Bet on Explosive AI-Driven Growth

A bet on near-term explosive AI-driven growth: whether U.S. real GDP per capita will grow by at least 15% within a single year (measured relative to prior peak) by the end of 2033. Agreed on X, 15–16 August 2026. This document summarizes the agreed terms.

1. Parties and stakes

Fast-growth side (wins if the growth condition in Section 2 is met):

- William MacAskill https://www.williammacaskill.com/ — $10,000
- Samuel Albanie https://samuelalbanie.com/ — $70,000
- Tom Cohen https://x.com/tomcohen — $25,000
- Jan Kulveit https://boundedlyrational.substack.com/ — $10,000
- **Total: $115,000**

No-fast-growth side (wins otherwise):

- Benjamin Moll http://benjaminmoll.com/ — $40,000
- Alex Imas https://www.aleximas.com/ — $100,000
- Andrew Ho https://andrewho.xyz/ — $200,000
- Robin Hanson http://hanson.gmu.edu/ — $10,000
- Philippe Lemoine https://www.philippelemoine.com/ — $10,000
- Sasha Kaletsky https://x.com/SashaKaletsky — $60,000
- Gabriel Unger https://www.gabrielunger.com/ — $40,000
- **Total: $460,000**

Odds: 4:1 — every $1 staked by the fast-growth side is matched by $4 from the no-fast-growth side. Implied probability of the fast-growth scenario: 20%.

2. Resolution criterion

The fast-growth side wins if there is any quarter Q, up to and including 2033Q4, such that U.S. real GDP per capita in Q is at least 15% higher than the **previous peak**, defined as the highest quarterly real GDP per capita recorded in any quarter up to and including Q−4 (i.e., as of one year before Q). **Otherwise the no-fast-growth side wins.**

- **Data series:** the official BEA measure — "Real gross domestic product per capita," U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, NIPA Table 7.1 (series A939RX; quarterly, seasonally adjusted). "Real" means inflation-adjusted: nominal GDP deflated using the BEA's chain-type GDP price index (the GDP deflator), currently expressed in chained 2017 dollars. The series is currently available on FRED: https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/A939RX0Q048SBEA
- **Peak-relative measurement:** growth is measured relative to the previous all-time peak, not merely the year-earlier quarter. This excludes "recession rebound" base effects (e.g., a post-Covid-style bounce-back after a deep recession would not count).
- **Per capita = humans only:** the population denominator counts human beings only. If official statistics ever count AI systems in the population, the bet is nevertheless resolved using the human population.
- **When the bet settles:** the fast-growth side wins — and the bet settles immediately — as

soon as any BEA release shows a qualifying fast-growth quarter (e.g., if 2030Q2 data meets the condition, the bet settles in 2030). If no qualifying quarter has appeared by the time BEA first publishes its 2033Q4 estimate (expected early 2034), the no-fast-growth side wins at that point. Close calls: if a release shows peak-relative growth between 14.5% and 15.5%, the bet instead relies on BEA's third estimate for that quarter — including for the final 2033Q4 determination. Once settled, later data revisions do not reopen the bet. If the result is disputed or ambiguous (e.g. BEA abandons the series) the bet will be resolved by the decision of a neutral third-party arbiter to be chosen later.

3. Payment

The bet consists of eight direct pairwise bets, each at 4:1: (1) William MacAskill vs. Benjamin Moll ($10,000 against $40,000), (2) Samuel Albanie vs. Andrew Ho ($25,000 against $100,000), (3) Tom Cohen vs. Andrew Ho ($25,000 against $100,000), (4) Samuel Albanie vs. Alex Imas ($25,000 against $100,000), (5) Samuel Albanie vs. Robin Hanson ($2,500 against $10,000), (6) Jan Kulveit vs. Gabriel Unger ($10,000 against $40,000), (7) Samuel Albanie vs. Philippe Lemoine ($2,500 against $10,000), (8) Samuel Albanie vs. Sasha Kaletsky ($15,000 against $60,000). All payments are made directly within these pairs:

- **If the fast-growth side wins:** Benjamin pays William $40,000; Andrew pays Samuel $100,000 and Tom $100,000; Alex pays Samuel $100,000; Robin pays Samuel $10,000; Philippe pays Samuel $10,000; Sasha pays Samuel $60,000; Gabriel pays Jan $40,000.
- **If the no-fast-growth side wins:** William pays Benjamin $10,000; Samuel pays Andrew $25,000, Alex $25,000, Robin $2,500, Philippe $2,500 and Sasha $15,000; Tom pays Andrew $25,000; Jan pays Gabriel $10,000.
- **Inflation adjustment:** all amounts are in August 2026 dollars, indexed to the CPI-U, the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (All Items, U.S. City Average, not seasonally adjusted; Bureau of Labor Statistics series CUUR0000SA0). Amounts actually paid are adjusted for CPI-U inflation between August 2026 and the settlement date. The series is available on FRED: https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CPIAUCNS
- **Form of payment:** Moll, Albanie, Ho, Cohen, Imas, Kulveit, Hanson, Lemoine, Kaletsky and Unger receive cash. If MacAskill wins, then Moll will direct $40,000 to a charity he chooses that works in AI safety and governance, existential risk mitigation (e.g. Effective Altruism Funds' Transformative AI Fund, Giving What We Can's Risks and Resilience Fund, METR, Redwood Research).
- **No escrow:** no lock-up or escrow; the bet is an honor commitment backed by reputation.

4. Record

Key posts on X:

- Original proposal (Ben Moll, 14 Aug 2026): https://x.com/ben_moll/status/2088288786903945551
- MacAskill's proposed terms (14 Aug 2026): https://x.com/willmacaskill/status/2088345563154780639
- Peak-relative ("recession rebound") clause (15 Aug 2026): https://x.com/ben_moll/status/2088517758799544420
- "Per capita = humans only" clause (15 Aug 2026):

https://x.com/willmacaskill/status/2088694232869396616

- Final agreement — peak-relative operationalisation at 1:4 odds (15 Aug 2026): https://x.com/ben_moll/status/2088734564613079071