

Confidence in Finnish Industries Declined



■ Manufacturing Confidence Decreased

In September, the manufacturing confidence indicator decreased from August's figure. Confidence was -1 in September which is three points less than the figure in August. 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 83 % of the respondents.

■ Confidence in Construction Increased

The construction confidence indicator scored -6 in September, which is ten points more than in August. The indicator is still below its long-term average which is -6. Companies' assessments on order books increased from the previous month but the level is still below normal. Expectations concerning the labor market continue to weaken when seasonal adjustment is taken into account.

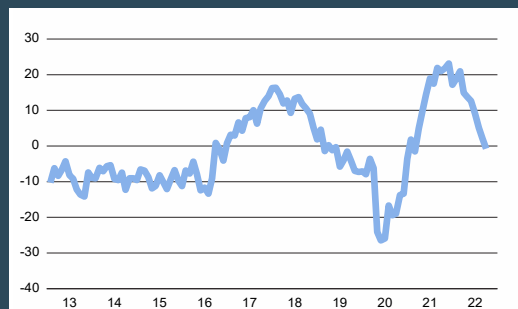
■ Minor Drop in Service Sector Sentiment

The service sector confidence indicator scored +1 points in September, which is one point less than the revised figure in August. Confidence is below the long-term average (+12). Service companies' assessments of the current business situation continue to weaken in September. Despite worsened business situation sales volumes increased during the previous months and the sales expectations for the coming months were still rather optimistic.

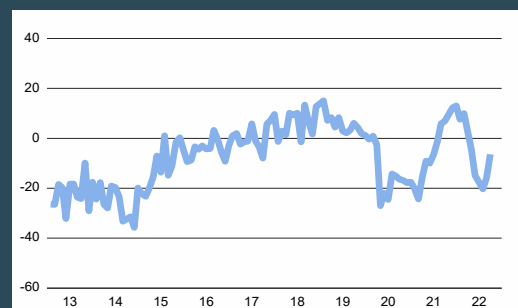
■ Retail Sector Confidence Decreases

Retail trade confidence scored -21 in September which is one point less than the revised figure in August. The latest standing is still clearly below the long-term average (-1). Sales development has been negative and the views concerning future sales figures are also pessimistic. Volumes of stocks remained at the previous month's level and are above the average level.

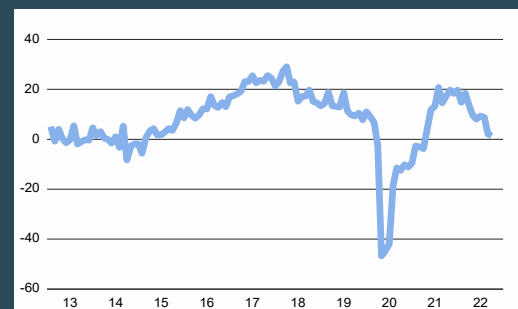
Industrial Confidence Indicator



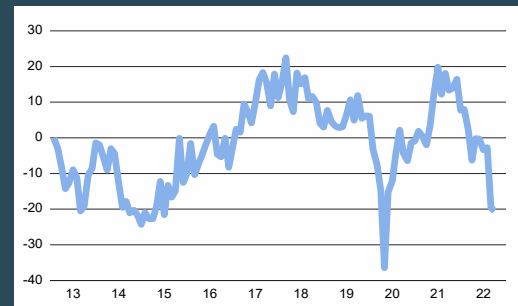
Construction Confidence Indicator



Services Confidence Indicator



Retail Trade Confidence Indicator



EK Business Surveys

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