



Solid Business Confidence in April

■ Manufacturing confidence indicator turned up

Finnish manufacturing confidence improved in April. It reached +13 points which is two points higher than in March. Confidence is well above its long-term average (+1). Production expectations stayed positive and order books are better than normal. Stocks of final goods shrank and their level is slightly below average.

■ Construction confidence improved in April

The construction sector confidence indicator improved in April. It rose to +9 points, up from 0 in March. The indicator is currently above its long-term average (-7). Order books are stronger than normal and total workforce is expected to increase slightly when seasonal factors are taken into account.

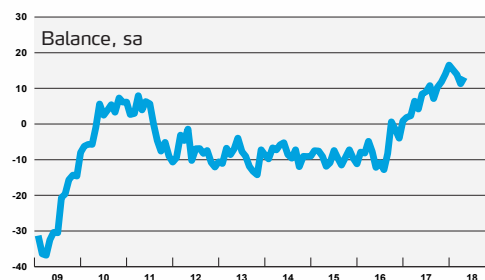
■ Service confidence strong despite a small decline

Service sector confidence indicator declined to +23 points in April (revised figure +28 in March). Despite the decline, confidence is well above its long-term average (+13). Service companies' sales figures have increased rapidly and sales growth is predicted for the next months, too.

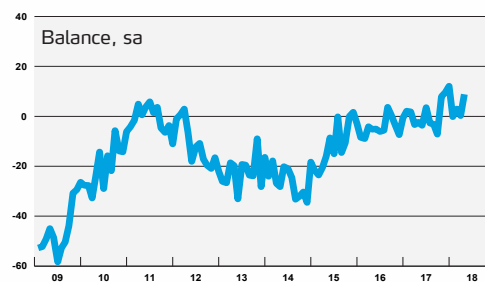
■ Retail trade confidence above average

Retail trade confidence is stronger than average. The confidence indicator scored +10 points in April (revised figure +12 in March). Long-term mean of the series is -2 points. Sales growth has been moderate in the first quarter. According to the respondents it would speed up somewhat in the near future. Level of stocks was above average in April.

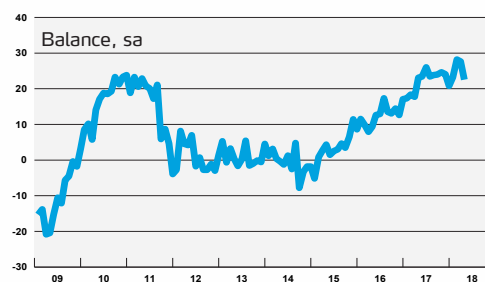
Industrial Confidence Indicator



Construction Confidence Indicator



Services Confidence Indicator



Retail Trade Confidence Indicator

