



Confidence Indicators Mainly in a Slight Decline

Manufacturing

Manufacturing confidence stayed unchanged in March. Production expectations are rather cautious; only slow growth is predicted.

Finnish manufacturing confidence stayed unchanged in March. The latest indicator figure is -8 points, which equals the balance recorded one month earlier. Confidence is still below its long-term average (+2). Production is expected to increase slightly during spring 2014, but order books have remained clearly below their long-term average. Stocks of final goods are close to normal levels.

Construction

Construction confidence turned down in March. Order books have stayed well below normal.

Construction confidence indicator turned down in March. It fell to -28 points (revised figure -18 in February). Confidence is weaker than its long-term average (-7). Order books are currently well below normal and personnel is expected to decrease during the next few months.

Services

Service sector confidence indicator declined slightly. Some sales growth is expected for the next few months.

Service sector confidence was in a slight decline in March. The confidence indicator scored +1 points, down from the revised figure of +4 points in February. Its long-term average is +14. Sales growth ceased in March, but some growth is expected for the next few months. According to the companies' assessment, the overall business situation has worsened slightly in the last few months.

Retail trade

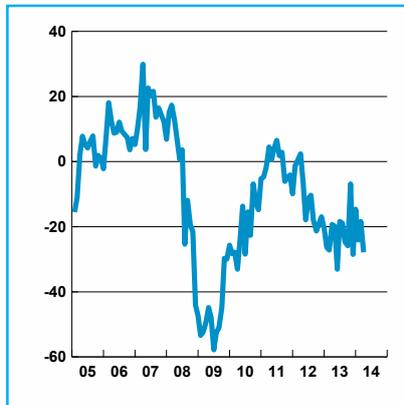
Retail trade confidence weakened somewhat in March. Sales figures have continued their decline.

Finnish retail trade confidence indicator lost two points in March. Its latest figure is -8 (revised figure -6 in February). Confidence is weaker than long-term average (0 points). Sales volumes have continued their decline, but during the next few months they are expected to stay almost unchanged.

Industrial Confidence Indicator



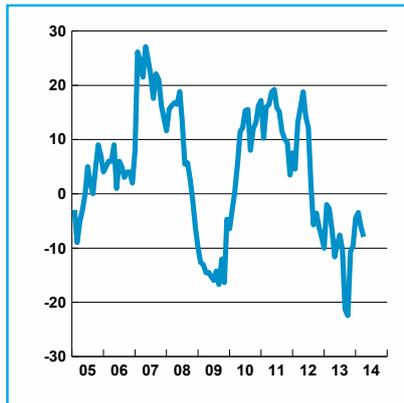
Construction Confidence Indicator



Services Confidence Indicator



Retail Trade Confidence Indicator



Inquiries:

Penna Urrila, Chief Economic Policy Adviser
Tel. +358 9 4202 2606 or +358 40 570 7860

firstname.lastname@ek.fi

EK Business Surveys

EK Business Surveys are a part of the Joint Harmonised EU Programme of Business and Consumer Surveys. They are co-financed by the European Union. Business surveys have been carried out in Finland since 1966.

Confederation of Finnish Industries EK

P.O.Box 30, FI-00031 Helsinki, Finland
Telephone +358 9 420 20
Fax +358 9 4202 2299
www.ek.fi