



No Major Changes in Finnish Business Confidence in January

■ Manufacturing confidence in a minor increase

Finnish manufacturing confidence improved slightly in January. Confidence is currently above its long-term average. The confidence indicator scored +5 points in January which is three points higher than the revised figure recorded in December. The long-term average is +1. Production expectations were positive and order books are above normal. Stocks of finished goods stayed clearly above average in January.

■ Construction confidence remained stable

Construction sector confidence stayed almost on previous month level in January. The indicator declined one point to +16 points (revised figure +17 in December). The long-term average for the indicator is -7 points. Confidence remained on strong level mainly due to a positive trend in companies' assessments on order books. Employment expectations remained fairly optimistic when seasonal variation is taken into account.

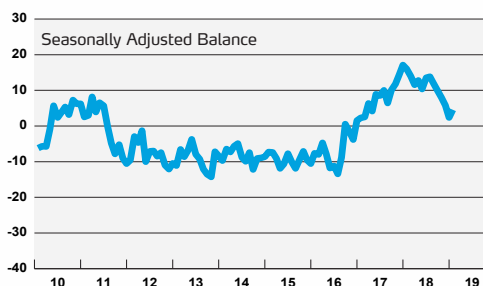
■ Service confidence indicator almost unchanged

Service sector confidence indicator was almost unchanged at +14 points in January which is one point lower than in December. The indicator stands currently at its long-term average level (+14). Managers' views on past business development remained slightly negative. Still, sales have increased and a steady growth is predicted for the coming months.

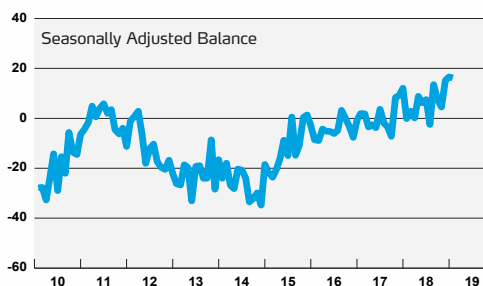
■ Retail trade confidence stable in January

Retail trade confidence weakened only slightly in January. The indicator rose to +6 points from +5 in December. Nevertheless, the indicator is above its long-term average (-1). Sales growth has continued and sales expectations for the near future are also positive. The level of stocks stayed stable but it is currently above average.

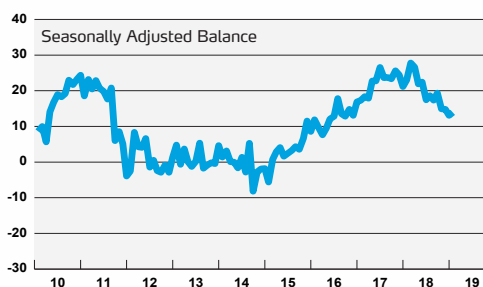
Industrial Confidence Indicator



Construction Confidence Indicator



Services Confidence Indicator



Retail Trade Confidence Indicator

