

Confidence in Finnish Industries Declined



■ Manufacturing Confidence Decreased

In December, the manufacturing confidence indicator lost five points from November's revised figure. Confidence was +18 in December. The long-term average is +1. Production expectations for the coming months are positive. Order books weakened from the previous month's level and but are clearly above normal level. Stocks of finished goods were still below the long-term average. Production capacity was fully utilized by 93 % of the respondents.

■ Confidence in Construction Improved

The construction confidence indicator scored +14 in December, which is one point better than the figure in November. The indicator is above its long-term average which is -6. Companies' assessments on order books remained at the same as in previous month but the level is still above normal. Expectations concerning the labor market are positive when seasonal adjustment is taken into account.

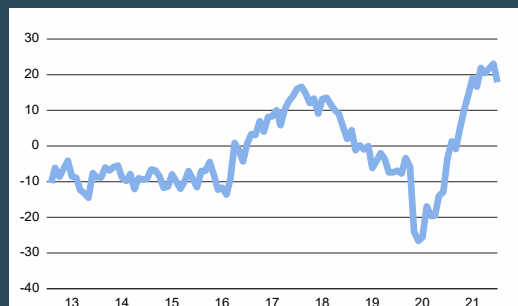
■ Service Sector Sentiment Increased

The service sector confidence indicator scored +21 points in December, which is two points more than the revised figure in November. 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 and the sales expectations for the coming months were optimistic.

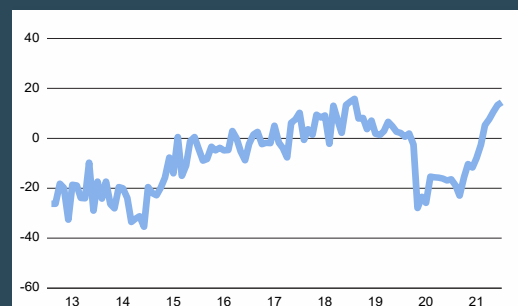
■ Retail Sector Confidence Drops

Retail trade confidence scored +8 in December, which is eight points less than the revised figure in November. The latest standing is still above the long-term average (-1). Sales development was positive in December and the views concerning future sales figures were still optimistic. Volumes of stocks increased from the previous month's level but are still now below the long-term average.

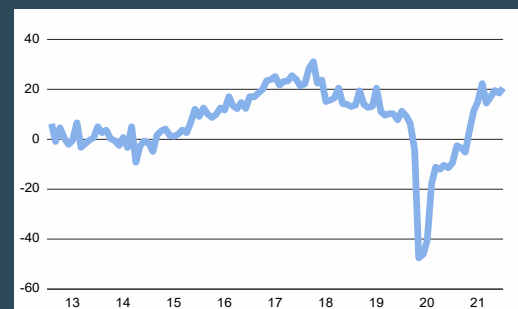
Industrial Confidence Indicator



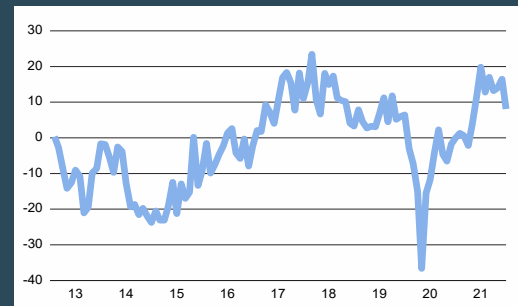
Construction Confidence Indicator



Services Confidence Indicator



Retail Trade Confidence Indicator



EK Business Surveys

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