WIRE Economics

UNCLASSIFIED // OPEN SOURCE | Saturday, 24 October 2026 | Vol. 2026-297 | As of 240700 EDT OCT 26

BLUF. WIRE Economics holds at **ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (↑)** as the oil shock pushes further into prices and expectations. December Brent settled **$116.72** on 23 Oct, up $3.55 and **6.2%** on the week, its highest close since 29 April (Reuters via Euronext; Dow Jones via Morningstar). Consumers' year-ahead inflation expectations rose to **4.7%** and long-run to **3.5%**, both the highest since May (University of Michigan). The 10-year yield gave back part of Thursday's drop, closing at **5.00%** (Treasury). Markets still price a hold on 28 Oct. Bitcoin closed 23 Oct at **$81,074**, its lowest close in 30 days; **BTC-08 resolved a hit** as US spot ETFs netted about **+$301M** for the week.

0. WIRE Economics Dashboard

TOPIC	CRISIS LEVEL	DOM. INDICATOR	KEY DRIVER (today)	TREND
ECO-T2 Inflation and energy	ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS	SIGNIFICANT	Brent settle $116.72; T5YIE 2.48%; UMich 1-yr expectations 4.7% (override −1 kept)	↑
ECO-T5 Digital assets (Bitcoin)	ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS	SIGNIFICANT	B-5 Significant (Brent > $110); B-1 Abnormal (drawdown 35.8%); ETF week +$301.2M	=
ECO-T4 Housing and mortgage	ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS	SIGNIFICANT	30y fixed 7.32% (22 Oct); next PMMS 29 Oct	=
ECO-T1 Rates, Fed and sovereign	ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS	ABNORMAL	10y 5.00% (+4 bp d/d, −9 bp w/w); Oct hold ~90–93%	=
ECO-T3 Labor and growth	NO CRISIS	ABNORMAL	Sentiment 48.0, second-lowest on record; GDPNow 3.5%	=

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

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

Change line. Level unchanged; trend stays ↑ on a third straight Brent gain and rising inflation expectations. T1 and T4 move from ↓ to = as the 10-year haven bid partly reversed.

Moved indicators (vs 23 Oct). None changed band. Brent rose within the Significant band ($100–120 on W-7; over $110 on B-5) and is now **$3.28** below the $120 line that would withdraw the T2 override.

I. ECO-T1 RATES, FED AND SOVEREIGN DEBT | ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS

Yields. The 10-year par yield was **5.00%** on 23 Oct, up from 4.96% on 22 Oct and down from 5.09% on 16 Oct. The 2-year was 4.69% and the 30-year 5.33% (Treasury par yield curve). Effective fed funds stayed at 3.88% (Fed H.15). **Fed.** CNBC reported that CME FedWatch prices no change on 28 Oct and about a **71%** chance of a December hike (CNBC). A futures tracker showed **90%** hold odds for October as of 23 Oct (RiskCurve). **Indicators.** 10y level ABNORMAL (5.00%). Weekly move ROUTINE (−9 bp). Fed vs pricing ABNORMAL (the September hike stands). Auctions ROUTINE. Roll-up: 2 Abnormal = ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS. Trend =. **Analyst Comment.** The market now treats 28 Oct as a hold and December as the live meeting. Dissents for a hike (ECO-04) are the main signal to watch on Wednesday.

II. ECO-T2 INFLATION AND ENERGY PASS-THROUGH | ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS

Prices and expectations. September core CPI was **2.6%** y/y (BLS, 14 Oct; next CPI 10 Nov) (BLS). The 5-year breakeven rose to **2.48%** on 23 Oct from 2.45% (FRED T5YIE). Michigan's final October survey put year-ahead expectations at **4.7%** (from 4.6%) and 5–10-year at **3.5%** (from 3.4%). The survey said gasoline was mentioned unprompted by over 40% of respondents (University of Michigan). **Energy.** Brent settled **$116.72** (+3.14%) and WTI **$103.27** (+3.8%) on 23 Oct. Reuters tied the move to Houthi attacks in Saudi Arabia and a UAE-reported oil spill (Reuters via Euronext). Brent is up 12.7% month to date and 1.4% below its 2026 settlement high of $118.35 (31 Mar) (Morningstar). US regular gasoline was **$4.284** on 19 Oct; the next EIA print is 26 Oct (FRED GASREGW). **Indicators.** Core CPI ROUTINE. T5YIE ROUTINE. Brent SIGNIFICANT. Gasoline SIGNIFICANT. Formula: POTENTIAL CRISIS. **Override −1 to ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (kept):** both Significant reads come from one oil shock, and core prices and market breakevens remain Routine. Trend ↑. **Analyst Comment.**

The override is closer to breaking. Survey expectations are rising even though market breakevens are not. It is withdrawn if Brent settles above $120 or T5YIE passes 2.6%.

III. ECO-T3 LABOR AND GROWTH | NO CRISIS

Data. Initial claims were **194,000** in the week to 17 Oct (4-week average 197,750) (DOL). GDPNow is **3.5%** for Q3 (20 Oct; next update 27 Oct) (Atlanta Fed). The Michigan sentiment index was **48.0**; Reuters-sourced reporting called it the second-lowest on record (Finance & Commerce; University of Michigan). **Indicators.** Payrolls ABNORMAL; claims, Sahm, GDPNow and ISM ROUTINE. Sentiment is context only (no band). Roll-up: NO CRISIS (=). **Analyst Comment.** Hard data stay firm while sentiment sits near record lows. Q3 GDP on 29 Oct tests ECO-03.

IV. ECO-T4 HOUSING AND MORTGAGE | ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS

Data. Freddie Mac's 30-year fixed was **7.32%** on 22 Oct (Freddie Mac PMMS). Michigan reported **85%** of consumers saying it is a bad time to buy a house, with 62% citing high rates (from 47%) (University of Michigan). New-home sales are due 27 Oct. **Indicators.** 30y fixed SIGNIFICANT (7.25–8%). Roll-up: 1 Significant = ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS. Trend =. **Analyst Comment.** With the 10-year back at 5.00%, the 29 Oct PMMS is likely to ease only modestly, so ECO-01 (≤7.25%) stays close.

V. ECO-T5 DIGITAL ASSETS (BITCOIN) | ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS

Price. The 23 Oct UTC close was **$81,074.19** (Yahoo); CoinGecko's 00:00 UTC 24 Oct value was **$81,102.31** (Yahoo; CoinGecko). Day −0.3%, week −0.5%; drawdown from ~$126.2k is **35.8%**. This is the lowest close in 30 days. The 30-day realized volatility (Yahoo closes) is about **25%**. **Flows and plumbing.** US spot ETFs saw **−$137.9M** on 23 Oct (IBIT −$110.3M, FBTC −$31.8M; HODL not yet reported), leaving the week at **+$301.2M** (Farside). Decrypt put October at about −$176M through Thursday (Decrypt). USDT $0.9991, USDC $0.9997 (CoinGecko). Hashrate ~1,068 EH/s vs ~1,010 EH/s 30-day mean (mempool.space). Fear & Greed 51 (Alternative.me). No October hack above $100M found. **Indicators. B-1 ABNORMAL.** B-2, B-3, B-4 ROUTINE. **B-5 SIGNIFICANT. B-7 ABNORMAL** (Bitget, 24 Sep; drops out of the 30-day window tomorrow). B-6, B-8, B-9, B-10 ROUTINE. Roll-up: 1 Significant + 2 Abnormal = ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=). **Analyst Comment.** Volatility is near the 20% line that the framework reads as compression before a break. BTC-06 (<$78k) needs a further 3.8% fall by 28 Oct.

VI. PREDICTIONS

Resolved: BTC-08 HIT (net-inflow week 19–23 Oct, p 0.40). Farside daily totals sum to +$301.2M; Brier **0.36** (Farside). Open: **BTC-05** (hike, 35%): hold priced ~90–93%, trending miss. **BTC-06** (<$78k): low close $81,074; not hit. **BTC-07** (>$85k): not hit. **ECO-01** (≤7.25%): 7.32%. **ECO-02** (10y ≥5.25%): 5.00%. **ECO-03** (Q3 GDP ≥3.0%): due 29 Oct. **ECO-04** (hike dissent): due 28 Oct. New (dated 2026-10-24; logged in the prediction ledger): - **ECO-05:** EIA's US regular retail gasoline price for the week of 26 Oct is **at or above $4.35**. **55%, roughly even chance.** Resolve by 2026-10-28. - **ECO-06:** The 10-year yield closes **at or below 4.85%** on any date 26 Oct to 6 Nov. **35%, unlikely.** Resolve by 2026-11-06.

VII. GAPS AND UNVERIFIED

- **Fed odds** come from CNBC's citation of CME FedWatch and a futures-derived tracker (RiskCurve); the CME tool itself was not read. A digest site (sembr) put October hold near 93%.
- **ETF week:** HODL's 23 Oct flow was not yet posted on Farside. A late print would need to exceed −$301M to change BTC-08.
- **Volatility** of ~25% falls between the B-3 bands (Routine 25–50%, Abnormal below 20%); scored Routine.
- Gasoline, payrolls, Sahm, ISM and claims carry earlier readings. Term premium, foreign spreads and MBA delinquency were not collected.

Sources

Treasury; Fed H.15; FRED; BLS; DOL; Atlanta Fed; Freddie Mac; University of Michigan Surveys of Consumers; Reuters; Dow Jones/Morningstar; CNBC; RiskCurve; Farside; Decrypt; Yahoo; CoinGecko; mempool.space; Alternative.me; Finance & Commerce.

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