The Net Asset Value Desk
TSP INTELLIGENCE CENTER

MARKETS BASICS · 8 MINUTE GUIDE

Prediction markets, *read the odds.*

NAV Desk shows odds from public prediction markets on events like Fed decisions and economic reports. This guide explains what those numbers mean, why they move, and why they are background, not a call to act.

No prior knowledge needed
Interactive
Education only

Start the guide →
What does 70% mean?

EXAMPLE MARKET

Will the Fed lower rates at its next meeting?

YES
64¢

NO
36¢



≈ 64% chance, according to traders

Made-up example. A price in cents works like a percent chance.

1

THE BASIC IDEA

A price in cents *is a percent chance.*

Each market asks a yes-or-no question. A "yes" contract pays $1 if the event happens and $0 if it doesn't. So if "yes" trades at 64¢, traders as a group are pricing about a 64% chance. Slide the price.

Price of "yes" 64¢

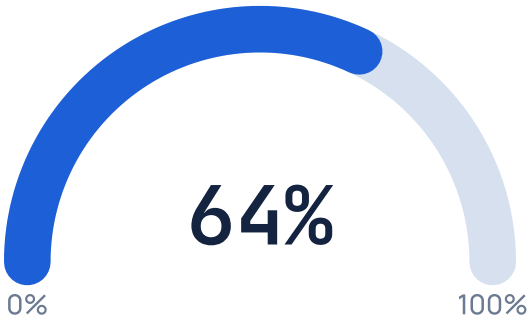


YES

NO

64¢
pays $1 if it happens

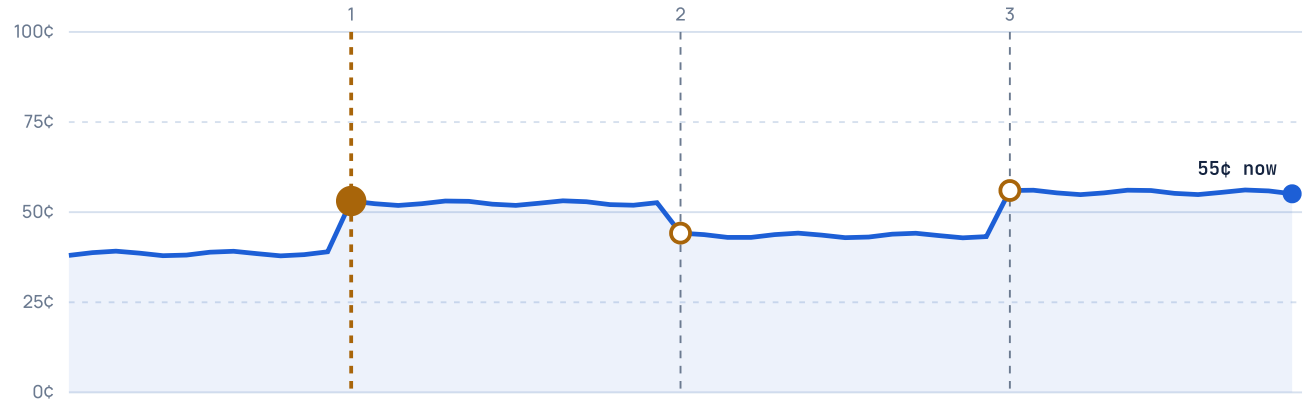
36¢
pays $1 if it doesn't



Traders lean toward yes.

i Yes and no add up to about $1, since exactly one of them will pay. Small gaps come from the difference between buy and sell prices.

2



1. Inflation report comes in cooler than expected
2. Strong jobs report
3. Fed official sounds open to a cut

Cooler inflation made a cut look more likely, so "yes" jumped. The price went from about 39¢ to 53¢.

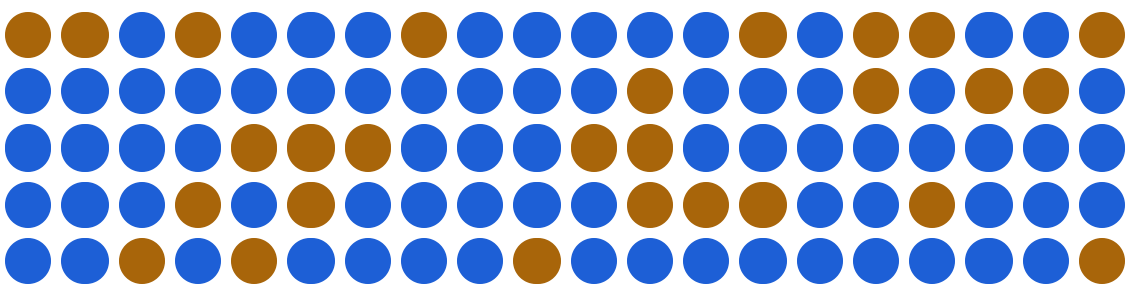
3

READING A PERCENT

70% likely still means *30% it doesn't happen.*

A high price is not a promise. Pick a chance and run 100 imaginary versions of the future to see how often the "unlikely" side wins.

Market chance of "yes" **70%**



Yes happened: 73 No happened: 27

Run 100 futures

4

LIMIT

Expected news is priced in

If an outcome is already at 90%, it happening is no surprise, so markets may barely react.

USE IT FOR

Knowing what's expected

Odds show which outcome would be a surprise, which helps explain big market moves after an announcement.

USE IT FOR

Following a story

Watching odds shift over weeks shows how expectations change as new data comes out.

NEVER

A buy or sell signal

NAV Desk shows odds as context. They are not a reason, by themselves, to change your TSP.

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CHECK YOURSELF

Four quick questions. *How did it stick?*

1. "Yes" on a market trades at 30¢. Roughly what chance are traders pricing?

3% | 30% | 70%

2. A market says 80%. Does that mean it will happen?

Yes, definitely | No, about 1 in 5 times it won't

3. Why might a small, thinly traded market be less reliable?

One big order can swing it | It updates too slowly

4. How does NAV Desk use prediction market odds?

As buy and sell signals

As background context

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A claim that pays $1 if its outcome happens and $0 if it doesn't.

A market where people trade on yes-or-no questions about future events.

How much trading happens. More liquid markets are harder for one order to move.

The chance a price suggests. A 64¢ "yes" implies about 64%.

When an expected outcome is already reflected in prices, so it causes little reaction.

The gap between the best price to buy and the best price to sell.

A large prediction market whose prices come from its users' trades.

A U.S. exchange for event contracts, regulated by the CFTC.

2

Odds sources in NAV Desk

NAV Desk brings in public prediction market odds on the events that move markets, shown next to the rest of your data as background.

Back to NAV Desk

WHAT YOU GET

Built for the TSP. *Useful to everyone.*

Start with your TSP, or skip it and link the accounts you already have. Every member gets both tracks.

TRACK 1

If you have a TSP

Federal employees, military personnel and retirees

- **TSP core and the window in one total**
  Your TSP funds and Mutual Fund Window holdings together, with today's estimated move.
- **Noon ET cutoff clock**
  A countdown to the interfund transfer cutoff and a count of transfers used this month.
- **Fund signals**
  A Favorable, Neutral or Unfavorable read on each core fund. You make every move.
- **Fund Radar**
  All 69 Mutual Fund Window funds ranked daily on momentum and trend.
- **Retirement planner**
  FERS pension, supplement, Social Security and TSP withdrawals in today's dollars.
- **Seasonal plan**
  Two decades of official TSP prices turned into a color-coded plan.

TRACK 2

Everyone, TSP or not

Your whole financial picture in one place

- **Link your accounts**
  Bank, brokerage, loans and credit cards, connected view only.
- **Net worth in one number**
  Everything you own minus everything you owe, kept current.
- **Stocks, ETFs and crypto**
  Your holdings side by side, with price watches you set.
- **Debt payoff plan**
  A debt-free date and reminders before each payment is due.
- **Agentic Think Tank**
  Five AI agents write reports on your own numbers in plain English.
- **Prediction-market odds**
  Public prediction market odds on the Fed, inflation and recession. Information only.

Private by design. NAV Desk never asks for your TSP login, linked accounts are view only, and your data is never sold.

Sources

1. **Kalshi**: a U.S. exchange for event contracts, regulated by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.
2. **Polymarket**: a large prediction market where prices come from its users' trades.

For education only. NAV Desk is not affiliated with, endorsed by, or connected to the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (FRTIB), the Thrift Savings Plan, Kalshi or Polymarket. Market examples in this guide use made-up prices. Odds reflect traders' views, not certainty. Nothing here is a recommendation to buy, sell or hold any investment, or to trade any contract.