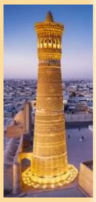
Republic of Uzbekistan
Central Bank

Business Sentiment Review

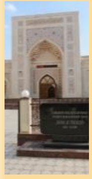
2026 Q2








The Business Sentiment Review reflects trends in economic activity, the business environment, and employment across the regions of the Republic of Uzbekistan through alternative indicators.

This review was prepared based on the results of a survey conducted across the regions in July 2026 to study the business sentiment that had formed in the country during the second quarter of 2026. The survey covered all regions of the country in full, with more than two thousand entrepreneurs operating in various sectors of the economy taking part through social media platforms. Particular attention was paid to achieving broader coverage of business activity areas and ensuring representativeness.

The questionnaire consisted of questions aimed at identifying the current situation and expectations regarding economic activity in the regions, factors affecting the business environment, changes in energy consumption volumes, freight transportation indicators, labor demand across sectors, the employment level, trade volume, and sector outlook.

Several answer options were provided for each question, and participants were able to select one or more of them at the same time. The results were aggregated by calculating the number of respondents who selected each answer option relative to the total number of responses and by applying weighting coefficients for individual groups. The aggregated data were analyzed according to distribution rules and compared against average indicators.

The analysis makes it possible to comparatively assess economic conditions across the country's various regions and to qualitatively study the trends of change within them.

General conclusions

Business environment

The results of the study of business activity for the second quarter of 2026 show that positive trends in the business environment are continuing in the republic. 64 percent of the entrepreneurs* who took part in the survey noted that business conditions had relatively improved (compared with 61 percent in the corresponding period of last year). This indicator has remained above an average of 50 percent over the past two years, which attests to the stability of entrepreneurs' confidence.

Respondents attributed the positive changes in the business environment primarily to improved quality of banking services and the competitive environment, simplified licensing procedures, and somewhat improved road infrastructure. At the same time, it was noted that no significant changes were observed in the level of monopolization, administrative interference, energy supply, or customs tariffs.

Economic activity

In this quarter, the share of entrepreneurs reporting increases in fuel consumption and freight volumes, as well as production and order volumes, remained high. In particular, the share of those reporting an increase in orders amounted to 56 percent. This indicator was relatively higher in the Samarkand, Kashkadarya, Jizzakh, Navoi, and Khorezm regions. Construction, tourism, food service, handicrafts, and manufacturing were the main contributors to this positive dynamic.

The share of enterprises operating at relatively high capacity increased from 50 percent in the corresponding period of last year to 58 percent. While the majority of business entities in the Fergana, Namangan, and Kashkadarya regions and in the city of Tashkent are operating at high capacity, this indicator was relatively lower in the Republic of Karakalpakstan and the Bukhara, Syrdarya, and Surkhandarya regions. Entrepreneurs cited energy supply interruptions, insufficient domestic demand, rising fuel prices for vehicles, and supply disruptions as the main reasons for not operating at full capacity.

** A total of 2,391 entrepreneurs took part in the survey.*

Employment

During the second quarter of 2026, activity in the labor market remained at a stable level, and an increase in demand for additional labor was noted at most enterprises. In particular, the share of business entities reporting increased demand for labor reached 48 percent in the second quarter.

In the coming quarters, demand for additional labor is expected to increase significantly in the Khorezm, Samarkand, Jizzakh, and Syrdarya regions, with this indicator expected to be higher in manufacturing, construction, tourism, and finance than in other sectors.

Financial position

Among entrepreneurs, the share reporting an increase in debt obligations over the past three months amounted to 42 percent. In addition, a growing trend persists in expectations regarding demand for additional credit (45 percent of respondents expect their debt obligations to increase going forward).

While the need for credit resources is expected to increase significantly in the next quarter in the Navoi, Kashkadarya, Andijan, and Jizzakh regions, in the Fergana, Tashkent, and Bukhara regions this need is expected to decrease or remain unchanged. Entrepreneurs operating in construction, manufacturing, agriculture, tourism, and food service reported a relatively high future need for credit funds.

Outlook

In the medium-term outlook, entrepreneurs' confidence in the country's economic development remains positive. The level of positive sentiment has improved considerably since the first quarter of 2025, and in the second quarter of 2026, 82 percent of the business entities that took part in the survey (compared with 66 percent in the second quarter of 2025) expressed confidence that macroeconomic conditions would improve going forward.

City of Tashkent and Tashkent Region

In the second quarter of 2026, 53 percent of respondents in the city of Tashkent and Tashkent region reported that business conditions had improved, a slight increase compared with the corresponding period of last year. The business environment improved significantly in the construction, transportation, manufacturing, and trade sectors.

Entrepreneurs who took part in the survey noted positive changes in the quality of banking services, access to credit, the competitive environment, and licensing. These factors were identified as relatively important supporting factors in assessing business conditions.

At the same time, it was reported that no significant changes were observed in tax administration, road infrastructure, gas and electricity supply, or the level of monopolization. Entrepreneurs' assessments in these areas were relatively lower.

In terms of economic activity indicators, the share of respondents reporting increased order and production volumes rose by 4 and 7 percentage points, respectively, compared with the second quarter of last year. Order volumes increased mainly in the construction, tourism, handicrafts, and trade sectors.

Activity in the labor market also remained steady. The share of entrepreneurs reporting increased demand for additional labor rose slightly compared with last year. Demand for additional labor was also higher in sectors that reported increased order volumes.

The share of respondents reporting increased credit payments remained unchanged from last year's level. Nevertheless, demand for additional credit resources remained high in the construction, handicrafts, agriculture, and finance sectors.

Figure 1. Change in business sentiment by sector, share of respondents, in percent

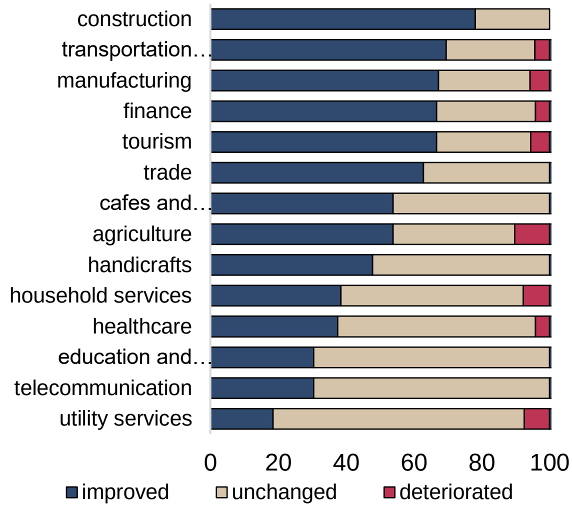


Figure 2. Factors affecting business sentiment, share of respondents, in percent

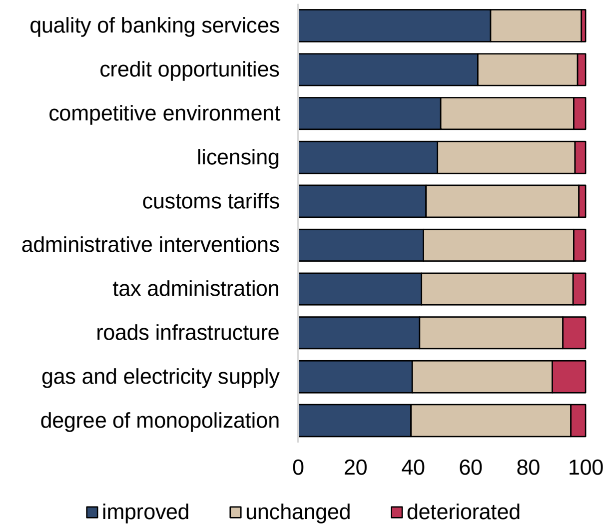
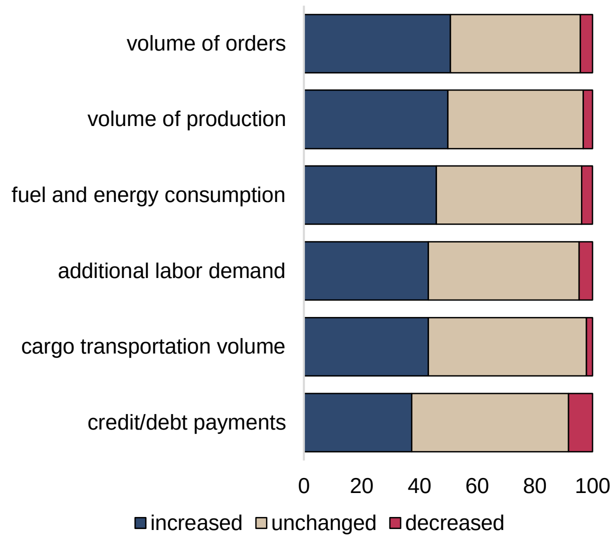


Figure 3. Economic activity indicators, share of respondents, in percent



In the second quarter of 2026, the use of production capacity increased significantly in the city of Tashkent and Tashkent region. The share of enterprises operating at high capacity rose from 43 percent in the corresponding period of last year to 61 percent. The majority of enterprises in the healthcare, transportation, and communications and information sectors are operating at high capacity.

Enterprises that continued to be unable to operate at full capacity cited gas and electricity supply interruptions, insufficient demand, rising vehicle fuel prices, and logistics disruptions as the main constraints. These factors were assessed as the key reasons limiting the stability of production processes.

Expectations for the next quarter regarding increases in order volumes, production volumes, and demand for additional labor improved somewhat. 51 percent of respondents expect order volumes to increase going forward. This growth is expected to occur mainly in the construction, manufacturing, handicrafts, and agriculture sectors.

Activity in the labor market is also expected to remain steady. This reflects enterprises' growing need for labor resources to expand their scale of operations and to support service delivery and production processes going forward.

Confidence that the country's economy and business environment will improve over the next three years increased significantly. Positive expectations formed among 82 percent of the entrepreneurs who took part in the survey, reflecting strengthened confidence among business representatives in the region regarding the medium-term outlook.

Figure 4. Reasons for not operating at full capacity on certain days, share of total respondents, in percent

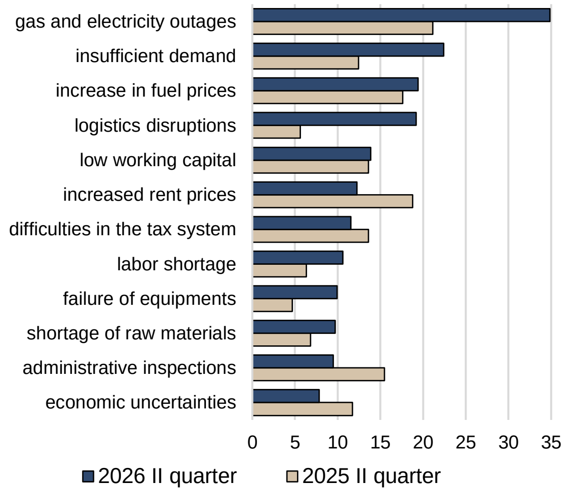


Figure 5. Expectations for the next quarter, share of respondents, in percent

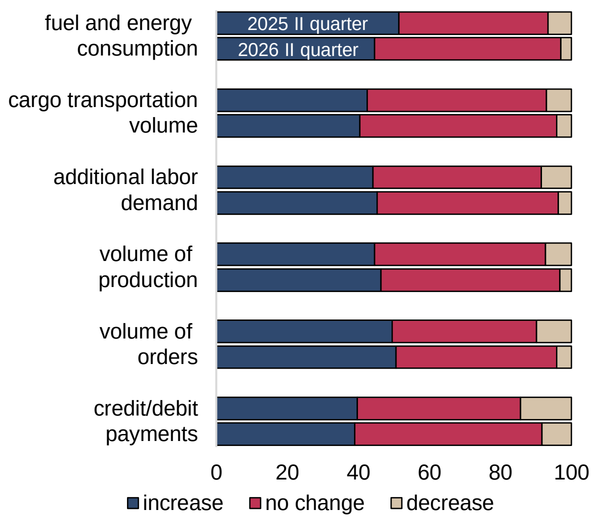
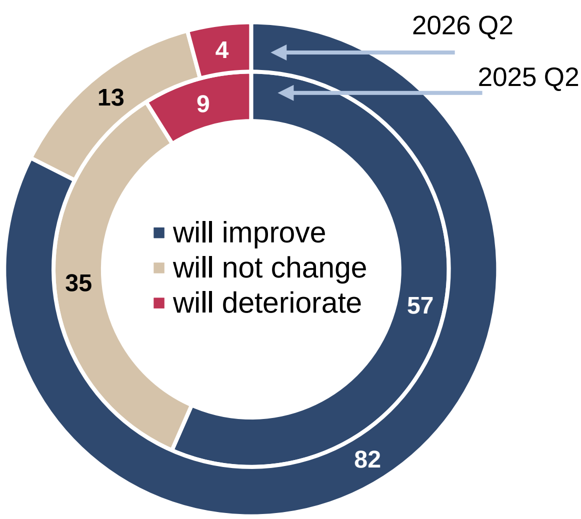


Figure 6. Expectations regarding the economic and business outlook over the next 3 years, share of respondents, in percent



In the second quarter of 2026, 69 percent of respondents in the Bukhara, Navoi, and Samarkand regions reported that business conditions had improved. This indicator rose by 8 percentage points compared with the second quarter of 2025. In particular, the share of those noting an improved business environment increased considerably in the food service, tourism, finance, and agriculture sectors.

Entrepreneurs noted that positive changes were observed primarily in the quality of banking services and access to credit. Improvements in licensing conditions and the competitive environment were also reported.

At the same time, it was reported that no significant changes were observed in administrative interference, gas and electricity supply, customs tariffs, or the level of monopolization.

Positive changes were noted in economic activity indicators. In particular, the share of entities reporting increased fuel and energy consumption rose by 7 percentage points compared with last year. A significant increase in energy consumption was noted in the construction, healthcare, trade, and agriculture sectors.

The share of respondents reporting increased order volumes also rose by 11 percentage points compared with last year, reaching 64 percent. The majority of entrepreneurs operating in the healthcare, tourism, finance, and agriculture sectors reported increased orders.

A positive trend was also noted in freight transportation volume, with the share of business entities reporting an increase in this indicator rising by 9 percentage points. This activity was observed mainly in sectors where order volumes and fuel consumption had increased.

The share of entrepreneurs reporting increased credit payments declined by 5 percentage points. This suggests that the burden of financial obligations eased somewhat, or that pressure related to debt payments did not intensify.

Figure 7. Change in business sentiment by sector, share of respondents, in percent

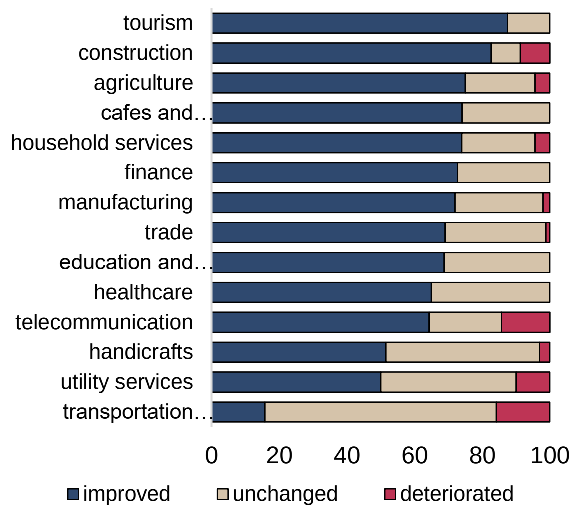


Figure 8. Factors affecting business sentiment, share of respondents, in percent

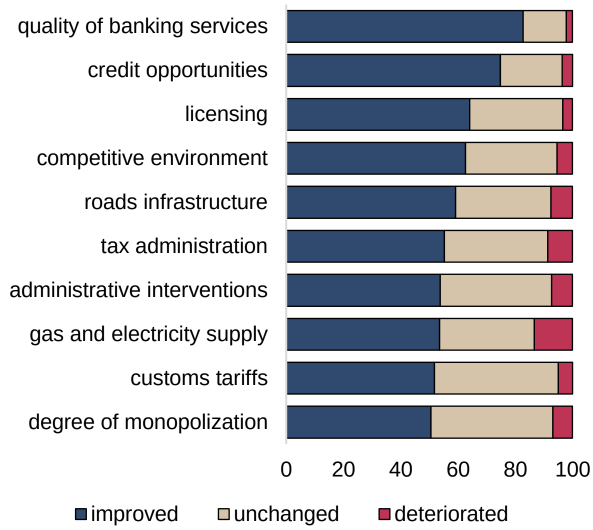
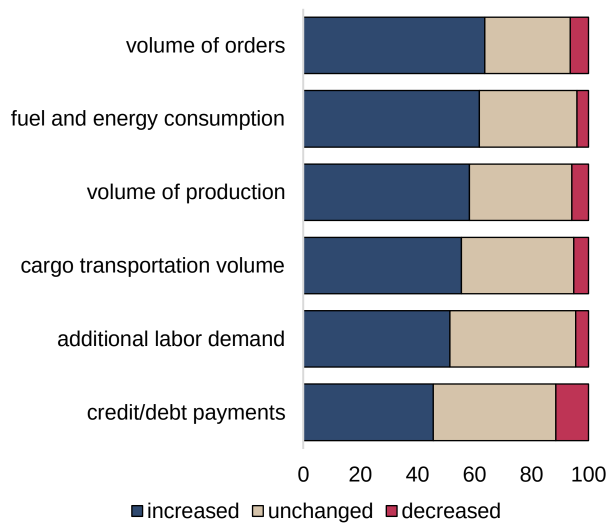


Figure 9. Economic activity indicators, share of respondents, in percent



In the second quarter of 2026, the level of production capacity utilization in the Bukhara, Navoi, and Samarkand regions remained stable. The share of enterprises operating at high capacity stood at 54 percent, almost unchanged from the corresponding quarter of last year.

It was noted that gas and electricity outages, insufficient demand, a shortage of working capital, and supply disruptions were the main constraining factors affecting business entities that were unable to operate at full capacity.

Expectations for all economic activity indicators improved for the next quarter. In particular, the share of respondents expecting an increase in order and production volumes stood at around 60 percent, nearly 5 percentage points higher than last year. Order and production volumes are expected to increase significantly in the healthcare, trade, finance, and construction sectors.

Expectations regarding demand for additional labor also shifted in a positive direction. According to the survey results, enterprises in the region specifically noted that their need for labor resources would increase going forward amid an expanding scale of operations and rising order activity. Demand for additional labor may be particularly high in the finance, healthcare, education, and tourism sectors.

Expectations of a decrease in the need for credit resources rose somewhat. This is explained by an increased tendency among certain business entities to manage existing obligations cautiously, to avoid increasing their debt burden, and to continue operating using internal funds.

The share of entrepreneurs expressing confidence that the country's economy and business environment will improve over the next three years amounted to 84 percent, a significant improvement compared with the second quarter of last year.

Figure 10. Reasons for not operating at full capacity on certain days, share of total respondents, in percent

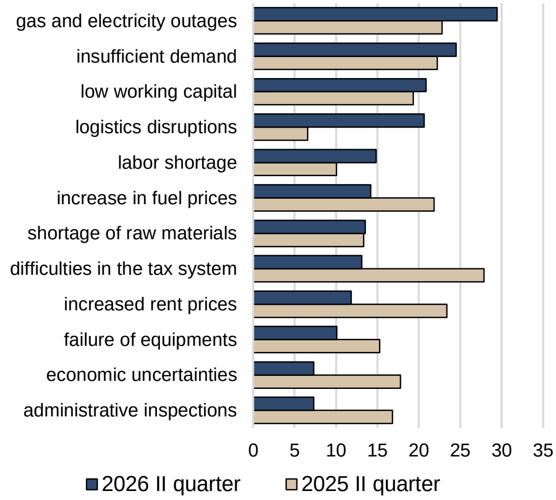


Figure 11. Expectations for the next quarter, share of respondents, in percent

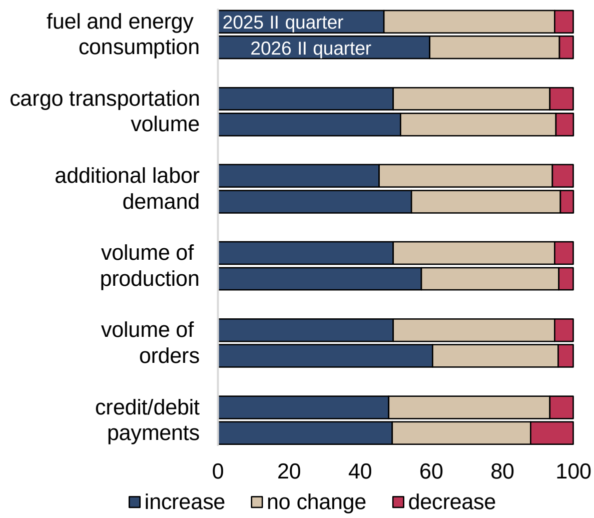
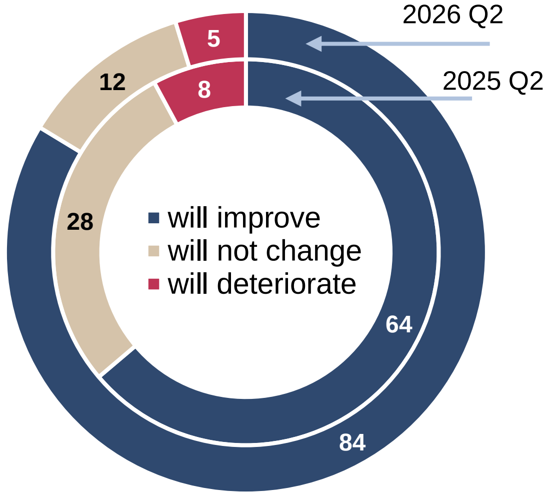


Figure 12. Expectations regarding the economic and business outlook over the next 3 years, share of respondents, in percent



In the second quarter of 2026, 66 percent of respondents in the Andijan, Namangan, and Fergana regions reported that business conditions had improved. This indicator declined by 4 percentage points compared with the second quarter of 2025. In particular, the share of those noting an improved business environment declined considerably in the handicrafts, education, and finance sectors.

Nevertheless, the business entities that took part in the survey rated the situation positively with regard to the quality of banking services, access to credit, the competitive environment, and licensing.

Entrepreneurs noted that no significant changes were observed in customs tariffs, administrative interference, gas and electricity supply, or the level of monopolization.

Economic activity indicators also showed significant declines compared with the corresponding period of last year. In particular, the share of entrepreneurs reporting increased order and production volumes declined slightly compared with last year. In this regard, the majority of representatives from the healthcare, education, agriculture, and finance sectors reported that order and production volumes had not changed.

The share of entrepreneurs reporting increased demand for additional labor also declined by 14 percentage points. This indicates that labor market needs were relatively lower and that demand for new labor declined in sectors where production expansion was sluggish.

The share of respondents reporting increased credit payments also declined by 6 percentage points. This indicator may also suggest that business entities did not expand the scale of their operations and continued to make use of existing resources.

Figure 13. Change in business sentiment by sector, share of respondents, in percent

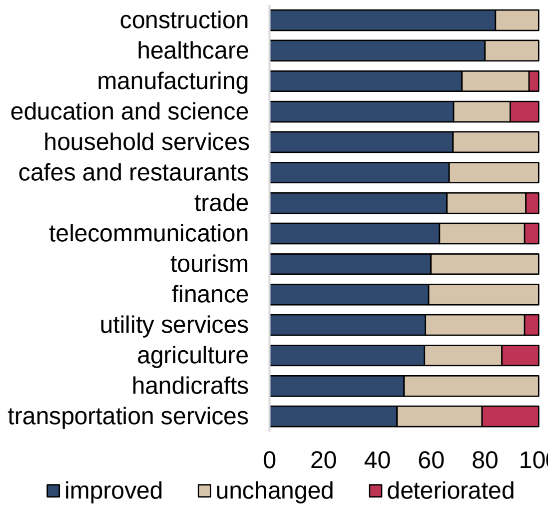


Figure 14. Factors affecting business sentiment, share of respondents, in percent

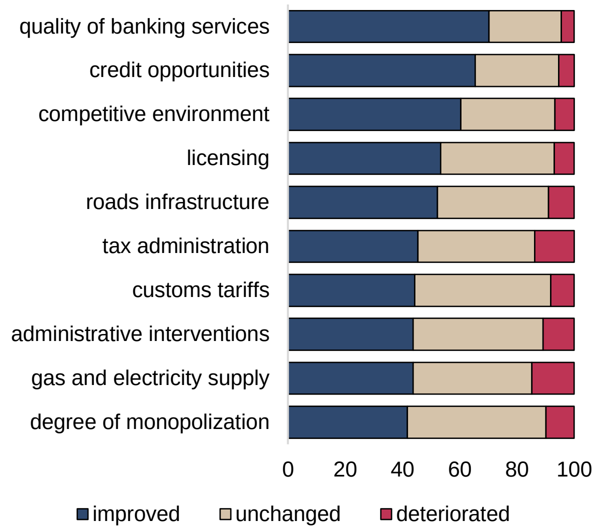
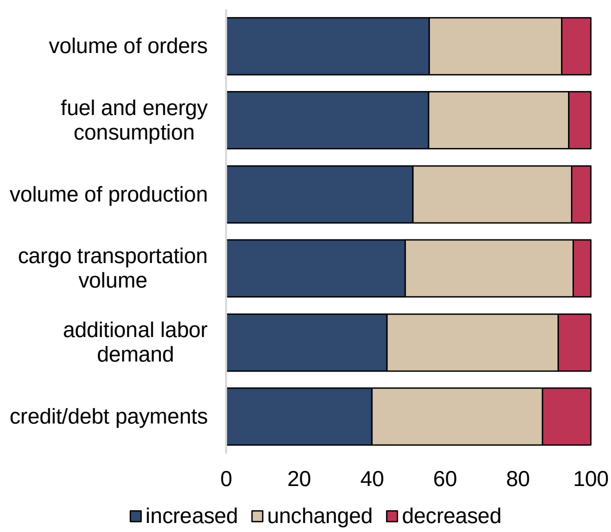


Figure 15. Economic activity indicators, share of respondents, in percent



Nevertheless, activity related to production capacity utilization increased significantly in the second quarter of 2026. The share of enterprises operating at high capacity rose from 57 percent to 70 percent. This indicates that the level of capacity utilization in the Fergana Valley regions improved considerably compared with last year. The share of entities operating at high capacity increased significantly in the finance, construction, transportation, education, and healthcare sectors.

Instances of being unable to operate at full capacity were explained mainly by insufficient demand, gas and electricity and logistics disruptions, and a shortage of working capital. It was noted that these factors hindered enterprises from fully establishing their production processes.

In expectations for the next quarter, the share of entrepreneurs expecting order volumes to increase declined compared with the previous year. This indicator stood at 54 percent, 14 percentage points lower. The majority of representatives from the communications and information, education, finance, and handicrafts sectors expect order volumes to remain unchanged going forward.

A decline was also observed in expectations regarding demand for additional labor. Respondents indicated that demand for additional labor would also be lower in sectors where order volumes are expected to remain unchanged.

Expectations regarding additional need for credit resources also declined. The decline noted in assessments related to credit payments may reflect that business entities remained in a relatively cautious position regarding financial obligations and the need for external financing.

At the same time, the share of entrepreneurs expressing confidence that the country's economy and business environment will improve over the next three years amounted to 81 percent.

Figure 16. Reasons for not operating at full capacity on certain days, share of total respondents, in percent

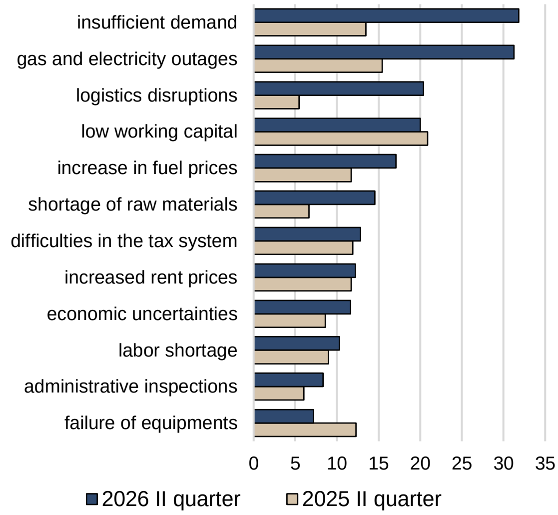


Figure 17. Expectations for the next quarter, share of respondents, in percent

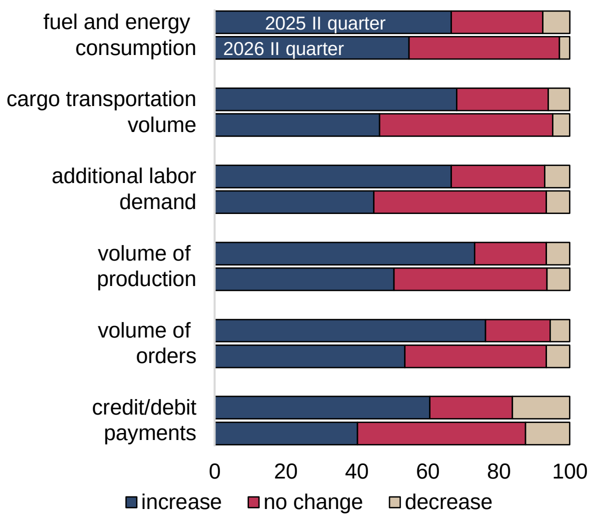
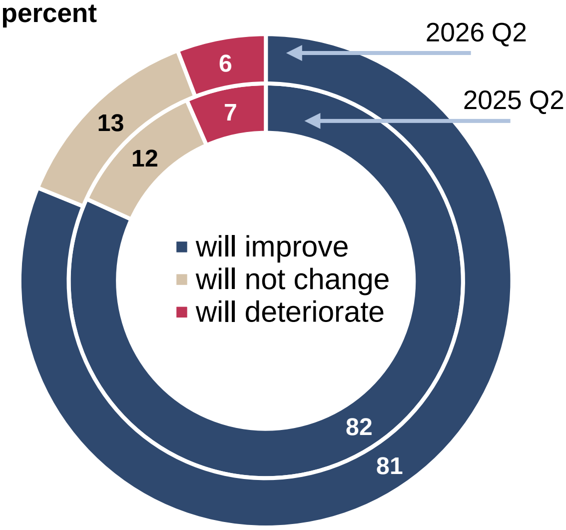


Figure 18. Expectations regarding the economic and business outlook over the next 3 years, share of respondents, in percent



In the second quarter of 2026, 61 percent of respondents in the Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya regions reported that business conditions had improved. The share of respondents reporting an improved business environment increased considerably in the tourism, finance, agriculture, and education sectors.

Entrepreneurs who took part in the survey reported improvements in access to credit, the quality of banking services, the competitive environment, and licensing procedures.

At the same time, it was noted that no significant changes were observed in tax administration, administrative interference, the level of monopolization, or customs tariffs. In entrepreneurs' assessments, these areas emerged as factors affecting the business environment that remained stable but showed no significant improvement.

Among economic activity indicators, the share of respondents reporting increased fuel and energy consumption rose slightly. In this regard, relatively higher rates of growth in energy expenditure were seen mainly in the household services, food service, and healthcare sectors.

Nearly half of business entities reported an increase in production and order volumes. It was noted that production volumes increased mainly in the finance, construction, healthcare, food service, and tourism sectors.

Activity in the labor market remained at last year's level. Demand for additional labor was relatively higher in sectors where production volumes had increased.

Demand for credit resources became relatively more stable, and it was noted that no significant need for additional credit resources was felt in the household services, trade, and agriculture sectors.

Figure 19. Change in business sentiment by sector, share of respondents, in percent

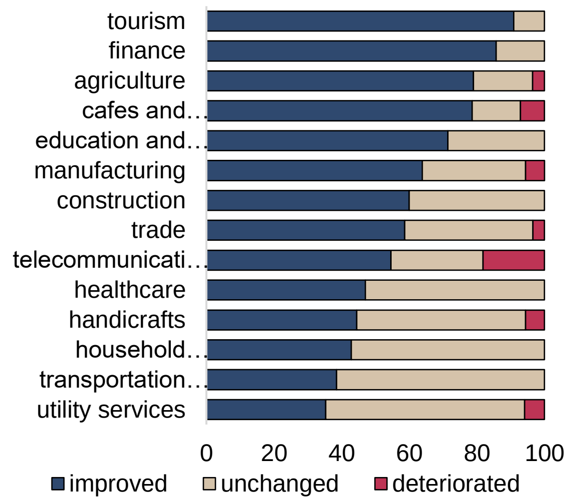


Figure 20. Factors affecting business sentiment, share of respondents, in percent

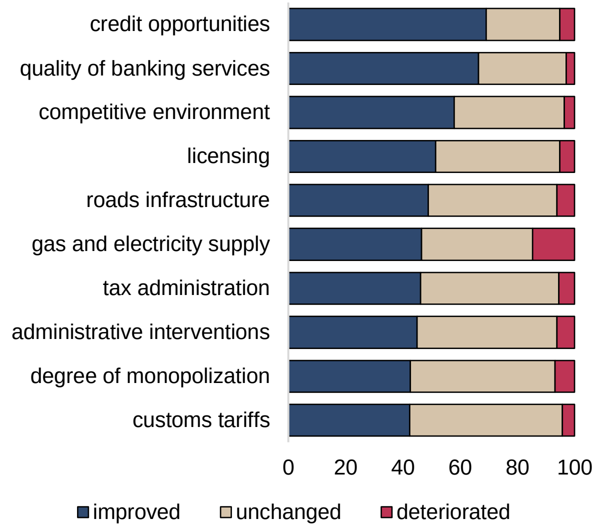
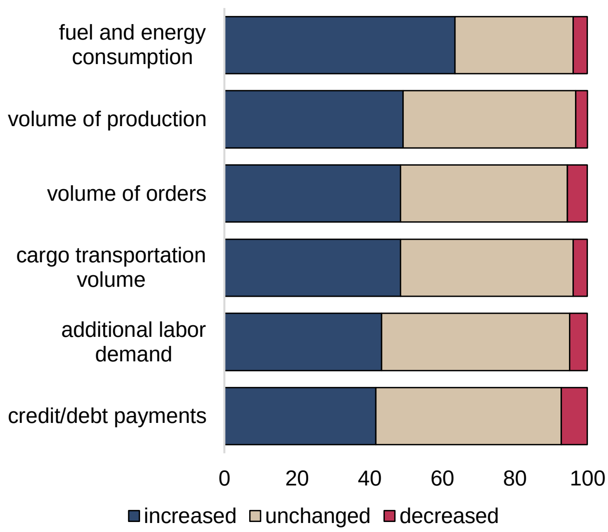


Figure 21. Economic activity indicators, share of respondents, in percent



In the second quarter of 2026, an increase in production capacity utilization was noted in the Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya regions. The share of enterprises operating at high capacity rose from 48 percent to 58 percent, 10 percentage points higher than last year. The majority of representatives from the education, handicrafts, food service, and construction sectors continue to operate at high capacity.

As reasons for being unable to operate at full capacity, entrepreneurs cited gas and electricity supply interruptions, insufficient demand, logistics problems, and a shortage of working capital. These factors were assessed as the main circumstances limiting opportunities to expand the scale of operations.

Expectations for the next quarter remained almost at last year's level. According to the survey results, positive expectations regarding fuel and energy consumption amounted to 59 percent, and regarding order volumes, 52 percent. In the education, construction, and communications and information sectors, order volumes are expected to increase significantly along with energy consumption.

Although expectations regarding demand for additional labor declined somewhat, they remain positive. It was reported that demand for labor would also increase mainly in the sectors noted above.

The share of entrepreneurs expressing confidence that the country's economy and business environment will improve over the next three years amounted to 84 percent. This indicator improved significantly compared with the corresponding period of last year, indicating strengthened confidence among business representatives regarding the medium-term outlook.

Figure 22. Reasons for not operating at full capacity on certain days, share of total respondents, in percent

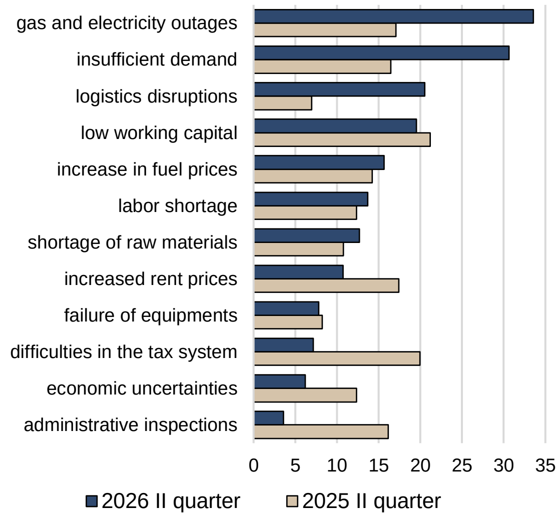


Figure 23. Expectations for the next quarter, share of respondents, in percent

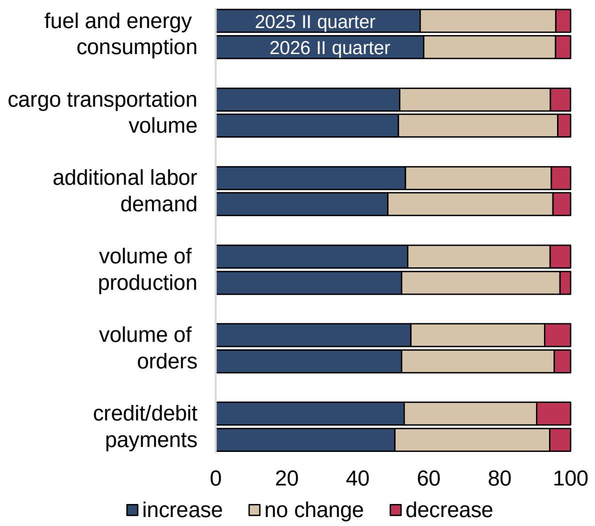
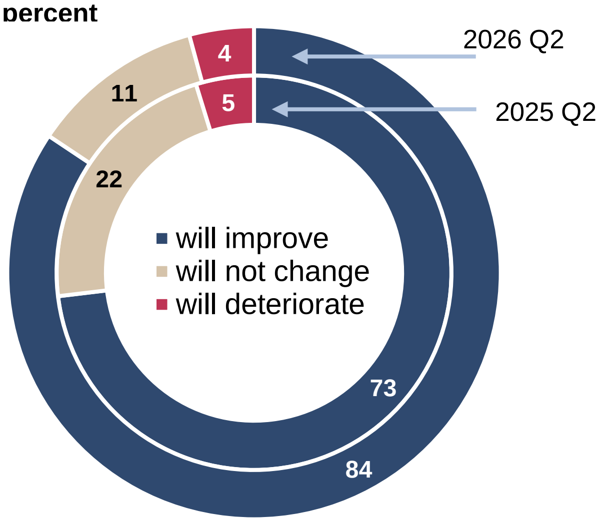


Figure 24. Expectations regarding the economic and business outlook over the next 3 years, share of respondents, in percent



Jizzakh and Syrdarya Regions

In the second quarter of 2026, 66 percent of respondents in the Jizzakh and Syrdarya regions reported that business conditions had improved. This indicator rose by 4 percentage points compared with the second quarter of last year. In particular, the share of those noting an improved business environment increased considerably in the handicrafts, communications and information, and tourism sectors.

According to the survey results, positive changes in the regions were observed mainly in factors related to the quality of banking services, access to credit, the competitive environment, and road infrastructure. These factors indicate that conditions for conducting business activity became relatively more favorable.

At the same time, entrepreneurs noted that no significant changes were observed in tax administration, gas and electricity supply, administrative interference, or the level of monopolization.

A positive dynamic was also observed in economic activity indicators. The share of respondents reporting increased order volumes, fuel and energy consumption, and production volumes rose by 7-8 percentage points.

Respondents reported that order and production volumes increased mainly in the construction, tourism, finance, and trade sectors. The share of business entities reporting increased fuel and energy consumption was relatively higher in the trade, agriculture, healthcare, and food service sectors.

The share of respondents reporting increased demand for additional labor also rose by 11 percentage points compared with the corresponding period of last year, reaching 56 percent. Demand for additional labor was particularly high in the education, tourism, and food service sectors.

Figure 25. Change in business sentiment by sector, share of respondents, in percent

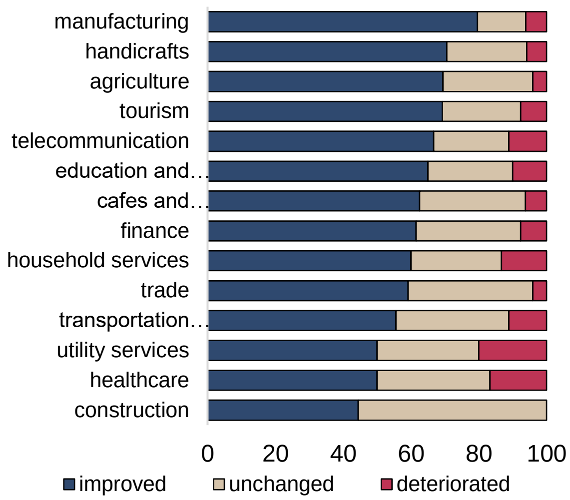


Figure 26. Factors affecting business sentiment, share of respondents, in percent

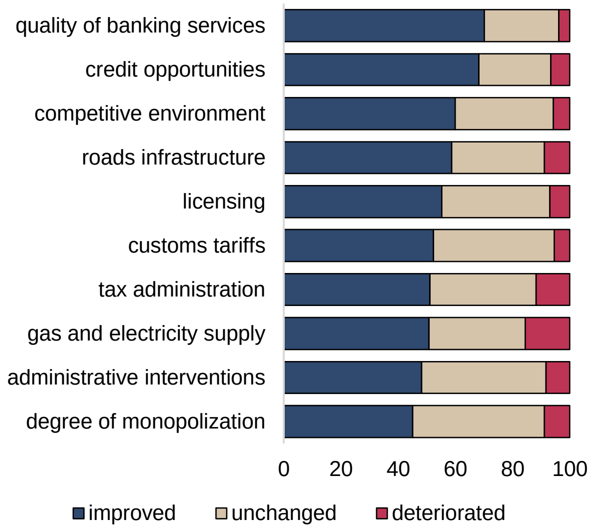
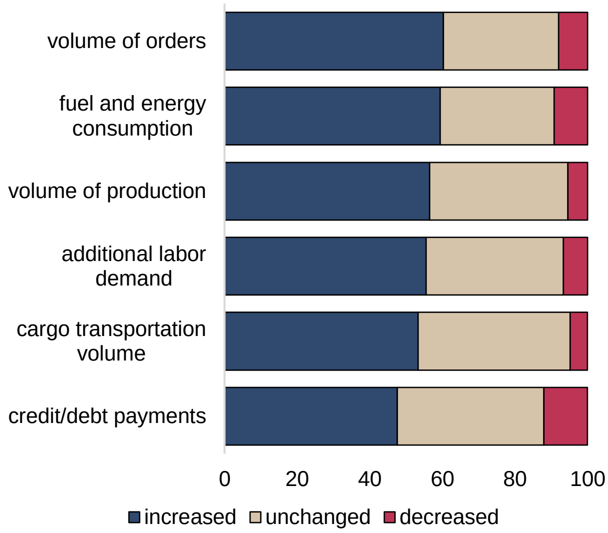


Figure 27. Economic activity indicators, share of respondents, in percent



Jizzakh and Syrdarya Regions

In the second quarter of 2026, the share of enterprises using production capacity at a high level in the Jizzakh and Syrdarya regions amounted to 49 percent, almost unchanged from last year. Nevertheless, the majority of representatives from the finance, tourism, food service, healthcare, and construction sectors operated at high capacity.

Business entities that were unable to operate at full capacity cited gas and electricity supply interruptions, insufficient demand, logistics problems, and rising vehicle fuel prices as the main constraints. It was noted that these factors affected the stability of production processes and the continuity of service delivery.

In expectations for the next quarter, the share of respondents expecting order volumes to increase, along with production volumes, fuel and energy consumption, and freight transportation volume, rose slightly compared with last year.

Production and order volumes are expected to increase substantially in the finance, construction, tourism, and agriculture sectors.

Expectations regarding demand for additional labor also remain positive. Enterprises indicated that their need for labor resources may increase amid an expanding scale of operations, growing orders, and increasing production volumes. In particular, demand for additional labor is expected to be high in the construction, food service, and tourism sectors going forward.

The share of entrepreneurs expressing confidence that the country's economy and business environment will improve over the next three years amounted to 80 percent. This indicator rose by 16 percentage points compared with last year, indicating that positive expectations have formed regarding the medium-term outlook.

Figure 28. Reasons for not operating at full capacity on certain days, share of total respondents, in percent

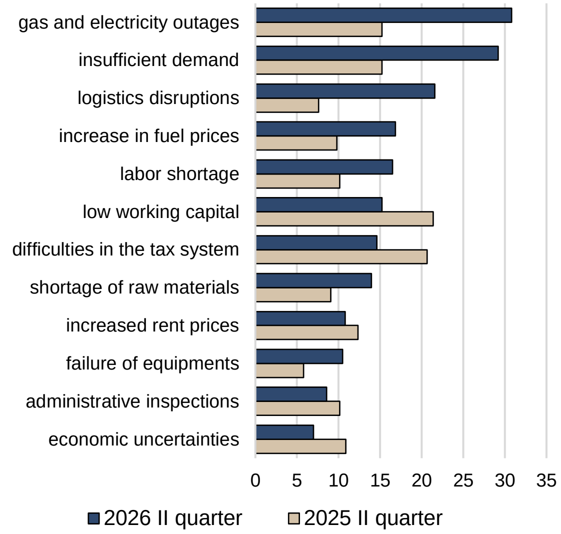


Figure 29. Expectations for the next quarter, share of respondents, in percent

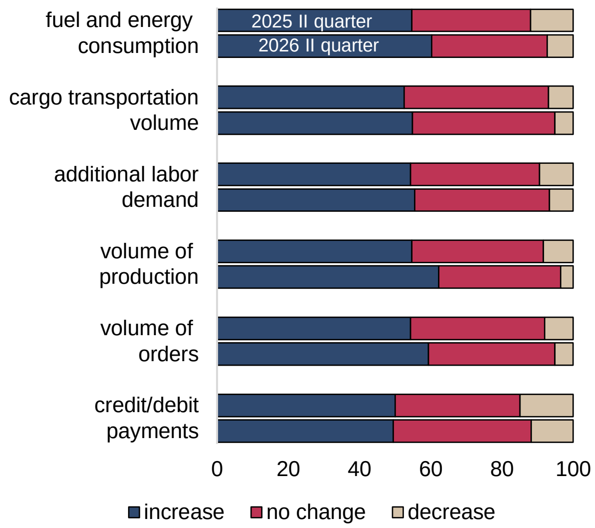
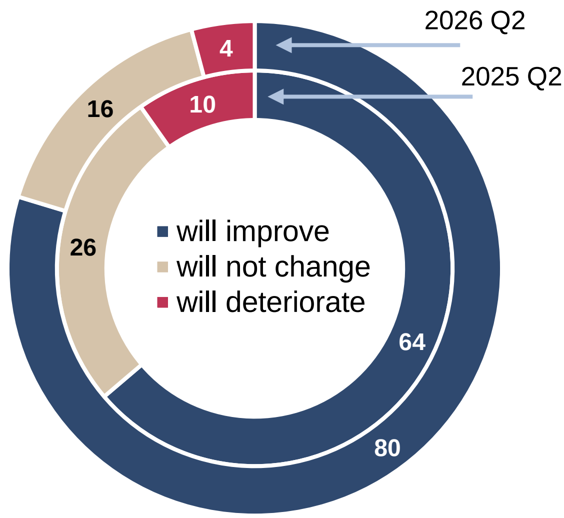


Figure 30. Expectations regarding the economic and business outlook over the next 3 years, share of respondents, in percent



In the second quarter of 2026, 65 percent of respondents in the Republic of Karakalpakstan and Khorezm region reported that business conditions had improved. This indicator rose by 9 percentage points compared with the second quarter of last year. In particular, the share of those reporting an improved business environment increased considerably in the construction, healthcare, finance, and agriculture sectors.

Entrepreneurs who took part in the survey noted improvements in the quality of banking services and access to credit. Positive changes were also reported in the competitive environment and licensing.

At the same time, it was reported that no significant changes were observed in administrative interference, tax administration, customs tariffs, or the level of monopolization.

Among economic activity indicators, the share of respondents reporting increased fuel and energy consumption, order volumes, and production volumes rose by 6, 4, and 7 percentage points, respectively, compared with last year.

Order and production volumes increased mainly in the construction, food service, and transportation services sectors.

Activity in the labor market also remained steady. Demand for additional labor was relatively higher in the construction, transportation services, and finance sectors.

Figure 31. Change in business sentiment by sector, share of respondents, in percent

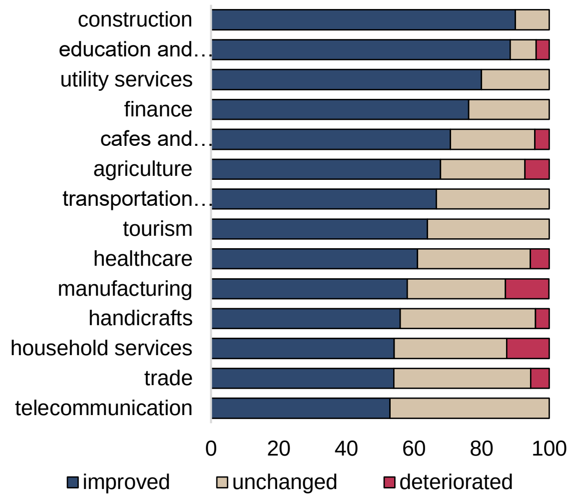


Figure 32. Factors affecting business sentiment, share of respondents, in percent

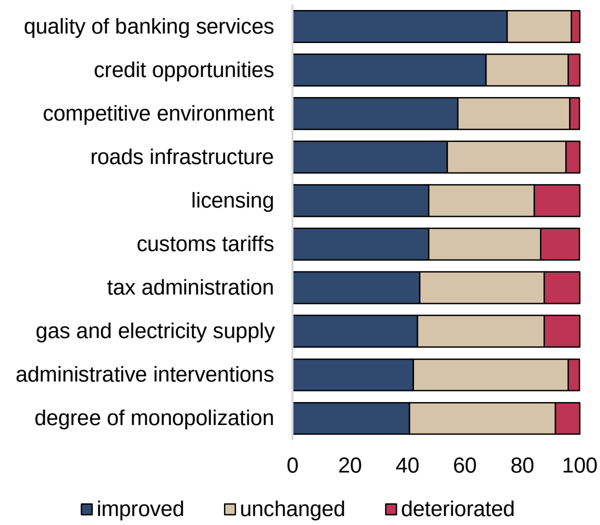
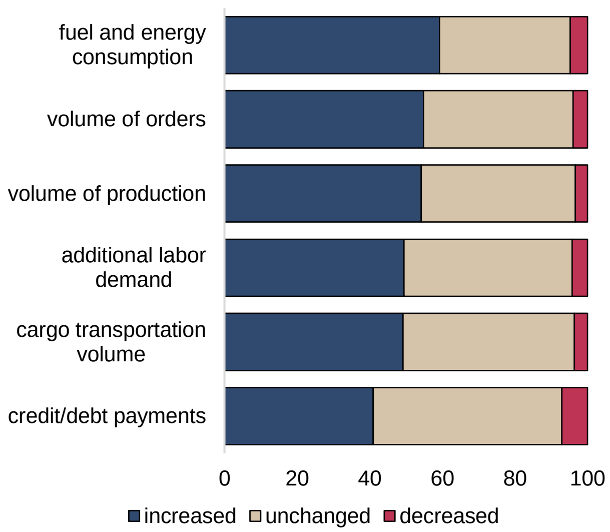


Figure 33. Economic activity indicators, share of respondents, in percent



In the second quarter of 2026, production capacity utilization in the Republic of Karakalpakstan and Khorezm region remained almost unchanged. The share of enterprises operating at high capacity stood at 48 percent, with enterprises in the food service, healthcare, and construction sectors continuing to operate at relatively high capacity.

Business entities unable to operate at full capacity cited gas and electricity supply and logistics disruptions, a shortage of working capital, and rising vehicle fuel prices as the main constraints.

A positive change was observed across all economic activity indicators in expectations for the next quarter.

In particular, the share of those expecting order and production volumes to increase stood at around 56 percent. Higher growth was noted in the construction, food service, and finance sectors.

Expectations regarding demand for additional labor also increased compared with the corresponding period of last year. Respondents reported that demand for additional labor would also be higher in sectors where order volumes are expected to increase. This indicates that business entities' need to expand their operations and support service delivery processes has persisted.

Expectations regarding credit payments were also noted to have risen slightly. This may indicate a strengthening sentiment among business entities regarding the existence of financial obligations and a need for additional financing.

Confidence that the country's economy and business environment will improve over the next three years increased considerably. 81 percent of the entrepreneurs who took part in the survey expressed confidence that future conditions would change in a positive direction.

Figure 34. Reasons for not operating at full capacity on certain days, share of total respondents, in percent

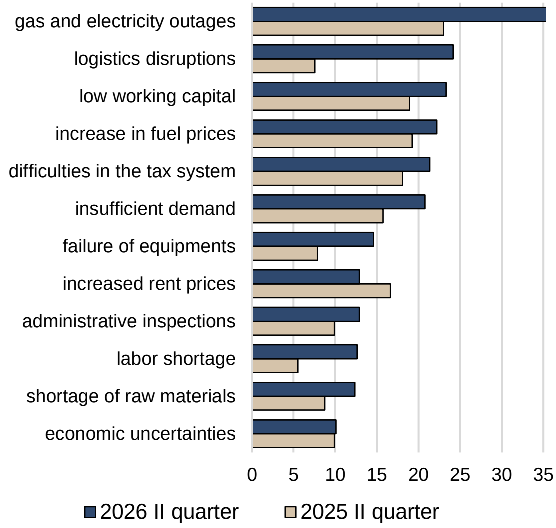


Figure 35. Expectations for the next quarter, share of respondents, in percent

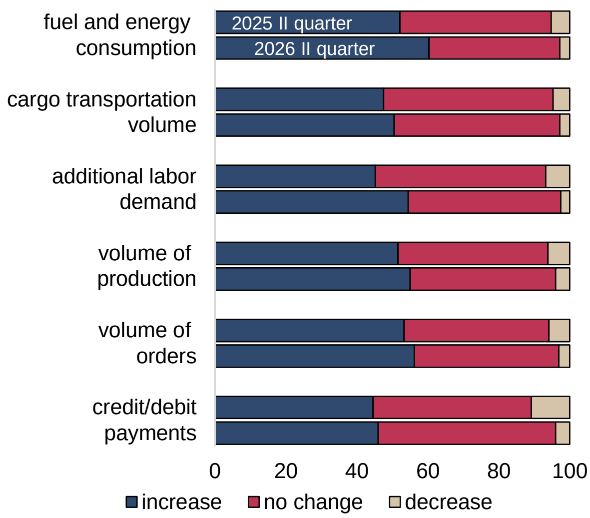


Figure 36. Expectations regarding the economic and business outlook over the next 3 years, share of respondents, in percent