

Confidence in Finnish Industries Unchanged



■ Manufacturing Confidence Increased

In January, the manufacturing confidence indicator rose from the previous month's level. Confidence was -4 in January. The long-term average is +1. Production expectations for the coming months are stable. Order books increased slightly from the previous month's levels but are still below normal level. Stocks of finished goods decreased from the previous month's level. Production capacity was fully utilized by 65 % of the respondents.

■ Confidence in Construction Decreased

The construction confidence indicator scored -24 in January, which is nine points less than the revised figure in December. The indicator is below its long-term average which is -6. Companies' assessments on order books softened from 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.

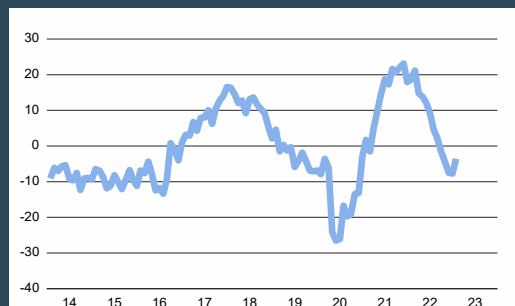
■ Service Sector Sentiment Increased

The service sector confidence indicator scored +0 points in January, which is four points less than the figure in December. Confidence is below the long-term average (+12). Service companies' assessments of the current business situation continued to weaken in January. Despite worsened business situation sales volumes increased during the previous months and the sales expectations for the coming months were still quite optimistic.

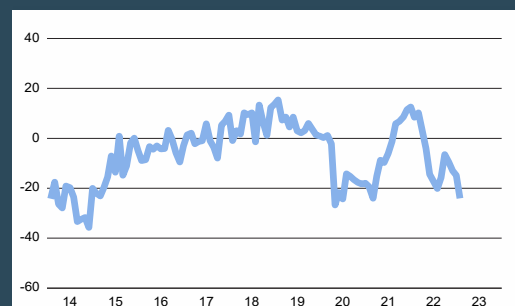
■ Retail Sector Confidence Rose

Retail trade confidence scored -13 in January which is 10 points more than the figure in December. The latest standing is still clearly below the long-term average (-1). Sales development has stayed approximately at the previous month's level. The views concerning future sales figures are pessimistic. Volumes of stocks decreased from the previous month's level but are still above the average level.

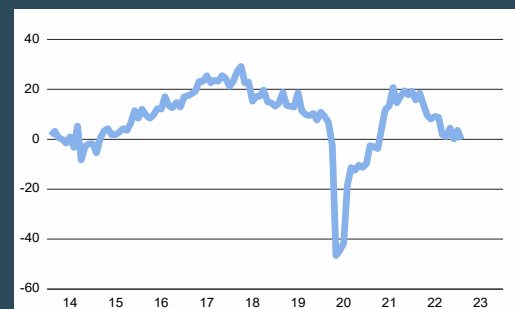
Industrial Confidence Indicator



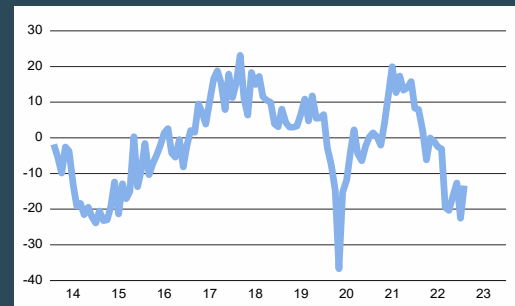
Construction Confidence Indicator



Services Confidence Indicator



Retail Trade Confidence Indicator



EK Business Surveys

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