



Only Minor Changes in Finnish Business Confidence

Manufacturing

Manufacturing confidence stayed close to average level

Finnish manufacturing confidence was almost unchanged in January. The confidence indicator stood at +2 points (+1 in December). Production is expected to increase somewhat during the next few months. Order books stayed slightly below average. Stocks of final goods were close to normal levels.

Construction

Construction confidence is relatively robust

Confidence in the Finnish construction sector improved marginally in January. The confidence indicator scored +2 points (revised figure +1 in December). Confidence is currently steadier than its long-term average (-8). Order books are still slightly below average but some workforce growth is predicted.

Services

Service sector confidence was unchanged in January

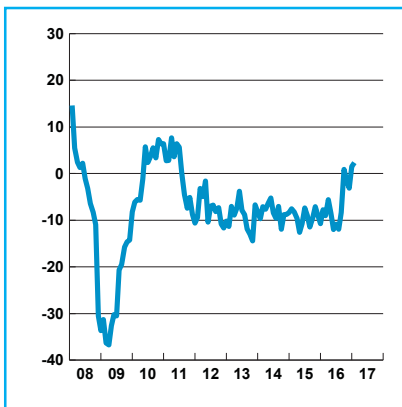
The service sector confidence indicator stayed stable at +16 points in January. It is slightly above its long-term average (+13). The overall business situation in Finnish service companies has continued to improve. Sales volumes are expected to grow during the next few months.

Retail trade

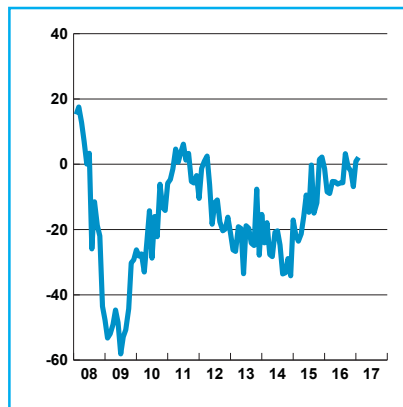
Retail trade confidence improved somewhat

The retail trade confidence indicator rose somewhat in January. Its latest balance figure is 0 points (-5 in December) while the long-term average is -2. Sales volumes turned slightly up in January but no growth is forecast for the near future.

Industrial Confidence Indicator



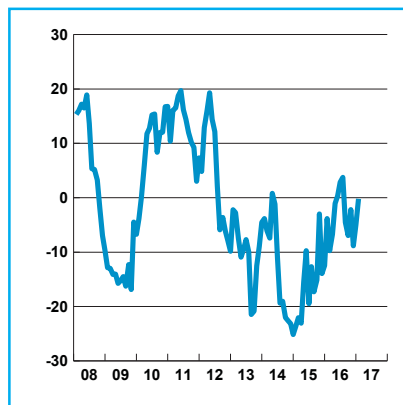
Construction Confidence Indicator



Services Confidence Indicator



Retail Trade Confidence Indicator



Inquiries:

Penna Urrila, Chief Economic Policy Adviser
Tel. +358 40 570 7860

firstname.lastname@ek.fi

EK Business Surveys

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Confederation of Finnish Industries EK

P.O.Box 30, FI-00131 Helsinki, Finland
Telephone +358 9 420 20
Fax +358 9 4202 2299
www.ek.fi