

Confidence Indicators March 2016

To be released on 29 March 2016 at 9.00 a.m.



Most Confidence Indicators Improved in March

Manufacturing

Confidence improved mildly as the stocks of final goods decreased.

Finnish manufacturing confidence indicator gained a few points in March. The indicator rose to -4 points from -7 points in February. The long-term average is +1. Decline in the stocks of final goods was the main reason for the improvement. Production is expected to grow moderately during the next few months. Order books are below their long-term average.

Construction

Increasing construction confidence resulted from managers' assessments of the current level of order books.

The rise in construction confidence from -9 in February to -5 in March was driven by strengthening order books. Confidence is slightly above its long-term average (-8). Employment expectations are still cautious.

Services

A slight decline in service sector confidence was fuelled by the weakening past business situation.

Service sector confidence lost two points in March. The latest reading of the index came in at +8, compared with +10 in February. The long-term average is +13. The past business situation was seen more negatively, while the sales expectations stayed positive.

Retail trade

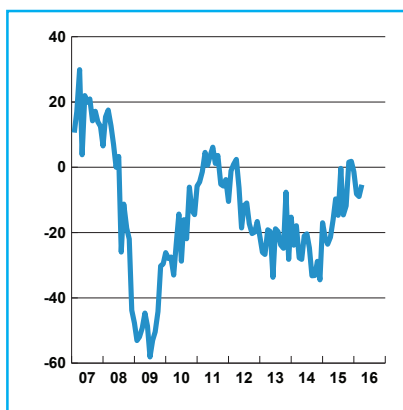
Retail trade confidence recovered in March. Sales volumes are expected to be stable over the next few months.

Retail trade confidence improved in March. The indicator stands now at -7 (-10 in February). The long-term average is -2. Assessments on the past sales remained weak, while future expectations were less pessimistic. The volume of stocks increased.

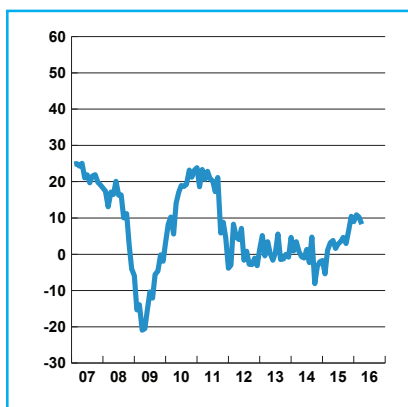
Industrial Confidence Indicator



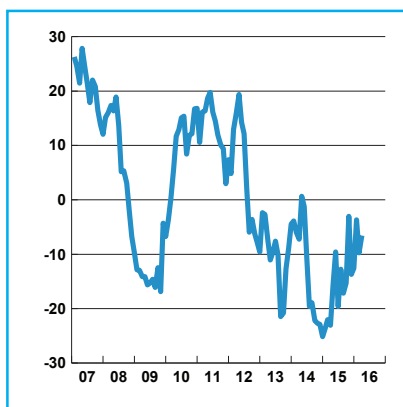
Construction Confidence Indicator



Services Confidence Indicator



Retail Trade Confidence Indicator



Inquiries:

Jouko Kangasniemi, Economist
Tel. +358 40 551 8136

firstname.lastname@ek.fi

EK Business Surveys

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Confederation of Finnish Industries EK

P.O.Box 30, FI-00031 Helsinki, Finland
Telephone +358 9 420 20
Fax +358 9 4202 2299
www.ek.fi