Confidence Indicators August 2015
To be released on 27 August 2015 at 9.00 a.m.

No Improvement in Finnish Business Confidence

Manufacturing
A long-lasting weakness in Finnish manufacturing confidence continued in August. Finnish manufacturing confidence was weak in August. The confidence indicator slipped to -13 points, down from the revised figure of -11 points one month earlier. Confidence is well below its long-term average (+1). Production is expected to stagnate during the next few months. Order books are below their long-term average. Stocks of final goods have stayed stable but their level is rather high.

Construction
Confidence declined after an upswing one month earlier. The Finnish construction confidence indicator turned down after a clear improvement in July. It fell to -15 points (0 points in July) while its long-term average is -8. However, confidence is stronger than in the first half of the year. Order books are below normal and personnel figures are expected to stay roughly unchanged.

Services
Confidence stayed rather stable but the indicator is below its long-term average. The service sector confidence indicator stayed rather stable in August. It scored +4 points, only one point higher than in July. The long-term average is +13. The overall business situation of Finnish service companies has still deteriorated slightly. However, sales expectations for the next three months are moderately positive.

Retail trade
The retail trade confidence indicator is well below its long-term normal. Confidence in retail trade is well below its long-term average. The confidence indicator scored -17 points (revised figure -13 in July) while its long-term average is -2. A widespread decline in sales volumes is expected to continue during the next few months.

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

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