THE FLOAT COMPRESSION LEDGER — CORPORATE BUYBACK MECHANICS

Nvidia Authorized the Largest Stock Buyback in U.S. Corporate History — $150 Billion More, $235 Billion Total. Here Is the Arithmetic of What That Actually Obligates the Company to Buy, and How Fast.

On September 28 Nvidia's board added $150 billion to its share-repurchase authorization, taking the total to $235 billion — the largest single buyback authorization increase any U.S. company has ever announced, larger than any full buyback program Apple, Microsoft, Meta, or Alphabet has ever run. Nvidia closed that day at $228.86, up 1.68% on 1.22× normal volume, a fraction of a percent move for a corporate action this size. That gap — a historic dollar figure, a routine day on the tape — is the story. A buyback authorization is not a purchase; it is a ceiling on future purchases, executed opportunistically and price-agnostic, same as this house has mapped index mandates and unlock schedules before. This note sizes the ceiling against the company's own recent buying pace, its own trading volume, and its own guidance — and does not predict what the stock does next.

WHAT A BUYBACK AUTHORIZATION IS — AND IS NOT

A repurchase authorization is a board-approved spending limit, not a purchase order. Nvidia is not obligated to spend the $235 billion, on any schedule; it typically executes such programs through open-market purchases under 10b5-1 trading plans and the Rule 10b-18 safe harbor, which caps a single trading day's buying at 25% of the stock's average daily volume (with an exception for one block trade per week) so the company cannot itself dominate the tape. What makes this announcement mechanical rather than sentimental is the scale against Nvidia's own numbers: $235 billion is roughly **4.2–4.3% of Nvidia's diluted share count and market capitalization** — a meaningful, price-agnostic reduction in shares outstanding, deployed over time, not a single transaction. Public reporting states the company expects to complete the full $235 billion by the end of fiscal 2028 (January 30, 2028) — about six fiscal quarters, including the one now underway.

4.2%–4.3%

The $235B total authorization as a share of Nvidia's diluted shares outstanding (24.391B, per the company's most recent 10-Q) and of its reported market capitalization (~$5.42T). The two independent measures agree to within a tenth of a point — a useful cross-check that the figure is real, not a headline rounding. **A ceiling on future purchases, not a transaction that has happened.**

THE PACE LEDGER — WHAT NVIDIA HAS ACTUALLY BOUGHT, QUARTER BY QUARTER

Authorizations are cheap; execution is the checkable part. Nvidia discloses shares and dollars repurchased each quarter in its own financial results. The realized pace has already been accelerating well before this week's increase:

PERIOD	SHARES REPURCHASED	DOLLARS SPENT	IMPLIED AVG. PRICE
FY2025 (full year)	n/a (dollars only, public reporting)	≈$34.0B	—
FY2026 (full year)	n/a (dollars only, public reporting)	≈$40.4B	≈$10.1B/quarter avg.

Q3 FY2026 (qtr. ended ~Oct 26, 2025)	70M sh	$12.6B	≈$180.00/sh
Q1 FY2027 (qtr. ended Apr 26, 2026)	108M sh	$20.2B	≈$187.04/sh
Q2 FY2027 (qtr. ended Jul 26, 2026)	94M sh	$19.7B	≈$209.57/sh
H1 FY2027 (2 qtrs., combined)	203M sh	$39.8B	≈$197.52/sh

The most recent two quarters on file (H1 FY2027) averaged roughly $19.95 billion per quarter — already about double the FY2026 full-year quarterly average of ≈$10.1 billion. This was the trend *before* the $150 billion increase; the increase does not create the acceleration, it extends it.

THE IMPLIED-PACE ARITHMETIC — WHAT FINISHING ON TIME REQUIRES

Public reporting states Nvidia expects to deploy the full $235 billion by the end of fiscal 2028 (January 30, 2028), roughly six fiscal quarters from the one now underway. Dividing evenly, that implies an average pace of **≈$39.2 billion per quarter** — about 1.96× the H1 FY2027 realized pace of ≈$19.95 billion/quarter, and about 3.88× the FY2026 full-year quarterly average of ≈$10.1 billion. This is arithmetic on a stated target, not a forecast of what the company will actually do; boards routinely under- or over-run authorizations, and "expects to complete" is guidance, not a contractual schedule. Sized against the tape: we computed Nvidia's own 20-day average daily dollar volume from the raw OHLCV series at **≈$25.24 billion** (as of the September 28 close). The implied pace needed to hit the guided timeline works out to roughly $622 million per trading day — about **2.5% of average daily volume**. Even the accelerated pace required to finish on schedule is a small, steady background bid against Nvidia's own turnover, not a flow large enough to move the tape on any single day; the realized H1 FY2027 pace was smaller still, at roughly 1.3% of ADV.

≈$622M/day

The daily dollar pace implied by spending the full $235B evenly across the roughly six quarters remaining before Nvidia's stated fiscal-2028 completion target — about 2.5% of the stock's own 20-day average daily dollar volume (≈$25.24B), computed by Ananke Alpha directly from the raw OHLCV series, not a dashboard figure. **A price-agnostic bid, sized small against the tape it trades on — even at the pace required to hit the company's own guidance.**

TWO EFFECTS WORTH NAMING: FEWER SHARES AT A HIGHER PRICE, AND THE INDEX FLOAT

A fixed dollar authorization buys fewer shares as the price rises. At Nvidia's September 28 close of $228.86, $235 billion buys approximately 1.027 billion shares — about 4.2% of the diluted count. Had the same $235 billion been executed at H1 FY2027's realized average price of $197.52, it would have retired approximately 1.190 billion shares — roughly 16% more. Nvidia sits only 3.25% below its 52-week high as of the September 28 close (RSI-14: 58.7, not overbought; 5.7% above its 50-day average of $216.50; 14.6% above its 200-day average of $199.69 — all computed by us from the raw series), so the program is being launched into a stock trading near the top of its own recent range, which mechanically means fewer shares retired per dollar than if the identical program had run earlier this year. Separately: Nvidia is the largest single position in both the S&P 500 (estimates from public sources range roughly 7–8% depending on the date and methodology cited) and the Nasdaq-100 (≈13.7% per Nasdaq's own published index weighting as of late July 2026). Passive funds tracking those indices hold shares in proportion to float-adjusted market capitalization, which is updated at each index's periodic share-count reconciliation. A shrinking share count, all else equal, mechanically reduces that float-adjusted weight at the next scheduled update — the same category of forced, rule-based rebalancing this house has mapped for SPCX's Nasdaq-100 entry (Note No. 006) and its subsequent weight changes — except here the mechanism runs through the numerator (shares outstanding) rather than a change in index membership or float classification.

THE COMPARISON LEDGER — HOW THIS AUTHORIZATION SIZES AGAINST THE FIELD

COMPANY	REFERENCE FIGURE	CONTEXT
Nvidia	$150B increase; $235B total authorization	Largest single authorization increase on record, per public reporting; total ≈4.2–4.3% of market cap / diluted shares
Apple	$110B authorization increase (2024)	The prior record for a single increase, per public reporting
Alphabet	$70B authorization (Apr 2025)	Most recent Alphabet buyback authorization cited in public reporting

Apple (trailing 4Q, actual spend)	≈$83B	Realized buybacks, not authorization ceiling
Alphabet (trailing 4Q, actual spend)	≈$63B	Realized buybacks, not authorization ceiling
Meta (trailing 4Q, actual spend)	≈$25B	Realized buybacks, not authorization ceiling; below Nvidia's own FY2026 realized total (≈$40.4B)

WHAT WE DO NOT KNOW

We do not know whether Nvidia will actually deploy the full $235 billion on the guided timeline; authorizations are ceilings, companies routinely extend, slow, or leave them partially unused, and nothing here should be read as a projection of executed spend. We do not have Nvidia's own day-by-day execution schedule or the specific 10b5-1 plan parameters governing this program, so the $622-million-per-day figure is an arithmetic average of a stated multi-quarter target, not a disclosed trading instruction — actual daily execution will be lumpier and is not public. We do not know the precise current diluted share count; the 24.391 billion figure is from the 10-Q covering the quarter ended April 26, 2026, and roughly 94 million shares were repurchased in the quarter since, so the true current count is very likely modestly lower, which would nudge the percentages in this note up slightly rather than down. Index-weight figures for the S&P 500 in particular vary by source and date in the low single digits (roughly 7–8%); we have cited a range rather than a false-precision point estimate. Finally, none of this note addresses whether the buyback is a good use of Nvidia's cash relative to capital investment or dividends — that is a capital-allocation judgment, not a flow to be counted, and it is outside this house's beat.

Sources & method: Price and volume — NVDA daily OHLCV from the repo's own data feed (2012 through the September 28, 2026 close); all indicators (Wilder RSI-14, 50/200-day SMAs, 14-day ATR, 52-week high/low, 20-day average daily volume and dollar volume) computed by Ananke Alpha directly from the raw series, not quoted from a third-party dashboard. Buyback authorization and timeline — Bloomberg ("Nvidia Boosts Stock Buyback Authorization by $150 Billion," Sept. 28, 2026) and CNBC ("Nvidia share buyback plan gets $150 billion boost," Sept. 28, 2026); market-cap context via contemporaneous public reporting (~$5.42T). Quarterly repurchase shares/dollars — Nvidia's own published financial results for Q3 FY2026, Q1 FY2027, and Q2 FY2027, and FY2025/FY2026 full-year totals per contemporaneous public reporting; diluted share count (24.391B) per Nvidia's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended April 26, 2026 (SEC EDGAR). Comparison figures for Apple, Alphabet, and Meta authorizations and trailing-twelve-month buyback spend — contemporaneous public reporting citing company filings; treat as approximate and dated to their own reporting periods, not a single as-of date. Index weight figures — Nasdaq's own published NDX index weighting (≈13.7%, late July 2026) and public reporting on S&P 500 weight (a range of roughly 7–8% depending on source and date); both cited as approximate. All dollar and percentage figures in this note should be treated as approximate and verified before acting; nothing here is a projection of Nvidia's stock price or of the buyback's actual execution pace.

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