



HYPERION DECIMUS

CRYPTO NEWSLETTER

POWERED BY WEEKLY CRYPTO BRIEF

6th July 2025

BITCOIN-RELATED



NYDIG: Bitcoin surged 30.7% in Q2 (besting all asset classes), rebounding sharply from a sluggish Q1 and setting a new all-time high of \$112,000, surpassing the previous peak of \$109,358 recorded in December of last year. The rally coincided with easing macroeconomic pressures, as the Trump administration implemented a 90-day moratorium on tariffs, giving financial markets room to recover from earlier self-inflicted strain.

The National Bank of Kazakhstan is set to establish a state-run Bitcoin and crypto reserve, likely funded by seized digital assets and government-linked mining.

Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs vetoed a bill to centralize seized crypto into a state-run reserve fund, arguing it would weaken local law enforcement's incentive to cooperate on forfeitures.

Strategy bought another 4,980 BTC for \$531.9 million between June 23 and June 29, bringing its holdings to 597,325 BTC – more than 2.8% of Bitcoin's total 21 million supply. (Strategy is expected to report \$13 billion in unrealized gains from its digital asset holdings, even as its core business continues to struggle. Strategy has amassed 597,325 BTC, generating a Bitcoin yield of 7.8% in Q2, according to Saylor.)

Metaplanet purchased an additional 1,005 BTC, bringing its total holdings to 13,350 BTC, worth ~\$1.27 billion.

\$4 billion Twenty One Capital CEO Jack Mallers said their plan is to buy as much Bitcoin as they possibly can.

Publicly traded DDC Enterprise closed \$528 million in financing to advance its Bitcoin treasury strategy.

The Blockchain Group raised ~11 million euros through a capital increase and convertible bonds, with a focus on increasing its Bitcoin holdings and delivering long-term value to investors.

Genius Group, a Singapore-based AI-powered education firm, added 20 BTC. The company aims to acquire 1,000 BTC within six months.

Belgravia Hartford purchased \$1 million, its fourth Bitcoin acquisition as part of its long-term Bitcoin Treasury Reserve strategy.

H100 Group announced it purchased an additional 47.33 Bitcoin as part of its Bitcoin treasury strategy, bringing its total BTC holdings to 247.54 BTC.

Public companies (utilizing the Strategy playbook) bought more Bitcoin than ETFs did for the third quarter in a row. Public companies acquired ~131,000 coins in Q2, growing their Bitcoin balance 18%, according to data provider Bitcoin Treasuries. ETFs showed an 8% increase or ~111,000 BTC in the same period.

Two dormant Bitcoin wallets holding a combined 20,000 BTC woke up after 14 years to move funds now worth over \$2 billion.

Cartwright Pension Trusts facilitated a UK pension fund's Bitcoin investment, yielding a 60% return in under a year. The firm's Annual Bitcoin Review aims to educate institutions on cryptocurrency benefits.

Germany's largest bank, Deutsche Bank, plans to launch Bitcoin and crypto custody services in 2026, with support from Bitpanda and Taurus.

One of Germany's largest banking groups, Sparkassen, is adding Bitcoin trading services for retail client accounts.

Two major Russian insurance firms, Renaissance Life and BCS Life Insurance, launched investment life insurance policies linked to Bitcoin, according to a July 2 local media report.

Fold Holdings announced a delay in the rollout of its Fold Bitcoin Credit Card due to a key infrastructure partner exiting the credit card business.

INDUSTRY ADVANCES



Coinbase (COIN) surged ~43% in June, ending its first full month in the S&P 500 as its best-performing stock.

A group of tech billionaires is in a quest to create a crypto-friendly bank for start-ups – intended fill a hole left by the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank. The bank, which will be named Erebor after the “Lonely Mountain” in JRR Tolkien’s The Hobbit, had its US national bank charter application made public this week, in which it outlined its plan to offer “virtual currency-related products and services, for businesses and individuals,” alongside traditional banking services.

Ripple applied for a national bank charter with the OCC, aiming for both state and federal oversight.

Bitget Wallet, Mastercard and Web3 payments firm Immersve launched a crypto card usable at 150 million Mastercard-accepting merchants globally. Users in the UK and EU will get early access, with

expansion to Latin America, Australia, and New Zealand planned. The card supports digital issuance, yield on idle balances, transaction rewards, and a one-time bonus for identity verification.

BitMine Immersion Technologies saw its shares surge over 400% after raising \$250 million in a private placement to establish an Ethereum treasury. The company also appointed Tom Lee as Chairman, emphasizing Ethereum's appeal for DeFi, staking, and stablecoins.

Nasdaq-listed Bit Digital raised a total of \$162.9 million through share offerings to fund its new Ethereum treasury strategy as it exits the Bitcoin mining business.

DeFi Development Corp. increased its convertible notes offering to \$112 million, with an option for an additional \$25 million. The net proceeds will be used for a prepaid forward stock purchase and general purposes, including more Solana purchases. The company bought another 17,760 SOL at an average price of \$153.10 per token. The latest \$2.72 million acquisition puts the company's total SOL holdings at 640,585, valued at ~\$96.3 million.

Dogecoin Cash launched a subsidiary, Dogecoin Treasury, to manage its DOGE treasury and support development initiatives. The company, previously Cannabis Sativia, rebranded in November to focus on crypto and blockchain projects, including a "Dogecoin Protocol."

Amber International garnered \$25.5 million in a private sale to expand its \$100 million crypto reserve, with proceeds allocated toward acquiring BTC, ETH, SOL, and other major tokens.

Robinhood launched 200+ tokenized US stock and ETF tokens for EU users during its "To Catch a Token" event on June 30, offering 24/5 trading, dividend support, and zero commissions. CEO Vlad Tenev said Robinhood will also distribute tokenized shares of private firms like OpenAI and SpaceX to EU users as part of a broader growth push. The company also announced crypto staking in the US, perpetual futures for eligible EU traders, and a new Ethereum L2 blockchain on Arbitrum designed for RWA and 24/7 trading. Plus, it added micro futures for XRP and Solana to its platform, expanding its low-barrier crypto derivatives lineup.

Backed Finance launched 60 tokenized stocks and ETFs, including Apple and the S&P 500, on exchanges like Kraken and Bybit as part of its push to blur the lines between traditional equities and DeFi.

xStocks, a new feature on the Solana blockchain, allows traders to hold tokenized shares of companies like Nvidia, Tesla, and Meta. Each xStock token is backed 1:1 by the actual stock, providing users with ownership and flexibility.

JPMorgan's blockchain arm Kinexys and S&P Global Commodity Insights are collaborating to explore tokenization for managing and issuing carbon credits.

Midas, a tokenization firm, launched mF-ONE, a blockchain-native investment product tied to private credit strategies from Fasanara, allowing qualified users to borrow USDC from Morpho's liquidity pools while maintaining portfolio exposure.

Circuit launched an enterprise-grade recovery solution for digital assets. Powered by Automatic Asset Extraction technology, Circuit's system helps institutions avoid catastrophic, permanent losses of digital assets. The solution has gone live with two institutional clients: UAE-based custodian Tungsten and Palisade, a crypto infrastructure company.

MetaMask has launched Embedded Wallets, a self-custodial SDK that lets developers create seamless, branded wallets inside their apps without the need for seed phrases or extensions.

Nexus, dubbed “the world supercomputer,” activated its final testnet for AI-ready blockchain. CEO and founder Daniel Marin said: “The goal there is to build the largest distributed computer system ever, and part of the reason we’re doing that is because we’re trying to aggregate computing power to build a blockchain with a new architecture.”

Ethereum core developer Zak Cole has launched the Ethereum Community Foundation (ECF), a new initiative aimed at funding “tokenless” projects and promoting ETH burning mechanisms to enhance the digital asset’s economic value and institutional adoption.

Ripple, Peersyst, and Axelar have launched the XRPL EVM Sidechain on mainnet, enabling Ethereum-compatible smart contracts within the XRP Ledger ecosystem. The new sidechain lets developers build and port Ethereum-based applications while benefiting from XRPL's low-cost, high-speed infrastructure.

AutoRek, a provider of automated reconciliation and financial control solutions, announced the launch of Mion, a data management and reconciliation platform specifically designed to handle cryptocurrency and digital asset operations with unprecedented precision. Mion addresses the critical gap in the market for financial institutions by processing up to 20 digits before and 18 after the decimal point to deliver accuracy and scale.

Robinhood unveiled a multiyear sponsorship with French soccer team OGC Nice.

Nexo secured a three-year sponsorship with DP World Tour, becoming the official digital asset and wealth partner until 2027. The Scottish Championship will now be known as the Nexo Championship, held at Trump International Golf Links in Aberdeen.

A Brooklyn teen, Nick Manannikov, who just graduated from Brooklyn Technical High School, deployed a Solana node for his school. The validator gives students “hands-on experience with running the nodes.” The high school node oversees roughly 15,000 staked SOL.

Geneva-based jeweler Suzanne Syz is teaming up with Swiss tech foundation Origyn to create digital certifications through blockchain for all 1,001 of her pieces, the first to do so.

MINING



Bitcoin’s hashrate dipped 3% in June due to heat-driven curtailments in Texas, while high-performance compute-linked miners outperformed amid merger speculation between Core Scientific and CoreWeave.

Trump’s sons Don Jr. and Eric raised \$220 million to buy Bitcoin/crypto mining equipment for their American Bitcoin company. According to a recent filing from Bitcoin miner Hut 8, the majority owner of American Bitcoin, showed the Trump Bitcoin mining company sold around 11 million new shares to private investors last week, exchanged for Bitcoin instead of dollars. American Bitcoin plans to go public in 2025 via a SPAC merger with Gryphon Digital Mining.

Tether signed a memorandum with Latin American energy firm Adecoagro to launch a Bitcoin mining project using surplus renewable power, expanding its regional footprint and enabling Adecoagro's BTC treasury exposure.

Compass Mining announced the energization of its newest 4.5 MW Bitcoin mining site in Iowa, developed in partnership with DIGTB. This new facility, Pioneer IA5, supports self-mining operations for both Compass Mining and DIGTB.

A lucky solo Bitcoin miner successfully mined a whole Bitcoin block using a relatively low-powered machine, scoring around \$350,000 worth of BTC. The odds of the individual miner solving the block were estimated at 1 in 2,800 chance of solving a block every day, or once every 8 years, according to CKpool Bitcoin mining pool, where the block was mined.

ETPS (EXCHANGE-TRADED PRODUCTS), FUNDS & INDEXES

A new SEC framework in the early stages of collaboration could slash crypto ETF approval times to 75 days. Reportedly, if a token meets the criteria, issuers could potentially skip the lengthy and document-heavy 19b-4 process, file an S-1, and the exchange could list it after a 75-day waiting period. Currently, listing a token-based ETF in the US typically takes between six to eight months.

Bitcoin ETFs experienced an outflow of \$342.2 million on July 1 after a 15-day streak of inflows totaling over \$4 billion.

Despite being only 18 months old, the \$75 billion iShares Bitcoin Trust ETF (IBIT) has drawn consistent inflows from investors. With a 0.25% fee, it now generates an estimated \$187.2 million in annual revenue, surpassing the \$187.1 million earned by BlackRock's \$624 billion S&P 500 ETF (IVV), which charges just 0.03%. IBIT is now BlackRock's 3rd highest revenue-generating ETF.

REX-Osprey received clearance from the SEC to launch US-based ETFs that offer both Solana and Ethereum staking rewards, marking the first time such yield-bearing funds will be available on public markets. (By electing C-corp status, these funds will internally tax staking distributions before paying them out as dividends, charging a 0.75% management fee.)

REX-Osprey launched the first US-listed ETF to combine spot SOL exposure with on-chain staking rewards, the REX-Osprey SOL + Staking ETF (SSK) on July 2. SSK saw ~\$33 million in trading volume and \$12 million in net inflows on its first day of trading. (Per Bloomberg ETF analyst Eric Balchunas: "SSK blows away the Solana futures ETF and XRP futures ETFs (or the [average] ETF launch), but it is much lower than the Bitcoin and Ether spot ETFs.")

The SEC greenlighted Grayscale crypto index fund conversion to ETF. Trading on OTC Markets since 2019, the Grayscale Digital Large Cap Fund currently holds BTC, ETH, SOL, XRP, and ADA. The product will become the largest multi-token digital asset ETF in the world, but for now, the SEC also paused the approval until further notice.

UniCredit partnered with BlackRock to offer a structured investment linked to the iShares Bitcoin Trust, providing Bitcoin exposure with downside protection for risk-averse clients.

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



Ondo Finance and Pantera Capital launched a \$250 million fund to accelerate investments in tokenized RWAs.

Pantera launched its Digital Asset Treasury Fund after backing early US DATs like DFDV and CEP, aiming to capitalize on a growing asset class offering public equity investors crypto exposure with potential NAV premiums and limited downside. With a number new and existing Pantera LPs making commitments to the Fund, Pantera expects to deploy \$100 million into DAT deals. (See more below.)

Aqua 1, a Web3-native fund, announced a \$100 million strategic World Liberty Financial (WLFI) governance token purchase to participate in governance of the DeFi platform. This commitment is to help accelerate the creation of a blockchain-powered financial ecosystem centered on blockchain development, RWA tokenization, and stablecoin integration.

OpenRouter, an LLM routing startup founded by ex-OpenSea CTO Alex Atallah, secured \$40 million from a16z, Menlo, and Sequoia to expand its AI aggregator platform, now used by over a million developers and routing \$100 million in annual inference spend.

EverQuest co-creator John Smedley raised \$30.5 million for Distinct Possibility Studios to develop “Reaper Actual,” a hybrid MMO-FPS shooter targeting AAA audiences on Steam and Epic Games.

TON developer The Open Platform raised \$28.5 million in a Series A round, led by Ribbit Capital.

Inference Labs raised a total of \$6.3 million to build a cryptographic trust layer for the AI agents and off-chain computation.

IPOS, M&A, PARTNERSHIPS & DEALS



Design software company Figma filed for an IPO, with a regulatory document revealing the company holds \$70 million in Bitcoin ETFs.

Australian crypto exchange Swyftx is set to acquire boutique digital asset brokerage Caleb & Brown for \$66 million.

Bitcoin venture studio Thesis acquired rewards platform Lolli to kick off its BTC ecosystem expansion.

Liquifi, a token management platform, was acquired by Coinbase for an undisclosed sum. The platform assists in navigating legal and compliance challenges in the crypto space and is already utilized by entities like the Uniswap Foundation and OP Labs.

DeFi protocol Ondo Finance completed the acquisition of Oasis Pro, an infrastructure provider for RWAs, a move the company said would strengthen its tokenized security offerings in the US.

Amber International announced a \$25.5 million private placement to accelerate institutional crypto expansion across the US and Southeast Asia.

FalconX joined Lynq as a launch partner, further signaling industry support for the real-time interest-bearing settlement network.

DEFI



Botanix launched its Bitcoin-based L2 mainnet with a decentralized federation and Ethereum compatibility, aiming to host DeFi tools like trading, lending, and 100x leverage perps natively on BTC.

Coinbase is rolling out native DEX trading, US perps, 4.5% APY on USDC, and 14% APY staking as it expands onchain access and capital efficiency across its app.

Lido DAO, the governing body of Ethereum's largest liquid staking protocol, passed a proposal to enable a dual governance system. The proposal grants ETH stakers – those holding stETH tokens – veto power over governance decisions. Under the new system, stETH holders can now object to DAO proposals by depositing stETH into an escrow contract. If at least 1% of the total staked ETH in Lido is deposited, the proposal will be delayed for an initial five days.

DeFi platform Maple Finance integrated EtherFi's weETH as collateral for its on-chain institutional lending platform. The integration enables qualified borrowers to access USDC loans backed by weETH, EtherFi's restaked Ethereum token, while continuing to earn ETHFI incentives.

Decentralized leveraged trading and lending platform LeverFi minted 13.7 billion new LEVER tokens, according to onchain data. The quiet minting event has raised concerns within the crypto community, especially given its timing so close to a delisting decision from Binance. The major crypto exchange said it plans to delist LEVER on July 4.

CBDCS & STABLECOINS



The Bank of Korea halted its CBDC project, which was in the pilot program development stage with participating banks. President Lee Jae-myung had promised to support a won-based stablecoin market during his election campaign.

The EU is preparing to relax its stance on foreign-issued stablecoins, potentially allowing US dollar-backed tokens like USDC and USDT to circulate freely within the bloc.

JD.com and Ant Group are pressuring China's central bank to approve offshore yuan-backed stablecoins in Hong Kong to boost the fiat currency's global role.

USDC issuer Circle applied to the OCC for a national trust bank license. If approved, Circle will establish a new federally regulated entity called First National Digital Currency Bank. Currently, Anchorage Digital is the only other digital asset firm with a national trust bank charter in the US. (Circle

also unveiled Gateway, a new cross-chain system launching on testnets this month, enabling users to instantly move and manage USDC across multiple blockchains via a unified non-custodial balance.)

USDG – a dollar-pegged stablecoin issued by Paxos and backed by a consortium that includes Robinhood, Kraken, and Mastercard – launched. USDG is fully regulated, compliant with MiCA, and available in the EU.

AllUnity, a joint venture between Deutsche Bank, Flow Traders and Galaxy, will introduce a MiCA-compliant euro stablecoin known as EURAU.

Swiss-regulated AMINA Bank became the first bank globally to support Ripple's new RLUSD stablecoin, offering custody and trading services to institutional clients.

Minna Bank, a digital-only bank in Japan, is collaborating with Fireblocks, Solana Japan, and TIS to explore the use of stablecoins and digital wallets for everyday financial services.

Stable introduced a new L1 blockchain tailored for USDT payments, aiming to solve issues tied to stablecoin usage. The chain, branded as a “stablechain,” integrates Tether’s USDT as its native token for gas and settlement. It is built to offer sub-second finality, ultra-low fees and enterprise-grade scalability for seamless global payments.

Wirex, a global leader in stablecoin payments and digital finance, announced that Wirex Pay Chain is now officially supported on Fireblocks, a leading digital asset and payments infrastructure platform. This integration enables Fireblocks' institutional clients to easily access Wirex Pay's self-custodial stablecoin payment infrastructure, offering a secure and scalable gateway to stablecoin innovation.

Bolt, a San Francisco-based payments platform, has introduced stablecoin payment support through its new Bolt Connect product, aiming to streamline cross-border transactions for merchants and marketplaces.

NFTS, BLOCKCHAIN GAMING & METaverse



Flappy Racquet, a tennis-themed riff on Flappy Bird, offers players the chance to hit tennis balls and avoid drones. Top players can earn NFTs of real-world tennis stars with unique boosts and gems within the Scor on Sweet ecosystem.

Eve Frontier trial: CCP Games is offering a 10-day free trial (June 27-July 7) for Eve Frontier, an Ethereum-based MMO spinoff of Eve Online, a space survival game.

Raini Studios announced it will shut down its Avalanche-based NFT card game Raini: The Lords of Light on July 21. The competitive card battler, available on Epic Games Store, will distribute 2 million RST in token rewards (~\$3,800 worth) before closing.

The Sandbox revealed a team-up with Cirque du Soleil to bring its experiences into the metaverse world.

JOB MOVEMENT



Binance will retain its remote workforce in Singapore despite new local regulations requiring unlicensed crypto firms to exit by June 30, since most of its staff operate in non-customer-facing roles and are not tied to a physical office.

Mastercard is hiring two US-based leaders to grow its crypto and blockchain business.

Social media entrepreneur Nikita Bier, who has led two companies that were “acqui-hired” by Facebook's Meta and then Discord, respectively, is joining Elon Musk's X just months after becoming an advisor to Solana Labs.

REGULATIONS, RULINGS & COMMENTARY



Trump's Executive Director Bo Hines says the crypto industry will probably go to “\$15-\$20 trillion” after stablecoin legislation becomes law.

Despite a push from Senator Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) and a group of Senators, proposed crypto tax relief amendment was not included in the version of the One Big Beautiful Act that passed in the Senate.

On July 3, Senator Lummis introduced revised legislation to ease taxation on Bitcoin and crypto. (Read more, [here](#).)

US House leadership announced “Crypto Week” begins on July 14: CLARITY Act, Anti-CBDC Surveillance State Act, and GENIUS Act.

New York Attorney General Letitia James raised concerns about the US Senate's stablecoin bill, urging Congress to enhance innovation while protecting the banking system. She proposed regulating stablecoin issuers as banks and requiring them to be domiciled in the US.

On July 1, the ECB announced that it had approved two series of strategic works (Pontes and Appia) to integrate distributed ledger technology (DLT) into payment settlement.

The Swedish Minister of Justice urged enforcement agencies to step up efforts in seizing criminal profits, including cryptocurrency, under new legislation allowing property seizure without proof of wrongdoing.

Italy's Banca Sella launched a summer trial for in-house crypto custody using Fireblocks tech, signaling a cautious move toward digital assets as European banks embrace evolving crypto regulations.

Tether signed a MoU with the Zanzibar e-Government Authority (eGaz), marking a strategic collaboration to advance digital asset education and financial innovation across developing regions. This MoU aims to strengthen Africa's digital economy through education, regulatory clarity, and the development of an innovative ecosystem.

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

The FTX Recovery Trust proposed a plan to assess and potentially block payouts to creditors in 49 “restricted” jurisdictions like China, Russia, and Pakistan. The trust said in a filing that it will hire lawyers to determine if distributions in each jurisdiction comply with local laws before proceeding. Claims in the 49 jurisdictions represent 5% of the estimated \$16 billion total, and 82% of the value in potentially restricted regions comes from China, the filing noted.

New York-based law firm Pomerantz filed a class action lawsuit against Strategy, alleging it misled investors about the profitability and risks of its Bitcoin investment playbook. The complaint claims Strategy downplayed Bitcoin's volatility, while overstating gains from its treasury operation and failing to fully disclose the impact of adopting new fair value accounting rules. The lawsuit cites a \$5.9 billion unrealized Bitcoin loss in Q1 2025 after switching from the firm's prior cost-less-impairment model, which triggered an 8% stock drop. Pomerantz said investors who bought Strategy shares between April 2024 and April 2025 can join the class action until July 15.

A US bankruptcy judge ruled that Celsius can proceed with its \$4 billion case against Tether, despite some elements of Tether's motion to dismiss being granted. Celsius alleges Tether liquidated 39,500 Bitcoin as loan collateral in 2022.

Spanish police arrested five members of a suspected crypto fraud operation that allegedly laundered \$540 million in profits stolen from more 5,000 victims. Investigators suspect the organization of having set up a corporate and banking network out of Hong Kong to receive, store and transfer criminal funds through accounts in different names and exchanges.

\$140 million was stolen from Brazilian banks in the largest digital heist in the country's history. The attack targeted C&M Software, involving unauthorized access to reserve accounts and fraudulent Pix transfer orders.

Ripple ended its cross-appeal against the SEC, opting to pay \$125 million and close the case, a move seen as clearing regulatory roadblocks for potential XRP ETFs now pending approval.

Nobitex, Iran's largest crypto exchange, began restoring limited services weeks after a \$90 million breach by a pro-Israel hacker group that published source code and destroyed stolen funds, while deposit addresses were replaced due to wallet migration.

Tornado Cash founder Roman Storm has raised 88% of his \$2 million legal defense fund before his US trial on July 14. Storm's recent call for legal backing raised \$722,000 by June 25, with the Ethereum Foundation pledging to match \$750,000. Storm has not clarified whether he will testify in his own defense.

US prosecutors charged four North Korean agents with posing as remote developers at a blockchain startup, stealing \$900,000 in crypto and laundering it via sanctioned mixers to fund Pyongyang's weapons program.

The US Supreme Court has declined to hear a case challenging the IRS's demand for Coinbase user data, leaving a lower court ruling in place. The dispute dates back several years after the IRS demanded

records from Coinbase from thousands of its customers, including information involving security settings, transactions, and correspondence.

The US Department of the Treasury sanctioned Russian bulletproof hosting provider Aeza Group for aiding cybercriminal activities like ransomware attacks and darknet drug markets. Aeza Group's leadership team, including CEO Arsenii Penzev, was previously arrested by Russian authorities for hosting drug marketplaces.

The city of Detroit on July 2 filed a lawsuit against Real Token, a Florida-based blockchain real estate company; its co-founders, brothers Remy Jacobson and Jean-Marc Jacobson, and 165 affiliates, for public nuisance violations involving 400+ residential properties in Detroit.

The Monetary Authority of Singapore enforced a deadline for crypto firms to obtain licenses, with penalties for non-compliance including fines and possible jail time. This move aims to enhance regulatory integrity and requires firms to adhere to anti-money laundering controls and cybersecurity audits.

Do Kwon's legal team and prosecutors requested a two-week extension to file pre-trial motions, despite claiming readiness. The judge approved the extension, allowing discussions to continue until July 15. The legal team also has until December 1 for expert disclosures.

Tim Heath, an Australian crypto entrepreneur, bit off part of an assailant's finger during an attempted kidnapping outside his apartment. The attackers had planned the assault meticulously, using GPS trackers and burner phones to monitor his movements.

A post-maintenance glitch on Solana-based Backpack exchange on July 3 led to incorrect futures orders and erroneous balance reports for users.

MISCELLANEOUS

To mark Ethereum's 10th birthday, developers launched a \$2.50-per-entry encrypted onchain "time capsule" for storing user messages and art until the chain's 11th anniversary, using threshold cryptography for delayed reveal.

BNB developers announced the Maxwell Hardfork, scheduled to go live later in the week of June 30, introducing a performance upgrade to the BNB Smart Chain (BSC), reducing block times from 1.5 seconds to 0.75 seconds. It effectively doubles the network's block production speed, aiming to enhance transaction throughput, network responsiveness, and validator synchronization, bringing BSC closer in speed to high-performance chains like Solana.

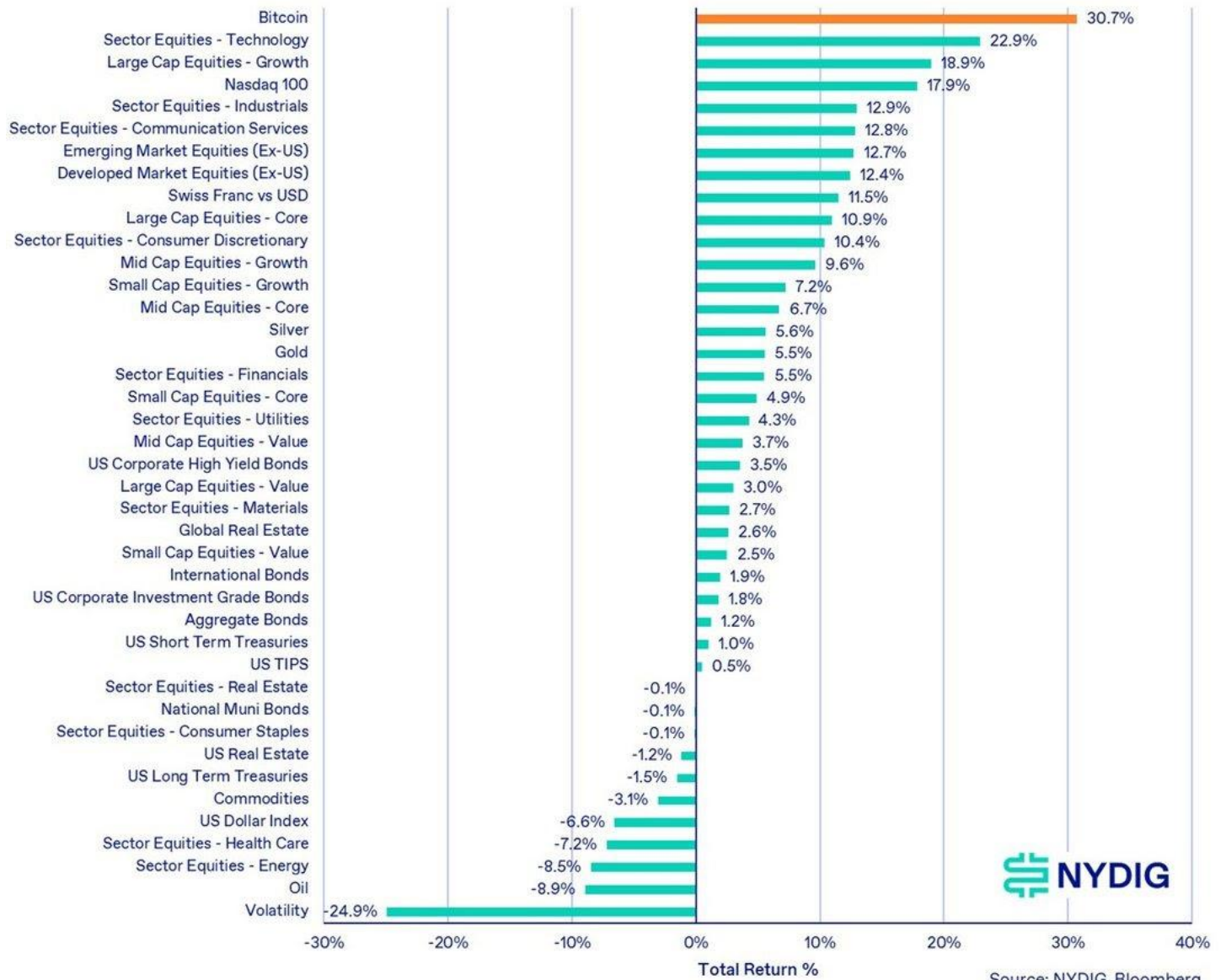
Binance came under fire in Kenya after a lobby group it allegedly sponsors secured a seat on the country's proposed crypto regulatory board, prompting fears among local startups that new rules could unfairly favor the global exchange.

TAPEDRIVE, which says it can make Solana data storage 1,400x cheaper, won the grand prize in the latest Colosseum hackathon, a popular hackathon-venture accelerator started by original Solana Labs hackathon organizers.

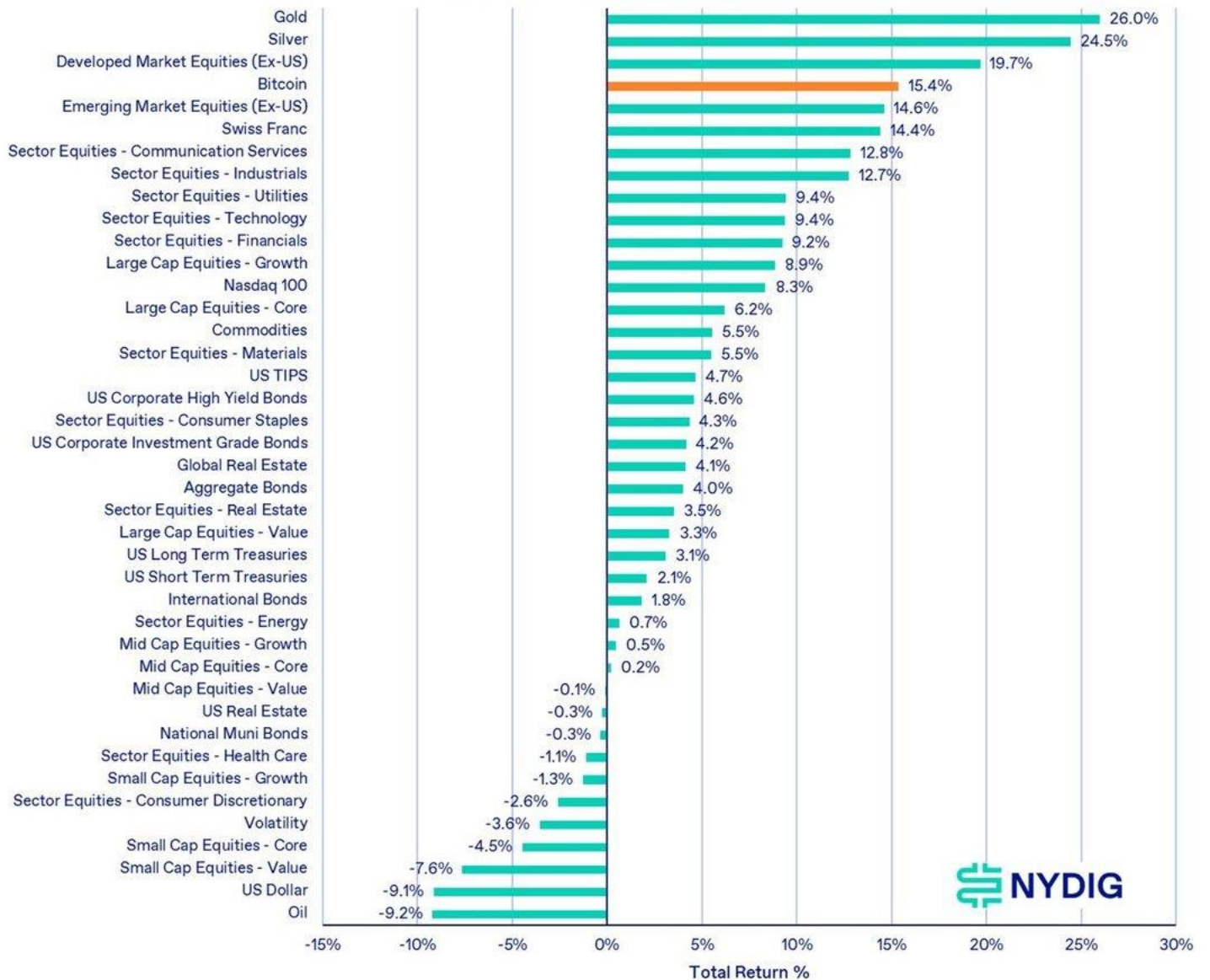
CHARTS, TABLES, QUOTES, COMMENTARY & OTHER IMAGES

NYDIG: Asset class performance review for Q2 and YTD...

Quarterly Returns - Q2 2025

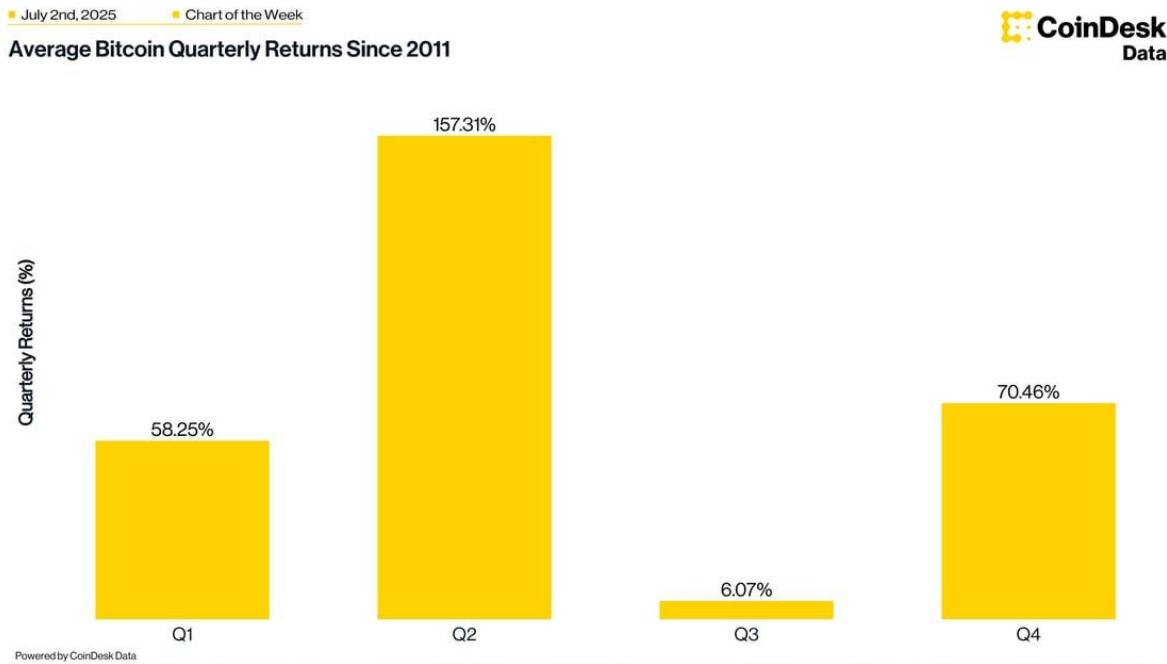


2025 YTD Returns

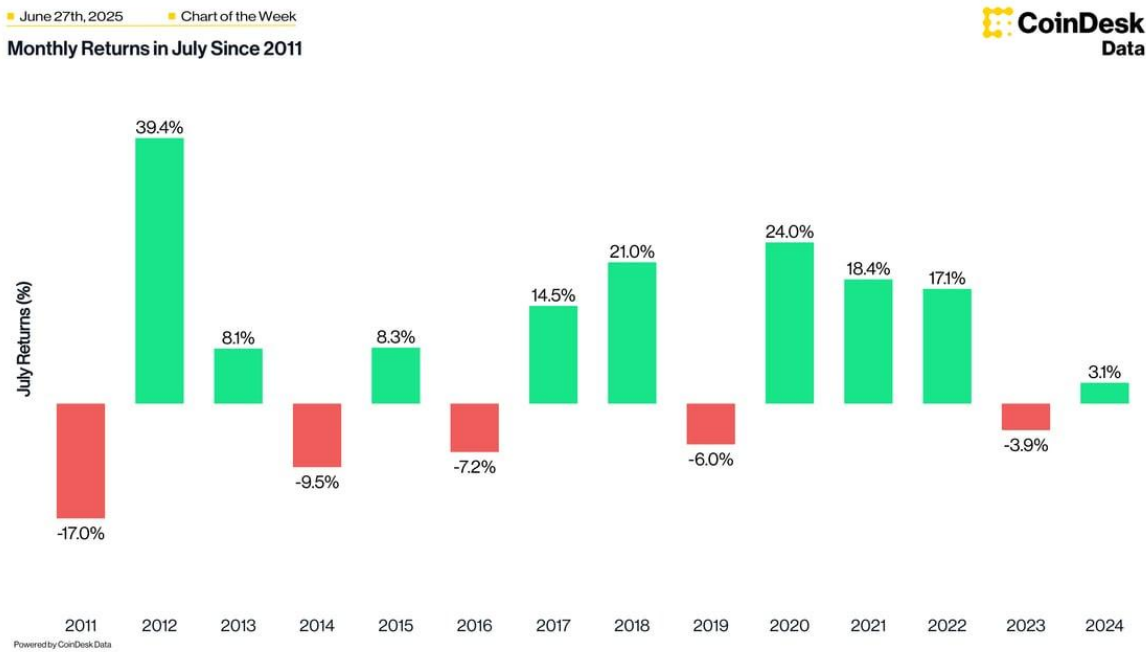


Source: NYDIG, Bloomberg

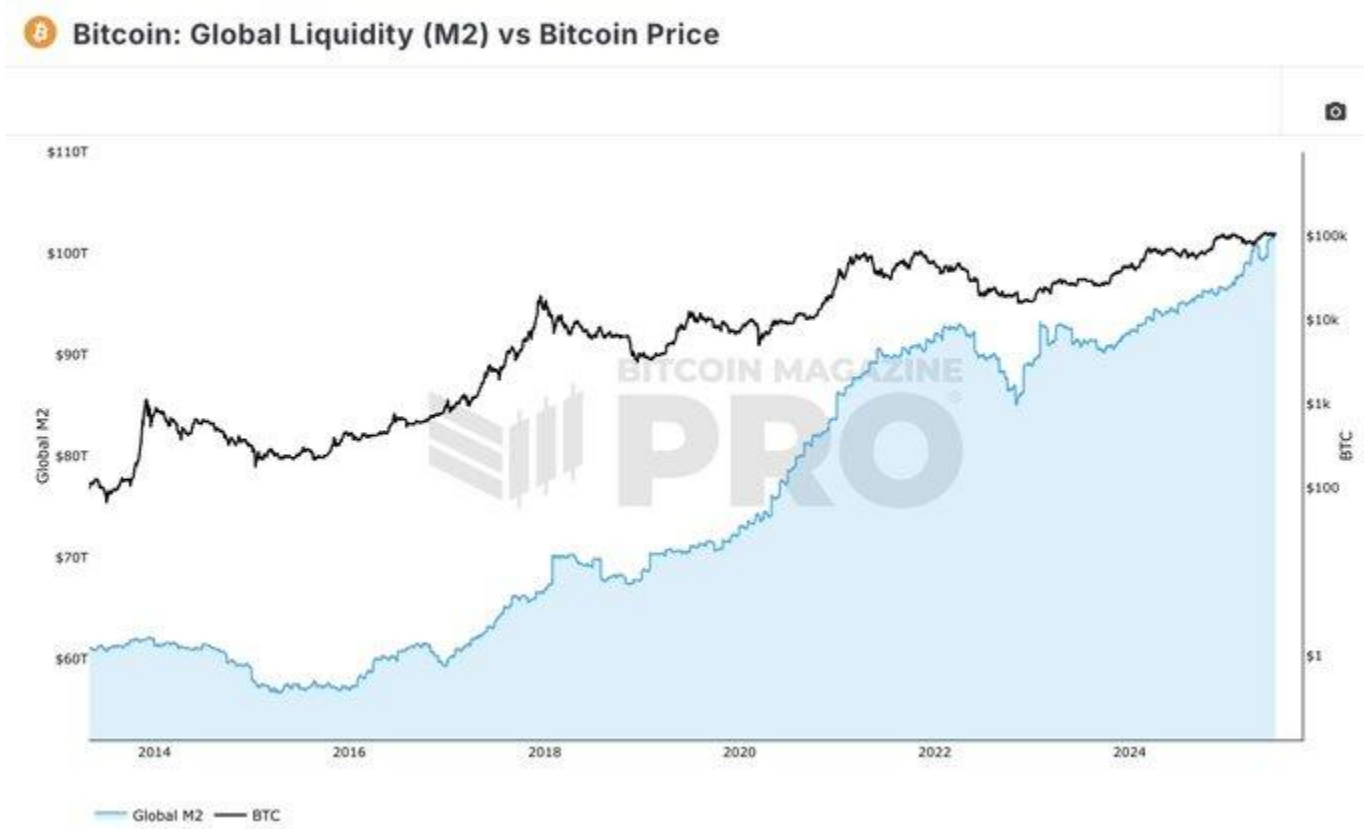
CoinDeskData: Q2 has consistently been Bitcoin's best quarter, averaging 157% returns since 2011. Q3 tells a different story, historically the weakest performer with average returns of just 6.07% since 2011. This pattern reflects typical seasonality effects, where Q3 often sees lighter trading volumes and less active investor participation.



CoinDeskData: Bitcoin's historical performance during July reveals a month characterized by modest positive returns but significant volatility. Since 2011, July has delivered an average return of 7.89%, making it the fourth least favorable month in Bitcoin's seasonal calendar. While Bitcoin posted positive returns in 9 out of 14 years in July, the month has also produced some notable drawdowns. The standout performance came in July 2012 with a remarkable 39.4% gain. On the downside, July has witnessed five negative years, with 2011's -17.0% decline representing the month's worst performance.



Bitcoin Magazine: Global M2 hit an all-time high. Historically, Bitcoin price follows.



Eric Balchunas (June 27): Speaking of Bitcoin's volatility, here's a chart showing the ratio of IBIT's 60-Day volatility to SPX. It was 5.7x more volatile a year ago, now it's barely over 1 (meaning about same vol as US stocks).



Conclusion from Coin Metrics’ “State of The Network” weekly report from 7/1/25. (Read the full report, [here](#).)

As perpetual futures grow in their influence as the most actively traded instruments in crypto, dYdX is one of the leading on-chain venues supporting this growth. Open interest has increased over the year, boosted by new market listings while sustaining trading volumes even as activity remains concentrated in BTC & ETH. By combining high performance with on-chain transparency and access to a diverse range of markets, dYdX continues to play a central role in shaping the future of on-chain derivatives infrastructure.

Summary and conclusion from Glassnode’s “The Week On-Chain” from 7/1/25. (Read the full report, [here](#).)

After finding firm support at the Short-Term Holder cost basis of \$98.3K, a level that often delineates local bull and bear regimes, Bitcoin rebounded to \$107K. This move pushed the majority of investors back into profit, with total unrealized gains reaching a staggering \$1.2T.

Despite this surge in profitability, investor behavior signals a strong preference for HODLing, as the current price range appears insufficient to trigger significant profit-taking. This is reflected in declining realized profits, a continued downtrend in Liveliness, and Long-Term Holder supply climbing to a new all-time high.

As price revisits the previous ATH range, we note that stablecoin purchasing power has improved meaningfully, pointing to a more robust and stable demand backdrop. Meanwhile, institutional appetite remains firm, with consistent and sizeable inflows into regulated Bitcoin products.

Blockworks updated key metrics...

Total Crypto Market Cap	\$3.40 T
Bitcoin Market Cap	\$2.14 T
Ethereum Market Cap	\$303.64 B
ETH/BTC Ratio	0.02
Ethereum Gas Price	0.28 gwei
DeFi TVL	\$207.13 B
Fear and Greed Index	67 (Greed)

Ric Edelman is recommending a 10-40% crypto allocation...

- The traditional 60/40 stock-bond allocation model is dead. This is due to unprecedented rates of longevity brought about by remarkable advances in exponential technologies.
- After 39 years in the financial services field, I'm announcing for the first time the correct crypto allocation: **Conservative investors should now have a 10% crypto allocation. Moderate clients should place 25% of their portfolios in crypto, and aggressive clients should allocate 40% of their investments to crypto.**
- **Owning crypto is no longer a speculative position; failing to do so is.** A passive market-weighted index comprised of all asset classes would have 3% in crypto, so an investor who lacks crypto is now effectively shorting it.
- **There's no logic to omitting an asset class that's outperformed all others for 15 consecutive years** and is widely projected to continue doing so for the next decade or more. Historic performance data show that portfolios with bitcoin have generated higher returns with lower risks and produced superior Modern Portfolio Theory metrics – Sharpe and Sortino ratios, standard deviation and max drawdown – compared to portfolios that lacked bitcoin.
- The real question: **Are you a fiduciary serving your clients' best interests, or are you simply an order taker avoiding difficult conversations?**

Matt Hougan's (Bitwise) Weekly CIO Memo: "Mid-Year Scorecard: Bitwise's 2025 Predictions."

Last December, the Bitwise Research team gazed into the future and made 10 bold predictions for 2025. Among the forecasts: Bitcoin, Ethereum, and Solana would hit new all-time highs, spot Bitcoin ETFs would attract more flows in 2025 than 2024, and Coinbase and Strategy would enter the S&P 500 and Nasdaq-100.

Predictions are relatively easy to make; the hard part is getting them right. Harder still is looking at the ones you got wrong.

And so, halfway through 2025, we're checking in on our forecasts to see what we nailed, what we missed, and what's too soon to call. So far, we've gotten two right, one wrong, and the other seven are still up in the air.

It should be an exciting H2.

Prediction 1: Bitcoin, Ethereum, and Solana will hit new all-time highs, with Bitcoin trading above \$200,000. Update: Too Soon To Call

It's been a mixed year for crypto asset prices. Bitcoin hit a new all-time high of \$112,000 in May thanks to strong ETF flows, growing demand from Bitcoin treasury companies, and the creation of a US strategic Bitcoin reserve. But Ethereum and Solana are down year-to-date, and macro risks have kept the bull market from kicking into overdrive.

We're optimistic, however, that things are setting up for a very strong H2. Progress in D.C. around crypto legislation, rising demand from institutional investors for crypto exposure, and extreme bullishness around stablecoins are combining to create a strong environment for gains.

The Bottom Line: We're holding firm to our BTC \$200k prediction, as there is simply too much institutional demand for BTC to keep prices flat for long. We're less confident on ETH and SOL but hope that rising interest in stablecoins, ETF approvals, and the emergence of ETH and SOL treasury companies can drive prices substantially higher.

Prediction 2: Bitcoin ETFs will attract more flows in 2025 than they did in 2024. Update: Too Soon To Call

US spot Bitcoin ETFs brought in a combined \$35 billion of inflows in 2024, shattering all previous records for a new asset class. So far, they've raked in about \$13 billion. At this rate, we'd miss our target—but we foresee things accelerating significantly in H2. The biggest factor? Major wirehouses and wealth management platforms have recently approved access to Bitcoin ETFs, opening up trillions of dollars of wealth to the BTC ETF market for the first time.

The Bottom Line: This feels like it's going to happen. We're very optimistic about ETF flows in H2.

Prediction 3: Coinbase will surpass Charles Schwab as the most valuable brokerage in the world, and its stock will top \$700 per share. Update: Looks Unlikely

Coinbase has had a spectacular year so far. In May, it became the first crypto company to enter the S&P 500. Revenue is up 24% year-over-year, with trading volume up even more. And COIN's stock has done well, doubling Schwab's market return (44% against 22% for the old-school brokerage).

Despite this momentum, Wall Street continues to overlook the quantity, quality, and potential upside of Coinbase's business lines. And to be honest, Schwab's stock has done a bit better than we expected. As a result, the gap between Coinbase's value (\$90B) and Schwab's value (\$164B) is probably too wide to cross by year-end.

The Bottom Line: We're still convinced this one's going to happen. It just might take a little longer than we previously thought.

Prediction 4: 2025 will be the "Year of the Crypto IPO," with at least five crypto unicorns going public in the US Update: Almost Guaranteed

We've already seen three crypto unicorns go public in the first half of 2025: Webull (\$5 billion valuation), eToro (\$5.5 billion), and Circle (\$41 billion).¹ The party seems to be just getting started: Thanks in part to Circle's blockbuster IPO, a growing list of companies have announced plans to follow in its footsteps into the public market, including Gemini, Kraken, BitGo, Tron, Consensus, and American Bitcoin.

The Bottom Line: This one feels like it is in the bag. In fact, five may have been too bearish.

Prediction 5: Tokens launched by AI agents will spearhead a memecoin mania even bigger than in 2024. Update: Highly Unlikely

Memecoins collapsed in Q1 2025, led by the spectacular blowout of the TRUMP and MELANIA coins and the scandalous implosion of Argentinian President Milei's LIBRA coin. And while AI agents remain a fascinating and evolving space, they've taken a backseat in 2025.

The Bottom Line: We got this one wrong. You can't win them all.

Prediction 6: The number of countries holding Bitcoin will double, from 9 to 18. Update: Looks Unlikely

Nine countries held Bitcoin at the end of 2024. At the end of H1, we've seen clear progress toward our target of 18: The United Arab Emirates revealed a \$400 million Bitcoin stash in February, and Pakistan announced the creation of a Bitcoin reserve in May. Noteworthy, too, was the launch of the US's crypto reserve – a move that surely caught the eye of other national treasuries worldwide.

But our growing sense is that, for strategic reasons, many countries are exploring or accumulating Bitcoin outside the public eye. We suspect more nations will show their cards by year-end.

The Bottom Line: We're not quite sure we'll get to 18 this year, but it could be close.

Prediction 7: Coinbase will enter the S&P 500 and MicroStrategy will enter the Nasdaq-100, adding crypto exposure to (nearly) every US investor's portfolio. Update: We Nailed It

Strategy (formerly MicroStrategy) entered the Nasdaq-100 at the end of 2024 (soon after we published our predictions) and Coinbase entered the S&P 500 in May. These moves almost certainly juiced demand for the companies' shares from active and passive index funds – we estimated COIN's inclusion would lead to at least \$15 billion in purchases from these players. But perhaps more importantly, they symbolized crypto's deeper entrenchment in the mainstream. As Coinbase CEO Brian Armstrong put it, "Crypto's here to stay."

The Bottom Line: We got this one right.

Prediction 8: The US Department of Labor will relax its guidance against crypto in 401(k) plans, enabling billions of dollars to flow into crypto assets. Update: We Nailed It

In May, the US Department of Labor rescinded its 2022 guidance that directed 401(k) plan fiduciaries to exercise “extreme care” before adding crypto investments to retirement menus. In the announcement, Secretary of Labor Lori Chavez-DeRemer said the agency is “rolling back this overreach and making it clear that investment decisions should be made by fiduciaries, not DC bureaucrats.” Translation: The pie just got a lot bigger.

The Bottom Line: We got this one right.

Prediction 9: Stablecoin assets will double to \$400 billion as the US passes long-awaited stablecoin legislation. Update: Too Soon to Call

Stablecoin AUM currently stands at \$260 billion, an increase of more than 30% since the start of the year. But we’ve still got a way to go to cross \$400 billion. What could help: passage of the GENIUS Act, the comprehensive stablecoin bill that cleared the Senate by a 68-30 vote in June. Another big tailwind comes from traditional players like Mastercard – accepted by 150 million merchants worldwide – that are making big recent moves to incorporate stablecoins into their rails, and major banks from JPMorgan to Bank of America that are planning to launch stablecoins of their own.

The Bottom Line: This one is going to be close. We’re not sure we’ll get all the way to \$400 billion by year-end, but assets will rise substantially.

Prediction 10: The value of tokenized real-world assets (RWAs) will surpass \$50 billion as Wall Street’s embrace of crypto intensifies. Update: Looking Good

Tokenization news is everywhere this year. In May, New Jersey announced plans to tokenize almost 400,000 property deeds worth \$240 billion on Avalanche. Dubai launched its first tokenized real estate platform on XRP. And Kraken is rolling out a platform that lets non-US investors trade “tokenized equities” of Apple, Tesla, Nvidia and dozens of other popular stocks.

Tokenized RWAs were a \$13 billion market at the start of 2025. Today, they’re at roughly \$25 billion. We think adoption here will accelerate in H2 and ultimately put us above the \$50 billion mark.

The Bottom Line: We think this one will happen.

Results from payment platform Aevi survey of 2,000+ US adults...

- 53% of Americans say they don't understand cryptocurrency.
- 61% have never heard of Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs).
- Only 8% of women report using crypto, compared to nearly 1 in 5 men, raising urgent concerns about a growing financial gender gap.
- New Hampshire, one of the wealthiest and most highly educated US states, ranks last for crypto awareness and ownership (89% and 11% respectively).
- Nebraska leads the nation in crypto ownership (44%), yet few residents report seeing businesses accept it, highlighting a broader pattern where holding crypto doesn't always mean being able to use it.

Highlights from Pantera's Blockchain Letter...

PANTERA DAT FUND – BY COSMO JIANG

Pantera has created a fund that provides investors access to Digital Asset Treasury (“DAT”) opportunities.

Pantera has been at the forefront of this emerging new industry, having the conviction to be the anchor investor in the first DAT launches in the US, including DeFi Development Corp. (DFDV) and Cantor Equity Partners (CEP). Our diligence process has translated into a number of investments with strong performance in a short period of time. Pantera's early role and initial success kickstarted what has become a larger trend. As a result, we are in the fortunate position to be a first call for many prospective DAT teams, many in the early stages of their ideation and seeking our strategic guidance to navigate potential pitfalls.

We have a robust pipeline of opportunities to deploy fresh capital and are opening access to investors through Pantera DAT Fund. Over the last few months, we have seen over fifty pitches and observed what has helped some succeed and others fail, honing our investment diligence process and our ability to support the companies we choose to back. Pantera's investment strategy is grounded in judiciously backing high-quality entrepreneurs, and we are excited to do so in a new emerging category.

A Timely Opportunity

The equity markets this year have been characterized by the embrace of digital assets from more traditional investors – whether that is through the ETFs, IPOs like Circle, or DATs. One big driver has been the inclusion of Coinbase into the S&P 500. Now every manager in the world has been forced to include digital assets in its index and is required to pay attention. We believe this story is in the early innings and will continue to be a long-term durable tailwind that elongates this cycle.

DATs are a new frontier for public market crypto exposure that has benefited from this broader secular tailwind. DATs allow equity market investors to get crypto exposure through familiar instruments and intermediaries. We believe the universe of Digital Asset Treasury companies will grow meaningfully and there is still an opportunity to be at the vanguard of this formation.

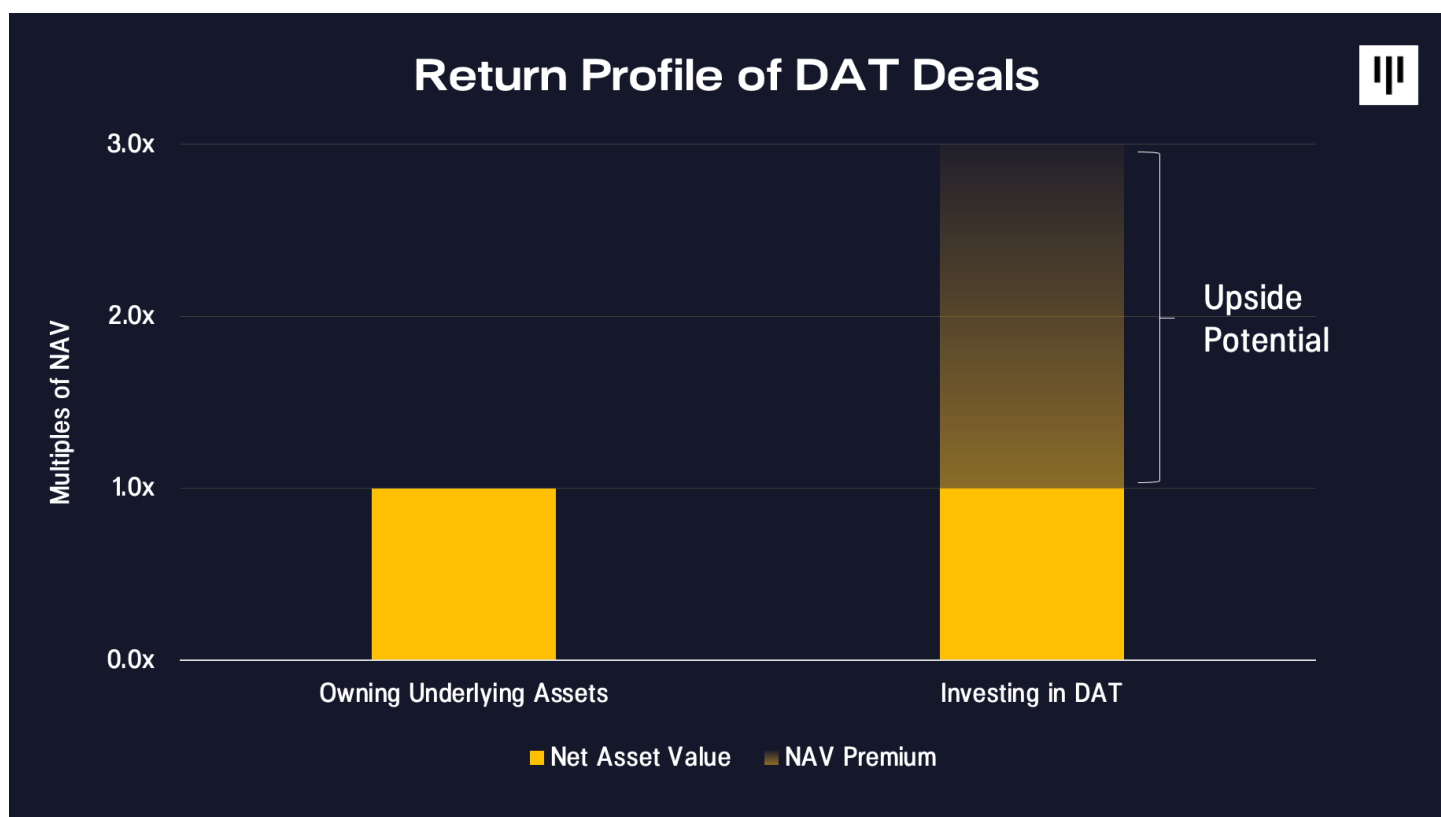
That is why we believe investing in this fund is timely. It is rare to find oneself at the start of a new category, so recognizing that and being quick to respond is critical to take advantage of the investment opportunity.

In our prior Blockchain Letter, we detailed our investment thesis and the fundamental case to invest in DATs and the justification for why they may sustainably trade at a premium to their underlying net asset value (NAV). With that context, we thought it would be helpful to further elaborate on why Pantera DAT Fund's investment strategy is compelling.

Asymmetric Risk/Reward Potential

Pantera DAT Fund has access to deals to invest in DATs at their inception. This means we are investing at or near underlying token value (1.0x NAV), or before the DATs trade in the open market at a potential premium. We believe doing so has an asymmetric risk/reward, particularly relative to owning the underlying token, in a “heads you win, tails you don't lose much” situation.

Below is a simple visualization of the asymmetric return profile for DAT deals.



Upside – “heads you win”: the near-term upside in a DAT investment is the potential NAV premium (note that the DAT peer set trades 1.5x-10.0x NAV) and the longer-term upside comes from growing NAV-per-share and sustaining that premium.

Downside – “tails you don’t lose much”: downside is limited because even if the DAT does not trade at a premium, investors invest at roughly 1.0x NAV and still retain their pro rata share of the underlying NAV and the underlying token return (e.g., spot BTC, ETH). In addition, we believe there’s opportunity for consolidation as the space becomes more saturated and if DATs begin trading below 1.0x NAV. An important part of our diligence process is filtering for incentive-aligned management teams, so that we can trust them to not be empire builders and do the right thing – whether M&A or buybacks – in a downside scenario.

There is a high degree of excitement in the market for DATs and the trend has grown much faster than we anticipated when we funded the first one. As with any industry, I expect excess returns to invite competition, which drives down returns. That is why this window of opportunity to invest in an emerging category is so timely. The price action on DATs is and will continue to be volatile, and as with any new trend, some will succeed and some will fail. We strongly believe that our intellectual leadership, value-added strategic guidance, deal structuring, and rigorous diligence process will drive continued success.

Market Landscape for DATs

Digital Asset Treasury Companies Market Landscape ^{1,2}						2025 YTD UPS Growth
Name	Ticker	Asset	Market Cap (USD bn)	NAV Multiple		
Strategy	MSTR	BTC	\$117.6	1.9x		+53%
Twenty One (Cantor Equity Partners Inc)	CEP	BTC	\$10.9	2.3x		-
Kindly MD Inc	KDLY	BTC	\$7.8	10.2x		-
Metaplanet Inc	3350 T	BTC	\$6.2	4.7x		+950%
Strive Asset Management	ASST	BTC	\$2.2	2.9x		-
Columbus Circle Capital I	CCCMU	BTC	\$1.6	1.4x		-
Sharplink Gaming Inc*	SBET	ETH	\$0.7	1.6x		-
Blockchain Group SA	ALTBG PA	BTC	\$0.7	3.7x		-
Semler Scientific Inc	SMLR	BTC	\$0.5	1.1x		-
DeFi Dev Corp*	DFDV	SOL	\$0.5	5.4x		-
Remixpoint Inc	3825 T	BTC	\$0.4	3.7x		-
Sequans Communications SA	SQNS	BTC	\$0.4	1.0x		-
Sol Strategies Inc	HODL CN	SOL	\$0.3	4.4x		+380%
KULR Technology Group	KULR	BTC	\$0.2	2.4x		-
Upexi Inc*	UPXI	SOL	\$0.1	1.1x		-
Meliuz SA	CASH3 SA	BTC	\$0.1	2.3x		-

1. Figures as of June 27, 2025
2. Pantera is not invested in all of the companies listed. This list is provided solely for illustrative purposes.
Notes: NAV Premium is calculated as Market Capitalization / Value of Digital Asset Holdings (for clarity, 1.0x would represent trading at par not at 100% premium). "UPS" means units per share. In the case of MSTR, this would mean bitcoin per share. Positions marked with (*) are deals that are now liquid that Pantera has invested in.

BLOOMBERG INTERVIEW – BY DAN MOREHEAD

I joined Sonali Basak and Matt Miller again on Bloomberg to share views on the macro and geopolitical landscape – both of which reinforce the case for hard assets like Bitcoin. A key theme we’ve been talking about for a decade is now happening: the separation of money and state.

Sonali: “Dan, you were a whale in the Bitcoin community. You still also are a Tiger Cub, and so when you look at the market right now, how would you be trading it across assets?”

Dan: “I think equities are rich relative to bond yields and I think the bond market really has no way out. There’s high inflation, the deficit is as large as it’s ever been, and everything’s as good as it’s ever been. So, if something bad happens, the deficit goes even higher. I think it is tricky to be in the traditional markets and that’s why I do favor being in hard assets like cryptocurrencies.”

Matt: “So, just to clarify for my mom, right, a Tiger Cub means that you traded global macro for Julian Robertson, and then on your own, so basically one of the most important global macro traders of the world for a quarter of a century. How does this rank in your experience in terms of geopolitical events?”

Dan: “It does seem like it’s probably contained, as the previous guest said, there’s really not much that Iran probably can do, so I think it will be relatively contained.”

Sonali: “I realize by asking you this, you said cryptocurrency is a hard asset, a lot of people would debate that because they are now trading gold these days. When you think about the safe havens that are out there, how do you think about Bitcoin relative to gold, relative to the bond market?”

Dan: “I think it’s a great question. I think all these geopolitical issues highlight a theme we’ve been talking about for a decade:

The separation of money and state.

“Back in the day, money was separate from the state. It was hard assets like gold.

“We’ve had this era where governments print money. They’re printing a lot of it now. I think we are going back to where people store their wealth in hard assets. Gold’s great, gold’s doing very well, but “digital gold”, Bitcoin, is also relevant for people’s portfolios. It can’t be undermined by policies, tariff wars, real wars. You can’t print more of it. It has all the attributes that gold has.”

Matt: “We always talk about the dollar as a world reserve currency, and obviously it is still the number one choice there, but I guess my thinking is you have a percentage weight to the dollar and some to gold and the euro and the yen and the Swiss franc even, and Bitcoin now. That weight has obviously grown from zero to wherever it is now for Bitcoin. Is it taking from the dollar?”

Dan: “Oh, I think it is. And remember, the reserve currency has changed a lot of times over the years. It used to be the Portuguese escudo and the British pound; it’s the dollar right now. It could easily be cryptocurrency in the future and you’re seeing governments now....”

Matt: “But it’s not binary, is my point. This is what Sonali and I talk about every morning. So, it’s not like it either is or isn’t. It’s just a bigger part or a smaller part of your portfolio, right?”

Dan: “A great way to put it. The US stores 11 million worker-years’ wages in gold. I don’t see any reason why they couldn’t store the same amount in Bitcoin in ten years. I think states, the US government, foreign governments are all going to have more than just one reserve currency. It is likely to be the US dollar plus Bitcoin.”

Sonali: “What do you think the value of stablecoin is in this environment? We saw, of course, a recent listing. Matt was always saying....”

Matt: “Still mind blowing.”

Sonali: “If he was the investment banker for it, he said he would wait for longer until you got that higher price, but there’s some debate around that.”

Matt: “Circle sold shares at \$31, and it’s trading right now at well over, here, \$276. I feel like they left a lot of money on the table. Other people tell me it was a very small float and difficult to short, but....”

Sonali: “Is it safer than Bitcoin right now to be more involved in the stablecoin world if you’re a large investor?”

Dan: “It’s a different use case. We’ve been investors in Circle for twelve years and I’m so happy for Jeremy Allaire and the team. But you think about it, we like investing in Bitcoin because we think it will appreciate. It’s on average doubled each year for the twelve years that we’ve been invested in it. Stablecoins are better for cross-border payments, storing your wealth if you don’t want that risk, so they both have really important use cases.”

Matt: “You’re raising a billion dollars right now, so how is the fundraising environment, and when do you expect to close that?”

Dan: “Yes. Fundraising is much better now. I think the change in the administration has really taken away some of the uncertainty about regulatory issues so big institutions are more likely to want to invest now. We’re also investing in these Digital Asset Treasury companies.

“We led the first, DFDV, and Cantor Equity Partners. We’re raising a fund to invest in more, because there’s a huge amount of appetite in the public markets to get invested. And so far, there’s still only a few publicly-listed companies like Circle, Coinbase.”

Sonali: “I also want to point out that not everything has been rosy at all times with new listings in the space. SharpLink in particular was a sharp decline after you saw that initial registration. Do you think that you’re going to see more of that for treasury companies, where you see maybe a pop and then a cool down after you see perhaps dilution that investors are expecting with some of these companies?”

Dan: “Well, you see with [Micro]Strategy, a hundred billion market cap, there’s such an intense demand to invest in crypto via the public markets, and in 10 years there’s going to be hundreds of public companies in the crypto space. Right now, there’s only a few. I think you will see potentially excessive speculation where things go up a bit, but they’re all still trading way above their net asset value, or their holdings, so the space is still doing quite well.”

CONSENSUS 2025 TORONTO: PANEL HIGHLIGHTS – RECAP BY ERIK LOWE

Dan and Dan Tapiero shared the stage (again) at Consensus 2025 to share their perspectives on crypto in the broader macro context. Below are highlights from the conversation.

Discovering Bitcoin/Crypto

Dan: “Dan [Tapiero] and I actually both were at Tiger Management, looking for asymmetric trades – trades that have three or four times the upside compared to the downside. And in 2011, my brother introduced me to Bitcoin, and I read about it, thought it’d be a cool idea, but I didn’t really do anything. And then in 2013, Pete Briger of Fortress said, ‘Hey, let’s work on this together...’

“I realized it’s the biggest trade of a generation. It’s already done 10x three times. I think it can do 10x again. If you have a trade like that, that is just so asymmetric, there’s so much upside relative to the downside, everyone should have some of it in their portfolio.”

Dan Tapiero: “In 2012, ’13, I have a physical gold sales and storage business called GBI. And that company integrated with a firm called BitReserve, which today is the Uphold Wallet. And so, we spent a year integrating with that platform. We became the first place you could buy or sell gold, to buy or sell Bitcoin or Ripple (XRP). So, that was my introduction to it.”

Investing in Tokens vs. Venture

Dan: “To your question of tokens versus private equity versus special opportunities, liquid tokens, I think the best is to get a chunk of all four of those types of asset classes, because each one has their pros and cons. And then they go in these wild pendulum swings, where sometimes tokens are really expensive

and venture's cheap, sometimes it's the opposite. As an investor, I always advocate people investing in a wide spectrum of both tokens and venture."

Macro Outlook, Tariffs, and the Case for Blockchain

Dan: "The whole thing with tariffs is so unpredictable, and it's so hard for any investor to be able to cogently invest around that. And I think it's value-destroying, ultimately, because increasing uncertainty, which makes people put a bigger risk premium on whatever asset they're in. And it's not a surprise that over the last 12 months, the only thing up is crypto. Bitcoin is up 50-something percent. All crypto generally is up about 40%. And most things like stocks, bonds, real estate, are essentially flat. And that is the paradigm I see for the next three or four years."

I was thinking how far we've come.

I grew up in hedge funds in the early 90's when they were truly alternative. Then everything became the same. Thousands of funds sprang up and it all became the same. Twelve years ago I put that cheeky tagline in our investor letter – prompting people to consider putting a new and quite alternative asset class into their portfolio.

It's pretty amazing that now important institutions, policy makers, investors say "Of course, Bitcoin should be [in public companies, S&P500, Strategic Bitcoin Reserve, or whatever]..."

It's becoming less alternative.

Yay!

Grayscale Research published "June 2025: Stablecoin Summer." See summary points below. Read the full piece, [here](#).)

- In a quiet month for crypto valuations, focus was on fundamentals – most importantly, the many positive developments related to stablecoins.
- The GENIUS Act, which would bring regulated payment stablecoins to the US, passed the Senate with bipartisan support and now heads to the House. Separately, US-based stablecoin issuer Circle went public. Its rising share price – mirrored by lower valuations for Mastercard and Visa – highlighted the potential disruption to legacy digital payment networks. Meanwhile, press reports indicate that other major firms are exploring stablecoins, including Amazon and Walmart.
- The Currencies Crypto Sector and Financials Crypto Sector outperformed the broader crypto market; the latter may be due to improved regulatory clarity and prospects for broader adoption of DeFi technologies. Prediction market Polymarket benefited from interest in New York's mayoral race and secured additional venture funding.
- We expect that improved regulatory clarity and a favorable macro backdrop (large budget deficits and potentially lower interest rates) will continue to support the crypto asset class in the second half of 2025.

ARK Invest: Crypto's First Step into US Housing: From Wallets to Mortgages...

Last week, the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) instructed Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to develop proposals to consider cryptocurrency holdings – but only those held on US-regulated centralized exchanges – as assets in single-family mortgage loan risk assessments. The directive does not require converting crypto to US dollars and does not include crypto held in self-custodied wallets. It also calls for risk controls, like accounting for crypto market volatility and limiting how much crypto can count toward reserves.

This directive introduces a novel bridge between blockchain-based capital and the \$12 trillion US mortgage market. Should the FHFA finalize this rule, setting the precedent for wider adoption across mortgages and cryptoassets, blockchain-native balance sheets could impact the mortgage market significantly by streamlining underwriting, lowering transaction costs, and enabling token-linked mortgage instruments.

According to a 2025 Harris Poll commissioned by CryptoSlate, 21% of US adults own digital assets. Of the ~55 million individuals who own cryptoassets, 6 million hold more than \$100,000 on average. Given the wealth that individuals have been accumulating on-chain, the impact of cryptoassets on credit markets could become meaningful.

According to iEmergent's 2024 Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) data, the number of mortgage originations in the US last year was ~6 million, valued at \$1.82 trillion, suggesting an average loan size of ~\$340,000. On that basis, if just 5% of mortgage borrowers included crypto-based assets in their applications, ~305,000 would qualify for a mortgage in this new framework—supporting \$100 billion in originations. Each additional percentage point of adoption would increase mortgage loan volume by ~\$20 billion.

Based solely on penetration rate × average ticket size, our methodology assumes no leverage multipliers or velocity changes, so the upside could be materially higher. This regulatory development aligns with ARK's thesis that crypto will reshape legacy financial systems with greater transparency, automation, and interoperability.