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D&B Business Optimism Index

India | Q3 2026

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Dun & Bradstreet Business Optimism Index for India eased marginally (-0.7% QoQ) to **111.8 for Q3 2026**, from 112.6 (Q2 2026)

The index is down **4.8% YoY** (117.4 for Q3 2025)

Optimism Sub-Indices

Profit
71.3
+4.9% QoQ
+0.7% YoY

Domestic Orders
70.3
+3.4% QoQ
-6.1% YoY

Export Orders
59.2
+0.8% QoQ
-12.9% YoY

Firm Size Trends

Medium Enterprises
↓ **4.8%** QoQ
-15% YoY

Large Firms
↑ **1%** QoQ
+2% YoY

Small Enterprises
↑ +**0.7%** QoQ
-3% YoY

D&B Business Optimism Index (BOI) for Q3 2026

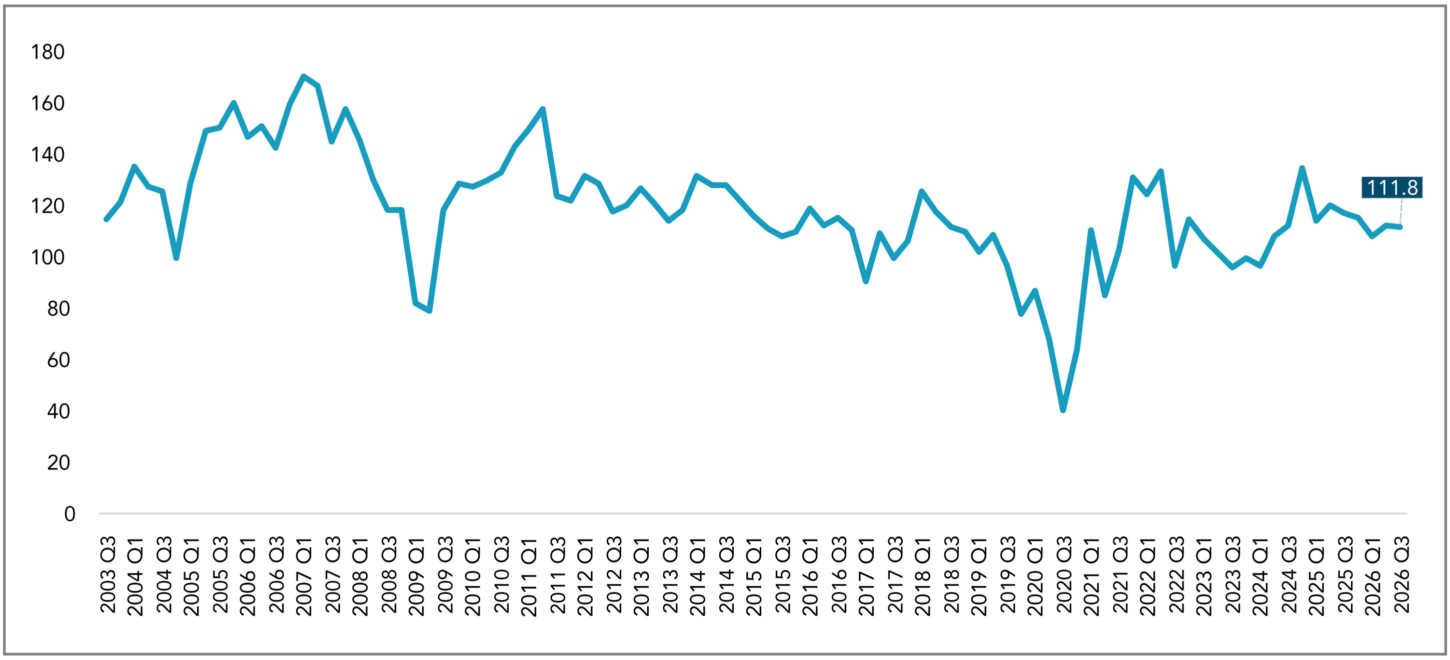
India's BOI Eases Marginally for Q3 2026; Profit and Domestic Demand Provide Cushion Amid External Headwinds

The Dun & Bradstreet Business Optimism Index (BOI) eased marginally to 111.8 for Q3 2026, down 0.7% QoQ from 112.6 for Q2 and 4.8% YoY, signalling a modest softening in headline sentiment after the previous quarter's recovery. The moderation was led by medium enterprises (-4.8% QoQ), while large firms (+1.0% QoQ) and small enterprises (+0.7% QoQ) posted marginal gains, pointing to uneven confidence across firm sizes.

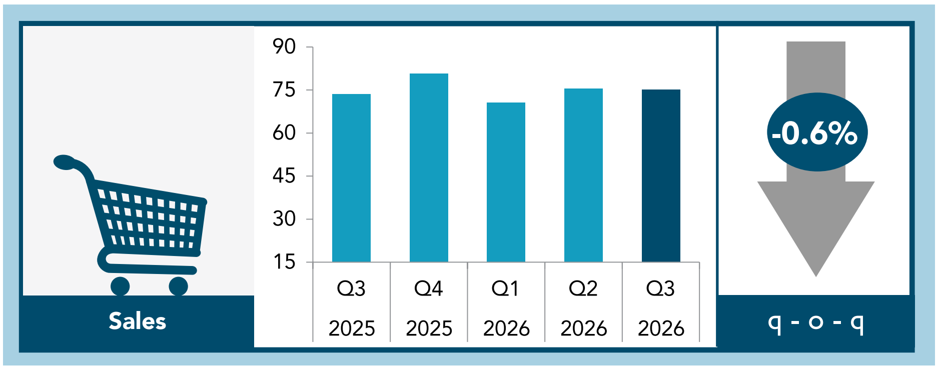
The headline reading was supported by stronger profit expectations, with the profit sub-index rising 4.9% QoQ to 71.3, and a recovery in optimism in domestic orders, which improved 3.4% QoQ to 70.3. However, even as sentiment for export remained subdued at 59.2, rising only 0.8% QoQ and staying 12.9% below Q3 2025 levels. Overall, the Q3 outlook suggests selective resilience rather than a broad-based improvement, with firms remaining cautious amid external uncertainty and uneven demand visibility.

Overall, business sentiment for Q3 2026 softened modestly, with the headline BOI easing on weaker inventory and employment readings, even as profit optimism and domestic orders improved. The optimism recovery remains uneven, stronger profit margins and stabilising domestic demand are offset by softer export sentiment, declining inventory confidence, and persistent external risks.

D&B Business Optimism Index (BOI)

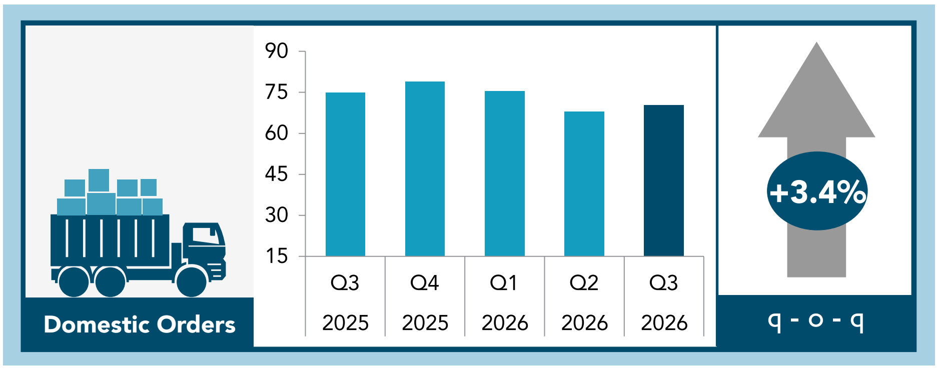


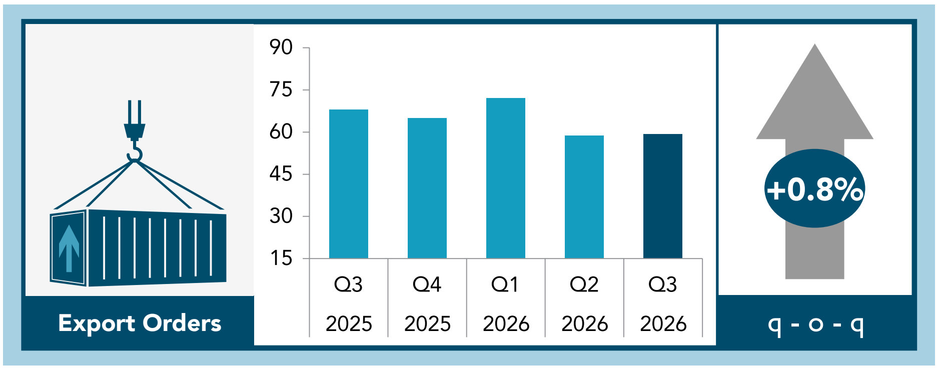
Optimism on Sub-indices



The year-on-year trend remains marginally positive (+2% vs Q3 2025), suggesting that sales expectations have held up despite the sequential moderation. Optimism is highest in utilities (88), information and communication (83), and electricals (83), while transportation and storage (64), manufacturing of automotives (67), and manufacturing of food (67) remain the least optimistic.

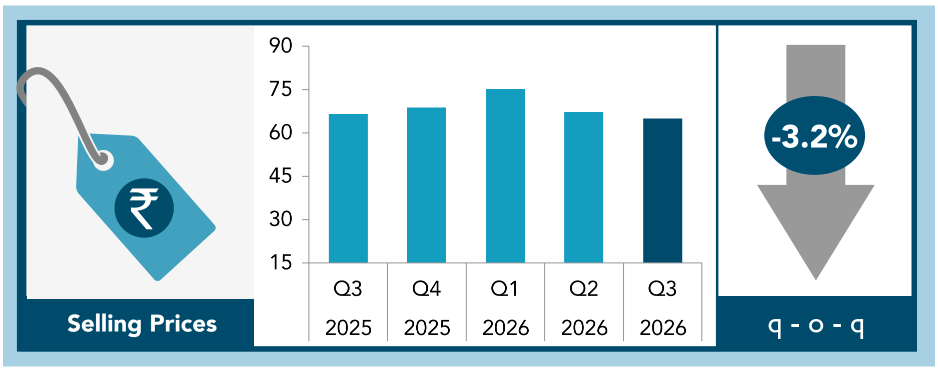
Optimism for domestic order remains highest for utilities (83), accommodation & food services (79), and mining (79), reflecting stronger demand visibility. Metals, capital goods, and automotives (63 each), along with chemicals (65), remain the most cautious. While sentiment improved 3.4% QoQ for Q3 2026, but still 6.1% lower than Q3 2025.

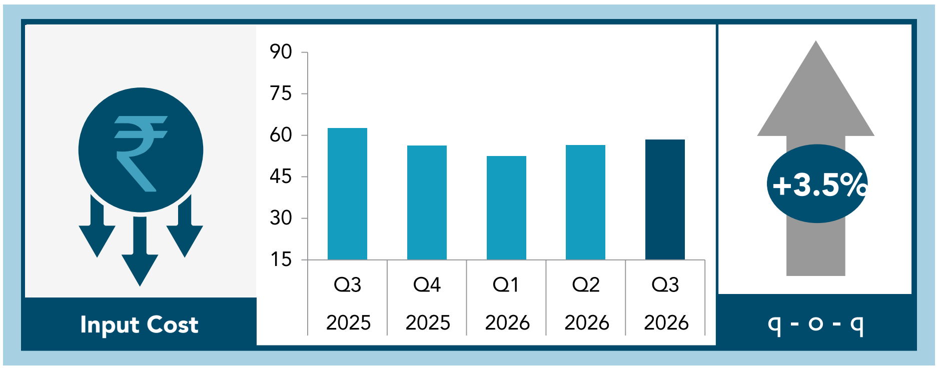




Optimism for export order is highest for automobile manufacturing (88), electrical manufacturing (75), wholesale & retail trade (70), and information & communication (69). Utilities (42), construction (43), real estate (48), and mining (54) remain least optimistic. While sentiment improved marginally by 0.8% QoQ for Q3 2026, it was 12.9% lower YoY amid weak global demand and trade uncertainties.

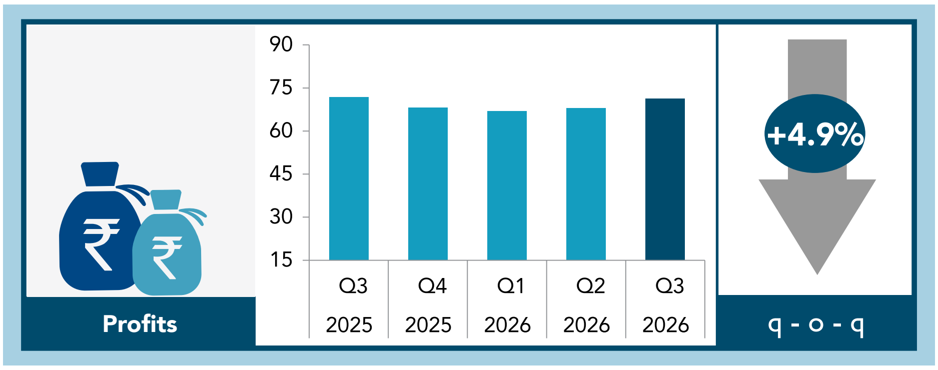
Optimism for selling prices is highest for textiles (79), wholesale & retail trade (75), transportation & storage (74), and automobile and metals manufacturing (71 each), reflecting stronger pricing flexibility. Chemicals (52), food manufacturing (54), capital goods (58), and financial services (60) remain weakest. Selling price sentiment declined 3.2% QoQ and 2.2% YoY for Q3 2026.

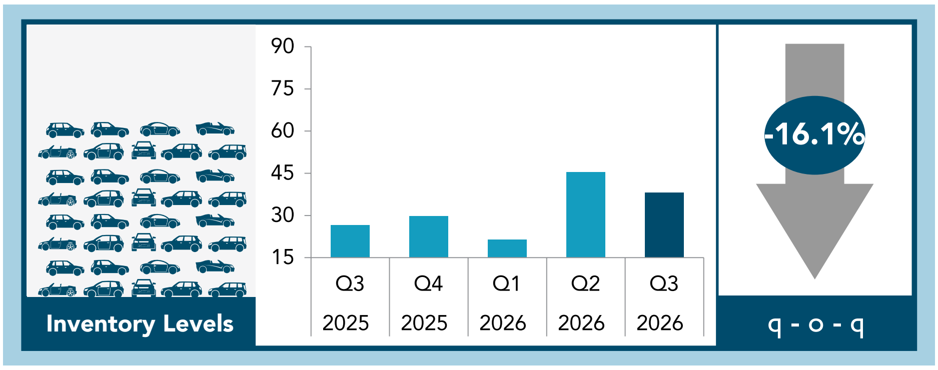




Input cost concerns are highest for food manufacturing (79), electricals and textiles (71 each), construction (68), and wholesale & retail trade (68), reflecting stronger cost pressures. Information & communication (39), professional services (40), and financial services (42) face the lowest concerns. Input cost pressures rose 3.5% QoQ for Q3 2026 but remained 6.8% below year-ago levels.

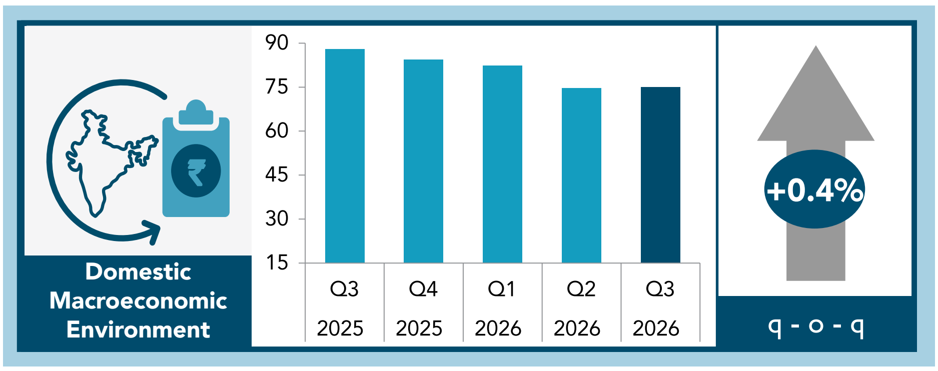
Optimism for net profit is highest for information & communication (83), financial services (79), and real estate (77), with electricals and metals manufacturing also reporting strong expectations (75). Construction (58), chemicals (63), and automotives (67) remain least optimistic. Net profit sentiment improved 4.9% QoQ for Q3 2026 and was broadly stable YoY (-0.7%).





Optimism for inventory is highest for utilities (54), wholesale & retail trade (48), and capital goods and textiles manufacturing (42 each), reflecting selective stock rebuilding. Automotives and mining (25 each), metals (29), and information & communication (31) remain least optimistic. Inventory sentiment declined 16.1% QoQ for Q3 2026 but remained 43.5% higher than a year ago.

Optimism for the domestic macroeconomic environment is highest for information & communication (89), transportation & storage (80), and electricals, metals, and utilities (79 each). Mining (63), capital goods (67), and chemicals (67) are least optimistic. Sentiment was broadly stable for Q3 2026 (+0.4% QoQ) but remained 14.9% lower than a year ago.



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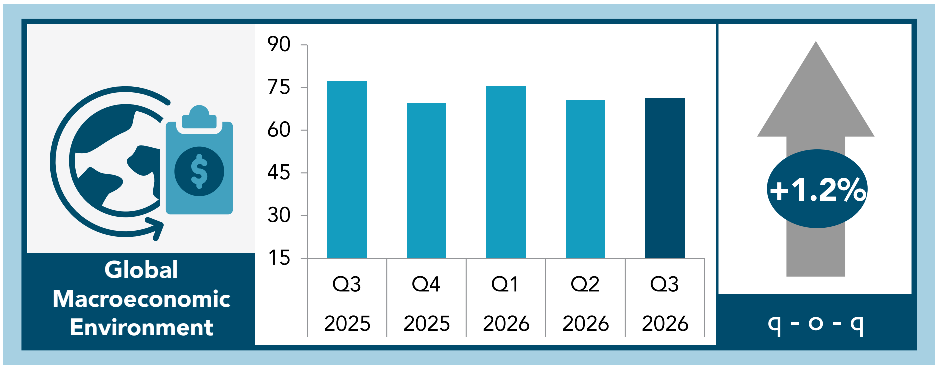
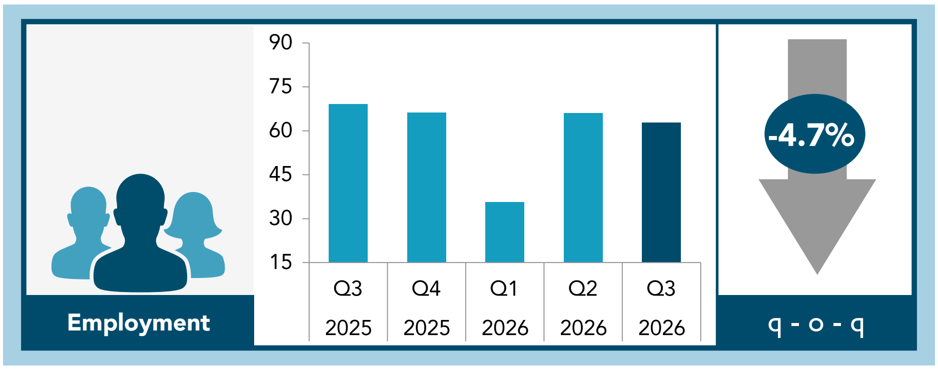


Optimism for the global macroeconomic environment is highest for textiles (83), automobile manufacturing (79), and accommodation & food services (75). Professional & administrative services (60), mining (63), and real estate (67) remain less optimistic. Global sentiment improved 1.2% QoQ for Q3 2026 but remained 7.5% lower year-on-year amid persistent global uncertainties.

Optimism for employment is highest for professional services (73), information & communication (72), and automotives, utilities, and capital goods manufacturing (71 each), reflecting stronger hiring intent. Mining and metals (50 each), along with food, chemicals, and electricals (54 each), remain least optimistic. Employment sentiment declined 4.7% QoQ and 8.9% YoY for Q3 2026.



Methodology

The Dun & Bradstreet Business Optimism Index report is a synthesis of data from a comprehensive survey, alongside insights from Dun & Bradstreet, leveraging the firm's proprietary data and economic expertise. The primary survey is conducted on a stratified random sample of around 300 businesses, across 17 sectors and across three size segments (small, medium and large businesses). A diffusion index is calculated for each parameter and normalized against base period values (Sep-2023 to Jun-2024). An index reading above 100 indicates an improvement in optimism relative to the base period, while an index reading below 100 signifies a deterioration. The composite index at size and sector level is calculated using factor-weighted averages of the parameter-level indices. The economy-level index is a weighted average of sector-level indices by their contribution to GDP.

Research Team

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