



# Confidence in Finnish Industries rather Stable

## ■ Manufacturing Confidence Increased

In February, the manufacturing confidence indicator increased five points from January. Confidence was -3 in February (-8 in January). The long-term average is +1. Production is expected to increase slightly in the near future. Order books increased and stocks of finished goods stayed unchanged above the long-term average. Production capacity was fully utilized by 73 % of the respondents.

## ■ Sentiment in Construction Unchanged

The construction confidence indicator scored +1 in February, which is the same figure as in January. The indicator is above its long-term average which is -6. Companies' assessments on order books weakened but the level is still above the normal. Positive expectations are now reflected also to labour market. Seasonally adjusted workforce numbers are expected to increase slightly from the current levels during the next few months.

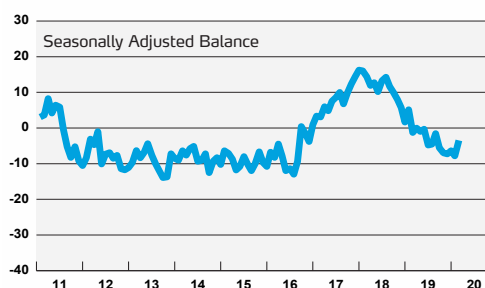
## ■ Confidence in Service Continued to Decline

The service sector confidence indicator scored +6 points in January, which is three point less than revised figure in January. Confidence is moving away from the long-term average (+14). Service companies' assessments of the current business situation have remained the same during the past few months. On the other hand, sales volumes have risen during the previous months and the sales expectations were still positive. Thus, the sales development is expected to be positive in the near future.

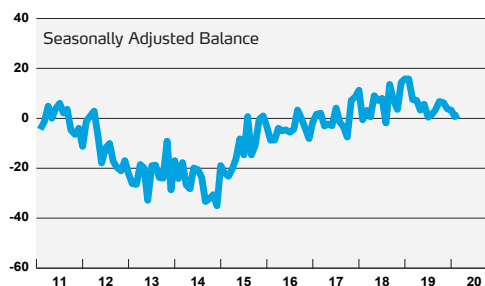
## ■ Retail Sector Weakened Again

Retail trade confidence lost four points in February. The latest standing is -7, which is below the long-term average (-1). Despite decreasing confidence, sales development was modest in February and the views concerning future sales figures were rather optimistic. Volumes of stocks increased rapidly and they are now clearly above the long-term average.

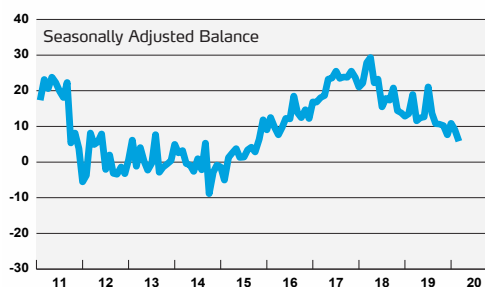
### Industrial Confidence Indicator



### Construction Confidence Indicator



### Services Confidence Indicator



### Retail Trade Confidence Indicator

