# Morning Market Intelligence Brief

*Friday November 20, 2026 | Morning edition | DRAFT v0.1.0*
*Evidence cutoff 6:15 AM EST | Outlook horizon November 20 to December 18, 2026*

## Executive synthesis

The independent two-to-four-week outlook is **37% Base / 5% Bull / 58% Bear**, versus **39% / 5% / 56%** in the approved November 19 written edition. Philadelphia-area factories reported much slower growth, nearly flat new orders and more widespread price increases. Freddie Mac's weekly mortgage rate rose to 7.28%. Together, those readings suggest that some buyers and factories face tougher decisions about whether to commit to new work. Kansas City-area factories reported stronger growth, Walmart raised its outlook, and initial unemployment claims barely rose. Those offsets limit the move. [S03–S08]

The S&P 500 fell 2.02% Thursday and the Nasdaq Composite fell 2.25%, even as Treasury par yields eased. Anthropic closed its first session above its IPO price, with part of its opening gain gone by the close. This creates a useful distinction for the next month. An issuer can raise equity while financing becomes harder for other firms in the same supply chain. Whether that happens will show up in borrowing terms, repeat equipment orders and working hours. [S01,S02,S09–S11]

The physical economy supplies a further check. The electronics industry reports long lead times for complex circuit boards even as a market researcher expects softer prices for another kind of memory. In Michigan and Ontario, Stellantis's dispute over Brampton leaves parts suppliers watching actual Windsor schedules and today's scheduled talks. The common issue is how much work businesses can finance and deliver after the next round of decisions. [S13,S14,S18–S21,S32]

## Current Signal Board

| Area and data vintage | Signal | What the evidence says |
|---|---|---|
| Financial conditions \| Nov 19 marks and cash close | **EQUITIES DOWN, MORTGAGES UP** | S&P 500 −2.02%. Ten-year par yield 5.04%. Weekly 30-year mortgage rate 7.28%. [S01–S03] |
| Energy and freight \| Nov 19 Drewry, Nov 18 warning | **CONTAINERS EASE, TANKERS EXPOSED** | Drewry $4,176, down 3%. Separate vessel hazard near Oman. [S16,S17] |
| Electronics and capex \| Nov 19 industry alert and IPO session | **STRONG ORDERS, LONG QUEUES** | High-layer circuit boards take 16–20 weeks or more. Anthropic finished above offer. [S09–S13] |
| Consumer and labor \| Walmart Oct quarter, claims through Nov 14 | **RETAIL HOLDS, CLAIMS MIXED** | Walmart U.S. comps +2.9% ex-fuel. Initial claims 203,000. Continuing claims 1.763m for earlier week. [S06–S08] |
| Autos and embedded \| Nov 18 update, Nov 20 talks preview | **PARTS SCHEDULES STILL OPEN** | Unifor expects four-party talks. Windsor repeat shifts and supplier call-offs remain unconfirmed. [S18–S21] |
| Manufacturing \| November regional surveys | **ORDERS AND PRICES DIVERGE** | Philadelphia activity 6.3, new orders −0.4 and prices paid 58.2. Kansas City composite 18. [S04,S05] |

# Key developments

## 1. Factory orders lose breadth while mortgage borrowers face higher rates

The Philadelphia Fed's November general activity diffusion index fell from 20.9 to 6.3. New orders moved to –0.4, while shipments stood at 25.7 and employment at 11.6. These indexes represent the percentage of respondents reporting increases minus the percentage reporting decreases. They measure breadth, with no direct conversion to percentage changes in physical volume. Firms are still shipping and adding workers on balance as the flow of new orders loses momentum. Work already in the pipeline can support production for a time. A persistently thinner order book would eventually show up in less overtime, lower utilization or shorter supplier schedules. [S04]

Prices paid climbed from 43.2 to 58.2 and prices received reached 47.0. More firms reported higher input and selling prices. The indexes measure how widespread price changes were, so the difference between them cannot tell us how much margin firms lost. It does show why the next decision is awkward. A supplier can raise a quote to cover its costs and risk losing the order, or absorb part of the increase and accept less profit. The Kansas City Fed's composite rose from 11 to 18 in November, an independent regional check against extrapolating the Philadelphia slowdown nationally. [S04,S05]

Freddie Mac's average 30-year mortgage rate rose 17 basis points to 7.28% in its weekly survey. Treasury's daily 10-year par yield fell from 5.07% to 5.04% on Thursday and the two-year fell from 4.80% to 4.76%. Different measurement windows and the terms of mortgage funding can produce both observations. Neither establishes an exact change in mortgage spreads. Those loan costs matter for the next transactions after October permits fell 7.4% in evidence carried forward from Wednesday. Higher monthly payments shrink what a borrower can afford and can lead builders to offer incentives or slow commitments. The next tests are signed contracts, repeat orders and whether regional price breadth persists. [S02–S05,S29]

## 2. Walmart provides another read on household traffic while claims warrant a closer look

Walmart reported quarterly revenue of $188.8 billion, 5.2% above a year earlier, and Walmart U.S. comparable sales excluding fuel rose 2.9%, down from 4.5% growth a year earlier. Transactions rose 1.5% and the average ticket rose 1.4%. Walmart U.S. e-commerce grew 23%. Management raised annual guidance. Taken together with Target's prior-day report of more transactions, the new Walmart release shows two retailers still finding demand, including through digital channels. Channel migration, merchandising and shifts between competitors can all help an individual retailer. The national demand test remains whether household purchases rise after adjusting for prices. [S08,S25,S35,S39]

Walmart CFO John David Rainey told investors that diesel and transportation together would add more than $2 billion of cost this year. This is a company estimate for both items. Diesel can enter the retail bill through freight rates, supplier quotes and the cost of distributing goods. A large retailer can absorb some costs or spread them across more trips and orders. A smaller supplier on fixed terms has fewer options. The point for the outlook is the path from carrier and distributor costs to the shelf price. The size and timing of any pass-through will depend on the next set of contracts and quotes. [S16,S17,S36]

The Labor Department reported 203,000 initial claims for the week ending November 14, up 1,000 from the revised prior week. Continuing claims rose by 70,000 to 1.763 million for the earlier week ending November 7. The first series tracks new applications, while the second counts claims for an additional week of insured unemployment. Michigan's November 9 benefits-system change enabled catch-up certifications and moved recipients from biweekly to weekly certification. It creates a timing caveat. State guidance alone cannot establish how much, if any, of the national increase it explains. Check subsequent revisions and state-level data before interpreting the increase as a broader hiring or layoff break. [S06,S07,S23]

## 3. An IPO secures equity while other borrowers face a tighter test

The S&P 500 closed Thursday at 7,175.83, the Dow at 49,097.06 and the Nasdaq Composite at 23,879.20. The broad decline alongside slightly lower daily Treasury marks points to a repricing beyond the risk-free benchmark. For a developer raising capital, weaker comparable valuations can increase dilution in an equity raise. Lenders may also ask for more collateral or price new loans more conservatively. These are plausible channels. Thursday's cash-market prices alone establish neither a canceled project nor a change in the average actual loan offer. [S01,S02]

Anthropic's first trading day gives the other side of the picture. The stock opened at $111.50 and closed at $97.17 against an $83 offer price. The close was about 17% above the offer and 13% below the open. Those comparisons measure different decisions. Subscribers accepted the offer and market participants later marked the stock at a different price. The 980 million shares imply $81.3 billion gross across the whole offering. About 956 million were company shares, worth about $79.4 billion gross before expenses and underwriting. Secondary holders receive the balance of gross proceeds. The offer price determined the company's gross proceeds. The stock's late decline changes the public valuation and what other issuers might expect later. [S09–S11]

At the physical layer, NVIDIA's November 17 announcement described longer-term commitments to suppliers including Amkor and TSMC. It predates the previous evidence cutoff. The fresh Global Electronics Association alert says bookings rose 56.1% in its comparison through September while shipments rose 13.3%, with high-layer-board lead times of 16–20 weeks or more. Differences in complexity, order timing and capacity can keep bookings ahead of shippable units. More orders can require more cash for materials and carrying inventory before suppliers bill. TrendForce's separate forecast of softer NAND prices in 2027 concerns storage flash. It offers little evidence that specialized circuit boards or packaging will get cheaper on that timetable. The next operating checks are canceled or repeated orders, supplier conversion to shipments, and finished data-center facilities entering service. [S12–S14]

### 4. Shipping hazards and grid costs show where input relief still has to reach

Drewry's November 19 container benchmark fell 3% to $4,176 per forty-foot container. It describes a basket of container lanes. Tanker freight, insurance and delivered diesel are separate costs. The earlier U.S. stocks report showed builds in crude, gasoline and distillates for the week ending November 13. Those stocks give some near-term buffer, while availability for a fleet or supplier still depends on local delivery and price. [S16,S17,S27]

UK Maritime Trade Operations warning 212 relays a late report of a projectile striking a tanker's engine room near Khasab, Oman. The crew was reported safe and the extent of damage was undetermined. The bulletin documents a hazard to a vessel, without establishing a regional export loss. The Shenzhen declaration already appeared in the November 19 report. Its pledge to increase refined-product supply still requires evidence from refinery runs, loading records and delivered prices. The pledge remains part of the November 19 baseline. [S16,S28]

The Senate passed its amended permitting bill 62–33 on Thursday night. It still requires House action. Sponsors describe faster reviews and provisions addressing how data centers pay for grid upgrades. These two features can work in different directions for a developer. A shorter wait for approval can save carrying costs, while a larger share of grid costs can raise the upfront bill. Fed Vice Chair Philip Jefferson separately described how AI investment can raise demand and inflation before productivity benefits arrive. That economic explanation is compatible with the bill's focus on infrastructure. Neither changes the expected date of an individual site's power connection today. Look for final statutory language, rate orders, signed power contracts and service dates. [S15,S22,S31]

### 5. Brampton talks matter for tooling and payroll from Ontario to Michigan

Stellantis owns Windsor Assembly across the river from Detroit and has agreed to sell its separate idled Brampton plant near Toronto and associated equipment to Roshel, a Canadian armored-vehicle maker. The Canadian and Ontario governments backed retooling at Windsor and Brampton under a multibillion-dollar electrification plan. Stellantis later allocated the Jeep Compass program planned for Brampton to Belvidere, Illinois. Ottawa alleges a breach of funding commitments. Stellantis views the agreement as a path to reuse and says it remains prepared to work with Unifor on represented employees. Unifor opposes the closure and sale and has called for a viable auto program and firmer commitments at other Canadian operations. [S18–S20,S32]

Unifor says Stellantis tabled a proposed closure agreement at their November 17 meeting. The union expected the company, Ottawa, Ontario and Unifor to reconvene Friday with Stellantis's chief executive. No qualifying settlement was established by cutoff. The available Windsor reporting establishes a planned November 16 return to three shifts. Repeat shifts and firm supplier call-offs remain open. Local 195 says around 800 represented employees at 22 suppliers depend on Windsor Assembly. Those schedules determine whether local staffing and transport commitments translate into invoiced work. [S18,S21]

For a Michigan toolmaker, a change in model allocation can move validation work, fixtures and purchases to another facility, with new shipping lanes and supplier qualifications. The model can still generate orders in Illinois while particular Ontario and Michigan firms face a timing gap before replacement work bills. Today's useful evidence would be written terms, a backed replacement production mandate or actual multi-day parts releases. A meeting or a change in the company's real-estate plans alone supplies little information about the next month's assembly volumes. The national outlook assigns this cluster zero incremental points. [S18–S21,S32]

### 6. Japan's overnight inflation reading adds a check beyond U.S. demand

Japan's Statistics Bureau reported October consumer inflation of 2.3% from a year earlier. Prices excluding fresh food rose 2.2%, as did prices excluding both fresh food and energy. The scheduled November 20 morning release in Tokyo was Thursday evening in Detroit, inside this edition's window. The positive measures excluding those volatile categories matter to suppliers because Japanese producers' wages, borrowing terms and local selling prices influence what it costs to source equipment and components. The CPI release measures consumer prices, so supplier quotes and currency-adjusted invoices are the checks for actual cross-border pass-through. It earns zero points in the U.S. operating outlook. [S37,S38]

## The broader pattern

The divergence is between current work and future commitments. Retailers still report sales growth, factories in one survey are still shipping, and an AI developer successfully sold equity. A borrower looking at a higher mortgage quote, a plant waiting on a repeat order, or a data center that needs power and debt must decide whether the next commitment still earns enough. A two-to-four-week forecast should move when several of those decisions begin to change the amount of work firms can deliver and collect.

Three feedbacks matter. Fewer orders can shorten factory hours only after backlogs thin. Expensive materials can tie up cash even while bookings rise. Lower container rates can help selected importers without promptly reducing every diesel or maritime insurance bill. The next releases can establish how far those effects have spread. [S03–S08,S13,S16,S17]

## Prior 2–4 weeks — what markets and the economy are confirming

The U.S. ten-year par yield moved from 4.86% on November 6 to 5.15% on November 13, then eased to 5.04% on November 19. The daily retreat recovers only part of the earlier rise. October industrial production and price data had already shown manufacturing up 0.3% but down 0.1% excluding vehicles and parts, alongside a 1.5% increase in imported capital-goods prices. October housing permits and pending contracts weakened, and the October FOMC minutes showed broad conditional support for further tightening. Thursday adds a mortgage observation and a timely factory survey on prices and orders, while Kansas City and Walmart show why weak breadth should not be treated as a nationwide collapse. [S02–S05,S08,S29,S30,S33,S34]

The approved sequence since November 16 is 40/6/54, 38/5/57, 41/5/54 and 39/5/56 on November 19, in Base/Bull/Bear order. The November 18 recovery reflected demand evidence, and November 19 renewed attention to future commitments and housing. This edition is a further modest shift toward Bear as financing pressure gains another operating check. Each estimate had its own evidence window. Outcomes for this edition remain open.

## Base / Bull / Bear — one two-to-four-week outlook

The outlook runs November 20–December 18, 2026, with a December 4 internal two-week review. Scenario weights are whole-point editorial judgments about how the economy operates over that window.

| Base · IF expansion continues under cost pressure — 37% | Bull · IF relief becomes broad and durable — 5% | Bear · IF operating pressure spreads into retrenchment — 58% |
|---|---|---|
| Consumer activity and funded commitments keep firms producing while some regions and borrowers struggle. Walmart's results, low new claims and Kansas City manufacturing support this path. Confirm with stable hours, repeat factory orders, retail demand holding in real terms, and continued cash collection. Broader loan or project cancellations would challenge it. [S05,S06,S08,S25] | Loan terms and delivered input costs ease as real demand broadens. Lower container rates and some Treasury relief indicate where improvement could begin. Confirm with cheaper actual borrower quotes, sustained delivered-fuel relief, and gains in real outlays and orders. Persistent price breadth or continued deterioration in mortgage terms would weaken the case. [S02–S04,S17,S25] | Weak order intake and expensive borrowing begin to reduce investment, output, employment or credit. The Philadelphia orders and prices combination and higher mortgage costs support this path. Confirm with repeated order weakness across regions, fewer financed projects, shorter hours or sustained increases in claims. Stable collections, improving new orders and work hours that hold would reduce the weight. [S03–S06,S13] |

### What changed since the November 19 cutoff

**Two points from Base to Bear for the combined operating and financing signal.** Philadelphia's weaker order breadth and higher price breadth show where input and pricing pressure are reaching the next factory decision. Freddie Mac's weekly increase adds confirmation in rate-sensitive demand, grouped here to avoid treating each release as a full additional shock. Kansas City's improvement and slightly easier Treasury marks limit the adjustment. The October housing weakness, import prices and Fed minutes were already in the prior edition. [S02–S05,S29,S30,S34]

**One point from Base to Bear for the broad market reversal and its financing implications.** The close and fading first-day gains in Anthropic are considered together, with zero independent points for multiple index moves or separate AI quotes. The risk is more expensive equity and greater financing selectivity. Anthropic's completed first session above offer and absence of demonstrated project cancellation keep this to one point. [S01,S02,S09–S11]

**One point back to Base for fresh retailer evidence.** Walmart's stronger sales and outlook add an independent company check on demand after Target. Low new claims help keep the case open, with zero additional points for the continuing-claims change. Earlier chip capacity announcements, the semiconductor supply alert, Senate passage, shipping, Shenzhen and the Brampton watch earn zero separate macro points. Each carries a specific next test. Bull stays at 5% because the new weakness already shifts the weight of the uneven-expansion case and there was no material deterioration in the specific evidence for a broad relief path beyond what is reflected in the two downside clusters. [S06–S08,S12–S14,S16–S22,S28]

**Research comparison.** The partner research moved from 42/5/53 to 38/4/58, a −4/−1/+5 change in its own series. The editorial change is −2/0/+2 from the approved 39/5/56. The two end at the same Bear weight. The editorial assessment gives one point less to Base and one more to Bull. It groups the equity reversal and the regional price/financing evidence, recognizes Walmart separately, and keeps prior capacity commitments and the still-unresolved claims translation from adding fresh downside. No averaging was used.

## Near-term catalyst calendar

**Friday, November 20, 10 AM EST — final Michigan sentiment and October state employment.** Compare household buying conditions and inflation expectations with spending evidence, and use employment breadth as a check on the claims narrative. These releases come after the cutoff. [S23,S24]

**Friday, November 20 — Brampton talks anticipated by Unifor.** Look for a written proposal or agreement and check which facilities, workers, dates and commitments it actually covers. [S18]

**Wednesday, November 25, 8:30 AM EST — October personal income and outlays.** Compare real income and outlays with price changes to establish whether nominal sales correspond to more purchasing power. [S25]

**December 8–9 — FOMC.** Compare the rate decision and projections with how mortgage and business borrowing terms actually move. [S26]

## Watchlist

Track factory orders, quotes and hours together. Compare state claims revisions with employment and Michigan's certification transition. Follow Anthropic and other AI borrowers through financing, power availability and supplier delivery. For Michigan autos, prioritize parts releases and written Stellantis commitments. For transport, separate container quotes, delivered diesel, tanker loading volumes and disruption. [S03–S07,S09–S19,S23,S27]

## Curated Reading List

[S03] Freddie Mac — Primary Mortgage Market Survey archive | Nov 19, noon EST release

[S04] Philadelphia Fed — November Manufacturing Business Outlook Survey | Nov 19, 8:30 AM EST

[S06] U.S. Department of Labor — November 19 unemployment insurance weekly claims | Nov 19, 8:30 AM EST

[S08] Walmart — Fiscal 2027 third-quarter earnings and call materials | Nov 19, 7 AM EST release

[S13] Global Electronics Association — Industry alert on printed circuit board shortages | Nov 19 alert

[S18] Unifor — Brampton talks and closure proposal chronology | Nov 18 union update

## Sources

[S01] Associated Press — November 19 U.S. index closes | Nov 19 regular-session closes
[S02] U.S. Treasury — November daily par yield curve | Nov 19 and Nov 18 daily Treasury marks
[S03] Freddie Mac — Primary Mortgage Market Survey archive | Nov 19, noon EST release
[S04] Philadelphia Fed — November Manufacturing Business Outlook Survey | Nov 19, 8:30 AM EST
[S05] Kansas City Fed — November manufacturing survey | Nov 19
[S06] U.S. Department of Labor — November 19 unemployment insurance weekly claims | Nov 19, 8:30 AM EST
[S07] Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency — MiUI transition notice and certification changes | Oct 30 notice
[S08] Walmart — Fiscal 2027 third-quarter earnings and call materials | Nov 19, 7 AM EST release
[S09] Anthropic — IPO pricing and share allocation | Nov 18 issuer announcement
[S10] Nasdaq — Anthropic IPO at Nasdaq | Nov 19 first trading session
[S11] Associated Press — Anthropic's first regular-session close | Nov 19
[S12] NVIDIA — Expanded supply-chain commitments | Issuer release dated Nov 17
[S13] Global Electronics Association — Industry alert on printed circuit board shortages | Nov 19 alert
[S14] TrendForce — NAND Flash price and demand outlook | Nov 19 forecast
[S15] Federal Reserve — Vice Chair Jefferson on economic shocks | Nov 19 prepared remarks
[S16] UK Maritime Trade Operations — Warning 212-26 | Nov 18 report
[S17] Drewry — World Container Index, November 19 assessment | Nov 19 index and route quotes
[S18] Unifor — Brampton talks and closure proposal chronology | Nov 18 union update
[S19] Stellantis and Roshel via SEC — Brampton asset purchase agreement | Nov 9 issuer announcement
[S20] Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada — Federal support and Jeep Compass allocation | Earlier parliamentary briefing

## Sources continued

[S21] AM800 CKLW — Windsor shift plan and feeder-plant exposure | Nov 16 coverage
[S22] U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee — Senate passage of the permitting bill | Nov 19 evening
[S23] U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics — November data calendar | Published before cutoff
[S24] Associated Press — Consumer sentiment release preview | Nov 13 preview
[S25] U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis — November release schedule | Nov 25 personal income and outlays, 8:30 AM EST
[S26] Federal Reserve — 2026 FOMC meeting calendar | Dec 8–9, scheduled
[S27] U.S. Energy Information Administration — Weekly crude and product stocks | Nov 18 release
[S28] China Ministry of Foreign Affairs — Shenzhen heads-of-state declaration | Nov 19, 5:55 AM EST
[S29] Census Bureau and HUD — October new residential construction | Nov 18 release
[S30] Federal Reserve — October FOMC minutes | Nov 18, 2 PM EST release
[S31] U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee — Data center provisions summary | November pre-vote summary
[S32] Associated Press — Ottawa alleges Stellantis funding breach | Nov 12
[S33] Federal Reserve — October industrial production | Nov 17 release
[S34] Bureau of Labor Statistics — October import and export prices | Nov 17 release
[S35] Walmart via SEC — Earnings exhibit, U.S. comparable sales and transactions | Nov 19 exhibit
[S36] Walmart — Third-quarter investor call transcript | Nov 19 call at 8 AM EST
[S37] Statistics Bureau of Japan — October nationwide consumer price index | Nov 20, 8:30 AM JST equals Nov 19, 6:30 PM EST
[S38] Statistics Bureau of Japan — Nationwide CPI release calendar and timing convention | Nov 20 listed release date
[S39] Target via SEC — Third-quarter earnings and comparable transactions | Nov 18 release

Evidence cutoff Friday, November 20, 2026, 6:15 AM EST / 11:15 UTC. The source and QA register records timing, provenance, source grades and exclusions.

## Conclusion

The outlook puts a little more weight on retrenchment because weaker order breadth and high borrowing costs now appear alongside a broad market reversal. Stronger order books elsewhere, retailer demand and low initial claims remain meaningful offsets. The decisive evidence will be whether financing pressure reaches new projects, supplier workloads, and ultimately payroll and collections.

## Purpose of the Intelligence Report

The report connects economically consequential developments in automotive, electronics, technology, manufacturing, trade and the physical economy with a probability-based two-to-four-week outlook. It distinguishes evidence, interpretation and scenario judgment. Its analysis is independent of personal portfolio holdings.