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# A Primer on AI Lab & AI Hyperscaler Unit Economics

We expect some confusion as AI labs start reporting GAAP financials, as business mix and revenue recognition can vary. Similar to how UBER and LYFT are in the same core business yet gross bookings and net revenue have different definitions, comparing AI labs may prove difficult.

**The Key Take-Away:** The unit economics of AI labs are similar across like-for-like product lines, but business mix, revenue recognition, and partnerships can lead to fairly significant differences in how financials are presented. This report attempts to break down these nuances and how revenue and costs ultimately flow through the P&L at the AI lab. We also look at how the unit economics of AI labs flow into the unit economics of the supporting hyperscalers.

## Business Mix Differences Explain a Lot

AI labs have revenue lines across a number of different products and services. API was the original AI lab business model, but in recent years applications and subscription products have entered the mix. Shown below in Figure 1, hypothetical frontier lab "A" has upwards of 70% of revenue coming from API and 30% from subscription. Hypothetical frontier lab "B" has the inverse, closer to 80% of revenue from subscription. As we will illustrate further down in this report, API tends to have higher inference margin than subscription, which in addition to training costs being completely different, explains most of the difference in gross margins (after training) at the aggregate AI lab level. It's possible that some of the training costs may be recorded in R&D for various AI labs, so for the purposes of this report, we are showing ~10% of training costs in COGS, which represents the final training run for an AI model. It's unclear at this point how training costs are likely to be allocated across P&L lines by AI labs.

As we will discuss below, other major factors explaining revenue and margin differences are: 1) partnership dynamics (with hyperscalers), and 2) the indirect API gross revenue recognition – discussed in more detail below.

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**FIGURE 1. Business Mix Explains Most of the Differences in AI Lab Unit Economics in '26**

| AI Lab Economics                            | Lab A        | Lab B        |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Customer Spend</b>                       | <b>\$100</b> | <b>\$102</b> |
| <b>Revenue</b>                              | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
| Subscription                                | 30.0         | 80.0         |
| Direct API                                  | 45.0         | 10.0         |
| Indirect API                                | 25.0         | 10.0         |
| <b>Costs</b>                                | <b>35.0</b>  | <b>52.0</b>  |
| Indirect Cloud Fees                         | 5.0          | 2.0          |
| Strategic Partner Revenue Share             | 0.0          | 20.0         |
| Inference Compute Cost                      | 30.0         | 30.0         |
| <b>AI Lab Paid Inference Profit</b>         | <b>65.0</b>  | <b>48.0</b>  |
| <i>% Margin</i>                             | 65%          | 48%          |
| Model Production Training Cost              | 10.0         | 10.0         |
| <b>AI Lab Gross Profit (After Training)</b> | <b>55.0</b>  | <b>38.0</b>  |
| <i>% Margin</i>                             | 55%          | 38%          |
| R&D Training Cost                           | 70.0         | 96.0         |

2026 Mix Estimates; Inference Costs Exclude Free Users  
Source: Barclays Research Estimates

AI lab unit economics have improved greatly in '26 (vs. '25) driven by agentic workflows and enterprise becoming the "must buy" products in the market today. API and enterprise accounts likely carry higher inference margins; hence, as mix shifts in that direction, and as AI models are more token efficient per task, inference margins have surged higher. Based on our estimates shown in Figure 2, we think frontier labs "A" and "B" may have increased paid inference margins to upwards of 50%-65%+ in '26 (up from mid-teens % in '25), and possibly much higher on select products and services. After factoring in final training costs (10% of overall training costs), labs have seen the adjusted gross margin increase ~30-50 points vs. '25. AI lab "B" has strategic partner revenue sharing which impacts profitability until certain thresholds are achieved, likely eliminated to zero sometime after '28.

**FIGURE 2. The Shift to Enterprise Has Markedly Improved AI Lab Unit Economics in '26**

|                                             | 2025         |              | 2026         |              |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>AI Lab Economics:</b>                    | Lab A        | Lab B        | Lab A        | Lab B        |
| <b>Revenue</b>                              | <b>\$100</b> | <b>\$100</b> | <b>\$100</b> | <b>\$100</b> |
| Subscription                                | 15.0         | 90.0         | 30.0         | 80.0         |
| Direct API                                  | 50.0         | 5.0          | 45.0         | 10.0         |
| Indirect API                                | 35.0         | 5.0          | 25.0         | 10.0         |
| <b>Costs</b>                                | <b>86.1</b>  | <b>82.1</b>  | <b>35.0</b>  | <b>52.0</b>  |
| Indirect Cloud Fees                         | 7.0          | 1.0          | 5.0          | 2.0          |
| Strategic Partner Revenue Share             | 0.0          | 20.0         | 0.0          | 20.0         |
| Inference Compute Cost                      | 79.1         | 61.1         | 30.0         | 30.0         |
| % of Revenue                                | 79%          | 61%          | 30%          | 30%          |
| <b>AI Lab Paid Inference Profit</b>         | <b>13.9</b>  | <b>17.9</b>  | <b>65.0</b>  | <b>48.0</b>  |
| % Margin                                    | 14%          | 18%          | 65%          | 48%          |
| Model Production Training Cost              | 10.0         | 10.0         | 10.0         | 10.0         |
| <b>AI Lab Gross Profit (After Training)</b> | <b>3.9</b>   | <b>7.9</b>   | <b>55.0</b>  | <b>38.0</b>  |
| % Margin                                    | 4%           | 8%           | 55%          | 38%          |
| R&D Training Cost                           | 81.0         | 53.0         | 70.0         | 96.0         |

Source: Barclays Research Estimates

Based on the mix noted above and some of the revenue sharing agreements, training costs, and inference costs, we conclude that around \$35-\$40 of every \$100 in AI Lab revenue flows to hyperscaler revenue in '26, on which the hyperscalers generate nearly \$10-\$20 in OI (at high ~35%-45% operating margin). Partner revenue share results in higher hyperscaler OI margin, but the actual profit on a per token basis is likely the same excluding these fees. We think there is a decent possibility that AI lab margins and hyperscalers' OI margins are higher than what we illustrate here currently in '26, but we would assume these margins come down a bit over time as competition increases at the frontier and as compute scarcity eases.

**FIGURE 3. For Every \$100 of AI Lab Revenue, \$35-\$40 Flows to the Hyperscalers in the Form of Inference Revenue, or \$10-\$20 in Hyperscaler OI (in '26)**

| Per \$100 of AI Lab Revenue | Subscription | Direct API | Indirect API | Total |
|-----------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|-------|
| <b>AI Lab A</b>             |              |            |              |       |
| AI Lab Revenue Mix          | 30%          | 45%        | 25%          | 100%  |
| Hyperscaler Revenue         | 9.0          | 13.5       | 12.5         | 35.0  |
| Less: Infrastructure Costs  | 6.3          | 9.5        | 7.5          | 23.3  |
| Hyperscaler Profit          | 2.7          | 4.1        | 5.0          | 11.8  |
| % Margin                    | 30%          | 30%        | 40%          | 34%   |
| <b>AI Lab B</b>             |              |            |              |       |
| AI Lab Revenue Mix          | 80%          | 10%        | 10%          | 100%  |
| Strategic Partners          | 40%          | 5%         | 0%           |       |
| Other Partners              | 40%          | 5%         | 10%          |       |
| Hyperscaler Revenue         | 32.0         | 4.0        | 5.0          | 41.0  |
| Less: Infrastructure Costs  | 16.8         | 2.1        | 3.0          | 21.9  |
| Hyperscaler Profit          | 15.2         | 1.9        | 2.0          | 19.1  |
| % Margin                    | 48%          | 48%        | 40%          | 47%   |

Source: Barclays Research Estimates

## AI Products Have a Wide Range of Unit Economics, and Are Often Recorded Differently

Noted above, the product mix at frontier labs can be dramatically different. Figures 4-6 below illustrate that even within the same products (like for like) there can be nuances that drive different unit economics including partnerships (revenue shares) and how actual revenues are recorded (gross vs. net). Like UBER/LYFT, despite being the same core business, the revenue and margin can be completely different.

Subscription products (like Claude Code or Codex) generally have lower inference margins than API as some users benefit from AI labs' willingness to subsidize token cost to remain competitive and retain users. Subscription products are both monthly-fee based and usage based, often with caps which can be reset from time to time (we have seen an increase in cap resets of late, likely in response to churn reduction efforts and model efficiency gains). Subscription products tend to default to a specific model, but the user can toggle between models and latency modes for various jobs, which can burn through token credits faster or slower depending on model size. Enterprise subscriptions are often dollar-based by license (often at higher limits than Plus and Pro plans), with daily caps that can be allocated across the licenses. We estimate inference margins on subscriptions are in the 70% range. Noted above, we would guess that the '26 inference margin may be higher than this level, but over time the industry may drift back down towards this level to the degree that competitive alternatives show up and if/when compute moves into surplus (vs. today's shortages).

Hyperscalers generate solid unit economics on agentic subscription products as the compute being provisioned for these stateful runtime products often involves some "up the stack" software products like databases, etc., and in some cases have revenue sharing between the AI lab and the hyperscalers.

**FIGURE 4. Subscription Apps Tend to Have Slightly Lower Inference Margins (vs. API)**

| Subscription Apps                   | AI Lab A     | AI Lab B          |                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|
|                                     | All Partners | Strategic Partner | Other Partners |
| <b>Customer Spend</b>               | <b>\$100</b> | <b>\$100</b>      | <b>\$100</b>   |
| <b>AI Lab Economics:</b>            |              |                   |                |
| AI Lab Revenue                      | 100.0        | 100.0             | 100.0          |
| % of Customer Spend                 | 100%         | 100%              | 100%           |
| Strategic Partner Revenue Share     | 0.0          | 20.0              | 20.0           |
| % of Revenue                        | 0%           | 20%               | 20%            |
| Inference Compute Cost              | 30.0         | 30.0              | 30.0           |
| % of Customer Spend                 | 30%          | 30%               | 30%            |
| <b>AI Lab Paid Inference Profit</b> | <b>70.0</b>  | <b>50.0</b>       | <b>50.0</b>    |
| % Margin                            | 70%          | 50%               | 50%            |
| <b>Hyperscaler Economics:</b>       |              |                   |                |
| Hyperscaler Revenue                 | 30.0         | 50.0              | 30.0           |
| % of Customer Spend                 | 30%          | 50%               | 30%            |
| Revenue Share                       | --           | 20.0              | --             |
| Inference Compute Revenue           | 30.0         | 30.0              | 30.0           |
| Hyperscaler Infrastructure Costs    | 21.0         | 21.0              | 21.0           |
| % of Compute Revenue                | 70%          | 70%               | 70%            |
| Hyperscaler Profit                  | 9.0          | 29.0              | 9.0            |
| % Margin                            | 30%          | 58%               | 30%            |

Lab B 20% Strategic Partner Revenue Share, Up To A Cumulative Cap

Assuming AI Lab Subscriptions ~70% Margin\*

IaaS Estimated To Run At ~30%-ish OI Margin

\* Paid User Subscription Margins  
Source: Barclays Research Estimates

Direct API is the original business model for most frontier labs (before even products like ChatGPT were introduced) and carries very attractive unit economics for both the AI lab and the hyperscaler. Direct API is where a developer like Cursor or Figma embeds features inside their products that call on the AI lab's API to generate tokens. The business model for the AI lab is usage based on token consumption (i.e., pay-as-you-go). Inference margins for API have been trending up as the models have improved token efficiency (i.e., the volume of tokens to complete a task) while headline API token prices have increased. Inference providers have similarly improved the efficiency of serving models at the infrastructure layer (via quantization, speculators, and next-gen compute), supporting higher hyperscaler margins. Lastly, revenue sharing between the AI lab and the hyperscaler further boosts the latter's margins (at the expense of the former).

We have heard that AI lab inference margins on API are running well north of the levels noted in Fig 5 in 2Q26, but we would guess this may normalize lower at some point (but it's not entirely clear when).

FIGURE 5. Direct API Has Very Solid Unit Economics

| Direct API                          | AI Lab A     | AI Lab B          |                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|
|                                     | All Partners | Strategic Partner | Other Partners |
| <b>Customer Spend</b>               | <b>\$100</b> | <b>\$100</b>      | <b>\$100</b>   |
| <b>AI Lab Economics:</b>            |              |                   |                |
| AI Lab Revenue                      | 100.0        | 100.0             | 100.0          |
| % of Customer Spend                 | 100%         | 100%              | 100%           |
| Strategic Partner Revenue Share     | 0.0          | 20.0              | 20.0           |
| % of Revenue                        | 0%           | 20%               | 20%            |
| Inference Compute Cost              | 30.0         | 30.0              | 30.0           |
| % of Customer Spend                 | 30%          | 30%               | 30%            |
| <b>AI Lab Paid Inference Profit</b> | 70.0         | 50.0              | 50.0           |
| % Margin                            | 70%          | 50%               | 50%            |
| <b>Hyperscaler Economics:</b>       |              |                   |                |
| Hyperscaler Revenue                 | 30.0         | 50.0              | 30.0           |
| % of Customer Spend                 | 30%          | 50%               | 30%            |
| Revenue Share                       | --           | 20.0              | --             |
| Inference Compute Revenue           | 30.0         | 30.0              | 30.0           |
| Hyperscaler Infrastructure Costs    | 21.0         | 21.0              | 21.0           |
| % of Compute Revenue                | 70%          | 70%               | 70%            |
| Hyperscaler Profit                  | 9.0          | 29.0              | 9.0            |
| % Margin                            | 30%          | 58%               | 30%            |

Current Inference Margins  
Estimated North of 80%, But We  
Assume Comes Down Over Time



Source: Barclays Research Estimates

The Indirect API business model is more or less the same as Direct in terms of what the end user sees, but billing and the go-to-market relationship is between the user and the hyperscaler (without direct engagement with the AI lab). AI lab "A" records indirect API revenue on a gross basis, and it is becoming a larger part of the story. AI lab "B" doesn't have significant revenue here and records revenue on a net basis, and may exclude revenue recognition entirely when its strategic partner runs indirect API.

So similar to UBER and LYFT, as indirect grows as a percent of the overall AI lab story, it likely creates distortion between reported revenues, and hence can distort the narrative around relative AI lab progress.

FIGURE 6. Indirect API Has Solid Unit Economics, But Different Revenue Recognition

| Indirect API                        | AI Lab A     | AI Lab B          |                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|
|                                     | All Partners | Strategic Partner | Other Partners |
| <b>Customer Spend</b>               | <b>\$100</b> | <b>\$100</b>      | <b>\$100</b>   |
| Indirect Hyperscaler Fees           | 20.0         | --                | 20.0           |
| % of Customer Spend                 | 20%          | --                | 20%            |
| <b>AI Lab Economics:</b>            |              |                   |                |
| AI Lab Revenue                      | 100.0        | 0.0               | 80.0           |
| % of Customer Spend                 | 100%         | 0%                | 80%            |
| Strategic Partner Revenue Share     | 0.0          | --                | 16.0           |
| % of Revenue                        | 0%           | --                | 20%            |
| Inference Compute Cost              | 30.0         | --                | 30.0           |
| % of Customer Spend                 | 30%          | --                | 30%            |
| <b>AI Lab Paid Inference Profit</b> | <b>50.0</b>  | <b>--</b>         | <b>34.0</b>    |
| % Margin                            | 50%          | --                | 43%            |
| <b>Hyperscaler Economics:</b>       |              |                   |                |
| Hyperscaler Revenue                 | 50.0         | 100.0             | 50.0           |
| % of Customer Spend                 | 50%          | 100%              | 50%            |
| Indirect Hyperscaler Fees           | 20.0         | --                | 20.0           |
| Inference Compute Revenue           | 30.0         | --                | 30.0           |
| Hyperscaler Infrastructure Costs    | 30.0         | 30.0              | 30.0           |
| % of Inference Compute Revenue      | 100%         | --                | 100%           |
| Hyperscaler Profit                  | 20.0         | 70.0              | 20.0           |
| % Margin                            | 40%          | 70%               | 40%            |

Assuming Indirect Hyperscaler Fees  
~20% Spend Share

Lab A Recognizes Gross Indirect API  
Revenue, While Lab B Recognizes  
Net of Fees

Lab B Does Not Recognize Indirect  
API Revenue Hosted on Strategic  
Partner's Cloud

Assuming Hyperscalers Cover  
Indirect API Compute Costs

Source: Barclays Research Estimates

## Putting It All Together

Right now, just about every dollar of AI lab ARR is finding its way to the hyperscaler revenue line, because of the high mix of training relative to inference in '26. Over time, inference profits should eventually surpass training costs, and drive higher profit margins for the AI labs. Hyperscalers likely start to lose market share of AI lab training and inference starting in '28 when backstopped AI infrastructure projects come online and become the first option for AI labs. We generally see Amazon Web Services (AWS), Azure (MSFT, covered by Raimo Lenschow), and Google Cloud Platform (GCP) controlling a similar mix of AI lab compute spend in the next two years, before this shift to backstopped infrastructure kicks in.

**FIGURE 7. Right Now Every \$1 of AI Lab Revenue Is Nearly \$1 of Hyperscaler Revenue, But the Latter Should Decline Going Forward**

| <b>AI Industry Summary (\$B)</b> | <b>2024</b> | <b>2025</b> | <b>2026E</b> | <b>2027E</b> | <b>2028E</b> |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| AI Lab Revenue                   | 7           | 26          | 137          | 376          | 690          |
| % Y/Y Change                     |             | 276%        | 418%         | 175%         | 84%          |
| Est. Year End AI ARR             |             | 44          | 200          | 453          | 782          |
| Inference Cost                   | 4           | 17          | 58           | 157          | 292          |
| % of Revenue                     | 57%         | 66%         | 42%          | 42%          | 42%          |
| % Y/Y Change                     |             | 334%        | 233%         | 173%         | 85%          |
| Training Cost                    | 7           | 19          | 66           | 132          | 210          |
| % of Revenue                     | 96%         | 70%         | 48%          | 35%          | 30%          |
| % Y/Y Change                     |             | 176%        | 255%         | 100%         | 59%          |
| <b>Hyperscaler AI Revenue</b>    | <b>11</b>   | <b>36</b>   | <b>124</b>   | <b>289</b>   | <b>502</b>   |
| % of AI Lab Revenue              | 153%        | 136%        | 90%          | 77%          | 73%          |
| % Y/Y Change                     |             | 235%        | 244%         | 134%         | 73%          |
| AWS AI Revenue - Est.            | 3           | 10          | 37           | 87           | 151          |
| % of Hyperscaler AI Revenue      | 31%         | 27%         | 30%          | 30%          | 30%          |
| GCP AI Revenue - Est.            | 3           | 10          | 37           | 87           | 151          |
| % of Hyperscaler AI Revenue      | 24%         | 28%         | 30%          | 30%          | 30%          |
| Other Cloud AI Revenue           | 5           | 16          | 49           | 116          | 201          |
| % of Hyperscaler AI Revenue      | 45%         | 45%         | 40%          | 40%          | 40%          |

Source: Barclays Research Estimates

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In addition to the stock rating, we provide industry views which rate the outlook for the industry coverage universe as Positive, Neutral or Negative (see definitions below). A rating system using terms such as buy, hold and sell is not the equivalent of our rating system. Investors should carefully read the entire research report including the definitions of all ratings and not infer its contents from ratings alone.

#### **Stock Rating**

**Overweight** - The stock is expected to outperform the unweighted expected total return of the industry coverage universe over a 12-month investment horizon.

**Equal Weight** - The stock is expected to perform in line with the unweighted expected total return of the industry coverage universe over a 12-month investment horizon.

**Underweight** - The stock is expected to underperform the unweighted expected total return of the industry coverage universe over a 12-month investment horizon.

**Rating Suspended** - The rating and target price have been suspended temporarily due to market events that made coverage impracticable or to comply with applicable regulations and/or firm policies in certain circumstances including where the Investment Bank of Barclays Bank PLC is acting in an advisory capacity in a merger or strategic transaction involving the company.

#### **Industry View**

**Positive** - industry coverage universe fundamentals/valuations are improving.

**Neutral** - industry coverage universe fundamentals/valuations are steady, neither improving nor deteriorating.

**Negative** - industry coverage universe fundamentals/valuations are deteriorating.

Below is the list of companies that constitute the "industry coverage universe":

#### **U.S. Internet**

|                              |                        |                                |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Airbnb Inc. (ABNB)           | Alphabet Inc. (GOOGL)  | Amazon.com, Inc. (AMZN)        |
| Booking Holdings Inc. (BKNG) | Chewy, Inc. (CHWY)     | DoorDash, Inc. (DASH)          |
| Duolingo, Inc. (DUOL)        | eBay, Inc. (EBAY)      | Ethos Technologies Inc. (LIFE) |
| Etsy Inc (ETSY)              | Expedia Inc. (EXPE)    | Liftoff Mobile, Inc. (LFTO)    |
| Lyft, Inc. (LYFT)            | Maplebear, Inc. (CART) | Match Group, Inc. (MTCH)       |

Meta Platforms, Inc. (META)  
Shopify (SHOP)  
Uber Technologies Inc. (UBER)

Pinterest, Inc. (PINS)  
Snap, Inc (SNAP)

Roblox Corporation (RBLX)  
Tripadvisor Inc. (TRIP)

### **Distribution of Ratings:**

Barclays Equity Research has 1786 companies under coverage.

52% have been assigned an Overweight rating which, for purposes of mandatory regulatory disclosures, is classified as a Buy rating; 45% of companies with this rating are investment banking clients of the Firm; 65% of the issuers with this rating have received financial services from the Firm.

33% have been assigned an Equal Weight rating which, for purposes of mandatory regulatory disclosures, is classified as a Hold rating; 38% of companies with this rating are investment banking clients of the Firm; 59% of the issuers with this rating have received financial services from the Firm.

14% have been assigned an Underweight rating which, for purposes of mandatory regulatory disclosures, is classified as a Sell rating; 32% of companies with this rating are investment banking clients of the Firm; 57% of the issuers with this rating have received financial services from the Firm.

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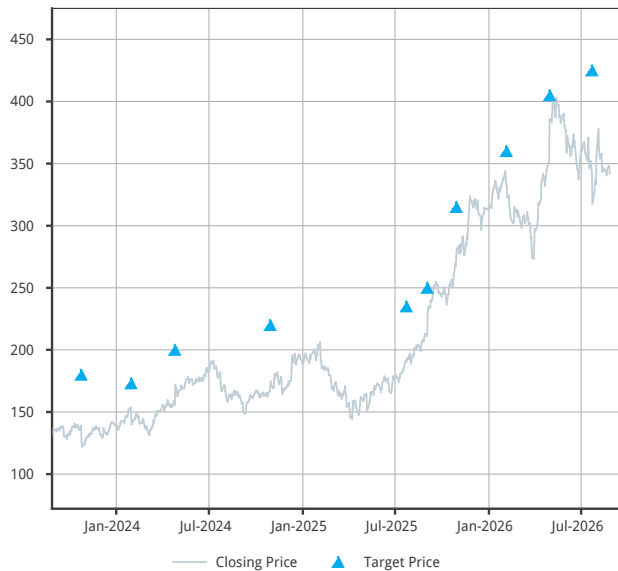
Alphabet Inc. (GOOGL / GOOGL)

Stock Rating: **OVERWEIGHT**

Industry View: **POSITIVE**

Closing Price: **USD 340.65** (27-Aug-2026)

Rating and Price Target Chart (as of 27-Aug-2026)



Source: LSEG Data & Analytics, Bloomberg, Barclays Research

[Link to Barclays Live for interactive charting](#)

| Publication Date | Closing Price* | Rating | Adjusted Price Target | Currency |
|------------------|----------------|--------|-----------------------|----------|
| 22-Jul-2026      | 342.09         |        | 425.00                | USD      |
| 30-Apr-2026      | 349.94         |        | 405.00                | USD      |
| 04-Feb-2026      | 333.04         |        | 360.00                | USD      |
| 29-Oct-2025      | 274.57         |        | 315.00                | USD      |
| 02-Sep-2025      | 212.91         |        | 250.00                | USD      |
| 23-Jul-2025      | 190.23         |        | 235.00                | USD      |
| 29-Oct-2024      | 169.68         |        | 220.00                | USD      |
| 25-Apr-2024      | 156.00         |        | 200.00                | USD      |
| 30-Jan-2024      | 151.46         |        | 173.00                | USD      |
| 24-Oct-2023      | 138.81         |        | 180.00                | USD      |

On 27-Aug-2023, prior to any intra-day change that may have been published, the rating for this security was Overweight, and the adjusted price target was 200.00 USD.

Source: Bloomberg, Barclays Research

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**Valuation Methodology:** Our \$425 price target is based on an average of 25x EPS and 15x EBITDA multiples on our FY27E estimates.

**Risks which May Impede the Achievement of the Barclays Research Valuation and Price Target:** Increasing competition and regulatory issues could cause multiple compression and downward estimate revisions, while continued innovation, successful product launches and an uptick in GCP adoption could cause upside to our current estimates.

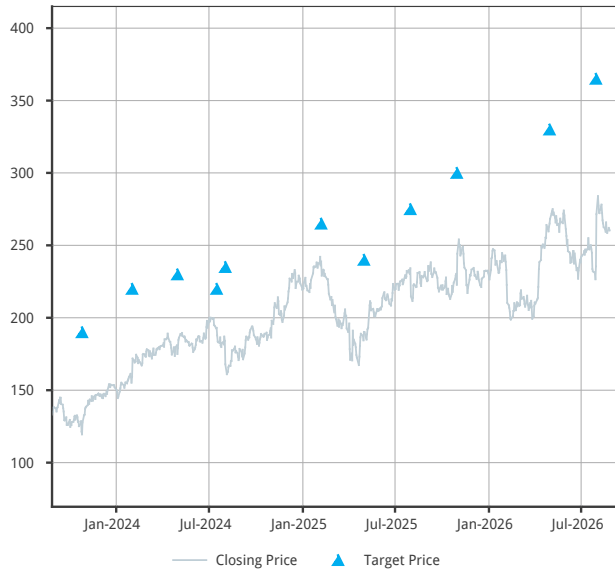
## Amazon.com, Inc. (AMZN / AMZN)

Stock Rating: **OVERWEIGHT**

Industry View: **POSITIVE**

Closing Price: **USD 256.26** (27-Aug-2026)

### Rating and Price Target Chart (as of 27-Aug-2026)



Source: LSEG Data & Analytics, Bloomberg, Barclays Research

[Link to Barclays Live for interactive charting](#)

| Publication Date | Closing Price* | Rating | Adjusted Price Target | Currency |
|------------------|----------------|--------|-----------------------|----------|
| 30-Jul-2026      | 235.50         |        | 365.00                | USD      |
| 30-Apr-2026      | 263.04         |        | 330.00                | USD      |
| 30-Oct-2025      | 222.86         |        | 300.00                | USD      |
| 31-Jul-2025      | 234.11         |        | 275.00                | USD      |
| 01-May-2025      | 190.20         |        | 240.00                | USD      |
| 06-Feb-2025      | 238.83         |        | 265.00                | USD      |
| 02-Aug-2024      | 184.07         |        | 235.00                | USD      |
| 16-Jul-2024      | 192.72         |        | 220.00                | USD      |
| 30-Apr-2024      | 175.00         |        | 230.00                | USD      |
| 01-Feb-2024      | 159.28         |        | 220.00                | USD      |
| 26-Oct-2023      | 119.57         |        | 190.00                | USD      |

On 27-Aug-2023, prior to any intra-day change that may have been published, the rating for this security was Overweight, and the adjusted price target was 180.00 USD.

Source: Bloomberg, Barclays Research

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**Valuation Methodology:** We value shares of AMZN using a sum-of-the-parts methodology for its retail and AWS businesses. Our valuation of AMZN's retail business is based on a 20x EBITDA multiple using a blend of our FY27/28 estimates; while we value AWS using a 6x multiple on a blend of our FY27/28 revenue estimates. Our resulting price target is \$365.

**Risks which May Impede the Achievement of the Barclays Research Valuation and Price Target:** Downside risks in the short term that could negatively impact our model and consensus estimates include 1) greater-than-expected slowdown in AWS against the weak macro backdrop, and hence lower-than-expected OI margins, over a more drawn-out period; 2) further erosion in consumer spending and a persistent input/wage cost inflation could pressure the Retail business. Longer-term risks include the highly competitive ecommerce landscape, increasing shipping costs from same and next-day delivery, which could be a drag on margins, security breaches or frequent downtime in the AWS business, which could slow down public cloud adoption, or execution missteps that could slow growth of the retail business.

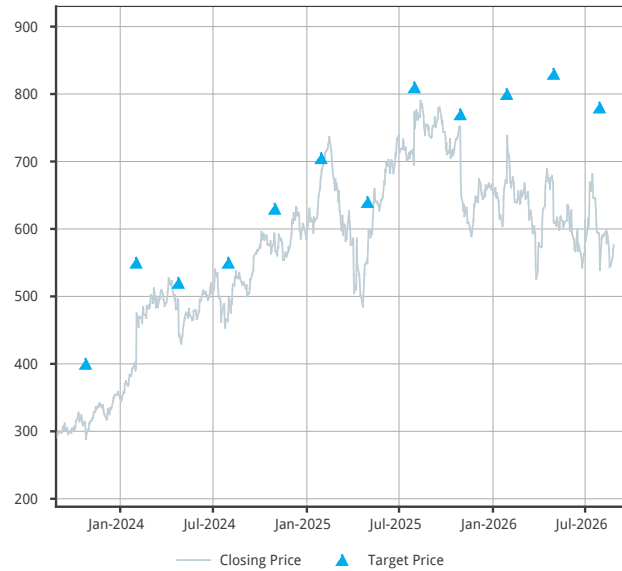
Meta Platforms, Inc. (META / META)

Stock Rating: **OVERWEIGHT**

Industry View: **POSITIVE**

Closing Price: **USD 571.10** (27-Aug-2026)

Rating and Price Target Chart (as of 27-Aug-2026)



Source: LSEG Data & Analytics, Bloomberg, Barclays Research

[Link to Barclays Live for interactive charting](#)

| Publication Date | Closing Price* | Rating | Adjusted Price Target | Currency |
|------------------|----------------|--------|-----------------------|----------|
| 29-Jul-2026      | 585.61         |        | 780.00                | USD      |
| 30-Apr-2026      | 669.12         |        | 830.00                | USD      |
| 28-Jan-2026      | 668.73         |        | 800.00                | USD      |
| 29-Oct-2025      | 751.67         |        | 770.00                | USD      |
| 31-Jul-2025      | 695.21         |        | 810.00                | USD      |
| 30-Apr-2025      | 549.00         |        | 640.00                | USD      |
| 29-Jan-2025      | 676.49         |        | 705.00                | USD      |
| 30-Oct-2024      | 591.80         |        | 630.00                | USD      |
| 31-Jul-2024      | 474.83         |        | 550.00                | USD      |
| 24-Apr-2024      | 493.50         |        | 520.00                | USD      |
| 01-Feb-2024      | 394.78         |        | 550.00                | USD      |
| 25-Oct-2023      | 299.53         |        | 400.00                | USD      |

On 27-Aug-2023, prior to any intra-day change that may have been published, the rating for this security was Overweight, and the adjusted price target was 410.00 USD.

Source: Bloomberg, Barclays Research

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**Valuation Methodology:** Our \$780 price target is based on an average of 25x EPS and 12x EBITDA on our FY27E estimates.

**Risks which May Impede the Achievement of the Barclays Research Valuation and Price Target:** We believe upside risk exists from FB's innovative products which could drive higher than expected engagement, investor concerns around ad load which could prove to be overblown, and incremental revenue from FB Messenger and WhatsApp. Downside risk could arise from a slowdown in US/Europe, cannibalization of ad revenue from video, and increasing competition.

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