

Confidence in Finnish Industries Rises Modestly



■ Manufacturing Confidence Increasing

In March, the manufacturing confidence indicator increased five points from February's figure. Confidence was +3 in March. The long-term average is +1. Production expectations for the coming months are positive. Also order books remained at the previous month's level. Stocks of finished goods drop below the long-term average. Production capacity was fully utilized by 74 % of the respondents.

■ Sentiment in Construction Improves

The construction confidence indicator scored -16 in March, which is seven points better than the figure in February. The indicator is still clearly below its long-term average which is -7. Companies' assessments on order books increased but 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.

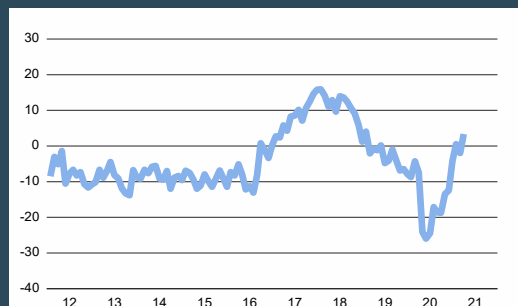
■ Confidence in Service Diminishes

The service sector confidence indicator scored -4 points in March, which is three points less than the revised figure in February. 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 and the sales expectations for the coming months were again pessimistic.

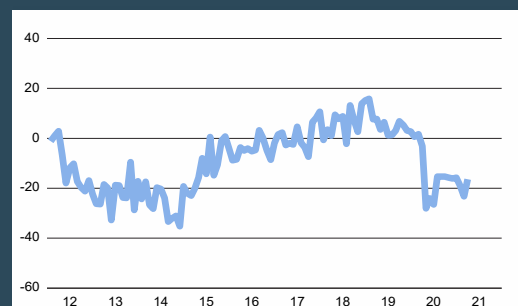
■ Retail Sector Confidence Unchanged

Retail trade confidence scored -1 in March, which was also the result in February. The latest standing is the same as the long-term average (-1). Sales development was positive in March but the views concerning future sales figures were pessimistic. Volumes of stocks stayed near the long-term average.

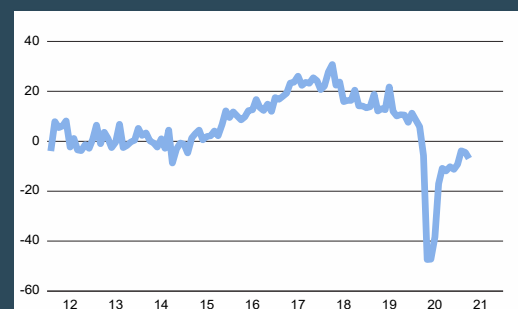
Industrial Confidence Indicator



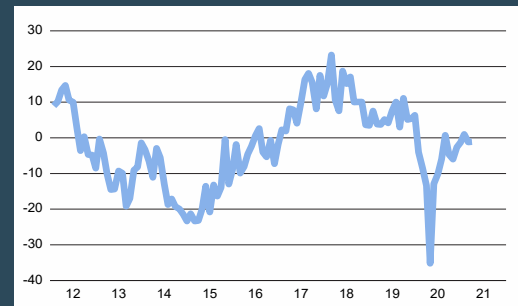
Construction Confidence Indicator



Services Confidence Indicator



Retail Trade Confidence Indicator



EK Business Surveys

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