Mastercard Inc / MA

Equity | Generated Sep 21, 2026 11:32 PM EDT

Current price	Daily move	Bid / Ask	Previous close
$567.00	+1.76 +0.31%	$565.00/$571.35	$565.24

Market	NYSE
Industry	Financial Services
Market data as of	Sep 21, 2026 11:32 PM EDT

JW Intelligence Report

Complete | 3 of 3 sections | Sep 21, 2026 6:50 PM EDT

JW Rank	Rank label	Confidence	IV percentile
59.0 / 100	Balanced	high	17 / 100

Model reference	Upside scenario	Risk reference	Wheel strategy fit
$560.00	$585.00	$550.00	57 / 100

Options stance	bullish
Tail-risk safety	32 / 100
JW Rank data coverage / as of	100.0% | Sep 21, 2026 6:50 PM EDT

Key insight

MA Option Market Implies Upside Potential Despite Recent Pullback

Market read

The MA option market suggests bullish sentiment despite recent price weakness. While short-term technical indicators are mixed, the underlying trend remains positive with prices holding above key support levels and a golden cross forming on longer-term moving averages. The term structure of implied volatility is relatively flat, indicating balanced expectations for future price movements. Strong earnings results, growth in value-added services, and AI-driven payments initiatives contribute to the overall bullish outlook.

Strategy context

MA's option market reflects a cautious but constructive view. Recent dip buying interest and analyst upgrades suggest investors see MA as a core holding rather than a momentum trade.

JW AI conclusions

Short- and medium-term model interpretation

AI context bias	**Mixed**
AI analysis updated	**Sep 21, 2026 1:51 PM EDT**

Short-term scenario

Cautious accumulate on weakness; mixed short-term technicals and legal overhang suggest waiting for support hold rather than chasing. Potential bounce if $556-562 holds.

Three-month outlook

Moderately constructive toward $600-650 range, supported by double-digit revenue/EPS growth, value-added services momentum, AI/agentic payments initiatives, and analyst targets. Next earnings expected Oct 29, 2026. Key uncertainties include ongoing antitrust/legal risks around interchange fees (potential delays or extra costs), macroeconomic sensitivity of payment volumes, competition from real-time payments and stablecoins, and premium valuation (some DCF analyses flag overvaluation). Legal resolution or stronger AI traction could drive upside; adverse ruling or volume slowdown would pressure the stock.

Market sentiment

Generally constructive; investors highlight wide-moat duopoly with Visa, high ROIC (~48%), services expansion, AI payments positioning, and quality compounding. Some view current valuation as a relative discount vs history (e.g., P/FCF, forward P/E). Mentions of Ackman ownership and dip-buying interest. Limited recent negativity; posts treat MA as a core quality holding rather than a momentum trade.

Supporting evidence

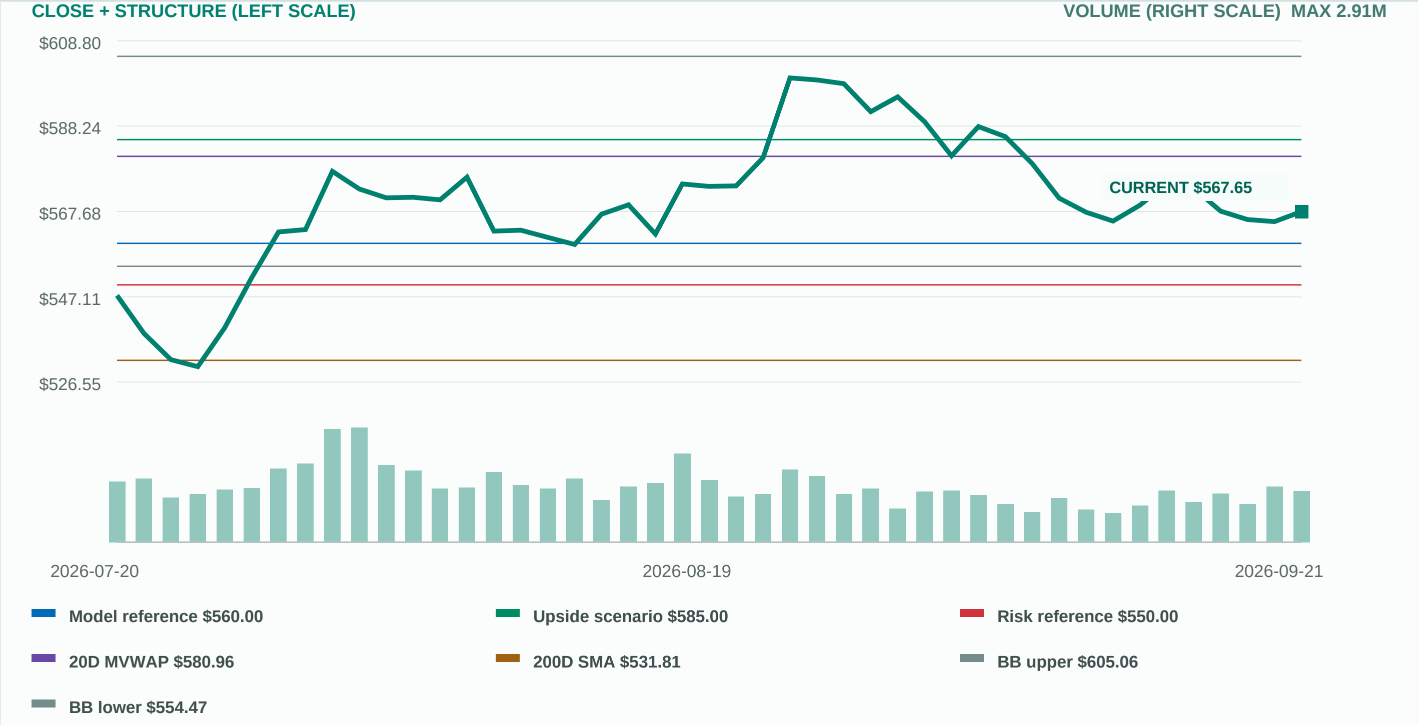
Implied volatility is elevated but not excessively so, suggesting a balance between bullish and bearish sentiment. | The term structure of implied volatility is flat, indicating balanced expectations for future price movements. | Strong earnings results and growth in value-added services support the bullish outlook. | Analyst consensus remains strongly positive with an average target price above current levels.

Risk watch

Ongoing antitrust/legal risks around interchange fees could pressure the stock if unfavorable rulings occur.

Enhanced price structure

45 trading days with volume, model levels and current technical reference bands



45 complete trading-session observations

JW Rank factors

Score, source coverage and interpretation for each decision factor

JW RANK FACTOR PROFILE	COVERAGE	0 – 50 – 100
Liquidity	100.0%	92.7
Strategy Fit	100.0%	57.0
Technical Trend	100.0%	62.1
Market Tail Risk	100.0%	32.0
Fundamental Quality	100.0%	77.2
Volatility Pressure	100.0%	41.4

Decision summary

Primary model reads before the detailed indicator appendix

Momentum	Institutional flow	Structure	Volatility
strong_bull	**Below MVWAP**	**Above 200D trend**	**low**

Decision indicators

Detailed momentum, institutional and structural observations

Momentum kinematics

Direction, velocity and oscillator state

Current read	**STRONG BULL | neutral | MACD decelerating**
Trend signal	**STRONG BULL**
RSI signal	**neutral**
RSI (7 / 14 / 21)	**40.50 / 46.48 / 50.55**
RSI velocity	**0.16**
MACD line / signal / histogram	**-0.58 / - / 2.16**
MACD acceleration	**-0.59**
Stochastic K / D	**11.96 / 12.66**

Institutional footprints

Volume-weighted cost, price location and flow

Current read	**Below institutional MVWAP | Distribution bias**
Institutional flow	**-0.52**
20-day MVWAP	**$580.96**
Price vs 20-day MVWAP	**-2.40%**
Daily reference VWAP	**$566.47**
Price vs daily reference	**+0.09%**
Volume	**1.30M**

Structural context

Long-term trend and volatility boundaries

Current read	**Above 200-day trend | Negative macro velocity**
Macro velocity	**-0.49**
20-day / 200-day SMA	**$579.76 / $531.81**
Bollinger range	**$554.47 - $605.06**
Bollinger position	**0.261**

Options and volatility intelligence

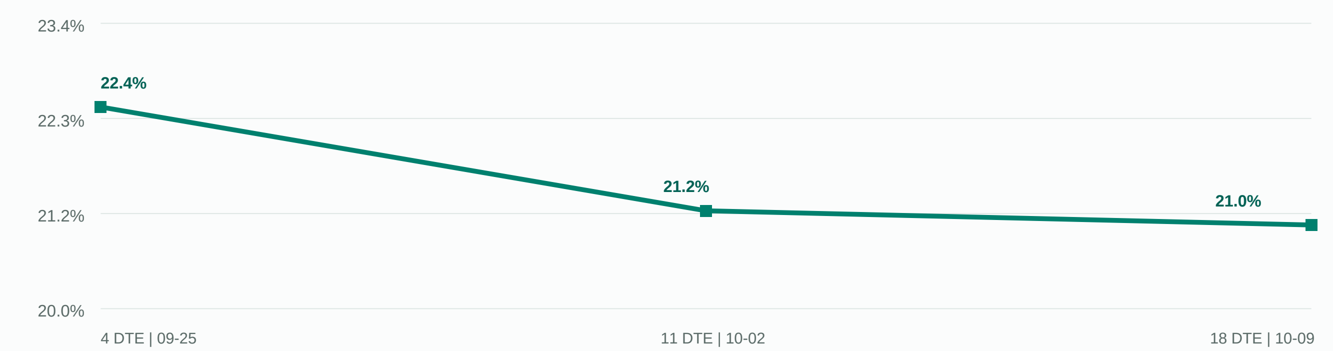
Structure, premium conditions and principal risks

IV rank	IV percentile	VVIX	SKEW
27 / 100	16 / 100	86.00	148.10

Market regime	**DANGER ZONE**
Tail-risk regime	**NORMAL TAIL RISK**
Term structure	**flat**
Term slope	**-1.41 pts**
Skew read	**balanced**
Liquidity / quote coverage	**100.0%**
Options Snapshot IV sources	**ATM: option chain | Rank/percentile: fundamentals**
Options Snapshot IV observed at	**Sep 21, 2026 2:38 PM EDT**
Options data quality	**Coverage 88.9%**

Option term structure

ATM implied-volatility curve by days to expiration



Downward-sloping ATM volatility term structure

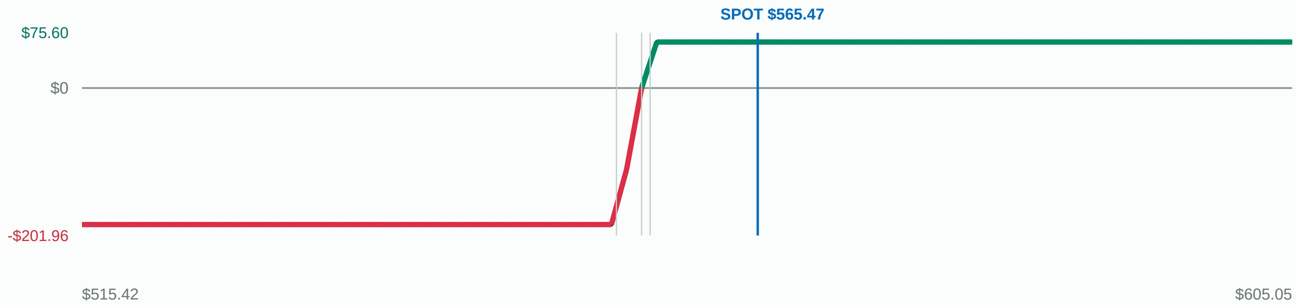
EXPIRATION	DTE	ATM IV	STATE
2026-09-25	4	22.4%	-
2026-10-02	11	21.2%	-
2026-10-09	18	21.0%	-

Reference spread payoff

Illustrative expiry profit/loss per one-lot structure, including quoted net credit

Bull Put Spread reference

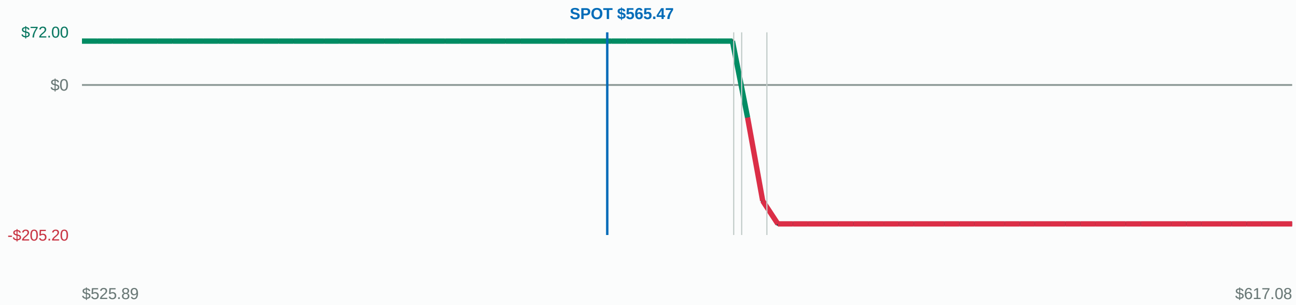
Short $557.50 | Long $555.00 | Width $2.50 | Net credit $0.63



Max profit $63.00 | Max loss -$187.00 | Break-even $556.87 | Per contract at expiry

Bear Call Spread reference

Short $575.00 | Long $577.50 | Width $2.50 | Net credit $0.60



Max profit $60.00 | Max loss -$190.00 | Break-even $575.60 | Per contract at expiry

Event and tail-risk context

Known event windows and broad volatility conditions

Next earnings date	**2026-10-29**
Earnings IV-crush risk	**NOT MEASURED**
VIX	**15.04**
VVIX	**86.00**
SKEW index	**148.10**
Observation confidence	**high**
Option quote quality	**reliable**
Contracts observed	**146**

Event and tail-risk context (continued)

Known event windows and broad volatility conditions

FIELD	VALUE
Contracts with quotes	**146**

Strategy fit

Generalized structure fit; not a personalized recommendation

Market structure

The MA option market suggests bullish sentiment despite recent price weakness. While short-term technical indicators are mixed, the underlying trend remains positive with prices holding above key support levels and a golden cross forming on longer-term moving averages. The term structure of implied volatility is relatively flat, indicating balanced expectations for future price movements. Strong earnings results, growth in value-added services, and AI-driven payments initiatives contribute to the overall bullish outlook.

Options context

MA Option Market Implies Upside Potential Despite Recent Pullback

Wheel context

MA's option market reflects a cautious but constructive view. Recent dip buying interest and analyst upgrades suggest investors see MA as a core holding rather than a momentum trade.

Observed evidence

Implied volatility is elevated but not excessively so, suggesting a balance between bullish and bearish sentiment. | The term structure of implied volatility is flat, indicating balanced expectations for future price movements. | Strong earnings results and growth in value-added services support the bullish outlook. | Analyst consensus remains strongly positive with an average target price above current levels.

Principal risks to monitor

Ongoing antitrust/legal risks around interchange fees could pressure the stock if unfavorable rulings occur.

Fundamentals and events

Business quality, valuation and upcoming event context

Market capitalization **$495.16B**	P/E (TTM) **30.46**
ROE **232.5%**	Revenue growth **13.8%**
EPS growth **17.3%**	Operating margin **58.3%**
Net profit margin **46.3%**	Gross margin **-**
Free cash flow CAGR **20.3%**	Debt / equity **2.46**
Dividend yield **0.6%**	Beta **0.81**
52-week range **$464.52 - $601.62**	

Company or fund profile

Issuer identity and classification

Name **Mastercard Inc**	Market **NYSE**
Industry **Financial Services**	Country **US**
Currency **USD**	IPO date **2006-05-25**
Shares outstanding **883.58M**	52-week return **-3.6%**
Book value per share **$6.39**	Revenue per share **$39.73**

Website	**mastercard.us**

Latest strategy observation

Most recent shared general market signal available when this report was generated

MA Covered Call signal

Sep 21, 2026 11:04 AM EDT

Covered Call | 2026-10-02

At signal $564.37 | Current $567.00

SHORT **Option $560.00 B $10.50 / A $12.00**

High turnover | CR $11.25

Complete technical details

Full supporting indicator set used by the symbol detail experience

Volatility and options market

Price movement and premium conditions

ATR	**$8.75**
ATR as % of price	**1.5%**
Volatility environment	**low**
Current IV	**20.4%**
IV rank	**27 / 100**
IV percentile	**17 / 100**
Technical Snapshot IV source	**Private fundamentals snapshot**
Technical Snapshot IV observed at	**Sep 21, 2026 7:32 PM EDT**

Technical health and risk radar

Derived indicator health and event context

Overall health	**86 / 100**
Trend health	**92 / 100**
Momentum health	**85 / 100**
Volatility health	**87 / 100**
Structure health	**76 / 100**
Earnings risk / date	**low | 2026-10-29**
Macro risk	**unknown**
Volatility risk	**low**
Structure risk	**low**

Structural indicator levels

Moving averages, volatility bands and observed trading ranges

SMA (20 / 50 / 200)	**$579.76 / $567.08 / $531.81**
EMA (9 / 21)	**$569.90 / $572.61**
Bollinger upper / middle / lower	**$605.06 / $579.76 / $554.47**

Structural indicator levels (continued)

Moving averages, volatility bands and observed trading ranges

FIELD	VALUE
Bollinger %B	**0.261**
True high / low	**$569.39 / $562.36**
5-day true high / low	**$574.42 / $561.90**

Three-day indicator history

Short-horizon change and the underlying three-session observations

INDICATOR	3-DAY CHANGE	SESSION 1 / 2 / 3
SMA20	-0.493	**-**
SMA50	0.859	**-**
MVWAP20	-0.523	**-**
MACD	-0.590	**-**
RSI	0.160	**-**
Volume	23018.670	**-**
ATR	-0.188	**-**
T1	-	**-0.26 / 581.65 / 568.43 / 561.90**
T2	-	**0.40 / 582.33 / 569.86 / 564.07**
T3	-	**1.19 / 582.52 / 573.27 / 565.32**

Detailed options evidence

Supporting option-chain, execution and data-quality observations

Underlying price at observation	**$565.47**
Options Snapshot IV sources	**ATM: option chain | Rank/percentile: fundamentals**
Options Snapshot IV observed at	**Sep 21, 2026 2:38 PM EDT**
Options data coverage	**88.9%**
SKEW regime	**HIGH TAIL RISK SKEW**
VVIX regime	**VVIX FALLING**
Front expiration / DTE	**2026-09-25 | 4 DTE**
Front at-the-money IV	**22.4%**
25-delta skew	**1.10**
Put / Call 25-delta	**$557.50 Delta -0.269 / $575.00 Delta 0.248**
Median option bid/ask spread	**18.5%**
Bid/ask spread	**-**
Contracts observed / quoted	**146 / 146**

Price context

Last Price: 565.47 | Bid: 565.43 | Ask: 565.51 | Previous Close: 565.24 | Change: 0.23 | Daily change: 0.04% | Update Time: 2026-09-21T14:38:58.883143-04:00 | Latest History Date: 2026-09-21 | Latest History Price: 565.47

Historical context

Trading-day sample: 60 sessions | First Date: 2026-06-26 | Latest Date: 2026-09-21 | Latest Price: 565.47 | Max Drawdown 60d Percent: -5.77%

Fundamental context

Current Iv Percent: 20.33% | Iv Rank: 26.56 | Iv Percentile: 16.33 | Next Earnings Date: 2026-10-29 | Ex Dividend Date: 2026-07-08

Important disclosures

Scope, limitations, risk and permitted interpretation

General market information only

This report is general quantitative research and market commentary. It is not investment, legal, tax or accounting advice; it is not an offer, solicitation, order, recommendation or promise of performance. It does not consider any reader's holdings, objectives, financial circumstances, risk tolerance or suitability.

Model observations - not instructions

JW Rank, strategy fit, model reference, upside scenario and risk reference levels are model observations. They are not entries, price targets, stops, position sizes or instructions to buy, sell, open, close or hold a security or option. A higher score does not imply lower risk or a guaranteed favorable outcome.

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Prices, volumes, fundamentals, options data, news-derived context and model outputs reflect the timestamps shown and may be delayed, incomplete, revised or inaccurate. AI-generated explanations can omit context or produce errors. Models can fail when volatility, liquidity, correlations or market regimes change.

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Options are complex and are not suitable for all investors. They may involve total or substantial loss, assignment, early exercise, margin calls, liquidity and spread risk, volatility and Greek exposure, event risk, regime shifts and expiration risk. Multi-leg positions may not execute or close at modeled prices.

Investor responsibility and ODD

Use current market information, assess suitability independently and consult qualified professionals when appropriate. Before trading listed options, read Characteristics and Risks of Standardized Options (ODD) available from the Options Clearing Corporation at theocc.com.

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Reference documents

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