



Finnish Business Confidence has Remained Weak

Manufacturing

Manufacturing confidence stayed at a rather weak level. Order books are small but production is expected to increase slightly.

The Finnish manufacturing confidence indicator stayed unchanged at a fairly low level in July. It scored -9 points, equal to the revised figure of June. Confidence is weaker than the long-term average (+2). Production is expected to grow slightly in the near future. However, order books are well below their normal levels and stocks of final goods are somewhat above the long-term average.

Construction

Construction confidence indicator lost a few points in July. It is currently well below its long-term average.

Finnish construction confidence was in a slight decline in July. The latest indicator figure is -24 points, four points weaker than in June. Confidence is weaker than its long-term average (-7). Order books have stayed well below normal and personnel is expected to decrease according to seasonally adjusted figures.

Services

Service sector confidence stayed almost unchanged. Despite the weak confidence, some sales growth is expected for the next few months.

The service sector confidence indicator stayed at a rather low level in July. Its latest figure is -2 (+1 in June) while the long-term average is +14. Sales figures were roughly intact in July. However, some growth is still forecast for late summer and early autumn. According to the companies' assessment, the overall business situation has become somewhat more negative in the last few months.

Retail trade

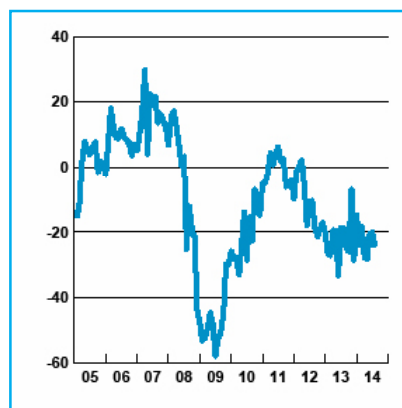
Retail trade confidence fell below its normal levels in June. Sales expectations moved into negative territory.

Retail trade confidence weakened further in July. The confidence indicator fell to -18 points (revised figure -13 in June). The long-term average is -1. Sales volumes continued in a decline and near-term sales expectations are clearly negative.

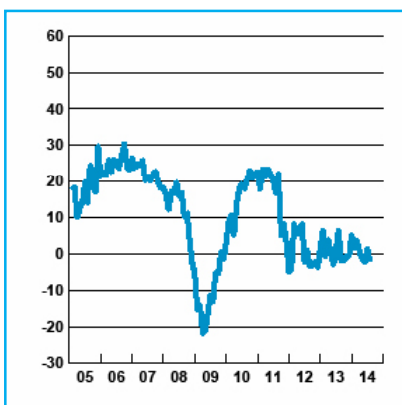
Industrial Confidence Indicator



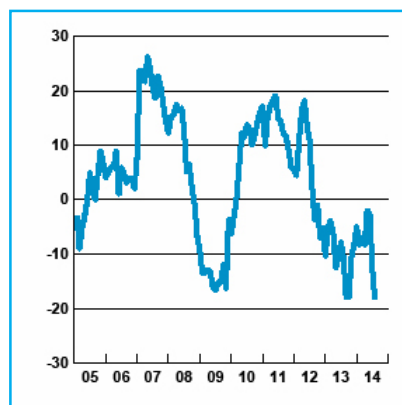
Construction Confidence Indicator



Services Confidence Indicator



Retail Trade Confidence Indicator



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EK Business Surveys

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