

Confidence in Finnish Industries Remained Unchanged



■ Manufacturing Confidence in Slight Decline

In February, the manufacturing confidence indicator scored -6 points, which is three points less than the January result. The long-term average is +1. Production is expected to stay mainly unchanged during the coming months and also order books remained stable below their normal level. However, stocks of finished goods grew from the previous month's level. Production capacity was fully utilized by 68 % of the respondents.

■ Confidence in Construction Improved

The construction confidence recovered from -24 in January to -21 in February. The indicator is still well below its long-term average which is -6. Companies' assessments on order books stayed unchanged at a low level. Employment expectations were somewhat less cautious compared to January.

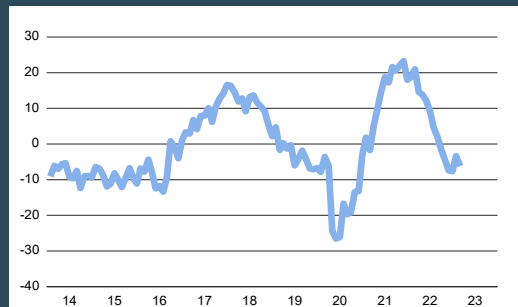
■ Service Sector Sentiment on the Rise

The service sector confidence indicator has see-sawed close to its current position for some time now. February's reading was +2, which is 2 point's higher than the score in January. The long-term average is +12. Service companies' assessments of the current business situation continued to weaken during the past few months. However, sales development has stayed positive during the previous months and the sales expectations for the coming months were still upbeat.

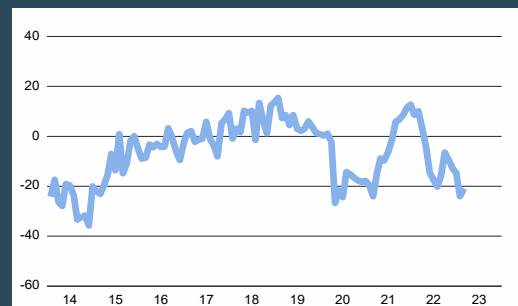
■ Retail Sector Confidence Recovered Slightly

Retail trade confidence was -12 in February, which is one point more than the result in January. The latest standing is still well below the long-term average (-1). Sales decreased compared to previous months and expectations for the coming months were also subdued. Stocks increased from the previous month's level and they were above the average level.

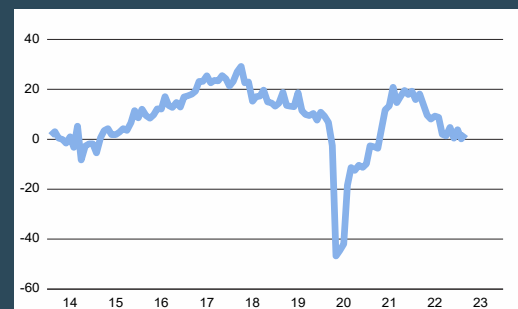
Industrial Confidence Indicator



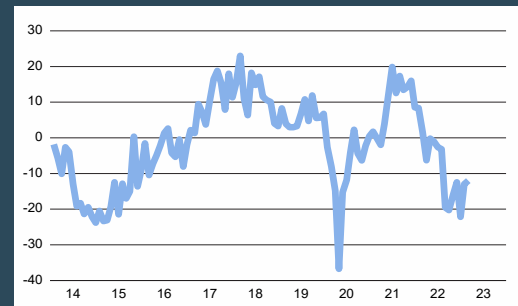
Construction Confidence Indicator



Services Confidence Indicator



Retail Trade Confidence Indicator



EK Business Surveys

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