Slightly Better Confidence Indicators in February

**Manufacturing**
Manufacturing confidence has improved slightly but business situation is still weak. However, some production growth is expected.

**Construction**
Construction confidence was almost unchanged. Order books are well below normal.

**Services**
Service sector confidence indicator improved somewhat in February.

**Retail trade**
Retail trade confidence is still weak. However, the confidence indicator gained two points in February.

Finnish manufacturing confidence improved somewhat to -8 points in February (revised figure -11 in January). Confidence is nevertheless below its long-term average (+2). Production is expected to increase slightly during the next few months. Order books are clearly smaller than normal. Stocks of final goods shrank to average levels.

Construction confidence indicator gained one point in February. It scored -23 points (revised figure -24 in January). Confidence is weaker than its long-term average (-7). Order books have stayed clearly below normal and personnel is expected to decrease during the next few months.

Service sector confidence indicator rose to +5 points in February from the revised figure of +2 points one month earlier. Its long-term average is +14. Sales growth was rather slow but some growth is expected for the coming months, too. However, companies’ assessment of the overall business situation has worsened slightly during the last few months.

Finnish retail trade confidence improved slightly. The latest indicator figure is -7 points (-9 in January). Confidence is still weaker than long-term average (0 points). Sales volumes have continued their decline and no growth is forecast for the coming months.

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**Inquiries:**
Penna Urrila, Chief Economic Policy Adviser
Tel. +358 9 4202 2606 or +358 40 570 7860
firstname.lastname@ek.fi

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**EK Business Surveys**
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Confederation of Finnish Industries EK
P.O.Box 30, FI-00131 Helsinki, Finland
Telephone +358 9 4202 20
Fax +358 9 4202 2299
www.ek.fi