

Results of the Survey on Credit Conditions (ECC)

Second Quarter 2021



BANCO CENTRAL
DE LA REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA

About the use of inclusive language in the Spanish version of this report

The Central Bank of Argentina is committed to encouraging the use of a non-discriminatory language that promotes the acceptance of all gender identities. It should be noted that all those who have contributed to this report acknowledge that language influences on ideas, feelings, ways of thinking, as well as principles and core values.

The Survey on Credit Conditions (ECC) is a qualitative quarterly survey conducted by the BCRA in order to gather additional information on the performance and trends observed in the bank credit market. The information obtained supplements the set of quantitative statistical data more readily available to this institution, aimed at achieving a better understanding of the factors that impact on the evolution of loans granted by the financial system

This survey is conducted on a sample of institutions consulted about the evolution of their credit supply and the demand for credit they have to face. The performance of loans to companies and to households is analyzed, focusing on any changes recorded during the quarter in progress against the immediately preceding quarter, and on any changes expected to occur in the next three months.

This report discloses the results for the second quarter of 2021, obtained from the survey conducted from June 14 to June 30.

The historical results obtained to date and the methodological details of the survey are made available to the public together with this report. To access this material, click [here](#).

Report published on July 15, 2021.

Data for the third quarter of 2021 will be published in October 2021.

The answers given by institutions do not necessarily match the vision of the Central Bank of Argentina or of its authorities.

Survey on Credit Conditions (ECC)

Second Quarter 2021

Companies

- During the second quarter of 2021, according to the aggregate of institutions participating in the survey, credit standards associated with loans to companies – overall and large – remained unchanged against the previous quarter but, in the case of SMEs, standards eased moderately. In turn, for the third quarter of 2021, the ensemble of institutions anticipates a slight tightening in credit standards for overall and large companies and predicts a slight easing for SMEs.
- As regards the terms and conditions applied to credits approved for companies and on the basis of the answers received, no significant changes were observed in the aggregate of banks surveyed. In the case of SMEs, an easing was noticeable in the spreads on the cost of funding, the maximum terms for granting and the commission fees, even though the easing differed in intensity in these three cases.
- During the second quarter of 2021, the ensemble of institutions participating in the survey reported a slight drop in the companies' perceived demand for credit (overall), with a significant bias towards a contraction in demand from large companies and neutrality in the case of SMEs. For the third quarter of the year, the aggregate of institutions taking part in the survey does not anticipate changes in credit demand in the case of overall companies, but expects a slight tightening in the case of large companies and a slight easing in the case of SMEs.

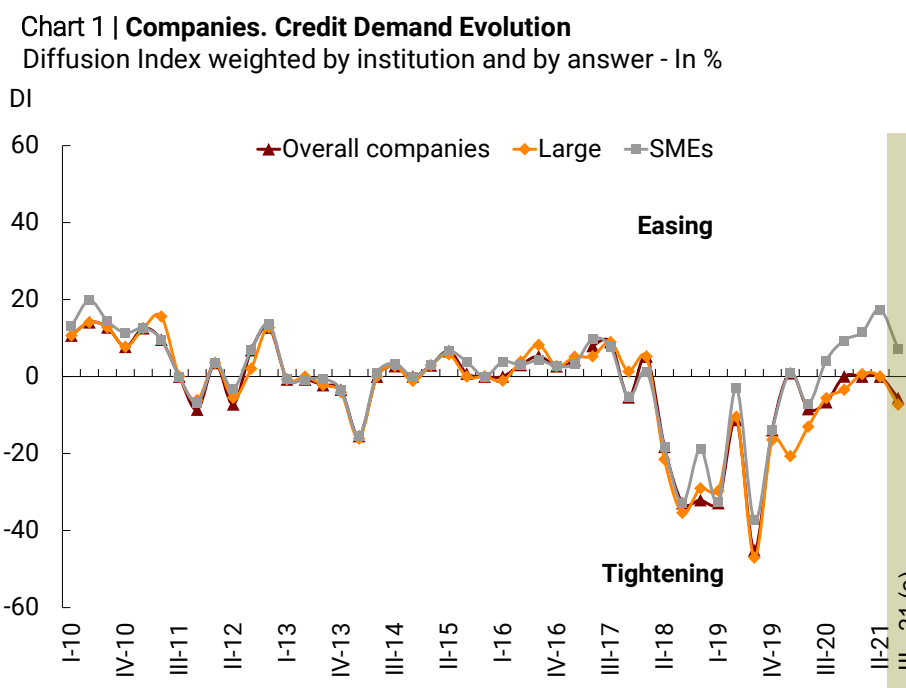
Households

- During the second quarter of 2021, the ensemble of institutions surveyed pointed to a scenario of neutrality in the credit standards in most credit lines, except for other loans for consumption (OLC), which eased moderately. For the third quarter of the year, institutions anticipate that these standards will evolve in line with the performance observed from April to June.
- As regards the terms and conditions applicable to loans approved, the aggregate of institutions participating in the survey did not report sizable changes, except for a significant easing in maximum amounts for credit cards and, with a lesser intensity, in the spreads and requirements of guarantees/collaterals of other loans for consumption (OLC).
- During the second quarter of 2021, the aggregate of institutions perceived a rise in the demand for credit cards and other loans for consumption (OLC) – though with different levels of intensity –, while the demand for other credit lines remained neutral. For the third quarter of 2021, demand is expected to increase for most credit lines for households (except for mortgage loans, for which no changes are anticipated).

1. Loans to Companies

Supply – Credit Standards / Terms and Conditions

1.1 During the second quarter of 2021, the ensemble of institutions participating in the survey did not report changes in terms of the credit standards related to loans to companies against the figures recorded in the first quarter of 2021. The Diffusion Index (DI) ¹ stood at 0%² for overall companies (see Chart 1 and Annex). This bias is similar to the bias observed in the previous two quarters. In turn, only the credit standards related to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) exhibited a moderate easing during the second quarter of the year.



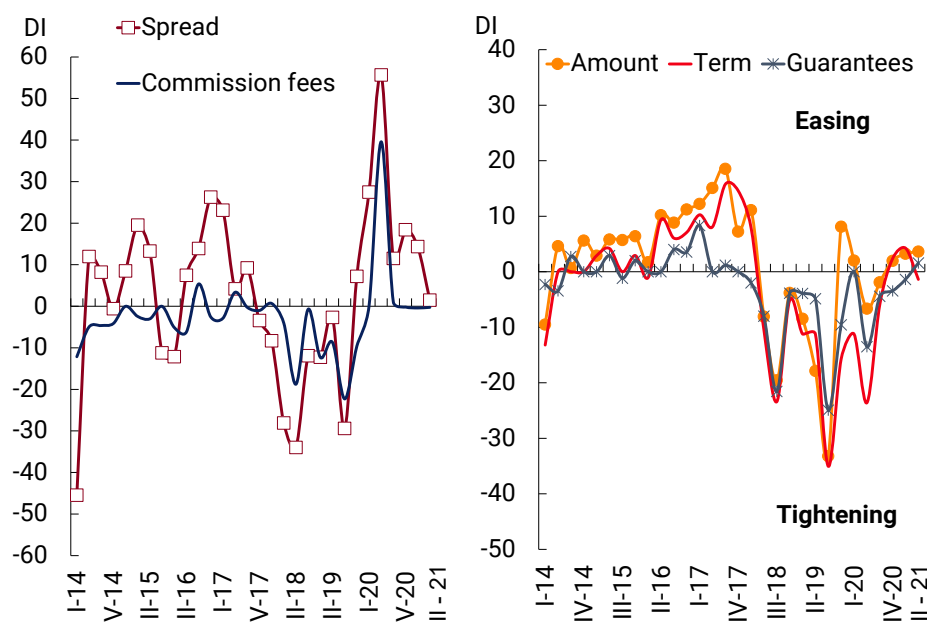
1.2 Considering the terms and conditions applied to credit lines for companies (overall and large companies) during the second quarter of 2021, no changes were reported by the aggregate of institutions participating in the survey (see Chart 2). In turn, during the period, a moderate easing was observed in the spreads on the cost of funding, the

¹ Based on answers obtained when conducting the ECC survey, indicators are built that serve to become aware of the market main trends in aggregate. Particularly, the so-called Diffusion Index (DI) is prepared as a global indicator of evolution of the variable under analysis, built as the difference between the percentage of answers showing a positive evolution (answers "Moderately more easing" and "More easing") minus the percentage of negative answers ("Moderately more tightening" and "More tightening"). This index weights the answers taking into account each institution's share in the stock of credit (of the sample of surveyed banks), and the intensity of the response (0.5 factor for "Moderately ..." answers, and 1 for "More..." answers). DIs may obtain values within a -100 / +100 range.

² In general, DIs (in absolute values) lower than or equal to 5 are considered to be an "unchanged" or "neutral" condition, values from 5 to 10 are considered to be "slightly" changed or biased condition; from 10 to 20, "moderately" changed; from 20 to 50 "significantly" changed and over 50, "widely diffused".

maximum terms for loan granting and, with a lesser intensity, the commission fees in the segment of SMEs.

Chart 2 | Overall companies. Terms and Conditions
Diffusion Index weighted by institution and by answer - In %

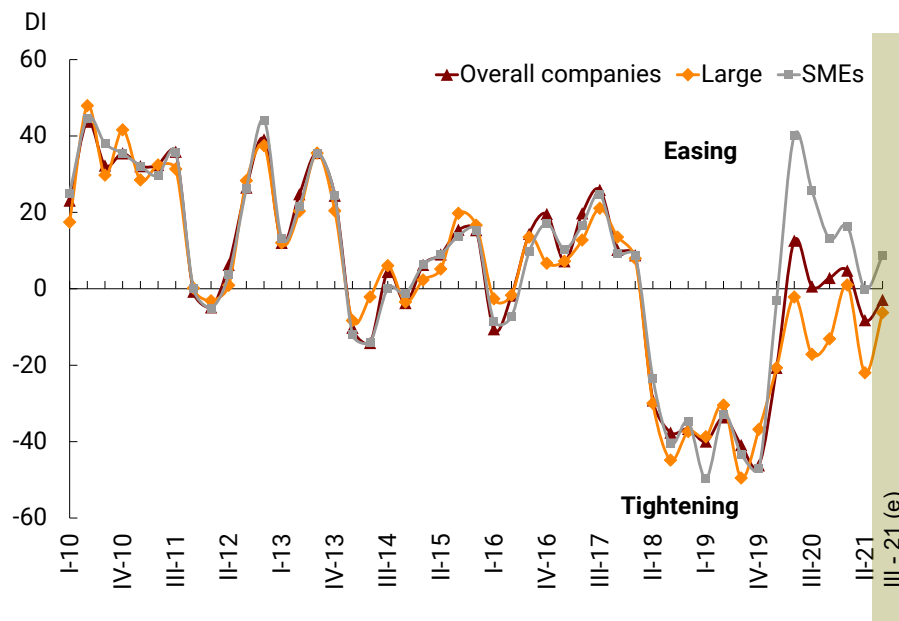


1.3 On the basis of the answers received, the aggregate of the participating institutions would expect a slightly tightening scenario in terms of credit standards associated with loans to companies during the third quarter of 2021 (DI for overall companies of -5.6%) (see Chart 1). This evolution would also be followed by large companies while, in the case of SMEs, a slight easing has been anticipated.

Perceived Demand

1.4 During the second quarter of 2021, the aggregate of the participating institutions reported a slight tightening (drop) in the perceived credit demand of companies (DI for overall companies of -8.2%; see Chart 3), after the neutral position observed in the previous three quarters (without changes at aggregate level). If companies are broken down by size, a significant tightening was observed in credit demand by large companies (DI of -22%), while in the case of SMEs, credit demand remained virtually unchanged (DI of 0%).

Chart 3 | Companies. Evolution of credit demand
Diffusion Index weighted by institution and by answer - In %



1.5 Based on the answers received, the aggregate of the institutions surveyed does not expect changes in the companies' perceived credit demand for the third quarter of 2021 (DI for overall companies of -2.9%), with a bias towards a slight drop in demand from large companies (DI of -6.2%) and a slight easing (increase) in the demand from SMEs (DI 8.8%).

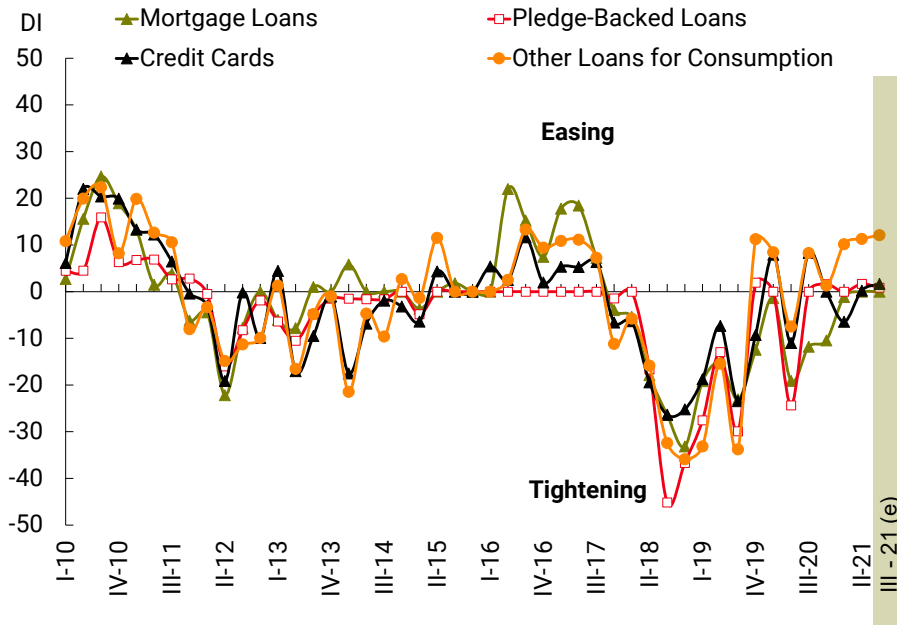
2. Loans to Households

Supply – Credit Standards / Terms and Conditions

2.1 During the second quarter of 2021, the aggregate of institutions surveyed pointed to a scenario of neutral position in terms of credit standards associated with all credit lines channeled to households, except for other loans for consumption, which have eased moderately for the second consecutive quarter (see Chart 4).

Chart 4 | Households. Credit Demand Evolution

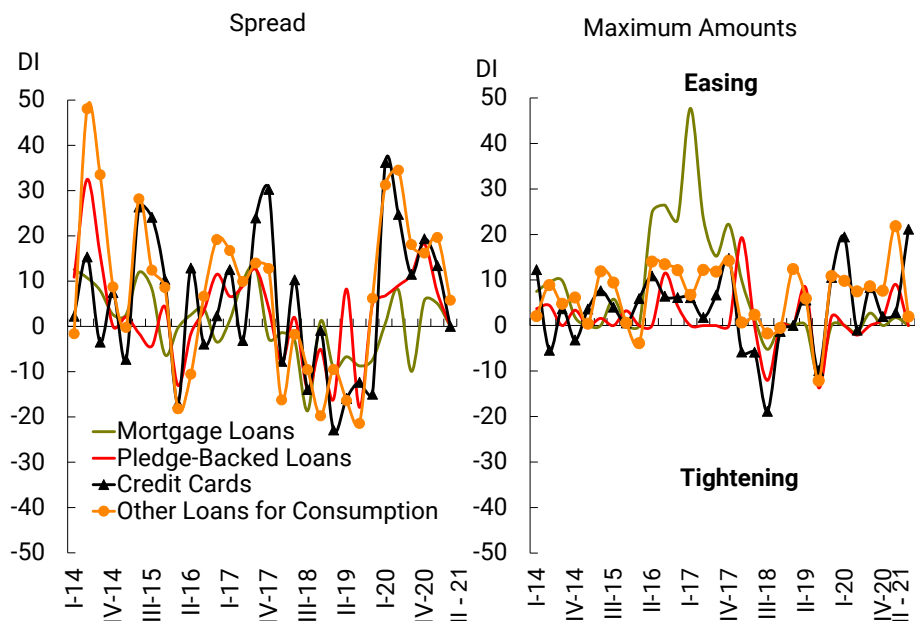
Diffusion Index weighted by institution and by answer - In %



2.2 The aggregate of participating banks did not perceive sizable changes in most terms and conditions of the various credit lines to households from April to June 2021 against the first quarter of this year. Nevertheless, the exceptions were the maximum amount for credit cards about which the institutions reported a significant easing – increase—and, with a lesser intensity, a slight easing of spreads and guarantee/collateral requirements for other loans for consumption (see Chart 5).

Chart 5 | Households. Evolution of the Terms and Conditions

Diffusion Index weighted by institution and by answer - In %

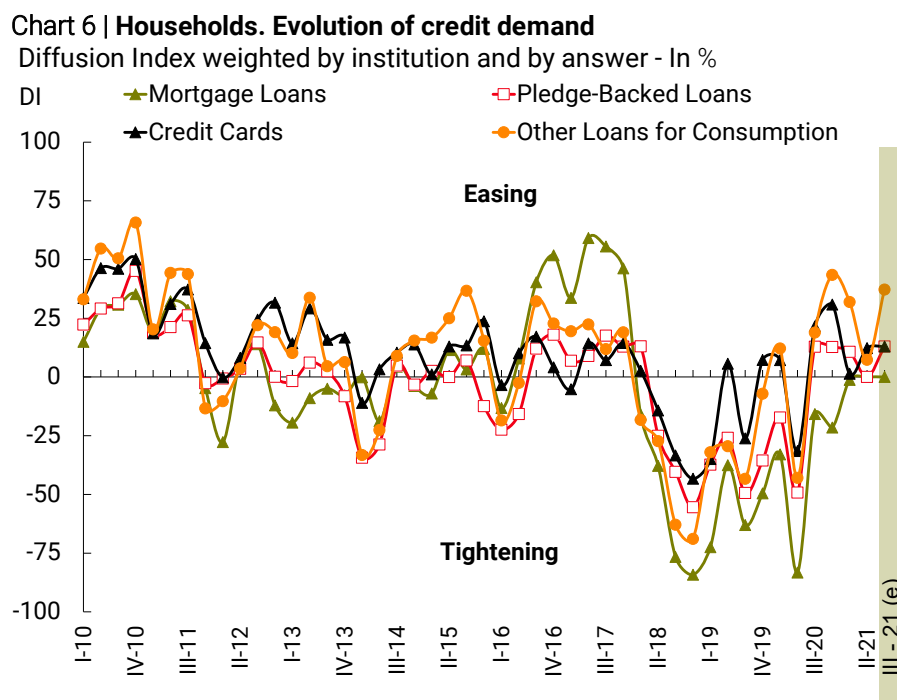


2.3 The aggregate of banks surveyed anticipates that, in the third quarter of 2021, the standards for approval of mortgage loans, pledge-backed loans and credit cards will remain unchanged while the standards of other loans for consumption will ease moderately (DI of 12.1%; see Chart 4).

Perceived Demand

2.4 The aggregate of banks surveyed perceived that, in the second quarter of 2021, there was a moderate increase in the demand of credit cards and, with a lesser intensity, of other loans for consumption (DI of 12.3% and 7.3%, respectively). This evolution was mainly related to a rise in households' consumption. Meanwhile, the demand for mortgage loans and pledge-backed loans remained unchanged over the quarter (see Chart 6).

2.5 For the third quarter of 2021, the ensemble of institutions participating in the survey anticipates a rise in the demand for credit in most credit lines for households (though other loans for consumption would record a greater intensity). In terms of mortgage loans, no changes are expected.



Annex

Loans to Companies

		Diffusion Index * - In %																	
		I-17	II-17	III-17	IV-17	I-18	II-18	III-18	IV-18	I-19	II-19	III-19	IV-19	I-20	II-20	III-20	IV-20	I-21	II-21
A. Changes in approval standards (questions 1 and 5).																			
Overall Companies	Quarter	4.4	7.9	8.9	-5.4	5.2	-18.2	-32.9	-32.1	-32.9	-11.3	-45.1	-13.9	0.9	-8.4	-6.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Expected Next Quarter	3.4	6.6	10.8	-0.4	2.4	-17.1	-28.0	-13.6	-31.8	-4.8	-32.2	1.6	-18.7	-21.9	-13.6	5.2	-2.2	-5.6
Large Companies	Quarter	5.2	5.2	8.9	1.3	5.2	-21.5	-35.4	-29.0	-29.6	-10.5	-47.0	-16.5	-20.7	-13.0	-5.6	-3.4	0.7	0.0
	Expected Next Quarter	3.4	7.4	10.8	-0.4	0.0	-20.2	-23.0	-22.9	-29.1	-4.0	-34.1	1.6	-25.9	-14.1	-5.6	-11.0	-5.2	-7.3
SMEs	Quarter	3.3	9.8	7.8	-5.4	1.3	-18.2	-32.9	-18.8	-32.7	-3.1	-37.2	-13.9	0.9	-7.1	4.1	9.4	11.5	17.4
	Expected Next Quarter	3.4	6.6	12.0	-0.3	2.4	-17.1	-28.0	-15.4	-35.3	3.3	-23.3	9.4	11.7	-17.7	-5.8	11.0	12.3	7.2
Up to 1 year	Quarter	3.3	9.8	7.8	-6.4	5.2	-20.7	-26.2	-19.7	-31.9	-3.1	-29.7	-4.4	0.9	-0.6	4.1	-3.4	8.1	8.2
	Expected Next Quarter	0.7	5.8	13.4	-0.4	-0.7	-9.0	-20.4	-13.6	-32.4	3.3	-22.3	12.5	10.1	-16.8	-4.3	-1.7	6.2	2.6
Over 1 year	Quarter	4.4	9.8	8.9	2.0	5.2	-14.3	-44.1	-32.1	-34.4	-14.5	-43.7	-16.8	-2.3	-24.9	0.7	10.4	11.5	19.2
	Expected Next Quarter	3.4	5.8	10.8	-0.4	1.6	-17.1	-38.0	-23.8	-33.5	-4.8	-34.1	2.1	-6.6	-31.4	-18.2	10.1	10.5	4.3
B. Changes in Terms and Conditions (question 4)																			
Spread on cost of funding																			
Overall Companies	Quarter	23.1	4.2	9.2	-3.4	-8.3	-28.1	-34.0	-11.9	-12.3	-2.7	-29.4	7.2	27.5	55.7	11.5	18.4	14.4	1.5
Large Companies	Quarter	23.1	1.6	9.2	-3.4	-8.3	-28.1	-38.3	-21.2	-14.8	-2.7	-33.6	-4.7	22.7	44.0	1.2	5.9	14.0	1.1
SMEs	Quarter	23.1	10.4	9.2	-2.5	-1.0	-28.1	-36.8	-11.9	-12.3	2.9	-29.4	13.6	43.5	58.9	4.2	23.8	25.5	14.3
Commission fees and other charges																			
Overall Companies	Quarter	-2.9	3.4	-0.2	-1.0	0.7	-4.0	-18.7	-0.7	-12.3	-8.7	-22.3	-9.6	0.0	39.6	1.0	-0.2	-0.4	-0.2
Large Companies	Quarter	-6.1	0.0	-0.2	-9.2	-8.2	-4.0	-18.7	-0.7	-16.8	-8.7	-22.3	-9.6	0.0	38.6	1.0	-7.6	-0.4	-0.2
SMEs	Quarter	0.4	6.8	-0.2	-8.2	-1.0	-4.0	-18.8	-0.7	-12.3	0.0	-20.3	-10.8	0.0	40.6	1.0	-0.2	7.7	7.9
Maximum amounts																			
Overall Companies	Quarter	12.2	15.1	18.5	7.2	11.1	-8.1	-19.6	-3.8	-8.5	-17.9	-33.2	8.1	2.0	-6.7	-1.9	2.0	3.2	3.6
Large Companies	Quarter	12.2	11.7	18.5	10.6	11.1	-16.6	-19.6	2.2	-12.0	-15.9	-38.0	1.3	2.0	-15.2	-1.9	2.0	3.2	3.6
SMEs	Quarter	10.3	15.1	17.4	12.5	11.1	-17.3	-19.6	-3.8	-7.2	-7.7	-31.7	4.2	12.4	2.6	10.8	11.3	16.0	3.6
Term																			
Overall Companies	Quarter	10.3	8.1	15.8	14.6	7.9	-10.5	-23.4	-5.2	-11.2	-11.2	-35.0	-15.7	-11.2	-23.6	-6.0	2.4	4.3	-1.4
Large Companies	Quarter	13.5	13.2	20.8	18.9	7.9	-10.5	-23.4	-5.2	-18.1	-7.1	-36.0	-15.7	-11.2	-26.7	-6.0	-2.4	4.3	-1.4
SMEs	Quarter	9.8	10.8	12.6	11.7	9.0	-10.3	-26.2	-4.2	-8.1	-7.1	-32.7	-16.6	5.7	-14.4	7.1	15.7	15.7	14.4
Guarantees required																			
Overall Companies	Quarter	8.3	0.0	1.2	0.0	-2.0	-8.0	-21.6	-3.9	-3.9	-4.9	-24.9	-9.6	0.0	-13.5	-4.4	-3.5	-1.4	1.6
Large Companies	Quarter	5.1	0.0	1.2	0.0	-2.0	-16.5	-20.7	-3.9	-12.0	-13.1	-25.9	-6.4	0.0	-12.5	-10.7	-3.5	-1.4	1.6
SMEs	Quarter	8.3	3.5	0.0	8.2	-2.0	-7.0	-21.6	-6.8	-6.7	-4.9	-25.8	-9.6	7.2	-12.5	-2.5	2.0	6.8	1.6
C. Changes in credit demand (questions 6 and 9)																			
Overall Companies	Quarter	7.2	19.8	25.9	10.2	8.8	-29.2	-37.6	-36.7	-40.0	-33.6	-40.9	-46.2	-20.7	12.6	0.6	2.9	4.8	-8.2
	Expected Next Quarter	23.1	19.5	22.5	15.2	12.8	-29.5	-37.2	-23.6	-21.2	-4.6	-32.1	14.4	-5.2	1.1	-10.4	-0.6	9.1	-2.9

* Weighted by institution and by answerOverall

Loans to Households

		Diffusion Index* - In %																	
		I-17	II-17	III-17	IV-17	I-18	II-18	III-18	IV-18	I-19	II-19	III-19	IV-19	I-20	II-20	III-20	IV-20	I-21	II-21
A. Changes in approval standards (questions 10 and 14)																			
Mortgage Loans	Quarter	17.8	18.4	7.2	-4.0	-5.4	-17.9	-26.4	-33.2	-19.2	-15.2	-23.1	-12.5	-1.4	-19.1	-11.8	-10.5	-1.2	0.0
	Expected Next Quarter	17.2	7.1	24.2	1.8	-0.9	-2.3	-20.7	-19.7	-10.8	2.0	-20.3	-1.0	-0.6	-5.2	-5.4	-11.6	1.2	0.0
Pledge-Backed Loans	Quarter	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1.4	0.0	-16.6	-45.2	-36.7	-27.5	-12.9	-29.9	1.9	0.0	-24.3	0.0	1.6	0.0	1.7
	Expected Next Quarter	0.0	-1.5	0.8	0.9	1.4	-1.3	-33.7	-31.9	-33.6	-6.1	-21.8	1.9	-1.1	1.3	-6.1	0.0	10.7	0.8
Credit Cards	Quarter	5.3	5.3	6.3	-6.6	-6.3	-19.4	-26.4	-25.2	-18.7	-7.3	-23.5	-9.3	7.9	-11.0	8.3	0.0	-6.5	0.2
	Expected Next Quarter	4.3	8.0	6.7	1.0	5.8	-5.6	-21.3	-23.4	-21.3	-1.4	-17.3	18.2	26.1	-6.4	6.3	-0.9	-2.0	1.6
Other Loans for Consumption	Quarter	10.9	11.1	7.3	-11.2	-5.8	-15.9	-32.4	-35.9	-33.2	-15.4	-33.8	11.2	8.4	-7.5	8.3	1.3	10.2	11.3
	Expected Next Quarter	-0.4	-1.5	11.8	5.9	-1.4	-12.0	-29.1	-31.4	-29.5	3.8	-24.6	29.3	18.1	2.8	9.7	6.8	10.9	12.1
B. Changes in terms and conditions applied (question 13)																			
Spread on cost of funding																			
Mortgage Loans	Quarter	1.4	10.0	13.0	-2.7	-1.4	-3.1	-18.6	1.2	-9.2	-6.7	-8.7	-7.4	0.7	8.1	-9.9	5.8	5.1	0.0
Pledge-Backed Loans	Quarter	6.6	8.9	12.6	4.0	-7.9	2.0	-13.9	-5.1	-16.1	8.3	-17.9	4.9	6.8	9.0	11.5	18.2	7.5	0.0
Credit Cards	Quarter	12.5	-3.1	23.9	30.3	-7.7	10.3	-13.9	-0.9	-22.9	-15.9	-12.4	-15.0	36.2	24.7	11.5	19.3	13.4	0.0
Other Loans for Consum.	Quarter	16.7	9.9	14.0	12.8	-16.2	-1.8	-9.5	-19.8	-9.5	-16.4	-21.4	6.2	31.2	34.5	18.1	16.2	19.6	5.8
Commission fees and other charges																			
Mortgage Loans	Quarter	0.0	-3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-13.4	0.0	-5.6	0.0	-8.4	-9.6	0.0	15.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pledge-Backed Loans	Quarter	0.0	-4.1	0.0	0.0	6.0	0.0	-12.0	0.0	-7.7	0.0	-13.7	-13.8	0.0	21.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Credit Cards	Quarter	-2.0	7.9	-26.1	-6.3	-5.6	-13.5	-27.7	-8.6	-16.4	-33.8	-21.3	-16.7	-15.8	4.9	0.0	9.9	-16.0	-2.9
Other Loans for Consum.	Quarter	-5.7	-2.8	0.0	0.0	-5.3	-1.1	-18.9	-0.5	-5.4	-5.5	-15.2	-9.7	-9.8	15.0	0.0	9.9	9.7	4.5
Maximum amounts																			
Mortgage Loans	Quarter	47.7	23.6	15.2	22.2	9.9	1.4	-5.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	-11.5	0.0	0.0	-1.5	2.7	0.0	1.7	0.0
Pledge-Backed Loans	Quarter	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	19.3	0.0	-12.0	0.0	0.0	8.3	-13.7	1.9	0.0	-2.1	0.0	1.6	9.1	0.0
Credit Cards	Quarter	6.1	1.8	6.7	14.7	-5.8	-5.9	-18.8	-1.3	0.0	5.6	-9.9	10.6	19.5	-1.0	8.3	2.0	2.8	21.2
Other Loans for Consum.	Quarter	6.7	12.2	11.8	14.2	0.7	2.4	-1.7	-0.5	12.4	5.9	-12.1	10.9	9.8	7.5	8.6	7.7	21.8	2.0
Term																			
Mortgage Loans	Quarter	37.0	20.5	2.5	13.7	-5.4	-6.6	-8.5	0.9	0.0	0.0	-9.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pledge-Backed Loans	Quarter	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-12.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-13.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Credit Cards	Quarter	9.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.5	-7.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	-9.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	0.0
Other Loans for Consum.	Quarter	0.0	0.0	11.5	0.0	0.3	-1.4	-10.8	-2.7	-1.1	0.0	-9.6	0.0	-4.8	-3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guarantees required																			
Mortgage Loans	Quarter	4.6	0.0	6.5	11.1	0.0	0.0	-8.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pledge-Backed Loans	Quarter	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-3.3	-12.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Credit Cards	Quarter	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-8.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Loans for Consum.	Quarter	-0.6	5.0	0.6	-5.9	5.8	6.0	-10.3	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.0	8.2	-1.6	0.0	9.8	9.9
C. Charges in credit demand (questions 15 and 18)																			
Mortgage Loans	Quarter	33.7	59.2	55.6	46.3	-16.0	-37.8	-76.6	-84.2	-72.5	-37.6	-63.0	-49.5	-33.0	-83.3	-15.8	-21.5	-1.2	0.0
	Expected Next Quarter	59.2	64.1	49.4	14.9	10.3	-34.0	-54.3	-20.7	-36.6	-19.2	-43.7	-24.0	-19.3	-31.2	-14.2	1.2	2.3	0.0
Pledge-Backed Loans	Quarter	6.9	8.9	17.6	13.0	13.0	-25.1	-40.4	-55.4	-37.3	-25.9	-49.4	-35.6	-17.3	-49.2	12.9	12.7	10.7	0.0
	Expected Next Quarter	-2.7	2.8	3.4	20.0	0.0	-26.6	-51.3	-19.8	-31.4	-20.5	-46.3	-8.9	-10.8	-4.2	2.9	14.9	12.8	13.0
Credit Cards	Quarter	-5.2	14.3	7.2	14.5	2.6	-14.2	-33.4	-43.3	-34.9	5.6	-26.1	7.3	7.2	-31.5	21.6	30.8	1.4	12.3
	Expected Next Quarter	25.1	11.1	11.0	-5.7	9.7	-12.4	-18.8	-11.6	-15.8	7.5	-23.8	24.1	20.4	2.5	18.7	29.8	11.8	13.0
Other Loans for Consumption	Quarter	19.5	22.4	11.9	19.0	-18.3	-27.3	-62.9	-69.0	-32.0	-29.5	-43.4	-7.1	12.1	-43.0	18.9	43.5	32.0	7.3
	Expected Next Quarter	25.0	26.3	25.1	15.1	15.9	-14.3	-45.3	-19.5	-30.2	3.3	-40.3	24.1	7.9	18.1	22.8	37.9	37.0	37.2

* Weighted by institution and by answer