AW26

FORECUT



Knitwear

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

Knit shapes, stitches and yarns for women and men.

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

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

Roaring Twenties

1920s flapper glamour returns. Drop waists, swinging fringe, beading and long pearls lead evening, and the same codes cross into daywear through T-bar heels, velvet and pleated skirts.

Why now

Party-season demand meets nostalgia for glamour. Drop waists are easier to wear than bodycon, which helps them sell beyond evening.

Seen at

Chanel: Fringed silks and beaded sequins; Fendi: Drop-waist dresses and 1920s evening codes; Rabanne: Chainmail and sequin minis

Key pieces

Drop waist, Fringe, T-bar heels; drop waist with pleated skirt.

19-1724 TCX, #5E1F24 and 15-0751 TCX, #C9A227

Source: Who What Wear, Autumn/Winter 2026 trends



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

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

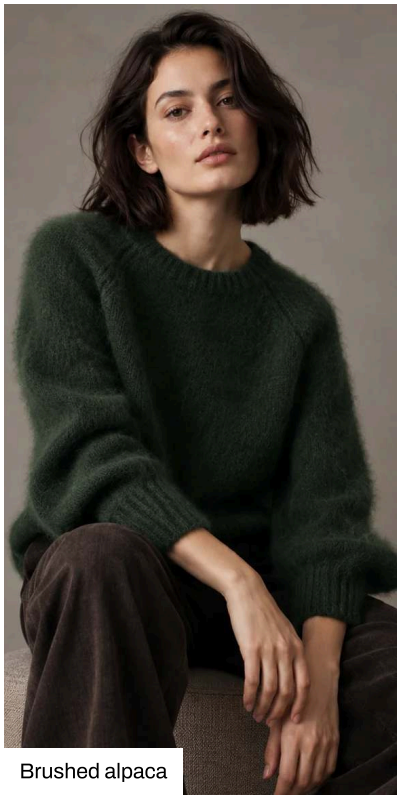
Source: Trendalytics, top menswear runway trends FW26; Harrods, AW26 menswear trends; Who What Wear

Moodboard





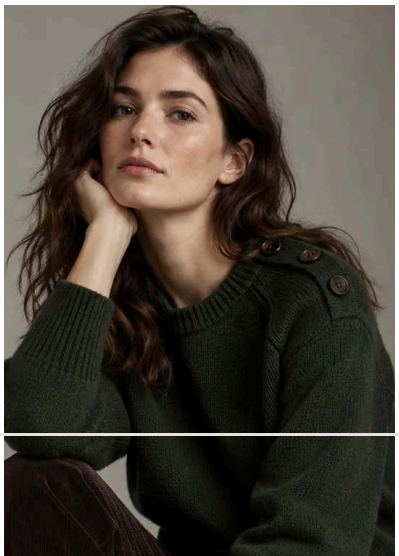
Bishop-sleeve knits



Brushed alpaca



Brushed cardigan coats







Colour

The AW26 palette, with Pantone TCX and HEX codes.



Plum
19-3218 TCX
#51304E



Moss
18-0220 TCX
#65663F



Chocolate
19-1218 TCX
#54392D



Charcoal
19-0201 TCX
#434447



Tomato red
18-1564 TCX
#CA3422



Mustard
15-0751 TCX
#CDA323

Colour by theme



Preppy sport: 19-6050 TCX with 11-0103 TCX, for rugby stripes, short plackets.



Roaring Twenties: 19-1724 TCX with 15-0751 TCX, for drop waist with pleated skirt.



Power tailoring: 19-4110 TCX with 12-5202 TCX, for sharp pointed shoulders.

Key pieces



Beads and sequins on knits

Womenswear, Knitwear, embellishment

Embellishment moving onto everyday jumpers.

Rising



Bishop-sleeve knits

Womenswear, Knitwear, sleeve

Full sleeves gathered into long cuffs.

Rising



Brushed alpaca

Menswear, Knitwear, fabric

Fluffy, brushed surfaces.

Rising



Brushed cardigan coats

Menswear, Knitwear, fabric

Long brushed cardigans.

Rising



Button-shoulder knits

Womenswear, Knitwear, closure

Buttoned tabs along the shoulder.

Rising



Cable fisherman jumpers

Menswear, Knitwear, pattern

Heavy cables on chunky jumpers.

Rising



Cable-front cardigans

Womenswear, Knitwear, pattern

Cables running down cardigan fronts.

Rising



Chunky shawl-collar cardigans

Womenswear, Knitwear, collar

Oversized shawl collars on long cardigans.

Rising

Key pieces



Contrast-tipped knits

Womenswear, Knitwear, trim

Contrast stripes at necks and cuffs.

Rising



Cricket cables with tipping

Womenswear, Knitwear, trim

Cable jumpers with striped V-neck tipping.

Rising



Cricket jumpers

Menswear, Knitwear, trim

Cables with striped tipping.

Rising



Elongated rib cuffs

Womenswear, Knitwear, cuff

Long ribbed cuffs that bunch at the wrist.

Rising



Funnel-neck zip knits

Menswear, Knitwear, closure

Full zips on funnel-neck knits.

Rising



Half-button polo jumpers

Menswear, Knitwear, collar

Jumpers with polo collars and buttons.

Rising



Heavy shawl-collar cardigans

Menswear, Knitwear, collar

Chunky shawl collars.

Rising



Henley knits

Menswear, Knitwear, placket

Buttoned plackets on knits.

Rising

Forecut

Seasonal fashion forecasts and design tools for designers, brands and fashion schools.

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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.