

Confidence in Finnish Industries Increases



■ Manufacturing Confidence Increased

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

■ Confidence in Construction Improved

The construction confidence indicator scored +10 in October, which is three points better than the figure in September. The indicator is above its long-term average which is -6. Companies' assessments on order books improved and the level is above normal. Expectations concerning the labor market are positive when seasonal adjustment is taken into account.

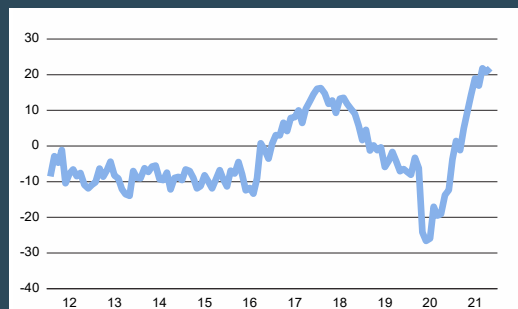
■ Service Sector Sentiment Increased

The service sector confidence indicator scored +20 points in October, which is three points more than the revised figure in September. 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 optimistic.

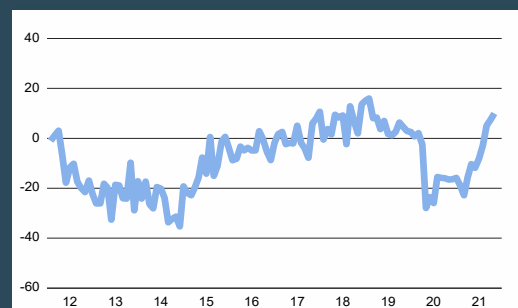
■ Retail Sector Confidence in Slight Upswing

Retail trade confidence scored +14 in October, which is one point more than the figure in September. The latest standing is still clearly above the long-term average (-1). Sales development was positive in October and the views concerning future sales figures were still optimistic. Volumes of stocks decreased from the previous month's level and the stocks are now below the long-term average.

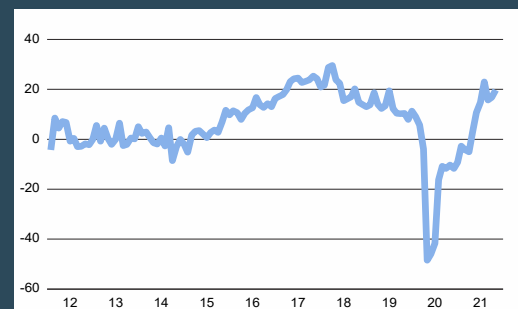
Industrial Confidence Indicator



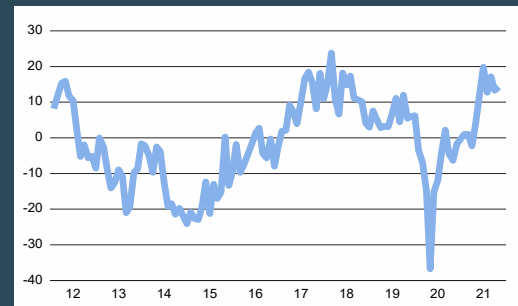
Construction Confidence Indicator



Services Confidence Indicator



Retail Trade Confidence Indicator



EK Business Surveys

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