



Finnish Business Confidence Almost Unchanged

Manufacturing

Manufacturing confidence stayed at a rather low level. Only weak production growth is forecast and order books are well below average.

Finnish manufacturing confidence stayed stable in May. The confidence indicator scored -6 points (revised figure -6 in April). Confidence has remained weaker than its long-term average (+2). Production is expected to grow slowly during the next few months but order books are clearly smaller than normal. Stocks of final goods have decreased to average levels.

Construction

Construction confidence recovered somewhat but the confidence indicator is still at a low level.

Construction confidence indicator recovered somewhat from the low figures recorded earlier this year. It climbed to -19 points (revised figure -28 in April). Confidence is well below its long-term average (-7). Order books are clearly smaller than normal and personnel figures are expected to decrease in the near future.

Services

Service sector confidence indicator stayed well below its long-term average but some sales growth is expected.

The service sector confidence indicator showed no improvement in May. It slipped to -2 points (revised figure -1 in April) which can be compared to its long-term average of +14. Sales volumes did not grow in May but some slight growth is predicted for the near future. Finnish service companies' assessment of the overall business situation is still rather negative.

Retail trade

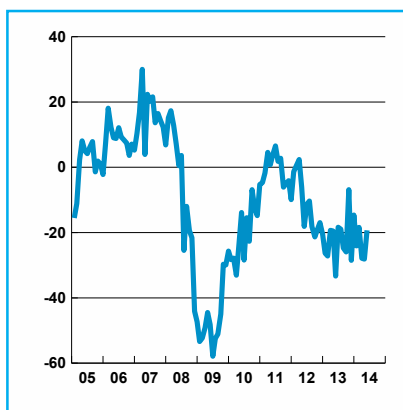
Retail trade confidence has remained at slightly negative figures.

Finnish retail trade confidence stayed intact in May. The latest indicator figure is -1 points (revised figure -1 in April). Confidence is slightly weaker than its long-term average (0 points). Sales volumes have declined further but weak growth is predicted for the next months.

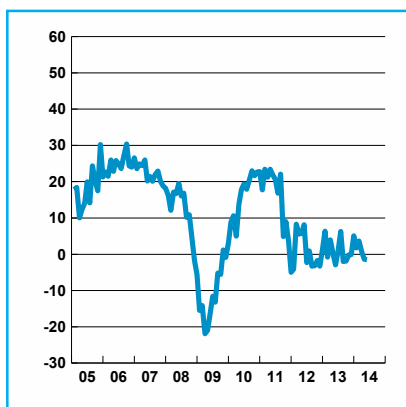
Industrial Confidence Indicator



Construction Confidence Indicator



Services Confidence Indicator



Retail Trade Confidence Indicator



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EK Business Surveys

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