

Confidence in Finnish Industries Still in Upbeat



■ Manufacturing Confidence Drops Slightly

In July, the manufacturing confidence indicator lost two points from June's revised figure. Confidence was +17 in July. The long-term average is +1. Production expectations for the coming months are positive. Order books remained at the previous month's level and are above normal level. Stocks of finished goods diminished and are more below the long-term average. Production capacity was fully utilized by 83 % of the respondents.

■ Sentiment in Construction Improved

The construction confidence indicator scored -3 in July, which is six points better than the figure in June. The indicator is now above its long-term average which is -7. Companies' assessments on order books were unchanged and the level is still below the normal. Expectations concerning the labor market are steady when seasonal adjustment is taken into account.

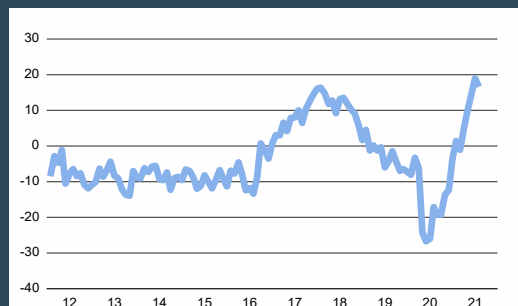
■ Confidence in Service Sector Rises

The service sector confidence indicator scored +22 point in July, which is seven points more than the in June. Confidence is now clearly above the long-term average (+12). Service companies' assessments of the current business situation improved further. Sales volumes increased during the previous months and the sales expectations for the coming months were still optimistic.

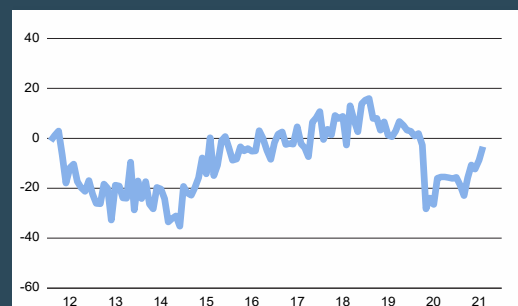
■ Retail Sector Confidence Decreased

Retail trade confidence scored +13 in July, which is seven points less than in June. The latest standing is still clearly above the long-term average (-1). Sales development was positive in July and the views concerning future sales figures were still optimistic. Volumes of stocks dropped slightly below the long-term average.

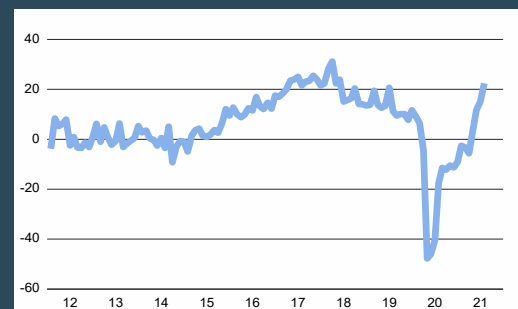
Industrial Confidence Indicator



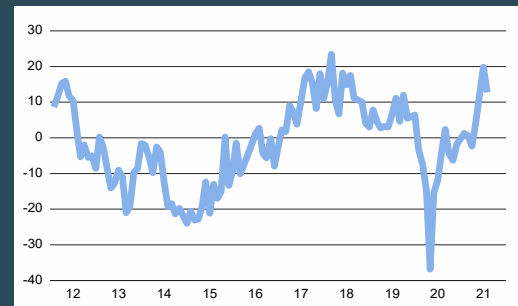
Construction Confidence Indicator



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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