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Best AI Model Odds: Polymarket's Favourite a Week Out Won 21 of 22 Month-End Checks

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ABSTRACT

Polymarket asks every month which company will top the LMArena text leaderboard. A week before each check from December 2024 to September 2026, the favourite won 21 times in 22. The one miss: Gemini 2.5 Pro, released six days before the March 2025 check.

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DATA AVAILABILITY 2 tables and charts are downloadable as CSV and JSON with their sources on the page.

LIMITATIONS **Method and limits**, below.

21 of 22

Month-end checks the week-out favourite won. Polymarket's monthly best AI model markets, December 2024 to September 2026. The miss was March 2025, when Gemini 2.5 Pro arrived six days before the check

92.5%

xAI a week before the March 2025 check. Google was 5.2%. Google released Gemini 2.5 Pro on 25 March and won the 31 March check

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Month-ends with Anthropic on top. Every check from February to September 2026. Google held the top spot at 13 month-ends before that, xAI at 1

73.1%

Google for October 2026, read 19 October. Anthropic 25.5%, at 21:16 UTC on 19 October 2026, twelve days before the check

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The short answer

Polymarket runs a market every month on which company will have the top model on the LMArena text leaderboard when it is checked at 12:00 Eastern on the last day. Over 22 month-end checks from December 2024 to September 2026, the company with the highest price a week before the check won 21 times. A day before, the favourite won all 22.

The one miss came from a release. On 24 March 2025, a week before the check, xAI was 92.5% to hold the top spot at the end of the month and Google was 5.2%. Google released Gemini 2.5 Pro on 25 March, it went straight to first place, and between 14:22 and 16:57 UTC that day Google's price went from 15.0% to 86.4%.

Three companies have held the top spot at a month-end: Google 13 times, Anthropic 8 times in a row from February 2026, and xAI once, in February 2025. Prices are Polymarket's public Yes prices; the winners are the markets' settled results.

Every month-end check since December 2024

The table shows the favourite and its price 14 days and 7 days before each check, and the winner's price a day before. The median price of the eventual winner a week out was 96.3%.

The markets have changed their wording over time, from the model to the company, and their source, from lmarena.ai to arena.ai. Each settled on the top model of the text leaderboard with style control off at its stated check time.

Month-end	Top company	Favourite 14 days before	Favourite 7 days before	Winner, 1 day before
December 2024	Google	not open	Google 86.5%	99.4%
January 2025	Google	Google 90.0%	Google 94.3%	98.8%
February 2025	xAI	Google 81.0%, missed	xAI 79.9%	86.1%
March 2025	Google	xAI 86.0%, missed	xAI 92.5%, missed	98.2%
April 2025	Google	Google 63.5%	Google 77.0%	98.2%
May 2025	Google	Google 87.5%	Google 91.0%	97.9%
June 2025	Google	Google 92.0%	Google 94.5%	99.4%
July 2025	Google	Google 91.0%	Google 94.0%	97.7%
August 2025	Google	Google 93.5%	Google 97.0%	99.6%
September 2025	Google	Google 95.7%	Google 98.7%	99.5%
October 2025	Google	Google 96.8%	Google 97.6%	99.6%

Month-end	Top company	Favourite 14 days before	Favourite 7 days before	Winner, 1 day before
November 2025	Google	Google 94.3%	Google 98.2%	99.8%
December 2025	Google	Google 95.5%	Google 97.1%	99.2%
January 2026	Google	Google 94.8%	Google 98.4%	99.8%
February 2026	Anthropic	Anthropic 68.3%	Anthropic 90.0%	98.8%
March 2026	Anthropic	Anthropic 92.8%	Anthropic 95.6%	99.8%
April 2026	Anthropic	Anthropic 93.5%	Anthropic 69.0%	99.2%
May 2026	Anthropic	Anthropic 91.5%	Anthropic 98.1%	99.7%
June 2026	Anthropic	Anthropic 91.6%	Anthropic 98.2%	99.6%
July 2026	Anthropic	Anthropic 96.8%	Anthropic 98.8%	99.9%
August 2026	Anthropic	Anthropic 97.3%	Anthropic 98.3%	99.7%
September 2026	Anthropic	Anthropic 96.2%	Anthropic 98.5%	99.5%

Polymarket Yes prices at the minute 14 days, 7 days and 1 day before each 12:00 Eastern check. 'Not open': the market opened later. The December 2024 and January 2025 markets named models (Gemini, Grok, ChatGPT, Claude); they are shown by company.

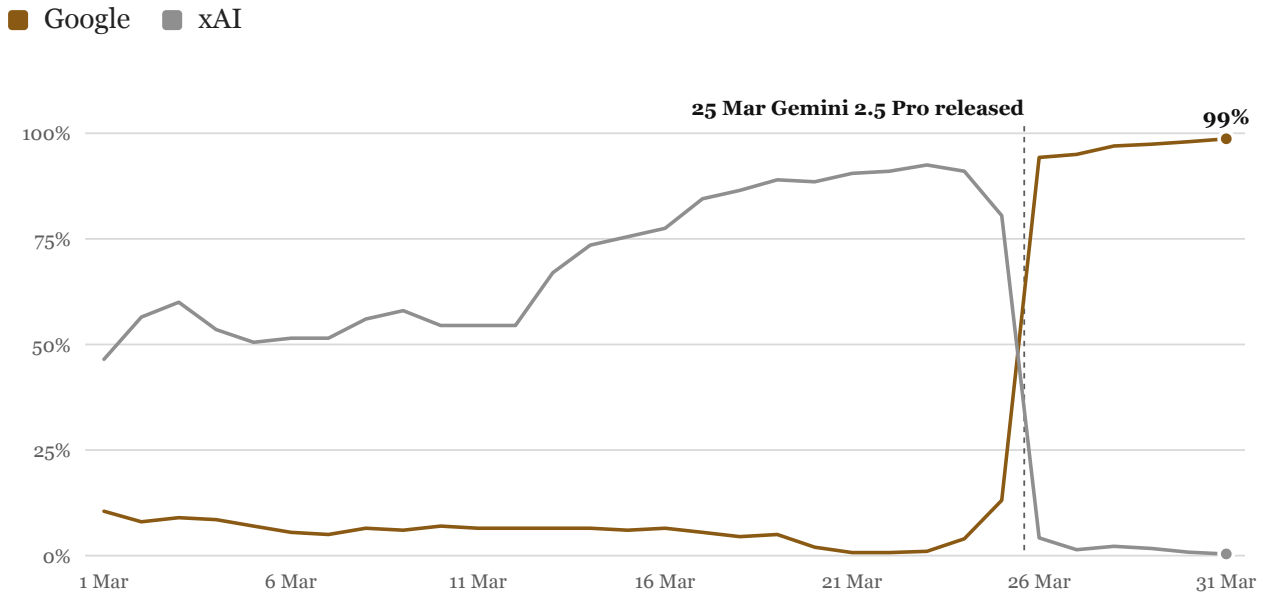
March 2025: the week Gemini 2.5 arrived

For most of March 2025 the market expected xAI to keep the top spot it had taken in February. In the midnight UTC readings xAI rose from 54.5% on 11 March to 92.5% on 23 March, while Google fell from 6.5% to under 1%. Google climbed to 13.1% late on 24 March. On 25 March it published Gemini 2.5 Pro and said the model debuted at first place on LMArena by a significant margin. Between 14:22 and 16:57 UTC that afternoon Google's price went from 15.0% to 86.4% and xAI's fell from 81.0% to 12.0%.

It is the only month in the record where the favourite a week before the check lost. The market had no way to price a release it did not know about; what it did was move within a day once the leaderboard changed.

Best AI model at the end of March 2025: xAI and Google

Polymarket, 00:00 UTC readings, 1 to 31 March 2025. Percent.



The mark is the day of Google's announcement.

Chart: Vultax Research

▶ Show the numbers

The other changes at the top

February 2025 was the first turn. Two weeks before the check Google was 81.0% and xAI 6.4%. xAI unveiled Grok 3 that week; its announcement, dated 19 February, said an early version had topped the leaderboard. In the midnight UTC readings xAI's price went from 19.9% on 18 February to 77.8% on 19 February. A week before the check it was the favourite at 79.9%, and it won.

Anthropic took the top spot at the end of February 2026. Two weeks before that check it was already the favourite at 68.3%, and 90.0% a week before. It has won every check since. The closest call was April 2026: at midnight UTC on 23 April OpenAI was 28.1%, and Anthropic was 69.0% a week before the check, before it went back above 90%.

October and the end of 2026

The October 2026 market is checked at 12:00 Eastern on 31 October. At 21:16 UTC on 19 October, twelve days before, Google was 73.1% and Anthropic 25.5%, so the market expected a change at the top for the first time since February. The market for the end of 2026 had Anthropic at 51.5%, Google 40.5% and OpenAI 5.9%.

Those readings were taken before this page was published and are kept as they were, so they can be checked against the results. The live prices are in the AI race room.

How to read best AI model odds

Four things to keep in mind when reading the monthly market.

- The market is about one leaderboard. It settles on the top model of the LMArena text ranking with style control off, which is a measure of human preference in head-to-head chats, not of every kind of ability.
- New releases move it. Both changes the market missed or caught late came from a model released within two weeks of the check.
- A week out is informative, two weeks less so. The favourite 14 days before the check lost twice in the record, in February and March 2025.
- The company is what counts. A new model from the company already on top does not change the outcome.

Method and limits

The record is Polymarket's 22 monthly markets on the top AI model or company, from the check on 31 December 2024 to the check on 30 September 2026, each read at the minute 14 days, 7 days, 1 day and 1 hour before 12:00 Eastern on its check day. The winner is the market that settled Yes. Brands in the two earliest markets, Gemini, Grok, ChatGPT and Claude, are counted as Google, xAI, OpenAI and Anthropic.

The August 2026 market settled on 28 September, four weeks after its check, so its settlement time is not used here. Release dates come from the companies' own announcements.

22 months are a short record and most of them were held by one company. This page reads public prices; it is not a forecast by Vultax, not a ranking of AI models and not advice to trade.

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Settled 31 March 2025. The other monthly markets follow the same pattern.

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Per-article scope records and Lean package https://vultax.com/datasets/research-proof-library-public-2026-10-28/README.md

Historical scope records and selected Lean checks; the complete package is temporarily unavailable.

A reading of public market prices at stated times, scored against settled results; not a forecast by Vultax, not a ranking of AI models and not advice to trade.