

Confidence in Finnish Industries Rises Minorly



■ Manufacturing Confidence Increased

In August, the manufacturing confidence indicator gained five points from July's figure. Confidence was +22 in August. The long-term average is +1. Production expectations for the coming months are positive. Order books filled up from the previous month's level and are above normal level. Stocks of finished goods diminished furthermore and are even more below the long-term average. Production capacity was fully utilized by 88 % of the respondents.

■ Sentiment in Construction Improved

The construction confidence indicator scored +5 in August, which is eight points better than the figure in July. The indicator is now above its long-term average which is -7. Companies' assessments on order books improved and the level is now above the normal. Expectations concerning the labor market are now positive when seasonal adjustment is taken into account.

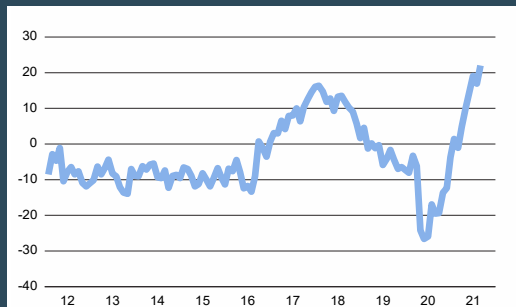
■ Confidence in Service Sector Drops

The service sector confidence indicator scored +15 point in August, which is six points less than the revised figure in July. Confidence is now close the long-term average (+12). Service companies' assessments of the current business situation are steady. Sales volumes increased during the previous months but at slower pace and the sales expectations for the coming months were still rather optimistic.

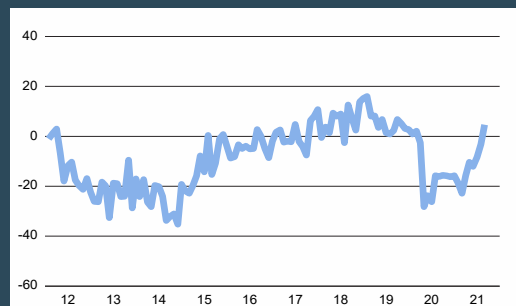
■ Retail Sector Confidence Rises

Retail trade confidence scored +18 in August, which is five points more than in July. The latest standing is still clearly above the long-term average (-1). Sales development was positive in August and the views concerning future sales figures were still optimistic. Volumes of stocks increased however they are still below the long-term average.

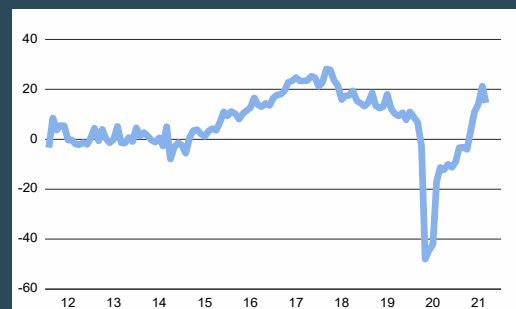
Industrial Confidence Indicator



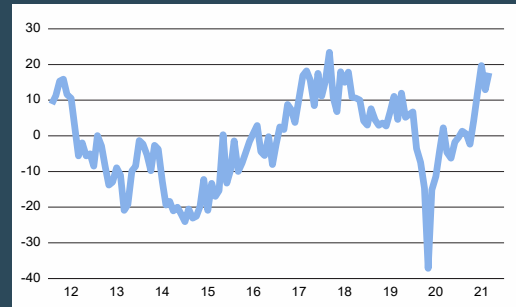
Construction Confidence Indicator



Services Confidence Indicator



Retail Trade Confidence Indicator



EK Business Surveys

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