ČESKÁ NÁRODNÍ BANKA

BANK LENDING SURVEY III/2026

INTRODUCTION

The Bank Lending Survey captures banks' opinions regarding the change in supply and demand for loans to non-financial corporations and households. This publication summarises the results of the current round of the survey, i.e. banks' views on the evolution of lending conditions in 2026 Q2 and their expectations in these areas for 2026 Q3. Nineteen banks, accounting for a major share of the bank credit market, took part in the survey, which was conducted between 1 and 15 June 2026.[1] The CNB's Bank Lending Survey is performed by a team made up of representatives of the Monetary Department and the Financial Stability and Resolution Department.

[1] The survey contained 22 questions that related to banks' credit standards, terms and conditions for approving loans and demand for loans perceived by banks, including the relevant factors. In the text and charts, the responses to the questions are expressed in the form of net percentages (NP) on the aggregate level. Net percentages are calculated as the difference between the market share of loans provided in the given segment by banks reporting that standards/conditions have been tightened (or demand increased) and the market share of loans provided in the given segment by banks reporting that standards/conditions have been eased (or demand decreased). A positive (negative) net percentage indicates an overall tightening (easing) of standards/conditions or an overall increase (decrease) in demand. Data in Excel files, along with the questionnaire, a glossary and methodological guidelines, is available on the CNB website: https://www.cnb.cz/en/statistics/bank-lending-survey/.

1 SUMMARY

The results of the current Bank Lending Survey show that a small section of the banking market eased credit standards for loans to non-financial corporations, while banks left lending conditions unchanged. Firms' demand for loans increased, driven by financing of fixed investment, corporate acquisitions and working capital. Lower domestic interest rates also contributed to the stronger demand.

Demand for housing loans increased in around one-half of the banking market in 2026 Q2. Banks tightened credit standards across the board (implementation of the CNB Recommendation). They expect demand for housing loans to decline in Q3.

Lower rates offered by banks on consumer credit, coupled with the need to finance spending on durables, fostered an increase in demand for consumer credit, which rose overall in one-half of the banking market. A small section of the banking market tightened both credit standards and terms and conditions for loans to households for consumption.

2 CREDIT STANDARDS AND DEMAND FOR LOANS

2.1 NON-FINANCIAL CORPORATIONS

A small section of the banking market eased credit standards for loans to non-financial corporations, while demand for loans continued to increase

Credit standards, representing banks' internal lending policy criteria, were eased for loans to non-financial corporations in 2026 Q2 in a small section of the banking sector (an NP of 10%). This was observed for loans to small and medium-sized enterprises and for long-term loans. Banks reported no change in credit standards for loans to large corporations and for short-term loans. An easing of standards was fostered by increased competitive pressure among banks (an NP of 10%). From a longer-term perspective, overall credit standards have been broadly unchanged since 2023 Q2 and are expected to remain stable in Q3.

The overall **lending conditions**, representing the arrangements between lender and borrower, were also largely unchanged. However, changes occurred in their structure. Banks eased the conditions applying to loan maturity and interest margins (NPs of 36% and 5% respectively), while tightening those applying to non-interest charges (an NP of 19%).

Corporate demand for loans rose further in 2026 Q2 (an NP of 16%), but fell slightly short of banks' expectations. Demand rose for loans to large corporations and for short-term loans (an NP of 16%) and to a somewhat greater extent for loans to small and medium-sized enterprises and long-term loans (both an NP of 35%). The rise in demand was driven by a greater need to finance fixed investment, mergers and acquisitions, including corporate restructuring, and working capital (NPs of 31%, 12% and 10% respectively). Demand for fixed investment was still linked partly to a focus on energy savings. Overall, loan demand was also stimulated by economic growth and rising industrial production, which are mitigating the rather higher market uncertainty stemming from adverse external factors. Lower domestic interest rates also contributed to higher demand (an NP of 16%). For Q3, banks expect loan demand to continue increasing (an NP of 25% overall, and 35% in the case of long-term loans).

2.2 HOUSEHOLDS

Demand for housing loans continued to increase, partly on the back of strong mortgage lending ahead of the tightening of credit standards and expectations of higher mortgage rates.

Most of the banking sector tightened credit standards for loans to households for house purchase (an NP of 78%). This reflected the implementation of the CNB Recommendation, which tightened the requirements for the provision of investment mortgages (i.e. buy-to-let mortgage loans and loans for the purchase of a third or subsequent property owned by the applicant) by setting a maximum LTV ratio of 70% and a maximum DTI ratio of 7. Banks' cost of funds and expectations relating to the overall economic situation also fostered a tightening of credit standards (NPs of 22% and 10% respectively). Banks do not expect any further change in credit standards in Q3.

Banks also reported changes in lending conditions related to the implementation of the CNB Recommendation through a tightening of the LTV and DTI ratios (NPs of 80% and 82% respectively). By contrast, in the direction of easing, banks reported lower interest margins and adjustments to loan maturities (NPs of 32% and 27% respectively). Overall, banks left lending conditions broadly unchanged.

Demand from households for housing loans increased for an NP of 55%, somewhat more than banks had expected in the previous survey round. Demand was boosted both by applicants' expectations of rising mortgage rates and by the tightening of the LTV and DTI ratios for loans to finance the purchase of investment property and a third or subsequent property, effective from 1 April 2026. In light of these factors, the increase in mortgage lending carried over into Q2 owing to the administrative settlement of previously approved loans. Prospects in the residential property market also supported stronger loan demand (an NP of 27%). For Q3, banks expect demand for housing loans to decline (an NP of 36%).

Lower rates offered on consumer credit, coupled with the need to finance spending on durables, fostered an increase in demand for consumer credit, which rose overall in one-half of the banking market.

Banks tightened credit standards for loans to households for consumption in Q2 (an NP of 13%). This reflected banks' perception of risks related to borrowers' creditworthiness. For Q3, banks expect credit standards to ease (an NP of 18%). Banks relaxed the overall lending conditions (an NP of 13%). This was driven by a decline in interest margins – both average margins in almost one-half of the banking market and margins on riskier loans (an NP of 13%). The decline in margins also reflected promotional campaigns by some banks offering lower lending rates. These lower interest rates, coupled with the need to finance spending on durables, fostered an increase in demand for consumer credit, which rose overall in around one-half of the banking market. Banks do not expect demand for consumer credit to change in Q3.

Banks left credit standards for **loans to sole proprietors** unchanged and do not expect any change in the next quarter. The demand perceived by banks for such loans increased overall (an NP of 35%) and is expected to rise further in the coming quarter (an NP of 50%).

Additional questions on **expected credit losses** indicate that banks expect credit losses to increase in the period ahead for loans to non-financial corporations and for loans to households for consumption (NPs of 15% and 4% respectively). By contrast, they expect credit losses on housing loans to decline (an NP of 2%).

3 GRAPHICAL PRESENTATION OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND CONDITIONS IN SEGMENTS

Chart 1
Changes in credit standards applied to loans to non-financial corporations (questions 1, 2 and 6)
(net percentages, positive value = tightening, negative value = easing)

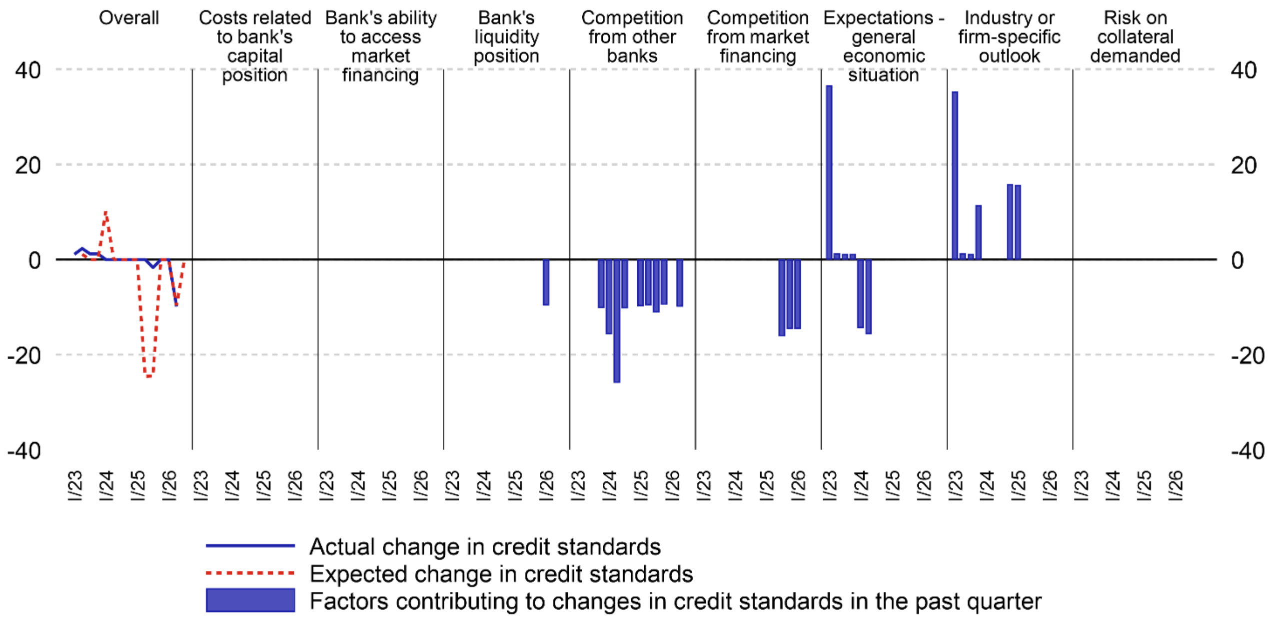


Chart 2
Changes in terms and conditions for approving loans to non-financial corporations (question 3)
(net percentages, positive value = tightening, negative value = easing)

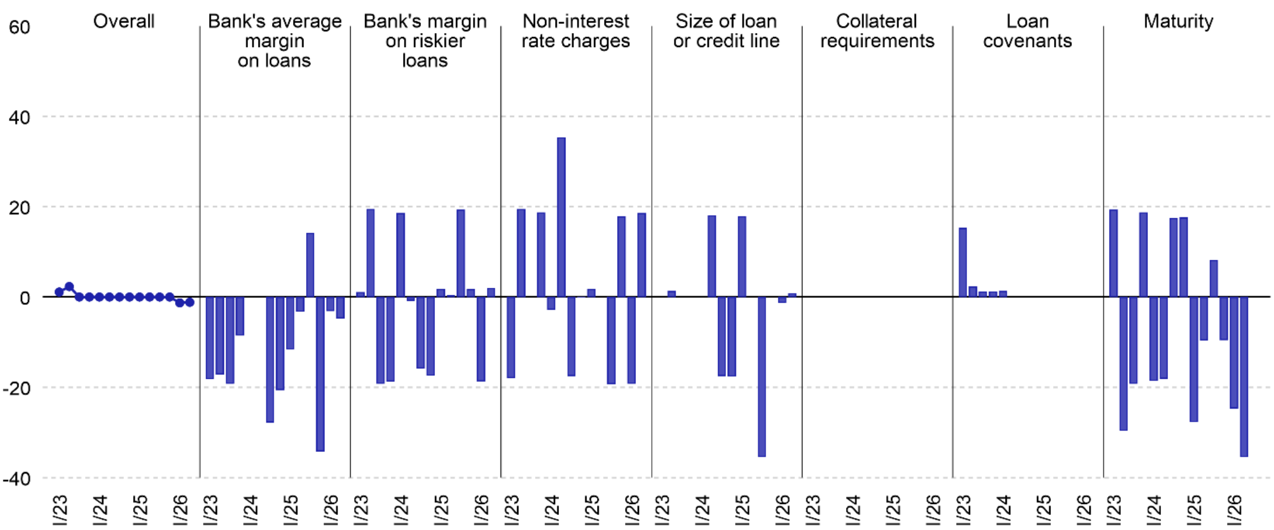


Chart 3

Changes in non-financial corporations' demand for loans (questions 4, 5 and 7)

(net percentages, positive value = demand growth, negative value = demand decrease)

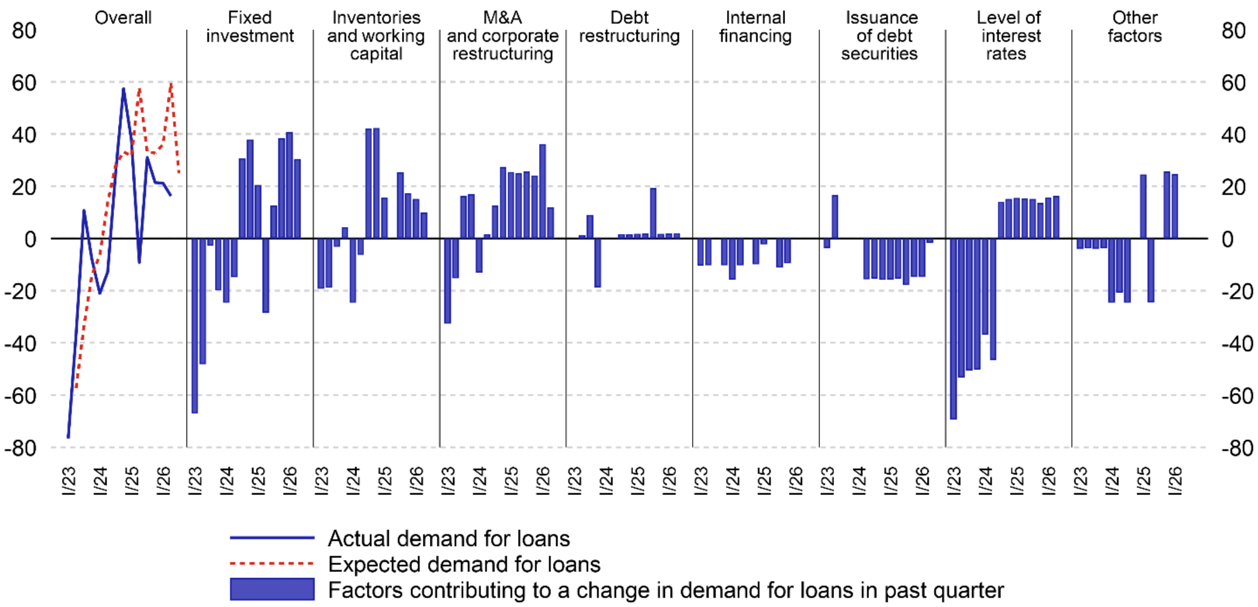


Chart 4

Changes in credit standards applied to loans for house purchase (questions 8, 9 and 16)

(net percentages, positive value = tightening, negative value = easing)

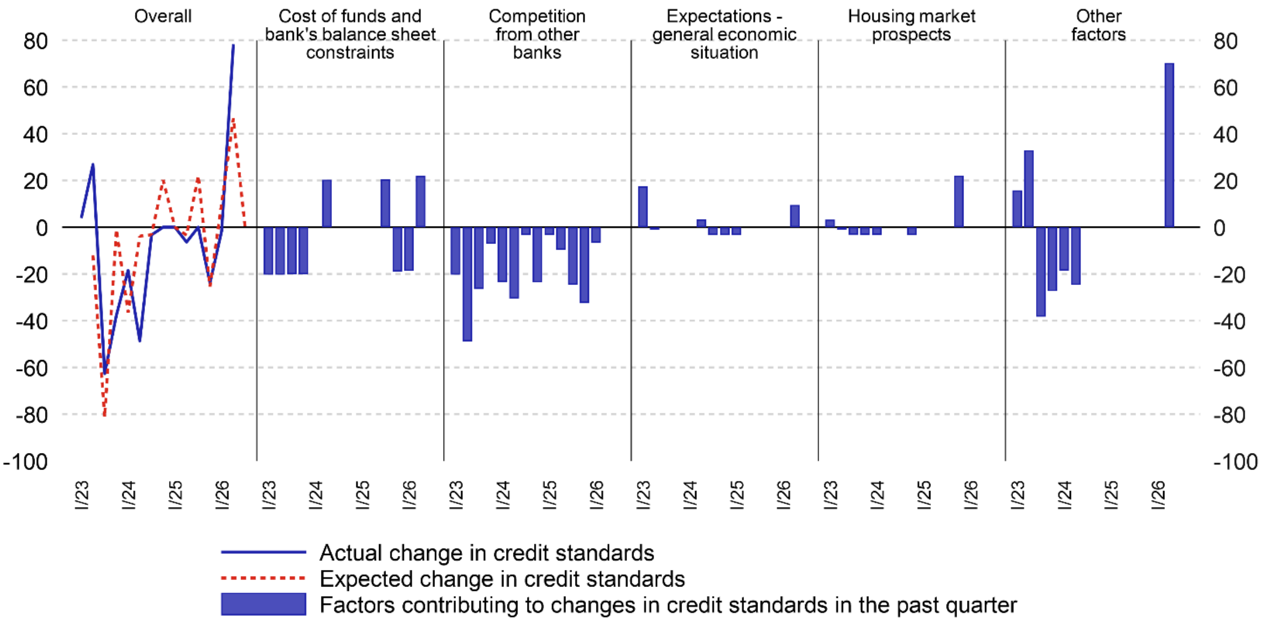


Chart 5

Changes in terms and conditions for approving loans for house purchase (question 10)

(net percentages, positive value = tightening, negative value = easing)

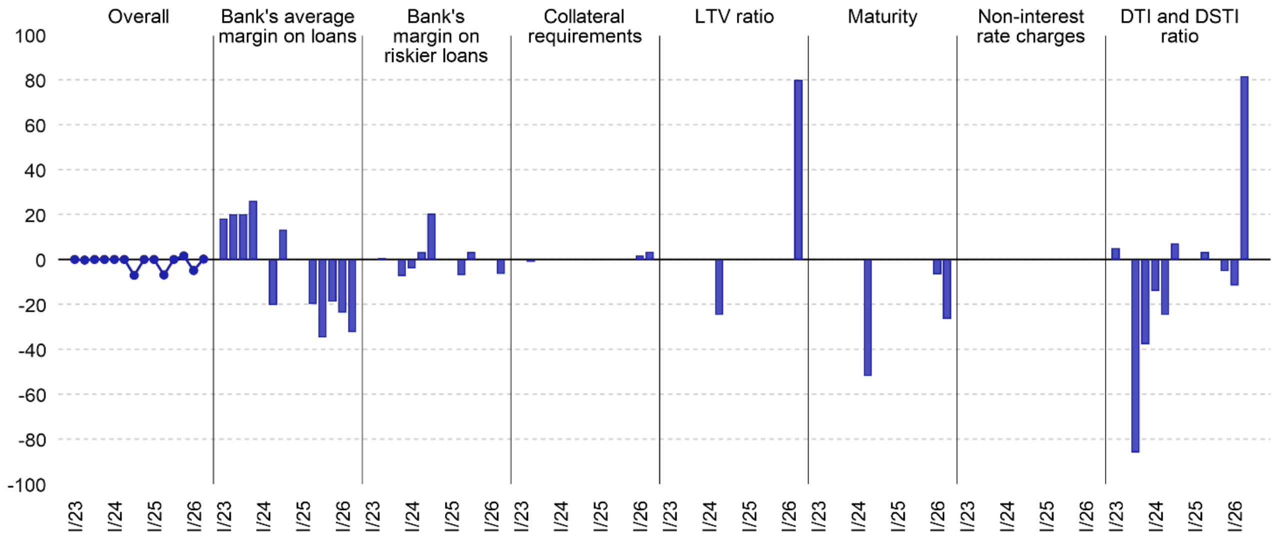


Chart 6

Changes in households' demand for loans for house purchase (questions 13, 14 and 17)

(net percentages, positive value = demand growth, negative value = demand decrease)

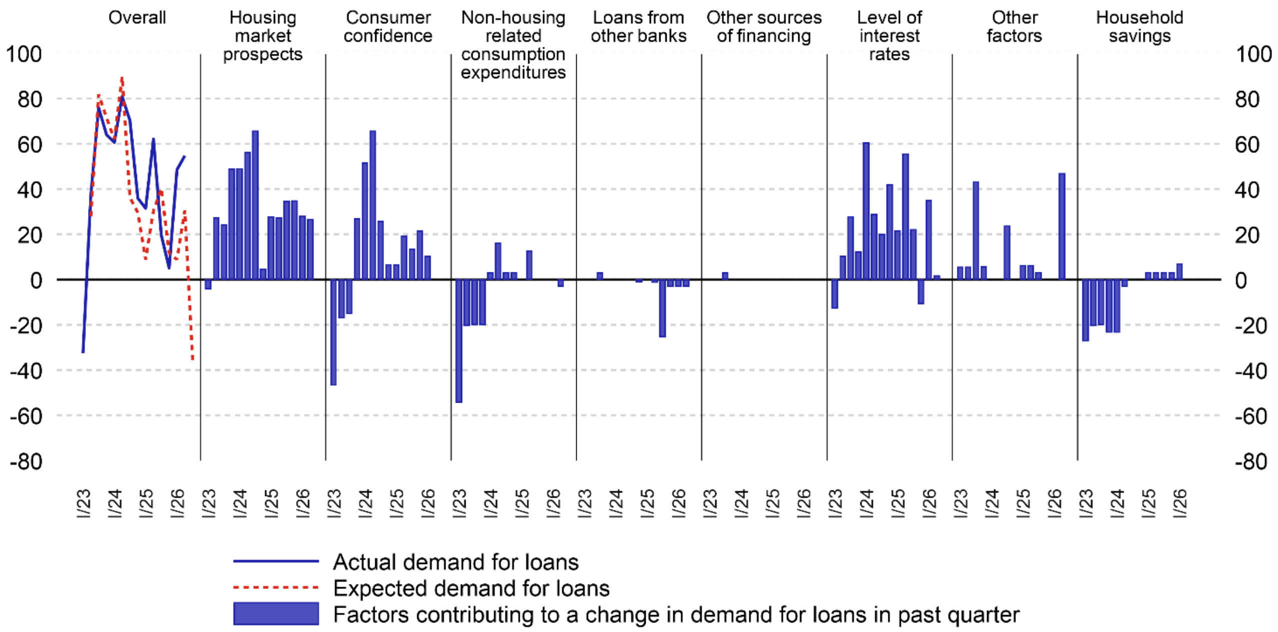


Chart 7
Changes in credit standards applied to consumer credit (questions 8, 11 and 16)
(net percentages, positive value = tightening, negative value = easing)

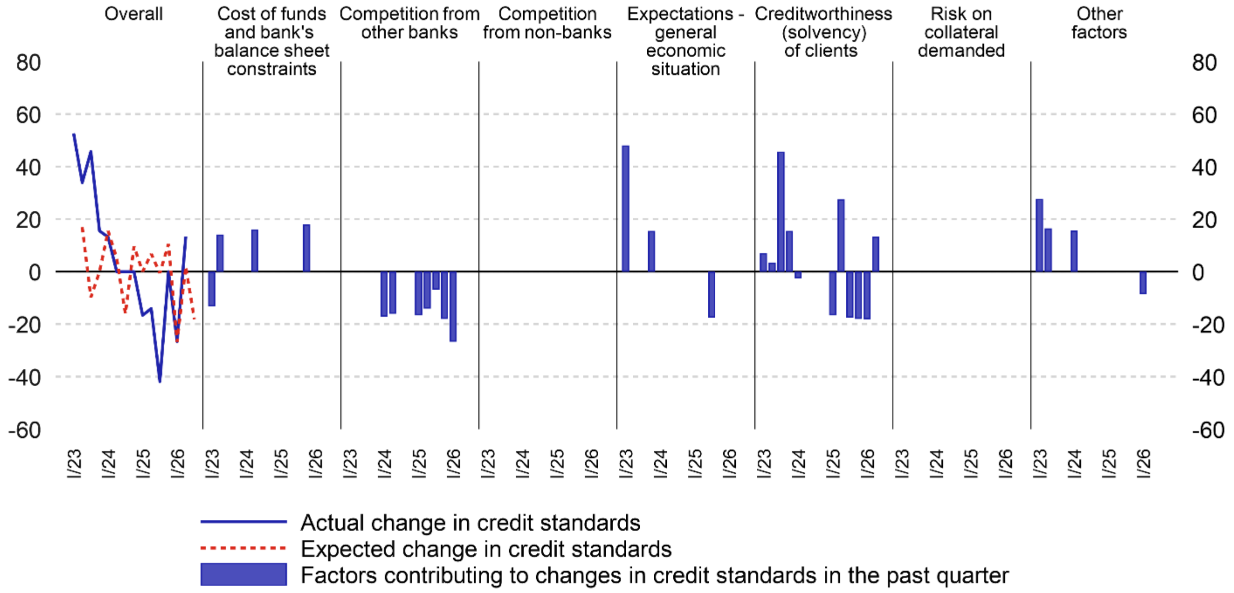


Chart 8
Changes in terms and conditions for approving consumer credit (question 12)
(net percentages, positive value = tightening, negative value = easing)

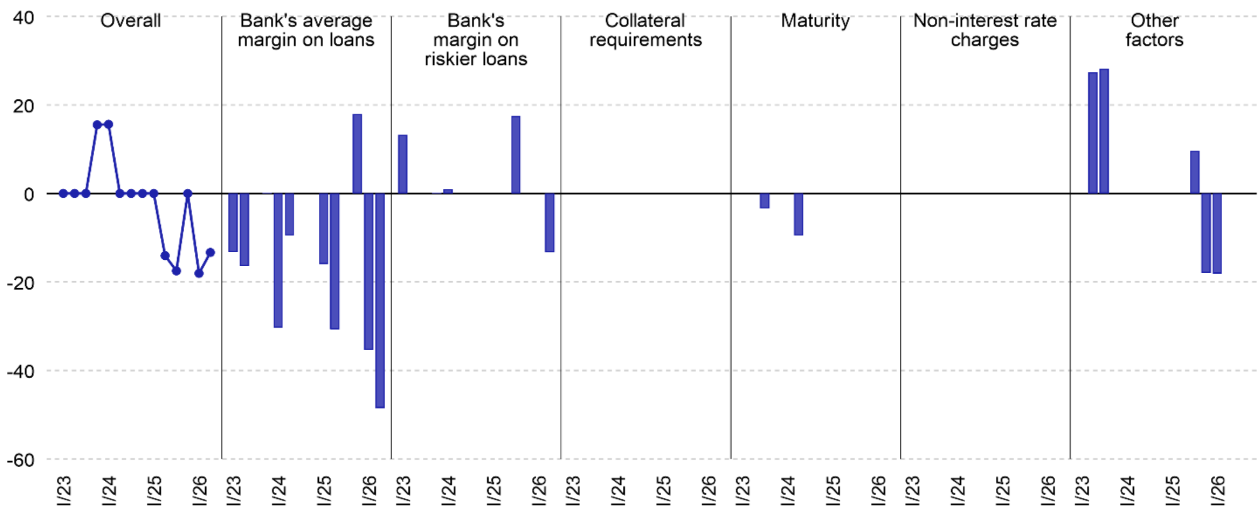
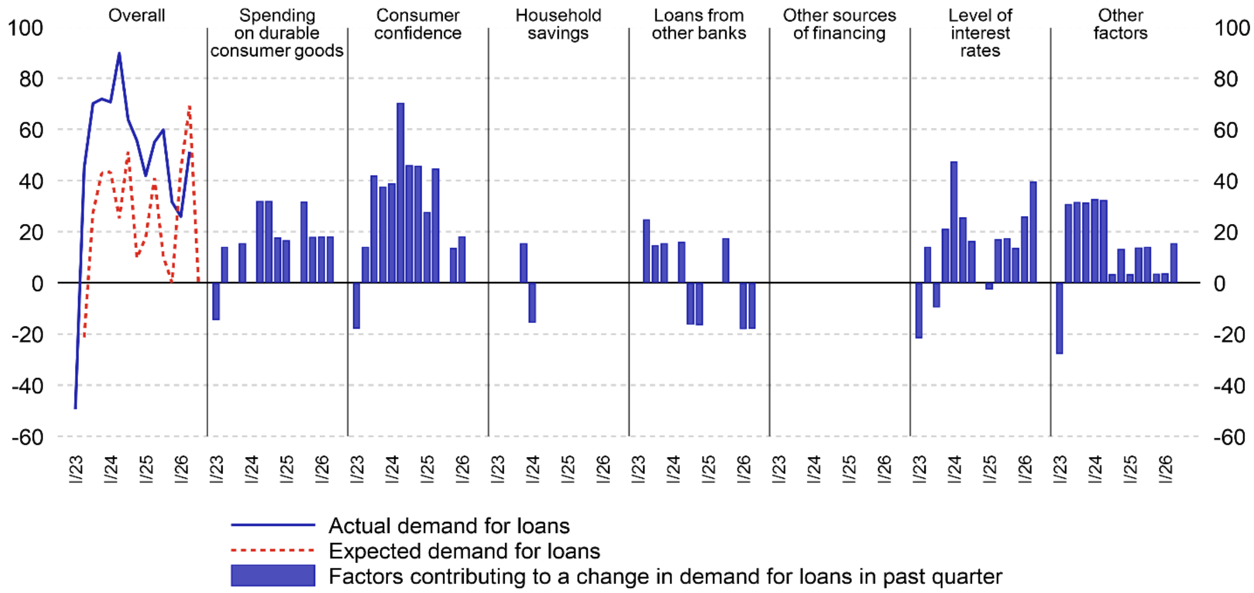


Chart 9

Changes in households' demand for consumer credit (questions 13, 15 and 17)

(net percentages, positive value = demand growth, negative value = demand decrease)



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