THE BACKROOM BRIEF

MARKETS · MACRO · CRYPTO

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2026 | RISK-OFF | CRYPTO 24H VOLUME $89.4B

BTC $76,834 -1.14% · ETH $2,472.49 -1.91% · SOL $100.26 -1.19% · BRENT $107.70 +1.91% · WTI $103.44 +2.02% · S&P 7,619.98 -0.48% · NDX 29,127.16 -0.82% · SOX 11,131.28 -5.86% · NIKKEI 63,484.10 -0.01% · KOSPI 6,627.26 -0.85% · SOFTBANK ¥6,279 +7.54% · USDJPY 154.98 +0.41% · GOLD $4,313.10 -0.89% · US2Y 4.673% +3.9bp · US10Y 5.033% +7.2bp · US30Y 5.398% +7.0bp · DXY 99.613 +0.22% · VIX 17.10 Mon +1.26 · VIX9D 16.91 Mon +2.44 · F&G 69 GREED, from 57

Crypto, FX, commodities, government bond yields and US index futures are live prints from the European morning on Tuesday. US cash equity and volatility levels are Monday 14 September closes. Tokyo, Seoul, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Taipei, Sydney and Hong Kong levels are Tuesday closes; Singapore, India and Europe were still trading when pulled. Brent and WTI are the ICE November 2026 and NYMEX October 2026 contracts; gold is COMEX December 2026. Ticker Treasury yields are CNBC benchmark quotes; the Treasury par curve appears separately in Traditional Markets and the two are never mixed in one table. Daily changes are against Monday's close or settle except crypto, which is 24 hours. Calibration per Polymarket research, 2026-04-16.

THE LEDE

Five Percent, Priced at the Front

The US 10-year Treasury yield traded at 5.033 percent in the European morning on Tuesday, 7.2 basis points above Monday's close and higher than on any day since July 2007 (CNBC benchmark quote; the last FRED daily close at or above it is 19 July 2007). Monday only brushed the line: the yield touched 5.012 percent intraday, its first print above 5 since 2023 (Reuters, The Motley Fool), and closed at 4.97 on Treasury's own par curve. The same session took the Philadelphia semiconductor index down 5.86 percent while CrowdStrike rose 13.85 percent and Alphabet 3.22 (CNBC quote service).

The week's move sits mostly at the front of the curve. From Tuesday 8 September to Monday the two-year par yield rose 26 basis points to 4.65 percent and the 10-year 17 to 4.97, so the gap between them narrowed from 41 points to 32 (US Treasury). Monday's real 10-year yield did not move from 2.60 and the breakeven rose one point to 2.37. Fed funds futures now put 91.5 percent on a hike on Wednesday, up from 89.5 at Monday's close and 83.8 when yesterday's issue went out (investing.com Fed Rate Monitor); Polymarket's 25-point bucket trades at 88.5 and Kalshi's at 87 to 88 cents. Tuesday's own leg runs the other way, though. The US 5-year, 10-year and 30-year have each added 6 to 7 points and the two-year only 3.9, while Japan's 30-year rose 9.5 against 0.6 for its 10-year (CNBC). That is a steepening from the two-year out, and it looks more like a sale of duration in more than one country than a second Fed repricing.

Yesterday this desk framed the week as two supply shocks, oil and a slower build-out of artificial intelligence, arriving at the Federal Reserve together. Both are still here. November Brent traded at 107.70 dollars, up 1.91 percent, after Iran's foreign ministry said Saudi Arabia had asked for Monday's Hormuz talks to be postponed (Al Jazeera; ICE via CNBC). The AI shock, though, sorted technology into two piles on its first US session: the companies that sell equipment and power to the build-out fell 5 to 8 percent, and software companies that gain time if it slows rose 4 to 14. Today's thread is the price of money. The day's stories are only loosely linked, a Fed repricing at the front of the curve, a sale of duration behind it and a sort inside technology, but a 5 percent 10-year is the rate at which all of them now get discounted, and Wednesday sets its next step.

CROSS-REFERENCE

Press Digest

Each outlet's lead story, or its top markets headline where the lead was domestic, between Monday midday and Tuesday's European morning, from each outlet's own feed or headline index.

OUTLET	REGION	LEAD STORY	KEY NUMBER
Bloomberg	US	US 10-Year Treasury Yields Rise to Highest Level Since 2007; Chinese Economic Momentum Stays Weak as Consumption Falters	5%
Financial Times	UK	Ten-year Treasury yield hits 5% for first time since 2023; Iran's allies squeeze Saudi Arabia 'on all fronts'	5%

OUTLET	REGION	LEAD STORY	KEY NUMBER
Wall Street Journal	US	AI Leaders Are Calling for a Slowdown, but Wall Street Keeps on Buying; Bank of Japan Set to Deliver Fastest Hike of Cycle as Pressure Mounts	n/a
New York Times	US	Tech Stocks Tumble After AI Leaders Call for Industry to Slow Down; Bond Market Rebukes Bessent by Sending Borrowing Costs Ever Higher	5%
Reuters	Global	Ukraine races to counter Russia's jet-powered drone attacks; US 10-year yields reach 5%, highest since 2023	5%
The Economist	UK	France's centre has one question: who can beat Marine Le Pen?; Bond markets aren't just running a temperature	5%
Nikkei Asia	Japan	Japan sees slower inflow of foreign professionals as AI crimps hiring; China growth outlook dims as real estate, retail pressure worsens	n/a
South China Morning Post	Hong Kong	A ploy to entrench US lead? China pushes back on calls for slowdown in AI	n/a
Caixin Global	China	China's August Retail Sales Barely Grow as Auto Slump Deepens; Z.AI Raises $5 Billion in Share Placement, Convertible Bond Sale	$5bn
China Daily	China	Chinese e-bikes power worldwide shift in urban mobility; US stocks sink amid AI slowdown warnings	n/a
Business Times	Singapore	Fed's Warsh poised to pull trigger and raise rates for the first time under his watch; US Justice Department says millions in Iran oil proceeds laundered on Binance	n/a
Economic Times	India	Infosys, HCLTech, TCS, other IT stocks soar up to 6%; Nifty IT rallies 5% as global AI slowdown calls boost	up to 6%
Korea Times	South Korea	KOSPI falls as US 10-year yield tops 5%, oil prices rise	5%
Handelsblatt	Germany	Die Fed könnte bei ihrem Zinsentscheid Geschichte schreiben; Anthropic löst KI-Sell-Off aus, Ölpreis steigt weiter an	n/a
Les Echos	France	STMicroelectronics, Schneider Electric et Legrand en lanterne rouge du Cac 40 après le « choc ultime »; Clarity Act : les républicains accèdent aux demandes éthiques des démocrates	n/a
Gulf News	UAE	Saudi oil pipeline crippled for weeks as Houthis seize more Red Sea islands	n/a
The National	UAE	Saudi Arabia discovers 110 million tonnes of uranium-concentrated ore in Madinah region; Shadow Man, IRGC flight and a secret meeting: Iran's hand in Houthi offensive revealed	110Mt ore
Arabian Business	UAE	Iran war live: Houthis attack Saudi Arabia as Gulf-Tehran talks stall	n/a
Al Jazeera	Qatar	Houthis say air strikes hit Yemen after Saudi Arabia vows 'firm' response; Trump calls, interrupts Nvidia CEO to say AI fears are 'a hoax'	n/a
Valor Econômico	Brazil	Juros da T-note de 10 anos ultrapassam a marca de 5% pela primeira vez desde 2023; Bitcoin opera perto de US$ 78 mil antes de Fed e votação do Clarity Act	5%, $78k

Three stories lead most outlets' markets coverage: the AI slowdown call and the chip selloff, the 10-year at 5 percent, and oil under the Houthi advance. The one apparent disagreement is about dates rather than facts. The FT, Reuters, the Korea Times, Singapore's Business Times, India's Economic Times and Valor all wrote "since 2023", and Bloomberg wrote "since 2007". Both are right about different days: Monday's 5.012 percent peak sat just below October 2023's high, and Tuesday's 5.03 cleared it. The framing split is sharper on AI. The WSJ leads with Wall Street still buying, the NYT with the tumble, and India's Economic Times with a 5 percent rally in its IT services index, the same direction as US software. China Daily, the Korea Times, the SCMP and Caixin led with domestic stories and Reuters with Ukraine's drone defences; the SCMP's top AI item files the call as "a ploy to entrench US lead". Only Les Echos and Valor put Tuesday's CLARITY vote near the top of their markets pages.

THE STORIES

Eight Stories

1. The 10-year cleared 2007 before Europe opened

The line broke twice, on two different days. On Monday the 10-year touched 5.012 percent intraday, the first print above 5 since 2023 (The Motley Fool; Reuters), then closed at 4.97 on Treasury's par curve. On Tuesday it traded up to 5.041 and sat at 5.033 in the European morning (CNBC benchmark quote), and Bloomberg's headline "US 10-Year Treasury Yields Rise to Highest Level Since 2007" landed before European markets opened. FRED's daily series puts the last close at or above 5.03 on 19 July 2007.

The rest of the long end sold with it. Japan's 30-year government bond rose 9.5 basis points to 4.164 percent, the UK 10-year gilt 4.9 to 5.421 and the German 10-year 3.0 to 3.562 (CNBC benchmark quotes). On the Bundesbank's own curve the German 10-year closed Monday at 3.59 percent, its highest since April 2011, which is what the Wall Street Journal's "German Bund Yield Hits 15-Year High" headline was measuring. The New York Times headlined "Bond Market Rebukes Bessent by Sending Borrowing Costs Ever Higher", and The Economist ran "Bond markets aren't just running a temperature". The Bank for International Settlements published its

September Quarterly Review on Monday under the overview title "Yields climb, yet risk appetite holds firm", writing that hostilities in the Strait of Hormuz "heightened uncertainty about the inflation and monetary policy outlook" (bis.org).

The stake is which kind of 5 percent this is, and the evidence splits by day. Over the week the front did the work: the two-year par yield rose 26 basis points and the 10-year 17 (US Treasury), which is what a hike being priced looks like. The New York Fed's 10-year term premium was 0.72 percent on Friday, below 0.78 on 1 September (ACM model), so the move through Friday was not a term-premium break; the model has no reading yet for Monday or Tuesday. Tuesday's leg is different: every US tenor past the two-year rose 6 to 7 points while the two-year rose 3.9, Japan's 30-year outran its 10-year by nine points, and Germany's 30-year rose 5.2 while its two-year fell (CNBC). The bid for duration also has a potential seller in waiting. Norway's sovereign fund proposed on 4 September to cut close to 80 billion dollars from roughly 215 billion of Treasuries, subject to its ministry (CNBC, BNN Bloomberg). Auctions have not failed yet. The 30-year reopening on 10 September cleared at 5.308 percent with dealers left holding 2.20 percent (TreasuryDirect). The price moved; the buyers did not leave.

Watch. Treasury's par close for Tuesday: a print at or above 5.00 would be the first on that curve since 2007. The 20-year reopening today, 13 billion dollars (TreasuryDirect), where a dealer share above 10 percent would be the first sign of buyers stepping back. And Wednesday's projections, where the two-year point tells you whether the front was right.

2. The AI call sorted technology into two piles

Wall Street's first session after Saturday's post on pacing AI development took the Philadelphia semiconductor index down 5.86 percent to 11,131.28. Lam Research fell 8.29 percent, Marvell 7.32, ASML's US shares 7.25, Applied Materials 7.07, KLA 6.39, Micron 5.25, Broadcom 4.77 and Nvidia 3.36 (CNBC quote service). Reuters headlined the close "Wall Street ends down, calls for AI slowdown pummel chipmakers".

The other pile went up. CrowdStrike rose 13.85 percent, Palo Alto Networks 13.09, Cloudflare 7.77, ServiceNow 7.41, Adobe 5.30, Salesforce 4.73, Alphabet 3.22, Meta 2.71 and Microsoft 1.97 (CNBC). The software ETF IGV gained 5.04 percent on the day while the semiconductor ETF SMH lost 4.75 (Nasdaq data). The build-out's physical suppliers fell with the chips: Super Micro 8.38 percent, Vertiv 7.63, Constellation Energy 7.09, CoreWeave 6.75 (CNBC). So did the bitcoin miners that had pivoted to AI hosting, Cipher down 7.21, TeraWulf 7.59 and Hut 8 7.58, against 4.01 for MARA and 2.42 for Riot. India's Nifty IT index rose as much as 5.06 percent on Tuesday on the same news, after losing 21 percent this year (Business Standard), which puts services and software on one side of the trade in two countries. Fortune's read was that "chipmakers sink while hyperscalers gain", and it quoted D.A. Davidson's Gil Luria with the test: "Until they say that, they're not actually slowing down."

The stake is simple arithmetic. The equipment makers' revenue is the hyperscalers' capital spending. If the frontier labs slow the cadence of new models, the spenders keep cash and the suppliers wait longer for orders, which is exactly how Monday priced it. The BIS's review, out the same day, flagged "possible overinvestment in the tech sector" (bis.org). The politics cut against the slowdown ever being enforced: President Trump called AI fears "a hoax" while interrupting an interview with Nvidia's chief executive (Al Jazeera, Gulf News), and China's foreign ministry called the slowdown push "fear-mongering" (AP, WION). Both have their own stakes in the build-out continuing, one in American chip leadership and the other in its own AI industry, just as the lab asking for restraint has a listing to prepare. A pause that both Washington and Beijing reject has no enforcer, which is why the sort may not last.

Most of Asia and Europe did not repeat the chip sale on Tuesday. SoftBank rebounded 7.54 percent to 6,279 yen after Monday's 10.72 percent fall, Kioxia rose 2.29 and TSMC 0.21, while Advantest lost 2.96 (CNBC). ASML traded 0.62 percent higher in Amsterdam in the morning. Yesterday's Nasdaq 100 against S&P 500 card expires unresolved: the gap closed at 0.34 percentage points, between its 0.50 confirmation and 0.20 kill, because the Nasdaq holds both piles.

Watch. Any hyperscaler restating its capital spending, which is Luria's test. Nvidia, the one name whose customers sit in both piles. And Polymarket's "Will Anthropic IPO by October 31, 2026?" at 60.5 percent, down 2.0 in a day, a listing that sits beside the same lab's call for restraint.

3. Seven Democrats, no commitments, one roll call

The Senate votes on Tuesday afternoon, US time, on cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 3633, the CLARITY Act. It needs 60 votes and Republicans hold 53 seats (The Block; 24/7 Wall St). By the European morning no Democrat had publicly committed to voting yes. 24/7 Wall St, syndicated on Yahoo, named seven Democrats withholding support: Angela Alsobrooks, Cory Booker, Catherine Cortez Masto, Ruben Gallego, John Hickenlooper, Mark Warner and Raphael Warnock, with Cortez Masto and Warner conditioning any support on law-enforcement concerns. The same report expects two or three Republican defections, which would lift the Democratic crossovers needed to nine or ten.

The weekend rewrite did not close the gap. Senator Cynthia Lummis said on Monday that "some Democrats simply won't get to yes, no matter what we put in the text" (Crowdfund Insider). Headlines through Monday night reported a Democratic counterproposal (CoinGape), Democrats rejecting the latest draft hours before the vote (Coinpedia), a letter from 18 state attorneys general warning about fraud (Seeking Alpha), and banks lobbying to tighten stablecoin reward rules (Cryptonews). Polymarket's "Clarity Act (H.R.3633) signed into law in 2026?" fell 13.0 points in a day to 18.5 percent, 11.5 below the 30.0 in yesterday's issue. A thinner contract, "Will over 50 Senators vote for the Clarity Act?", fell 24.5 points to 46.5 percent on 14,500 dollars of volume.

The stake is this desk's own condition. Yesterday's card said fewer than three Democrats publicly committing before the roll call would restore the call that cloture fails. On the record available at publication, the count is zero, so the call is restored. The proxy is imperfect: the seven names come from one syndicated report rather than a whip count, two of the seven described their support as conditional rather than refused, and senators often keep commitments private until the roll call. The downside for crypto is slower rather than reversed. SEC Chair Paul Atkins said the agency's crypto agenda "will proceed even if CLARITY Act stalls" (CoinGape).

Watch. The roll call, which lands after this issue. Sixty kills the call. A tally in the mid-50s with named Democrats crossing would show a route to a second vote, and a tally near the Republican seat count would show no bipartisan path on this attempt, although leadership can file for cloture again.

4. The Hormuz talks were postponed at Saudi request

Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei said Saudi Arabia asked for Monday's meeting on new Hormuz shipping routes to be postponed, citing events in Yemen, and that the meeting "would have been a very suitable opportunity" (Al Jazeera). The events are the Houthi advance: four Yemeni government sources told gCaptain on 11 September that the group had reached Perim Island at the mouth of the Bab al-Mandab, and by Tuesday Al Jazeera's lead was "Houthis say air strikes hit Yemen after Saudi Arabia vows 'firm' response". The pipeline is a separate front: the BBC reported the drone that hit it was launched from Iraq, and Gulf News's headline pairs the damage with the Houthi island seizures without saying who struck the line.

Shipping is paying for it. The benchmark tanker rate from the Gulf to China topped 1.035 million dollars a day for the first time, with the Gulf of Oman route near 644,000 (Bloomberg data via gCaptain). US Central Command rejected Iran's claim that the tanker El Gaia struck a mine, calling it "yet another example of their lies and intimidation attempts" (gCaptain). Gulf News led with the Saudi pipeline "crippled for weeks". November Brent settled at 105.68 dollars on Monday, up 1.02 percent, and traded at 107.70 in the European morning with a high of 108.30; October WTI was 103.44 (ICE and NYMEX via CNBC). Crude volatility, the OVX, closed Monday at 59.46 (Cboe).

The prediction market moved against the news. "Iran-Oman Hormuz Agreement by September 30?" rose 6.5 points in a day to 25.5 percent, 8.0 above yesterday's issue, on only 23,400 dollars of 24-hour volume, and calibrates to 19.7. "US announces end of Iranian blockade by September 30, 2026?" sits at 13.5 percent and "Strait of Hormuz traffic returns to normal by September 30?" at 1.10 (Polymarket). The stake for this desk is the Brent card, whose 100 to 104 dollar zone has now gone two sessions untraded. From 107.70 the card risks 11.70 dollars to its 96 kill against 10.30 to the bottom of its target, which is less than one for one.

Watch. A new Oman date, which would need Saudi agreement to mean anything. A UN Security Council meeting on the Bab al-Mandab threat has been reported but not scheduled (Ynetnews). And loadings at Yanbu, where Asian refiners have asked for clarification (oilprice.com).

5. Crypto sat out Monday and paid on Tuesday

Bitcoin rose to 78,280 dollars on Monday while chip stocks fell, and CoinDesk headlined "Bitcoin climbs to $78,000 as crypto sits out the AI selloff". Coinbase shares rose 9.24 percent and Strategy's 4.56 (CNBC). US spot bitcoin funds took in 160.0 million dollars and ether funds 121.0 million (SoSoValue). By Tuesday's European morning bitcoin was 76,834 dollars, down 1.14 percent in 24 hours, ether 2,472.49, down 1.91, and total crypto market value 2.64 trillion, down 3.04 percent (CoinGecko).

The small accounts left first. Binance's bitcoin long-short ratio across all accounts fell from 1.6631 to 1.1631 on the current day's reading, a 30.1 percent drop that only returns it to the 1.1608 of 8 September, while the top-trader position ratio fell 11.3 percent, from 2.3265 to 2.0637. In ether the split was wider: retail down 14.0 percent, top traders up 1.4 (Binance futures data). Ether funding turned negative on Binance at minus 9.77 percent annualised and on Bybit at minus 17.48, against plus 0.37 on OKX and plus 5.05 on Hyperliquid (exchange APIs). The CME front-month bitcoin future traded within 34 dollars of Coinbase spot, a basis inside quote-timing noise, against 7.96 percent annualised in yesterday's issue; the ether front month compressed from 14.48 percent to 4.35 (CME via CNBC, Coinbase). Liquidation trackers disagree by a factor of ten, from 239 million dollars (DataWallet) to 2.78 billion (Loris Tools), so this desk prints no total.

The stake is what crypto is trading as. On Monday it traded as the risk asset with no AI exposure. On Tuesday it traded with rates, falling as the 10-year crossed 5 percent, and the leveraged retail book, which had grown for a week, was the first thing to go. One session does not prove the link, and Tuesday's fund flows, due after publication, are the first test. Fear and Greed printed 69, from 57 (alternative.me), which reflects Monday's rally more than Tuesday's slide. Deribit's bitcoin implied volatility index rose to 39.07 from 36.75 on 11 September (Deribit).

Watch. Tuesday's fund flows, which complete yesterday's ether-against-bitcoin test. And ether funding: shorts paying longs into a Fed decision is how squeezes start, so negative funding that persists through Wednesday is a warning to the short side as much as a bearish sign.

6. Strategy stopped buying 1.9 percent above its cost

Strategy's filing on Monday says that between 8 and 13 September it "did not sell any shares under its at-the-market offering program and did not purchase or sell any bitcoin" (SEC Form 8-K, sec.gov). It holds about 845,050 bitcoin bought for 63.73 billion dollars, an average of about 75,412 dollars each.

At 76,834 dollars that stack is worth about 64.93 billion, 1.20 billion above cost, or 1.9 percent. Spot sits 1,422 dollars above the average price of the largest corporate holder. The same filing shows the company spent 139.3 million dollars buying back 1,420,467 shares of its STRC preferred stock. The short-term holder realized price, the average cost of coins that moved in the last 155 days, was 70,955.89 dollars on 8 September (bitcoin-data.com), and the September 25 Deribit expiry, which holds 44.3 percent of all bitcoin option open interest, has its maximum pain at 72,000 (Deribit, desk-computed). The ether side kept its buyer: BitMine added 27,180 ether in the week to 13 September, taking its treasury to 5,956,378, about 4.9 percent of supply (The Block).

The stake is the bid. Strategy's at-the-market share sales have funded a steady weekly purchase, and a week with no sale is a week with no purchase. Buying back preferred stock uses cash that could have bought coins. One week is not a change of policy, and the filing does not say why, so this desk reads it as a pause and not a signal.

Watch. Next Monday's filing. Bitcoin against 75,412 dollars, the line at which the largest corporate holder's stack goes under water. And 72,000, where the monthly options board and the short-term holder cost basis sit close together.

7. Japan's long end ran ahead of Friday

Japan's 30-year government bond yield rose 9.5 basis points to 4.164 percent on Tuesday, while the 10-year rose 0.6 to 3.042 (CNBC benchmark quotes). On the Ministry of Finance's constant-maturity curve the 30-year closed Monday at 4.040 and the spread between two and 30 years had widened 4.2 points in a week to 219.9 (mof.go.jp).

The Bank of Japan decides on Friday. Polymarket prices a 25-point hike at 97.65 percent, and the Wall Street Journal headlined "Bank of Japan Set to Deliver Fastest Hike of Cycle as Pressure Mounts". Dollar-yen traded at 154.98, up 0.41 percent, with a high of 155.23 (CNBC). The Nikkei 225 closed flat at 63,484.10 and the Topix fell 0.52 percent to 4,037.16.

The stake is the rate gap. On Tuesday the US 10-year rose 7.2 basis points and Japan's 10-year 0.6 (CNBC), so the difference that pays for holding dollars over yen widened before a hike meant to narrow it. That keeps yesterday's yen card moving as warned. Japan's own long end is pricing more than the policy rate: a curve that steepens at 30 years while the two-year barely moves is a supply and inflation premium.

Watch. Dollar-yen at 155, which it has broken three times in a week (investinglive). Friday's statement on bond purchases. The yen card dies if dollar-yen trades back below Friday's 153.54 before the decision.

8. China's factories beat and its shoppers did not

China's industrial output grew 5.2 percent from a year earlier in August, above the 4.8 percent expected and July's 4.5. Retail sales grew 0.4 percent against 0.8 expected and 0.6 in July, and fixed-asset investment fell 7.2 percent in the first eight months, worse than the 6.7 decline through July (National Bureau of Statistics figures, as reported by CNBC and Reuters). New home prices fell for a third straight month (Business Times). Caixin's headline was "China's August Retail Sales Barely Grow as Auto Slump Deepens".

Markets did not look for good news in it. The Hang Seng closed down 1.00 percent at 24,667.24, the Shanghai Composite 0.54 percent lower at 3,864.28 and the Shenzhen Composite 0.72 percent lower (CNBC). The offshore yuan traded at 6.7137 per dollar. Bloomberg's framing was "Chinese Economic Momentum Stays Weak as Consumption Falters". The South China Morning Post reported that a roughly 30 billion dollar fall in humanoid-robot maker Unitree's market value has drawn Beijing's scrutiny of robot listings.

The stake is where the growth goes. Factory output rising while households do not spend looks like an export story, though this desk has no August Chinese trade figure to confirm it, and it meets a world where Korea's exports rose 83 percent in the first ten days of September on chips (Korea Times, Yonhap) and oil costs more than 100 dollars. A slower AI build-out and a slower China consumer would hit the same Asian suppliers from two sides.

Watch. The loan prime rate fixing around 21 September, where the one-year rate has sat at 3.00 percent and the five-year at 3.50 for fifteen months (Reuters). And any stimulus signal, which the data now invites.

MARKETS

Crypto

Bitcoin traded at 76,834 dollars in the European morning on Tuesday, down 1.14 percent in 24 hours and 1.05 percent below yesterday's issue print of 77,647, after reaching 78,280 on Monday (CoinGecko; CoinDesk). Ether was 2,472.49 dollars, down 1.91 percent, and the ether-bitcoin ratio slipped to 0.03218 from 0.03243. Total crypto market value fell 3.04 percent to 2.64 trillion dollars while 24-hour volume rose to 89.4 billion from 61.9 billion in yesterday's issue, the volume of a market repositioning (CoinGecko global). Bitcoin's share of total value is 58.31 percent on CoinGecko's own measure, and ether's 11.41. CoinGecko's trending list is led by Power Protocol, PONS, bitcoin, Standard and Lisk, the last after an eleven-fold intraday spike that liquidated about 38 million dollars (finance.biggo.com headline).

ASSET	PRICE	24H	24H VOLUME	MARKET VALUE
Bitcoin	$76,834	-1.14%	$31.80B	$1.543T
Ether	$2,472.49	-1.91%	$16.32B	$301.8B
BNB	$715.92	-1.09%	$0.95B	$95.3B
XRP	$1.39	+0.04%	$4.24B	$87.2B
Solana	$100.26	-1.19%	$3.32B	$58.9B
Tron	$0.3376	-0.52%	$0.44B	$32.1B

ASSET	PRICE	24H	24H VOLUME	MARKET VALUE
Hyperliquid	$78.67	-1.30%	$0.76B	$17.5B
Dogecoin	$0.0824	-2.10%	$0.60B	$12.9B
Chainlink	$11.37	-0.20%	$0.37B	$8.5B
Cardano	$0.2041	-2.88%	$0.40B	$7.7B
Avalanche	$7.47	+1.16%	$0.26B	$3.3B
Sui	$0.7056	-2.56%	$0.48B	$2.9B
Pepe	$0.00000342	-0.57%	$0.20B	$1.44B
Bonk	$0.00000266	-2.79%	$0.02B	$0.23B

Fund flows

US spot bitcoin funds took in 160.0 million dollars on Monday, the first inflow after four sessions of outflows, led by BlackRock's IBIT at 134.3 million and Fidelity's FBTC at 53.3 million, with Ark's ARKB losing 42.0 million (SoSoValue). Ether funds added 121.0 million, their second straight inflow, with ETHA taking 80.5 million. Over the last five sessions bitcoin funds are net 302.7 million dollars out and ether funds 318.1 million in; the four sessions to Friday alone took 462.7 million out of bitcoin funds, as yesterday's issue reported. SoSoValue's two endpoints disagree on bitcoin funds' cumulative inflow by 21.4 million dollars, 55.31 billion against 55.34 billion, so this desk prints both; they agree on ether at 13.51 billion. Bitcoin fund assets stand at 100.09 billion dollars and ether fund assets at 16.42 billion.

SESSION	BTC FUNDS	ETH FUNDS
Tue 8 Sep	-$46.6M	-$24.3M
Wed 9 Sep	-$120.2M	+$34.8M
Thu 10 Sep	-$282.6M	-$29.8M
Fri 11 Sep	-$13.3M	+$216.4M
Mon 14 Sep	+$160.0M	+$121.0M
Five sessions	-$302.7M	+$318.1M

Derivatives

Funding split by asset and by venue. Bitcoin longs pay on every major venue. Ether longs are being paid on Binance and Bybit, Solana longs on Binance, Bybit and OKX, and Hyperliquid stays positive on all three (exchange APIs, annualised, Tuesday European morning; Binance's column is the current funding period and the other venues show their latest published rate). Hyperliquid's bitcoin and Solana rates of exactly 10.95 percent are its structural base rate, which most of its 234 markets sit on, so they say nothing about positioning. Binance bitcoin open interest fell 3.14 percent across eight daily bars while ether's rose 1.61 percent (Binance). Hyperliquid carries 10.21 billion dollars of open interest across 234 markets, with bitcoin at 2.78 billion and ether at 2.54 billion.

FUNDING, ANNUALISED	BINANCE NOW	BINANCE 7D AVG	BYBIT	OKX	HYPERLIQUID
Bitcoin	+6.92%	+6.28%	+1.20%	+4.33%	+10.95% base
Ether	-9.77%	+2.51%	-17.48%	+0.37%	+5.05%
Solana	-6.53%	+1.25%	-10.52%	-1.71%	+10.95% base

The CME curve flattened overnight. The September bitcoin contract traded at 76,815 dollars against Coinbase spot of 76,848.93, a gap small enough to sit inside the timing difference between the two quotes, against 7.96 percent annualised in yesterday's issue; October traded at a 3.97 percent annualised premium. September ether traded at 4.35 percent and October at 4.90, down from 14.48 (CME via CNBC; Coinbase). All four contracts fell between 2.8 and 3.0 percent overnight.

DERIBIT OPTIONS	CONTRACTS	NOTIONAL	PUT/CALL	MAX PAIN	SHARE OF BOARD
BTC 18 Sep	18,468	$1.42B	0.82	78,000	4.4%
BTC 25 Sep	185,375	$14.26B	0.52	72,000	44.3%
BTC 25 Dec	114,425	$8.91B	0.56	72,000	27.3%
ETH 18 Sep	119,770	$296M	0.42	2,500	6.5%
ETH 25 Sep	760,761	$1.88B	0.57	2,200	41.0%
ETH 25 Dec	509,358	$1.27B	0.38	2,200	27.5%

Maximum pain is computed by this desk from Deribit's public book as the strike that minimises total in-the-money payout for each expiry. Deribit's volatility index for bitcoin rose to 39.07 from a 36.75 close on 11 September, and ether's sits at 54.52 (Deribit).

Liquidation totals for the last 24 hours range from 239 million dollars at DataWallet to 2.78 billion at Loris Tools, and Cointelegraph's figure has shorts losing more than longs on a falling day, so none is printed as fact. Polymarket's bitcoin board adds a forward view: "Will Bitcoin reach $85,000 by December 31, 2026?" at 63.5 percent and "Will Bitcoin dip to $55,000 by December 31, 2026?" at 19.5.

KEY LEVELS, BITCOIN AND ETHER

BTC spot 76,834 · Monday high 78,280 (CoinDesk) · Strategy average cost 75,412 (SEC 8-K)
Short-term holder realized price 70,956 (8 Sep, bitcoin-data.com)
Deribit max pain: 78,000 weekly (18 Sep, +1.52%) · 72,000 monthly (25 Sep, -6.29%)
Largest 25 Sep strikes: 70,000 (20,366 contracts) · 85,000 (10,165) · 90,000 (9,815) · 80,000 (8,682) · 75,000 (7,912)
Largest 18 Sep strikes: 82,000 (369) · 79,000 (269) · 77,000 (213)
Polymarket Tuesday: above 76,000 at 82.2% · above 78,000 at 10.5% · Wednesday: above 74,000 at 92.4% · above 76,000 at 66.5%
ETH spot 2,472.49 · max pain 2,500 weekly, 2,200 monthly · largest 25 Sep strikes 2,000 (51,165) and 3,000 (50,203)
Hyperliquid BTC book: bids 1.06 times asks across the top 20 levels, which span only 0.03 percent of mid, a thin reading only

RATES AND RISK

Traditional Markets

The S&P 500 closed Monday at 7,619.98, down 0.48 percent, after a low of 7,592.28, and the Nasdaq 100 fell 0.82 percent to 29,127.16. The Dow lost 0.29 percent and the Russell 2000 0.40 (CNBC quote service). The narrowness of the index losses hides the width of the sort underneath, set out in the second story. December S&P 500 futures traded 0.45 percent lower in the European morning on Tuesday and Nasdaq 100 futures 0.50 lower (CME via CNBC).

MONDAY CLOSE	LEVEL	CHANGE	SESSION RANGE
S&P 500	7,619.98	-0.48%	7,592.28 to 7,647.99
Nasdaq 100	29,127.16	-0.82%	28,867.67 to 29,285.50
Nasdaq Composite	26,186.41	-0.56%	25,992.55 to 26,329.98
Dow Jones	52,421.20	-0.29%	52,278.89 to 52,750.88
Russell 2000	2,892.24	-0.40%	2,885.54 to 2,908.52
Philadelphia semiconductors	11,131.28	-5.86%	n/a

STOCK	CLOSE	CHANGE	STOCK	CLOSE	CHANGE
Nvidia	210.96	-3.36%	Microsoft	505.41	+1.97%
Broadcom	344.72	-4.77%	Meta	665.60	+2.71%
Micron	924.03	-5.25%	Alphabet	349.39	+3.22%
AMD	493.41	-4.40%	Apple	333.08	+0.24%
Intel	97.19	-5.59%	Amazon	253.54	-1.26%
TSMC ADR	418.01	-3.52%	Palantir	173.31	+3.64%
Oracle	144.79	-3.65%	CoreWeave	82.98	-6.75%

Treasuries

Treasury's par curve shows a week of front-end repricing. The two-year rose from 4.39 to 4.65 percent between 8 and 14 September while the 30-year rose from 5.25 to 5.34, and the 20-year still yields three points more than the 30-year (US Treasury). The 10-year real yield held at 2.60 percent on Monday, so the one-point nominal rise was all breakeven, which moved to 2.37. CNBC's benchmark quotes on Tuesday morning are in a separate table because the two sources differ by construction; Tuesday's changes are computed inside CNBC's own series.

PAR CURVE	2Y	5Y	10Y	20Y	30Y	10Y REAL	10Y BREAKEVEN	2S10S	20S30S
Tue 8 Sep	4.39	4.57	4.80	5.26	5.25	2.43	2.37	41bp	-1bp
Wed 9 Sep	4.43	4.61	4.83	5.28	5.28	2.46	2.37	40bp	0bp
Thu 10 Sep	4.56	4.75	4.95	5.39	5.37	2.55	2.40	39bp	-2bp
Fri 11 Sep	4.63	4.78	4.96	5.38	5.35	2.60	2.36	33bp	-3bp
Mon 14 Sep	4.65	4.80	4.97	5.37	5.34	2.60	2.37	32bp	-3bp

CNBC BENCHMARK, TUESDAY EUROPEAN MORNING	2Y	5Y	10Y	20Y	30Y
Yield	4.673%	4.850%	5.033%	5.435%	5.398%

CNBC BENCHMARK, TUESDAY EUROPEAN MORNING	2Y	5Y	10Y	20Y	30Y
Change vs Monday close	+3.9bp	+6.2bp	+7.2bp	+6.8bp	+7.0bp

Last week's coupon auctions cleared without stress. The three-year sold at 4.474 percent on 8 September with a bid-to-cover of 2.72 and dealers taking 10.84 percent, the 10-year reopening at 4.834 percent with dealers at 4.30, and the 30-year reopening at 5.308 percent with dealers at 2.20 and indirect bidders at 79.33 (TreasuryDirect, desk-computed shares). This week brings the 13 billion dollar 20-year reopening on Tuesday and the 19 billion dollar 10-year TIPS reopening on Thursday. The effective fed funds rate is 3.63 percent inside a 3.50 to 3.75 target range, with SOFR at 3.62 (New York Fed, 11 September).

FED PRICING	RANGE	NOW	PRIOR DAY	PRIOR WEEK
16 Sep	3.50 to 3.75 (hold)	8.5%	10.5%	41.6%
16 Sep	3.75 to 4.00 (hike)	91.5%	89.5%	58.4%
28 Oct	3.75 to 4.00	49.6%	49.6%	53.8%
28 Oct	4.00 to 4.25	46.2%	45.2%	16.1%
9 Dec	4.00 to 4.25	48.5%	48.3%	35.0%
9 Dec	4.25 to 4.50	31.2%	31.4%	8.1%

The table is investing.com's Fed Rate Monitor, derived from CME futures. The three venues agree within four points on Wednesday: futures at 91.5 percent, Polymarket's 25-point bucket at 88.5 and Kalshi's at 87 to 88 cents. The bigger shift is October, where a second hike went from 16.1 percent a week ago to 46.2, and December, where three hikes now carry 31.2 percent and two or more 79.7. Polymarket's "Fed rate hike in 2026?" trades at 93.5 percent.

Commodities, dollar and volatility

MARKET	LIVE	CHANGE	MONDAY SETTLE	MONDAY CHANGE
Brent, Nov 26	$107.70	+1.91%	$105.68	+1.02%
WTI, Oct 26	$103.44	+2.02%	$101.39	+1.34%
Gold, Dec 26	$4,313.10	-0.89%	$4,351.90	-1.29%
Silver, Dec 26	$63.34	-1.24%	$64.14	n/a
Copper, Dec 26	$6.370	-0.54%	$6.405	n/a
Natural gas, Oct 26	$2.892	-0.14%	$2.896	n/a

Brent trades 4.26 dollars over WTI. Spot gold fell 1.80 percent on Monday to 4,269.90 dollars an ounce, which Kitco tied to near-5 percent yields and a hike priced for Wednesday; the futures table above uses the December contract throughout. The dollar index rose 0.22 percent to 99.613, dollar-yen 0.41 percent to 154.98, and the euro slipped 0.10 percent to 1.1536 (ICE and CNBC).

VOLATILITY	MON CLOSE	FRI CLOSE	CHANGE
VIX	17.10	15.84	+1.26
VIX9D	16.91	14.47	+2.44
VIX3M	19.28	18.60	+0.68
VXN (Nasdaq 100)	22.05	21.02	+1.03
OVX (crude)	59.46	58.92	+0.54
GVZ (gold)	26.54	25.68	+0.86
VVIX	94.89	n/a	n/a

The shortest tenor moved most. Nine-day volatility rose 2.44 points while the three-month rose 0.68, so the gap between nine-day and 30-day volatility shrank from 1.37 points on Friday to 0.19 (Cboe history files). The curve still slopes upward. Nine-day volatility already spans Wednesday's Fed and Friday's Bank of Japan and is priced below the 30-day and three-month tenors, so the market charges more for the uncertainty after both decisions than for the decisions themselves.

> *The Wicksellian read: investment responds to the gap between the market rate and the return a project expects to earn. AI data centres are the longest-dated capital projects in the economy, paying back over a decade, so they are the spending most exposed to a 5 percent 10-year. Washington and Beijing both rejected Saturday's call to slow the build-out. The bond market may slow the marginal project anyway, since a 5 percent risk-free floor lifts the higher hurdle rate those projects are judged against. Monday's sort of the suppliers came from the pacing call, with real yields flat; Tuesday's bond move gives that sort a second, independent reason to hold.*

GLOBAL

International Markets

Every Asian index in the table except Seoul's small-cap KOSDAQ was lower on Tuesday, with Singapore and India still trading when pulled, and every major European index was lower by the European morning. The dispersion is in what fell. The table below takes Asian closes from CNBC's quote service with timestamps after each exchange's close, except Singapore and India, which were still trading.

ASIA-PACIFIC	INDEX CLOSE	CHANGE	POLICY RATE	FX VS USD	LATEST MACRO
Japan	Nikkei 63,484.10	-0.01%	BOJ about 1.0%, decision Fri	154.98	JGB 30Y 4.164%, +9.5bp
Japan	Topix 4,037.16	-0.52%			
China	Shanghai 3,864.28	-0.54%	LPR 3.00% / 3.50%	CNH 6.7137	Aug retail +0.4%, output +5.2%
Hong Kong	Hang Seng 24,667.24	-1.00%	Base rate 4.00%	7.8435	n/a
South Korea	KOSPI 6,627.26	-0.85%	3.00% (KED Global)	1,362.17	Exports 1 to 10 Sep +83%
South Korea	KOSDAQ 812.41	+0.70%			
Taiwan	Taiex 45,511.49	-0.77%	n/a	31.822	TSMC 2,385, +0.21%
Singapore, trading	STI 5,635.66	-1.44%	S$NEER band	1.2726	n/a
Australia	ASX 200 8,672.50	-0.88%	4.35% (rba.gov.au)	0.7125	n/a
India, trading	Nifty 23,207.15	-0.82%	Repo 5.25%	95.91	Aug CPI 4.82%

EMEA AND AMERICAS	INDEX	CHANGE	POLICY RATE	FX VS USD	LATEST MACRO OR MARKET
Germany	DAX 25,222.64, trading	-0.86%	ECB deposit 2.50% from Wed	EUR 1.1535	Bund 10Y par 3.59% Mon, highest since Apr 2011; ZEW sentiment 34.7
United Kingdom	FTSE 100 10,604.68, trading	-0.87%	Bank Rate 3.75%, decision Thu	GBP 1.3472	Unemployment 4.9%, pay ex-bonus +3.5%
France	CAC 40 8,045.48, trading	-0.89%	ECB	EUR	OAT-Bund 97.4bp, +1.0
Italy	FTSE MIB 51,127.45, trading	-0.97%	ECB	EUR	BTP-Bund 90.1bp, +1.7
Switzerland	SMI 13,699.34, trading	-1.29%	SNB 0.00%	CHF 0.8173	10Y 0.62%
Sweden	OMXS30 3,186.92, trading	-1.02%	n/a	SEK 9.7742	Election 176 to 173, uncalled
Canada	TSX 35,702.53, Mon	+0.01%	BoC 2.25%	CAD 1.3903	n/a
Mexico	IPC 64,216.98, Mon	+0.46%	Banxico 6.50%	MXN 17.1656	n/a
Brazil	Bovespa n/a	n/a	Selic 14.00%	BRL 5.1462	Quote stale, not printed
Saudi Arabia	TASI about 10,878, Mon	+0.13%	SAMA, dollar peg	SAR 3.7562	East-West pipeline shut
UAE	DFM 5,960.99, trading	-0.26%	CBUAE 3.65%	AED 3.6727	n/a

Europe traded Monday's US pattern the other way round on Tuesday morning. In Amsterdam ASML rose 0.62 percent, ASM International 0.47 and BE Semiconductor 0.60, while SAP fell 1.22 percent in Frankfurt and Handelsblatt led with the DAX "sliding toward 25,000" on AI valuations and oil (CNBC; Handelsblatt). The DAX had already lost 0.50 percent on Monday. Germany's ZEW economic sentiment index rose half a point to 34.7 in September (zew.de), so analysts' expectations held up while the equity market sold. Paris has a sharper version: Les Echos reported STMicroelectronics, Schneider Electric and Legrand, suppliers of chips and electrical gear to data centres, at the bottom of the CAC 40 on Monday after what it called a "choc ultime".

Korea took the rates leg on its currency. The won fell 1.12 percent to 1,362.17 per dollar, the weakest move in Asia, and the KOSPI fell for a fourth session according to the Korea Herald and Korea Times, while the small-cap KOSDAQ rose 0.70 percent (CNBC). A chip-heavy index falling while small caps rise is the AI sort in Korean form.

Britain's labour data did not stop the gilt sale. Unemployment was 4.9 percent and regular pay growth 3.5 percent in the three months to July, and the claimant count rose to 1.692 million in August (Office for National Statistics), yet the 10-year gilt yield rose 4.9 basis points to 5.421 percent, a day before August inflation and two days before the Bank of England. India's August consumer inflation printed 4.82 percent, up from 4.45 in July, the tenth straight rise (CNBC, Tribune India on ministry data), and its IT services index rose as much as 5.06 percent on Tuesday on the AI call (Business Standard).

> *Outside the US, the AI call looks like a one-day repricing of US-listed suppliers so far. Amsterdam's chip-equipment makers rose on Tuesday, SoftBank recovered 7.54 percent, and India's software exporters rallied on the same news that sank Lam Research. The foreign tape is pricing the 5 percent 10-year, and the won, the gilt and the Bund at a 15-year high all say so.*
>
> THE INTERNATIONAL TELL · CNBC, ECONOMIC TIMES, BUNDESBANK

TENSION

Geopolitics

Iran, Hormuz and the Red Sea

The fourth story carries the main thread: Saudi Arabia asked for Monday's Hormuz talks to be postponed after the Houthi advance (Al Jazeera, quoting Iran's foreign ministry), tanker rates from the Gulf to China topped 1.035 million dollars a day (Bloomberg via gCaptain), and Brent traded at 107.70. Washington sent two signals on the same day. President Trump said the United States is "open" to a deal with Iran (RFE/RL) and, separately, threatened to escalate strikes (EnergyNow). Iran International counted 101 commercial vessels redirected under the US-led blockade. The National reported Iran's hand in planning the Houthi offensive under the headline "Shadow Man, IRGC flight and a secret meeting". Polymarket prices "US x Iran Effective Ceasefire by September 30?" at 97.0 percent on thin volume, a price hard to square with Monday's strike threats and a drone hit on a tanker, so its resolution terms matter more than its headline, "Israel x Iran ceasefire continues through September 30?" at 91.5, and "Bab el-Mandeb Strait effectively closed by December 31?" at 21.5. The first two describe the shooting war and the third the chokepoint, and it is the chokepoint that sets insurance and freight.

Russia and Ukraine

A Russian drone struck the station at Yahodyn near Ukraine's border with Poland on Monday, reported by the New York Times, CNN and the BBC. NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte called it evidence of Vladimir Putin's "desperation" (ABC), and Poland called for doubling support to Kyiv (The Guardian). Trump claimed Russia and Ukraine had agreed an energy truce (FT); neither Moscow nor Kyiv had confirmed it at publication. The FT also reported that Putin moved a summit over the Ukrainian drone threat. A Russia sanctions bill cleared the House Rules Committee (The Hill). Polymarket prices a Russia-Ukraine ceasefire by year-end at 23.5 percent and United Russia winning the most seats in the parliamentary election at 76.5.

The politics of pacing AI

No government took a concrete step after Saturday's post: no compute cap, no evaluator agreement and no Commerce Department or EU statement surfaced in this desk's sweep. The reactions were verbal and opposed. Trump said "Whoever wins AI, wins!" (Fox News, Yahoo) and called AI fears "a hoax" while interrupting an interview with Nvidia's Jensen Huang (Al Jazeera). China's foreign ministry called the push "fear-mongering" and a "Cold War playbook" (AP, WION), and the SCMP filed it as "a ploy to entrench US lead". Sam Altman told CNBC "we could lose control". Microsoft published a conduct code barring its models from resisting shutdown (Valor Econômico). The incentive structure explains the silence: a lab that slows alone cedes ground, a government that slows alone cedes more, and the only enforcement mechanism on offer is the one the bond market is now supplying through the cost of capital.

Sweden and the rest

Sweden's election stays uncalled at 176 seats for the left-leaning opposition against 173 for the governing bloc, with the Social Democrats on 28.1 percent and the Sweden Democrats down to 17.5 from 20.5 in 2022; the final count lands on Wednesday (Al Jazeera). Polymarket prices Magdalena Andersson as next prime minister at 87.5 percent. China applied new entry and exit rules tied to national security (Nikkei Asia). No new US tariff or export-control action landed in the window.

RULES

Regulatory

The CLARITY Act cloture vote, covered in the third story, is the regulatory event of the week, and the incentives around it are plain. Democrats' leverage over the text peaks before cloture and falls to nothing after it, so withholding public commitments until the roll call is rational whatever they intend to do. Banks lobbying to tighten stablecoin reward rules the same morning (Cryptonews) are defending deposits: a stablecoin that pays a reward competes with a savings account, and the lobby's best moment to narrow that is the final text.

The GENIUS Act's implementation drew pushback from Hyperliquid and Paradigm on proposed anti-money-laundering rules (CoinMarketCap), and the FDIC chair said stablecoin users "won't get deposit insurance", even "through a back door" (Yellow.com). The SEC's latest release, number 2026-88 on Monday, granted exemptive relief on Inline XBRL filing (sec.gov), and its most recent enforcement case remains the 16 million dollar Ponzi charge of 10 September. SEC Chair Paul Atkins said the agency's crypto agenda "will proceed even if CLARITY Act stalls" (CoinGape), which lowers the cost of a failed vote.

The CFTC paid a record 150 million dollars to whistleblowers (Bloomberg). Crowdfund Insider detailed three CFTC probes into Polymarket contracts, on Biden pardons, Iran and Google search rankings, which adds detail to the probe this desk has reported since 13 September. The legal fight over who regulates prediction markets continued in a Manhattan federal court weighing New York's crackdown (Law.com) and in a request by Crypto.com and Robinhood for the Supreme Court to pre-empt state rules on event contracts (SCCG). For readers who use these venues, a regulator investigating the contracts it also defends in court is a reason to treat thin-contract prices, like this issue's Hormuz agreement odds, as weak evidence.

SURVEILLANCE

Scandals and Crisis Events

Five hack stories carried fresh September dates for old events this week, from a 2024 Ronin bridge incident to exploits in May and June 2026, and were excluded after checking DefiLlama's incident dates. What remains in the window from 12 to 15 September:

Regulatory. The US Justice Department filed a civil forfeiture complaint in Manhattan on Monday seeking 61 million dollars it says came from Iranian black-market oil sales laundered through Binance accounts held by two Chinese entities, Blessed Trust and Hexa Whale, inside a network prosecutors say moved more than 1.5 billion dollars. Binance is not a defendant (Bloomberg, The Block, CoinDesk). Impact: sector, since it ties the Iran sanctions story directly to exchange compliance.

Hack. Chainflip's Tron bridge lost about 736,442 dollars of USDT to a logic flaw on 12 September, confirmed by DefiLlama's incident log; trading was halted and compensation promised. XPR Network's proton.swaps reported a loss of about 9 million dollars (AMBCrypto, 13 September), but the exploit date is not yet confirmed on-chain or in DefiLlama. Impact: single protocol in both cases.

Breach. Revolut confirmed customer data was released through fake government data requests (TechCrunch, 12 September). A hijacked Trezor newsletter targeted about 347,000 addresses with a seed-phrase phishing message, according to a single outlet (Startup Fortune), with no confirmed losses. Impact: single firm and hardware-wallet users.

Follow-up. Blockstream refused to pay a ransom for bitcoin taken in the Liquid Network exploit reported at 320 million dollars (CryptoRank, 12 September; Chainalysis). Symbiosis said it recovered 15 bitcoin from its 10 September bridge exploit and offered a 20 percent bounty for the rest (TradingView).

Memecoin. A memecoin tied to Hunter Biden, LAPTOP, fell about 99 percent to a 0.30 dollar low (Forbes, Benzinga). Coverage raised the question of who sold, but no wallet trace has been published.

ON-CHAIN

On-Chain and Whale Intelligence

The two largest corporate treasuries went opposite ways last week. Strategy bought no bitcoin between 8 and 13 September and holds about 845,050 at a 75,412 dollar average (SEC 8-K), while BitMine added 27,180 ether to reach 5,956,378, about 4.9 percent of supply, with 85 percent of its holdings staked as of 7 September (The Block). Addresses tied to the FTX and Alameda estates unstaked 202,710 Solana worth about 20.62 million dollars on 12 September and moved them to estate-linked wallets without selling (bloomingbit, hokanews). A widely republished "1.6 billion dollar bitcoin exodus" from exchanges describes a mid-August outflow and is excluded. Exchange reserve data has no free route this week.

STABLECOIN	SUPPLY	MONTH CHANGE	WEEK CHANGE
USDT	$183.36B	+0.15%	-$7.4M
USDC	$74.35B	+3.25%	-$172.7M
USDS	$6.75B	+1.02%	+$109.7M
DAI	$4.80B	+0.47%	-$1.9M
USDe	$4.68B	+18.08%	+$291.3M
PYUSD	$2.85B	+3.39%	-$16.4M
RLUSD	$2.37B	+38.29%	-$58.2M
FDUSD	$0.33B	-7.22%	-$7.3M

Total stablecoin supply is 311.96 billion dollars, up 1.68 percent in a month, but DefiLlama's aggregate series was flat across the week at about 310.4 billion (stablecoins.llama.fi). New dollars stopped arriving just as rates rose. Tether's share slipped to 58.78 percent from 59.68 a month ago.

Bitcoin's network hashrate averaged 958.3 exahashes per second on 15 September against 1,025.3 on 17 August, 6.5 percent lower, and the next difficulty adjustment is estimated at plus 4.90 percent around 19 September (mempool.space). Hashprice sits near 0.0381 dollars per terahash per day (Luxor). Foundry USA mined 26.35 percent of blocks last week, AntPool 17.56 and F2Pool 13.79. Ether's validator entry queue holds 1,796,748 ether with a wait of about 31 days, against 320 ether waiting to exit (validatorqueue.com), and ether supply grew 20,460 in a week (ultrasound.money). A 31-day queue to stake and an 8-minute queue to leave is not the profile of holders heading for the door.

SLOW MONEY

Sovereign and Institutional Flows

July's US Treasury international capital data lands on Wednesday afternoon, US time, after the Fed. The last release showed foreign holdings of Treasuries down 72.1 billion dollars in June to 9,299.0 billion, with foreign official holders down 69.9 billion. Japan cut 26.4 billion to 1,116.7 billion, China 25.9 billion to 633.4 billion, the UK 8.7 billion to 939.9 billion and the Cayman Islands 18.2 billion, while Belgium added 10.5 billion (US Treasury, table 5).

The world's largest sovereign fund has already said where it wants to go. On 4 September Norges Bank Investment Management proposed cutting government bonds to 50 percent of its bond benchmark from 70 percent, and US government debt to 21.9 percent from 34.1, which would remove close to 80 billion dollars from roughly 215 billion of Treasuries, while raising non-government US fixed income to 27.6 percent from 16.2 (CNBC, BNN Bloomberg). The fund said it awaits its ministry and would move gradually. Elsewhere, Mubadala announced a 1 billion dollar minority stake in Luckin Coffee (Mubadala), and ADIA raised its private-equity allocation limit (Global SWF, Private Equity International).

Central banks bought a net 23 tonnes of gold in July, led by China's 20 and Poland's 8, while Russia sold 6 (World Gold Council data via Kitco). The Netherlands' central bank finished moving 86 tonnes from New York and Ottawa to London, which is a custody change and not a purchase (NYT, CNBC). The BIS September Quarterly Review, released Monday, is titled in its overview "Yields climb, yet risk appetite holds firm" and flags "possible overinvestment in the tech sector" (bis.org). The IMF's Annual Meetings run from 12 to 18 October in Bangkok.

> *Slow money is signalling a step back from the long US bond. Foreign official holders cut 69.9 billion dollars of Treasuries in June, and that is done. The largest sovereign fund has proposed cutting its US government weight by more than a third, and that is not, since its ministry has yet to answer. The 10-year now pays 5 percent to find other buyers. Wednesday brings the Fed decision and the July holdings data within hours of each other.*
>
> SOVEREIGN READ · US TREASURY, CNBC, BNN BLOOMBERG

ODDS

Prediction Markets

This desk scanned 799 open Polymarket markets through a pinned DNS route; 271 carry more than 500,000 dollars of volume. Calibrated odds use p to the power 1.31 over the same plus one minus p to the power 1.31. By construction, calibration adjusts most near raw prices of 20 and 80 percent, so the largest edges on the board cluster there whatever the contract is about. Treat the edge column as a prior against crowd overconfidence; on its own it carries no signal.

MARKET	RAW	CALIBRATED	EDGE	24H	VOLUME	ENDS
Macro and Fed						
Fed increases rates by 25 bps after the September 2026 meeting	88.50%	93.54%	+5.04	+9.00	$33.98M	16 Sep
No change in Fed rates after the September 2026 meeting	11.50%	6.46%	-5.04	-9.00	$44.91M	16 Sep
Fed rate hike in 2026?	93.50%	97.05%	+3.55	+4.50	$9.47M	9 Dec
Will no Fed rate cuts happen in 2026?	93.55%	97.08%	+3.53	+0.10	$8.34M	31 Dec
Regulation						
Clarity Act (H.R.3633) signed into law in 2026?	18.50%	12.54%	-5.96	-13.00	$17.40M	1 Jan
Geopolitics						
Bab el-Mandeb Strait effectively closed by December 31?	21.50%	15.49%	-6.01	+1.50	$757.4K	1 Jan
Israel x Iran ceasefire continues through October 31?	78.50%	84.51%	+6.01	+1.00	$570.4K	31 Oct
Russia x Ukraine ceasefire agreement by December 31, 2026?	23.50%	17.56%	-5.94	+1.00	$2.63M	1 Jan
Strait of Hormuz traffic returns to normal by December 31?	17.50%	11.60%	-5.90	0.00	$11.72M	31 Dec
Iran-Oman Hormuz Agreement by September 30?	25.50%	19.71%	-5.79	+6.50	$665.1K	1 Oct
US announces end of Iranian blockade by September 30, 2026?	13.50%	8.07%	-5.43	+2.00	$3.23M	1 Oct

MARKET	RAW	CALIBRATED	EDGE	24H	VOLUME	ENDS
Israel x Iran ceasefire continues through September 30?	91.50%	95.74%	+4.24	0.00	$1.96M	30 Sep
Strait of Hormuz traffic returns to normal by September 30?	1.10%	0.27%	-0.83	+0.05	$8.58M	30 Sep
Crypto						
Will Bitcoin reach $100,000 by December 31, 2026?	21.50%	15.49%	-6.01	+1.00	$3.31M	1 Jan
Will Bitcoin dip to $55,000 by December 31, 2026?	19.50%	13.50%	-6.00	0.00	$6.01M	1 Jan
Will Bitcoin dip to $50,000 by December 31, 2026?	14.50%	8.91%	-5.59	+1.00	$3.66M	1 Jan
Will Bitcoin reach $110,000 by December 31, 2026?	12.00%	6.85%	-5.15	+2.50	$1.72M	1 Jan
Will Ethereum dip to $1,500 by December 31, 2026?	11.95%	6.81%	-5.14	-1.60	$2.66M	1 Jan
Will Bitcoin reach $85,000 by December 31, 2026?	63.50%	67.38%	+3.88	+1.00	$846.4K	1 Jan
Will Bitcoin reach $100,000 in September?	1.95%	0.59%	-1.36	+0.55	$576.8K	1 Oct
AI and technology						
Will Anthropic IPO by December 31, 2026?	83.50%	89.32%	+5.82	-3.00	$726.0K	1 Jul 27
Will Anthropic IPO by October 31, 2026?	60.50%	63.61%	+3.11	-2.00	$868.4K	1 Jul 27
Will Anthropic's valuation hit (HIGH) $3.0T by December 31?	31.00%	25.96%	-5.04	+3.50	$1.12M	1 Jan
Will Anthropic have the best AI model at the end of September 2026?	96.15%	98.54%	+2.39	+0.40	$716.0K	1 Oct
Politics						
Will Magdalena Andersson be the next Prime Minister of Sweden?	87.50%	92.75%	+5.25	+1.00	$1.73M	listed 13 Sep
Will United Russia (ER) gain the most seats in the next Russian parliamentary election?	76.50%	82.44%	+5.94	-3.00	$10.17M	30 Sep
Will JD Vance win the 2028 US Presidential Election?	23.25%	17.30%	-5.95	-0.80	$16.36M	7 Nov 28

Three readings stand out. First, the Fed complex agrees with futures: 88.5 percent raw on Polymarket, 87 to 88 cents on Kalshi and 91.5 percent in CME-derived pricing, so there is no venue disagreement to exploit ahead of Wednesday. Second, the CLARITY contract fell 13 points in a day on 1.18 million dollars of volume, the largest move by a liquid regulatory contract this week, and it moved before the vote rather than after. Third, the Hormuz agreement contract rose 6.5 points on 23,400 dollars of daily volume against a news flow of postponement and Houthi strikes; a thin contract rising against the news is noise until volume confirms it. Polymarket also prices a 25-point Bank of Japan hike on Friday at 97.65 percent, but that market sits below this table's 500,000 dollar threshold.

INSIGHT

Sentiment and Positioning

INDICATOR	VALUE	SIGNAL	7-DAY TREND	CONTEXT
Fear and Greed	69	Greed	69 on 10 Sep, 56 on 11 Sep, 57 on 14 Sep	Reads Monday's rally, not Tuesday's slide (alternative.me)
BTC funding, Binance	+6.92%	Longs pay	7-day average +6.28%	Steady
ETH funding, Binance	-9.77%	Shorts pay	7-day average +2.51%	Flipped this week; Bybit -17.48%
SOL funding, Binance	-6.53%	Shorts pay	7-day average +1.25%	Flipped
BTC fund flows	+$160.0M Mon	Inflow	Five sessions -$302.7M	First inflow after four outflows
ETH fund flows	+$121.0M Mon	Inflow	Five sessions +$318.1M	Second straight inflow
BTC retail long/short, Binance	1.1631	Deleveraging	1.1608 on 8 Sep	-30.1% on the day
BTC top traders, Binance	2.0637	Long	2.0050 on 8 Sep	-11.3% on the day
ETH retail long/short, Binance	2.5638	Long-heavy	2.2873 on 8 Sep	-14.0% on the day
ETH top traders, Binance	1.2454	Cut all week	1.6564 on 8 Sep	-24.8% in seven days
BTC open interest, Binance	103,517 BTC	Shrinking	-3.14% over eight bars	ETH +1.61%
CME BTC front basis	-0.04% raw	Flat to slight backwardation	7.96% annualised in last issue	October contract +3.97%
	0.52	Call-heavy	n/a	44.3% of the board

INDICATOR	VALUE	SIGNAL	7-DAY TREND	CONTEXT
Deribit BTC 25 Sep put/ call				
Deribit BTC DVOL	39.07	Rising	36.75 on 11 Sep	ETH 54.52
BTC dominance	58.31%	Firm	n/a	ETH 11.41%
Stablecoin supply	$311.96B	Stalled	Flat on the week	+1.68% on the month
VIX9D minus VIX	-0.19	Near flat	-1.37 on Friday	Short tenor repriced

The sentiment index and the positioning data disagree, and the positioning data is right about Tuesday. Fear and Greed printed its highest reading since 10 September on a morning when retail bitcoin longs shrank by 30 percent and ether funding turned negative, because the index weights the previous day's momentum (alternative.me; Binance futures data). Bitcoin's top traders cut less, 11.3 percent against retail's 30.1, and stay more than two to one long. Ether's top traders had cut for a week before retail followed on Tuesday, which is the order in which a crowded long usually unwinds.

> *Desk Note. Anchoring check: yesterday this desk made the AI shock half of the week's story, and Monday's tape shows it moved money between technology stocks while the bond market moved everything else. This issue leads with rates for that reason. The risk now runs the other way, into recency. One morning of a 5 percent 10-year is not yet a regime, and a hike priced at 91.5 percent can calm the long end once it is delivered.*
>
> DESK NOTE · BIAS SCAN

Cross-asset linkages

SOVEREIGN 5-YEAR CDS	LEVEL, BP	CHANGE	QUOTE DATE
France	39.98	0.00%	11 Sep
China	35.55	+2.20%	11 Sep
Italy	35.33	0.00%	11 Sep
United States	32.41	+1.43%	11 Sep
Japan	22.95	-0.60%	11 Sep
South Korea	22.80	+5.65%	11 Sep
United Kingdom	20.33	0.00%	11 Sep
Germany	7.81	0.00%	11 Sep
Indonesia	85.88	+4.02%	11 Sep
Brazil	111.80	+0.46%	14 Sep

Most CDS quotes are dated 11 September, one day newer than last issue's, so they predate the 5 percent print (investing.com). France still trades wider than Italy, 39.98 against 35.33, and Korea's 5.65 percent rise is the largest percentage move on the board, though Indonesia's 3.32 points is the largest in basis points. FX implied volatility has no free source this week and is left blank rather than estimated.

CURVE	2S10S	WEEK CHANGE	2S30S	WEEK CHANGE	SOURCE
United States	+32bp	-9	+69bp	-17	Treasury par, 14 Sep
Germany	+36bp	-11	+76bp	-23	Bundesbank, 14 Sep
Japan	+115bp	+6	+220bp	+4	Ministry of Finance, 14 Sep
United Kingdom	+50bp	n/a	+100bp	n/a	CNBC live, 15 Sep

CREDIT, OPTION-ADJUSTED SPREAD	11 SEP	90-DAY RANGE
US investment grade	0.80%	0.74 to 0.82
US high yield	2.65%	2.60 to 2.87
EM corporate	1.32%	1.31 to 1.50
US CCC	10.76%	9.39 to 10.76, a new high

The US and German curves flattened hard over the week while Japan's steepened, which fits two different stories: hikes being priced in Washington and Frankfurt, and a supply premium building in Tokyo. The weakest US borrowers set a new 90-day spread high of 10.76 percent on Friday, before the 10-year reached 5, while high-yield as a whole tightened to 2.65 (ICE BofA indices via FRED). The New York Fed's 10-year term premium was 0.72 percent on the same day (ACM). Crude volatility runs at 3.48 times equity volatility, down from 3.72 on Friday because the VIX rose faster (Cboe). A 30-session correlation between gold and the 10-year real yield of minus 0.34 comes from a covered-call gold note on FRED, the only daily gold series the desk could reach, so it is directional only.

> *The weakest credit and crypto leverage were first to charge for a higher-rate world, and the index has so far charged only its chipmakers. The CCC tier set a 90-day high on Friday even as high yield overall tightened, crypto's retail long-short ratio fell 30 percent in a day, and the S&P 500 finished Monday down 0.48 percent. The markets that price marginal borrowers moved first. The index has one decision left to wait for, and it lands on Wednesday.*
>
> LINKAGE READ · FRED, BINANCE, CNBC

RESOLVE

The Bottom Line

1. The 10-year at 5.033 percent is the highest since July 2007, and most of the week's move came from the front of the curve, where a hike is 91.5 percent priced for Wednesday. Tuesday's extra leg came from everything past the two-year, in the US, Japan and Germany, and a hike does not fix that part.
2. The AI call sorted technology on its first US session: chip-equipment and power names fell 5 to 8 percent while software rose 4 to 14, and both main US indexes still closed lower. Most Asian and European chip names did not repeat the sale on Tuesday; Advantest's 2.96 percent fall was the exception.
3. The CLARITY Act reaches cloture today with no Democrat publicly committed, which restores this desk's failure call on the terms it set yesterday.
4. Crypto traded Monday as the asset with no AI exposure and Tuesday as a rate-sensitive one facing a 5 percent yield. Retail leverage left first, and Strategy bought nothing last week with spot 1.9 percent above its cost.
5. Brent holds above 107 dollars with the Hormuz talks postponed at Saudi request, while a thin prediction-market contract prices a deal higher.

What this desk got wrong

One refinement to the 14 September issue.

Refinement. The Bottom Line said Saudi crude from Yanbu passes the Bab al-Mandab, "which the Houthis now hold". The sourcing supports less. Four Yemeni government sources told gCaptain the group reached Perim Island at the strait's mouth, The National reported traffic through the strait halving, and Polymarket prices an effective closure by year-end at 21.5 percent. Ships still pass. The Brent card's argument, that the Yanbu route runs through a contested chokepoint, stands on the narrower wording.

Last issue's views, marked

14 SEP VIEW	STATUS	EVIDENCE
Watch, Nasdaq 100 against S&P 500	EXPIRED, UNRESOLVED	Cash gap 0.34 percentage points (Nasdaq 100 -0.82%, S&P 500 -0.48%), between the 0.50 confirmation and 0.20 kill. Closed.
Watch, nine-day volatility	CLOSED FOR DISCRETION	VIX9D closed Monday at 16.91 from 14.47. The hold-under-15 trigger lapsed and 69 percent of the distance to the 18 kill is travelled, so the tenor is no longer cheap. Kill not reached.
Long bias, Brent	ACTIVE, ZONE UNFILLED, MARKED DOWN 3 TO 2	Monday settle 105.68, live 107.70. The 100 to 104 zone has not traded for two sessions; kill 96 and target 118 untouched.
Watch, Japanese yen	ACTIVE, MOVING AS WARNED	Dollar-yen 154.98 from 154.26 in the last issue; kill at 153.54 not touched.
Watch, CLARITY cloture	FAILURE CALL RESTORED, VOTE PENDING	No Democrat publicly committed by publication against yesterday's threshold of three. Polymarket signed-in-2026 18.5% from 30.0.
Watch, ether against bitcoin	ACTIVE, MARKED DOWN	Monday funds: ether +$121.0M, bitcoin +$160.0M, kill not met. But ether-bitcoin fell to 0.03218 and the CME ether premium fell from 14.48% to 4.35%, removing one of three supports.
Watch, US 20s30s	ACTIVE, TEST TODAY	Par 20s30s minus 3 basis points on Monday (20-year 5.37, 30-year 5.34). The 20-year reopening auctions after publication.

From the 10 September issue, the gold watch stays open with one of its three items met. December gold settled at 4,351.90 dollars on Monday, down 1.29 percent, and traded at 4,313.10 on Tuesday (COMEX via CNBC), falling as real yields held at 2.60 (US Treasury).

Trade views

On concentration. Three of today's six cards lean on the same factor, rates repricing into Wednesday: the new 2s10s card, the 20s30s card and the yen card. Crypto's Tuesday slide traded with rates too, so the ether card is not fully independent, and oil sits under both the Brent card and the yen card. Sized plainly, eight of the eleven conviction points on this page sit on Wednesday's rate path or on oil, nine counting the ether card. A Fed hold, priced at 8.5 percent, would likely break the 2s10s and yen cards together. The yen card stays at two for that reason, the new curve card starts at two because Tuesday's steepening already runs against it, and Brent comes down to two.

WATCH · US 2S10S CURVE

●●○○○ 2/5

The front has done the work; Wednesday tests it

Par 2s10s 32bp Monday, from 41 on 8 Sep · CNBC 2s10s 36bp Tuesday, +3.3 on the day, a different series · FOMC Wed 16 Sep, hike 91.5% priced
Confirms: par 2s10s at or below 28bp by Friday's close · Kill: par 2s10s at or above 40bp before Friday's close · Window: Wed 16 to Fri 18 Sep
Concentration: rates factor, shared with the 20s30s and yen cards

A delivered hike with firm projections lifts the two-year more than the 10-year, which is how the past week traded: the two-year par yield rose 26 basis points and the 10-year 17 (US Treasury). Fed funds futures price an October second hike at 46.2 percent against 16.1 a week ago (investing.com), so the front still has room to reprice if the projections lean that way. The risk to the view arrived this morning. Every US tenor past the two-year sold harder than the two-year, Japan's and Germany's 30-year bonds led their curves, and CNBC's 2s10s widened 3.3 points on the day to 36, so duration selling can steepen the curve even as the Fed hikes. The triggers read Treasury's par closes only, and Tuesday's par close is not yet published; if it moves as CNBC's series did, the card sits about 5 points from its kill and 7 from confirmation. The card starts at two for that reason.

Kills the view. Par 2s10s back at 40 basis points or wider before Friday's close, which would mean the long end sets the curve and the Fed does not.

LONG BIAS · BRENT CRUDE

●●○○○ 2/5

Zone untraded for two sessions; no entry at 107

Reference 107.70 live, Nov 26 · Monday settle 105.68 · Session 106.25 to 108.30
Bias zone 100.00 to 104.00, unfilled · Target 118.00 to 120.00 · Kill 96.00
Reward to risk from live: 0.88 to 1 at 118, 1.05 to 1 at 120 · Status: view held, no entry at current prices
Concentration: oil factor, shared with the yen card · Marked down 3 to 2 on entry; thesis unchanged

The supply side got worse again. Saudi Arabia asked for the Hormuz talks to be postponed (Al Jazeera), tanker rates from the Gulf to China topped 1.035 million dollars a day (Bloomberg via gCaptain), and Gulf News reports the East-West pipeline crippled for weeks. Two things cap the target. A 5 percent 10-year and Chinese retail sales growing 0.4 percent both trim the demand a 118 dollar barrel assumes, and the prediction market's Hormuz agreement contract rose 8 points since yesterday, although on thin volume. From 107.70 the card risks 11.70 dollars to make 10.30, so it offers no entry. The zone stays where it is. With crude volatility at 59.46 (Cboe), a single session can also gap through the zone and past the 96 kill without ever offering an entry, which is the other reason the mark comes down.

Kills the view. A new Oman date carrying Saudi agreement to the route geometry, or a US announcement ending the blockade, which Polymarket prices at 13.5 percent for September.

WATCH · JAPANESE YEN

●●○○○ 2/5

The crowded long-yen trade keeps losing before Friday

USD/JPY 154.98, +0.41% · Session high 155.23 · Speculators net long yen, first time since February (CFTC, per the 13 Sep issue) · BOJ decision Fri 18 Sep, 25bp hike 97.65% (Polymarket)
JGB 30Y 4.164%, +9.5bp · US 10Y +7.2bp against JGB 10Y +0.6bp on Tuesday
Concentration: oil and rates factors, shared with the Brent, 2s10s and 20s30s cards

A hike priced at almost 98 percent pays a long-yen position least when it arrives. The rate gap that the hike is meant to narrow widened on Tuesday instead, because the US 10-year rose 7.2 basis points and Japan's 0.6 (CNBC), and oil above 107 dollars adds to Japan's import bill. Dollar-yen has tested 155 three times in a week (investinglive). The card tracks the price, since carry flows are larger than any mechanism this desk can size.

Kills the view. Dollar-yen trades back below Friday's 153.54 close before the decision, or the Bank of Japan signals more than one hike, which would pay long-yen holders.

WATCH · CLARITY ACT CLOTURE FAILS

●●○○○ 2/5

Call restored on this desk's own terms

Vote Tue 15 Sep, US afternoon · Needed 60 · Republican seats 53 · Democrats publicly committed at publication: 0
Named Democrats withholding: 7 (24/7 Wall St) · Polymarket signed in 2026: 18.5%, -13.0 in 24h

Yesterday this card made no call and set the terms: fewer than three Democrats publicly committing before the roll call would restore the failure call. The count at publication is zero, Senator Lummis says "some Democrats simply won't get to yes" (Crowdfund Insider), and headlines report Democrats rejecting the latest draft (Coinpedia). The conviction stays at two because the market already prices failure heavily and the answer arrives within hours; the card exists to be scored.

Kills the view. Cloture reaches 60 votes.

WATCH · ETHER AGAINST BITCOIN

●○○○○ 1/5

One support gone, test half run

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ETH/BTC 0.03218, from 0.03243 · Monday funds: ETH +$121.0M, BTC +$160.0M
CME ether front premium 4.35% annualised, from 14.48% · Binance ETH funding -9.77% annualised
Marked down 2 to 1
```

The view rested on three measures: fund flows, a futures premium almost twice bitcoin's, and cheap carry. Monday's flows kept ether positive but ended bitcoin's outflows (SoSoValue), the CME ether premium collapsed to 4.35 percent (CME via CNBC), and the ratio fell (CoinGecko). What remains is negative ether funding, which makes a long cheaper to hold but can as easily mean shorts are pressing, and the five-session fund split, ether 318.1 million in against bitcoin 302.7 million out (SoSoValue). The falsification test set on 13 September needs Tuesday's fund prints, which arrive after publication.

Kills the view. Combined Monday and Tuesday prints with ether funds net negative and bitcoin funds net positive. After Monday's +121.0 million, that needs a Tuesday ether outflow larger than 121.0 million.

WATCH · US 20S30S CURVE

●●○○○ 2/5

The 20-year auction lands after this issue

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20s30s -3bp Monday par (20Y 5.37, 30Y 5.34) · CNBC live 20Y 5.435%, 30Y 5.398%
20-year reopening $13B Tue 15 Sep, CUSIP 912810UX4 · Anchor: 30-year reopening dealers 2.20%, indirect 79.33%
Concentration: rates factor, shared with the 2s10s and yen cards
```

The inversion at the long end has sat between 0 and minus 3 points for five sessions (US Treasury). It touched flat on 9 September and re-inverted, so the re-steepening this card expects has already failed once this week. The view is that it re-steepens toward zero once supply at the 20-year point clears. Tuesday puts 13 billion dollars into exactly that point, with the 10-year above 5 percent and the CLARITY vote on the same afternoon, so a flight-to-quality bid could look like strong demand.

Kills the view. The 20-year reopening clears with dealers taking more than 10 percent and the par inversion deepens beyond minus 3 points by Thursday. One without the other holds the card unresolved, and a par 20s30s at zero or higher by Friday confirms it.

Catalyst calendar

DATE	EVENT	WHY IT MATTERS
Tue 15 Sep	CLARITY Act cloture vote	60 needed; no Democrat publicly committed
Tue 15 Sep	US 20-year bond reopening, $13B	Dealer share; test for the 20s30s card
Wed 16 Sep	UK August CPI	A day before the Bank of England; 10-year gilt 5.42%
Wed 16 Sep	US August retail sales and import prices	Last data before the decision
Wed 16 Sep	FOMC decision and projections	91.5% priced for 25bp; October second hike 46.2%
Wed 16 Sep	US TIC data for July	Foreign holders after June's $72.1B cut
Wed 16 Sep	ECB rate changes take effect; Sweden final count	Deposit rate 2.50%; 176 to 173
Thu 17 Sep	Bank of England decision	Bank Rate 3.75%
Thu 17 Sep	US 10-year TIPS reopening, $19B; August housing starts	Real-yield demand with the 10-year real at 2.60%
Fri 18 Sep	Bank of Japan decision	25bp hike 97.65% priced; JGB 30-year 4.164%
Fri 18 Sep	Deribit weekly expiry	18,468 bitcoin contracts, max pain 78,000
Around 19 Sep	Bitcoin difficulty adjustment	Estimated +4.90% (mempool.space)
Around 21 Sep	China loan prime rate fixing	One-year 3.00%, five-year 3.50%, unchanged fifteen months
Tue 22 Sep	US 2-year note auction	First front-end supply after the Fed
Fri 25 Sep	Deribit monthly and quarterly expiry	185,375 bitcoin contracts, 44.3% of the board, max pain 72,000
12 to 18 Oct	IMF and World Bank Annual Meetings, Bangkok	First Fund forecasts since July
Wed 28 Oct	FOMC	Second hike priced near a coin flip

REVIEW

Review Panel

Fourteen reviewers read the full draft against the raw data and a list of facts the editor fetched directly. They cast 161 approvals, 35 flags and 0 rejections across fourteen sections. Every report was read in full before publication, every flag was checked against source before it changed a word, and two points were overruled with evidence.

REVIEWER	LEDE	DIGEST	STORIES	CRYPTO	TRADFI	INTL	GEO	REG	SCAND	CHAIN	SOV	ODDS	SENT	BL
Macro Strategist	F	A	A	A	F	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Crypto Native	A	A	A	F	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	F	A
Risk Manager	A	A	F	A	A	A	F	A	A	A	A	F	A	A
Devil's Advocate	F	A	F	F	A	A	A	A	A	A	F	A	F	F
Geopolitical Analyst	F	F	F	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Regulatory Expert	A	A	F	A	A	A	A	F	A	A	A	A	A	A
Institutional Flows	A	A	A	A	F	A	A	A	A	A	F	A	A	A
Technical Analyst	F	A	A	A	F	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	F	A
Sentiment Analyst	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	F	A
Portfolio Strategist	F	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Economist	A	A	F	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	F	A
Bias Auditor	F	A	F	A	F	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	F	A
International Desk	A	F	A	A	A	F	F	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Sovereign and Cross-Asset	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	F	A	A	A

A approve, F flag, R reject.

What changed because of the panel

The Brent card came down from three to two, because a view with no entry and less than one-for-one reward should not carry the page's top mark, and it now states the gap risk (Portfolio, Bias Auditor, Risk). Tuesday's bond move is described exactly, every US tenor past the two-year and the 30-year in Japan and Germany, instead of "long bonds in three countries" (Devil's Advocate). The Fed odds give both Monday's close of 89.5 percent and the 83.8 printed yesterday (Devil's Advocate, Macro, Portfolio, Technical). December's 31.2 percent is now called three hikes, with two or more at 79.7 (Macro). The 20s30s card's range reads 0 to minus 3, notes the failed re-steepening on 9 September, and gained a split-outcome rule and a confirmation level (Macro, Technical, Economist, Sovereign, Risk, Portfolio). The 2s10s card measures its distances on the par curve and confirms by Friday (Risk, Economist, Technical). The yen card names the long-yen position and its full factor overlap (Risk, Portfolio).

The CLARITY story states the limits of its zero-commitment proxy, notes that leadership can file cloture again, cites both sources for the vote math and adds the thin cloture-count contract (Regulatory, Bias Auditor, Geopolitical). The AI story applies the same scrutiny to the White House's and Beijing's stakes as to Anthropic's listing (Bias Auditor). Norway's proposal is kept apart from June's executed sales (Devil's Advocate, Institutional Flows, Sovereign). The Economist's Corner separates Monday's pacing-driven sort from Tuesday's rate move and names the hurdle rate, and the credit claim is narrowed to the CCC tier (Economist). The Press Digest shows the true leads for Reuters and The National and drops an unrelated Handelsblatt figure; Singapore is marked as trading and India updated; the pipeline attack's Iraq attribution is stated (International, Geopolitical). Top traders "cut less" rather than "did not flinch", the volatility term-structure sentence was corrected, Solana's negative OKX funding added, and the retail ratio's round trip to its 8 September level noted (Sentiment, Crypto, Institutional Flows). China's "export story" is hedged for want of a trade figure, and Germany's ZEW reading was added (Economist, Sentiment, International).

Overruled. The Macro and Institutional Flows reviewers said Thursday's 19 billion dollar auction is a nominal note. TreasuryDirect's own record for CUSIP 91282CRE3 flags it as TIPS, a reopening of July's 10-year TIPS, so the calendar stands. The Technical reviewer could not trace the Brent session low of 106.25; it comes from this desk's own CNBC pull and stands. One reviewer suggested marking the ether card to zero; it stays at one until Tuesday's fund prints complete its test.