AW26

FORECUT

Colour forecast

Inspiration and design



Autumn/Winter 2026, in stores now. In stores Aug 2026 – Jan 2027.

24 November 2026

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About this report

The season palette with Pantone TCX and HEX codes, and the colours behind each theme.

Rich, maximal and tactile. Big outerwear, sharp tailoring and heavy embellishment, with 1920s glamour running through evening and footwear.

How to read the stages

Emerging new, test in small quantities

Rising growing, build into the range

Peaking at its height, sell through

Fading moving out, reduce or rework



Inspiration

Power tailoring

Sharp, slick suiting in pinstripes and slate grey, with pointed shoulders, peak lapels and double-breasted fronts. Oxblood accents and polished heels finish the look.

Why now

Return-to-office dressing and a move away from very oversized blazers toward sharper fits.

Seen at

Gucci: Horsebit pumps with sharp suiting; Classic-fit suits (market): Up 44% in market adoption; Double-breasted suits (market): Up 4% year on year; pointed shoulders up 12%

Key pieces

Pinstripe, Peak lapels, Pointed shoulders; sharp pointed shoulders.

19-4110 TCX, #3D4650 and 12-5202 TCX, #D9D4C7

Source: Who What Wear (AW26 trends); Trendalytics, top menswear runway trends FW26



Inspiration

Preppy sport

School and playing-field references: rugby shirts, cricket cables, varsity jackets and oversized statement collars and cuffs.

Why now

Heritage sportswear feels familiar and gift-friendly, and collars and cuffs update basics at low cost.

Seen at

Polo Ralph Lauren: Sporty prep and timeless knitwear; Willy Chavarria: Sports prep on the runway; Statement collars and cuffs: Named a top menswear runway trend

Key pieces

Rugby stripes, Cable knits, Big collars; rugby stripes, short plackets.

19-6050 TCX, #264D3A and 11-0103 TCX, #EFE9DC

Source: Trendalytics, top menswear runway trends FW26; Who What Wear, AW26 trends



Inspiration

Big outerwear

Oversized, protective outerwear: shearling, big fur collars, leather bombers and sculptural cocoon coats.

Why now

Outerwear is a high-value hero category, and leather bombers are growing fast.

Seen at

Acne Studios: Fur accents on outerwear; Leather bombers (market): Up 28% year on year; Harrods menswear edit: Leather jacket as the hero piece

Key pieces

Shearling, Fur trims, Leather; fur and shearling collars.

18-0933 TCX, #7A5A3E and 11-0110 TCX, #EFE1CC

Source: Trendalytics, top menswear runway trends FW26; Harrods, AW26 menswear trends; Who What Wear



Inspiration

Fully loaded

Embellishment moves from evening onto everyday pieces: sequinned jeans, beaded knits, feathers and sheer layers over heavier fabrics.

Why now

Social media rewards texture and shine, and embellishment makes basics feel special.

Key pieces

Sequins, Beadwork, Sheer layers; sequin and chainmail minis.

19-2045 TCX, #A3245F and 13-2806 TCX, #F3C6DA

Source: Who What Wear, AW26 trends (the source describes the trend without naming brands)

Moodboard



Black tailoring with fuchsia accents



Contrast-stitch nylon twill blousons



Corseted tea-length crinoline dresses



Ombré sequin gowns



Suede equestrian jackets



Tone-on-tone embroidered tuxedos



Velvet cape tops

Key colours

Browns and near-blacks take over from black, lit by plum, moss and hot accents of tomato red, cobalt and mustard.

Confirmed by the runways. Each colour is a real Pantone TCX colour; confirm with a physical Pantone book before dyeing.

Core

Chocolate

Pantone 19-1218 TCX Potting Soil
#54392D

The new dark neutral. Coats, tailoring, leather and suede.

Core

Charcoal

Pantone 19-0201 TCX Asphalt
#434447

Softer than black for tailoring and knits; the fastest-growing dark on the runways.

Core

Midnight

Pantone 19-3923 TCX Navy Blazer
#282D3C

A near-black blue for coats and evening.

Core

Cloud white

Pantone 11-4202 TCX Star White
#EFEFE8

Winter whites: knits, shirting and the light partner to every dark.

Seasonal

Plum

Pantone 19-3218 TCX Plum Purple
#51304E

The season's alternative to black and burgundy, in velvet, satin and knit.

Seasonal

Moss

Pantone 18-0220 TCX Mayfly
#65663F

Olive-to-moss greens in tailoring, outerwear and knits.

Accent

Tomato red

Pantone 18-1564 TCX Poinciana
#CA3422

Leather coats, single statement pieces and shoes.

Accent

Mustard

Pantone 15-0751 TCX Lemon Curry
#CDA323

A warm yellow for knits and accessories.

Accent

Cobalt

Pantone 18-3949 TCX Dazzling Blue
#3850A0

Saturated blue for outerwear and shoes.

Accent

Bubblegum

Pantone 14-2311 TCX Prism Pink
#F0A1BF

Soft pink tailoring and knits against browns.

Colour stories

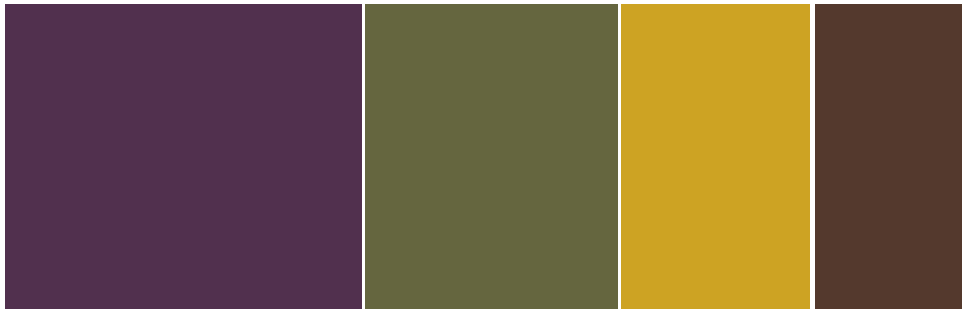


Dark matter

Browns, charcoal and midnight replace head-to-toe black. Tone on tone, with texture doing the work: brushed wool, suede, velvet.

Use for: Coats, tailoring, knitwear, leather goods

Chocolate: Pantone 19-1218 TCX, #54392D
Charcoal: Pantone 19-0201 TCX, #434447
Midnight: Pantone 19-3923 TCX, #282D3C
Cloud white: Pantone 11-4202 TCX, #EFEFE8



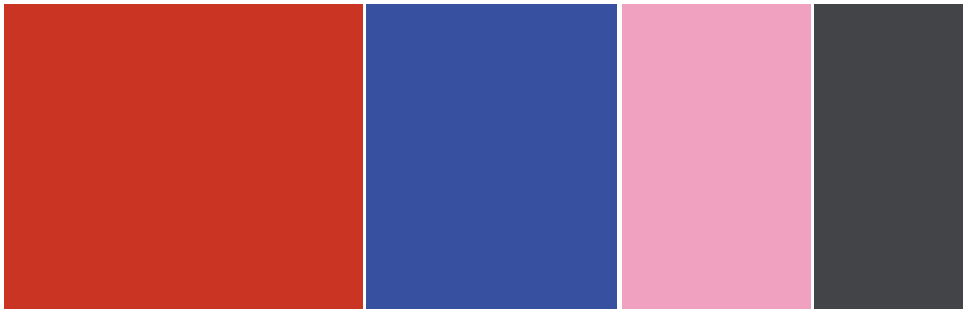
Old masters

Rich, painterly plum and moss with mustard as the light. Grown-up colour for velvet, satin and heavy knits.

Use for: Eveningwear, knits, tailoring

Plum: Pantone 19-3218 TCX, #51304E
Moss: Pantone 18-0220 TCX, #65663F
Mustard: Pantone 15-0751 TCX, #CDA323
Chocolate: Pantone 19-1218 TCX, #54392D

Colour stories



Hot spots

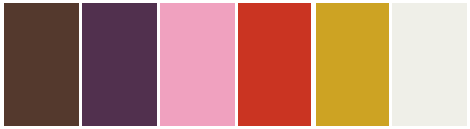
Single saturated pieces against dark neutrals: a tomato-red leather coat, a cobalt shoe, a bubblegum blazer.

Use for: Outerwear, shoes, bags, statement pieces

Tomato red: Pantone 18-1564 TCX, #CA3422
Cobalt: Pantone 18-3949 TCX, #3850A0
Bubblegum: Pantone 14-2311 TCX, #F0A1BF
Charcoal: Pantone 19-0201 TCX, #434447

By department

Womenswear



Chocolate and plum lead, with bubblegum, tomato red and butter-warm mustard as the colour.

Chocolate: 19-1218 TCX, #54392D
Plum: 19-3218 TCX, #51304E
Bubblegum: 14-2311 TCX, #F0A1BF
Tomato red: 18-1564 TCX, #CA3422
Mustard: 15-0751 TCX, #CDA323
Cloud white: 11-4202 TCX, #EFEFE8

Menswear



Charcoal, midnight and chocolate tailoring, moss for outerwear, and a single crimson or cobalt piece.

Charcoal: 19-0201 TCX, #434447
Midnight: 19-3923 TCX, #282D3C
Chocolate: 19-1218 TCX, #54392D
Moss: 18-0220 TCX, #65663F
Crimson: 19-1758 TCX, #A11729
Cobalt: 18-3949 TCX, #3850A0

Kidswear



Checks and colour-blocking in deep navy and cherry, warmed with mustard, moss and a soft mauve.

Navy: 19-3933 TCX, #29304E
Cherry: 18-1659 TCX, #B91228
Mustard: 15-0751 TCX, #CDA323
Moss: 18-0220 TCX, #65663F
Mauve: 16-3310 TCX, #B18EAA
Oatmeal: 13-1008 TCX, #DACCB4

Footwear



Brown suede is the shoe of the season, with bordeaux the strongest accent and cobalt for the brave.

Brown suede: 19-1218 TCX, #54392D
Bordeaux: 19-1724 TCX, #64242E
Butterscotch: 17-1040 TCX, #BE8A4A
Anthracite: 19-4205 TCX, #39373B
Cobalt: 18-3949 TCX, #3850A0
Tomato red: 18-1564 TCX, #CA3422

How we built it

Read from the autumn/winter 2026 shows (January menswear, February and March womenswear) and in-store sell-in. Chocolate was the second most-worn colour on the womenswear runways after black, charcoal and pine green grew the most, and plum, moss, tomato red and mustard were the colours reviewers singled out.

Public sources

- Runway colour share, Fall 2026 womenswear (tfashion): https://tfashion.ai/runway/fw26/colors
- Marie Claire: Fall 2026 colour trends: https://www.marieclaire.com/fashion/fall-2026-color-trends/
- Who What Wear: autumn 2026 colour trends: https://www.whowhatwear.com/fashion/fall/autumn-fashion-colour-trends-2026
- Who What Wear: autumn 2026 shoe colours: https://www.whowhatwear.com/fashion/shoes/autumn-shoe-colour-trends-2026
- Pitti Bimbo 102, AW26 kidswear: https://bimbo.pittimmagine.com/it/news/pitti-bimbo-102-a-top-edition

Key pieces



Black tailoring with fuchsia accents

Womenswear, Tailoring, colour

Black wool and corduroy suiting with fuchsia kept as the only accent colour, never mixed in one outfit; Reserved x Dawid Woliński capsule, Europe, 5 Nov 2026.

Rising



Contrast-stitch nylon twill blousons

Menswear, Outerwear, stitching

Nylon twill blousons in black, navy or khaki where thick contrast topstitching is the design accent; sacai Holiday 2026, Tokyo, from 6 Nov 2026.

Rising



Corseted tea-length crinoline dresses

Womenswear, Dresses, silhouette

Strapless corset bodices over a crinoline-lined petticoat skirt cut to tea length, softened with tulle draped over the shoulders; Vivienne Westwood custom black Chantilly-lace dress for Ariana Grande at the London 'Focker-In-Law' premiere, 18 Nov 2026.

Rising



Ombré sequin gowns

Womenswear, Dresses, embellishment

Long gowns with sequins graded from dense to sparse or light to dark; Elie Saab's dégradé sequins reached the high street in the H&M collaboration launched 22 Oct 2026.

Rising



Suede equestrian jackets

Womenswear, Coats & Jackets, fabric

Structured riding-style jackets in suede with shearling trims, as in Cara Cara's Equestrian capsule (Oct 2026).

Rising



Tone-on-tone embroidered tuxedos

Womenswear, Tailoring, embellishment

Black smoking suits embroidered all over in black, worn as the alternative to a gown; Marian Saud for Débora Plager at the Martín Fierro de Cable awards, Buenos Aires, 12 Nov 2026.

Rising



Velvet cape tops

Womenswear, Tops & Shirts, sleeve

Evening tops with a short cape layer in place of sleeves, in burgundy velvet; Mint Velvet holiday 2026, with Sézane x Lucia Zolea's Angeline cape in the same round-up (18 Nov 2026).

Rising



Asymmetric wrap closures

Womenswear, Coats & Jackets, closure

Off-centre wrap fronts held with a tie.

Rising

Key pieces



Beads and sequins on knits

Womenswear, Knitwear, embellishment

Embellishment moving onto everyday jumpers.

Rising



Belgian loafers

Footwear, Men's Shoes, style

Soft, slipper-like loafers.

Rising



Belted field coats

Menswear, Outerwear, waist

Field coats with a waist belt.

Rising



Belted wrap fronts

Womenswear, Coats & Jackets, closure

Self-fabric tie belts replacing buttons.

Rising



Bermuda suit shorts

Womenswear, Tailoring, length

Tailored shorts worn with blazers.

Rising



Bias-cut velvet

Womenswear, Dresses, cut

Fluid bias-cut velvet in jewel tones.

Rising



Bishop-sleeve knits

Womenswear, Knitwear, sleeve

Full sleeves gathered into long cuffs.

Rising



Brushed cardigan coats

Menswear, Knitwear, fabric

Long brushed cardigans.

Rising

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Sources: Season themes summarise published AW26 runway, retail and trade coverage, including Who What Wear, Harrods and Trendalytics. Colour of the year is Pantone 2026 (Cloud Dancer).

Forecasts are Forecut's own reading of the season and may change as collections and sales data arrive. For your own planning only; please do not resell.