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Dutch spending on eating out fell 9.5% in the third quarter

Consumers went out less often and spent less per visit, with average dinner spending dropping to €51.12 from €53.79

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Dutch consumers spent less on eating and drinking away from home in the third quarter, with both the number of outings and the amount spent per visit declining from a year earlier, according to FoodService Instituut Nederland’s FoodPulse monitor released on November 20.

The report said consumer spending on food consumed outside the home in the Netherlands fell 9.5% year over year between July and September. The data point to a broader slowdown in the market for restaurant, café and other out-of-home food and beverage purchases after earlier signs of weaker demand.

A key shift in the third quarter was that spending fell not only because people went out less often, but also because they spent less each time they did. The average amount spent per dinner visit dropped to €51.12 from €53.79 a year earlier, a decline of €2.67, or 4.96%, based on the published figures. The monitor states that the amounts are measured in current euros, meaning they are not adjusted for inflation.

The report’s year-over-year spending index fell to 90.5 in the third quarter from 97.9 in the second quarter. That was a drop of 7.4 points from one quarter to the next. On a comparable cumulative basis, the index stood at 94.6, which the institute said corresponds to spending that was 5.4% lower than a year earlier.

The third-quarter figures mark a change from the pattern seen in the second quarter. FoodService Instituut Nederland said visits were already declining in the second quarter, but the amount spent per occasion was still rising at that time. In the third quarter, that support disappeared as the per-visit outlay also moved lower.

The institute described the figures as evidence of a simultaneous weakening in frequency and spending per occasion. That matters for a sector that can sometimes offset fewer customer visits with larger tickets. In the July-to-September period, the data showed that both measures were under pressure at the same time.

FoodService Instituut Nederland said extreme heat may have been an additional factor behind the third-quarter weakness, though it did not quantify how much it may have affected the results. The organization did not assign a specific numerical share of the decline to weather and presented it only as a possible influence alongside the broader reduction in consumer activity.

The data were published as part of the FoodPulse monitor for the third quarter of 2026, which tracks spending and consumption frequency in the Dutch out-of-home food market. The results suggest that pressure on the sector intensified as the year moved into its late summer period, with consumers in the Netherlands cutting back both on

how often they went out and on how much they were willing to pay when they did.