#### **REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON**

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REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN Paix - Travail - Patrie

Ministère des Petites et Moyennes Entreprise, de l'Economie Sociale et de l'Artisanat

# **ECONOMIC REPORT**

3<sup>rd</sup> TERM 2021

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## Abbreviations and acronyms

BC	Trade balance
BEAC	Bank of Central African States
BPW	Buildings and public works
CEMAC	Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa
CFA	African Financial Community
COVID-19	corona virus
СРМ	Monetary Policy Committee
DEPP	Division of Studies, Projects and Prospective
CASE	Special Assignment Account
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ICAE	Composite Indicator of Economic Activities
ІССРВ	Composite Commodity Price Index
NSI	National Institute of Statistics
ME/IM	Medium Enterprise / Medium Industry
MINPMEESA	Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts
SSO	Social Economy Organization
UN	United Nations
PE	Small business
GDP	Gross domestic product
SME	Small and medium enterprises
PMEESA	Small and Medium Enterprises, Social Economy and Crafts
SND-30	National Development Strategy 2020-2030
TPE	Very Small Business

#### Introduction

With the opening of borders which restores the possibilities of movement of goods and people, and despite the continuous mutation of the Covid-19 virus, economic activities have improved compared to the situation at the start of the pandemic. However, this recovery is likely to be less noticeable due to the rising inflation observed in the domestic market.

In order to assess the economic situation of SMEs in this economic context, MINPMEESA carried out a survey of certain SMEs over the period from July 15<sup>th</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup> 2021, covering the activities of the 2<sup>nd</sup> term 2021. Also, high-level statistical data frequency available in the administrations, were used to refine the explanation of the economic situation of SMEs in the 2<sup>nd</sup> term 2021. The data collection carried out by the Project Studies and Forecasting Division focused on the activities of the SMEs, the evolution of their turnover, the employment situation, the level of production and sales, the cash position and the investments made, and finally the measurement of the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on economic activity of SMEs. Thus, in the context of this economic report, the data analyzed come from 340 companies that responded to the planned questionnaire on time, i.e. a response rate of 68%.

This economic report for the 2<sup>nd</sup> term 2021, which collects the perceptions of business leaders, relates to (I) economic activity in the CEMAC sub-region; (II) level of activity and employment status; (III) their cash position; (IV) and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Small and Medium Enterprises.

# Chapter 1: Economic activity in the CEMAC sub-region

This chapter addresses the economic situation in the CEMAC sub-region during the  $2^{nd}$  term 2021 its impact on the Cameroonian economic situation.

- 1. Macroeconomic situation
- In the CEMAC zone

In 2020, the massive and brutal shock produced by the Covid-19 pandemic and by the measures to halt activity taken to curb it plunged the world economy into a serious recession. Among other things, the economy in the CEMAC zone has not been on the sidelines of this infectious crisis with disastrous appearances. This shock occurred in a situation of improving national economic performance. Indeed, after experiencing a boom in economic activity, the sub-region sank into a severe recession, leaving a GDP growth rate of 2.1% in 2019 to -1.7% in 2020. This recession is also observable in Cameroon.

In most CEMAC countries, due to the persistence of the pandemic and the need to maintain health intervention and economic support measures, total expenditure has increased, the note explains. With the gradual resumption of activities, the increase in oil revenue and measures to support the economy, coupled with the continued efforts to consolidate public finance management, the budget balance in several countries has improved. Thus, the execution of public finances in the CEMAC zone during the period under review resulted in an overall deficit of about 36.7 billion against deficits of about 384.6 billion three months earlier and 239.1 billion a year earlier, informs the same source.

Note that the BEAC forecasts positive economic prospects with a community growth rate of real gross domestic product (GDP) of 1.6% in 2021 and 3.3% in 2022.

In the second term of 2021, the CEMAC Composite Indicator of Economic Activities (ICAE) rose by 8.0% year-on- year at the end of June 2021, against -5.9% a year earlier. This performance is explained by the fact that in the second term of 2021, the CEMAC economies are operating with relatively more flexible health measures, allowing for more dynamic economic activity at the end of the semester. On the other hand, following a relatively sad first quarter, the ICAE maintained an unfavorable momentum reflected by a further decline of 0.1% in the second term of 2021, compared to a decline of 2.5% in the previous quarter. All of the CEMAC economies thus contributed positively to the rise in the ICAE in the second term of 2021, with the exception of the Central African Republic, which suffered from the negative repercussions of the security tensions recorded in the fourth quarter of 2020.

Based on the above, BEAC estimates indicate a year-on-year real GDP growth rate for CEMAC in the second term 2021 of 3.9%, compared to -4.0% a year earlier. In quarterly variation, CEMAC GDP recorded an increase of 0.3% in the second term of 2021, against -1.5% at the end of March 2021.

The BEAC estimates that the global real effective exchange rate (REER) fell by 0.8% at end-June 2021 quarter-on-quarter, after rising by 1.9% at the end of the previous quarter. This gain in CEMAC's competitiveness is explained by the appreciation of the nominal exchange rate (+0.06%) and by the improvement in competitiveness on the export and import front.

In the second term of 2021, the energy product price index rose by around 12.2%. This increase is explained by the growth in the price of a barrel of oil (13.1% in quarter No. 2 2021) and natural gas prices (5.7% in the second term of 2021. With regard to non-energy products, the price index increased by 2.8% in the second term of 2021. This change is explained by the growth observed in the prices of metals and minerals (10.8%), agricultural products (1.8%), fish products (1.2%) and forest products (1.0%).

#### In Cameroon

In the CEMAC zone, Cameroon is the second country to have recorded a positive contribution from the ICAE at the end of the second quarter of 2021. Despite lower hydrocarbon production in the second term of 2021 in Cameroon, the latter contributed positively to the dynamics of the ICAE year-on-year in the CEMAC at the end of June 2021. Overall demand in this country experienced a relative upturn, in line with the good performance of exports of cash crops (cocoa, manganese, wood and oil palm oil, in particular), a recovery in industries, construction and telecommunications, as well as greater public demand than in the first term of 2021.

#### Economic outlook in the CEMAC zone for the year 2021

Economic activity is expected to continue its slow recovery in the second half of 2021. BEAC estimates for end-September 2021, year-on-year, expect the CEMAC ICAE to increase by 4.2% (vs. -3.3 % one year earlier). This momentum should be maintained to a lesser extent in the fourth quarter of 2021, with a year-on-year change in the ICAE CEMAC at the end of December of 0.4% (compared to 1.4% a year earlier). This renewed dynamism anticipated at the CEMAC level for the second half of 2021 is to be credited to (i) the excitement of the organization of the CAN in Cameroon in early 2022 which would lead to renewed dynamism in services, trade, transport (air transport in particular) and the hotel and catering industry in Cameroon, (ii) a favorable trend in construction, particularly in Cameroon and Gabon, (iii) greater execution of public budgets, contributing to support a still fragile domestic demand, (iv) good progress in forestry production as well as (v) the relative good performance of cotton production in Cameroon and Chad. However, this favorable dynamic could be constrained by the emergence of new variants of SARS-COV2 likely to compromise the economic recovery efforts of the sub-region.

Regarding the short-term inflation forecasts, they expect inflation to be stable at the end of September 2021 compared to the end of June 2021; the inflation rate should remain at an annual average of 2.9% and increase to 3.6% year on year, against 1.9% and 2.8% respectively a term earlier.

Over the whole of 2021, BEAC services project: i) a real GDP growth rate of +1.6% against -1.7% in 2020, resulting from the dynamics of activities in the sector excluding oil, *ii*) an easing of inflationary pressures to 2.0% in 2021, against 2.4% a year earlier, *iii*) a reduction in the budget balance deficit on a commitment basis, including grants, by 2.0% of the GDP in 2020 to 1.7% of GDP in 2021, and *iv*) a decline in the current account deficit to 3.6% of GDP from 4.8% of GDP a year earlier. In terms of money, the money supply would grow by 11.5% while net foreign assets would fall by 21.4%.

#### 2. Household standard of living

In the CEMAC zone

In the second term 2021, the general price level in CEMAC maintained its upward trend. Annual average inflation rose to 2.1% at the end of June 2021, against 1.6% a year earlier. At the end of June 2021, the analysis of inflation on a year-on-year basis according to the contributions of the various consumption functions shows that the change in the general level of prices was strongly impacted mainly at the end of June 2021 by the functions: "food and non-alcoholic beverages", "transport" and "alcoholic beverages and tobacco".

At the end of the second term 2021, the evolution of final consumer prices of CEMAC households is mainly due to the following factors, namely: a significant rise in food prices. Another factor is latent pressure from imported inflation and sea freight costs, as well as speculative practices of certain merchant-distributors (BEAC, 2021). On the other hand, the BEAC estimates that the stability of global demand as well as government practices to control certain prices of basic necessities, contributed to containing inflationary pressures in the CEMAC in the second term 2021.

#### In Cameroon

According to the National Institute of Statistics (INS), prices in Cameroonian markets soared by 2.2% between June 2020 and June 2021. Quarteron-quarter inflation increased by 0.8% in the second quarter of 2021 compared to the first quarter of 2021. Compared to the same period of 2020, Cameroon recorded a 2% increase in consumer prices. This growth in inflation on the Cameroonian market concerns food products. The latter records an upward trend in consumer prices in Cameroon over the last 12 months. At the end of June 2021, the country recorded a surge in the inflation rate of 3.7% after +3.2% a year earlier and +1.9% in 2019. In detail, the price increase is : fruits by +6.0% after +9.2% a year ago, vegetables by +6.9% after +7.4% a year ago, breads and cereals by +5.1 % after +2.3% in the same period of 2020.

Consumer prices for oils and fats increased by +3.4% against a drop of -1.1% year-on-year. The same for milk, cheese and eggs with an increase of +2.0% after +0.6% in the first term 2020, meats of +1.3% after +5.2% and fish and seafood of +0.8% after -0.5%. As well as those of sugars, jam, honey,

chocolate and confectionery, after +3.3%, increased by +0.3%.

In view of the economic context in which Cameroonian businesses and households and therefore SMEs have evolved, it is appropriate to question its impact on the activities of Cameroonian SMEs during the 1<sup>st</sup> term 2021.

#### **Chapter 2: Activity and employment**

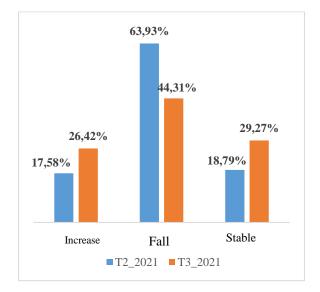
This chapter focuses on the analysis of the volume of activity, the level of production and sales achieved by SMEs and the employment situation during the 3<sup>rd</sup> term 2021.

#### 1. Activity level

During the 3rd term 2021, activities for 44.31% of SMEs are down compared to the 2<sup>nd</sup> term 2021. We observe a return to activity for 19.62% of the SMEs surveyed. This level of activity concerns 64.49% of companies in the tertiary sector, in this case general trade & provision of services (74.75%).

The forecasts made by business leaders during the survey carried out for the  $2^{nd}$  term 2021 on the level of activity for the  $3^{rd}$  term 2021, have not been achieved. Indeed, only 26.42% achieved a turnover higher than that obtained in the previous term.

<u>Chart 1</u>: Perception of business leaders on the level of their activities



Source: Economic Survey Q2\_2021, Q3\_2021, Our calculations on Excel

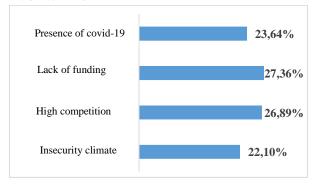
The proportion of business leaders who say that their turnover fell during the  $3^{rd}$  term 2021 decreased by 19.62% compared to the proportion

observed in the previous quarter; this observation shows that companies are becoming more resilient in the context of Covid.

The collection of the Covid-CASE Funds for the 2020 financial year by the beneficiaries (whose payment began in March 2021), enabled 42.86% of the beneficiaries surveyed in the context of this situation to relaunch their activity during the 2<sup>nd</sup> term 2021. This financing also enabled 42.86% to maintain a stable situation.

The main reason cited by companies to explain the decline in their turnover is the lack of financing and upstream investment; indeed, it constitutes the justification of 27.36% of the companies surveyed; other companies mention strong competition (26.89%) as the reason for their reduced activity; still others rather mention the presence of Covid-19 (23.64%).

<u>Chart 2</u>: Main reasons for the level of activity during the 3<sup>rd</sup> term 2021



Source: Economic Survey Q3\_2021, Our calculations on Excel

The presence of the Covid-19, still relevant, represents less and less a reason for a decline in activity according to business leaders. Indeed, 14.96% of business leaders who declared a drop in activity believe that the presence of Covid-19 had a greater impact on the  $3^{rd}$  term compared to the  $2^{nd}$  term 2021.

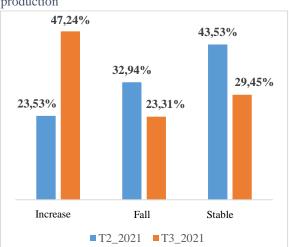
On the other hand, compared to the previous quarter, the proportion of business leaders whose climate of insecurity had negatively impacted their activity hardly changed during this quarter, still remaining the least mentioned reason.

The lack of targeted protectionist measures to make Cameroonian companies competitive and face competition is becoming increasingly worrying given that Cameroon is in an open economy. This situation suggests the need for mastery of the elements of competitiveness by Cameroonian companies. Also, the lines of financing coming from TFPs and available in the Banks (Société Générale, BGFI, CBC, etc.) in favor of SMEs could make it possible, on condition of making them bankable, to improve the competitiveness of the latter.

The increase in activity declared by 26.42% of the business leaders surveyed mainly concerns the sectors of General Trade (49.21%) & Service Provision (23.62%). This level of activity compared to the previous term is justified by the increase in investments (58.46%), the increase in activity (53.85%), the improvement in the quality of service (49, 23%) and the opportunities of the presence of Covid-19 (4.62%).

#### 2. Production cost

During the  $3^{rd}$  term 2021, business leaders (29.45%) declared a stability in the level of expenditure related to their activities compared to the previous quarter. According to these company managers, production costs particularly increased from the  $2^{nd}$  to the  $3^{rd}$  term 2021.





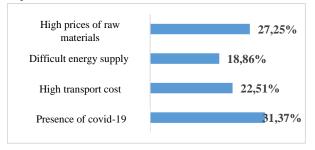
Source: Economic Survey Q2\_2021, Q3\_2021, Our calculations on Excel

Despite a substantial increase in business leaders who believe that costs remain stable, the proportion of business leaders who believe that production costs have been revised upwards increased by 23.71% between the  $2^{nd}$  and  $3^{rd}$  term 2021.

The increase in the cost of production is mainly observed in formal units operating in general trade

(36.36%), services (20.78%), followed by those in the textile branch (10.39%).

<u>Chart 4</u>: Main reasons for the high level of production expenditure



Source: Economic Survey Q3\_2021, Our calculations on Excel

As expected, the high price of raw materials is one of the main reasons for the increase in production costs (27.25%), but the presence of Covid-19 remains the main reason for this evolution of costs according to 31.37% business leaders. It is important to note that in addition to companies operating in General Trade and Service Provision, there are those in Agro-industry as those whose production costs have been particularly affected by the pandemic.

#### 3. Sales level

Regarding the level of sales, the perception of business leaders in the third quarter (Q3) is quite different from that observed in the second term (Q2), as illustrated in the graph below. Indeed, in Q3 the general trend indicates that the level of sales is down for 25% of structures compared to Q2 where the drop in the level of sales concerned a higher proportion of structures (63.93%), i.e. a decrease of 38.93%. This decrease may result in the start of a relaunch of activities, despite the health crisis, the effects of which seem to be fading.

However, the absence of a decline does not necessarily translate into an increase; the following chart shows that indeed, most structures have migrated from declining sales status to stable (23.29%).

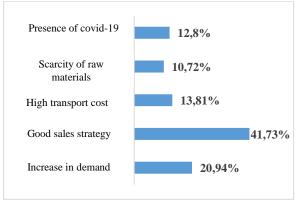
<u>Chart 5</u>: Perception of business leaders on the level of sales



Source: Economic Survey Q2\_2021, Q3\_2021, Our calculations on Excel

According to the opinions of the business leaders surveyed, the general improvement in the level of selling prices compared to the previous term could be explained by the implementation of a good sales strategy (41.73%) or by the increase in demand (20.94%) or by the high level of transport costs (13.81%).





Source: Economic Survey Q3\_2021, Our calculations on Excel

On the other hand, this general increase in prices can be seen as an effect of the pandemic on local products, through the channel of the prices of imported products. Indeed, according to INS estimates, the prices of imported products have increased by 1.6% each month since the beginning of the year; this has the effect of reducing demand for imported products, and therefore a substantial increase in demand for local products (especially products from the tertiary sector).

In view of the upward trend in the level of activity and sales, one could conclude that, on average, the net result obtained by the business leaders surveyed was more satisfactory this term compared to the previous one. However, the upward trend in production costs could have wiped out the effects of surpluses generated by sales.

#### 4. Employment Status

As in the  $2^{nd}$  term 2021, most (77.85%) of the business leaders surveyed declare that they have not recruited additional salaried staff. The efforts undertaken are for the most part focused on improving the quality of services in order to make their activities resilient to face of the main problem the world economy is going through since 2020, which is the Covid-19 pandemic.

Nevertheless, the jobs created by the structures concerned by the survey during the quarter mainly concern 4 branches of activity, in particular General trade (34.48%), Provision of services (27.59%), Textile (13.79%), Agric-food (10.34%) [See Appendix 4].

Despite the low propensity of business leaders to recruit new staff, activities seem to be progressing well; and this additional workforce, which represents an investment in human capital, could bear fruit in the 4<sup>th</sup> term 2021 and be a source of higher net results.

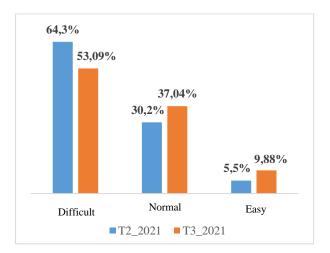
#### **Chapter 3: Current cash position**

This chapter addresses the cash position of the companies surveyed and the level of investment made during the  $3^{rd}$  term 2021.

#### 1. Apprehension of current cash

Regarding the apprehension of business leaders of their current cash flow, the general trend is rather positive. Indeed, there is a decrease of around 11.21% compared to the previous term of business leaders who have experienced cash flow difficulties and an increase of around 4.38% of those who have experienced easier cash flow.

Chart 7: Apprehension of the cash position



Source: Economic Survey Q2\_2021, Q3\_2021, Our calculations on Excel

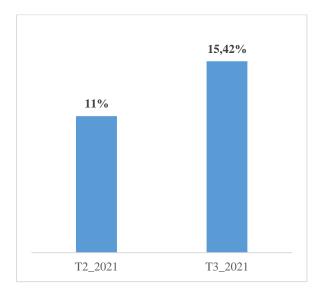
The apprehension of cash is not far from that of the level of activity where the proportion of business leaders whose level of activity is up in the  $3^{rd}$  term compared to the  $2^{nd}$  term has improved.

On the question of the reasons that led to cash flow difficulties, the business leaders surveyed whose cash flow situation was not easy mainly mentioned the presence of Covid (30.05%), but also the drop in activity. (28.72%) and poor sales (27%).

#### 2. Financing and investments

Considering all the structures surveyed, approximately 70 companies out of 100 say they have made no new investments during the  $3^{rd}$  term 2021 compared to 80% during the previous term.

<u>Chart 8</u>: Proportion of business leaders having made new investments

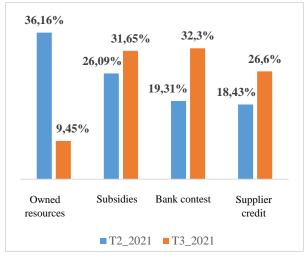


Source: Economic Survey Q1\_2021, Q2\_2021, Our calculations on Excel

These companies having made new investments mainly concern the sectors of general trade

(35.48%), service provision (29.03%) and agroindustry (12.90%). Considering the type of company, VSEs and SEs represent respectively 54.84% and 35.48% of companies having made new investments.

Various sources of funding have been mobilized for the implementation of these investments.



<u>Chart 9</u>: Main sources of investment financing

Source: Economic Survey Q2\_2021, Q3\_2021, Our calculations on Excel

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> term 2021, the proportion of business leaders using various sources of financing experienced a significant structural change. Indeed, almost all business leaders who until then relied on their own resources to finance their investments have migrated to other sources of financing from the last term to the present; we then observe from one term to another an increase in subsidies, bank assistance and supplier credit of the respective order of 5.56%, 12.99% and 8.17%.

Banking assistance is increasingly requested by Cameroonian SMEs for the realization of their activity. The subsidies used to make their investments are 78.26% of the resources granted by the State.

By focusing on the type of business, regardless of size, VSEs finance their activity mainly through their own resources. Medium-sized enterprises and those of small sizes have recourse to bank loans and subsidies to carry out their investments (See Appendix 4).

#### Chapter 4: Effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the economic activity of SMEs

This chapter addresses the situation of SMEs whose activity has been impacted by the effects of Covid-19, also emphasizes government support for economic resilience.

#### 1. Effects on activities and employment

Like all other countries, the health crisis has impacted the Cameroonian economy, in particular through the resilience measures taken to limit the spread of the disease. The effects of limiting the movement of goods and people have been more accentuated in countries where the economy is extroverted. Cameroonian SMEs, mainly in the tertiary sector (84.2%) and more particularly made up of traders, are the most affected by this crisis. Also, the country's dependence on the outside with regard to the supply of manufactured products has not allowed companies in this sector to saturate the national market with substitute products for imported products.

To cope with this decline in activities due to the application of health resilience measures, promoters have been forced to restructure their business to promote their recovery and resilience in the face of the Covid-19 crisis. In order to ensure the viability of their activity and to strengthen occupational safety and health measures, some promoters have decided to partially or completely stop their activities.

Nevertheless, from the analysis of data from the economic survey of the 3<sup>rd</sup> term 2021, the coronavirus pandemic is less and less considered as a major factor in the level of activity of Cameroonian SMEs. The economic performance of players in the field of textiles and pharmaceutical chemicals, which had been able to find an opportunity in taking health resilience measures through the manufacture and sale of artisanal masks and hydro-alcoholic gels is less and less perceptible.

Also, with the Covid situation, actions have been taken in favor of the agro-industrial sector to relaunch the sectors.

## 2. Government support to deal with the crisis

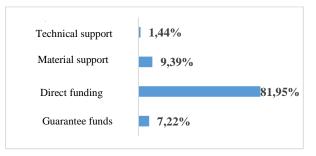
Since the application of health resilience measures to deal with the coronavirus crisis that occurred in March 2020, the activities of the mainly extroverted Cameroonian economy have been damaged. The Government has set up a Fund to support the economy and limit the spread of the disease.

In favor of Decree No. 2020/3221/PM of July 22, 2020 setting the distribution of the endowment of the Special National Solidarity Fund for the fight against the coronavirus and its economic and social repercussions, MINPMEESA benefited from an envelope of 2 billion CFA Francs for SMEs with high potential affected for SMEs (up to 1.5 billion CFA Francs) and craftsmen and OES manufacturing artisanal masks and hydro-alcoholic gels (up to 500 million Francs CFA).

The period of March 2020 marks the start of the payment to the beneficiaries selected by the Specialized Payment Service Covid-CASE Fund. From the analysis of data from the economic survey for the 2<sup>nd</sup> term 2021, the latter represent 13.82% of all respondents. 93.33% of the latter declare that this support has enabled them to relaunch their activity. The turnover for 85.71% of these beneficiaries is either up or stable compared to the 1<sup>st</sup> term 2021. The provision of support and its use have enabled them to maintain their stable activity and recorded growth compared to the previous term.

The appreciation of this subsidy remains mixed by the beneficiaries. 18.9% of them appreciate it on the other hand 29.27% denounce a slowness in the effective transfer of funds. However, in addition to ongoing support measures, they offer financial and technical assistance, and the establishment of a Guarantee Fund to facilitate their access to credit and improve their competitiveness.

<u>Chart 10</u>: Proposal of accompanying measures in favor of SMEs



Source: Economic Survey Q2\_2021, Our calculations on Excel

The SMEs surveyed during the  $2^{nd}$  term, although for the most part the economic activity was sluggish, plan to increase their activity during the next quarter.

# Chapter 5: Outlook for the 4<sup>th</sup> Term 2021

This chapter focuses on the analysis of the projections made by companies for the 4<sup>th</sup> term 2021 with regard to the economic context in which they operate.

## 1. Outlook announced by SMEs for the 4<sup>th</sup> term 2021

Given the level of activity achieved during the 3<sup>rd</sup> term 2021 by the companies surveyed, business leaders remain optimistic about the situation during the 4<sup>th</sup> term 2021.

About 42.79% of the business leaders surveyed plan to resume their activity during the 4<sup>th</sup> term 2021. These companies are mainly in the field of General Trade & Services (76.84%). These optimistic companies posted a positive net result during the 3<sup>rd</sup> term 2021 (80.43%). This observation comforts us for an effective return to activity during the 4<sup>th</sup> term 2021.

It is important to note that the 21.78% of business leaders having obtained a negative net result during the  $3^{rd}$  term 2021, more than  $4/5^{th}$  (80,43%) remain less optimistic about a revival of activity during the  $4^{th}$  term 2021.

## 2. Outlook with regard to the activity carried out and the economic context

The companies surveyed as part of this economic report are for the most part optimistic about the level of activity to be achieved during the 4<sup>th</sup> term.

This perception could be explained by reading the current economic environment.

This context reinforces the strong competition faced by Cameroonian SMEs. Also, since the

elements of competitiveness are not controlled by them, the economic activity of these players may be negatively impacted during the 3<sup>rd</sup> term 2021.

#### Conclusion

The slowdown in the activities of SMEs induced by this pandemic observed during the 1<sup>st</sup> term 2021 is less and less perceptible by the heads of companies surveyed in the context of the economic situation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> term 2021. Strong competition and the decline in power of purchases are important causes of the economic activity of the 2<sup>nd</sup> term 2021 for the SMEs surveyed. This observation is a reflection of the situation of the national economy during this quarter. Indeed, since the first term of 2021 the CEMAC zone has been marked by a general increase in prices. Inflation in Cameroon increased by 0.8% in the 2<sup>nd</sup> term 2021 compared to the 1<sup>st</sup> term 2021. Cameroon also recorded an increase in consumer prices of 2% compared to the same period of the previous year, and at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> term 2021, a surge in the inflation rate of 3.7% is recorded. This situation had an impact on companies' production costs, their sale, and consequently on the result and level of cash obtained at the end of the term. The competitiveness of SMEs is therefore called into question given the current situation, the pressure from large companies and the effects of the implementation of free trade agreements.

With regard to job creation, the SMEs surveyed (85%) did not lay particular emphasis on the recruitment of new employees during the 2<sup>nd</sup> term 2021. This could be explained by the perception of these SMEs of their activities, which at least did not change significantly during this term. As for the beneficiaries of Covid-CASE support (13.82% of the SMEs surveyed), the collection and use of this support enabled 93.33% of them to relaunch their activities after suffering the horror effects of Covid-19 pandemic.

In view of the current economic situation, particularly on the level of commodity prices and the decline in purchasing power, a question is raised about the cost of the effective implementation of the Strategic Objectives of the National Development Strategy 2020-2030 (SND-30) which imposes the structural transformation of the national economy, given the growth of the inflation rate and the decline in household purchasing power.

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#### Appendice

<u>Appendix 1</u>: Survey coverage

SMEs to be surveyed	500
SMEs that responded to the questionnaire	340
Coverage	68%

#### <u>Appendix 2</u>: Breakdown of the sample surveyed

Variables	Proportion (%)
Region	
Adamawa	3.83
Center	7.08
East	4.72
Far North	49.85
Littoral	9.44
North	5.6
North West	12.09
West	7.37
South	3.83
South West	7.08
Business typology	1.00
ME/IM	4.41
PE	20.59
TPE	75
Sectors / Branches of activity	15
Primary	5.14
Agriculture & Livestock	3.22
Agro industry	0.32
construction	0.64
General Trade & Services	0.64
Wood processing industry	0.32
Secondary	13.50
Agro industry	7.40
construction	1.29
Chemistry Pharmacy	0.96
General Trade & Services	1.29
Bronze processing industry	0.32
Wood processing industry	2.25
Tertiary	81.35
Agro industry	0.96
construction	0.64
Chemistry Pharmacy	2.25
General Trade & Services	69.77
Digital Economy	1.61
Hotel and catering	2.89
clothing industry	2.89
Bronze processing industry	0.32

<u>Appendix 3</u>: Summary of the apprehension of business leaders surveyed about their activity during the <sup>2nd</sup> quarter of 2021 (in %)

	Vol	ume of act	tivity	Pro	oduction o	cost	Sales level		Net profit			
	Rise	Decrease	Steady	Rise	Decrease	Steady	Rise	Decrease	Steady	Positive	Negative	Bad
Business typolog	5y	J			1	1						
TPE	12.12	50	13.33	14.51	29.41	33.73	6.71	39.02	30.18	15.88	40.88	18.24
PE	4.85	11.52	4.24	8.24	3.53	7.84	4.88	7.62	7.62	7.65	6.76	6.18
ME/IM	0.61	2.12	1.21	0.78	0	1.96	0.61	0	3.35	0.88	0.88	2.65
Sectors of activity	ty / Branc	hes of acti	vity									
Primary	0	3.3	0	0.42	3.80	0	0	2.3	0.99	0	2.89	0.32
Agriculture & Livestock	0.00	3.3	0	0.42	3.8	0	0	2.3	0.99	0	2.89	0.32
Secondary	4.62	9.9	4.95	11.39	3.38	10.55	5.26	5.26	9.87	5.14	7.07	8.36
Agro industry	2.31	3.3	1.65	5.49	1.27	4.22	3.29	1.97	3.62	2.25	3.54	2.89
construction	0.00	2.31	0.33	0.84	0.42	1.69	0	0.99	0.99	0.96	0.64	0.96
Chemistry Pharmacy	0.33	1.65	1.32	0	0.84	2.53	0	0.99	2.3	0.64	0	2.57
clothing industry	1.32	0	1.65	2.11	0	1.69	1.32	0	1.64	1.29	0	1.61
Bronze processing industry	0	0.66	0	0.84	0	0	0.66	0	0	0	0.64	0
Wood processing industry	0.66	1.98	0	2.11	0.84	0.42	0	1.32	1.32	0	2.25	0.32
Tertiary	11.88	51.49	13.86	9.70	26.58	34.18	6.91	40.79	28.62	19.94	39.55	16.72
General Trade & Services	11.22	48.84	12.54	8.44	26.58	32.07	6.58	40.13	25	19.29	37.94	14.47
Digital Economy	0.66	0.99	0	0.84	0	0	0.33	0.66	0.66	0.32	0.96	0.32
Hotel and catering	0	1.65	1.32	0.42	0	2.11	0	0	2.96	0.32	0.64	1.93
Grand total	16.50	64.69	18.81	21.52	33.76	44.73	12.17	48.36	39.47	25.08	49.52	25.4

### **<u>Appendix 4</u>**: Proportion of companies having recruited additional staff by branch of activity

Industry	Proportion (in %)
Agro industry	2.38

Chemistry Pharmacy	9.52
General Trade & Services	85.71
Digital Economy	2.38
Grand total	100

#### Appendix 5: Proportion of companies having made an investment by branch of activity

Industry	Proportion (in %)
Agro industry	20.69
construction	3.45
Chemistry Pharmacy	24.14
General Trade & Services	24.14
Digital Economy	6.90
Hotel and catering	3.45
clothing industry	10.34
Wood processing industry	6.90
Grand total	100

<u>Appendix 6</u>: proportion of business leaders using sources of financing by type of business (in %)

	ME/IM	PE	TPE
Own Resources	60	46.67	55.14
Subsidies	0	20	24.3
Supplier credits	20	20	9.35
Bank competition	20	13.33	11.21
Total	100	100	100

<u>Appendix 7:</u> List of people involved in the process of preparing the note on the situation <sup>2nd</sup> quarter 2021

#### 1. STEERING AND ORIENTATION

#### Mr. ACHILLE BASSILEKIN III, MINPMEESA

#### 2. GENERAL COORDINATION

Mr. JOSEPH TCHANA, SG MINPMEESA

#### 3. TECHNICAL COORDINATION

Mr. BOBBO MAMOUDOU, DEPP MINPMEESA

#### 4. TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

#### Mrs. TCHANA SYLVIE, CELSTAT MINPMEESA

#### 5. TECHNICAL TEAM

Mrs. NGAFFO Manuela, DEPP executive Mrs. IHOULI Francine, DEPP executive Mr. NONGNI DONFACK Abednego, DEPP executive Mr. MBAZOA ZEBAZE Hervais, DEPP Executive