



## A Small Improvement in Business Confidence

### Manufacturing

Manufacturing confidence remained slightly above average.

Business confidence of Finnish manufacturing companies was unchanged in April. The indicator scored +5 points (revised figure +5 in March, too) while its long-term average is +1. Production is expected to grow at a moderately good pace in the near future. Order books improved to average levels. Stocks of final goods increased and their level is somewhat above normal.

### Construction

Construction confidence improved slightly.

Confidence in the Finnish construction sector improved slightly in April. The confidence indicator stood at -2 points (-4 in March). The indicator is somewhat stronger than the long-term average (-7). Order books are close to average and a minor decrease in workforce is expected.

### Services

Confidence improved to relatively strong figures.

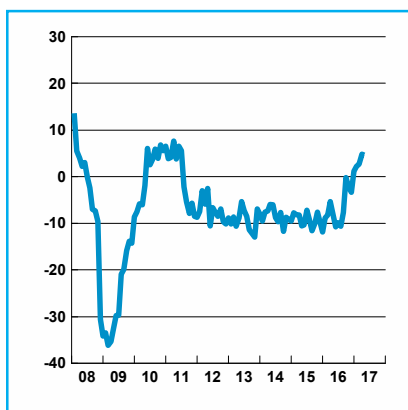
The services' confidence indicator climbed to +22 points, up from +19 in March. It is well above its long-term average (+13). The overall business situation in Finnish service companies has improved further. Sales volumes are expected to grow at a fairly fast pace during the next few months.

### Retail trade

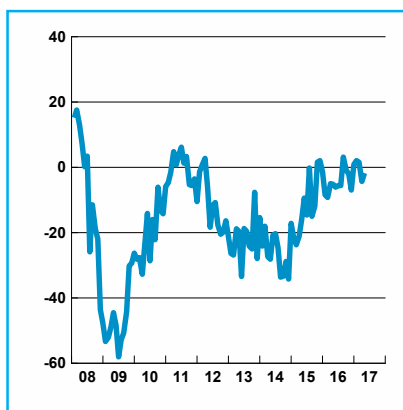
Retail trade confidence declined slightly.

The retail trade confidence indicator declined to +5 points in April (+8 in March). Its long-term average is -2. Despite the decline, sales growth has been steady and expectations for the next few months are moderately positive.

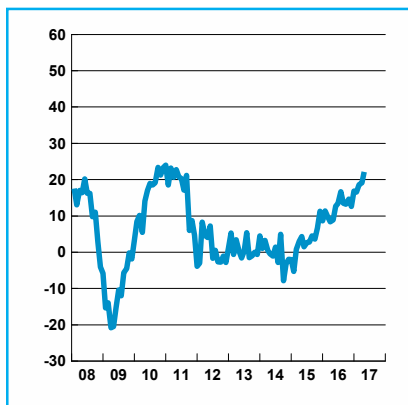
Industrial Confidence Indicator



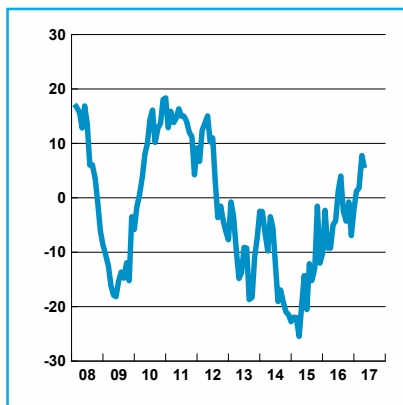
Construction Confidence Indicator



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-00031 Helsinki, Finland  
Telephone +358 9 420 20  
Fax +358 9 4202 2299  
www.ek.fi