

Confidence in Finnish Industries Declined



■ Manufacturing Confidence Decreased

In July, the manufacturing confidence indicator decreased from June's figure. Confidence was +5 in July which is four points less than the revised figure in June. The long-term average is +1. Production expectations for the coming months are still positive. Order books remained almost at the previous month's levels and are still above normal level. Stocks of finished goods increased and are above the long-term average. Production capacity was fully utilized by 78 % of the respondents.

■ Confidence in Construction Declined

The construction confidence indicator scored -21 in July, which is three points less than in June. The indicator is clearly below its long-term average which is -6. Companies' assessments on order books continue to decrease from the previous month and the level is below normal. Expectations concerning the labor market continue to weaken when seasonal adjustment is taken into account.

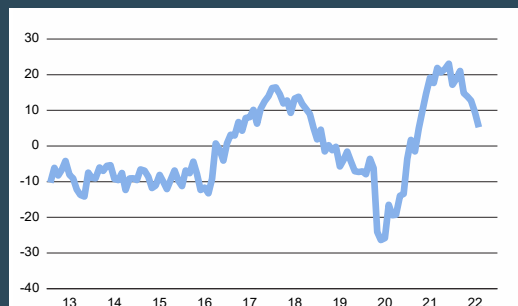
■ Minor Increase in Service Sector Sentiment

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

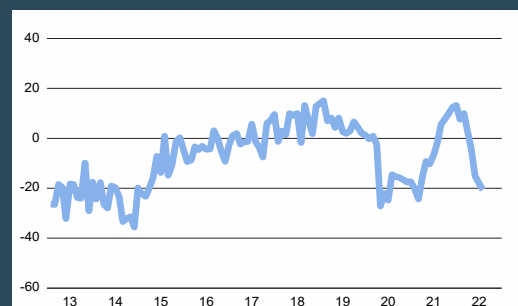
■ Retail Sector Confidence Almost Unchanged

Retail trade confidence scored -2 in July which is one point more than in June. The latest standing is close to the long-term average (-1). Sales development has been positive but the views concerning future sales figures are pessimistic. Volumes of stocks increased minorly and are above the average level.

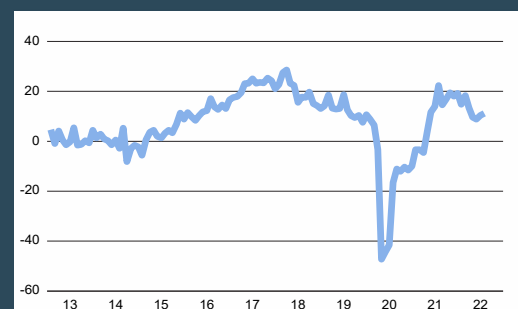
Industrial Confidence Indicator



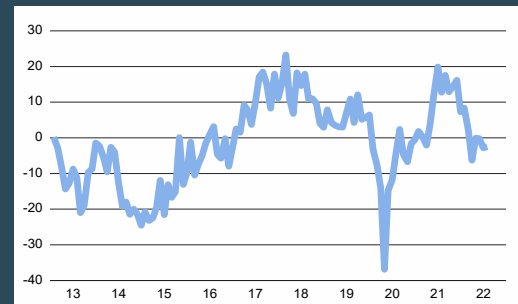
Construction Confidence Indicator



Services Confidence Indicator



Retail Trade Confidence Indicator



EK Business Surveys

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