



Only Minor Improvement in Business Confidence

Manufacturing

Manufacturing confidence is below its long-term average but some production growth is expected.

Finnish manufacturing confidence was roughly unchanged in March. The confidence indicator is still well below its long-term average. It scored -7 points in March (-8 in February) while its long-term normal is +1. Slight production growth is expected for the coming few months. Order books have improved somewhat but they are still smaller than normal.

Construction

Despite some recovery, construction confidence is still weak.

Finnish construction confidence indicator picked slightly up in March. Nevertheless, confidence is currently weaker than normal. Order books are smaller than average and personnel is still expected to decrease. The confidence indicator scored -21 points in March, up from -24 in February. Its long-term average is -8.

Services

Service sector confidence stayed almost unchanged at a rather low level.

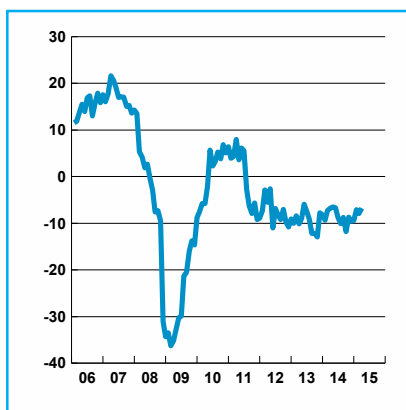
The service sector confidence indicator was almost stable in March. It scored +2 points, up from +1 in February. Its long-term average is +13. The overall business situation has still deteriorated slightly. However, moderate sales growth is expected for the next few months.

Retail trade

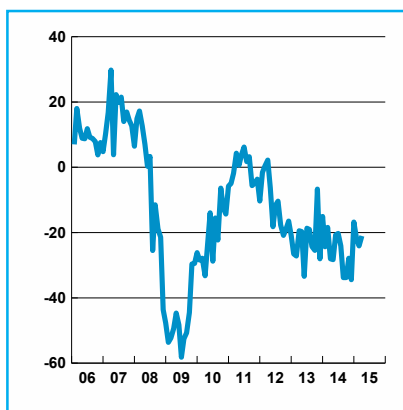
Retail trade confidence is very weak although it recovered slightly.

Finnish retail trade confidence is still extremely low despite a minor improvement in the confidence indicator. The most recent indicator figure is -19 (revised figure -22 in February) while the long-term average is -1. Sales volumes are expected to decrease further.

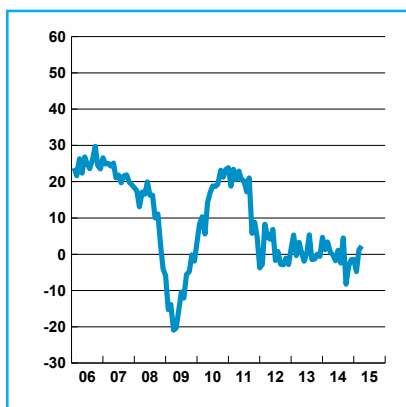
Industrial Confidence Indicator



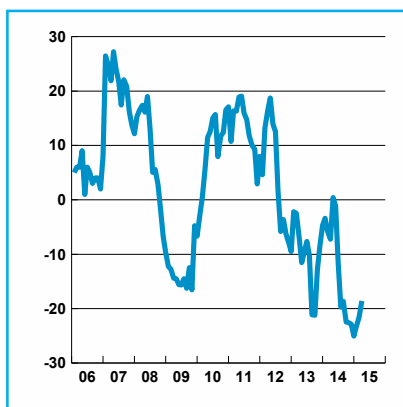
Construction Confidence Indicator



Services Confidence Indicator



Retail Trade Confidence Indicator



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EK Business Surveys

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