



Confidence in Finnish Industries Decreases

■ Manufacturing Confidence Remained Negative

In September, the manufacturing confidence indicator stayed at the same level as in August's revised figure. Confidence was -20 in September. The long-term average is +1. Production expectations for the coming months are pessimistic. Order books decreased furthermore and stocks of finished goods decreased slightly from the previous month's level staying above the long-term average. Production capacity was fully utilized by 58 % of the respondents.

■ Sentiment in Construction Steady

The construction confidence indicator scored -15 in September, which is the same figure as in August. The indicator is clearly below its long-term average which is -6. Companies' assessments on order books increased but the level is still clearly below the normal. Expectations concerning the labor market are more pessimistic. Seasonally adjusted workforce numbers are expected to drop from the current levels during the next few months.

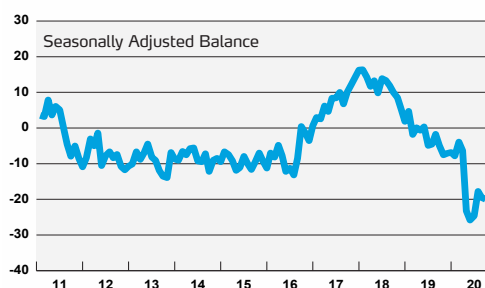
■ Confidence in Service Sector Decreased Slightly

The service sector confidence indicator scored -11 points in September, which is one point less than the revised figure in August. Confidence is far away from the long-term average (+12). Service companies' assessments of the current business situation are still weak. Sales volumes have decreased during the previous months and the sales expectations for the coming months were even more cautious.

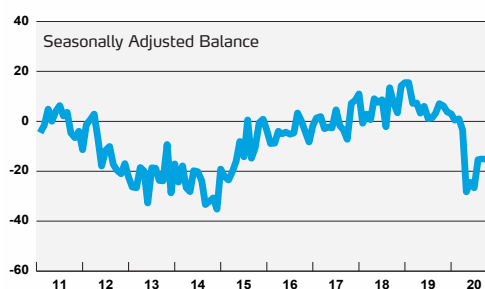
■ Retail Sector Turns to Negative

Retail trade confidence lost seven points in September from August. The latest standing is -5, which is now slightly below the long-term average (-1). Sales development was positive in September but the views concerning future sales figures were very weak. Volumes of stocks increased but they are now still below the long-term average.

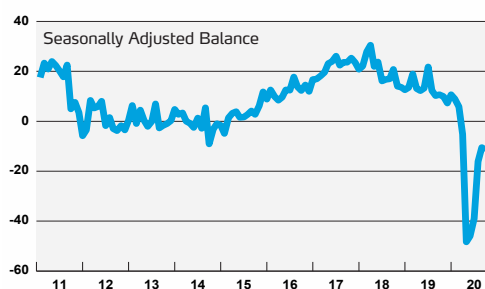
Industrial Confidence Indicator



Construction Confidence Indicator



Services Confidence Indicator



Retail Trade Confidence Indicator

