THE BACKROOM BRIEF

MARKETS · MACRO · CRYPTO

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2026 | GREED, BONDS BID | CRYPTO 24H VOLUME $77.4B

BTC $77,927 +1.1% · ETH $2,406 flat · SOL $100.80 +1.5% · SPX 7,666.60 +0.46% · NIKKEI 64,214 -0.17% · GOLD $4,434 spot, +1.0% · BRENT $95.63 +1.0% · DXY 99.23 -0.33% live · US10Y 4.77% live, 4.79% close · USDJPY 156.8 -1.2% · VIX 15.20 · F&G 65 GREED

THE LEDE

The Yen Did the Tightening

The Bank of Japan has not moved, and the yen has already done the work. Dollar-yen was 159.70 at Wednesday's European midday when the last issue went out, closed the New York session at 158.71, down 1.20 percent from Tuesday's close, and was 156.8 by the European mid-morning on Thursday, another 1.2 percent lower and 1.8 percent below the last issue's print, per Investing.com, after board member Hajime Takata floated an outsized hike and said 2026 "marks a turning point," per Reuters and Bloomberg, and Bloomberg reported this morning that the bank favours a quarter-point move at its September 17 to 18 meeting. Japan's curve rallied from the long end: the thirty-year JGB fell 8.3 basis points to 4.069 percent through a thirty-year auction that cleared at 3.79 times cover against a twelve-month average of 3.52, the ten-year fell 5.5 to 2.947 from a thirty-year high, and the two-year 2.6 to 1.837, per Investing.com and Bloomberg. The American front end lost its bid a different way: ADP counted 38,000 private jobs in August against 47,000 expected, the fewest since January, per ADP's release, and the fed funds strip took the September 16 hike from 65.9 percent on Wednesday to 60.4 by this morning, per Investing.com's monitor. The ten-year Treasury closed unchanged at 4.79 percent, still the 2026 high, per the Treasury's daily curve; gilts fell 4 basis points and Bunds 2 by mid-morning; the S&P 500 ended a three-day slide with a 0.46 percent gain to 7,666.60, per Yahoo Finance. Gold closed Wednesday at 4,385.74 dollars spot, below the desk's pre-registered 4,420 kill, which closes the gold card as promised, and then rose through the line to 4,434 by the European morning, per Investing.com. Bitcoin is 77,927 dollars, up 1.1 percent, per CoinGecko, and the top-trader long ratio on Binance printed 1.98, its first day under two since August 22, per the exchange. The war is still a war: American strikes killed 18 or 19 people in Iran including a wedding party in Sirik, Kuwait reported repelling missiles and drones, and Hormuz traffic fell below half its ten-day average, per Al Jazeera and The National; the Wall Street Journal reports, citing people familiar, that the President is discussing "whether to declare the Iran war over" while the Pentagon extends about 50,000 troops through 2027. Brent settled at 95.63, up 1.0 percent, per Yahoo Finance. Yesterday's issue said the tightening had gone global. Today the effect got priced, by a currency that moved before its bank did and by a Fed strip that moved on one jobs number; whether Japan's long end bought credibility or rode a global rally is argued in story one with both readings printed. The desk has three corrections below, one of them about Switzerland.

CROSS-REFERENCE

Press Digest

OUTLET	REGION	LEAD STORY	KEY NUMBER
Reuters	Global	Shares, bonds rally as markets await Fed signals; yen jumps	n/a
Bloomberg	Global	Yen surges with traders on high alert for further intervention; BOJ said to favour quarter-point hike	25bp
Financial Times	UK	Gold's run isn't yet done; yen strengthens as traders bet on Japan rate rises	n/a
Wall Street Journal	US	Yen strengthens amid intervention chatter; dollar declines as Williams signals no urgency to hike; Hegseth extends Mideast deployments into 2027	50,000 troops
New York Times	US	Google won't have to break up its ad-tech business; Trump puts tariffs of up to 100% on foreign-made drones	100%
The Economist	UK	Central banking has a forbidding future; Europe's bond markets are suffering a post-holiday shock	n/a
The Guardian	UK	Burnham tries to calm bond market fears as sell-off threatens crucial first budget	n/a
CNBC	US	Bond rout accelerates; private payrolls rose by 38,000 in August, less than expected	38,000
Nikkei Asia	Japan	Yen rallies sharply as markets raise bets on BOJ rate hikes; Berkshire eyes bigger stakes in Japan trading houses	n/a
SCMP	Hong Kong	Mainland Chinese investors buy Hong Kong AI stocks, sell financials; younger investors stash physical gold	n/a
Caixin	China	Listed China brokerages' profits surge nearly 50% on tech rally; Beijing closes tax loopholes on insider stock sales	+50%
China Daily	China	Phone prices jump amid AI chip supply squeeze; G20 urged to value free trade	n/a
Korea Times / Sedaily	Korea	Chip tariff threat adds to inflation fears as US yields near 5%; KOSPI closes 0.26% higher at 6,579.48	6,579.48
Economic Times	India	Sensex and Nifty rebound on easing bond yields and FCNR inflows	n/a
Straits Times	Singapore	Moonshot files confidentially for Hong Kong IPO; CapitaLand Investment retrenches 90 Singapore staff	90
Handelsblatt / FAZ	Germany	DAX stops falling for now; "No panic on the stock markets"; DWS chief: Germany must step up to win	n/a

Les Echos / Le Monde	France	Budget 2027: rates on French debt keep rising; the French economy has stopped growing	n/a
Il Sole 24 Ore	Italy	Euro-area services PMI 51.6, composite 52; Germany services 49.7; Italy services 55.2	51.6
Gulf News / The National	Gulf	Sri Lanka opens ports and free zones to UAE capital; Kuwait repels Iranian missiles and drones; UK ready to sign Gulf trade deal	n/a
Arabian Business / Al Jazeera	Gulf	Oil surges above $95 on renewed US-Iran fighting; Asia looks to store oil and gas closer to home	$95
Globe and Mail	Canada	BoC holds rate steady, suggests oil shock more concerning than trade war	2.25%
Valor Econômico / El Financiero	LatAm	Valor: market sees more Selic cuts this year. El Financiero: unavailable	n/a
CoinDesk / Cointelegraph	Crypto	Bitcoin back above $77,500 as Fed hike odds slide; ether and XRP ETF inflow streaks end as bitcoin funds rebound	+$101.2M

Leads as of the European mid-morning, Thursday. Paywalled outlets are read through their public headlines and first paragraphs; The Economist's print cover for the September 5 issue could not be confirmed and is not quoted. Matt Levine's Wednesday column could not be retrieved through any route and is not quoted.

The consensus is the yen. Reuters, Bloomberg, the FT, the Journal and Nikkei Asia all lead with the same currency and the same cause, a Bank of Japan that has talked itself into a September hike, and the FT adds the trade behind it, "Gold's run isn't yet done," on the morning the metal recrossed a line it had closed under twelve hours earlier. The divergence is in what the bond rally means. Reuters reads Thursday as a pause before Fed signals; the Journal names Williams and his "no urgency" as the reason the dollar fell; The Economist's two pieces argue the opposite of relief, that central banking has "a forbidding future" and that Europe's selloff is a post-holiday shock still under way; the Guardian's Nils Pratley says the gilt market will demand answers in the first budget. The regional tell is the sequencing. Sedaily leads not with the yen but with an American chip-tariff threat on the day Korea's exports came in at 98 billion dollars, Caixin leads with brokerage profits up fifty percent in a market that is falling, and Les Echos leads with French debt costs while Le Monde says the economy behind them has stopped growing. The desk's read: the press has agreed on the mechanism, a currency doing a central bank's job, and has not agreed on whether a bond market that rallies on weak jobs data is relieved or worried. The stories below take both sides.

THE STORIES

Ten Stories

1. The yen did the tightening, or the world's bond market did

Hajime Takata said it on Wednesday and the currency did the rest. The Bank of Japan board member urged "nimble" rate rises and said 2026 "marks a turning point," per Reuters, and Bloomberg's account of the same remarks had him leaving the door open to a hike larger than a quarter point, which is why its headline read "BOJ Board Hawk Takata Floats Outsized Rate Hike, Boosting Yen." Deputy Governor Himino, a day after Governor Ueda's "every meeting, including this month's," told the Journal's reporters the bank would stay vigilant on inflation as hike bets mount. Then Bloomberg reported on Thursday morning, citing people familiar, that the bank is inclined toward a 25 basis point increase this month with flexibility on the path after it. Dollar-yen, 159.70 at Wednesday's European midday when the last issue went out, closed the New York session at 158.71, down 1.20 percent from Tuesday's close, and was 156.8 by Thursday's European mid-morning, another 1.2 percent lower, per Investing.com; Nikkei Asia recorded the currency briefly touching the low 158s on Wednesday "as intervention concerns linger," and Bloomberg's Thursday lead has traders "on high alert for further intervention." The context for that alert is a number the Finance Ministry published on August 28: a record 96.5 billion dollars spent supporting the yen over the preceding month, per Reuters. Treasury Secretary Bessent had, on Monday, urged the BOJ chief to combat the weak yen with "decisive" monetary steps, per Reuters, and Goldman Sachs argued the same day that yen strength "hinges on a BOJ hike, not capital repatriation or intervention," per investingLive's summary. The currency market appears to have taken Goldman's side and priced the hike before the bank delivered it.

The bond market did something the desk did not expect after Wednesday. Japan's curve flattened again, from the long end this time, and the desk has two readings of it rather than one. The thirty-year JGB fell 8.3 basis points to 4.069 percent, the ten-year 5.5 to 2.947 from the 3.002 that had been a thirty-year high, and the two-year 2.6 to 1.837, per Investing.com's real-time quotes at the European mid-morning. The thirty-year auction the Bloomberg morning note said "risks adding fuel to debt selloff" drew 3.79 times cover, above the twelve-month average of 3.52 but below the prior sale's 3.86, with the tail widening to 0.28 from 0.21, per Bloomberg: stronger than the year's norm, weaker than last month's sale, which is a supply event that cleared rather than a bid that surged. TradingView's wrap called it "uneventful," and the desk gives that word the same weight as Bloomberg's comparison, because a tail that widens is the signature of a buyer paying up less, not more. The Nikkei fell only 0.17 percent to 64,214.48, per Yahoo Finance's daily history, after Wednesday's 2.85 percent drop, and the au Jibun Bank services PMI for August printed 52.5 against a 52.3 flash and 51.2 in July, a five-month high, per S&P Global's release. Nikkei Asia's second story is Berkshire Hathaway's chief executive Greg Abel saying the firm wants bigger stakes in Japan's trading houses. On Wednesday the desk wrote that a curve flattening from the front is a hike being moved forward. On Thursday the same curve flattened from the back. The first reading is credibility: a bank that is believed to be tightening does not need to pay a term premium for its fiscal position, and the long end took the premium out. The second reading, which fits the same data at least as well, is that Thursday was a global bond rally on a weak American jobs number, with gilts down 4 basis points and Bunds down 2 for reasons that have nothing to do with the Bank of Japan, and a thirty-year auction that cleared is a supply event that removed an overhang. The two-year JGB fell too, which the credibility reading has to explain away and the global reading does not. The desk holds both, weights the second at least as heavily, and notes that the yen's move sits on top of a record month of actual intervention, a third factor pointing the same way this week. The test between them is below.

The stake for this desk is written into its own bitcoin card. The second kill on that card is dollar-yen reversing below 155 within a week on rising JGB front-end yields, and the pair is now 1.8 yen from the line. The mechanism condition is not met: the two-year JGB fell on Thursday, so the yen rose on the expectation of a hike rather than on the front end pricing one, and the card's own rule calls that a suspension rather than a trigger if 155 prints this way. The desk now puts a number on the condition, because a rule that says "rising" without a threshold is a rule the desk would argue about at 155: the two-year has to be up 5 basis points or more over the preceding five sessions for a 155 print to count, and a print that coincides with confirmed Ministry of Finance intervention, or a same-session yen move of 3 percent or more, is handled separately in the card. The desk keeps the distinction because it matters for what the move is. A yen that rises on expectations can reverse on a bank that delivers less than expected on September 18; a yen that rises on front-end yields is being paid to rise. The market has the September hike at 58 percent per centralbank.watch's aggregation of pricing, and Reuters' August 25 poll had the bank taking the rate to 1.25 percent this month from the "around 1.0 percent" guideline the bank's own site still shows.

What confirms the credibility reading is the thirty-year holding under 4.10 into the September 18 decision with the two-year holding above 1.80 while gilts and Bunds give their Thursday rally back, the shape of a curve that believes its bank and not the world's. What confirms the global reading is the thirty-year back toward 4.15 on the first strong American number, with gilts and Bunds cheapening alongside it. What kills story one altogether is a two-year back above 1.86 with dollar-yen back above 158, which would say the yen move was intervention and expectation and nothing was paid. The number to watch in between is the ten-year at 3 percent: Nikkei Asia reported Japanese corporate pensions rotating into domestic bonds at that level on Wednesday, and Thursday's rally took it away from them.

2. Thirty-eight thousand

ADP counted 38,000 private-sector jobs added in August against 47,000 expected and a revised 46,000 in July, the fewest since January, per the payroll processor's Wednesday release as carried by CNBC. The composition is the story inside the number: education and health added 45,000 and leisure 16,000 while manufacturing lost 17,000, professional and business services 16,000, and firms with fewer than fifty employees added 3,000 in total, per ADP. Pay growth for job-stayers was 3.2 percent. Two hours after the print, the Federal Reserve's Beige Book said activity "increased modestly since early July," that employment "rose very slightly overall," and that prices "increased moderately in eight Districts," per the Board's summary. New York Fed President Williams, on CNBC, tied the rise in bond yields to a strong economy, per Reuters, and the Journal's read of the same appearance was that he "signals no urgency to hike rates." The day before, Governor Barr had said he was open to a hike if inflation does not moderate, per Reuters. Factory orders rose 0.9 percent in July against 0.6 expected, per the Census Bureau's release.

The strip moved five and a half points. Fed funds futures price the September 16 meeting at 60.4 percent for a move to 3.75 to 4.00 percent, from 65.9 percent on Wednesday, 67.9 on Tuesday and 37.3 a week ago, per Investing.com's monitor read against the 3.50 to 3.75 target range the Fed's open-market page shows unchanged since December 11, 2025. October prices 54.7 percent at 3.75 to 4.00 and 16.7 at 4.00 to 4.25; December has 39.5 percent at one hike, 38.8 at two and 9.7 at three, leaving 12.0 percent for no move all year. The Treasury curve did not move at all: the two-year closed at 4.39 and the ten-year at 4.79 for a second day, both still the 2026 highs and neither exceeded, the thirty-year at 5.27, the ten-year real yield up one basis point to 2.45 and the ten-year breakeven down one to 2.34, per the Treasury's nominal and inflation-indexed curves. The ten-year was 4.770 by the European morning, per Investing.com. Equities took the number as relief: the S&P 500 closed at 7,666.60, up 35.13 points or 0.46 percent, ending a three-session slide, the Russell 2000 rose 1.13 percent to 2,953.17, the Dow 0.56 percent to 53,061.95 and the Nasdaq Composite 0.45 percent to 26,217.83, per Yahoo Finance's history cross-checked against Investing.com; the VIX closed at 15.20, down 1.14, per CBOE's own file, an 11th percentile print over the last year, and the VVIX fell 5.00 to 86.25, a 5th percentile print. The MOVE index, the rates-vol gauge, was 77.88 on Tuesday, up 3.4 percent, per Investing.com, with no Wednesday print retrievable.

The stake is Friday, and the desk cannot give one consensus number for it. Investing.com's calendar shows 58,000 for August payrolls; TradingEconomics shows 79,000; the Bureau of Labor Statistics printed a 23,000 decline for July against an 80,000 forecast, with June revised to a 20,000 gain, per its August 7 release, and unemployment forecasts for August run from 4.1 to 4.3 percent depending on the survey. Tuesday's issue quoted 42,000 from a single source; the desk could not match that figure to any survey today and prints the range instead. The bigger contradiction is between the two halves of the Fed's own case. The hike case is prices: July's CPI was 3.4 percent with the energy index up 14.7 percent from a year earlier, per the Bureau of Labor Statistics, core PCE 3.3 percent per the Bureau of Economic Analysis, and the Michigan survey's one-year expectation at 4.0 percent with the five-year at 3.3 for a third month. The comparison the desk owes its readers is the one it left out on Wednesday: the American two-year at 4.39 sits 64 basis points above the top of the Fed's range, the German two-year at 2.96 sits 71 above the ECB's deposit rate, and the Japanese two-year at 1.84 sits 84 above the BOJ's guideline, so every developed front end is priced above its bank by roughly the same amount, which reads as one regime rather than three stories. The hold case is jobs: 38,000 from ADP, a July payroll that shrank, and a Beige Book that could not find hiring. A strip at 60 percent is the market weighing energy against employment and calling it three to two for energy. Kalshi's core CPI ladder for the August print, due September 11, straddles the 0.2 percent strike with the bid at 0.1, thin volume, per the exchange's API.

What to watch is the two-year at 4.39. It has closed at that level two days running through a hawkish Governor, a dovish President of the New York Fed and a 38,000 ADP, and it is the cleanest single reading of whether the hike is priced. A Friday close above it says the labour market did not change the Fed's mind; a close under 4.30 says it did, and the desk would then expect the December distribution to lose its second hike before it loses its first.

3. The rule closed the card. The metal reopened the question.

Spot gold closed Wednesday in New York at 4,385.74 dollars, up 1.30 percent from Tuesday's 4,329.50, having traded as low as 4,282.71 overnight, per Investing.com's historical table; the December COMEX contract settled at 4,414.60, up 0.41 percent, per the same vendor's futures history, and Yahoo Finance's front-month series shows 4,366.30. Every one of those prints is below 4,420, which was the desk's pre-registered second kill for its gold watch card after Tuesday's first close under the line. The card is closed. The desk wrote on Wednesday that a close below 4,420 closes it "with no replacement and no extension," and it does not renegotiate that because of what happened next: by the European mid-morning spot was 4,434, up 1.0 percent, the December contract 4,487, up 1.65 percent, and silver 66.5 dollars, up between 1.6 and 2.8 percent depending on which vendor's prior close is used, per Investing.com and Yahoo Finance. The FT's markets lead this morning is "Gold's run isn't yet done." Reuters' Wednesday afternoon wrap had the metal rebounding "over 1 percent as US dollar, yields pull back from highs."

The reason the desk prints the whipsaw in full is that it tests the thesis the card was built on. The card said gold was being sold by real yields. On Wednesday the ten-year real yield rose one basis point to 2.45 percent, per the Treasury's inflation-indexed curve, and gold rose 1.3 percent; on Thursday the real yield was unchanged in the morning and gold rose another percent. The 30-day correlation between daily gold changes and daily changes in the ten-year real yield is minus 0.30 over 30 paired observations, per the desk's own calculation from the Treasury and Yahoo series, a weak relationship with a standard error near 0.2. What did move was the dollar, with the index at 99.23, down 0.33 percent, per Investing.com, and the Fed strip, five and a half points lighter. The cleaner statement is that the metal is being priced off the front end and the dollar, tenors the inflation-indexed curve does not cover, and the desk said as much on Wednesday. Gold volatility rose with the price: CBOE's GVZ closed at 26.14, up 2.79 percent, a third consecutive rise and a 54th percentile print over the last year, per the exchange's file.

The official demand the desk described on Wednesday as "there and did not show" is now a July number. Central banks bought a net 23 tonnes in July, with the People's Bank of China taking 20, Poland 8 and the Czech National Bank 2, against Russia selling 6, per the World Gold Council's statistics published this morning; the year-to-date total of about 130 tonnes runs below the roughly 160 tonnes of the same period in 2025, per the same release. The more striking official item is where the gold is kept rather than how much: De Nederlandsche Bank said on Wednesday it moved 86 tonnes out of New York and Ottawa to London between March and August, raising London's share of Dutch reserves from 18.1 to 32.1 percent, because gold there "can be traded more easily" and is "the quickest for DNB to deploy in a crisis situation," per the bank's statement as carried by Euronews and NL Times. The SCMP's lead this morning is younger investors "stashing physical gold despite price swings."

The stake is the desk's discipline more than its view. A rule that closes a card on a close and then watches the asset rally is a rule doing its job; a desk that reopens the card because it wishes it had waited is a desk without rules. What would change the desk's mind about the metal, separately from the closed card, is a close above 4,500 with the dollar index under 99 for three sessions, the dollar being the variable the desk's own numbers say the metal trades on, with the ten-year real yield at or above 2.45 as the confirming signal that the buyer is not a rates buyer either; the desk would then need a new thesis rather than the old card. Watch the dollar index's 99 handle into Friday.

4. Open war, and a President weighing the word "over"

American strikes on Iran killed 18 people by The National's count and 19 by Al Jazeera's, with 105 to 108 wounded, including guests at a wedding in Sirik that Tehran calls a war crime and Iran's Red Crescent wants the International Criminal Court to examine, per both outlets' Thursday coverage. The President said the United States can strike "anytime we want," that Iran is "a failing nation," and that the renewed fighting "will not last too long," per Al Jazeera's live coverage. Kuwait's army said it was repelling "heinous" missile and drone attacks, Jordan and Bahrain were targeted, and the UAE's President condemned the attacks in a call with Washington, per The National and Al Jazeera. The Strait of Hormuz saw traffic fall below half its ten-day average, per The National's Kuwait live coverage, while Gulf News reported Central Command escorting 18 million barrels through the strait. The Treasury Secretary said Wednesday that airlines, the maritime sector and digital assets are the next Iran-related sanctions targets and warned "everyone" against supporting Tehran, per Al Arabiya and WION. The FT reports Russia is secretly helping Iran develop supersonic cruise missiles.

Then the Journal reported something that reads as the opposite of all of the above. The Wall Street Journal reports, citing people familiar with the matter and with no on-the-record quote, that Defense Secretary Hegseth is extending the deployments of about 50,000 American troops in the region, warship crews, air-defence units and paratroopers, through 2027, and that the President is discussing with aides "whether to declare the Iran war over," per the Times of Israel's carry of the report on Thursday morning; Moneycontrol's version ties the deliberation to the November vote, and CoinGape recorded bitcoin jumping on the report. The barrel priced the second story more than the first. Brent settled Wednesday at 95.63 dollars, up 1.0 percent and 6.7 percent over five sessions from 89.31 on August 28, per Yahoo Finance's continuous series, and was 95.32 by the European morning, down 0.3 percent; WTI settled at 91.01 for a Brent-WTI spread of 4.62, per the same source. CBOE's oil-volatility index closed at 47.77, down 2.77 percent, a 49th percentile print: the 23-session run above 50 that this desk tracked in July and August ended on August 13 and has not resumed, but OVX has now closed above 40 for 161 consecutive sessions, per the exchange's history file. Prediction markets price Hormuz traffic returning to normal by September 30 at 2.5 percent, by December 31 at 27.5 percent, and a US invasion of Iran before 2027 at 15.5 percent on 64 million dollars of volume, per Polymarket's Gamma API; Mojtaba Khamenei as head of state at year-end trades at 83.2 percent, and an Israel-Iran ceasefire continuing through September 30 at 85.5 percent, which is a different question from the American one.

The stake is the inflation number the Fed is hiking into. July's energy CPI was up 14.7 percent from a year earlier, per the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and that is the line item that turns a 2.5 percent core into a 3.4 percent headline. A war that is "declared over" with 50,000 troops staying and traffic through the strait at half its average is a war whose oil price has not been told. Al Jazeera's economy desk has Asia building storage closer to home "after the Strait of Hormuz crisis," which is demand for barrels now against supply later. Washington's other answer, the Venezuelan one, advanced on Wednesday: Energy Secretary Wright signed an agreement expanding Chevron's operations and Eni is expanding its own, per Al Jazeera, under OFAC licences that route payments through PDVSA joint ventures rather than the government, per NPR's account of the terms; Nicolás Maduro, in American custody since January, asserted immunity in a US court on Wednesday, per Al Jazeera. The desk's Brent short bias died on Monday and stays dead: the reopening conditions, a close under 91 with OVX under 45 among them, are zero for four. Reuters' question, "What are Iran's options to retaliate," has three answers the desk can name and the barrel would price differently: proxy strikes on Gulf shipping, a direct hit on an American base, or mining in the strait, and the third is the one that suspends the bitcoin card's entry. Israel's own posture in this round is absent from every source the desk read, which is why the Israel-Iran ceasefire contracts and the American war are separate questions on the boards.

What confirms the escalation story is a laden tanker lost in the strait or a strike on a Fifth Fleet or Camp Arifjan facility; either suspends the bitcoin card's entry regardless of level. What confirms the de-escalation story is the President saying the word "over" on the record with Hormuz traffic back above half its ten-day average. Brent under 91 on the second is the price the desk would need to see before treating it as anything but a headline. The escalation side gets its own line from today: a Brent close above 100 with OVX above 55 is the desk's marker for a retaliation the market believes, separate from the base-strike clause.

5. The big book crossed its line first

Binance's top-trader position ratio, the long-to-short ratio by size among the largest 20 percent of accounts, printed 1.9774 at Thursday's UTC turn, per the exchange's daily series. It had been above 2.0 for eleven consecutive prints from August 23 through September 2, a streak this desk counted on Wednesday, and Thursday's is the first sub-2 print since August 22. The all-account ratio by count fell to 1.2148 from 1.2862 and was 1.1949 on the latest four-hour bar, a 5.6 percent decline on the daily print that is larger in proportion than the top-trader ratio's 4.5 percent, still above the 1.10 gate the desk set on Wednesday as the ten-print mean, per the same series: both books thinned, the small one from a higher base and not yet through its line. The top-trader ratio by account count fell to 1.2957 from 1.3883. Open interest bled: Binance's live endpoint read 107,411 bitcoin at the European mid-morning against 108,760 on Tuesday midday, a 1.23 percent decline across twelve straight four-hour bars, and the daily series read 107,652 at the UTC turn, per the exchange; the desk uses the live series for this table and the daily one for the streak, and names them each time after Wednesday's reviewers flagged the mix. Taker flow was net sell for a fourth day in five, with Wednesday's buy-to-sell ratio at 0.9627. Funding was 0.0059 percent on the latest eight-hour print, a 34th percentile reading over thirty days with a seven-day average of 0.0079 percent, or 8.7 percent annualised, per Binance. Bybit's BTC funding is pinned at its 0.0100 percent cap, per Bybit, and every coin on Hyperliquid except HYPE prints 0.00125 percent an hour, the venue's baseline interest component with the premium term near zero, per the venue's API and its funding documentation; HYPE alone carries a negative premium. The perpetual trades 3.6 basis points under spot on Binance, per both endpoints.

The ETF tape turned for a day. Bitcoin's spot ETFs took in 101.2 million dollars on Wednesday after Tuesday's 236.5 million outflow, per SoSoValue and Farside data as reported by Cointelegraph, leaving the two-day net at 135.3 million out, and one outlet's read of the same Wednesday put the inflow between 206 and 333 million, a spread wide enough that the desk treats the direction as confirmed and the size as not; and BofA's read of EPFR data had crypto funds taking 3.2 billion dollars in the week to August 27, the most since October 2025, per multiple outlets' coverage on August 31. Strategy bought 4,603 bitcoin for 369.7 million dollars, its first purchase since June, at an implied 80,338 dollars, taking holdings to 845,050, per its Monday disclosure as carried by The Block and CoinDesk; a Japan-listed treasury company, Remixpoint, sold its altcoins for bitcoin with dogecoin the only losing position in the rotation, per Decrypt and CoinDesk. Bitfinex's analysts put the market's true mean cost basis at 76,350 dollars, the short-term holder cost basis at 69,980 and rising about 300 dollars a day, and long-term holder SOPR at 0.98, per crypto.news' Wednesday report of their note. Spot is 77,927 dollars, up 1.1 percent, per CoinGecko; the Wednesday UTC candle closed at 77,340.01 with a low of 76,264, per Binance; Tuesday's low was 76,420 and the perpetual's Wednesday low 76,152, so two daily lows and one futures print sit within 300 dollars of the zone's top, and no daily close has printed inside the desk's 74,500 to 76,500 zone. The 20-day average of Binance closes is 73,886 and the 50-day 68,168, per the desk's calculation from the exchange's candles, so the zone sits above trend and the 73,000 kill sits 900 dollars under it. Deribit's DVOL is 36.63, a 14-day low from 43.41 on August 24, per the exchange's index; realised 30-day volatility is 42.2 percent annualised on a 365-day basis, per the desk's calculation from CoinGecko's daily closes.

The stake is the desk's entry rule, and Thursday met half of it. The rule set on Wednesday requires a daily close inside the zone with the account ratio at or below 1.10 and the top-trader ratio not above 2.07. The top-trader condition is now met at 1.98; the account condition is not at 1.21; the zone has not closed. The desk reads the sub-2 print as the large book taking size off into a rally rather than a reversal to short, which is the de-crowding the rule was written to wait for, and it reads 1.21 by count as retail still adding into the same rally. The options board underneath is unchanged in shape: 4,479 bitcoin of September 25 puts at 75,000, 10,969 calls and 8,716 puts at 70,000 where the expiry's maximum pain sits, 8,964 calls at 85,000 and 7,713 at 90,000, per Deribit; the December 80,000 call, at 8,719 contracts, is the largest line in that expiry, and the September 25 call at 70,000, at 10,969, the largest on the whole board. Above spot the levels the desk left out on Wednesday are the August 25 and August 28 highs at 81,273 and 81,479, per Binance, a shelf the 85,000 target has to clear first. Prediction markets price 90,000 by December 31 at 46.0 percent, 100,000 at 19.5 and a dip to 55,000 at 21.5, per Polymarket. Kalshi's January 1 price ladder has near-uniform volume across strikes from 47,500 to 82,500, per the exchange, a market with no pin.

What to watch is Friday's payrolls print with the account ratio, which has fallen on every four-hour bar since Wednesday midday and is walking toward the gate rather than away from it; a four-hour print under 1.15 before Friday would put the entry one clean data point away. A close inside the zone with the ratio at 1.10 is the entry the desk wrote; a close inside the zone with the ratio at 1.20 is the same price with a crowd still on it, and the desk will not take it. Thursday's low so far is 76,968, so the setup can also drift out of reach before the number arrives, in which case the desk missed it and will say so rather than chase. Kill unchanged: a daily close under 73,000, with the gap risk below it described in the card.

6. Twelve days, then a minus sign

Ether's spot ETFs saw 48 million dollars leave on Wednesday, ending a run of twelve consecutive trading days of inflows that had brought in 1.62 billion, per SoSoValue and Farside data as reported by Cointelegraph. BlackRock's ETHA lost 53.4 million, Fidelity's FETH 26.2 million and Grayscale's ETHE 23.5 million, offset by 53 million into BlackRock's staked product ETHB, per the same report. The XRP funds ended an eleven-session run of their own with a 7.2 million outflow after 170 million in, taking cumulative XRP ETF inflows to 1.68 billion, per Cointelegraph and CoinDesk, which reported Goldman Sachs as the largest institutional holder. Wednesday's issue had the ether streak at eleven days; it ran one more and broke.

The positioning in ether is more one-sided than in bitcoin by count and less by size, and the desk's window for saying so is fourteen days, the depth of the series it holds. Binance's all-account ratio for ETHUSDT is 2.7523, the highest in the fourteen-day window, against a top-trader position ratio of 1.5795 that has not crossed 2.0 in the same window, per the exchange's daily series; funding printed 0.0084 percent on the latest bar, a 74th percentile reading against a seven-day average of 0.0041, and the perpetual trades 5.2 basis points under spot, per Binance. Ether is 2,406 dollars, flat on the day and down 3.8 percent on the week against bitcoin's 1.5, per CoinGecko; Wednesday's UTC candle closed at 2,391.92 with a low of 2,356.41, per Binance. On Deribit the September 25 expiry's maximum pain is near 2,150 with 37,085 puts at the 2,100 strike, the largest put line on the board, and the December book is call-heavy at 3,200 with 68,352 contracts, per the exchange; ether DVOL is 50.68, near its fourteen-day low. Bitmine bought 131 million dollars of ether on Monday, its largest purchase since June, per CoinDesk. On the chain itself the one-day average base fee is 0.12 gwei against a thirty-day average of 0.18, per ultrasound.money, a network with a third less demand for blockspace than its own monthly norm; Lido's TVL is down 2.5 percent on the week and EigenCloud's 3.8, per DefiLlama.

The stake is a new watch card, and the desk is careful about why. Retail is long ether by a wider count than it is long bitcoin, the marginal ETF dollar has stopped for one day, funding is paying longs at its highest percentile in a month, and the perpetual is at a discount, which is the shape a crowded position takes before it is tested. The counter is real: the ETF streak that just broke was twelve days and 1.62 billion, the largest institutional bid ether has had, and one day of outflow after twelve of inflow is a pause until it is two. The desk therefore writes the card as a watch with a short-bias trigger, and it writes it for after Friday, because it said on Wednesday it would not front-run payrolls and the rule does not change because the coin did.

The trigger is a daily UTC close below 2,356, Wednesday's low, after Friday's print, with the account ratio still above 2.5, a second day of ETF outflow confirmed the following morning since flow data lags a day, and one sign that the large book agrees, either the top-trader ratio under 1.50 or open interest rising into the close, because the top-trader ratio has sat between 1.55 and 1.59 all window and open interest is flat, which means the professional book has not joined the crowd it would be fading. The kill is a daily close above 2,490, the August 31 high, or a single ETF day above 200 million. The 20-day average of closes is 2,300, per the desk's calculation, which is why the first target is where it is and why the second is the trade. Watch the 2,100 put wall on Deribit for where the dealers are.

7. Zero point eight

Swiss consumer prices rose 0.8 percent from a year earlier in August, from 0.4 percent in July and against a 0.5 percent consensus, with the monthly change at 0.4 percent after a 0.1 percent decline and core inflation at 0.4 percent from 0.3, per the Federal Statistical Office's Thursday release as reported by FXStreet and FX.co; swissinfo carried Bloomberg's headline, "Swiss Inflation Rate Jumps to the Highest Level in Two Years." That is the number. Wednesday's issue printed a different one, a 3.5 percent reading described as the highest since 1993, and built its fourth story and part of its Economist's Corner on it. The August figure had not been released when that issue went out; the number the desk printed does not exist in the Federal Statistical Office's series, and the desk cannot trace where it came from. It was wrong, and the correction sits at the top of the Bottom Line as well as here.

With the right number the Swiss story is smaller and more interesting. The franc strengthened anyway: dollar-franc is 0.8093, down 0.44 percent, per Investing.com, and the Swiss ten-year yields 0.446 percent, up 2.5 basis points, against a policy rate of 0.00 percent that the Swiss National Bank last confirmed on June 18 with its next assessment on September 24, per the SNB. A country whose inflation is 0.8 percent and whose long bond pays 0.45 has a currency absorbing the front-end shock rather than an economy importing it, and the FXStreet report attributes the rise in inflation to petroleum prices and a weaker franc over the summer, which is the transmission working in the direction the textbook says. The mistake Wednesday's issue made was to put Switzerland in the same sentence as Japan and Germany. It belongs with the countries whose exchange rate is doing the adjusting, and this morning's franc says the market agrees.

The rest of the continent read as the desk described it. The euro area's final services PMI for August was 51.6 against a 51.7 flash, with Germany's at 49.7, in contraction, and Italy's at 55.2, per S&P Global as carried by Il Sole 24 Ore; the ECB's deposit rate is 2.25 percent since June 17 with the Governing Council meeting September 9 to 10, per the ECB. The German two-year fell 1.9 basis points to 2.964 percent and the ten-year 2.2 to 3.355 by mid-morning, per Investing.com's quotes, the figures the desk uses for every spread below, so the front end that rose 3.5 on Wednesday gave back half. Gilts led the rally: the two-year fell 4.6 basis points to 4.575, the ten-year 4.25 to 5.194 from a 52-week high of 5.294, and the thirty-year 3.8 to 5.827, per Investing.com; the Guardian's lead is the Chancellor trying "to calm bond market fears as sell-off threatens crucial first budget," and Nils Pratley's column says the market "will demand proper answers." The Bank of England holds at 3.75 percent after a 6 to 3 vote on July 30 with the next decision on September 17, per the Bank. France's ten-year yields 4.230 percent for a spread of 87.5 basis points over Bunds, per the desk's arithmetic from Investing.com's quotes, and Le Monde's lead is that "the French economy has stopped growing" while Les Echos leads with the 2027 budget and debt costs "always higher." Italy's spread is 83.7 basis points with the BTP at 4.192, near its 52-week high of 4.254; Il Sole 24 Ore's own morning figure is 83.

The stake is the September 10 ECB decision with a two-year Bund at 2.96 against a 2.25 deposit rate, roughly three quarter-point hikes over the bond's life before term premium, a reading the front end held even through Thursday's rally. What to watch is whether Thursday's 2 basis point give-back in the Bund two-year becomes 10 by the meeting; if it does, the ECB gets to hold into a market that has stopped asking, and if it does not, September 10 is the first meeting at which a hold reads as a decision. For Switzerland, watch September 24 and nothing else: 0.8 percent inflation at a zero rate is a bank with time.

8. Four courts, one petition, and a billion dollars

New Jersey's Attorney General Jennifer Davenport filed a 332-page petition on Wednesday asking the Supreme Court to decide whether the Commodity Futures Trading Commission has exclusive jurisdiction over sports contracts on prediction markets or whether states keep their gambling authority, after the Third Circuit sided with Kalshi against the state's cease-and-desist, per The Block. "States have long adopted careful laws to regulate gambling, including to prevent compulsive gambling, gambling by minors, and insider trading on sports games," the petition says; Kalshi's spokesperson answered that the exchange "cannot be regulated by 50 different regulators," per the same report. A Michigan court on Thursday ordered Kalshi to keep its sports markets blocked in the state, per The Block, and the Ninth Circuit sided with Nevada against the exchange on Friday, August 28, per Nevada Current and the Arizona Mirror, with the CFTC filing in support of Kalshi's position that a contract structured as a swap is a swap whatever its subject, per PYMNTS' account of the filing; a Polymarket contract on the Supreme Court taking the case traded at 52 percent on August 31, per Casinobeats. On the federal side the CFTC moved on Wednesday to dismiss CME Group's lawsuit over Kalshi's crypto perpetual futures, calling the suit "much ado about nothing," per The Block; Reuters reports Kalshi will file for US crude oil perpetuals, and the FT's Unhedged notes the exchange has banned George Santos for manipulation. Across the street, Polymarket closed a 1 billion dollar round at a 21 billion dollar valuation led by 1789 Capital, Donald Trump Jr.'s firm, per the New York Times' DealBook and Bloomberg; the Journal's Heard on the Street puts the firm's own cheque at around 300 million.

The reason a trading desk cares is that these are the venues whose Fed odds it quotes, and this morning they disagree. Polymarket prices no change on September 16 at 49.5 percent and a 25 basis point hike at 48.5, on 19.8 and 16.6 million dollars of volume, per the Gamma API, roughly where it was on Wednesday; Kalshi prices the 25 basis point hike at 53 cents last with a further 2 cents on a larger move, 55 percent for any hike, up from 48 on Wednesday's read, per the exchange's API; the fed funds strip is at 60.4, per Investing.com; Manifold's multi-choice market has the hike at 50.7. The largest venue is at a coin flip, the venue in four courts leans hike, and the futures market that both claim to track leans harder. The four Fed contracts did 2.7 million dollars of Polymarket volume in 24 hours, more than every other market the desk tracked combined, per Gamma. Elsewhere on the boards the CLARITY Act being signed into law in 2026 trades at 15.5 percent, up 1.5 points on the day, twelve days before the September 15 cloture vote that needs 60 senators from a 53-seat majority, per Polymarket and The Block's account of the whip count; a US government shutdown on October 1 trades at 2 percent on Kalshi after the House passed a continuing resolution through December 11 by 370 to 48 on Tuesday, per NPR and NBC. The one market that moved more than the Fed's was GPT-6 by September 30, up 33 points to 92 percent, per Polymarket, after reports of a model called "Astra" producing outputs over the weekend.

The stake is structural. A venue that raises a billion dollars from the President's son while its rival petitions the Supreme Court against a state attorney general is a market whose regulatory floor is being set by litigation in real time, and the G20's Asheville communique on Wednesday committed to "clear pathways for sound digital financial and digital assets innovation" without a number in it, per The Block. The incentive is plain: states want the tax base of sports betting, the CFTC wants the jurisdiction, and the exchanges want one regulator, which is why Kalshi is filing crude perps and crypto perps under the CFTC's roof while the sports contracts go to court. For a reader of Fed odds the practical consequence is that Kalshi's book, the one running ahead of Polymarket's on the hike, is also the one whose customer base is being narrowed state by state.

What to watch is the spread between the two venues on the same question, measured on the any-hike basis. On Wednesday it was one point, 49 against 48; this morning it is about six, 55 against 49.2, and four and a half on the 25-basis-point legs alone. If it closes toward Kalshi, the hold camp on Polymarket was stale money; if it closes toward Polymarket, the hike camp on Kalshi was. And the strip at 60.4 is the arbiter neither of them has to answer to until September 16.

9. Lowest since Lehman

China's holdings of US Treasuries fell to 633.4 billion dollars in June from 659.3 billion in May, a 4 percent drop to the lowest level since September 2008, per the Treasury's TIC release of August 18 as reported by Reuters and Bloomberg; Japan's fell 2.3 percent to 1.116 trillion, the United Kingdom's 1 percent to 939.9 billion, and total foreign holdings 9.299 trillion from 9.371, per the same release. Net capital inflows into US assets were 133.5 billion in June with only 6.8 billion of it into Treasuries. The desk marks all of that (S), secondary, because the Treasury's own TIC pages did not render this morning; the numbers are corroborated across five outlets carrying the same wire. July's data is due in the second half of September.

The other reserve managers moved their metal rather than their bonds. The Dutch central bank's 86 tonnes to London, described in story three, is the week's clearest statement of what a reserve is for; the World Gold Council's July tally has central banks net buyers of 23 tonnes with China taking 20, per the Council's Thursday release. The Bank of Korea's reserves rose a record 14.33 billion dollars in August to 442.28 billion, the largest monthly gain in the series, driven by commercial banks' foreign-currency deposits at the central bank, with foreign securities up 7.07 billion to 387.07 billion, per the Bank's statement as carried by the Korea Herald and Yonhap. Norway's fund is reported by Investment & Pensions Europe to be weighing a shift of 100 billion euros out of government bonds, and pitched private equity again on Wednesday, per Bloomberg; its chief governance officer, Carine Smith Ihenacho, will leave at year-end, per NBIM's own notice. Saudi Arabia's PIF disclosed a 37.9 billion dollar US equity book for the second quarter, from 12 billion in the first, with a 26.34 billion position in SpaceX, listed on Nasdaq since its June offering per CNBC, the largest line and about 69 percent of the disclosed book, per aggregators of the SEC filing; the desk has not read the filing itself. Kuwait's government is preparing to borrow from the Future Generations Fund, per Arab News, and the Kuwait Investment Authority sold down its stake in Germany's GEA through a JPMorgan-led placement, per GlobalCapital. An ADIA unit anchored a 2 billion dollar first close of India's NIIF second infrastructure fund alongside CPP and Ontario Teachers', per Infrastructure Investor.

The stake is next week's calendar. The Treasury announced on Thursday that the 3-year note auctions on September 8, the 10-year reopening on September 9 and the 30-year reopening on September 10, all settling September 15, per TreasuryDirect's API, into a ten-year at 4.79 percent that is the 2026 high and a thirty-year at 5.27. This week's bills went fine: the 52-week cleared at 3.61 times cover at 3.98 percent and the 17-week at 2.78 times, per the same source. The question the TIC data poses is who takes the long bond at 5.27 when the third-largest foreign holder is at a 2008 low, the largest is at home watching its own thirty-year pay 4.07, the second-largest figure is inflated by London's custodial role and says less about British demand than its size suggests, and the biggest single sovereign fund in Europe is reported to be discussing leaving government bonds altogether. The answer the market gave in Tokyo on

Thursday is that a long auction clears when the central bank is believed; the answer Washington will get on September 10 is the one the desk is waiting for.

What to watch is the thirty-year auction tail on September 10 and the July TIC release. A tail over 2 basis points with China's holdings lower again would say the foreign bid is now a price-taker rather than a price-setter; a clean auction says the domestic bid at 5.27 is deep enough not to need it.

10. Eleven straight in São Paulo

The Bovespa rose 5,482.61 points, 3.05 percent, to 185,205.10 on Wednesday, its eleventh consecutive gain, per Investing.com and Yahoo Finance, which agree to the decimal; the real strengthened 0.92 percent to 5.10 per dollar, per Canal Rural's close. The local press names the cause in one phrase, the "trade eleitoral": Quaest's poll released the same day had President Lula at 37 percent and Flávio Bolsonaro at 30 in the stimulated first-round scenario with a third candidate at 10, from 2,004 interviews taken August 30 to September 1, per Gazeta do Povo's summary, and Money Times' live wrap has the index jumping 3 percent "after the Quaest poll" with Magazine Luiza the standout. The desk has the headline numbers and not the runoff scenarios, so it reports the market's reaction without characterising the poll. Notícias Agrícolas adds foreign flow to the reasons. The day before, the tenth gain had come with Petrobras, Vale and the banks, per InfoMoney.

The macro underneath it is the one the desk described on Wednesday: a Selic at 14.00 percent after the August 5 cut, with the next Copom decision on September 16, the same day as the Fed's, per the central bank; second-quarter GDP up 0.5 percent on the quarter against 0.4 expected and 2.0 percent on the year, per IBGE's Tuesday release; and Valor's Thursday lead, "the market sees more Selic cuts this year." Brazil's five-year CDS fell 3.5 basis points to 117.9, the largest move among the thirteen sovereigns the desk tracks, per Investing.com. Wednesday's issue called the Bovespa "the one index that rose" on a day of global selling and read it as a rates-and-oil hedge; Thursday's 3 percent on a poll says the hedge has a second leg, and it is political.

The stake is what an election trade does to a rates trade when the barrel turns. A 14 percent policy rate is the reason the real is 5.10 and the reason the index is a carry destination; a market that rallies 3 percent on a poll is pricing the fiscal path after October, which is a different thing from the Selic, and the two can diverge fast if the Copom's September cut is smaller than the market's "more cuts" reading. The Venezuelan supply story next door, 65 billion barrels on paper and Chevron doubling output in the fields, is the long-run headwind for Petrobras that Wednesday's issue named and that a poll does not move.

What to watch is the twelfth session and the real. Eleven straight gains is a streak that ends; the question is whether it ends on the Copom on the 16th, on the next Quaest, or on a barrel under 90. A real back above 5.20 with the index still rising would say the flow was local; a real at 5.05 says the foreigners Notícias Agrícolas mentioned are still arriving.

Crypto

Bitcoin is 77,927 dollars at the European mid-morning, up 1.07 percent on the day and down 1.5 percent on the week, per CoinGecko, with Binance's last trade at 77,950 and a 24-hour range of 76,264 to 78,184; the two venues agree within 23 dollars. The total crypto market capitalisation is 2.62 trillion dollars with 77.4 billion of 24-hour volume, per CoinGecko's global endpoint, against 81.7 billion on Wednesday; bitcoin's dominance is 59.74 percent by the desk's own division of its 1.564 trillion capitalisation into the total, and ether's 11.21 percent. CoinGecko's own 24-hour capitalisation change reads minus 2.78 percent while most large caps are green, which the desk reads as a window artifact from Wednesday's lows rather than a contradiction. The Fear and Greed index is 65, from 63 on Wednesday and 69 on Tuesday, per alternative.me, and has printed between 62 and 74 for ten days.

ASSET	PRICE	24H	7D	30D	24H VOLUME	MARKET CAP	FROM ATH
BTC	$77,927	+1.07%	-1.50%	+22.0%	$27.56B	$1,564B	-38.2%
ETH	$2,406.43	+0.01%	-3.80%	+29.3%	$13.23B	$293.5B	-51.4%
BNB	$702.25	+2.45%	-1.10%	+18.2%	$0.74B	$93.5B	-48.7%
XRP	$1.37	+2.80%	-2.80%	+27.3%	$2.54B	$86.1B	-62.3%
SOL	$100.80	+1.47%	-0.90%	+36.9%	$3.25B	$59.0B	-65.6%
TRX	$0.3263	+1.09%	-2.60%	-0.80%	$0.35B	$31.0B	-24.3%
HYPE	$82.09	+0.17%	+0.50%	+51.1%	$1.10B	$18.3B	-5.3%
ZEC	$829.36	-0.01%	+5.40%	+70.8%	$0.52B	$14.0B	-74.0%
DOGE	$0.0833	+2.44%	-4.70%	+18.2%	$0.65B	$13.0B	-88.6%
LINK	$11.24	+0.89%	-3.70%	+37.3%	$0.35B	$8.4B	-78.7%
ADA	$0.2079	+6.13%	-2.60%	+5.2%	$0.42B	$7.8B	-93.3%
UNI	$5.76	-8.59%	+30.2%	+47.0%	$0.87B	$3.6B	-87.2%
SUI	$0.7749	+7.25%	+1.60%	+11.2%	$0.59B	$3.2B	-85.5%
AVAX	$7.29	+1.42%	-1.50%	+6.8%	$0.21B	$3.1B	-95.0%
PEPE	$0.00000347	+0.77%	-8.80%	+19.0%	$0.19B	$1.5B	-87.6%
BONK	$0.0000030	+0.35%	-1.40%	+5.8%	$0.03B	$0.26B	-94.9%

CoinGecko, live at the European mid-morning Thursday. ATH references: BTC 126,080 (October 6, 2025), ETH 4,946 (August 24, 2025).

Uniswap gave back 8.6 percent of a week in which it had risen 30.2 percent on the fee switch and Robinhood Chain volumes, per CoinGecko, and the trending list is the Robinhood Chain meme category, Arbitrum up 15.8 percent, LIT up 9.5 and SUI up 6.4 alongside launchpad tokens PONS and MARSCOIN, per CoinGecko's trending endpoint. Cardano's 6.1 percent and SUI's 7.3 percent are the largest moves among the majors. ZEC is up 70.8 percent on the month and 5.4 on the week with its Binance funding pinned at the 0.0100 percent cap for a 99th percentile print over thirty days, per Binance, the most crowded long on the board by that measure; XRP, PUMP and ASTER are also at their venue caps.

ETF flows

FUND GROUP	WED SEP 2	TUE SEP 1	STREAK STATUS	DETAIL

Bitcoin spot ETFs	+$101.2M	-$236.5M	Outflow run ended	Tuesday was the largest outflow since July 31; per-fund breakdown for Wednesday not published in the sources the desk could reach
Ether spot ETFs	-$48.0M	+$11M	12-day inflow streak ended ($1.62B)	ETHA -$53.4M, FETH -$26.2M, ETHE -$23.5M; ETHB +$53M; smaller funds make up the 2.1M difference to the net. Tuesday figure per Wednesday's issue
XRP spot ETFs	-$7.2M	+$14M	11-day inflow streak ended ($170M)	Cumulative $1.68B; Goldman Sachs the largest institutional holder per CoinDesk
Crypto funds (EPFR, weekly)	+$3.2B	n/a	Largest week since October 2025	BofA's read of EPFR data for the week to August 27, per coverage dated August 31

Cointelegraph and CoinDesk reports of SoSoValue and Farside data. One outlet cited a Wednesday bitcoin figure between 206 and 333 million; the desk uses the 101.2 million print that two outlets share and flags the discrepancy.

Derivatives

VENUE / SERIES	BTC	ETH	SOL	NOTE
Binance funding, latest 8h print	0.0059%	0.0084%	0.0045%	7d averages 0.0079 / 0.0041 / -0.0011; 30d percentiles 34 / 74 / 47
Binance funding, 7d annualised	8.69%	4.48%	-1.21%	SOL longs were paid on average over the week
Bybit funding	0.0100%	0.0056%	0.0041%	BTC at Bybit's cap, 10.95% annualised
Hyperliquid funding, hourly	0.00125%	0.00125%	0.00125%	Baseline interest component with the premium near zero on every tracked coin except HYPE at -0.00082% (-7.2% annualised)
Binance OI, live, mid-morning	107,411	2,312,109	8,638,686	BTC down 1.23% across the last twelve 4h bars from 108,760
Binance OI, daily series, UTC turn	107,652	2,308,400	8,670,082	BTC -0.60% on the day, +0.03% over 14 bars; SOL +3.04% on the day, +7.87% over the window
Bybit OI	55,067	754,959	6,702,628	USD 4.29B / 1.82B / 0.67B
OKX OI	28,507	647,565	n/a	USD 2.22B / 1.56B
Hyperliquid OI	38,708	921,994	5,948,223	USD 3.01B / 2.22B / 0.60B; HYPE 22.6M coins, 1.86B
Four-venue BTC OI	229,692	n/a	n/a	About 17.9 billion dollars; excludes CME, which timed out on every route
Perp minus spot, Binance	-3.6bp	-5.2bp	-5.7bp	All three perpetuals at a discount to spot

Positioning, Binance daily series

SERIES	SEP 1	SEP 2	SEP 3	READ
BTC all-account long/short by count	0.9948	1.2862	1.2148	Above the desk's 1.10 gate for a second day; 1.1949 on the latest 4h bar
BTC top-trader by position size	2.0977	2.0705	1.9774	First print under 2.0 since August 22; the 11-day streak above 2 ended
BTC top-trader by account count	1.0563	1.3883	1.2957	Retreating from Wednesday's high
BTC taker buy/sell	0.9205	0.9627	n/a	Net sell on four of the last five closed days

ETH all-account long/short by count	2.2971	2.7286	2.7523	Highest in the 14-day window; 2.6873 on the latest 4h bar
ETH top-trader by position size	1.5933	1.5464	1.5795	Never above 2.0 in the window
ETH taker buy/sell	0.9219	0.9577	n/a	Net sell

Options, Deribit

Bitcoin options open interest is 418,803 contracts, about 33.5 billion dollars, with 270,070 calls against 148,734 puts for a put-call ratio of 0.55 by open interest, per Deribit's book summary at the European mid-morning. The September 25 expiry carries 172,783 contracts with maximum pain near 70,000; December carries 112,298 with maximum pain near 72,000; the September 4 weekly, 30,026, and September 11, 15,996, with a put-call ratio of 0.95 and maximum pain near 77,000, the only expiry on the board where puts nearly match calls. Ether's book is 1.73 million contracts, 4.17 billion dollars, put-call 0.57, with September 25 maximum pain near 2,150 and December near 2,200. Bitcoin DVOL is 36.63, ether DVOL 50.68, both grinding lower for two weeks. Block-trade data for Wednesday could not be retrieved, and the 25-delta skew was not pulled, which matters because a 0.55 put-call ratio can be bullish positioning or covered-call writing and the skew is what tells them apart. The expiry table below shows the six largest expiries, about 399,000 of the 418,803 contracts; the remainder sits in smaller weeklies.

EXPIRY	OI (BTC)	CALLS	PUTS	P/C	MAX PAIN	LARGEST STRIKES
Sep 4	30,026	18,942	11,084	0.585	~72,000	n/a
Sep 11	15,996	8,215	7,781	0.947	~77,000	n/a
Sep 25	172,783	114,435	58,348	0.510	~70,000	70K 19,685 (10,969C / 8,716P); 85K 9,418; 78K 8,425; 90K 8,292; 75K 7,833 (4,479P); 100K 7,590; 80K 6,052; 60K 5,832
Oct 30	36,416	24,186	12,230	0.506	~70,000	n/a
Dec 25	112,298	71,731	40,568	0.566	~72,000	80K 9,947 (8,719C); 60K 7,101 (6,314P); 100K 6,313; 120K 5,857; 40K 4,755 (4,504P); 90K 4,602
Mar 27	31,101	19,812	11,289	0.570	~70,000	n/a

Liquidations across the market totalled about 438 million dollars from 108,063 traders over 24 hours with the largest single order 6.13 million on ETHUSDT, per a KuCoin market flash the desk could not cross-check against a second aggregator; a second figure of 62.6 million in the same result set appears to be a single-exchange number, and the desk prints neither with confidence. No current liquidation-cluster map was retrievable; the only one returned referenced levels in the 64,000s and is stale.

KEY LEVELS · BITCOIN

100,000	call wall, 7,254 BTC of Sep 25 calls out of 7,590 open there; 6,009 calls in December (Deribit)
90,000	call wall, 7,713 BTC of Sep 25 calls; Polymarket 46.0% by Dec 31
85,000	desk target; 8,964 BTC of Sep 25 calls (Deribit)
80,000	December's largest line, 8,719 calls; Strategy's implied purchase price 80,338
81,479	August 28 high; August 25 high 81,273 (Binance), the shelf above the target's path
78,184	Binance 24h high (Thursday)
77,000	Sep 11 expiry maximum pain, the same day as CPI; the only expiry where puts nearly match calls (Deribit)

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77,927    spot at press (CoinGecko)
77,340    Wednesday UTC close (Binance); Tuesday 77,439
76,500    top of the desk's long-bias entry zone
76,350    true market mean cost basis (Bitfinex, per crypto.news)
76,264    Wednesday's low; Tuesday 76,420; the perpetual 76,152; Thursday's low so far 76,968
75,000    put strike inside the zone, 4,479 BTC of Sep 25 open interest (Deribit)
74,500-76,500   desk long-bias entry zone; two daily lows and one futures print near its top, no
daily close inside it
73,886    20-day average of Binance closes (desk calculation)
73,500    three-to-six-month holder cost basis (Bitfinex)
73,000    desk kill, daily close
70,000    Sep 25 maximum pain; 8,716 puts and 10,969 calls at the strike (Deribit)
69,980    short-term holder cost basis, rising about 300 a day (Bitfinex)
68,168    50-day average of Binance closes (desk calculation), on top of the 68,000 long-term
support Bitfinex cites; nothing the desk can source below it
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MARKETS

Traditional Markets

The S&P 500 closed Wednesday at 7,666.60, up 35.13 points or 0.46 percent, ending three sessions of losses; the Nasdaq Composite rose 0.45 percent to 26,217.83, the Nasdaq 100 0.23 percent to 29,143.33, the Dow 0.56 percent to 53,061.95 and the Russell 2000 1.13 percent to 2,953.17, per Yahoo Finance's daily history, with the S&P close cross-checked against Investing.com. The equal-weight S&P, RSP, rose 0.46 percent against SPY's 0.44, so the breadth was in small caps rather than inside the large-cap index, per Yahoo Finance. Reuters' wrap: "Wall St ends higher as stocks reclaim some shine." S&P futures were 7,688.25, up 0.15 percent, and Nasdaq 100 futures 29,242.75, up 0.19, in the European morning, per Investing.com's delayed feed. Dell rose about 10 percent intraday, per a mid-session TradingNEWS snapshot the desk could not confirm at the close; Hewlett Packard Enterprise raised forecasts on AI demand and fell on supply concerns, and Snowflake lifted its revenue forecast and rose, per Reuters, without percentages the desk could source.

Broadcom reported after the close, a day earlier than the desk had it on Wednesday's calendar: third-quarter revenue of 29.6 billion dollars and adjusted earnings of 3.32 dollars a share, both beats, AI revenue up 221 percent from a year earlier, and a raised outlook of about 230 billion dollars of AI chip revenue over the next two years, per Reuters, Bloomberg and Seeking Alpha; the shares fell 5 to 6 percent after hours on fourth-quarter guidance, per Seeking Alpha, and Bloomberg's pre-print framing was that the company "needs Nvidia-like earnings to stop a 520 billion dollar skid." The Journal's read is that "Broadcom's AI success story gets complicated." Uber is cutting 3,300 corporate jobs, about a tenth of its staff, in a robotaxi pivot, per the FT, Bloomberg and the Guardian, and a federal court ruled Google will not have to break up its ad-tech business, per the New York Times and Axios.

INDEX	WED SEP 2 CLOSE	POINTS	CHANGE	PRIOR	HIGH	LOW
S&P 500	7,666.60	+35.13	+0.46%	7,631.47	7,681.19	7,633.62
Nasdaq Composite	26,217.83	+118.05	+0.45%	26,099.77	26,245.04	26,062.68
Nasdaq 100	29,143.33	+66.11	+0.23%	29,077.22	29,165.62	28,971.90
Dow Jones	53,061.95	+295.07	+0.56%	52,766.88	53,227.50	52,829.58
Russell 2000	2,953.17	+33.04	+1.13%	2,920.13	2,959.52	2,926.51

VIX	15.20	-1.14	-6.98%	16.34	16.82	15.12

Yahoo Finance daily history; VIX from CBOE's own history file. The 11th percentile VIX and 5th percentile VVIX (86.25) readings are over the last 250 sessions.

Rates

The Treasury curve did not move on Wednesday. The two-year closed at 4.39 percent and the ten-year at 4.79 for a second day, each still the 2026 high and neither exceeded, with the thirty-year at 5.27, the five-year at 4.54, the three-month bill at 3.92 and the one-year at 4.16, per the Treasury's daily par curve; 2s10s is 40 basis points, 5s30s 73 and 3m10y 87. The ten-year inflation-indexed yield rose one basis point to 2.45 and the five-year to 2.19, so the ten-year breakeven fell to 2.34 percent and the five-year to 2.35, per the Treasury's real curve. The ten-year was 4.770 percent in the European morning, per Investing.com. Sedaily's Seoul desk led with the ten-year's intraday 4.818, a 34-month high, on Wednesday before the close settled back. The MOVE index was 77.88 on Tuesday, up 2.56 or 3.4 percent, per Investing.com, which returned no Wednesday print; the page's date label is stale and the level is cross-checked against MacroMicro.

DATE	3M	1Y	2Y	5Y	10Y	30Y	10Y REAL	10Y BE
Sep 2	3.92	4.16	4.39	4.54	4.79	5.27	2.45	2.34
Sep 1	3.92	4.18	4.39	4.55	4.79	5.27	2.44	2.35
Aug 31	3.91	4.16	4.34	4.49	4.75	5.25	2.44	2.31
Aug 28	3.90	4.15	4.34	4.48	4.73	5.22	2.42	2.31

Treasury daily par and real yield curves, percent. 2026 lows for reference: ten-year 3.97 and two-year 3.38, both February 27.

The Fed

The target range is 3.50 to 3.75 percent, unchanged since December 11, 2025, per the Fed's open-market page, and the September 15 to 16 meeting carries a Summary of Economic Projections, per the FOMC calendar. Fed funds futures price the buckets below, per Investing.com's monitor read against the target range; the desk reports the ranges rather than the page's labels. The Sep 16 hike bucket has gone 37.3 a week ago, 67.9 Tuesday, 65.9 Wednesday, 60.4 Thursday morning.

MEETING	3.50-3.75 (HOLD)	3.75-4.00	4.00-4.25	4.25-4.50
Sep 16	39.6%	60.4%	n/a	n/a
Oct 28	28.7%	54.7%	16.7%	n/a
Dec 9	12.0%	39.5%	38.8%	9.7%

Prediction venues on the same September meeting: Polymarket no change 49.5 percent and 25 basis points 48.5; Kalshi 25 basis points 53 percent last with 2 more on a larger move and hold at 46; Manifold's multi-choice book 50.7 hike; PredictIt has no Fed contract. Kalshi's "Will there be a recession in 2026" trades at 7 percent on 3.4 million dollars, and 2027 at 30 percent. Polymarket's "Fed rate hike in 2026" at 69.5 percent sits well below the strip's 88 percent probability of at least one hike by December, per the desk's sum of the December buckets; "no Fed rate cuts in 2026" at 88.85 percent asks a different question, one a hold-then-cut path would fail, and roughly matches the strip by coincidence.

Wednesday's data

RELEASE	ACTUAL	CONSENSUS	PRIOR	SOURCE
ADP private payrolls, August	+38,000	+47,000	+46,000 rev.	ADP; fewest since January; manufacturing -17,000, small firms +3,000, base pay +3.2%
Factory orders, July	+0.9%	+0.6%	n/a	Census Bureau
Beige Book	"modestly"	n/a	n/a	Federal Reserve Board; employment "rose very slightly," prices "increased moderately in eight Districts"
Bank of Canada	2.25% hold	hold	2.25%	bankofcanada.ca; Bank Rate 2.5%, deposit rate 2.20%; Globe and Mail: oil shock "more concerning than trade war"
ISM manufacturing, August (Tuesday)	54.6	55.2	55.6	ISM; new orders 53.7, employment 51.2, prices 71.1 unchanged
JOLTS openings, July (Tuesday)	7.27M	7.3M	7.18M	BLS

Inflation

July's CPI rose 0.1 percent on the month and 3.4 percent on the year, with core up 0.2 and 2.5 percent, the energy index up 14.7 percent from a year earlier and shelter 3.2, per the Bureau of Labor Statistics' August 12 release; August's print lands on September 11. July's PCE price index rose 0.2 percent on the month and 3.7 on the year with core at 3.3, per the Bureau of Economic Analysis' August 26 release, alongside personal income up 0.4 percent, spending up 0.2 and a 3.0 percent saving rate. The gap between a 2.5 percent core CPI and a 3.3 percent core PCE runs the opposite way from the usual pattern, in which PCE sits below CPI because of its rent weighting and chain-weighting, and the desk prints both from their primary releases without diagnosing the reversal; the healthcare and financial-services weights that PCE carries and CPI does not are the usual suspects. The Fed targets PCE as a matter of framework, whichever measure is higher in a given month. The University of Michigan's August sentiment index was 51.7 with one-year inflation expectations at 4.0 percent, the lowest since March, and five-year at 3.3 for a third month, per the survey. Market breakevens: 2.35 percent at five years and 2.34 at ten. The Cleveland Fed's nowcast could not be read this morning.

Commodities

CONTRACT	WED SEP 2 SETTLE	CHANGE	LIVE, EUROPEAN MORNING	CHANGE	SOURCE
Gold spot (XAU)	$4,385.74	+1.30%	$4,433.93	+1.10%	Investing.com; Wed low 4,282.71; live change computed against the Wednesday close
Gold December (GCZ6)	$4,414.60	+0.41%	$4,487.29	+1.65%	Investing.com futures history; Yahoo front month 4,366.30
Silver	n/a	n/a	$66.52	+1.6% to +2.8%	Investing.com quotes +1.61% on its own reference; Yahoo intraday 66.55, +2.8%; the two vendors' Wednesday references differ by contract and the desk prints neither as a settle

WTI October	$91.01	n/a	$90.80	-0.23%	Investing.com
Brent November	$95.63	+1.04%	$95.32	-0.32%	Yahoo Finance continuous; 89.31 on Aug 28
Brent-WTI spread	$4.62	n/a	$4.55	n/a	Desk arithmetic
Copper	$6.593/lb	n/a	$6.616/lb	+0.35%	Investing.com settle to live; Yahoo's HG=F series shows +1.8% against its own prior
Natural gas	$2.956	n/a	$2.986	+1.01%	Investing.com
Iron ore (SGX 62%)	$97.72	-1.62%	n/a	n/a	Yahoo TIO=F; Dalian 715 yuan, +0.14%
Baltic Dry Index	3,331	+5.5%	n/a	n/a	Hellenic Shipping News; +174 from 3,157

Reuters' Thursday framing on oil: prices "edged lower as investors weighed the uncertainty of renewed geopolitical tensions" after a three-day rally. No EIA weekly inventory figure was retrievable. Copper, up 0.35 percent against Investing.com's settle and 1.8 percent on Yahoo's series, and silver, up 1.6 to 2.8 percent by the same two vendors, are the industrial and monetary metals both rising on the dollar's 0.33 percent decline; the copper-to-gold ratio is 0.001492 live against 0.001503 at Wednesday's settle, and the gold-to-silver ratio 66.7, per the desk's arithmetic from the printed live prices.

Currencies

PAIR	WED SEP 2 CLOSE	CHANGE	LIVE, EUROPEAN MORNING	NOTE
Dollar index	n/a	n/a	99.23 (-0.33%)	Wednesday's official close was not separable from the live feed; Tuesday's issue quoted 99.71
EUR/USD	1.1588	+0.15%	1.1605	
USD/JPY	158.71	-1.20%	156.81	Change is against Tuesday's close; 159.70 was Wednesday's European midday print in the last issue; a record $96.5B of intervention in the month to late August per MOF
GBP/USD	1.3487	+0.08%	1.3498	
USD/CHF	0.8129	-0.44%	0.8093	Franc stronger on the 0.8% CPI print
USD/CAD	1.3844	-0.24%	1.3811	BoC hold
AUD/USD	0.7169	+0.21%	0.7186	RBA hike pricing "surged" after GDP and trade beats, per Investing.com's note
USD/CNH	6.7178	flat	6.7185	PBOC fix 6.7807 against a 6.7167 model estimate
USD/KRW	n/a	n/a	1,357.38 (-0.09%)	Record reserves
USD/INR	95.47	-0.51%	94.48	
USD/BRL	5.0908	flat	5.0907	Canal Rural's Wednesday close 5.10, -0.92%

USD/MXN	16.964	+0.27%	17.0095

Investing.com and Yahoo Finance. Where a vendor did not separate the Wednesday close from the live quote, the cell reads n/a.

Credit

HYG closed at 79.11, up one cent, and LQD at 105.35, up 0.12 percent, with EMB at 94.15, up 0.06, and JNK flat at 95.21, per Yahoo Finance: no credit-stress signal in an equity rally. iShares' fact sheets as of September 1 show HYG's option-adjusted spread at 240.4 basis points with a 7.09 percent yield to maturity and 3.01 years of duration, and LQD's at 86.0 basis points with a 5.72 percent yield and 7.71 years, per the issuer's pages; these are the first spread figures the desk has been able to source from a primary page in a week. CDX and the EMBI remained unreachable.

The calendar

DATE	EVENT	CONSENSUS / NOTE
Thu Sep 3	Jobless claims; Q2 productivity and unit labour costs; July trade balance; S&P Global and ISM services PMIs; Broadcom call follow-through	Claims 205K vs 203K; productivity +1.4%; trade -$89.4B; ISM services 54.2 vs 54.1
Fri Sep 4	August payrolls, unemployment, earnings	Payrolls 58,000 (Investing.com) to 79,000 (TradingEconomics); July -23,000; unemployment 4.1 to 4.3 depending on survey
Mon Sep 7	China August reserves and gold (SAFE, PBOC); Brazil Focus survey	PBOC bought 20t in July per WGC
Tue Sep 8 to Thu Sep 10	US 3-year, 10-year and 30-year auctions	Sizes not yet published; settle Sep 15
Wed Sep 9 to Thu Sep 10	ECB Governing Council, Berlin	Deposit rate 2.25%; two-year Bund 2.96
Fri Sep 11	US August CPI	Kalshi core ladder straddles +0.2%
Sat Sep 12 to Sun Sep 13	BRICS summit, New Delhi	Payments infrastructure; no common currency, per previews
Tue Sep 15	CLARITY Act cloture vote, Senate	60 needed; Polymarket 15.5% signed in 2026
Wed Sep 16	FOMC decision and projections; Brazil Copom	Hike 60.4% priced; Selic 14.00%
Thu Sep 17 to Fri Sep 18	Bank of Japan; Bank of England (Sep 17)	BOJ hike 58% priced per centralbank.watch; BoE 3.75%
Thu Sep 24	SNB assessment; Banxico	SNB 0.00%; Banxico 6.50%
Fri Sep 25	Deribit quarterly expiry	172,783 BTC of open interest, max pain ~70,000
Tue Sep 29	Reserve Bank of Australia	4.35%; hold 55% priced, NAB calls a hike
Oct 1	US fiscal year; continuing resolution runs to Dec 11	Kalshi shutdown 2%

> *The expectations-hypothesis read, after Fisher, Hicks and Lutz: a long-dated yield is the market's average expected path of short rates plus a premium for not knowing. On Thursday Japan's thirty-year yield fell 8 basis points as officials signalled a nearer hike, which fits a*

falling term premium, the long end paying the bank for credibility. It is not the only reading available: the Japanese two-year, the tenor closest to the September 18 decision, fell too rather than rising, and gilts and Bunds rallied the same morning on an American jobs number that has nothing to do with the Bank of Japan. The same ambiguity sits in the American 88 basis point gap between the two-year and the thirty-year, which this desk reads elsewhere today as reserve managers retreating from the long bond rather than as doubt about the Fed. Both can be true at once; the desk says so rather than picking the more elegant one, and the September 10 thirty-year auction is where the American version gets tested.

ECONOMIST'S CORNER · THE EXPECTATIONS HYPOTHESIS, APPLIED TO THURSDAY'S JGB AND TREASURY CURVES, WITH ITS RIVAL PRINTED

MARKETS

International Markets

Asia closed Thursday mixed and calm after Wednesday's rout, with every index below reconciled across two vendors except the Hang Seng, where Yahoo Finance and TradingEconomics' header agree on 25,213.31 and Investing.com prints 25,163; the desk uses the two-vendor figure. India was still trading at press time. Europe's Wednesday closes are the prior session; Thursday's mid-morning levels are live. The Bovespa's 3.05 percent, story ten, is the largest move in the table.

ASIA-PACIFIC	THU SEP 3 CLOSE	CHANGE	POLICY RATE, NEXT MEETING	FX VS USD	LATEST PRINT	PRESS LEAD
Japan, Nikkei 225	64,214.48	-0.17%	BOJ ~1.00%, Sep 17-18	156.8 (-1.2%)	Services PMI 52.5 (flash 52.3, prior 51.2)	Yen rallies sharply on BOJ hike bets (Nikkei Asia)
China, Shanghai / CSI 300	3,942.09 / 4,552.58	+0.02% / +0.10%	LPR 3.0% / 3.5%, held Aug 19	Fix 6.7807; CNH 6.7185	Caixin services 51.4 (cons 50.6, prior 50.4); NBS mfg 49.8	Brokerage profits +50%; insider-sale tax loopholes closed (Caixin)
Hong Kong, Hang Seng	25,213.31	-0.39%	HKMA tracks the Fed; HIBOR 1M 2.78% (Aug 25, stale)	HKD peg	HSCEI -0.77% to 8,385.24	Mainland buys HK AI stocks, sells financials (SCMP); Shein -5% on day two
South Korea, KOSPI	6,579.48	+0.26%	BOK 3.00%, hiked Aug 27; next date not confirmed	1,357.38 (-0.09%)	Reserves record + $14.33B to $442.28B; CPI 3.1%; exports +68.7%	Chip tariff threat adds to inflation fears (Sedaily)
Taiwan, TAIEX	45,857.66	-0.67%	CBC quarterly meeting in September	31.73	TSMC +0.21% to NT$2,390	Chip-tariff threat read across from Seoul
Singapore, STI	5,742.51	-0.03%	MAS site unreachable	n/a	July NODX +24.2% (August due mid-month)	Moonshot files for HK IPO (Straits Times)
Australia, ASX 200	9,020.10	+0.46%	RBA 4.35%, Sep 29	0.7186 (+0.22%)	Q2 GDP +0.4% q/q, +2.1% y/y; July trade A$1.92B vs 1.40B	Gold and uranium stocks rebound, banks lead (Market Index)
	23,912.00		RBI 5.25%, Oct 5-7			

India, Nifty 50 (live)	flat vs 23,914.45			94.48 (-0.51%)	Services PMI 54.1 (cons 54.5, prior 53.3); employment growth a 15-month high	Sensex, Nifty rebound on easing yields and FCNR inflows (ET)

EMEA AND AMERICAS	WED SEP 2 CLOSE	THU LIVE	POLICY RATE, NEXT MEETING	10Y YIELD (1D)	LATEST PRINT	PRESS LEAD
Germany, DAX	25,843.34	25,928.03 (+0.33%)	ECB deposit 2.25%, Sep 10	3.355% (-2.2bp)	Services PMI 49.7; euro area 51.6	DAX stops falling for now (Handelsblatt)
Europe, STOXX 600 / Euro Stoxx 50	645.90 / 6,362.15	647.54 / 6,366.35	as above	n/a	Unemployment 6.4% (July)	European shares hit by rising yields (Reuters, Wed)
UK, FTSE 100	10,756.45	10,772.15 (+0.15%)	BoE 3.75% (6-3 hold), Sep 17	5.194% (-4.25bp)	Gilt 2Y 4.575 (-4.6bp), 30Y 5.827 (-3.8bp)	Burnham tries to calm bond market fears (Guardian)
France, CAC 40	8,280.63	8,279.22 (-0.02%)	as ECB	4.230% (-2.1bp); OAT-Bund 87.5bp	Fitch A+ affirmed Aug 28; Moody's Oct 23, S&P Nov 27	Rates on French debt keep rising (Les Echos)
Switzerland, SMI	14,362.97	14,378.70 (+0.11%)	SNB 0.00%, Sep 24	0.446% (+2.5bp)	August CPI 0.8% y/y (cons 0.5, prior 0.4); core 0.4%	Swiss inflation jumps to two-year high (Bloomberg via swissinfo)
Italy / Spain	n/a / 19,779	n/a / 19,916 (+0.69%)	as ECB	4.192% / 3.809%; BTP-Bund 83.7bp	Italy services PMI 55.2	Il Sole 24 Ore: BTP spread 83bp at its print
Brazil, Bovespa	185,205.10	(+3.05%, 11th gain)	Selic 14.00%, Sep 16	CDS 117.9 (-3.5bp)	Q2 GDP +0.5% q/q (cons 0.4), +2.0% y/y	Market sees more Selic cuts this year (Valor)
Canada, TSX	36,091.61	(+0.74%)	BoC 2.25%, held Sep 2	3.798%	Trade balance due Thursday	BoC holds, oil shock more concerning than trade war (Globe and Mail)
Mexico, IPC	64,884.28	(+0.57%)	Banxico 6.50%, Sep 24	n/a	n/a	El Financiero unavailable
Saudi Arabia, TASI	11,012.18	11,060.69 (+0.44%, delayed)	SAMA tracks the Fed	CDS 56.9	Aramco flat at SAR 26.02	Sri Lanka opens ports to UAE capital (Gulf News)
UAE, DFM / ADX	5,814.94 (-0.33%) / 9,921.61 (+0.15%)	single vendor	as SAMA	n/a	Investing.com's ADX print was internally inconsistent and is not used	Kuwait repels missiles and drones (The National)
South Africa / Turkey	115,082 (-0.67%) / 14,050.56	n/a / 13,981.52 (-0.49%)	CBRT 37%	n/a	FX: USD/ZAR 16.06, USD/TRY 48.31	n/a

TSX and IPC: both vendors label the higher figure as the Wednesday close, with the lower as Tuesday's. FTSE MIB unavailable from both vendors. Eurozone HICP flash for August, DFM two-vendor check, and Mexico's local lead were not obtainable.

Three regions carried signal on Thursday. Japan's is story one. Korea's is the one Sedaily chose over the yen: an American chip-tariff threat on the day the trade ministry's August exports came in at 98.25 billion dollars, up 68.7 percent, with semiconductors a record 46.65 billion or 47 percent of the total, per the Korea Times, and on the day the Bank of Korea reported the largest monthly reserve gain in its history. The KOSPI's 0.26 percent recovery after Wednesday's 3.99 percent fall came with the won at 1,357, per Yahoo Finance, and with August CPI at 3.1 percent from 2.8 on what Reuters calls a one-off factor, missing expectations; the Bank of Korea's base rate is 3.00 percent after its August 27 hike. China's is the mismatch Caixin found: listed brokerages' profits up nearly 50 percent in the first half on the tech rally while the same outlet reports "rising sales, falling profits" across the A-share market, and while the Shanghai Composite closed flat at 3,942.09 with the CSI 300 up 0.10 to 4,552.58, per Yahoo Finance and Investing.com; the Caixin services PMI's 51.4 beat a 50.6 consensus, per the survey's Thursday release, against an official manufacturing PMI at 49.8. Beijing closed the tax loopholes on insider stock sales, removing a 15 percent cost deduction and targeting post-lockup bonus shares, per Caixin, a day after handing out about 7 billion dollars of outbound QDII quota, per the SCMP, and the PBOC set the yuan fix at 6.7807 against a 6.7167 market model, per Tradingpedia's account of the fixing, still leaning against appreciation. Moonshot, the Kimi developer, filed confidentially for a Hong Kong listing, per the Straits Times, into a market where Shein fell 5 percent to HK$46 on its second day, per TradingEconomics. Australia's second-quarter GDP rose 0.4 percent on the quarter and 2.1 on the year, per the ABS, and the July trade surplus was 1.92 billion Australian dollars against 1.40 expected, per the calendar; Investing.com's note says RBA hike pricing "surged," and NAB now calls a September hike while the market has a hold at 55 percent, per A7a's summary of the pricing.

The cross-regional thread is the direction the bond rally travelled. It began in Tokyo with the thirty-year auction, crossed to gilts that fell 4 to 5 basis points at every tenor and to Bunds that gave back half of Wednesday's rise, and reached the American ten-year at 4.770 in the European morning. The equity response was inverted: Asia, which fell hardest on Wednesday's yields, recovered least on Thursday's, with the Nikkei off 0.17 and the KOSPI up 0.26, while the DAX, which had fallen three days running, rose 0.33 percent, per Investing.com. The market that decoupled from all of it was São Paulo, where the eleventh straight gain came on a poll.

> *The international tell: the Seoul desk led with an American tariff on the morning Korea's exports rose 68.7 percent and its reserves rose by a record 14 billion dollars, and it was right to. A country whose chips are 47 percent of exports, whose currency is strengthening on foreign selling of its stocks, and whose central bank is hiking into 3.1 percent inflation is the one place in the table where the trade war, the rates shock and the AI cycle meet in a single print, and the American coverage of Thursday morning did not mention it once.*
>
> SEDAILY, KOREA TIMES, BANK OF KOREA, YAHOO FINANCE · THURSDAY

THE WORLD

Geopolitics and Energy

Iran and the Gulf

The status is open war, worse than Wednesday's issue described and with a contradiction at the top of it. The strikes and casualties are in story four: 18 to 19 dead and 105 to 108 wounded by the two Gulf outlets' counts, a wedding party in Sirik, Iran's Red Crescent asking the ICC for a probe, Kuwait's army repelling missiles and drones it called "heinous," Jordan and Bahrain targeted, the UAE President condemning the attacks in a call with the American President, per Al Jazeera and The National. Reuters' Thursday headlines ask "What are Iran's options to retaliate as open warfare resumes with the US?" and record rising concern over the civilian toll. Hormuz traffic is below half its ten-day average, per The National; Central Command escorted 18 million barrels through, per Gulf News. No ceasefire, no talks, no IAEA statement and no strategic-reserve release surfaced in the window. The Journal's report that the President is discussing "whether to declare the Iran war over" while the Pentagon extends about 50,000 troops through 2027 is the item every desk will trade on Thursday and none can price: the Times of Israel's carry of it, timed early Thursday, has no on-the-record quote. The Treasury Secretary's Wednesday list of next sanctions targets, airlines, the maritime sector and digital assets, per Al Arabiya, is the crypto reader's line: "digital assets" as an Iran-related target is a phrase the desk has not seen from Treasury in this conflict before. The FT reports Russia secretly helping Iran develop supersonic cruise missiles. Politico's headline, "Eisenhower would be spinning in his grave," records Republicans souring on the bluster. Prediction markets: US invades Iran before 2027, 15.5 percent on 64.4 million dollars; Iran leadership change by December 31, 15.5 percent; Mojtaba Khamenei head of state at year-end, 83.2; US-Iran diplomatic meeting by September 30, 8.5; Iran full airspace closure by September 30, 7.0; Israel-Iran ceasefire continuing through September 30, 85.5, through October 31, 73.5, through December 31, 62.5; Hormuz traffic normal by September 15, 0.55, by September 30, 2.5, by October 31, 9.5, by December 31, 27.5, per Polymarket. The August 31 Israel-Iran ceasefire contract is still marked active at 99.6 with its end date passed.

Venezuela

Energy Secretary Wright signed an agreement in which Chevron expands its Venezuelan operations and Eni expands its own, per Al Jazeera's Wednesday and Thursday reports; Chevron, the only American major in the country, obtained extra acreage and plans to double output. The deal's terms as reported by PBS and NPR: 17 fields with 65 billion barrels of proven potential, up to 100 billion dollars of investment, an American 55 percent effective share of the new operating company's output with rights to buy at cost, and OFAC general licences to BP, Chevron, Eni, Repsol and Shell, with Chevron's licence barring direct payments of taxes or royalties to the government. Nicolás Maduro, in American custody since a January operation in Caracas, asserted immunity in a US court on Wednesday and asked for the charges to be dismissed, per Al Jazeera. The operator's identity and the funding source for the investment remain unreported.

Russia and Ukraine

Nothing dated Wednesday or Thursday surfaced on combat, energy strikes, the sanctions packages or the price cap. Background from the weekend: Ukraine is lobbying Washington on a Russia sanctions bill whose fate is "in the balance," and the Treasury Secretary told his Russian counterpart there is no economic relief until the war ends, per Reuters on August 31. Polymarket prices a Russia-Ukraine ceasefire by October 31 at 7.5 percent, a NATO-Russia clash by year-end at 25.0, and Putin out by year-end at 6.5 on 19.9 million dollars.

Trade and tariffs

The President put tariffs of up to 100 percent on foreign-made drones, per the New York Times and Euronews on Thursday, a measure The Hill had previewed on August 14 as aimed at Chinese dominance of the market. The Supreme Court's IEEPA tariff ruling is settled law: the refund order was executed on August 5 with about 100 billion dollars returned, per Reuters, and the Journal reported on Monday that companies are plowing refunds into price cuts. Sedaily's Seoul lead is a chip-tariff threat aimed at Samsung and SK hynix. No Section 232 or 301 action, no US-China truce item and no chip export-control change surfaced in the window. Bessent, at the G20 in Asheville, accused China of flooding the world with cheap exports, per the New York Times, and the FT reports China "derails consensus after US-hosted G20"; China Daily's lead urges the G20 "to value free trade."

Washington

The House passed the continuing resolution funding the government through December 11 by 370 to 48 on Tuesday, following the Senate's August passage, per NPR and NBC; Appropriations Chairman Cole said it "will give Congress time to get past the November elections." Kalshi prices an October 1 shutdown at 2 percent. Governor Cook remains on the Board pending the lower-court remand of the Supreme Court's June 29 ruling, per NPR, with no development this week. The Fed chair contract on Kalshi prices Warsh out before January 1, 2027 at 2 cents.

BRICS

Nothing new. The eighteenth summit runs September 12 to 13 in New Delhi with payments infrastructure for local-currency settlement on the agenda and, per every preview, no common currency, which India opposes; the Reuters headline "Russia says no more hurdles in payments with India" is undated in the feed and the desk does not treat it as this week's.

THE RULES

Regulatory, Scandals and Crisis Events

Regulatory

ITEM	STATUS	DATE	DETAIL
CLARITY Act (H.R. 3633)	Cloture vote scheduled	Sep 15	60 votes needed from a 53-seat majority; Democratic demands on ethics and illicit finance; Polymarket 15.5% signed in 2026 (+1.5pp). Per The Block and Gamma
New Jersey v. Kalshi	Cert petition filed	Sep 2	

			332 pages; whether the CFTC's jurisdiction over event contracts pre-empts state gambling law. Per The Block
Michigan v. Kalshi	Court order	Sep 3	Sports markets stay blocked in the state. Per The Block
Nevada v. Kalshi	Ninth Circuit ruling	Aug 28	Court sided with Nevada; the CFTC filed in support of Kalshi. Per Nevada Current, Arizona Mirror, PYMNTS
CFTC v. CME (Kalshi crypto perps)	Motion to dismiss filed	Sep 2	CFTC: "much ado about nothing." Per The Block
Kalshi crude oil perpetuals	Filing reported	Sep 2-3	Per Reuters headline; George Santos banned for manipulation per FT Unhedged
SEC transfer-agent rules	Proposed	Sep 1	Release 2026-81 modernises 1970s rules for blockchain compatibility. Per sec.gov
SEC 24-hour trading roundtable	Agenda announced	Sep 1	Release 2026-83. Per sec.gov
G20 Asheville communique	Non-binding commitment	Sep 2	"Clear pathways for sound digital financial and digital assets innovation"; monitor cross-border stablecoins; extend payment-system hours. Per The Block
GENIUS Act rulemakings	In progress	Latest Aug 25	Treasury gatekeeping rules with a foreign-issuer path; OCC racing to finish; FDIC payment-stablecoin proposal. No update this week
Australia unlicensed crypto firms	Warning issued	Sep 3	Fines up to 10% of annual turnover. Per Cointelegraph
EU MiCA	Transitional period expired Jul 1	Consultation to Sep 30	Unlicensed CASPs must stop serving EU clients per ESMA; Commission review under Articles 140/142
UK FCA stablecoins	Rules in force	PS26/10, Jul 22	Non-systemic issuers; BoE and FCA joint approach for systemic issuers Jun 30
Japan crypto reclassification	Enacted Jul 15	n/a	Financial-product status; 20% tax path; ETF route
Korea won stablecoin bill	Contested	Latest Aug 24	Bank-majority "51% war"; tiered offshore-exchange oversight
Hong Kong stablecoin licences	Granted	Mar-Apr	Standard Chartered JV (Anchorpoint) and HSBC; nothing new this week
Bessent sanctions list	Stated intent	Sep 2	Airlines, maritime, "digital assets" as Iran-related targets. Per Al Arabiya, WION

The incentive structure in the prediction-market fight is the one story eight describes: states want the sports-betting tax base, the CFTC wants the jurisdiction, and the exchanges want one regulator, so the sports contracts go to court while the crude and crypto perpetuals are filed under federal roofs. The unintended consequence of the New Jersey petition is timing: a cert grant puts the question before the Court this term, and a denial leaves the Third and Ninth Circuits split, which is the worst outcome for an exchange with customers in both. The second-order risk is to this desk's own method: a Kalshi book narrowed state by state is a thinner and differently composed book, and a spread between its Fed odds and Polymarket's can measure that composition as easily as a disagreement. The CLARITY vote on the 15th sits inside all of this, and the 15.5 percent the market gives the bill for the year is consistent with several readings at once: the courts moving first, floor time running out before the midterms, and the Democratic demands on ethics and illicit finance going unmet.

Scandals and crisis events

A correction first. Wednesday's issue wrote that TAC was drained "on Tuesday" and Mantra "on Monday," per rekt.news. Those were rekt's publication dates. The exploits themselves ran August 20 for MANTRA and August 22 for TAC and KiiChain, per rekt's KiiChain post published Wednesday, which records the KiiChain network halting on August 22 and Cosmos Labs' first public acknowledgment coming "two days after KiiChain and TAC had already been drained," with halts recommended on August 25, six days after the vulnerable release shipped. The Block reported on August 29 that Cosmos Labs had wrongly cleared the bug, and CryptoSlate that it "misjudged a critical bug for 4 months before hackers stole nearly 6 million dollars across 6 chains." So the count Wednesday's story used, five chains with a sixth as the watch trigger, was already six on August 25; the desk's watch item is moot, and the desk was reporting ten-day-old events as the week's. The amounts stand: 148.3 million KII worth about 9.7 million dollars at the pre-exploit price with about 1.6 million realised through BSC swaps, 2.985 billion TAC worth about 7.5 million, and 720 million MANTRA worth 3.6 million, per rekt. No new chain has been reported since August 25.

TYPE	ENTITY	AMOUNT	DATE	SCOPE	SOURCE
HACK	KiiChain (Cosmos EVM staking-precompile underflow)	$9.7M	Aug 22; rekt post Sep 2	Single token	rekt.news
HACK	Rain (Solana card programs, via Avici and Tria)	$1.1M	Aug 28; reported Sep 2	Single protocol; 2,321 users	crypto.news
FRAUD	Pacific Private Money Group (Hanf, Phan)	$80M raised; $121M outstanding vs under $17M recoverable	Sep 1	Single entity, 190 investors; not crypto	sec.gov release 2026-82
REGULATORY	CFTC no-action on large-trader reporting; swaps-trader false-statements case	n/a	Sep 1-2	Administrative	cftc.gov 9291-26, 9293-26
FRAUD	DOJ: Russian national indicted for freelance-platform malware; Texas attorney arrested for Ponzi scheme	n/a	Sep 1-2	Systemic / single	justice.gov headlines; detail pages 404
REGULATORY	FCA bans and fines Daniel Thomas, pension-transfer advice	n/a	Sep 3	Single entity	fca.org.uk
CORPORATE	IT Tech Packaging (NYSE: ITP): auditor quits after clash over CEO transaction	n/a	Sep 1	Small cap	Stock Titan headline, unverified
CORPORATE	Meta $18B state-AG settlement reframed as a shareholder lesson	$18B over ten years	Aug 27; Reuters column Sep 2	Mega cap	Bloomberg, Reuters
REGULATORY	OpenAI: 30 new complaints over the Tumbler Ridge shooting; Apple trade-secrets dispute; DOJ backs OpenAI against the NYT	n/a	Sep 1-2	Single entity	NPR, Reuters, Guardian

CORPORATE	Polymarket $1B raise at $21B, led by 1789 Capital	$1B	Aug 31 to Sep 1	Single entity	NYT, Bloomberg, WSJ

No exchange insolvency, withdrawal halt, proof-of-reserves delay or stablecoin depeg was found in the window; no activist short report from Muddy Waters, Citron or Fuzzy Panda dated this week; no financial-sector breach. BitMEX's wind-down closes September 23 and is orderly. The Hyperliquid "Trump insider wallet" story that circulates with a 40 million dollar profit figure carries no September date the desk could confirm and is not treated as news. The Alabama Attorney General's subpoena of OpenAI over the Hugging Face breach has a September 14 compliance deadline.

THE CHAIN

On-Chain and Whale Intelligence

The stablecoin float is 310.01 billion dollars, up 262 million on the day, 181 million on the week and 3.52 billion, or 1.15 percent, on the month, per DefiLlama. Tether's USDT is 183.27 billion, flat on every horizon, with 137 million added in thirty days; Circle's USDC is 73.73 billion, up 38 million on the day, down 184 million on the week and up 1.49 billion on the month. The movers are the small ones: Ripple's RLUSD is up 53.4 percent on the month to 2.38 billion and 12.8 percent on the week; PayPal's PYUSD up 4.0 percent on the day to 2.90 billion; Ethena's USDe up 4.9 percent on the week to 4.24 billion; World Liberty's USD1 up 2.7 percent on the week to 4.21 billion; FDUSD the only major shrinking on both horizons, down 4.5 percent on the month to 334 million. USDT's share is 59.1 percent and USDC's 23.8. No Tether mint or burn was reported in the window.

Bitcoin's network state, per mempool.space: the three-day average hashrate fell from 921 exahash on September 1 to 854 on Thursday, with the instantaneous reading at 908, against a difficulty of 125.81 trillion; the next retarget is estimated for September 5 at plus 0.54 percent after a minus 1.31 percent adjustment on August 23; recommended fees are 1 to 2 satoshis per byte, an empty mempool, with block fee revenue around 79,000 to 80,000 dollars per block in the week's sample. Hashrate Index's forward curve priced an average hashprice of 37.59 dollars per petahash per day over the next six months as of August 31; no spot September print was retrievable. Hyperscale Data's shares hit an all-time low after converting its Michigan site from mining to AI hosting, per The Block on Wednesday, and Cango fell 20 percent on an 81.6 million dollar second-quarter loss on Tuesday. The fall in the three-day hashrate average is inside the range that a few days of variance produces and the desk does not read it as miners leaving.

Exchange balances are the gap the desk could not close for a third issue: no reserve or netflow figure dated this week was retrievable from any route, and the mid-August figures in circulation, Binance at 687,000 bitcoin as a 2026 high by one count and 667,500 by another, ether reserves down from 7.70 million in June to about 6.54 million by August 18, conflict by methodology and are three weeks stale. The desk prints the gap. Whale movements dated this week: none reported by name beyond Strategy's 4,603 bitcoin, Bitmine's 131 million dollars of ether, and a wallet buying 11.9 million dollars of HYPE on Monday, which is routine. Cohort data, per Bitfinex's Wednesday note as carried by crypto.news: true market mean 76,350 dollars, short-term holder cost basis 69,980 and rising about 300 a day, three-to-six-month holder basis 73,500, long-term holder SOPR 0.98 after a nine-session range of 0.88 to 1.19, and 68,000 as long-term support. Network-wide MVRV and SOPR had no September-dated print.

DeFi's total value locked is 85.63 billion dollars across chains, with Ethereum at 48.34 billion, Solana 5.76, Base 5.51, BSC 5.48, Tron 5.18, Bitcoin 4.19, Hyperliquid's L1 1.51 and Arbitrum 1.39, per DefiLlama; Lido holds 23.37 billion, down 2.5 percent on the week, Aave V3 17.07 billion, EigenCloud 6.34 billion, down 3.8 percent, the Hyperliquid bridge 6.48 billion, and Morpho 9.51 billion, up 0.5 percent. Blockworks' research note has crypto lending up 46.7 percent week over week with Maple's deposits up 69 percent to 4.9 billion while its SYRUP token is 52 percent below a year ago. Ethereum's one-day average base fee is 0.12 gwei against a 0.18 thirty-day average, per ultrasound.money, and the validator queue could not be read. No public orderflow-model signal is on file for this issue.

THE BIG POOLS

Sovereign and Institutional Flows

The June TIC data, the Dutch gold move, Korea's record reserves, Norway's reported bond exit, PIF's second-quarter book and next week's coupon auctions are in story nine. The remaining items, each marked by whether the source is the institution or an outlet: Kuwait's government is preparing to borrow from the Future Generations Fund (Arab News, secondary) and the Kuwait Investment Authority sold down GEA through a JPMorgan-led placement (GlobalCapital, secondary); an ADIA unit anchored the 2 billion dollar first close of India's NIIF infrastructure fund with CPP Investments and Ontario Teachers' (Infrastructure Investor, secondary); Kuwait's Wren House is near a roughly 700 million euro deal for GIC's data-centre stake (Bloomberg, secondary); NBIM's chief governance officer departs at year-end (NBIM's own notice, primary); PIF's LIV Golf entity is reported preparing for bankruptcy (multiple outlets, secondary, not a new allocation). The IMF's Managing Director issued a statement closing the Asheville G20, per one trade outlet the desk could not cross-check; the next World Economic Outlook is October's. The BIS General Manager's August 28 line that stablecoins are "not a credible means of payment at scale" and its warning that "when the bubble bursts, the bill comes due" on AI-driven borrowing are background.

INSTITUTION	ITEM	FIGURE	DATA DATE	SOURCE CLASS
US Treasury TIC	Total foreign holdings of Treasuries	$9.299T (from $9.371T)	June, released Aug 18	Secondary (Reuters, Bloomberg wires)
TIC, Japan	Largest holder	$1.116T (-2.3%)	June	Secondary
TIC, United Kingdom	Second	$939.9B (-1.0%)	June	Secondary
TIC, China	Lowest since September 2008	$633.4B (-4.0%)	June	Secondary
World Gold Council	Central bank net purchases, July	23t (PBOC 20t, Poland 8t, Czech 2t; Russia -6t)	July, released Sep 3	Primary (gold.org)
World Gold Council	Year to date vs 2025	~130t vs ~160t	Jan-Jul	Primary

De Nederlandsche Bank	Gold moved from New York and Ottawa to London	86t; London share 18.1% to 32.1%	Mar-Aug, announced Sep 2	Institution's statement via Euronews, NL Times
Bank of Korea	FX reserves, record monthly gain	+$14.33B to $442.28B; securities $387.07B	August, released Sep 3	Institution's statement via Korea Herald, Yonhap
NBIM	Reported shift out of government bonds	EUR 100B, under discussion	Sep 2	Secondary (IPE)
PIF	Q2 13F US equity book; SpaceX position	$37.9B (from $12B); $26.34B	Jun 30, filed mid-Aug	Secondary (aggregators of the SEC filing)
US Treasury auctions	52-week and 17-week bills	3.61x at 3.980%; 2.78x at 3.855%	Sep 1-2	Primary (TreasuryDirect API)
Japan MOF	30-year JGB auction	3.79x cover (12m avg 3.52); tail 0.28	Sep 3	Secondary (Bloomberg)
BofA / EPFR	Crypto fund inflows, weekly	$3.2B, most since Oct 2025	Week to Aug 27	Secondary
CFTC COT	GBP shorts at a record; gold spec longs at a yearly high	n/a	Aug 25 positioning	Secondary (StoneX, IndexBox); raw report not read

Japan's weekly securities flows, ICI money-market assets, China's August reserves and this week's broad EPFR flows were not retrievable or not yet released.

> *The largest pools of capital moved three ways this week and none of them toward the long bond: China's Treasury holdings to a 2008 low, the Netherlands' gold to London, and Norway's fund into a public discussion of leaving government bonds altogether. The reserve managers kept buying America, with 133 billion dollars of net inflows into all US assets in June and only 6.8 billion of it into Treasuries. They are choosing what kind of American asset to own, and what kind of crisis to own it in, and the thirty-year at 5.27 percent is the price of being last on that list.*
>
> TREASURY TIC VIA REUTERS, DNB, IPE, WORLD GOLD COUNCIL · THIS WEEK

THE ODDS

Prediction Markets

Polymarket's Gamma API returned 794 open markets across eight pages this morning through the DNS route the desk now uses; Kalshi's API returned its Fed, CPI, recession, bitcoin, shutdown and Congress series; PredictIt and Manifold added third and fourth reads on the Fed and on Congress. Calibrated probabilities use the desk's sharpening formula, p raised to 1.31 over the sum of p and its complement each raised to 1.31, per the desk's April research; the edge is calibrated minus raw in points, and the desk's standing caution is that the formula corrects a documented crowd bias at 45 to 60 cents and says nothing about the question itself.

VENUE	HOLD	HIKE 25	HIKE 50+	CUT 25	ANY HIKE	NOTE
Polymarket	49.5%	48.5%	0.65%	0.55%	49.2%	$19.8M and $16.6M volume; 24h volume $870K and $829K
Kalshi	46%	53%	2%	1%	55%	Last prices; hold OI $8.6M; 48% on Wednesday's read

Manifold	48.5%	50.7%	incl.	0.75%	50.7%	Multi-choice; a thin binary market reads 40.3%
Fed funds futures	39.6%	60.4%	n/a	n/a	60.4%	Investing.com monitor; 65.9% Wednesday

MARKET (EXACT QUESTION)	RAW	CALIBRATED	EDGE	VOLUME	ENDS
Macro					
Will there be no change in Fed interest rates after the September 2026 meeting?	49.5%	49.4%	-0.2	$19.8M	Sep 16
Will the Fed increase interest rates by 25 bps after the September 2026 meeting?	48.5%	48.0%	-0.5	$16.6M	Sep 16
Fed rate hike in 2026?	69.5%	74.6%	+5.1	$8.4M	Dec 9
Will no Fed rate cuts happen in 2026?	88.9%	93.8%	+5.0	$7.9M	Dec 31
Kalshi: Will there be a recession in 2026?	7%	3.4%	-3.6	$3.4M	Jan 2027
Kalshi: Will the US government be shut down on Oct 1, 2026?	2%	0.6%	-1.4	$0.55M	Oct 2
Crypto and regulation					
Will Bitcoin reach $90,000 by December 31, 2026?	46.0%	44.8%	-1.2	$1.8M	Dec 31
Will Bitcoin dip to $55,000 by December 31, 2026?	21.5%	15.5%	-6.0	$5.8M	Dec 31
Will Bitcoin reach $100,000 by December 31, 2026?	19.5%	13.5%	-6.0	$3.1M	Dec 31
Clarity Act (H.R.3633) signed into law in 2026?	15.5%	9.8%	-5.7	$11.7M	Dec 31
Will Bitcoin dip to $50,000 by December 31, 2026?	14.0%	8.5%	-5.5	$3.4M	Dec 31
Will Ethereum reach $4,000 by December 31, 2026?	12.5%	7.3%	-5.3	$0.39M	Dec 31
Will Bitcoin reach $110,000 by December 31, 2026?	12.0%	6.9%	-5.2	$1.6M	Dec 31
Will Bitcoin dip to $45,000 by December 31, 2026?	8.5%	4.3%	-4.2	$6.4M	Dec 31
Will Bitcoin reach $120,000 by December 31, 2026?	7.5%	3.6%	-3.9	$1.6M	Dec 31
Bitcoin all time high by September 30, 2026?	0.45%	0.08%	-0.4	$1.1M	Sep 30
Geopolitics					
Will the U.S. invade Iran before 2027?	15.5%	9.8%	-5.7	$64.4M	Dec 31
Will Mojtaba Khamenei be head of state in Iran end of 2026?	83.2%	89.1%	+5.9	$6.4M	Dec 31
Strait of Hormuz traffic returns to normal by December 31?	27.5%	21.9%	-5.6	$10.4M	Dec 31
Strait of Hormuz traffic returns to normal by September 30?	2.5%	0.8%	-1.7	$7.6M	Sep 30
Israel x Iran ceasefire continues through September 30?	85.5%	91.1%	+5.6	$0.92M	Sep 30
Israel x Iran ceasefire continues through October 31?	73.5%	79.2%	+5.7	$0.36M	Oct 31
Iran leadership change by December 31?	15.5%	9.8%	-5.7	$4.4M	Dec 31
NATO x Russia military clash by December 31, 2026?	25.0%	19.2%	-5.8	$1.8M	Dec 31
Russia x Ukraine ceasefire agreement by October 31, 2026?	7.5%	3.6%	-3.9	$1.0M	Nov 1
Putin out as President of Russia by December 31, 2026?	6.5%	3.0%	-3.6	$19.9M	Dec 31
Will China invade Taiwan by end of 2026?	3.75%	1.4%	-2.4	$40.5M	Dec 31
Politics and AI					
Will the Democratic Party control the House after the 2026 Midterm elections?	89.5%	94.3%	+4.8	$5.7M	Nov 3
Will the Democratic Party control the Senate after the 2026 Midterm elections?	51.5%	52.0%	+0.5	$2.4M	Nov 3

Will GPT-6 be released by September 30, 2026?	92.0%	96.1%	+4.1	$0.48M	Oct 1
OpenAI IPO before 2027?	8.5%	4.3%	-4.2	$0.49M	Dec 31

Polymarket Gamma API and Kalshi API, European mid-morning Thursday. PredictIt: Democrats win the House 84 cents, Republicans hold the Senate 54; Kalshi's January 1, 2027 bitcoin ladder carries $2.2 to 2.4 million of volume at every strike from 47,500 to 82,500.

The largest mispricings by the desk's formula are the ones it has printed all week and they have not changed sign: the crowd overpays for every bitcoin tail in both directions, 55,000 and 100,000 by year-end both six points rich, and underpays the incumbents, Khamenei at 83 and a Democratic House at 89.5, by five. The number that changed is the GPT-6 contract, up 33 points in a day to 92 percent after weekend reports of a model called Astra producing outputs; Kalshi's own version had jumped 26 points on August 30, per OddsShopper. The cross-reference that matters is in the first table: three venues and the futures strip price the same September hike between 48.5 and 60.4 percent, and the venue with the most volume is the one closest to a coin flip. Kalshi's Fed hold contract holds 8.6 million dollars of open interest against Polymarket's 19.8 million of cumulative volume; the two books are not the same size and the desk does not assume the larger one is right. No Polymarket market for recession, CPI, tariffs or the Supreme Court's tariff case exists in the swept universe, which is why Kalshi's 7 percent 2026 recession contract stands alone.

THE TAPE

Sentiment, Positioning and Cross-Asset Linkages

INDICATOR	VALUE	SIGNAL	7D TREND	CONTEXT
Fear and Greed	65	Greed	62 to 74 range	63 Wednesday, 69 Tuesday; ten days in Greed, per alternative.me
BTC funding, Binance 8h	0.0059%	Neutral	7d avg 0.0079%	34th percentile of 30 days; Bybit at its 0.0100% cap
ETH funding, Binance 8h	0.0084%	Longs paying	7d avg 0.0041%	74th percentile; a step up not yet in the mean
SOL funding, Binance 7d annualised	-1.21%	Shorts paying	Latest print positive	SOL OI +7.9% over the window, the only major building
BTC all-account L/S ratio	1.2148	Retail long	0.99 to 1.29	Gate 1.10 unmet; 1.1949 on the latest 4h bar
BTC top-trader position ratio	1.9774	De-crowding	Above 2 for 11 days, now below	First sub-2 print since August 22; the desk holds 14 days of this series, so no longer percentile is printed
ETH all-account L/S ratio	2.7523	Extreme retail long	2.30 to 2.75	Highest in the window; top traders 1.58
BTC taker buy/sell	0.9627	Net sell	Sell on 4 of 5 days	Resting longs, active sellers
Binance BTC OI, live	107,411	Bleeding	-1.23% in 48h	Twelve straight lower 4h bars
Perp-spot basis, BTC	-3.6bp	Discount	n/a	ETH -5.2bp, SOL -5.7bp
BTC ETF flow	+$101.2M	Inflow	-236.5M Tuesday	Direction flipped in a day

ETH ETF flow	-$48M	First outflow in 13 sessions	12-day streak, $1.62B	One day is a pause
BTC dominance	59.74%	Steady	n/a	Desk arithmetic from CoinGecko caps
Stablecoin float	$310.0B	Growing slowly	+0.06%	+1.15% on the month
BTC options put/call by OI	0.55	Call-heavy	n/a	Sep 11 expiry the exception at 0.95
BTC DVOL	36.63	Vol compressing	43.41 on Aug 24	14-day low; realised 30d 42.2%
LTH SOPR	0.98	Old coins sold at a small loss	0.88 to 1.19 over nine sessions	Bitfinex via crypto.news
VIX / VVIX / VIX3M	15.20 / 86.25 / 17.73	Compressed	All down on the day	11th, 5th and 2nd percentiles of the last year
MOVE	77.88	Rates vol elevated	+3.4% (Tue)	No Wednesday print

The sentiment read is a crowd that added by count on Wednesday and was thinning on both counts on Thursday, in a market whose implied volatility is at a two-week low while its realised volatility is 42 percent. The consensus trap this desk flags is that the two books look like the same story and are not. Bitcoin's top-trader book crossed under its line because large longs took profit into a 1 percent bounce; the retail book fell by a larger proportion and is still above its own gate because it started from a higher base; the ETF bid returned for a day with the two-day net still negative. All of the positioning evidence in this issue comes from one venue, Binance, and the desk has not corroborated it against a second, which is a limit on every sentence in this paragraph. The one indicator that does not fit a calm tape is the perpetual trading under spot on three venues with funding still positive, which is a market paying to be long and selling the contract anyway. In equities the VIX at the 11th percentile and the VIX3M at the 2nd, per CBOE, is the term structure of a market that expects nothing before the Fed and something after it; the spread between them widened to 2.53 points from 1.99 as the front leg fell faster.

> *Desk note. Three things the desk checked itself for. Its lede classifies Thursday as the front-end thread continued, and the risk is anchoring: a global bond rally on a weak jobs number is not obviously the same story as a global front-end selloff on hawkish central bankers, and the desk holds the thread because the yen and the JGB curve, the two assets that moved most, moved on the same hawks as Wednesday. It reads Japan's bull flattening as credibility and the dissent, printed in story one, is that it was also a supply event and a global rally. And it has added an ether watch card with a short-bias trigger into a retail book that is 2.75 to one long, which is a contrarian position by construction; the desk has written the trigger for after Friday and the kill at the highs precisely because fading a crowd is the easiest way to be early and wrong. Three corrections are printed in the Bottom Line, and the desk notes that all three came through its own data pass and passed its own review on Wednesday, which is the thing it should have caught and did not. The correlations printed below carry standard errors near 0.2 at these sample sizes and are fair-weather numbers; they compress toward one in a real risk-off shock, which is exactly when a reader would want to lean on them.*
>
> BIAS SCAN · ANCHORING, NARRATIVE, HERDING-BY-CONTRARIANISM

Cross-asset linkages

SOVEREIGN 5-YEAR CDS	BP	CHANGE	ROW DATE
United States	33.28	0.00	Sep 1
Germany	7.25	0.00	Sep 1
France	32.99	0.00	Sep 1
Italy	31.08	0.00	Sep 1
United Kingdom	17.82	0.00	Sep 1
Japan	25.59	-0.03	Sep 1
China	34.99	+0.40	Sep 1
Brazil	117.92	-3.50	Sep 1
Mexico	79.89	+0.83	Sep 1
Turkey	218.54	+1.04	Sep 1
South Africa	115.28	0.00	Sep 1
Saudi Arabia	56.89	0.00	Sep 1
Israel	52.73	0.00	Sep 1

Investing.com's world CDS table. The identical zero change on every developed-market row is a page-refresh artifact rather than evidence of flat pricing; the levels are usable, the changes for those rows are not. Canada was not returned.

CURVE	2Y	10Y	30Y	2S10S	2S30S	SHAPE ON THE DAY
United States (Wed close)	4.39	4.79	5.27	40bp	88bp	Unchanged at every point
Germany (Thu live)	2.964	3.355	3.826	39.1bp	86.2bp	Parallel rally of 2bp, inside noise
Japan (Thu live)	1.837	2.947	4.069	111.0bp	223.2bp	Bull flattening: 2s30s -5.7bp, a real move
United Kingdom (Thu live)	4.575	5.194	5.827	61.9bp	125.2bp	Parallel rally of 4 to 5bp

Spreads to Bunds at ten years, from the 3.355 percent Bund used throughout: Italy 83.7 basis points, France 87.5, the United Kingdom 183.9, each within 2 basis points of Wednesday, per the desk's arithmetic from Investing.com. Australia's ten-year is 5.156 percent and Canada's 3.798. Credit: HYG's option-adjusted spread 240.4 basis points and LQD's 86.0 as of September 1, per iShares, with the ETFs flat to up a tenth on Wednesday; EMB up 0.06 percent; CDX and the EMBI not retrievable. FX implied volatility remains a gap on every route the desk has, which matters on a day the yen moved 1.2 percent, and the desk says so rather than implying calm. Gold volatility, GVZ 26.14, rose 2.79 percent to a 54th percentile print while the VIX fell 7 percent; oil volatility, OVX 47.77, fell 2.77 percent and has closed above 40 for 161 sessions; the SKEW index fell 5.11 to 144.12, a 50th percentile print, and the Nasdaq's VXN 0.89 to 21.07. Thirty-day correlations of daily changes, per the desk's calculation: gold against the ten-year real yield minus 0.30 over 30 observations; bitcoin against the S&P 500 minus 0.31 over 21; bitcoin against gold plus 0.07; bitcoin against ether plus 0.88 over 30. The first three sit within about one standard error of zero and say bitcoin has been trading on its own flow and positioning rather than on equity or gold beta this month; the fourth says the desk's bitcoin watch and ether watch, if both fired, would be one relative-value position rather than two directional ones.

> *The linkage that does not reconcile is between the two volatility markets that price the same fortnight. The VIX at the 11th percentile and the VIX3M at the 2nd say equities expect the Fed to be a non-event; the MOVE at 78 and rising says rates expect a decision, and Japan's thirty-year moving 8 basis points in a session says the decisions are already being made. The comparison is not clean: the MOVE print is Tuesday's, two sessions older than the equity closes it is set against, and a rates-vol gauge that fell on Wednesday and Thursday would narrow the gap without equities moving at all. Bitcoin sits between them, with implied volatility at a two-week low and realised at 42 percent, a market whose options are priced off the equity calendar and whose spot trades off the rates one. The disagreement is the alpha if it survives a fresh MOVE print: then one of those vol markets is wrong about the sixteenth, and the one with the smaller number is the one that has to move further.*
>
> CBOE, ICE BOFA VIA INVESTING.COM, DERIBIT, INVESTING.COM JGB QUOTES · THURSDAY

RESOLUTION

The Bottom Line

1. The tightening got paid before it was delivered. The yen rose 1.8 percent in two sessions on a Bank of Japan that has hiked nothing yet, Japan's curve rallied from the long end through a strong thirty-year auction, and gilts and Bunds followed. The front-end thread from Tuesday and Wednesday continues; its expression reversed from the cause to the effect.

2. The Fed's own hike lost six points to 38,000 private jobs and a New York Fed president who sees no urgency, and the strip still says 60 percent. The curve did not move: 4.39 and 4.79 for a second day. Friday's payrolls, with a consensus the desk can only give as a range of 58,000 to 79,000, decides which half of the Fed's case wins.

3. The gold card is closed because the rule closed it, on a Wednesday close of 4,385.74 against 4,420, and the metal is 4,434 this morning. The desk prints the whipsaw and keeps the rule. What it takes from the tape is that the metal traded off the dollar and the front end while the ten-year real yield the card was watching did nothing.

4. Bitcoin's big book crossed its line and its small book is walking toward its own: top traders under two to one by size for the first time in twelve days, retail down to 1.21 by count and falling on every four-hour bar but still above the 1.10 gate, open interest bleeding, ETFs back in for a day with the two-day net still negative, no close inside the zone. Half the entry rule is met. The desk waits for the other half and for Friday, and notes that its bitcoin and ether cards both resolve on the same print.

5. Three corrections, all from Wednesday's issue, all the desk's own fault, two of them large: Switzerland's inflation is 0.8 percent rather than 3.5, the Cosmos exploits happened in August rather than this week, and the payrolls consensus the desk quoted matches no survey it can find. The desk's rules for numbers worked on the gold card and failed on its own data pass, and the fix is the same one it applies to trades: verify against the primary source before a number is allowed in.

What this desk got wrong

Two things, stated plainly, and a third that is smaller. First, Wednesday's issue said Swiss consumer prices rose 3.5 percent in August, the highest since 1993, and built a story and part of the Economist's Corner on it. The August figure was released on Thursday and is 0.8 percent, from 0.4 in July, per the Federal Statistical Office as reported by FXStreet, FX.co and Bloomberg via swissinfo. The 3.5 percent figure does not exist in the Swiss series, the desk cannot trace where it came from, and the sentence "Three and a half percent at zero" described a country that is not Switzerland. The Mundell-Fleming point survives with the right number, because the franc is doing the adjusting either way, but the urgency the desk attached to the SNB's September 24 meeting does not. Second, the issue dated the MANTRA drain to Monday and the TAC drain to Tuesday, which were rekt.news' publication dates; the exploits ran August 20 and 22, per rekt's own KiiChain post, Cosmos Labs acknowledged them on August 24 and urged halts on August 25, and six chains were already affected by then. The desk's "sixth chain by Friday" watch was moot when it was written. Third, the issue quoted a payrolls consensus of 42,000 from one source; Investing.com's calendar shows 58,000 and TradingEconomics 79,000, and the desk could not find 42,000 in any survey today. It prints the range.

WATCH · BITCOIN · CONVICTION ●●○○○

Status ACTIVE, zone not closed, gate half met · long bias only on a daily UTC close inside $74,500 to $76,500 with Binance's all-account ratio at or below 1.10 and the top-trader position ratio not above 2.07 · target $85,000, with the 81,300 to 81,500 August shelf first · kill: daily close below $73,000 · second kill: USD/JPY below 155 within a week with the two-year JGB up 5bp or more over the preceding five sessions, or any same-session yen move of 3 percent or more; a 155 print on confirmed MOF intervention or a falling two-year is a suspension

Wednesday's UTC candle closed at 77,340.01 with a low of 76,264, after Tuesday's 76,420 and the perpetual's 76,152, two daily lows and a futures print within 300 dollars of the zone's top and no close inside it, per Binance; spot is 77,927, up 1.1 percent, per CoinGecko, and Thursday's low so far is 76,968. The zone was set on Tuesday from the options and cost-basis structure below spot and it stands as the desk's estimate of where a crowd gets offered; if Friday sends the price through 80,000 without a close inside it, the desk missed the trade and will say so rather than move the zone up to meet the tape. The two positioning conditions the desk wrote on Wednesday split: the top-trader position ratio printed 1.9774, under the 2.07 ceiling and under 2.0 for the first time since August 22, and the all-account ratio printed 1.2148 against a 1.10 gate, down 5.6 percent on the day and easing to 1.1949 on the latest four-hour bar, per Binance's daily and four-hour series. Open interest fell 1.23 percent across twelve straight four-hour bars to 107,411 coins on the live endpoint, funding is a 34th percentile 0.0059 percent, taker flow was net sell for a fourth day in five, and the perpetual trades 3.6 basis points under spot: both books are taking size off into the bounce, the large one has crossed its line and the small one has not, which is the half of the de-crowding the rule wanted and not the whole of it. Every one of those positioning figures comes from Binance alone; the desk has no second venue's account ratio to corroborate the gate and says so. The ETFs took in 101.2 million on Wednesday after 236.5 million out on Tuesday, per SoSoValue and Farside via Cointelegraph, and Strategy resumed buying at an implied 80,338, per its disclosure, which is the bid the desk would be leaning on if the rule ever fires. The insurance below the zone is thinner than on Wednesday: 4,479 bitcoin of September 25 puts at 75,000 against 4,528, 8,716 at 70,000, and nothing the desk can source under 68,000, per Deribit; September 25 maximum pain sits at 70,000, 4,500 dollars under the zone's floor, and the desk notes that a pinned expiry would pull toward its kill rather than its entry. The reward-to-risk is unchanged and nominal: 3.8 to one from the zone's midpoint, 2.4 to one from its top, against a 73,000 kill that sits two percent under the floor, 900 dollars under the 20-day average of 73,886, in an asset whose realised volatility is 42 percent annualised, about 2.2 percent a day; a stop inside a day's noise is a coin flip. The desk adds the arithmetic a portfolio manager would: under a driftless random walk the chance of the target printing before the kill from the midpoint is about 21 percent, which is almost exactly the win rate a 3.8 to one payout needs to break even, so the headline ratio is fair odds and the edge, if any, is in the positioning gate and not in the price distances. A fast break of 73,000 is likelier to gap than to fill, with put insurance thinning under 70,000, so a stop-out could realise more than the nominal two percent; the desk would size for that. The second kill did not trigger and its mechanism condition is not met: dollar-yen is 156.8, 1.8 yen from 155, but the two-year JGB fell 2.6 basis points on Thursday, so a 155 print produced this way would be a suspension under the card's own rule, a yen rising on expectation rather than on the front end. The rule now carries numbers and an override, because reviewers were right that it left the desk room to argue with itself: the two-year must be up 5 basis points or more over the preceding five sessions for 155 to trigger; a 155 print that coincides with confirmed Ministry of Finance intervention is a suspension, since intervention spikes retrace faster than expectation moves; and a same-session move of 3 percent or more in the pair triggers the kill regardless of the two-year, because a carry unwind of that speed hits bitcoin through cross-asset liquidation whether or not Japanese short rates moved that day. Friday's payrolls remains the catalyst most likely to close the zone or blow through it, and the desk will not front-run it. The September 15 cloture vote, at 15.5 percent for the bill by year-end, the September 11 expiry with maximum pain at 77,000 on CPI day, and the September 25 expiry all sit inside the card's window as dated risks.

Kills the view: a daily close below 73,000, or dollar-yen below 155 inside a week with the two-year JGB up 5 basis points or more over five sessions, or a same-session yen move of 3 percent or more. Research and commentary; an analytical lean, never a recommendation.

CLOSED · GOLD · CONVICTION ○○○○○

Status CLOSED, second kill executed · Wednesday closed $4,385.74 spot and $4,414.60 December against a kill of two closes below $4,420 · no replacement, no extension, as pre-registered

The card resolved exactly as Wednesday's issue said it would: a second close below 4,420 closed it, and the desk reported the close rather than describing one it had not seen. Spot settled at 4,385.74, the December contract at 4,414.60 and Yahoo Finance's front month at 4,366.30, per Investing.com and Yahoo, all under the line, and the desk does not adjudicate between the three because they agree on the only thing that matters. The metal then rose to 4,434 spot and 4,487 December by the European mid-morning, with silver up 2.8 percent and the FT leading on "Gold's run isn't yet done," and the desk records that a rule which closes a position on a close and then watches the asset rally 1.5 percent is a rule working as designed, and that reopening it because the tape moved would be a desk without rules. The lesson the desk takes is about tenor: the metal fell on the front end and the dollar and rose on the front end and the dollar, and the ten-year real yield the card watched, at 2.45 percent, did nothing either day. The suspension clause, a strike on a Fifth Fleet or Camp Arifjan facility, did not trigger; Trump discussing "whether to declare the Iran war over" is the opposite of it. What would bring the desk back to the metal, separately and later, is a close above 4,500 with the dollar index under 99 for three sessions as the primary condition, the ten-year real yield at or above 2.45 as the confirming one, and a reclaim of the 4,420 base on a closing basis, which would say the buyer is not a rates buyer and the desk would need a new thesis rather than the old card.

Kills the view: not applicable; the view is closed. Research and commentary; an analytical lean, never a recommendation.

WATCH · ETHER · CONVICTION ●●○○○

Status NEW, trigger armed for after Friday · short bias only on a daily UTC close below $2,356 after the payrolls print with Binance's all-account ratio still above 2.5, a second consecutive spot ETF outflow day confirmed the following morning, and either the top-trader ratio under 1.50 or open interest rising into the close · target $2,150, with $2,300 the 20-day average on the way · kill: daily close above $2,490, or a single ETF day above $200M inflow

The card exists because three things lined up on one day and the desk is explicit that one day is not a trend. The twelve-session ether ETF streak, 1.62 billion dollars, ended with a 48 million outflow on Wednesday, per SoSoValue and Farside via Cointelegraph; Binance's all-account ratio for ether is 2.7523 to one long, the highest in the fourteen days the desk holds, against a top-trader ratio of 1.58 that has sat between 1.55 and 1.59 all window and open interest that is flat, which is a crowd without a professional book behind it and without fresh leverage under it, the shape that squeezes least; funding printed 0.0084 percent, a 74th percentile reading, with the perpetual 5.2 basis points under spot, per Binance. Ether is down 3.8 percent on the week against bitcoin's 1.5, per CoinGecko, Wednesday's candle closed at 2,391.92 with a 2,356.41 low, per Binance, and the September 25 book has 37,085 puts at 2,100 with maximum pain near 2,150, per Deribit. The counter is the bid that just paused: twelve straight days of institutional inflow is the largest sustained demand ether has had, Bitmine bought 131 million dollars of it on Monday, and one outflow after twelve inflows is a pause until it is two, which is why the trigger requires the second day. The desk also said on Wednesday it would not front-run payrolls, and it does not change that because the coin changed; it publishes the card on day one with the trigger deferred rather than holding it unnamed, so the reader can see the conditions before they are met. From a 2,356 trigger to 2,150 against a 2,490 kill the reward-to-risk is 1.5 to one, and the 2,300 level, the 20-day average, is a waypoint rather than a target, because 56 points of reward against 134 of risk is a ratio no desk should publish as a leg; the conviction is two pips because the trigger sits 2 percent under spot with ether's DVOL at 50, inside one noisy session, and because the two-day flow confirmation arrives a morning late by construction. The 2.5 threshold is the top quartile of the fourteen-day series rather than a number fitted to Thursday's print. Kill logic: a daily close above 2,490, the August 31 high, says the retail crowd was right and the desk was fading a trend; a single ETF day above 200 million says the institutional bid never left. If both this trigger and the bitcoin entry fire on the same Friday print, the desk holds one relative-value position, ether against bitcoin, at a 0.88 thirty-day correlation, and sizes it as one.

Kills the view: a daily close above 2,490, or a single spot ETF inflow day above 200 million dollars. Research and commentary; an analytical lean, never a recommendation.

CLOSED · BRENT · CONVICTION ○○○○○

`Status CLOSED since Monday's close above $91 · reopening requires a close below $91 with OVX under 45, no CENTCOM strike statements for a week, Hormuz throughput above its ten-day average, and no Fifth Fleet or Camp Arifjan strike · conditions met: zero of four`

Brent settled at 95.63 on Wednesday, up 1.0 percent and 6.7 percent over five sessions, per Yahoo Finance, and was 95.32 in the European morning; OVX is 47.77, per CBOE; Hormuz traffic is below half its ten-day average, per The National; Central Command is escorting tankers. The Journal's report that the President is discussing declaring the war over is a headline and the desk's rule for this card is the barrel. It stays closed. The escalation marker added today, a Brent close above 100 with OVX above 55, is a watch line and not a view.

Kills the view: not applicable; the view is closed. Research and commentary; an analytical lean, never a recommendation.

MONITOR · USD/JPY · NO BIAS

`156.8 at the European mid-morning, from 159.70 in Tuesday's issue · BOJ September 17 to 18, a quarter-point favoured per Bloomberg · MOF spent a record $96.5B on the yen in the month to late August · the bitcoin card's second kill sits at 155`

The pair closed Wednesday at 158.71, down 1.20 percent from Tuesday's close and 0.6 percent from the 159.70 midday print in the last issue, and fell another 1.2 percent on Thursday, per Investing.com, on board member Takata's outsized-hike remarks and Bloomberg's report that the bank favours 25 basis points, with Nikkei Asia and Bloomberg both reporting intervention alertness. The two-year JGB fell 2.6 basis points on the day, so the desk classifies the yen's move as expectation rather than front-end pricing, and that classification, now with numbers, decides whether a 155 print is a trigger or a suspension for the bitcoin card: the two-year up 5 basis points or more over five sessions triggers, a print on confirmed intervention suspends, and a 3 percent same-session move triggers regardless. The risk the desk names separately is the reversal: a record month of intervention behind a 1.8 percent move leaves a currency that can give the move back on September 18 if the bank delivers less than the Bloomberg report implies,

> and a further leg down driven by verified Ministry action would validate nothing about the hike being priced. The desk watches the two-year and the pair together and moves nothing.

Catalyst calendar

WHEN	WHAT	WHY IT MATTERS TO THE CARDS
Thursday	ISM services, jobless claims, trade balance; Broadcom's call	Services PMI at 54.2 consensus; a services employment print reads into Friday
Friday	August payrolls, 58,000 to 79,000 by survey; unemployment 4.1 to 4.3	The event the bitcoin zone, the ether trigger and the yen monitor all wait for; every open card shares this catalyst and the September 16 decision; the two-year at 4.39 is the tell
Monday Sep 7	China August reserves and PBOC gold	A 21st or 22nd month of purchases per the Council's count, or the first pause
Sep 8 to 10	US 3-year, 10-year and 30-year auctions	The 30-year at 5.27 with China's holdings at a 2008 low
Sep 10	ECB, Berlin	Two-year Bund at 2.96 against a 2.25 deposit rate
Sep 11	US August CPI	Kalshi's core ladder straddles 0.2 percent
Sep 15	CLARITY cloture	Dated sentiment risk inside the bitcoin card; 15.5 percent for the year
Sep 16	FOMC and projections; Copom	60.4 percent for a hike; the vol markets disagree on how much it matters
Sep 17 to 18	Bank of England; Bank of Japan	The yen's expectation meets the decision; 155 and the two-year decide the bitcoin card's second kill
Sep 24	SNB; Banxico	Switzerland at 0.8 percent inflation and a zero rate has time
Sep 25	Deribit quarterly expiry, 172,783 BTC	Maximum pain 70,000, under the zone's floor

Review Panel

Fourteen reviewers read the draft. 107 approvals, 47 flags, 0 rejections across eleven sections. A denotes approve, F denotes flag, R denotes reject. The Press Digest vote is folded into the Lede column, the Scandals vote into Reg, and the On-Chain and Sovereign votes into Flows.

REVIEWER	LEDE	STORIES	CRYPTO	TRADFI	INTL	GEO	REG	FLOWS	PRED	SENT	BL
Macro strategist	F	A	A	F	F	A	A	A	F	A	A
Crypto native	A	F	F	A	A	A	A	A	A	F	A
Risk manager	F	F	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	F	F
Devil's advocate	F	F	A	A	A	F	A	A	F	A	F
Geopolitical analyst	A	A	A	A	A	F	A	A	A	A	F
Regulatory expert	A	F	A	A	A	A	F	A	A	A	F
Institutional flow	A	F	F	A	A	A	A	F	A	F	F
Technical analyst	A	F	F	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Sentiment analyst	A	F	F	A	A	A	A	F	A	F	F
Portfolio strategist	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	F	F	F	F
Economist	A	A	A	F	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Bias auditor	F	F	A	A	F	F	A	A	A	A	F
International desk	A	A	A	A	F	A	A	A	A	A	A

Sovereign and cross-asset	A	F	A	A	A	A	A	F	A	F	A

Changes made after the panel. The yen's first leg was restated: the 159.70 print in the last issue was Wednesday's European midday quote, so the Wednesday close of 158.71 is 1.20 percent below Tuesday's close and 0.6 percent below that print, and the lede, story one, the currencies table and the monitor card now say so. Story one's credibility reading of Japan's bull flattening was demoted from the reading to one of two, with the global-rally and supply readings given equal space, the auction described as weaker than the prior sale as well as stronger than the year's average, and the Economist's Corner rewritten to carry its rival and attributed to Fisher, Hicks and Lutz rather than to Lucas and Sargent. The bitcoin card's second kill now carries numbers: the two-year JGB up 5 basis points or more over five sessions to trigger, a confirmed-intervention print as a suspension, and a 3 percent same-session yen move as an override for a carry unwind. Story five was retitled and rewritten after the sentiment and flow reviewers showed the desk's own table contradicted it: the retail ratio fell 5.6 percent against the top-trader ratio's 4.5, so both books thinned and the small one has not yet crossed its gate. The "three lows within 40 dollars" claim was corrected to two daily lows and a futures print within 300 dollars; the 20-day and 50-day averages, the August 25 and 28 highs at 81,273 and 81,479, and the September 11 expiry were added to the levels; maximum pain sits 4,500 under the zone floor, not 3,000; the December 80,000 call is the largest line in its expiry and the September 70,000 call the largest on the board. The ether card lost its 0.4 to one first-target leg, gained a fourth condition on the professional book and a one-morning confirmation lag, and states that a joint fire with the bitcoin card is one relative-value position at a 0.88 correlation. Story nine's ranking of China as the second-largest holder and Norway as the third-largest buyer was corrected; the SpaceX line is explained by the June listing; the UK figure carries its custodial caveat; the "TIC net inflow" pullquote now says the 133 billion went into all US assets with 6.8 billion into Treasuries. The Nevada ruling is dated August 28 and attributed to the CFTC's filing rather than "the administration"; the stale November 5 hearing clause was removed; the CLARITY causal line was widened. Commodities-table live changes for gold, silver and copper were recomputed against the printed prices, silver's Wednesday reference dropped as a contract mismatch, and the metal ratios recomputed; the Bund ten-year was unified at 3.355 with every spread recomputed from it; the Fed-complex 24-hour volume corrected to 2.7 million across four contracts and the venue spread stated on the any-hike basis; the "no Fed cuts" comparison to the strip corrected; the CPI-versus-PCE paragraph rewritten to say the Fed targets PCE by framework and that the gap runs the unusual way; the USD/JPY cell in the Asia table aligned; the South Africa and Turkey FX levels moved out of the yield column; a Brent escalation marker, Iran's three retaliation channels and Israel's absence added to story four; the MOVE print's staleness disclosed in the linkage pullquote; standard errors and a risk-off caveat added to the correlations; the corrections count aligned at three; and six negate-then-restate constructions rewritten as direct statements. Not adopted: widening the bitcoin kill to 71,500, because the desk prefers to size for the gap risk it now describes than to move a level it published; a rates card, because the desk expresses its rates view through the monitor and the auction watch rather than a position; and holding the ether card unnamed until day two, because the desk would rather the reader see the conditions before they are met.