



## Finnish Business Confidence Almost Unchanged

### Manufacturing

Manufacturing confidence stayed almost unchanged

Finnish manufacturing confidence was almost unchanged in February. The confidence indicator lost one point and stood at +1 which is equal to its long-term average. Production is expected to increase moderately in the near future. Order books improved but are slightly below normal. Stocks of final goods were close to normal levels.

### Construction

Construction confidence is stronger than average

Confidence in the Finnish construction sector stayed stable in February. The confidence indicator scored +2 points which is clearly stronger than its long-term average (-8). Order books are still slightly below average but workforce is expected to grow during the next few months.

### Services

The service sector confidence indicator gained a few points

The service sector confidence indicator improved to +18 points (+16 points in January). It is somewhat above the long-term average (+13). The overall business situation in Finnish service companies has continued to improve. Sales volumes are expected to grow steadily during the next few months.

### Retail trade

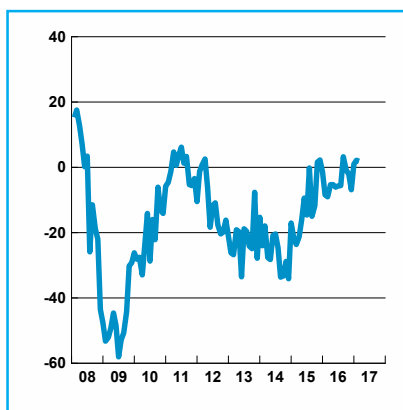
Retail trade confidence improved slightly

The retail trade confidence indicator climbed to +2 points in February (0 in January). Its long-term average is -2. Sales volumes improved slightly and a minor increase is forecast for the next few months.

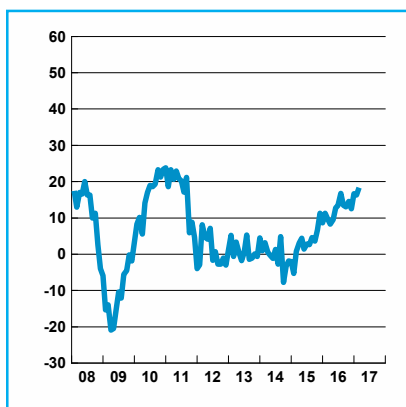
Industrial Confidence Indicator



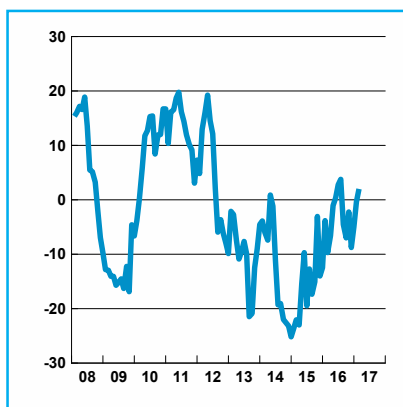
Construction Confidence Indicator



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

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.

#### 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