

Daily Commentary

The Price of Time

25th November 2026

The Price of Time

Yesterday morning, the talk was that Nvidia had got back the same CEO, but in a different environment.
It took just one session for the market to confirm it.
After Monday's euphoria came the classic morning-after headache.
The Nasdaq 100 lost about **2.5**% and the S&P500 index about **1.0**%, while the Dow Jones and the Russell 2000 closed up half a point.
Technology about −**4.0**%, neoclouds between −**8.0**% and −**10**%, Nvidia −**7.0**% and much of Monday's jump has already vanished, while the healthcare sector +**3.0**% and consumer staples +**1.5**%.

Money did not leave the market, it moved to where earnings do not depend on data centers.

Then there is the news making the most noise: **Anthropic closed at around USD 80, below the USD 83 offer price**, on the very first day that options were traded on the stock.
The IPO, which two weeks ago had been subscribed "several times over", can today be bought at a discount.
According to traders at a leading investment bank, hedge funds and traditional funds sold technology and bought defensives.
It was not panic, but selling into an orderly rebound, by those who do not believe that Huang's return has changed the numbers.

At Monday's party, **credit had not even shown up, and yesterday it got worse still**.
Investment grade bond spreads hit new

Source: Bloomberg, Reuters, Yahoo Finance, Financial Times, ECB, CNBC, The White House
Please refer to the warnings on the last page of this document

cycle highs, the high yield CDS (insurance contracts against default risk) index rose above **385** basis points, a warning threshold closely watched by market participants, while the cost of insuring against the default of the hyperscalers (large cloud operators) set a new record and CDS linked to data centers returned close to **500** basis points, at all-time highs.

When equities and credit tell two different stories, it is usually credit that is right.

The shareholder looks at the potential, the bondholder looks only at getting the money back, and today the bondholder is worried.

The rest of the map confirms it, with Treasuries bought (ten-year below **4.90**%, a two-week low), the dollar sold and the Swiss franc bought, while gold, silver, copper and Bitcoin (heading towards USD 60,000) fell along with everything else.

When the only safe havens are government bonds and the Swiss franc, the market's message is defensive.

Why don't the numbers add up?

The most interesting answer comes from those who see the invoices.

Ramp, a corporate credit card company, observes how much tens of thousands of American businesses actually spend on OpenAI and Anthropic.

Its CEO, **Eric Glyman**, said what the market did not want to hear.

Over the past two months, the Jevons paradox has broken.

In 1865 Jevons observed that more efficient steam engines caused coal consumption to increase, not decrease, because cheap energy kept finding new

Source: Bloomberg, Reuters, Yahoo Finance, Financial Times, ECB, CNBC, The White House

Please refer to the warnings on the last page of this document

uses.
Applied to Artificial Intelligence, this is the reasoning on which the entire supply chain rests.
Every time the price of a token (the unit used to pay for a model's work) falls, usage grows so much that total spending increases anyway.

The data say that this summer the mechanism jammed.
Business spending on tokens grew by **42**% in July, then by just **1.5**% in August and September combined and by **1.65**% in October.
Volumes are growing, but not enough to offset the price cuts.
In its listing documents, Anthropic itself wrote that list price reductions have cost it about USD **600** million in revenue growth.

According to Glyman, the reason is that for many business tasks the models are already intelligent enough, and if the accounting can be handled by a model "with an IQ of 120", moving up to 150 does not make anyone spend more.

Then there is a second data point, perhaps a more important one.
1% of companies, almost all of them tech firms backed by venture capital, **generates 80% of token spending**.
The remaining **99**%, says Glyman, sees AI as "an alien intelligence behind a wall" to which you pass little notes.
In all honesty, the other half of the story should also be told, where the latest weekly reading (spending +**12**%, volumes +**27**%, prices −**11**%) is exactly what Jevons looks like when it works, and Glyman

Source: Bloomberg, Reuters, Yahoo Finance, Financial Times, ECB, CNBC, The White House
Please refer to the warnings on the last page of this document

himself speaks of a possible "local maximum".
However, one week does not make a trend and today the market is not granting the benefit of the doubt.

Here we come to the heart of the matter.
Artificial Intelligence is not a fad and its adoption will grow.
The question is not if, it is when.
The supply chain has invested as if paid adoption were due to arrive tomorrow, whereas today it remains confined to too low a percentage of people and companies.
It will grow, but more slowly than the pace at which chips, data centers and power plants have been built.
It is like building a six-lane highway before the cars arrive.

Sooner or later the cars will arrive and the highway will be needed, but in the meantime the toll booths take in little and whoever built it has to pay interest every month.
That time gap between installed capacity and paying demand is the point where the pain begins.

Here, not everyone suffers in the same way.
The hyperscalers have cash from other businesses and can afford to wait, even though a leading investment bank estimates that their return on invested capital has already fallen from 40% to **25**%, the lowest in at least ten years.
Those who instead built the highway on debt (neoclouds, data center developers, labs with enormous spending

Source: Bloomberg, Reuters, Yahoo Finance, Financial Times, ECB, CNBC, The White House
Please refer to the warnings on the last page of this document

commitments, USD **895** billion for Anthropic) cannot wait, because the cost of that wait has a precise name, **the cost of money**, and that is exactly where credit is pricing the risk.

At 14:30 Italian time, the **PCE** consumer deflator (the personal consumption index, preferred by the Fed) for October and the second estimate of GDP for the third quarter are released.
In September, headline PCE stood at **3.6**% and core (excluding energy and food) at **3.1**%.
Some independent estimates see the headline figure heading towards **3.8**%.
The market is already pricing in a rate hike at the Fed meeting on December 9 and yesterday it emerged that **eight** of the twelve regional Fed banks had asked for the discount rate to be raised to **4.25**%.
Oil is not helping, with WTI at USD **82** and Brent above **90**, as OPEC+ meets over the weekend.

Why does it matter so much for Artificial Intelligence?
Because **the interest rate is, literally, the price of time.**
Whoever has to fund themselves while waiting for adoption to arrive pays interest every quarter at the market rate.
A hot reading pushes the end of the hikes further away and makes the wait more expensive, while an in-line reading, with financial conditions already tighter, could give the Fed room to say that after December there is no need to keep going.
For artificial intelligence, today, the real

Source: Bloomberg, Reuters, Yahoo Finance, Financial Times, ECB, CNBC, The White House
Please refer to the warnings on the last page of this document

variable is not technology.
It is time and the price it costs.

Source: Bloomberg, Reuters, Yahoo Finance, Financial Times, ECB, CNBC, The White House
Please refer to the warnings on the last page of this document

Disclaimer

This publication is for your information only and is not intended as an offer, or a solicitation of an offer, to buy or sell any investment or other specific product. The analysis contained herein does not constitute a personal recommendation or take into account the particular investment objectives, investment strategies, financial situation and needs of any specific recipient. It is based on numerous assumptions. Different assumptions could result in materially different results. Certain services and products are subject to legal restrictions and cannot be offered worldwide on an unrestricted basis and/or may not be eligible for sale to all investors.

All information and opinions expressed in this document were obtained from sources believed to be reliable and in good faith, but no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made as to its accuracy or completeness (other than disclosures relating to Theia Investments Limited). All information and opinions as well as any forecasts, estimates and market prices indicated are current as of the date of this report, and are subject to change without notice.

THEIA INVESTMENTS LIMITED	+971 4 570 0793
https://theiainvestments.com/	#814, Liberty House, DIFC, PO Box 566720, Dubai, UAE (Regulated by DFSA)