

Confidence in Finnish Industries Drops Slightly



■ Manufacturing Confidence Decreased

In September, the manufacturing confidence indicator lost one point from August's figure. Confidence was +21 in September. 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 increased furthermore but are still below the long-term average. Production capacity was fully utilized by 82 % of the respondents.

■ Sentiment in Construction Improved

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

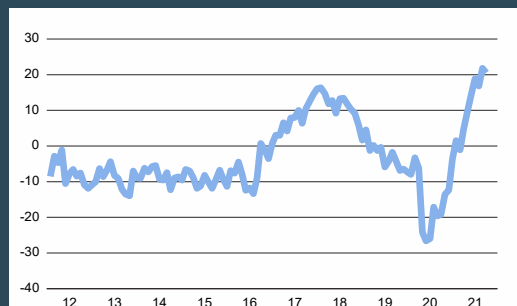
■ Confidence in Service Sector Unchanged

The service sector confidence indicator scored +16 point in September, which is the same figure as the revised figure in August. Confidence is above the long-term average (+12). Service companies' assessments of the current business situation are positive. Sales volumes increased during the previous months but at slower pace and the sales expectations for the coming months were still rather optimistic.

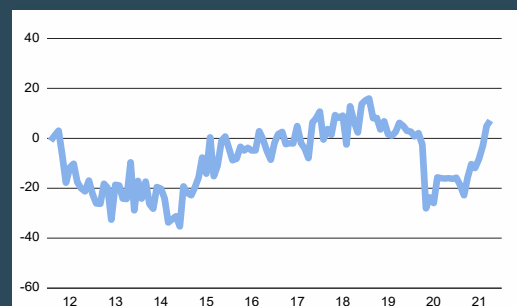
■ Retail Sector Confidence Drops

Retail trade confidence scored +13 in September, which is four points less than the revised figure in August. The latest standing is still clearly above the long-term average (-1). Sales development was positive in September and the views concerning future sales figures were still optimistic. Volumes of stocks were unchanged and they are still above the long-term average.

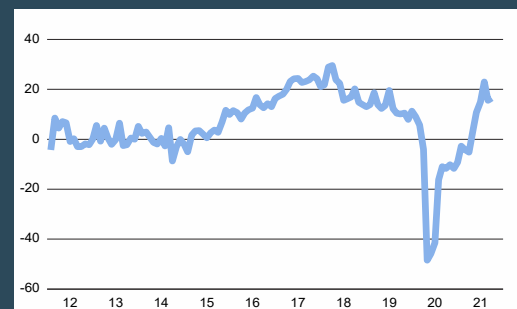
Industrial Confidence Indicator



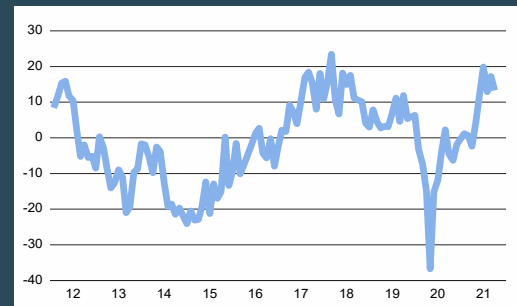
Construction Confidence Indicator



Services Confidence Indicator



Retail Trade Confidence Indicator



EK Business Surveys

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