



HYPERION DECIMUS

CRYPTO NEWSLETTER

POWERED BY WEEKLY CRYPTO BRIEF

1st March 2026

BITCOIN-RELATED



NYDIG: Bitcoin finished the week essentially flat (+0.5%), continuing the recent pattern where rallies are quickly sold. Attempts to build momentum higher have repeatedly run into overhead supply, reinforcing \$70K as a key psychological and technical resistance level. Midweek strength coincided with a sharp rally in Circle's stock following its earnings announcement, which provided a constructive backdrop for sentiment more broadly. Even so, spot Bitcoin was unable to sustain a breakout.

Morgan Stanley applied for a de novo national trust bank charter, allowing the bank to hold digital assets on behalf of its clients. Its Head of Emerging Markets Equity, Amy Oldenburg, confirmed the bank has plans to offer Bitcoin trading, lending, yield, and custody in the future.

Citi Bank announced "later this year, Citi will be launching our infrastructure that integrates Bitcoin into traditional finance."

Investment bank TD Cowen predicted Bitcoin to hit \$225,000 in 2027.

Strategy CEO Phong Le said in seven years Bitcoin will crash from \$1,000,000 to \$750,000, and people will say Bitcoin is dead then too.

Despite the recent crash in Bitcoin's price, Mexican billionaire Ricardo Salinas remains unfazed, advocating for buying while the price is low. (With a net worth of \$4.9 billion, Salinas has been a vocal supporter of Bitcoin, viewing it as protection against inflation and theft.)

El Salvador is enhancing its Bitcoin education program with Bitcoin Diploma 2.0, focusing on visual tools and real-world examples to teach complex financial concepts. The initiative follows the country's previous "What Is Money?" program and aims to be implemented in public schools by 2026.

US lawmakers in Missouri advanced HB 2080 to the House Commerce Committee, reviving efforts to establish a state-level Bitcoin strategic reserve after a similar proposal failed in 2025. The bill would authorize the state treasurer to receive, invest, and hold Bitcoin within the state treasury.

Michigan State Rep. Matt Maddock introduces bill to allow employees to be paid in Bitcoin and to prohibit the issuance of a CBDC.

\$16 billion Emirates NBD, one of the UAE's top banks, is exploring adding Bitcoin to its portfolio.

Strategy bought a further 592 BTC for ~\$39.8 million, its 100th Bitcoin acquisition since adopting it as a primary reserve asset in 2020. As of February 22, Strategy holds 717,722 BTC. (MSTR became the most heavily shorted large-cap US stock, with short interest equal to ~14% of its market cap, per Goldman Sachs and FactSet. Analysts believe much of the short positioning is tied to basis/carry trades rather than outright bets that the stock will collapse.)

Bitplanet Inc. accumulated 300 BTC through a structured purchase program, positioning the South Korea-listed company among the top 20 corporate Bitcoin holders in Asia.

ProCap Financial, a Bitcoin treasury company led by Anthony Pompliano, repurchased 148,241 shares of BRR to push its mNAV back towards 1. Pompliano plans to buy more shares at a discount to NAV to benefit shareholders.

American Bitcoin, the Bitcoin mining/treasury company backed by the Trump family, lost \$59 million in the Q4 as the plummeting price of BTC eroded the value of its holdings. (The company is pursuing a dual strategy of mining and purchases, with roughly one-third of its BTC coming from mining operations and the rest coming from open-market purchases and strategic transactions, funded in large part by selling stock.)

UK-listed Bitcoin treasury firm The Smarter Web Company secured a \$30 million Bitcoin-backed credit facility from Coinbase Credit. The company said the facility is designed to help it deploy capital into Bitcoin immediately after equity raises, reducing settlement timing risk during volatile markets.

GD Culture Group's board approved the sale of its 7,500 Bitcoin holdings, currently valued at ~\$510 million. The board said proceeds from the sale would fund a previously announced \$100 million share repurchase program disclosed on Feb. 18.

Coinbase One members can now hold USDC and earn unlimited 3.5% rewards, paid in BTC every week.

Two Prime, a provider of Bitcoin financial services to institutional investors, registered with the CFTC as a commodity trading advisor (CTA) and is a Member of the National Futures Association, allowing it to extend its suite of services and expand its institutional clients base.

Bitcoin Depot is enhancing compliance by verifying customer identities at every ATM transaction to combat fraud and illicit activities.

The Blockstream Institute, founded by renown cryptographer Dr. Adam Back, launched. It aims to become the premier destination for education and research focused on the Bitcoin ecosystem, bringing together world-class educators, industry leaders, and technologists to provide deep insights into Bitcoin and its surrounding innovations. Learn more, [here.](#))

Satlantis launched as a Bitcoin-native events and ticketing platform that embeds Lightning wallets directly into user accounts and events, allowing organizers to issue tickets and receive payments in Bitcoin without relying solely on traditional payment processors.

INDUSTRY ADVANCES



Indiana's HB 1042, which limits crypto-specific taxes and opens the door to crypto options for retirement accounts, cleared both chambers. It now heads to Governor Mike Braun who is expected to sign it in a matter of days.

Coinbase opened stock and ETF trading to all US users, running 24/5 with no commissions on the same platform as its crypto offerings. The company also integrated a "Trade on Coinbase" button directly into Yahoo Finance's asset pages. These moves are part of its push to become an "everything exchange."

Crypto.com received conditional approval from the OCC for a national trust banking charter, allowing services like digital asset custody and trade settlement. This approval brings the firm closer to becoming a federally regulated national trust bank under OCC oversight.

US mortgage lender Rate launched a nationwide program that allows qualified borrowers to use verified crypto holdings to help meet underwriting requirements without liquidating their assets, marking a formal step toward integrating digital assets into traditional home financing.

Ethereum co-founder Vitalik Buterin added to a newly released 4-year roadmap, called "Strawmap," outlining how Ethereum plans to speed up the production of new blocks and the confirmation of transactions and quantum-proof Ethereum.

The MetaMask Mastercard is now accessible to all users across the US (including NY), following a piloted rollout across select geographies. It allows users to spend digital assets directly from their wallets at 150M merchants without pre-loading funds onto an exchange. Plus, it has a premium option offering more benefits like cashback and travel discounts.

NEAR Protocol launched Near.com, a consumer super app designed for the agentic era. Its features include AI-driven transaction automation and a confidential mode for private on-chain activity.

MoonPay launched an onramp for the agent economy, MoonPay Agents, a non-custodial software layer that provides AI agents with wallets, funding capabilities, and autonomous transaction execution across the full financial lifecycle – from fiat onramps through Apple Pay, Venmo, and PayPal to trading, swaps, portfolio management, and off-ramping.

Pump.fun, the Solana-based memecoin launchpad, revamped its creator fee model by introducing a new "Cashback Coins" model. Under this model, creators can choose whether to retain the rewards or redirect 100% of the trading fees to the traders.

Global digital asset banking group Sygnum launched an institutional crypto asset management service, Sygnum Select, targeting the \$100 billion corporate crypto treasury sector. The service launched with live client mandates, client assets, and \$200 million in actively managed portfolios already in place.

FG Nexus, a publicly traded Ethereum treasury company, recently sold 7,550 ETH for ~\$14 million, adding to a string of sales that have resulted in more than \$80 million in realized losses. The firm began accumulating ETH in late 2025, building a position of over 50,000 coins at an average price near \$3,860.

CEA Industries, which became the largest BNB treasury company at the height of DAT mania, crashed 95% from its \$82.88 peak in July 2025 to \$3.88 after a \$500 million PIPE transaction led by 10X Capital with Cantor Fitzgerald as placement agent. The company is demanding CZ's YZi Labs disclose a confidentiality provision around its “secret side agreement” with 10X Capital, while YZi Labs contests the characterization and seeks board changes through stockholder written consents.

A group of major financial institutions executed the first cross-border intraday repo using tokenized UK government bonds on the Canton Network, embedding interest and risk terms directly into smart contracts to test real-time collateral movement across currencies/borders.

Barclays is exploring blockchain-based settlement infrastructure as stablecoin growth pressures banks to modernize payment rails. The UK banking giant has reportedly approached technology providers to assess tokenized deposit and payment systems but has yet to announce any formal launch plans.

BNP Paribas Asset Management has launched a new blockchain pilot by issuing a tokenized share class of a French-domiciled money market fund on Ethereum.

WisdomTree announced the approval for instant settlement of its tokenized money market fund, reducing cash drag and allowing 24/7 trading. The SEC granted exemptive relief for the WisdomTree Treasury Money Market Digital Fund (WTGXX), enabling trading at \$1 per share.

Binance listed 10 of Ondo's tokenized stocks, ETFs, and commodities on Binance Alpha with UAE regulatory approval, expanding crypto access to real-world assets.

Kraken rolled out the first regulated perpetual futures tied to tokenized US stocks, extending crypto's 24/7, high-leverage derivatives model into traditional equities. Available to eligible non-US users across 110+ countries, the contracts track tokenized versions of the S&P 500, Nasdaq 100, Apple, Nvidia, Tesla, SPDR's gold ETF, etc. and trade with up to 20x leverage.

Japan's largest tokenized securities platform, Progmatic, is bringing \$2 billion in corporate bonds and real estate to the Avalanche network.

Grant Cardone said he plans to tokenize his firm's \$5B real estate portfolio to convert property ownership into blockchain-based shares that could improve liquidity and secondary trading.

ETHZilla, now rebranded as Forum Markets, will shift focus from crypto to tokenized RWAs, following a decline in stock value due to reduced crypto holdings.

Brokerage fintech DriveWealth will integrate with Kalshi's prediction markets.

TBD, a Solana-based prediction market startup founded by former dYdX team members, raised \$3 million to expand its “verified polling” model, which requires World ID human verification for voting while keeping trading open to all, aiming to separate genuine human sentiment from bot-driven speculation.

Kalshi banned a former contender for governor of California after betting on his own candidacy last year in violation of the platform's insider trading policy. The company also fined a MrBeast video editor and suspended him from the site for two years of trading over insider trading.

MINING



French government owned energy company Engie is considering installing Bitcoin miners at its new solar plant in Brazil “to make the facility more profitable.”

Bitdeer sold its remaining 943.1 BTC in one week (while mining 189.8 BTC and selling that too), completing an eight-week drawdown from ~2,000 BTC at year-end. CEO Jihan Wu said the company's Bitcoin balance “will not always be zero,” emphasizing the move reflects a temporary liquidity decision (to prepare capital for potential powered land acquisition opportunities to expand its data center capacity and pivot further toward AI and HPC infrastructure.) rather than a long-term shift away from holding BTC.

Canaan, a China-founded Bitcoin mining hardware maker, acquired Cipher Mining’s 49% stake in three operational West Texas mining ventures in a \$40 million share-based deal, gaining exposure to 120 megawatts of power capacity and strengthening its North American energy footprint while making Cipher a significant shareholder.

Bitcoin miner MARA teamed up with Starwood Capital’s digital infrastructure arm to convert select mining sites into AI-focused data centers, as the company is leveraging its power-heavy facilities to tap surging demand for AI computing while keeping Bitcoin as a core strategy.

A solo Bitcoin miner who rented just \$75 worth of mining power validated an entire Bitcoin block – earning the 3.125 Bitcoin block reward, worth ~\$200,000.

ETPS (EXCHANGE-TRADED PRODUCTS), FUNDS & INDEXES



US spot Bitcoin ETFs have logged five straight weeks of net outflows (through 2/20/26), with ~\$3.8 billion pulled over that stretch.

The ProShares Genius Money Market ETF (IQMM), the first money market ETF to meet the stringent requirements of the GENIUS Act, generated \$17 billion in first-day trading volume on Feb. 19, an unprecedented figure for a newly launched ETF.

Nasdaq filed a proposed rule change (under Nasdaq Rule 5711(d), which governs commodity-based trust shares) to list the VanEck JitoSOL ETF, a fund designed to hold the Solana-based liquid staking token JitoSOL. If the fund is approved, staking rewards would not be distributed separately but instead reflected in the fund’s net asset value.

REX Shares launched an ETF that bundles leveraged covered-call strategies tied to nine individual stocks, including crypto-linked names Coinbase and Strategy, into a single income-focused product trading under the ticker GIF.

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

Kresus, an all-in-one crypto wallet and blockchain infrastructure provider, raised \$13 million (KRW 18 billion) to support the expansion of the RWA tokenization platform and industry-grade digital wallet infrastructure.

Based, a Web3 consumer app, secured \$11.5 million in a Series A round led by Pantera, with backing from Coinbase Ventures, Wintermute Ventures, and Karatage. The funding will support expansion into new markets and development of onchain financial infrastructure.

IPOS, M&A, PARTNERSHIPS & DEALS

Hong Kong-based stablecoin payments firm RedotPay is considering a US IPO that could raise more than \$1 billion and value the company above \$4 billion.

Crypto trading platform Backpack Exchange announced that stakers of its forthcoming Backpack token will be able to earn equity in the exchange, as the company moves toward a potential IPO. CEO and founder Armani Ferrante said: “Users that stake the Backpack token for at least a year will have the opportunity to exchange those tokens for equity at a fixed ratio – 20% of the company today.”

Stripe is reportedly exploring a potential acquisition of PayPal, a deal that would combine two payments giants with expanding stablecoin strategies – including PayPal’s \$4 billion PYUSD token and Stripe’s recent blockchain infrastructure investments — signaling more convergence between fintech and crypto rails.

Bitwise acquired Chorus One, a leading institutional staking provider with over \$2.2 billion in staked assets.

Crypto VC Framework Ventures reportedly struck a \$45 million deal to buy 10% of Better and to help it launch a \$500 million plan to integrate with the DeFi protocol Sky, formerly MakerDAO.

Tether is investing \$200 million in online marketplace Whop to enhance stablecoin payments, valuing the startup at \$1.6 billion. Whop's digital marketplace has 18.4 million users, with a monthly transaction volume growth of 25%. Whop will integrate Tether’s wallet infrastructure, WDK, bringing stablecoin payments to millions of users worldwide.

Level Markets, a US registered broker-dealer, announced a strategic partnership with EDX Markets, a leading digital asset firm that combines an institutional-only trading venue with a central clearinghouse, to drive broader institutional participation in digital assets.

Blockchain intelligence platform TRM Labs has joined forces with banking infrastructure firm Finray Technologies to create a unified system that monitors both crypto and fiat transactions.

DEFI



The Ethereum Foundation began staking part of its treasury, turning one of Ethereum's most influential entities into a direct economic participant in network consensus. It deposited 2,016 Ether and plans to stake about 70,000 in total, with all rewards flowing back into its treasury to fund protocol research and development, ecosystem development and grants.

Aave governance tensions escalated again on Feb. 25 after Aave Chan Initiative founder Marc Zeller published an "audit" questioning Aave Labs' track record ahead of the DAO's \$51 million funding vote.

Telegram's built-in crypto wallet introduced a feature that allows users to earn yield on major cryptos, like Bitcoin, Ether and USDT, inside the messaging app. The system runs on DeFi infrastructure provided by lending network Morpho, the TON ecosystem's execution layer TAC (TON Applications Chain), and strategy provider Re7.

World Liberty Financial, the crypto project tied to the Trump family, proposed requiring holders to stake unlocked WLFI tokens for at least 180 days to gain governance voting rights.

Starknet introduced strkBTC, a privacy-focused Bitcoin wrapper that enables shielded balances and transfers within decentralized finance, allowing users to interact with DeFi apps while keeping transaction details private without relying on mixing services.

Safe{Labs}, the startup behind the multisig Safe wallet, launched euro-denominated yield access through a Morpho vault using Société Générale's EUR CoinVertible stablecoin, with DeFi advisory firm Steakhouse curating risk and allocations to bring institutional-grade euro savings products onchain for self-custody users.

CBDcs & STABLECOINS



In new guidance, the SEC's Division of Trading and Markets said it would not object if broker dealers apply a 2% haircut to proprietary holdings of payment stablecoins when calculating net capital. That is a sharp shift from prior practice, where some firms effectively applied a 100% haircut, meaning stablecoins did not count toward regulatory capital at all. By allowing a 2% haircut, the SEC is placing payment stablecoins closer to the treatment of money market funds, which hold similar assets such as Treasuries and cash equivalents.

Trump's newly formed "Board of Peace," a coalition operating outside the United Nations, is exploring a dollar-backed stablecoin to enable digital payments in Gaza, where cash shortages caused by war have disrupted financial access, with Israeli tech entrepreneur Liran Tancman reportedly helping design the proposed digital payment infrastructure.

The UK's FCA chose four crypto firms, including Revolut, to participate in a stablecoin regulatory sandbox. These companies will test stablecoin-related products without facing regulatory repercussions, helping shape the UK's stablecoin rules later this year.

South Korea's central bank renewed its push to keep Korean won-pegged stablecoin issuance in the hands of commercial banks, warning lawmakers that privately issued digital tokens could undermine monetary policy and create new foreign-exchange and financial-stability risks.

Hong Kong will issue its first stablecoin issuer licenses in March under a newly implemented regulatory framework, while also preparing legislation to license digital asset dealers and custodians, expand tokenized bond infrastructure, upgrade its wholesale CBDC settlement platform, and align crypto tax reporting with global transparency standards.

Circle reported \$770 million in Q4 revenue and reserve income, up 77% year-over-year, as USDC in circulation reached \$75.3 billion. The stablecoin issuer posted \$133 million in net income for the quarter and issued guidance targeting 40% annual growth for USDC. (Circle revealed it is exploring a native token for its Arc blockchain, a network designed specifically for stablecoin issuance and faster settlement.)

Meta issued a request for product to third party providers to help administer stablecoin based payments and support a new wallet integration. Unlike its ill-fated Libra project, Meta is not building its own coin. Instead, the company appears focused on enabling payments using existing stablecoins.

SBI Holdings and Startale Group unveiled JPYSC, a trust bank-backed Japanese yen-denominated stablecoin targeting institutional and cross-border use cases with a planned Q2 launch.

AllUnity, a stablecoin platform backed by Deutsche Bank, launched a new stablecoin (CHFAU) denominated in Swiss francs (CHF).

NFTS, BLOCKCHAIN GAMING & METaverse



Bored Apes NFTs owned by Justin Bieber and athletes including Steph Curry, Logan Paul, and Serena Williams have been among the hardest hit in the digital asset space. In Bieber's case, his January 2022 purchase of Bored Ape #3001 for ~\$1.3 million has a reported value of ~\$11,700 according to OpenSea.

Magic Eden, the NFT marketplace and token trading platform, is ending support for Ethereum-compatible and Bitcoin-based assets. The company is leaning into an iGaming platform.

JOB MOVEMENT



Jack Dorsey's Block said it's laying off 4,000+ employees, or about 40% of its headcount.

Blockchain analytics company Nansen will establish a local entity and build a Bhutan-based team in Gelephu Mindfulness City, expanding into the kingdom as its Special Administrative Region advances its digital asset strategy.

Taylor Lindman, the deputy general counsel at Chainlink Labs, joined the SEC's Crypto Task Force as its new chief counsel, filling a role left by now-CFTC chair Michael Selig.

Nicholas Hammer resigned as CEO of Blockfills, with Joseph Perry now serving as interim CEO, as the company faced losses of \$75 million, leading to the suspension of client deposits and withdrawals. Blockfills is seeking a buyer after urging clients to withdraw assets before halting transactions.

REGULATIONS, RULINGS & COMMENTARY



The White House set a March 1 deadline to resolve the stablecoin rewards dispute, currently the primary obstacle blocking passage of the Clarity Act.

The OCC dropped a 376-page proposal to implement the GENIUS Act that looks to settle the ongoing stablecoin yield fight. The proposal, which is open to public comment for 60 days, says supervised entities would be barred from paying any form of interest or yield, whether in cash, tokens or other consideration, “solely in connection with the holding, use, or retention” of a payment stablecoin, consistent with section 4(a)(11) of the GENIUS Act. The OCC proposed to “resolve the debate on stablecoin yield through rulemaking,” potentially clearing the way for the CLARITY Act to “proceed without that provision.”

The Federal Reserve initiated a two-month comment period to permanently remove “reputational risk” from its bank supervision rules, replacing it with a focus on “material financial risks.” This proposal is seen as a crucial step in addressing concerns raised by crypto advocates and lawmakers.

A bipartisan group of lawmakers in the US House of Representatives introduced legislation aimed at halting prosecution of software developers who do not have custody or control of others’ crypto assets. Representatives Scott Fitzgerald, Ben Cline, and Zoe Lofgren said they would be sponsoring the Promoting Innovation in Blockchain Development Act in an effort to change how to handle criminal cases potentially involving blockchain developers.

JPMorgan admitted it shut Trump’s accounts after the Jan. 6 capitol attack, in response to a lawsuit filed by the president, confirmed his longstanding complaint about “debanking.”

Binance US is exploring renewed expansion in the US after the SEC dropped its 2023 lawsuit, with founder “CZ” signaling possible deeper banking ties or new licenses, while clarifying that these plans apply only to the American affiliate and not the global Binance exchange.

UK politicians concerned with foreign interference in politics are calling for temporary restrictions on crypto donations to be put in place until permanent legislation is drafted. The Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy called for the measures in a letter to the UK’s Communities Secretary, Steve Reed.

The UK Gambling Commission is considering allowing crypto payments for licensed betting

operators to combat illegal markets and promote innovation. Executive Director Tim Miller highlighted the growing consumer demand for crypto and the need to address the issue of players being driven to unlicensed sites.

Dutch crypto investors may soon see relief as the government plans to amend a tax law that would

impose a 36% tax on unrealized gains. The controversial legislation, if passed, could lead to hefty tax bills even if investments lose value.

South Korea's ruling party proposed legislation requiring crypto influencers to disclose their

personal holdings and any compensation tied to investment recommendations.

KuCoin's European arm faces a ban on new business due to missing key compliance staff, violating

the terms of its MiCA permit. The Financial Markets Authority in Austria imposed the freeze until the necessary roles are filled for AML and terrorist financing prevention.

Crypto exchange Gate secured a Payment Institution license in Malta, a license under the European

Union's PSD2 framework, giving the crypto exchange a regulated foothold to offer payment services across the bloc alongside its existing crypto permissions.

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

Blockchain analytics firm Elliptic identified five Russia-linked crypto exchanges moving billions in

transactions that allegedly help bypass sanctions, including Moscow-based ABCeX and cash-to-crypto operator Aifory Pro, with some platforms sharing infrastructure with previously sanctioned exchange Garantex.

Senator Richard Blumenthal launched a congressional probe into Binance after reports alleged the

exchange processed \$1.7 billion in transactions linked to sanctioned Iranian entities and Russia's oil shadow fleet, requesting internal compliance records as the company denied wrongdoing and claimed it has sharply reduced exposure to high-risk jurisdictions. (Senate Democrats led by Chris Van Hollen urged Attorney General Pam Bondi and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent to investigate Binance over potential US sanctions violations.)

US Attorney Jeanine Ferris Pirro said federal authorities have frozen and seized more than \$580

million in cryptocurrency tied to Southeast Asian scam networks, marking a major escalation in the government's campaign against cross-border crypto fraud. The funds were restrained through the Justice Department's Scam Center Strike Force, a task force formed in November to target crypto investment and confidence schemes linked to Chinese transnational criminal organizations.

The US Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of North Carolina seized \$61 million in Tether's

USDT stablecoin linked to a crypto fraud scheme. Victims of the pig butchering scam were lured into fake trading platforms promising high returns, only to have their funds stolen and laundered through multiple wallets.

Solana portfolio dashboard and DeFi aggregator Step Finance announced it would be winding down

operations after a hack of ~\$40 million at the end of January was deemed unrecoverable. The closure

also extends to subsidiaries Solana NFT analytics and the ecosystem media outlet SolanaFloor, as well as lending and yield protocol Remora Markets.

South Korea's National Tax Service published an unredacted wallet recovery phrase in a press release photo, after which 4 million PRTG tokens – theoretically worth ~\$4.8 million at prevailing prices – were transferred to an unidentified address in a suspected breach.

A 42-year-old man in Sydney has been charged in connection with a \$3.5 million crypto scam targeting over 190 vulnerable Australians. The police seized electronics and documents during raids at multiple locations, with a second suspect also taken into custody.

Crypto-AI network IoTEx suffered a private key compromise that allowed attackers to drain and mint tokens across its bridge contracts, with losses at ~\$2 million, prompting a temporary chain halt and cross-chain laundering of funds through Ethereum and Bitcoin networks.

Blockchain investigator ZachXBT published a report alleging that employees at crypto trading platform Axiom used internal tools to access private wallet data and discussed profiting from trades, including a plan to help a colleague earn \$200,000. Axiom acknowledged the misconduct and removed employee access to internal tools.

The White House confirmed that President Trump has no plans to pardon former FTX CEO Sam Bankman-Fried, despite his recent public praise of Trump and criticism of Democrats on social media, signaling that unlike other crypto figures who received clemency, the imprisoned exchange founder is not currently under consideration for relief. (A federal judge gave US prosecutors until March 11 to respond to SBF's motion for a new trial, as the former FTX CEO continues appealing his 25-year sentence.)

Legislation introduced in Minnesota aims to ban crypto ATMs due to increasing scams targeting the elderly. The bill, HF 3642, follows a 2024 state framework imposing transaction limits and refund requirements to address risks associated with these machines.

Massachusetts sued Bitcoin Depot, alleging the crypto ATM operator knowingly facilitated crypto scams.

World Liberty Financial's USD1 stablecoin dipped to ~\$0.997 on Feb. 23 during a “coordinated attack” involving hacked cofounder accounts, influencer-driven FUD, and short selling. The company said USD1's mint-and-redeem mechanism and full 1:1 reserve backing helped stabilize the token, which quickly returned to trade back near its \$1 peg.

Jane Street is being sued by the Terraform Labs bankruptcy administrator for allegedly using non-public information to profit during the 2022 crypto market collapse. The lawsuit claims Jane Street had advance insight into Terraform's liquidity decisions, impacting TerraUSD's dollar peg, and engaged in insider trading against Terraform's ecosystem. Speculation that Jane Street's daily “10am BTC dump” or “10am algo” continued until news of the lawsuit halted the selling.

Peter Steinberger, creator of OpenClaw, enforced a ban on any mention of Bitcoin or cryptocurrency on the project's Discord server due to scammers and harassment.

The former CEO of Goliath Ventures, Christopher Alexander Delgado, was arrested on federal charges of wire fraud and money laundering. The scheme involved soliciting victims to invest in crypto liquidity pools with fraudulent promises of monthly returns, diverting funds for personal use.

A crypto trader lost hundreds of thousands of dollars in a Uniswap phishing ad on Google, prompting warnings from DefiLlama and Uniswap's founder. Scammers use fake websites to trick users into approving malicious transactions, draining their assets.

NFT investor Adam Weitsman's X account was hacked to promote a fake forex trading course and a phony “Clawed Ape Yacht Club” memecoin. The account was recovered by an associate after suspicious activity was detected, including sharing scams promising high returns.

In South Korea, a man faces attempted murder charges for poisoning his business partner over a crypto investment dispute. The victim survived the toxic attack but requires ongoing medical care, with the case set for trial in March.

MISCELLANEOUS



Figure – the fintech using blockchain to streamline lending – posted solid Q4 results: \$159.9 million in net revenue, \$15.1 million in net income (+156% YoY), \$81.3 million of adjusted EBITDA (a 52% margin), and a new \$200 million share buyback authorization.

Ethereum developers scheduled the FOCIL upgrade for 2026 to force validators to include valid transactions, a controversial change backed by Vitalik Buterin that aims to hardwire censorship resistance into the network so even sanctioned or privacy-related transactions cannot be selectively ignored.

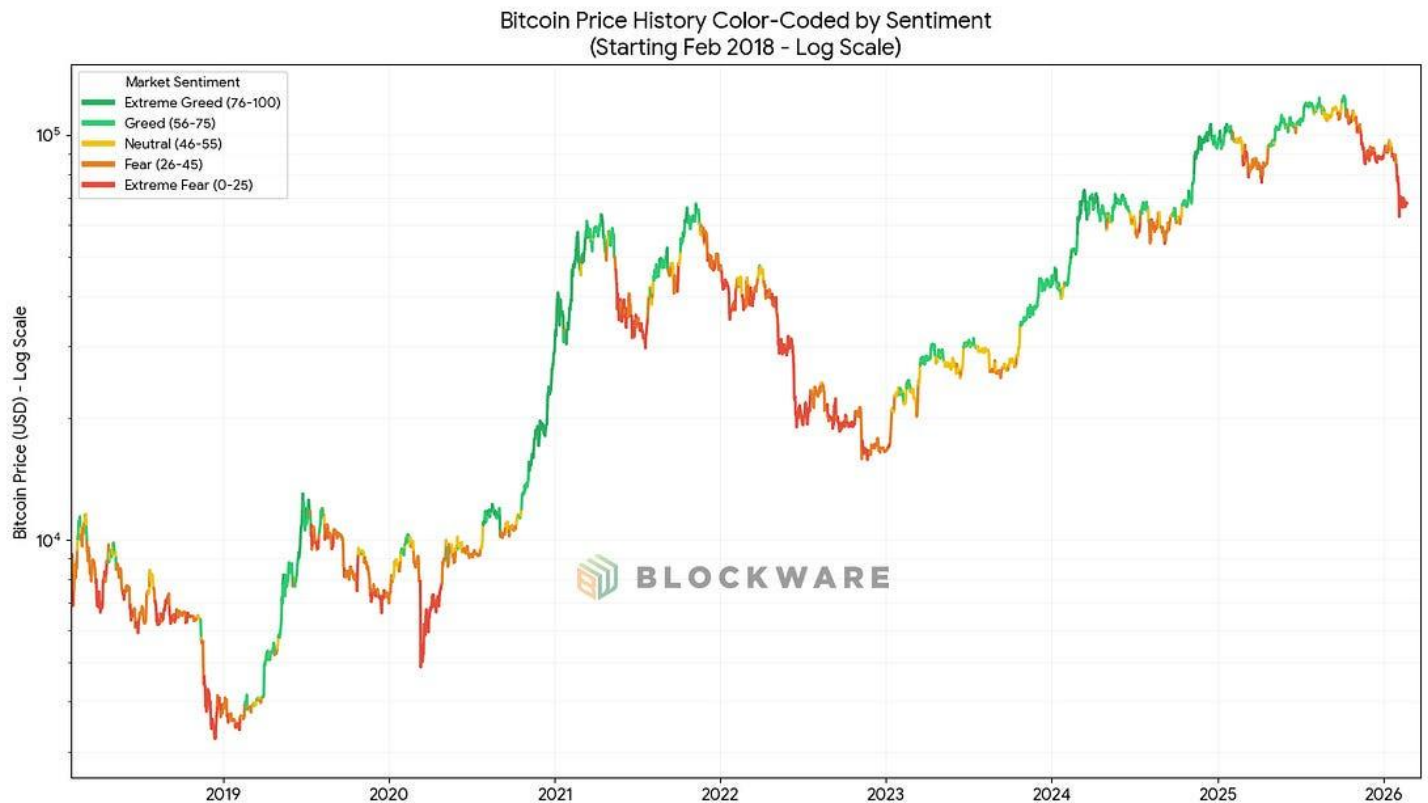
On-chain data revealed Vitalik Buterin has sold 17,196 ETH worth ~\$35 million since the start of February, exceeding the 16,384 ETH open-source project pledge he outlined in January.

An AI trading bot created by an OpenAI developer accidentally transferred its entire memecoin treasury (~5% of total supply) to a social media user requesting 4 SOL.

WebN Group, the blockchain incubator supported by Alan Howard, is shutting down after backing various digital startups. Despite this closure, Howard's interest in digital assets remains unaffected.

CHARTS, TABLES, QUOTES, COMMENTARY & OTHER IMAGES

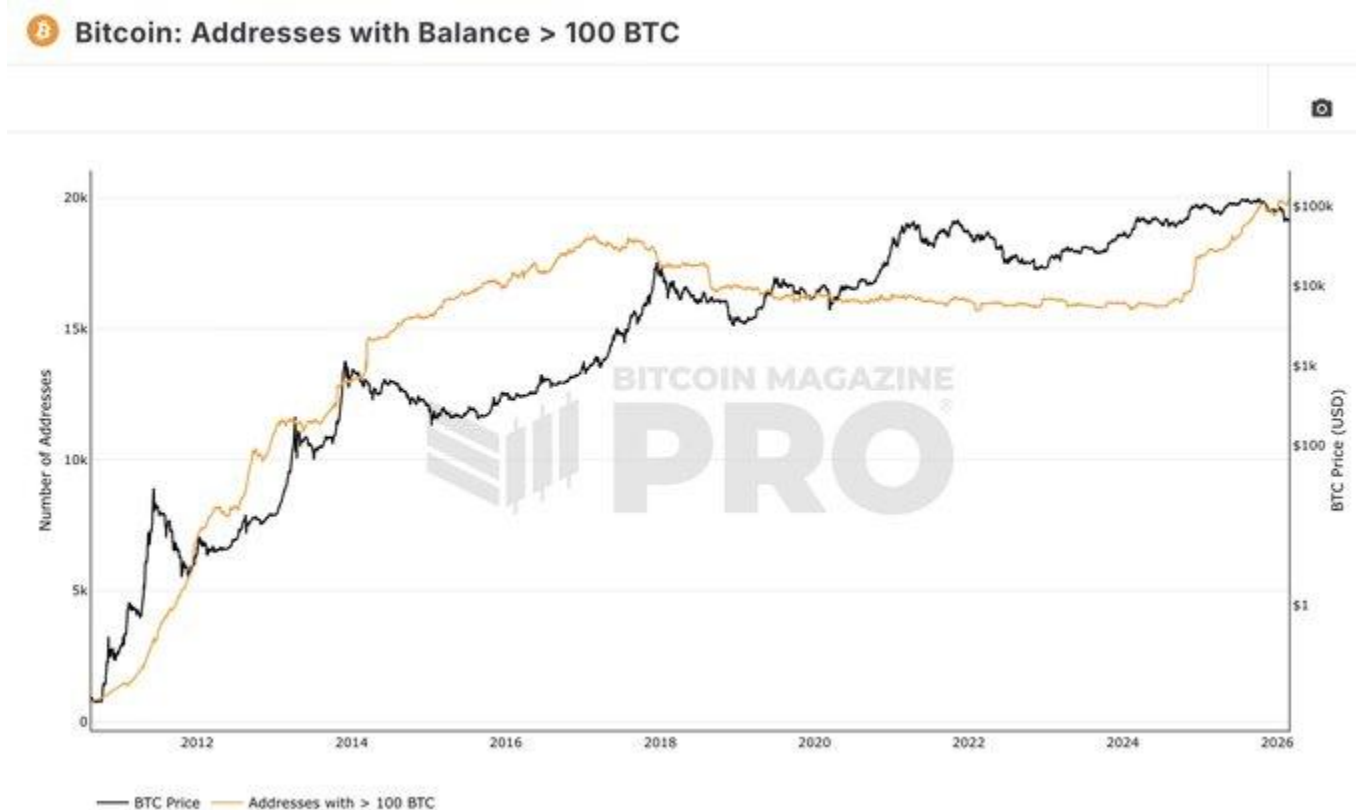
Blockware Intelligence: The Bitcoin Fear & Greed Index has reached a critical inflection point, plummeting into “Extreme Fear” territory with single-digit readings not seen since the FTX collapse or the 2018 bear market depths. While the immediate price action, marked by the breach of the \$65,000 support level, is undoubtedly painful for leveraged participants, the long-term data suggests this is a generational entry point. Historically, these clusters of “red” on the price chart have served as high-conviction signals for generational bottoms. With the index currently sitting well below its historical average, the “pain trade” for Bitcoin is increasingly skewed to the upside. For long-term holders, this sentiment washout is less a signal of failure and more a necessary “cooling off” period that resets the stage for the next leg of the macro bull cycle.



Bitcoin Magazine: Historically, Bitcoin has always bottomed ~23 months after its previous all-time high. We are now at 23 months since the last ATH.



Bitcoin Magazine: The number of addresses holding more than 100 Bitcoin hit a new all-time high. Whales are accumulating BTC.



Bitcoin Magazine: El Salvador gives out Bitcoin passports to tourists visiting the country...



Blockware Intelligence built a calculator that shows you exactly what Bitcoin mining returns look like – model price appreciation, difficulty growth, the halving, and your tax strategy – all in one tool. (Try it, [here](#).)



BITCOIN MINING RETURNS CALCULATOR

Antminer S21 XP · \$15/TH · \$0.07/kWh · Professionally Hosted

INVESTMENT PARAMETERS

INVESTMENT AMOUNT

\$100,000

HOLD PERIOD

3 Years

CURRENT BTC PRICE

\$70,000

BITCOIN PRICE CAGR

40%

HASHRATE / DIFFICULTY CAGR

20%

INCOME TAX RATE

24%

MINER RETAINED VALUE

25%

% of hardware purchase price remaining on balance sheet at period end

REINVEST TAX SAVINGS → BTC



Convert your Year-1 Section 179 / Bonus Depreciation tax refund into Bitcoin at today's price. Added to your HODLed stack from day one.

OFF

MINER UPTIME

98%

Revenue and electricity cost both scale with uptime — you're not charged for power when miners are offline

HODL RATIO

50%

← Keep as BTC

Take as Cash →

Conclusion from Coin Metrics’ “State of The Network” weekly report from 2/24/26. (Read the full report, [here](#).)

February’s drawdown looks less like a fundamental break and more like a test of flows and liquidity in a risk-off environment. Crypto is trading as a liquidity sensitive, growth linked asset, even as its role in market infrastructure, institutional portfolios, and onchain integration continues to deepen. The near term may remain choppy, but progress on the CLARITY Act and a reversal in flows will be key catalysts to watch for a more durable resurgence in demand.

Conclusion from Glassnode’s “The Week On-Chain” from 2/25/26. (Read the full report, [here](#).)

Bitcoin remains in a structurally defensive consolidation phase. While price continues to find support within the \$60k–\$69k demand zone, on-chain profit compression, weak breadth, and moderated large-holder accumulation highlight fragile conviction beneath the surface.

Spot sell pressure and sustained ETF outflows confirm that structural demand remains constrained, even as derivatives positioning has reset and panic hedging has faded. The market is stabilizing but not yet strengthening.

For a durable upside recovery to emerge, renewed spot absorption, sustained large-entity accumulation, and a clear shift in institutional flows will be required. Until then, range-bound price action between key valuation anchors remains the dominant structural theme.

The Block Pro Research: The total crypto market capitalization has slipped to \$2.37T, a 12-month low and roughly 52% below the cycle peak of \$4.38T set in October 2025. The drawdown has not been evenly distributed, however, as Bitcoin, while down meaningfully from its highs, has held up on a relative basis as capital has rotated into it over smaller assets. The broader altcoin market has absorbed the steeper losses, with many mid and small-cap tokens well into double-digit percentage declines YTD.



Matt Hougan's (Bitwise) Weekly CIO Memo: "Why Investors Can't Hear Wall Street's Crypto Song – There's a Big Disconnect Between What Investors Think Is Happening in Crypto and What's Actually Happening."

The largest sources of alpha in financial markets are behavioral. Investors make mistakes all the time, and if you can exploit those mistakes, you can do well.

My favorite behavioral bias to exploit is anchoring bias: the tendency to fixate on the first piece of information you encounter. It's why retailers price things at \$9.99 instead of \$10.00. You hear the "9" first and your mind doesn't let go.

Anchoring bias was one of the reasons I decided to get into crypto full-time in 2018. At the time, most people thought crypto was a joke. They'd first encountered it during the Silk Road scandal of 2013 or the Mt. Gox collapse of 2014, and they had watched it cycle through massive periods of volatility. I was fortunate enough to have a few people I trust tell me to take crypto seriously, and when I dug beneath the surface – looking at crypto for what it was, not what people thought it was – I was blown away. The technology was better and the opportunity far larger than most people realized. They were still anchored to 2014.

I'm having flashbacks to that moment right now.

The World Is Screaming at You

Everywhere I look, Wall Street is screaming that finance is moving onchain. Not a little of it; all of it.

Last July, SEC Chairman Paul Atkins launched "Project Crypto," a commission-wide initiative to modernize securities regulation so that America's financial markets can, in his words, "move onchain." And move onchain they have:

- In October, BlackRock CEO Larry Fink declared that we are at "the beginning of the tokenization of all assets." Two weeks ago, BlackRock launched its BUIDL tokenized Treasury fund – now with more than \$2 billion in assets – on Uniswap, the largest decentralized exchange. As part of the deal, it invested in Uniswap's native token (UNI) as well.
- Apollo, the \$700 billion credit manager, tokenized its Diversified Credit Fund through a partnership with Securitize and launched it on six different blockchains. It has attracted over \$100 million since January 2025. The firm recently announced plans to buy 9% of Morpho, one of the world's leading decentralized lending protocols.
- JPMorgan, Bank of America, Citigroup, and Wells Fargo are in discussions to launch a joint stablecoin.

Meanwhile, JPMorgan launched a deposit token on Coinbase's Base network. Fidelity is hiring a DeFi vaults manager. And so on.

The numbers in question are enormous. ETFs hold \$30 trillion, stocks are \$110 trillion, and bonds are \$145 trillion. Compare that to the size of the entire tokenized market today: \$20 billion. If Larry Fink is right that "every stock, every bond... will be tokenized," it means the market can grow 10,000x and still have room to grow.

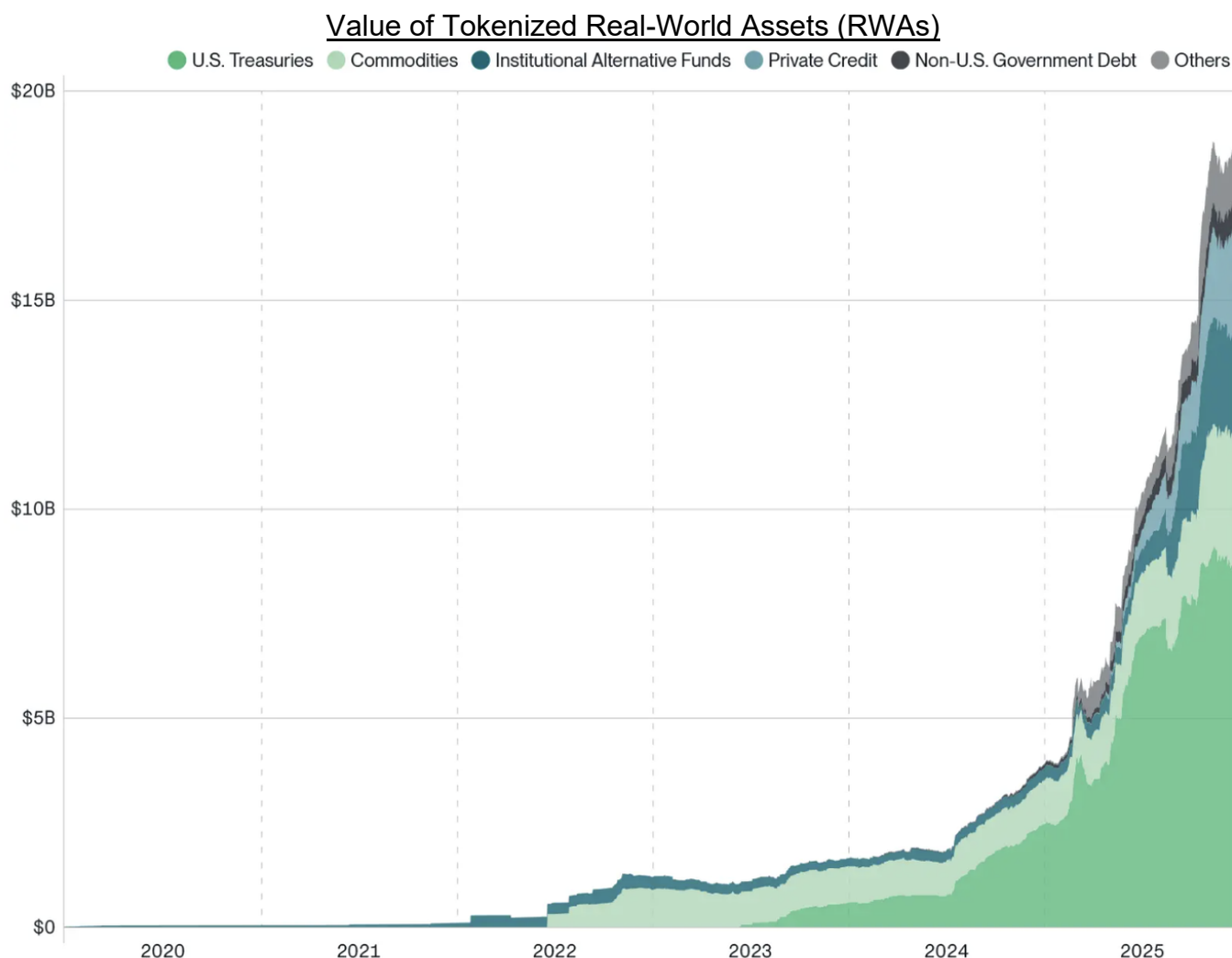
The Disconnect

And yet traditional investors can't hear it.

They can't hear it because of anchoring bias. They look at crypto and still see a punk skateboarder with tattoos. They don't realize he's shaved, put on a suit, and is deploying infrastructure that will underpin the next generation of capital markets.

The funny thing is, crypto investors don't seem to hear it either. They're suffering from "the boy who cried wolf" syndrome. They've heard the promises of institutional adoption for so long that they no longer register.

But the data is there. Look at this chart of how tokenized real-world assets have grown. It's steeper than Everest.



Source: Bitwise Asset Management with data from RWA.xyz. Data from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2025. Note: Stablecoin issuers such as Circle and Tether are intentionally omitted.

Capturing the Opportunity

The challenging thing about this realization is that it is difficult to know exactly how to profit from it. That's because there are big questions in crypto right now that still need to be answered. Questions like:

- Will the value from tokenization accrue to public Layer 1 protocols like Ethereum and Solana, or is L1 blockspace being commoditized?
- If value accrues to L1 networks, will the new quasi-private blockchains like Canton Network and Tempo outperform public chains?
- Will DeFi tokens surge as firms like BlackRock and Apollo embrace the DeFi sector, or are the tokenomic challenges associated with DeFi tokens too large to overcome?
- If the value accrues to companies building in the space, and not to the blockchains, who will benefit more: incumbents like BlackRock and JPMorgan, or crypto-native firms?

I have views on all of these questions – and I'll be writing about them in the coming months. But the honest answer to most of them is: No one knows yet. What I do know is that there is a large delta between what people think is happening in crypto and what is actually happening. From where I sit, that gap creates a significant opportunity – not to try to pick winners prematurely, but to build broad exposure to the space while the market is still mispricing the structural shift.

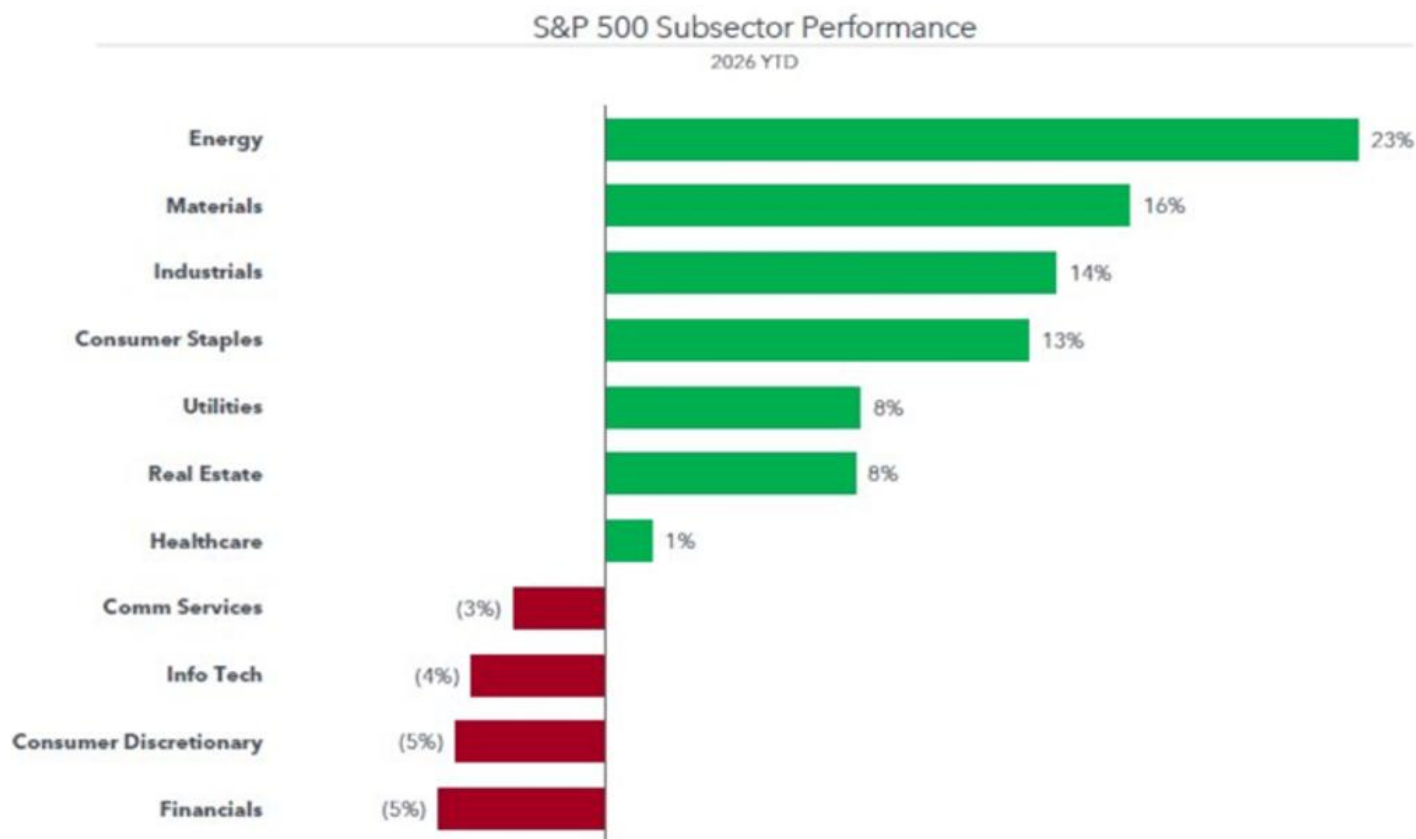
The biggest alpha opportunities come when the consensus narrative is stale and reality has moved on, but investors are still anchored on the old story. That's exactly where we are with crypto today. If you can see it for what it is, there's a lot of opportunity.

Arca: Why Crypto Is So Boring Now...

When All Digital Assets Trade the Same

Digital assets largely moved lower again last week, and worse, they fell by roughly the same magnitude across all sectors and themes; L1s, DeFi, infra, gaming — it didn't matter. Dispersion was minimal. When correlations spike, and everything trades in lockstep, that's usually not from organic spot selling. That type of price action comes from market makers moving assets up/down together to manage overall risk, structured products unwinding, or derivatives positioning driving the tape. It tells you the marginal seller isn't a fundamental holder exiting a specific thesis, but rather an overall balance-sheet repositioning.

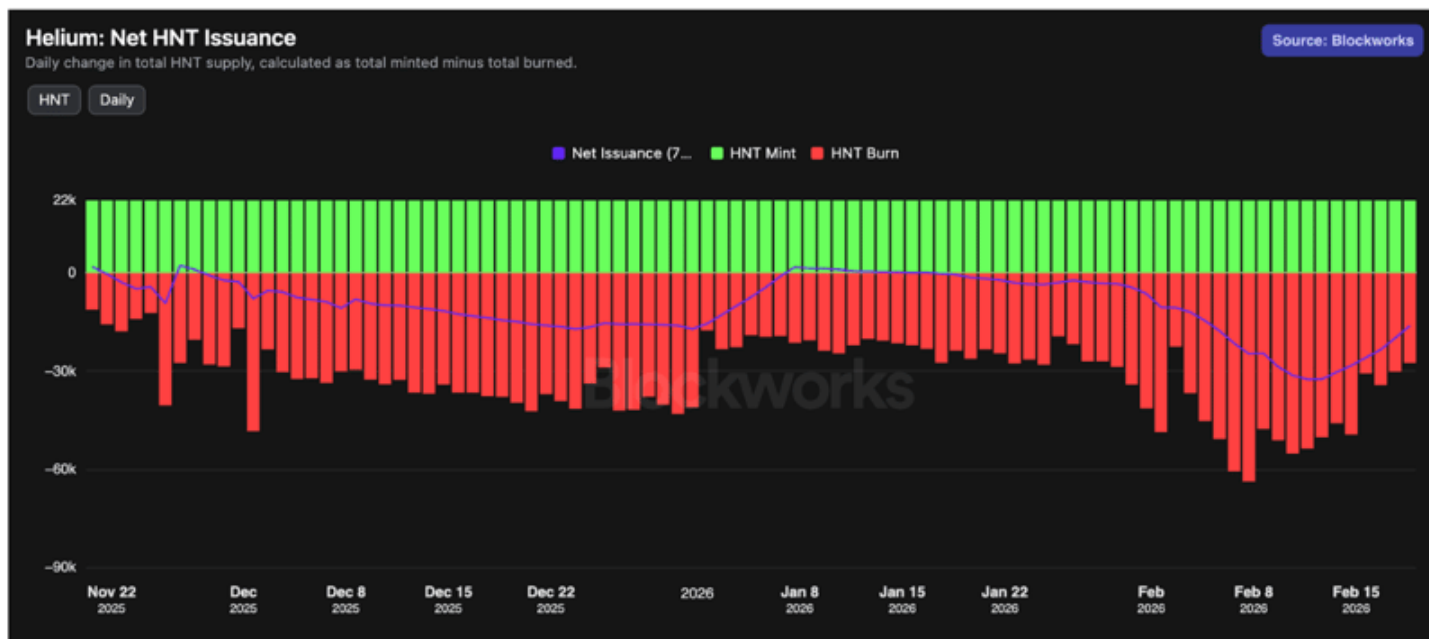
This continues to be the biggest detriment to token investing. Contrary to popular belief, investors often don't shy away from volatility. Volatility is fine if the reasons for the volatility make sense, and the upside volatility warrants the downside volatility. But investors are used to dispersion, where there is typically some area of an asset class that is worth investing in, even if the asset class as a whole is lower. Take equities, for example. This has been a very volatile year, with massive dispersion by sector as software and other consumer cyclical sectors have been hit hard, and money has rotated into energy and consumer staples.



Source: Twitter/X

There were only a few bright spots in token prices last week. Helium (HNT) rose roughly +60% last week despite no official updates from the project. Token burns are still outpacing issuance, and structurally, that matters. When supply is shrinking, and price rises on limited news, it's usually a signal that someone is either:

1. Accumulating ahead of an event, or
2. Discovering the token economics belatedly



Source: Blockworks

The other notable outperformer was Aerodrome (AERO), which was essentially unchanged week over week. Uniswap announced that it is expanding its fee switch beyond V3 pools to every pool type. On the surface, this sounds positive for UNI holders via increased fee capture, but there's a second-order effect. If Uniswap takes more from LP yields, it reduces the net return for liquidity providers. In a competitive landscape, it makes it harder to retain liquidity, especially when Aerodrome expands further into the EVM ecosystem.

Further, Base is moving toward operating as its own chain. On its own, that isn't hugely meaningful. But if Base is formalizing its independence, the logical next step is a token generation event. When that date gets announced, activity on Base could spike as it often does around incentive cycles. And when activity spikes on Base, Aerodrome benefits.

Lastly, in a completely different example, Figure Technology Solutions (FIGR) priced a 4.23M secondary share offering of its Series A Blockchain Common Stock, not as a "tokenized" wrapper sitting on top of DTCC rails, but as a public equity natively issued on Provenance Blockchain, trading on an on-chain ATS, settling in self-custody wallets.

Even though FIGR stock continues to decline ahead of earnings (with a whopping 50% short interest), the broader point is that, as token investors, we need better tokens. And tokenized stocks could potentially help usher in a new era of return dispersion. As tokenized equities begin to trade on-chain, with real cash flow rights and real legal clarity, that creates a whole new category of token investing. When you introduce instruments with explicit claims on earnings, dividends, or equity, price discovery may improve, and capital may allocate more rationally. This could cause returns to separate based on fundamentals instead of liquidity conditions.

Ironically, tokenized stocks may end up being healthier for the crypto market structure than many native tokens.

Revisiting the "Crypto Hills I Will Die On"

A year ago (March 2025), I wrote 12 Crypto Hills I Will Die On. At the time, many of these points were debatable and often disputed by the larger crypto community. The uncomfortable reality is that most

of those “hills” are becoming more true, and that’s bad for price action generically, but good for the long-term health of blockchain. Looking back, I wouldn’t adjust or change anything I wrote.

To be clear, most of these opinions weren’t from a year ago. I’d been writing and speaking about these topics for years, and only summarized them a year ago, focusing on themes I’ve written about for years:

- Adoption does not automatically equal token value accrual.
- Most tokens do not have durable cash flow rights and are structured incredibly poorly, including unnecessary unlocks and inflation.
- Regulation could compress speculative excess, and crypto tokens could be replaced by new equity-like tokens.

What’s happening now?

- Regulation is clarifying. That reduces reflexive speculation.
- Token value capture is being scrutinized. That reduces narrative-driven multiples.
- Institutional participation is increasing. That reduces volatility — and upside convexity.

All of that is structurally healthy. It just doesn’t create the type of indiscriminate beta that defined prior cycles. In other words, the market is growing up.

Unfortunately, growing up is rarely euphoric.

If you believed, as I have for years, that crypto needed:

- Real revenue
- Real alignment, often via buybacks
- Real governance
- Real regulatory clarity

Then this environment is progress. It’s just not exciting progress. And it certainly isn’t making for a great short-term investment environment.

ETH Denver

Katie Talati, Arca’s Head of Research and Advisory, just returned from ETH Denver. Among her many notes:

- The main conference was underattended
- Fewer builders launched brand-new things
- The conference felt increasingly institutional
- Sponsors/booths were from largely random projects, many unmanned
- Top themes: regulation, tokenization, payments/stablecoins, and market underperformance
- VCs claim valuations haven’t reset meaningfully

None of that is surprising. When the main conference energy drops but institutional side events are packed, it tells you where the center of gravity is shifting.

The early ETH Denver years were full of hacker energy. Now it’s allocator energy.

The themes reflect that shift:

- Regulation: everyone is waiting for final clarity
- Tokenization: real-world asset packaging
- Payments and stablecoins: the most product-market fit we've seen
- Poor BTC performance: top of mind for everyone

The venture comment is particularly telling.

Despite lower public token prices, private valuations haven't meaningfully compressed. That gap rarely persists forever. Either:

1. Public tokens recover strongly, or
2. Private valuations reset

History suggests the latter eventually happens.

ETH Denver didn't feel euphoric. It felt transitional.

Less "what can we build?" More "how do we operate within the structure that now exists?"

That matches the broader market sentiment.

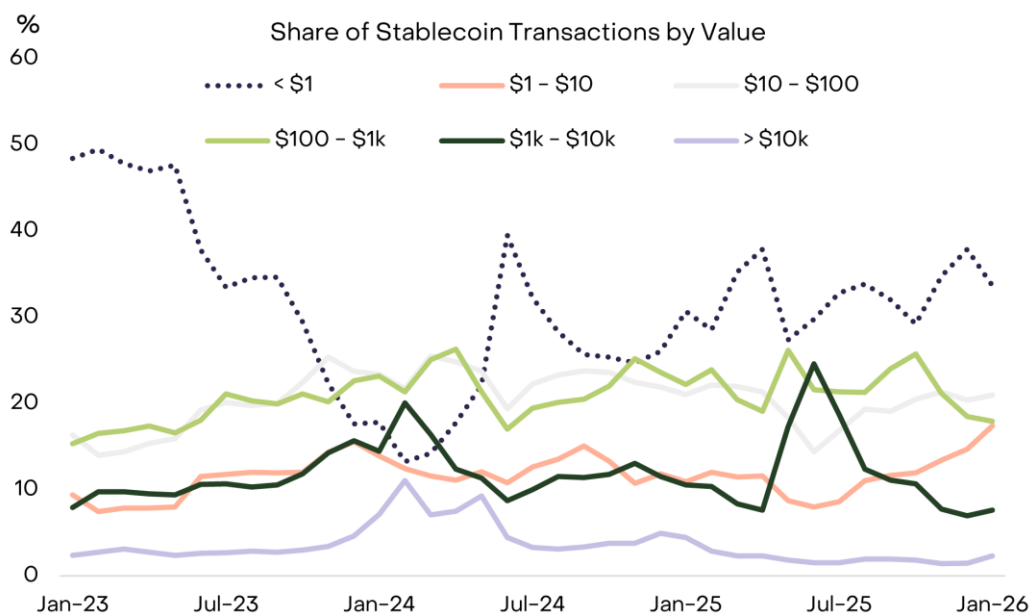
“The Stack” (by Zach Pandl, Grayscale’s Head of Research): Blockchains and AI Are Complementary...

Disruptive technology creates winners and losers. For AI, growth in adoption will benefit some types of businesses (e.g., chip makers) but create new competitive threats to others (e.g., providers of certain professional services). Recently US equity markets seem to have focused on the potential downside to existing players: the S&P 500 software index has slid about 20% year-to-date. Although crypto valuations have been tightly correlated with the drawdown in software stocks, we think blockchains and AI are complementary from a fundamental standpoint.

- Blockchains will be the financial rails for AI agents. The current generation of AI chatbots do not yet connect with the financial system. But when we give AI agents wallets, we think they will transact over blockchains rather than traditional bank-based infrastructure. Blockchains offer transparency, near instant settlement, and potentially lower costs; they also operate 24/7 and reach anywhere with an internet connection. A specific individual needs to create a bank account, but anyone (including a bot) can create a blockchain address. We would expect to see further growth in low-dollar-value stablecoin transactions if this thesis is playing out (see chart).
- Blockchains can mitigate certain AI risks. Large language models will change the world, in our view, but we may not like all of the consequences. Blockchain technology can potentially help mitigate risks related to data providence and deepfakes, as well as centralized control of resources and decision-making.

To be sure, AI tools also introduce new challenges for blockchains: they could make it easier to monitor transactions in a way that reduces user privacy, and agents are sure to find new vulnerabilities in smart contracts (last week OpenAI announced EVMbench, a program to proactively search for and patch smart contract risks using AI agents).

Key Takeaway: Crypto assets and software stocks recently sold off in unison, but blockchains and AI are complementary technologies. As the dust settles on the AI disruption trade, we expect that investors will come to see crypto as one of the long-term winners.



Source: Allium, Grayscale Investments. Data include transactions for USDC and USDT stablecoins. Data as of January 31, 2026. For illustrative purposes only.

CoinDesk Data released its “Stablecoins & Tokenized Assets Report – February 2026.” See key findings below. Download the full report, [here](#).)

- The total stablecoin market is on trend to rise compared to January, increasing by 0.98% to \$309B.
- The market cap of USDC rose 6.39% to \$74.5B, recording the first increase in three months.
- The market cap of tokenized equities issued by Ondo Finance rose by 2.68% to \$316M while the market cap of tokenized equities issued by Backed Finance rose by 3.04% to \$218M.

CoinDesk Research released a report titled “Pudgy Penguins: Challenging the Pokemon and Disney Legacy in the Global IP Race.” See key findings below. See the full report, [here](#).)

- Retail as Acquisition: Secured a 10,000+ store footprint (including 3,100 Walmarts) and moved 2M+ units. Seasonal drops like the February 2026 “Pudgy Petals” act as highly profitable entry points, driving \$50K in daily retail sales at a 15x ROAS.
- High-Velocity Verticals: Captured the physical “gacha” market with the Vibes TCG, moving 4M cards, hosting 350K+ matches, and leveraging a 71% regional share in Asian blind box formats.
- Institutional & Cultural Embedding: Scaled beyond crypto-native audiences through partnerships with Manchester City, the NHL, and NASCAR. This legitimacy is underscored by a \$500K Las Vegas Sphere takeover and structural adoption by US Congressional members in Washington DC.
- Capital Markets Trajectory: Evolving into a global licensing powerhouse (KAST, PEZ, TouchMagix). Bolstered by the real-world utility of the Pengu Visa Card, the brand is actively driving toward a \$120M revenue target and a potential 2027 IPO.