

FRME · NASDAQ · WEEK ENDED 24 JUL 2026

Weekly Investor Report

First Merchants Corporation · Financial Services · Banks - Regional

LATEST CLOSE

43.18 USD

-3.2% latest week

Weekly setup

Mixed setup

The weekly trend is active. Price is 8.2% above the Trend Line and sits at 81.5% of its 52-week range. The latest completed week returned -3.2%, after a -1.1% four-week move. The latest factor snapshot indicates quality is middle-of-the-pack; growth ranks weakly; valuation is neither clearly cheap nor expensive. Options positioning is volatility with 54/100 conviction, while the latest news-sentiment score is 53/100. Near-term considerations: earnings are due in 83d.

Technical setup score 68/100. This score describes the weekly technical setup; the conclusion above also considers fundamentals, positioning, sentiment, and event risk.

LATEST CLOSE

43.18 USD

24 Jul 2026

1W RETURN

-3.2%

latest completed week

4W RETURN

-1.1%

short-term follow-through

12W RETURN

7.8%

quarterly tape

TREND BREADTH

50.0%

26 of 52 weeks active

VOLUME RATIO

1.7x

vs 13-week average

What is working

- The trend backdrop is active with a 17-week active streak.
- Price is above the Trend Line, keeping the weekly tape constructive.
- Price is above Fair Value, showing premium demand versus the model.
- Activity pressure is positive on the latest completed week.

What could go wrong

- 4 reversal markers appear in the recent smart-money tape.

What to watch next

- Price is close to its 52-week high; watch for continuation or exhaustion.
- Trend Line remains the key weekly regime level.
- Activity pressure is the gauge to monitor for confirmation or fade.
- A volume ratio above 1.5x would show stronger participation in the next move.

This week's evidence at a glance

PRICE FOLLOW-THROUGH

-3.2%

Latest completed week; four-week move -1.1%.

INDICATOR STACK

72/78

Trend and activity pressure are weighted against the latest 12-week confirmation window.

TREND BACKDROP

Active

The trend backdrop defines the current weekly regime.

PATIENT CAPITAL

Quiet

Activity-pressure buy-signal status for institutional accumulation timing.

OPTIONS PRESSURE

Volatility

54/100 conviction; expected move 32.6%.

NEWS SENTIMENT

53/100

58 relevant articles in the latest sentiment read.

EVENT RISK

83d

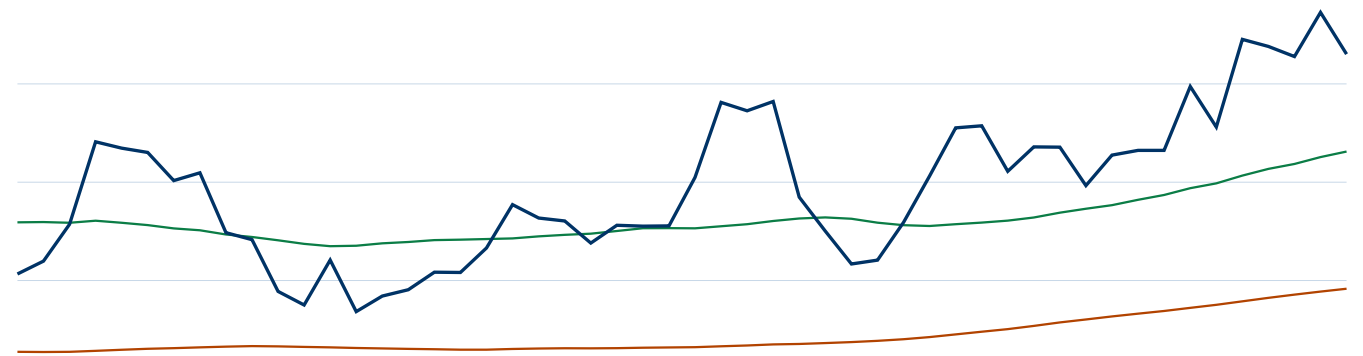
Next report is scheduled for 21 Oct 2026; event risk rises as the date approaches.

01 · PRICE ACTION

Where price is—and whether the trend supports it

The weekly trend is active. Price is 8.2% above the Trend Line and sits at 81.5% of its 52-week range. The latest completed week returned -3.2%, after a -1.1% four-week move.

52-week price path



Blue: weekly close · Green: Trend Line · Orange: Sharemaestro Fair Value

Position in the 52-week range Fair Trend Close 33.69 USD 45.33 USD Latest close sits at 81.5% of the 52-week range.	RANGE LOCATION 81.5% Shows where the latest close sits between the 52-week low and high.	TREND DISTANCE 8.2% Price premium or discount versus the weekly Trend Line.
	FAIR-VALUE GAP 22.5% Premium demand or model discount versus Sharemaestro Fair Value.	HIGH-WATER GAP -4.7% Distance from the latest 52-week high.

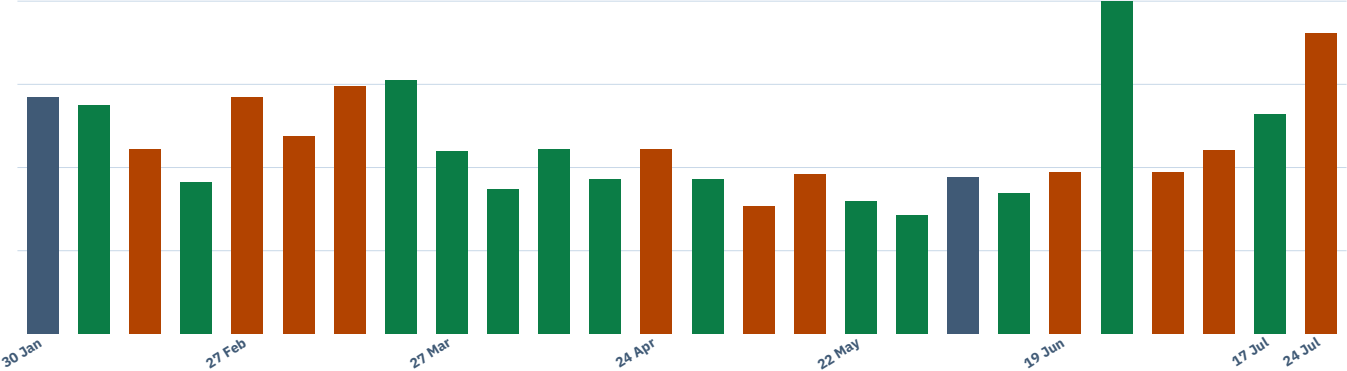
02 · VOLUME AND DEMAND

Is real participation confirming the move?

Latest weekly volume is 1.7x the 13-week average. Participation is unusually strong and confirms that the move is attracting attention.

26-week volume confirmation

Bar height shows weekly volume. Green marks an up week; orange marks a down week.



PARTICIPATION 1.7x Latest volume versus the 13-week average.	BASELINE 1.9M 13-week average volume.	ONE-YEAR BASE 1.7M 52-week average volume.	LATEST WEEKLY VOLUME 3.2M Most recent completed week.
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Demand beneath price

Activity pressure and institutional-style signals

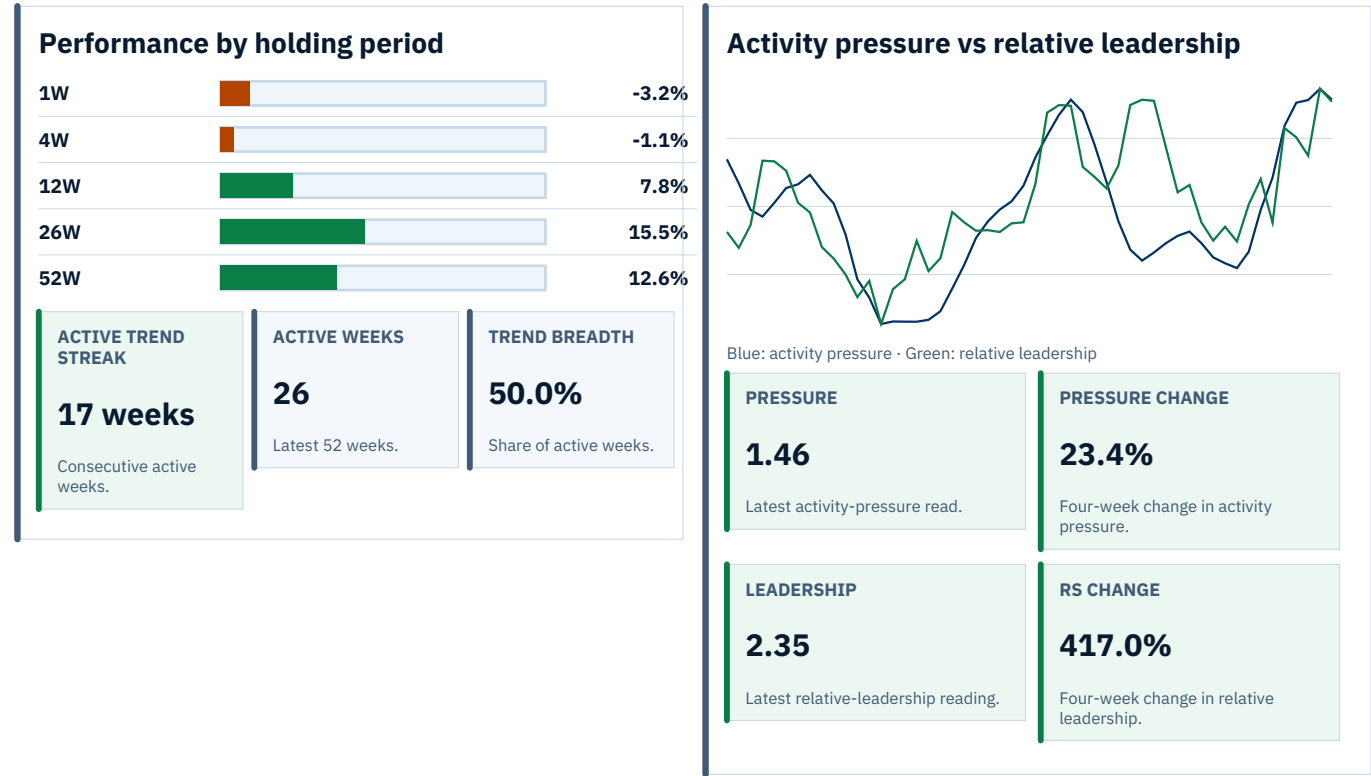
These indicators assess whether participation is improving beneath price. They are supporting evidence, not proof of institutional buying.



03 · MOMENTUM AND LEADERSHIP

Is performance persistent—and is the stock leading?

Performance is -1.1% over four weeks, 7.8% over 12 weeks, and 12.6% over one year. The current trend has remained active for 17 consecutive weeks.



Technical setup scorecard

Trend		72
Momentum		54
Activity Pressure		78
Relative Leadership		90
Next-Week Expectancy		50
Volume		70
Smart Money		49
Risk Control		77

04 · FUNDAMENTALS AND VALUATION

What investors are paying for—and the quality behind it

The latest factor snapshot indicates quality is middle-of-the-pack; growth ranks weakly; valuation is neither clearly cheap nor expensive.

FACTOR WEEK 26 Jul 2026 Latest published factor snapshot.	STATEMENTS THROUGH 31 Dec 2025 Financial reporting period used.	FIELD COVERAGE 100% Available factor fields.	MODEL CONFIDENCE 100% Snapshot confidence.
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Relative factor standing		
Higher display scores are better. Each score is converted from the underlying universe rank, where rank 1 is best.		
Overall factor strength		76/100
Value		72/100
Quality		71/100
Momentum		35/100
Growth		5/100

Valuation How much investors are paying for earnings, sales, and cash flow.	Business quality Margins and the return generated on invested capital.
P/E Price divided by trailing earnings. 14.6x	GROSS MARGIN Gross profit retained from each unit of revenue. 62.7%
PRICE / SALES Market value relative to trailing revenue. 3.2x	OPERATING MARGIN Operating profit retained from revenue. 24.5%
EV / EBITDA Enterprise value relative to operating cash earnings. 16.4x	FREE-CASH-FLOW MARGIN Free cash flow generated from revenue. 33.7%
FREE-CASH-FLOW YIELD Free cash flow as a share of enterprise value. 7.6%	RETURN ON INVESTED CAPITAL Operating return generated on invested capital. 5.0%

04 · FUNDAMENTALS AND VALUATION · CONTINUED

Growth, shareholder returns, and balance-sheet strength

The second half of the fundamental read separates recent business growth from cash returned to shareholders and financial leverage.

Growth and financial strength	Shareholder return and balance sheet
Recent business growth and accounting strength.	Cash returned to owners and financial leverage.
REVENUE GROWTH-18.9% Latest one-year revenue growth.	DIVIDEND YIELD3.4% Cash dividends relative to market value.
EPS GROWTH-17.6% Latest one-year earnings-per-share growth.	BUYBACK YIELD1.6% Net share repurchases relative to market value.
FREE-CASH-FLOW GROWTH- Latest one-year free-cash-flow growth.	SHAREHOLDER YIELD5.0% Dividend yield plus net buyback yield.
PIOTROSKI F-SCORE8/9 Nine-point accounting-strength checklist.	NET DEBT / EBITDA4.3x Balance-sheet debt relative to operating cash earnings.

How to read this

Quality and valuation are separate questions. A strong company can still carry a demanding valuation, so profitability, growth, balance-sheet strength, and the price paid for those characteristics should be assessed independently.

The latest factor snapshot indicates quality is middle-of-the-pack; growth ranks weakly; valuation is neither clearly cheap nor expensive.

05 · OWNERSHIP, OPTIONS, AND SENTIMENT

What other market participants are doing

Options, insider transactions, market sentiment, and activity-pressure signals can confirm or challenge the price story. None should be used alone.

Options positioning

Volatility

FRME shows volatility options pressure with a 54/100 conviction score, put-call volume ratio of 0.00, expected move of 32.6%, and Sharemaestro trend signal active.

CONVICTION

54/100

Options signal conviction.

EXPECTED MOVE

32.6%

Nearest-chain pricing.

PUT/CALL VOLUME

0.00

Contract volume balance.

Pressure

100

Speculation

10

Volatility

96

Trend agreement

0

Insider activity

17 / 3

17 acquisitions and 3 disposals in the latest 180-day insider tape. Acquisitions / disposals over the latest 180 days. Insider activity is context, not a stand-alone signal.

News sentiment

53/100

Weighted news tone is neutral across 58 relevant articles.

14 positive · 39 neutral · 5 negative

Patient Capital

Quiet

Activity-pressure buy-signal evidence highlights potential institutional accumulation windows. No recent buy signal

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Not financial advice. Market and fundamental data may be delayed, incomplete, or inaccurate. See the full disclosure on the final page.

06 · CATALYSTS AND RISK

What can move the shares—and how volatile the path has been

Event timing, options-implied movement, drawdown, and weekly gains and losses frame the risk around the current setup.

NEXT EARNINGS
83d
Next report is scheduled for 21 Oct 2026; event risk rises as the date approaches.

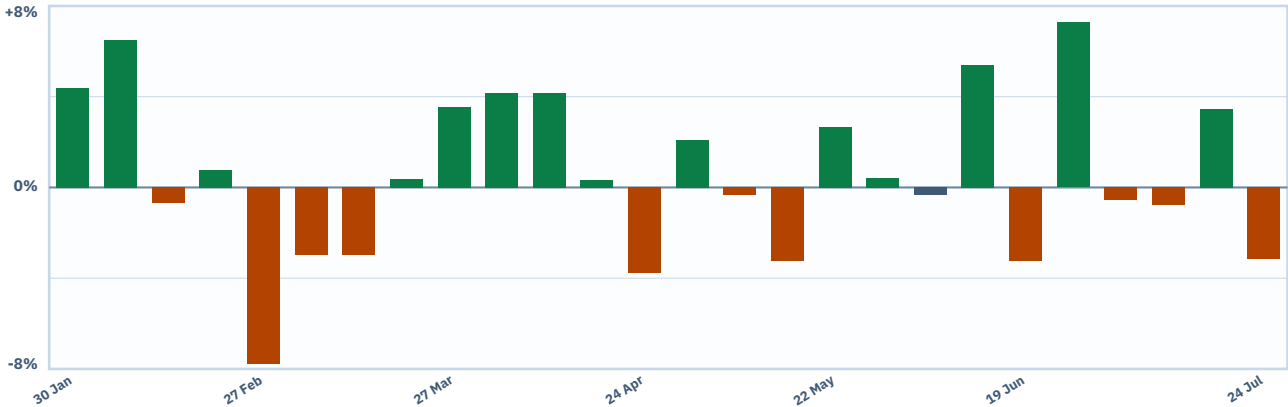
OPTIONS EXPECTED MOVE
32.6%
Nearest-chain priced movement where available.

52-WEEK DRAWDOWN
-4.7%
Distance below the 52-week high.

13-WEEK VOLATILITY
3.2%
Standard deviation of weekly returns.

Weekly gains and losses

Each bar is one completed week. Gains rise above zero; losses fall below it. Taller bars mean a larger move.



WEEKS HIGHER
14 of 26
11 weeks finished lower.

BEST WEEK
+7.3%
Week of 26 Jun.

WORST WEEK
-7.8%
Week of 27 Feb.

LATEST WEEK
-3.2%
Week of 24 Jul.

Shape of recent returns

Strong gains		6
Modest gains		8
Flat weeks		1
Modest losses		10
Sharp losses		1

RECENT VOL
3.2%
13-week weekly-return volatility.

BASE VOL
3.4%
52-week weekly-return volatility.

UP/DOWN SPLIT
26/25
Count of positive and negative weeks in the 52-week window.

AVERAGE SKEW
2.9% / -2.4%
Average positive week versus average negative week.

07 · SECTOR AND PEER CONTEXT

Is this stock leading—or simply moving with its group?

Sector and industry breadth distinguish company-specific strength from a broad group move.

Sector · US Financial Services

4-WEEK RANK - / 100 Standing within the tracked group.	GROUP AVERAGE 5.2% Average four-week return.	TREND BREADTH 58.0% Share of peers with an active trend.
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Peer	Exchange	1W return	4W return	Trend
PYPL	NASDAQ	-0.7%	26.8%	Inactive
KB	NYSE	-1.6%	19.4%	Active
SHG	NYSE	1.0%	18.6%	Active
TRV	NYSE	5.0%	18.3%	Active
ICE	NYSE	4.4%	17.7%	Inactive

Industry · US Banks - Regional

4-WEEK RANK 73 / 100 Standing within the tracked group.	GROUP AVERAGE 1.6% Average four-week return.	TREND BREADTH 85.0% Share of peers with an active trend.
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Peer	Exchange	1W return	4W return	Trend
KB	NYSE	-1.6%	19.4%	Active
SHG	NYSE	1.0%	18.6%	Active
WF	NYSE	4.2%	15.4%	Inactive
CIB	NYSE	7.0%	10.3%	Active
BBDO	NYSE	3.9%	10.0%	Inactive

08 · EVIDENCE AND WEEKLY DATA

The underlying research record

Every top-level statement should be traceable to a stored market, fundamental, event, or positioning observation.

Cross-signal evidence matrix

Evidence pillar	Score / read	Summary	Detail
Weekly tape	70/100	Trend, activity pressure, participation, and risk combine to a 70/100 tape read.	
Indicator analysis	58/100	Latest 12-week confirmation: trend 12/12, activity pressure 7/12, relative leadership 2/12.	Activity pressure 0.91; 4 reversal markers
Factors	64/100	O'Shaughnessy factor stack blends value, quality, momentum, and confidence.	Buyback Yield rank 25; Small Cap Core rank 32
SVQF	36/100	Value and quality alignment from the Sharemaestro SVQF framework.	Composite rank 467.0 of 725
Patient Capital	Quiet	Activity-pressure buy-signal evidence highlights potential institutional accumulation windows.	No recent buy signal
Options	36/100	FRME shows volatility options pressure with a 54/100 conviction score, put-call volume ratio of 0.00, expected move of 32.6%, and Sharemaestro trend signal active.	Volatility · Volatility expansion watch · Expected move 32.6%
Sentiment	53/100	Weighted news tone is neutral across 58 relevant articles.	First Financial Bancorp And Two Other Top Dividend Stocks For Your Portfolio
Insiders	17 / 3	17 acquisitions and 3 disposals in the latest 180-day insider tape.	
Earnings	83d	Next report is scheduled for 21 Oct 2026; event risk rises as the date approaches.	

Current evidence clusters

PRICE FOLLOW-THROUGH -3.2% Latest completed week; four-week move -1.1%.	INDICATOR STACK 72/78 Trend and activity pressure are weighted against the latest 12-week confirmation window.	TREND BACKDROP Active The trend backdrop defines the current weekly regime.	PATIENT CAPITAL Quiet Activity-pressure buy-signal status for institutional accumulation timing.
OPTIONS PRESSURE Volatility 54/100 conviction; expected move 32.6%.	NEWS SENTIMENT 53/100 58 relevant articles in the latest sentiment read.	EVENT RISK 83d Next report is scheduled for 21 Oct 2026; event risk rises as the date approaches.	

08 · EVIDENCE AND WEEKLY DATA · CONTINUED

Recent completed weeks

The completed weekly bars behind the report provide a compact audit trail for price, trend, Fair Value, activity pressure, leadership, and volume.

Week	Close	Return	Trend Line	Fair Value	Pressure	Leadership	Volume	Trend
24 Jul 2026	43.18 USD	-3.2%	39.89 USD	35.26 USD	1.46	2.35	3.2M	On
17 Jul 2026	44.59 USD	3.5%	39.70 USD	35.16 USD	1.58	3.85	2.4M	On
10 Jul 2026	43.10 USD	-0.8%	39.47 USD	35.06 USD	1.46	-3.97	2.0M	On
03 Jul 2026	43.44 USD	-0.5%	39.31 USD	34.95 USD	1.43	-1.83	1.7M	On
26 Jun 2026	43.68 USD	7.3%	39.08 USD	34.84 USD	1.19	-0.74	3.6M	On
19 Jun 2026	40.72 USD	-3.3%	38.82 USD	34.72 USD	0.65	-11.80	1.7M	On
12 Jun 2026	42.09 USD	5.4%	38.65 USD	34.61 USD	0.31	-6.72	1.5M	On
05 Jun 2026	39.93 USD	0.0%	38.43 USD	34.51 USD	-0.13	-9.67	1.7M	On
29 May 2026	39.93 USD	0.4%	38.26 USD	34.42 USD	-0.30	-14.03	1.3M	On
22 May 2026	39.77 USD	2.7%	38.08 USD	34.32 USD	-0.25	-12.30	1.4M	On
15 May 2026	38.74 USD	-3.2%	37.96 USD	34.22 USD	-0.19	-13.93	1.7M	On
08 May 2026	40.04 USD	-0.0%	37.83 USD	34.12 USD	-0.04	-11.79	1.4M	On
01 May 2026	40.05 USD	2.1%	37.67 USD	34.01 USD	0.08	-7.42	1.7M	On
24 Apr 2026	39.23 USD	-3.8%	37.56 USD	33.90 USD	0.03	-8.28	2.0M	On

How to use this report

This is a completed-week research summary. It explains the available evidence and its conflicts; it does not predict a guaranteed outcome or replace your own risk assessment. Fundamental figures may refer to an earlier financial reporting period, which is shown in the fundamentals section.

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