



Most Confidence Indicators Improved in March

Manufacturing

Manufacturing confidence grew above average

Finnish manufacturing confidence strengthened in March. The confidence indicator climbed to +4 points (revised figure +2 in February) while its long-term average is +1. Production is expected to grow at an increasing pace in the near future. Order books improved further but are still slightly below normal. Stocks of final goods were close to average.

Construction

Construction confidence lost a few points

Confidence in the Finnish construction sector became slightly weaker in March. The confidence indicator scored -4 points (+2 in February). Despite the downturn, it is still slightly stronger than the long-term average (-7). Order books are a bit below average and a minor decrease in workforce is expected.

Services

The service sector confidence stayed at a relatively high level

The services' confidence indicator stayed almost unchanged at +19 points (+18 points in February). It is somewhat above the long-term average (+13). The overall business situation in Finnish service companies has continued in an upswing. Sales volumes are expected to grow steadily during the next few months.

Retail trade

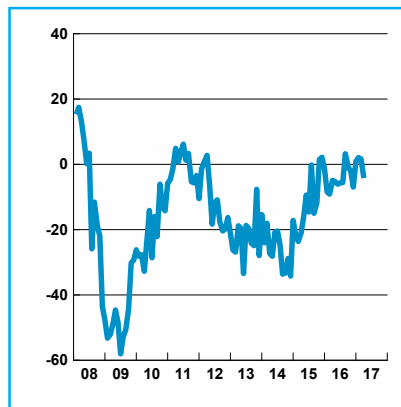
Retail trade confidence improved clearly

The retail trade confidence indicator improved to +8 points in March (+2 in February). Its long-term average is -2. Sales growth accelerated somewhat and a further improvement is expected for the next few months.

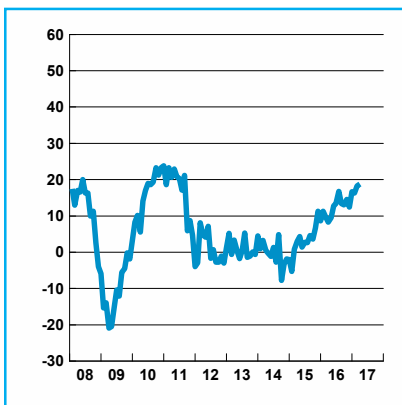
Industrial Confidence Indicator



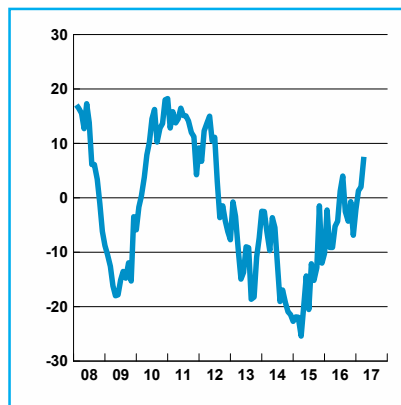
Construction Confidence Indicator



Services Confidence Indicator



Retail Trade Confidence Indicator



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EK Business Surveys

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