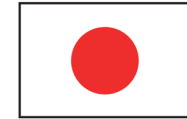
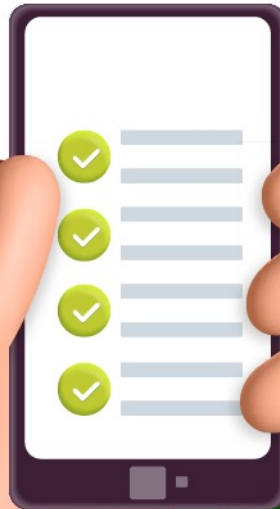




THE UKRAINIAN CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY



From
the People of Japan



BUSINESS BAROMETER

MONTHLY UKRAINIAN BUSINESS SURVEY

October 2026 | #37

survey September 8-16, 2026



Hot issues –

**What do you consider the most appropriate
primary source of funding for a business
war-damage compensation fund?**

The results presented solely represent the opinions of the respondents and should not be interpreted as forecasts or evaluations by the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Issue #37 | October 2026

Declining business confidence and growing pessimism among enterprises

- In October 2026, the overall Business Barometer Index declined further to -16.4 (↓1.6), reaching a new low for the year.
- Pessimistic sentiment prevails across all four sectors, with mostly moderate and mixed dynamics. The most challenging situation is observed in manufacturing (-20.3, ↓0.5). Businesses in the services sector (-13.5, ↑0.4) and trade (-14.0, ↓2.1) assess the situation somewhat more positively. Construction (-4.1, ↑0.7) performs noticeably better than the other sectors.
- Regardless of business size, negative expectations dominate across all categories and have intensified among micro (-16.5, ↓3.9), small (-20.1, ↓1.7), medium-sized (-15.3, ↓1.3), and large enterprises (-7.2, ↓2.2).
- Exporters' expectations have stabilized at a level slightly more optimistic than that of the business community overall (-14.4, ↑0.5).
- Survey results regarding the funding of a compensation fund for war-related business losses show that the largest share of respondents (47%) see grants from international partners as the primary source of funding. Another 24% believe compensation should mainly be financed through the reallocation of existing state budget funds, while 18% consider contributions from businesses participating in the risk compensation scheme to be the most appropriate source. The idea of using additional revenue from increasing the VAT rate from 20% to 21% is supported by only 7% of business representatives. The least popular option is funding through loans from international partners and financial institutions (4%).

The Business Barometer value of 0 points indicates no change in expectations. A value above 0 suggests that businesses anticipate an improvement in economic trends compared to the previous month. A value below 0 reflects negative expectations regarding changes relative to the prior month.

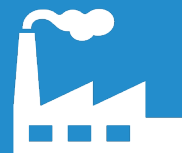


BUSINESS BAROMETER

BUSINESS BAROMETER	2024				2025												2026											
	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct		
OVERALL	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡		
MANUFACTURING	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡		
SERVICES	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡		
TRADE	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡		
CONSTRUCTION	🟢	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡		
MICRO ENTERPRISES	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡		
SMALL ENTERPRISES	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡		
MEDIUM ENTERPRISES	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡		
LARGE ENTERPRISES	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡		
EXPORTERS	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡		

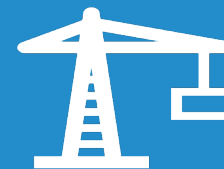
- 🟢 the index value is over 10 points
- 🟡 the index value is from -10 to 10 points
- 🟠 the index value is below -10 points

-16,4 ↓ -1,6
BUSINESS BAROMETER
OVERALL



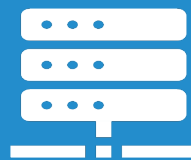
MANUFACTURING

-20,3 ↓ -0,5



CONSTRUCTION

-4,1 ↑ +0,7



SERVICES

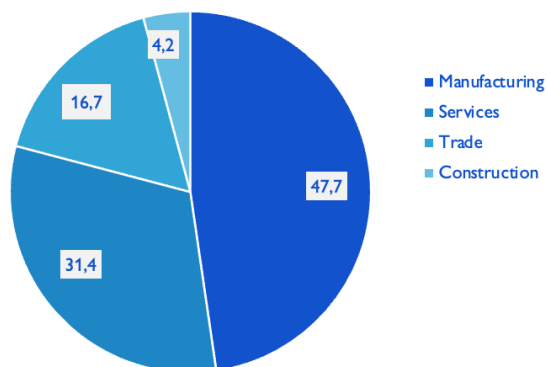
-13,5 ↑ +0,4



TRADE

-14,0 ↓ -2,1

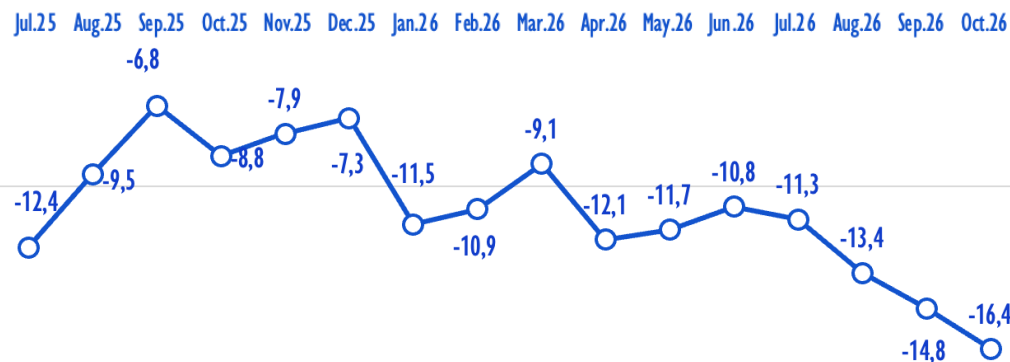
Distribution of respondents by sector
Share of respondents, %



#37 | October 2026

BUSINESS BAROMETER OVERALL

-16,4 ↓ -1,6



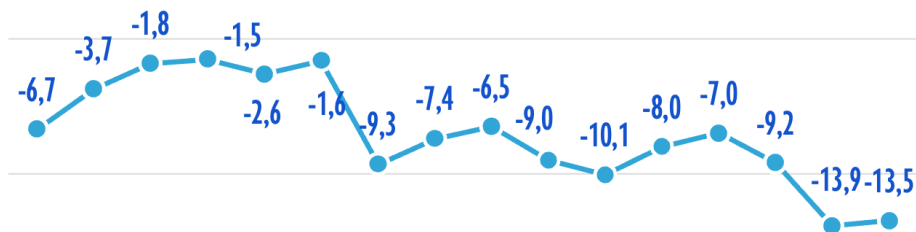
-20,3 ↓ -0,5 MANUFACTURING



Jul.25 Aug.25 Sep.25 Oct.25 Nov.25 Dec.25 Jan.26 Feb.26 Mar.26 Apr.26 May.26 Jun.26 Jul.26 Aug.26 Sep.26 Oct.26



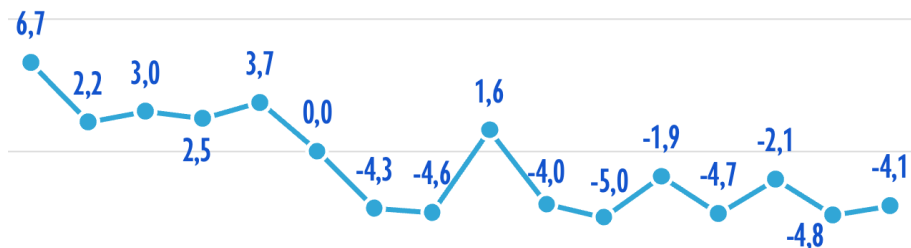
-13,5 ↑ +0,4 SERVICES



Jul.25 Aug.25 Sep.25 Oct.25 Nov.25 Dec.25 Jan.26 Feb.26 Mar.26 Apr.26 May.26 Jun.26 Jul.26 Aug.26 Sep.26 Oct.26



-4,1 ↑ +0,7 CONSTRUCTION



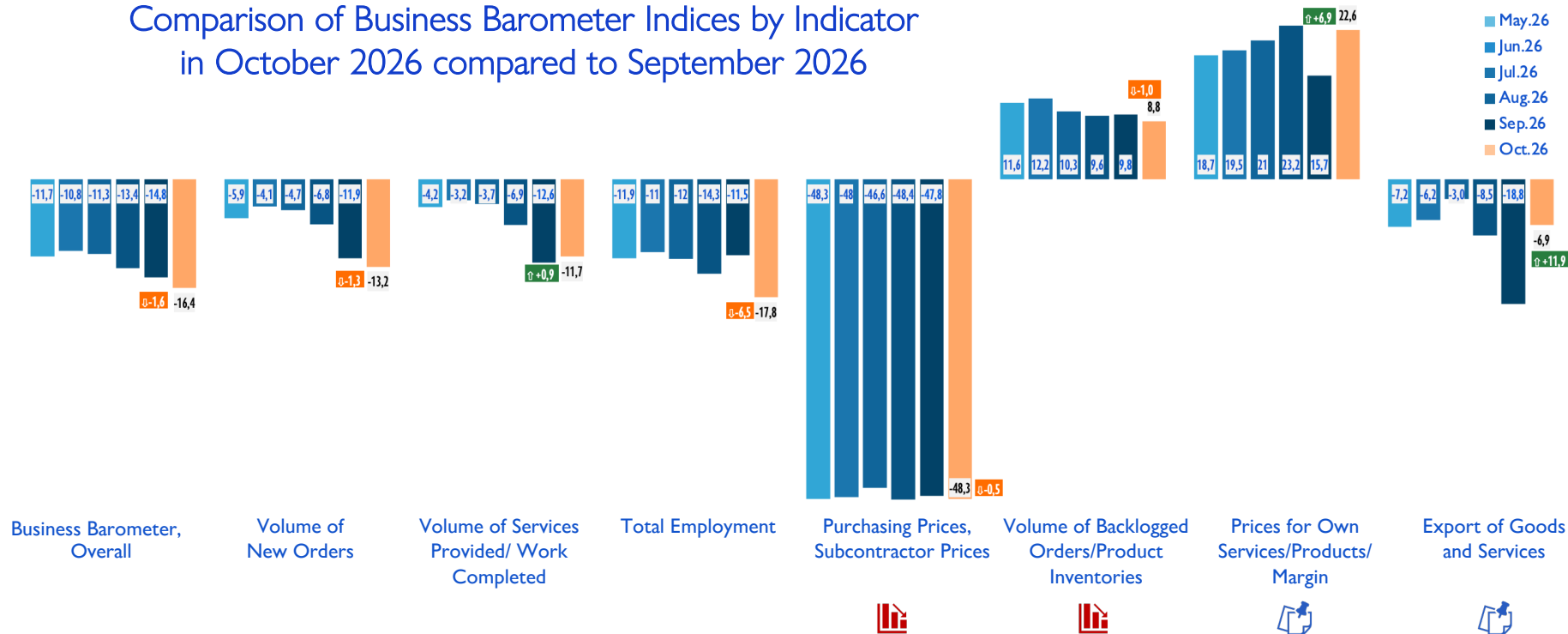
Jul.25 Aug.25 Sep.25 Oct.25 Nov.25 Dec.25 Jan.26 Feb.26 Mar.26 Apr.26 May.26 Jun.26 Jul.26 Aug.26 Sep.26 Oct.26



-14,0 ↓ -2,1 TRADE



Jul.25 Aug.25 Sep.25 Oct.25 Nov.25 Dec.25 Jan.26 Feb.26 Mar.26 Apr.26 May.26 Jun.26 Jul.26 Aug.26 Sep.26 Oct.26

-16,4
↓ -1,6Comparison of Business Barometer Indices by Indicator
in October 2026 compared to September 2026

In October 2026, the overall Business Barometer Index declined by 1.6 points to -16.4, indicating that pessimistic sentiment continues to prevail across the business community.

Positive expectations outweigh negative ones for only two indicators: a reduction in the volume of unfulfilled orders or inventories (8.8, ↓1.0) and the potential to increase prices for businesses' own goods or services (22.6, ↑6.9). All other indicators remain in negative territory.

Pessimistic expectations eased regarding the volume of services provided or work performed (-11.7, ↑0.9) and exports of goods and services (-6.9, ↑11.9).

At the same time, pessimistic expectations intensified regarding the volume of new orders (-13.2, ↓1.3), total employment (-17.8, ↓6.5), and further increases in purchase prices and contractors' prices (-48.3, ↓0.5), which remain the most problematic factor for businesses.



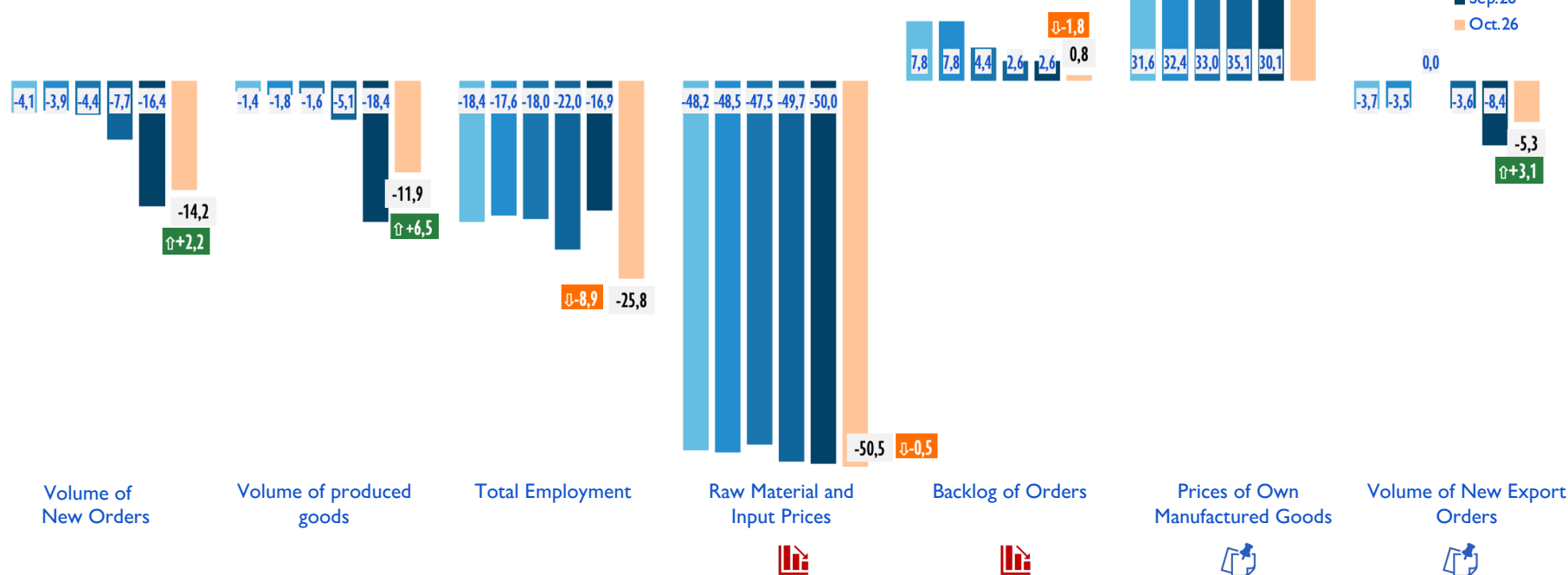
Deterrent indicators are considered in the opposite sense when calculating the Business Barometer indices.



These indicators provide additional insight into market conditions and are not considered in the calculation of the Business Barometer.

-20,3 ↓ -0,5

MANUFACTURING

Manufacturing Sector Business Expectations
in October 2026 compared to September 2026

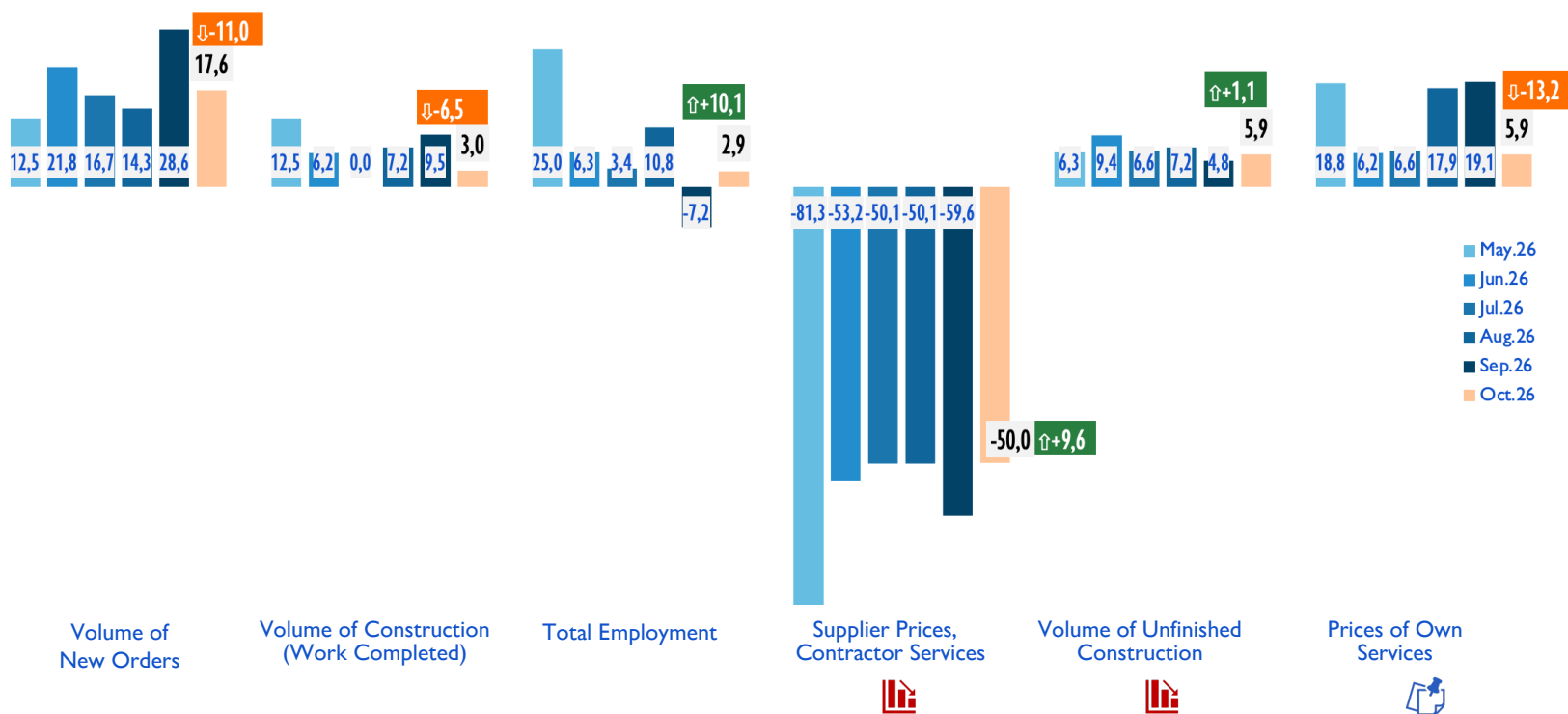
In October 2026, negative expectations in the manufacturing sector intensified slightly (-20.3, ↓0.5).

Positive expectations outweigh negative ones for two indicators: the possibility of further increases in prices for businesses' own products (35.1, ↑5.0) and a reduction in the volume of unfulfilled orders (-0.8, ↓1.8). The latter indicator remains close to the neutral level.

All other indicators remain in negative territory, against a backdrop of mixed dynamics. Manufacturing businesses expect declines in the volume of new orders (-14.2, ↑2.2), production volumes (-11.9, ↑6.5), and total employment (-25.8, ↓8.9), as well as further increases in purchase prices for raw materials and other inputs (-50.5, ↓0.5).

Negative expectations regarding the volume of new export orders have eased (-5.3, ↑3.1).

Construction Sector Business Expectations in October 2026 compared to September 2026

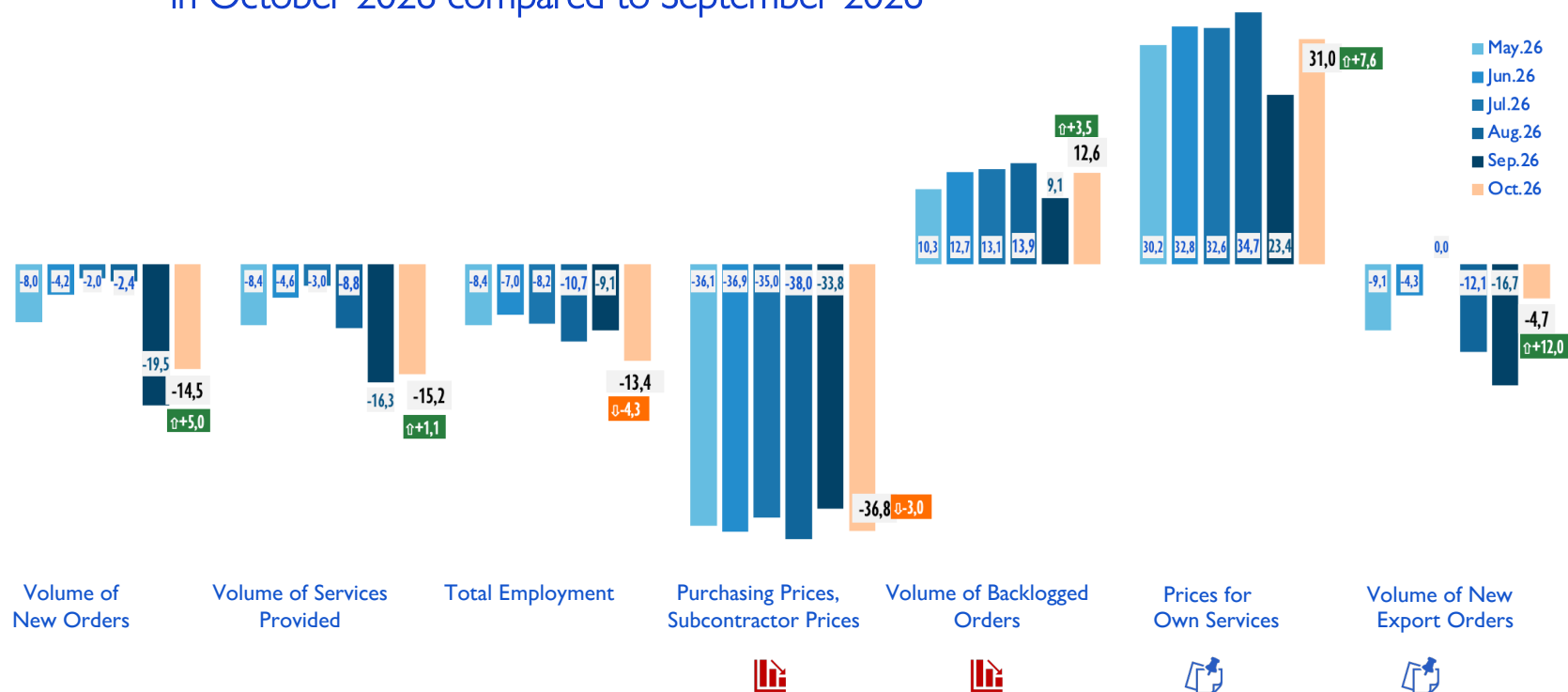


In October 2026, the construction sector continued to show moderately negative expectations (-4.1, ↑0.7), which are gradually easing and remain significantly more positive than in the other sectors.

Against a backdrop of mixed dynamics, businesses expect increases in the volume of new orders (17.6, ↓11.0), construction output or work performed (3.0, ↓6.5), total employment (2.9, ↑10.1), and prices for their own services (5.9, ↓13.2). At the same time, the volume of unfinished construction is expected to decline (5.9, ↑1.1).

Expectations regarding further increases in suppliers' prices and the cost of contractors' services remain extremely negative, despite the positive dynamics (-59.6, ↓9.5).

Services Sector Business Expectations in October 2026 compared to September 2026



In October 2026, negative expectations in the services sector eased slightly (-13.5, ↑0.4).

Positive expectations outweigh negative ones regarding the possibility of further increases in prices or tariffs for businesses' own services (31.0, ↑7.6) and a reduction in the volume of unfulfilled orders (12.6, ↑3.5).

Against a backdrop of positive dynamics, businesses still expect declines in the volume of new orders (-14.5, ↑5.0) and the volume of services provided (-15.2, ↑1.1). Total employment is also expected to continue decreasing (-13.4, ↓4.3).

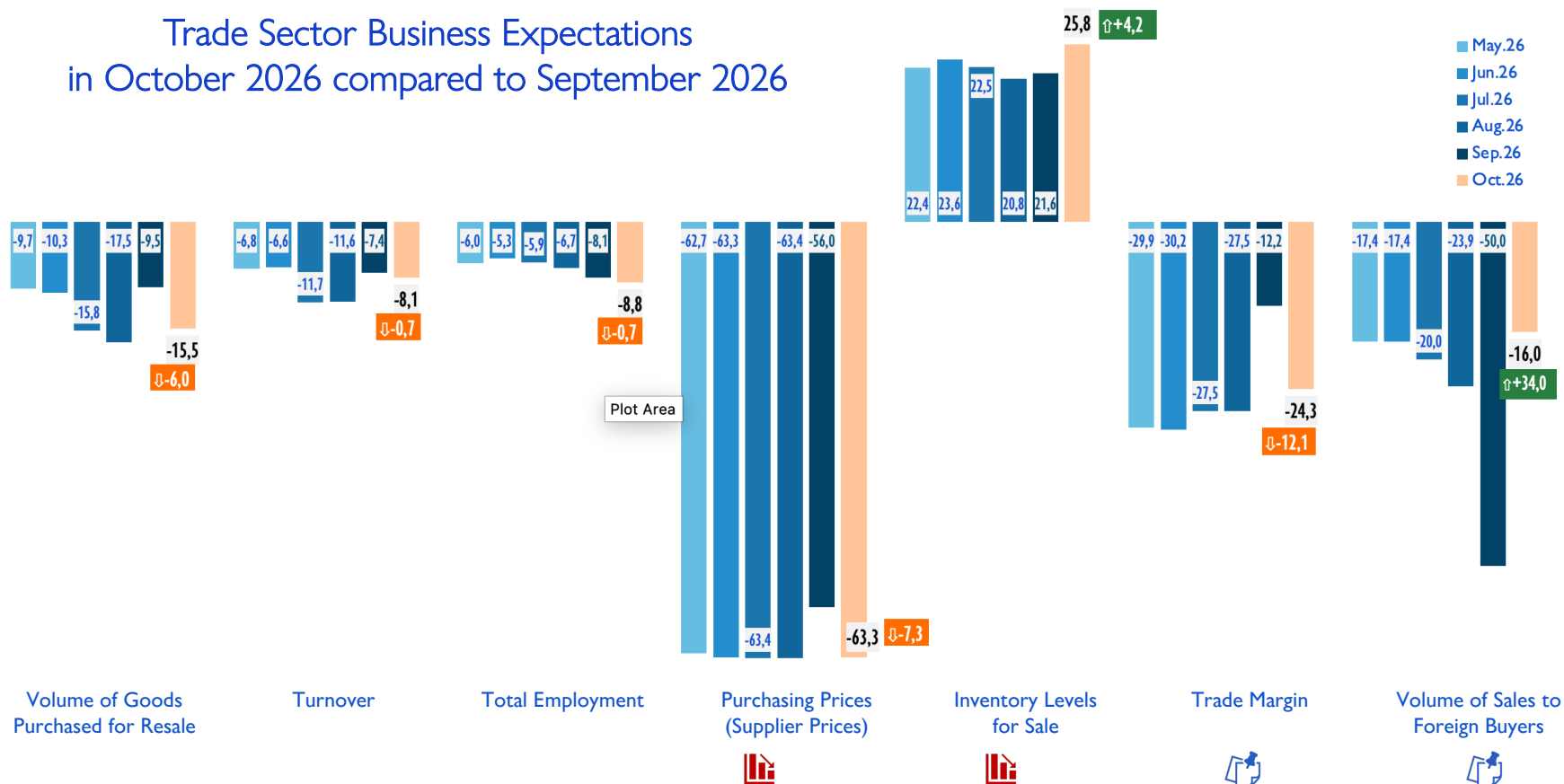
Despite a marked positive shift, the volume of new export orders is still expected to be lower than in the previous month (-4.7, ↑12.0).

With regard to rising purchase prices, which remain one of the most problematic factors for businesses, negative expectations have intensified somewhat (-36.8, ↓3.0).

-14,0
↓ -2,1

TRADE

Trade Sector Business Expectations in October 2026 compared to September 2026

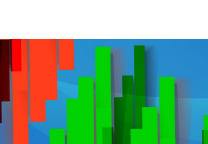


In October 2026, negative expectations in the trade sector intensified slightly (-14.0, ↓2.1).

Positive expectations outweigh negative ones only regarding a reduction in inventories or stocks of goods for sale (25.8, ↑4.2).

For all other indicators, negative expectations prevail and have mostly intensified. Businesses expect declines in purchases of goods for resale (-15.5, ↓6.0), turnover (-8.1, ↓0.7), total employment (-8.8, ↓0.7), trade margins (-24.3, ↓12.1), and sales to foreign buyers (-16.8, ↑34.0).

The most problematic factor remains the continued increase in purchase prices or suppliers' prices (-63.3, ↓7.3).



-16,4 ↓ -1,6

BUSINESS BAROMETER
OVERALL

MICRO-
ENTERPRISES
(0-9 persons employed)

-16,5 ↓ -3,9

SMALL
ENTERPRISES
(up to 50 persons employed)

-20,1 ↓ -1,7



EXPORTERS

-14,4 ↑ +0,5

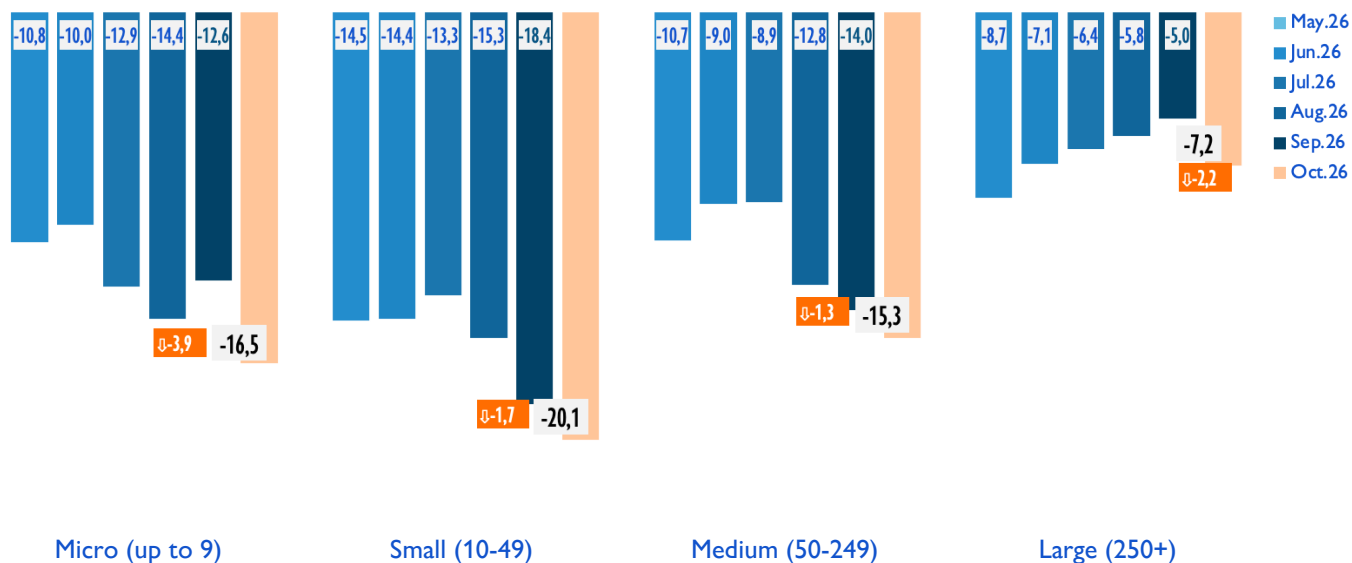
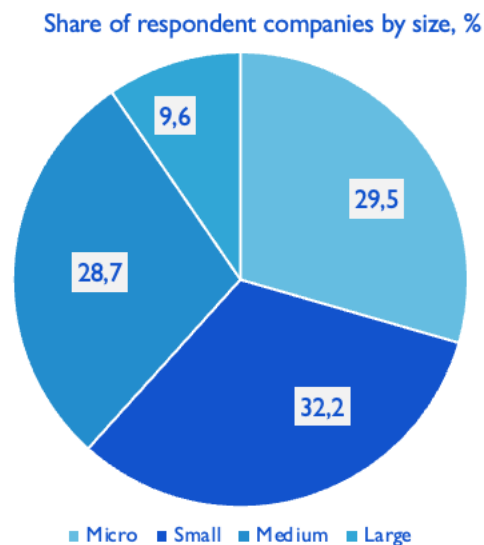
MEDIUM
ENTERPRISES
(50-249 persons employed)

-15,3 ↓ -1,3

LARGE
ENTERPRISES
(250 or more persons employed)

-7,2 ↓ -2,2

Business and Entrepreneur Expectations by Company Size in October 2026 compared to September 2026

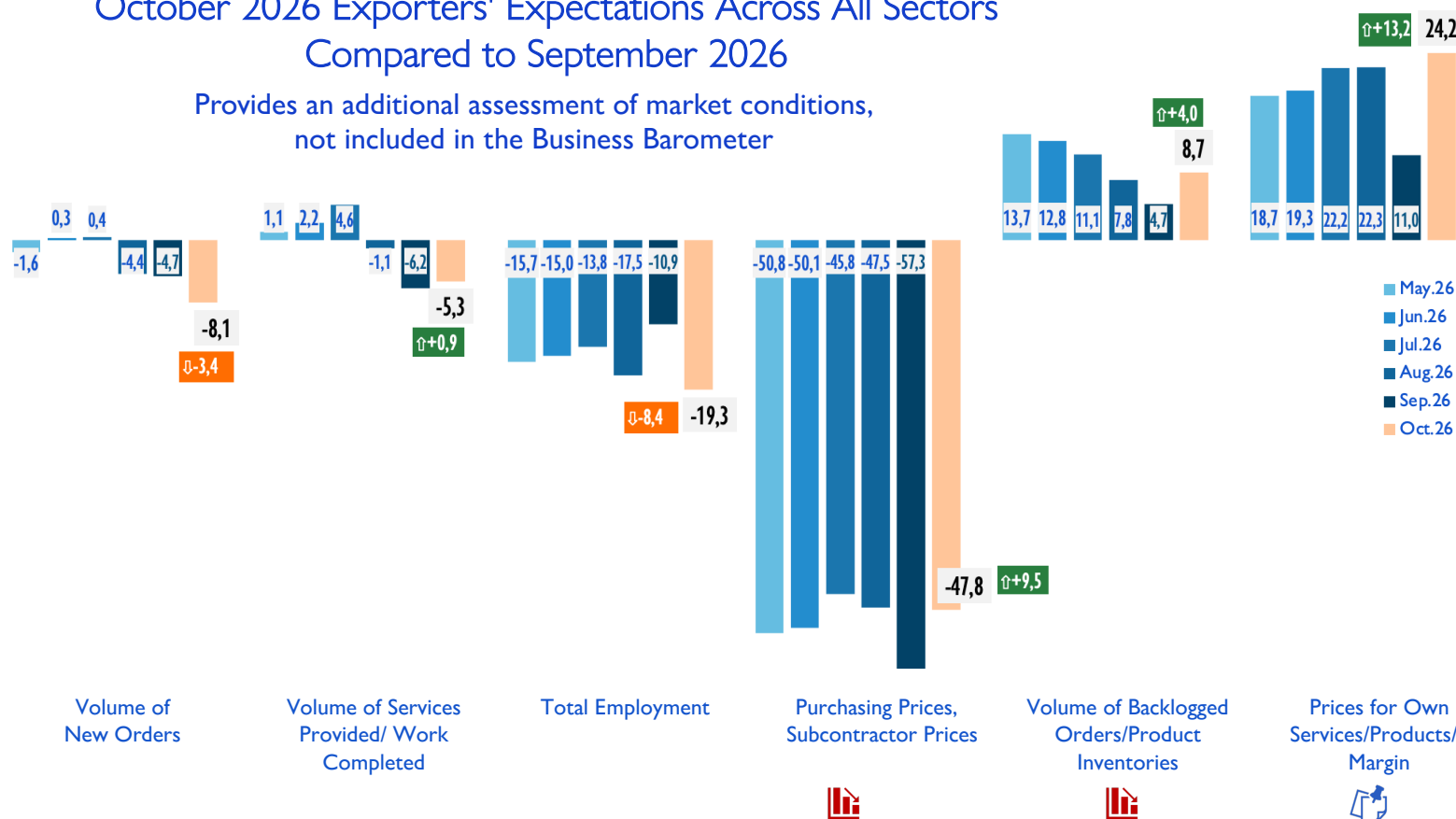


In October 2026, as in the previous month, negative expectations prevailed across all business size categories, with pessimism intensifying among micro (-16.5, ↓3.9), small (-20.1, ↓1.7), medium-sized (-15.3, ↓1.3), and large enterprises (-7.2, ↓2.2).

Large businesses remain the least pessimistic, while small enterprises have the most negative outlook for the future.

October 2026 Exporters' Expectations Across All Sectors Compared to September 2026

Provides an additional assessment of market conditions,
not included in the Business Barometer



In October 2026, exporters' negative expectations remained almost unchanged from the previous month, showing only a slight improvement (-14.4, ↑0.5).

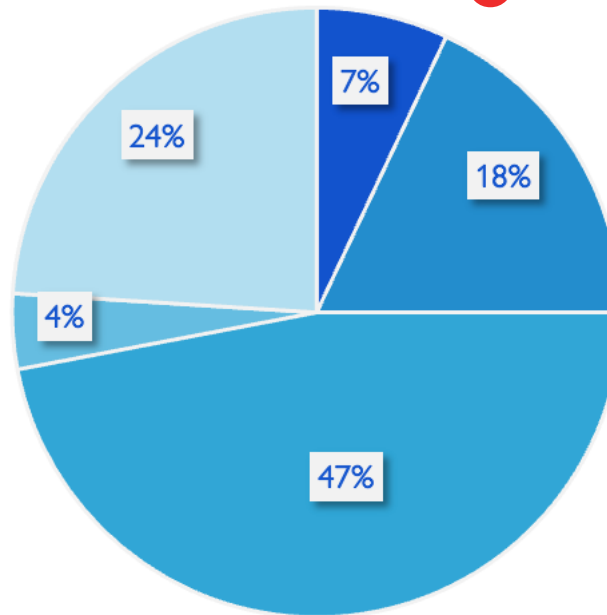
Positive expectations remain regarding a reduction in the volume of unfulfilled orders (8.7, ↑4.0). There is also continued potential to increase prices for businesses' own goods or services or to improve margins (24.2, ↑13.2).

All other indicators remain in negative territory and show mixed dynamics. Exporters expect declines in the volume of new orders (-8.1, ↓3.4), the volume of services provided (-5.3, ↑0.9), and total employment (-19.3, ↓8.4), as well as further increases in purchase prices (-47.8, ↑9.5).

Exporters' expectations are somewhat less pessimistic than those of the business community overall.

Hot issues –

What do you consider the most appropriate primary source of funding for a business war-damage compensation fund?

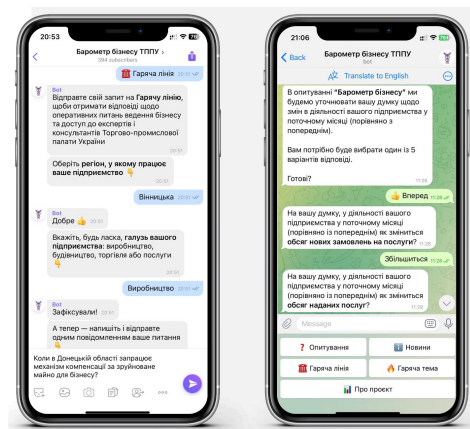


- Revenue from increasing the VAT rate from 20% to 21%
- Contributions from businesses participating in the risk compensation scheme
- Grants from international partners
- Loans from international partners and financial institutions
- Reallocation of existing state budget funds

ACTUAL PROBLEM		GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	
		For BUSINESS	For the AUTHORITIES
1	Increase in purchase prices or contractor prices	• Price monitoring and supplier diversification • Introduction of tender procedures and auctions • Entering into fixed-price contracts • Inventory optimization • Hedging through instruments such as futures and options • Vertical integration to ensure greater control over the supply of raw materials and inputs • Analysis of alternative products, materials, or technologies to replace more expensive resources • For importers, assessing the feasibility of investing in local production to reduce dependence on imports and exposure to exchange-rate fluctuations • Establishing partnerships for joint procurement	• Maintaining a prudent monetary policy by the National Bank of Ukraine • Strengthening oversight of price-fixing practices through more active antitrust enforcement • Expanding targeted lending to domestic producers • Ensuring an adequate level of external financing

Chatbots VIBER & TELEGRAM

- Monthly regular survey
- The "hot" issue of the month
- "Hotline" of the Ukrainian CCI system



The Business Barometer from the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UCCI) represents the perspectives of enterprises and entrepreneurs who are members and partners of the UCCI. It reflects expectations for changes in the business environment in the coming month compared to the previous one.

Based on a survey that considers the status of indicators (or "sub-indices") of the respondents' activities across four sectors (manufacturing, construction, trade, services), the Business Barometer is tailored to meet the needs of the members and partners of the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. A distinctive feature of the Business Barometer is the inclusion of specialized industry questions and an analysis of export conditions, which provides additional insights into market conditions.

The survey covers questions regarding:

- Volume of new orders/purchase of goods;
- Production volumes/turnover;
- Total employment;
- Purchasing prices/contractor prices;
- Unfulfilled order volume/inventory levels;
- Prices of own production/trade margin*;
- Exports*

* Extra questions that are not considered in the calculation of the Business Barometer.

The Business Barometer is calculated using the following methodology:

$$BB = P1 * 1 + P2 * 0,5 + P3 * 0 + P4 * (-0,5) + P5 * (-1)$$

where:

- P1 = % of responses indicating unconditional improvement
- P2 = % of responses indicating conditional improvement
- P3 = % of responses indicating no change
- P4 = % of responses indicating conditional deterioration
- P5 = % of responses indicating unconditional deterioration

- A value **above 0** indicates growth or expansion in the economic sector compared to the previous month.
- A value **below 0** indicates contraction.
- A value **of 0** means no change compared to the previous month.

Attention! The indicators "Purchasing Prices" and "Unfulfilled Order Volume/Inventory Levels" are considered deterrents and are interpreted inversely in the calculation.

To detail the provided responses, a 5-point scale is used (will decrease – likely to decrease – no change – likely to increase – will increase).

For calculating the Business Barometer indicator, a 3-point scale is applied, and responses are summed up as follows:

- will decrease and likely to decrease;
- no change;
- likely to increase and will increase.