

Dig In

New Year, New Outlook

We've officially dropped our big picture view for the year ahead: *Outlook 2026: Rewiring Growth*. Here's the gist – after years of macro whiplash, the global economy is starting to rewire how growth happens. Think less about “how fast can we go” and more about “what’s powering the engine?”

At the center of this rewiring? You (almost certainly) guessed it: artificial intelligence. What began as experimentation has turned into a full-blown capital spending cycle. Data centers, chips, power infrastructure – this isn't just a tech story anymore. AI is spilling into the physical economy, reshaping productivity, labor dynamics, and even energy demand along the way.

Of course, forecasting the future is never straightforward, and predictions are almost never the final result. That's why our Outlook lays out our base, bull, and bear case.

Our base case (60%) sees continued economic resilience, positive market returns, inflation trending lower, and perhaps one or two quarter-point rate cuts.

The bear case (15%) gets cloudier, with slower AI adoption, rising job losses, softer wage growth, and a few potential policy missteps from the Federal Reserve.

The bull case (25%)? You guessed it, everything fires on all cylinders.

Check out our full Outlook for all the scenarios, themes, and wild cards shaping 2026. Cheers to the new year!

Weekly Specials

Stranger Things Season 5 is the No. 1 show in the world, delivering Netflix's biggest-ever premiere week for an English-language series. With 59.6 million views, 284.2 million hours streamed, and No. 1 rankings in 90 of 93 territories, the Upside Down is global, no passport required.

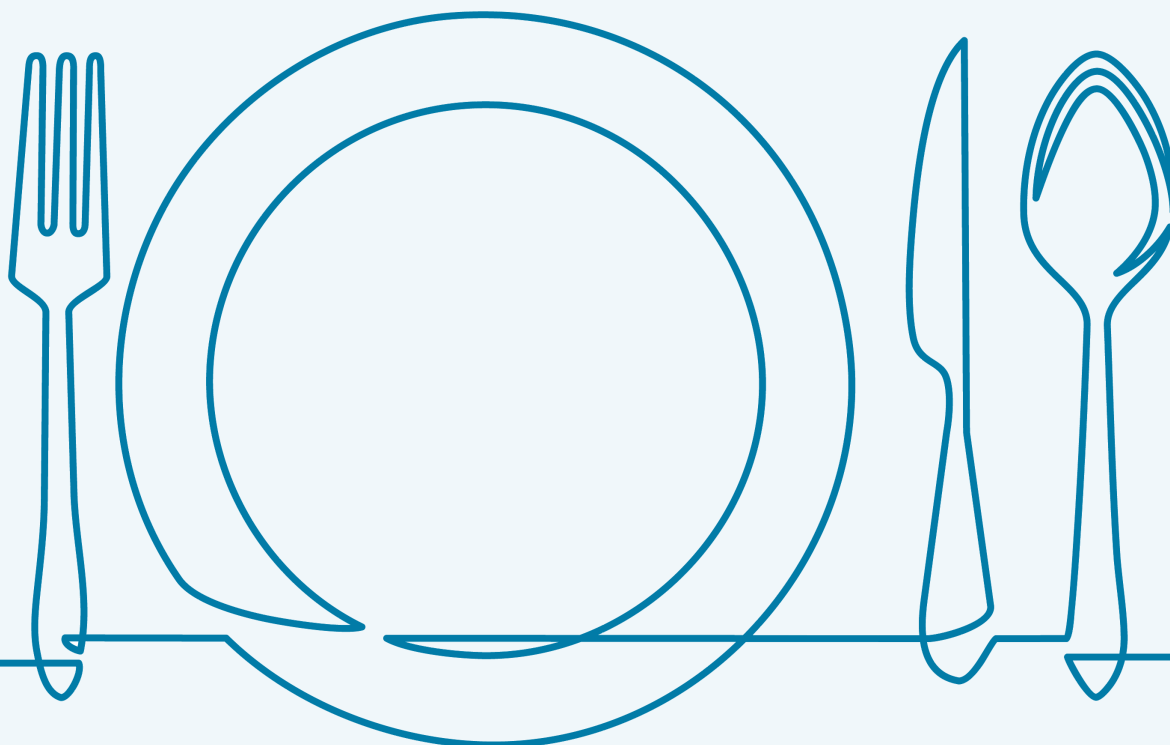
TIME's 2025 Kid of the Year honored 17-year-old digital defender Tejasvi Manoj of Frisco, Texas, for teaching seniors digital literacy to protect them from cybercrime. A volunteer since the sixth grade, Manoj was selected after TIME editors reviewed standout young leaders nationwide!

Stifel U.S. Ski Team athlete, Mikaela Shiffrin, isn't just winning slalom races this season, she's dominating them. The American star won six straight World Cup races before her close runner-up finish in the slalom at Kranjska Gora, Slovenia, on January 4.

Goodnight Moon. Goodnight 2025. It was a wild year: Taylor Swift got engaged, the Coldplay kiss cam had its moment, and pop culture stayed chaotic. Still, some constants remain – Taylor kept winning, Beyoncé finally took Album of the Year, and Blue Ivy stepped into her spotlight.

Corporate Lunch

- **Amazon** used its AI-powered application screening system to weed out over **1,800 North Korean operatives'** job applications.
- The FDA just approved **Novo Nordisk's** GLP-1 pill making weight loss as simple as swallowing your **daily vitamin**.
- **OpenAI** is turning its researchers and engineers into **millionaires** with stock packages so big they're breaking records and rivaling Zuckerberg's offers.
- **Lululemon's** founder is making moves pushing for **fresh leadership** by nominating former senior executives from On Running, ESPN, and Activision to the company's board.
- **Caterpillar** is pivoting from bulldozers to **big energy** as AI data centers spark record demand for generators and engines.
- For those of you that made embarrassing Gmail names, there is hope. **Google** is piloting a new rollout on the Hindi version of Google's support page that allows you to **change your Gmail address**. Hopefully we'll get access soon!
- **Target** is aiming for bullseye delivery, testing **new fulfillment models** to ship faster and cheaper in an effort to turn things around.
- **Taco Bell** heard the memes and answered your prayers, bringing back its most **unhinged legend**, the burrito wrapped in a quesadilla.



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