VULTAX RESEARCH NOTES 2026-022

Polymarket 'By Date' Favourites a Month Out: 64% Came True, and 79% in a 2026 Recheck

Vultax Research Team, Tallinn

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ABSTRACT

Every settled Polymarket market worded 'by' or 'before' a date, January 2025 to April 2026, scored against its price 90, 30 and 7 days before the deadline and clustered by event. Markets above 65¢ a month out came true 64.3% of the time; a week out, 90.5%.

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DATA AVAILABILITY 7 tables and charts are downloadable as CSV and JSON with their sources on the page. **Calculations checked: proof record**.

LIMITATIONS **Method and limits**, below.

64.3%

Deadline markets above 65¢ a month out that came true. 84 markets in 72 events, average price 83.7¢; 95% interval clustered by event 53.7–75.0%

90.5%

The same price band a week before the deadline. 74 markets in 70 events at an average 84.9¢

13.7%

Long shots at 5–15¢ a month out that came true. 190 markets at an average 8.9¢

53 of 372

End-2025 markets open on 1 October 2025 that resolved Yes. Their 1 October prices added up to 70.5 expected Yes

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The short answer

A Polymarket market that asks whether something happens by a date comes true less often than its price says when it trades as a favourite a month before the deadline. Across 1,660 settled deadline markets with at least $50,000 traded, those priced above 65¢ thirty days out averaged 83.7¢ and came true 64.3% of the time, with a 95% interval of 53.7–75.0% when whole events are resampled.

Ninety days out the same band averaged 84.4¢ and came true 75.4% of the time. Seven days out it averaged 84.9¢ and came true 90.5%, above its price. A month out is where the price of 'it will happen in time' runs furthest ahead of the calendar.

A fresh check on 3,778 deadline markets scheduled to end from May to October 2026, read the same way but with no volume floor, found the month-out gap much smaller: favourites above 65¢ averaged 83.0¢ and came true 78.8% of the time. It also found that the published sample's $50,000 floor, counted at the close, makes long shots look better than they were.

This study scores only contracts with a deadline; **Vultax's calibration study** tests Polymarket prices across resolved markets of every kind.

Price against outcome, 30 days before the deadline

Each market is read at its last traded price nearest 30 days before its scheduled end, if it traded within two days of that point. 938 markets in 747 events qualify; together they averaged 20.9¢ and 18.2% resolved Yes.

Long shots under 5¢ almost never came true: one of 369. The 5–15¢ band came true more often than its price, and the expensive end is where the market overshoots.

Average price and share that came true, by price 30 days before the deadline

Polymarket deadline markets with $50,000+ volume, settled January 2025 to April 2026. Percent.

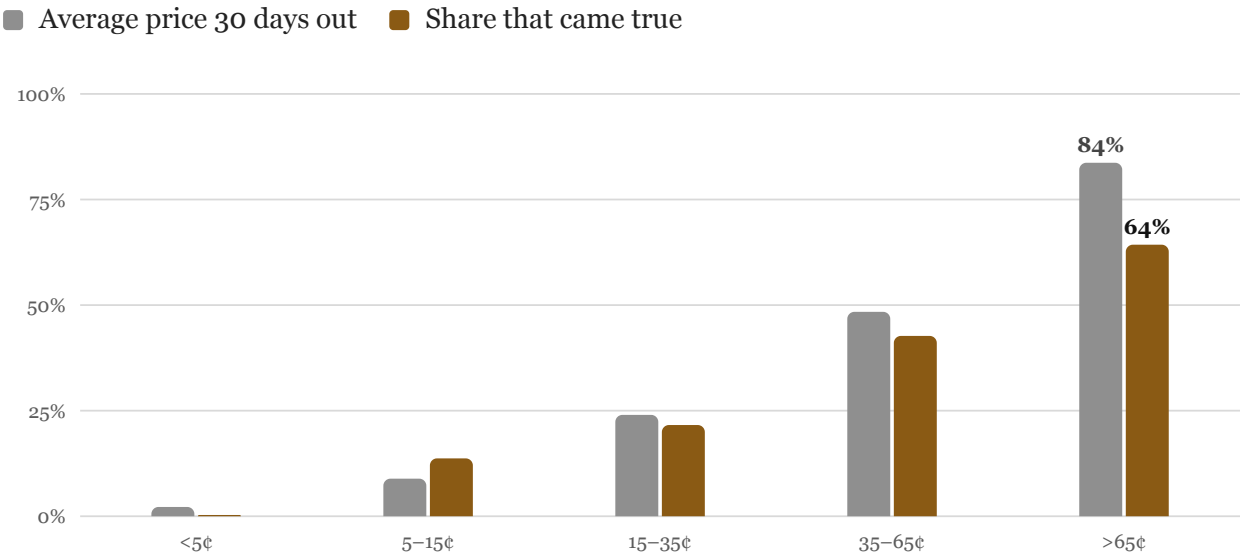


Chart: Vultax Research

▶ Show the numbers

Price 30 days out	Markets	Events	Came true	95% interval (by event)
<5¢	369	332	0.3%	0.0–0.8%
5–15¢	190	171	13.7%	8.7–19.1%
15–35¢	171	151	21.6%	15.3–28.6%
35–65¢	124	107	42.7%	34.1–51.8%
>65¢	84	72	64.3%	53.7–75.0%

Intervals resample whole events (2,000 draws), so rungs of one ladder move together.

Ninety, thirty and seven days out

Read at three distances from the deadline, the favourite band is priced about the same each time, but the share that came true drops at 30 days and ends above the price at 7. A market drops out of a horizon once it has settled, so each horizon reads only what was still open.

Markets above 65¢: average price and share that came true, by days to the deadline

Polymarket deadline markets with $50,000+ volume, settled January 2025 to April 2026. Percent.

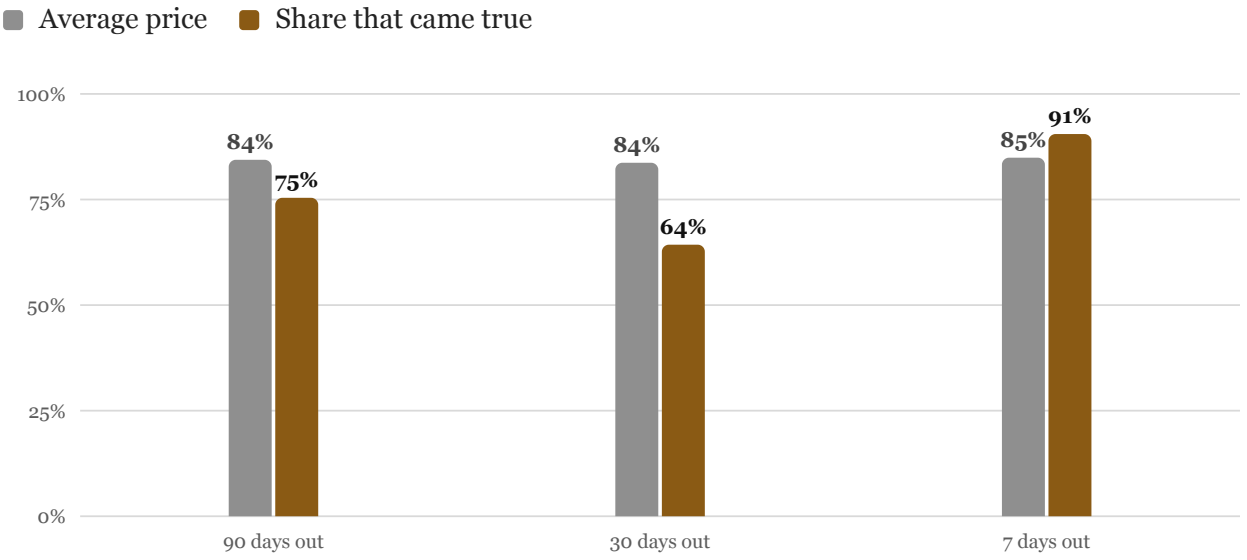


Chart: Vultax Research

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Days out	Above 65¢	95% interval	All: price	All: came true
90 days	57 (44 events)	63.2–86.4%	23.5¢	21.2%
30 days	84 (72 events)	53.7–75.0%	20.9¢	18.2%
7 days	74 (70 events)	83.3–97.1%	12.9¢	13.6%

Days are counted back from each market's scheduled end. Above 65¢: markets (events) priced above 65¢ at that point, with the event-clustered interval for the share that came true. All: every market still open.

Why the count is by event, not by market

A deadline ladder lists one question at several dates, and its rungs settle together: if the first rung comes true, every later one does too. The 1,660 markets belong to 1,141 events, so every interval on this page resamples whole events rather than single markets.

Weighting each event once instead of each market moves the 30-day favourite figure to 67.8%. The largest single event in that band holds three markets, so no one ladder drives the result.

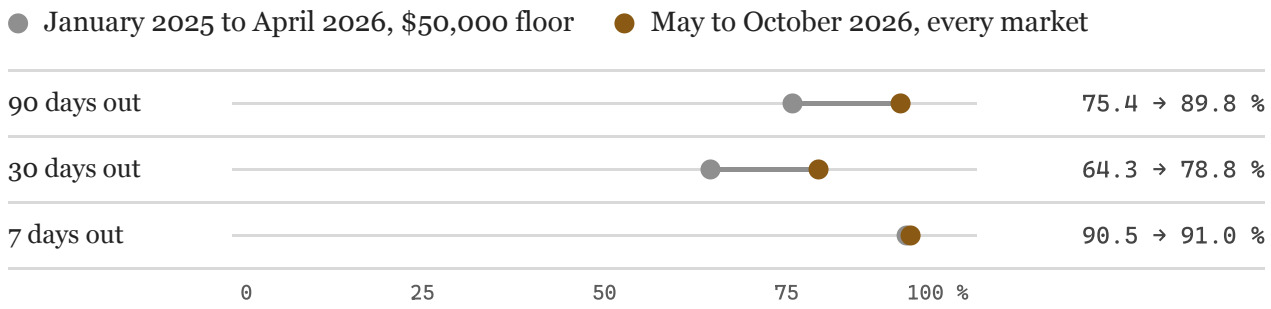
A fresh check, May to October 2026: the overshoot shrank

To test the result on markets it had never seen, we read every closed Polymarket market scheduled to end between 1 May and 15 October 2026, after the archive above ends: 3,227,421 markets from Polymarket's public market feed. 3,778 of them, in 1,333 events, were worded 'by' or 'before' a date or 'in' a year and had settled Yes or No. Price- and level-target ladders, such as a stock reaching a price by a date, were left out, as in the published sample. No volume floor was applied. A market's end date is fixed when it is listed, so choosing markets by it cannot choose them by their result.

Each market was read at its last hourly price at or before 90, 30 and 7 days before its scheduled end, from Polymarket's price history; a market that had already closed, or was not yet listed, drops out of that reading. A month out, 156 markets in 120 events were priced above 65¢. They averaged 83.0¢ and 78.8% came true, with an interval of 72.1% to 85.0% that holds the price.

The published 64.3% at 83.7¢ did not repeat at that size: the gap between price and result closed from about 19 points to about 4. Seven days out, favourites came true 91.0% of the time at 88.4¢, as they did before. Ninety days out they came true 89.8% at 83.0¢, on only 49 markets: most of the fresh markets were listed less than three months before their deadline.

Deadline favourites above 65¢: the share that came true, then and now



Average prices in the two samples: 84.4¢ and 83.0¢ at 90 days, 83.7¢ and 83.0¢ at 30 days, 84.9¢ and 88.4¢ at 7 days. The fresh sample has no volume floor; the next section shows what the floor does.

Price 30 days out	Markets (events)	Average price	Came true	95% interval	With the floor
<5¢	594 (349)	2.2¢	0.3%	0.0–0.8%	0.3% of 286
5–15¢	385 (268)	8.9¢	5.2%	3.1–7.5%	11.5% of 157
15–35¢	297 (214)	23.0¢	12.8%	8.7–17.1%	15.1% of 119
35–65¢	330 (173)	47.2¢	27.9%	18.2–39.0%	47.1% of 68
>65¢	156 (120)	83.0¢	78.8%	72.1–85.0%	75.9% of 54

Price 30 days out	Markets (events)	Average price	Came true	95% interval	With the floor

Every deadline market scheduled to end 1 May to 15 October 2026, read 30 days before its scheduled end. Intervals resample whole events (2,000 draws). With the floor: the share that came true among markets with $50,000 or more traded by the close, the published study's floor, and how many markets that leaves.

The volume floor flattered the long shots

The published sample kept only markets with $50,000 or more traded, counted at the close. On the fresh markets that floor changes one answer most: long shots. Of the 385 markets priced 5 to 15¢ a month out, 20 came true, 5.2%, below their 8.9¢ average price. With the floor, 18 of 157 came true, 11.5%, above the price, as the published 13.7% at 8.9¢ was.

The volume shows why. 18 of the 20 long shots that came true had traded $50,000 or more by the close, a median of $333,779. Of the 365 that did not, 139 had, and their median was $28,020. A long shot that starts to come true draws a rush of trading, so a floor counted at the close keeps the winners and drops most of the losers. The **calibration study** found the same in football.

Each step of the floor moves the figure the same way: 5.2% with no floor, 5.5% above $1,000, 7.3% above $10,000 and 11.5% above $50,000.

Between 35 and 65¢ the sample rule matters even more, for a second reason. A market that barely trades shows a price near 50¢, the middle of a book with little in it: 110 of the 330 fresh markets in that band had less than $1,000 traded in their whole life, averaged 48.0¢ and came true 9.1% of the time. With every market counted the band came true 27.9% at 47.2¢; with the floor, 47.1% at 46.2¢. Neither reading is clean, and this check makes no claim for that band. A floor on trading before the reading would settle it; Polymarket's public price feed does not provide one.

How a floor counted at the close picks the long shots that won

1 A MONTH OUT

385 long shots

Every fresh deadline market priced 5 to 15¢ thirty days before its scheduled end

↓

2 CAME TRUE

18 of 20 pass the floor

Median $333,779 traded by the close

↓

3 DID NOT

139 of 365 pass the floor

Median $28,020 traded by the close

MEASURED

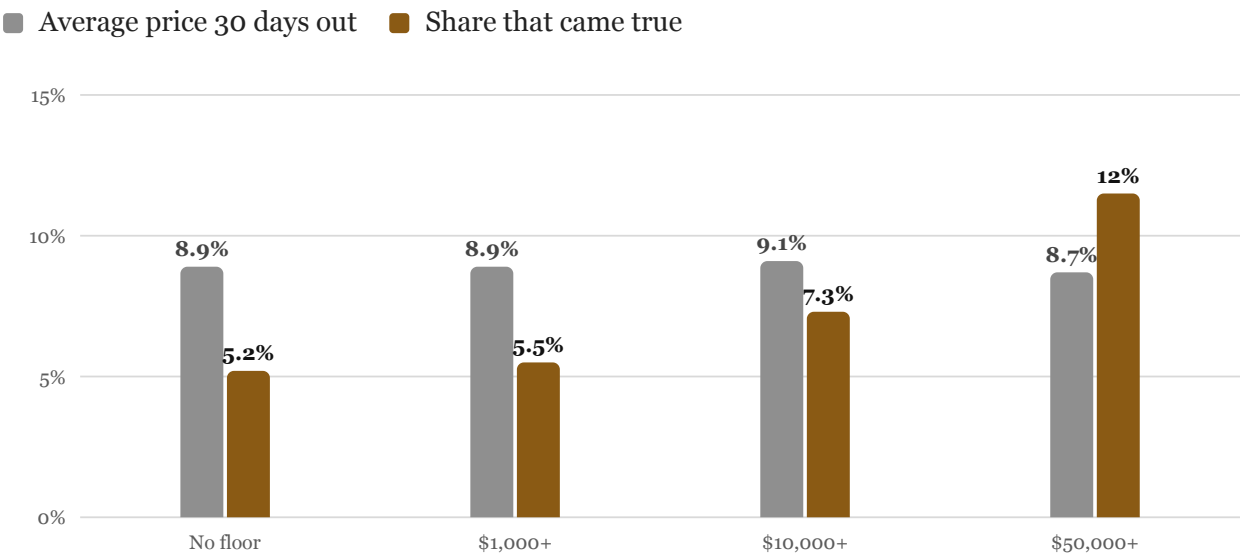
20 of 385 = 5.2% without the floor; 18 of 157 = 11.5% with it

The same markets, read the same way; only a filter applied after the result differs.

Polymarket deadline markets scheduled to end 1 May to 15 October 2026. The floor is $50,000 traded, counted at the close, as in the published sample.

Long shots a month out: how often they came true, by the volume floor applied at the close

Deadline markets priced 5 to 15¢ thirty days before their scheduled end, 1 May to 15 October 2026. Percent.



Markets kept: 385, 361, 273, 157.

Chart: Vultax Research

▶ Show the numbers

The end-2025 settle, scored from 1 October 2025

1,052 markets with $50,000 or more traded were scheduled to end on 31 December 2025 or 1 January 2026. 372 of them, in 273 events, were still trading on 1 October 2025, the same calendar point as the end-2026 reading below.

At their 1 October prices they averaged 18.9¢. 53 resolved Yes (14.2%, interval 10.0–19.1%). Those above 65¢ on 1 October came true 74.2% of the time at an average of 85.1¢.

Price on 1 Oct 2025	Markets	Average price	Came true
<5¢	105	2.8¢	0.0%
5–15¢	142	8.2¢	4.2%
15–35¢	62	22.8¢	22.6%
35–65¢	32	47.9¢	31.2%
>65¢	31	85.1¢	74.2%

The end-2026 markets, fixed before they settle

Vultax's ledger records every open Polymarket market scheduled to end on 31 December 2026 or 1 January 2027 in one run at 00:00 UTC on 1 October 2026, the same calendar point as the 2025 reading above. That run fixes the cohort: its SHA-256 is added to this page as a dated update, and the markets are scored with the same price bands and event-level intervals in the first week of January 2027.

Method and limits

The universe is every market in the Polymarket-v1 fill tape (settled markets, 1 January 2025 to 28 April 2026) whose slug says 'by' or 'before' a date or 'in' a year, with price-target ladders on crypto and assets excluded and at least $50,000 traded. The tape's settled result matched Polymarket's final prices in 2,326 markets, with no disagreements.

Horizons count back from each market's scheduled end date. A market whose event happened early settles early and leaves the later horizons, which is why the share of all markets that came true is lower at 7 days than at 90. Intervals are 95% percentile intervals from 2,000 event-level bootstrap draws.

The fresh check of 19 October 2026 read Polymarket's public market feed for every closed market scheduled to end 1 May to 15 October 2026 and kept those whose slug says 'by' or 'before' a date or 'in' a year, leaving out price- and level-target ladders by their wording (reach, dip to, hit, above or below a number). Prices are the last hourly point at or before each reading in Polymarket's CLOB price history, within 48 hours; the history service returns a current price after the window asked for, and that point is dropped. 1,762 markets had a price 30 days out; the rest had closed, were listed later or had no price in the 48 hours before. Intervals resample whole events, 2,000 draws.

REFERENCES

Boka Qin and Rui Yang — Polymarket-v1 Database (TimeSeventeen) https://huggingface.co/datasets/TimeSeventeen/Polymarket-v1

Settled-market fills and aligned market metadata, 1 January 2025 to 28 April 2026, published under CC BY 4.0. Vultax built the hourly price panel and the statistics.

Polymarket Gamma API — markets and events https://docs.polymarket.com/

Event membership (for clustering), settled prices and the end-2026 snapshot. The fresh May to October 2026 sample, read in full on 19 October 2026.

Polymarket CLOB API — price history https://docs.polymarket.com/

Hourly prices 90, 30 and 7 days before each fresh market's scheduled end, read 19 October 2026

Selected arithmetic checked in Lean 4.35.0 https://vultax.com/datasets/research-proof-library-2026-10-25/articles/polymarket-deadline-markets-accuracy.md

Selected exact-rational calculations and displayed-value consistency checks, checked by Lean 4.35.0, Lean kernel replay and Nanoda. Not a proof of the underlying observations, statistical conclusions, legal claims or production code.

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.

Figures describe Polymarket markets that settled between 1 January 2025 and 28 April 2026; a market price is a traded probability, not a forecast by Vultax, and nothing here is advice to trade.