



HYPERION DECIMUS

CRYPTO NEWSLETTER

POWERED BY WEEKLY CRYPTO BRIEF

27th April 2025

BITCOIN-RELATED



NYDIG: Bitcoin rallied this week, finishing up 10.3%. It felt, particularly on April 21 when the “US-risk-off trade” was in effect and Bitcoin surged, that Bitcoin was finally being recognized for what it is – a non-sovereign store of value.

Bitcoin become the fifth-largest global asset by market capitalization, reaching \$1.86 trillion and surpassing Google, on April 23 as it broke through \$94,000. This marks the highest position Bitcoin has ever attained in the rankings, even though its market cap previously exceeded \$2 trillion when its price was over \$109,000. At that time, however, tech stocks were significantly more elevated than they are at the moment.

A 21Shares report forecasts that a year-end Bitcoin price of \$138,555 is reasonable, given that the current cycle mirrors 2021's post-China-ban reset, with disillusionment in traditional finance and rising global liquidity. Bitcoin's reaction to macro and industry shocks has shifted from panic selling to reinforcement of its narrative as a hedge against traditional assets. Metrics like long-term holder accumulation, growing spot ETF inflows, and clearer regulation suggest the market remains in a bullish consolidation phase.

According to Standard Chartered Global Head of Digital Assets Research Geoffrey Kendrick, Bitcoin could keep climbing as threats to US Federal Reserve independence raise government sector risk – a key trigger for the asset's recent outperformance. Per Kendrick, Bitcoin's primary role in a portfolio is to hedge against financial system risks from the private sector, like bank failures, or the government, such as President Trump's recent calls to replace Fed Chair Powell. Kendrick reiterated his bold Bitcoin targets of \$200,000 by 2025 and \$500,000 by 2028, calling continued Fed pressure a potential catalyst for new all-time highs.

Investment manager ARK Invest increased its 2030 Bitcoin bull-case price projection from \$1.5 million to \$2.4 million, using an experimental model that discounts illiquid supply and assumes strong institutional adoption. (Read more, [here](#).)

Luzius Meisser, a board member of cryptocurrency broker Bitcoin Suisse, urged the Swiss central bank to hold Bitcoin at the annual shareholders meeting.

US Senator Dave McCormick, the former chief executive of hedge fund Bridgewater Associates, is putting his own cash into Bitcoin, as the committee he's on is at the tip of the spear for a legislative effort to regulate the digital assets industry. McCormick has made repeated recent investments in the Bitwise Bitcoin ETF worth hundreds of thousands of dollars, according to disclosures this week.

Institutional BTC holdings have crossed a symbolic threshold, as BlackRock and Strategy now collectively control more BTC – 1.11 million – than Satoshi Nakamoto's estimated 1.1 million stash.

Bitcoin Magazine CEO David Bailey said public companies are increasing their Bitcoin accumulation at a fast pace (currently holding over 700,000 BTC) and forecasted that they could collectively hold between 2 and 3 million BTC by the end of 2026.

Tesla reported Bitcoin holdings worth \$951 million as of March 31, down from \$1.076 billion on Dec. 30. A new rule from FASB requires corporate holders of digital assets to begin marking those assets to market each quarter. Although Tesla reported its worst quarter in years, the unofficial measure it touted to Wall Street got a little help: a slight boost from backing out the dip in the value of its crypto holdings. The move bumped its non-GAAP earnings by ~12%.

Strategy spent \$555 million to accumulate another 6,556 BTC to its sizeable stash, which has now skyrocketed to 538,200 BTC (worth \$47 billion). The purchase was funded by selling shares of MSTR and STRK stock, raising \$555 million through ongoing stock sale programs.

Metaplanet, the Tokyo-listed firm dubbed "Asia's (Micro)Strategy," bought another 330 Bitcoin worth ~\$28 million. And it also bought an additional 145 BTC for \$13.6 million days later. The company has reached halfway in its goal to hold 10,000 Bitcoins with a total of 5,000 BTC valued at ~\$428 million.

Semler Scientific, a Nasdaq-listed healthcare company, purchased an additional 111 BTC for \$10 million, bringing its total Bitcoin holdings to 3,303 BTC valued at nearly \$314 million.

Abraxas Capital, a London-based digital asset fund, has acquired nearly 3,000 BTC worth more than \$250 million since April 15, joining a wave of public and private entities increasing their Bitcoin holdings amid discounted market prices.

A Bitcoin whale moved 50 BTC for the first time in 15 years. The coins were acquired when Bitcoin was worth less than \$0.10. If sold, the user would notch a gain of more than 93,000,000%.

Singapore Exchange plans to launch Bitcoin perpetual futures in the second half of 2025, aiming to attract institutional and professional investors.

In a global first, UAE-based Islamic bank Ruya launched Shari'ah-compliant cryptocurrency investment services, enabling customers to buy and sell Bitcoin through its mobile app.

Panama City officially signed a deal with a local bank to process municipal payments in Bitcoin.

The University of the Hespérides in Spain launched the first Spanish-language Master's program focused exclusively on Bitcoin.

INDUSTRY ADVANCES



Charles Schwab CEO Rick Wurster said the financial services firm is “hopeful and likely to be able” to launch support for spot crypto trading in the next 12 months on a recent earnings call. Wurster also said: “We saw a 400% increase in traffic to [Schwab's crypto site] recently, 70% of whom were prospects.”

Deutsche Bank and Standard Chartered are looking to expand crypto operations to the US, according to The Wall Street Journal.

Russia’s finance ministry and central bank are reportedly planning to launch a crypto exchange for “super-qualified investors” under an experimental legal regime.

Circle and BitGo plan to apply for US banking charters, with Coinbase and Paxos possibly following, as Congress advances legislation that could mandate licenses for all stablecoin issuers.

CME Group plans to launch XRP futures next month, pending CFTC approval, marking its fourth crypto futures product after BTC, ETH and SOL.

Kraken introduced FX perpetual futures for EUR/USD and GBP/USD on Kraken Pro, expanding 24/7 crypto-style trading to foreign exchange markets.

Arca Labs, along with Tassat and tZERO, introduced Lynq to solve slow, fragmented, and outdated settlement processes. Lynq provides: Real-Time Settlement: 24/7/365 infrastructure to match the always on nature of digital assets... Regulatory Alignment: Using tZERO's B-D licenses and Arca's RIA as an adviser to a separate private fund organized as a Delaware Trust... Yield in Transit: Participants earn interest in real-time through Arca's US Treasury Fund (TFND)... and Built By The Industry, For The Industry: Developed in close collaboration with core institutional partners and designed with real-world assets (RWAs) in mind.

The Crypto Market Integrity Coalition (CMIC), a 51-member industry alliance launched in 2022, announced the launch of the CMIC Industry Standard for Market Making in Digital Assets, the first unified best-practices framework for market making in crypto.

Checkout company Bolt plans to launch a superapp with one-click crypto trading, peer-to-peer payments, and debit card rewards. The app will offer real-time onchain balances, single-click remittances, and a 3-7% cash back debit card.

Ethereum L2 Scroll announced that it had launched its Euclid upgrade, making it the first zero-knowledge rollup to reach Ethereum’s “stage 1” decentralization milestone.

In Q1 2025, Solana generated more than \$819M in revenue, more than all other L1 and L2 networks combined, despite its reputation for low transaction fees.

The Solana Foundation introduced an update to its delegation program specifically designed to enhance network decentralization and reduce reliance on foundation support. The new policy includes a validator rotation rule, under which every new validator admitted to the foundation’s delegation program

will see three existing validators removed, provided that the existing validators have received foundation delegation for at least 18 months and have less than 1,000 SOL in external – non-foundation – stake.

SOL Strategies secured a \$500 million convertible note to purchase Solana, becoming the largest financing facility in the Solana ecosystem tied to staking yield.

Janover, now renamed DeFi Development, on April 22 announced its purchase of another \$11.5 million of SOL, bringing its holdings to more than \$36 million as it rebrands around a Solana-focused treasury strategy backed by former Kraken executives.

GSR led a \$100 million private investment into consumer goods firm Upexi (a Tampa-based developer, manufacturer, and distributor of consumer products) to help it build a Solana-based treasury, accumulate SOL and stake its holdings. (Upexi joins other companies like Janover and Sol Strategies in building Solana treasuries, reflecting a broader trend of traditional firms adopting and staking SOL assets.

The Mike Novogratz-founded crypto financial services firm Galaxy Digital swapped \$106 million worth of ETH for SOL over the past two weeks, according to Lookonchain.

Helium, a Solana-based network, is teaming up with AT&T to offer mobile hotspots, expanding network coverage for AT&T subscribers. Hotspot owners earn rewards for providing coverage to nearby devices, benefiting from an influx of new users from AT&T's 118 million subscribers.

Deloitte predicts that the tokenized real estate market could grow to \$4 trillion by 2035, driven by operational efficiencies and broader investor access.

US firms may soon experiment with tokenized real estate in El Salvador, following discussions between the SEC's Crypto Task Force and CNAD on creating a regulatory sandbox for innovative digital asset projects.

Polygon Labs and green asset tokenization platform Pyse will deploy blockchain-integrated electric motorcycles for food delivery services in Dubai, with intentions to expand the initiative to India. The collaboration will enable Pyse's electric motorcycles to be tokenized on Polygon's blockchain infrastructure, allowing for fractional ownership of these sustainable mobility assets.

Meghalaya, a state in northeast India, will soon implement a blockchain-based employee data and promotion tracking system beginning with the police department. The Chief Minister said blockchain would reduce delays and enhance transparency in recruitment and career progression across government departments.

MINING



Some US-based Bitcoin mining firms are allegedly underreporting the value of imported ASIC mining rigs to avoid customs duties, a practice that's becoming riskier because of tighter scrutiny from US Customs and the Trump administration's new tariff policy targeting Southeast Asian imports. Increased enforcement is disrupting shipments and prompting miners to rethink logistics, with some considering moving operations to countries like Canada to avoid regulatory uncertainty and rising costs.

Bitdeer, the Bitcoin mining firm backed by Tether, secured a \$200 million credit facility from Matrix Finance (founded by Bitdeer's own Jihan Wu) and has already drawn down \$43 million to fund expansion and hardware upgrades.

Bitcoin miner Riot Platforms struck a \$100 million credit agreement with Coinbase's credit arm, using Bitcoin as collateral to secure short-term funding for its ongoing expansion.

1,000+ locations in Kuwait are suspected of running illegal cryptocurrency mining operations due to abnormal electricity usage. The Ministry of Interior has warned against this unlicensed activity, citing threats to public safety and disruptions to essential services.

The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) dismantled a cargo theft operation, recovering nearly \$4 million in stolen goods, including Bitcoin mining equipment valued at \$2.7 million, after tracing the activity to a warehouse in San Pedro, California.

Compass Mining announced a collaboration with NiceHash, securing competitive pool fees for customers. Through this agreement with NiceHash, customers will gain access to specially negotiated pool fee rates, enhancing mining profitability, and overall operational efficiency.

ETPS (EXCHANGE-TRADED PRODUCTS), FUNDS & INDEXES

Incoming SEC Chair Paul Atkins will have an avalanche of crypto-related applications to sift through when he officially takes control of the regulator. Hopeful issuers now await feedback on 72 crypto-linked ETFs in the US, including requests to list options, according to Bloomberg ETF analyst Eric Balchunas.

Trump Media and Technology Group finalized a deal with crypto exchange Crypto.com and asset management firm Yorkville America Digital to launch a series of ETFs and products. The products are expected to launch later in 2025 under TMTG's fintech brand Truth.Fi, pending regulatory approval, and made available in the US, Europe, and Asia. (TMTG will invest up to \$250 million in ETFs and SMAs tracking crypto and energy securities.)

Spot Bitcoin ETFs pulled in \$912 million on April 22 – the largest single-day inflow since Jan. 17 and more than 500x the 2025 daily average, according to Glassnode. A weeklong positive streak of inflows for these ETFs has pushed total AUM to \$108 billion.

Michael Saylor predicted BlackRock's spot Bitcoin ETF will be “the biggest ETF in the world in 10 years.”

BlackRock's iShares Bitcoin Trust (IBIT) won the “Best New ETF” and “Crypto ETP of the Year” awards at the 11th annual etf.com awards on April 23. IBIT reached \$10 billion in assets just seven weeks after its January 2024 launch – a milestone that was achieved faster than any ETF in history. Also, the VanEck Bitcoin ETF (HODL) won the “Best New ETF Ticker.”

ARK Invest announced that ARKW (ARK Next Generation Internet ETF) and ARKF (ARK Fintech innovation ETF) invested in 3iQ's Solana Staking ETF (SOLQ). This makes ARKW and ARKF the first US-listed ETFs to gain exposure to Solana.

Bitwise filed a "Bitwise NEAR ETF" trust company in Delaware, signaling an early step in the process toward applying for a spot NEAR ETF in the US.

The SEC postponed its decisions on proposed ETFs for Polkadot and Hedera, extending the review period to June 11.

FUNDRAISING & OTHER FUNDING (\$5 MILLION OR MORE)

A coalition of Wall Street firms and crypto heavyweights, including Cantor Fitzgerald, SoftBank, Tether and Bitfinex, are launching 21 Capital, a new Bitcoin investment vehicle modeled after Strategy (reportedly led by CEO Jack Mallers). The vehicle is being launched via Cantor Equity Partners, a SPAC that will be seeded with \$3 billion worth of Bitcoin: \$1.5 billion from Tether, \$900 million from SoftBank, and \$600 million from Bitfinex. The venture also plans to raise \$350 million via a convertible bond and \$200 million in private equity.

RWA tokenization firm Securitize launched the MI4 crypto index fund in partnership with Mantle, which committed \$400 million as the fund's anchor investment. The fund offers exposure to BTC, ETH, SOL and US dollar stablecoins, while boosting returns through DeFi staking strategies and quarterly rebalancing – with a goal of becoming the “S&P 500 of crypto.”

RockawayX, a crypto VC firm with over \$2 billion in AUM, closed a \$125 million second fund, with up to 75% earmarked for early-stage Solana projects.

LayerZero, building Omnichain, raised \$55 million with a 3-year lockup in a private token sale, led by a16z.

Nous Research, a decentralized AI startup, raised a \$50 million Series A Round – led by Paradigm.

Symbiotic raised \$29 million in Series A funding, led by Pantera Capital, to help expand from Ethereum-based restaking into a broader “universal staking” platform.

Theo, a crypto startup, secured \$20 million from investors like Citadel and JPMorgan to offer Wall Street-grade trading strategies to retail investors.

Consensus Value Creation, CVC’s platform which leverages AI, decentralized identity systems (DID), and real-time data distribution to redefine content as assets and user interactions as value, raised \$20 million in a strategic funding round, led by Paradigm.

Arch Labs closed \$13 million in a Pantera-led round to develop ArchVM, a virtual machine, aiming to bring native smart contracts with Solana-like speed to Bitcoin without bridging assets to other networks.

Resolv Labs raised \$10 million in a seed round to scale its yield-generating stablecoin protocol Resolv. The fundraising was led by Cyber.Fund and Maven11, with Coinbase Ventures, SCB Limited, Arrington Capital, and Animoca Ventures also participating.

Tally raised \$8 million in Series A funding to expand its governance technology for DAOs. The company aims to address low voter participation in DAOs by introducing staking mechanisms that reward active governance participants.

MagicBlock, a real-time engine for decentralized games and applications on Solana, raised a \$7.5 million seed round – led by Lightspeed Faction.

IPOS, M&A, PARTNERSHIPS & DEALS



Coeptis Therapeutics and Z Squared are merging to become the largest publicly traded Dogecoin miner, pending regulatory and shareholder approval.

ZND, a digital finance platform operated by regulated European digital asset exchange zondacrypto, secured a \$20 million token investment commitment from Rollman Management Digital for supporting the continued development of its technology and business operations.

DWF Labs announced a strategic investment and partnership with Mask Network, a decentralized social protocol pioneering the bridge between Web2 and Web3. As part of this collaboration, DWF Labs acquired \$5 million worth of MASK tokens, signaling a strong commitment to the growth of the decentralized social layer and the broader Web3 ecosystem.

HTX, a global cryptocurrency exchange, successfully integrated and launched Fireblocks Off-Exchange, a next-generation solution for institutional trading.

Pico, a global provider of mission-critical technology services, software, data, and analytics for the financial markets community, announced a strategic relationship with Coinbase Derivatives, a CFTC-regulated derivatives exchange.

Blockchain Deposit Insurance Corporation (BDIC), the cryptocurrency insurer offering cutting-edge security solutions for digital currency wallet holders, named 3Point0 Labs as its Agency of Record. The announcement marks a strategic partnership as BDIC prepares for its anticipated insurance solution and token launch in Q4 2025.

DEFI



Unichain's total value locked surged 2,569% to \$318 million after it launched a \$21 million liquidity incentives program via Uniswap DAO, vaulting it into the top five L2 chains by TVL.

Ethereum staking platform Ether.fi is launching a non-custodial DeFi banking platform in the US aimed at replacing neobanks by integrating services such as staking and liquidity into a seamless crypto-native user experience.

A new Aptos proposal would lower staking rewards from 7% to 3.79% over three months to push users toward more productive onchain activity, although concerns remain about its impact on smaller validators and network decentralization.

New protocol Yield Basis uses a leverage mechanism with automated AMM rebalancing to eliminate LP impermanent loss to ensure that liquidity providers' BTC-denominated holdings never

shrink during market moves. Liquidity providers choose between earning real BTC trading fees or receiving emissions of the YB token.

CBDCS & STABLECOINS



Citigroup projects that the stablecoin market could expand to \$3.7 trillion by 2030 – largely driven by the increasing use of stablecoins in payments, cash management, and as a hedge against local currencies.

South Korea's central bank announced its active involvement in shaping stablecoin regulations to manage potential threats to monetary policy and financial stability.

Dutch bank ING is working on a stablecoin, looking to take advantage of Europe's new cryptocurrency regulations that came into force last year.

Circle launched a new payments and cross border remittance network on April 22 Tuesday, the company's "next product move," from its New York City headquarters. The launch event was aimed at banks, fintechs, payment service providers, remittance providers, and USDC strategic partners.

PayPal will offer US users a 3.7% annual yield on its PYUSD stablecoin starting this summer, distributing rewards monthly to promote usage.

Coinbase said it would waive fees on USD-PYUSD conversions and expand support for stablecoins to PayPal's largest merchant partners.

Halo is launching HUSD to be a digital dollar for the Hyperliquid chain and DEX. It aims to replace bridged USDC to eliminate cross-chain and issuer risks.

MetaMask now lets users pay gas fees with tokens like DAI, USDC, or USDT instead of ETH, allowing full flexibility in choosing a default gas token for all transactions.

NFTS, BLOCKCHAIN GAMING & METaverse



Cloudflare removed RTFKT CloneX NFT art due to a Terms of Service violation.

The creators of doomsday-themed Solana project Meatbags hope to purchase a nuclear bunker built during the Cold War in Rutland, England. To do this, 100,000 Billionaire Bunker Club NFTs will be offered for sale at \$14 a pop in an attempt to raise \$1.4 million, with NFT holders forming a DAO collective that will vote on what to do with the property.

According to Yield Sec, crypto casinos – such as Stake, Rollbit and Roobet – are raking in tens of billions of dollars every year. Gross gaming revenue, the difference between bets taken in and winnings paid out, soared 5x since 2022 to \$81.4 billion last year. The rise of crypto casinos mirrors the growth of

crypto-based prediction platforms such as Polymarket and Kalshi, which use cryptocurrencies to facilitate wagers and ease the flow of transactions.

CryptoKitties creator Dapper Labs is set to launch six “Meowcoins” on Flow on April 23, with a seventh coin coming in a week’s time – and they’ll all feed into each other through a new gameplay loop for the firm’s Telegram game.

Mythical Games is planning to release a FIFA-inspired mobile game in June.

Ubisoft announced a brand new Might and Magic trading card game, which includes an “optional Web3 layer.”

Anonymous Labs and Banijay Rights will debut a “Peaky Blinders” Web3 Game in 2026. The game will offer players interactive experiences in post-World War I Birmingham with tokenized in-game currency.

KAI: Battle of the Three Kingdoms, a modern reimagining of Sega's Sangokushi Taisen, will launch on April 30. The game will feature NFTs called “Awakened Warlords” and a SGC token for in-game purchases and rewards.

Minecraft clone Chunked launched on the Somnia network testnet, putting every single in-game action on-chain as an experimental test of the network’s capabilities.

Minecraft-like game Hytopia launched public testing for its iOS and Android versions.

Ethereum NFT project Creepz launched a “spin-to-win” gacha rewards game.

LOL Land, a digital crypto board game from Yield Guild Games, will launch on Abstract on May 2.

Bitcoin creator “Satoshi Bigmoto” shared future roadmap plans for the so-called Ponzi game.

Opengame Foundation announced the launch of Adventure, the inaugural mainnet of CROSS, an independent blockchain network specifically designed for gaming. The rollout marks the official start of the CROSS ecosystem, which seeks to offer a standardized platform for global game developers and players.

JOB MOVEMENT



Coinbase is expanding to Charlotte, North Carolina. It plans to hire 130+ employees and open a new office focused on compliance and customer support.

The TON Foundation appointed MoonPay co-founder Maximilian Crown as its new CEO, aiming to increase growth following a plateau in user adoption and ecosystem activity.

Grayscale announced the appointment of Ramona Boston as Chief Marketing Officer, effective July 9. Boston joins from Apollo Global Management.

REGULATIONS, RULINGS & COMMENTARY



A disclosure form filed on April 20 with the Federal Election Commission revealed a new slate of crypto donors to Trump's inaugural committee. Among the previously unreported names are Cantor Fitzgerald, Solana Labs, Consensys, Uniswap founder Hayden Adams, Cypherium Blockchain, and Yuga Labs. These donations, along with previously reported handouts from prominent crypto firms such as Coinbase, Ripple Labs, VC giant Paradigm, PayPal, and others, contributed to a record-breaking \$239 million haul for the Trump administration.

House Representatives are reportedly in the final stages of drafting a crypto market structure bill, according to people familiar with the matter. The discussion draft is expected to be released by the end of the month.

The board of the US Federal Reserve withdrew earlier supervisory guidance for banks on crypto asset and dollar token activities on April 24, a reversal that effectively ends the approach known as "Operation Choke Point 2.0," a Biden-era plan to restrict banks' ability to serve crypto clients. Specifically, the Fed's board rescinded a 2022 supervisory letter that required state member banks to provide advance notice before engaging in crypto activities. It also revoked a 2023 notice that required banks to obtain "regulatory non-objection" before engaging in stablecoin or dollar token activities. And it withdrew two joint statements from 2023, issued with the FDIC and OCC, that outline risks and urge caution on crypto activities.

Crypto advocate Paul Atkins has been sworn in as the 34th Chairman of the SEC by President Trump. Atkins said at his swearing-in ceremony on April 22: "A top priority of my chairmanship will be to provide a firm regulatory foundation for digital assets through a rational, coherent and principled approach." Atkins also praised the Commission's recent pro-crypto work and criticized previous regulatory uncertainty that stifled innovation.

The SEC's second crypto policy roundtable will focus on crypto asset custody rules and regulatory gaps, featuring panels on "Custody Through Broker-Dealers and Beyond" and "Investment Adviser and Investment Company Custody." The event aims to gather input and discuss policy options for digital asset regulation.

The CFTC, which is likely to take on crypto trading oversight at some point, is asking its constituents to share their feelings about 24/7 transactions. The request for comments doesn't explicitly discuss crypto activity.

The DeFi Education Fund urged the SEC's new crypto task force to adopt a "safe harbor" framework proposed originally by Commissioner Hester Peirce, offering decentralized projects a multi-year exemption period to meet transparency and decentralization benchmarks while broader legislation is developed.

The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) says that the tokenization of RWAs on blockchains will develop stronger links between crypto and traditional finance.

The European Central Bank is reportedly demanding revisions to the EU's MiCA regulation over fears that US support for dollar-backed stablecoins could destabilize the bloc's economy, but the European Commission has rejected its concerns, saying that current laws remain sufficient.

South Korea's right-wing People Power Party announced plans to introduce a bill promoting digital assets, citing the role of what it called "excessively regulation-focused policy" in driving away capital and framing crypto as a 21st century store of value.

Slovenia's finance ministry proposed a 25% tax on capital gains from cryptocurrency, starting in 2026. The tax would apply to profits made from selling crypto for fiat currency or spending it for goods and services.

Tuaran PKR deputy information chief Razeef Rakimin defended the party's use of blockchain technology in party elections, saying that while technical errors may have occurred, claims of vote manipulation or sabotage are unfounded. Rakimin said while the system might have faced some "minor technical errors," blockchain technology was among the most secure in the world.

BUGS, OUTAGES, HACKS, SCAMS, ALLEGATIONS, INVESTIGATIONS, ENFORCEMENTS & WRONGDOINGS

The FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center warned there was a 66% increase in Americans reporting losses due to crypto scams in 2024 over the year, with victims losing \$9.3 billion. The report found people over the age of 60 were the most likely to suffer financial losses in crypto scams out of ~150,000 crypto complaints. FBI director Kash Patel said: "It's imperative that the public immediately report suspected cyber-enabled criminal activity to the FBI." (See the 47-page report, [here](#).)

Bybit CEO Ben Zhou said nearly 28% of the \$1.4 billion stolen in a February hack has become untraceable, up from 23% in early March.

Indian crypto exchange WazirX is set for a May 13 court ruling on its \$234 million restructuring plan, which includes payouts to creditors and a DEX launch, after securing more than 93% of creditors' approval. The Singapore High Court will rule on WazirX's restructuring and compensation plan, following a hack in July 2024 that drained nearly half the platform's assets.

The SEC charged PGI Global founder Ramil Palafox with running an alleged \$198 million crypto fraud scheme that used investor funds to buy Lamborghinis and other luxury items.

Meteora, a decentralized exchange on the Solana blockchain, is facing a class-action lawsuit in New York. The complaint, filed at the US District Court for the Southern District of New York, alleges that Meteora, its CEO, Benjamin Chow, VC firm Kelsier Labs, and executives orchestrated a fraudulent launch of a memecoin named M3M3 last December, resulting in investor losses of at least \$69 million.

Eugene William Austin Jr., also known as "Hugh Austin," received an 18-year prison sentence for orchestrating a \$12 million cryptocurrency fraud scheme with his son Brandon. The duo posed as brokers, promising high returns on investments and funding for startups, defrauding 24+ victims.

KiloEX, the DEX targeted in a \$7 million attack this month, announced it will compensate affected users. Users whose positions remained open during the platform suspension will be compensated for the difference in increased losses or decreased profits.

The hacker who stole ~\$5 million from ZKsync's airdrop contract returned the funds within 72 hours, resolving the exploit. ZKsync now holds the recovered assets and plans next steps through governance after the compromised key incident.

An Ethereum user fell victim to an address poisoning scam, resulting in the loss of nearly \$700,000 worth of the USDT stablecoin.

“Bitcoin Jesus” Roger Ver paid Republican political operative Roger Stone \$600,000 to lobby against the US “exit tax” tied to his federal tax evasion charges. The DOJ alleged last year that Ver concealed crypto assets and failed to report hundreds of millions of dollars in Bitcoin gains after renouncing US citizenship.

Sam Bankman-Fried, co-founder of FTX, was officially relocated to a low-security federal facility on Terminal Island, Los Angeles.

Shaquille O’Neal settled a lawsuit over his involvement in promoting unregistered securities for FTX, with terms remaining confidential.

The SEC and Dragonchain mutually agreed to drop the lawsuit over the crypto firm's alleged unregistered securities offerings. The SEC cited the Crypto Task Force's work on crypto regulation as the reason for dismissing the case against Dragonchain.

The SEC officially dropped its fraud case against HEX founder Richard Heart after exceeding its deadline to file an amended complaint following a District Court's earlier dismissal of the agency's claims for lacking US jurisdiction.

Miami-based Unicoins was given until April 18 to agree to a settlement with the SEC. CEO Alex Konanykhin plans to fight the charges in court.

KuCoin’s proposed US CFTC settlement faces delays amid a regulatory shift deprioritizing enforcement action against crypto firms, leaving the case in limbo due to the agency’s current lack of majority leadership.

Alabama’s Securities Commission dropped its enforcement action against Coinbase for its staking program.

North Korea hackers linked to the Lazarus Group created two fake US companies and one offshore entity to distribute malware targeting crypto developers through fake job interviews.

The Full Federal Court of Australia ruled in favor of crypto lender Block Earner on April 22, overturning previous findings that its discontinued “Earner” product constituted a regulated financial product requiring licensing.

Matter Labs, the developer of ZKsync, is facing a lawsuit brought by defunct blockchain firm BANKEX, which alleges that two former employees stole its Plasma-related intellectual property to launch the now heavily VC-backed Ethereum L2 project.

Crypto exchange Bitget temporarily suspended accounts suspected of manipulation on April 20, pausing their trading, deposit, and withdrawal functions after identifying “abnormal trading activity” in the VOXEL/USDT perpetual futures market.

An update to a key piece of software used by developers of Ripple's XRP ledger was found to contain a “potentially catastrophic” security vulnerability. The application has patched to override the vulnerability and users are being encouraged to update immediately and move assets to different wallets with new keys.

MISCELLANEOUS



Spot trading on crypto exchanges has plunged to a six-month low, with futures markets now accounting for more than 80% of BTC and ETH trading as investors’ focus shifts toward leveraged positions.

Trump is offering a private dinner in May to the top 220 investors in his memecoin TRUMP. Plus, the largest 25 of those will be invited to a private reception with Trump.

Dave Portnoy, founder of the Barstool Sports media company, called memecoins “legalized Ponzi schemes,” in an interview with CoinDesk. Portnoy said: “I got involved in memecoins because I wanted to launch a Barstool memecoin, but I didn’t want my fans and followers to lose money. There’s no value to it, so you’ve got to get in and get out before it crashes.”

Ethereum co-founder Vitalik Buterin proposed a major overhaul of Ethereum's execution layer: replacing Ethereum virtual machine contract language with RISC-V instruction set architecture.

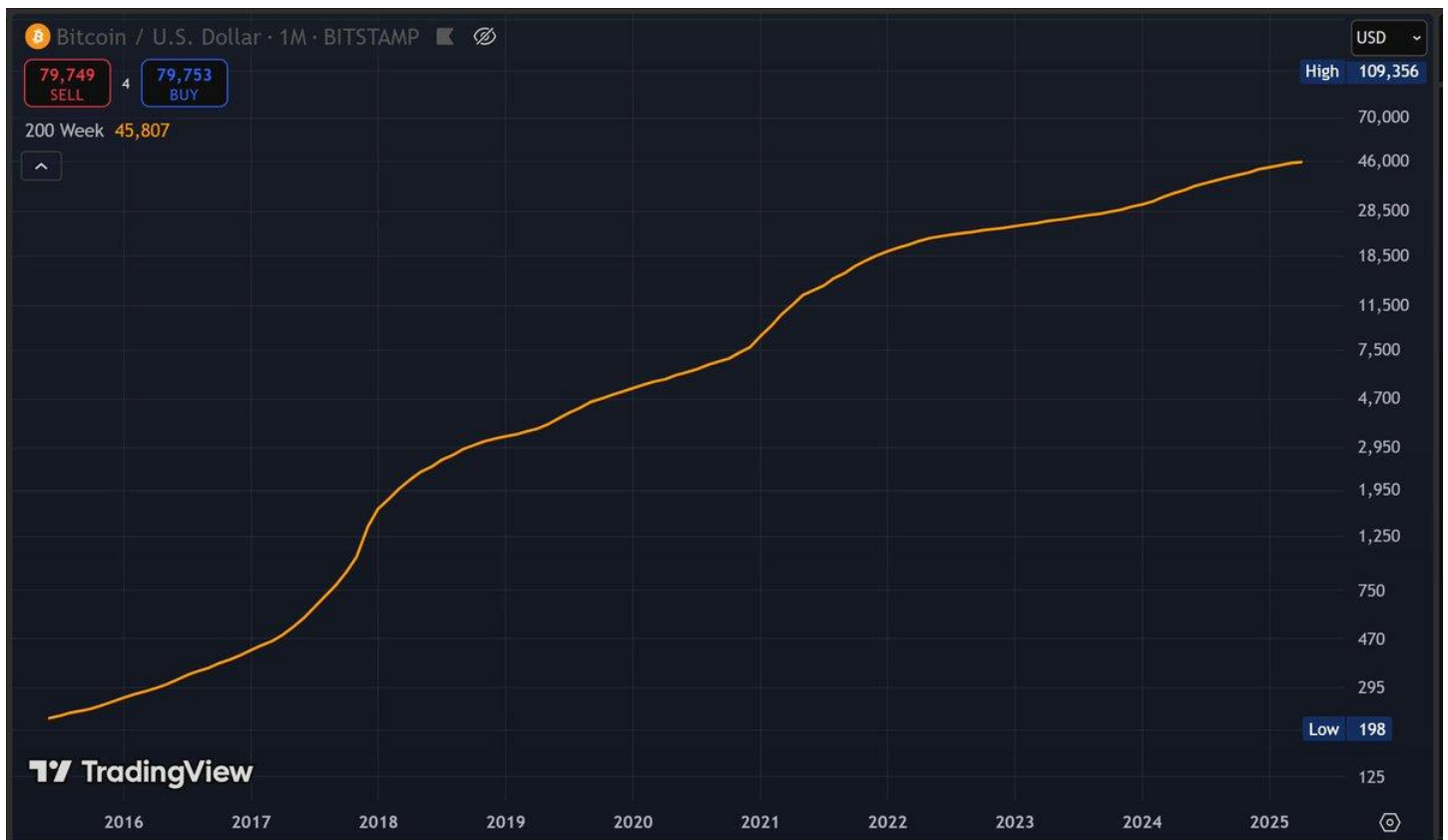
Zora, a social media platform that automatically turns every post into a token on Coinbase’s Base chain, launched its own token with an airdrop on April 23. This comes amid a “content coin” campaign from the creator of Ethereum L2 network Base, Jesse Pollak, with many criticizing the founder for his timing.

MANTRA founder and CEO John Patrick Mullin announced plans to burn his 150 million OM tokens (valued at \$82 million) to restore trust and reaffirm his commitment to the project. (The announcement follows a massive crash of the OM token on April 13, which saw its value drop over 90% and \$5 billion wiped out from its market cap.)

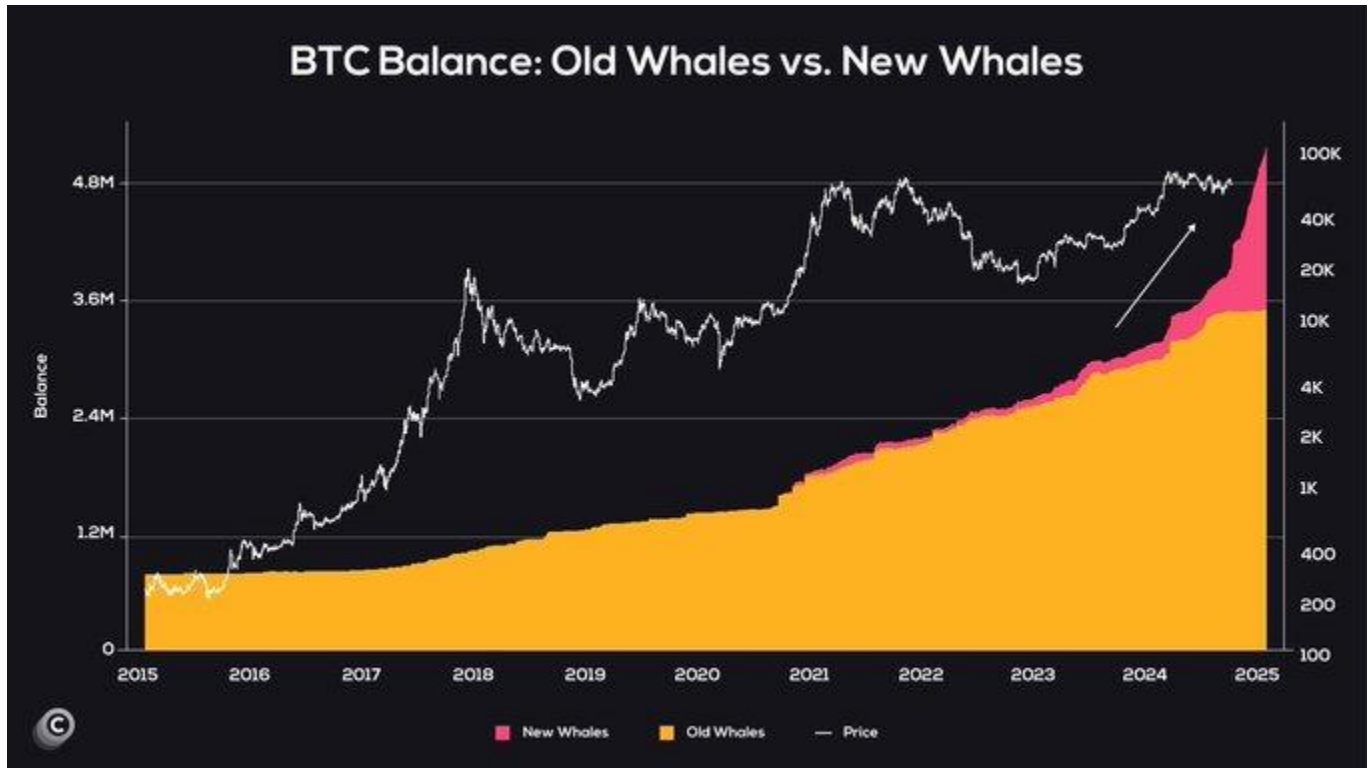
Software company Gitcoin announced that it will be winding down its Grants Lab, citing an unclear path towards profitability and a maturing L2 ecosystem. The shutdown is specific to the Grants Lab and the Grants Stack technology. Other Gitcoin offerings, such as the Human Passport and KERNEL, will remain operational.

CHARTS, TABLES, QUOTES, COMMENTARY & OTHER IMAGES

Cole Walmsley: This is the most significant chart in financial markets. It's Bitcoin – measured with a 200-week moving average (aka 4 years at a time). Zoom out, and the truth becomes crystal clear: Bitcoin has never lost purchasing power. What does this hint at? Bitcoin is the most reliable savings technology on Earth.

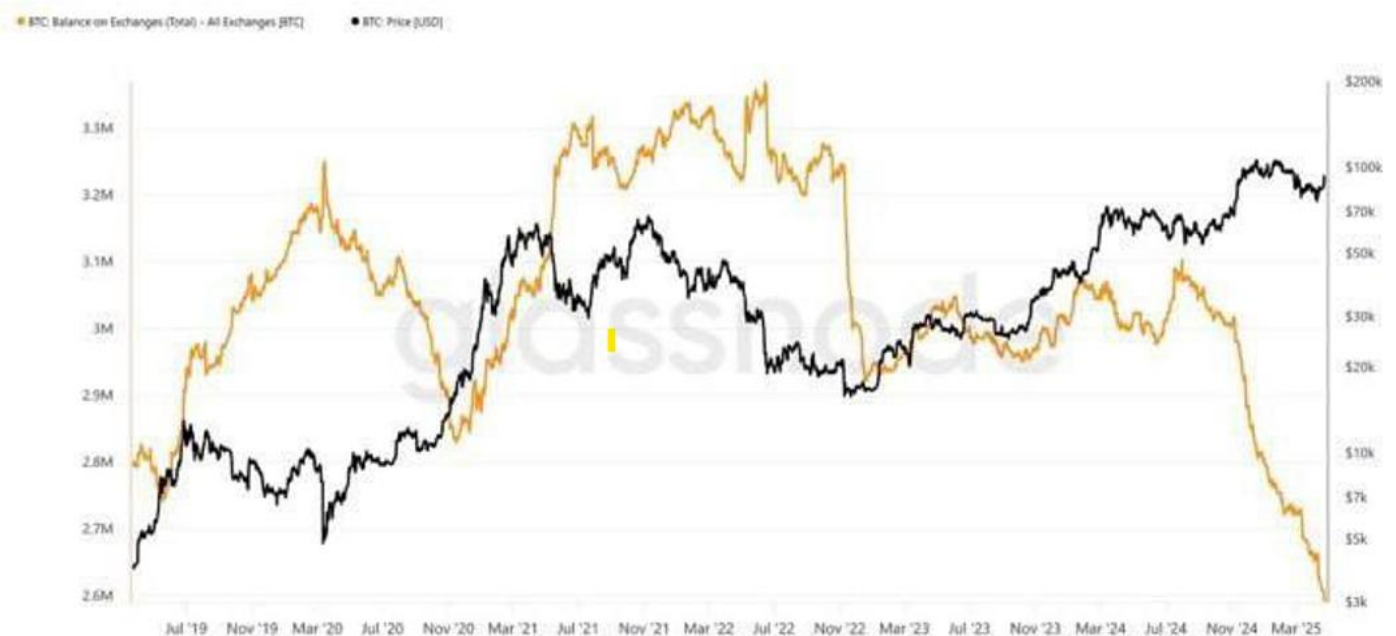


Miles Deutscher: We're currently witnessing the largest increase in new whales in BTC history. Whales are stacking BTC at a record pace.



Fidelity: 2.6M BTC on exchanges, lowest level since Nov. 2018... Over 425K Bitcoin moved off exchanges since Nov. 2024... Public companies have added nearly 350K Bitcoin post-US election... Public companies have bought over 30K Bitcoin per month so far in 2025.

BTC: Balance on Exchanges (Total)



NYDIG: Investors Hunt for Haven Assets...

It should come as no surprise that investors have been on the hunt for investment alternatives not impacted by the global machinations at play, so-called “haven assets.” Historically, cash (the US dollar), bonds (US Treasuries), the Swiss Franc, and gold have fulfilled that role, with Bitcoin edging in on some of that territory. Unfortunately, when one of the main sources of instability and risks comes from a shaking of faith in the US as an institution, it removes US Treasuries and the US dollar as potential options. This is what we have seen in the data, too. Since the election, inauguration, and the rollout of 'reciprocal tariffs' on 'Liberation Day,' both the US dollar and long-term US Treasuries have underperformed, as reflected in the data.

Comparing Haven Asset Returns

Asset	Since Election	Asset	Since Inauguration	Asset	Since "Liberation Day"
Bitcoin	34.7%	Gold	20.2%	Bitcoin	7.6%
Gold	19.0%	Swiss Franc (vs USD)	10.2%	Swiss Franc (vs USD)	6.2%
Swiss Franc (vs USD)	3.9%	US Long Term Treasuries	1.7%	Gold	4.6%
US Dollar (vs Basket)	-2.0%	US Dollar (vs Basket)	-6.7%	US Dollar (vs Basket)	-3.3%
US Long Term Treasuries	-2.9%	Bitcoin	-10.7%	US Long Term Treasuries	-4.0%



Source: Bloomberg, NYDIG

Gold and the Swiss Franc (CHF) have been the consistent winners (CHF shows strength against the EUR, GBP, CNY, and CAD as well) across all time frames. But what is interesting to us is that since “Liberation Day” on April 2nd, a new picture of haven assets is starting to emerge, one which includes Bitcoin. Bitcoin has acted less like a liquid levered version of levered US equity beta and more like the non-sovereign issued store of value that it is.

NYDIG: Asset Performance Illustrative of Investor Exodus of US Exposure...

A more comprehensive analysis of asset class returns since key political events since the election illustrates a stark takeaway – investor avoidance of procyclical and US-exposed assets. For equities, the styles that have fared well on a relative basis have either been non-US stocks (developed and emerging markets) and defensive US stock sectors (Consumer Staples, Utilities, Real Estate), or stocks that should benefit from deregulation (Financials), while “riskier” styles and procyclical industries have fared relatively poorly (Small Cap, Energy, Consumer Discretionary). Fixed income has generally fared better than stocks, no surprise, but classes like TIPS for their inflation protection, international bonds, and short-term US Treasuries stand out as relative winners. Munis and long-duration, US Long Term Treasuries generally fared poorly. In commodities, stores of value, notably gold, have outperformed energy and the general “commodities” buckets, which include energy, agriculture, as well as precious metals. In foreign exchange, the US dollar’s decline is notable, especially in comparison to the appreciation in the Swiss franc. Again, this all paints the picture that investors are seeking alternatives to the US hegemony, whether that is stocks, bonds, FX, or commodities.

Comparing Asset Returns Since Key Political Events

Asset	Since Election	Asset	Since Inauguration	Asset	Since "Liberation Day"
Bitcoin	34.7%	Bitcoin	-10.7%	Bitcoin	7.6%
Equities		Equities		Equities	
Developed Market Equities (Ex-US)	4.9%	Developed Market Equities (Ex-US)	7.5%	Developed Market Equities (Ex-US)	12%
Sector Equities - Financials	3.0%	Sector Equities - Consumer Staples	6.5%	Sector Equities - Consumer Staples	0.3%
Sector Equities - Consumer Staples	2.5%	Emerging Market Equities (Ex-US)	2.4%	Emerging Market Equities (Ex-US)	-1.0%
Sector Equities - Utilities	1.6%	Sector Equities - Utilities	0.1%	Sector Equities - Utilities	-1.4%
Sector Equities - Communication Services	-0.6%	Sector Equities - Real Estate	-0.8%	Sector Equities - Real Estate	-3.8%
Emerging Market Equities (Ex-US)	-3.5%	Sector Equities - Health Care	-2.8%	Large Cap Equities - Growth	-4.1%
Sector Equities - Consumer Discretionary	-5.7%	Sector Equities - Financials	-4.6%	Nasdaq 100	-4.5%
Sector Equities - Real Estate	-6.0%	Sector Equities - Communication Services	-5.3%	Sector Equities - Financials	-4.9%
Large Cap Equities - Growth	-6.3%	Large Cap Equities - Value	-7.1%	Sector Equities - Communication Services	-5.1%
Large Cap Equities - Core	-6.4%	Sector Equities - Materials	-7.3%	Large Cap Equities - Core	-5.1%
Sector Equities - Industrials	-6.5%	Sector Equities - Industrials	-8.1%	Sector Equities - Industrials	-5.2%
Nasdaq 100	-7.3%	Large Cap Equities - Core	-10.0%	Sector Equities - Technology	-5.5%
Sector Equities - Health Care	-7.4%	Mid Cap Equities - Value	-12.4%	Mid Cap Equities - Growth	-5.7%
Large Cap Equities - Value	-7.6%	Nasdaq 100	-12.6%	Sector Equities - Health Care	-5.9%
Sector Equities - Energy	-8.3%	Large Cap Equities - Growth	-12.8%	Large Cap Equities - Value	-6.1%
Mid Cap Equities - Value	-9.4%	Sector Equities - Energy	-12.8%	Sector Equities - Materials	-6.3%
Mid Cap Equities - Core	-11.1%	Mid Cap Equities - Core	-13.7%	Small Cap Equities - Growth	-6.4%
Sector Equities - Materials	-12.1%	Mid Cap Equities - Growth	-14.8%	Sector Equities - Consumer Discretionary	-6.4%
Sector Equities - Technology	-12.4%	Small Cap Equities - Growth	-14.9%	Mid Cap Equities - Core	-6.5%
Mid Cap Equities - Growth	-12.7%	Sector Equities - Technology	-15.2%	Mid Cap Equities - Value	-7.4%
Small Cap Equities - Growth	-14.0%	Sector Equities - Consumer Discretionary	-16.7%	Small Cap Equities - Core	-9.0%
Small Cap Equities - Core	-15.4%	Small Cap Equities - Core	-16.7%	Small Cap Equities - Value	-9.6%
Small Cap Equities - Value	-16.9%	Small Cap Equities - Value	-18.6%	Sector Equities - Energy	-13.7%
Fixed Income		Fixed Income		Fixed Income	
US TIPS	2.1%	US TIPS	2.6%	International Bonds	0.9%
US Short Term Treasuries	2.0%	Aggregate Bonds	1.8%	US Short Term Treasuries	0.2%
International Bonds	2.0%	US Long Term Treasuries	1.7%	US Corporate High Yield Bonds	-0.8%
US Corporate High Yield Bonds	1.1%	International Bonds	1.4%	US TIPS	-1.0%
Aggregate Bonds	1.0%	US Short Term Treasuries	1.1%	Aggregate Bonds	-1.2%
US Corporate Investment Grade Bonds	0.0%	US Corporate Investment Grade Bonds	1.0%	US Corporate Investment Grade Bonds	-1.6%
National Muni Bonds	-2.0%	US Corporate High Yield Bonds	-0.3%	National Muni Bonds	-2.0%
US Long Term Treasuries	-2.9%	National Muni Bonds	-1.6%	US Long Term Treasuries	-4.0%
Commodities		Commodities		Commodities	
Gold	19.0%	Gold	20.2%	Gold	4.6%
Commodities	5.2%	Silver	7.6%	Silver	-2.7%
Silver	0.9%	Commodities	-0.4%	Commodities	-4.3%
Oil	-13.5%	Oil	-20.0%	Oil	-13.2%
Real Estate		Real Estate		Real Estate	
Global Real Estate	-6.1%	Global Real Estate	-0.6%	Global Real Estate	-2.5%
US Real Estate	-7.8%	US Real Estate	-3.2%	US Real Estate	-4.7%
Currencies		Currencies		Currencies	
Swiss Franc	3.9%	Swiss Franc	10.2%	Swiss Franc	6.2%
US Dollar	-2.0%	US Dollar	-6.7%	US Dollar	-3.3%
Volatility		Volatility		Volatility	
Volatility	38.8%	Volatility	78.1%	Volatility	32.3%

Blockware Intelligence: 1 Year Since the Halving – How Have Miners Fared?

It's officially been 1 year since the last Bitcoin Halving. Let's analyze how Bitcoin Mining has performed over the past year...

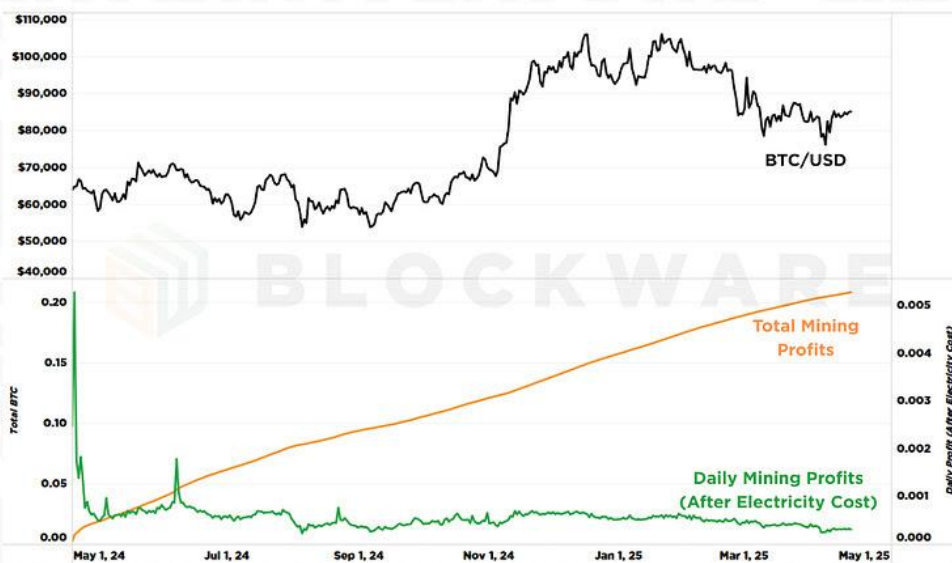
For this analysis we are assuming a miner purchased 1 BTC worth of ASICs and began mining the day of the halving. The most efficient at the time was the S21 (200T) selling for ~\$6,000 per machine; resulting in a 1 BTC purchase yielding ~10.7 miners.

Mining at \$0.075/kWH (a competitive electricity rate made possible with service providers like Blockware) yielded the following returns over 1-year:

- 0.54 BTC Mined
- 0.33 BTC Electricity Costs
- 0.21 Net BTC Accumulated

Bitcoin Mining Since the Halving: 1-Year Analysis

Mining Setup	
Hashrate	200
Energy Efficiency	17.5
Consumption	3500
Price \$/T	\$ 30
Price per Unit	\$ 6,000
Units Acquired	10.7
Total USD Cost	\$ 64,013
Total BTC Cost	1
Total Hash	2133.8
Total Consumption	37341.2
Electricity Rate	\$0.075
Performance	
Total BTC Mined	0.54
Total Electricity Cost	0.34
Total BTC Profits	0.21
\$ Value BTC Mined	\$ 46,325
\$ Value Electricity Costs	\$ 28,538
\$ Value BTC Profits	\$ 17,787
BTC ROI	21%
\$ ROI	28%



In 1 year a miner has returned 21% of their BTC-denominated capital expense, while having an asset (the ASICs) that still produces Bitcoin at a ~30% discount to the market price. With BTC poised to make a run in the next 12 months, the operating margins for this miner will expand allowing them to keep even more of the BTC they mine.

With 3-more years to go until the next halving, I expect this miner to recoup the entirety of the 1 Bitcoin spent on miners and then some. Earlier this year we analyzed the potential returns for Bitcoin mining throughout the remainder of this halving epoch; observing a variety of different market outcomes. In this

analysis we found that in 6 out of 8 market environments, Bitcoin mining resulted in more BTC accumulated than purchasing Bitcoin directly.

	Upfront Capital Deployment	Upfront + Monthly Capital Deployment
 Static Market	Mining outperforms by 51%	Mining outperforms by 28%
 Bear Case	Buying directly outperforms by 5%	Buying directly outperforms by 3%
 Base Case	Mining outperforms by 13%	Mining outperforms by 7%
 Bull Case	Mining outperforms by 23%	Mining outperforms by 15%

Conclusion from Coin Metrics' "State of The Network" weekly report from 4/22/25. (Read the full report, [here](#).)

To answer the question "is this subnet doing something valuable," we simulated trades based on actual Bitcoin market movements during March. The strategy used only the Precog forecast and the 1-minute Bitcoin price at prediction time, without considering historical data.

Simply using the direction of the forecast relative to the price at the prediction time to determine a binary "buy or sell" decision, we obtained positive returns over several periods. We showed positive performance over a 24-day period, particularly when the trader could continue buying or selling as forecasts dictated. In the real world this could be through access to debt in either asset, or simply a large capital reserve.

The strategy traded a fixed amount (1.00 USD) every 5 minutes, so the performance reflects the net effect of many small trades. The 24-day period from 3/01 to 3/24 saw a net growth of 25x the trade size. This strategy can certainly be improved by incorporating historical context, volatility-based sizing, or more precise ways of utilizing the forecasted price. In our next investigation, we intend to use the Interval Forecast to adjust the size of trades based on how much uncertainty is expected in the next hour.

We also tested whether these results were a consequence of specific market conditions. However, when we looked at shorter time periods during which the price decreased, we observed that the Precog forecasts tended to respond appropriately. In the full paper, we bootstrapped several 1-week samples and 15/18 showed positive net returns. In this article, we included four examples where BTC price declined, and the strategy still captured upside and limited losses.

As a final test we considered a more concrete simulation: a trader with only \$1000 of starting capital. We were impressed to find that even during a 24-day period when Bitcoin's price steadily increased, the Precog forecasts helped the trader capture additional returns. When shifting the timeframe to one with a net price decline, the strategy also reduced losses.

Summary and conclusion from Glassnode's "The Week On-Chain" from 4/24/25. (Read the full report, [here](#).)

Bitcoin's surge back above \$94k reflects a mix of macro optimism and shifting investor sentiment. Positive signals around US-China tariffs triggered a rally that reclaimed the Short-Term Holder Cost Basis and lifted the Percent Supply in Profit to 87.3%. Several metrics allude to a constructive recovery being underway for Bitcoin, with an added element of a short squeeze brewing in futures markets.

Institutional demand may be returning for Bitcoin, with the ETFs seeing \$1.54B in net inflows in a single day. The market is very much at a decision point, and the key level to watch is the Short-Term Holder cost basis, which often delineates bullish and bearish market structure. The bulls need to drive the market above this price model and keep it there.

Blockworks updated key metrics...

Total Crypto Market Cap	\$3.07 T
Bitcoin Market Cap	\$1.88 T
Ethereum Market Cap	\$217.28 B
ETH/BTC Ratio	0.02
Ethereum Gas Price	0.44 gwei
DeFi TVL	\$168.20 B
Fear and Greed Index	60 (Greed)

Arca: Narratives Come and Go...

Following the Easter and Passover holidays, it's a good time to talk about narratives. Pretty much any narrative, regardless of how ludicrous the premise, can become reality if enough people tell the story.

For example, is Bitcoin “digital gold”? If enough people say it over and over again, eventually it just becomes accepted. But 2025 has thrown this narrative for a loop with gold rising almost 30% while BTC is down almost 10%. Clearly, BTC can't be digital gold if they are moving in such opposite directions, right?

OR

Maybe we just need to zoom out. Over the past year, BTC and gold are up the exact same amount, and the recent outperformance by gold is just a natural catch-up from the BTC Trump pump last year. As Mark Yusko often says, “alligator jaws must close”.

Narratives are malleable.



Source: TradingView

Similarly, the narrative for years in crypto has been about “Fat protocol thesis” – that all of these unused Layer-1 smart contract protocols are going to have such powerful network effects, and therefore must have tons of value according to Metcalf’s law. It fueled a boom in VC funding.

OR

Maybe the simplest explanation has always been correct. Which is that for something to have value, it must either be useful (utility) or have cash flows (financial). And the ETH, SOL, ADA, AVAX, name your favorite L1 from hundreds of choices of nonsense is just flat out wrong, and ultimately, the projects that actually generate real revenue from real customers will win out.

It's still too early to tell for sure. But the crypto market is finally starting to value financial cash flows and fundamentals. Last week, Bitcoin (+2%), Ethereum (flat) and Solana (+4%) barely moved. Other Layer-1 protocols barely moved as well. But there were some big week-over-week movers with one thing in common. Revenues.

For example:

- Maple (MPL / SYRUP +40% W-o-W) as TVL crossed \$1 billion, and revenue continues to grow in line with its loan portfolio.
- Hyperliquid (HYPE +17% W-o-W and up over 80% from the recent lows) as HYPE continues to take market share from other Perp exchanges (like Binance), generating \$1-2 million per day in revenue, with over 90% of it being used to buyback tokens in the open market.
- Raydium (RAY +14% W-o-W) as Raydium expands its offering to compete with pump.fun on both minting, bonding and trading of newly issued tokens on Solana. This new offering could (in our opinion) triple revenue.

While one week is not a narrative, the tides are definitely turning in crypto. Just like European equity investors are finally seeing the light of day after a decade of underperforming US tech stocks, DeFi and other value tokens in crypto may be seeing a similar divergence taking place in real-time. If this persists, a new important role for crypto projects will soon be investor relations.

Coinbase Institutional and Glassnode released a joint quarterly report for Q2: “Charting Crypto.” It includes a market overview, macro view, Bitcoin, Ethereum, stablecoins, and contributions from Grayscale, a16z crypto, Tephra Digital, and Multicoin. (Download the report, [here](#).)

