Centrale Bank van Aruba

Consumer Confidence Survey Report

2026-III



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Summary

The Consumer Confidence Index contracted by 0.3 percentage point to 93.3 in the third quarter of 2026.

The Central Bank of Aruba (CBA) concluded its Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS) for the third quarter of 2026. The CCS assesses the economic sentiments of local consumers. Consumers remained pessimistic, as the Consumer Confidence Index fell by 0.3 percentage point to 93.3[1] in the third quarter of 2026.

The Consumption and Borrowing Habits Index decreased by 0.1 index point to 94.4 during the third quarter of 2026. The Present Situation Index and the Future Expectation Index decreased by 0.5 index point and 0.4 index point, to 92.7 and 93.2, respectively. As for the Price Expectation Index, this fell to 90.0 during the third quarter of 2026.

Concerns about rising prices persist, as 94% of consumers expect prices to be higher in the next six months, up from 93% in the previous quarter. Purchasing power remained unchanged in the third quarter of 2026 with 90% of respondents reporting that they “cannot purchase as much with their income compared to 6 months ago”.

The share of respondents indicating that they were saving less remained unchanged at 46% in the third quarter of 2026, unchanged for the third consecutive period.

[1] [1] The consumer confidence index can vary between 90 and 100 (pessimistic sentiments), and 100 and 110 (optimistic sentiments). An index of 100 indicates relatively neutral sentiments.

Top of Mind

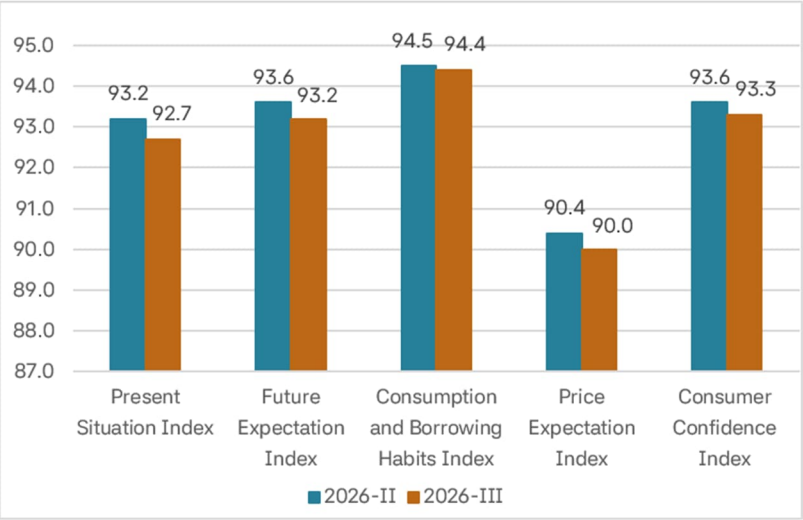
Key Consumer Concerns during 2026-III for the following 6 months

1. Deteriorating business and economic conditions expanded to 55% (2026-II: 50%).
2. About 42% of respondents foresaw the government's financial position to worsen (2026-II: 36%).
3. Roughly 41% of respondents expected it to be more difficult to find a new job(2026-II: 42%).
4. An estimated 35% of respondents expected their housdehold to be financially worse off (2026-II: 29%).

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Chart 1: Consumer Confidence Index results.

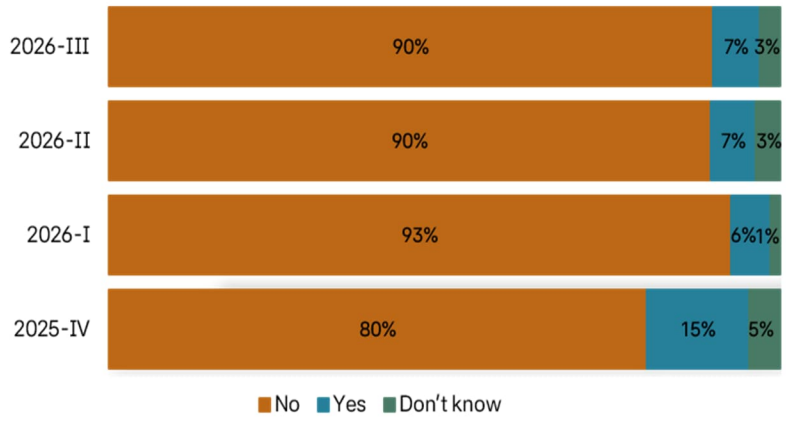


Source: Centrale Bank van Aruba

Purchasing power remained unchanged in the third quarter of 2026 with 90% of respondents reporting that they "cannot purchase as much with their income compared to 6 months ago".

As for the respondents indicating that they can "purchase as much with their income compared to 6 months ago", this also remained unchanged at 7%, in the third quarter of 2026 (see chart 2).

Chart 2: Respondents purchasing power has at least stayed the same compared to 6 months ago.

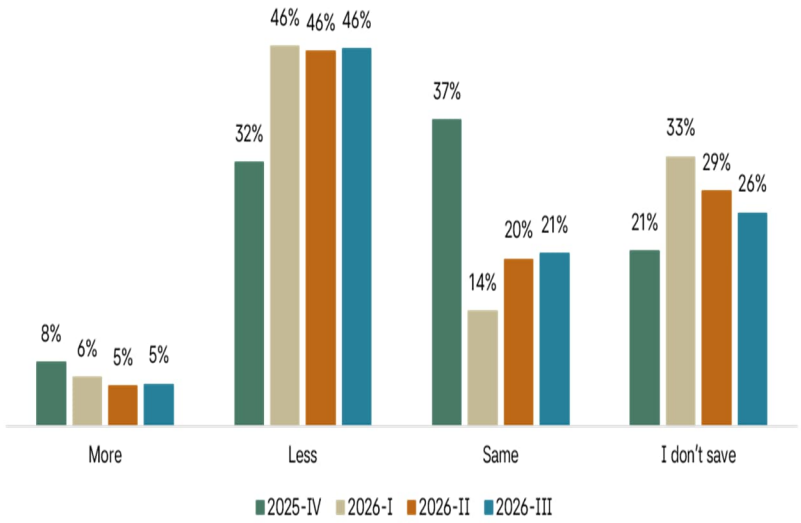


Source: Centrale Bank van Aruba

The share of respondents indicating that they were saving less remained unchanged at 46% for the third consecutive period.

In the third quarter of 2026, the respondents that reported that they save the same rose to 21%. As for the respondents that indicated that they don't save, this fell to 26% during the third quarter of 2026 (see chart 3).

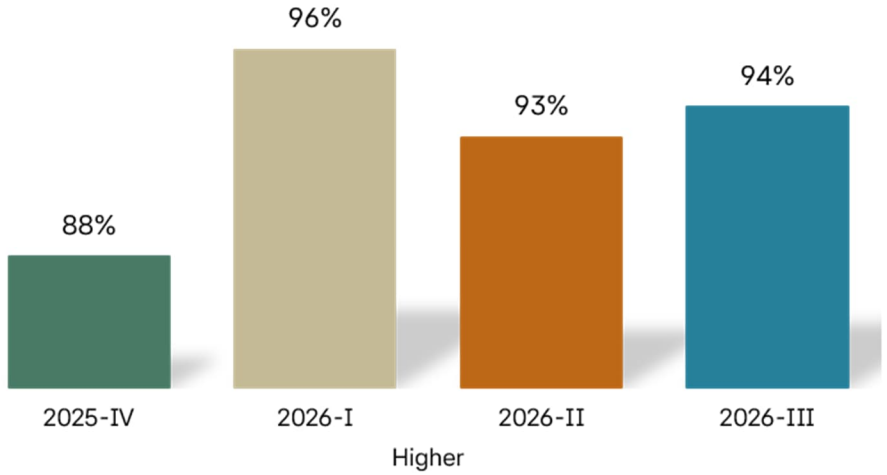
Chart 3: Respondents savings behaviour.



Source: Centrale Bank van Aruba

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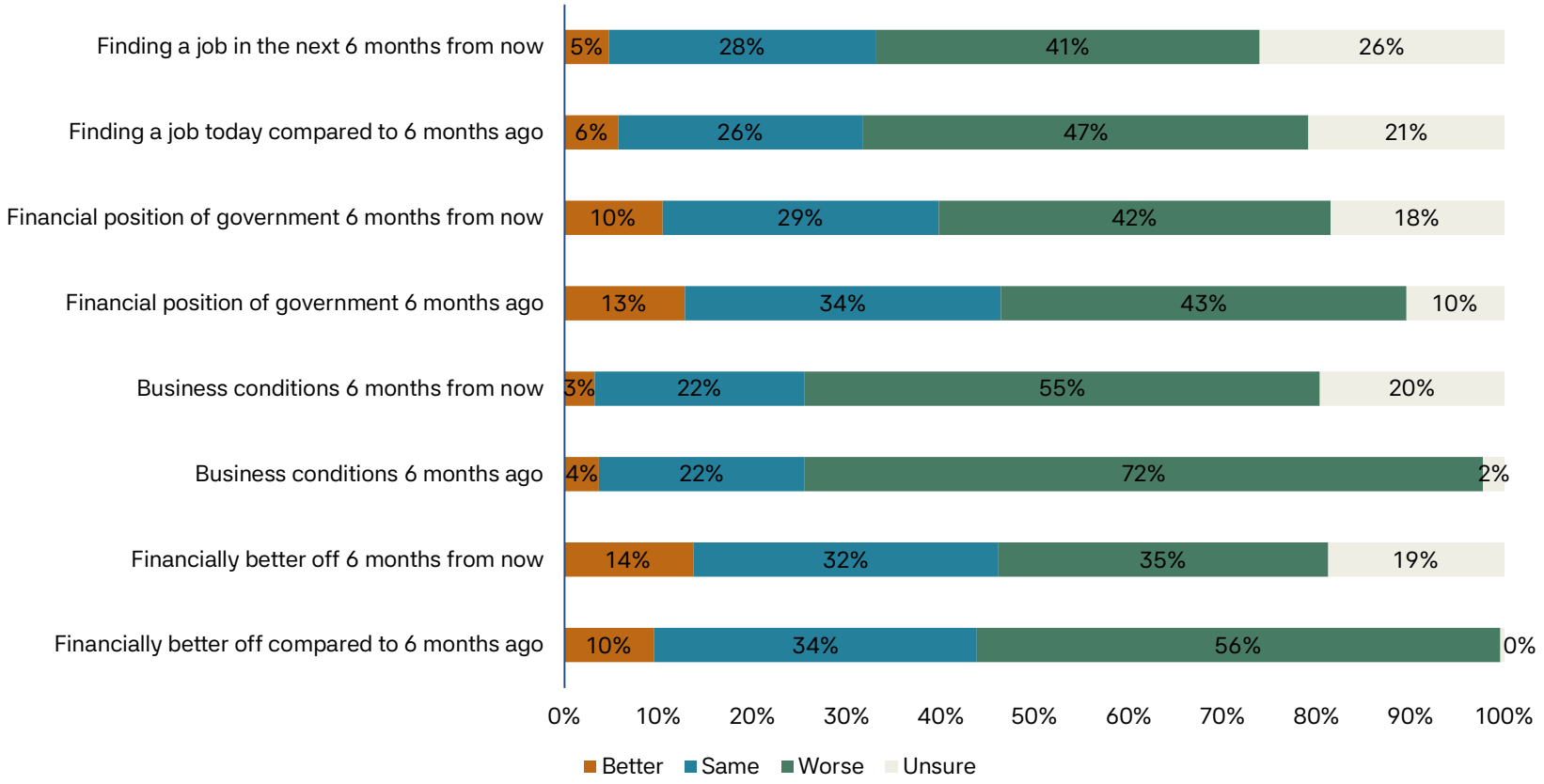
Chart 4: Respondents price expectation - next 6 months.



Source: Centrale Bank van Aruba

An estimated 72% of the respondents reported that the business and economic conditions worsened compared to 6 months ago. The percentage of respondents stating that their financial household situation worsened compared to 6 months ago expanded to 56%, compared to 47% in the second quarter of 2026. About 47% find it more difficult to find a job now compared to 6 months ago. As for the government's financial position 43% foresaw it to worsen compared to 6 months ago (see chart 5).

Chart 5: Respondents sentiments – 6 Months ago versus 6 months from now.

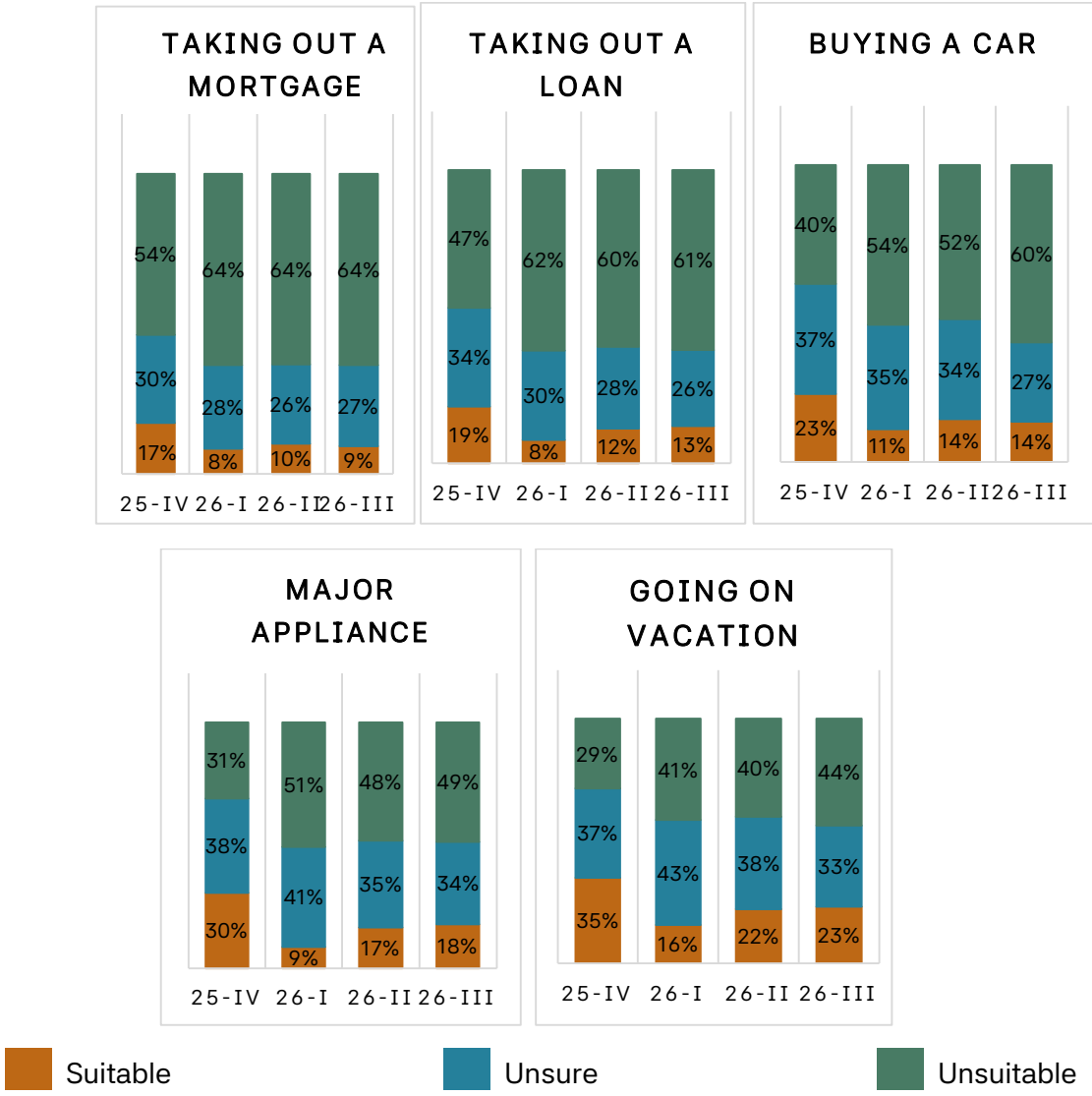


Source: Centrale Bank van Aruba

Consumers remained concerned about their consumption and borrowing habits, with a 0.1 index point decrease in the third quarter of 2026.

Respondents still consider it unsuitable to take out a mortgage, as 64% find it unsuitable for the third consecutive quarter. As for taking out a loan, 61% of respondents judged it unsuitable, while buying a car was considered unsuitable by 60%. Meanwhile, 49% still find it unsuitable to buy a major appliance and 44% deemed it unsuitable to go on vacation (see chart 6).

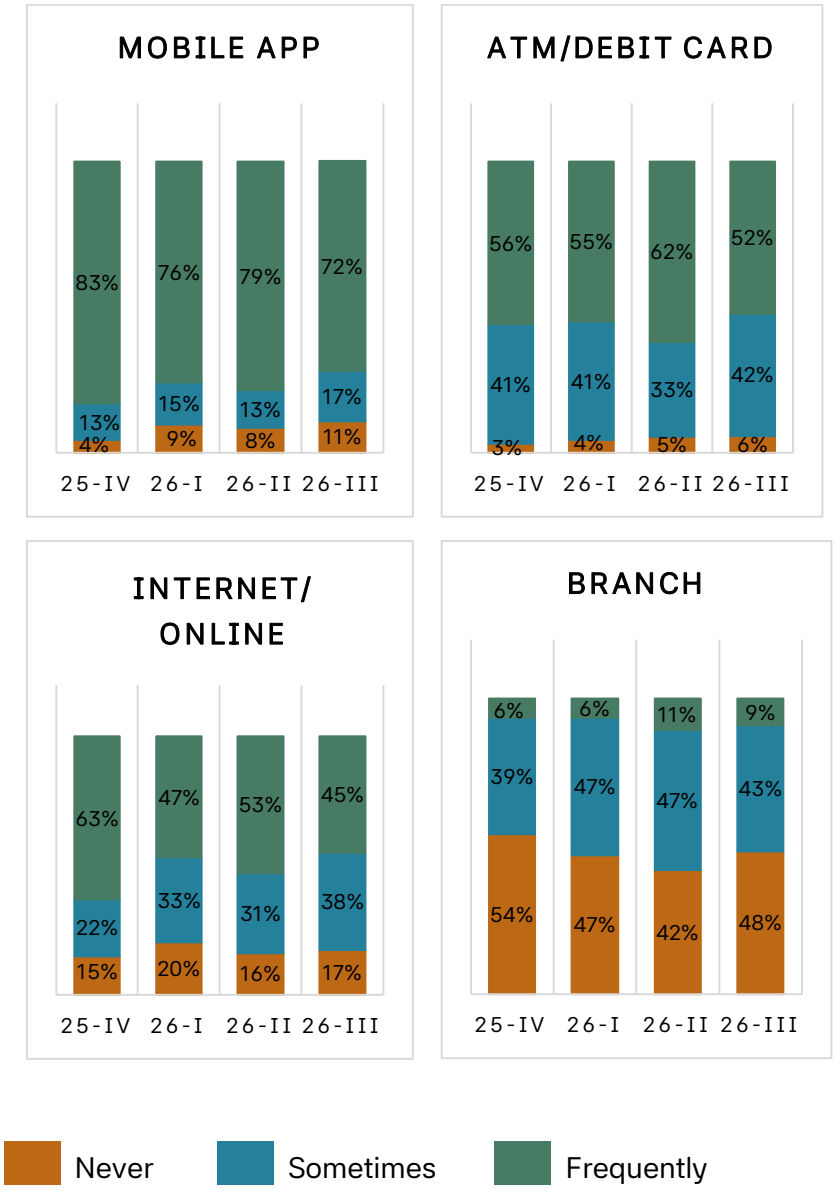
Chart 6: Respondents consumption and borrowing habits.

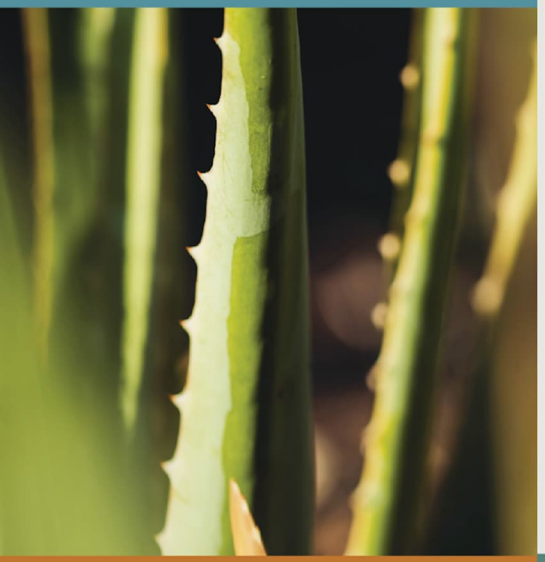


At 72%, the mobile banking app maintained its position as the most frequently used and preferred personal banking channel in the third quarter of 2026.

The percentage of consumers who use ATM/debit card frequently decreased to 52%. As for the consumers using online banking on a frequent basis, this fell to 45%. Consumers who never visit a branch grew to 48% (see chart 7).

Chart 7: Respondents personal banking preferred method.





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