

Bank of America

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No tricks, just a mixed bag of treats this week: small and mid-sized business health, child care, insurance payments and quantum computing.

Small and mid-sized businesses entered Q3 in good spirits, though some logistical challenges are lurking beneath the surface. Bank of America business account data shows profitability growth was up across both groups, with nearly half of estimated tariff payments having been refunded by September. Logistics spending growth per client was four times higher for small than mid-sized firms, while distribution and inventory transaction growth has outpaced spending since spring 2025. Meanwhile, trucking capacity has tightened amid constrained driver availability, pushing freight rates higher. These pressures have also contributed to strong transportation sector payroll growth, particularly among mid-sized businesses. Read publication: [Business Checkpoint: Looking into the logistics](#).

Candy isn't the only thing taking a bite out of household budgets this October. Child care costs continue to weigh on many families. Bank of America payments data shows more households are paying over \$2,000 a month for care, suggesting affordability pressures are increasingly concentrated among those with the highest expenses. Costs also vary across the country: Nashville and Jacksonville, FL saw the fastest year-over-year (YoY) growth among major metros, while NYC and Washington, DC posted the biggest declines. Meanwhile, child care employment fell 0.7% YoY in September, suggesting provider capacity remains under pressure, with potential implications for household finances and labor force participation. Read publication: [Kicking and screaming: Child care costs persist](#).

This spooky season comes with a welcome twist: insurance payment growth has slowed considerably. Bank of America payments data shows median auto, homeowners and renters insurance payments rose just 1% YoY in 2026, a sharp slowdown from 6% in 2025 and roughly 12% in 2024. But not everyone is seeing the same relief: Gen Z continues to experience nearly 6% growth, versus 1% to 2% for other generations. Payments rose nearly 1.5% among higher-income households but edged lower for lower-income households. Lower accident rates, easing vehicle prices and softer major-purchase growth may be helping reduce cost pressures, but geography remains a dividing line. Florida metros saw roughly 7% to 8% declines, whereas California and several Northeastern metros continued to see relatively strong increases. Read publication: [Insurance costs hit the brakes](#).

Forget ghosts and ghouls: some of October's most mind-bending ideas can be found in the world of quantum computing. Unlike traditional computers, quantum computers use qubits and the laws of quantum mechanics to tackle complex problems, with potential applications spanning financial services, AI, healthcare and energy. Qubits can process information in unique ways, thanks to properties like superposition and entanglement, but they're also extremely sensitive, making reliability one of quantum computing's biggest hurdles. Read publication: [Quantum dictionary, part 1: Decoding the fundamentals](#).

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