

# Confidence in Finnish Industries Decreased



## ■ Manufacturing Confidence Stable

In April, the manufacturing confidence indicator remained unchanged from March's figure. Confidence was +15 in April. The long-term average is +1. Production expectations for the coming months are still positive. Order books increased from the previous month's level and are clearly above normal level. Stocks of finished goods increased and are now close to the long-term average. Production capacity was fully utilized by 93 % of the respondents.

## ■ Confidence in Construction Declined

The construction confidence indicator scored -4 in April, which is seven points less than the revised figure in March. The indicator is above its long-term average which is -6. Companies' assessments on order books stayed close to the previous month and the level is now above normal. Expectations concerning the labor market weakened clearly when seasonal adjustment is taken into account.

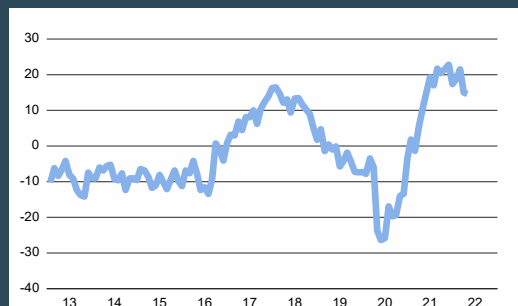
## ■ Minor change in Service Sector Sentiment

The service sector confidence indicator scored +11 points in April, which is one point less than the revised figure in March. Confidence is close to the long-term average (+12). Service companies' assessments of the current business situation continue to deteriorate in April. Despite worsened business situation sales volumes increased during the previous months and the sales expectations for the coming months were still optimistic.

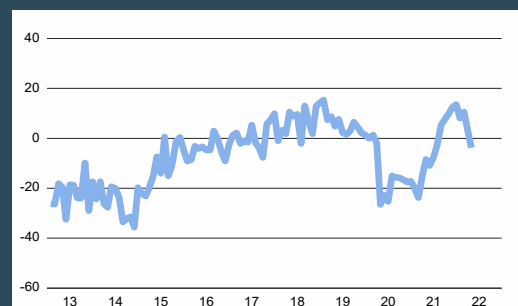
## ■ Retail Sector Confidence Rose

Retail trade confidence scored +0 in April, which is six points more than the figure in March. The latest standing is now below the long-term average (-1). Sales development has been positive and the views concerning future sales figures were also optimistic. Volumes of stocks remained at the previous month's level and are above the long-term average.

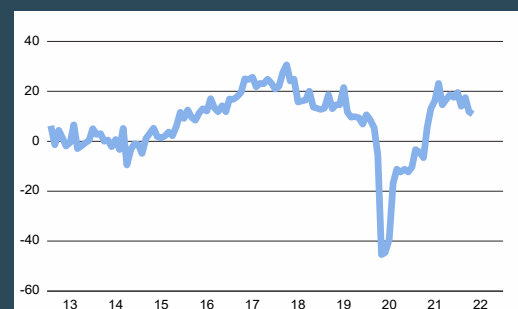
Industrial Confidence Indicator



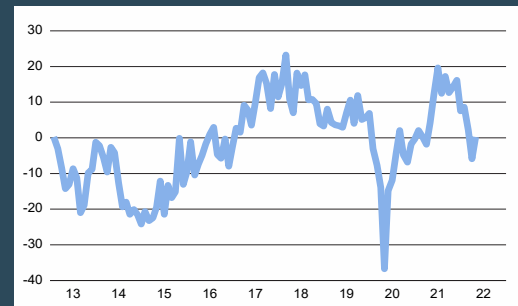
Construction Confidence Indicator



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)