

Confidence in Finnish Industries Remained Muted



■ Manufacturing Confidence Increased Slightly

In October, the manufacturing confidence indicator increased five points from September's figure. Confidence was -15 in October. The long-term average is +1. Production expectations for the coming months are still pessimistic. Order books strengthened slightly. Stocks of finished goods were a little bit above the long-term average. Production capacity was fully utilized by 56 % of the respondents.

■ Sentiment in Construction Declined

The construction confidence indicator scored -16 in October, which is one point less than in September. The indicator is clearly below its long-term average which is -6. Companies' assessments on order books decreased and the level is now clearly below the normal. Expectations concerning the labor market are steady. Seasonally adjusted workforce numbers are expected to stay at the current levels during the next few months.

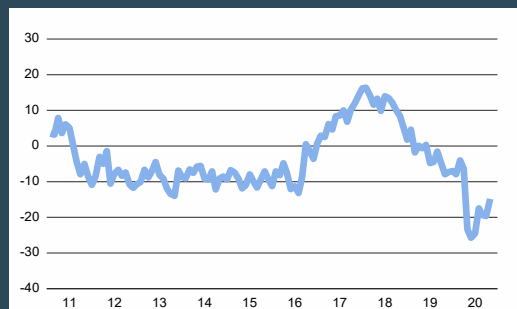
■ Confidence in Service Sector Improves Minorly

The service sector confidence indicator scored -11 points in October, which is one point more than the revised figure in September. 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.

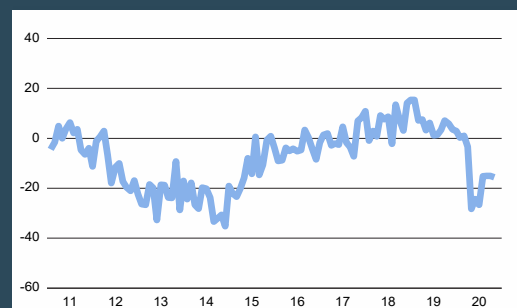
■ Retail Sector Cools Down

Retail trade confidence lost three points in October from September. The latest standing is -8, which is now slightly below the long-term average (-1). Sales development was mildly positive in October but the views concerning future sales figures were very weak. Volumes of stocks stayed near the long-term average.

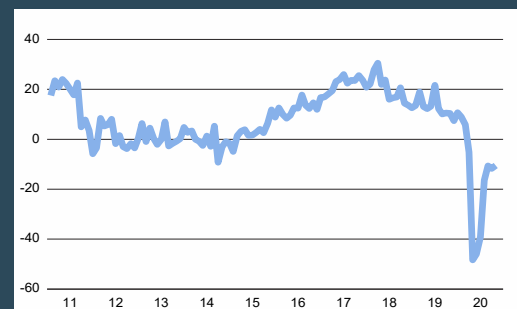
Industrial Confidence Indicator



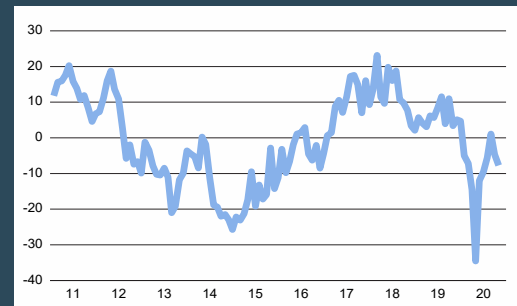
Construction Confidence Indicator



Services Confidence Indicator



Retail Trade Confidence Indicator



EK Business Surveys

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