



PRESS RELEASE

BUSINESS SENTIMENT INDEX (BSI) FOR BRUNEI DARUSSALAM FOR APRIL 2026

1. Brunei Darussalam Central Bank (BDCB) today published Brunei Darussalam's Business Sentiment Index (BSI) for April 2026. The index is based on monthly surveys of approximately 500 micro, small, medium, and large businesses across 11 economic sectors in all districts of Brunei Darussalam.
2. The BSI measures 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. Since its launch in August 2020, BDCB has undertaken a review of the BSI methodology to enhance the robustness, consistency and analytical value of the index. While the BSI was expressed on a scale of 0 to 100 under the previous methodology, the calculation formula constrained the index to a narrow range of 49.0 to 51.0. Following the revision, the methodology now allows the BSI to fully utilise the 0.0 to 100.0 scale, with the neutral threshold remaining at 50.0. This enhancement improves the index's sensitivity and interpretability, enabling clearer identification of shifts in sentiment.
4. This revision does not affect the economic interpretation of past results, as the underlying sentiment captured by the index remains unchanged. To ensure consistency and comparability over time, historical BSI data have been recalculated using the revised methodology and published in the Statistical Bulletin available on the BDCB website.
5. 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

6. The main headline index, Current Business Conditions sub-index, was 63.3 in April 2026 compared to 76.2 in March 2026, indicating that businesses in general were still optimistic about business conditions despite the moderation in overall sentiment. Businesses in certain sectors generally expected a pick-up in activities following the festive period, supported by the resumption of operations, fewer holiday-related disruptions, and continued momentum in ongoing and newly secured projects. However, this was offset by pessimism, as businesses in sectors such as Wholesale & Retail Trade expected a

slowdown in consumer demand. Sentiment was further weighed down by subdued market conditions, alongside rising cost pressures linked to higher input and logistics costs. The one month (1M) ahead index stood at 50.6, which indicates that business conditions are expected to remain relatively similar in May 2026 compared to April 2026.

7. The Investment sub-indices stood at 70.4 for the current month, 79.0 for the 1M ahead index and 78.5 for three months (3M) ahead, indicating healthy expectations for investments in general. Businesses expected investment activity to be directed largely towards upgrading fixed assets and equipment, infrastructure expansion and renovation work, as well as continued spending on technology and project-related capital expenditure, including preparations for new projects and support for higher business activity. Businesses also anticipated increased inventory purchases, partly in response to higher input costs and expected demand, alongside targeted investments in technology upgrades and staff training.
8. The Employment sub-index stood at 43.6 for the current month and 44.6 for the 1M ahead index, indicating a contraction in hiring activity across businesses. The decline in employment is expected to be driven largely by natural attrition, particularly resignations and the expiry or non-renewal of contracts, including among foreign workers. In some cases, businesses also indicated that they do not plan to immediately replace departing staff, reflecting more cautious hiring decisions moving forward.
9. The Costs sub-index was 79.8 for the current month and 72.5 for 1M ahead, indicating that businesses expected operating costs to keep increasing in the near term. Rising costs are expected to be driven mainly by higher prices of raw materials and imported inputs, as well as increased transportation and freight costs linked to elevated fuel prices. Global and geopolitical developments, particularly in West Asia, further contributed to supply disruptions and cost pressures across raw materials and logistics. At the same time, higher operational spending, including payroll costs, inventory restocking, and project-related expenditures, also contributed to expectations of overall cost increases.

BSI April 2026	
Current Business Conditions	63.3
1M Ahead Business Conditions	50.6
Current Investment	70.4
1M Ahead Investment	79.0
3M Ahead Investment	78.5
Current Employment	43.6
1M Ahead Employment	44.6
Current Costs	79.8
1M Ahead Costs	72.5

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

10. In terms of economic sectors:

	Sector	Index	Factors
Optimistic Sentiment	Health & Education	81.2	More patient visits after the festive season.
	Oil and Gas Related	69.9	Improved product margins and tighter supply conditions, alongside expectations of higher sales volumes and prices, partly reflecting continued geopolitical tensions in West Asia.
	Construction	66.0	Ongoing small-scale works, newly awarded projects, and new clients, alongside improved cash flows from incoming payments. Positive sentiment was further aided by favourable weather conditions.
	Hotels & Restaurants	58.2	Higher hotel bookings for rooms and event halls, alongside sustained demand for catering and takeaway services.
	Finance & Insurance	55.9	Increased takaful contributions and higher financing activity, including project-related loan drawdowns.
No Change	Other Private Services	53.8	Higher operational momentum, new project awards, and increased demand for utilities, logistics, and services. However, this was partly offset by project delays, and softer activity among businesses awaiting contracts or facing limited work.
	Real Estate & Ownership of Dwellings	49.8	Majority of businesses reported similar conditions in general.
	Manufacturing	48.1	Increased orders and production, and the resumption of operations after the festive period was offset by a post-festive demand slowdown, alongside pressures from rising input costs, supply shortages, and increased competition.
Pessimistic Sentiment	Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries & Livestock	40.8	Improved production among smaller businesses, supported by favourable weather, partly offset by expectations of weaker post-festive demand among larger businesses.
	Transport & Communication	26.9	Lower activity during the off-peak travel period and reduced travel-related demand, partly due to geopolitical tensions in West Asia, which have affected flight connectivity and roaming usage.
	Wholesale & Retail Trade	20.7	End of the Eid peak season, with businesses reporting a return to normal levels of consumer spending, alongside rising cost pressures.

11. In terms of business size:

	Size	Index	Factors
Optimistic Sentiment	Small	66.3	Normalisation of operations and consumer activity, new project awards, and confirmed tenders boosting workloads, as well as improved weather supporting outdoor activities and farming.
	Large	64.5	Pickup in demand and operations, as well as stronger energy sector performance as supply disruptions lift refining margins, and new project awards.
No Change	Micro	49.2	Continuation of existing work and steady demand for goods and services.
Pessimistic Sentiment	Medium	22.3	Pullback in consumer spending as demand normalises, coupled with energy supply disruptions affecting some businesses, increased import competition, and firm-specific factors.

12. The time-series charts for the BSI and its sub-indices since August 2020 are provided 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 and follow updates on the BSI through future press releases and BDCB's Instagram account @centralbank.brunei.

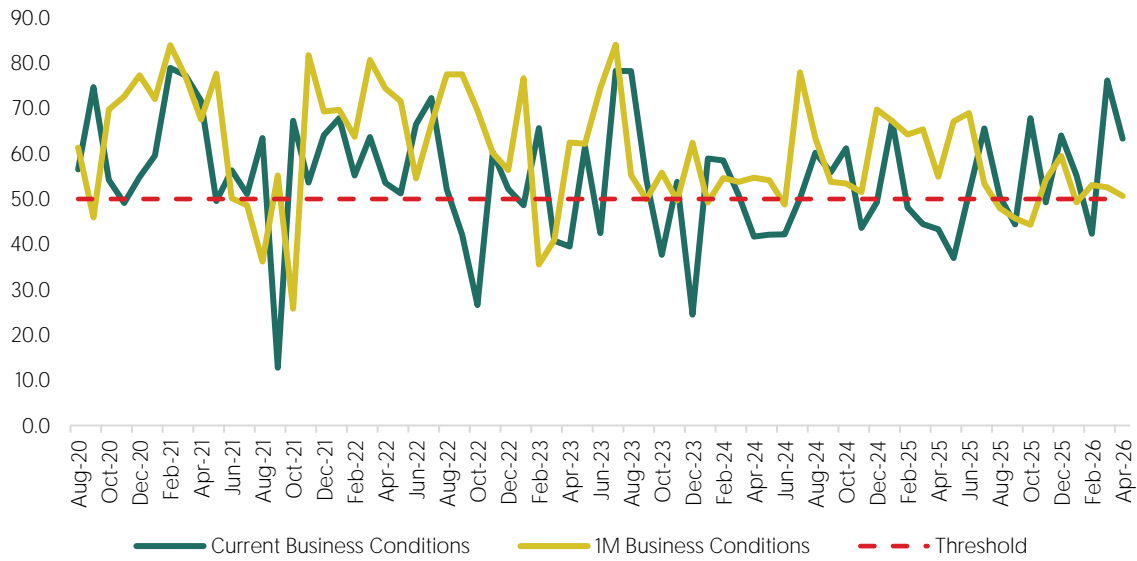
Brunei Darussalam Central Bank

Date: 29 Zulhijjah 1447H / 15 June 2026M

Ref: BDCB/COMMS/3

ANNEX 1

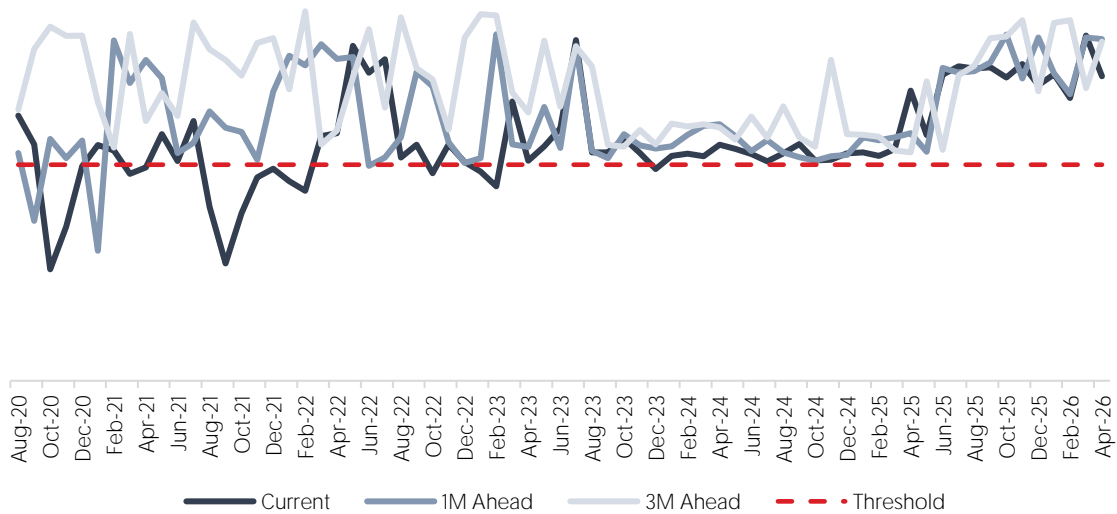
Business Conditions



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

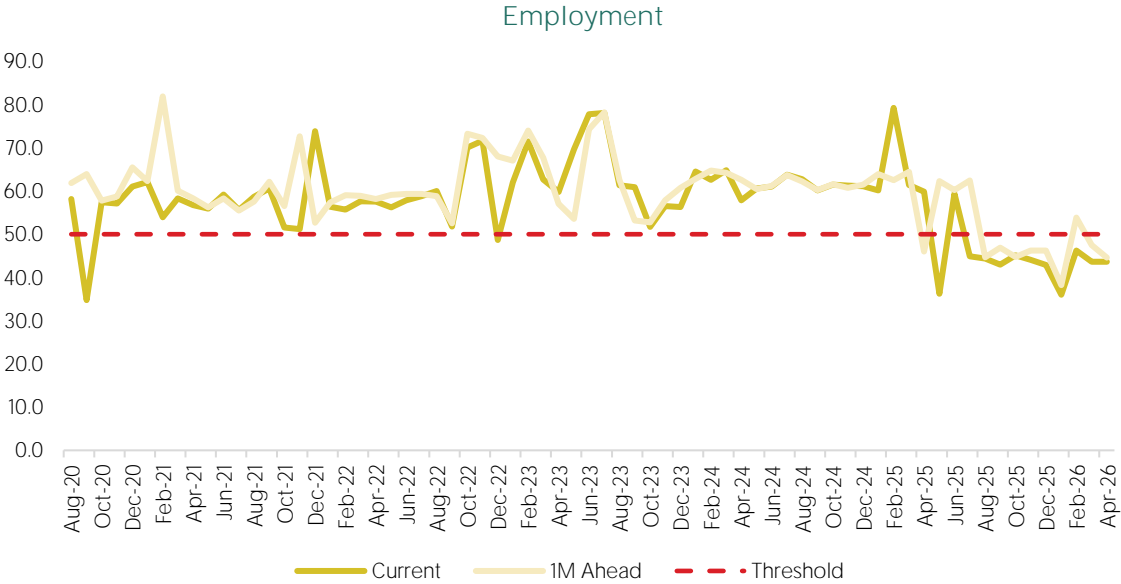
For Business Conditions sub-index, above 50 indicates expansion/optimism compared to the previous month. Index at 50 indicates similar/no change compared to the previous month while below 50 indicates contraction / less optimism compared to the previous month.

Investments



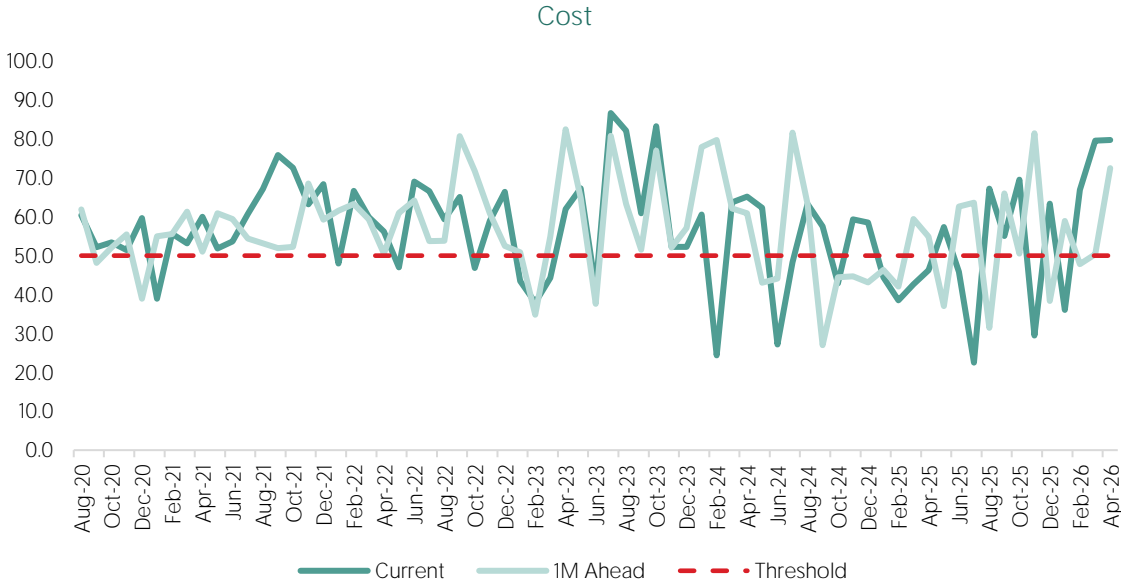
Note: For 1M Ahead Investments, the result compares expected investment in the next month compared to the current month while for the 3M Ahead Investment, the result compares expected investments 3 months ahead compared to the current month.

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.

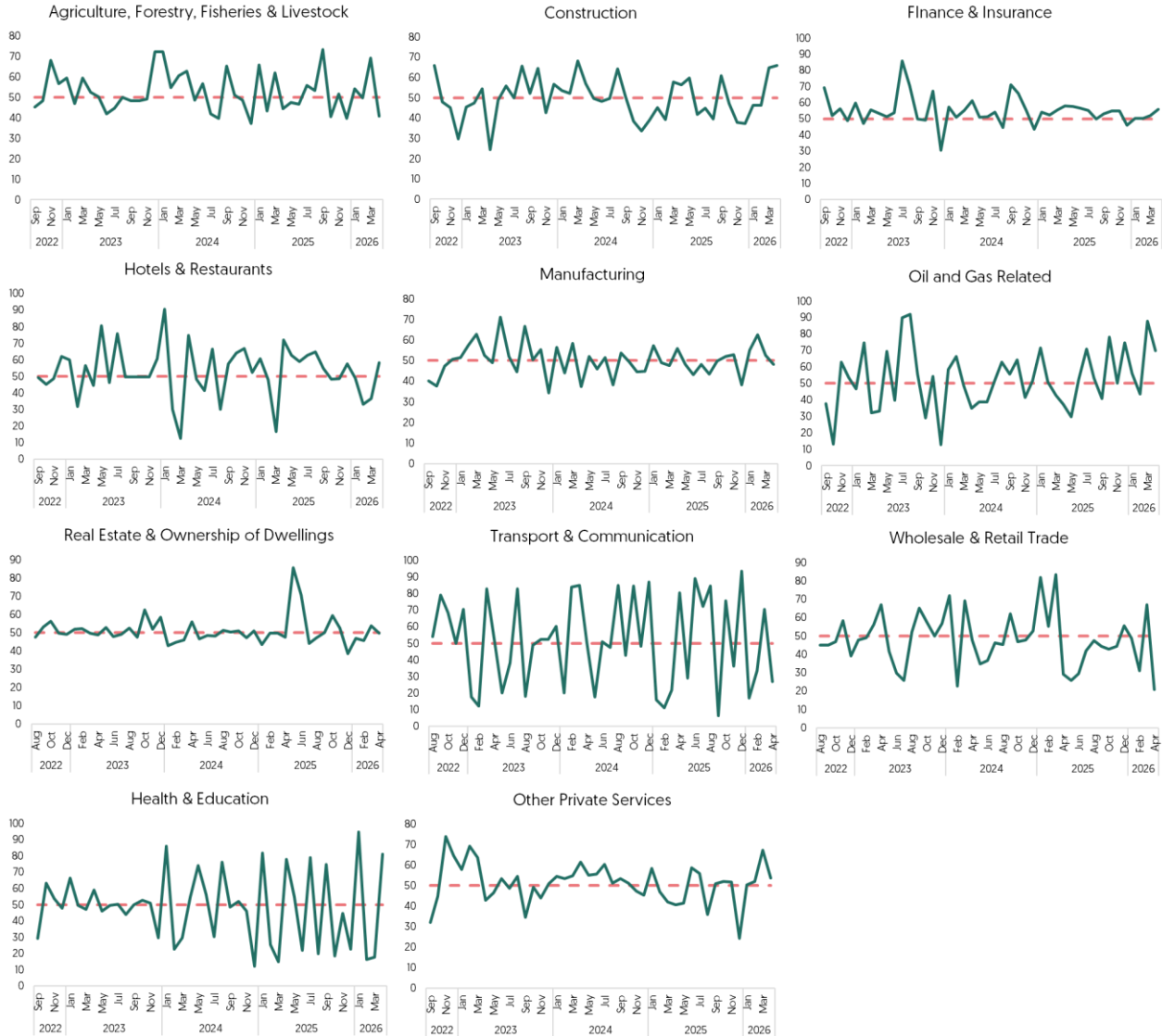
For Employment sub-index, above 50 indicates more new hires compared to the previous month. Index at 50 indicates similar/no change compared to the previous month while below 50 indicates a reduction in employee headcount compared to the previous month.



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

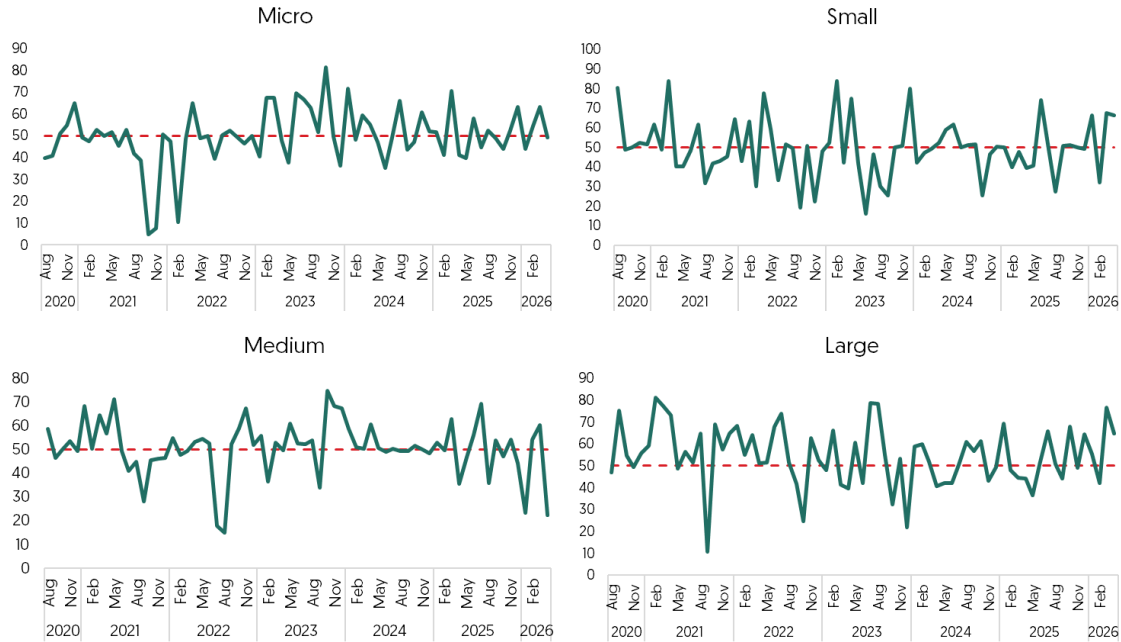
For Costs sub-index, above 50 indicates an increase in costs, and conversely for below 50. Index at 50 indicates costs were more or less the same in the current month compared to the previous month.

Sectoral BSI – August 2020 to April 2026



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.