various transactional categories such as Business-to-Business (B2B), Business-to-Consumer (B2C), and Business-to-Government (B2G) interactions.
- In the Budget 2024, the Government has shortened the implementation period of einvoicing:


Note: Taxpayers can voluntarily participate in the implementation at an earlier date, regardless of annual turnover or revenue.

## Some concerns

52.7\% ${ }^{\circ}$

Simplify the process of complying with e-invoicing

Grace period during the initial phase of implementation


Allow for voluntary participation for micro businesses
32.4\% all taxpayers to 1 January 2027 as scheduled previously

- The majority of respondents have expressed concerns about the complexity of implementation and potential penalties associated with errors, particularly in Business-toConsumer (B2C) transactions that involve numerous micro-transactions daily.
- The adoption of e-invoicing necessitates access to the internet and devices, which are generally lacking in micro and small enterprises. The inclusion of the Digitalisation Grant in Budget 2024 to enhance sales, inventory, and digital accounting systems is commendable. However, to maximise its impact, it should be consistently provided throughout the implementation period. In addition, the stability of the internet and its coverage play a crucial role.
- Additionally, managing customised products introduce heightened complexity, particularly when the system requires 51 data fields to generate an e-invoice. This could pose an additional burden, especially for small B2C businesses.

Source: Inland Revenue Board (IRB)

- The implementation of e-invoicing is an inevitable global trend, with many countries already having established systems, some of which are mandatory for all businesses.
- A well-designed e-invoicing system not only improves tax systems and administration but also encourages digitalisation within the business community.
- It is imperative that the Government provides financial and technical support to MSMEs, such as an e-invoice system tools kit, and also ensure ease of compliance.

Global e-invoicing implementation


Source: Pagero

## E-invoicing in selected countries

Indonesia
Thailand
Vietnam
China
Australia

## United States

Germany

Mandatory for all taxpayers registered for VAT purposes
Voluntary basis

## Mandatory for all taxpayers

Gradual mandatory
Voluntary basis (only mandatory for Federal government agencies)

## Voluntary basis

Only mandatory for B2G (suppliers to all Federal and Bremen contracting authorities)

Source: Pagero; Comarch; Storecove; Edicom Group

## Progressive Wage Model (PWM) - A win-win for employers and employees

- The employers have been argued that an increase in employees' wages must correspond with an improvement in their productivity level. The employees want to be incentivized for productivity improvement.
- As shown in the chart below, labour productivity per hour worked, on a quarterly basis has been fluctuating over the years. The PWM aims to achieve an increasing linear productivity growth through upskilling and reskilling of employees. If it is successful, an increase in productivity will be followed by an increase in wages as an incentive.
- Ultimately, the implementation of PWM would move towards a productivity-linked wage system (PLWS), a flexible and competitive wage system that establishes a closer link between wages and productivity / performance.


## Yearly Index of labour productivity per hour worked



Source: Department of Statistics, Malaysia (DOSM)

## Who qualifies for the incentives?


*Micro, small and medium enterprises are encouraged to participate but this does not mean that large enterprises are excluded. Only MNCs and GLCs are not qualified to participate.

|  | Size of enterprise | Criteria | Manufacturing sector | Services and other sectors |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Large enterprise |  | Sales turnover | Above RM50 million $\underline{\text { OR }}$ | Above RM20 million $\underline{\text { OR }}$ |
|  |  | Number of full-time employees | Above 200 | Above 75 |
|  | Medium enterprise | Sales turnover | RM15 million to RM50 million OR | RM3 million to RM20 million $\underline{\text { OR }}$ |
|  |  | Number of full-time employees | 75 to 200 | 30 to 75 |
|  | enterprise | Sales turnover | RM300,000 to less than RM15 million OR | RM300,000 to less than RM3 million OR |
|  |  | Number of full-time employees | 5 to less than 75 | 5 to less than 30 |
|  | enterprise | Sales turnover | Below RM300,000 OR | Below RM300,000 OR |
|  |  | Number of full-time employees | Less than 5 | Less than 5 |

Respondents' profile: Annual turnover and number of employees by major sectors:

|  | de Primary |  |  |  | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Annual turnover: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Less than RM300k | 10.0\% | 3.3\% | 7.0\% | 17.8\% | 13.9\% |
| RM300k to < RM3mil | 32.5\% | 32.8\% | 42.1\% | 40.9\% | 39.0\% |
| RM3mil to < RM15mil | 25.0\% | 24.6\% | 22.8\% | 22.8\% | 23.2\% |
| RM15mil to < RM20mil | 2.5\% | 13.9\% | 7.0\% | 4.9\% | 6.6\% |
| RM20mil to $\leq$ RM50mil | 12.5\% | 13.9\% | 10.5\% | 6.0\% | 8.2\% |
| More than RM50mil | 17.5\% | 11.5\% | 10.5\% | 7.5\% | 9.1\% |

Number of full-time employees:

| Less than 5 | $15.0 \%$ | $3.3 \%$ | $19.3 \%$ | $24.7 \%$ | $19.9 \%$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 5 to $<30$ | $27.5 \%$ | $37.7 \%$ | $45.6 \%$ | $46.5 \%$ | $43.7 \%$ |
| 30 to $<75$ | $27.5 \%$ | $29.5 \%$ | $24.6 \%$ | $17.0 \%$ | $20.5 \%$ |
| 75 to $\leq 200$ | $17.5 \%$ | $16.4 \%$ | $8.8 \%$ | $6.9 \%$ | $9.4 \%$ |
| More than 200 | $12.5 \%$ | $13.1 \%$ | $1.8 \%$ | $4.9 \%$ | $6.6 \%$ |

## Appendix 2: 2024 Budget Measures Related Business

Monetary Facilitation

| Program Name | Keywords | Payment Details | Source |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Skim Pembiayaan Ikhtiar | Woman; lower-income group | Amount: Up to RM30,000 Interest Rate: 8\%-10\% Tenure: Up to 3 years | AIM |
| Micro (MEF) Enterprise Facility | Micro-entrepreneur / selfemployed individual / gig worker on digital platforms | Amount: Up to RM50,000 <br> Interest Rate: TBD <br> Tenure: TBD | BNM |
| i-TEKAD | Micro-entrepreneur; lowincome group; financial management and business intelligence | Amount: Up to RM50,000 <br> Interest Rate: TBD <br> Tenure: TBD | BNM |
| Skim Mikro Umum | Micro / small business | Amount: Up to RM50,000 <br> Interest Rate: 4\% <br> Tenure: Up to 5 years | BSN |
| Skim Mikro Nita | Woman; micro / small businesses | Amount: Up to RM50,000 <br> Interest Rate: 4\% <br> Tenure: Up to 5 years | BSN |
| Skim Mikro Borneo | Micro / small business; Sabah or Sarawak | Amount: Up to RM50,000 <br> Interest Rate: 4\% <br> Tenure: Up to 5 years | BSN |
| Skim Mikro Belia | Micro / small business; aged 30 years and below | Amount: Up to RM50,000 <br> Interest Rate: 4\% <br> Tenure: Up to 5 years | BSN |
| Pembiayaan Perkampungan Baru Cina | Micro / small business; residents or those operating in Chinese New Villages | Amount: Up to RM150,000 <br> Interest Rate: 4\% <br> Tenure: Up to 5 years | BSN |
| Skim Mikro Perintis | Micro / small business / gig / institutions of higher education (IPT) / graduates | Amount: Up to RM20,000 <br> Interest Rate: 4\% <br> Tenure: Up to 5 years 3 months Moratorium: 3 months | BSN |
| Skim Mikro Penjaja | Hawkers | Amount: Up to RM20,000 <br> Interest Rate: 4\% <br> Tenure: Up to 5 years | BSN |
| Skim Mikro Veteran | Micro / small business; veterans | Amount: Up to RM50,000 <br> Interest Rate: 4\% <br> Tenure: Up to 5 years | BSN |
| Skim Mikro OKU | Micro / small business; PWD | Amount: Up to RM50,000 <br> Interest Rate: 3\% <br> Tenure: Up to 5 years | BSN |
| Skim Pembiayaan Usahawan Perusahaan Kecil Komuniti Cina | Micro / small business; Chinese | Amount: Up to RM50,000 <br> Interest Rate: 4\% <br> Tenure: Up to 5 years | BSN |
| Skim Penjaja Kecil Cina | Hawkers; Chinese | Amount: Up to RM20,000 <br> Interest Rate: 4\% <br> Tenure: Up to 5 years | BSN |


| Program Name | Keywords | Payment Details | Source |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mobilepreneur 4.0 | Delivery riders | Amount: Up to RM10,000 <br> Interest Rate: 4\% <br> Tenure: Up to 3 years | TEKUN |
| All Economic Sectors (AES) | SMEs; growth | Amount: Up to RM5 million Interest Rate: Up to 7\% Tenure: Up to 5 years | BNM |
| Business Recapitalisation Facility (BRF) | SMEs; recovery | Amount: Up to RM5 million Interest Rate: Up to 5\% Tenure: Up to 10 years | BNM |
| SME Automation and Digital Facilities (ADF) | SMEs; automation and digitalisation | Amount: Up to RM3 million Interest Rate: Up to 4\% Tenure: Up to 10 years | BNM |
| Low Carbon Transition Facility (LCTF) | SMEs; sustainable and lowcarbon practices | Amount: Up to RM10 million Interest Rate: Up to 5\% Tenure: Up to 10 years | BNM |
| High Tech and Green Facilities (HTG) | SMEs / innovative startups; strategic sectors and technologies (e.g. digital, green and biotechnology) | Amount: Up to RM10 million Interest Rate: Up to 5\% Tenure: Up to 10 years | BNM |
| Agrofood Facilities (AF) | Food production; domestic consumption and exports | Amount: Up to RM5 million Interest Rate: Up to 3.75\% Tenure: Up to 8 years | BNM |
| PENJANA Tourism Financing (PTF) | Tourism; recovery | Amount: Up to RM500,000 Interest Rate: Up to 3.5\% Tenure: Up to 7 years | BNM |
| Agrofood Financing Fund | Agropreneurs; production expansion and new entrants | Amount: Up to RM5 million <br> Interest Rate: 3\% <br> Tenure: Up to 10 years Grace period: Up to 6 months | Agrobank |
| Agrofood Value Chain Modernisation Programme | Agropreneurs; technology | Amount: Up to RM1 million <br> Interest Rate: 3\% <br> Tenure: Up to 10 years Grace period: Up to 12 months | Agrobank |
| BR Plus i-Biz Lady | MSMEs; Woman | Amount: Up to RM1 million Interest Rate: Up to 7.5\% Tenure: Up to 7 years | Bank Rakyat |
| Sports Industry Financing Scheme (SPIS) | MSMEs; sports industry | Amount: Up to RM100,000 <br> Interest Rate: 4\% <br> Tenure: Up to 7 years | Bank Rakyat |
| Exporter Sustainability Incentive Scheme (SIP2) | SMEs; international markets | Amount: Up to RM10 million Interest Rate: effective rate 1.5\% incentive Tenure: Up to 7 years | $\begin{aligned} & \text { EXIM } \\ & \text { Bank } \end{aligned}$ |
| Soft Financing Scheme for Automation and Modernisation | SMEs; manufacturing | Amount: Up to RM20 million Interest Rate: 4\% <br> Tenure: Up to 25 years | MIDF |

Note: TEKUN = TEKUN Nasional; BNM = Bank Negara Malaysia; MIDF = Malaysia Industrial Development Finance

| Program Name | Keywords | Payment Details | Source |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Aerospace and Electrical and Electronics (E\&E) Industry Investment Fund | Aerospace / E\&E | Matching Grant: Up to 80\% Amount: Up to RM40 million Tenure: Up to 12 years Management Fee: 2\% | MIDF |
| Soft Financing Scheme for SMEs | SMEs; manufacturing | Amount: Up to RM5 million Interest Rate: 4\% Tenure: Up to 25 years | MIDF |
| Second Chance Financing | SMEs; manufacturing services | Amount: Up to RM5 million Interest Rate: 3\% Tenure: Up to 10 years | MIDF |
| Sustainable and Green Business Financing | Manufacturing / services; green technology ecosystem | Amount: Up to RM10 million Interest Rate: 2\% Tenure: Up to 25 years | MIDF |
| Sustainable Mobility Business Financing | Automotive ecosystem | Amount: Up to RM5 million Interest Rate: 2\% Tenure: TBD | MIDF |
| Tabung Modal Pusingan (TMP) | Cooperatives to implement viable projects | Amount: Up to RM30 million <br> Interest Rate: 1\%-6\% <br> Tenure: Up to 25 years Grace Period: 3-6 months | SKM |
| SME Recapitalisation Fund | SMEs | Amount: Up to RM5 million Interest Rate: 6\% Tenure: Up to 5 years | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { SME } \\ & \text { Bank } \end{aligned}$ |
| SME Technology <br> Transformation Fund | SMEs; technology <br> transformation  | Amount: Up to RM3 million Interest Rate: 4\% <br> Tenure: Up to 10 years | SME <br> Bank |
| HalalBiz Financing Scheme | SMEs; Halal industry | Amount: Up to RM1 million Interest Rate: 5\% Tenure: Up to 7 years | SME <br> Bank |
| Industrial Building System (IBS) Promotion Fund | SMEs; contractors, manufacturers and installers of IBS system | Amount: Up to RM10 million Interest Rate: Up to BFR + 1.5\% <br> Tenure: Up to 15 years | $\frac{\text { SME }}{\text { Bank }}$ |
| Special Tourism Fund | SMEs; tourism | Amount: Up to RM5 million Interest Rate: 4\%-5.5\% Tenure: Up to 10 years | $\begin{aligned} & \text { SME } \\ & \hline \text { Bank } \end{aligned}$ |
| Dana Pemantapan Automasi | SMEs; 3D sector; automation | Amount: Up to RM3 million Interest Rate: 4\%-5\% Tenure: Up to 10 years | $\frac{\text { SME }}{\text { Bank }}$ |
| Social Enterprise Financing Scheme | SMEs | Amount: Up to RM500,000 Interest Rate: 3\%-4\% Tenure: Up to 7 years | $\begin{aligned} & \text { SME } \\ & \text { Bank } \end{aligned}$ |
| Rehabilitation and Support through Equity Scheme (RESET) | Rehabilitate operation | Amount: Up to RM30 million Expected Rate of Return: 8\% - 15\% IRR <br> Tenure: Up to 5 years | BPMB |

Note: MIDF = Malaysia Industrial Development Finance; SKM = Suruhanjaya Koperasi Malaysia; BPMB = Bank Pembangunan Malaysia Berhad

| Program Name | Keywords | Payment Details | Source |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Working Capital Scheme | Working capital | Amount: Min. RM5 million Interest Rate: 5\% Tenure: Up to 3 years | BPMB |
| Matching Funding Platform | Peer-to-peer (P2P) funding | Amount: Up to RM2 million Interest Rate: 11\%-14\% Tenure: Up to 2 years | BPMB |
| MADANI Development Scheme | Sectors involved in the 12th Malaysian Plan and Ekonomi MADANI, which are not covered by other schemes | Amount: Up to RM100 million Interest Rate: <br> Government: COF + Margin Subsidy of $1.5 \%$ <br> Commercial: BFT + Margin Subsidy of $1.5 \%$ <br> Sukuk/Bon: Guarantee fee Subsidy of $1.5 \%$ | BPMB |
| Sustainable Development Financing Scheme | Adaptation and mitigation of climate change and energy transition |  | BPMB |
| Industry Digitalisation <br> Transformation Scheme | Digital transformation |  | BPMB |
| Tourism Infrastructure Scheme | Tourism activities and infrastructure projects |  | BPMB |
| Maritime, Logistics and Transportation Scheme | Marine, oil and gas, aerospace and logistics activities and services |  | BPMB |
| Syarikat Jaminan Pembiayaan Perniagaan (SJPP) guarantee scheme |  | Amount: Up to RM20 million Financing Guarantee: Up to 80\% <br> Guarantee Fee: Up to $1 \%$ per year <br> Tenure: Up to 10 years | SJPP |
| Digitalisation Grant | Digitalisation; upgrade sales, inventory and digital accounting systems | Amount: Up to RM5,000 | Not Available |
| Market Development Grant | Exports; Malaysian made products or services | Lifetime Limit: RM300,000 | MATRADE |
| Productivity-Linked Wage System Implementation Grant Programme (G-PLWS) | Not Available | Not Available | MOF |
| Tourism Sector Matching Grant (GSSP) | Not Available | Not Available | MOF |
| Gamelan Matching Grant (GAMELAN) | Not Available | Not Available | MOF |
| Cultural Sector Matching Grant (GSSK) | Not Available | Not Available | MOTAC |
| International \& Chartered Flights Stimulus Grant (GSPC) | Not Available | Not Available | MOF |

Note: BPMP = Bank Pembangunan Malaysia Berhad; SJPP = Syarikat Jaminan Pembiayaan Perniagaan; MATRADE = Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation; MOF = Ministry of Finance; MOTAC = Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture

ACCCIM

# Malaysia's Business and Economic Conditions Survey (M-BECS) 

This survey is to gauge Malaysia's business and economic conditions in the first half-year of 2023 (1H 2023: Jan-Jun 2023) and prospects for the second half-year of 2023 (2H 2023: Jul-Dec 2023) and beyond.
The survey results will be used as an input to prepare memoranda concerning domestic economic and industry issues, including public policies impacting the business community for submission to the Government and relevant Ministries for their consideration. ALL INFORMATION WILL BE TREATED IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE.
We seek your kind cooperation to return the duly completed questionnaire to ACCCIM Secretariat by 30 June 2023 (Email: socio-economic@acccim.org.my / Fax: 03-4260 3080). Thank you for your support and cooperation.

## SECTION A: BUSINESS BACKGROUND

**If you have multiple businesses, please refer to the principal business/sector when answering the questions.

## A1. Constituent Members:



## Associate Members:

Federation of ChinesePhysicians and Medicine Dealers Associations of Malaysia
Malaysian Wood Industries Association
$\square{ }_{20}$ Malaysian Textile Manufacturers Association
${ }_{21}$ Malaysia Mobile Content Provider Association

Malaysian Furniture CouncilFederation of Goldsmith and Jewellers Association of Malaysia
The Federation of Malaysia Hardware, Machinery \& Building Materials Dealers' Association
Malaysia Fujian Chamber of Commerce and IndustryPawnbroker's Association of MalaysiaMalaysia Retailers Association
Malaysian Association of Convention \& Exhibition Organisers \& Suppliers Malaysia Teochew Chamber of Commerce
Malaysian Photovoltaic Industry Association

Malaysian Nail Technicians \& Make Up Association
Malaysian Hairdressing AssociationAutomotive Accessories Traders Association of MalaysiaMalaysia Guangxi Chamber of CommercePersatuan Anggun
Menawan MalaysiaMalaysian Wood Moulding \& Joinery CouncilMalaysia Stationery Importers and Exporters Association
$\square{ }_{39}$ Malaysia Printers Association
$\square{ }_{39}$ Federation of Sundry Goods Merchants Associations of Malaysia
$\square{ }_{40}$ Branding Association of Malaysia
[4] Persatuan Pemborong MalaysiaPersatuan Ubat Tradisional dan Makanan Kesihatan China-Malaysia

A2. Type of principal industry or sub-sector: [Please select only ONE (1)]Agriculture, forestry and fishery
Mining and quarrying
Manufacturing
Construction
Wholesale and retail trade
Trading (imports and exports)
Tourism, shopping, hotels, restaurants, recreation and entertainment
Transportation, forwarding and warehousing
Professional and business services
Finance and insurance
Real estate
Information and Communications Technology (ICT)
A3. Annual turnover:
Less than RM300k
RM300k to < RM3mil
RM3mil to < RM15mil
RM15mil to < RM20mil
RM20mil to $\leq$ RM50mil
. More than RM50mil
A4. Number of full-time employees:Less than 5
5 to 29
30 to 74
75 to 200
. More than 200
A5. Please indicate the share of total sales generated from overseas market:

| $\square$ | $0 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| $\square_{2}$ | $1 \%$ to $25 \%$ |
| $\square_{3}$ | $26 \%$ to $50 \%$ |
| $\square_{5}$ | $51 \%$ to $75 \%$ |
| $\square_{8}$ | $76 \%$ to $99 \%$ |
| $\square_{6}$ | $100 \%$ |

A6. Please indicate the share of foreign employees to total employees:
$1 \%$ to $25 \%$
$26 \%$ to $50 \%$
51\% to $75 \%$
$76 \%$ to $99 \%$
100\%

| B1. Overall economic conditions and outlook:(Tickr perrow) Better Neutral Worse |  |  | B2. Overall business conditions and outlook: |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | (Tickr per row) Better | Neutral | Worse |
| 1H 2023 | 2 | $\square$ | 1H2023 | $\square$ | $\square$ |
| 2H 2023 |  |  | 2H 2023 | 2 |  |
| 1H 2024 |  |  | 1H 2024 |  |  |
| Estimation for 2023 |  |  | Estimation for 2023 |  |  |
| Forecast for 2024 |  | $\square$ | Forecast for 2024 |  | $\square$ |

B3. Which of the following factors may adversely affect your business performance in $\mathbf{1 H} \mathbf{2 0 2 3}$ ? [Please select at least THREE (3)]

|  | Changing consumer behaviour | 11 Declining business and consumer sentiment |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | High operating cost and cash flow problem | 12.20 |
|  | Supply chain disruptions | ${ }_{13}$ Lower external demand |
|  | Shortage of raw materials | Lower domestic demand |
|  | Increase in prices of raw materials | Increase in bad debt and delayed payments |
|  | Shortage of workers | ESG compliance |
|  | Digital disruption | ${ }_{\square 1}$ Climate-related risk |
|  | Difficult to secure financing |  |
|  | Availability of skilled labour |  |
|  | The Ringgit's fluctuation |  |

B4. Performance and Forecast

Note: $N / A=$ Not Applicable $N / R=$ Not Relevant

## B4.1 Overall


iv. Overall sales revenue


## B4.2 Domestic sales

i. Sales revenue
$\diamond N / A$ or $N / R$
ii. Price level
$\diamond N / A$ or $N / R$

Current Performance Actual for 1H 2023 (Jan-Jun) compared to 2H 2022 (Jul-Dec)

 In

|  | Forecast |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Expectatio compar | $\begin{aligned} & \text { ns for } 2 \mathrm{H} 20 \\ & \text { d to } 1 \mathrm{H} 202 \end{aligned}$ | 23 (Jul-Dec) <br> (Jan-Jun) |
| Better | Neutral | Worse |
| $\square$ | $\square$ | $\square$ |
| $\square$ | $\square$ | $\square$ |
| $\square$ Less th | n 50\% |  |
| $\square 50 \%$ to | 4\% |  |
| $\square 75 \%$ to | 90\% |  |
| $\square$ More th | an 90\% |  |
| Increase | Unchanged | Decrease |
| $\square 1-5 \%$ | $\bigcirc$ | - 1-5\% |
| $\square 6-10 \%$ |  | $\square 6-10 \%$ |
| $\square>10 \%$ |  | ㅁ>>10\% |
| Increase | Unchanged | Decrease |
| $\square 1-5 \%$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\square 1-5 \%$ |
| $\square 6-10 \%$ |  | $\square 6-10 \%$ |
| $\square>10 \%$ |  | $\square>10 \%$ |
| $\square 1-5 \%$ | $\bigcirc$ | $\square 1-5 \%$ |
| $\square 6-10 \%$ |  | $\square 6-10 \%$ |
| $\square>10 \%$ |  | $\square>10 \%$ |

Appendix 3

| (B4 cont.) <br> Note: N/A=Not Applicable $N / R=$ Not Relevant | Current Performance <br> Actual for 1H 2023 (Jan-Jun) compared to 2H 2022 (Jul-Dec) |  |  | Forecast <br> Expectations for 2H 2023 (Jul-Dec) compared to 1H 2023 (Jan-Jun) |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| B4.3 Foreign sales <br> i. Sales revenue $\diamond N / A$ or $N / R$ | Increase 1-5\% 6-10\% > 10\% | Unchanged | Decrease 1-5\% 6-10\% > 10\% | Increase 1-5\% 6-10\% > 10\% | Unchanged | Decrease 1-5\% 6-10\% > 10\% |
| ii. Price level $\diamond N / A$ or N/R | 1-5\% 6-10\% > 10\% | $\bigcirc$ | 1-5\% 6-10\% > 10\% | 1-5\% 6-10\% > 10\% | $\bigcirc$ | 1-5\% 6-10\% > 10\% |
| B4.4 Business operations <br> i. Production volume N/A or N/R | Increase 1-5\% 6-10\% > 10\% | Unchanged | Decrease 1-5\% 6-10\% > 10\% | Increase 1-5\% 6-10\% > 10\% | Unchanged | Decrease 1-5\% 6-10\% > 10\% |
| ii. Inventory or stock level $\diamond N / A$ or $N / R$ | 1-5\% 6-10\% > 10\% |  | 1-5\% 6-10\% > 10\% | 1-5\% 6-10\% > 10\% | $\bigcirc$ | ㅁ 1-5\% 6-10\% > 10\% |
| B4.5 Cost of raw materials <br> i. Local <br> $\diamond N / A$ or $N / R$ | Increase 1-5\% 6-10\% > 10\% | Unchanged | Decrease 1-5\% 6-10\% > 10\% | Increase 1-5\% 6-10\% > 10\% | Unchanged | Decrease 1-5\% 6-10\% > 10\% |
| ii. Imported <br> $\diamond N / A$ or $N / R$ | 1-5\% 6-10\% > 10\% |  | 1-5\% 6-10\% > 10\% | 1-5\% 6-10\% > 10\% | $\bigcirc$ | ㅁ 1-5\% <br> $\square 6-10 \%$ <br> $\square>10 \%$ |
| B4.6 Manpower <br> i. Number of employees | Increase 1-5 6-10 > 10 | Unchanged | Decrease 1-5 6-10 $>10$ | Increase 1-5 6-10 > 10 | Unchanged | Decrease 1-5 6-10 > 10 |
| ii. Wage growth | 1-5\% 6-10\% > 10\% |  | 1-5\% 6-10\% > 10\% | 1-5\% 6-10\% > 10\% | $\bigcirc$ | 1-5\% 6-10\% > 10\% |
| B4.7 Others <br> i. Capital expenditure $\diamond N / A$ or $N / R$ | Increase 1-5\% 6-10\% > 10\% | Unchanged | Decrease 1-5\% 6-10\% $>10 \%$ | Increase 1-5\% 6-10\% > 10\% | Unchanged | Decrease 1-5\% 6-10\% > 10\% |

## Quality of public service delivery

C1. Please indicate the level of satisfaction when interacting with the following Ministries and government agencies.
Note: Please tick for "No interaction" if you have not interacted with the respective authority in the past few years.

1. Effectiveness of accessibility
2. Transparency of information
3. Timeliness
4. Staff attitude
5. Staff competency
6. Effectiveness of communication
7. Problem-solving mindset
8. Online services
9. Effectiveness of accessibility
10. Transparency of information
11. Timeliness
12. Staff attitude
13. Staff competency
14. Effectiveness of communication
15. Problem-solving mindset
16. Online services
17. Effectiveness of accessibility
18. Transparency of information
19. Timeliness
20. Staff attitude
21. Staff competency
22. Effectiveness of communication
23. Problem-solving mindset
24. Online services
e)Inland Revenue Board (IRB)
Lembaga Hasil Dalam Negeri (LHDN)

b) Malaysian
Development

(MIDA) $\quad$| Investment |
| ---: |
| Authority | (MIDA)




## d)SME Corporation Malaysia

 (SME Corp.)
f) Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD)No interaction

g) Local Authorities (PBT)

Pihak Berkuasa Tempatan (PBT)

1. Effectiveness of accessibility
2. Transparency of information
3. Timeliness
4. Staff attitude
5. Staff competency
6. Effectiveness of communication
7. Problem-solving mindset
8. Online services
9. Effectiveness of accessibility
10. Transparency of information
11. Timeliness
12. Staff attitude
13. Staff competency
14. Effectiveness of communication
15. Problem-solving mindset
16. Online services

i) Human Resource Development Corporation (HRD Corp.)
Pembangunan Sumber Manusia Berhad (PSMB)

h) Department of $\quad \begin{array}{r}\text { Appendix } 3 \\ \text { Labour }\end{array}$ (JTK) Jabatan Tenaga Kerja (JTK)

j) Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC)


C2. Please share your experiences when engaging with the above-mentioned or other Ministries and government agencies (optional).

## Closing Date: 30 June 2023

| Company name | $:$ | Respondent's name | $:$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Email address | $:$ | Contact number | $:$ |

Disclaimer: The information provided in this survey will be treated in the strictest confidence.
~Thank you very much for your cooperation ~

| MALAYSIA'S BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS SURVEY (M-BECS) RESULTS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| FOR THE 2ND HALF-YEAR OF 2023 (JUL-DEC 2023) AND OUTLOOK FOR THE 1ST HALF-YEAR OF 2024 (JAN-JUN 2024) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | $\stackrel{\text { ¢ }}{ }$ | 䂞 |
| Section A: Business Background |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| A Size of business operations |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | SME | 83.9\% | 55.6\% | 89.3\% | 91.2\% | 94.5\% | 96.6\% | 98.0\% | 95.8\% | 96.1\% | 80.0\% | 89.7\% | 89.5\% | 91.5\% |
|  | Large enterprise | 16.1\% | 44.4\% | 10.7\% | 8.8\% | 5.5\% | 3.4\% | 2.0\% | 4.2\% | 3.9\% | 20.0\% | 10.3\% | 10.5\% | 8.5\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | 9 | 122 | 57 | 163 | 29 | 49 | 24 | 102 | 50 | 29 | 19 | 684 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| A5 Market orientation |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 100\% sales from domestic market | 32.3\% | 33.3\% | 24.6\% | 77.2\% | 56.4\% | 34.5\% | 49.0\% | 26.1\% | 64.7\% | 58.0\% | 65.5\% | 42.1\% | 49.9\% |
|  | 76\%.99\% sales from domestic market | 32.3\% | 22.2\% | 45.9\% | 15.8\% | 29.4\% | 41.4\% | 34.7\% | 34.8\% | 27.5\% | 22.0\% | 34.5\% | 42.1\% | 32.1\% |
|  | $51 \%$.75\% sales from domestic market | 16.1\% | 22.2\% | 9.8\% | 3.5\% | 8.0\% | 13.8\% | 12.2\% | 26.1\% | 5.9\% | 12.0\% | 0.0\% | 10.5\% | 9.4\% |
|  | 26\%.50\% sales from domestic market | 12.9\% | 11.1\% | 8.2\% | 3.5\% | 3.1\% | 0.0\% | 2.0\% | 13.0\% | 1.0\% | 4.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 4.2\% |
|  | 1\% 25\% sales from domestic market | 6.5\% | 0.0\% | 9.8\% | 0.0\% | 2.5\% | 3.4\% | 2.0\% | 0.0\% | 1.0\% | 4.0\% | 0.0\% | 5.3\% | 3.5\% |
|  | 100\% sales from overseas market | 0.0\% | 11.1\% | 1.6\% | 0.0\% | 0.6\% | 6.9\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.9\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | 9 | 122 | 57 | 163 | 29 | 49 | 23 | 102 | 50 | 29 | 19 | 683 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| A6 Share of total employees |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 100\% local employes | 19.4\% | 33.3\% | 18.0\% | 38.6\% | 60.1\% | 66.5\% | 50.0\% | 60.9\% | 76.5\% | 62.0\% | 69.0\% | 63.2\% | 51.2\% |
|  | 76\%.99\% local employees | 29.0\% | 11.1\% | 39.3\% | 28.1\% | 27.6\% | 20.7\% | 37.5\% | 21.7\% | 14.7\% | 18.0\% | 24.1\% | 31.6\% | 27.1\% |
|  | 51\%.75\% local employees | 16.1\% | 44.4\% | 25.4\% | 10.5\% | 9.2\% | 6.9\% | 10.4\% | 13.0\% | 5.9\% | 16.0\% | 6.9\% | 5.3\% | 12.9\% |
|  | 25\%.50\% local employees | 25.8\% | 0.0\% | 13.9\% | 15.8\% | 1.8\% | 3.4\% | 0.0\% | 4.3\% | 2.0\% | 4.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 6.3\% |
|  | 1\%-25\% local employes | 6.5\% | 0.0\% | 3.3\% | 7.0\% | 1.2\% | 0.0\% | 2.1\% | 0.0\% | 1.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 2.1\% |
|  | 100\% foreign employees | 3.2\% | 11.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 3.4\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.4\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | 9 | 122 | 57 | 163 | 29 | 48 | 23 | 102 | 50 | 29 | 19 | 682 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Section B: Overall Assessment |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Better | 6.5\% | 0.0\% | 9.0\% | 7.0\% | 10.5\% | 6.9\% | 8.3\% | 25.0\% | 15.0\% | 12.5\% | 24.1\% | 22.2\% | 11.5\% |
|  | Neutral | 61.3\% | 100.0\% | 55.7\% | 63.2\% | 55.6\% | 55.2\% | 62.5\% | 50.0\% | 63.0\% | 58.3\% | 62.1\% | 55.6\% | 58.9\% |
|  | Worse | 32.3\% | 0.0\% | 35.2\% | 29.8\% | 34.0\% | 37.9\% | 29.2\% | 25.0\% | 22.0\% | 29.2\% | 13.8\% | 22.2\% | 29.5\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | 9 | 122 | 57 | 162 | 29 | 48 | 24 | 100 | 48 | 29 | 18 | 677 |
| 1H2024 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Better | 32.3\% | 22.2\% | 27.5\% | 25.0\% | 23.8\% | 20.7\% | 35.6\% | 29.2\% | 37.8\% | 29.8\% | 27.6\% | 16.7\% | 28.2\% |
|  | Neutral | 45.2\% | 77.8\% | 45.0\% | 51.8\% | 56.3\% | 41.4\% | 37.8\% | 50.0\% | 45.9\% | 57.4\% | 51.7\% | 66.7\% | 50.2\% |
|  | Worse | 22.6\% | 0.0\% | 27.5\% | 23.2\% | 20.0\% | 37.9\% | 26.7\% | 20.8\% | 16.3\% | 12.8\% | 20.7\% | 16.7\% | 21.6\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | 9 | 120 | 56 | 160 | 29 | 45 | 24 | 98 | 47 | 29 | 18 | 666 |
| 2 H 2024 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Better | 45.2\% | 66.7\% | 40.0\% | 33.9\% | 34.6\% | 27.6\% | 48.9\% | 50.0\% | 49.0\% | 42.6\% | 41.4\% | 33.3\% | 40.6\% |
|  | Neutral | 41.9\% | 33.3\% | 44.2\% | 46.4\% | 49.7\% | 55.2\% | 33.3\% | 37.5\% | 41.8\% | 46.8\% | 48.3\% | 61.1\% | 45.4\% |
|  | Worse | 12.9\% | 0.0\% | 15.8\% | 19.6\% | 15.7\% | 17.2\% | 17.8\% | 12.5\% | 9.2\% | 10.6\% | 10.3\% | 5.6\% | 14.0\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | - | 120 | 56 | 159 | 29 | 45 | 24 | 98 | 47 | 29 | 18 | 665 |
| Estimation for 2023 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Better | 19.4\% | 11.1\% | 13.3\% | 12.5\% | 11.2\% | 17.2\% | 19.6\% | 16.7\% | 22.2\% | 12.5\% | 20.7\% | 22.2\% | 15.5\% |
|  | Neutral | 41.9\% | 88.9\% | 56.7\% | 66.1\% | 54.0\% | 41.4\% | 45.7\% | 66.7\% | 58.6\% | 66.7\% | 62.1\% | 66.7\% | 57.0\% |
|  | Worse | 38.7\% | 0.0\% | 30.0\% | 21.4\% | 34.8\% | 41.4\% | 34.8\% | 16.7\% | 19.2\% | 20.8\% | 17.2\% | 11.1\% | 27.5\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | 9 | 120 | 56 | 161 | 29 | 46 | 24 | 99 | 48 | 29 | 18 | 670 |
| Forecast for 2024 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Better | 41.9\% | 44.4\% | 32.5\% | 32.7\% | 35.0\% | 24.1\% | 41.3\% | 41.7\% | 47.5\% | 43.8\% | 37.9\% | 22.2\% | 37.3\% |
|  | Neutral | 35.5\% | 33.3\% | 48.3\% | 43.6\% | 48.1\% | 51.7\% | 37.0\% | 33.3\% | 42.4\% | 47.9\% | 41.4\% | 61.1\% | 45.1\% |
|  | Worse | 22.6\% | 22.2\% | 19.2\% | 23.6\% | 16.9\% | 24.1\% | 21.7\% | 25.0\% | 10.1\% | 8.3\% | 20.7\% | 16.7\% | 17.7\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | 9 | 120 | 55 | 160 | 29 | 46 | 24 | 99 | 48 | 29 | 18 | 668 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| B2 2 Business conditions and prospects |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 2 H 2023 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Better | 9.7\% | 11.1\% | 14.9\% | 10.5\% | 15.4\% | 6.9\% | 14.9\% | 25.0\% | 24.0\% | 14.9\% | 20.7\% | 16.7\% | 16.0\% |
|  | Neutral | 58.1\% | 77.8\% | 48.8\% | 68.4\% | 50.0\% | 51.7\% | 46.8\% | 54.2\% | 58.0\% | 55.3\% | 62.1\% | 66.7\% | 54.6\% |
|  | Worse | 32.3\% | 11.1\% | 36.4\% | 21.1\% | 34.6\% | 41.4\% | 38.3\% | 20.8\% | 18.0\% | 29.8\% | 17.2\% | 16.7\% | 29.4\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | 9 | 121 | 57 | 162 | 29 | 47 | 24 | 100 | 47 | 29 | 18 | 674 |
| 1H2024 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Better | 25.8\% | 22.2\% | 24.6\% | 28.6\% | 26.9\% | 20.7\% | 30.4\% | 29.2\% | 38.8\% | 30.4\% | 37.9\% | 22.2\% | 28.9\% |
|  | Neutral | 45.2\% | 77.8\% | 50.8\% | 50.0\% | 56.9\% | 44.8\% | 41.3\% | 58.3\% | 49.0\% | 58.7\% | 44.8\% | 66.7\% | 52.1\% |
|  | Worse | 29.0\% | 0.0\% | 24.6\% | 21.4\% | 16.3\% | 34.5\% | 28.3\% | 12.5\% | 12.2\% | 10.9\% | 17.2\% | 11.1\% | 19.0\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | 9 | 118 | 56 | 160 | 29 | 46 | 24 | 98 | 46 | 29 | 18 | 664 |
| ${ }^{2 H} 2024$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Better | 45.2\% | 55.6\% | 39.8\% | 32.1\% | 40.0\% | 31.0\% | 37.8\% | 50.0\% | 48.0\% | 37.0\% | 41.4\% | 22.2\% | 40.1\% |
|  | Neutral | 41.9\% | 44.4\% | 42.4\% | 48.2\% | 45.6\% | 51.7\% | 42.2\% | 37.5\% | 40.8\% | 54.3\% | 48.3\% | 77.8\% | 45.7\% |
|  | Worse | 12.9\% | 0.0\% | 17.8\% | 19.6\% | 14.4\% | 17.2\% | 20.0\% | 12.5\% | 11.2\% | 8.7\% | 10.3\% | 0.0\% | 14.2\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | - | 118 | 56 | 160 | 29 | 45 | 24 | 98 | 46 | 29 | 18 | 663 |
| Estimation for 2023 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Better | 16.1\% | 11.1\% | 16.9\% | 17.9\% | 12.5\% | 13.8\% | 21.7\% | 20.8\% | 25.5\% | 10.6\% | 27.6\% | 22.2\% | 17.6\% |
|  | Neutral | 45.2\% | 88.9\% | 53.4\% | 62.5\% | 55.0\% | 44.8\% | 41.3\% | 58.3\% | 59.2\% | 66.0\% | 58.6\% | 72.2\% | 56.1\% |
|  | Worse | 38.7\% | 0.0\% | 29.7\% | 19.6\% | 32.5\% | 41.4\% | 37.0\% | 20.8\% | 15.3\% | 23.4\% | 13.8\% | 5.6\% | 26.3\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | 9 | 118 | 56 | 160 | 29 | 46 | 24 | 98 | 47 | 29 | 18 | 665 |
| Forecast for 2024 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Better | 51.6\% | 44.4\% | 35.6\% | 33.9\% | 36.9\% | 24.1\% | 41.3\% | 41.7\% | 46.9\% | 46.8\% | 44.8\% | 22.2\% | 39.2\% |
|  | Neutral | 35.5\% | 44.4\% | 43.2\% | 42.9\% | 47.5\% | 55.2\% | 32.6\% | 33.3\% | 42.9\% | 42.6\% | 37.9\% | 66.7\% | 43.6\% |
|  | Worse | 12.9\% | 11.1\% | 21.2\% | 23.2\% | 15.6\% | 20.7\% | 26.1\% | 25.0\% | 10.2\% | 10.6\% | 17.2\% | 11.1\% | 17.1\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 |  | 118 | 56 | 160 | 29 | 46 | 24 | 98 | 47 | 29 | 18 | 665 |


| MALAYSIA'S BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS SURVEY (M-BECS) RESULTS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| FOR THE 2ND HALF-YEAR OF 2023 (JUL-DEC 2023) AND OUTLOOK FOR THE 1ST HALF-YEAR OF 2024 (JAN-JUN 2024) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 들 } \\ & 0.0 \\ & 0.0 \\ & 0.0 \\ & 0 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 흔 |  |
|  | Which of the following factor(s) may adversely affect your busines | performa | in 2 H 20 | (Multiple-a | r allowe |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Changing consumer behaviour | 19.4\% | 11.1\% | 27.9\% | 22.8\% | 44.2\% | 31.0\% | 61.2\% | 20.8\% | 36.3\% | 32.0\% | 41.4\% | 21.1\% | 34.9\% |
|  | High operating cost and cash flow problem | 32.3\% | 33.3\% | 39.3\% | 49.1\% | 48.5\% | 27.6\% | 38.8\% | 29.2\% | 35.3\% | 22.0\% | 34.5\% | 26.3\% | 38.6\% |
|  | Supply chain disruption | 12.9\% | 11.1\% | 13.9\% | 17.5\% | 14.7\% | 20.7\% | 10.2\% | 16.7\% | 6.9\% | 4.0\% | 6.9\% | 10.5\% | 12.3\% |
|  | Increase in prices of raw materials | 48.4\% | 22.2\% | 54.9\% | 63.2\% | 49.1\% | 44.8\% | 36.7\% | 33.3\% | 37.3\% | 20.0\% | 48.3\% | 36.8\% | 45.0\% |
|  | Shortage of workers | 35.5\% | 11.1\% | 25.4\% | 42.1\% | 23.9\% | 17.2\% | 26.5\% | 45.8\% | 33.3\% | 14.0\% | 37.9\% | 0.0\% | 27.3\% |
|  | Digital disruption | 3.2\% | 11.1\% | 4.9\% | 7.0\% | 10.4\% | 3.4\% | 8.2\% | 8.3\% | 7.8\% | 12.0\% | 10.3\% | 0.0\% | 7.7\% |
|  | Difficult to secure financing | 16.1\% | 22.2\% | 13.9\% | 26.3\% | 17.8\% | 6.9\% | 4.1\% | 12.5\% | 15.7\% | 14.0\% | 34.5\% | 5.3\% | 15.9\% |
|  | Availability of skilled labour | 38.7\% | 22.2\% | 30.3\% | 49.1\% | 22.7\% | 10.3\% | 16.3\% | 33.3\% | 37.3\% | 10.0\% | 27.6\% | 10.5\% | 27.5\% |
|  | The Ringgit's fluctuation | 58.1\% | 55.6\% | 47.5\% | 47.4\% | 50.9\% | 72.4\% | 63.3\% | 62.5\% | 42.2\% | 60.0\% | 51.7\% | 42.1\% | 51.8\% |
|  | Declining business and consumer sentiment | 19.4\% | 11.1\% | 31.1\% | 19.3\% | 44.2\% | 31.0\% | 44.9\% | 29.2\% | 41.2\% | 32.0\% | 41.4\% | 47.4\% | 35.8\% |
|  | Political climate | 16.1\% | 22.2\% | 29.5\% | 26.3\% | 30.1\% | 37.9\% | 26.5\% | 29.2\% | 30.4\% | 24.0\% | 31.0\% | 42.1\% | 28.9\% |
|  | Lower external demand | 25.8\% | 11.1\% | 34.4\% | 1.8\% | 9.8\% | 24.1\% | 6.1\% | 33.3\% | 5.9\% | 12.0\% | 20.7\% | 10.5\% | 15.5\% |
|  | Lower domestic demand | 25.8\% | 22.2\% | 38.5\% | 35.1\% | 48.5\% | 31.0\% | 32.7\% | 25.0\% | 22.5\% | 28.0\% | 37.9\% | 26.3\% | 35.1\% |
|  | Increase in bad debt and delay payments | 16.1\% | 11.1\% | 22.1\% | 33.3\% | 26.4\% | 13.8\% | 6.1\% | 33.3\% | 21.6\% | 16.0\% | 13.8\% | 21.1\% | 21.6\% |
|  | ESG compliance | 9.7\% | 22.2\% | 7.4\% | 12.3\% | 8.0\% | 6.9\% | 8.2\% | 16.7\% | 9.8\% | 6.0\% | 6.9\% | 10.5\% | 8.9\% |
|  | Climate-related risk | 38.7\% | 11.1\% | 4.9\% | 8.8\% | 5.5\% | 6.9\% | 4.1\% | 12.5\% | 2.9\% | 8.0\% | 6.9\% | 5.3\% | 7.3\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | 9 | 122 | 57 | 163 | 29 | 49 | 24 | 102 | 50 | 29 | 19 | 684 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| B | Performance and forecast |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Performance: 2H 2023 (Jul-Dec 2023) compared to 1H 2023 (Jan-Jun 2023) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Overall |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| i | Cash flows conditions |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Better | 6.5\% | 11.1\% | 8.2\% | 10.5\% | 10.4\% | 13.8\% | 10.2\% | 4.2\% | 16.8\% | 16.3\% | 20.7\% | 16.7\% | 11.7\% |
|  | Neutral | 83.9\% | 77.8\% | 68.0\% | 61.4\% | 60.7\% | 65.5\% | 69.4\% | 79.2\% | 70.3\% | 65.3\% | 65.5\% | 61.1\% | 66.8\% |
|  | Worse | 9.7\% | 11.1\% | 23.8\% | 28.1\% | 28.8\% | 20.7\% | 20.4\% | 16.7\% | 12.9\% | 18.4\% | 13.8\% | 22.2\% | 21.4\% |
|  | Sample size ( n ) | 31 | 9 | 122 | 57 | 163 | 29 | 49 | 24 | 101 | 49 | 29 | 18 | 681 |
| ii | Debtors' conditions |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| i | Better | 6.5\% | 0.0\% | 5.0\% | 7.1\% | 2.5\% | 13.8\% | 0.0\% | 4.3\% | 8.0\% | 6.1\% | 17.2\% | 16.7\% | 6.0\% |
|  | Neutral | 61.3\% | 100.0\% | 66.1\% | 55.4\% | 62.5\% | 72.4\% | 76.1\% | 69.6\% | 78.0\% | 77.6\% | 69.0\% | 55.6\% | 68.1\% |
|  | Worse | 32.3\% | 0.0\% | 28.9\% | 37.5\% | 35.0\% | 13.8\% | 23.9\% | 26.1\% | 14.0\% | 16.3\% | 13.8\% | 27.8\% | 25.9\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | 9 | 121 | 56 | 160 | 29 | 46 | 23 | 100 | 49 | 29 | 18 | 671 |
| ii | Capacity utilisation level |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Less than 50\% | 34.8\% | 22.2\% | 32.7\% | 40.0\% | 42.3\% | 33.3\% | 59.3\% | 28.6\% | 40.7\% | 36.4\% | 41.2\% | 30.0\% | 38.3\% |
|  | 50\% to 74\% | 43.5\% | 44.4\% | 43.6\% | 37.5\% | 40.2\% | 61.1\% | 29.6\% | 50.0\% | 35.2\% | 42.4\% | 11.8\% | 40.0\% | 40.0\% |
|  | 75\% to 90\% | 13.0\% | 11.1\% | 20.0\% | 20.0\% | 15.5\% | 0.0\% | 7.4\% | 14.3\% | 13.0\% | 15.2\% | 29.4\% | 30.0\% | 16.2\% |
|  | More than $90 \%$ | 8.7\% | 22.2\% | 3.6\% | 2.5\% | 2.1\% | 5.6\% | 3.7\% | 7.1\% | 11.1\% | 6.1\% | 17.6\% | 0.0\% | 5.5\% |
|  | Sample size ( n ) | 23 | 9 | 110 | 40 | 97 | 18 | 27 | 14 | 54 | 33 | 17 | 10 | 452 |
| iv | Overall sales revenue |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Increased 1\%-5\% | 25.8\% | 22.2\% | 18.3\% | 15.8\% | 20.9\% | 13.8\% | 20.8\% | 37.5\% | 24.5\% | 18.4\% | 24.1\% | 16.7\% | 20.9\% |
|  | Increased 6\%-10\% | 6.5\% | 33.3\% | 10.8\% | 17.5\% | 11.0\% | 6.9\% | 27.1\% | 12.5\% | 15.7\% | 30.6\% | 17.2\% | 11.1\% | 15.0\% |
|  | Increased > $10 \%$ | 19.4\% | 11.1\% | 10.0\% | 12.3\% | 8.0\% | 13.8\% | 0.0\% | 12.5\% | 10.8\% | 10.2\% | 10.3\% | 22.2\% | 10.2\% |
|  | Unchanged | 6.5\% | 22.2\% | 20.8\% | 26.3\% | 16.0\% | 24.1\% | 18.8\% | 16.7\% | 24.5\% | 18.4\% | 31.0\% | 33.3\% | 20.5\% |
|  | Decreased 1\%-5\% | 22.6\% | 11.1\% | 9.2\% | 8.8\% | 12.9\% | 6.9\% | 8.3\% | 0.0\% | 8.8\% | 6.1\% | 6.9\% | 11.1\% | 9.9\% |
|  | Decreased 6\%-10\% | 3.2\% | 0.0\% | 7.5\% | 7.0\% | 8.6\% | 10.3\% | 6.3\% | 4.2\% | 3.9\% | 2.0\% | 6.9\% | 5.6\% | 6.3\% |
|  | Decreased $>10 \%$ | 16.1\% | 0.0\% | 23.3\% | 12.3\% | 22.7\% | 24.1\% | 18.8\% | 16.7\% | 11.8\% | 14.3\% | 3.4\% | 0.0\% | 17.2\% |
|  | Sample size ( n ) | 31 | 9 | 120 | 57 | 163 | 29 | 48 | 24 | 102 | 49 | 29 | 18 | 679 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| II | Domestic market |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| i | Sales revenue |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Increased 1\%-5\% | 22.6\% | 37.5\% | 20.9\% | 24.0\% | 23.9\% | 18.5\% | 26.7\% | 39.1\% | 31.3\% | 23.4\% | 22.2\% | 18.8\% | 24.8\% |
|  | Increased 6\%-10\% | 12.9\% | 12.5\% | 12.2\% | 14.0\% | 11.0\% | 7.4\% | 22.2\% | 4.3\% | 12.5\% | 14.9\% | 14.8\% | 6.3\% | 12.5\% |
|  | Increased $>10 \%$ | 9.7\% | 25.0\% | 7.0\% | 8.0\% | 6.5\% | 7.4\% | 0.0\% | 8.7\% | 14.6\% | 8.5\% | 7.4\% | 18.8\% | 8.4\% |
|  | Unchanged | 6.5\% | 25.0\% | 29.6\% | 30.0\% | 16.8\% | 29.6\% | 20.0\% | 13.0\% | 22.9\% | 23.4\% | 22.2\% | 43.8\% | 22.7\% |
|  | Decreased 1\%-5\% | 25.8\% | 0.0\% | 8.7\% | 6.0\% | 12.9\% | 7.4\% | 6.7\% | 4.3\% | 6.3\% | 10.6\% | 18.5\% | 12.5\% | 10.2\% |
|  | Decreased 6\%-10\% | 3.2\% | 0.0\% | 5.2\% | 12.0\% | 11.6\% | 7.4\% | 8.9\% | 13.0\% | 3.1\% | 2.1\% | 11.1\% | 0.0\% | 7.3\% |
|  | Decreased $>10 \%$ | 19.4\% | 0.0\% | 16.5\% | 6.0\% | 17.4\% | 22.2\% | 15.6\% | 17.4\% | 9.4\% | 17.0\% | 3.7\% | 0.0\% | 14.1\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | 8 | 115 | 50 | 155 | 27 | 45 | 23 | 96 | 47 | 27 | 16 | 640 |
| ii | Price level |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Increased 1\%-5\% | 36.7\% | 25.0\% | 27.0\% | 26.9\% | 35.3\% | 20.0\% | 40.9\% | 30.4\% | 30.3\% | 23.9\% | 35.7\% | 30.8\% | 31.0\% |
|  | Increased 6\%-10\% | 6.7\% | 25.0\% | 13.0\% | 15.4\% | 19.0\% | 20.0\% | 22.7\% | 8.7\% | 16.9\% | 10.9\% | 17.9\% | 15.4\% | 16.0\% |
|  | Increased $>10 \%$ | 13.3\% | 12.5\% | 15.7\% | 13.5\% | 17.0\% | 20.0\% | 11.4\% | 8.7\% | 11.2\% | 19.6\% | 10.7\% | 7.7\% | 14.5\% |
|  | Unchanged | 20.0\% | 37.5\% | 28.7\% | 28.8\% | 15.7\% | 32.0\% | 18.2\% | 30.4\% | 29.2\% | 30.4\% | 25.0\% | 30.8\% | 24.8\% |
|  | Decreased 1\%-5\% | 10.0\% | 0.0\% | 6.1\% | 9.6\% | 5.2\% | 0.0\% | 6.8\% | 0.0\% | 9.0\% | 6.5\% | 7.1\% | 0.0\% | 6.2\% |
|  | Decreased 6\%-10\% | 3.3\% | 0.0\% | 2.6\% | 3.8\% | 5.2\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 4.3\% | 3.4\% | 2.2\% | 0.0\% | 15.4\% | 3.4\% |
|  | Decreased $>10 \%$ | 10.0\% | 0.0\% | 7.0\% | 1.9\% | 2.6\% | 8.0\% | 0.0\% | 17.4\% | 0.0\% | 6.5\% | 3.6\% | 0.0\% | 4.2\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 30 | 8 | 115 | 52 | 153 | 25 | 44 | 23 | 89 | 46 | 28 | 13 | 626 |


| MALAYSIA'S BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS SURVEY (M-BECS) RESULTS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| FOR THE 2ND HALF-YEAR OF 2023 (JUL-DEC 2023) AND OUTLOOK FOR THE 1ST HALF-YEAR OF 2024 (JAN-JUN 2024) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 들 } \\ & 0.3 \\ & 0.0 \\ & 0.0 \\ & 0 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | - | J ¢ ¢ 0 |
| III Foreign market |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| i | Sales revenue |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Increased 1\%-5\% | 25.0\% | 16.7\% | 20.7\% | 45.5\% | 26.6\% | 17.6\% | 31.6\% | 33.3\% | 32.0\% | 23.5\% | 30.0\% | 12.5\% | 25.4\% |
|  | Increased $6 \%-10 \%$ | 5.0\% | 50.0\% | 8.0\% | 36.4\% | 12.5\% | 11.8\% | 5.3\% | 0.0\% | 4.0\% | 11.8\% | 0.0\% | 37.5\% | 10.7\% |
|  | Increased $>10 \%$ | 10.0\% | 16.7\% | 9.2\% | 9.1\% | 12.5\% | 5.9\% | 31.6\% | 13.3\% | 12.0\% | 23.5\% | 10.0\% | 12.5\% | 12.7\% |
|  | Unchanged | 10.0\% | 16.7\% | 35.6\% | 9.1\% | 12.5\% | 35.3\% | 31.6\% | 20.0\% | 28.0\% | 17.6\% | 40.0\% | 25.0\% | 24.7\% |
|  | Decreased $1 \%-5 \%$ | 20.0\% | 0.0\% | 14.9\% | 0.0\% | 20.3\% | 23.5\% | 0.0\% | 6.7\% | 12.0\% | 5.9\% | 20.0\% | 12.5\% | 14.0\% |
|  | Decreased 6\%-10\% | 10.0\% | 0.0\% | 4.6\% | 0.0\% | 9.4\% | 5.9\% | 0.0\% | 13.3\% | 12.0\% | 11.8\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 6.7\% |
|  | Decreased $>10 \%$ | 20.0\% | 0.0\% | 6.9\% | 0.0\% | 6.3\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 13.3\% | 0.0\% | 5.9\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 5.7\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 20 | 6 | 87 | 11 | 64 | 17 | 19 | 15 | 25 | 17 | 10 | 8 | 299 |
| ii | Price level |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Increased 1\%.5\% | 23.8\% | 16.7\% | 22.4\% | 45.5\% | 31.1\% | 11.1\% | 22.2\% | 20.0\% | 34.6\% | 21.1\% | 33.3\% | 0.0\% | 25.0\% |
|  | Increased 6\%-10\% | 9.5\% | 16.7\% | 7.1\% | 9.1\% | 16.4\% | 22.2\% | 11.1\% | 26.7\% | 3.8\% | 26.3\% | 0.0\% | 42.9\% | 13.2\% |
|  | Increased > $10 \%$ | 14.3\% | 33.3\% | 8.2\% | 27.3\% | 4.9\% | 0.0\% | 11.1\% | 6.7\% | 7.7\% | 10.5\% | 11.1\% | 14.3\% | 9.1\% |
|  | Unchanged | 14.3\% | 16.7\% | 27.1\% | 9.1\% | 19.7\% | 27.8\% | 22.2\% | 20.0\% | 34.6\% | 15.8\% | 44.4\% | 14.3\% | 23.3\% |
|  | Decreased $1 \%-5 \%$ | 14.3\% | 16.7\% | 10.6\% | 0.0\% | 13.1\% | 11.1\% | 11.1\% | 0.0\% | 19.2\% | 10.5\% | 11.1\% | 14.3\% | 11.5\% |
|  | Decreased 6\%-10\% | 9.5\% | 0.0\% | 5.9\% | 0.0\% | 6.6\% | 11.1\% | 11.1\% | 6.7\% | 0.0\% | 5.3\% | 0.0\% | 14.3\% | 6.1\% |
|  | Decreased $>10 \%$ | 14.3\% | 0.0\% | 18.8\% | 9.1\% | 8.2\% | 16.7\% | 11.1\% | 20.0\% | 0.0\% | 10.5\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 11.8\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 21 | 6 | 85 | 11 | 61 | 18 | 18 | 15 | 26 | 19 | 9 | 7 | 296 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| iv | V Business operations |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| i | Production volume |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Increased 1\%.5\% | 23.3\% | 22.2\% | 22.5\% | 14.3\% | 34.5\% | 16.7\% | 35.5\% | 36.4\% | 33.3\% | 27.8\% | 13.0\% | 20.0\% | 26.1\% |
|  | Increased 6\%-10\% | 13.3\% | 11.1\% | 7.5\% | 19.0\% | 8.0\% | 11.1\% | 12.9\% | 0.0\% | 3.7\% | 16.7\% | 17.4\% | 10.0\% | 10.2\% |
|  | Increased $>10 \%$ | 3.3\% | 0.0\% | 6.7\% | 16.7\% | 8.0\% | 0.0\% | 9.7\% | 27.3\% | 13.0\% | 13.9\% | 13.0\% | 40.0\% | 10.2\% |
|  | Unchanged | 26.7\% | 55.6\% | 23.3\% | 31.0\% | 21.8\% | 38.9\% | 38.7\% | 18.2\% | 29.6\% | 19.4\% | 39.1\% | 20.0\% | 27.2\% |
|  | Decreased $1 \%-5 \%$ | 16.7\% | 0.0\% | 12.5\% | 7.1\% | 16.1\% | 0.0\% | 3.2\% | 0.0\% | 11.1\% | 5.6\% | 8.7\% | 10.0\% | 10.4\% |
|  | Decreased 6\%-10\% | 10.0\% | 11.1\% | 7.5\% | 7.1\% | 2.3\% | 11.1\% | 0.0\% | 9.1\% | 3.7\% | 5.6\% | 4.3\% | 0.0\% | 5.5\% |
|  | Decreased $>10 \%$ | 6.7\% | 0.0\% | 20.0\% | 4.8\% | 9.2\% | 22.2\% | 0.0\% | 9.1\% | 5.6\% | 11.1\% | 4.3\% | 0.0\% | 10.4\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 30 | 9 | 120 | 42 | 87 | 18 | 31 | 11 | 54 | 36 | 23 | 10 | 471 |
| ii | Inventory or stock level |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ii | Increased 1\%.5\% | 27.6\% | 22.2\% | 16.2\% | 14.3\% | 26.0\% | 19.2\% | 25.8\% | 45.5\% | 23.1\% | 20.7\% | 30.0\% | 10.0\% | 22.2\% |
|  | Increased $6 \%$-10\% | 17.2\% | 11.1\% | 17.1\% | 14.3\% | 15.8\% | 11.5\% | 12.9\% | 0.0\% | 11.5\% | 13.8\% | 5.0\% | 0.0\% | 14.0\% |
|  | Increased $>10 \%$ | 13.8\% | 0.0\% | 8.5\% | 9.5\% | 9.6\% | 15.4\% | 12.9\% | 18.2\% | 11.5\% | 17.2\% | 5.0\% | 0.0\% | 10.3\% |
|  | Unchanged | 34.5\% | 55.6\% | 37.6\% | 50.0\% | 24.0\% | 30.8\% | 32.3\% | 27.3\% | 42.3\% | 27.6\% | 50.0\% | 70.0\% | 35.1\% |
|  | Decreased $1 \%-5 \%$ | 3.4\% | 11.1\% | 11.1\% | 4.8\% | 10.3\% | 3.8\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 11.5\% | 3.4\% | 5.0\% | 0.0\% | 7.9\% |
|  | Decreased 6\%-10\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 6.0\% | 7.1\% | 4.1\% | 7.7\% | 9.7\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 3.4\% | 0.0\% | 20.0\% | 4.6\% |
|  | Decreased $>10 \%$ | 3.4\% | 0.0\% | 3.4\% | 0.0\% | 10.3\% | 11.5\% | 6.5\% | 9.1\% | 0.0\% | 13.8\% | 5.0\% | 0.0\% | 5.9\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 29 | - | 117 | 42 | 146 | 26 | 31 | 11 | 52 | 29 | 20 | 10 | 522 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| v | Cost of raw materials |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Local |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Increased 1\%-5\% | 32.1\% | 33.3\% | 32.5\% | 25.0\% | 30.8\% | 27.3\% | 41.7\% | 41.7\% | 33.3\% | 27.3\% | 39.1\% | 40.0\% | 32.2\% |
|  | Increased $6 \%-10 \%$ | 17.9\% | 22.2\% | 21.7\% | 26.9\% | 25.8\% | 18.2\% | 25.0\% | 16.7\% | 17.5\% | 33.3\% | 8.7\% | 50.0\% | 23.2\% |
|  | Increased $>10 \%$ | 25.0\% | 33.3\% | 21.7\% | 23.1\% | 21.7\% | 22.7\% | 19.4\% | 25.0\% | 24.6\% | 12.1\% | 34.8\% | 0.0\% | 22.0\% |
|  | Unchanged | 21.4\% | 11.1\% | 15.8\% | 13.5\% | 11.7\% | 22.7\% | 11.1\% | 8.3\% | 24.6\% | 12.1\% | 17.4\% | 10.0\% | 15.3\% |
|  | Decreased $1 \%-5 \%$ | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 5.0\% | 9.6\% | 7.5\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 3.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 4.0\% |
|  | Decreased 6\%-10\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 1.7\% | 1.9\% | 2.5\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 3.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 1.3\% |
|  | Decreased $>10 \%$ | 3.6\% | 0.0\% | 1.7\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 9.1\% | 2.8\% | 8.3\% | 0.0\% | 9.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 1.9\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 28 | 9 | 120 | 52 | 120 | 22 | 36 | 12 | 57 | 33 | 23 | 10 | 522 |
| ii | Imported |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Increased 1\%-5\% | 22.7\% | 22.2\% | 30.3\% | 22.7\% | 28.7\% | 27.3\% | 25.9\% | 40.0\% | 28.3\% | 20.7\% | 34.8\% | 55.6\% | 28.4\% |
|  | Increased 6\%-10\% | 13.6\% | 11.1\% | 18.3\% | 15.9\% | 22.2\% | 13.6\% | 18.5\% | 10.0\% | 9.4\% | 24.1\% | 13.0\% | 33.3\% | 17.6\% |
|  | Increased $>10 \%$ | 40.9\% | 44.4\% | 29.4\% | 38.6\% | 28.7\% | 22.7\% | 33.3\% | 30.0\% | 37.7\% | 20.7\% | 34.8\% | 11.1\% | 31.2\% |
|  | Unchanged | 9.1\% | 11.1\% | 13.8\% | 15.9\% | 13.0\% | 31.8\% | 14.8\% | 10.0\% | 24.5\% | 13.8\% | 13.0\% | 0.0\% | 15.3\% |
|  | Decreased 1\%-5\% | 9.1\% | 11.1\% | 5.5\% | 4.5\% | 5.6\% | 0.0\% | 3.7\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 10.3\% | 4.3\% | 0.0\% | 4.7\% |
|  | Decreased 6\%-10\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 1.8\% | 0.0\% | 1.9\% | 0.0\% | 3.7\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 3.4\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 1.3\% |
|  | Decreased $>10 \%$ | 4.5\% | 0.0\% | 0.9\% | 2.3\% | 0.0\% | 4.5\% | 0.0\% | 10.0\% | 0.0\% | 6.9\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 1.5\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 22 | 9 | 109 | 44 | 108 | 22 | 27 | 10 | 53 | 29 | 23 | 9 | 465 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Vi Manpower |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| - | Number of employees |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Increased 1-5 | 19.4\% | 22.2\% | 18.9\% | 28.1\% | 26.5\% | 13.8\% | 29.2\% | 37.5\% | 30.4\% | 34.0\% | 31.0\% | 26.3\% | 26.2\% |
|  | Increased 6-10 | 12.9\% | 33.3\% | 11.5\% | 12.3\% | 11.7\% | 6.9\% | 12.5\% | 4.2\% | 10.8\% | 8.0\% | 10.3\% | 5.3\% | 11.0\% |
|  | Increased $>10$ | 16.1\% | 11.1\% | 4.9\% | 14.0\% | 4.9\% | 17.2\% | 6.3\% | 8.3\% | 6.9\% | 10.0\% | 3.4\% | 5.3\% | 7.6\% |
|  | Unchanged | 45.2\% | 33.3\% | 53.3\% | 38.6\% | 46.3\% | 55.2\% | 39.6\% | 45.8\% | 42.2\% | 36.0\% | 44.8\% | 57.9\% | 45.5\% |
|  | Decreased 1-5 | 6.5\% | 0.0\% | 7.4\% | 7.0\% | 8.0\% | 3.4\% | 10.4\% | 4.2\% | 8.8\% | 8.0\% | 3.4\% | 5.3\% | 7.3\% |
|  | Decreased 6 -10 | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 2.5\% | 0.0\% | 2.5\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 1.0\% | 2.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 1.3\% |
|  | Decreased $>10$ | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 1.6\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 3.4\% | 2.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 2.0\% | 6.9\% | 0.0\% | 1.0\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | 9 | 122 | 57 | 162 | 29 | 48 | 24 | 102 | 50 | 29 | 19 | 682 |
| ii | Wage growth |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Increased 1\%-5\% | 41.9\% | 22.2\% | 38.3\% | 35.1\% | 38.9\% | 25.0\% | 38.3\% | 50.0\% | 48.0\% | 37.8\% | 34.5\% | 11.8\% | 38.6\% |
|  | Increased 6\%-10\% | 3.2\% | 33.3\% | 13.3\% | 21.1\% | 12.3\% | 10.7\% | 19.1\% | 20.8\% | 15.7\% | 13.3\% | 17.2\% | 35.3\% | 15.2\% |
|  | Increased $>10 \%$ | 16.1\% | 22.2\% | 12.5\% | 10.5\% | 11.7\% | 14.3\% | 10.6\% | 8.3\% | 12.7\% | 8.9\% | 10.3\% | 5.9\% | 11.8\% |
|  | Unchanged | 38.7\% | 22.2\% | 32.5\% | 31.6\% | 32.7\% | 39.3\% | 27.7\% | 20.8\% | 22.5\% | 31.1\% | 31.0\% | 41.2\% | 30.7\% |
|  | Decreased $1 \%$-5\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 3.3\% | 1.8\% | 1.9\% | 3.6\% | 2.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 4.4\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 1.8\% |
|  | Decreased 6\%-10\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 1.9\% | 7.1\% | 2.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 4.4\% | 3.4\% | 5.9\% | 1.5\% |
|  | Decreased $>10 \%$ | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.6\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 1.0\% | 0.0\% | 3.4\% | 0.0\% | 0.4\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | 9 | 120 | 57 | 162 | 28 | 47 | 24 | 102 | 45 | 29 | 17 | 671 |



| MALAYSIA'S BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS SURVEY (M-BECS) RESULTS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| FOR THE 2ND HALF-YEAR OF 2023 (JUL-DEC 2023) AND OUTLOOK FOR THE 1ST HALF-YEAR OF 2024 (JAN-JUN 2024) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ¢ |  |
| Iv | Business operations |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| i | Production volume |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Increase 1\%-5\% | 16.7\% | 22.2\% | 21.8\% | 9.5\% | 19.1\% | 11.1\% | 30.3\% | 9.1\% | 26.4\% | 28.6\% | 9.1\% | 10.0\% | 20.0\% |
|  | Increase 6\%-10\% | 13.3\% | 55.6\% | 15.1\% | 19.0\% | 22.5\% | 11.1\% | 27.3\% | 18.2\% | 18.9\% | 22.9\% | 13.6\% | 10.0\% | 19.1\% |
|  | Increase $>10 \%$ | 13.3\% | 0.0\% | 7.6\% | 21.4\% | 12.4\% | 5.6\% | 6.1\% | 36.4\% | 15.1\% | 14.3\% | 13.6\% | 40.0\% | 12.7\% |
|  | Unchanged | 33.3\% | 22.2\% | 26.9\% | 26.2\% | 21.3\% | 38.9\% | 36.4\% | 18.2\% | 20.8\% | 14.3\% | 45.5\% | 20.0\% | 26.1\% |
|  | Decrease 1\%-5\% | 10.0\% | 0.0\% | 10.1\% | 9.5\% | 10.1\% | 5.6\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 13.2\% | 5.7\% | 13.6\% | 20.0\% | 9.1\% |
|  | Decrease 6\%-10\% | 10.0\% | 0.0\% | 7.6\% | 9.5\% | 6.7\% | 16.7\% | 0.0\% | 9.1\% | 3.8\% | 5.7\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 6.4\% |
|  | Decrease $>10 \%$ | 3.3\% | 0.0\% | 10.9\% | 4.8\% | 7.9\% | 11.1\% | 0.0\% | 9.1\% | 1.9\% | 8.6\% | 4.5\% | 0.0\% | 6.6\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 30 | 9 | 119 | 42 | 89 | 18 | 33 | 11 | 53 | 35 | 22 | 10 | 471 |
| ii Inventory or stock level |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Increase 1\%-5\% | 20.7\% | 22.2\% | 17.9\% | 11.9\% | 22.5\% | 19.2\% | 31.3\% | 27.3\% | 19.6\% | 14.8\% | 19.0\% | 10.0\% | 19.9\% |
|  | Increase 6\%-10\% | 10.3\% | 33.3\% | 17.1\% | 19.0\% | 15.5\% | 3.8\% | 21.9\% | 18.2\% | 23.5\% | 18.5\% | 14.3\% | 10.0\% | 16.8\% |
|  | Increase $>10 \%$ | 6.9\% | 11.1\% | 10.3\% | 7.1\% | 9.9\% | 15.4\% | 9.4\% | 9.1\% | 11.8\% | 14.8\% | 9.5\% | 0.0\% | 10.1\% |
|  | Unchanged | 44.8\% | 33.3\% | 39.3\% | 50.0\% | 26.8\% | 46.2\% | 31.3\% | 36.4\% | 37.3\% | 18.5\% | 47.6\% | 70.0\% | 36.4\% |
|  | Decrease 1\%-5\% | 13.8\% | 0.0\% | 6.8\% | 2.4\% | 11.3\% | 7.7\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 5.9\% | 18.5\% | 4.8\% | 10.0\% | 7.9\% |
|  | Decrease 6\%-10\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 5.1\% | 4.8\% | 4.9\% | 0.0\% | 3.1\% | 0.0\% | 2.0\% | 7.4\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 3.7\% |
|  | Decrease $>10 \%$ | 3.4\% | 0.0\% | 3.4\% | 4.8\% | 9.2\% | 7.7\% | 3.1\% | 9.1\% | 0.0\% | 7.4\% | 4.8\% | 0.0\% | 5.2\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 29 | 9 | 117 | 42 | 142 | 26 | 32 | 11 | 51 | 27 | 21 | 10 | 517 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| v | Cost of raw materials |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| i | Local |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Increase 1\%-5\% | 25.0\% | 22.2\% | 22.5\% | 21.2\% | 26.4\% | 22.7\% | 24.3\% | 50.0\% | 27.3\% | 25.0\% | 20.8\% | 33.3\% | 25.0\% |
|  | Increase 6\%-10\% | 28.6\% | 44.4\% | 29.2\% | 26.9\% | 25.6\% | 13.6\% | 27.0\% | 8.3\% | 25.5\% | 25.0\% | 16.7\% | 44.4\% | 26.1\% |
|  | Increase $>10 \%$ | 14.3\% | 11.1\% | 17.5\% | 23.1\% | 18.2\% | 13.6\% | 27.0\% | 25.0\% | 20.0\% | 12.5\% | 37.5\% | 0.0\% | 19.2\% |
|  | Unchanged | 25.0\% | 22.2\% | 25.8\% | 21.2\% | 17.4\% | 40.9\% | 18.9\% | 8.3\% | 18.2\% | 12.5\% | 16.7\% | 11.1\% | 20.7\% |
|  | Decrease 1\%-5\% | 3.6\% | 0.0\% | 3.3\% | 5.8\% | 9.9\% | 0.0\% | 2.7\% | 0.0\% | 3.6\% | 12.5\% | 8.3\% | 0.0\% | 5.6\% |
|  | Decrease 6\%-10\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 1.9\% | 1.7\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 3.6\% | 6.3\% | 0.0\% | 11.1\% | 1.5\% |
|  | Decrease $>10 \%$ | 3.6\% | 0.0\% | 1.7\% | 0.0\% | 0.8\% | 9.1\% | 0.0\% | 8.3\% | 1.8\% | 6.3\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 1.9\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 28 | 9 | 120 | 52 | 121 | 22 | 37 | 12 | 55 | 32 | 24 | 9 | 521 |
| ii | Imported |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Increase 1\%-5\% | 18.2\% | 22.2\% | 26.6\% | 15.9\% | 33.0\% | 27.3\% | 17.9\% | 50.0\% | 29.4\% | 22.2\% | 21.7\% | 42.9\% | 26.6\% |
|  | Increase 6\%-10\% | 31.8\% | 33.3\% | 17.4\% | 27.3\% | 21.7\% | 13.6\% | 25.0\% | 0.0\% | 9.8\% | 11.1\% | 13.0\% | 28.6\% | 19.0\% |
|  | Increase $>10 \%$ | 27.3\% | 33.3\% | 24.8\% | 31.8\% | 18.9\% | 9.1\% | 25.0\% | 20.0\% | 37.3\% | 18.5\% | 43.5\% | 14.3\% | 25.3\% |
|  | Unchanged | 9.1\% | 0.0\% | 22.9\% | 13.6\% | 12.3\% | 40.9\% | 25.0\% | 10.0\% | 19.6\% | 18.5\% | 17.4\% | 0.0\% | 17.9\% |
|  | Decrease 1\%-5\% | 9.1\% | 11.1\% | 5.5\% | 9.1\% | 11.3\% | 4.5\% | 3.6\% | 10.0\% | 2.0\% | 7.4\% | 4.3\% | 14.3\% | 7.2\% |
|  | Decrease 6\%-10\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 1.8\% | 0.0\% | 2.8\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 14.8\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 2.0\% |
|  | Decrease $>10 \%$ | 4.5\% | 0.0\% | 0.9\% | 2.3\% | 0.0\% | 4.5\% | 3.6\% | 10.0\% | 2.0\% | 7.4\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 2.0\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 22 | 9 | 109 | 44 | 106 | 22 | 28 | 10 | 51 | 27 | 23 | 7 | 458 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| vi | Manpower |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| i | Number of employees |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Increase 1-5 | 22.6\% | 11.1\% | 12.3\% | 22.8\% | 19.8\% | 17.2\% | 20.8\% | 29.2\% | 25.5\% | 38.8\% | 27.6\% | 26.3\% | 21.7\% |
|  | Increase 6-10 | 16.1\% | 33.3\% | 16.4\% | 14.0\% | 16.7\% | 3.4\% | 27.1\% | 12.5\% | 17.6\% | 10.2\% | 6.9\% | 5.3\% | 15.6\% |
|  | Increase $>10$ | 9.7\% | 55.6\% | 5.7\% | 14.0\% | 4.9\% | 10.3\% | 10.4\% | 4.2\% | 9.8\% | 14.3\% | 6.9\% | 5.3\% | 8.8\% |
|  | Unchanged | 48.4\% | 0.0\% | 55.7\% | 45.6\% | 48.1\% | 62.1\% | 31.3\% | 41.7\% | 40.2\% | 22.4\% | 48.3\% | 47.4\% | 44.8\% |
|  | Decrease 1-5 | 3.2\% | 0.0\% | 5.7\% | 1.8\% | 8.6\% | 0.0\% | 6.3\% | 12.5\% | 5.9\% | 8.2\% | 3.4\% | 5.3\% | 6.0\% |
|  | Decrease 6-10 | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 3.3\% | 0.0\% | 1.9\% | 3.4\% | 2.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 4.1\% | 0.0\% | 10.5\% | 1.9\% |
|  | Decrease $>10$ | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.8\% | 1.8\% | 0.0\% | 3.4\% | 2.1\% | 0.0\% | 1.0\% | 2.0\% | 6.9\% | 0.0\% | 1.2\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | 9 | 122 | 57 | 162 | 29 | 48 | 24 | 102 | 49 | 29 | 19 | 681 |
| ii | Wage growth |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Increase 1\%-5\% | 38.7\% | 11.1\% | 35.8\% | 33.3\% | 39.1\% | 28.6\% | 23.4\% | 41.7\% | 40.6\% | 32.6\% | 37.9\% | 23.5\% | 35.5\% |
|  | Increase 6\%-10\% | 16.1\% | 11.1\% | 22.5\% | 21.1\% | 14.9\% | 10.7\% | 31.9\% | 29.2\% | 21.8\% | 14.0\% | 24.1\% | 23.5\% | 19.9\% |
|  | Increase $>10 \%$ | 6.5\% | 66.7\% | 9.2\% | 17.5\% | 12.4\% | 14.3\% | 19.1\% | 8.3\% | 17.8\% | 18.6\% | 13.8\% | 5.9\% | 14.2\% |
|  | Unchanged | 29.0\% | 11.1\% | 29.2\% | 26.3\% | 29.2\% | 35.7\% | 23.4\% | 12.5\% | 18.8\% | 30.2\% | 20.7\% | 41.2\% | 26.4\% |
|  | Decrease 1\%-5\% | 9.7\% | 0.0\% | 3.3\% | 0.0\% | 3.7\% | 3.6\% | 2.1\% | 8.3\% | 0.0\% | 2.3\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 2.7\% |
|  | Decrease 6\%-10\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 1.8\% | 0.0\% | 7.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 2.3\% | 0.0\% | 5.9\% | 0.7\% |
|  | Decrease $>10 \%$ | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.6\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 1.0\% | 0.0\% | 3.4\% | 0.0\% | 0.4\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | 9 | 120 | 57 | 161 | 28 | 47 | 24 | 101 | 43 | 29 | 17 | 667 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| VII | Other |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| i | Capital expenditure |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Increase 1\%-5\% | 31.0\% | 11.1\% | 18.1\% | 22.0\% | 22.1\% | 16.7\% | 27.9\% | 25.0\% | 31.0\% | 33.3\% | 38.5\% | 33.3\% | 24.9\% |
|  | Increase 6\%-10\% | 13.8\% | 22.2\% | 24.1\% | 18.0\% | 23.5\% | 12.5\% | 32.6\% | 25.0\% | 22.6\% | 15.6\% | 15.4\% | 26.7\% | 22.0\% |
|  | Increase $>10 \%$ | 13.8\% | 33.3\% | 12.9\% | 20.0\% | 16.1\% | 8.3\% | 16.3\% | 10.0\% | 22.6\% | 11.1\% | 15.4\% | 6.7\% | 15.7\% |
|  | Unchanged | 31.0\% | 33.3\% | 39.7\% | 34.0\% | 30.9\% | 45.8\% | 20.9\% | 25.0\% | 19.0\% | 33.3\% | 23.1\% | 26.7\% | 30.7\% |
|  | Decrease 1\%-5\% | 6.9\% | 0.0\% | 3.4\% | 4.0\% | 5.4\% | 4.2\% | 2.3\% | 15.0\% | 3.6\% | 2.2\% | 7.7\% | 6.7\% | 4.6\% |
|  | Decrease 6\%-10\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.9\% | 2.0\% | 2.0\% | 4.2\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 1.2\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 1.1\% |
|  | Decrease $>10 \%$ | 3.4\% | 0.0\% | 0.9\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 8.3\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 4.4\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 1.0\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 29 | 9 | 116 | 50 | 149 | 24 | 43 | 20 | 84 | 45 | 26 | 15 | 610 |


| MALAYSIA'S BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS SURVEY (M-BECS) RESULTS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| FOR THE 2ND HALF-YEAR OF 2023 (JUL-DEC 2023) AND OUTLOOK FOR THE 1ST HALF-YEAR OF 2024 (JAN-JUN 2024) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | $\underline{\square}$ |  |
| Section C: Current Issue |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Economic and Business Policies as well as the Ringgit |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| C1 How has the Ringgit's depreciation over the past two years impacted your business? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Extemely positive | 3.2\% | 22.2\% | 5.7\% | 5.3\% | 3.1\% | 6.9\% | 2.0\% | 8.3\% | 1.0\% | 0.0\% | 6.9\% | 0.0\% | 3.8\% |
|  | Somewhat postitive | 6.5\% | 33.3\% | 9.0\% | 12.3\% | 3.7\% | 13.8\% | 12.2\% | 8.3\% | 7.8\% | 12.0\% | 20.7\% | 0.0\% | 8.9\% |
|  | Neutral | 41.9\% | 0.0\% | 33.6\% | 31.6\% | 27.6\% | 24.1\% | 32.7\% | 37.5\% | 52.0\% | 40.0\% | 27.6\% | 36.8\% | 34.6\% |
|  | Somewhat negative | 32.3\% | 22.2\% | 32.8\% | 36.8\% | 47.2\% | 37.9\% | 36.7\% | 33.3\% | 23.5\% | 38.0\% | 34.5\% | 31.6\% | 36.0\% |
|  | Exremely negative | 16.1\% | 22.2\% | 18.9\% | 14.0\% | 18.4\% | 17.2\% | 16.3\% | 12.5\% | 15.7\% | 10.0\% | 10.3\% | 31.6\% | 16.7\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | 9 | 122 | 57 | 163 | 29 | 49 | 24 | 102 | 50 | 29 | 19 | 684 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| C2 How does your company cope with the depreciating Ringgit? (Muttiple-answer allowed) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Still manageable with some increases in prices of imported rawmaterials | 16.1\% | 22.2\% | 25.4\% | 14.0\% | 19.0\% | 6.9\% | 10.2\% | 0.0\% | 15.7\% | 10.0\% | 27.6\% | 10.5\% | 16.8\% |
|  | Bear with higher costs and suffered margin squeeze | 41.9\% | 55.6\% | 59.0\% | 49.1\% | 63.2\% | 55.\% | 46.9\% | 54.2\% | 43.1\% | 24.0\% | 55.2\% | 78.9\% | 52.6\% |
|  | Increase selling price | 32.3\% | 11.1\% | 41.8\% | 40.4\% | 62.0\% | 51.7\% | 59.2\% | 29.2\% | 49.0\% | 30.0\% | 58.6\% | 36.8\% | 47.7\% |
|  | Undertake currency hedging | 12.9\% | 33.3\% | 14.8\% | 8.8\% | 11.7\% | 20.7\% | 10.2\% | 29.2\% | 6.9\% | 32.0\% | 0.0\% | 5.3\% | 13.3\% |
|  | Sourcing from cheaper inputs, including domesicic materials | 25.8\% | 55.6\% | 23.0\% | 31.6\% | 20.2\% | 20.7\% | 14.3\% | 16.7\% | 17.6\% | 14.0\% | 31.0\% | 21.1\% | 21.5\% |
|  | Renegotiaiting with suppliers | 22.6\% | 44.4\% | 34.4\% | 26.3\% | 38.0\% | 27.6\% | 18.4\% | 25.0\% | 26.5\% | 22.0\% | 31.0\% | 21.1\% | 29.8\% |
|  | Explore to use bilateral domestic currencies for settlement | 6.5\% | 11.1\% | 12.3\% | 7.0\% | 11.0\% | 13.8\% | 2.0\% | 4.2\% | 7.8\% | 22.0\% | 0.0\% | 5.3\% | 9.6\% |
|  | Other | 3.2\% | 0.0\% | 2.5\% | 0.0\% | 1.2\% | 3.4\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 10.8\% | 10.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 3.4\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 |  | 122 | 57 | 163 | 29 | 49 | 24 | 102 | 50 | 29 | 19 | 684 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| C3 How concerned are you about the following potential economic and business policies to your company's growth in |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (a) | Over-regulation and high compliance cost |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Not concerned | 12.9\% | 33.3\% | 14.8\% | 19.3\% | 12.3\% | 14.3\% | 24.5\% | 12.5\% | 26.7\% | 24.0\% | 10.3\% | 16.7\% | 17.6\% |
|  | Somewhat concerned | 58.1\% | 33.3\% | 55.7\% | 54.4\% | 61.1\% | 60.7\% | 51.0\% | 54.2\% | 50.5\% | 54.0\% | 55.2\% | 61.1\% | 55.7\% |
|  | Extremely concermed | 29.0\% | 33.3\% | 29.5\% | 26.3\% | 26.5\% | 25.0\% | 24.5\% | 33.3\% | 22.8\% | 22.0\% | 34.5\% | 22.2\% | 26.6\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | 9 | 122 | 57 | 162 | 28 | 49 | 24 | 101 | 50 | 29 | 18 | 680 |
| (b) | Persistent cost pressures |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Not concerned | 6.5\% | 22.2\% | 4.1\% | 10.5\% | 4.9\% | 13.8\% | 14.3\% | 12.5\% | 10.9\% | 24.0\% | 10.3\% | 5.6\% | 9.4\% |
|  | Somewhat concerned | 51.6\% | 55.6\% | 59.0\% | 52.6\% | 51.9\% | 58.6\% | 51.0\% | 45.8\% | 62.4\% | 44.0\% | 51.7\% | 55.6\% | 54.3\% |
|  | Extremely concerned | 41.9\% | 22.2\% | 36.9\% | 36.8\% | 43.\% | 27.6\% | 34.7\% | 41.7\% | 26.7\% | 32.0\% | 37.9\% | 38.9\% | 36.3\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | 9 | 122 | 57 | 162 | 29 | 49 | 24 | 101 | 50 | 29 | 18 | 681 |
| (c) | Subsidy rationalisation |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Not concerned | 29.0\% | 44.4\% | 34.4\% | 37.5\% | 37.0\% | 42.9\% | 34.7\% | 45.8\% | 39.6\% | 30.0\% | 20.7\% | 11.1\% | 35.2\% |
|  | Somewhat concerned | 45.2\% | 44.4\% | 46.7\% | 46.4\% | 45.1\% | 46.4\% | 46.9\% | 20.8\% | 47.5\% | 50.0\% | 48.3\% | 55.6\% | 45.9\% |
|  | Extremely concerned | 25.8\% | 11.1\% | 18.9\% | 16.1\% | 17.9\% | 10.7\% | 18.4\% | 33.3\% | 12.9\% | 20.0\% | 31.0\% | 33.3\% | 18.9\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | 9 | 122 | 56 | 162 | 28 | 49 | 24 | 101 | 50 | 29 | 18 | 679 |
| (d) | Tiered levy of foreign workers |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Not concerned | 25.8\% | 44.4\% | 23.8\% | 26.3\% | 51.2\% | 39.3\% | 49.0\% | 45.8\% | 63.4\% | 40.0\% | 27.6\% | 50.0\% | 42.1\% |
|  | Somewhat concerned | 54.8\% | 44.4\% | 41.8\% | 40.4\% | 30.2\% | 57.1\% | 32.7\% | 33.3\% | 28.7\% | 48.0\% | 37.9\% | 38.9\% | 37.5\% |
|  | Extremely concerred | 19.4\% | 11.1\% | 34.4\% | 33.3\% | 18.5\% | 3.6\% | 18.4\% | 20.8\% | 7.9\% | 12.0\% | 34.5\% | 11.1\% | 20.4\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | 9 | 122 | 57 | 162 | 28 | 49 | 24 | 101 | 50 | 29 | 18 | 680 |
| (e) | Government's fiscal deficitit and debt burden response |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Not concerned | 25.8\% | 11.1\% | 24.6\% | 17.5\% | 18.5\% | 21.4\% | 34.7\% | 25.0\% | 23.8\% | 18.4\% | 17.2\% | 36.8\% | 22.5\% |
|  | Somewhat concerned | 48.4\% | 77.8\% | 50.8\% | 54.4\% | 50.6\% | 53.6\% | 36.7\% | 37.5\% | 56.4\% | 55.1\% | 55.2\% | 36.8\% | 50.9\% |
|  | Extremely concerred | 25.8\% | 11.1\% | 24.6\% | 28.1\% | 30.9\% | 25.0\% | 28.6\% | 37.5\% | 19.8\% | 26.5\% | 27.6\% | 26.3\% | 26.6\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | 9 | 122 | 57 | 162 | 28 | 49 | 24 | 101 | 49 | 29 | 19 | 680 |
| (f) | Persistently weakening Ringgit |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Not concerned | 16.1\% | 11.1\% | 9.0\% | 8.8\% | 4.9\% | 3.4\% | 12.2\% | 16.7\% | 13.7\% | 18.0\% | 6.9\% | 0.0\% | 9.7\% |
|  | Somewhat concerned | 48.4\% | 33.3\% | 45.1\% | 38.6\% | 42.6\% | 51.7\% | 40.8\% | 37.5\% | 47.1\% | 48.0\% | 37.9\% | 61.1\% | 44.3\% |
|  | Extremely concermed | 35.5\% | 55.6\% | 45.9\% | 52.6\% | 52.5\% | 44.8\% | 46.9\% | 45.8\% | 39.2\% | 34.0\% | 55.2\% | 38.9\% | 46.0\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | 9 | 122 | 57 | 162 | 29 | 49 | 24 | 102 | 50 | 29 | 18 | 682 |
| (g) | Reduced consumer purchasing power |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Not concerned | 9.7\% | 33.3\% | 4.9\% | 7.0\% | 6.2\% | 6.9\% | 12.2\% | 12.5\% | 7.9\% | 12.0\% | 6.9\% | 11.1\% | 8.1\% |
|  | Somewhat concerned | 45.2\% | 66.7\% | 50.0\% | 56.1\% | 43.2\% | 51.7\% | 36.7\% | 62.5\% | 50.5\% | 44.0\% | 51.7\% | 44.4\% | 48.0\% |
|  | Extremely concermed | 45.2\% | 0.0\% | 45.1\% | 36.8\% | 50.6\% | 41.4\% | 51.0\% | 25.0\% | 41.6\% | 44.0\% | 41.4\% | 44.4\% | 43.9\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | 9 | 122 | 57 | 162 | 29 | 49 | 24 | 101 | 50 | 29 | 18 | 681 |
| (h) | Progressive Wage Model (PWM) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Not concerned | 29.0\% | 33.3\% | 20.5\% | 22.8\% | 16.0\% | 10.7\% | 34.7\% | 29.2\% | 29.7\% | 20.0\% | 27.6\% | 16.7\% | 22.6\% |
|  | Somewhat concerned | 51.6\% | 55.6\% | 41.8\% | 49.1\% | 51.2\% | 64.3\% | 40.8\% | 41.7\% | 46.5\% | 52.0\% | 48.3\% | 55.6\% | 48.2\% |
|  | Extremely concermed | 19.4\% | 11.1\% | 37.7\% | 28.1\% | 32.7\% | 25.0\% | 24.5\% | 29.2\% | 23.8\% | 28.0\% | 24.1\% | 27.8\% | 29.1\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | 9 | 122 | 57 | 162 | 28 | 49 | 24 | 101 | 50 | 29 | 18 | 680 |
| (i) | Services Tax's rate increase and scope expansion |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Not concerred | 12.9\% | 0.0\% | 12.3\% | 10.5\% | 9.3\% | 3.6\% | 6.1\% | 25.0\% | 15.8\% | 16.0\% | 13.8\% | 15.8\% | 11.9\% |
|  | Somewhat concerned | 58.1\% | 100.0\% | 45.1\% | 52.6\% | 53.1\% | 60.7\% | 61.2\% | 37.5\% | 52.5\% | 46.0\% | 37.9\% | 47.4\% | 51.4\% |
|  | Extremely concerred | 29.0\% | 0.0\% | 42.6\% | 36.8\% | 37.7\% | 35.7\% | 32.7\% | 37.5\% | 31.7\% | 38.0\% | 48.3\% | 36.8\% | 36.7\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | 9 | 122 | 57 | 162 | 28 | 49 | 24 | 101 | 50 | 29 | 19 | 681 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| C4 In your view, what should the Government's top 3 priorities be in sus |  | staining t | conomy | businesse | Mutiple | erallowed | ximum th | (3) answe |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Ease the cost of doing business | 45.2\% | 44.4\% | 50.0\% | 56.1\% | 53.4\% | 41.4\% | 53.1\% | 54.2\% | 56.9\% | 40.0\% | 62.1\% | 57.9\% | 52.0\% |
|  | Tacke high cost-oflliving pressure | 16.1\% | 33.3\% | 29.5\% | 29.8\% | 42.3\% | 34.5\% | 55.1\% | 33.3\% | 44.1\% | 38.0\% | 48.3\% | 26.3\% | 37.7\% |
|  | Reduce compliance costs and simplify the regulations | 41.9\% | 33.3\% | 38.5\% | 42.1\% | 31.3\% | 31.0\% | 18.4\% | 37.5\% | 37.3\% | 26.0\% | 37.9\% | 26.3\% | 33.9\% |
|  | Clarity and consistency in business-ffiendy policies | 48.4\% | 33.3\% | 48.4\% | 36.8\% | 42.9\% | 41.4\% | 26.5\% | 45.8\% | 34.3\% | 50.0\% | 37.9\% | 31.6\% | 41.1\% |
|  | Infrastucture and digital connectivity | 6.5\% | 33.3\% | 13.9\% | 15.8\% | 11.0\% | 24.1\% | 16.3\% | 8.3\% | 12.7\% | 18.0\% | 24.1\% | 26.3\% | 14.6\% |
|  | Skilled manpower development | 19.4\% | 44.4\% | 20.5\% | 24.6\% | 9.2\% | 6.9\% | 14.3\% | 16.7\% | 22.5\% | 22.0\% | 17.2\% | 47.4\% | 18.3\% |
|  | More trade and investment opportunities | 22.6\% | 0.0\% | 22.1\% | 19.3\% | 30.1\% | 31.0\% | 18.4\% | 41.7\% | 20.6\% | 30.0\% | 27.6\% | 21.1\% | 24.9\% |
|  | Stable Ringgit | 58.1\% | 33.3\% | 59.0\% | 63.2\% | 66.3\% | 55.2\% | 61.2\% | 33.3\% | 56.9\% | 54.0\% | 41.4\% | 47.4\% | 58.0\% |
|  | Other | 3.2\% | 0.0\% | 1.6\% | 0.0\% | 1.2\% | 3.4\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 1.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 1.0\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | 9 | 122 | 57 | 163 | 29 | 49 | 24 | 102 | 50 | 29 | 19 | 684 |

MALAYSIA'S BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS SURVEY (M-BECS) RESULTS

| MALAYSIA'S BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS SURVEY (M-BECS) RESULTS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| FOR THE 2ND HALF-YEAR OF 2023 (JUL-DEC 2023) AND OUTLOOK FOR THE 1ST HALF-YEAR OF 2024 (JAN-JUN 2024) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ¢ | Ј ¢ ¢ ¢ |
| C5 Which of the following 2024 Budget's measures would benefit your company? (Multiple-answer allowed) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | None of them | 19.4\% | 11.1\% | 13.1\% | 8.8\% | 19.6\% | 24.1\% | 12.2\% | 29.2\% | 13.9\% | 10.0\% | 20.7\% | 10.5\% | 15.7\% |
|  | E-invoicing | 12.9\% | 11.1\% | 10.7\% | 14.0\% | 12.9\% | 6.9\% | 10.2\% | 4.2\% | 18.8\% | 16.0\% | 6.9\% | 36.8\% | 13.3\% |
|  | Enhanced Reinvestment Allowance (RA) | 35.5\% | 22.2\% | 45.9\% | 19.3\% | 23.9\% | 31.0\% | 36.7\% | 12.5\% | 21.8\% | 18.0\% | 10.3\% | 0.0\% | 26.8\% |
|  | Review of green technology tax incentives | 16.1\% | 22.2\% | 19.7\% | 21.1\% | 9.8\% | 13.8\% | 14.3\% | 8.3\% | 10.9\% | 14.0\% | 20.7\% | 5.3\% | 14.2\% |
|  | Tax deduction on Environment, Social and Governance (ESG)-related $\begin{array}{r}\text { expenses }\end{array}$ | 19.4\% | 33.3\% | 32.8\% | 38.6\% | 29.4\% | 34.5\% | 14.3\% | 25.0\% | 25.7\% | 32.0\% | 34.5\% | 26.3\% | 29.1\% |
|  | Introduce Long-Term Social Visit Pass for international graduates to meet the industry's need for skilled manpower | 16.1\% | 22.2\% | 13.1\% | 28.1\% | 9.2\% | 10.3\% | 18.4\% | 8.3\% | 16.8\% | 20.0\% | 24.1\% | 10.5\% | 15.2\% |
|  | Improve Visa-On-Arrival facilities, Social Visit Pass and Multiple Entry Visa | 29.0\% | 11.1\% | 14.8\% | 38.6\% | 19.6\% | 13.8\% | 30.6\% | 16.7\% | 15.8\% | 26.0\% | 24.1\% | 21.1\% | 21.2\% |
|  | Digitalisation grant | 16.1\% | 22.2\% | 29.5\% | 24.6\% | 28.2\% | 20.7\% | 28.6\% | 16.7\% | 25.7\% | 44.0\% | 20.7\% | 42.1\% | 27.7\% |
|  | Various financing schemes | 45.2\% | 22.2\% | 46.7\% | 52.6\% | 44.8\% | 20.7\% | 42.9\% | 29.2\% | 47.5\% | 46.0\% | 48.3\% | 31.6\% | 44.1\% |
|  | Other | 3.2\% | 0.0\% | 4.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.6\% | 0.0\% | 2.0\% | 0.0\% | 1.0\% | 2.0\% | 0.0\% | 5.3\% | 1.6\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | 9 | 122 | 57 | 163 | 29 | 49 | 24 | 101 | 50 | 29 | 19 | 683 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| C6 Will you voluntarily participate in the Progressive Wage Model? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Yes | 19.4\% | 44.4\% | 13.1\% | 36.8\% | 22.1\% | 13.8\% | 14.3\% | 4.2\% | 23.5\% | 22.0\% | 20.7\% | 21.1\% | 20.5\% |
|  | No | 29.0\% | 33.3\% | 33.6\% | 28.1\% | 28.8\% | 37.9\% | 26.5\% | 33.3\% | 29.4\% | 30.0\% | 51.7\% | 26.3\% | 31.1\% |
|  | Unsure | 51.6\% | 22.2\% | 53.3\% | 35.1\% | 49.1\% | 48.3\% | 59.2\% | 62.5\% | 47.1\% | 48.0\% | 27.6\% | 52.6\% | 48.4\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | 9 | 122 | 57 | 163 | 29 | 49 | 24 | 102 | 50 | 29 | 19 | 684 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| C7 What impact do you anticipate the Progressive Wage Model (PWM) on your business? (Multiple-answer allowed) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Concerns about increases in operating costs | 64.5\% | 11.1\% | 72.1\% | 56.1\% | 71.8\% | 65.5\% | 51.0\% | 58.3\% | 58.8\% | 38.8\% | 69.0\% | 63.2\% | 62.5\% |
|  | Improve employees' productivity and wages | 32.3\% | 44.4\% | 39.3\% | 47.4\% | 28.2\% | 13.8\% | 30.6\% | 29.2\% | 48.0\% | 38.8\% | 34.5\% | 15.8\% | 35.4\% |
|  | Attract talent | 25.8\% | 33.3\% | 21.3\% | 33.3\% | 23.3\% | 24.1\% | 26.5\% | 29.2\% | 36.3\% | 38.8\% | 27.6\% | 42.1\% | 28.3\% |
|  | Administrative complexities in compliance | 19.4\% | 33.3\% | 28.7\% | 31.6\% | 26.4\% | 13.8\% | 20.4\% | 25.0\% | 23.5\% | 14.3\% | 24.1\% | 10.5\% | 24.2\% |
|  | Challenges in understanding and adhering to PWM requirements | 25.8\% | 33.3\% | 33.6\% | 33.3\% | 33.1\% | 31.0\% | 28.6\% | 25.0\% | 29.4\% | 16.3\% | 17.2\% | 26.3\% | 29.6\% |
|  | Potential resistance from employers | 16.1\% | 44.4\% | 19.7\% | 26.3\% | 22.7\% | 34.5\% | 16.3\% | 12.5\% | 18.6\% | 24.5\% | 24.1\% | 0.0\% | 21.1\% |
|  | Other | 3.2\% | 0.0\% | 0.8\% | 1.8\% | 2.5\% | 3.4\% | 2.0\% | 0.0\% | 2.0\% | 4.1\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 1.9\% |
|  | Sample size ( n ) | 31 | 9 | 122 | 57 | 163 | 29 | 49 | 24 | 102 | 49 | 29 | 19 | 683 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| C8 ${ }^{\text {W }}$ What are your expectations on the implementation of e-invoicing? (Multiple-answer allowed) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Defer a full implementation for all taxpayers to 1 January 2027 as scheduled previously | 35.5\% | 44.4\% | 32.0\% | 33.3\% | 35.8\% | 31.0\% | 26.5\% | 41.7\% | 21.6\% | 34.0\% | 34.5\% | 47.4\% | 32.4\% |
|  | Allow for voluntary participation for micro businesses | 32.3\% | 22.2\% | 35.2\% | 50.9\% | 38.9\% | 20.7\% | 38.8\% | 29.2\% | 41.2\% | 34.0\% | 31.0\% | 26.3\% | 36.9\% |
|  | Grace period during the initial phase of implementation | 41.9\% | 22.2\% | 59.0\% | 40.4\% | 46.3\% | 58.6\% | 38.8\% | 37.5\% | 44.1\% | 36.0\% | 51.7\% | 31.6\% | 46.0\% |
|  | Simplify the process of complying with e-invoicing | 48.4\% | 55.6\% | 54.1\% | 50.9\% | 56.8\% | 51.7\% | 30.6\% | 33.3\% | 56.9\% | 58.0\% | 65.5\% | 47.4\% | 52.7\% |
|  | Other | 6.5\% | 0.0\% | 0.0\% | 1.8\% | 3.7\% | 3.4\% | 4.1\% | 0.0\% | 1.0\% | 2.0\% | 0.0\% | 5.3\% | 2.2\% |
|  | Sample size (n) | 31 | 9 | 122 | 57 | 162 | 29 | 49 | 24 | 102 | 50 | 29 | 19 | 683 |



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[^0]:    Note: Balance=\% of respondents voted "Increase" minus \% of respondents voted "Decrease"

