

Confidence in Finnish Industries Increased



■ Manufacturing Confidence Increased

In February, the manufacturing confidence indicator gained three points from January's figure. Confidence was +22 in February. The long-term average is +1. Production expectations for the coming months are positive. Order books decreased 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 94 % of the respondents.

■ Confidence in Construction Improved

The construction confidence indicator scored +12 in February, which is three points more than the figure in January. The indicator is above its long-term average which is -6. Companies' assessments on order books increased from the previous month and the level is now above normal. Expectations concerning the labor market are positive when seasonal adjustment is taken into account.

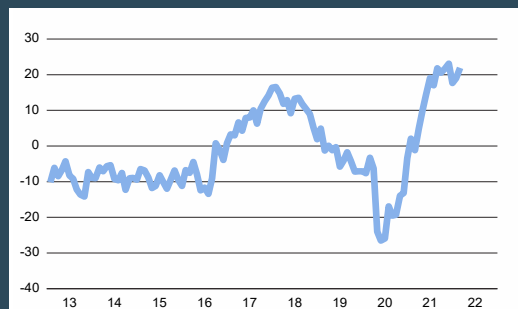
■ Service Sector Sentiment Increased

The service sector confidence indicator scored +18 points in February, which is two points more than the revised figure in January. Confidence is above the long-term average (+12). Service companies' assessments of the current business situation remained the same in February. Sales volumes increased during the previous months and the sales expectations for the coming months were optimistic.

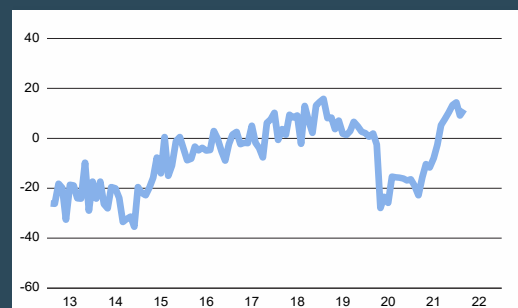
■ Retail Sector Confidence Weakened

Retail trade confidence scored +2 in February, which is seven points less than the revised figure in January. The latest standing is still above the long-term average (-1). Sales development was unchanged in February and the views concerning future sales figures were rather optimistic. Volumes of stocks increased from the previous month's level and are above the long-term average.

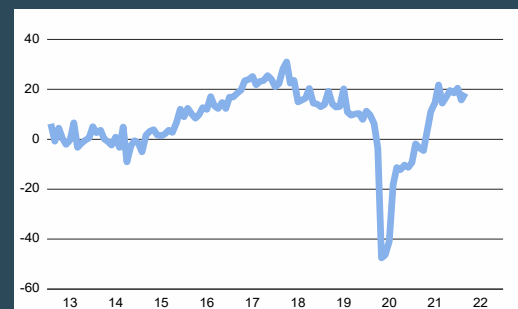
Industrial Confidence Indicator



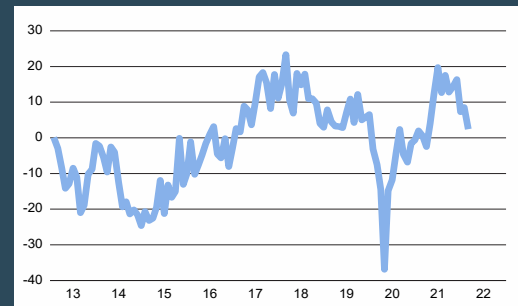
Construction Confidence Indicator



Services Confidence Indicator



Retail Trade Confidence Indicator



EK Business Surveys

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