



HYPERION DECIMUS

CRYPTO NEWSLETTER

POWERED BY WEEKLY CRYPTO BRIEF

29th March 2026

BITCOIN-RELATED



CoinDesk: Bitcoin experienced a volatile and predominantly bearish week, ending down ~6%. The price dropped to a two-week low below \$67,000, primarily driven by escalating geopolitical tensions, a major options expiry, and long liquidations.

Bitcoin exchange reserves fell to ~2.31 million BTC as of mid-March 2026, according to on-chain data from CryptoQuant and Glassnode, the lowest level since April 2018.

Fannie Mae is preparing to accept Bitcoin (and USDC) as collateral for mortgages in a first for US housing finance. The product, developed with Better Home & Finance and Coinbase, will allow borrowers to pledge crypto when securing a Fannie-backed loan without selling their holdings.

JPMorgan analysts argued that Bitcoin has shown safe-haven-like demand during the Iran war, with inflows and stronger activity while gold and silver weakened. They added Bitcoin's momentum has rebounded from oversold levels while gold and silver flipped from overbought to liquidations, signaling a positioning reset across assets.

A new report from Charles Schwab suggests Bitcoin is shedding one of its defining traits: extreme volatility. According to the firm's analysis, Bitcoin's price swings have declined sharply in recent years, with the asset now exhibiting less volatility than some of the largest US technology stocks like TSLA and NVDA. The report found BTC's historical volatility dropped to 42% in 2025 – roughly half of what it recorded in 2021.

Goldman Sachs believes Bitcoin and crypto prices may have hit their floor after months of declines. In a note on Mar. 26, analyst James Yaro said crypto-related equities are down 46% since Oct. 2025 but are showing "volatile but flattish performance" in recent weeks, making valuations increasingly attractive. The firm highlighted select stocks with upside potential like Robinhood, Figure Technologies, and Coinbase.

Bernstein analysts said Bitcoin has likely bottomed. The analysts reiterated a \$150,000 Bitcoin price target for the end of 2026 and see a cycle peak of \$200,000 in 2027.

K33 Research reported that Bitcoin may have found a market bottom and is now attractively priced for long term investors.

Bhutan transferred 519.7 BTC worth ~\$37 million to external wallets, likely signaling ongoing sales from its state-managed crypto reserves, which have dropped from over 13,000 BTC at peak to about 4,453 BTC.

A documentary film, out next month, exploring Satoshi Nakamoto's true identity claims to have pinned down the real-world identity of the person or group that created Bitcoin. Coinbase CEO Brian Armstrong said about the film: "It's the most thoughtful take on this subject I've seen out there, and I suspect you got to the right answer. It's a great piece of work." (The film, called Finding Satoshi, debuts on April 22.)

INDUSTRY ADVANCES



Hostplus, the third-largest super fund in Australia by members (2.2 million) and the fifth-largest by assets under management (\$96 billion), is reportedly considering offering cryptos as an investment option, citing interest from its members in the asset class.

Monument Bank, a UK digital challenger bank, plans to place up to £250 million of customer deposits onto Midnight, a privacy-focused public blockchain, while keeping those balances interest-bearing, fully backed, and protected by the country's deposit insurance system in a first for a regulated British bank.

The Solana Foundation introduced a developer platform that lets major institutions like Mastercard, Western Union, and Worldpay build blockchain-based payment and asset systems, simplifying complex crypto infrastructure into easy-to-use tools and signaling deeper adoption of blockchain for real-world finance.

GlobalBlock, part of GCEX Group, launched its digital assets offering for UK clients, providing a professional route to access crypto services with robust controls and institutional-grade support.

CZ-owned Trust Wallet, which claims to have more than 220 million users, launched a new AI agent toolkit that allows users to automate crypto transactions, including trades, transfers, and recurring buys.

Stripe added per-transaction blockchain network labels to its merchant Dashboard, surfacing the originating chain (Base, Ethereum, Polygon, Solana, or Tempo) directly in the transaction view.

BitGo Holdings, a digital asset infrastructure company, announced the launch of the BitGo Model Context Protocol ("MCP") Server, a new capability that integrates BitGo into AI-native development workflows by enabling AI-powered tools to search, read, and interact with BitGo's developer resources using natural language.

MoonPay has released an open-source wallet standard designed to let AI agents hold funds and execute transactions across blockchains, addressing a key gap in how autonomous software interacts with crypto systems.

Tokens.fun launched on Base with an AI platform that converts a plain-text startup idea into a deployed app and live token in a single flow. The product targets founders who want to skip the build cycle and go from concept to onchain token launch.

MINING

Bitcoin mining difficulty fell ~8% on Mar. 20, pushing the network hashrate below the key 1 zetahash level as less profitable miners shut down. This decline is seen as a structural shift driven by economics – older equipment, rising power costs, and tighter margins are forcing weaker players out. At the same time, major mining firms are reallocating energy infrastructure toward AI, where revenue is more stable than in the cyclical crypto mining business.

Bitcoin miner MARA Holdings sold 15,133 BTC from Mar. 4-25 for ~\$1.1 billion to fund the repurchase of ~\$1 billion in convertible senior notes.

Core Scientific, the Bitcoin miner seeking to meet AI infrastructure demand, secured an additional \$500 million credit facility from JPMorgan Chase Bank. This brings its 364-day loan facility to a total of \$1 billion, after Morgan Stanley committed \$500 million earlier this month.

Cipher Digital, the former crypto mining company, signed a 15-year lease with a hyperscale tenant to develop its third high-performance computing data center campus. The company also secured a revolving credit facility of up to \$200 million, with an additional \$50 million option to support expansion and enhance liquidity.

DIGITAL ASSET TREASURY ACTIVITY

Strategy bought 1,031 Bitcoin for \$76.6 million, lifting holdings to 762,099 BTC. (The company also unveiled plans to issue \$44 billion worth of common and preferred equity, a move aimed at providing its Bitcoin-buying machine with fuel for future purchases. The company said it had gained the ability to issue an additional \$21 billion worth of MSTR, in addition to \$21 billion worth of its variable rate preferred share, STRC, and \$2.1 billion worth of STRK, a convertible preferred share.)

Contrary to speculation at the time, GameStop did not sell its 4,709 BTC holdings in January, instead pledging them as collateral with Coinbase Credit, according to its latest 10-K filing. The company used a covered-call strategy to generate premium income from part of its Bitcoin holdings while maintaining exposure to the asset.

Sweden's H100 signed a letter of intent to acquire two Bitcoin treasury companies (Moonshot and Never Say Die) and their BTC holdings, which could make it the second-largest Bitcoin treasury company in Europe.

Hong Kong-based Web3 gaming firm Boyaa Interactive International is seeking shareholder approval to expand its crypto treasury, planning up to \$70 million in purchases over the next year. (The company is the 23rd-largest Bitcoin treasury and the third largest in Asia. It currently has a ~\$285 million treasury, including 4,091 BTC and 302 ETH.)

Bitmine Immersion Technologies, Tom Lee's Ethereum treasury company, bought another 67,111 ETH worth ~\$145 million from Kraken, continuing its aggressive accumulation strategy. Lee believes the asset is in “the final stages of the mini-crypto winter.” (Bitmine also launched MAVAN to handle Ethereum staking for institutions, and plans to move nearly all of its multibillion-dollar ETH treasury onto the platform to build what it believes could become the world’s largest staking network.)

ETPS (EXCHANGE-TRADED PRODUCTS), FUNDS & INDEXES

Phong Le, President and CEO of Strategy, recently pointed out just how big Morgan Stanley’s involvement could get. Morgan Stanley oversees about \$8 trillion in client assets, and even a modest 2% allocation to Bitcoin would imply roughly \$160 billion in demand, far exceeding the size of today’s largest ETFs. (Morgan Stanley recommends a 0-4% allocation to Bitcoin.)

Morgan Stanley's spot Bitcoin ETF got an official listing announcement (on Bloomberg) and launch could be “imminent.” The ETF will charge the cheapest expense ratio for spot Bitcoin ETFs at 0.14%.

NYSE Arca and NYSE American removed the last major trading caps on options tied to spot Bitcoin and Ether ETFs, bringing crypto fund derivatives in line with other commodity-based ETFs across US exchanges and giving large traders far more room to hedge or speculate through customizable contracts.

Grayscale filed to list the Grayscale HYPE ETF, an ETF that would track the native Hyperliquid token. If approved, the ETF would trade on the Nasdaq under the ticker symbol GHYP.

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

TRON DAO has scaled its AI fund from \$100 million to \$1 billion, targeting investments and acquisitions of early-stage startups building core infrastructure for the agentic economy. The billion-dollar fund announced it will focus investments in four areas: agent identity systems, stablecoin-based payment rails, RWAs, and developer tooling for autonomous financial systems.

ParaFi, the Henry Kravis-backed digital asset manager, raised \$125 million for a new venture fund focused on stablecoin, tokenization, and institutional on-chain finance, while pulling in an additional \$325 million for existing strategies since early 2025, bringing total AUM to \$2 billion.

Startale Group said it completed a \$63 million Series A, including a \$50 million second close from SBI Group and a previously announced \$13 million first close from Sony Innovation Fund. The company will use the capital to scale L1 network Strium to power institutional tokenized securities and real-world asset trading.

Tazapay, a cross-border payments infrastructure startup focused on emerging markets, raised \$36 million in funding – led by Circle’s investment arm and backed by Coinbase – to expand licenses across regions like the UAE and EU while building AI-driven payment systems.

Polymarket CEO Shayne Coplan and Kalshi CEO Tarek Mansour have reportedly backed a new \$35 million venture fund, 5c(c) Capital, targeting prediction market startups.

Payy, a startup building private stablecoin payments, raised \$6 million to expand a network that hides transaction details by default.

Megaplot raised \$5 million to create a crypto-powered global lottery.

IPOS, M&A, PARTNERSHIPS & DEALS



Katana, the Polygon-incubated Ethereum scaling chain, acquired hybrid decentralized exchange IDEX to serve as the infrastructure backbone for its new Katana Perps perpetual futures platform.

MG Stover, a pioneer in institutional digital-asset services, acquired Asymmetric Information, an AI-powered portfolio and risk analytics firm serving institutional crypto investors.

NovaBay Pharmaceuticals announced it would change its name to Stablecoin Development Corporation as part of its strategic crypto pivot. CEO Michael Kazley said that the company’s plan going forward is to access cash flows within the growing stablecoin economy – stating “our conviction [is] that stablecoins represent the most compelling structural opportunity in digital finance.”

DEFI



Aave DAO backed a proposal to move its V4 protocol toward deployment on Ethereum mainnet, signaling broader support for the upgrade after weeks of governance tension and contributor exits, in a near-unanimous vote. Aave founder Stani Kulechov says the proposal will move to a binding onchain vote to formalize V4’s deployment on Ethereum.

A coordinated incentives campaign across Base DeFi protocols, including Moonwell, Mamo, Glider, Superform, and Merkl, is offering 18%+ APR via boosted yield stacked on top of existing protocol yield and points.

Balancer Labs, the team behind the DeFi protocol Balancer, is shutting down after mounting financial pressure following a \$116 million hack in November, with executives proposing to continue the protocol under a leaner structure.

TOKENIZATION



US lawmakers signaled that tokenized securities will likely be regulated as seriously as traditional markets, even as hearings revealed concerns about foreign ownership, investor protection and the political noise created by Trump family crypto ties.

The NYSE partnered with Securitize to build a 24/7 tokenized securities platform, enabling stocks and ETFs to be issued and traded as blockchain-based tokens.

Nasdaq and Talos partnered to integrate Talos's digital asset infrastructure with Nasdaq's Calypso risk platform and Trade Surveillance systems, creating a unified framework for institutions to manage tokenized collateral.

In his annual shareholder letter, BlackRock CEO Larry Fink said tokenization could make investing as seamless as mobile payments by leveraging widespread digital wallet adoption. Fink emphasized that tokenization can improve access, liquidity, and efficiency by making assets easier to issue, trade, and fractionalize. (Read the letter, [here](#).)

Invesco is taking over day-to-day management of Superstate's USTB, a ~\$967 million tokenized short-duration US government securities fund, while Superstate continues running the fund's tech layer.

Coinbase Asset Management is launching a tokenized share class of its Bitcoin Yield Fund on Base, partnering with Apex Group to offer a covered-call-and-lending yield strategy onchain to non-US institutional investors.

BitGo and ZKsync are testing infrastructure that would let banks issue tokenized deposits inside existing rules, giving financial institutions a more controlled way to use blockchain payments without leaving the regulated banking system.

Jupiter has officially rolled out Pre-IPO stock token trading through its integration with PreStocks, letting users access tokenized exposure to private companies directly on Solana.

Bitpanda, a Vienna-based crypto broker, is launching "Vision Chain," a blockchain designed for European banks to issue and trade tokenized assets under EU regulations, using euro-backed stablecoins for fees and Optimism's Ethereum-based infrastructure to enable compliant, always-on markets.

Franklin Templeton partnered with Ondo to tokenize ETFs for 24/7 onchain trading.

Flow Traders, a global trading firm, announced the launch of its digital assets OTC offering with 24/7 proprietary, two-way liquidity for tokenized money-market funds, equities and commodities, which includes Franklin Templeton's BENJI and Tether Gold, among others.

Glider and Ondo Finance have introduced a platform to let retail investors build and automate custom portfolios of tokenized US stocks, offering direct exposure to equities without a brokerage account.

French cryptography startup Zama is integrating its protocol with Apex-backed T-REX Ledger to become what it calls the “default confidentiality layer” for ERC-3643 tokenized assets.

Chartis Research and Metrika announced the release of “Digital Asset Risk: ICR for Tokenized Fund Infrastructure,” a collaborative industry report that presents a risk management view on tokenized mutual funds. (Download the report, [here](#).)

PREDICTION MARKETS

Thanks to the first four days of March Madness, Kalshi saw \$2.67 billion in weekly sports trades between Mar. 16-22 while Polymarket had \$1.22 billion. That’s a weekly increase of 28% and 32%, respectively, per prediction market tracker DeFi Rate.

BitGo and Susquehanna Crypto launched an OTC desk that lets hedge funds, family offices, and large investors trade event contracts using crypto held in custody as collateral, with a \$100,000 minimum.

ARK Invest is integrating data from Kalshi to guide investment decisions and hedge risks tied to major events and economic shifts.

NYSE parent company Intercontinental Exchange completed a new \$600 million investment in Polymarket, advancing its \$2 billion funding deal.

Polymarket announced updated market integrity rules across its DeFi platform and its CFTC-regulated US exchange. The rules, which appear in the DeFi platform’s Terms of Use and the Polymarket US Rulebook, amplify Polymarket’s requirements governing insider trading and market manipulation and reinforce Polymarket’s commitment to maintaining the quality of its markets and protecting its users. (Kalshi also moved to restrict insider trading on the same day.)

Senators Adam Schiff (D-CA) and John Curtis (R-UT) introduced a bipartisan bill to prohibit CFTC-registered entities, including Kalshi and Polymarket's US platform, from listing prediction contracts tied to sports or casino-style games.

A Nevada judge temporarily blocked Kalshi from operating in the state, siding with a Nevada Gaming Control Board motion to block Kalshi from operating in the state for 14 days.

CBDOS & STABLECOINS

Two Delaware lawmakers, Sen. Spiros Mantzavinos and Rep. Bill Bush, filed the Delaware Banking Modernization Act (Senate Bill 16) and the Delaware Payment Stablecoin Act (Senate Bill 19) to establish stablecoin regulations to “modernize” the state’s financial sector – making it easier for all residents to send, receive and save money with just an internet connection.

Stablecoin issuer Tether hired KPMG – with support from PwC – to conduct its first full Big Four audit, a major step toward improving transparency after years of scrutiny over its reserves and past regulatory fines.

Circle unfroze one of the 16 USDC wallets it had previously blacklisted after heavy backlash from crypto investigators and affected businesses, raising fresh questions about how the stablecoin issuer makes freezing decisions and whether more wrongly blocked accounts will soon be restored.

Visa's legal and compliance teams approved the company's first blockchain governance proposal, appointing Visa as a Super Validator on the Canton Network. Visa will use the position to help banks bring stablecoin payments onchain, building on a settlement operation already running at \$4.6 billion annualized.

Deloitte Canada and Stablecorp are collaborating to develop stablecoin infrastructure for Canadian financial institutions, as federal regulators move closer to establishing rules for fiat-backed digital assets.

Ripple joined a Singapore central bank-led project to test cross-border payments using its RLUSD stablecoin, working with fintech firm Unloq to automate trade settlements so payments are released only when conditions like shipment delivery are verified.

AlphaPoint launched an institutional-grade Treasury platform to power stablecoin and fiat operations at scale.

Rain is expanding its Visa Membership into Asia-Pacific, giving partners a single platform to launch consumer and corporate credit card programs across some of the world's most active digital asset markets, with initial rollouts expected in Q2. The move matters because it extends Rain's regulated issuing footprint into a region with heavy stablecoin usage and major remittance corridors.

NFTS, BLOCKCHAIN GAMING & METAVERSE



Backpack Exchange launched its BP token on Solana with 250 million tokens airdropped to existing users and Mad Lads NFT holders, allocating nothing to founders, team, or investors at inception, with long-term stakers eligible to convert BP into company equity.

JOB MOVEMENT



X hired former Aave and Base design lead Benji Taylor as Head of Design. The news comes as X develops X Money, a payments system that is set to integrate crypto into the platform.

Spencer Applebaum and Shayon Sengupta were promoted to General Partner and Co-Heads of Venture at Multicoins Capital.

Bithumb, South Korea's second-largest crypto exchange by volume, is reportedly seeking to reappoint CEO Lee Jae-won despite recent alleged AML failures and other controversies.

REGULATIONS, RULINGS & COMMENTARY

President Trump's top crypto advisor confirmed "a major milestone" has been hit. Patrick Witt, the executive director of the president's council of advisors for digital assets, posted to X: "This is a major milestone toward passing the Clarity Act." Witt credited senators Thom Tillis (R-NC) and Angela Alsobrooks (D-MD) "for bridging the partisan divide to tackle a difficult issue, adding that there is "more work to be done." Alsobrooks said: "Senator Tillis and I do have an agreement in principle. We've come a long way. And I think what it will do is to allow us to protect innovation, but also gives us the opportunity to prevent widespread deposit flight."

White House artificial intelligence and crypto czar David Sacks is transitioning to a new, broader technology advisor role in President Trump's administration after "using up" his 130 days as a special government employee. Reportedly, Sacks will still be involved with AI and crypto while taking on a broader portfolio.

The CFTC launched a new Innovation Task Force aimed at developing clear regulatory frameworks for emerging technologies in US derivatives markets. Chairman Michael Selig said the task force will focus on crypto assets, blockchain, AI, autonomous systems, and prediction markets.

Through newly clarified guidance, the CFTC opened the door for Bitcoin, Ether, and certain payment stablecoins to be used as margin collateral in regulated derivatives markets. Specifically, the CFTC staff issued a no-action position and follow-up FAQs that let futures commission merchants and clearing organizations accept certain crypto assets, including Bitcoin, as margin collateral in parts of the US-cleared derivatives market, subject to conditions. This was first set out in Staff Letter 25-40 on Dec. 8, 2025, reissued as Letter 26-05 on Feb. 6, 2026, and then clarified again in FAQs published Mar. 20, 2026.

Stand With Crypto, the Coinbase-backed advocacy group, is lining up for the November midterms with endorsements in six battleground congressional races. The picks span both parties: Republicans Zach Nunn (IA), Mike Lawler (NY), and Rob Bresnahan (PA) alongside Democrats Don Davis (NC), Susie Lee (NV), and Greg Landsman (OH).

US Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA) pressed the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City for answers after it granted a master account to Kraken's parent firm earlier this month.

Fidelity urged the SEC to tighten and clarify the rulebook for broker-dealers handling crypto, pressing for clearer standards on custody, trading, and tokenized securities so traditional financial firms can plug digital assets into existing market infrastructure without running into legal gray areas.

According to Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, donations in cryptocurrency to UK political parties will be banned, in response to a review of foreign financial interference. Additionally, donations of British citizens living abroad will be capped at £100,000 annually, one of 17 recommendations made by former top civil servant Philip Rycroft.

Brazil enacted a landmark law that allows authorities to channel crypto seized from criminal organizations directly into public security initiatives, marking a major step in the country's crackdown on organized crime.

Brazil's Finance Minister, Dario Durigan, is delaying crypto tax policy discussions until after the country's Oct. 2026 presidential election to avoid pushing for "divisive" tax changes during an election year.

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

High-frequency trading firm Jump Trading pushed back against a \$4 billion lawsuit tied to the collapse of Terraform Labs, arguing the case is an attempt by the bankrupt crypto company to shift blame for its \$40 billion ecosystem failure and avoid paying a massive SEC fine.

A long-dormant wallet tied to Irish drug dealer Clifton Collins moved 500 BTC worth ~\$35 million after more than 10 years, according to Arkham data. The Irish Times reported the transfer was likely carried out by Ireland's Criminal Assets Bureau, which said it seized and accessed the Bitcoin with support from Europol.

USR issuer Resolv Labs said its collateral pool remains intact after a \$24 million exploit on Mar. 22 that minted 80 million unbacked tokens and drove the US dollar stablecoin as low as \$0.14.

An Australian court ordered Binance Australia Derivatives to pay \$6.9 million after misclassifying retail clients during onboarding and exposing them to high-risk crypto products.

A 66-year-old Hong Kong retiree lost 6.6 million Hong Kong dollars (~\$840,000) in a string of three related crypto investment scams after repeatedly trusting self-proclaimed "virtual currency experts" who reached out via WhatsApp.

CoinDCX, India's largest crypto exchange by valuation, became embroiled in a police fraud case after its co-founders were arrested over an alleged \$85,000 fake investment scheme, while the company argued the scam came from impersonators using copycat websites rather than its real platform.

Federal prosecutors questioned the authenticity of a letter purportedly from imprisoned FTX founder Sam Bankman-Fried requesting a legal extension, citing FedEx tracking data pointing to Palo Alto rather than his prison, as his parents separately called his 25-year sentence "politically motivated" on CNN.

Pseudonymous blockchain sleuth ZachXBT claimed uncover a coordinated network of 10+ accounts on X that have been manufacturing "viral panic about war and politics to drive traffic to crypto scams."

Spain's Civil Guard detained a suspect wanted by France over the 2025 kidnapping of Ledger co-founder David Balland, in a case tied to a wider wave of crypto-targeted abductions.

Vietnam detained ONUS-linked suspects in an alleged token fraud case as police described price manipulation, false promotions and centralized market control.

TRM Labs, a blockchain forensics firm used by police and financial investigators, added an AI agent that turns plain-language questions into complex crypto-tracing searches, aiming to help overstretched investigators follow illicit funds faster as AI-powered scams keep multiplying.

MISCELLANEOUS



Ethereum developers chose not to prioritize a proposal backed by Vitalik Buterin that aimed to make the network more user-friendly and resistant to future quantum computers, citing its complexity, and instead downgraded it to a secondary feature for the upcoming 2026 “Hegota” upgrade.

An Ethereum OG sold another 15,002 ETH worth ~\$31 million after holding the assets for about a decade. The wallet originally received 172,700 ETH at ~\$12.83 per ETH in 2016, with 14,814 ETH remaining, Arkham labeling shows.

Avalanche’s Build Games hackathon has progressed to the final stages, with 20 projects making it to “pitch day.” These businesses, hewn down from a field of 2,000 applicants, are vying to win one of three grand prizes from a \$1 million total prize pot.

Over 50% of crypto wallets trading Pump Fun-launched tokens posted losses in the past month, according to Dune analytics data. Furthermore, ~96% of traders made less than \$500. Meanwhile, the top 250 token deployers extracted \$79 million from traders over 6 months, launching 194,000 tokens but producing only about 10 with market caps exceeding \$5 million.

CHARTS, TABLES, QUOTES, COMMENTARY & OTHER IMAGES



Blockforce Capital: Approaching the Bottom...

Bitcoin has once again declined roughly 50% from its all-time high. With that drawdown has come the familiar mix of anxiety, second-guessing, and exhaustion that characterizes every crypto bear market. For newer participants, the experience feels chaotic and destabilizing. For those who have lived through multiple cycles, it feels cyclical and structurally familiar.

Having invested through three prior cycles, one lesson stands out: tops tend to form quickly; bottoms form slowly. Bull markets often accelerate into peaks where momentum becomes self-reinforcing. Leverage expands rapidly, narratives converge into a single consensus, and price action begins to feel inevitable. When that dynamic reverses, the unwind is typically abrupt and violent.

Bear markets, by contrast, are processes rather than events. Instead of a sharp climax, they grind. Prices drift lower, rallies fail, sentiment erodes, and conviction is slowly worn down. Historically, Bitcoin bottoms are not single moments but extended periods of accumulation that unfold over months.

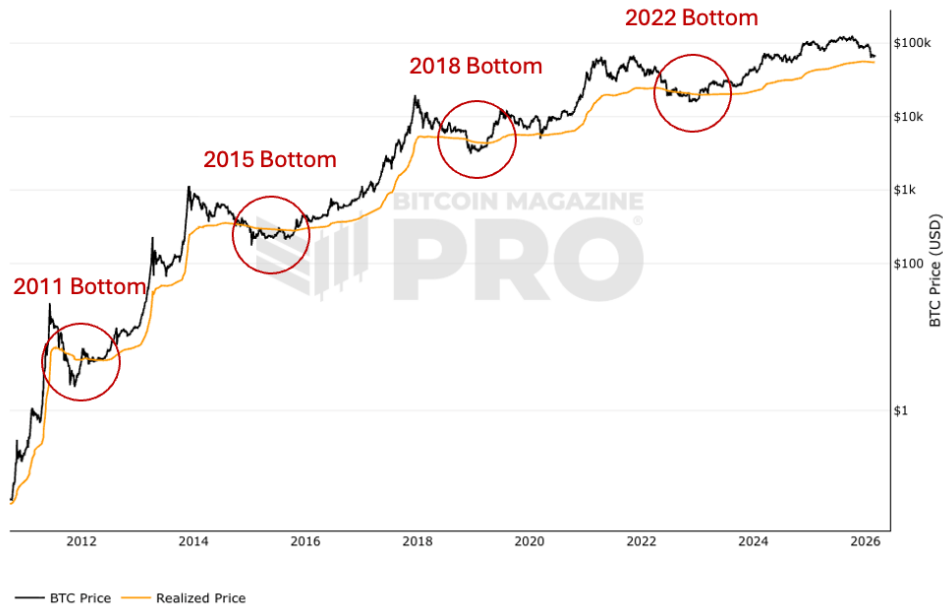
Because of this asymmetry, timing an exact top is nearly impossible. Identifying a probabilistic bottoming range, however, is far more achievable. Investors who understand this dynamic can approach bear markets not with panic, but with a systematic framework for accumulation. Recognizing that structural difference between how markets top and how they bottom is the starting point for navigating the current cycle rationally rather than emotionally.

The prior cycle illustrates this dynamic clearly. In November 2021, Bitcoin peaked near \$69,000. By July 2022, it had fallen to roughly \$19,000. At the time, we argued that accumulating below \$20,000 represented one of the most attractive risk-adjusted entry zones in the asset's history, even though the exact bottom was unknowable and had not yet formed. The ultimate low printed around \$15,600 in December 2022. Investors who accumulated under \$20,000 had approximately seven months to build exposure at deeply discounted levels. Missing the final 5-6% of downside proved irrelevant for long-term positioning; what mattered was recognizing that forced selling was largely exhausted and that value had emerged on a probabilistic basis.

Today, Bitcoin has declined from its recent all-time high of \$126,000 to as low as \$60,000 – again, roughly a 52% retracement. We are clearly in a cyclical bear phase. The question is not whether we are in a drawdown, but where a durable bottom is likely to form and how capital should be positioned through it.

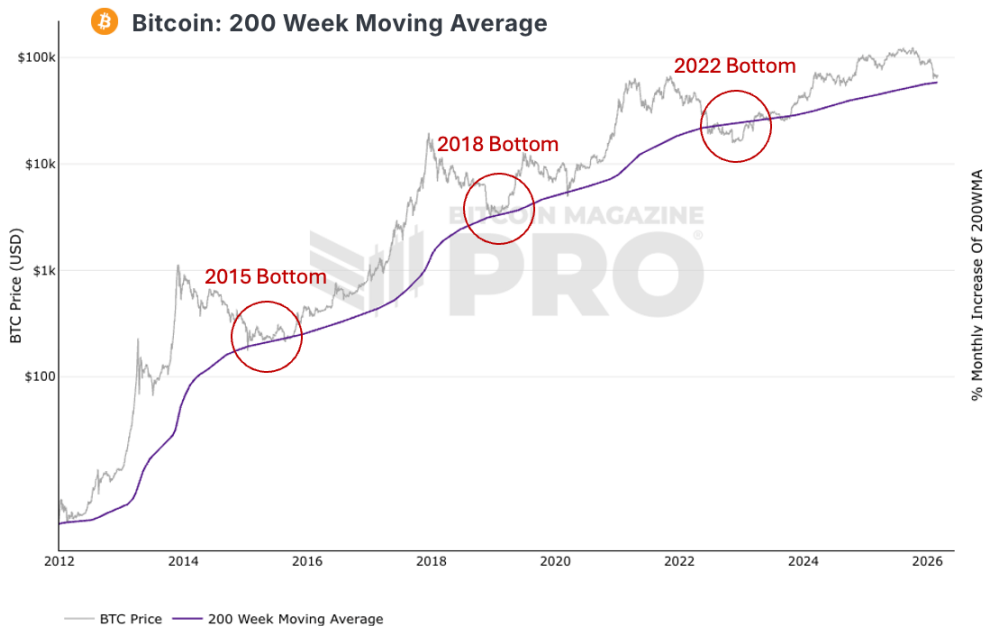
Our framework for identifying potential bottoming zones rests on four historically reliable indicators. The first is Realized Price, which approximates the average on-chain cost basis of the entire circulating supply. When the spot price trades near or below Realized Price, long-term holders as a group approach breakeven, and capitulation pressure often begins to exhaust itself. That metric currently sits near \$54,000.

Bitcoin: Realized Price



Source: BitcoinMagazinePro

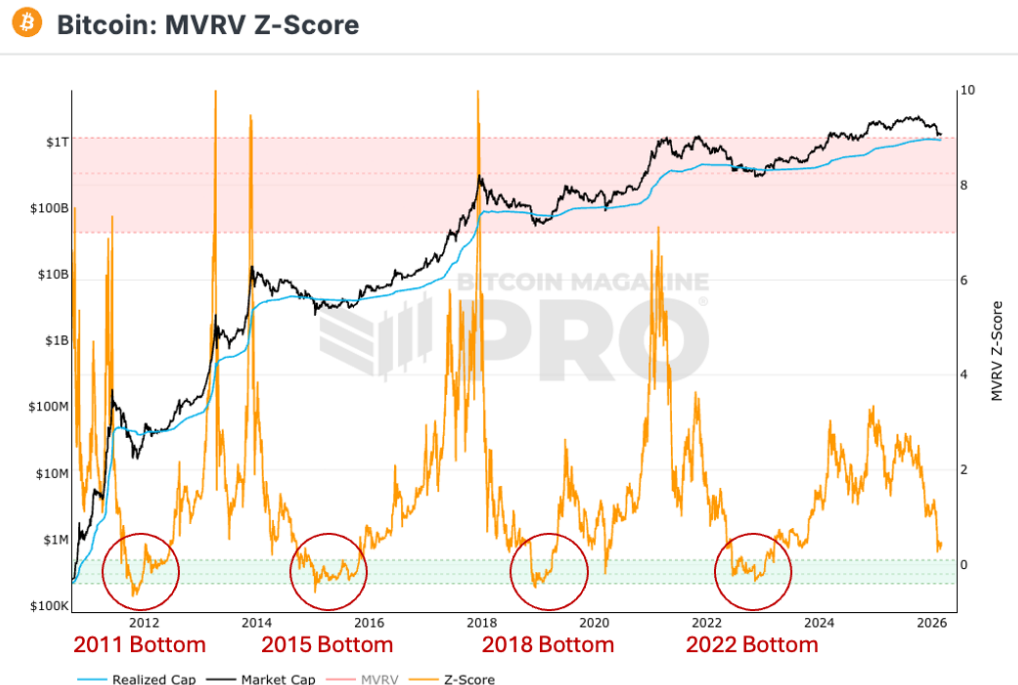
The second is the 200-week moving average, a long-observed technical level that has marked prior secular lows. It presently resides near \$58,000. In past cycles, bear market troughs have coincided with touching, or briefly undercutting, this long-term trendline, reinforcing its relevance as a structural support level.



Source: BitcoinMagazinePro

Third is the MVRV Z-Score, which estimates whether Bitcoin is relatively expensive or inexpensive compared to the aggregate price investors originally paid. Historically, when the score falls below 0.40, the asset has traded at depressed or undervalued levels. Today it stands at approximately 0.38. Since 2017, the metric has been this low only about 15% of the time, underscoring the rarity of such conditions. In prior bear markets, including 2018 and 2022, it remained at similarly depressed levels for

weeks or months. In both instances, investors who accumulated during those periods ultimately realized substantial gains over the following two to three years, even though prices occasionally declined further before fully recovering.



The fourth consideration is the magnitude of peak-to-trough drawdowns. Each successive cycle has exhibited diminishing percentage declines as the asset class matures, liquidity deepens, and institutional participation increases. A structurally maturing market typically implies smaller cyclical retracements over time. Extrapolating that pattern suggests that a 55-65% decline this cycle would be consistent with the historical trend, implying a potential bottoming range between \$45,000 and \$55,000.

Taken together, the convergence of these four factors – Realized Price near \$54,000, the 200-week moving average near \$58,000, MVRV at levels historically associated with market troughs, and a drawdown magnitude consistent with prior cycles – creates a high-probability accumulation zone between approximately \$45,000 and \$60,000. Bitcoin has already traded to roughly \$60,000, touching the upper boundary of that projected range, and has recently oscillated between \$60,000 and \$70,000.

Stabilization dynamics are also emerging in flow data. ETF outflows have not only moderated, but the start of March has already seen approximately \$1.5 billion in net inflows over first few days, bringing year-to-date flows close to net positive territory and suggesting a tentative improvement in institutional demand. Sustained inflows would likely serve as a durable tailwind. Additionally, more than 400,000 BTC were accumulated in the \$60,000 to \$70,000 range during the recent downturn, indicating that long-term holders and new entrants are absorbing supply. In practical terms, the forced sellers appear increasingly exhausted.

None of this guarantees that the bottom is definitively in place. Macro conditions, geopolitical shocks, or regulatory developments could drive prices lower. It is entirely possible that the \$60,000 print on February 6 marked the low. It is equally plausible that price grinds somewhat lower, perhaps dipping into

the \$50,000s and briefly undercutting long-term averages before stabilizing. However, in either scenario, the majority of the drawdown appears to be behind us, and the asymmetry is shifting.

Historical context reinforces this perspective. In prior cycles, buying after a 50% retracement – even without perfectly timing the ultimate bottom – produced compelling forward returns over multi-year horizons. After the 2013 peak near \$1,156, a 50% retracement to roughly \$578 preceded a multi-year advance that ultimately carried prices over 100x higher. Following the 2017 high near \$20,000, purchasing around \$10,000 eventually delivered nearly seven-fold return even at today’s depressed prices. After the 2021 high near \$68,000, buying near \$34,000 proved highly accretive over the subsequent cycle. In each case, the market eventually traded lower after the initial 50% drawdown before fully bottoming. Yet those interim purchases nonetheless represented exceptional long-term entries.

Cycle	Peak Price	-50% Buy Price	Today's Price	Return Multiple
2013 to 2026	\$1,156	\$578	\$68,000	117x
2017 to 2026	\$20,089	\$10,045	\$68,000	6.8x
2021 to 2026	\$68,789	\$34,395	\$68,000	2.0x

Source: CoinMarketCap

Drawdowns, however, are defined not only by depth but also by duration. The acute price pain – a 52% decline – has largely occurred. However, time pain likely remains. Across prior cycles, the average duration from peak to trough has been approximately nine to ten months. If the October high marked this cycle’s peak, historical precedent would suggest potential bottoming sometime mid-year. That does not imply a straight line lower; more often it implies a prolonged sideways grind that tests conviction. The major exception was the COVID-19 shock in March 2020, when a policy-induced liquidity collapse was followed by extraordinary fiscal and monetary stimulus. Today’s macro backdrop is more conventional, with no immediate policy catalyst likely to trigger an abrupt V-shaped recovery.

For investors, the implication is straightforward. There is limited edge in attempting to capture the final 3-5% of downside relative to long-term value creation. The difference between \$19,000 and \$15,600 in 2022 felt enormous in real time. In hindsight, it was negligible for investors with a multi-year horizon. Today, the 200-week moving average near \$58,000 and Realized Price near \$54,000 sit just below recent lows. Waiting for a marginal undercut may provide psychological precision but offers limited incremental benefit relative to the opportunity cost of remaining under allocated

A disciplined approach is to scale into the bottoming range rather than attempting to deploy capital at a single price. Accumulation should occur gradually over months, not days. Three years from now, purchases in the \$60,000s are likely to appear attractive. Purchases in the \$50,000s, if available, may appear even more so. What will ultimately matter is not whether one captured the exact bottom tick, but whether one maintained the conviction and process to accumulate when risk-reward was skewed favorably.

Bear markets are inherently uncomfortable. They function as mechanisms that transfer assets from the impatient to the patient. For long-term allocators, however, a 50% drawdown in a structurally maturing

and increasingly institutionalized asset class is not a signal for reflexive retreat. It is a signal to analyze the data rigorously and position deliberately. The challenge now is patience and disciplined execution. The opportunity lies in maintaining both.

Matt Hougan's (Bitwise) Weekly CIO Memo: "How Bitcoin Gets to \$1 Million – The Big Thing People Miss When Talking About Bitcoin."

A financial advisor asked me the other day:

Matt, do you really think each Bitcoin could be worth \$1 million? That's a crazy number.

I understand his view. \$1 million sounds crazy. It implies Bitcoin will rise 14x from today's price.

When I joined crypto full-time in 2018, I used to hear people say that and laugh. At the time, Bitcoin was around \$4,000, and \$1 million sounded absurd – even to me.

I no longer see it that way. As I've spent more time studying the asset, I've realized that I – like my advisor friend – was making a pretty basic mistake in analyzing Bitcoin's opportunity.

In this week's memo, I want to explain that mistake and show how a set of reasonably conservative assumptions can get Bitcoin to \$1 million.

How to Calculate Bitcoin's Value

I think of Bitcoin as an emerging store-of-value asset. It serves a purpose similar to gold – allowing people to hold wealth outside the traditional fiat and banking system – but in a digital form. It is more volatile and less established than gold, but it is increasingly competing for the same market.

With that framing in mind, the basic math for estimating its value is straightforward: Estimate the size of the store-of-value market, estimate Bitcoin's share of that market, and divide by 21 million (the maximum total supply of Bitcoin). That gives you an implied price.

Today, the store-of-value market is just under \$38 trillion: \$36 trillion for gold and \$1.4 trillion for Bitcoin. On that basis, Bitcoin currently represents just a bit under 4% of the market.

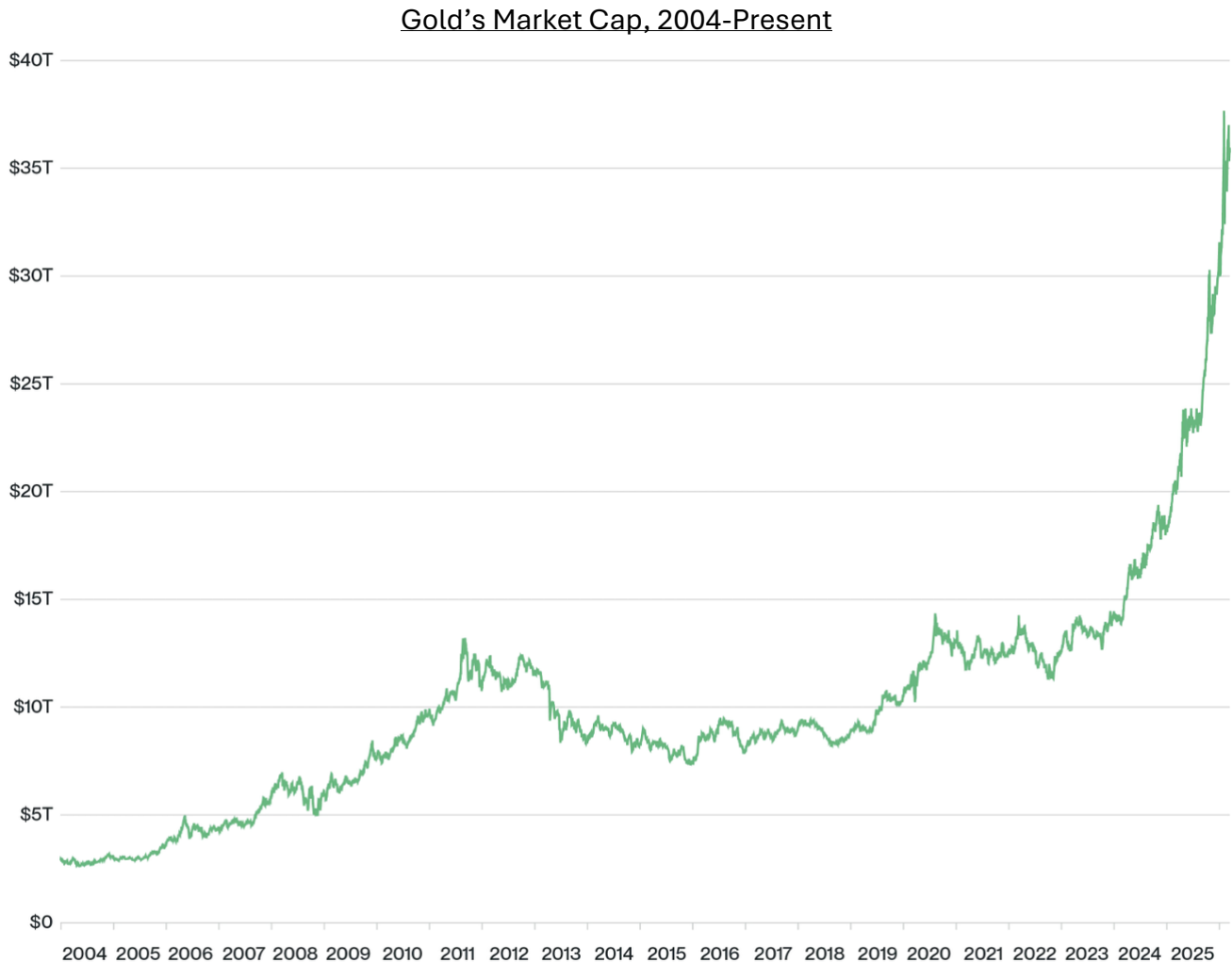
This is why \$1 million per Bitcoin sounds unreasonable to many, and why I dismissed it for years. Given the current market size, Bitcoin would need to capture more than 50% of the store-of-value market to reach \$1 million. That is a very high bar.

But here's the point most people miss: The store-of-value market is not static. In fact, it has expanded dramatically over the past two decades. And as concerns about fiat currency debasement spread, I suspect that will continue.

A Short History of Gold

I first started paying significant attention to gold when the first gold ETF launched in the US in 2004. At the time, the entire gold market was worth about \$2.5 trillion. (Not that much more than the Bitcoin market today!)

It's grown to almost \$40 trillion over the years – a compound annual growth rate of 13% per year – thanks to rising concerns about government debt, geopolitical uncertainty, easy monetary policy, and other factors.



Source: Bitwise Asset Management with data from World Gold Council and Bloomberg.

The mistake people make when evaluating bitcoin's potential is ignoring this growth. If this growth rate continues, the global "store of value" market will be ~\$121 trillion in 10 years. At that level, Bitcoin only needs to take 17% of the market to be worth \$1 million a coin.

That's still a lot of growth – from ~4% to ~17% – but it feels well within reach when you reflect on all the progress Bitcoin has made recently.

A few years ago, there were no US Bitcoin ETFs and few institutional holders, and Bitcoin was considered too volatile to warrant anything above a 1% allocation. Now, Bitcoin ETFs have proven to be the fastest-growing ETFs of all time, Bitcoin is owned by everyone from the Harvard endowment to the Abu Dhabi sovereign wealth fund, and Bitcoin's long-term volatility has declined to the point that many professional investors are considering 5% allocations.

There are still miles to go, but with these undercurrents, capturing one-sixth of the store-of-value market in 10 years doesn't seem extreme. It seems more like a continuation of recent trends.

What Could Go Wrong?

Of course, you need to look at both sides of the equation.

It's possible that the global store-of-value market will not continue to grow as it has for the past 20 years. The past two decades have featured a global financial crisis, the invention of quantitative easing, and an extended period of low interest rates. Those trends may not repeat in the future, and we could see a pullback in gold prices. Another risk is that Bitcoin could simply fail to gain market share.

But I think there's equal risk that these projections are too conservative – that the store-of-value market will grow faster in the future, as concerns about government debt reach crisis levels, and that Bitcoin will end up taking much more than 17% of the store-of-value market in ten years.

As I see it, the base case – that the store-of-value market will continue to grow as it has, and Bitcoin will continue to gain market share as it has – leads you to much, much higher prices than we have today.

ARK Invest released a new white paper that answers the question: Is quantum computing a risk to Bitcoin? (See it, [here](#).)



Conclusion from Coin Metrics’ “State of The Network” weekly report from 3/10/26. (Read the full report, [here](#).)

Recent geopolitical conflicts offer a narrow but telling glimpse of what 24/7 onchain finance looks like in practice. In those windows, crypto rails facilitated activity in tokenized gold and perpetual futures while traditional venues were shut, validating the idea that blockchains can serve as always-on market infrastructure even if the ecosystem is still early, relatively small, and constrained by liquidity and regulatory uncertainty.

Platforms like Hyperliquid and tokenized-asset products show how these rails are expanding from pure crypto exposure into metals, energy, and equities, pointing toward a future where continuous, onchain access to macro assets is a core feature of global markets.

Conclusion from Glassnode’s “The Week On-Chain” from 3/11/26. (Read the full report, [here](#).)

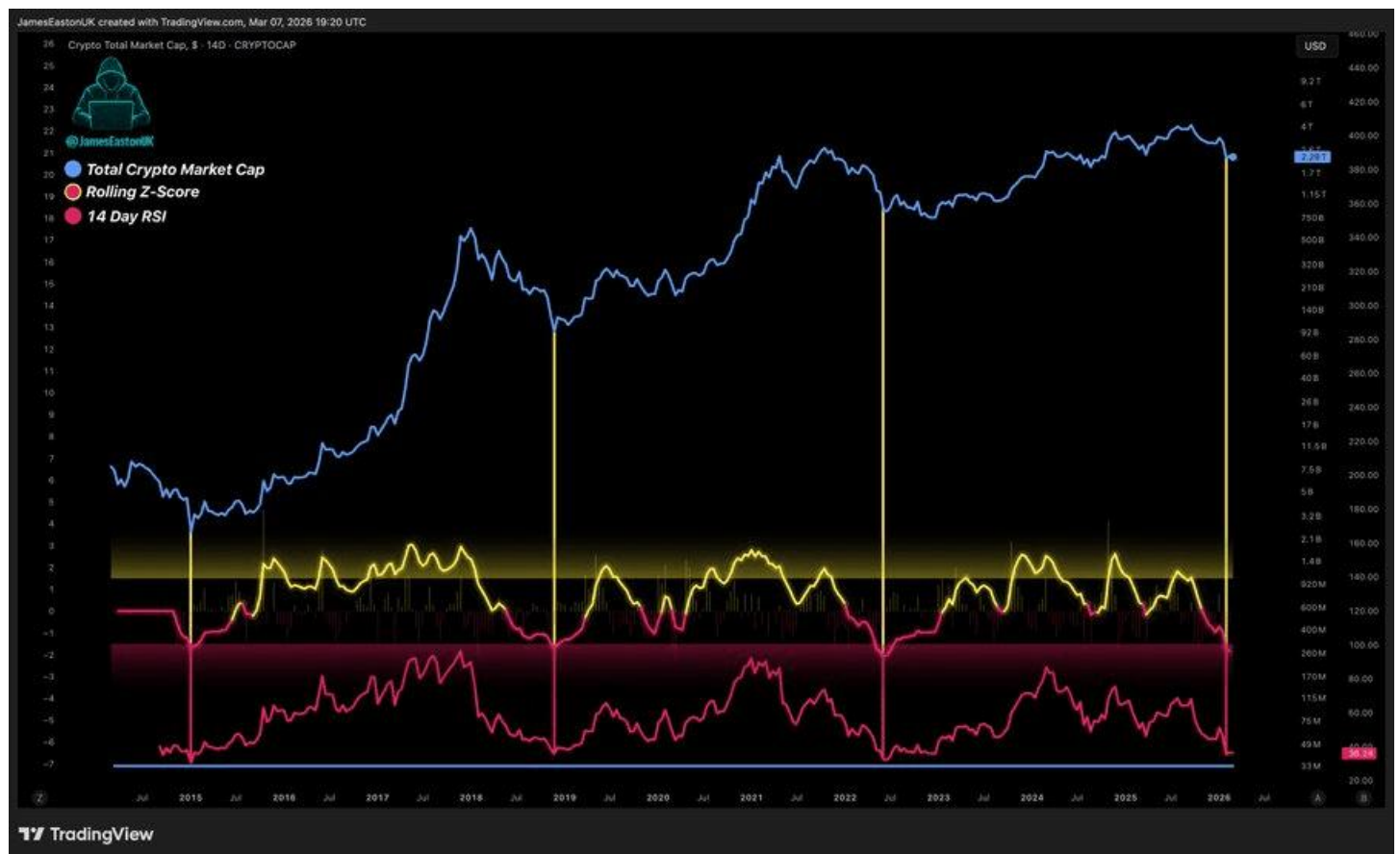
Bitcoin remains under pressure, but several signals suggest the market may be entering a more stabilized phase. Illiquid supply continues to expand, pointing to ongoing conviction among long-term holders even as price trades below key on-chain cost basis levels.

Across off-chain markets, conditions are beginning to improve. US Spot ETF flows have turned positive after a prolonged outflow regime, and spot CVD is starting to recover, indicating buyers are beginning to re-engage. At the same time, perpetual funding has moved negative, reflecting increasingly crowded short positioning that could amplify upside if demand continues to strengthen.

Options markets add to this picture, with front-end implied volatility compressing as traders reduce short-term hedging demand. Delta skew remains relatively balanced, while dealer gamma positioning appears broadly neutral, suggesting options markets are no longer heavily skewed toward immediate downside protection.

Taken together, the market appears to be shifting from forced deleveraging toward early stabilization, with scope for recovery if spot demand continues to build.

Coinstack: The Total Crypto Market Cap is a mere \$2.29T. If the global asset pool is \$750T, then: 1% allocation to crypto = \$7.5T... 5% allocation = \$37T... and 10% allocation = \$75T. We. Are. Early.



Arca: Digital Assets Front-Ran the Selloff, and May Be Front-Running the Recovery...

The Macro Backdrop Is Actually Dominating Right Now

Nothing would give me more pleasure than to talk about the fundamental growth stories in digital assets and the idiosyncratic nuances between coins. But even I can't find an interesting topic this week.

There were a few crypto-specific news items last week, but most were pretty uninteresting compared to the Iran war. The outperformance of Circle (CRCL) shares is noteworthy (+66% since their earnings at the end of February), but that seems to be largely due to short-covering of a heavily beaten-down stock rather than anything related to the growth of Circle or USDC. And it is definitely newsworthy that the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City granted Kraken Financial a limited-purpose master account, the first time a crypto firm has gained direct access to the Fed's payment infrastructure. But that too has little market impact, as it is just one more step in the continued convergence of TradFi and crypto.

Hyperliquid remains a story worth discussing, as it once again outperformed this week and over the weekend due to its continued dominance of weekend trading in commodities and equities. In fact, total exchange volume across all crypto exchanges was +16.5% WoW, with Binance and Aerodrome outperforming on the spot side (volumes +27% and +54% respectively), while Hyperliquid perpetual futures volumes were +60%. Interestingly, on Hyperliquid, just 7 of the top 30 markets are crypto pairs, while the vast majority are commodity and equity pairs on Trade.XYZ. This makes sense given the moves in silver, gold, and oil over the past few months, and it is a testament to Hyperliquid that we finally have a real platform where tokenized trading of RWAs is happening in meaningful size. There is over \$500 million in volume and \$175 million in open interest on a single OIL market on Hyperliquid.



Source: Hyperliquid

The growth of venues like Hyperliquid also comes at a moment when US regulators appear ready to bring the product that made these exchanges successful back onshore. This week, Michael Selig, chairman of

the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, indicated that a regulatory path for “true” perpetual futures contracts in the United States could arrive within weeks. For more than a decade, perpetual futures (arguably crypto’s most important financial innovation) have largely operated offshore on exchanges like Binance, Bybit, and Hyperliquid, generating the bulk of industry trading volume and exchange revenues while remaining largely inaccessible within US markets.

The key distinction is that regulators are signaling support for true perpetuals rather than the long-dated futures currently permitted on US platforms such as Coinbase. Crypto-native perpetuals track spot prices directly and rely on funding payments between longs and shorts to keep prices anchored, rather than requiring expirations or delivery mechanics. If approved, bringing perpetuals onshore would likely reshape the competitive landscape: liquidity that historically flowed to offshore exchanges could migrate toward regulated US venues, potentially tightening spreads and reducing the structural profitability that has powered many of today’s leading crypto exchanges.

But alas, most of the crypto-specific news is being buried right now by the Iran headlines. As I’m writing this on Sunday night, US equity futures were -2%, the Nikkei is -4% (up from -6%), and the market is preparing for a pretty ugly Monday post a weekend filled with increased uncertainty. Oil’s parabolic move over the weekend to new YTD highs has the market pretty nervous about both inflation and a consumer spending shock. Right now, bond yields are rising due to inflation fears, but that likely turns to bonds rallying soon if the market begins pricing in a recession.

This all sounds pretty bad. And yet, digital asset prices were actually modestly higher last week (or at least, not significantly lower). Digital assets have (correctly) been front-running the equity and credit market selloffs for the past five months but have largely stopped going down in the past few weeks. In fact, as futures opened lower Sunday night, digital assets largely moved higher.

There is significant evidence in both crypto markets and equity markets that suggests investors are pretty well prepared for an ugly week. Hedge funds have been adding short positions aggressively in US stocks, as evidenced by the VIX rising in line with increased put skew (puts are more expensive than calls). Similarly, funding rates on crypto perpetual futures are all negative, indicating that investors are pretty short digital assets.

From private credit to AI disrupting software stocks, to higher gas prices, to war headlines...there is a lot of bad news right now. But it’s going to be hard for the market to keep going lower on the same news over and over without a new catalyst, given the positioning. Equities probably dip tomorrow, and digital assets will likely follow suit, but the market has been trained for decades to call the bluff on Middle East war escalations. One announcement about lower oil prices (from the US strategic reserve, or from OPEC), and a massive short squeeze will likely commence across risk assets.

In the meantime, while we await an ugly Monday, all eyes are on tokenized commodity perpetual futures markets trading on Hyperliquid over a weekend. What a world we live in.

CoinDesk Data released its “Exchange Review – February 2026” report. See key findings below. Download the full report, [here.](#))

- CEX Trading Activity Falls to Lowest Since October 2024: Combined spot and derivatives volumes declined 2.41% to \$5.6T in February. Spot volumes fell 3.01% to \$1.50 trillion while derivatives dropped to \$4.11T, with derivatives maintaining a 73.2% share of total CEX activity – up slightly from 73.1% in January.
- Open Interest Drops to Lowest Level Since March 2025: The pullback in speculative activity was reflected in open interest, which fell 28.4% to \$83.2B – the lowest level since March 2025.
- Bullish Enters Top 3 Spot Exchanges for the First Time: Spot volumes on Bullish surged 62.6% to \$76.0B, pushing its market share to 5.06% and making it the third-largest CEX by spot volume – surpassing Coinbase (4.59%) for the first time.
- OKX and Gate Hit New Highs in Derivatives Market Share: OKX derivatives volumes rose 7.87% to \$752B, with market share climbing to 19.3% – its highest since July 2025. Gate reached a new all-time high derivatives market share of 18.3%, with volumes rising 5.90% to \$500B.
- Binance's Spot Market Share Falls to a Five-Year Low: Despite remaining the dominant exchange, Binance's spot market share declined to 22.0% – its lowest monthly reading since October 2020.

Real-World Assets on Ethereum crossed \$15.1 billion in market cap. That’s +200% YoY as institutions tokenize treasuries, funds, and credit directly on ETH.

