



Only Small Changes in Finnish Business Confidence

Manufacturing

Confidence weakened slightly because of weaker order books. Only slow production growth is expected.

The Finnish manufacturing confidence indicator lost a few points after an upswing one month earlier. It scored -8 points, down from the revised figure of -5 in March. The long-term average is +1. Production is expected to grow slightly during the next few months but order books fell deeper below their long-term average. Stocks of final goods stayed quite close to average figures.

Construction

Construction confidence was unchanged at an average level.

Finnish construction confidence stayed unchanged in April. The confidence indicator stood at -5 points which is equal to the figure one month earlier. Confidence is slightly above its long-term average (-8). Order books are somewhat below normal but employment figures are expected to grow slightly.

Services

Service sector confidence was stable with moderately positive sales expectations.

Service sector confidence was almost unchanged in April. The latest indicator figure is +9 which is one point better than the reading in March. The long-term average is +13. The overall business situation has not changed during the last few months. Sales expectations have stayed moderately positive.

Retail trade

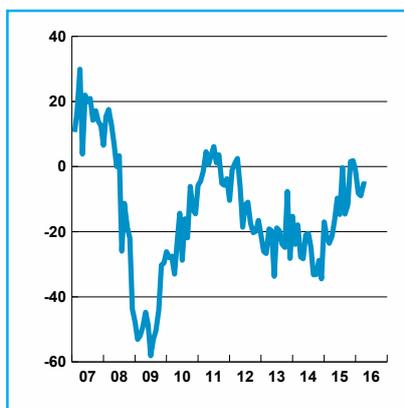
Retail trade confidence improved further in April. After a long decline some minor sales growth is expected.

Retail trade confidence continued in an upswing in April. The indicator rose to -1 point, up from -7 in March. The long-term average is -2. Some decline in sales was still observed but a turn into slow growth is forecast in the near future. The volume of stocks stayed higher than average.

Industrial Confidence Indicator



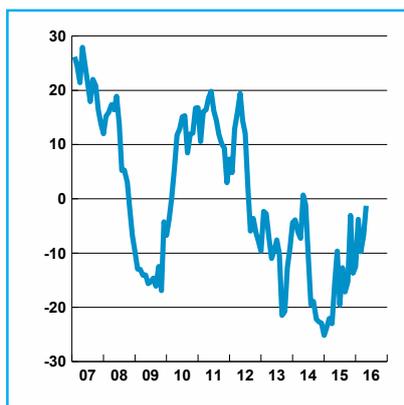
Construction Confidence Indicator



Services Confidence Indicator



Retail Trade Confidence Indicator



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EK Business Surveys

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