The Degenerates Journal

THE DEGENERATES WEEK CLOSE

Friday, October 30, 2026

FILED 5:21 PM ET · SOUTH FLORIDA

Big tech's spending worries close out the week

The AI spending worry that built all week hit hardest on Friday, and big tech, chipmakers and crypto led the market lower into the weekend. Small caps still finished the week ahead, the Fed showed two votes for a hike, and next week brings the jobs report and the midterm elections.

OFFICIAL CLOSE: S&P 500 FUND	NASDAQ-100 FUND	DOW FUND	SMALL-CAP FUND
-1.77%	-3.47%	-1.07%	-1.65%

Engine List APH, ENB, MSFT, ADP, AVGO, PANW, ADBE, CRM

Risk DEGEN RISK 77/100 · Transition

INSIDE

In 30 Seconds	2
What Changed Since the Morning	2
Friday's Tape, in Plain Words	2
Asset Snapshot + Market Health	2
Engine List + Meter Label Changes	3
Today's Standout	3
The Week Line + Stat Strip	3
The Week's News, With Our Read	4
Our 3 Themes, Graded	5
The Daily Question: the Week's Record	5
Engine List: the Week	5
Earnings Season, in Plain Words	6
Next Week's Economic Calendar	6
Question for the Week	7
LEAPS	7
Up Next: Sunday's Look-Ahead	7
Membership	8

For research and education purposes only. Nothing here is a recommendation to buy or sell any security. May contain typos. Prices may be delayed depending on when the data was collected.

01 In 30 Seconds

- **Friday was the worst day of the week: big tech and chipmakers fell hard after two late-Thursday tech reports, and most of the stocks we track closed lower.**
- For the week, the **S&P 500** and the **Nasdaq-100** slipped while small caps finished higher, so the damage stayed concentrated in the largest companies.
- Two of our three Sunday themes played out and one was mixed; next week brings the jobs report, the midterm elections and another heavy run of earnings.

02 What Changed Since the Morning

- **This morning: futures pointed lower after last night's tech reports, and the open question was whether the slide would spread.**
- **By the close:** it spread. 78% of the hundred-billion-dollar companies we track closed lower on the day.
- **The Daily Question:** answered no. The **S&P 500** fund closed below Thursday's close.
- **Our levels:** across the price levels our research tracked on 53 names today, 36% broke, 9% held and 55% were not reached.

03 Friday's Tape, in Plain Words

Friday was a tech selloff, not a broad panic. A large chipmaker warned late Thursday that it will burn cash this year, and one of the biggest cloud companies signaled another step up in spending, so investors sold the AI trade from chips to software. Money moved toward defensive corners, with consumer staples, health care and utility stocks rising while tech fell. A record theft at the world's largest crypto exchange added to the pressure on crypto-linked stocks.

04 Asset Snapshot + Market Health

ASSET	FRIDAY (OFFICIAL CLOSE)
Nasdaq-100 fund	-3.47%
Dow fund	-1.07%
Small-cap fund	-1.65%
VIX (fear gauge)	+12.91%
U.S. dollar index	about flat
10-year yield	down 0.6 basis points

MARKET HEALTH	READING
Names on our research list rising on the day	15%

Read: the fear gauge jumped while the 10-year yield barely moved, so this was a stock-specific scare about tech spending, not a rates scare.

05 Engine List + Meter Label Changes

SYMBOL	COMPANY	FRIDAY (OFFICIAL CLOSE)
APH	**Amphenol**	-3.39%
ENB	**Enbridge**	+0.39%
MSFT	**Microsoft**	-1.55%
ADP	**Automatic Data Processing**	+2.71%
AVGO	**Broadcom**	-5.48%
PANW	**Palo Alto Networks**	-3.86%
ADBE	**Adobe**	+0.85%
CRM	**Salesforce**	-0.75%

All 8 names match this morning's Basic, name for name.

3 of the 8 names changed their Meter label at the close: **APH**, **MSFT** and **PANW**. 3 rose on the day and 5 fell.

06 Today's Standout

ADP was the Engine List's best name on Friday. On a day when tech sold off, the payroll and HR software company closed higher at $293.84 on the official close, the top gain of the 8 names. Next Wednesday at 8:15 AM ET, **ADP** publishes its own private payrolls report for October, an early read on Friday's jobs report.

07 The Week Line + Stat Strip

Week change runs from the Friday Oct 23 close to the Friday Oct 30 close.

MARKET	WEEK
S&P 500 fund	-0.56%
Nasdaq-100 fund	-1.97%
Dow fund	down less than one percent
Small-cap fund	+1.30%
VIX (fear gauge)	about flat

STAT STRIP	READING
Names we tracked all week that rose	37.7%
Names we tracked all week that fell	62.3%
Tracked names above their 50-day average, Monday's open	47.2%
Tracked names above their 50-day average, Friday's close	34.0%

08 The Week's News, With Our Read

- **The Fed held, but not unanimously.** The Fed kept its target range at 3.75% to 4.00% on Wednesday by a 10-2 vote, and both dissenters wanted a quarter-point hike. **Read:** the next move being debated is up, not down, which keeps pressure on high-priced growth stocks.
- **Inflation stayed sticky.** September's PCE inflation report landed on forecast, with both the headline and core measures still well above the Fed's goal. **Read:** sticky inflation supports the two hawkish votes.
- **Growth beat forecasts.** The first estimate of third-quarter growth came in faster than economists expected, while September's income and spending came in a touch light. **Read:** the economy is not the problem; the worry this week was about tech spending and rates.
- **Wage costs matched forecasts.** The employment cost index for the third quarter came in right on forecast. **Read:** no wage scare Friday, so the selloff was about tech, not the labor market.
- **The AI spending reckoning.** One of the biggest AI spenders fell sharply on Thursday after its report showed a sharp rise in cash going out the door, and Friday's chipmaker warning spread the worry. **Read:** the market is now asking when the AI build pays off, and it is punishing any report that pushes that date out.
- **A record crypto theft.** Hackers stole about $6.3 billion from the world's largest crypto exchange. **Read:** a hit to confidence in crypto plumbing landed on a day when investors were already cutting risk.
- **Gold kept sliding.** Gold settled at its lowest in about a year, even with stocks under pressure. **Read:** investors hid in defensive stocks instead of gold, a sign the old safe-haven playbook is not working right now.

09 Our 3 Themes, Graded

On Sunday Oct 25 we set 3 themes for the week. Here is how each one played.

THEME	DAYS WE TAGGED IT	HOW IT PLAYED	WHY
1. The Fed's tone on Wednesday, more than the decision itself	none	Played out	The rate was held as expected, and two officials voted for a hike, so the tone was the story.
2. Whether the biggest AI spenders can justify their spending plans	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri	Played out	Thursday and Friday's reports turned the spending question into the week's main selloff.
3. Thursday's inflation data and oil, against hopes for easier rates	none	Mixed	Inflation landed on forecast Thursday, but it stayed high enough that hopes for easier rates did not grow.

Score: 2 of 3 played out, 1 mixed, 0 did not.

10 The Daily Question: the Week's Record

Each morning we asked one yes-or-no question about the close. Here's how the week answered.

DAY	QUESTION	ANSWER
Mon Oct 26	Does the **Nasdaq** close higher than Friday?	Yes, the **Nasdaq** closed higher
Tue Oct 27	Does the **S&P 500** close above Monday's close?	Yes, the **S&P 500** up 0.60%
Wed Oct 28	Does the **S&P 500** close higher than Tuesday?	Yes, the **S&P 500** fund up 0.34%
Thu Oct 29	Does the **S&P 500** close higher than Wednesday?	No, the **S&P 500** fund closed lower
Fri Oct 30	Does the **S&P 500** close higher than Thursday?	No, the **S&P 500** fund closed lower

The week's record: 5 questions, 5 answered at the close, 3 yes and 2 no. The streak of yes answers ended Thursday, as the tech reports started to land.

Last week's Question for the Week asked whether the big tech reports would pull the **Nasdaq-100** fund back above its 50-day average by Friday's close. The answer is no: it closed below that average.

11 Engine List: the Week

Here is how this week's Engine List did as a group, measured from the day each name was listed to Friday's close.

ENGINE LIST, MON OCT 26 TO FRI OCT 30	RESULT
Names scored from their listing day	17
Closed higher than their listing day	5 of 17 (29.4%)
Beat the **S&P 500** fund over the same days	7 of 17 (41.2%)

ENGINE LIST, MON OCT 26 TO FRI OCT 30	RESULT
Average move	-3.18%
Versus the **S&P 500** fund over the same days	Trailed it
Worst single result	-15.42%
Our daily picks, scored	5
Daily picks, average move	-4.37%
Daily picks vs the **S&P 500** fund	-2.70% on average; 1 of 5 beat it

Not counted: Friday's Engine List, because it has no close after its listing day yet.

12 Earnings Season, in Plain Words

This was the busiest week of the season, and the biggest names showed how high the bar is: strong numbers still sold off when spending plans rose faster than the payoff.

Our record of whether a stock moved more or less than options traders priced in before its report now stands at 6 bigger moves and 6 smaller ones. Next week, 10 of the names we track report, from Monday after the close through Friday morning.

DAY	NAMES WE TRACK REPORTING
Mon, after the close	2
Tue, before the open	2
Tue, after the close	2
Wed, before the open	1
Wed, after the close	1
Thu, after the close	1
Fri, before the open	1

One of the 10 is on this week's Engine List, and Pro-Degenerate members get the full report preview each morning.

13 Next Week's Economic Calendar

Monday, Nov 2 to Friday, Nov 6; all times ET.

DAY	TIME	RELEASE	WHY IT MATTERS
Mon	10:00 AM	ISM manufacturing index (October)	Whether factories are still growing and how hot their prices run.
Mon	10:00 AM	Construction spending (September)	Building activity at today's rates.
Tue	All day	Midterm elections	Control of Congress shapes spending and tax policy.

DAY	TIME	RELEASE	WHY IT MATTERS
Tue	10:00 AM	Job openings, JOLTS (September)	How much hiring demand is left.
Wed	8:15 AM	**ADP** private payrolls (October)	An early read on Friday's jobs report.
Wed	10:00 AM	ISM services index (October)	The biggest part of the economy, and its prices paid.
Thu	8:30 AM	Weekly jobless claims	Layoffs have stayed low; any jump would be news.
Thu	8:30 AM	Productivity (third quarter)	Output per hour, which offsets wage costs.
Fri	8:30 AM	October jobs report	Payrolls rose by 29,000 last time; the unemployment rate is the other number to watch.
Fri	10:00 AM	Consumer sentiment (November, first read)	How households feel heading into the holidays.

14 Question for the Week

*Does the **S&P 500** fund close Friday, Nov 6, above this Friday's close?*

- **Basis: the S&P 500 fund ended this week lower after Friday's tech selloff, with the jobs report and the midterm elections still ahead.**
- Yes if the **S&P 500** fund closes Friday Nov 6 above its Friday Oct 30 close; no otherwise.
- Either way: a yes says Friday's drop was a one-day scare; a no says the AI spending worry is not over yet.

15 LEAPS

PRO-DEGENERATE ONLY

16 Up Next: Sunday's Look-Ahead

Sunday's edition sets 3 new themes for the week ahead. The setup: big tech under pressure on spending, a Fed that is debating a hike, the October jobs report Friday, the midterm elections Tuesday and another heavy week of earnings. We'll lay out what to watch each day and grade it all again next Friday.

One housekeeping note: clocks fall back one hour early Sunday, so every time on next week's calendar is Eastern Standard Time.

17 Membership

Two ways to read the whole Journal.

TIER	PRICE	TRIAL	INCLUDES
Pro-Degenerate	$7.99/mo	3 days free	The Pro edition every weekday morning, with a page for every name on the list
Ultimate Degen	$14.99/mo	No free trial on this tier	Everything in Pro-Degenerate, plus Discord access

Join via the link in bio.

Set in Noto Sans and Noto Serif

The Degenerates Journal — Basic · The Degenerates Week Close · Friday, October 30, 2026

— 30 —