

# Confidence in Finnish Industries Declined Slightly



## ■ Manufacturing Confidence Retreats

In February, the manufacturing confidence indicator decreased three points from January's figure. Confidence was -3 in February. The long-term average is +1. Production expectations for the coming months are still positive. Also order books continued to strengthen from previous month's level. Stocks of finished goods were near the long-term average. Production capacity was fully utilized by 69 % of the respondents.

## ■ Sentiment in Construction Deteriorates Further

The construction confidence indicator scored -23 in February, which is four points worse than the figure in January. The indicator is still clearly below its long-term average which is -7. Companies' assessments on order books weakened and the level is far away from 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.

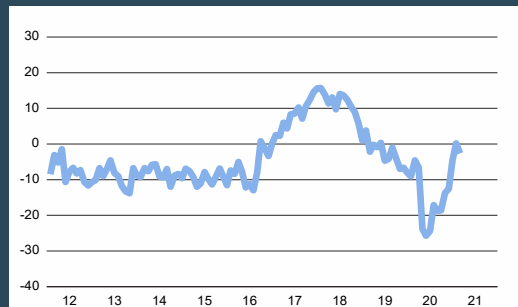
## ■ Confidence in Service Sector Stable

The service sector confidence indicator scored -4 points in February, which is the same score than the revised figure in January. Confidence is still well below the long-term average (+12). Service companies' assessments of the current business situation continued to weaken. Sales volumes declined during the previous months but the sales expectations for the coming months were cautiously optimistic.

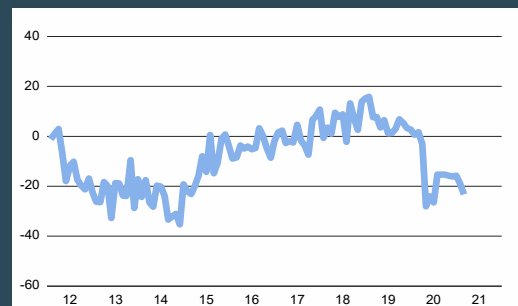
## ■ Retail Sector Confidence Decreased

Retail trade confidence lost two points in February from January's revised figure. The latest standing is -1, which is now the same as the long-term average (-1). Sales development was stable in February but the views concerning future sales figures were pessimistic. Volumes of stocks stayed near the long-term average.

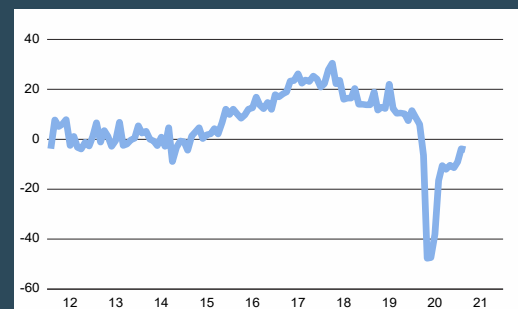
Industrial Confidence Indicator



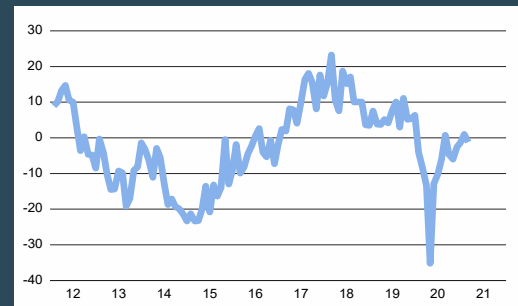
Construction Confidence Indicator



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.

### Inquiries:

Sami Pakarinen  
Chief Economic Policy Advisor  
Tel. +358 50 343 4337  
firstname.lastname@ek.fi

### Confederation of Finnish Industries EK

P.O.Box 30, FI-00131 Helsinki, Finland  
Telephone +358 9 420 20  
[www.ek.fi](http://www.ek.fi)