Meta Q3 2026: Infrastructure Commitments Expand, Hardware Investment Accelerates

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Meta Platforms · Digital advertising and AI infrastructure · Q3 FY2026 (calendar year), July 1-September 30, 2026 · Results released October 21, 2026 · Compared with Q3 2025 and Q2 2026

1. Operational summary

Meta is running its AI buildout on two tracks at once. It keeps adding servers and network equipment to its own data centers, and it also buys compute from third-party cloud providers alongside higher third-party cloud spending. Management is also trying to get more work out of the capacity already installed: it reports an achieved cut of more than 80% in per-unit content-processing costs and has set a target to improve the compute cost efficiency of its Muse agent by more than tenfold over the next year. In consumer hardware, Reality Labs revenue is moving away from Meta Quest headsets toward AI glasses, and Mark Zuckerberg said Meta’s approach is now to ship new VR devices only when it has major breakthroughs.

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