

# Confidence in Finnish Industries Decreased



## ■ Manufacturing Confidence Drops

In March, the manufacturing confidence indicator lost six points from February's revised figure. Confidence was +15 in March. The long-term average is +1. Production expectations for the coming months are still 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 92 % of the respondents.

## ■ Confidence in Construction Declined

The construction confidence indicator scored +4 in March, which is seven points less than the revised figure in February. 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 weakened when seasonal adjustment is taken into account.

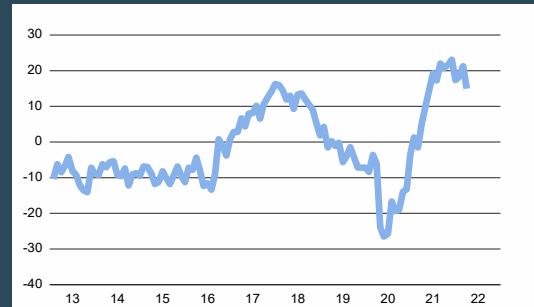
## ■ Service Sector Sentiment Faded

The service sector confidence indicator scored +14 points in March, which is four less than the figure in February. Confidence is close to the long-term average (+12). Service companies' assessments of the current business situation deteriorated in March. Despite worsened business situation sales volumes increased during the previous months and the sales expectations for the coming months were still optimistic.

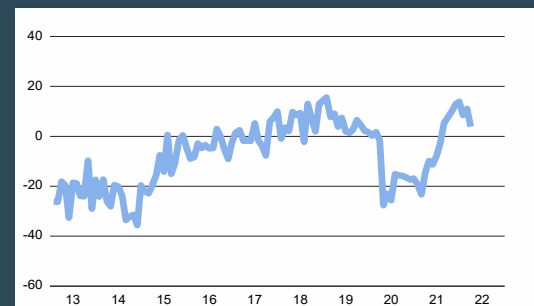
## ■ Retail Sector Confidence Weakened

Retail trade confidence scored -6 in March, which is eight points less than the figure in February. The latest standing is now below the long-term average (-1). Sales development was negative in March and the views concerning future sales figures were also pessimistic. Volumes of stocks increased from the previous month's level and are above the long-term average.

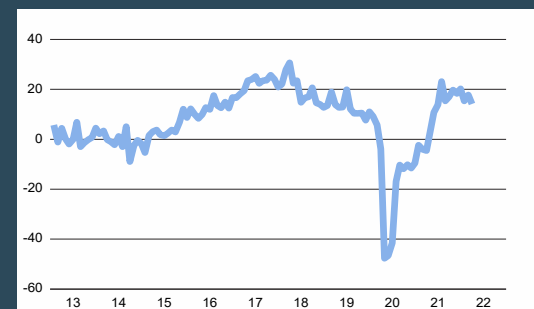
Industrial Confidence Indicator



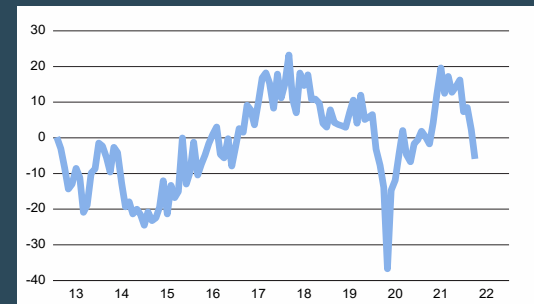
Construction Confidence Indicator



Services Confidence Indicator



Retail Trade Confidence Indicator



### EK Business Surveys

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.

### Inquiries:

Sami Pakarinen  
Director  
Tel. +358 50 343 4337  
firstname.lastname@ek.fi

### Confederation of Finnish Industries EK

P.O.Box 30, FI-00131 Helsinki, Finland  
Telephone +358 9 420 20  
[www.ek.fi](http://www.ek.fi)