

Economists upgrade forecast for Singapore economy growth, inflation

SINGAPORE, June 13 (Xinhua) -- Economists and analysts polled for a latest quarterly survey expected the Singapore economy to grow by 3 percent this year, the Monetary Authority of Singapore said on Wednesday.

This is in comparison with the median forecast of 2.5 percent for the last quarterly survey conducted by the Monetary Authority in March.

The 25 professional forecasters polled upgraded their forecast for the growth in the construction sector from 1.7 percent in March to 6.2 percent. The growth forecast for the accommodation and food services sector was revised upward, too, from 3.8 percent to 4.5 percent.

However, the growth forecast for the financial services sector was trimmed from 4 percent to 2.7 percent, while the forecast for the wholesale and retail trade sector was cut from 2.2 percent to 1.9 percent.

The median forecast for manufacturing growth was largely unchanged at 3 percent.

The Monetary Authority said the mean probability distribution of the forecasts showed that the Singapore economy is most likely to grow by a rate between 2 percent and 2.9 percent this year.

The growth forecast for the Singapore economy in the second quarter was also upgraded to 2.8 percent from 2.5 percent previously.

Inflation is expected to come in at 4.2 percent, an increase from the 3.5 percent reported in the last survey.

The forecasters expect the Singapore economy to grow by 4.5 percent in 2013, with headline at around 3 percent.