



Business Confidence Stayed Mostly Upbeat in July

■ Manufacturing confidence stayed at a high level

The business confidence of the Finnish manufacturing sector was unchanged in July. The indicator scored +14 points (+14 in June, too) while its long-term average is +1. Production is expected to grow at a fairly good pace during the next few months. Order books weakened, but they are still relatively large. Stocks of final goods stayed at their normal level.

■ Construction confidence lost some points

Construction sector confidence lost a few points in July, but the indicator is still above its long term average (-7). The confidence indicator's latest reading is -3 (+7 in June). Companies' assessments of order books weakened and personnel is expected to stay unchanged during the next few months.

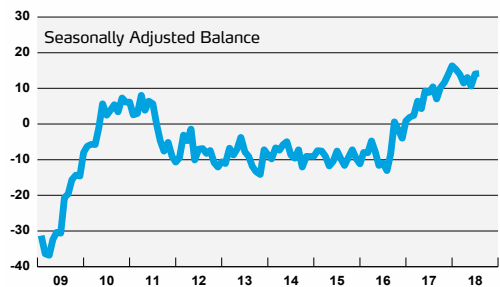
■ Service confidence improved slightly

Service sector confidence climbed to +20 points in July, up from +18 in June. It is above its long term average (+14). The overall business situation in Finnish service companies has improved slightly. Sales growth has accelerated mildly and an increase in sales volumes in the near future is also expected.

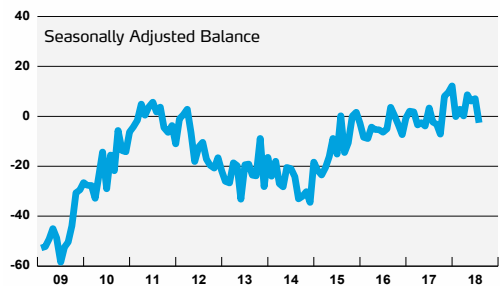
■ Retail trade confidence strengthened

Retail trade confidence improved to +19 points in July (+15 in June). Confidence is well above its long-term average (-1). Sales growth has been steady and managers' sales expectations are positive. The level of stocks decreased in June.

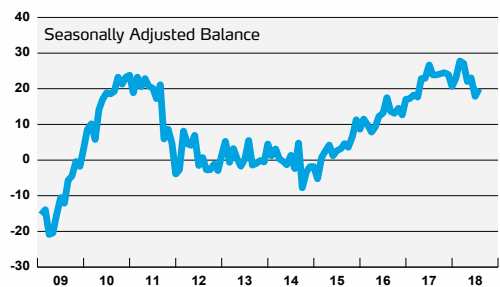
Industrial Confidence Indicator



Construction Confidence Indicator



Services Confidence Indicator



Retail Trade Confidence Indicator

