

Confidence in Finnish Industries Unchanged



■ Manufacturing Confidence Stable

In December, the manufacturing confidence indicator stayed at the previous month's level. Confidence was -8 in December. The long-term average is +1. Production expectations for the coming months are now pessimistic. Order books diminished from the previous month's levels and are now below normal level. Stocks of finished goods decreased from the previous month's level. Production capacity was fully utilized by 70 % of the respondents.

■ Confidence in Construction Decreased

The construction confidence indicator scored -14 in December, which is two points less than in November. The indicator is below its long-term average which is -6. Companies' assessments on order books remained at the previous month level and the level is below normal. Expectations concerning the labor market continue to weaken when seasonal adjustment is taken into account.

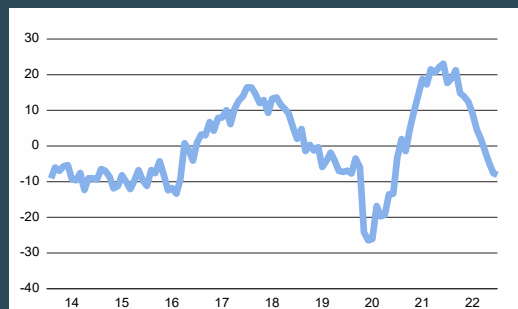
■ Service Sector Sentiment Increased

The service sector confidence indicator scored +4 points in December, which is three points more than the figure in November. Confidence is below the long-term average (+12). Service companies' assessments of the current business situation continued to weaken in December. Despite worsened business situation sales volumes increased during the previous months and the sales expectations for the coming months were still quite optimistic.

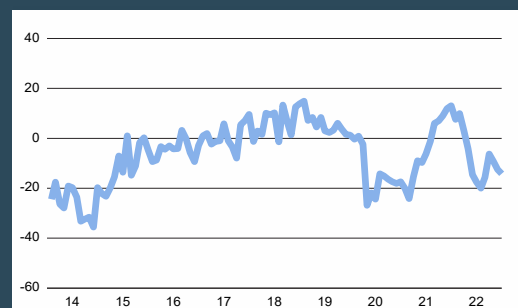
■ Retail Sector Confidence Drops

Retail trade confidence scored -23 in December which is 10 points less than the figure in November. The latest standing is 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 increased from the previous month's level and are still above the average level.

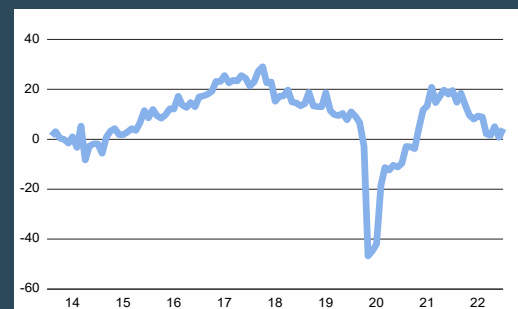
Industrial Confidence Indicator



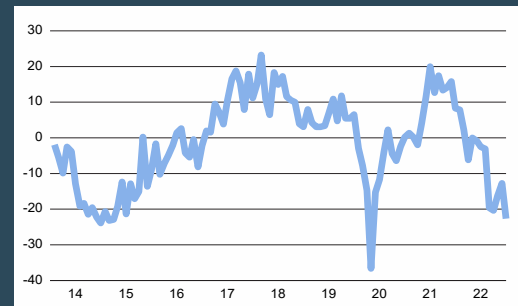
Construction Confidence Indicator



Services Confidence Indicator



Retail Trade Confidence Indicator



EK Business Surveys

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