Market Briefing · Wednesday, August 26, 2026

Prices as of the New York cash close, plus after-hours into Nvidia's 5:00 p.m. ET call. Session closed. Not investment advice.

This was a beat-sold-on-margin day, not an AI-demand-miss day.

PCE stayed sticky (headline 0.2% / 3.7%). Cash indexes sat still. Nvidia printed $96.2B and guided $108B with China data-center compute at zero - and the tape sold the 74% margin guide. The exception: SpaceX held $135-$140 and closed $139.63.

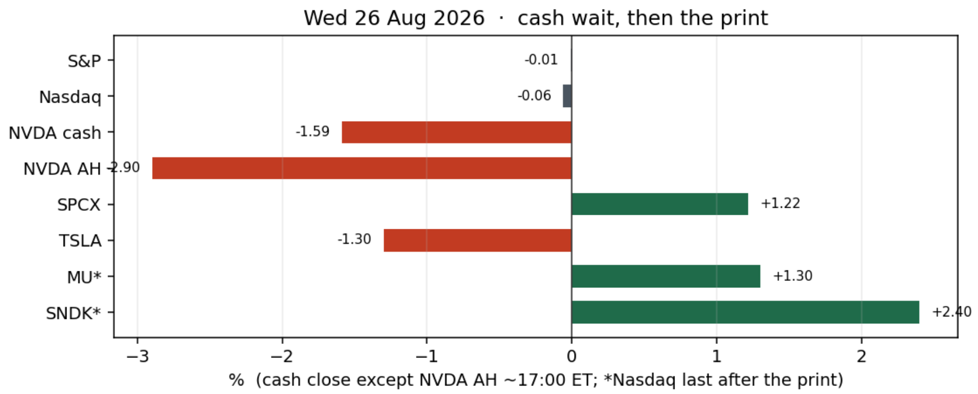
One-line take: the factory still has demand. What they paid you to wait for was mix - a point of gross margin and a China hole in the guide - not a hole in racks.

1. Market snapshot

Index	Close	Day
S&P; 500	7,676.29	-0.01%
Nasdaq	26,136.18	-0.06%
Dow	~53,465	-0.21%
10-year / 30-year	4.66% / 5.18%	+2 bp / flat
WTI (front)	~$82.02	-0.4% after Tue crash
FedWatch Sept hike	~44%	from ~36% pre-PCE

Name	Close	Day	Tape note
Nvidia (NVDA)	$209.66	-1.59%	Cash sold the wait. AH ~$207 then ~$209-210 into the call.
SpaceX (SPCX)	$139.63	+1.22%	Low $135.10, high $140. Held the $135-$140 box. ~57m shares.
Tesla (TSLA)	~$346	~-1.3%	Gave back Tuesday's $350 tag. Still car tape.
Micron (MU)	last ~$950	bid AH	Tue $933. Memory bid after the print, not before.
Sandisk (SNDK)	last ~$1,536	bid AH	Tue $1,481 failed bounce. After-hours recut.
Apple (AAPL)	~$313	quiet green	Not the print.
Meta / Amazon	~$576 / $260	flat-ish	Platforms sat. Not the story.
Palantir (PLTR)	last ~$178	bid vs Tue $173	Did not need Nvidia to work.

Tuesday was oil and a GPU bounce into tonight: Nasdaq +0.66%, Nvidia $213.05 +2.19%, WTI -5% to the low $80s. Wednesday used that bounce as the bid they sold. PCE at 8:30 did not smash the tape. It boxed it. Nvidia after the close is the session that mattered.



Cash wait vs the print. Illustrative, not official OHLC. Micron/Sandisk last sales after the print.

PCE card from the morning pack. Headline a tick hot; core in line.

2. What actually drove the tape

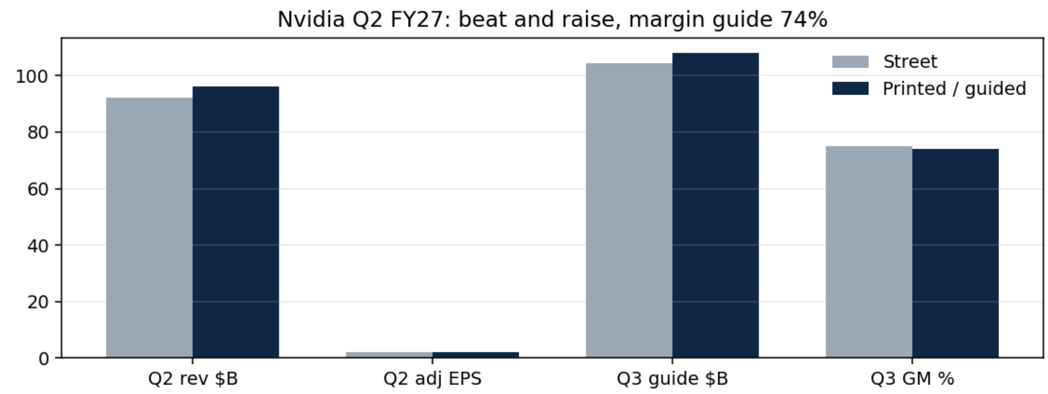
There was no collapse in AI demand. Data center did $89.0B, +117% year on year, +18% quarter on quarter, ahead of the ~$86.3B StreetAccount card. Adjusted EPS $2.22 versus about $2.10. Revenue $96.22B versus about $92.2B. Jensen in the release: "Now, compute is revenue." Vera Rubin is in full production at CoreWeave, Google Cloud, Microsoft Azure, Oracle, Nebius.

What they sold is mix. Printed gross margin 75.0%. The guide is 74.0%, plus or minus 50 basis points. Q3 revenue $108.0B plus or minus 2% versus a Street card around $104-105B - so the raise is real. The company is not assuming any data-center compute revenue from China in that number. That is the hole in the numerator, not a hole in US racks.

PCE did the morning. Headline +0.2% month / +3.7% year (Street +0.1% / +3.6%). Core +0.2% / +3.3%, in line. Real personal spending 0.0%. Income +0.4%. GDP second look still +1.5%. Inflation Insights flagged unrounded core 0.246% - almost a 0.3. Reuters: Fed funds futures ~44% for a September hike after the print, from ~36% before. Capital Economics: not enough for September, still enough for "later." Warsh speaks Friday 10:00 a.m. ET at Jackson Hole. Theme is payments innovation. The market wants an inflation paragraph.

The 10-year backed up 2 bp to 4.66%. The 30-year sat at 5.18%. Oil did not do Tuesday again. WTI futures around $82 after Tuesday's dump. Duration was a tax, not a smash.

So what? A beat-and-raise that sells is the base rate until they prove mix. Four prior beats that sold off was the premarket house card. Tonight did not break that habit. It did not break demand either.



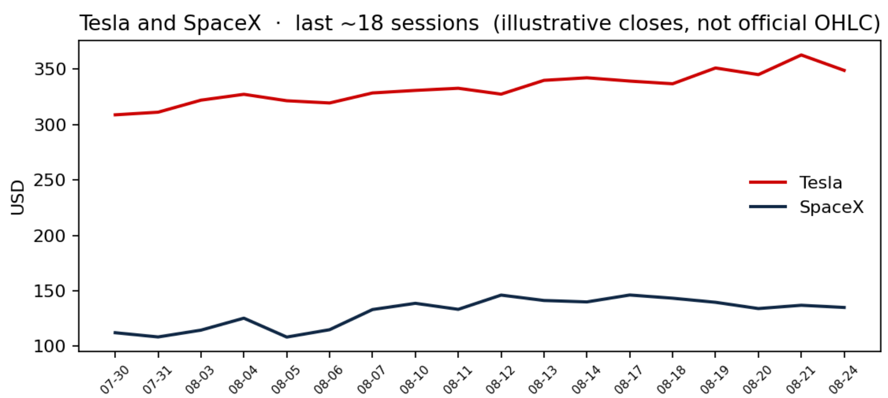
Street card vs printed / guided. Q3 GM is the 74, not the 75 they printed.

3. The split that mattered: Nvidia mix vs SpaceX digestion

Nvidia cash $209.66, -1.59%, into a print they had seven sessions to price. After-hours tagged ~$207 on the 74% guide, then sat in the high $200s into the call. Cycle: never washed out. Crowding: still the S&P;'s largest weight, whisper bar $107-110B on Q3 (Delta One) - they printed $108B midpoint. Owners: every index and every AI sleeve. Fundamentals today: demand up, mix down a point, China compute written to zero. That is a hurdle-rate trade, not a rack-cancel trade.

SpaceX cash $139.63, +1.22%, low $135.10, high ~$140. Volume ~57 million, below Tuesday. Cycle: already tagged the IPO line Monday, bounced Tuesday, held the box through PCE. Crowding: the $145 sprint is two weeks dead. Owners: lock-up still the float - next dated drop is Wednesday 9 September, another ~319 million (day-90 from 11 June). Fundamentals today: nothing new on Louisiana. $100B is 2027 dirt, 2029 first launch. BofA said Starlink wireless is complementary to T-Mobile, not a tower killer. Morgan Stanley kept $300; Wolfe kept $175. Neither raised on the spaceport.

Memory is the third leg. Micron and Sandisk were the names that failed Tuesday's bounce. After Nvidia's data-center print they bid. That is the stack reading the $89B as HBM/NAND still scarce, not GPU peak. Do not confuse an after-hours bounce with a new Micron guide.



Tesla vs SpaceX path from the morning pack. SpaceX held the box; Tesla gave the $350 tag back.

4. Earnings and company news

Nvidia Q2 FY27 (quarter ended 26 July). Revenue $96.221B, +18% q/q, +106% y/y. Data center $89.0B. Edge $7.2B. GAAP EPS $2.46; non-GAAP $2.22. Operating income $63.7B. They returned ~$26B (buybacks + dividend). Issued ~$24.9B of debt. Free cash flow $21.3B versus $48.6B in Q1 - accounts receivable $63.1B (from $38.5B at January) and inventory $31.6B (from $21.4B). Working capital is doing the work of the ramp.

Q3: $108.0B +/- 2%. Gross margin 74.0% +/- 50 bp. OpEx ~$9.2B GAAP / $9.0B non-GAAP. China data-center compute: none in the outlook. Rubin ramping. Spectrum-6. Groq 3 LPX in production. Financing platforms with Apollo, BlackRock, Blackstone, Brookfield, Goldman, KKR "to mobilize over $500B of third-party capital ... subject to definitive agreements" - that is a term-sheet headline, not cash in. SpaceXAI takes Vera CPUs. SB Energy Ohio campus for Nvidia compute.

Tesla: no new industrial print. Cash faded the $350 tag. Cybertruck +$5k is still not miles. Nevada permit is still a license. Gary Black is still sidelined boomer tape.

SpaceX: no new 8-K on Louisiana spend. Next industrial test is still Starship Flight 14 (early September on the Wolfe note), then the 9 September unlock.

5. Other noteworthy items

- Core capital goods orders +0.2% vs +0.7% expected. Shipments +1.4%. Capex is not dead; the print was not a boom either.
- Durable goods +1.1% vs +0.5%. Noise around Boeing more than AI factories.
- WTI held the low $80s after Tuesday's -5%. Not a new Hormuz chapter today.
- Bitcoin not the day.
- Nvidia conference call 2:00 p.m. PT / 5:00 p.m. ET - this pack is the print and the first after-hours tape, not a full transcript.

6. What's buzzing on X

Camp 1 - Beat is never enough. Mood: nine miracles, the tenth is a disappointment. They wanted a crush-and-raise and got a raise with a 74. The sarcasm is the tell.

> *"NVIDIA FACES $110 BILLION WHISPER BAR ... traders see Q3 guidance potentially reaching $107-110 billion."*
> @Deltaone · 26 Aug, pre-print

Camp 2 - Compute is revenue. Mood: $96B, $89B data center, China at zero and they still guided $108B. Attach, power, credit are the next constraints, not wafer starts.

> *"AI has reached its inflection point. It's doing useful work. Its tokens are productive and profitable. Now, compute is revenue."*
> Jensen Huang · Nvidia Q2 release

Camp 3 - SpaceX is the other factory. Mood: $135 was the gift, Louisiana is 2027, buy the box. Unlock 9 Sep is still the float.

What the camps are really saying: demand is not the fight. Mix, China, and who funds the next terawatt are the fight. SpaceX is being treated as a separate duration story because the unlocks already happened and the $100B is not this quarter's invoice.

8. What to watch next

- Nvidia after-hours into Thursday cash: hold $200 on volume = mix was a one-night tax. Lose $200 with size = they are done paying 30x for 74% margins.
- Warsh Friday 10:00 a.m. ET. Sticky 3.3% core plus a hike paragraph = 30-year rips and duration (Nvidia, SpaceX) pays. A "wait" speech = box continues.
- SpaceX: hold $135-$140 through 9 September (~319 million). Lose $135 on unlock volume = squeeze over. $145 is still the old sprint, not the test.
- Tesla: $350s as a floor need a reclaim, not another tag.
- Memory: Micron/Sandisk after-hours bid has to live through Thursday. A fade back to Tuesday's lows says it was only Nvidia sympathy.

Method: Reuters cash indexes; BEA PCE; Nvidia IR 26 Aug release; Nasdaq last-sale into the call; Delta One on PCE and the $110B whisper; MarketWatch/Investing.com SpaceX OHLC. After-hours marks move. NFA.

7. Independent view

1. Believe the demand print, fade the idea that mix is a demand miss. $89B data center and a $108B guide with China at zero is the factory still running. They sold 74% because 75% was the card after four beats that did not stick. Flip: a cut to 2027 rack growth on the call, or cash through $200 with size Thursday.

2. PCE is sticky enough to keep September a coin-flip, not a hike locked. 44% is not 70%. Warsh still has to say it Friday. Flip: a Jackson Hole paragraph that treats 3.3% core as a hike trigger.

3. SpaceX $139.63 is digestion working, not a breakout. $100B Louisiana is still 2027-29 dirt. The test is 9 September, not tonight's Nvidia tape. Flip: volume hold above $140 into that unlock - or a smash through $130.

4. Tesla is still not the AI factory. $350 was a tag Tuesday, given back Wednesday. Permit and Cybertruck hike do not make unsupervised miles. Flip: a count that is not 90-100 cars.

Bottom line: Wednesday did what the base rate said. They beat. They raised. They guided a point of margin away and wrote China to zero, and the after-hours tape charged the usual toll. Demand is not the story that broke. Mix is the tax until Friday's Warsh speech or a $200 hold. Do not spend a GPU bounce that already happened Tuesday. NFA.