



Weak Confidence Indicators in August

Manufacturing

Manufacturing confidence stayed at a rather weak level despite a small increase from July. Some growth is foreseen for the next months.

The Finnish manufacturing confidence indicator gained two points in August. However, confidence is clearly below its long-term average. The confidence indicator scored -8 points (revised figure -10 in July). The long-term average is +2. Production is expected to grow slightly but order books are below their normal levels. Stocks of final goods are somewhat above the long-term average.

Construction

Construction confidence indicator fell to low figures in August.

Finnish construction confidence indicator fell to weak figures in August. Its latest balance is -34 points, ten points lower than in July. Confidence is well below its long-term average (-7). Order books have stayed low and personnel is expected to decrease according to seasonally adjusted figures.

Services

Service sector confidence turned slightly up in August with some growth expectations.

The service sector confidence indicator picked slightly up in August. Nevertheless, confidence is below its long-term average. The latest indicator figure is +5 (up from -2 in July) while the long-term average is +14. Some sales growth is forecast for the rest of the year. The general business situation has been quite unchanged during the last few months.

Retail trade

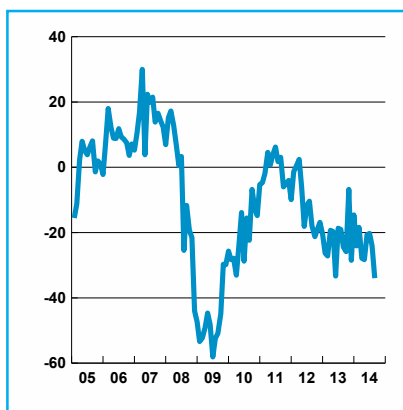
Retail trade confidence is currently at a very low level.

Retail trade confidence was weak in August. The confidence indicator scored -19 points, which is equal to the revised figure one months earlier. The long-term average is -1. Sales volumes continued to decline and sales outlook for the next few months is clearly negative.

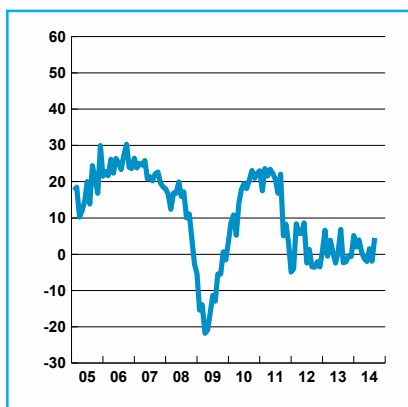
Industrial Confidence Indicator



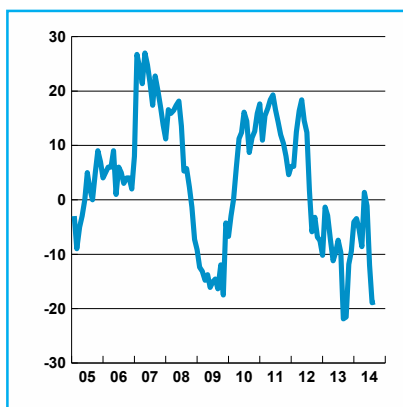
Construction Confidence Indicator



Services Confidence Indicator



Retail Trade Confidence Indicator



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EK Business Surveys

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