WIRE Business

UNCLASSIFIED // OPEN SOURCE | Thursday, 29 October 2026 | Vol. 2026-302 | As of 290630 EDT OCT 26

BLUF. WIRE Business holds at **POTENTIAL CRISIS** with no net change (**=**): one indicator rose and one fell. Microsoft cut its calendar-2026 capex outlook to about **$170 billion** from $175 billion, citing delayed third-party GPU capacity. That is the first hyperscaler cut of the cycle and moves A-5 to Abnormal; **BIZ-10 resolved a hit.** Alphabet held its $195–205 billion range, so **BIZ-17 resolved a miss.** Kpler's 29 Oct briefing puts the 7-day Hormuz clearance at **8,746 kbd, about 51%** of baseline, so S-3 drops back to Significant. We hold BIZ-T3 at POTENTIAL CRISIS by override: a tanker was struck and left burning and mostly submerged 9 nm north of Khasab at 03:00 UTC today, after Kpler's data cutoff. Credit kept easing (HY **3.18%**, CCC **13.21%**). The Fed held at 3.75–4.00% with two dissents for a hike.

0. WIRE Business Dashboard

TOPIC	CRISIS LEVEL	DOM. INDICATOR	KEY DRIVER (today)	TREND
BIZ-T3 Supply chains and freight	POTENTIAL CRISIS	SIGNIFICANT	S-3: Hormuz 7-day clearance 8,746 kbd, ~51% of baseline (Kpler, preliminary); tanker struck off Khasab 29 Oct; held by +1 override	↓
BIZ-T2 AI capex and tech financing	POTENTIAL CRISIS	SIGNIFICANT	A-5: Microsoft trims 2026 capex to ~$170B (from $175B); Alphabet holds $195–205B; A-1 CoreWeave CDS ~1,041 bp (carried)	↑
BIZ-T1 Corporate credit	ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS	SIGNIFICANT	C-2: CCC OAS 13.21% (27 Oct, from 13.45%); C-1: HY OAS 3.18%	=
BIZ-T4 Trade policy and sanctions	NO CRISIS	ABNORMAL	P-1: maritime 301 suspension comments due 30 Oct; no USTR, BIS or OFAC document in today's Federal Register	=
BIZ-T5 Equity market and earnings	NO CRISIS	ROUTINE	E-1: S&P 500 −1.0% from record; Fed holds; E-2: VIX 17.52 (27 Oct)	=

Indicator: ROUTINE ABNORMAL SIGNIFICANT EXTREME **Crisis level:** NO CRISIS ENV. FOR CRISIS POTENTIAL PROBABLE IMMINENT

Family level = highest topic level (BIZ-T2 and BIZ-T3). Roll-up per WIRE_METHOD §1a. Trend key: ↑ toward crisis, ↓ away, = no net change.

Change line. No topic level change. BIZ-T3 would roll up to ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS on the indicators, but is held at POTENTIAL CRISIS by a +1 override (see section I). Family level POTENTIAL CRISIS; family trend ↑ → **=**. The dominant indicator falls from EXTREME to SIGNIFICANT.

Moved indicators (vs 28 Oct). S-3 EXTREME → **SIGNIFICANT** (Kpler ~48% → ~51% of baseline). **A-5** ROUTINE → **ABNORMAL** (one hyperscaler cut). Within band: **C-1** ROUTINE ↓ (3.30% → 3.18%); **C-2** SIGNIFICANT ↓ (13.45% → 13.21%); **C-3** ROUTINE ↓ (0.90% → 0.88%); **A-4** ABNORMAL ↓ (−21.5% → −20.2%).

I. BIZ-T3 SUPPLY CHAINS AND FREIGHT | POTENTIAL CRISIS (override)

Hormuz. Kpler's briefing prepared 29 Oct (flows to 27 Oct) puts the 7-day average Total Hormuz Clearance at **8,746 kbd, about 51%** of the 17,147 kbd baseline. Daily readings ranged from 257 kbd on 26 Oct to 5,446 kbd on 27 Oct. Strait transits alone, excluding Iranian-origin cargoes, averaged 7,713 kbd (about 45%), and tanker crossings averaged 12 a day against a pre-war 50. Kpler again says preliminary readings have typically settled 1.5 to 2 times higher (Kpler media briefing, 29 Oct). **Bypass.** Fujairah and Oman terminal loadings averaged 4,465 kbd, about 31% above baseline. Red Sea volumes averaged 2,396 kbd, about 15% *below* baseline, a swing from +15% in the 28 Oct briefing. Kpler says war risk, not vessel availability, keeps tanker freight high (same briefing). **Attack.** UKMTO and Vanguard Tech report that a tanker was struck by an unknown projectile 9 nm north of Khasab, in the southern corridor of the strait, at 03:00 UTC on 29 Oct. The master of a passing Panama-flagged tanker reported it on fire and mostly submerged; the crew's status is unknown. Seatrade cites IMO figures of 34 confirmed attacks on vessels from 28 Sep to 27 Oct (Seatrade Maritime, 29 Oct; CGTN, UKMTO notice). **Freight and ports.** Drewry WCI is carried at $4,585 (22 Oct); today's print was not out at writing (Drewry WCI). The Italian and French port strikes are set for 30 Oct (28 Oct edition). **Indicators.** S-1 ABNORMAL (carried). S-2 ABNORMAL (carried). S-3 **SIGNIFICANT** (~49% below baseline, just inside the Significant band). S-4 ABNORMAL. S-5 ABNORMAL. Roll-up: 1 Significant + 4 Abnormal = ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS. **Override +1 to POTENTIAL CRISIS:** the reading sits one point from the Extreme line on preliminary data that ends 27 Oct, before today's strike in the

protected southern corridor. Trend ↓ (indicator eased). **Analyst Comment.** We do not want the level to whipsaw on a preliminary floor that sits right at the line. Today's attack is a single event and is not itself scored. If it is confirmed as a sinking and the corridor's transit counts fall in the next two briefings, S-3 likely returns to Extreme. If clearance holds above 50% through 3 Nov with no further hits, the override should lapse.

II. BIZ-T2 AI CAPEX AND TECH-FINANCING CONCENTRATION | POTENTIAL CRISIS

Microsoft. Fiscal Q1 capex was **$45.2 billion**, because "some third-party capacity deliveries we expected in Q1 were delayed." The CFO guided fiscal Q2 capex above $50 billion and said "for the calendar year, spend should be approximately $170 billion due to the 3P capacity delays" (earnings call transcript). Business Insider reports the previous calendar-2026 forecast as $175 billion (Business Insider, 28 Oct). Azure revenue rose 48%, and the shares rose about 3% after hours (same). **Alphabet.** Q3 purchases of property and equipment were **$51.4 billion**, and free cash flow was **−$9.1 billion** (Alphabet Q3 release, SEC). The CFO said the 2026 range of $195–205 billion "remain[s] unchanged" and capex will "increase significantly in 2027" (transcript; CNBC, 28 Oct). Investing.com reports a roughly 10% after-hours drop on a profit miss (Investing.com). **Markets and credit.** The SOX closed at **11,684.00** on 28 Oct (+1.75%), 20.2% below its 14,634.72 high (Nasdaq index history). The Nasdaq Composite closed at 26,549.85, 3.8% below its record (CNBC, 28 Oct). No new CoreWeave CDS print was found; A-1 is carried at 1,041.4 bp. Axios reports that bonds tied to CoreWeave-leased data centers still carry a "chunky risk premium" (Axios, 28 Oct). **Indicators.** A-1 SIGNIFICANT (carried). A-2 SIGNIFICANT (carried). A-3 ROUTINE. A-4 ABNORMAL (↓ within band). A-5 **ABNORMAL** (1 cut). Roll-up: 2 Significant + 2 Abnormal = POTENTIAL CRISIS (↑). **Analyst Comment.** Microsoft's cut is about timing: the delayed capacity comes from GPU-as-a-service suppliers, and it guided spending to accelerate in its fiscal second half. The cut is still a signal for BIZ-T2, because the delays point back at the debt-funded neocloud layer this topic watches. Amazon reports after today's close, which closes the BIZ-10 window.

III. BIZ-T1 CORPORATE CREDIT AND REFINANCING | ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS

FRED's 27 Oct values: HY OAS **3.18%** (26 Oct 3.30%), CCC OAS **13.21%** (13.45%), IG OAS **0.88%** (0.90%) (BAMLH0A0HYM2, BAMLH0A3HYC, BAMLC0A0CM). The Fed held its target range at 3.75–4.00% on 28 Oct in a 10–2 vote, with two dissents for a hike. The 10-year Treasury yield rose 5.2 bp to 5.044% (MarketWatch, 28 Oct). **Indicators.** C-1 ROUTINE. C-2 SIGNIFICANT (↓ within band). C-3 ROUTINE. C-4 ROUTINE (carried). C-5 ABNORMAL (carried). C-6 ABNORMAL (carried). Roll-up: 1 Significant + 2 Abnormal = ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=). **Analyst Comment.** Spreads are tightening, but a 10-year yield above 5% and an open hike debate raise refinancing costs for the CCC tail. BIZ-04 (CCC ≥ 14.00%) is now 79 bp away and BIZ-11 (HY ≥ 3.50%) 32 bp away.

IV. BIZ-T4 TRADE POLICY AND SANCTIONS | NO CRISIS

Today's Federal Register carries no USTR, BIS or OFAC document (FR API, 29 Oct). Comments on the further suspension of the maritime Section 301 action are due 30 Oct (FR 2026-21755). **Indicators.** P-1 ABNORMAL. P-2 ROUTINE. P-3 ROUTINE. P-4 ROUTINE. Roll-up: NO CRISIS (=).

V. BIZ-T5 EQUITY MARKET AND EARNINGS | NO CRISIS

The S&P 500 closed at **7,743.98** on 28 Oct (+0.28%), its third straight gain and 1.0% below its 7,818.93 record (CNBC and MarketWatch, above). FRED's latest VIX close is **17.52** (27 Oct) (VIXCLS). **Indicators.** E-1 to E-5 ROUTINE. Roll-up: NO CRISIS (=).

VI. PREDICTIONS

Resolved today: - **BIZ-10 HIT.** Microsoft's 28 Oct call set calendar-2026 capex at about $170 billion, below its previous $175 billion forecast. It was called at 15%, so Brier = 0.7225. - **BIZ-17 MISS.** Alphabet kept its 2026 range at $195–205 billion (midpoint $200 billion, not above it). It was called at 55%, so Brier = 0.3025.

Still open, with no resolution today: **BIZ-16** (Kpler ≤ 40%; 29 Oct reading 51%). Others open: BIZ-01, -02, -03 (S&P 1.0% short of its record), -04, -06, -07, -08, -09, -11, -12, -13, -14.

New (dated 2026-10-29; logged in the prediction ledger): - **BIZ-18:** A Kpler media briefing dated 30 Oct to 13 Nov 2026 again reports a 7-day average Total Hormuz Clearance at or below 50% of baseline (≤ 8,574 kbd). **65%, likely.** Resolve by 2026-11-16. - **BIZ-19:** CoreWeave's 5-year CDS is reported below 1,000 bp on any day from 29 Oct to 20 Nov 2026 (A-1 drops to Abnormal). **40%, unlikely to roughly even.** Resolve by 2026-11-23.

VII. GAPS AND UNVERIFIED

- **FRED** credit and VIX series end at 27 Oct and were read from the series pages (CSV access is blocked from the box). The 28 Oct VIX close was not found. The SOX close is from the Nasdaq index page via search, and FRED NASDAQSOX was not read.
- **Microsoft's prior $175 billion** calendar-2026 figure is as reported by Business Insider. One aggregator lists a $190 billion figure from April; both are above $170 billion, so the BIZ-10 result does not depend on which is right.
- **Khasab tanker:** the vessel's name, flag, cargo, crew status, the attacker and whether it sank are unconfirmed. It is not scored.
- **Kpler** readings for the last 4 days are preliminary floors that could revise upward. **CoreWeave CDS** has no fresh print since 27 Oct (secondary outlets citing Markit).
- **Drewry WCI** for 29 Oct and **S-2** PortWatch transits were not refreshed and are carried.

Sources

Kpler media briefing (29 Oct); Seatrade Maritime; CGTN (UKMTO); Drewry; Microsoft call transcript (StockAnalysis); Business Insider; Alphabet Q3 release (SEC EDGAR); Alphabet call transcript; CNBC; Investing.com; Nasdaq index history; Axios; FRED (BAMLH0A0HYM2, BAMLH0A3HYC, BAMLC0A0CM, VIXCLS); MarketWatch; Federal Register.

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