

Confidence in Finnish Industries Continued to Improve



■ Manufacturing Confidence Rising

In January, the manufacturing confidence indicator increased five points from December's figure. Confidence was 0 in January. The long-term average is +1. Production expectations for the coming months improved further. Also order books continued to strengthen from previous month's level. Stocks of finished goods were a little bit below the long-term average. Production capacity was fully utilized by 76 % of the respondents.

■ Sentiment in Construction Decreases

The construction confidence indicator scored -19 in January, which is four point worse than the figure in December. The indicator is still clearly below its long-term average which is -6. Companies' assessments on order books improved and the level is now close to the normal. Expectations concerning the labor market weakened. Seasonally adjusted workforce numbers are expected to decrease from the current levels during the next few months.

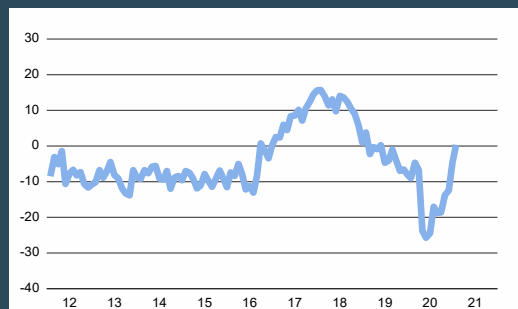
■ Clear Improvement in Service Sector

The service sector confidence indicator scored -5 points in January, which is six point more than in December. Confidence is still well below the long-term average (+12). Service companies' assessments of the current business situation continued to weaken but slower pace than before. Sales volumes were steady during the previous months but the sales expectations for the coming months were cautious.

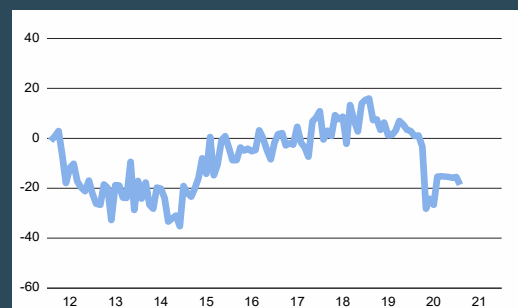
■ Retail Sector Confidence Increased

Retail trade confidence gained three points in January from December figure. The latest standing is +2, which is now above the long-term average (-1). Sales development was positive in January but the views concerning future sales figures were still weak. Volumes of stocks stayed near the long-term average.

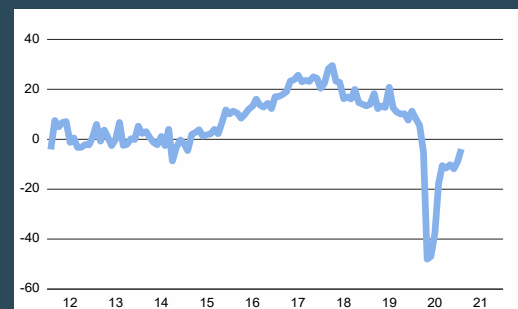
Industrial Confidence Indicator



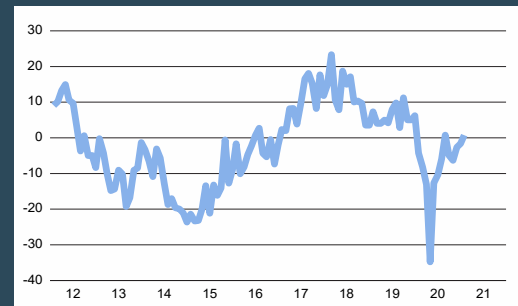
Construction Confidence Indicator



Services Confidence Indicator



Retail Trade Confidence Indicator



EK Business Surveys

EK Business Surveys are part of the Joint Harmonised EU Programme of Business and Consumer Surveys. They are co-financed by the European Union. EK Business Surveys have been carried out since 1966.

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