



## PRESS RELEASE

### BUSINESS SENTIMENT INDEX (BSI) FOR BRUNEI DARUSSALAM FOR OCTOBER 2025

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1. Brunei Darussalam Central Bank (BDCB) today published Brunei Darussalam's Business Sentiment Index (BSI) for October 2025. The index is based on surveys conducted on about 500 micro, small, medium, and large businesses from 11 economic sectors across all districts in Brunei Darussalam.
2. The monthly index is designed to measure the level of business confidence/sentiment in the country, covering various aspects including current and future business conditions, investment, employment of workers, as well as costs of running the business. With its forward-looking approach, the BSI could serve as a leading macroeconomic indicator for the country.

3. The BSI and sub-indices can be interpreted as below:

BSI value	Interpretation
Above 50	Expansion / Optimism compared to the previous month
50	Similar / No change compared to the previous month
Below 50	Contraction / Pessimism compared to the previous month

4. The main headline index, Current Business Conditions sub-index, was recorded at 50.4 in October 2025, indicating optimistic business conditions compared to the previous month. Business conditions improved due to several positive drivers, including higher sales and orders, seasonal demand, new project awards alongside ongoing ones, the acquisition of new clients, and active marketing efforts. Some businesses also benefited from sector-specific boosts, including increased insurance and takaful contributions, higher tourist and event bookings, and stronger poultry and agricultural sales. However, these gains were slightly affected by concerns of slowing demand for some firms, particularly export-dependent companies, competition for project opportunities among firms, and weather-related challenges affecting production and operations. The one-month-ahead (1M) index stood at 49.9, suggesting that most businesses were slightly pessimistic about their prospects in November 2025. Overall, businesses expected weaker performance, citing seasonal slowdowns, increased travel during the school holidays, contract expirations, reduced client activity, project completions, and some client-driven and weather-related disruptions.
5. The Investment sub-index stood at 50.4 for the current month, and 50.6 for one month (1M) ahead and three months (3M) ahead, reflecting expectations that investment levels will increase in the current month and continue to do so in the next few months. For October 2025, this was attributed to increased

project activities, renovation and expansion works, system upgrades, equipment purchases, and inventory restocking to prepare for upcoming sales cycles and festive seasons. Looking ahead, businesses expect investment to rise further, mainly for project execution and preparations for year-end demand. However, businesses noted that actual investment will depend on project approvals and business performance.

6. The Employment sub-index stood at 49.9 for both the current month and one month (1M) ahead. Both sub-indices indicated a slight decline in headcount, primarily due to staff resignations, retirements, and contract expirations. Despite this, most businesses reported overall stable employment levels for October and November 2025 and highlighted ongoing hiring plans to replace departing staff and support new projects and business expansion. However, some small and micro businesses expressed concerns about the process of recruiting foreign workers.
7. The Costs sub-index was 50.4 for the current month and 50.0 for one month ahead, indicating expectations of increased costs in October 2025, which may stabilise in November 2025. Most businesses reported higher costs in October, largely driven by increased production and project-related spending. Additional factors include marketing and promotional expenses, various maintenance or repair works, and higher import, shipping and rental costs. Looking ahead, businesses expected operating costs to remain similar to those of October 2025.

BSI October 2025	
Current Business Conditions	50.4
1M Ahead Business Conditions	49.9
Current Investment	50.4
1M Ahead Investment	50.6
3M Ahead Investment	50.6
Current Employment	49.9
1M Ahead Employment	49.9
Current Costs	50.4
1M Ahead Costs	50.0

Note: 1M – one month, 3M – three months

8. In terms of economic sectors:

	Sector	Index	Factors
Optimistic Sentiment	Oil & Gas Related	50.6	While many businesses reported similar conditions compared to the previous month, several businesses reported improved conditions due to normalised production and favourable loading schedules.
	Transport & Communication	50.5	This sector showed mostly stable conditions, leaning towards optimism. This was driven by seasonal operational improvements and increased activities,

			while others expected no change in business conditions.
	Real Estate & Ownership of Dwellings	50.2	Some businesses reported slightly higher activity levels, while others reported similar business conditions to those in the previous month.
	Finance & Insurance	50.1	Businesses reported a general increase in demand for financial products and services, supported by expectations of higher collections from takaful contributions and insurance premiums, as well as progress on major financing agreements.
	Other Private Services	50.1	Most businesses reported improving business conditions, driven mainly by new projects, better cash flow, and progress on previously awarded project tenders.
No Change	Hotels & Restaurants	50.0	Businesses reported mixed sentiments, with some experiencing slow activity, especially in bookings and events, while others saw improvements driven by marketing, promotions, and seasonal factors.
	Manufacturing	50.0	Mixed sentiments were reported, with many businesses reporting steady or improved demand due to seasonal factors, with increased orders and continued production. On the other hand, some expect weaker sales, lower demand, stronger competition, operational challenges, and quieter market conditions.
Pessimistic Sentiment	Construction	49.9	Most businesses reported pessimism, mainly due to cash-flow issues and a lack of new projects following the completion of existing ones. Several firms also highlight external constraints, such as bad weather and labour shortages, slowing progress and intensifying pessimism.
	Wholesale & Retail Trade	49.9	Most businesses reported declining sales, weaker customer traffic, and continued month-on-month deterioration. Businesses pointed to reduced domestic spending and the likelihood of customers travelling abroad, which would pull demand away from local businesses.

	Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries & Livestock	49.8	Businesses indicated slightly weaker performance in October due to operational disruptions and environmental factors.
	Health & Education	49.4	Some businesses in the Health subsector cited a seasonal slowdown and reduced patient visits that led to a decline in performance in October. In contrast, the Education sector maintained similar expectations on business conditions.

9. In terms of business size:

	Size	Index	Factors
Optimistic Sentiment	Large	50.4	Large companies were generally optimistic for October, citing a return to normal operations, new project awards, seasonal demand improvements, and stronger sales driven by promotions and increased domestic activity.
No change	Micro	50.0	Most micro-sized businesses expected business conditions in October to remain similar to September, with steady ongoing projects and routine operations. However, a few noted slight improvements from new orders or seasonal factors, and some reported mild declines due to quiet demand, as well as weather-related and operational challenges.
	Small	50.0	Sentiment among small-sized businesses was mixed, with optimism driven by new projects, increased orders, marketing gains and seasonal demand, while an almost equal number reported worsening conditions due to fewer projects, weak demand, weather disruptions, and slower customer spending. However, the majority remained neutral, noting steady, unchanged activity compared to the previous month.
Pessimistic Sentiment	Medium	49.9	Pessimism was attributed to fewer work orders, declining sales, weaker customer demand, and an overall slowdown in business activity, leading to lower local spending.

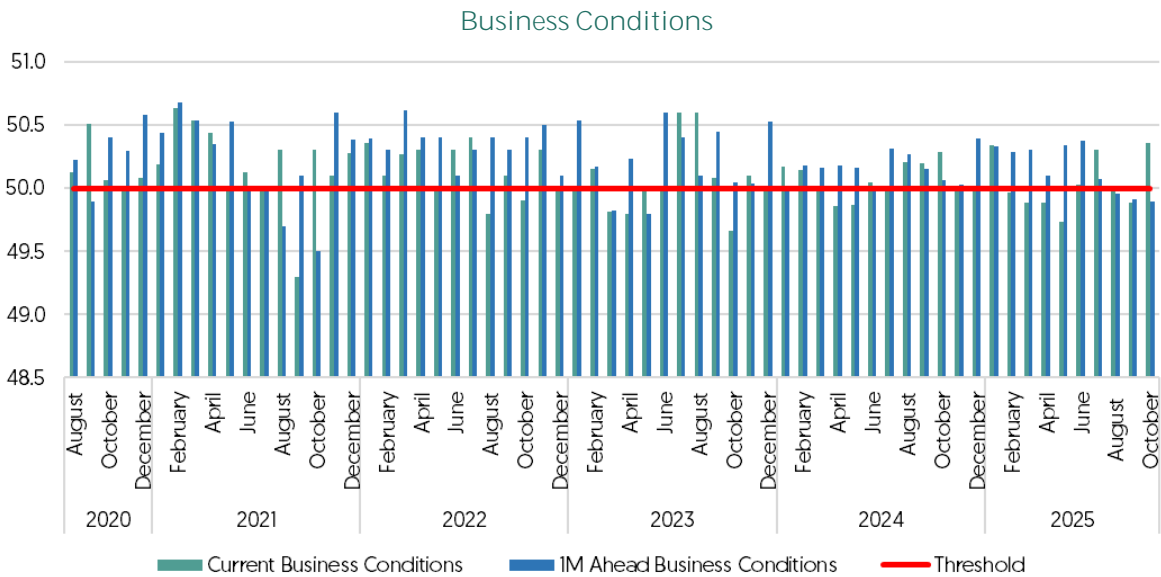
10. The time-series charts for the BSI and its sub-indices since August 2020 can be found in ANNEX 1. For more information on the BSI, members of the public can refer to the technical notes on the methodology and statistics on the BDCB website at [www.bdcg.gov.bn](http://www.bdcg.gov.bn) and follow updates on the BSI through future press releases and BDCB's Instagram account @centralbank.brunei.

Brunei Darussalam Central Bank

Date: 26 Jamadilakhir 1447H / 17 December 2025M

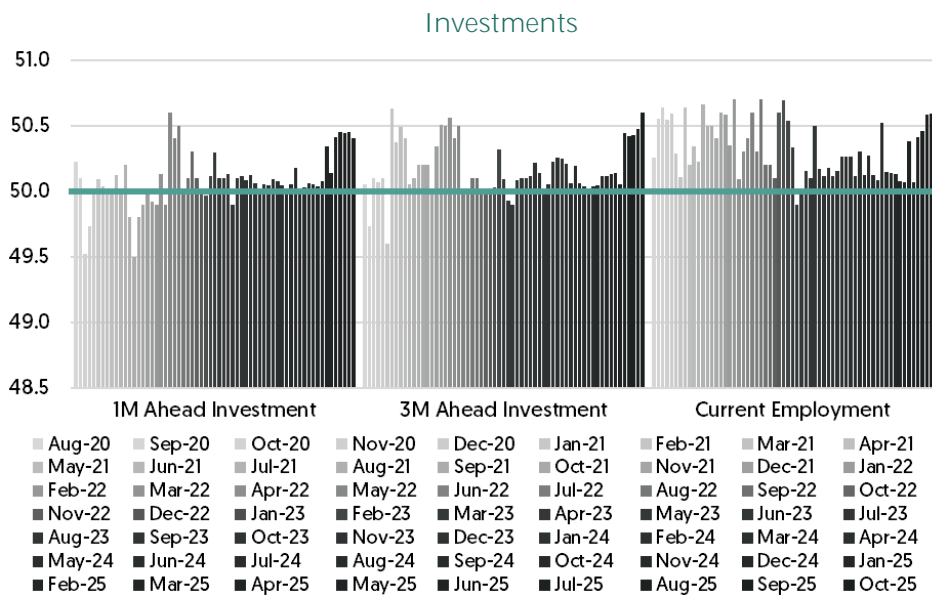
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## ANNEX 1



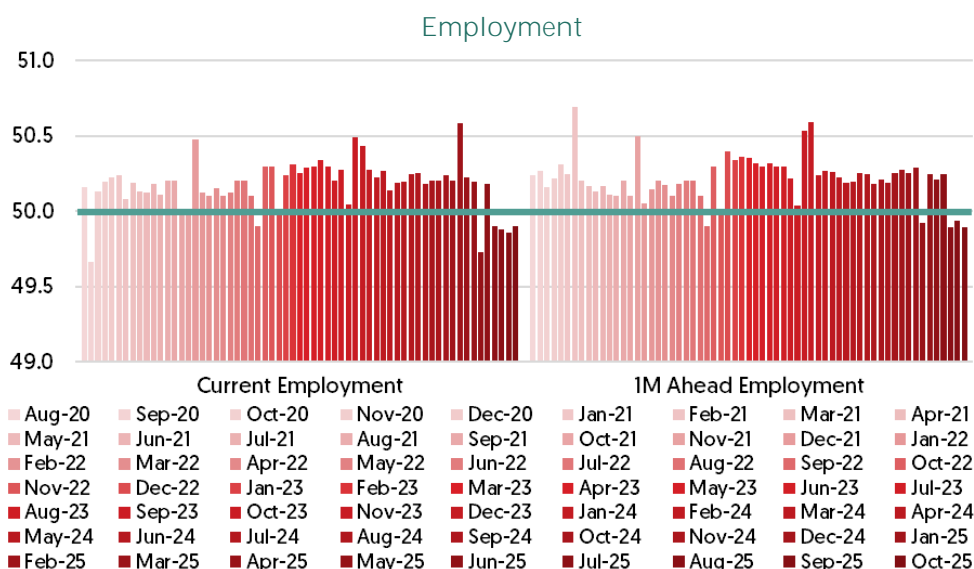
*Note: For 1M Ahead Business Conditions, the result compares expected business conditions in the month ahead compared to the current month.*

*For Business Conditions sub-index, above 50 indicates expansion/optimism compared to the previous month. Index at 50 indicates similar/no change compared to the previous month while below 50 indicates contraction / less optimism compared to the previous month.*



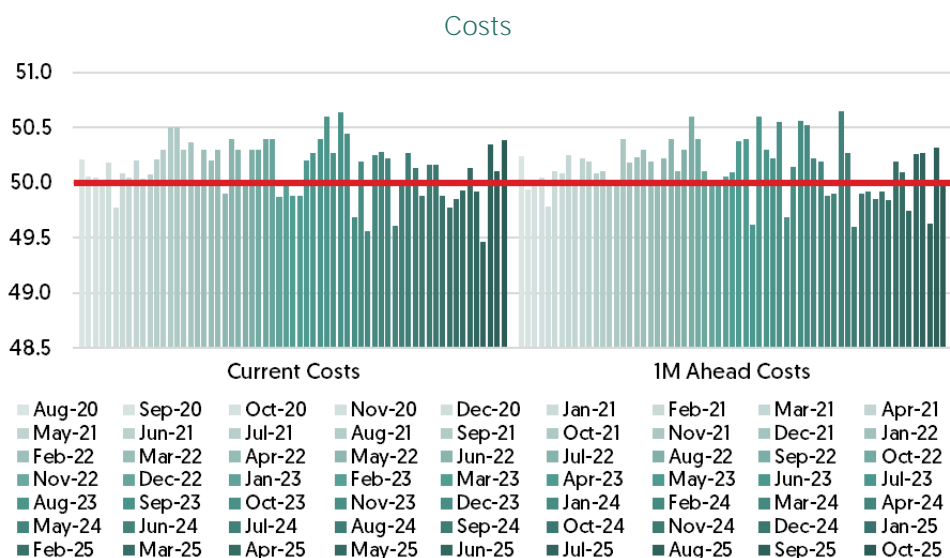
*Note: For 1M Ahead Investments, the result compares expected investment in the next month compared to the current month while for the 3M Ahead Investment, the result compares expected investments 3 months ahead compared to the current month.*

For Investments sub-index, above 50 indicates increased investment compared to the previous month. Index at 50 indicates similar/no change compared to the previous month while below 50 indicates reduced investment compared to the previous month.



Note: For 1M Ahead Employment, the result compares expected employment in the next month compared to the current month.

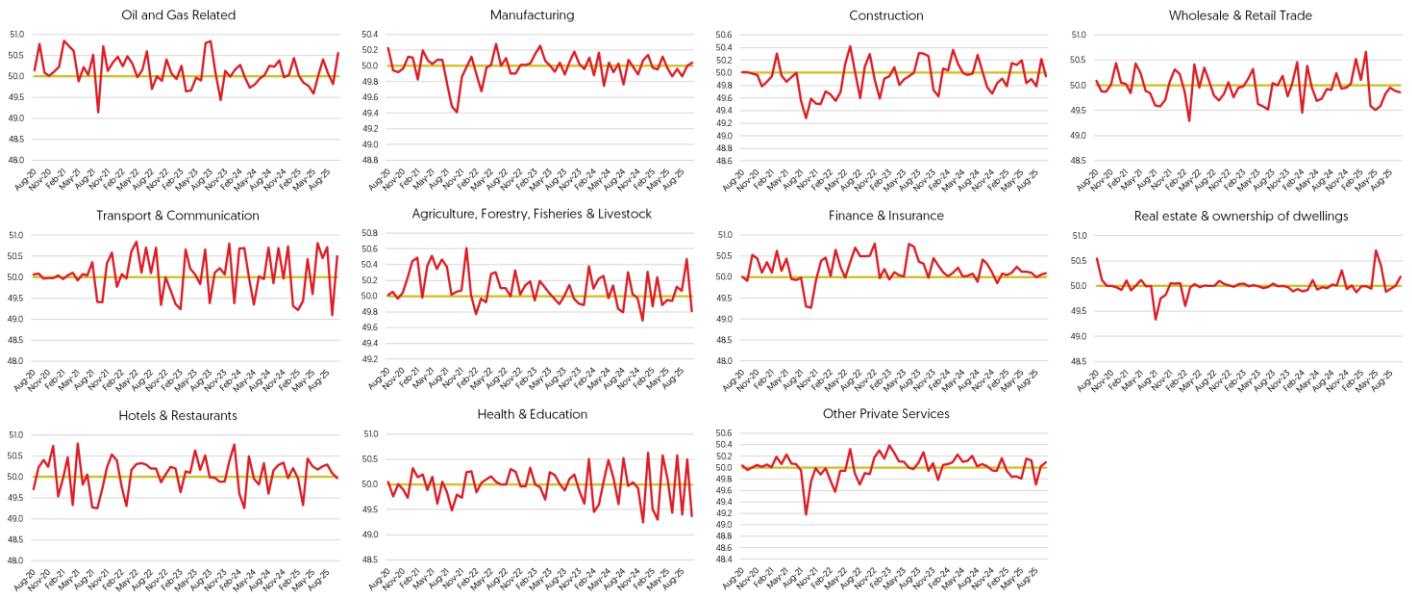
For Employment sub-index, above 50 indicates more new hires compared to the previous month. Index at 50 indicates similar/no change compared to the previous month while below 50 indicates a reduction in employee headcount compared to the previous month.



Note: For 1M Ahead Costs, the result compares expected costs in the next month compared to the current month.

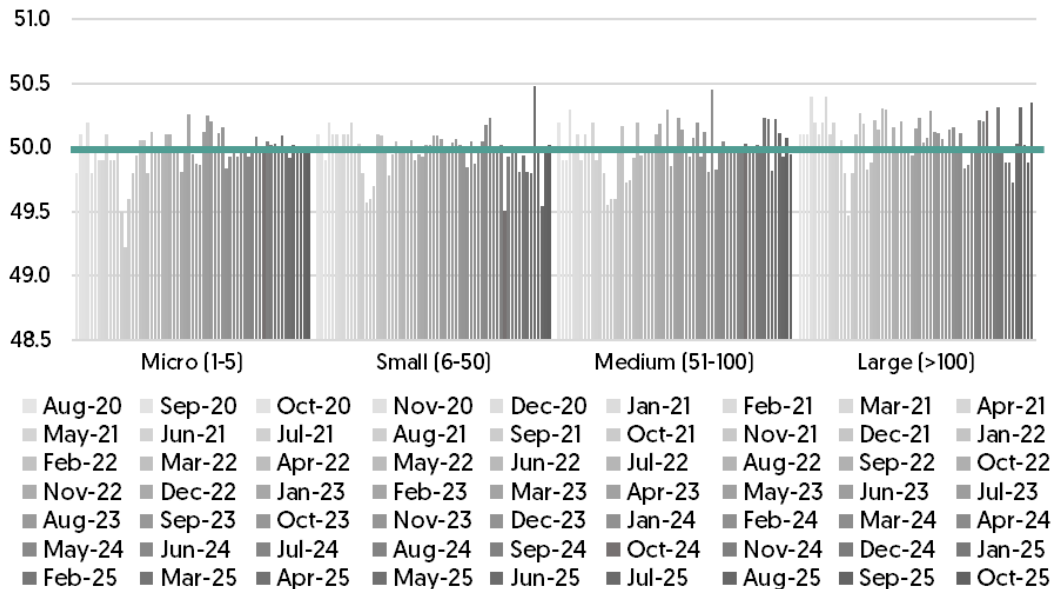
For Costs sub-index, above 50 indicates an increase in costs, and conversely for below 50. Index at 50 indicates costs were more or less the same in the current month compared to the previous month.

## Sectoral BSI – August 2020 to October 2025



*Note: An index above 50 indicates expansion/optimism compared to the previous month. Index at 50 indicates no change compared to the previous month while below 50 indicates contraction / less optimism compared to the previous month.*

## Sentiment by Business Size



*Note: An index above 50 indicates expansion/optimism compared to the previous month. Index at 50 indicates similar/no change compared to the previous month while below 50 indicates contraction / less optimism compared to the previous month.*