



Business Confidence broadly unchanged in August

■ Manufacturing confidence weakened slightly

Finnish manufacturing confidence lost three points in August. The Indicator scored +7 points (revised figure +10 in July). Confidence is somewhat stronger than the long-term average (+1). Managers' views on production expectations were slightly less optimistic than before while the assessments of levels of order books and stocks of finished goods stayed nearly unchanged.

■ Construction confidence remained unchanged

Construction sector confidence stayed at -3 points in August. The indicator still stands above its long-term average (-7). Managers' assessments of order books decreased slightly, which on the other hand was compensated by a small improvement in personnel expectations.

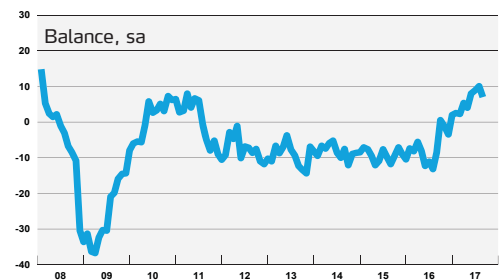
■ Service confidence saw a mild improvement

Service sector confidence indicator rose to +24 points in August from +23 points in July. The indicator is well above its long-term average (+13) and still rather close to its all-time high. Managers' views on the past business situation remained favorable despite a mild deterioration. At the same time, there were more optimistic appraisals of the past and near future sales development.

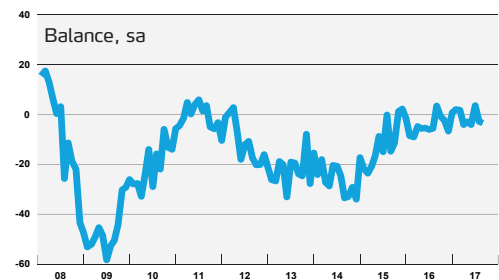
■ Retail trade confidence at a high level

Retail trade confidence gained one point in August. The confidence indicator reached +18 points (revised figure +17 in July). Confidence is well above its long-term average (-2). Sales growth has accelerated during the summer and sales expectations for the next few months are favorable. The level of stocks increased in August compared with July.

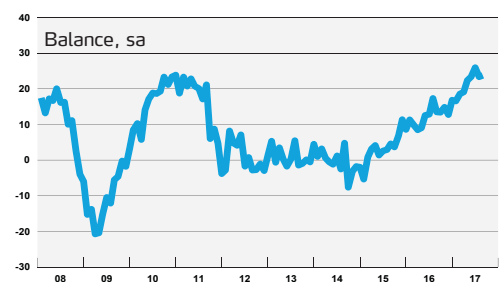
Industrial Confidence Indicator



Construction Confidence Indicator



Services Confidence Indicator



Retail Trade Confidence Indicator

