

Confidence in Finnish Industries Declined



■ Manufacturing Confidence Increased

In January, the manufacturing confidence indicator gained one point from December's figure. Confidence was +19 in January. 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 clearly above normal level. Stocks of finished goods were still below the long-term average. Production capacity was fully utilized by 83 % of the respondents.

■ Confidence in Construction Declined

The construction confidence indicator scored +9 in January, which is five points less than the figure in December. The indicator is above its long-term average which is -6. Companies' assessments on order books diminished from the previous month and the level is now below normal. Expectations concerning the labor market are positive when seasonal adjustment is taken into account.

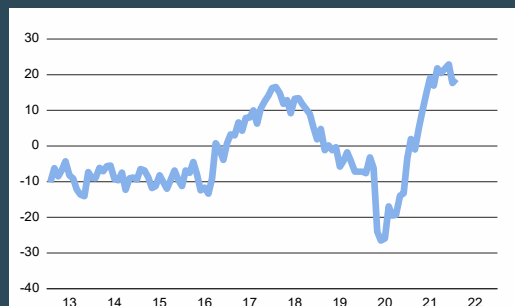
■ Service Sector Sentiment Drops

The service sector confidence indicator scored +15 points in January, which is five points less than the revised figure in December. Confidence is above the long-term average (+12). Service companies' assessments of the current business situation weakened in January. Sales volumes increased during the previous months and the sales expectations for the coming months were optimistic.

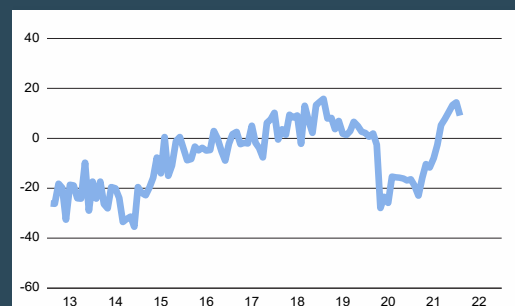
■ Retail Sector Confidence Stayed Unchanged

Retail trade confidence scored +8 in January, which is the same as the revised figure in December. The latest standing is still above the long-term average (-1). Sales development was positive in January but the views concerning future sales figures were cautious. Volumes of stocks decreased from the previous month's level and are below the long-term average.

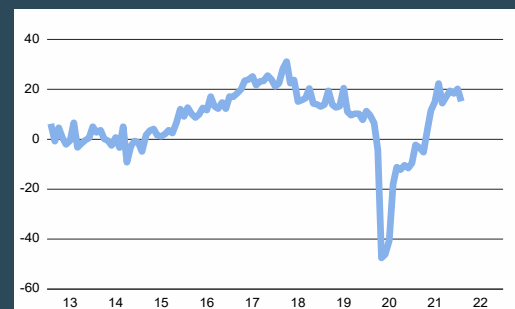
Industrial Confidence Indicator



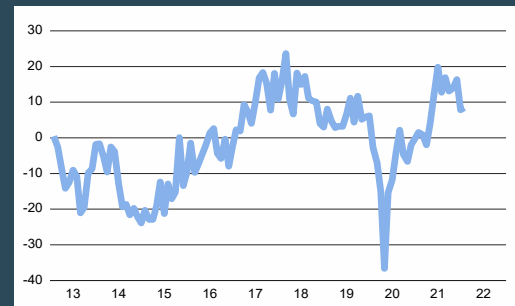
Construction Confidence Indicator



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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