



Results Summary¹

In 2026 Q3, Irish banks made no change to firms' credit standards and demand was unchanged. Next quarter (2026 Q4), Irish banks expect to make no change to credit standards on loans to firms and that demand will also be unchanged.

In 2026 Q3, Irish banks left credit standards and overall terms and conditions on mortgages unchanged but expect to tighten standards next quarter. Demand for mortgages fell unexpectedly during 2026 Q3 and is expected to fall once again in Q4. For consumer credit, banks made no change to credit standards or terms and conditions in Q3 but expect to tighten credit standards in Q4. Meanwhile, demand for consumer credit increased in Q3, in line with expectations, but no further change is expected in 2026 Q4.

¹ The October Bank Lending Survey (BLS) was conducted between 17th September and 1st October and examined changes in credit market conditions during Q3 2026 as well as expected changes in credit standards and loan demand during Q4 2026.
Please note that all BLS series is available via the Central Bank of Ireland Open Data Portal.



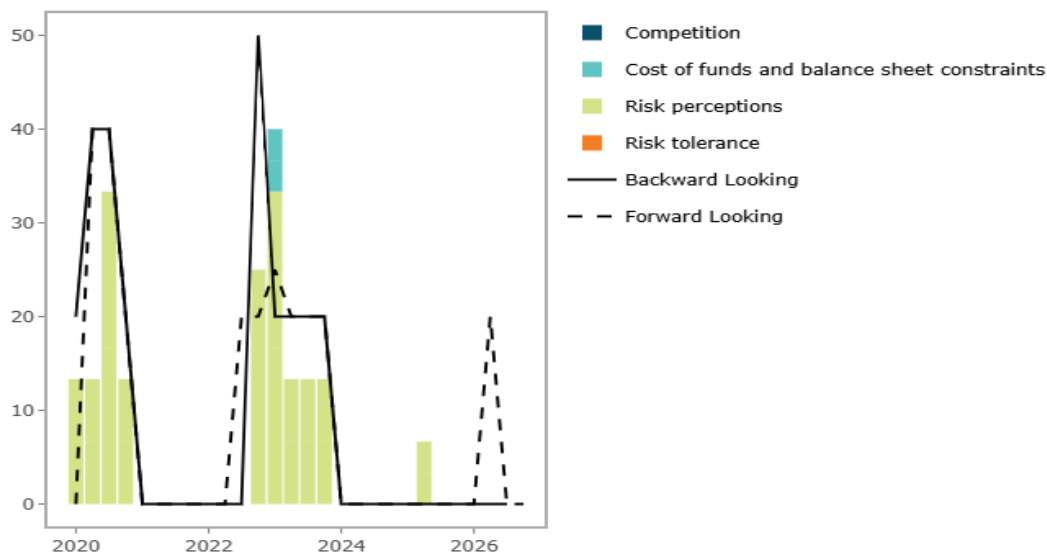
Firms

Irish banks made no change to their credit standards for loans to firms in 2026 Q3, in line with their expectations in the previous quarter. This was the eleventh consecutive quarter of no change to credit standards for loans to firms. In line with this, the share of firms' loan applications that were rejected was also unchanged. In 2026 Q4, banks also expect to make no change to credit standards.

Banks reported no overall change in their terms and conditions in 2026 Q3. However, for the last nine quarters, they have reported that margins on average loans have narrowed due to competitive pressure from banks and non-banks.

Irish banks reported no change in firms' demand for loans, despite expecting that demand would increase during this quarter. This is the ninth consecutive quarter during which banks have expected demand to increase, but this has not been realised. In 2026 Q4, banks expect no change in firms' demand for credit.

Figure 1: Credit standards, loans to firms, net percentage



Net percentages are defined as the difference between the sum of the percentages of banks responding “tightened considerably” and “tightened somewhat” and the sum of the percentages of banks responding “eased somewhat” and “eased considerably”.



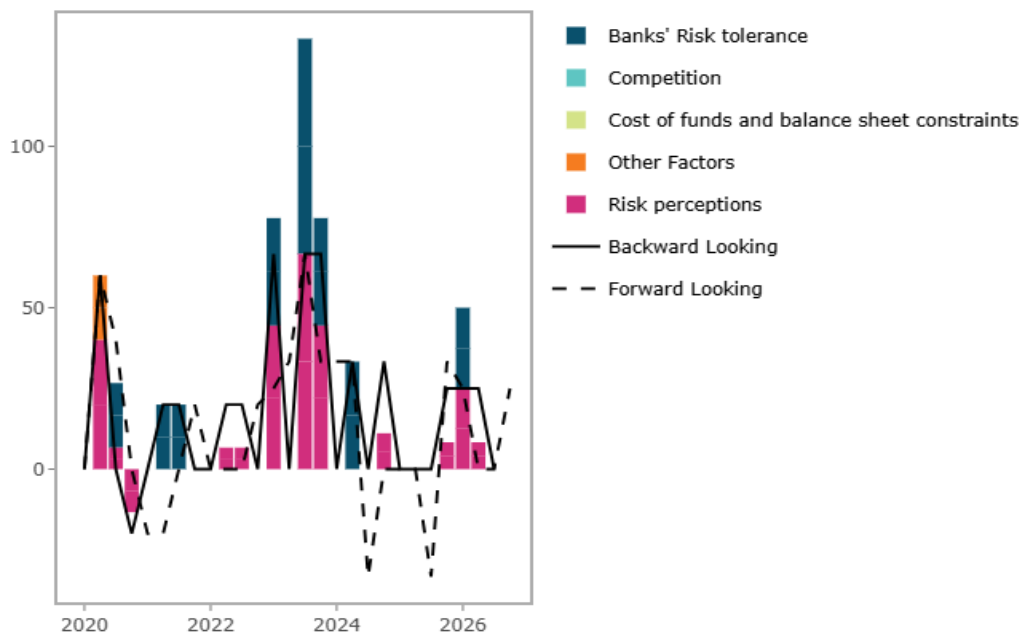
Households

Mortgages

In 2026 Q3, Irish banks made no change to credit standards on mortgages, following three consecutive quarters of tighter credit standards. In line with this, banks reported no change in the share of mortgage applications that were rejected during the quarter. Banks also reported no change in overall terms and conditions on mortgages, albeit they narrowed margins on average loans. Next quarter (2026 Q4), banks expect to tighten credit standards once again.

Irish banks reported that mortgage demand fell in 2026 Q3, despite expectations that demand would increase in the previous quarter (2026 Q2). Next quarter, they expect demand for mortgages to fall once again.

Figure 2: Credit standards, mortgages, net percentage



Net percentages are defined as the difference between the sum of the percentages of banks responding “tightened considerably” and “tightened somewhat” and the sum of the percentages of banks responding “eased somewhat” and “eased considerably”.



Consumer Credit

In 2026 Q3, Irish banks made no change to credit standards on consumer credit, in line with expectations. They also left overall terms and conditions unchanged, albeit margins on average loans narrowed somewhat. Next quarter, they expect to tighten credit standards on consumer credit.

Banks reported that demand for consumer credit increased in 2026 Q3, in line with expectations. However, no further change is expected in 2026 Q4.

Ad-hoc questions

The ad-hoc questions in this round related to:

- Access to retail and wholesale funding
- The impact of changes in credit quality on bank lending policies
- The effect of the ECB's monetary policy asset portfolio on bank assets and lending policies
- The impact of digital assets on banks' financial situations and lending policies.

In 2026 Q3, Irish banks reported that their access to debt securities funding became more challenging, although this was partially offset by better retail funding conditions. Next quarter, banks expect a further improvement in access to retail funding, and no change in their access to wholesale funding.

Irish banks reported that changes in credit quality had no effect on credit standards or terms and conditions across all products (loans to firms, mortgages or consumer credit). No effect is expected in 2026 Q4.

Irish banks reported no change in their balance sheets or lending policies due to the ECB's monetary asset portfolio over the past 12 months. However, over the next year, Irish banks expect their profitability to fall, and market liquidity conditions to deteriorate due to changes in the ECB's monetary policy portfolio. They reported that the portfolio had no effect on their lending policies or volumes over the past 12 months, with no changes expected in the next 12 months.

Irish banks reported that digital assets had no effect on business strategy, financial situation or lending policies over the past 12 months, with no effects expected in the next 12 months.