



Steady Business Confidence in September

■ Manufacturing confidence was steady at a high level

Finnish manufacturing confidence stayed nearly unchanged at a relatively high level. The indicator scored +11 points in September, whereas in August it was +12. The indicator is well above its long-term average (+1). The small deterioration resulted from managers' slightly lower production expectations. Respondents' more optimistic order book assessments were offset by the rise on the views on the current level of stocks of finished goods.

■ Construction confidence weakened in September

Construction sector confidence lost a few points in September. The indicator slid to +8 points (+13 in August). The long-term average for the indicator is (-7). The decrease of the confidence was mainly due to a deterioration in companies' assessments of the current level of order books. Employment expectations remained fairly robust.

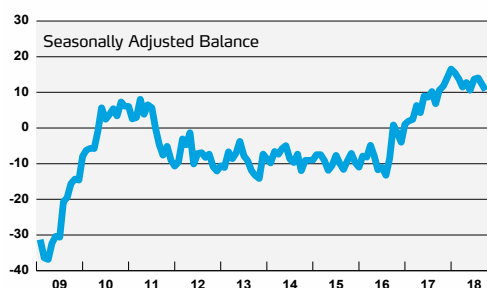
■ Service confidence indicator strengthened slightly

Service sector confidence indicator stood at +20 points in September, which is a slight improvement from +18 points in August. The indicator currently stands above its long-term average (+14). Managers' views on the past business situation remained broadly unchanged. Companies' assessment on the past sales development improved, while their opinions on the sales expectations remained positive.

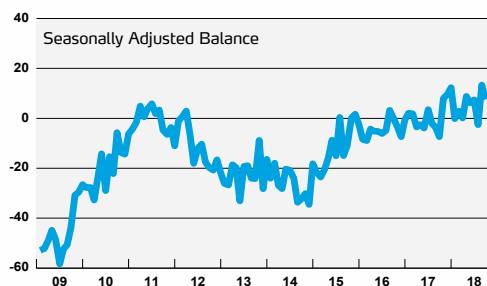
■ Retail trade confidence was nearly unchanged

Retail trade was fairly flat in September. The indicator reached +12, which is one point higher than its previous figure. The indicator is well above its long-term average (-1). Sales growth has speeded up slightly and sales expectations for the near future are also rather positive. The level of stocks increased further in September.

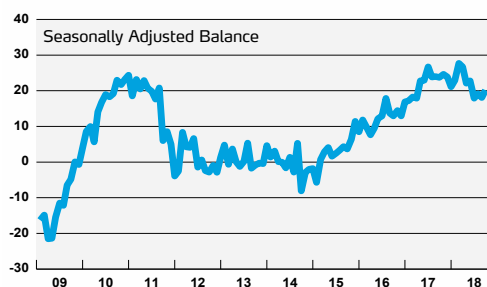
Industrial Confidence Indicator



Construction Confidence Indicator



Services Confidence Indicator



Retail Trade Confidence Indicator

