

2025 Q3-Q4

Ease of Lending Survey

June 2026





CONTENT

1.	DEVELOPMENTS IN CREDIT CONDITIONS.....	1
1.1	Credit conditions index	1
1.2	Current credit conditions index	2
1.3	Future credit conditions index	2
2.	DRIVERS OF CREDIT CONDITIONS.....	2
2.1	Drivers of current conditions index	2
2.2	Drivers of future conditions index	5
3.	EFFECTS OF CREDIT SUPPLY CONDITIONS	5
3.1	Effects of current supply conditions	5
3.2	Effects of future supply conditions	6
3.3	Concluding remarks.....	7





1. DEVELOPMENTS IN CREDIT CONDITIONS

1.1 Credit conditions index

The decline in credit conditions observed since the second quarter of 2025 reversed in the fourth quarter of 2025 (Chart 1). Explicitly, the unweighted credit conditions index inched up from 101.9 in the third quarter of 2025 to 102.1 in the fourth quarter of 2025. The latter reflects moderately positive sentiment among commercial banks as the index hovered above the neutral threshold of 100, but well below the maximum of 110¹.

The minor improvement in the unweighted credit conditions index reflected a stronger future credit condition index (2025Q3: 101.6; 2025Q4: 101.9), particularly for business loans. Meanwhile, the current credit conditions remained flat.

The weighted credit conditions index², rose from 100.9 in the third quarter of 2025 to 102.0 in the fourth quarter of 2025 (Chart 2). This index has risen slowly and steadily since the third quarter of 2024, except in the third quarter of 2025. Thus, fourth-quarter results have reestablished this trend.

Over the years, the weighted credit conditions index has remained below the unweighted index. This pattern also holds in the fourth quarter of 2025, but just barely. Thus, larger banks may be perceiving less optimistic credit conditions than smaller banks, as the former contribute more to the weighted index.

¹ The credit conditions index varies between 90 and 110, where an index below 100 suggests pessimistic sentiments, 100 signals neutral sentiments, and above 100 indicates optimistic sentiments.

Chart 1: Development in credit conditions index

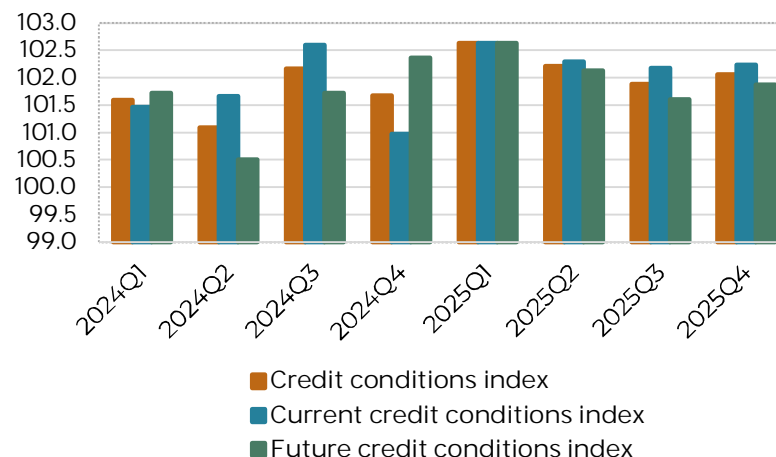
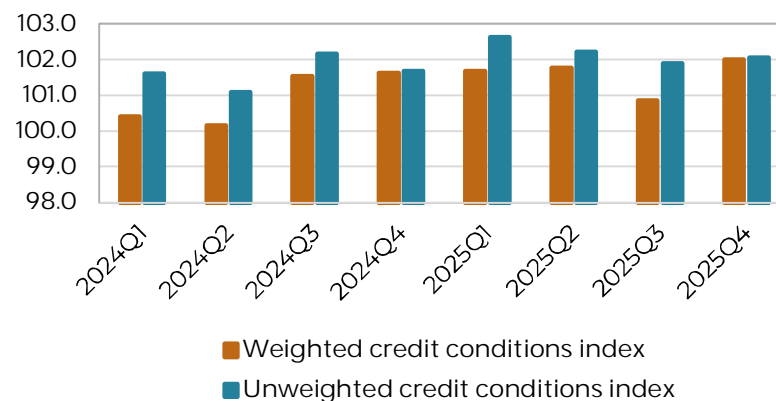


Chart 2: Weighted versus unweighted credit conditions index



² The weighted credit conditions index adjusts commercial bank responses based on loan portfolio size.





1.2 Current credit conditions index

Commercial banks reported somewhat positive sentiments about current credit conditions, as the unweighted index stood at 102.2 in the third and fourth quarters of 2025. Similarly, there was little variation within business and individual loan conditions. The current business loan conditions index reached 102.8 and 102.9 in the third and fourth quarters of 2025, respectively. Meanwhile, commercial banks' sentiments about individual loans reached 101.8 and 101.9, respectively.

However, despite little variation within individual and business loan conditions, the lower indices for individuals compared to businesses indicated differences between these categories. That is, commercial banks were less positive about credit conditions for individual loans than for business loans.

1.3 Future credit conditions index

After falling in the third quarter of 2025, the future credit conditions index rose from 101.6 in the third quarter of 2025 to 101.9 in the fourth quarter of 2025, signaling a cautiously more favorable outlook. This outcome reflected increased optimism from commercial banks about future business loan conditions (2025Q3: 101.4; 2025Q4: 102.2). On the other hand, positive sentiments about future individual loan conditions deteriorated slightly (2025Q3: 101.8; 2025Q4: 101.6).

³ At the neutral level, commercial banks indicate that a credit demand factor was as relevant as in the previous quarter. The index for current condition drivers varies between 90 and 110.

2. DRIVERS OF CREDIT CONDITIONS

2.1 Drivers of current conditions index

Supply and demand factors influenced the current credit conditions in the fourth quarter of 2025. On the demand side, no specific factors stood out, as most were close to the neutral level³ of 100 (Chart 3). Nevertheless, car purchase was the leading factor in this quarter compared to the first three quarters of 2025. The stock of resident car loans corroborates this finding, as car loans surged by 36.6% end-December 2025 compared to end-December 2024.

In the third and fourth quarters of 2025, commercial banks reported a modest demand increase for commercial real estate and capital investment (Chart 4). However, in the three preceding quarters, demand for these categories climbed more strongly. Although not one-to-one, the momentum in commercial real estate is evident, as the loan stock related to real estate, renting, and business activities rose markedly by 26.9% during 2025.





Chart 3: Factors relevant to individual loan demand, index (current quarter)

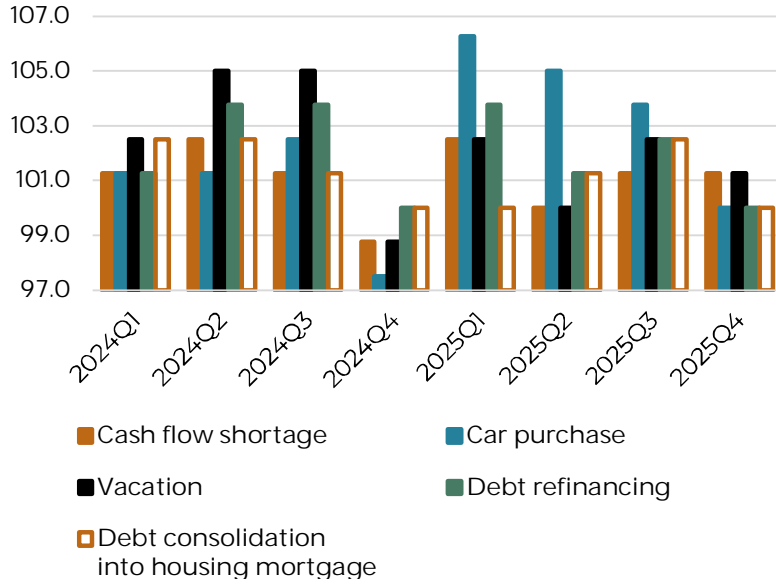
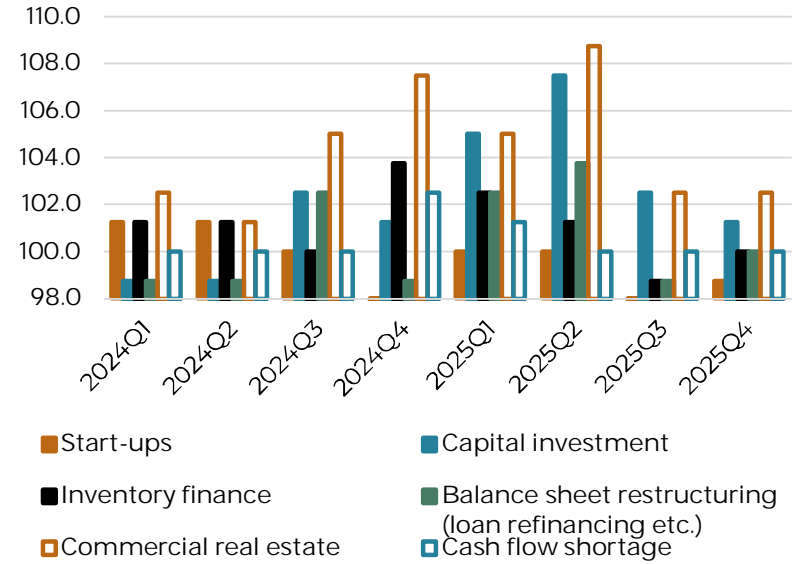


Chart 4: Factors relevant to business loan demand, index (current quarter)





In the fourth quarter of 2025, a changing economic outlook recorded the largest increase in relevance for credit supply to individuals (Chart 5). This finding might be related to the U.S. tariff uncertainty and armed conflicts in 2025. During the last eight quarters, a changing economic outlook was never reported as the main factor of individual loan supply.

Instead, commercial banks have typically reported that the cost of attracting funds and the availability of funds play an increasing role in affecting lending decisions. While the ELS survey does not quantify the impact of fund availability on credit extension, excess liquidity at commercial banks serves as a useful proxy.

Excess liquidity reached Afl. 917.9 million end-December 2025, down from Afl. 936.0 million end-December 2024. Credit grew in percentage terms by double digits in 2025, potentially indicating that commercial banks, on aggregate, have sufficient liquidity to support credit.

Changing sector-specific risks and risk-appetite gained the most relevance for business loan supply in the last two quarters of 2025 (Chart 6). This result contrasts with previous quarters, in which the availability of funds and the changing cost of attracting funds emerged as the primary factors.

Chart 5: Factors relevant to individual loan supply, index (current quarter)

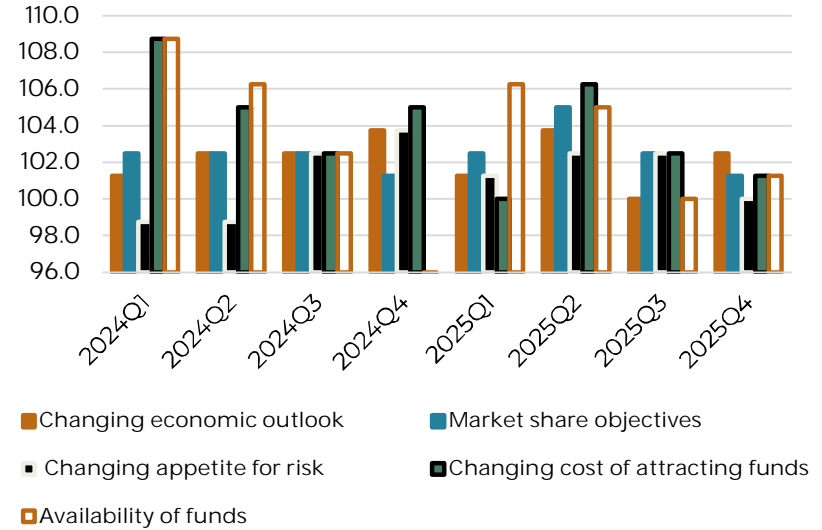
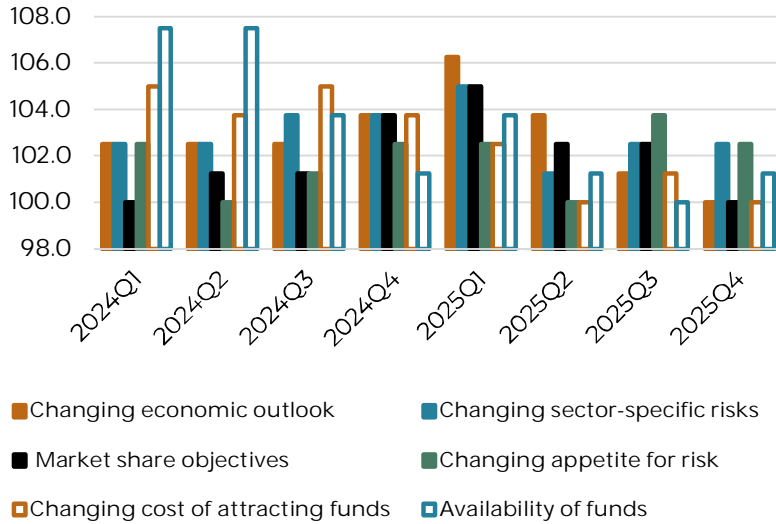




Chart 6: Factors relevant to business loan supply, index (current quarter)



2.2 Drivers of future conditions index

Several supply and demand factors will potentially shape the credit conditions in the first quarter of 2026. For individual loans, commercial banks foresee higher demand due to cash flow shortages. In turn, cash flow shortages might be related to the usual purchases during the holiday and carnival season. In line with these expectations, increases in credit card (+6.3%) and other loans (+5.8%) (which include current account overdrafts) were foreseen up to March 2026.

For commercial loans, businesses are expected to show growing demand primarily due to commercial real estate. Consistent

with this expectation, business mortgages rose by 3.8% up to March 2026.

Concerning the supply side, commercial banks foresee a changing economic outlook becoming more important for individual loans in the first quarter of 2026. This factor was already mentioned in the last quarter of 2025 (Chart 5). On business loans, commercial banks reported other factors, particularly changing sector-specific risks and changing risk-appetite. These factors are expected to play a larger role in business loan supply in the first quarter of 2026.

3. EFFECTS OF CREDIT SUPPLY CONDITIONS

3.1 Effects of current supply conditions

Credit pricing became increasingly relevant in changing the terms of credit to individuals in the fourth quarter of 2025 (Chart 7). In the third quarter of 2025, credit pricing was also somewhat more relevant than in the previous quarter, although this increase was not unique to credit pricing, as all other categories showed a similar development.

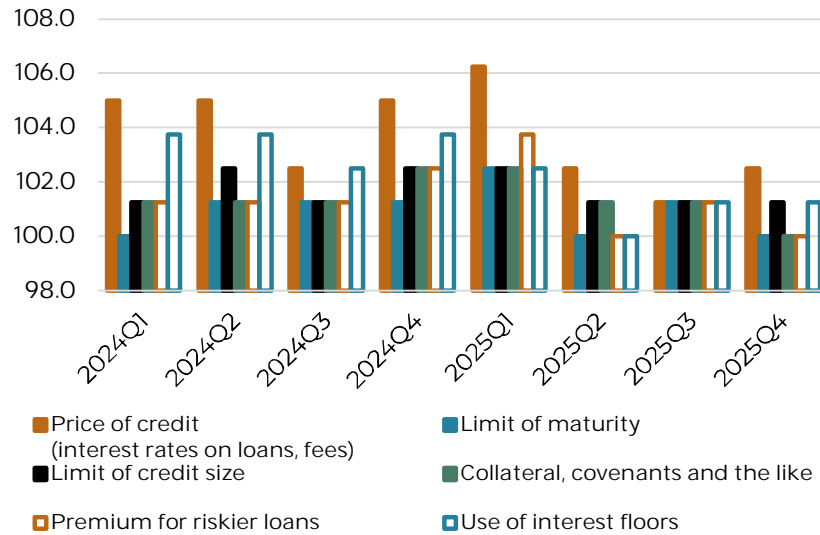
The increasing importance of credit pricing does not signal whether prices are increasing or decreasing. Against this background, supplementary data provide further insights. Specifically, the weighted average interest rate on new individual loans remained practically unchanged (2025Q3: 6.1%; 2025Q4: 6.0%). Stable interest rates suggest that the increased





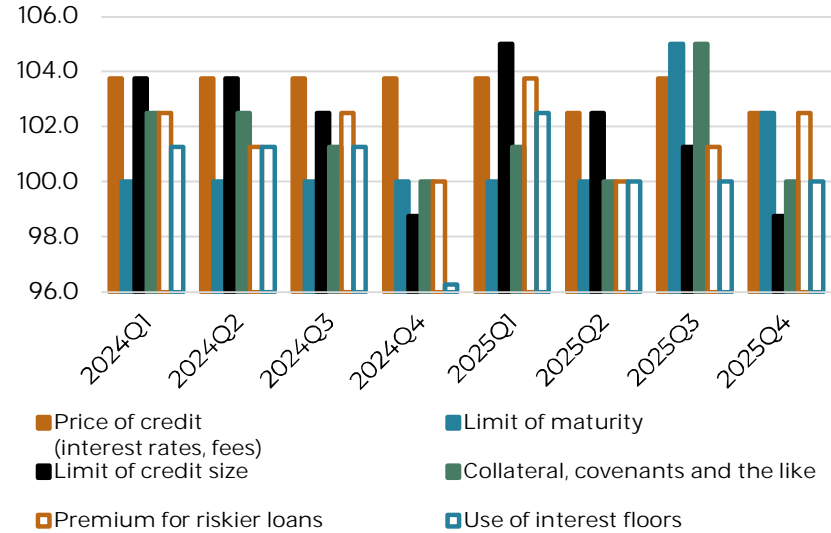
importance of credit pricing likely echoes considerations beyond changes in lending rates.

Chart 7: Factors relevant to terms of credit for individuals, index (current quarter)



In the fourth quarter of 2025, credit pricing, maturity limits, and premiums for riskier loans were increasingly important in influencing the terms of credit to businesses. Credit pricing and maturity limits already recorded notable importance in the third quarter of 2025 (Chart 8). Auxiliary data quantifies the credit price changes, where the interest rates on new business loans rose from 6.1% in the second quarter of 2025, to 6.3% in the third quarter, before declining to 5.9% in the fourth quarter of 2025.

Chart 8: Factors relevant to terms of credit for businesses, index (current quarter)



3.2 Effects of future supply conditions

In the first quarter of 2026, commercial banks anticipate that credit pricing, credit size limits, and the use of interest rate floors will become slightly more important in influencing the terms of credit to individuals. For business loans, credit pricing again emerges as a more relevant determinant, and, to a lesser extent, premiums for riskier loans and credit size limits.





3.3 Concluding remarks

Commercial banks maintained slightly positive sentiments about credit conditions in the third and fourth quarters of 2025. Specifically, the unweighted credit conditions index inched up from 101.9 in the third quarter of 2025 to 102.1 in fourth quarter of 2025. The mild improvement in the unweighted credit conditions index reflected a higher future credit condition index (2025Q3: 101.6; 2025Q4: 101.9), particularly for business loans. Meanwhile, the current credit conditions remained flat.





Tel: (297) 5252 100
J.E. Irausquin Boulevard 8 P.O. Box 18
Oranjestad, Aruba