



AURUM INTELLIGENCE

XAUUSD · RESEARCH NOTE

Positioning, rates and the calendar after Friday's sell-off · public US data and an indicative gold price

WEEKEND RESEARCH

XAUUSD RESEARCH NOTE

SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER 2026

MM NET LONG	PLACE IN 2026 RANGE	10-YR REAL YIELD	2-YR TREASURY
+105,562 <i>CFTC futures-only, 27 Oct¹</i>	28.7% <i>low 89,752 · high 144,747¹</i>	2.60% <i>30 Oct · -0.33 in October²</i>	4.56% <i>30 Oct · -0.05 on the day²</i>

LEAD STORY · KEY TAKEAWAY

Gold's final washout? Friday's fall is consistent with forced selling, but public positioning data have not yet capitulated

Indicative spot gold fell from about \$4,022 at Thursday's close to about \$3,876 at Friday's close (30 Oct), about 3.6% lower, with a Friday session low near \$3,871 (indicative; each close is the end of the trading session at 21:00 GMT). Friday was a month-end day on which Treasury yields eased. That is consistent with selling for reasons other than rates, though who sold cannot be observed. Speculative length sits in the lower third of its 2026 range rather than being flushed, shorts are small relative to open interest, and the latest positions predate Friday. The data do not yet show a completed washout. Next week's COT report and US payrolls are the test.

Apart from the indicative gold price, this edition uses only public US government data (CFTC, Federal Reserve, US Treasury, BLS calendar). Implied volatility and ETF figures are left out on purpose. Every figure carries its source and as-of date.

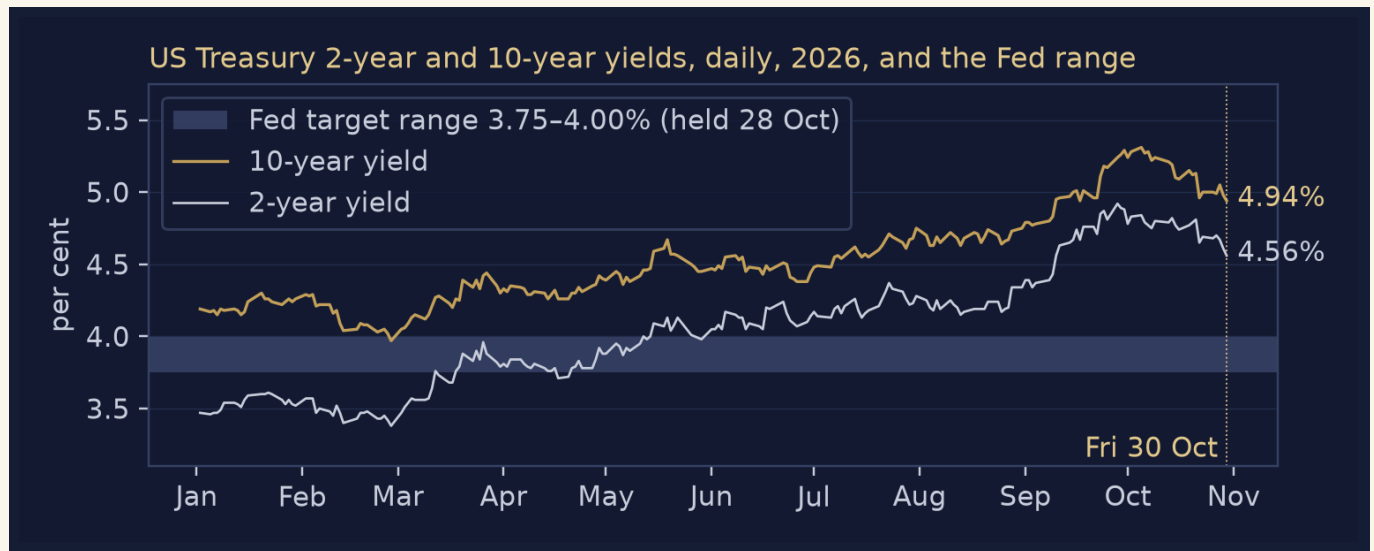
I WHAT HAPPENED THIS WEEK

the Fed, Treasury yields and inflation expectations

The Fed held its target range at **3.75–4.00%** on Wed 28 Oct by a 10–2 vote; both dissenters preferred a 0.25-point rise (Federal Reserve statement, 28 Oct). The 2-year Treasury yield ended Friday at **4.56%**: down 0.05 on the day, 0.13 on the week (4.69% on 23 Oct) and 0.32 in October (4.88% on 30 Sep). The 10-year yield was 4.94%, down 0.04 on the day and 0.06 on the week.²

The 10-year real yield was **2.60%** on Friday, down 0.03 on the day, 0.06 on the week and **0.33 in October** (2.93% on 30 Sep), after a 2026 high of 2.95% on 5 Oct.² Inflation expectations barely moved: an approximate 10-year breakeven was 2.34 points on 30 Oct against 2.36 on 30 Sep (our calculation, nominal minus real 10-year par yield; not an official series).²



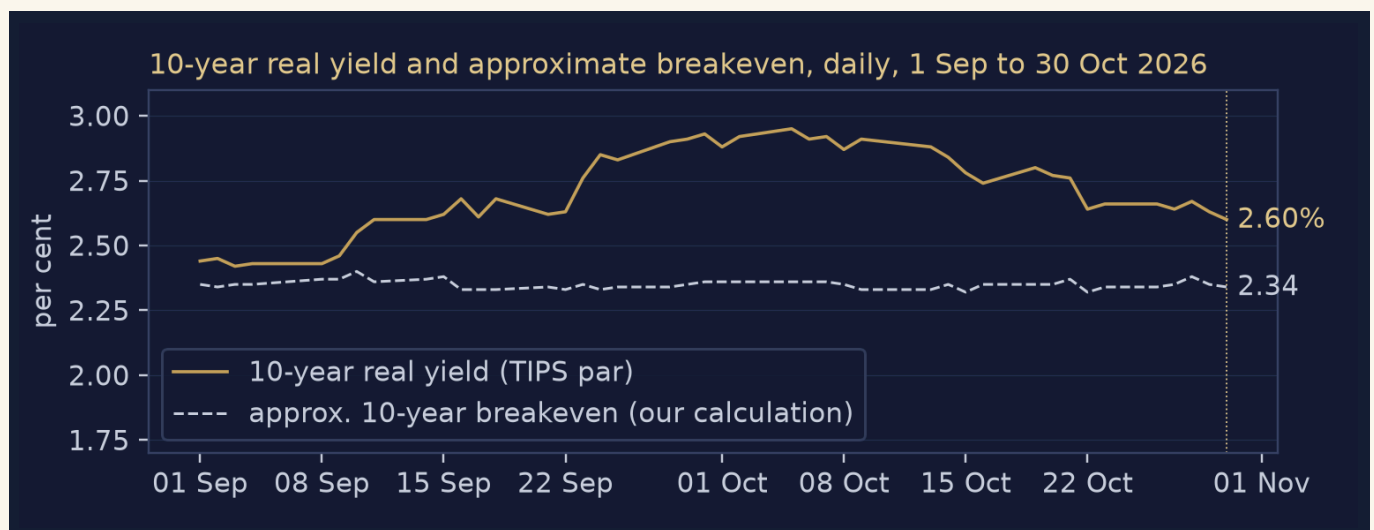


Source: US Treasury, Daily Par Yield Curve Rates, 2 Jan to 30 Oct 2026; Fed target range from the Federal Reserve statement, 28 Oct 2026. On 30 Oct both yields were above the range.

II WAS IT FORCED SELLING?

what public data can and cannot show

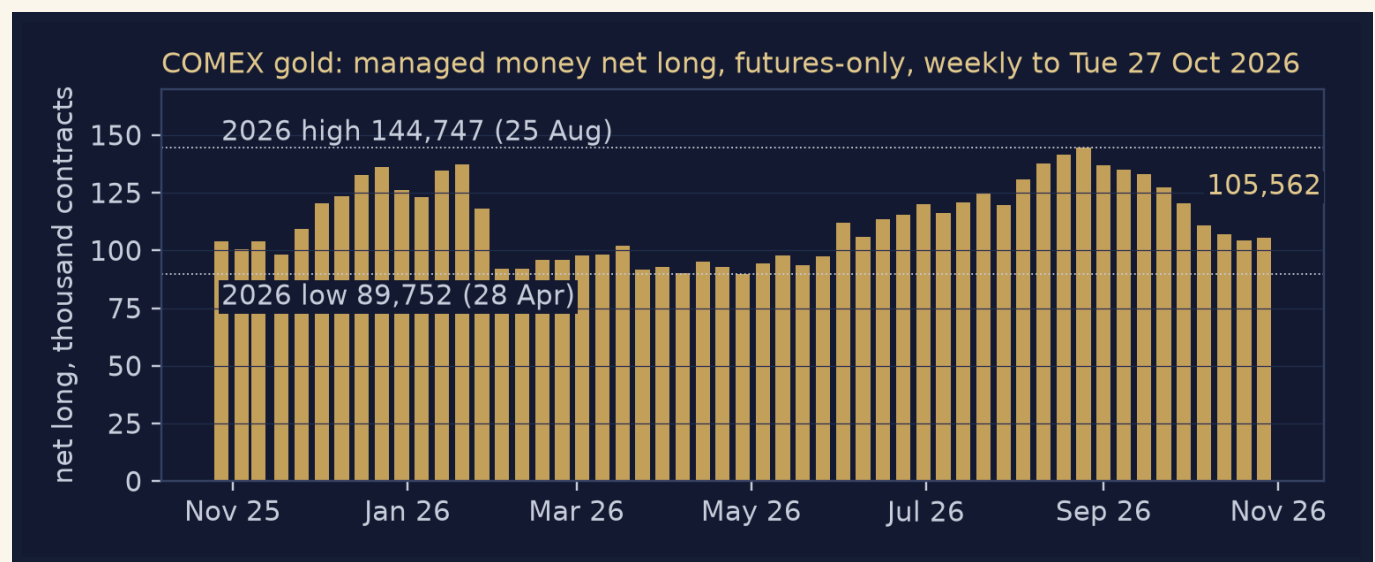
- **Not rates:** on Friday the 2-year yield slipped 0.05 point and the 10-year real yield 0.03 point (US Treasury, 30 Oct). Indicative spot gold fell from about \$4,022 at Thursday's close to about \$3,876 at Friday's close (30 Oct), about 3.6% lower, with a Friday session low near \$3,871 (indicative; each close is the end of the trading session at 21:00 GMT). The gold levels are market-close levels of an indicative spot quote, while the yields are the US Treasury's closing rates for 30 Oct, so the timing is similar, though not identical, and the sources differ. Lower real yields usually lower the cost of holding gold, so rates are unlikely to explain a fall in gold on such a day. Selling for other reasons, such as raising cash, is one possibility.
- **Not inflation expectations:** an approximate 10-year breakeven was little changed over October (2.36 to 2.34 points; our calculation from US Treasury data).
- **Timing:** Friday was month-end, a date when some investors rebalance or raise cash. Selling gold to raise cash is one possible explanation. This is an inference from the calendar and the yield moves; who sold cannot be observed in public data.
- **What public data cannot show:** intraday flows, the identity of sellers, options pricing and ETF flows are not in the public US government data used here, so we do not quote them.



Source: US Treasury, Daily Par Yield Curve Rates and Daily Real Yield Curve Par Rates, 1 Sep to 30 Oct 2026. The breakeven is our approximate calculation (nominal minus real 10-year par yield), not an official series.

III POSITIONING

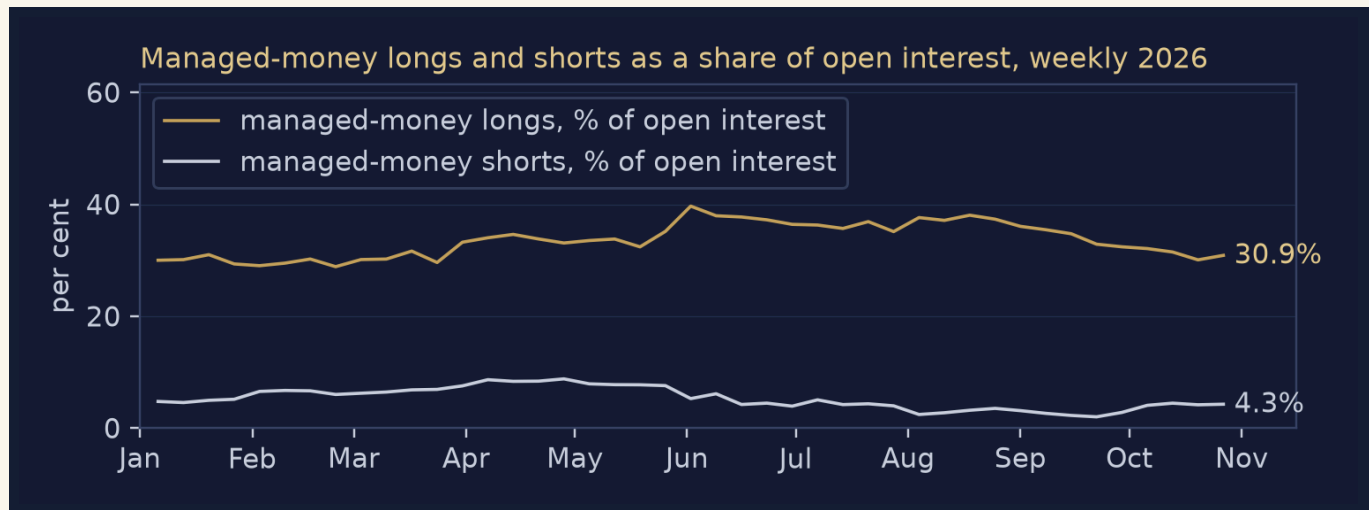
what a washout would look like vs the data now



Source: CFTC, Disaggregated Commitments of Traders, futures-only, COMEX gold (code 088691), weekly from 28 Oct 2025 to Tue 27 Oct 2026, released Fri 30 Oct. Net = managed money long – short.¹

GAUGE	WASHOUT PROFILE	NOW
Speculative length	Sharp fall towards or below the cycle low; shorts build	Managed money +105,562 net (122,508 long / 16,946 short) on 27 Oct, +1,356 week on week (104,206 on 20 Oct). That is 28.7% of the way between the 2026 low (89,752 on 28 Apr) and high (144,747 on 25 Aug), the lower third, and 27% below the August peak. After January's sell-off it fell only to 92,022 (10 Feb). Futures and options combined: +107,404. <i>CFTC Disaggregated COT, futures-only and combined, as of Tue 27 Oct. Range = position of the latest weekly reading between the lowest and highest weekly readings of 2026</i>
Short side	Shorts build as trend followers turn	Managed-money shorts 16,946, about 4.3% of open interest (396,810); longs about 30.9%. <i>CFTC Disaggregated COT, futures-only, as of Tue 27 Oct</i>
Positions after Friday	n/a	Not yet published. Next release Fri 6 Nov, 15:30 ET (20:30 UK), for Tue 3 Nov positions. <i>CFTC COT release schedule, 2026</i>
Volatility and ETF flows	Volatility spike; heavy, broad ETF redemptions	Not quoted. Readers can follow them on the providers' own sites.

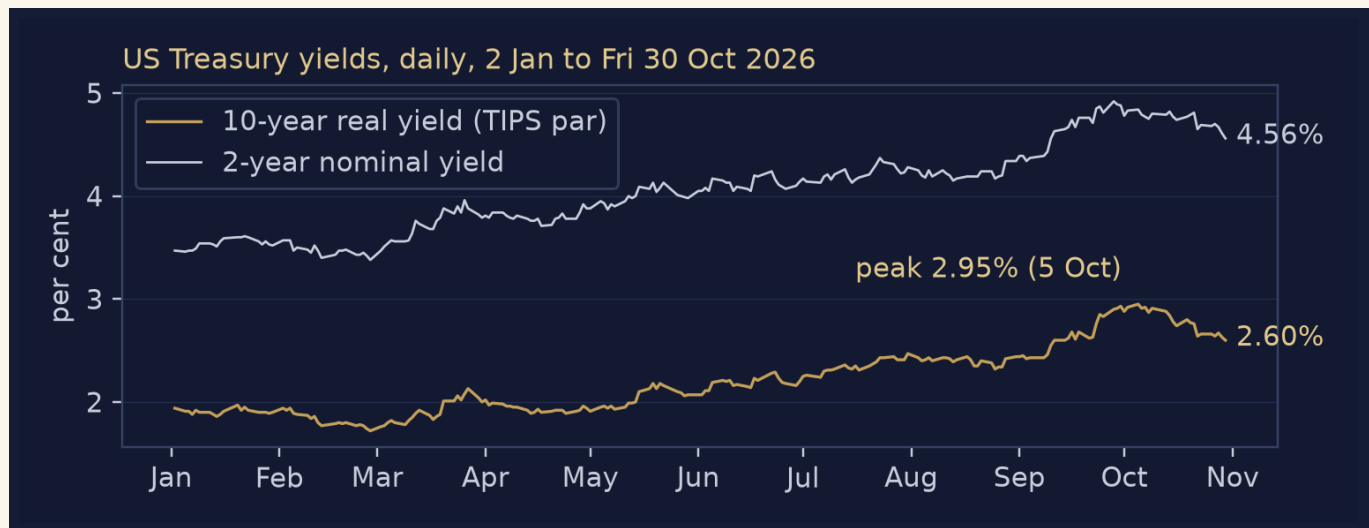
Reading: long positioning is no longer stretched: it sits in the lower third of its 2026 range after a 27% cut since August. But it has not been flushed. It is still above the 89,752–92,022 levels where 2026's earlier sell-offs left it, and shorts are small relative to open interest (about 4%) and well below April's 32,505. The data predate Friday, so they cannot yet show how much length was cut on the day.



Source: CFTC, Disaggregated Commitments of Traders, futures-only, COMEX gold (code 088691), weekly 2026 to Tue 27 Oct. Share = managed-money longs or shorts divided by total open interest; on 27 Oct, 30.9% and 4.3%.

IV MACRO BACKDROP

the Fed · real yields · short rates



Source: US Treasury, Daily Real Yield Curve Par Rates (10-year) and Daily Par Yield Curve Rates (2-year), 2 Jan to 30 Oct 2026.²

The Fed held at **3.75–4.00%** on 28 Oct, with two of twelve voters preferring a 0.25-point rise, and said inflation “remains elevated” (Federal Reserve statement, 28 Oct). The 10-year real yield was 2.60% on 30 Oct, down from its 2026 high of 2.95% (5 Oct) but well above 1.94% on 2 Jan (US Treasury).²

The 2-year yield, at 4.56% on 30 Oct, sits above the top of the Fed’s range (4.00%), which suggests markets still price some chance of tighter policy. That is a reading of the gap, not a forecast. Oil, geopolitics and official-sector buying are often cited as gold drivers; we do not quote figures for them, as the public sources used here do not cover them.

V CALENDAR

UK times

Sun 1 Nov	US clocks go back; from Monday US 08:30 ET data is at 13:30 UK (UK changed on 25 Oct)
Tue 3 Nov	US midterm elections
Fri 6 Nov	US October payrolls, 13:30 UK (BLS). CFTC COT at 20:30 UK for Tue 3 Nov positions, the first to include Fri 30 Oct (CFTC)
Tue 10 Nov	US October CPI, 13:30 UK (BLS)
Wed 9 Dec	FOMC decision 19:00 UK (meeting 8–9 Dec, with economic projections; Federal Reserve)

Key dates ahead (UK times)



Sources: BLS release schedules (payrolls, CPI), CFTC COT release schedule, Federal Reserve FOMC calendar. The dates show when new data are due, not which way markets will move.

HOW TO READ THESE GAUGES

- **Positioning (CFTC COT)** is a slow, weekly measure. It shows whether there is still a crowd that might have to sell or buy, not when it will. Positions are as of Tuesday and published on Friday, so they are 3–4 days old on release.
- **Real yields (US Treasury)** are the return on inflation-protected Treasuries. Gold pays no income, so falling real yields usually make it cheaper to hold. When gold falls while real yields fall, something other than rates is likely to be driving the move.
- **The event calendar** shows when larger moves are more likely, not which way they will go.
- Together they describe background conditions, each with a stated update rule; none is a trading signal on its own.

DATA AS OF, AND NEXT UPDATE

DATA	LATEST USED	NEXT UPDATE (UK TIME)
CFTC COT, managed money	Tue 27 Oct positions (released Fri 30 Oct)	Fri 6 Nov, 20:30, for Tue 3 Nov positions
US Treasury par and real yield curves	Fri 30 Oct	Mon 2 Nov (daily, after the US close)
Fed policy rate	3.75–4.00%, decided Wed 28 Oct	Wed 9 Dec, 19:00

VI OUTLOOK AND UPDATE RULE

conditions to monitor, not forecasts

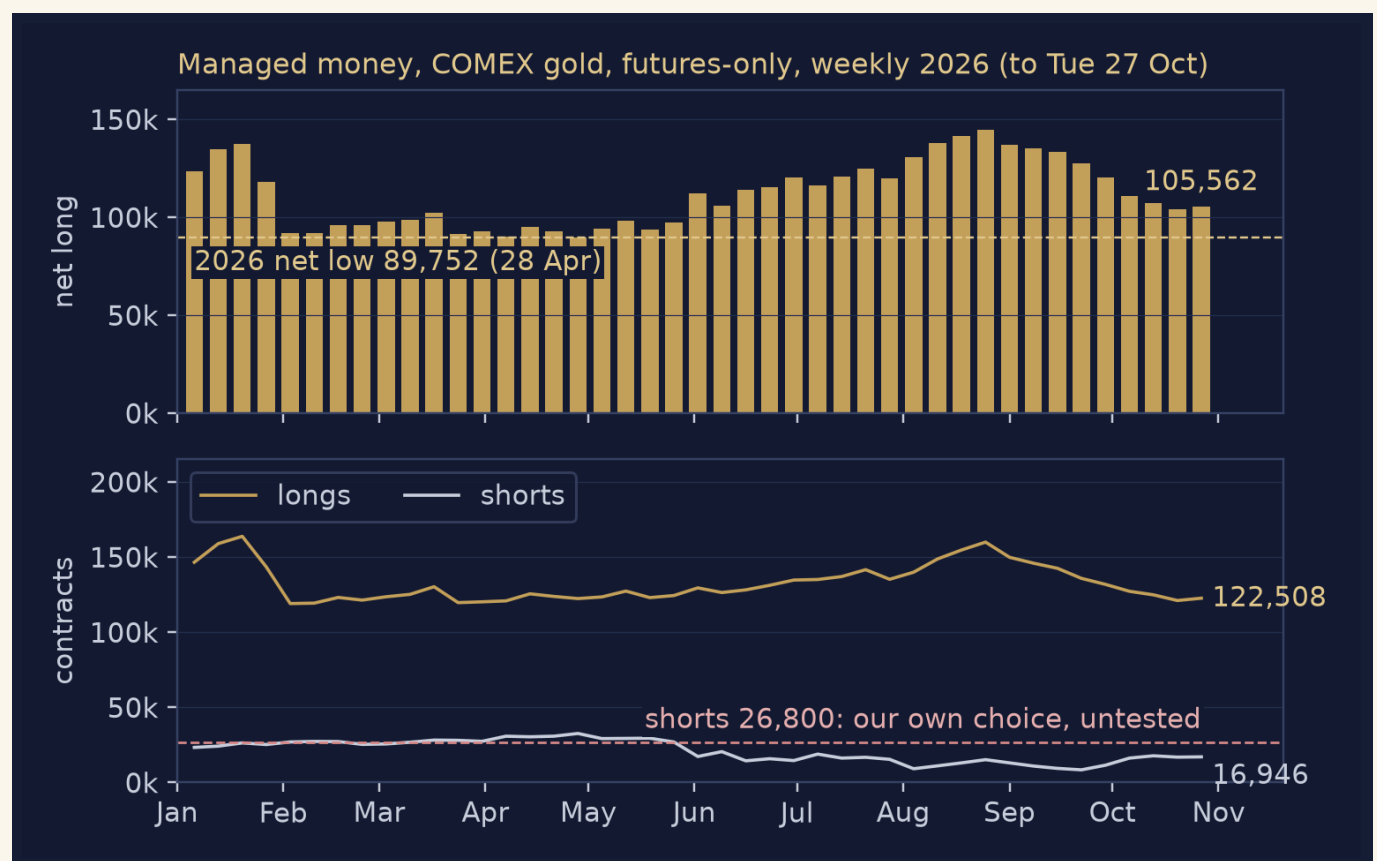
A WASHOUT WOULD GAIN WEIGHT IF

- Managed-money net length falls to or below the 2026 low (89,752) with managed-money shorts at or above 26,800.
- Net length then rises week on week in the next report.
- Gold steadies while real yields hold near or below current levels.

POSITIONING-LED RISK STAYS LIVE IF

- Length holds near 105,000 while gold keeps falling, leaving longs still to unwind.
- Real yields rise back towards their October high (2.95%), or more Fed policymakers back a rate rise (two voted for one on 28 Oct).
- Selling for cash recurs around month-end, which the public data used here cannot observe directly.

Update rule: the assessment would change to “a washout is under way” if the first COT report for Tue 3 Nov positions (due Fri 6 Nov, 20:30 UK; if delayed, the delayed release) shows managed-money net length at or below 89,752 **and** managed-money shorts at or above 26,800 (futures-only). In 2026, 5 of 43 weeks had net length of 92,100 or less, with shorts of 26,864 to 32,505; both conditions together held in one week only (28 Apr: net 89,752, shorts 32,505). The 26,800 level is our own choice from 2026 data (5 weeks); it describes past lows and has not been tested as a predictor. It would change to “a completed washout” only if the next weekly report after that shows managed-money net length up week on week (futures-only). A change would update this view; it would not make the 31 Oct reading wrong.



Source: CFTC, Disaggregated Commitments of Traders, futures-only, COMEX gold (code 088691), weekly 2026 to Tue 27 Oct. Dashed lines: the 2026 net low (89,752) and shorts of 26,800, a level that is our own choice from 2026 data and untested as a predictor.

ASSESSMENT · NOT YET A CONFIRMED WASHOUT

Indicative spot gold fell from about \$4,022 at Thursday's close to about \$3,876 at Friday's close (30 Oct), about 3.6% lower, with a Friday session low near \$3,871 (indicative; each close is the end of the trading session at 21:00 GMT). Friday's fall may have been forced selling: it came while Treasury yields eased, so rates are unlikely to explain it. But the public data stop short of capitulation. Positioning sits in the lower third of its 2026 range, shorts are small relative to open interest and well below April's level, two Fed policymakers voted for a rate rise on 28 Oct, and the latest positions predate Friday. We assign no probabilities. These are conditions, not forecasts; they cannot predict or time a move.

Sources. ¹ CFTC Disaggregated Commitments of Traders, futures-only and futures-and-options combined, COMEX gold (code 088691), as of Tue 27 Oct 2026, released Fri 30 Oct; CFTC COT release schedule 2026. ² US Treasury, Daily Par Yield Curve Rates and Daily Real Yield Curve Par Rates, to Fri 30 Oct 2026; breakeven is our approximate calculation (nominal minus real 10-year par yield). Also: Federal Reserve FOMC statement (28 Oct 2026) and FOMC calendar; BLS release schedules (Employment Situation, CPI). Gold price levels: an indicative spot gold quote, Thu 29 and Fri 30 Oct 2026; each close is the end of the trading session at 21:00 GMT. **Not quoted:** implied volatility, ETF flows, official-sector buying. **Not available at writing:** COT after 27 Oct; who sold on Friday.

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