



HYPERION DECIMUS

CRYPTO NEWSLETTER

POWERED BY WEEKLY CRYPTO BRIEF

26th October 2025

BITCOIN-RELATED



TD Cowen said Bitcoin's recovery from the market crash shows resilience and predicts BTC will hit \$141,000 by December.

Standard Chartered said "sell gold, buy Bitcoin" rotations could become more frequent.

Switzerland's BTC-only investment app, Relai, obtained a MiCA license in France, aiming to bring Bitcoin to as many people as possible.

Crypto lender Arch launched "TaxShield," a program letting wealthy Bitcoin holders offset taxes by financing mining rigs through a legal depreciation rule, while earning BTC income and preserving their holdings.

Bitcoin treasury company Strategy added another 168 BTC to its coffers, paying a total of \$18.8 million. The firm's holdings now sit at 640,418 BTC, worth over \$71 billion.

BitcoinIRA: Companies now collectively hold more than 1 million BTC, representing over 7% of the total supply. According to recent data, businesses have already exceeded their 2024 BTC purchases in just the first eight months of 2025, and they're on track to more than double last year's totals.

Citi started coverage of Bitcoin buyer Strategy with a "buy/high risk" rating and \$485 price target from just \$300 currently. Citi analysts see the stock as a leveraged bet on Bitcoin, which they think could soar by just over 60%.

Elon Musk's SpaceX moved 2,495 BTC (worth ~\$268.5 million) to two unmarked addresses on October 21. Arkham data reveals this transfer is the first material change to the company's total Bitcoin holdings since June 2022. (Musk's Tesla revealed none if its \$1.3 billion BTC was sold in Q3 2025.)

A dormant Bitcoin whale with \$442 million awakened for the first time in 14 years, amid quantum fears, moving \$16.6 million in BTC.

Arkade, the first significant Bitcoin L2 solution since the Lightning Network nearly a decade ago, launched. Developed by Ark Labs, the protocol enters public beta with a mission to turn Bitcoin into a programmable financial platform without compromising the security that has made it “digital gold.”

María Corina Machado, a human rights activist and political opposition leader in Venezuela who has called Bitcoin a “lifeline” for Venezuelans, received the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize for promoting democracy in the South American country.

INDUSTRY ADVANCES



Fidelity said Bitcoin and crypto are becoming “central” in their conversations with clients. The firm also added Solana trading to its platform, making it available to buy, sell, and trade on Fidelity Crypto, Fidelity Crypto for IRAs, Fidelity Crypto for Wealth Managers, and Fidelity Digital Assets’ platform for institutional investors.

JPMorgan announced plans to let institutional clients use Bitcoin and Ether as loan collateral by year-end.

Coinbase CEO Brian Armstrong revealed that “private transactions” could soon be available on Base, the Ethereum L2 network incubated by Coinbase. Armstrong said: “We acquired the Iron Fish team back in Mar 2025 to start working on this. More to share soon.” (Iron Fish is a privacy-focused proof-of-work project designed to enable private transactions by using zero-knowledge proofs, specifically zk-SNARKs.)

Coinbase's unveiled “Payments MCP,” which enables AI agents and chatbots (like Claude and Gemini) to access blockchain wallets and execute crypto transactions via natural language.

JPMorgan upgraded Coinbase to “overweight” and raised its price target to \$404, citing new monetization opportunities and reduced risks. The bank highlighted potential Base token and enhanced USDC payouts as key catalysts for Coinbase's growth.

Robinhood listed BNB token, expanding US access to the Binance-linked crypto asset following Coinbase's addition of BNB to its roadmap.

South Korea’s largest exchange Upbit will list CPOOL trading pairs against KRW, BTC, and USDT.

Neobank Revolut obtained a MiCA license from the Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission, allowing it to offer crypto services across 30 European countries.

Blockchain.com, one of the oldest crypto platforms operating a wallet and a blockchain explorer, obtained a MiCA license from the Maltese Financial Services Authority.

Crypto hardware wallet maker Ledger introduced the new Ledger Nano Gen5, which features a series of badges developed by artist Susan Kare – the influential designer of early Apple Macintosh iconography.

Trezor launched its Safe 7 hardware wallet featuring architecture built to withstand potential future quantum computer threats.

The NHL has reached licensing agreements with prediction-market startups – and crypto-connected firms – Kalshi and Polymarket.

According to Bloomberg, Polymarket is in early talks to raise funds at a valuation between \$12 billion and \$15 billion and Kalshi is fielding offers valuing the company between \$10 and \$12 billion.

Polymarket CMO Matthew Modabber confirmed on October 23 that the company will launch a native POLY token and airdrop following months of speculation.

Pyth Network, a leading provider of institutional market data, announced its teaming up with Kalshi, the first US federally regulated event-exchange platform, to deliver its prediction market information across 100+ blockchains.

Solana-based trading platform Jupiter has rolled out Ultra V3, a new engine featuring predictive execution tools, sandwich attack defense, and zero-gas transactions to boost trade speed, price accuracy, and security.

SharpLink Gaming raised \$76.5 million for ETH, securing capital specifically to add Ether to its treasury.

US-listed Solana Company advanced the unlock date of its \$500 million private investment round, triggering a wave of early share sales. The company also partnered with staking providers Twinstake and Helius to expand its digital asset treasury operations, holding over 2.2 million SOL worth \$396 million.

Ken Griffin, the billionaire founder and CEO of Citadel, disclosed a 4.5% stake in DeFi Development, a digital asset treasury company focused on accumulating Solana.

CEA Industries, a Canadian vape company, announced it acquired 500,000 BNB tokens at an average price about \$870 per token. (CEA, which announced its pivot to a BNB treasury company in July, is currently the largest BNB treasury company, and claims a goal of owning 1% of the total supply by the end of the year.)

Biotech firm Applied DNA Sciences revealed the purchase of 4,908 BNB tokens (worth ~\$5.3 million). The announcement followed the close of a \$27 million PIPE backed by institutional investors. The company plans to use the net proceeds from the PIPE to implement a “yield-focused treasury strategy with significant direct and BNB equivalent exposure.”

Evernorth Holdings, a digital asset company with ties to Ripple Labs, announced plans to go public through a merger with Armada Acquisition Corp. II, a Nasdaq-listed SPAC, in a move to build one of the world’s largest XRP treasuries. The transaction is expected to generate more than \$1 billion in gross proceeds.

Hyperliquid Strategies, a new crypto treasury company, filed an S-1 registration statement with the SEC, signaling its intent to raise \$1 billion for general purposes, including the accumulation of the decentralized exchange's HYPE.

Greenlane announced a private placement of \$110 million to initiate a BERA treasury strategy, adding another name to the list of corporates adopting alt-L1 assets as reserves.

Major stock exchanges across the Asia-Pacific region, including Hong Kong’s, are pushing back against companies trying to stockpile cryptocurrencies in their treasuries.

Bitcoin critic Peter Schiff is launching a tokenized gold platform that will enable straightforward custody and security from mobile devices.

Ondo Finance called for more transparency before Nasdaq moves forward with its plan to settle tokenized stocks through the DTC clearinghouse, urging regulators to ensure clear standards for how on-chain securities would be handled.

Aave teamed up with Maple to integrate institutional-grade tokenized assets as collateral, a move designed to boost lending efficiency, steady borrowing demand, and tap into billions of dollars in capital.

MINING



New York Democrats introduced a state assembly bill that would make proof-of-work crypto miners pay up to 5 cents per kilowatt-hour depending on their energy use, funneling the proceeds into programs that help low-income households with utility bills.

British Columbia proposed legislation to limit how much electricity will be available to AI data centers and moved to permanently ban new cryptocurrency mining projects.

American Bitcoin (the new Bitcoin mining company backed by the Trump family) made a deal recently from China-based Bitmain (a global leader in mining equipment) – buying 16,299 machines in exchange for a pledge to provide \$314 million worth of Bitcoin within two years.

Bitcoin mining company CleanSpark announced it's expanding into AI data center infrastructure to diversify its revenue streams and strengthen long-term cash flow potential.

Benchmark raised Canaan's price target to \$4 due to Nasdaq's compliance notification and increasing demand for its Bitcoin mining rigs, particularly the Avalon line.

ETPS (EXCHANGE-TRADED PRODUCTS), FUNDS & INDEXES



There are 155 cryptocurrency-based ETP filings awaiting SEC review, per Bloomberg. As of Oct. 20, this includes 23 products tracking Bitcoin and Solana, 20 tracking XRP, and 16 tracking Ethereum. Although the US government shutdown that began on October 1 has slowed the SEC's review process, experts are optimistic that approval is imminent.

Almost two years since BlackRock launched its Bitcoin ETF in the US, the fund become available to traders in the UK on October 20 after the FCA lifted a ban on some Bitcoin-based ETPs this month. ETFs from the Switzerland-based 21Shares also debuted for UK retail investors for the first time.

VanEck has filed for the first US ETF tied to stETH, representing Ethereum staked through Lido. The proposed ETF aims to provide institutional investors with regulated exposure to Ethereum staking through the stETH token, offering daily liquidity and transparency.

Hong Kong approved its first spot Solana ETF, the China Asset Management (Hong Kong) Solana ETF, marking the third spot crypto ETF approved by the city after Bitcoin and Ethereum.

\$1.8 trillion T. Rowe Price filed for an active crypto ETF.

The Grayscale Stacks Trust began trading on OTC Markets under the symbol STCK – becoming the first publicly quoted investment product in the US designed to provide exposure to STX, the token underlying the Stacks network.

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

Joe Naggar, who leads one of crypto's most successful investment teams, is formally spinning out his team at crypto-focused investment firm Republic to form an independent hedge fund with \$300 million under management. His new firm will focus on digital asset markets and frontier technologies.

Singapore-based digital bank Pave Bank raised \$39 million in a Series A funding round – led by VC firm Accel.

Sign, which builds digital infrastructure, raised \$25.5 million – led by YZi Labs (formerly Binance Labs).

Telcoin, a blockchain-based financial services company set to become one of the first regulated blockchain banks in the US, raised \$25 million as part of an ongoing pre-series A round to capitalize Telcoin Digital Asset Bank – which is set to open later this year.

BOS recently raised \$10 million in funding, led by Greenfield Capital, to further develop their Bitcoin “operating system” and advance their roadmap for institutional and developer protocols.

Moon successfully raised \$8.8 million to launch a Bitcoin prepaid card in Thailand and South Korea, with plans for expansion across Asia. The fundraising was supported by a consortium of Bitcoin miners and investors.

TBook, the StableFi layer for the digital workforce, raised \$5 million to power stablecoin payouts and RWA distribution.

Temple Digital Group raised a \$5 million seed round, led by Paper Ventures, to build a privacy focused trading platform for digital assets on the Canton Network.

IPOS, M&A, PARTNERSHIPS & DEALS

Blockchain.com is considering a public listing in the US through a SPAC, with Cohen & Company Capital Markets advising on the potential deal.

According to new data from Architect Partners, crypto M&A topped \$10 billion in Q3 2025, representing a 30-fold jump from just a year ago.

Coinbase struck a \$375 million deal to acquire Echo, a crowdfunding platform that allows communities to raise capital targeting early-stage projects and startups.

Crypto trading firm FalconX agreed to acquire 21Shares, a crypto asset manager known for listing 50 ETPs in Europe.

Modern Treasury bought stablecoin startup Beam for \$40 million in stock, signaling a major push into instant dollar-based payments and positioning itself to compete more directly with Stripe and Coinbase.

Crypto infrastructure giant Fireblocks acquired wallet startup Dynamic for a reported \$90 million, integrating its user-friendly tools into Fireblocks' security-focused stack to offer a full-service platform for developers, from custody to consumer-facing crypto apps.

Decentralized storage provider Storj is being acquired by Inveniam Capital Partners, which plans to expand its data and AI platform for private markets.

Aave Labs acquired the team behind Stable Finance, a company known for its user-friendly DeFi savings app, as part of a push to make DeFi more accessible to everyday users.

Clanker, the leading Base launchpad behind projects like Bankr and Noice, is joining Farcaster with plans for deeper platform integration.

Ethereum scaling solution MegaETH said it would auction 5% of its token supply starting at a \$1 million valuation through a three-day English auction.

BNB Chain is partnering with Better Payment Network to build a faster, onchain alternative to traditional cross-border payments.

GC Exchange FZE and GC Exchange A/S, both part of GCEX Group, a digital prime broker, selected OpenPayd, a provider of financial infrastructure, to enhance its fiat banking rails.



Solana Labs CEO Anatoly Yakovenko is designing a high-performance onchain perps DEX called Percolator, naturally built on the Solana blockchain.

Aave's DAO introduced a proposal to create a long-term, protocol-funded buyback program that would use up to \$50 million in annual revenue to repurchase Aave tokens.

Decentralized lending platform Spark allocated \$100 million of its stablecoin reserves to Superstate's Crypto Carry Fund (USCC). Superstate announced: "Spark, responsible for generating yield for the \$9B USDS liquidity reserve, is putting collateral into USCC to capture higher crypto yield."

Gemini introduced the Solana Card, offering instant SOL rewards and an optional auto-staking feature for up to 6.77% APY. The credit card provides up to 4% back in crypto rewards on purchases, with category-based rewards for gas, dining, groceries, and more.

Blockchain data platform DeFiLlama reinstated volume data for the Aster perpetual exchange, despite deciding earlier to cease showing it over data integrity concerns. DeFiLlama's founder, the pseudonymous 0xngmi, on X, said: "It's still a black box and we can't verify the numbers."

YieldFX, a digital finance platform bridging TradFi with DeFi, announced the forthcoming launch of its decentralized foreign currency exchange, FLEX, on the Hedera Network. This launch represents a significant milestone in democratizing access to global foreign currency investments and yield opportunities for everyday investors.

CBDCS & STABLECOINS



Stablecoins have reached an annual transaction volume of \$46 trillion in 2025, nearly triple the volume processed by Visa, according to a report from a16z.

Citi analysts raised their 2030 market cap outlook for stablecoins to \$1.9 trillion after the GENIUS Act passed in July. Stablecoins, tied to assets like the US dollar, play a crucial role in crypto markets, facilitating payments and international money transfers.

Tether CEO Paolo Ardoino said on October 21 that the world's largest stablecoin USDT now has more than 500 million users – suggesting its stablecoin has now been used by around 6.25% of the world's population – calling it "likely the biggest financial inclusion achievement in history."

Paxos is rolling out the ability for employees to receive part of their salaries in USDG due to a Toku integration. The integration will utilize the same payroll platforms – ADP and Workday – but allows employees to receive USDG straight to their wallets.

Stablecoin blockchain Stable, backed by Bitfinex and USDT0, officially announced the launch of its pre-deposit event at 9:10 p.m. ET on October 23. Phase one of the event opened with an \$825 million deposit cap that was reached within 30 minutes of Stable's announcement.

Beijing reportedly instructed major tech firms like Ant Group and JD.com to pause plans to issue stablecoins in Hong Kong, reflecting the central bank's concerns that private digital currencies could undermine its own digital yuan and create financial risks.

Jonathan Gould, head of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, reassured community banks that stablecoins are tools for competition, not threats. He emphasized the need for action in case of a significant deposit flight from the banking system.

NFTS, BLOCKCHAIN GAMING & METAVERSE



OpenSea officially announced that its SEA token will launch in the first quarter of 2026, marking a significant step in its transition from a traditional NFT marketplace to a multi-chain trading platform for digital and tokenized assets.

Coinbase bought the Up Only NFT from crypto investor Jordan Fish, better known to the crypto community as “Cobie,” for \$25 million in USDC. The purchase sets the stage for a potential revival of the cult-favorite crypto talk show UpOnlyTV. The Up Only NFT is not a typical collectible; it acts as a contractual mechanism requiring Cobie and his co-host Brian Krogsgard or “Ledger Status,” to produce eight new episodes after the NFT is activated or “burned.”

JOB MOVEMENT



Blockchain.com appointed Fiorentina D’Amore, a chairperson of the Financial Institutions Malta Association, as senior director of EU business operations, and CEO of Blockchain.com Malta.

Ethena Labs, the issuer of the synthetic stablecoin USDe, is expanding its team for the first time since launch. Co-founder Guy Young shared plans to hire ~10 new members primarily in engineering and product development.

CleanSpark appointed Jeffrey Thomas as senior vice president of AI data centers to lead the company’s new AI initiative.

Alt5 Sigma, a digital trading tech firm linked to the Trump-family-backed WLFI project, suspended CEO Peter Tassiopoulos without explanation and replaced him with CFO Jonathan Hugh just a year after hiring him to expand the company’s crypto business.

REGULATIONS, RULINGS & COMMENTARY



President Trump pardoned convicted Binance founder Changpeng Zhao on October 23, as White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said Trump had “exercised his constitutional authority by issuing a pardon for Mr. Zhao, who was prosecuted by the Biden Administration in their war on cryptocurrency.”

Ripple, Coinbase, Tether, and Gemini founders Cameron and Tyler Winklevoss are reportedly among the crypto donors contributing to President Trump's new \$300 million White House ballroom. Major tech companies, such as Apple, Google, and Microsoft, are also listed among the donors.

President Trump tapped Michael Selig to lead the CFTC, as lawmakers move to cement the agency's oversight over digital assets. Trump picked Selig on October 24 for the CFTC chairmanship, sending him to get nomination hearings in the Senate. Selig currently serves as chief counsel for the SEC's Crypto Task Force and was a partner specializing in crypto at the law firm Willkie Farr & Gallagher.

The CFTC and SEC are pushing to complete their end-of-year crypto goals, particularly priorities set out in a report released by the White House over the summer. These priorities include SEC-enforced safe-harbors for crypto and the establishment of “fit-for-purpose” registration exemptions for securities distributions, while granting the CFTC the authority to “regulate spot markets in non-security digital assets.” Additionally, CFTC Acting Chair Pham said the agency is prioritizing crypto trading and “tokenized collateral” by the end of 2025.

Senate Democrats signaled to top crypto executives (Coinbase, Galaxy Digital, Circle, etc.) they are open to advancing a bipartisan bill to regulate US digital asset markets, after a Capitol Hill meeting that drew more than 10 lawmakers and included follow-up talks with Republicans.

A coalition of US crypto, fintech, and retail groups urged the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to block big banks from charging for consumer data access, warning that such fees would weaken open banking and could cut stablecoins and crypto wallets off from the US financial system.

Federal Reserve Governor Christopher Waller, a Trump appointee, said, distributed ledgers and crypto are increasingly being “woven into the fabric of the payment and financial systems.” Waller added: “I wanted to send a message that this is a new era for the Federal Reserve in payments” – noting that DeFi will be “welcomed to the conversation on the future of payments in the United States... something that would have been unimaginable a few years ago.”

US Senator Cynthia Lummis called on regulators to fast-track open banking rules that let users link bank accounts to crypto apps, warning that large banks have blocked access for political reasons and that such behavior could harm both consumers and innovation.

Arch crypto critic Elizabeth Warren, a Democratic Party senator from Massachusetts, is criticizing the Genius Act stablecoin bill signed into law by US President Donald Trump and warned it could “blow up our entire financial system.” Warren added: “Experts, policymakers, and Democratic and Republican members of Congress have raised the importance of fixing flaws in the Genius Act as written. It is critical that Treasury take steps to implement and enforce the law in a manner that attempts to limit severe risks to US financial stability, consumers, taxpayers, and national security.”

A group of Senate Democrats pressed Trump envoy Steve Witkoff to explain why he still held stakes in Trump-linked crypto ventures despite previous divestment promises, raising conflict-of-interest concerns tied to deals involving the UAE.

In a bid to find voters among the younger cohort that are mostly in favor of rival Zohran Mamdani, Andrew Cuomo, an independent candidate for mayor of New York City, announced he would create a chief innovation officer who would foster blockchain and crypto projects in the city, aiming to make NYC “the global hub of the future.”

Coinbase called on the US Treasury to update decades-old anti-money-laundering rules, which the exchange's chief legal officer Paul Grewal argued are less effective than innovation at combating crypto-based illicit finance.

Japan’s Financial Services Agency is weighing a policy shift that could let domestic banks buy, sell, and hold cryptocurrencies, as well as register as crypto exchanges, in a bid to expand market access for retail investors while tightening rules to curb insider trading.

Thailand implemented a zero capital-gains tax on crypto, a pro-growth signal that could pull trading and startup activity into the Thai market.

Bolivian President-elect Rodrigo Paz, who defeated rival Jorge Quiroga 54.5% to 45.5% and is set to take office on Nov. 8, plans to tackle corruption in his country’s government using blockchain technology.

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

MetaMask and several major crypto wallet providers launched a global phishing defense system (partnering with Security Alliance) with real-time alerts to combat scammers who have already stolen over \$400 million this year, creating a shared warning network that doesn't rely on centralized control.

Crypto exchange Cryptomus was fined a record \$126 million (CA\$177 million) by Canada's financial intelligence agency for failing to report 1,000+ transactions linked to criminal activity, including child sexual abuse material, fraud, and sanctions evasion. The agency also found deficiencies in Cryptomus' policies and procedures for monitoring and client identification.

Ocean Protocol was hit with allegations of dumping ~\$120 million worth of Fetch.ai (FET) tokens after quietly exiting the Artificial Superintelligence (ASI) Alliance in October 2025. Fetch.ai CEO Humayun Sheikh publicly accused Ocean Protocol of unauthorized and opaque transfers, offering a \$250,000 bounty to uncover OceanDAO's multisig wallet signatories.

The Slerf memecoin dev accidentally burned \$10 million last year, refunded pre-sale participants 19 months later, and saw the token's market cap soar to \$740 million. The refund process took over a year, funded by donations and trading fees.

Bunni, a decentralized crypto exchange, will permanently shut down following an \$8.4 million hack that drained its treasury.

Blockchain investigator ZachXBT said that a US-based crypto user lost ~\$3.05 million (1.2 million XRP) after their Ellipal wallet was compromised, with the funds ultimately laundered through Huione-linked over-the-counter networks in Southeast Asia.

Thailand's deputy finance minister Vorapak Tanyawong stepped down after reports tied him to a Chinese-Cambodian scam network that allegedly paid his wife \$3 million in crypto, though he denied wrongdoing and said he was resigning to focus on his legal defense.

A British Columbia court ruled a crypto exchange was not liable for a customer's C\$671,000 loss to an online scam, despite issuing multiple fraud warnings. The court found that the exchange had fulfilled its obligations by alerting the customer about potential fraud risks.

Europol seized \$330,000 in crypto and arrested seven individuals as part of the takedown of a cybercrime-as-a-service network operating out of Latvia.

Joshua Paul Armbrust, a former engineer at Digital River, was sentenced to three years of probation for illegally mining cryptocurrency using the company's cloud servers. Armbrust accessed the AWS account without authorization, generating over \$5,800 worth of Ethereum for personal use.

Crypto exchange Binance banned 600+ user accounts for using unauthorized third-party trading tools and bots, as part of a broader crackdown on platform abuse.

The UK's financial regulator sued crypto exchange HTX, linked to Justin Sun, accusing it of illegally promoting digital asset services to British consumers in violation of local advertising rules.

Five members of a dark web drug trafficking network were convicted for shipping illegal narcotics nationwide and laundering millions through crypto. The operation, known as “FireBunnyUSA,” ran from 2019 to 2022, with investigators making undercover purchases of drugs like cocaine and MDMA.

Meteora and its co-founder Ben Chow are accused in a class action lawsuit of orchestrating a coordinated memecoin fraud involving at least 15 tokens, including Melania and Libra. The complaint claims Chow and his partners used figures like Melania Trump and Javier Milei as “window dressing” to lend legitimacy to the alleged schemes orchestrated by Meteora and Hayden Davis-led marketing firm Kelsier Ventures. Plaintiffs allege the tokens followed a pattern of rapid surges and crashes, with developers accused of dumping them after launch.

WazirX, India's former top crypto exchange, is set to resume operations on October 24 after a year of uncertainty due to a major security breach. The restart follows a court-approved restructuring under Zettai Pte. Ltd., the exchange's parent company, with plans for repayments and enhanced security measures in place.

Max Glass, a former executive at RWA Company, filed a lawsuit alleging wrongful termination and coercion to sign away his rights for the company's stablecoin project, M^0.

A widespread internet outage caused by a problem with the Amazon Web Services (AWS) cloud computing provider knocked many popular apps and websites offline the morning of October 20, with Coinbase and Robinhood unavailable for hours.

MISCELLANEOUS



Galaxy Digital (GLXY) reported Q3 earnings on October 21, calling it “the best all-around quarter in our 8-year history.” Net income came in at \$505 million, after the company did \$30.7 million in net income last quarter.

In Q3, Kraken’s revenue reached \$648 million, up 114% from the previous year and 50% from Q2. Adjusted earnings came in at \$178.6 million, a major improvement from last year’s negative number. (The company is in talks for fresh funding at a reported \$20 billion valuation with the ultimate goal of an IPO.)

Ethereum began final testing of its Fusaka upgrade, set for a Dec. 3 rollout, which introduces gas caps per transaction to prevent block overloads, boost efficiency, and pave the way for processing multiple transactions at once in future updates.

Péter Szilágyi, the lead developer of Ethereum’s primary execution client, Geth, shared a letter he sent to the EF leadership team more than a year ago. In that letter, Szilágyi said the Foundation had a history of underpaying its employees, which forced its most trusted staff to seek compensation elsewhere. He disclosed that over his six-year tenure as Geth lead, he received a total of about \$625,000 – a figure that sparked widespread commentary on X.

The Ethereum Foundation transferred 160,000 ETH, valued around \$654 million, triggering widespread speculation and scrutiny across the crypto industry. Hsiao-Wei Wang, the Foundation’s co-

Executive Director, said: “The recent 160,000 ETH transfer was a scheduled Ethereum Foundation wallet migration.”

Solana Mobile ended all software and security updates for its Saga phone just two years after launch, leaving users without long-term support and potentially more exposed to vulnerabilities despite the phone’s brief popularity during a memecoin airdrop frenzy.

L1 blockchain Kadena announced plans to immediately cease all operations and maintenance of the blockchain citing “unfavorable market conditions.”

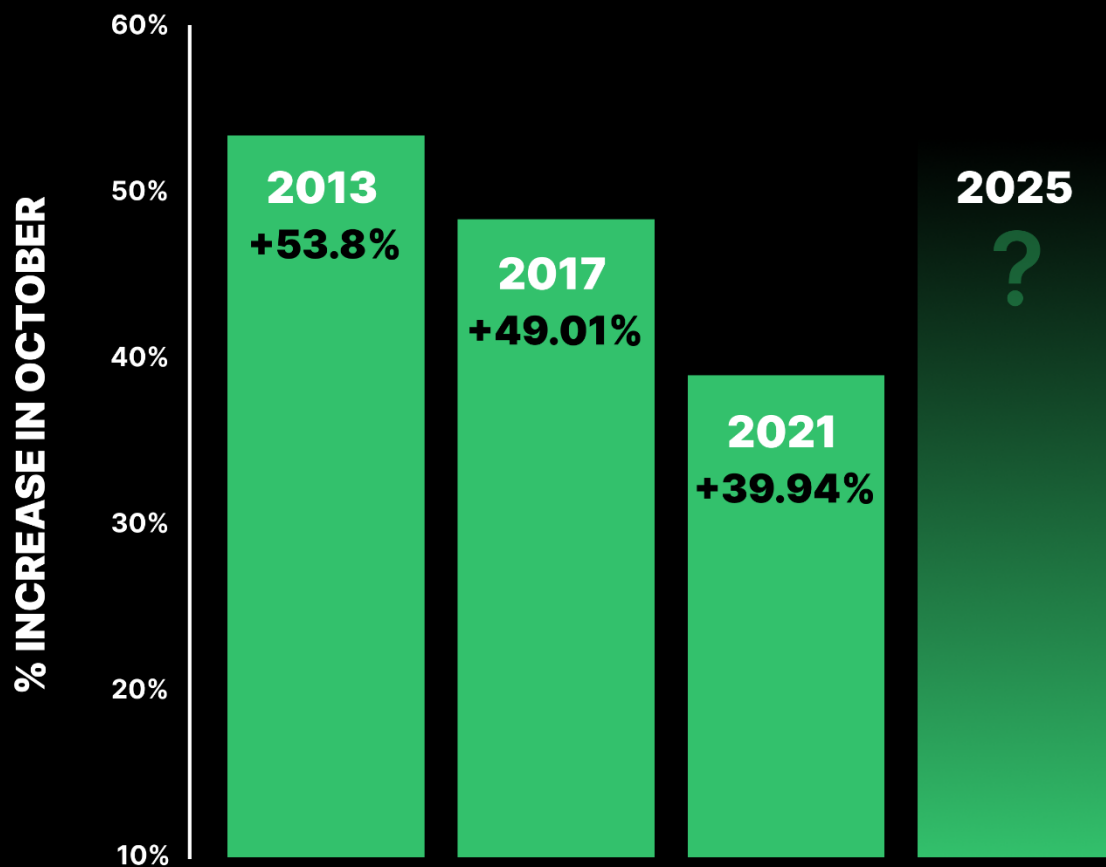
Curtis Yarvin, the controversial, influential political blogger and software developer credited with steering Silicon Valley to the right over the last decade, has claimed to invent a form of digital currency that he believes directly led to Satoshi Nakamoto creating Bitcoin.

CHARTS, TABLES, QUOTES, COMMENTARY & OTHER IMAGES

Bitcoin Magazine: Bitcoin is already up over 8% this month. Will BTC pump the highest it ever has this October?



OCTOBER RATES OF RETURN AFTER THE HALVINGS



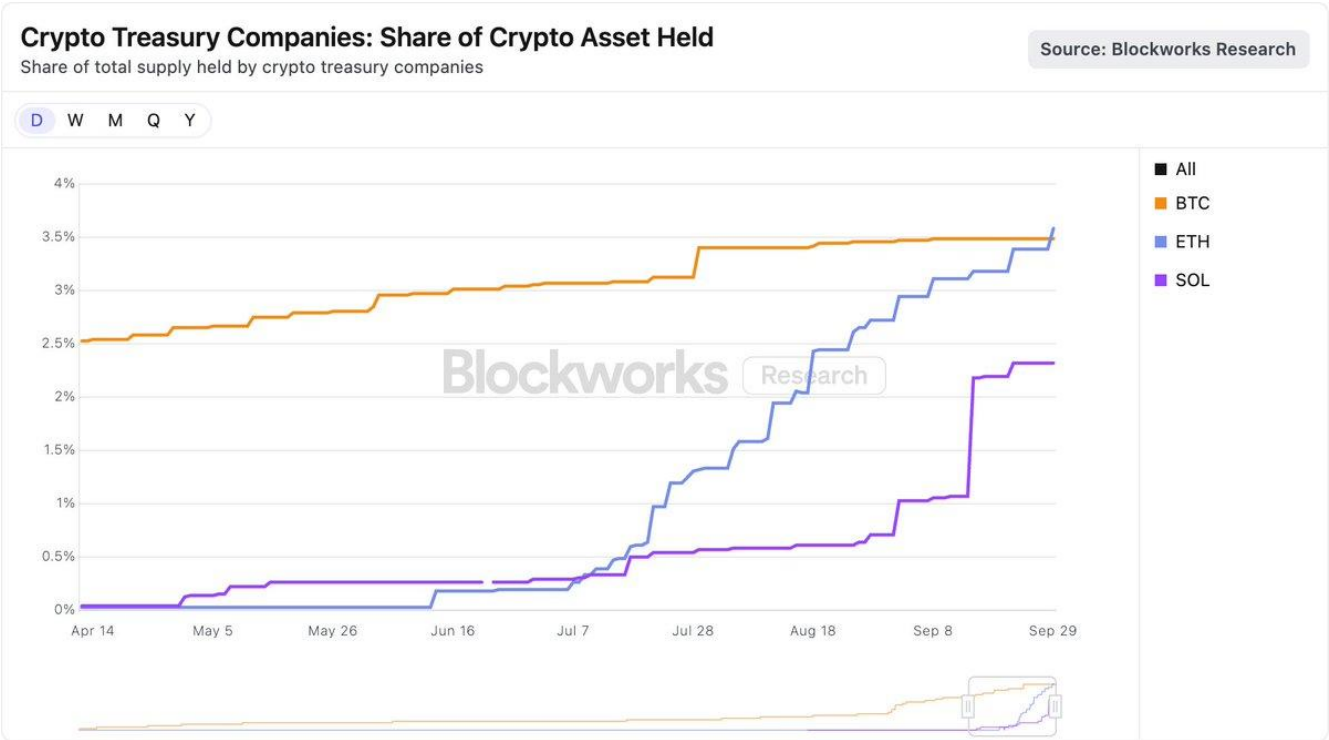
Source for rate of return: StatMuse



Cointelegraph: The crypto industry could be set for a flood of new crypto ETFs in October, with the US SEC set to make their final decisions on 16 crypto ETFs next month.

Issuer (Ticker)	Ticker	Company	Asset	Prospectus Filing Date	19b-4 Filed Date	First Deadline	Second Deadline	Third Deadline	Final Deadline
Hashdex Nasdaq Crypto Index	NCIQ	Hashdex	BTC & ETH	7/24/24	6/17/24	8/16/24	9/30/24	12/29/24	2/27/25
Hashdex Nasdaq Crypto Index	NCIQ	Hashdex	Basket	7/24/24		4/21/25	6/5/25	9/3/25	11/2/25
Franklin Crypto Index ETF	EZPZ	Franklin	BTC & ETH	8/16/24	9/19/24	11/22/24	1/6/25	4/6/25	6/5/25
Bitwise Bitcoin and Ethereum ETF	N/A	Bitwise	BTC & ETH	11/26/24	11/26/24	1/30/25	3/16/25	6/14/25	8/13/25
Grayscale Digital Large Cap <i>Conversion</i>	GDLC	Grayscale	Basket	2/1/18	10/15/24	12/19/24	2/2/25	5/3/25	7/2/25
Bitwise 10 Crypto Index <i>Conversion</i>	BITW	Bitwise	Basket	11/22/17	11/14/24	1/17/25	3/3/25	6/1/25	7/31/25
Canary Litecoin ETF	N/A	Canary	Litecoin	10/15/24	1/16/25	3/21/25	5/5/25	8/3/25	10/2/25
Grayscale Litecoin Trust <i>Conversion</i>	LTCN	Grayscale	Litecoin	3/1/18	1/24/25	3/29/25	5/13/25	8/11/25	10/10/25
CoinShares Litecoin ETF	N/A	CoinShares	Litecoin	1/24/25	2/10/25	4/11/25	5/26/25	8/24/25	10/23/25
Grayscale Solana Trust <i>Conversion</i>	GSOL	Grayscale	Solana	12/2/21	1/24/25	3/29/25	5/13/25	8/11/25	10/10/25
VanEck Solana Trust	N/A	VanEck	Solana	6/27/24	1/28/25	4/4/25	5/19/25	8/17/25	10/16/25
21Shares Core Solana ETF	N/A	21Shares	Solana	10/30/24	1/28/25	4/4/25	5/19/25	8/17/25	10/16/25
Canary Solana ETF	N/A	Canary	Solana	6/28/24	1/28/25	4/4/25	5/19/25	8/17/25	10/16/25
Bitwise Solana ETF	N/A	Bitwise	Solana	11/21/24	1/28/25	4/4/25	5/19/25	8/17/25	10/16/25
Franklin Solana ETF	N/A	Franklin	Solana	2/21/25	3/12/25	5/3/25	6/17/25	9/15/25	11/14/25
Fidelity Solana Fund	N/A	Fidelity	Solana	N/A	3/25/25	5/24/25	7/8/25	10/6/25	12/5/25
Invesco Galaxy Solana ETF	N/A	Invesco & Galaxy	Solana	N/A	7/30/25	10/3/25	11/17/25	2/15/26	4/16/26
Grayscale Dogecoin Trust <i>Conversion</i>	N/A	Grayscale	DOGE	1/31/25	1/31/25	4/6/25	5/21/25	8/19/25	10/18/25
Grayscale XRP Trust <i>Conversion</i>	N/A	Grayscale	XRP	9/5/24	1/30/25	4/6/25	5/21/25	8/19/25	10/18/25
21Shares Core XRP Trust	N/A	21Shares	XRP	11/1/24	2/6/25	4/7/25	5/22/25	8/20/25	10/19/25
Bitwise XRP ETF	N/A	Bitwise	XRP	10/2/24	2/6/25	4/10/25	5/25/25	8/23/25	10/22/25
Canary XRP ETF	N/A	Canary	XRP	10/8/24	2/6/25	4/11/25	5/26/25	8/24/25	10/23/25
Wisdomtree XRP Fund	N/A	Wisdomtree	XRP	12/2/24	2/6/25	4/12/25	5/27/25	8/25/25	10/24/25
CoinShares XRP ETF	N/A	CoinShares	XRP	1/24/25	2/10/25	4/11/25	5/26/25	8/24/25	10/23/25
Franklin XRP ETF	N/A	Franklin	XRP	3/11/25	3/13/25	5/3/25	6/17/25	9/15/25	11/14/25
Grayscale Cardano Trust	N/A	Grayscale	Cardano	N/A	2/10/25	4/11/25	5/26/25	8/24/25	10/23/25

Jason Yanowitz (Founder – Blockworks): If you look at the share of supply held by DATs, ETH just flipped BTC...



Conclusion from Coin Metrics’ “State of The Network” weekly report from 9/30/25. (Read the full report, [here](#).)

Q3 saw a market in transition as Bitcoin cooled after setting fresh highs, Ethereum regained momentum, and altcoins showed selective strength. Beneath the surface, structural demand from spot ETFs, new cohorts of digital asset treasuries, and crypto IPOs continued to reshape market access and ownership. Meanwhile, competition over perpetual futures and the race to dominate stablecoin settlement accelerated, driven by regulatory tailwinds and maturing on-chain infrastructure.

Looking ahead, recent rate cuts and global liquidity could revive risk appetite, with structural demand from ETFs, DATs, and stablecoins providing a durable floor. With greater regulatory clarity, expanding institutional access, and maturing on-chain infrastructure, the market enters Q4 on a strong foundation.

Conclusion from Glassnode’s “The Week On-Chain” from 10/2/25. (Read the full report, [here](#).)

On-chain dynamics continue to highlight the pivotal role of the short-term holder cost basis, which has served as reliable support since May 2025. Price remains challenged by the dense supply cluster between \$114k and \$118k, yet the easing in long-term holder distribution and the return of ETF inflows suggest stabilizing demand. Sentiment, as measured by RVT and the Fear & Greed Index, points to a cooling phase, with conditions shifting toward consolidation rather than capitulation.

In the options market, the record expiry has reset positioning, with open interest now rebuilding into Q4. Volatility has softened, skew is drifting toward neutral, and the curve remains in contango with a firmer back end. Flows show measured upside interest, while dealer gamma remains broadly balanced, muting hedging flows. Together, these signals suggest a market resetting into a more neutral, constructive backdrop, awaiting conviction for the next decisive move.

Blockworks updated key metrics...

Total Crypto Market Cap	\$4.26 T
Bitcoin Market Cap	\$2.43 T
Ethereum Market Cap	\$541.04 B
ETH/BTC Ratio	0.04
Ethereum Gas Price	NaN gwei
DeFi TVL	\$319.93 B
Fear and Greed Index	71 (Greed)

Updated performance comp posted by Ikigai Asset Management (through 9/30/25)...

	Sep	Aug	Jul	Q2-25	Q1-25	YTD	2024	Q4-24	Q3-24	Q2-24	Q1-24	2023	2022
BTC	5%	-6%	8%	30%	-12%	22%	121%	48%	1%	-12%	69%	155%	-64%
ETH	-6%	19%	49%	36%	-45%	24%	46%	28%	-24%	-6%	60%	91%	-67%
XRP	3%	-8%	35%	7%	0%	37%	238%	240%	29%	-24%	2%	81%	-59%
BCH*	2%	-3%	11%	59%	-31%	21%	36%	25%	-12%	-44%	121%	157%	-75%
EOS	-19%	-5%	-10%	-8%	-20%	-49%	-8%	50%	-11%	-48%	30%	-2%	-72%
BNB	18%	9%	19%	9%	-14%	44%	124%	24%	-3%	-4%	94%	27%	-52%
XTZ	-7%	-7%	44%	-18%	-49%	-48%	28%	82%	-11%	-43%	40%	39%	-84%
XLM	2%	-12%	69%	-10%	-20%	9%	157%	237%	8%	-35%	9%	81%	-73%
LTC	-2%	3%	24%	4%	-19%	4%	42%	54%	-11%	-28%	44%	4%	-52%
TRX	-2%	5%	16%	17%	-6%	31%	136%	63%	25%	1%	14%	98%	-28%
Aggregate Mkt Cap	3%	0%	13%	24%	-19%	17%	96%	46%	-4%	-14%	63%	119%	-64%
Aggregate DeFi*	-3%	11%	31%	20%	-19%	35%	50%	52%	-15%	-21%	47%	132%	-77%
Aggr Alts Mkt Cap	5%	7%	18%	25%	-34%	11%	72%	47%	-13%	-15%	58%	90%	-64%

Grayscale published its “September 2025: Cycles Don’t Die of Old Age.” (See summary points below. (View the full piece, [here](#).)

- Three years after the crypto market bottom there is renewed debate about the state of the “cycle”. But the factors powering adoption – macro demand for scarce digital assets and improved regulatory clarity – remain in place.
- Crypto trailed other asset classes in September; liquidations in futures accelerated a mid-month drawdown. Leveraged trader positioning now appears more balanced.
- The SEC approved generic listing standards for crypto ETPs, the Senate made progress on market structure legislation, and there were more crypto IPOs.
- From a returns standpoint, the AI Crypto Sector dominated other market segments.

Broadridge Financial Solutions, in collaboration with The ValueExchange, ISSA, Accenture, and Taurus, today released the sixth annual DLT in the Real World report, a comprehensive study tracking the adoption of distributed ledger technology (DLT) and digital assets across global financial markets. (See some highlights below. Download the full report, [here](#).)

- 85% of respondents see intraday liquidity as the key outcome of DLT and digital assets.
- Live industry participation with DLT has increased 800% since 2020.
- 45% of banks issued a digital asset in the last 12 months.
- Digital asset adoption is growing at a rate of two to four times annually.

Matt Hougan's (Bitwise) Weekly CIO Memo: "Crypto Is Going After Really Big Markets – Crypto is Tackling Some of the Largest Addressable Markets in the World. Understanding this Changes How You Invest."

One of the biggest mistakes crypto skeptics make is underestimating the size of the markets crypto aims to disrupt. It causes them to dismiss things they should take very seriously.

For instance: Bitcoin is a \$2.3 trillion asset. When people hear that, they're often surprised. There are very few things worth \$2.3 trillion, and most of them are household names. Amazon is worth \$2.3 trillion, for example. But Amazon is a service many people use every day, while bitcoin is not.

So why is bitcoin worth \$2.3 trillion? Because it's going after a very large market. Gold is a \$25 trillion asset, and bitcoin is (among other things) competing with gold.

This is critical to its investment thesis.

Imagine you had two startups: One trying to disrupt Amazon and the other trying to disrupt gold. To be worth \$2.3 trillion, the Amazon disruptor would need to take 100% of the market, forcing the Seattle-based giant into bankruptcy. Good luck with that. But if that startup were instead seeking to disrupt gold, it's a vastly different story: To hit \$2.3 trillion it would need to capture less than 10% of that market.

Bitcoin is not the only example of this.

Blockchains like Ethereum and Solana are competing for the issuance, trading, and settlement of stablecoins and tokenized assets, among other things. These are enormous markets. According to McKinsey, the global payments industry processes 3.4 trillion transactions worth \$1.8 quadrillion each year. Estimates from SIFMA and Savills peg the combined value of stocks, bonds, and real estate at \$665 trillion.

Trillions? Quadrillions? These are among the largest addressable markets in the world.

The markets are so large, in fact, that no single, centralized company could dream of capturing more than a small fraction of them. But Ethereum and Solana are different. As decentralized supercomputers with global scale, they have a real shot at taking major share. That's why they are worth ~\$500 billion and ~\$100 billion, respectively.

Tether's Valuation

I was reminded of this phenomenon recently when news broke that stablecoin issuer Tether was trying to raise money at a \$500 billion valuation. This would make Tether one of the most valuable startups in the world, in line with OpenAI and SpaceX.

On one hand, this is absurd. OpenAI is working to create artificial general intelligence and SpaceX wants to put people on Mars. Tether basically runs a digital money market fund.

But Tether is targeting a very large market. It has a nearly 100% share of the stablecoin market in non-Western countries. There's a chance that many emerging market countries will convert from primarily using their own currencies to using USDT. If that happens, Tether could end up managing trillions of dollars and capturing all of the interest.

For context: In 2024, Saudi Aramco turned in the most profitable year in corporate history, earning \$120 billion. At current interest rates, if Tether got to \$3 trillion in assets – about 3% of the global money supply – it would top that, becoming the most profitable company in history.

This Should Change How You Invest

Knowing that crypto is targeting very large markets changes a few things.

First, it opens investors' eyes to crypto's upside. These are some of the largest and most important markets in the world. There's a big difference between going after Amazon and going after the entire market for global payments.

The second impact: It makes many investors want to diversify.

Investing in crypto is like investing in early-stage startups: You're hunting for black swans. If you find one, the return potential is massive. But you have to expect many of your investments will fail. Even the large ones. Ethereum, Solana, Ripple, Aave, Hyperliquid, Chainlink: Nearly every crypto project in existence could fail. In fact, my guess is there will be more billion-dollar-plus failures in crypto than in any other industry in history.

But I expect those will come alongside enormous successes. (This is one of the reasons I love Bitwise's crypto index fund.) Diversification changes the question from "Which crypto asset will succeed?" to "Will crypto matter more in five years, or less?"

If you have five minutes today, I encourage you to read the essay Black Swan Farming by Y Combinator founder Paul Graham. It talks about the economics and strategy of investing in projects with enormous potential. If you're investing in crypto, this is what you're doing.

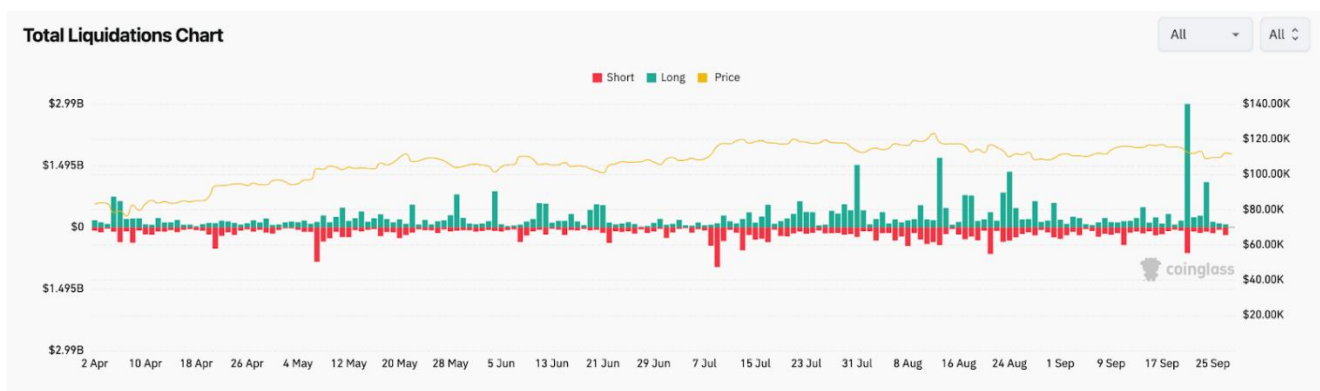
Act accordingly.

Arca: The Perp-DEX Wars Begin...

The Market is Heating Up Even as Prices Fall

Last week, we wrote about an incredibly busy week in crypto that didn't quite translate into higher prices. This past week was similar, as the market was once again hit with an onslaught of seemingly positive news, yet prices fell, largely led by futures liquidations in BTC and ETH. Just under \$4 billion of futures positions were liquidated last week, the highest weekly figure of 2025. The previous weekly highs were during the first quarter of 2025, with liquidations almost half of those seen this past week, driven by concerns about rate hikes, geopolitical tensions, and tariffs. But I couldn't tell you what drove the selloff last week other than an exhausted buyer base turning short-term traders into top callers.

This deleveraging reduced open interest by ~10-15% from the September peaks, potentially setting up cleaner upside into the historically strong 4Q.



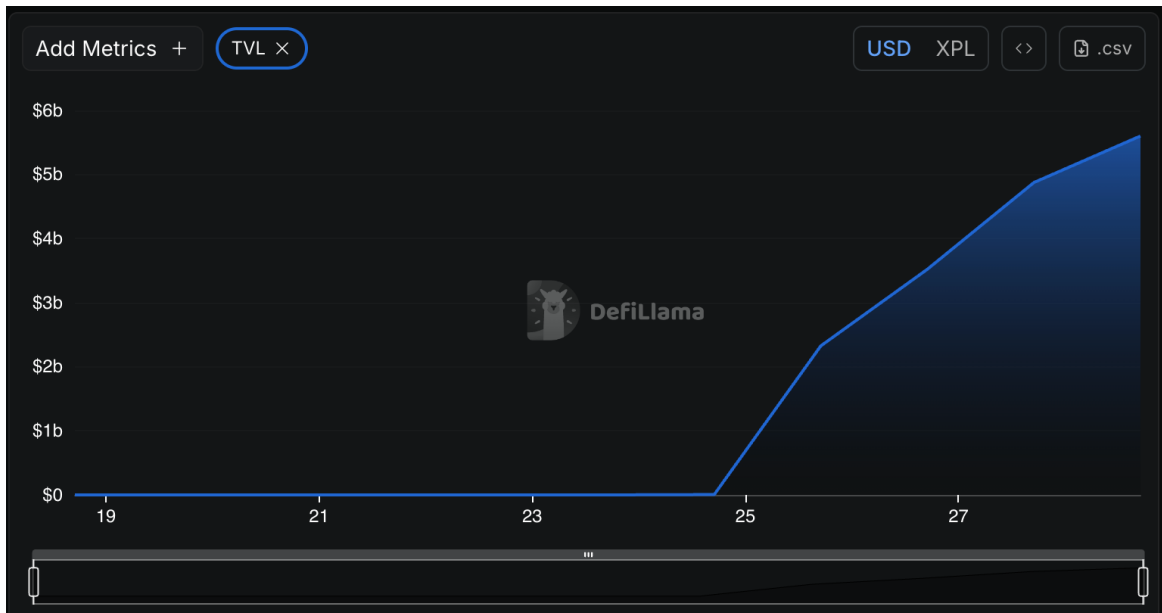
Source: Coinglass

Among the more positive news, Tether, the world's largest stablecoin issuer, is reportedly seeking to raise \$15–20 billion in a private placement that could value the company at approximately \$500 billion, placing it on par with giants like OpenAI and SpaceX. CEO Paolo Arduino confirmed the potential raise, stating that it would fund an aggressive expansion across stablecoins, AI, energy, commodities, and media. The move comes as Tether's USDT supply has surged to over \$170 billion and follows new initiatives like the launch of Plasma, a stablecoin-focused L1, and plans for a US-regulated stablecoin (USAT). While some are pointing to Circle's \$30 billion market cap as a comp, these are much different businesses. First, Tether has much higher operating margins since Circle has a huge business development team, and pays out a majority of its revenue to Coinbase and Blackrock via distribution agreements. Second, Tether has a lot of other business lines and investments due to the \$3-6 billion in annual profits its earned over the past few years. As Galaxy Digital wrote in their weekly note to clients,

“The fundraising announcement also reinforces Tether’s evolution into something more than just a stablecoin issuer. Beyond tokenizing dollars on-chain, it wants to ensure those dollars circulate with the least friction possible. The company highlights AI, telecommunications, Bitcoin mining and energy, cloud computing, real estate, and even neurotech as other areas of expansion as it seeks to build a “resilient, long-term infrastructure for the digital asset economy.” In 2023, Tether invested over \$600 million in Northern Data for AI infrastructure. In 2024, it paid \$200 million for a majority stake in Blackrock Neurotech to advance brain-computer interfaces.”

Speaking of Plasma, the long-awaited launch of its XPL token was one of the bright spots last week. The token was issued in a private sale a few months ago at \$0.05, traded up to roughly \$0.70 in pre-market

futures contracts on Hyperliquid and Binance, and closed the week at \$1.40 after the token itself began trading this week. The bull case is straightforward: the market loves anything related to stablecoins (as evidenced by the lofty valuations of CRCL stock and ENA), and especially loves anything related to Tether. Using “stablecoin supply to market cap” ratios, XPL has some room to run to catch up to Tron (TRX), but already looks expensive relative to other chains that have high stablecoin activity. The TVL growth for a new chain was extraordinary and quick.

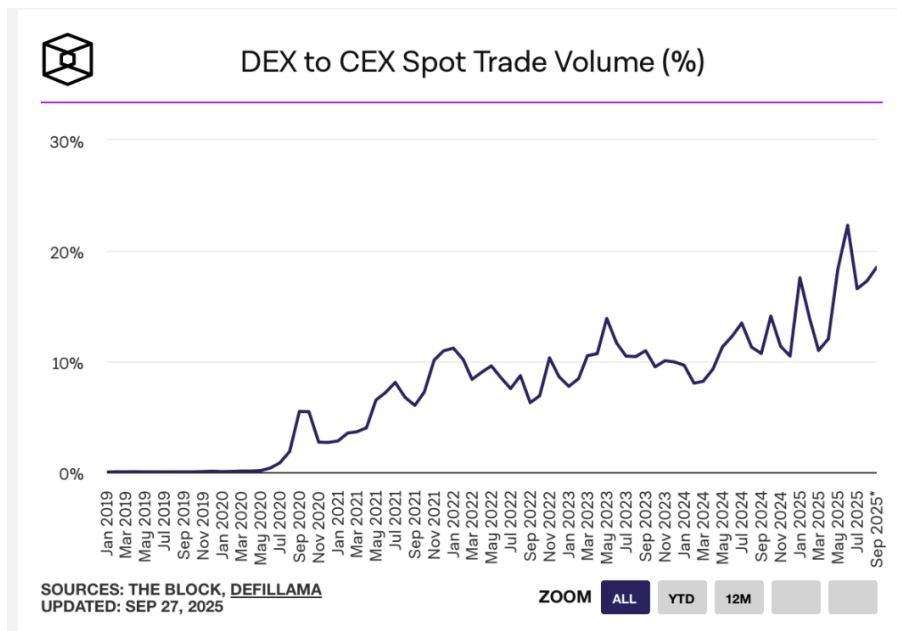


Source: DefiLlama

More importantly, the successful XPL launch demonstrates that even in a relatively benign bull market (if it can be considered a bull market at all), investors will still invest heavily in good projects with strong narratives and robust growth engines. And stablecoin chains certainly fit that bill.

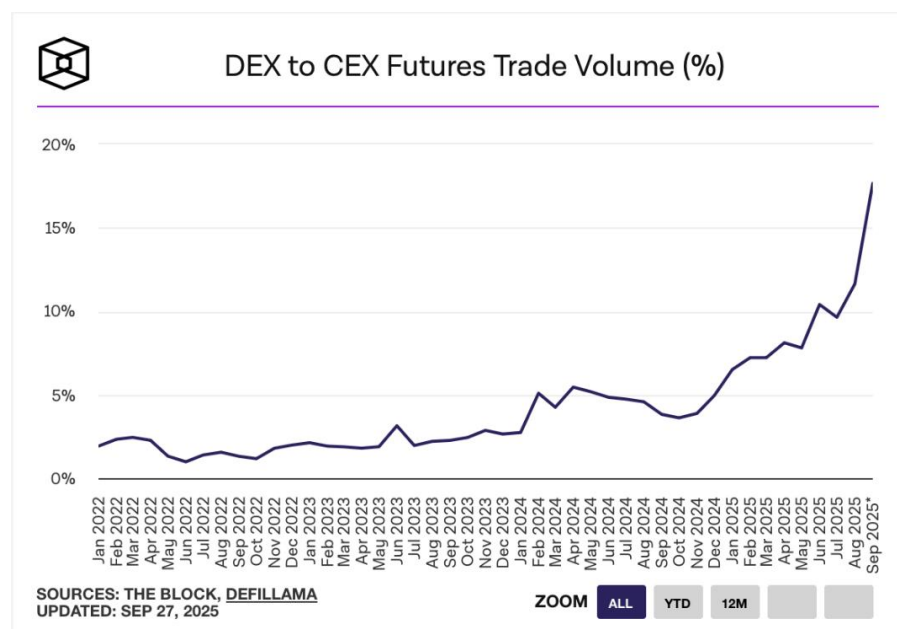
The Perp-DEX Wars Begin in Earnest

We often discuss how decentralized spot exchanges (DEXs) have been steadily eroding the volume share of centralized exchanges (CEXs). The data is undeniably a trend.



Source: TheBlock

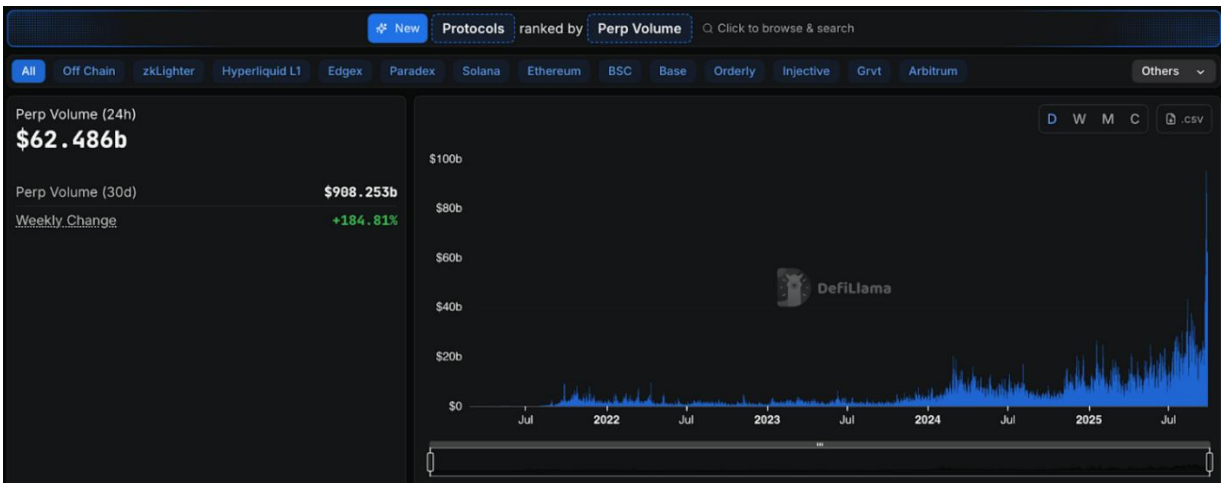
But until very recently, derivatives markets remained a fortress for centralized venues. Binance, Deribit, Bybit, OKX, and others have had a stranglehold over the decentralized derivatives market (Perp DEXss). But for the first time, decentralized derivatives (driven by perpetual futures) are gaining real market share against centralized derivatives.



Source: TheBlock

What makes this moment even more fascinating is that it isn't just about a handful of small Perp DEXs, but rather a full-blown arms race among Perp DEX incumbents and insurgents.

Prior attempts, such as dYdX hinted at what could be, but they never managed to crack CEX dominance. Today's competitors are different because on-chain infrastructure, low-latency settlement engines, and novel token-incentive models have matured enough to offer a credible substitute to the CEX incumbency. Perp volume on DEXs is hitting trillions annually, and Perp DEXs now command a nontrivial share of the total derivatives market.



Source: DefiLlama

The question many are now asking is, “Who will capture the lion’s share of that on-chain derivatives upside?”

It’s a good question, but perhaps not that important for investing. Wars are good for investors because people spend money to win wars. A rising tide generally lifts all boats. While most crypto investors think you have to constantly play a game of token “hot potato”, selling one token for the next shiny new thing, the more rational answer might be to figure out what allocation you want to the overall Perp DEX industry, and own a little bit of ALL of the players involved.

This week was by far the largest perp DEX volume week ever. Hyperliquid started the recent craze and continues to be the leader in the clubhouse, with cumulative volume and revenue numbers that are eye-popping (over \$1 billion+ annualized revenue). They’ve architected a model that aligns native token holders, liquidity providers, and traders. Hyperliquid also operates its own L1 architecture, featuring zero gas fees for trading, fully on-chain order books, and transparent markets. Since the path to L1 blockchain success is vertical integration (own the chain, the DEX & the stablecoin), Hyperliquid has a clear advantage right now.

With Hyperliquid’s current size and dominant open interest and liquidity, it is still the king, but that buffer is thinning.

Name	Perp Volume 24h	Perp Volume 7d	Perp Volume 30d
1 Hyperliquid 1 chain	\$4.611b	\$81.545b	\$290.946b
2 Aster 1 chain	\$42.883b	\$188.396b	\$205.047b
3 Lighter 1 chain	Ⓢ \$5.752b	Ⓢ \$61.012b	Ⓢ \$157.835b
4 edgeX 1 chain	\$3.315b	\$40.696b	\$78.481b
5 Jupiter 1 chain	\$196.3m	\$7.276b	\$22.435b
6 Orderly 1 chain	\$247.88m	\$4.396b	\$18.486b
7 BasedApp 1 chain	Ⓢ \$142.09m	Ⓢ \$2.203b	Ⓢ \$15.751b
8 Paradex 1 chain	Ⓢ \$815.15m	Ⓢ \$6.722b	Ⓢ \$14.811b
9 ADEN 2 chains	Ⓢ \$307.66m	Ⓢ \$3.534b	Ⓢ \$14.098b

Source: DefiLlama

Enter, the challenger – Aster (and others).

The ASTER token launched last week, and it too was an immediate success like XPL. ASTER's token skyrocketed from ~\$0.17 to ~\$1.90 in days, generating a ~1,000%+ move. Whereas Plasma (XPL) is a stablecoin chain with investments from Tether, ASTER is a perp DEX with investments from Binance and CZ himself. As of late September, Aster is now generating nearly \$10 million in 24-hour revenue, surpassing Circle and Hyperliquid, and ranking just behind Tether. On one recent day, Aster recorded \$36 billion in 24-hour perp volume, which more than doubled the total perp DEX activity that day. Hyperliquid, by contrast, recorded \$10 billion+ on that same day. [?](#)

Aster is making aggressive bets on synergies, by combining spot, perps, yield, a stablecoin, and eventually a chain. It aims to capture the entire session of a trader (funding, settlement, margin, yield). Sound familiar? See the trend here? Own the chain, the DEX, and the stablecoin.

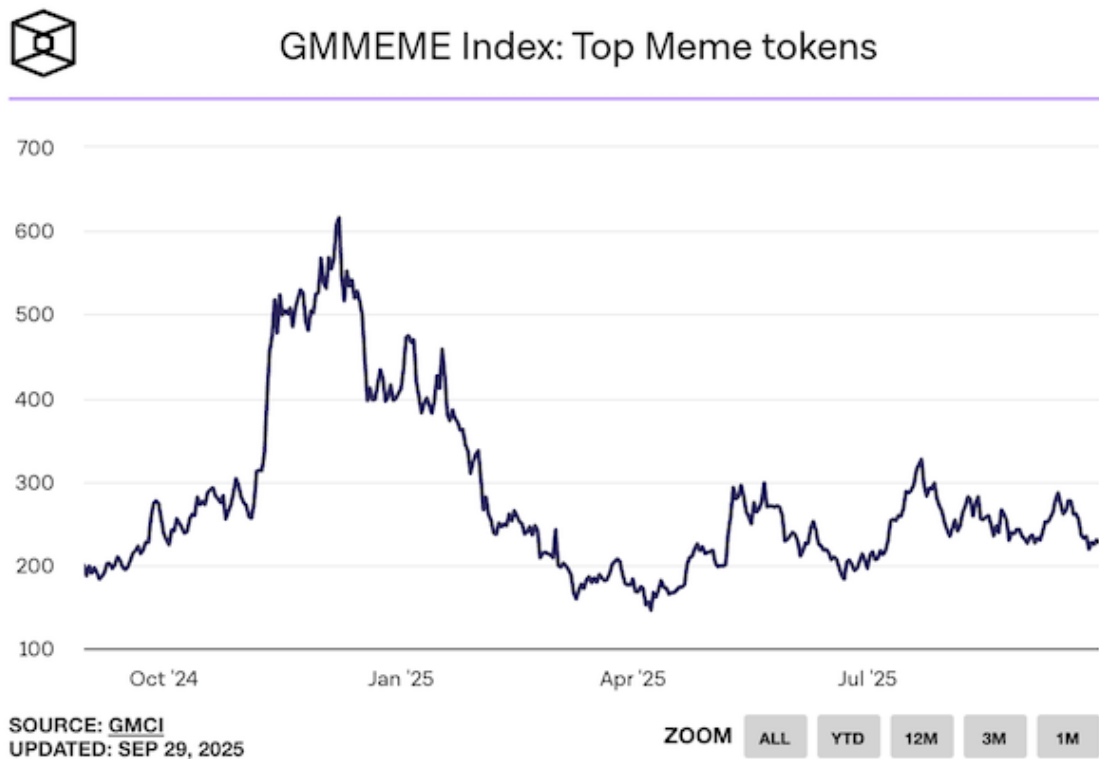
While the current volume appears somewhat suspicious (with heavy wash trading and an unusually high level of trading relative to open interest and liquidity), ASTER is definitely competing in the war for attention and liquidity. Will users stick around once incentives fade or token emissions taper? That's anyone's guess, but it's clear that winning the Perp DEX wars is a fight worth fighting. Meanwhile, Hyperliquid will likely respond with more aggressive fee cuts, new incentives, and deeper integrations. They have an aptly named "war-chest" available to win the war.

Other challengers (Lighter, BULK, edgeX, Drift, Pacifica, Zeta) are also entering with variant strategies (execution, fee routing, hybrid orderbook/AMM, MEV defense, etc.). Expect more "vampire" plays (fee or revenue siphoning) directed at Hyperliquid and Aster in the near future.

No conversation is complete without noting dYdX's flop in this cycle. While dYdX was once the marquee name in decentralized derivatives with well over 66% market share, its current architecture (a Cosmos-based rollup, limited leverage, restricted markets, and less incentive velocity) failed to evolve into a threat status. dYdX never captured the kind of infrastructure-led momentum or token-alignment that Hyperliquid built. A big part of their flop was self-inflicted, as they failed to align tokenholders and instead catered to their own profits and VCs instead of to their customers and tokenholders. Their growth stagnated; capitalization and activity flattened. dYdX is now effectively sidelined from the top ring of perp-DEX brawlers.

So, the question of who will win does matter a little, but what we know for sure is that the sector is a winner. And we're witnessing the first true perp DEX share battle in the history of crypto.

The Block Pro Research: The GMCI memecoin index has remained relatively stagnant at around 220, representing a significant decline from its peak of 600 reached during the height of last year's speculative fervor when tokens like Fartcoin, Bonk, and WIF captured the majority of retail trading attention. This performance contrasts sharply with broader altcoin indexes, particularly the top 30 tokens, which have established new all-time highs since November, suggesting a clear divergence in investor preferences.



ARK Invest: Pump's Streaming Service Could Restructure The Creator Economy...

Debuting in early 2024 as a memecoin launchpad on Solana, cryptocurrency application Pump.fun ("Pump") abstracted away the technical steps necessary to create tokens, enabling anyone to deploy a token seamlessly. Now, Pump is aiming to become the "TikTok of crypto" with a social and streaming layer powered by its instant token-launch mechanism.

Pump first introduced a livestreaming feature in January 2025 but collapsed into chaos amid a groundswell of negative publicity in response to unsafe stunts and other unacceptable content that drove it offline. In early September, Pump reintroduced the streaming feature with an updated moderation policy along with stricter due diligence and guidelines for onboarding.

Interestingly, Pump's new model avoids advertising and subscriptions by generating creator revenue in a novel way. Each livestream generates its own token, so streamers can earn a share of the transaction fees generated on the trading volume of their token. The portion creators earn starts at 0.95% of total fees and scales down to 0.05% once the token hits a market cap of 98,240 Solana (SOL), or ~\$19.9m, based on the SOL price of \$203 SOL at the time of writing. The lifecycle of each token matches the duration of the stream, incentivizing hype-driven cycles based on speculation that streams will go viral. Meanwhile, Pump earns a fixed 0.05%, paid in SOL.

Thus far, only ~0.09% of creators (819 wallets) have earned more than \$10 thousand, though the top creator wallet has amassed 2,222 SOL (~\$444 thousand). While the majority of streamers see little revenue, the opportunity appears massive for those able to capture attention and create viral moments. Pump has added to the momentum by funding buybacks, cumulatively ~26B PUMP tokens worth ~\$138 million at current prices, or ~7.3% of circulating supply.

Although Twitch streamers like Kai Cenat can reach ~727,000 subscribers and earn revenue of ~\$3.6 million per month, some Pump streams with much smaller audiences have generated ~\$83 thousand in just two days, or \$1.25 million at a monthly rate. As it approaches 1% of Twitch's concurrent streaming market share, the Pump platform is redefining monetization and offering creators more upside in the short term than traditional streaming models.