



HYPERION DECIMUS

CRYPTO NEWSLETTER

POWERED BY WEEKLY CRYPTO BRIEF

22nd June 2025

BITCOIN-RELATED



NYDIG: Bitcoin declined 2.4% over the past week in a market largely defined by tight trading ranges.

Initial volatility was triggered by renewed geopolitical tensions between Israel and Iran, which briefly unsettled risk assets.

Ukraine introduced a bill for Bitcoin Reserve in parliament.

Spain's second largest bank BBVA is advising wealthy clients to allocate 3-7% of their portfolios to Bitcoin (and Ether), with plans to expand this crypto investment strategy to additional assets later in the year.

Strategy's Michael Saylor met with finance officials in Pakistan to discuss potential roles for Bitcoin and crypto in the country's economic strategy.

Ohio's House passed a bill granting a \$200 crypto capital gains exemption, shielding miners and wallet users from state interference and discriminatory zoning, while advancing broader protections for digital asset activity to the state Senate.

Arizona's Senate passed the revived Bitcoin Reserve Bill, sending it to the House for a final vote. The bill establishes a fund for digital assets seized through criminal asset forfeiture, managed by the state treasurer. It amends forfeiture laws to include digital assets and outlines custodial requirements.

Strategy bought another 10,100 BTC for its corporate Bitcoin treasury. To finance the purchase, Strategy completed a 10% Series A Perpetual Stride Preferred Stock issuance, generating \$979.7 million in net proceeds.

Metaplanet acquired 1,112 BTC for \$117.2 million, reaching its 10,000 BTC target. The company approved a \$210 million bond issuance to EVO Fund, with proceeds allocated to Bitcoin purchases. Metaplanet aims to accumulate 210,000 BTC by 2027. (Metaplanet hit a ¥1 trillion market cap.)

Semler Scientific announced a Bitcoin accumulation plan. The healthcare technology company targets holding 10,000 Bitcoin by year end 2025, 42,000 by 2026, and 105,000 by 2027.

Trump Media and Technology Group, Trump's company behind the Truth Social platform, said the SEC cleared it to follow through with its Bitcoin treasury plan. The company can now proceed with its plan to add Bitcoin to its balance sheet as part of a \$2.3 billion capital raise was secured.

Bitcoin holding firm Nakamoto and telehealth startup KindlyMD raised their BTC treasury target to \$763 million following an additional \$51.5 million in private placement commitments.

DDC Enterprise announced up to a \$528 million raise to accelerate its Bitcoin treasury strategy.

The Blockchain Group plans to raise \$8.3 million by issuing 1.6 million new shares at \$5.19 each as part of its \$342 million program to grow its Bitcoin reserves, adding to the \$11.2 million already raised a week prior through equity and convertible bonds. The company also acquired an additional 182 Bitcoin for ~\$19.6 million.

K33, a leading digital asset brokerage and research firm, announced the launch of a SEK 85 million direct share issue to fund the purchase of Bitcoin. The company aims to build Bitcoin as a core asset on its balance sheet, targeting up to 1,000 BTC as a strategic reserve.

The Smarter Web Company announced it acquired an additional 104.28 Bitcoin, totaling £8.1 million.

Hong Kong and US-headquartered health services company Prenetics said it would follow the example set by Strategy and bought \$20 million of Bitcoin using a Kraken custody account.

Parataxis Holdings is acquiring controlling stake in Bridge Biotherapeutics for KRW 25 billion (\$18.3 million) and the company will be renamed Parataxis Korea and become South Korea's first institutionally backed Bitcoin treasury company.

Bakkt announced that its Board of Directors formally approved an updated corporate investment policy, enabling it to allocate capital into Bitcoin (and other digital assets) as part of its broader treasury and corporate strategy.

Publicly traded Fold secured a \$250 million equity facility to buy more Bitcoin.

As of June 19, 236 public companies held a combined 3.44M BTC (per bitcointreasuries.net).

Asian food brand DayDayCook secured \$528 million across multiple funding channels, including a \$300 million convertible note and a \$200 million equity line, all earmarked for purchasing Bitcoin to grow its corporate treasury.

KaJ Labs, a decentralized AI and blockchain research organization, announced a \$160 million investment in Bitcoin.

Agricultural commodity trading company Davis Commodities will buy \$12 million worth of Bitcoin.

Angel Studios, a film studio valued at \$1.6 billion, acquired 300 Bitcoin as part of the company's broader treasury strategy.

Ethereum and Cardano co-founder Charles Hoskinson proposed converting \$100 million in ADA into Bitcoin (and Cardano-native stablecoins) to grow Cardano's DeFi ecosystem and boost its TVL ratio, arguing the sale would not negatively impact ADA's liquidity.

Polkadot's community is divided over a proposal to convert 500,000 DOT into Bitcoin via a year-long DCA strategy using tBTC, with some arguing it's a necessary hedge and others warning it could worsen selling pressure at a poor valuation time.

Relai, a Swiss Bitcoin platform, and Casa introduced a new Bitcoin saving and security solution – combining Bitcoin accumulation with multisignature security and inheritance planning.

BitBox announced it launched the BitBox02 Nova, a redesigned hardware wallet built for Bitcoin self-custody, which introduces native compatibility with iOS devices and a new Bluetooth communication system called Whisper.

Sorted Wallet announced it integrated the Breez SDK to enable Lightning-fast Bitcoin payments on feature phones and simple Android devices, targeting a user base of over a billion people.

INDUSTRY ADVANCES



Coinbase is seeking SEC approval to offer tokenized stocks in the US, aiming to take on brokerage giants like Robinhood and Charles Schwab.

Coinbase obtained a MiCA license from Luxembourg's Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier and will be able to serve 450 million Europeans.

Mantle launched a new neobank called UR, offering crypto-first accounts with Swiss regulation, global banking rails, and Mastercard debit integration in 40+ countries, with broader DeFi features and public rollout planned for Q3.

Hong Kong's Lion Group secured a \$600 million facility from ATW Partners to fund its Hyperliquid treasury, with an initial \$10.6 million tranche closing within 48 hours and future plans involving SOL and SUI custody via BitGo.

Binance rolled out an AI-powered interface that adapts to your experience level, trading style, and location. Users can now fully personalize their dashboards with smart widgets and dynamic layouts – bringing a tailored, data-rich UI to crypto trading.

The Luxembourg State Treasury issued €50 million in digital Treasury notes using the HSBC Orion DLT platform. The notes which will be listed on the Luxembourg stock exchange, carry zero coupon and were sold at a discount of 99.03% of face value, but will be redeemable at par in six months.

MINING



Under pressure from US tariffs, Chinese mining chip producers Bitmain, MicroBT, and Canaan, who collectively control 99% of global ASIC output, have started building manufacturing bases in the United States.

Singapore-based mining platform Bitdeer revealed plans to raise \$330 million through convertible notes to offset shrinking revenue and scale US operations, just weeks after posting a 41% year-over-year revenue decline and a \$3.2 million loss.

Norway's Labor government plans to investigate a potential ban on new power-intensive crypto mining operations to allocate energy resources more effectively. The government aims to explore the prohibition of establishing new data centers for cryptocurrency mining by fall 2025.

ETPS (EXCHANGE-TRADED PRODUCTS), FUNDS & INDEXES

South Korean authorities have submitted a detailed roadmap for the approval of spot crypto ETFs, marking a significant step toward opening the country's financial markets to crypto-based investment products. (The Financial Services Commission, South Korea's top financial regulator, filed the roadmap with the Presidential Committee on Policy Planning, outlining plans to prepare implementation measures in the second half of 2025.)

Trump Media & Technology Group has filed a registration statement with the SEC to launch the Truth Social Bitcoin and Ethereum ETF. The ETF will directly hold Bitcoin and Ether, with an initial allocation of 75% Bitcoin and 25% Ether.

Franklin Templeton, Galaxy Digital, Grayscale, VanEck, and Fidelity have all submitted updated S-1 filings for spot Solana ETFs following recent SEC outreach signaling growing momentum toward approval. CoinShares also joined the spot Solana ETF race, becoming the eighth issuer to do so.

The Purpose XRP ETF (XRPP) is now trading on the TSX, with no management fee until February 1, 2026.

Brazil-based asset manager Hashdex filed to allow its existing Nasdaq Crypto Index US ETF (NCIQ) to hold tokens beyond BTC and ETH – like SOL, XRP and others.

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

Eigen Labs raised \$70 million, coinciding with the launch of EigenCloud (a platform designed to extend blockchain-grade trust guarantees to any Web2 or Web3 application), from an a16z token purchase.

AI output comparison platform Yupp exited stealth with a \$33 million seed round led by a16z crypto to build a platform that lets users earn crypto rewards by providing feedback on AIs that are used to improve evaluation systems.

OneBalance, a cross-chain infrastructure development firm, raised \$20 million in a Series A financing, led by Cyber Fund and Blockchain Capital.

Try Your Best, a Web3-native community rewards platform built on Avalanche raised \$11 million in a Series A, led by Offline Ventures.

Ubyx announced a \$10 million seed round to deliver the global clearing system that will unlock stablecoin ubiquity – led by Galaxy Ventures, with participation from Coinbase Ventures, Founders Fund, VanEck, and industry stakeholders.

Gradient Network secured a \$10 million seed funding round, led by Pantera Capital and Multicoins Capital, to develop decentralized AI infrastructure protocols Lattica and Parallax.

Project 11 raised \$6 million in a seed round to safeguard Bitcoin from potential threats posed by quantum computing. The funding was co-led by Variant and Quantation, with participation from Castle Island Ventures, Nebular, and Formation.

SOON, an Ethereum L2 network powered by the Solana Virtual Machine, raised \$5 million, led by Amber Group.

IPOS, M&A, PARTNERSHIPS & DEALS



According to the Financial Times, the Justin Sun-founded blockchain project Tron reportedly plans to go public through a reverse merger with SRM Entertainment. Tron has partnered with Dominari Securities, an investment firm with ties to Trump, to manage the deal. The joint entity will buy and hold Tron's native token, TRX, in a move that will resemble, to a large extent, what Michael Saylor's Strategy is doing with Bitcoin.

FalconX is considering an IPO to meet institutional demand for digital assets. The firm has discussed the IPO process with bankers and consultants but has not yet hired an investment bank.

Toronto-based Sol Strategies filed registration papers with the SEC to list its shares on the Nasdaq Capital Market under the ticker symbol "STKE." The company, known for its significant SOL token holdings, aims to tap into the US public capital market for its crypto treasury operations.

Crypto L3 chain B3 acquired PC builder Andromeda Insights and is releasing the B3PC, a blue-lit prebuilt for gamers that has some crypto integrations plus a dedicated "Destroy" button.

BNB Chain Foundation acquired stakes in 17 tokens spanning DeFi, AI, gaming, and memes under its \$100 million Incentive Program. New investments include CAKE, LISTA, VIXBT, and MOOLAH.

Fenix Energy, an energy firm based in Latin America, completed a \$75 million acquisition of a live oil and gas operation using blockchain tokenization. Global Settlement, a blockchain firm specializing in RWAs, executed the deal through its GSX Protocol.

Eyenovia reached a securities purchase agreement involving a \$50 million private placement with accredited institutional investors. The funds will be directed towards acquiring HYPE tokens, the native currency of the Hyperliquid blockchain platform.

Don Wilson's DRW invested \$100 million in Trump Media & Technology Group just weeks after his crypto firm Cumberland had an SEC lawsuit dropped, making DRW a major backer of the Trump family's \$2 billion Bitcoin initiative.

Duelbits and Bitcoin Magazine partnered to introduce "Bet the Numbers" – a data-driven initiative designed to empower Bitcoin enthusiasts with weekly insights, interactive charts, and custom price prediction markets directly on the Duelbits platform.

Taxbit partnered with Global Blockchain Business Council (GBBC) to support their growing cryptocurrency and stablecoin management needs.

NHN Cloud signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with blockchain developer CREDER – a company that operates the "Gold Station," a RWA platform that digitizes gold so that it can be traded by incorporating it into the blockchain.

DEFI



The latest financials show Trump earned \$57.3 million from his DeFi project World Liberty Financial, which raised \$550 million through token sales. (Trump-linked DT Marks DeFi quietly cut its stake in World Liberty Financial's holding firm from 60% to 40%.)

Securitize and Ethena Labs enabled continuous atomic swaps between BlackRock's \$2.88 billion tokenized BUIDL fund and the USDtb stablecoin to enhance institutional DeFi access and bolster onchain dollar liquidity.

Kraken announced that users can stake their Bitcoin on the platform to earn rewards as BABY tokens through the Babylon protocol. This feature is available in select regions, allowing clients to earn returns on their BTC while supporting PoS blockchains.

Bybit announced Byreal, a Solana-based hybrid decentralized exchange blending centralized liquidity with DeFi tools such as request for quote and concentrated liquidity market maker routing, aiming to support both retail and institutional users through features like maximal extractable value protection, fair launches, and curated yield products.

Jupiter, a Solana-based exchange aggregator, has halted its DAO voting due to negative feedback, impacting the decentralization of the project. The decision to pause governance was made in response to a "perpetual FUD cycle" affecting the protocol's trust and effectiveness. Jupiter plans to revive DAO voting in 2026.

CBDOS & STABLECOINS



Paolo Ardoino, the chief executive of USDT stablecoin issuer Tether, said the company will release

a password manager called PearPass after a record-breaking 16 billion passwords associated with Google, Apple and Facebook were reportedly leaked.

JPMorgan Chase has filed a trademark application for a Web3 project called JPMD with the US Patent and Trademark Office. Days later, the bank introduced the USD Deposit Token on Coinbase's Base Blockchain, enabling JPMorgan institutional clients to move money 24/7 on-chain.

Chinese giant JD.com announced plans to apply for stablecoin licenses in major economies to cut cross-border payment costs by up to 90% and reduce settlement time to under 10 seconds.

Revolut, a major neobank, is exploring the creation of its own stablecoin.

Paxos launched Paxos Labs to help institutions issue custom stablecoins, deploy tokenized yield strategies, and manage digital assets via API tools tailored for fintechs, exchanges, and DeFi networks.

Elastos introduced a stablecoin, BTCD, backed by Bitcoin, aiming to replicate the Bretton Woods system with Bitcoin at its core. The overcollateralization of 160%-200% in Bitcoin ensures stability, with oracles monitoring the BTC-USD rate for adjustments.

Coinbase launched Coinbase Payments on its Base network to let merchants accept 24/7 USDC payments with no blockchain knowledge, integrating with Shopify. Coinbase also teamed up with Nodal Clear to enable USDC as regulated collateral in US futures trading and expanded its stablecoin payments network.

Brale launched a production-ready Stablecoin API that enables businesses to integrate stablecoin- powered payments in minutes. The API offers 0 bps fees for on-ramps, off-ramps, and swaps across 50+ stablecoins on 15+ blockchains. It supports stablecoin issuance from Brale, Circle, and Paxos.

NFTS, BLOCKCHAIN GAMING & METAVERSE



NFT brand Pudgy Penguins partnered with NASCAR to push crypto-native mascots into motors.

FC Barcelona, the Spanish soccer club Forbes values at \$5.65 billion, is releasing a wallet for its upcoming NFTs called Barça.Pass as part of its digital strategy. Anyone with a Barça ID can now claim a wallet and will ultimately be able to use it to create an FC Barcelona avatar NFT, customize the character with official merch, and collect other types of digital items in anticipation of an upcoming FCB mobile racing game.

Forgotten Playland integrated with Beam Network on Avalanche L1 chain, introducing freely tradeable in-game assets like NFTs. Players can own cosmetic and toybox NFTs, enhancing personalization and marketplace trading within the game economy

The Avalanche Battle Pass, a free-to-mint NFT, connects games and rewards players for playing partnered games like Off the Grid and MapleStory N. It supports over a dozen games and offers rewards such as in-game NFTs and AVAX tokens.

Nexus that it signed an onboarding agreement with global gaming companies for four blockchain-based games on its open platform, CROSS: Amazing Cultivation, Miss Legend, Chronicles of the Celestial Way, and Canonization of the Gods.

Polemos, a leading Web3 gaming infrastructure platform dedicated to bridging the gap between traditional gaming and the decentralized future, announced a new strategic partnership with The Sandbox.

JOB MOVEMENT



Semler Scientific appointed Joe Burnett as Director of Bitcoin Strategy.

Polygon co-founder Jordi Baylina spun off its former zkEVM team into a new Swiss-based startup called ZisK, transferring all code and IP to the independent venture. ZisK will focus on building low-latency, open-source zkVM-proving technology after being incubated within Polygon Labs for over a year.

Digital prime brokerage firm GCEX Group appointed Stanislav Bunimovich, former COO of Finalto, as Managing Director, APAC and Strategic Adviser to CEO, Lars Holst.

REGULATIONS, RULINGS & COMMENTARY



The US Senate passed the GENIUS Act with a 68-30 vote, creating the country's first stablecoin regulatory framework. The bill, backed by the Trump administration, aims to solidify US dollar dominance, requiring stablecoins to be fully backed by dollars or similarly liquid assets, mandating annual audits for issuers with market caps of more than \$50 billion, and establishing guidelines for foreign issuance. The bill now heads to the House, which must decide whether to pursue its own STABLE Act bill or adopt the Senate's GENIUS Act. Trump called on the House to pass the GENIUS Act "LIGHTNING FAST."

President Donald Trump's stated goal of passing market structure cryptocurrency legislation by the August recess is in serious jeopardy. A spokesperson for Senate Banking Committee Chair Tim Scott (R-SC) confirmed that while the senator plans to hold a hearing on the CLARITY Act next month, a markup session will not happen until the fall.

Spokane City Council unanimously approved a ban on virtual currency kiosks, including crypto ATMs, to protect residents from scams. Operators have 60 days to remove their machines or face penalties and potential license revocation.

The Bank of England aims to introduce new regulations by 2026 to manage banks' exposure to cryptocurrencies for financial stability.

Brazil has enacted a flat 17.5% tax on all crypto profits for individuals, removing the exemption for smaller monthly sales and applying the new rule globally across all wallets and exchanges, with losses deductible only over five quarters.

Vietnam's National Assembly approved legislation legalizing digital assets and providing incentives for semiconductor manufacturing, AI development, and tech startups. The Law on Digital Technology Industry defines digital assets and aims to boost the country's tech sector.

Thailand's government approved a tax measure proposed by the Ministry of Finance to exempt certain crypto transactions from capital gains tax until the end of 2029. Crypto capital gains will be exempt from personal income tax if made through licensed exchanges, brokers, or dealers regulated by the country's Securities and Exchange Commission. (Thailand's SEC is also seeking feedback on updating crypto listing criteria.)

Malaysia launched its Digital Asset Innovation Hub initiative, which will serve as a regulatory sandbox, enabling fintech and digital asset firms to test new technologies under the oversight of the country's central bank.

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

A South Korean court acquitted Haru Invest CEO Lee Hyung-soo of fraud charges totaling \$650 million, ruling he did not intentionally deceive investors.

US authorities filed to seize \$225 million in crypto from wallets tied to global confidence scams in the largest crypto seizure in Secret Service history, following a joint investigation involving blockchain analysis.

Iranian exchange Nobitex was hacked for over \$82 million by the Israeli-linked group Gonjeshke Darande, which claims to have exfiltrated internal data and vows to leak source code while accusing the platform of helping Iran sidestep sanctions.

Binance revealed that it has played a central role in dismantling Incognito Market, a notorious darknet drug marketplace that facilitated more than \$100 million in illegal narcotics sales, according to US and Taiwanese law enforcement agencies. The takedown was part of a broader international investigation, codenamed Operation RapTor, which targeted the darknet platform's operators and financial infrastructure.

The DoJ secured guilty pleas from three California residents and two Chinese citizens for their roles in laundering more than \$36.9 million from victims of an international crypto investment scam conspiracy. The money was stolen from defrauded investors in the US through a web of shell companies, offshore accounts, and digital asset wallets.

Multi-chain asset-staking protocol Meta Pool suffered an exploit due to a critical bug in its staking smart contract – a vulnerability that allowed an attacker to mint 9,700 of the protocol's mpETH tokens, valued at around \$27 million, without needing to stake the underlying ETH.

Gemini accused the CFTC of weaponizing fraudulent whistleblower claims in a seven-year legal battle it settled for \$5 million, calling the regulator's conduct unconstitutional and emblematic of a toxic enforcement culture.

The German Financial Intelligence Unit reported an 8.2% year-over-year increase in anti-money laundering reports related to cryptocurrencies in 2024, with Bitcoin being the most reported digital asset.

A 23-year-old crypto investor was kidnapped near Paris, marking France's 10th known "wrench attack" and the 32nd globally in 2025, according to Le Parisien and data tracked by Jameson Lopp.

Alex Mashinsky, former Celsius CEO, agreed to forfeit all claims to the bankrupt crypto lender's assets, allowing for additional creditor distributions. The agreement, filed in the US Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, bars Mashinsky and related entities from receiving any bankruptcy proceeds.

A North Korean developer-turned-hacker, linked to online contracting rings known for infiltrating software projects, gained high-level access to the Waves Protocol's Keeper-Wallet codebase, according to security researchers at Ketman.

Polyhedra Network claims that the dramatic collapse of its ZKJ token, which fell more than 80% over a few hours on June 15, was primarily caused by a coordinated onchain liquidity attack and significant token deposits by major crypto market maker Wintermute.

The X accounts of popular Solana-based memecoin launchpad Pump.fun and its co-founder Alon Cohen were suspended by the platform on June 16. The suspensions appear to be part of a broader enforcement action targeting dozens of crypto-related accounts, including accounts linked to other services such as GMGN and ElizaOS.

A threat actor associated with North Korea has been infiltrating interviews in the crypto industry and infecting companies with malware. Their aim is to steal passwords for crypto wallets, primarily for companies based in India. The victims are having their computers remotely operated after agreeing to do a video interview with the exploiters and downloading suggested software.

CoinMarketCap identified and removed a malicious wallet scam, though the team insists the investigation into the incident is still ongoing.

MISCELLANEOUS

With divorce lawyers seeing a rise in crypto-related disputes, Christopher Castellano, a principal at Joseph, Greenwald & Laake said. Modern prenups and postnups are increasingly adding clauses that classify crypto assets as separate or marital property, set valuation methods, and spell out how they should be divided in a divorce.

TikTok slammed Rep. Brad Sherman's claim that its owners bought \$300 million in TRUMP memecoins, calling it "patently false and irresponsible." (Sherman accused TikTok of effectively bribing President Trump to delay its looming US ban, but the congressman appeared to have confused the deal with a separate company, GD Culture Group.)

The Ink Foundation announced plans to launch and airdrop its INK token, marking a major step for the Kraken-incubated Ethereum L2 as it eyes competition with Coinbase's tokenless Base network.

Coinbase faced backlash from the crypto community for sponsoring the US Army's anniversary parade, coinciding with Donald Trump's birthday. Critics found the move contradictory to Coinbase's neutral stance on political causes and its reliance on overseas customer support.

Crypto exchange Bitget will sponsor the Crypto Jazz Festival from July 9-12. This new event is an integral part of the globally renowned Montreux Jazz Festival, the world's second-largest jazz festival, which annually draws 250,000+ attendees.

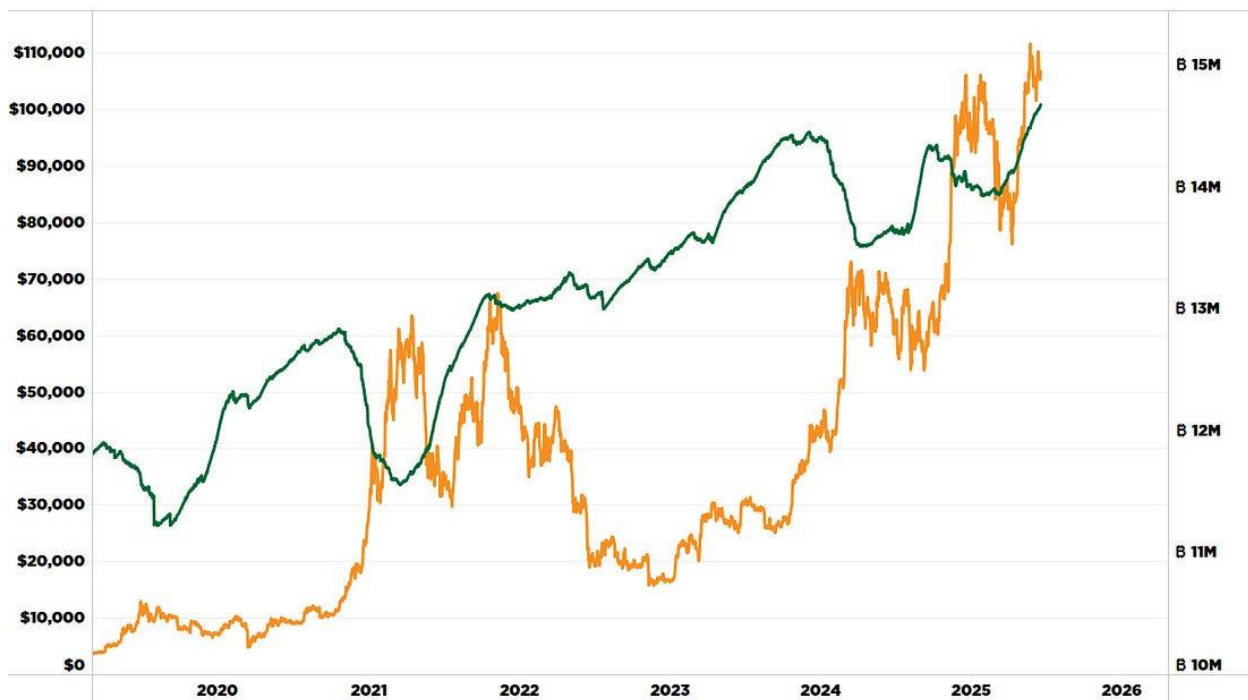
CHARTS, TABLES, QUOTES, COMMENTARY & OTHER IMAGES

Blockware Intelligence: Over 69% of the BTC supply has not moved on-chain in 6 months or longer – the highest concentration of supply in Bitcoin history. This is in spite of the fact that BTC has traded north of \$100,000 for the past month. A rapid increase in long-term holder supply preceded BTC price appreciation in Q1 2024 and Q4 2024. We expect this time to be no different. Q3 is going to be massive for Bitcoin.



BLOCKWARE

BTC/USD, Long-Term Holder Supply



Glassnode partnered with Gemini to publish the 2025 Bitcoin Market Structure Report – an in-depth look at how sovereign reserves, institutional ownership, and offchain venues are influencing Bitcoin’s role in global finance. (Download it, [here.](#))



Matt Hougan's (Bitwise) Weekly CIO Memo: "This Is Water (or, What the Hell Is Fiat?) – The World Is Waking Up to the Crazy of the Fiat Currency Experiment."

The legendary author David Foster Wallace gave a commencement speech at Kenyon College in 2005 that started with a parable:

There are these two young fish swimming along and they happen to meet an older fish swimming the other way, who nods at them and says, "Morning, boys. How's the water?" And the two young fish swim on for a bit, and then eventually one of them looks over at the other and goes, "What the hell is water?"

Wallace's point is that we are often blind to the most important realities, especially when those realities have surrounded us our whole lives.

I've been thinking a lot about those fish recently.

Like nearly every other financial professional working today, I've spent my entire life swimming in the water of a fiat-based world – one in which a country's money supply is based not on its accumulation of reserves like gold or silver, but whatever the government decides it should be. The US went off the gold standard 54 years ago, in 1971. Assuming most people start their careers at age 21, the youngest person in finance who might remember working in a non-fiat era is 75 today.

When most of us were in school, the adoption of fiat currency was presented as an inevitable progression, like crawling out of the mud and beginning to walk upright.

People thought gold was money, we laughed. How cute.

But increasingly, people seem to be waking up to the possibility that maybe the fiat era we've been living through is the anomaly. Maybe printing money out of thin air, as we started to do in 1971, is actually a wild idea. Maybe sound money requires limits.

Put differently, people are starting to look around and ask: What the hell is fiat?

One of the groups asking that question is the august Financial Times, whose "Big Read" this past weekend was an in-depth article on how gold became the world's refuge from uncertainty.

One key passage:

For the guardians of the global economy, gold – which has been used as a store of value since the first gold bars were created in Mesopotamia thousands of years ago – seemed destined for irrelevance.

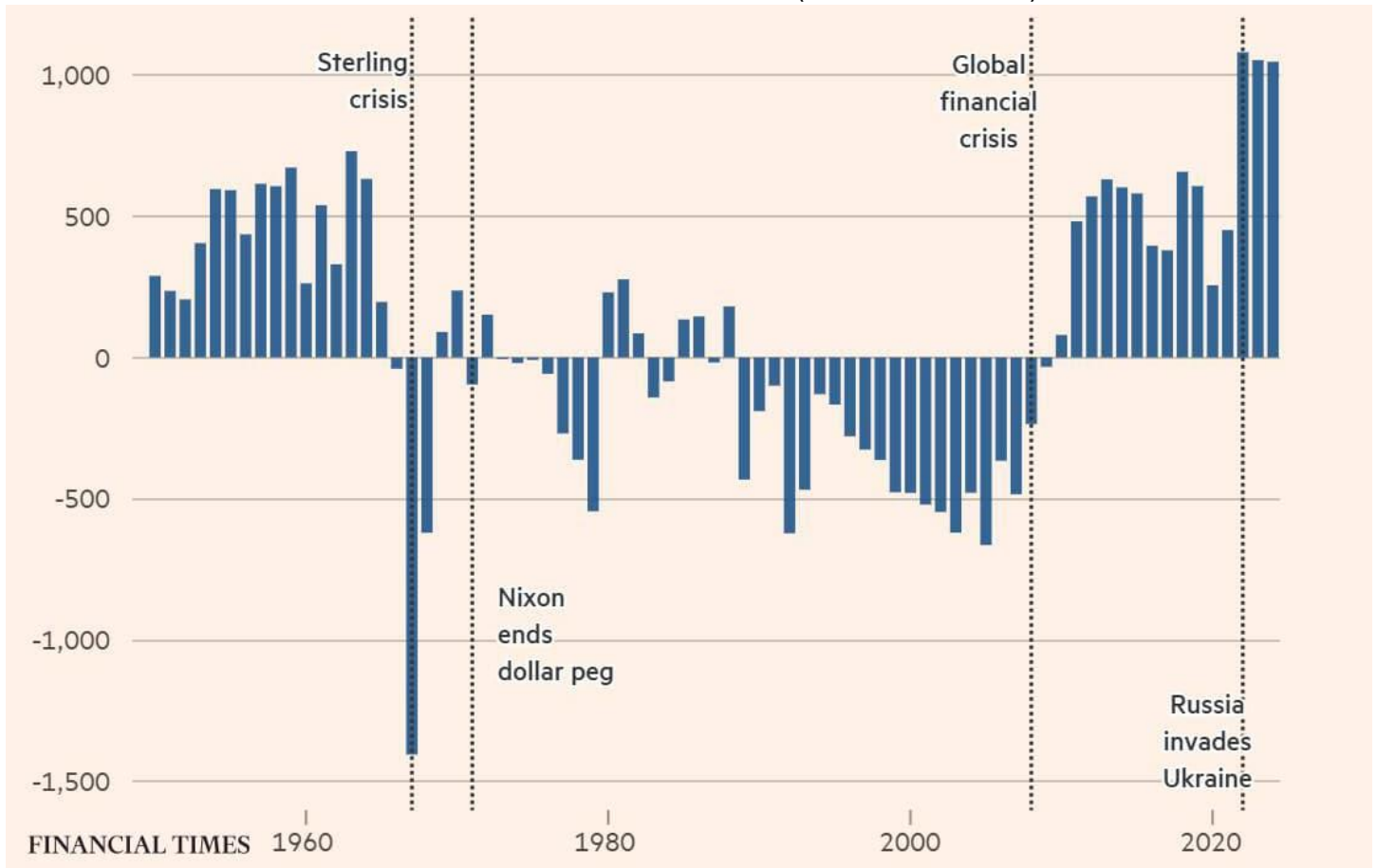
Yet bullion has made a roaring comeback, not just among speculators and so-called gold bugs who mistrust modern paper currencies, but even among the most conservative investors in the world...

In a febrile political era, where many of the core assumptions about the global economy are being questioned, gold has once more become an anchor.

The FT notes that central banks – which routinely bought gold before 1971 – have been aggressively buying again. As the chart below shows, those annual purchases began after the Great Financial Crisis of 2008 and went into overdrive after the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2020. In other words, they kicked off

when central bankers started really abusing fiat currencies, and they accelerated once governments started seizing some of those currencies.

Central Banks Are Ploughing Record Amounts Into Gold
Net Central Bank Purchases/Sales (Tonnes of Bullion)



Source: Financial Times with data from Metals Focus, Refinitiv GFMS, and World Gold Council.

Last year, gold surpassed the euro as the second-most widely held reserve asset, after the US dollar. With US debt pushing \$37 trillion, and a growing temptation for the US to debase its way out, central bankers have realized they need to hedge their bets. They want an asset that is:

- scarce
- global
- difficult for governments to manipulate
- capable of being held directly in a self-sovereign manner.

You can probably see where I'm going with this. Those qualities don't just apply to gold.

They increasingly point to Bitcoin.

Bitcoin: A Growing Hedge Against Fiat Debasement

Individual investors, like governments, are waking up to the perils of reckless money printing. But interestingly, they're mostly doing it through Bitcoin – widely considered a digital alternative to gold. Since their launch in January 2024, Bitcoin ETFs have pulled in \$45 billion, compared to \$34 billion for gold ETFs over the same period.

Why the discrepancy between governments and regular people? The primary reason is capacity: At \$2 trillion, the Bitcoin market is still considered too small for central bankers, and it doesn't yet have the liquidity to support their entry and exit at scale. I suspect this will change over time – in fact, government demand for Bitcoin is only increasing. But for now, I see these as two sides of the same trade.

Whether we're talking about gold or Bitcoin, though, the underlying takeaway is the same: For the last forty years, we've been taught to diversify our portfolios by combining stocks and bonds. But no matter how you calibrate that – 60% stocks and 40% bonds, or 70/30, whatever – you are still 100% exposed to fiat currency.

People are realizing that those are rather risky waters to be swimming in.

Van Buren Capital general partner Scott Johnsson thinks the SEC greenlighting crypto index ETFs could open the floodgates.



Eric Balchunas: Would love to hear directly from Atkins, but all good chance of happening. Here's our latest odds of approval for all the different spot ETFs via @JSeyff...

Spot Crypto ETP Filings/BI's Odds of Approval							
Digital Asset	Firms That Have Filed S-1's For Spot Asset	First 19b-4 File Date	19b-4 Acknowledged?	Final SEC Deadline	Does SEC Currently View as Commodity?	CFTC Regulated Futures?	Odds of Approval in 2025
Baskets/Index (Incl Conversions)	Grayscale, Bitwise, Hashdex, Franklin	10/15/24	Yes	7/2/25	N/A	N/A	90%
Litecoin	Canary, Grayscale, Coinshares	1/16/25	Yes	10/2/25	Likely Yes	Yes	90%
Solana	Grayscale, VanEck, 21Shares, Canary, Bitwise, Franklin	1/24/25	Yes	10/10/25	Likely Yes	Yes	90%
XRP	Grayscale, Bitwise, Canary, 21Shares, WisdomTree, Coinshares, Franklin	1/30/25	Yes	10/17/25	Likely Yes	Coming April 21st	85%
Dogecoin	Grayscale, Bitwise, 21Shares	1/31/25	Yes	10/17/25	Likely Yes	Yes	80%
Cardano	Grayscale	2/10/25	Yes	10/23/25	Likely Yes	Yes	75%
Polkadot	Grayscale, 21Shares	2/25/25	Yes	11/8/25	Likely Yes	Yes	75%
HBAR	Canary, Grayscale	2/24/25	Yes	11/11/25	Likely Yes	Yes	80%
Avalanche	Grayscale, VanEck	3/28/25	Yes	~12/12/25	Likely Yes	Yes	75%

Note: Dates are estimates and/or deadlines, so they may come earlier. Odds are the subjective SEC approval odds from Analysts.

Source: Bloomberg Intelligence

Bloomberg Intelligence BI

Conclusion from Coin Metrics’ “State of The Network” weekly report from 6/17/25. (Read the full report, [here](#).)

Our investigation into the rise in Avalanche C-Chain transactions uncovered a combination of contributing sources. Growth appears to be driven by protocol-level infrastructure like DEX routers and bridges, alongside application activity from new Avalanche L1s like MapleStory Universe. The Etna upgrade played a key enabling role, lowering transaction costs and reducing the barriers to launching new chains. Taken together, these trends highlight how Avalanche’s modular, multi-chain architecture is beginning to support more diverse forms of on-chain activity.

Summary and conclusions from Glassnode’s “The Week On-Chain” from 6/19/25. (Read the full report, [here](#).)

Despite Bitcoin’s elevated price, a clear divergence has emerged between market valuation and network activity, with transaction counts remaining unusually low, largely due to a sharp decline in non-monetary transactions. This drop in throughput has led to a significant fall in fee-based miner revenue, contrasting sharply with previous bull cycles where price rallies typically brought network congestion and surging fees.

Nevertheless, the volume settled by the network remains substantial, settling an average \$7.5B per day. The combination of low transaction count and a heightened volume throughput suggests large entities are becoming increasingly dominant within on-chain activity. Additionally, volume traded across off-chain venues has recorded strong growth, with combined spot, futures and options volume regularly exceeding on-chain settlement volume by a factor of 7–16x.

Leverage continues to build in the derivatives market with the aggregate futures and options open interest remaining historically elevated at \$96.2B. However, the composition of the underlying collateral structure has markedly improved, with stablecoin-margined positions now comprising the majority of open interest. This shift highlights the maturation of the derivative complex around digital assets, and a move toward more stable risk management practices.

Blockworks updated key metrics...

Total Crypto Market Cap	\$3.23 T
Bitcoin Market Cap	\$2.02 T
Ethereum Market Cap	\$277.04 B
ETH/BTC Ratio	0.02
Ethereum Gas Price	6.18 gwei
DeFi TVL	\$200.13 B
Fear and Greed Index	49 (Neutral)

Arca: The Rise of Value Investing in the Maturing Digital Assets Market...

Middle East War Doesn't Matter for Markets

Oil was up. Gold was up. Treasuries were up. Stocks and crypto were down. That's a familiar response to a Middle East war, but it won't last. It never does. Knee-jerk, algo-driven responses react to fear, but almost all Middle East tensions retrace within a few days. I would expect that to happen again this week, but we'll see.

But while Middle East trades are just that, short-term trades. Fundamental value investing in crypto appears to have real long-term legs.

Over the past seven years, the digital assets space has evolved at an unprecedented rate. We've watched narratives explode overnight, capital flood into sectors with unclear long-term viability, and both retail and institutional investors chase the next "big thing." But blockchain integration via tokens hasn't created new forms of value – the same three forms of value still exist, regardless of what instrument you choose to invest in.

There are three forms of value:

1. Financial value – Similar to present value math for bonds and equities, an asset's financial value is driven by an entity's cash flows and the promise of distribution of these cash flows.
2. Utility value – The ability to spend or use this asset. For example, airline miles, Starbucks points, tokens used to pay for gas, tokens that can be used as collateral, etc.
3. Social value – From meme stocks to Nike shoes to the incredible enthusiasm and staying power of blockchain communities, there is value in "being a part of something cool." The feeling of common affection for something is a durable source of motivation, far more so than communities of critics who typically dissipate before long because it's not that fun spending your time hating something.

While each phase of the market's evolution has played a role, it's becoming increasingly clear: value investing will define the next era of digital assets.

Social and Utility Investing: The First Waves

For years, social investing dominated headlines and capital flows in the digital assets space. Tokens like Dogecoin and Shiba Inu gained traction not because of what they did, but because of who was talking about them and how loudly the community could shout. The speculative mania surrounding these assets generated eye-popping short-term returns, but most struggle to sustain long-term value unless they incorporate utility and financial features over time (as the TRUMP token did with the POTUS dinner).

Next came utility investing – a more logic-driven framework. Investors began pouring billions into L1 blockchains and infrastructure projects, betting that broader adoption would eventually justify sky-high valuations. By late 2021, there were over 50 L1s with multibillion-dollar market caps. Many of them – like Near Protocol, Algorand, and Cardano – struggled to attract meaningful developer activity or sustained user growth. TVL became the go-to metric, even as many platforms saw usage fall 80-90% from their peaks.

Both social and utility investing brought important innovations. But as standalone frameworks, they've proven to be short-sighted. Neither community hype nor unproven functionality provides a strong foundation for sustainable growth.

The Quiet Rise of Financial Value Investing

Today, we're seeing a clear shift in mindset. Investors are asking more challenging questions and seeking assets that resemble traditional financial instruments. As such, the industry is attempting to value tokens based on traditional metrics such as cash flows, earnings multiples, sustainable tokenomics, and governance alignment.

When I first entered the industry in 2016, value investing opportunities were scarce. One of the first to break through was Bitfinex's LEO token – a standout example of applying traditional value frameworks in a digital asset context. In 2019, following an \$850 million shortfall exposed by a NYSAG lawsuit, Bitfinex issued the LEO token to stabilize its balance sheet. Structured more like a distressed debt rescue financing than a speculative token sale, LEO provided investors with real upside via revenue-based buybacks, downside protection through recovery-linked payouts, and utility benefits on a top-tier exchange. With measurable cash flows and aligned incentives, it was one of the first digital assets evaluated on fundamentals, not hype. Naturally, almost ALL crypto investors and VCs ignored this because it didn't fit the Utility Value/Metcalf Law metrics that they had all convinced themselves mattered.

Fast forward to today, and we're seeing similar dynamics emerge with Hyperliquid (HYPE), Maple Finance (SYRUP), Maker Dao (MKR) and a host of other DeFi and DePIN applications. This isn't a momentum play – these are fundamentally sound protocols and companies generating real, consistent revenues. Hyperliquid has built one of the most capital-efficient and sustainable business models in DeFi, and the HYPE token reflects this strength. It's not a governance stub – it has structured, transparent value accrual tied directly to platform usage, with incentives designed to reward long-term participation. There are no inflated emissions or ambiguous roadmaps – just real economic activity, fee capture, and a clear plan to return value to tokenholders. That's value investing in action.

Why Value Investing Matters

This shift toward value investing is more than a change in asset selection – it's a signal that digital assets are maturing. It forces teams to think beyond token launches and incentive programs. It encourages the development of sustainable business models, fosters long-term planning, and promotes alignment between investors and users. It also encourages teams to engage with liquid fund managers and large, crypto-native retail investors, rather than just venture capitalists.

It also opens the door to institutional capital. Pension funds, endowments, and sovereign wealth funds aren't chasing the next memecoin, but they are increasingly focused on assets that generate yield, cash flows, and governance rights. Firms such as Fidelity Digital Assets, Franklin Templeton, and BlackRock have already begun integrating these principles into their cryptocurrency strategies. Their interest lies in "crypto with cash flow," not just crypto with a community.

Regulatory Headwinds Slowed Value Investing

One reason it has taken so long for value investing to gain ground in crypto is simple: it was discouraged by regulators. Under SEC Chair Gary Gensler, the agency has aggressively targeted projects that return

value to token holders, labeling many as unregistered securities. This created a chilling effect. Projects that might have shared profits or executed buybacks pivoted toward utility narratives or community-driven models to avoid scrutiny. While rooted in consumer protection, this stance slowed the development of value-aligned, financially sound protocols.

But crypto is growing up before our eyes. As the hype cycles fade and the market matures, fundamentals are beginning to matter. Social and utility investing aren't going away – but they're no longer enough. The next generation of investors wants more than just a story. They want assets backed by cash flows, governance rights, and real economic value.

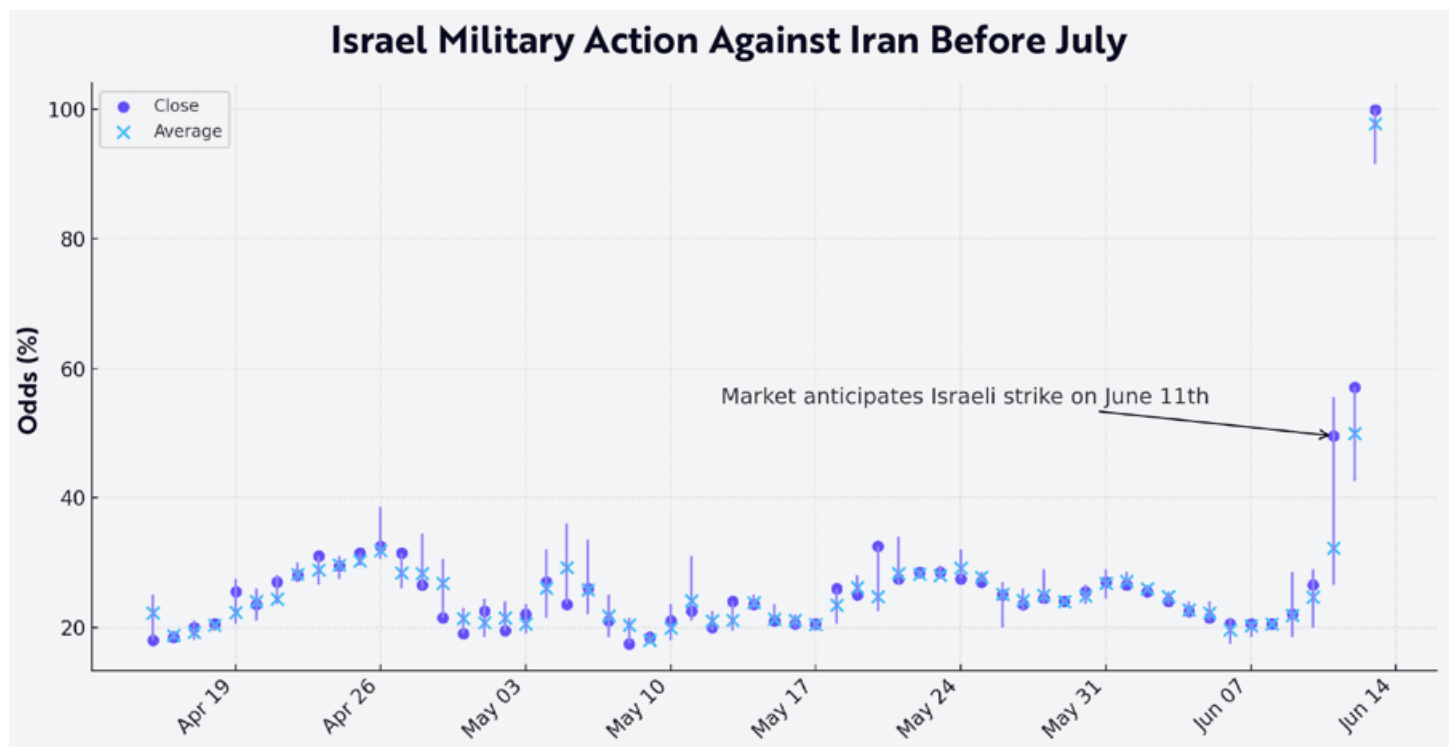
Value investing isn't just a trend – it's the next phase of digital asset evolution.

ARK Invest: xAI × Polymarket Are Super-Charging Truth Markets with Grok...

Last week, Elon Musk’s xAI named Polymarket X’s official prediction-market partner. Living inside Polymarket’s interface, Grok already is providing conversational summaries (“Ask Grok”) on every market page. In addition, X plans to add Polymarket probabilities to posts and Grok answers, giving 600 million monthly users real-time odds on the world’s most high-profile debates.

Because traders risk capital – not just reputation – market-priced probabilities have a track record of beating polls and pundits. The last US presidential election is a good case in point.

In another example, the odds of “Israel military action against Iran before July” surged two days before the Israeli Defense Force’s (IDF’s) surprise attack on June 13, as shown below. Polymarket flagged the heightened risk well ahead of mainstream media coverage. Apparently, the transparency and continuous pricing in decentralized markets helps filter noise and highlight signals that matter for policymakers, investors, and the general public.



Source: ARK Investment Management LLC, 2025, based on data from Polymarket, as of June 13, 2025.

Compared to the infrastructure associated with past prediction markets, smart contract blockchains now allow them to scale inexpensively. Thanks to Polygon’s proof-of-stake network, a Polymarket trade settles in seconds for less than \$0.01 in gas fees, allowing thousands of traders to supply liquidity without intermediaries. In 2024, Polymarket generated network fees of \$102 thousand against \$9 billion in betting volume – illustrating costs orders of magnitude lower than regulated betting exchanges and highlighting the cost advantages of public blockchains.

AI agents should increase the breadth and utility of prediction markets significantly. Grok-powered assistants could watch live data streams, spin up micro-markets (“Will Apple ship 3nm M3 chips by Q4?”) in seconds, and auto-quote two-sided liquidity, collapsing the friction that has limited prediction markets to marquee events historically.

As autonomous agents arbitrage inconsistencies across thousands of Polymarket contracts, spreads should tighten, volumes should rise, surfacing the “price of truth” for everything from clinical-trial readouts to climate metrics. As a result, xAI’s tooling could transform prediction markets from a curiosity to an always-on oracle layer.

The convergence of smart contracts and AI could create a probabilistic data layer for the global economy. Among the investable implications are the following:

- 1. Social platforms that surface market odds could increase user engagement and trust. X, for example, could become a more reliable source of truth.
- 2. Token-secured oracle networks could capture more value as the demand for verifiable probabilities grows.
- 3. AI-driven liquidity could blur the lines between trading bots and research desks, accelerating capital formation in previously illiquid niches.

The Block Pro Research: TVL in lending protocols is at an all-time high of over \$55.69 billion, having surpassed its previous peaks set in 2021, 2022 and late-2024. Aave v3, in particular, has been a major contributor to this surge, hitting a new all-time high of \$26.09 billion in TVL last week. This growth trend isn't isolated to Aave. Other lending protocols, notably Morpho Blue and Maple Finance, have also recorded strong momentum in recent months:

