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Financial performance of Finnish public and SME companies in 2023

MARCH 2024



How are Finnish companies performing? What are their future prospects?

These questions often arise in the discussions of August consultants with Finnish company leaders, especially due to the uncertainties of the prevailing world situation. For this reason, August provides corporate executives this comprehensive summary of the current financial situation of Finnish companies based on the latest information from publicly traded companies and real-time financial data from Accountor for SMEs.



Olli Lehtonen

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Year 2023 ends with the Finnish Economy in recession, publicly listed companies' turnovers decreased by -5% and operating profits by -14%

SUMMARY OF FINNISH COMPANIES PERFORMANCE



- ✓ The combined revenue of publicly traded companies decreased by -5.0% year-on-year while operating profits fell by -14%
- ✓ Largest revenue declines were in Forest, Materials, Telco and Energy industries
- ✓ Operating profits had a decreasing trend and a dip in Q4 to lowest levels since Q4/2020



- ✓ Overall, combined revenue of publicly traded companies is expected to decline by -2% in 2024 based on consensus estimates
- ✓ Weak domestic and export markets demand hinders Finnish economic recovery, while slowing inflation and gradually decreasing interest rates ought to provide some easing to e.g., consumer demand and investment conditions¹
- ✓ Analyst consensus expects a large profit rebound for year 2024, driven by Forest, Telco and Consumer industry improvements

SUMMARY OF INSI	SHTS PER SECTOR	PUBLIC COMPANIES REVENUES, FY2023 ²	PUBLIC COMPANIES REVENUES, Q4/23 ³
Consumer	 Hospitality and Transportation / Logistics companies have grown the most Consumer products' revenues have been under pressure Consumer-driven SMEs seem to have outperformed other SME sectors 	-3 %	-2 %
్రస్ట్ Industrials	 Forest, Materials, and Industrial goods' revenue have declined by double-digits Industrial machinery has improved both revenue and profit SMEs in B2B sectors have suffered from declining revenue 	-7 %	-12 %
Energy	 Major declines and fluctuations in both revenue and operating profit Revenues have been increasing during H2 for both Neste and Fortum Fortum operating profits increased and Neste decreased 	-11 %	-9 %
Control of the contro	 Revenue increased in 2023, driven particularly by Finance Real estate sector and Telco performed the worst Mixed results for SMEs; Construction and Industrials having most issues 	0 %	-7 %

¹⁾ Bank of Finland's forecast, 1/2024

Change in revenue compared to FY2022, based on August's analysis on companies that have reported their earnings

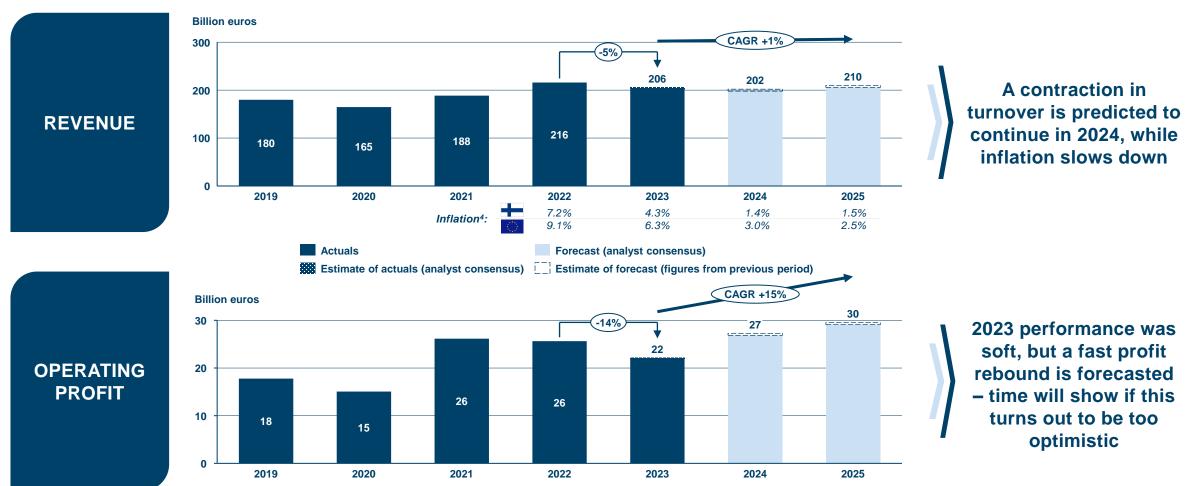
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Year 2023 resulted in lowest operating profits after COVID-19 recovery, consensus estimates forecast profit growth despite below-inflation revenue growth

TOTAL OF FINNISH PUBLICLY TRADED COMPANIES^{1,2,3}



^{1) 130} listed companies included; data collected from S&P Capital IQ. S&P Capital IQ gathers forecast data from several local actors such as Nordea Markets, Inderes, and Evli. The dates of the forecasts vary by company

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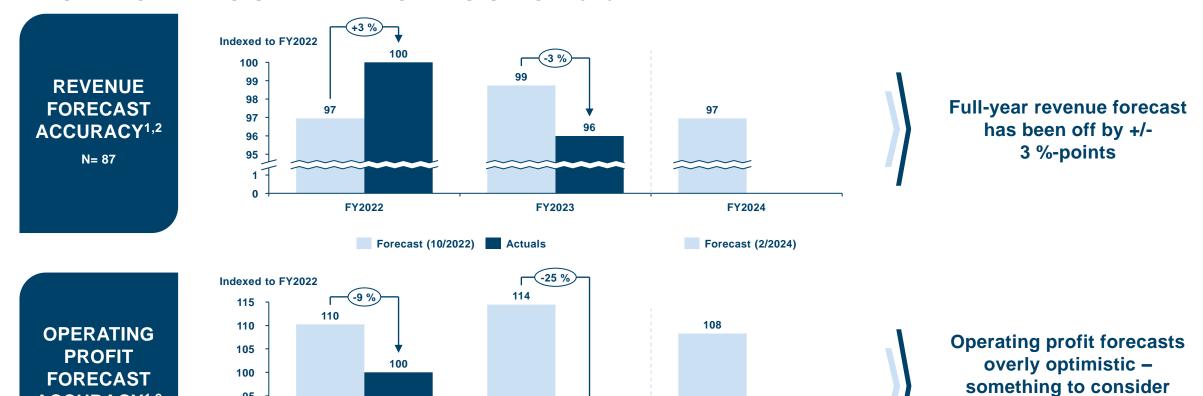
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²⁾ Fortum's historical figures have been adjusted to exclude the impact of Uniper and the effect of Russian operations

³⁾ Some historical figures revised compared to previous August reporting
4) Winter 2024 Economic Forecast, European Comission, 02/2024

Based on a forecast snapshot from 2022, operating profit consensus estimates have been overly optimistic, while revenue estimates landed in a correct ballpark

ACCURACY OF ANALYSTS' FINANCIAL FORECASTS FROM 10/2022



FY2023

95

90

ACCURACY^{1,2}

N=85

FY2022

FY2024

also when reading FY2024

forecasts

Forecast data for years FY2022 and FY2023 is collected on 10/2022, forecast data collected for FY2024

N listed companies included; data collected from S&P Capital IQ. S&P Capital IQ gathers forecast data from several local actors such as Nordea Markets, Inderes, and Evli. The dates of the forecasts vary by company

Consumer and other sector defended their profits in 2023 while Industrials and Energy sectors lost in total ~4 billion euros of profits

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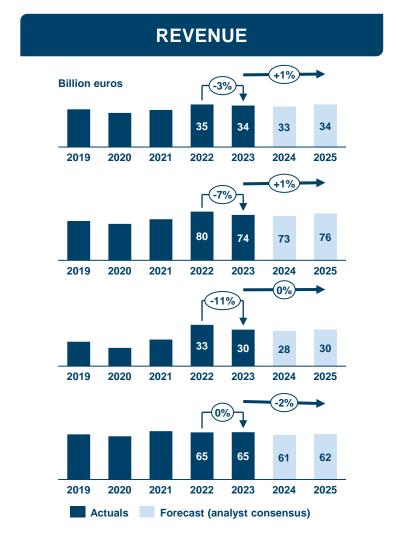
SECTOR OVERVIEW OF FINNISH PUBLICLY TRADED COMPANIES^{1,2}

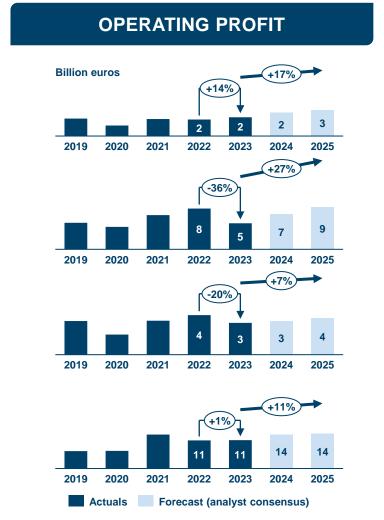












Source: S&P Capital IQ

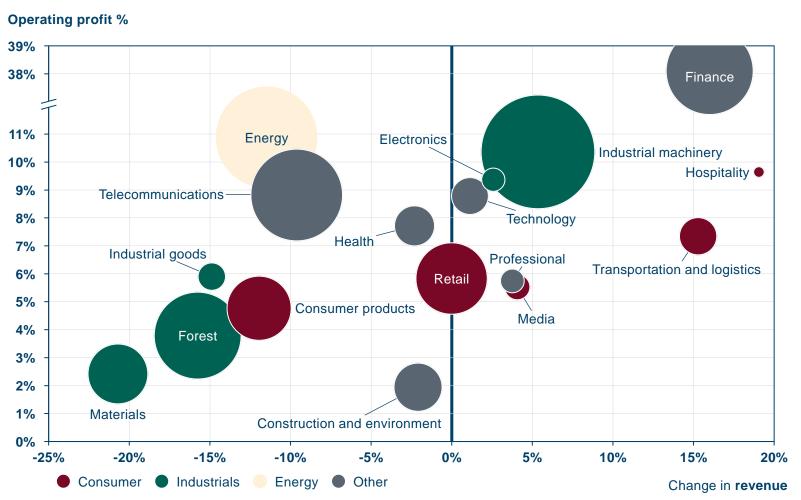
1) Sector split done by August – see appendix

Analysis includes companies that have reported both 2023 and 2022 earnings – see appendix

3) Combined revenue in 2023

During 2023 most industries grew below the general inflation rate – Finance, Transportation and Hospitality were the positive exceptions showing clear growth

CHANGE IN REVENUE 2023 VS 2022, AND OPERATING PROFIT % 2023^{1,2,3,4}



Upward trajectory continues

Finance, Transportation and logistics, Hospitality

Some growth
Industrial machinery, Media,
Professional, Electronics,
Technology, Retail

Declining revenue & positive profit

All other industries e.g.

Construction, Forest, Materials

Declining revenue & negative profit

No industry belongs in this category in 2023

MARCH 2024

Source: S&P Capital IQ

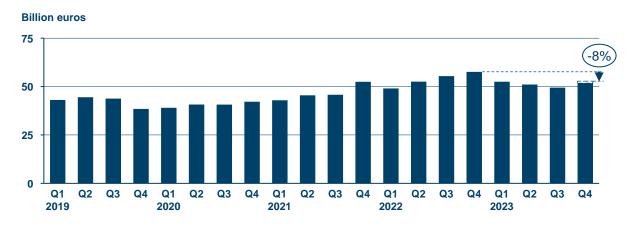
- Sector split done by August see appendix
- 2) Analysis includes companies that have reported both 2023 and 2022 earnings see appendix
- 3) Finance sector "revenue" based on operating income data in Capital IQ
- 4) Real Estate omitted due to poor comparability

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Most recent reported quarter Q4 2023 shows even worsening financial performance, especially operating profits were down by 25% compared to Q4 2022

TOTAL OF FINNISH PUBLICLY TRADED COMPANIES^{1,2}



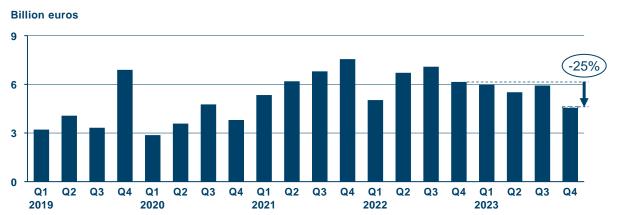


Comments

- Relative decline has been the largest in Forest, Materials and Telco
- Hospitality and Finance industries had largest relative growth

Q4'23 revenue declined in most industries





Actuals Forecast

Comments

- Profit for Forest, Materials and Industrial goods plummeted
- Profits decreased

 e.g. due to fair value
 adjustments and
 restructuring costs

Operating profits plummeted after positive turn in Q3

 ¹³⁰ listed companies included; data collected from S&P Capital IQ. S&P Capital IQ gathers forecast data from several local actors such as Nordea Markets, Inderes, and Evli. The dates of the forecasts vary by company.

Fortum's historical figures have been adjusted to exclude the impact of Uniper and the effect of Russian operations

Almost all industries reported declining revenue and profitability in Q4, worst situation in Forest, Materials, Telco, Construction, and Industrial goods

COMPARISON OF INDUSTRIES Q4 RESULTS^{1,2}

SECTOR	INDUSTRY	CHANGE IN REVENUE Q4'23 vs Q4'22	CHANGE IN OPERATING PROFIT % Q4'23 vs Q4'22
	Retail	-1 %	-1 % pt.
	Consumer products	-10 %	1 % pt.
Consumer	Transportation and logistics	2 %	1 % pt.
	Media	-3 %	-10 % pt.
	Hospitality	22 %	-1 % pt.
	Industrial machinery	-3 %	2 % pt.
	Forest	-23 %	-14 % pt.
Industrials	Materials :	-19 %	-20 % pt.
	Industrial goods	-9 %	-8 % pt.
	Electronics	-7 %	-1 % pt.
Energy	Energy	-9 %	-4 % pt.
	Telecommunications	-22 %	-2 % pt.
	Finance	13 %	-2 % pt.
Other	Construction and environment	-10 %	-2 % pt.
	Health	3 %	0 % pt.
	Technology	2 %	-3 % pt.
	Professional	-2 %	0 % pt.

- Most notable revenue decline in Forest, Materials, Telco and Construction, affected by the economic situation and e.g., decreasing commodity prices
- Decline in operating profit-% is also rather widespread, with few companies recording exceptionally large negative operating profits in Q4/2024 (e.g., Stora Enso and Outokumpu)
- Positive development in operating profit % in Consumer products, Transportation and Industrial machinery

Source: S&P Capital IQ

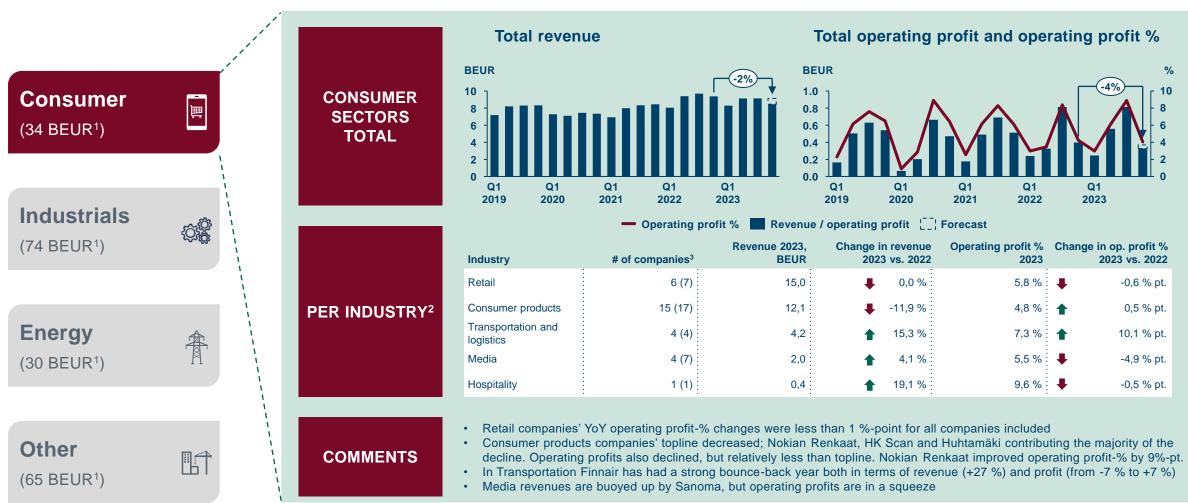
3) Real Estate omitted due to poor comparability

¹⁾ Analysis includes companies that have reported both Q4/2023 and Q4/2022 figures

²⁾ Finance sector "revenue" based on operating income data in Capital IQ

Consumer sector's topline declined modestly in FY2023 while operating profits showed modest improvements, driven by Finnair and Nokian Renkaat

SECTOR REVIEW: FY2023



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Source: S&P Capital IQ



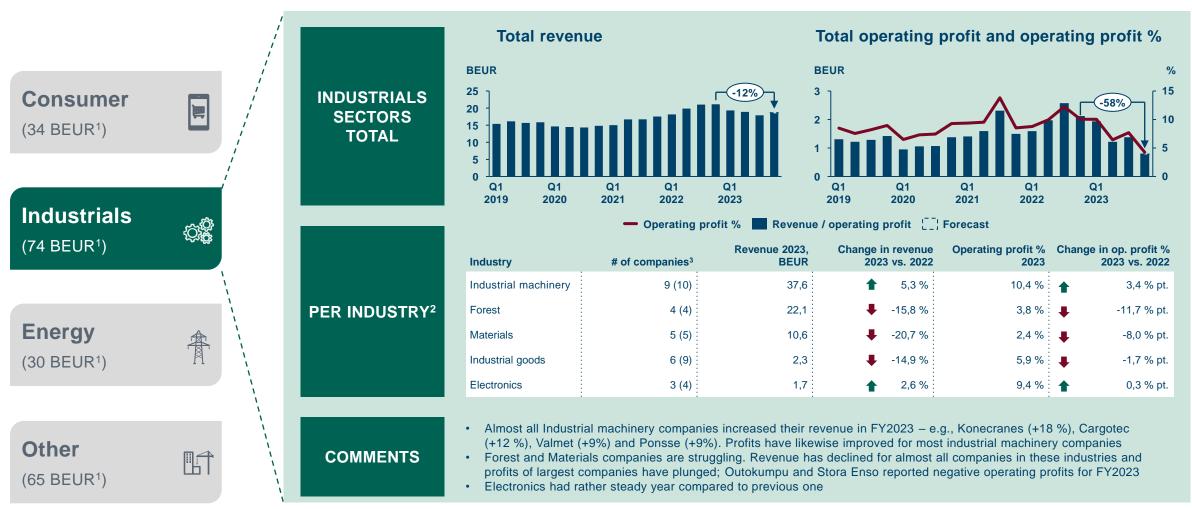
¹⁾ Combined revenue in 2023. Sector split done by August – see appendix

²⁾ Analysis includes companies that have reported both 2023 and 2022 earnings – see appendix

³⁾ Number of companies that have reported earnings (total number of companies in sector)

Industrials sector suffered from profit decrease driven by Forest, Industrial Goods and Materials, even though Industrial machinery and Electronics are growing

SECTOR REVIEW: FY2023



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Source: S&P Capital IQ



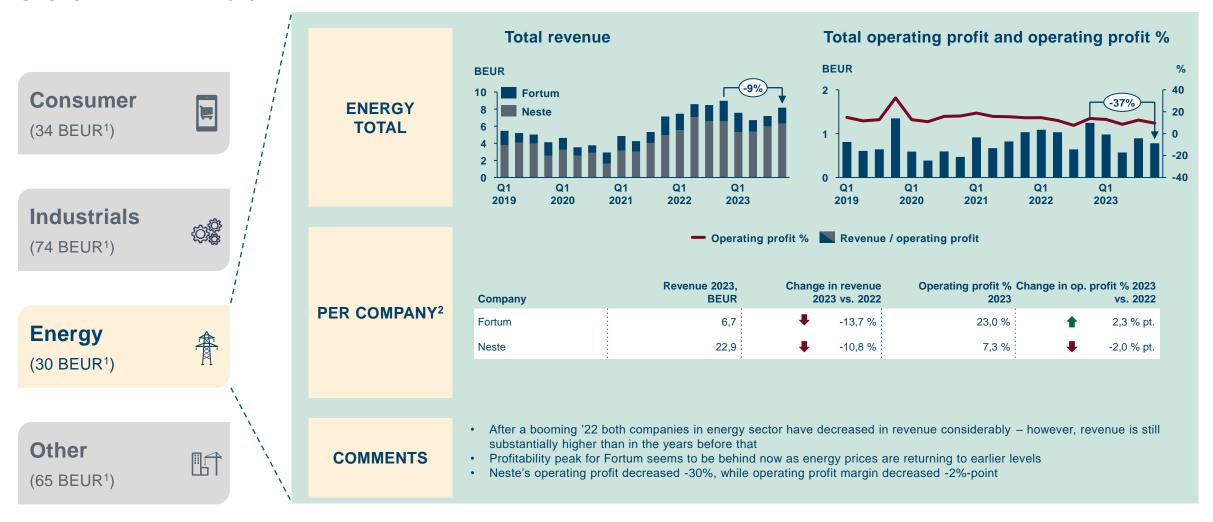
¹⁾ Combined revenue in 2023. Sector split done by August – see appendix

²⁾ Analysis includes companies that have reported both 2023 and 2022 earnings – see appendix

³⁾ Number of companies that have reported earnings (total number of companies in sector)

Energy sector revenues declined during H1 2023 while turned for positive in H2, Fortum was able to improve FY2023 operating profit-% while Neste was not

SECTOR REVIEW: FY2023



Source: S&P Capital IQ

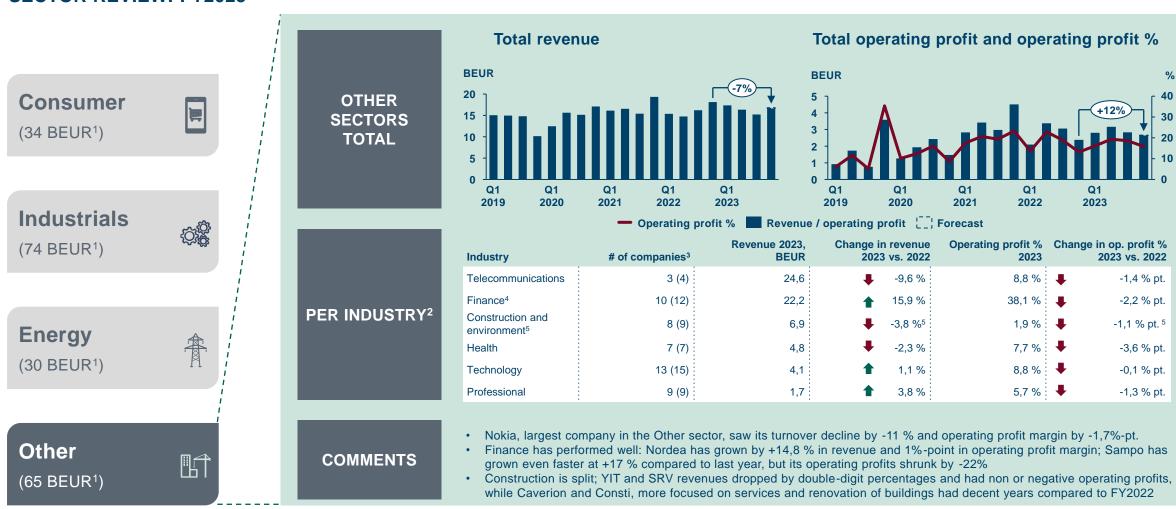
Only two companies in the sector



⁾ Combined revenue in 2023. Sector split done by August – see appendix

Finance had a good year in 2023 driven by Nordea, while the economic downturn has hit Telecommunications, Health and Construction industries

SECTOR REVIEW: FY2023



Source: S&P Capital IQ

4) Revenue figure is total operating income, 5) Lamor Corporation added to industry totals, omitted from change-%'s

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Combined revenue in 2023. Sector split done by August

Table includes only companies that have reported both 2023 and 2022 earnings. Real estate has been omitted due to poor comparability

Number of companies that have reported earnings (total number of companies in sector)

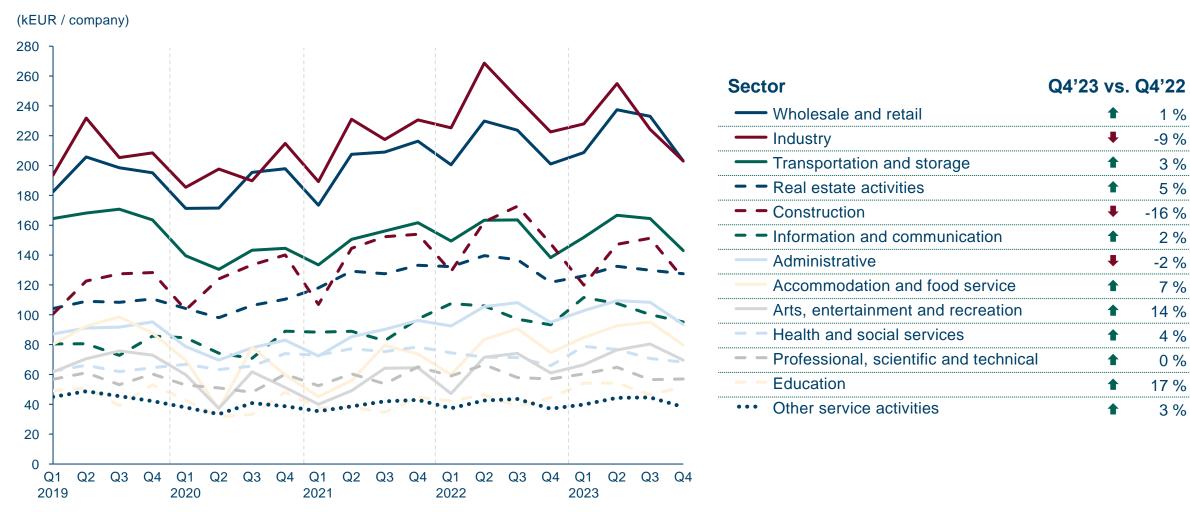
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In the end of 2023, SMEs in industrial and construction sector suffered from notable revenue decline while consumer-driven sectors had modest growth

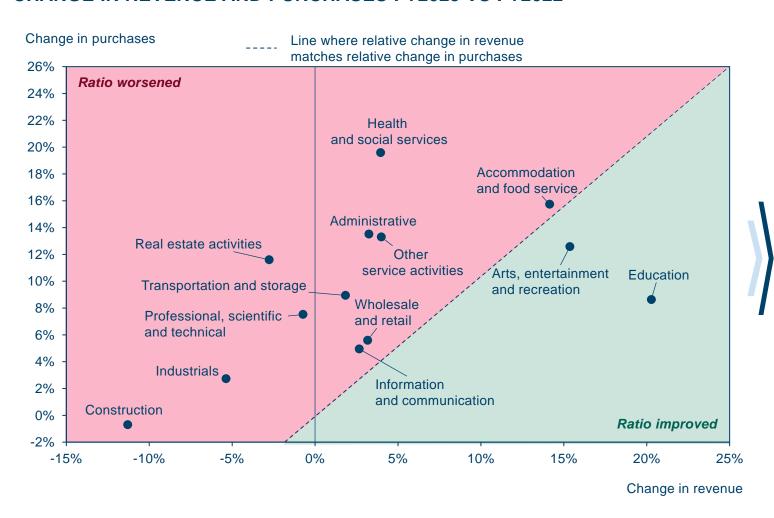
QUARTERLY AVERAGE REVENUE PER INDUSTRY¹



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It seems profitability of most SME sectors has decreased during 2023, based on the declining revenue to purchase -ratios

CHANGE IN REVENUE AND PURCHASES FY2023 VS FY2022



Based on revenue and purchases it seems that margins may have improved only in:

- Education
- Arts, entertainment and recreation

Margins seems to have deteriorated especially in:

- Real estate
- Professional, scientific and technical
- Industrials
- Construction

Analysis limitations: The improvement in margins could be partly explained by a deliberate decrease in purchases for discretionary spending. This analysis does not provide a complete picture of the profit development, as it does not include other items affecting profitability such as personnel costs or depreciation. The estimate of the revenue change is also not fully comprehensive, as the data from Accountor is missing billing that occurs in external invoicing systems.

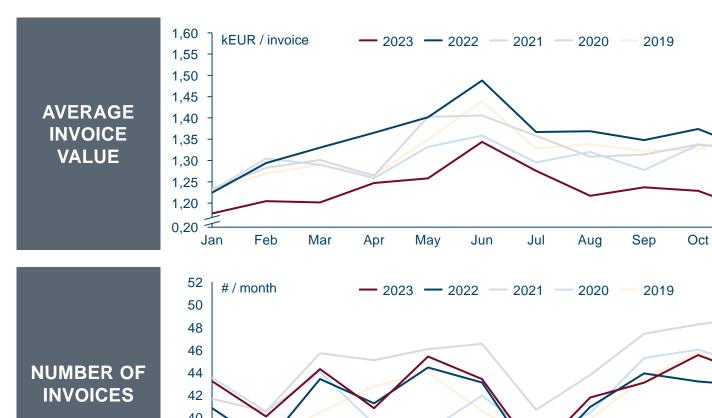
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Trade between SMEs (i.e. B2B) was on record low level based on the decrease in sales invoices average value, while invoice volumes have remained steady

MONTHLY TOTAL SALES INVOICING OF ALL SMES

Invoicing particularly reflects trade between businesses



YEARLY **AVERAGE**

'19: 1,322 EUR '20: 1,306 EUR

'**21:** 1,325 EUR

'22: 1,355 EUR

'23: 1,241 EUR

Nov

Nov

Oct

Sep

MARCH 2024

Dec

YEARLY AVERAGE

'19: 42

'20: 43

'21: 45

'22: 42

'23: 42

Dec

May

Jul

Jun

Aug

Apr

Feb

Jan

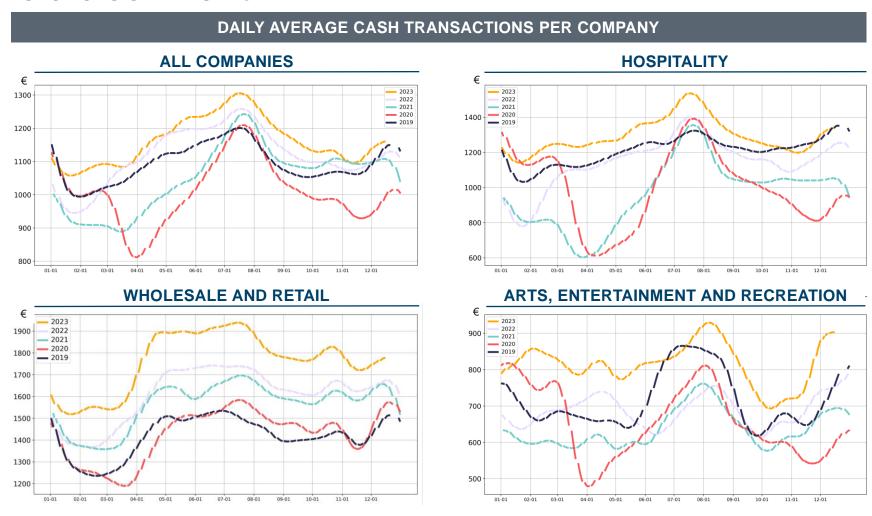
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On the contrary, cash transactions (i.e. B2C) were on record high levels in 2023

MONTHLY TOTAL CASH TRANSACTIONS OF ALL SMEs

2

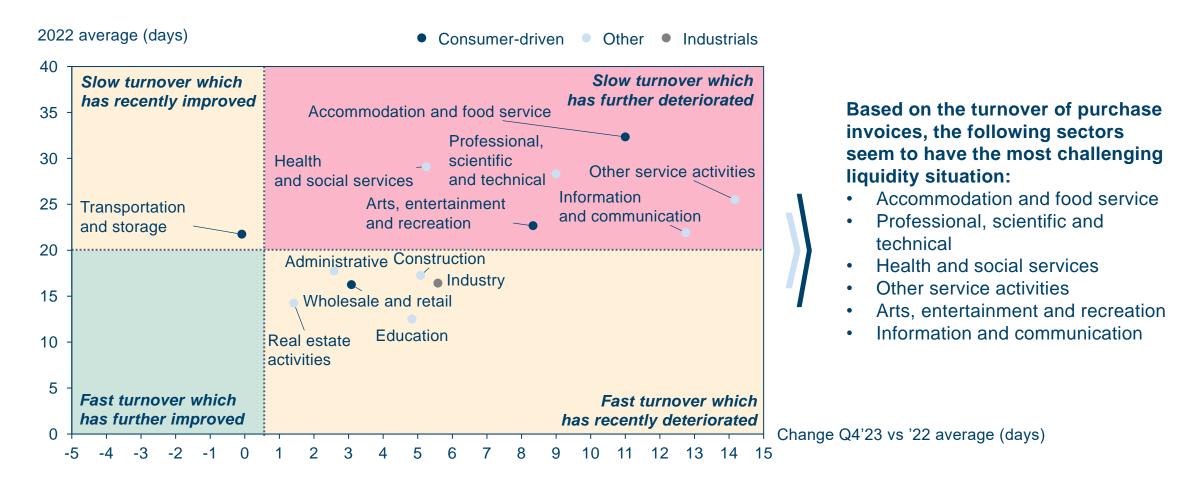
Cash transactions particularly depicts consumer-driven trade





Liquidity may be an issue for many small and medium-sized companies since accounts payable turnover has slowed down in all sectors

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE TURNOVER RATE (DAYS)



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We have analyzed both publicly listed companies and SMEs

Publicly listed companies

SOURCE

- S&P Capital IQ
- Financial statements and bulletins
- Consensus forecasts

SAMPLE

- 130 listed companies. Estimates / previous period figures used when needed in total market analysis. Companies with FY2023 data lacking omitted from sector analysis
- Main list companies headquartered abroad or for which there was not enough data available have been excluded from the analysis. Also, First North companies are excluded
- Revenue in 2022 was approximately 206 billion euros

NOTES

- The revenue data is standardized by S&P Capital IQ and may differ from the figures reported by companies. For instance, excise taxes have been deducted from the reported revenue, which can affect the figures for e.g. companies in the energy sector
- Capital IQ forecasts update dates vary by company

Small and medium-sized companies

SOURCE

Accountor

SAMPLE

Approximately 10,000 companies from various SME industries

NOTES

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- The data is real-time for cash sales and for sent and received invoices
- Not all items affecting companies' revenue and profitability are included in the dataset
- The sample includes companies with observations for the entire review period – therefore, companies that have ceased operations are not included (survival bias)

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Division of listed companies into different sectors

Consumer	Industrials		Energy		Other	
(34 BEUR ¹)	(74 BEUR¹)		(30 BEUR¹)		(65 BEUR¹)	
Retail Kamux Oyj Kesko Oyj Musti Group Oyj Puuilo Oyj Stockmann Oyj Abp Tokmanni Group Oyj² Verkkokauppa.com Oyj Consumer products Anora Group Oyj Apetit Oyj Atria Oyj Fiskars Oyj Abp Harvia Oyj HKScan Oyj Huhtamäki Oyj Marimekko Oyj Martela Oyj Nokian Renkaat Oyj Olvi Oyj Orthex Oyj² Rajsio plc Rapala VMC Corporation² Saga Furs Oyj Suominen Oyj Tulikivi Corporation	Electronics Aspocomp Group Oyj² Incap Oyj Scanfil Oyj Vaisala Oyj Industrial machinery Cargotec Corporation Glaston Oyj Abp Kesla Oyj² KONE Oyj Konecranes Plc Metso Outotec Oyj Ponsse Oyj Raute Oyj Valmet Oyj Wärtsilä Oyj Abp Materials Afarak Group SE Endomines Finland Oyj Kemira Oyj Outokumpu Oyj Sotkamo Silver Ab	Koskisen Oyj Metsä Board Oyj Stora Enso Oyj UPM-Kymmene Oyj Industrial goods Boreo Oyj² Componenta Oyj Elecster Oyj Exel Composites Oyj Purmo Group Oyj Reka Industrial oyj² Relais Group Oyj² Robit Oyj Uponor Oyj	Energy Fortum Oyj Neste Oyj	Professional Dovre Group Oyj Eezy Oyj Enento Group Oyj Enersense International Oyj Etteplan Oyj Sitowise Group Oyj Talenom Oyj Trainers' House Oyj Wulff-Yhtiöt Oyj Finance Aktia Pankki Oyj² Ålandsbanken Abp Alisa Pankki Oyj CapMan Oyj eQ Oyj Evli Oyj Nordea Bank Abp Oma Säästöpankki Panostaja Oyj Sampo Oyj Taaleri Oyj United Bankers Oyj²	Construction and environment Caverion Oyj Consti Oyj Honkarakenne Oyj Kreate Group Oyj Lamor Corporation Oyj Lassila & Tikanoja Oyj Lehto Group Oyj² SRV Yhtiöt Oyj YIT Oyj Technology Digia Oyj Digitalist Group Plc F-Secure Oyj Gofore Oyj Innofactor Oyj Nixu Oy² QPR Software Oyj Qt Group Plc Siili Solutions Oyj Solteq Oyj SSH Communications Security Oyj Tecnotree Oyj TietoEVRY Oyj Valoe Oyj² WithSecure Oyj	Real estate Citycon Oyj Investors House Oyj² Kojamo Oyj Ovaro Kiinteistosijoitus Oyj Health Biohit Oyj Optomed Oyj Oriola Oyj Orion Oyj Pihlajalinna Oyj Revenio Group Oyj Terveystalo Oyj Telecommunications Bittium Oyj² Elisa Oyj Nokia Oyj Teleste Corporation

