

Confidence in Finnish Industries Continue to Rise



■ Manufacturing Confidence Still Increasing

In May, the manufacturing confidence indicator increased three points from April's revised figure. Confidence was +13 in May. 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 above normal level. Stocks of finished goods were still below the long-term average. Production capacity was fully utilized by 78 % of the respondents.

■ Sentiment in Construction Weakened

The construction confidence indicator scored -13 in May, which is two points worse than the figure in April. The indicator is still below its long-term average which is -7. Companies' assessments on order books remained weak and the level is below the normal. Expectations concerning the labor market cooled further when seasonal adjustment is taken into account.

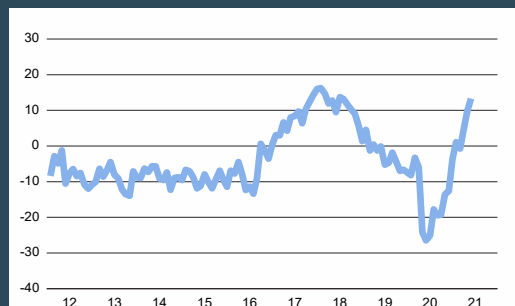
■ Confidence in Service Sector Bounces

The service sector confidence indicator scored +10 point in May, which is eight points more than the revised figure in April. Confidence is still well below the long-term average (+12). Service companies' assessments of the current business situation improved. Sales volumes increased during the previous months and the sales expectations for the coming months were bright.

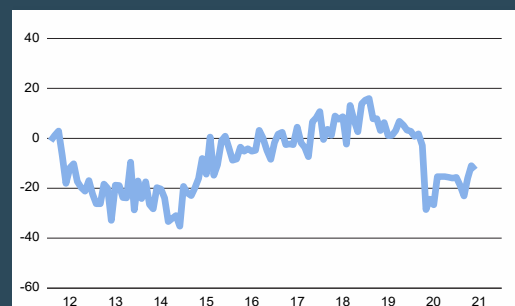
■ Retail Sector Confidence in Upswing

Retail trade confidence scored +14 in May, which is seven points more than the revised figure in April. The latest standing is clearly above the long-term average (-1). Sales development was positive in May and the views concerning future sales figures were bright. Volumes of stocks increased slightly above the long-term average.

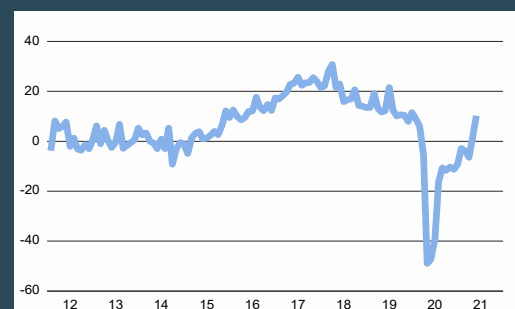
Industrial Confidence Indicator



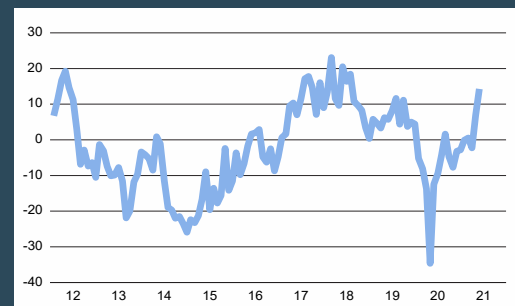
Construction Confidence Indicator



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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