TELLURIAN RESEARCH

DRC Intelligence Weekly

26 Oct – 2 Nov 2026

Democratic Republic of the Congo · Open-source intelligence · Information cutoff: 1 November 2026

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01

Executive Summary

Priority developments, the week in sequence and the situation map

1.1 Situation Map — Week's Events

Copper $14,449/t ▲ +0.2%	Cobalt $33,510/t ▼ -3.2%	Tin $48,795/t ▼ -4.1%
Gold $3,898.90/oz ▼ -2.7%	Brent $113.43/bbl ▲ +1.5%	CDF per USD 2,265 → 0.05%

Week-on-week change to the close of Fri 30 Oct (LME official cash copper and tin; cobalt: SP Angel benchmark, 29–30 Oct, not an LME official settlement; LME 3-month copper $14,250/t / COMEX December gold settlement / ICE Brent January contract / BCC official CDF rate). CDF/USD: a lower number means the CDF has strengthened (fewer francs buy one dollar).

Executive Summary

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Washington's **latest sanctions on Rwanda** reached the Ministry of Defence and the army-linked Zigama savings society on 28 October, and London said it intends to follow. In Moscow, **Tshisekedi asked Putin to back MONUSCO's renewal** while Rwanda signed a nuclear-infrastructure memorandum with Rosatom. At home, **Kinshasa dissolved Kabila's PPRD and jailed opposition spokesman Prince Epenge**. The FRN pushed in Fizi, Ebola passed **10,351 cases** as two doctors died within 48 hours, the FATF removed the DRC from its grey list and the IPC projected **30.3 million people in crisis-level hunger** in January–June 2027. **Pressure on Rwanda is mounting, but it has not yet changed conditions in the east, where fighting, armed-group gold and Ebola continue.**

ABROAD Kinshasa gains
- US sanctions Rwanda's defence ministry
- UK signals sanctions of its own
- FATF lifts the DRC off its grey list

AT HOME Space narrows
- Kabila's PPRD dissolved (30 Oct)
- Opposition spokesman jailed in Makala
- Referendum law before the Court

ON THE GROUND Little changes
- Fighting goes on; no town changes hands
- ADF gold beyond the sanctions' reach
- Ebola passes 10,351 cases

1 Washington sanctions Kigali's defence ministry; both capitals court Moscow

DIPLOMACY

The US Treasury **sanctioned Rwanda's Ministry of Defence and the Zigama Credit and Savings Society** on 28 October, accusing Zigama of paying for RDF weapons and moving gold out of M23-held areas. It is the latest in a series of US sanctions this year on the RDF, Kabila, M23 and FDLR commanders and a Rwandan gold refinery; Kigali called the move 'unjustified and discriminatory', and the UK says it will follow. In Moscow, **Tshisekedi asked Putin to back MONUSCO's renewal**. Rwanda, which has no nuclear power, signed a memorandum for Rosatom to assess whether its laws, regulator and technical capacity are ready for it: a first step toward a possible small reactor, not a deal to build one. **Moscow now has a foothold with both parties at little visible cost.**

2 Kinshasa dissolves Kabila's party and jails an opposition spokesman

POLITICS

The Conseil d'État **definitively dissolved the PPRD**, Joseph Kabila's party, on 30 October, on an Interior Ministry petition citing alleged insurrection and Kabila's links to AFC/M23. Prince Epenge, president of ADD-Congo and a Lamuka and C64 figure, was arrested at N'Djili airport on 25 October on a false-information charge over statements about an activist's death, and **transferred to Makala prison on 31 October**. Meeting in Rome, C64 leaders including Fayulu and Katumbi demanded his release and offered to meet both Tshisekedi and Kabila; the referendum law awaits the Constitutional Court. **The crackdown now reaches an opposition that explicitly rejects armed struggle**, and it received limited coverage in the international outlets monitored.

Executive Summary (continued)

3 Fighting on several fronts; ADF gold runs through Uganda

SECURITY

Fighting was reported across several areas: CODECO killed **at least ten civilians** in Djugu on 25 October, the FARDC and Wazalendo reported repelling the FRN at Walikale, the FRN claimed positions around **Rugezi in Fizi**, and Burundi reportedly placed **BM-21 launchers at Rugombo, opposite Kamanyola**. The Sentry finds gold is now the ADF's main source of money, earning it **$1–1.6 million a year from Manguredjipa alone**; 30 of 54 local buyers knowingly buy it, and it is refined in Uganda. **The market, not just the militia, is the leverage point.**

4 Ebola passes 10,000 cases; transmission remains substantial

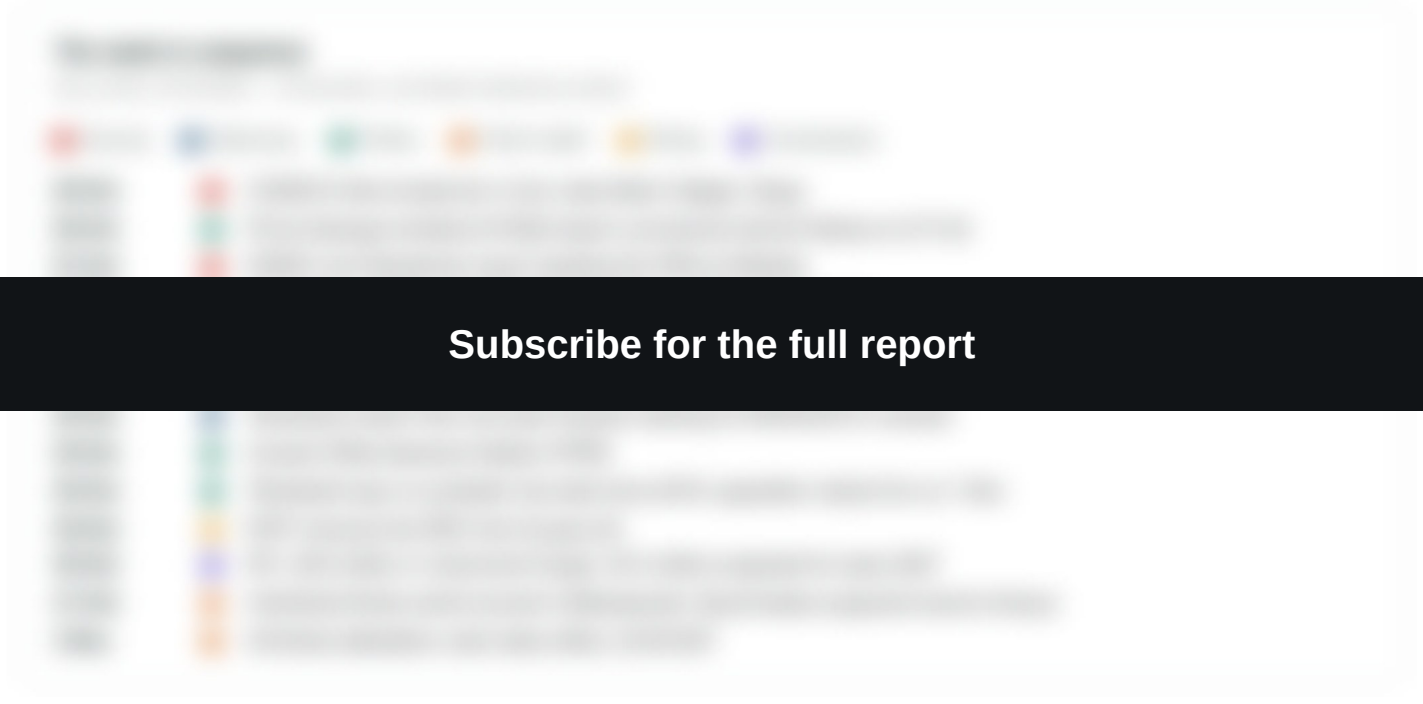
PUBLIC HEALTH

Health ministry totals reached **10,351 cases and 5,026 deaths** by 31 October (fatality rate near 49%) across eight provinces; **Ituri is the most affected**, followed by North Kivu. **Two young doctors died within 48 hours** in Beni and Ituri, and residents burned an unfinished treatment centre in Bafwasende, Tshopo. Saudi Arabia suspended travel to Kenya, which has nine cases, and from 3 November US-bound air passengers must attest they have not recently been in the DRC. **There is no sign of a decline, the response is losing doctors and local cooperation, and travel bans are now hitting countries with few cases, such as Kenya.**

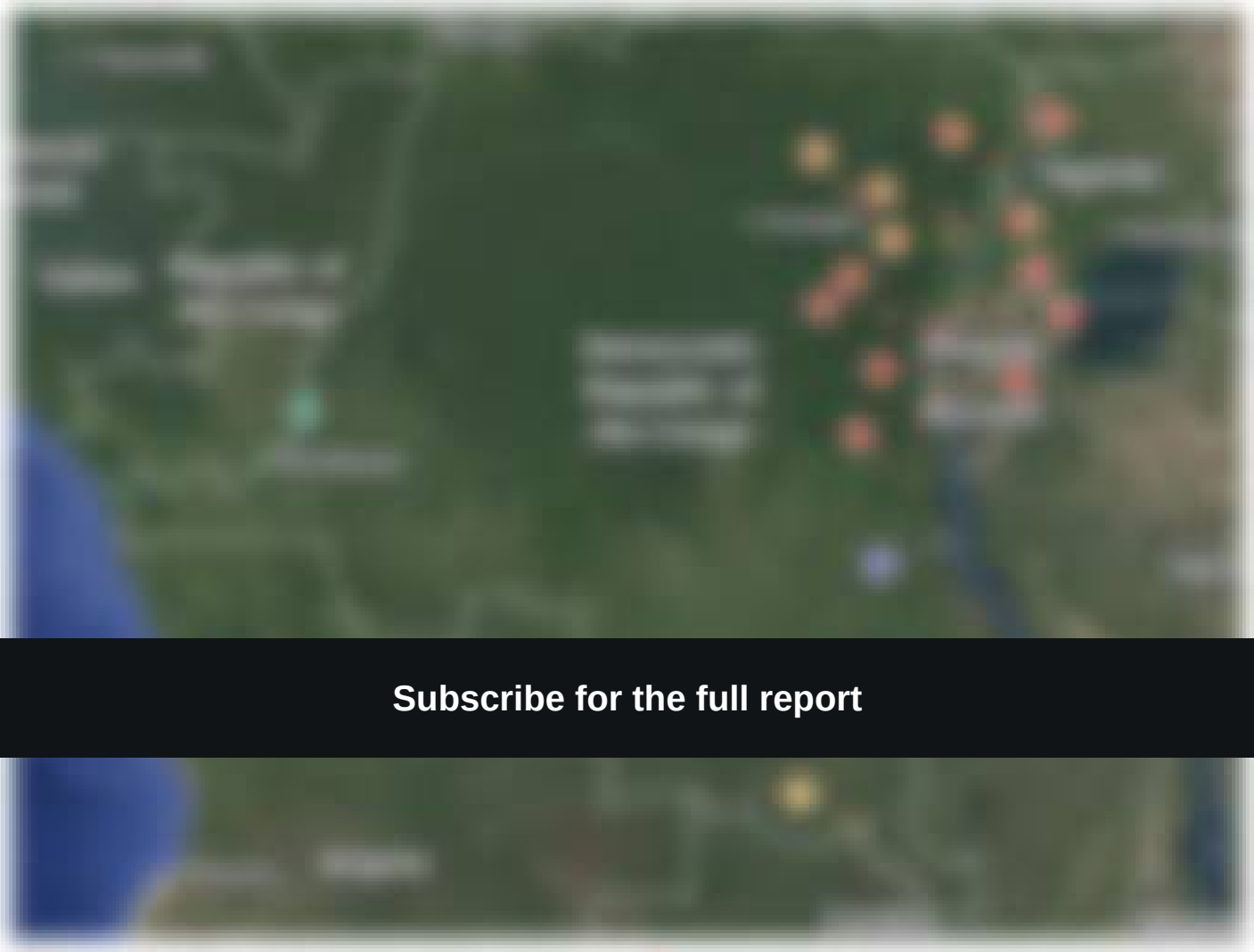
5 FATF exit as Kinshasa tightens control of the Copperbelt

MINING

On 30 October the FATF **removed the DRC from its grey list**, which may ease cross-border banking as banks reassess risk; a ban on commercial cash payments in foreign currency follows in April 2027. In the Copperbelt, the head of the artisanal-mining agency SAEMAPE was suspended, about 300 Chinese nationals were detained in an illegal-mining crackdown, and the subcontracting regulator ordered Glencore's KCC and Mutanda to drop ineligible contractors. Cobalt fell to **$33,510 a tonne**, down 15% in a month under the 96,600-tonne export ceiling, while Glencore's Mutanda **recognised no cobalt output**, holding it in solution under the quota; the US-backed Orion deal there remains non-binding. **Kinshasa is tightening the formal economy; these levers do not reach the ADF's gold economy.**



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Analysis

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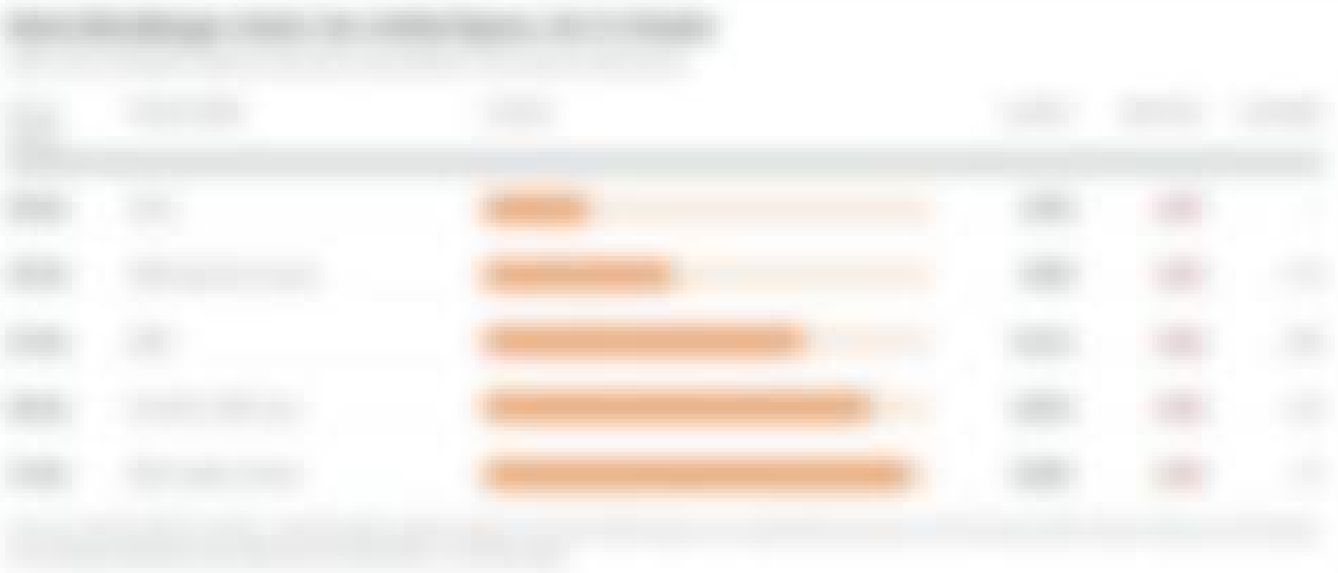
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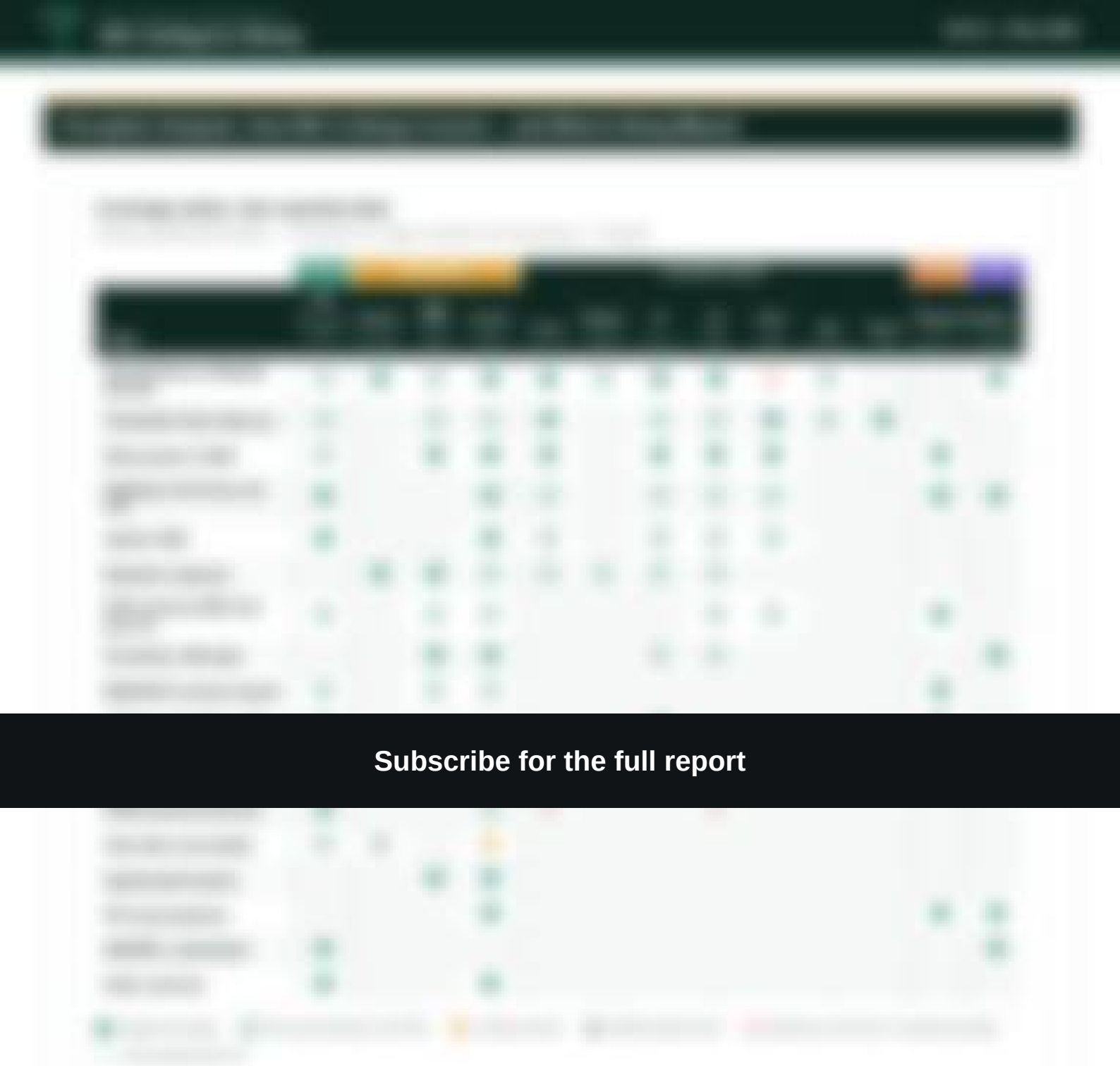


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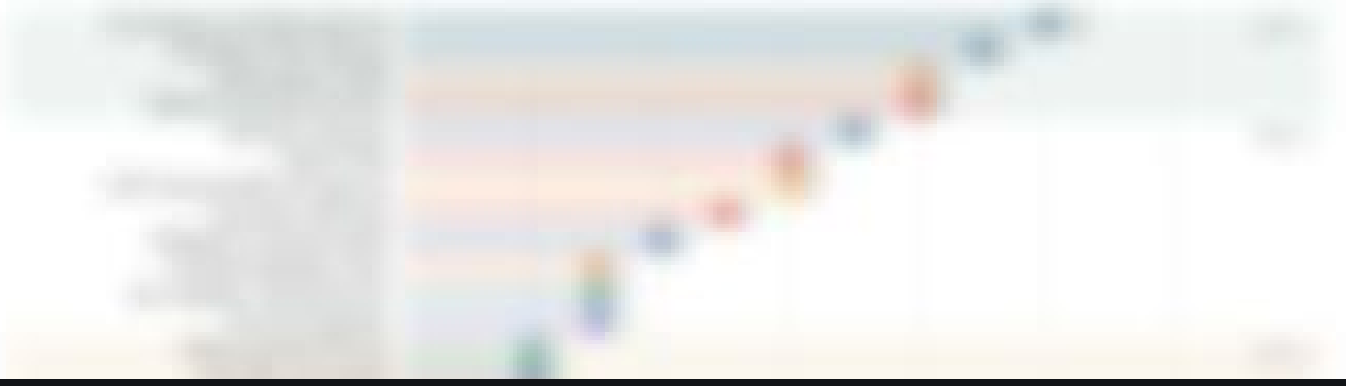
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Perception

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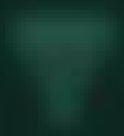


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