

Confidence in Finnish Industries Continue to Rise



■ Manufacturing Confidence Increasing

In April, the manufacturing confidence indicator increased five points from March's revised figure. Confidence was +9 in April. The long-term average is +1. Production expectations for the coming months are positive. Also order books strengthened from the previous month's level and are now above normal level. Stocks of finished goods were below the long-term average. Production capacity was fully utilized by 76 % of the respondents.

■ Sentiment in Construction Improves

The construction confidence indicator scored -11 in April, which is five points better than the figure in March. The indicator is still below its long-term average which is -7. Companies' assessments on order books improved but the level is far away from the normal. Expectations concerning the labor market weakened further. Fortunately the pace of decreasing was slower than previously.

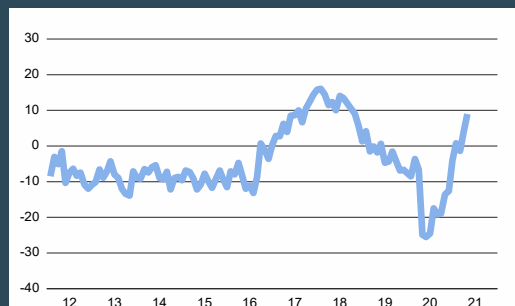
■ Confidence in Service Sector Bounces Back

The service sector confidence indicator scored +1 point in April, which is six points more than the revised figure in March. Confidence is still well below the long-term average (+12). Service companies' assessments of the current business situation continued to weaken but slower pace. Sales volumes increased during the previous months and the sales expectations for the coming months were optimistic.

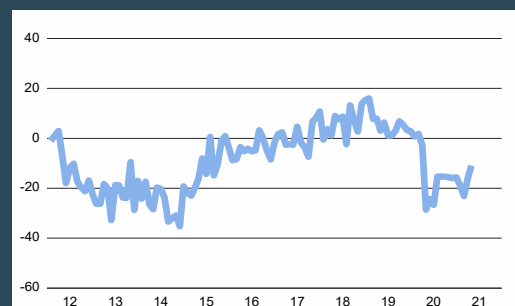
■ Retail Sector Confidence Also Rising

Retail trade confidence scored +4 in April, which was six points more than the revised figure in March. The latest standing is now above the long-term average (-1). Sales development was positive in April and the views concerning future sales figures were bright. Volumes of stocks dropped below the long-term average.

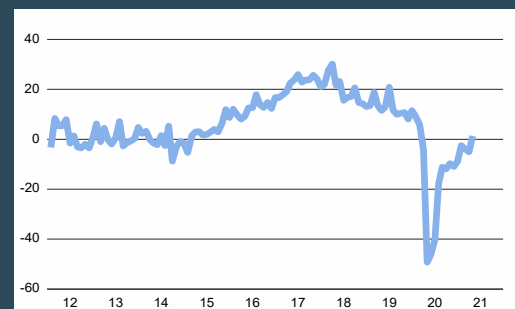
Industrial Confidence Indicator



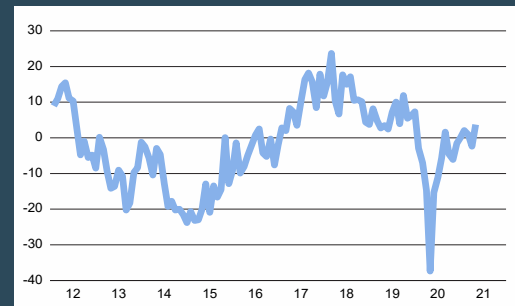
Construction Confidence Indicator



Services Confidence Indicator



Retail Trade Confidence Indicator



EK Business Surveys

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