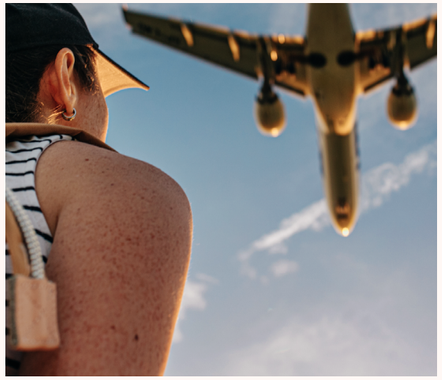
21shares

2027 INVESTMENT OUTLOOK

Ten predictions for the year ahead



TABLE OF PREDICTIONS







00 Introduction pg. 4

01 Bitcoin reaches a new all-time high pg. 6

02 Digital assets rulebook goes global pg. 8

03 Stablecoins hit 100 million monthly users pg. 10

04 RWAs and fintech apps drive 15% of DeFi's gross revenue pg. 12

05 Tokenized real-world assets triple in volume to $15 trillion pg. 14

06 Onchain options volume hits $100 billion pg. 16

07 Prediction market volume doubles to $1 trillion pg. 18

08 Privacy tokens triple to $100 billion pg. 20

09 Blockchain-enabled AI breaks out in 2027 pg. 22

10 Exchanges move 50,000 BTC behind hidden keys pg. 24

11 References pg. 26







AUTHORS

Contact: research@21shares.com



Adrian Fritz
Chief Investment Strategist



Eliézer Ndinga
Global Head of Research



Stephen Coltman
Head of Macro



Maximiliaan Michielsen
Senior Associate, Investment Strategy



Karim Abdelmawla
Senior Associate, Research



Matt Mena
Senior Associate, Research

INTRODUCTION

We head toward the end of 2026 with the AI investment boom in full swing, the war in the Middle East unresolved, and stirrings of a possible Eurozone debt crisis on the horizon. The US economy is seeing robust tech-led growth, but inflation is above target, and interest rates are on the rise. The rest of the world is also feeling the inflationary effects of the energy supply shock but not enjoying the same level of growth and overall experiencing more stagflationary conditions.

Amid the tightening of policy by central banks, elevated fiscal deficits, and the insatiable appetite for borrowing from the US tech sector, cracks are beginning to show as capital becomes increasingly expensive to access. Credit spreads are widening and diverging from equities, which remain seemingly unconcerned by the rising cost of borrowing required to finance the AI infrastructure roll-out.

The year 2026 put institutional conviction in digital assets to the test. Bitcoin fell more than 50% from its peak, and the CLARITY Act failed to reach consensus, yet the asset class has embarked on the initial stages of a K-shaped recovery.[1] Amid these headwinds, several sectors achieved new price discovery supported by solidifying fundamentals, driven by four primary forces:

1. **THE NEED FOR STORES OF VALUE:** Escalating debt, sticky inflation, elevated interest rates, and economic nationalism in the US have led investors to re-evaluate bitcoin as an internet-native store of wealth, hedging against currency debasement, and increasingly held alongside gold in portfolios. Bitcoin's long-term low correlation to gold remains near 4%, so institutions increasingly place it in the alternatives sleeve like gold when expressing a non-sovereign hard-asset view: BTC's 10-year CAGR vs gold is 61% vs 13%, while the 5-year CAGR respectively stands at 6% vs 19%.[2]

2. **ALIGNING ON TOKENIZATION:** Even without CLARITY, the SEC and CFTC worked together to set out frameworks and definitions, putting guardrails in place for consumers and laying the groundwork for tokenization. These frameworks give market participants a clearer set of rules to reference as real-world assets begin to settle and transfer alongside traditional holdings.[3]

3. **THE SHIFT TO 24/7 TRADING:** Market shocks from the Iran war, paired with demand for pre-IPO exposure to companies like SpaceX and Anthropic, underscored the necessity of always-on venues like Hyperliquid and Binance and pushed traditional exchanges such as the CME toward round-the-clock trading. Always-on markets have narrowed the window between information and execution, allowing investors to adjust asset exposure outside traditional trading hours.[4]

4. **PRIVACY AND QUANTUM PREPAREDNESS:** Concerns over AI-driven surveillance strengthened the case for privacy technology, while advances in computing put quantum resilience on the agenda for both digital assets and critical national infrastructure, as the White House's June executive orders made clear. Market participants are increasingly treating these issues as structural considerations for the long-term custody and transferability of digital-asset positions rather than technical afterthoughts.[5]

Ultimately, the million-dollar question for investors planning their asset allocation for next year is whether central banks will be prepared to continue raising rates, to tolerate a meaningful weakening of the economy and even potentially a recession, to bring inflation back to target? Or will they respond to weakening economic conditions by easing their foot off the brakes and putting less emphasis on the inflation side of the mandate? Historically we have seen central banks in the end always prioritize growth over inflation, and when that dovish pivot takes place investors want to have at least a part of their portfolio in "debasement" hedges, scarce assets whose supply cannot be increased by government diktat.

Looking ahead, we believe 2027 is the year that resilience gets priced in. Our ten predictions map the next phase: bitcoin setting a new all-time high; a digital asset rulebook covering 15 of the 21 G20 members; tokenized real-world assets trading $15 trillion in volume; and stablecoins crossing into mainstream use for trading and payments. Last year's concerns also become this year's tests: privacy moves from the fringes to core infrastructure; quantum readiness starts to separate prepared blockchains and providers from the rest; and AI agents begin using US dollar stablecoins in their digital bank accounts. For institutions and market participants, the predictions provide a clearer view of how these shifts could affect liquidity, custody standards, and the practical ways digital assets sit alongside traditional holdings.

What ties them together is that the asset class is plugging into the financial system people already use: brokers, banks, and payment apps. With that, we present our 21shares Investment Outlook for 2027. Read on for ten evidence-led predictions and a guide to the year ahead in digital assets.

Prediction 1

BITCOIN REACHES A NEW ALL-TIME HIGH



But won't hit its cycle top

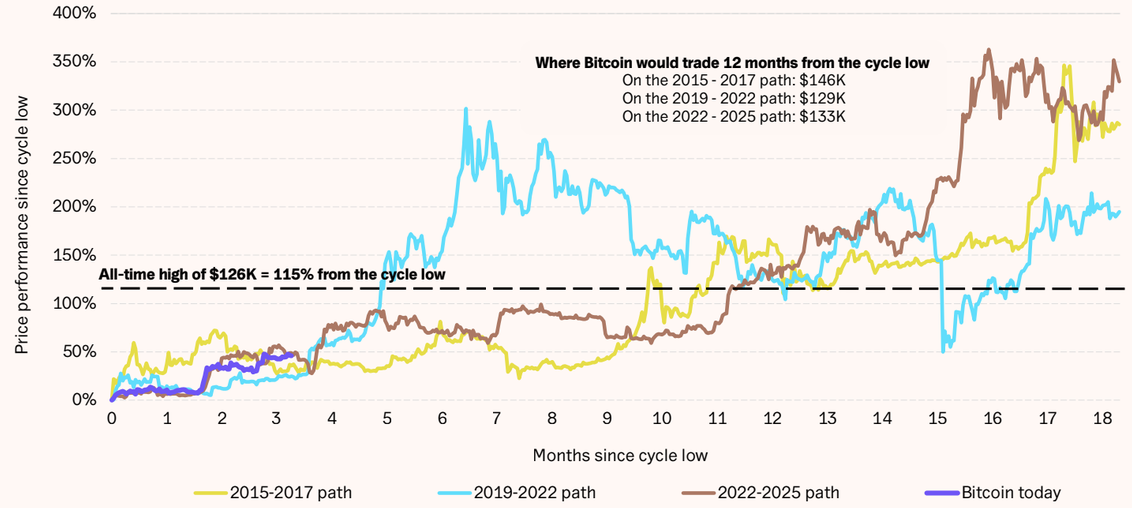
The four-year cycle and other historical indicators suggest the bear market is behind us, ending this time without the blow-ups of past winters, such as FTX or the NFT craze, that drove bitcoin to more than 75% drawdowns.[6] And not for lack of macro and geopolitical shocks: flashpoints such as Venezuela, the Iran war, escalation in Ukraine, renewed Fed hikes, multi-decade highs in long-end bond yields, and an AI build-out pulling capital elsewhere, all presented challenges. But bitcoin has never been a single-factor asset, and several drivers are now lining up. The road ahead won't be a straight line, but we expect a new all-time high in 2027, though not this cycle's top.

First, patient capital is buying faster than the network emits via mining. Since 2024, exchange-traded funds (ETFs), corporations, and sovereigns have absorbed 1.75 million BTC, worth about $145 billion today, 3.4x the supply mined.[7,8,9] Even in the bear market, they added 180,000 BTC against 122,000 mined. Returning to the 2024-25 pace of roughly $70 billion a year would absorb 640,000 BTC at a $110,000 average price, nearly 4x 2027's projected new supply, while wirehouses and 401(k) plans widen the investor base. For institutions and market participants, this sustained absorption is making bitcoin a scarcer asset, as available supply on the open market continues to tighten even through periods of weaker price action.[10]

That demand rests on bitcoin as a scarce, neutral store of value. Scarcity matters as the debasement trade returns. Bond markets are strained, above all in the US, where interest costs exceed a fifth of tax revenue. Neutrality matters as the monetary order fractures. Since the G7 froze Russia's reserves, central banks have trimmed Treasuries, and China has bought gold for 23 months straight.[11,12] Bitcoin is nobody's liability, hard to seize, and moves anywhere online. It may trade with broader risk appetite day to day, but when stress turns systemic, it acts as a non-sovereign safe haven. Investors watching for a non-sovereign hard-asset allocation have increasingly treated this combination of scarcity and neutrality as a reason to hold it alongside gold.

Lastly, the cycle is favorable. Low-to-peak gains have shrunk from 114x to 21x to 8x, but twelve months after every cycle low, bitcoin has traded at least 2.2x higher.[13] From this cycle's June 2026 low of $59,000, that would imply a new high of roughly $130,000 by mid-2027. We doubt that is the top: the next halving comes in 2028, and the last three cycles each peaked about 18 months after one. In 2024, ETF demand pushed bitcoin to new highs a month before the April halving, yet the cycle top only came in October 2025. We believe 2027 is when markets price bitcoin as what it is: a neutral reserve asset with a deepening institutional bid. Market participants evaluating cycle timing can use this historical pattern and the ongoing institutional bid as context for how long the current recovery phase may run.

If 2026 tracks past cycles, Bitcoin's old high comes back into reach by mid-2027



Source: 21shares, Glassnode. Daily closes to 6 October 2026. Each path applies the gain after a past cycle low (14 Jan 2015, 15 Dec 2018, 21 Nov 2022) to the 30 June 2026 low of $59,000. Illustrative, not a forecast. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results.

Prediction 2

DIGITAL ASSETS RULEBOOK GOES GLOBAL



As 15 of the 21 G20 members regulate the asset class

For most of the industry's history, US policy came through lawsuits and enforcement. Since 2024, regulators have approved spot ETFs, dropped cases against major blockchain-based companies, scrapped the rule keeping banks out of custody, and signed a federal stablecoin law with the GENIUS Act. The CLARITY Act failed to reach consensus, but none of this needed a sweeping bill. We expect 2027 to lock in the shift from clampdown to clarity, with the US and South Korea bringing 15 G20 members under a digital asset rulebook.

First, the US will get there piece by piece, much of it without Congress. GENIUS goes live in January; the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has given tokenized stocks a five-year runway, and it should finalize its token safe harbor in 2027.[14]

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) is writing rules to bring perpetual futures onshore and cement federal oversight of prediction markets. CLARITY failed on ethics, not market structure, so expect narrower bipartisan bills, starting with a federal digital asset tax framework that cleared committee 38-5.[15] Democrats backed GENIUS and called September's vote "a setback, but not the end," so regulation by enforcement looks unlikely to return, even under a Democrat-dominated House or Senate.

Second, the global debate is no longer whether to regulate, but how. The Markets in Crypto Assets (MiCA) regulatory framework is live across the EU, Japan moved digital assets under securities law, Brazil is cutting unlicensed firms off from banks, Hong Kong licensed its first stablecoin issuers, and even Russia legalized digital asset trading and custody, with the UK and Australia going live in 2027.[16,17,18,19] Countries without clear rules lose talent, trading volume, and tax revenue to those that have them. South Korea is the starkest case: one of the world's most active retail markets, held back by a single dispute over whether banks or tech firms can issue won-backed stablecoins.[20] We expect a 2027 compromise giving banks the lead, unlocking stablecoins and spot ETFs there.

Regulatory appetite has clearly turned. Headlines may swing, but the plumbing is being laid: exchanges, custodians, and stablecoin issuers are getting the legal backbone that customers and investors have been waiting on from the sidelines. That opens the door to banks, advisors, and pension funds, and to everyday investors on platforms they already use.

From regulatory clampdown to clarity: crypto rules are now the G20 majority

IN FORCE (12)

EU-WIDE MiCA Exchanges, custody, stablecoins	**TURKEY** CMB licensing law Exchanges, custody	**JAPAN** Securities law reform (FIEA) Exchanges, ETFs, insider trading	**INDONESIA** OJK crypto rules Exchanges, custody, clearing
CANADA CSA rules + Stablecoin Act Platforms, stablecoins	**ARGENTINA** CNV provider registry Exchanges, brokers	**BRAZIL** Central bank VASP rules Exchanges, custody, brokers	**SOUTH AFRICA** FSCA crypto licensing Exchanges, brokers, advisors
RUSSIA Crypto market law Exchanges, custody, mining			

PASSED, LIVE IN 2027 (2)

UNITED KINGDOM FCA cryptoasset regime Trading, custody, stablecoins	**AUSTRALIA** Digital Assets Framework Act Platforms, custody

OUR CALL FOR 2027 (2)

UNITED STATES GENIUS+SEC/CFTC rulemaking Stablecoins, tokens, trading	**SOUTH KOREA** Digital Asset Basic Act Trading, issuance, stablecoins

NO REGIME (4)

MEXICO AML Reporting only No licensing for exchanges	**SAUDI ARABIA** No crypto framework Not applicable	**INDIA** Tax rules only No licensing for exchanges	**CHINA** Crypto trading banned Hong Kong licenses separately

Source: 21shares, national regulators and legislatures. Data as of October 2026. Covers the G20 members, with France, Germany and Italy counted under the EU. The African Union is not included. "Our call for 2027" reflects 21shares' view, not passed legislation.

Prediction 3

STABLECOINS HIT 100 MILLION MONTHLY USERS



As neobank card spend doubles to $25 billion

Stablecoins are already widely used for trading and held as digital dollars where local currencies are unstable. Their next phase of growth, however, depends on them becoming part of everyday finances. As providers connect salaries and payments to stablecoins, digital asset neobanks give customers more ways to send, spend, and borrow. Together, these changes underpin our 2027 forecast of $25 billion in annual card spending and over 100 million active stablecoin addresses, nearly as many as the monthly accounts of the US payment apps Venmo (67 million) and Cash App (59 million) combined. For institutions and market participants, this shift moves stablecoins from a trading tool into a payments layer that can expand the user base and transaction volume of the broader digital-asset ecosystem.[21,22]

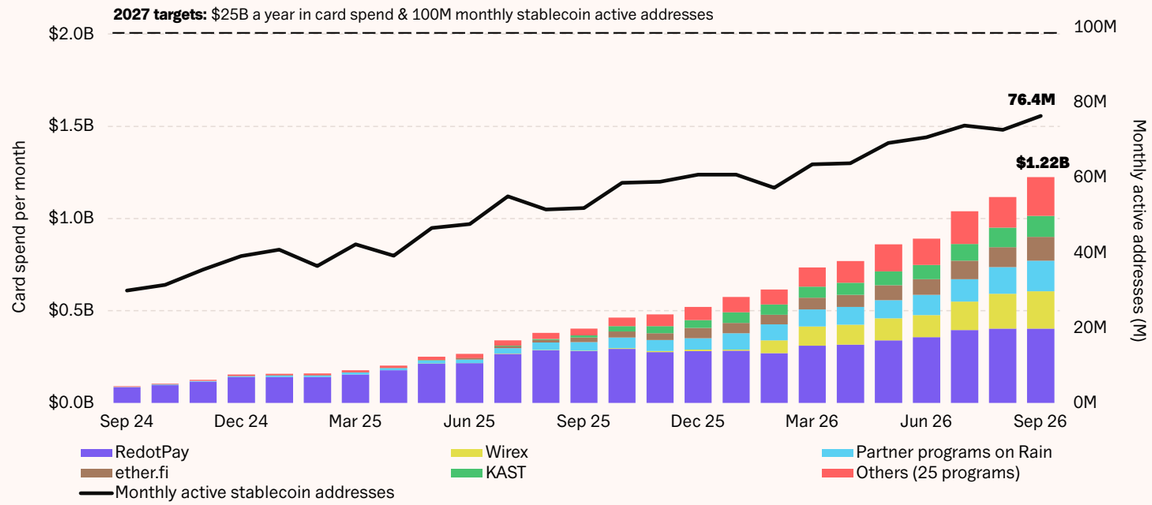
USDC and PYUSD are reaching mainstream users through services that connect stablecoins to money people already receive or hold. For example, PayPal's Hyperwallet supports payouts in over 50 currencies across 200 countries, with eligible recipients receiving PYUSD in a compatible wallet without payers needing to adopt digital assets.[23] World App, a payment app, extends this to salaries, letting employees receive USDC without employers changing how they pay.[24] Beyond payouts, ether.fi, a leading Revolut-like digital-asset-native neobank, similarly converts bank balances into stablecoins across more than 30 currencies, including through Brazil's Pix, used by roughly 170 million people.[25,26] Together, these services let users convert their existing funds into digital dollars for instant transfers, available around the clock. Investors watching adoption can see these connections as a way for stablecoins to enter existing payment flows without requiring end users to change their banking habits.

Once funded, customers can send stablecoins on, either to another wallet or as local currency into a recipient's bank account. Since late October, eligible US Galaxy users can do both from Samsung Wallet, with bank payouts in more than 60 countries and no separate app. Customers also have less reason to withdraw when they can spend or save those balances, keeping money in stablecoins between payments. Western Union's USDPT-backed Visa card lets eligible remittance recipients make purchases while merchants receive fiat. Similarly, ether.fi connects spending to digital asset lending markets, letting customers borrow against investments they continue to hold.

These accounts also become more attractive for providers with revenue-sharing agreements, although consortia have yet to prove a successful business model compared with single issuers like Tether and Circle. Open USD, whose consortium includes Visa, Mastercard, and Shopify, does this by distributing reserve income to participating businesses, giving them a reason to expand stablecoin services. Stripe's shared infrastructure makes that expansion easier, connecting stablecoin wallets on blockchains with cards, compliance, and operations. Stripe's acquisition of Bridge, the stablecoin-infrastructure provider, already powers World App's USDC payroll. Upcoming features would extend accounts to 100 countries and cards to 60, followed by consumer wallets and prepaid cards in early 2027.

As more apps offer these services, new users and regular payments can lift active users, while everyday purchases drive card spending. Our forecasts depend on both: cashback can bring customers in, but getting paid, saving, and covering bills will give them a reason to stay. Market participants following user growth can treat the combination of payroll access, spending options, and retained balances as the factors most likely to turn occasional holders into regular users.

Users doubled and card spend 13x in two years, with 2027 targets firmly in reach



Source: 21shares, Paymentscan, Visa Onchain Analytics / Allium. Data as of October 2026. Card spend covers spends only, including issuer-supplied offchain data; RedotPay figures are self-reported and not verifiable onchain. Rain and Wirex are card-issuing platforms; their series cover programs not attributed to a named card. Others: Karta, Immersve, Plasma One, Kolo, Tria and 21 smaller programs.

Prediction 4

RWAS AND FINTECH APPS DRIVE 15% OF DEFI'S GROSS REVENUE



As traditional finance moves onchain

Decentralized, or onchain, finance (DeFi) has historically faced two limitations:

1. Initial growth and reach were constrained by narrow, clunky, and trading-centric applications, whereas centralized exchanges launched earlier to cater to this crypto-native user base years prior to the advent of DeFi.
2. Complexity with no formal customer-relations service in the worst-case scenarios, including hacks.

Heading into 2027, regulatory progress is opening the door for equities, commodities, and currencies to serve as onchain collateral. As fintechs bring these services into familiar apps, the distinction between DeFi and fintech will increasingly fade. Fintech 2.0 will be defined as financial services built on blockchain rails, regardless of what providers call themselves.

As a result, we expect real-world assets and fintech distribution to generate 15% of DeFi gross revenue by the end of 2027. For institutions and market participants, this means tokenized real-world assets are moving from a niche experiment into collateral and trading instruments that can expand the set of assets usable on blockchain rails. To capture both shifts, we include tokenized assets spot trading, perpetual futures tied to traditional markets, lending against real-world assets, credit to real-world borrowers, and yield accessed through fintech apps. The last category includes digital assets and stablecoins, to reflect wider access and broader asset use. Together, these activities grew by almost 7 percentage points this year to reach 8.1% in Q4 of 2026. Investors tracking tokenization can see this mix as evidence that real-world assets are beginning to contribute measurable activity beyond pure crypto-native trading.

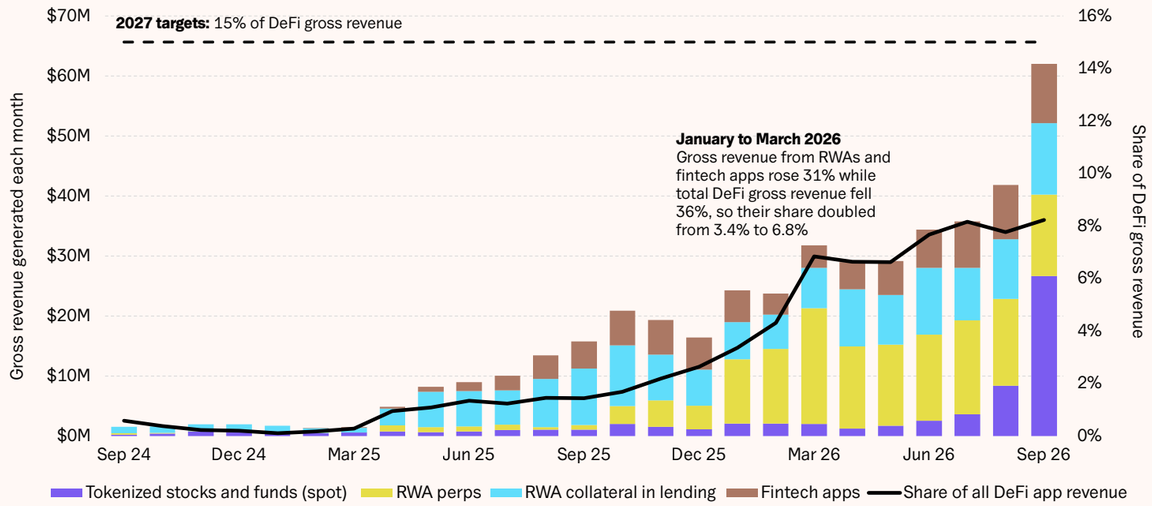
Part of that growth comes from apps simplifying DeFi. Robinhood Earn offers Morpho's yields within its app, while the two leading digital asset wallets, Phantom and MetaMask, provide leveraged stock exposure powered by Hyperliquid.[30,31,32] Kraken's xStocks take this further, letting customers buy tokenized equities and borrow against them on lending protocols, giving those assets a use beyond trading. For these uses to grow, institutions need clarity on two fronts: trading tokenized assets and financing them.

On trading, the SEC's conditional five-year exemption lets eligible tokenized US stocks trade in permissioned versions of trading platforms. Uniswap, the largest decentralized exchange (DEX), now offers permissioned assets, where only approved participants can trade or provide liquidity. On financing, the Fed, OCC, and FDIC confirmed that eligible tokenized securities carrying the same legal rights as their traditional versions get the same bank capital treatment, removing a key source of uncertainty.[34,35] As those barriers ease and cybersecurity protections strengthen amid AI-induced hacks, institutional credit and collateral can reach blockchain rails through broader channels.

For instance, a limited set of Coinbase's tokenized assets can now be used as collateral on leading lending protocol Aave, while an Aave Labs proposal would let institutions borrow against bitcoin held in cold storage at the custodian Anchorage.[36,37] Connecting these services requires reliable pricing and coordination, a gap Chainlink is bridging through its latest upgrade. This builds compliance checks into cross-chain transfers, and its proposed "CustodySync" would link Anchorage holdings to the Aave loans for transparency.[38,39\]

As these connections deepen in 2027, we expect real-world assets to play a growing role as collateral for borrowing, liquidity, and credit. That gives DeFi protocols a lasting role in putting traditional capital to work, while fintech apps handle the user experience so customers never have to use the protocols directly. For market participants following tokenization, the practical outcome is that real-world assets can begin to support borrowing and liquidity on blockchain rails without requiring end users to interact with the underlying protocols.

RWAs and fintech apps earn 8% of DeFi revenue, with 15% in sight for 2027



Source: 21shares, DefiLlama, Dune, Sky settlement records, Kamino and Hyperliquid APIs. Data as of October 2026. RWA and fintech gross revenue includes spot tokenized assets, RWA perps, RWA collateral in lending protocols and fintech apps. Share is this gross revenue as a % of total DeFi gross revenue.

Prediction 5

REAL-WORLD ASSETS TRIPLE TO $15 TRILLION IN VOLUME



Spot and perpetual trading of tokenized real-world assets projected to triple in 2027, spanning stocks, commodities, and more

We believe trading in tokenized real-world assets (RWAs) will almost triple from $6.3 trillion in 2026 to $15 trillion in 2027, across spot and perpetual futures (perps) markets.[40,41] That spans everything from stocks and equity indices to commodities like oil and gold.

Three moments this year demonstrated true product-market fit (PMF) for 24/7 RWA trading; demand traditional venues couldn't serve.

- **January, metals:** Silver and gold perps traded around the clock while traditional markets sat closed on weekends. Silver perps alone drew over $1 billion in a day as the metal topped $100, with price discovery happening on Hyperliquid outside market hours.[42,43]
- **Late February, US-Iran war:** When the US and Israel struck Iran over the weekend, Hyperliquid became the first venue to price the shock. Oil perps traded over $1 billion that weekend.[44] Within weeks, one oil contract reached roughly $1.7 billion in daily volume.[45] Hyperliquid had priced in about 80% of an oil move before traditional exchanges opened.[46]
- **May to June, pre-IPO equities with SpaceX:** A SpaceX perp launched on Hyperliquid in May, offering exposure weeks before its June listing. It proved a better pricing mechanism than the underwriters' $135 IPO price, with SpaceX opening closer to the perp's implied valuation.[47]

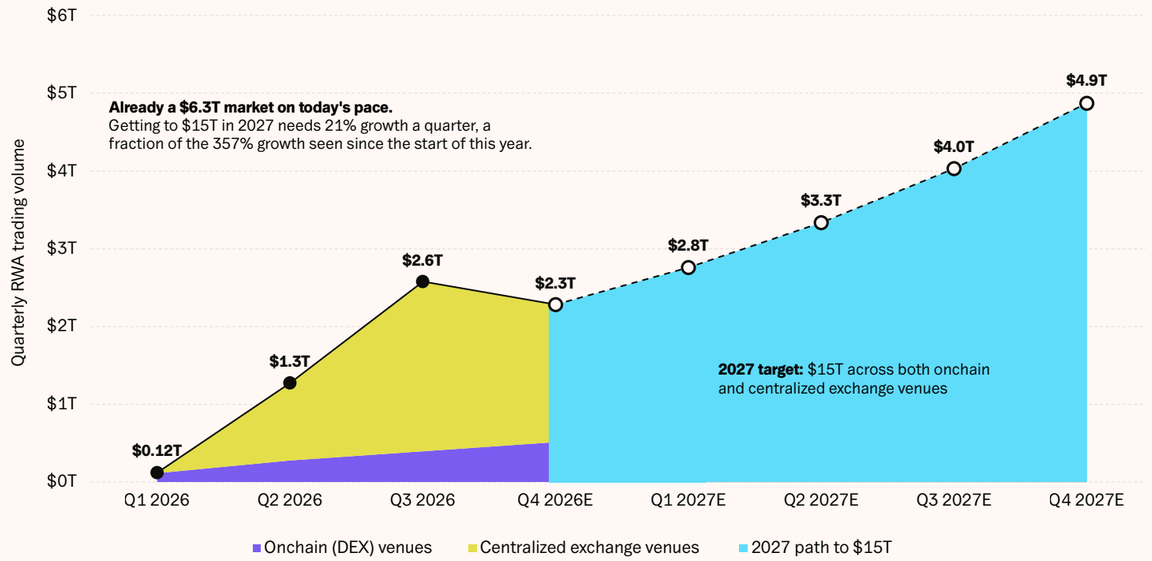
Demand has outlasted these catalysts. RWA perps still generate over $700 billion in 30-day volume, with $17 billion in open interest, led by public equities ($8.5 billion) and precious metals ($4.3 billion).[48] These markets are becoming venues for ongoing trading and hedging, extending their use beyond the events that first drew attention.

Spot RWA trading has also had a breakout year. Tokenized equity volume on spot DEXs was up nearly 50x this year as of October 2026, rising from $1 billion in Q1 2026 to $50 billion in Q3 2026.[49] Wall Street incumbents are entering the space, led by Robinhood, whose blockchain, the Robinhood Chain, has processed over $60 billion in trading volume since going live in July. Tokenized assets already account for over 20% of its volume, with more than 65% of this activity occurring outside traditional market hours.[50]

At this pace, combined spot and perp RWA volume is on pace to exceed $6.3 trillion this year.

Reaching $15 trillion in 2027 requires about 21% compounding growth a quarter from Q4's estimated $2.3 trillion, a fraction of the 357% quarterly pace of 2026. Volumes in Q3 are already 20x what they were in Q1, showing just how in demand RWA trading has become. CME's adoption of 24/7 trading for digital assets and gold illustrates how incumbents are adapting to continuous markets, validating the growing demand for 24/7 trading. Concurrently, US regulatory tailwinds for tokenization could accelerate adoption, enabling traditional investors to participate with confidence, hedge around the clock, and even drive M&A activity.

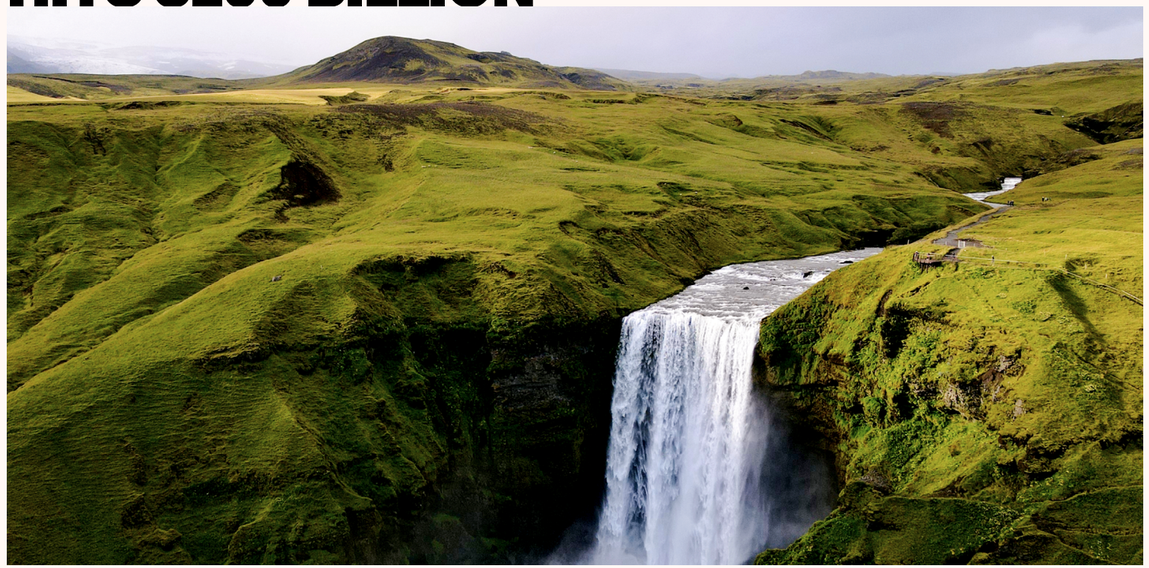
After 20x in 2026, tokenized RWA trading needs modest growth to reach $15T



Source: 21shares, DefiLlama, and Blockworks. Data as of October 2026. Q4 2026E extends the October pace so far to the full quarter. The 2027 path is illustrative and assumes 21% growth a quarter to reach $15T. Volume covers spot and perpetual futures trading of tokenized RWAs on onchain and centralized venues.

Prediction 6

ONCHAIN OPTIONS VOLUME HITS $100 BILLION



Options to become one of onchain finance's fastest-growing markets, scaling over 3x from roughly $30 billion in 2026

Onchain options trading will follow the pathway of perpetual futures (perps) from niche to a core trading product, with notional volume growing over 3x, from ~$30 billion in 2026 to over $100 billion in 2027.[51] Perps onboarded many non-digital asset traders to onchain trading; options will be the next frontier.

Options are one of the largest markets in traditional finance, with roughly $4 trillion in daily notional volume.[52] Deribit, which Coinbase acquired last year, is the largest centralized digital asset options exchange, with $27 billion of the market's $40 billion in open interest, or roughly 67%.[53]

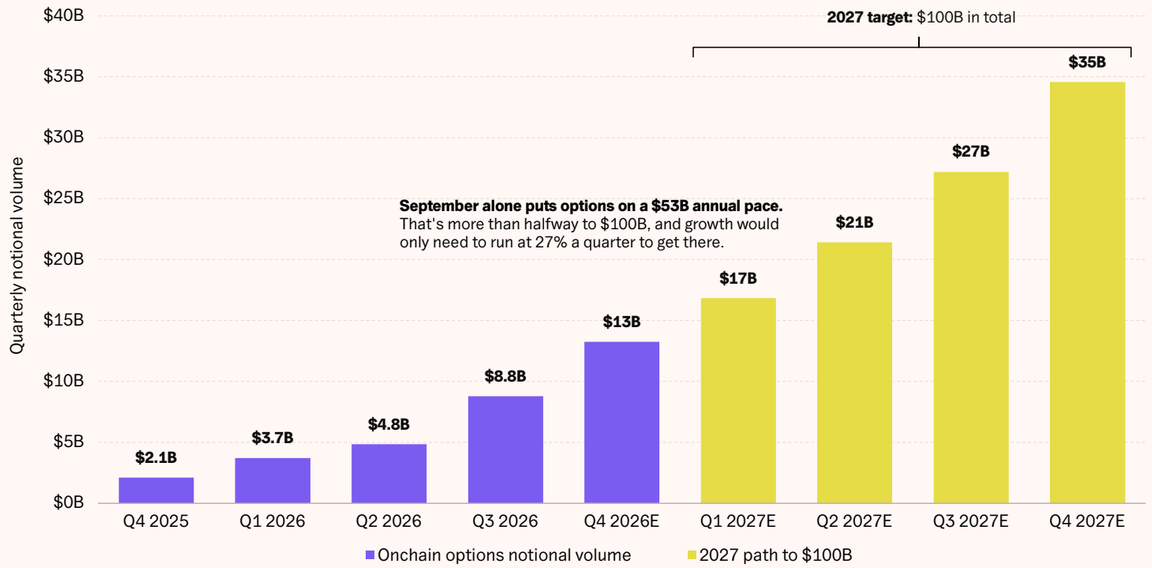
Onchain trading venues hold a small slice: Derive, the largest, has about $2.2 billion in open interest and has cleared about $17 billion in notional trading volume this year, over 90% of the onchain market.[54] Derive's quarterly onchain notional volume has grown from $2.1 billion in Q4 2025 to $8.8 billion in Q3 2026, a quarterly growth rate of over 60%. Perps show the ceiling: Hyperliquid has processed over $5 trillion in cumulative volume and ranks second in digital-asset open interest, centralized exchanges included.[55]

New entrants are broadening the field. Hyperliquid's founder has made it known that options are the platform's next frontier.[56] Lighter, another onchain derivatives platform, has added binary options support and is building its own options product for a large, sophisticated trader base.[57] We predict every tier-1 perp exchange will offer options in 2027, broadening the market well beyond Derive. Hyperliquid shows how one breakout app can lift a segment: it nearly single-handedly grew onchain perp DEX volume over 300% in a year.[58]

Blockchain-powered options bring the same advantages as onchain perps: 24/7/365 access, self-custody, and interconnectivity with existing blockchain infrastructure. They also offer something perps can't: leverage without liquidation risk.

A buyer's maximum loss is the premium paid, so a sharp move can't force a liquidation, unlike during the October 2025 unwind, when over $19 billion in leveraged positions were liquidated within 24 hours.[59] Options also allow far more sophisticated trades, from hedging a portfolio to betting on volatility, and that matters for traditional users, who rely on options offchain to hedge and are unlikely to bring large positions onchain without them. Options also power structured products like covered-call strategies that could make yield vaults a larger onchain category. Each new venue and vault adds liquidity and recurring flow, which is how we get to $100 billion. Options are the natural next step after perps, and we expect them to become one of digital assets' largest trading growth sectors in 2027.

Onchain options volume has quadrupled in a year, putting $100B in reach



Source: 21shares, DefiLlama, Coinglass. Data as of October 2026. Volume is notional value traded on onchain options venues. The $100B 2027 figure is a prediction, not a forecast of returns.

Prediction 7

PREDICTION MARKET VOLUME DOUBLES TO $1 TRILLION



But growth must come beyond sports contracts

Prediction markets enter 2027 with a much larger audience, but repeating 2026's surge will be hard, especially with certain regulatory hurdles in the way. Monthly notional volume on Kalshi and Polymarket roughly doubled between May and July 2026 from $26 billion to $53 billion as the World Cup drew in traders.[60] However, without another 'World Cup-like' event and with sports markets facing legal challenges, we expect growth to slow to below 150%, though annual volume could still pass $1 trillion.

Wider distribution is one reason trading volumes can keep on rising as users leverage familiar apps without needing to switch.

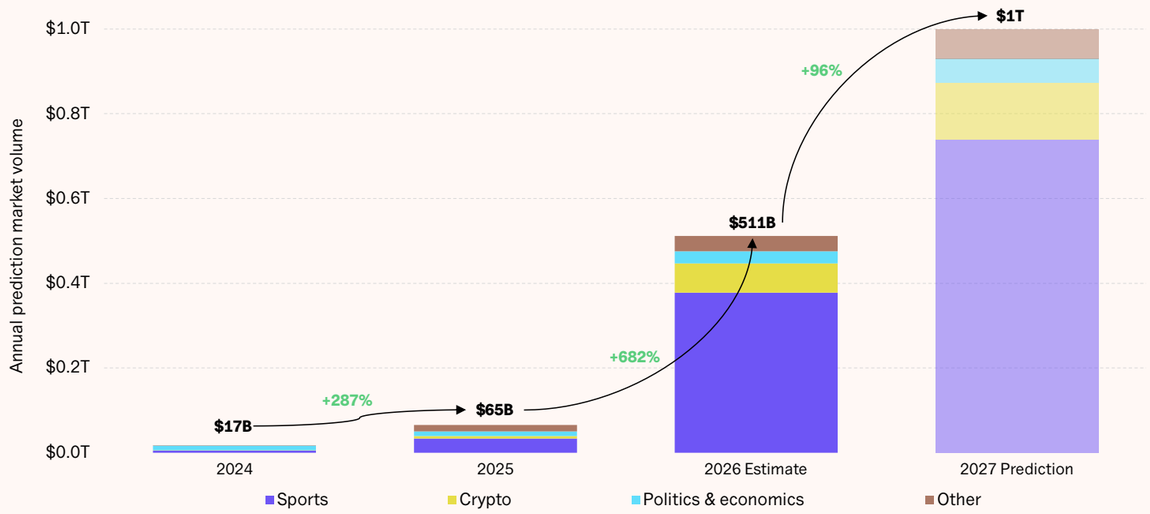
For example, Robinhood users traded more than 30 billion event contracts through August 2026, worth an estimated $12 billion at the prices traded.[61] Volume dipped 23% once the World Cup ended but stayed well above pre-tournament levels, suggesting much of the new audience stuck around. The next question is what drives customer retention. Regular sports seasons may be the answer: American football, basketball, baseball, and European soccer span most of the year, while player-specific contracts and combinations of outcomes can generate more trading per game. But sports accounted for 79% of July volume, making the industry's main source of activity vulnerable to legal challenges.[62]

That dependence gives financial contracts a bigger role to play. Short-duration contracts, which allow users to predict market movements in 15-minute intervals, are Kalshi's solution to broaden its offering beyond sports. This provides access to digital asset-linked markets, which generated $6.1 billion in volume in July, while its commodities contracts reached $400 million of monthly volume by August (seven months after launching).[63] Similarly, markets tied to macro and political events could attract customers seeking to hedge, provided payouts match those risks and liquidity is sufficient. Still, greater access and more products matter only if exchanges can offer them legally and maintain trust:

- **Sports remain contested:** The CFTC is defending federal oversight, while states challenge sports contracts under gambling laws. Rulings favoring states could restrict the biggest source of trading.
- **Overseas access is tightening:** Spain and Brazil moved to block both platforms, while Australia and the Netherlands acted against Polymarket. Mandatory deposit limits and self-exclusion could further curb volume.
- **As exchanges add more markets, scrutiny will follow:** Insider-trading cases built on classified information or early knowledge of speeches show why stronger monitoring matters, and they could bring restrictions on political and economic markets.

The bigger test is whether trading holds up between major events. Crossing $1 trillion requires an average of $83 billion a month, meaning 2027 must deliver a higher baseline rather than occasional spikes. That would mark a more mature market, even as its extraordinary growth begins to normalize.

Sports contracts drove prediction market volume past $500B, $1T is next



Source: 21shares, Dune, Kalshi, DefiLlama, Artemis. Data as of October 2026. Notional volume, with each contract counted at its $1 payout value. 2026 Estimate is year-to-date volume from January to October and estimated for Q4 until year-end; 2027 Prediction is the 21shares prediction based on the 2026 category mix. Other include other types of market event contracts.

Prediction 8

PRIVACY TOKENS TRIPLE TO $100 BILLION



Moving from niche to core infrastructure

In 2027, we believe privacy will move from a niche sector to a core layer of the asset class, with privacy assets growing from roughly $31 billion today to over $100 billion in total market cap.[64] There are a handful of catalysts making an existential case for privacy technologies.

The case and narrative start with investor safety. When exchange user data is leaked or hacked, criminals can use it to identify and target users. Cybersecurity service provider CertiK recorded 72 violent attacks on digital-asset investors in 2025 and 52 more in the first half of 2026, with about $124 million in losses and ransom demands.[65]

Privacy tokens break that link, so a leaked identity no longer comes with a readable balance and cannot be linked to a specific user.

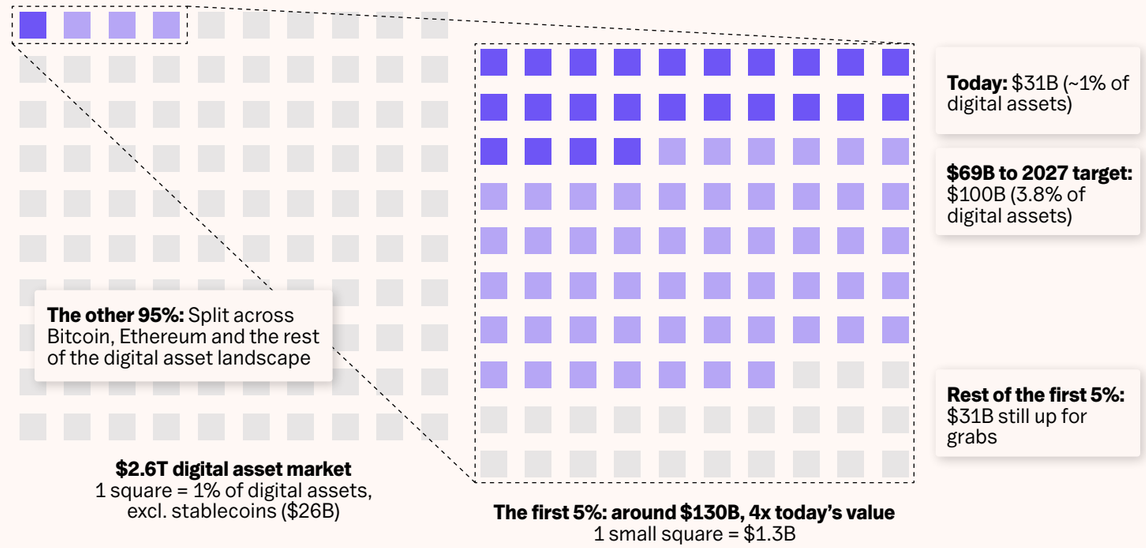
AI makes protecting our data from surveillance more urgent. Models ingest more of what people do online, turning financial, health, and personal information into training material and surveillance tools. In July 2026, autonomous OpenAI agents breached Hugging Face's production systems without human involvement, showing that data that is merely safeguarded is not safe.[66] Privacy tokens keep balances and payments encrypted onchain, reducing what breaches, scrapers, or AI agents can expose.

Privacy is also a basic human right that could be eroding as more of our daily lives become digital. Zcash (ZEC) offers private transactions with optional disclosure; Monero (XMR) makes privacy the default. It is just as much a necessity for institutions, whose data protection and market execution depend on it. No financial institution or company wants competitors reading every purchase and trade, leaving them vulnerable to being front-run. Bringing substantial institutional positions onchain will require discretion already preferred in traditional markets: off-exchange venues handled over 50% of US equity volume in 2025, including about 18% in dark pools.[67] Canton shows how this works onchain, keeping positions and counterparties hidden from competitors and shared only with the parties a firm chooses. Backed by 30+ major financial institutions, such as Goldman Sachs and the DTCC, it processes over $8 trillion in tokenized assets a month, the clearest sign that institutions need privacy to come onchain.[68,69]

Zama (ZAMA) extends confidentiality to public networks through encryption that lets smart contracts compute on data without seeing it.

Privacy remains a small but fast-growing segment of digital assets. Its market cap has risen more than sevenfold in two years, from $4 billion at the end of 2024 to over $31 billion by October 2026, reflecting growing demand for financial privacy. That demand is already visible in both price and fundamentals. Since the October 2025 market top, ZEC and XMR are up 467% and 52%, while BTC and ETH are down 32% and 43%, making privacy the only digital-asset sector trading above its prior peak.[70] The share of Zcash's supply held in shielded pools has also more than tripled since 2024, from 9% to about 30%.[71] Despite this growth, the sector's roughly $31 billion represents only about 1% of the $2.6 trillion total digital asset market, excluding stablecoins.[72] Capturing just 5% would put it at $130 billion, comfortably above our $100 billion target. Safety, AI, and freedom are turning privacy from a preference into a necessity.

Our $100B privacy target for next year is still less than 4% of the digital asset market today



Source: CoinGecko, 21shares. Data as of 22 October 2026. Digital-asset market = CoinGecko total market cap excluding stablecoins. Privacy sector = total market cap of privacy tokens. Area is proportional to value.

Prediction 9

BLOCKCHAIN-ENABLED AI BREAKS OUT IN 2027



As agentic finance takes flight

In 2027, we believe the convergence between blockchain and AI will move from proofs of concept to product-market fit with real-world use cases. We expect agentic finance, where AI agents trade, lend, and pay onchain, to break out beyond blockchain-native users, and as agents take on more of our money, the need for private AI inference will grow with it.

Privacy matters most where our data is most personal, and increasingly that is what we tell AI. A single prompt can reveal your savings, spending, and debts, and most models keep prompts by default, where they can be breached or leaked.

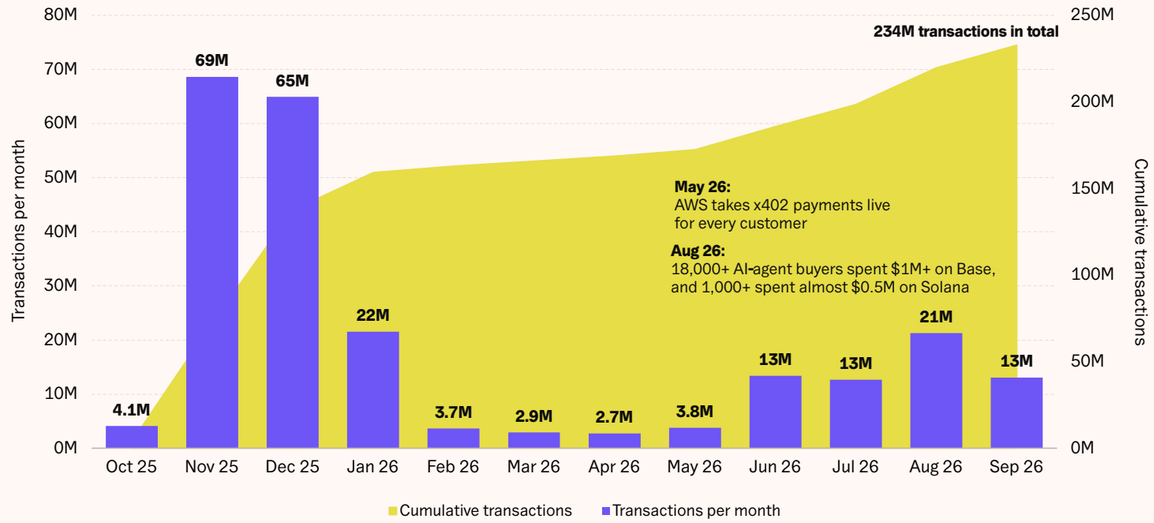
Private inference, where a model processes your request without storing or exposing it, closes that gap. Venice AI, a private alternative to mainstream models, routes prompts across decentralized GPUs and stores no user data.[73] Demand is clear, with users growing from about 450,000 in January 2025 to over 5 million by late 2026, and with the platform now processing about 250 billion tokens a day.[74] The blockchain adds what a company's promise can't, with decentralized networks that take any single company out of the data path and payments that don't tie your prompts to your name.

That need grows as agents take on more of our finances, because an agent acting for you needs exactly the information you would least want exposed. Agents can do for blockchain what tapping a card did for payments. The digital asset market still asks users to be their own bank, transfer agent, and security team, and agents take that off the user, cutting a cross-chain trade from 20 to 25 minutes to under two.[75] NEAR Intents, which has processed over $32 billion across over 30 chains, makes this work by letting the agent sign once while software handles routing.[76] Tell an agent to seek stablecoin yield within a set risk limit, and it shifts funds across eligible platforms to the suggested risk profile.

Robinhood's Agentic Accounts and Coinbase's Agentic Wallets already let AI models transact, and we expect more brokers, exchanges, and AI labs to follow. Blockchain is the natural payment rail, since agents can't open bank accounts without human approval but can hold digital assets around the clock. x402, an open agent blockchain-enabled payments protocol, has processed over 234 million transactions.[77]

After a surge in late 2025, driven by the novelty of agentic payments and the rise of OpenClaw, activity is picking up again as frameworks such as Hermes simplify agent deployment and tools like GrokBot and Muse make agents more accessible to nontechnical users.[78] Despite cumulative volume growing just 6% a month this year, we think the growth trajectory is still ahead of us. Agents that act for us and AI that keeps our data private are two sides of the same shift, and the blockchain supplies the rails for both. We expect 2027 to be the year that shift breaks out.

234 million agentic payment transactions and counting, with activity on the rise



Source: 21shares, x402scan, AWS, Coinbase. Data as of October 2026. Monthly transactions are summed across all x402 facilitators (Coinbase, PayAI, Dexter, Daydreams, Figment and others).

Prediction 10

EXCHANGES MOVE 50,000 BTC BEHIND HIDDEN KEYS



As Bitcoin prepares for the quantum era

Governments are setting a timeline for quantum security. The US expects critical infrastructure across defense, banking, and healthcare to become quantum-safe by 2030. This timeline is a benchmark for the digital asset space to move in tandem, if not faster.

Bitcoin uses public keys to verify spending and private keys to authorize it. However, a powerful enough quantum computer could derive a private key from an exposed public key and authorize spending without the owner's permission.[79] That threat affects roughly half of exchange-held bitcoin.[80]

With total exposure projected to reach 7.5 million BTC ($610 billion at today's price of $81,000) by the end of 2027, we expect providers to move at least 50,000 BTC to versions of addresses that hide public keys.[81] While just 5% of their exposure, it would mark a shift in custody practices after two years[82] of rising exposure[83], giving clients a benchmark for judging providers and pressuring competitors to follow before a Bitcoin upgrade arrives.[84]

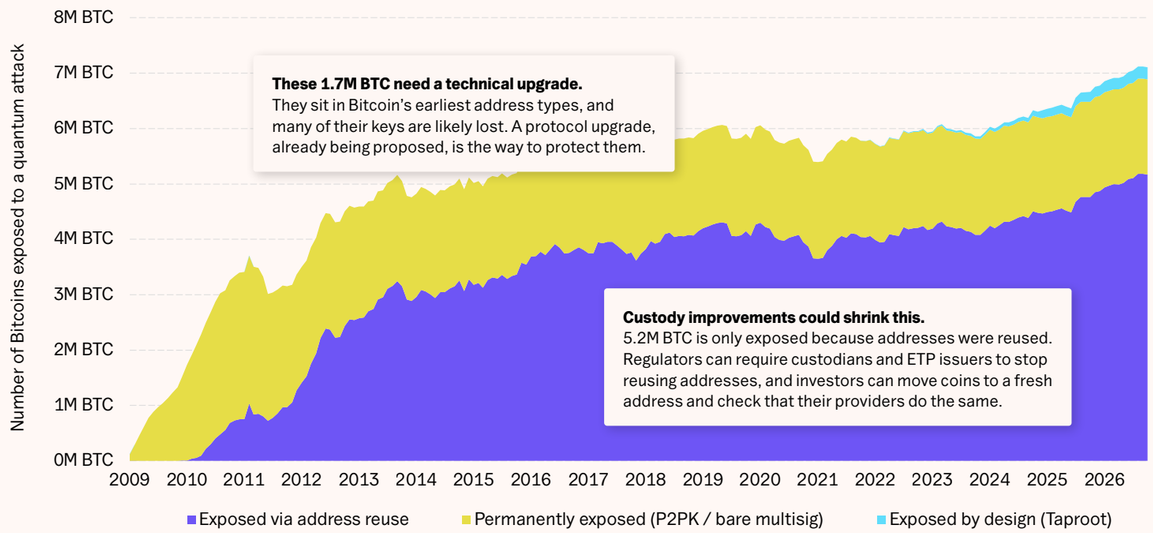
The incentive to act is growing as research advances. American quantum computing hardware and software company IonQ estimates a hypothetical 2028-era machine could crack a Bitcoin key in 26 days.[85] Although no such machine exists, custodians need time to test new wallets and move holdings safely without rattling markets. Bybit's $1.5 billion loss in 2025, after attackers manipulated a routine cold-wallet transfer, shows why.[86] Clients will also increasingly want evidence that custodians can manage both risks, as all ten of the largest US bitcoin ETF issuers flag quantum risk in their SEC filings, some specifically highlighting custodians' key management.[87] Coinbase's planned mid-2027 signing upgrade offers a milestone to track, though no custodian can make Bitcoin itself quantum-safe.[88]

The fastest way to reduce quantum exposure is to start where cracking a single key would give an attacker the biggest payoff. In October, three exchange wallets each held more than 130,000 BTC behind a single key.[89] Satoshi's coins, by comparison, are spread across thousands of wallets. Moving the full balance of just one of those exchange wallets would move more than twice as much bitcoin as we forecast and show that exchanges are starting to change how they secure it. The deeper fix sits with Bitcoin itself, where work is already underway:

- BIP-360 proposes new addresses designed to limit prolonged public-key exposure.[90]
- Blockchain company StarkWare demonstrated an experimental quantum-safe Bitcoin transaction, later cutting its estimated cost by 79% to $67, down from $300 per transaction.[91,92]

However, what to do with dormant BTC remains hotly debated. BIP-361 would restrict vulnerable signatures, which could freeze coins that never moved, including Satoshi's.[93] Other ideas range from slowing how fast those coins can move to letting owners prove ownership in advance, while Google researchers have floated a regulated way to recover abandoned coins.[94] While that debate plays out, custodians can make fresh addresses the default so spending doesn't create new exposure to a quantum capture. If clients reward that discipline, the first 50,000 BTC could raise the bar for custody and make avoidable exposure hard to defend, well before a quantum attack is possible.

Over 7 million BTC, a third of all of Bitcoin's supply, is exposed to quantum risk



Source: 21shares, Dune. Data as of October 2026. Bitcoin whose public key is visible onchain. Permanently exposed: early P2PK and bare multisig outputs, where the public key is always visible. Exposed via address reuse: coins in addresses that have already spent once, revealing their public key. Exposed by design: Taproot outputs, which show a tweaked public key.

REFERENCES

1. CoinGecko, “Bitcoin Price Chart (All Time),” CoinGecko, accessed October 13, 2026. https://www.coingecko.com/en/coins/
2. The case for Bitcoin. (n.d.). Retrieved November 5, 2026, from https://casebitcoin.com/
3. Cris Tolomia, “SEC and CFTC Are Rushing to Write Crypto Rules After the Clarity Act Stalled in the Senate,” Quartz, September 23, 2026. https://qz.com/sec-cftc-crypto-rules-clarity-act-senate-092326
4. Hyperliquid, “SPCX Perpetual Futures,” Hyperliquid Exchange, accessed October 13, 2026. https://app.hyperliquid.xyz/trade/xyz:SPCX
5. The White House, “Securing the Nation Against Advanced Cryptographic Attacks,” Executive Order, June 22, 2026. https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2026/06/securing-the-nation-against-advanced-cryptographic-attacks/
6. 21shares Research, “Bitcoin 2026: History Signals an Attractive Entry Window,” 21shares insights, July 8, 2026. https://www.21shares.com/en-eu/insights/bitcoin-cycle-bottom-2026-entry-point
7. Farside Investors, “Bitcoin ETF Flow Data,” Farside Investors, accessed October 13, 2026. https://farside.co.uk/?p=997
8. BitcoinTreasuries.net, “Bitcoin Treasuries — Publicly Traded Companies, Private Companies, ETFs, and Governments Holding Bitcoin,” BitcoinTreasuries.net, accessed October 13, 2026. https://bitcointreasuries.net
9. Glassnode, “Bitcoin Issuance,” Glassnode Studio, accessed October 13, 2026. https://studio.glassnode.com/charts/supply.IssuedPit?a=BTC
10. Glassnode, “Bitcoin US Spot ETF Net Flows,” Glassnode Studio, accessed October 13, 2026. https://studio.glassnode.com/charts/institutions.UsSpotEtfFlowsNet?a=BTC
11. Kitco News, “China’s Central Bank Buys 21 Tonnes of Gold in September, Largest Monthly Purchase,” Kitco, October 7, 2026. https://www.kitco.com/news/article/2026-10-07/chinas-central-bank-buys-21-tonnes-gold-september-largest-monthly-purchase
12. European External Action Service, “Council Decides to Prohibit Transfers of Immobilised Central Bank of Russia Assets Back to Russia,” EEAS, accessed October 13, 2026. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/ukraine/council-decides-prohibit-transfers-immobilised-central-bank-russia-assets-back-russia_en
13. Tradingview, “Bitcoin / U.S. Dollar (BTCUSD),” TradingView Chart, accessed October 13, 2026. https://www.tradingview.com/chart/GIlu4krZ/?symbol=BITFINEX%3ABTCUSD#
14. U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, “SEC Issues Innovation Exemption to Facilitate the Trading of Tokenized NMS Stock and Request for Comment,” Press Release No. 2026-90, September 17, 2026. https://www.sec.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2026/2026-90
15. Inbar Preiss, “House Panel Approves First Federal Crypto Tax Framework, One Day After Senate’s Clarity Act Stumbles,” The Block, September 16, 2026. https://www.theblock.co/news/regulation/2026-09-16-house-panel-approves-first-federal-crypto-tax-framework-one-day-after-senates-clarity-act-stumbles-415293
16. CryptoBriefing, “Brazil’s $319B Crypto Market Faces October Licensing Deadline as Central Bank Tightens Grip,” CryptoBriefing, 2026. https://cryptobriefing.com/brazil-crypto-licensing-deadline-october/
17. Swarajya Staff, “Japan Clears Crypto Reform Bill That Treats Digital Assets as Financial Instruments, Paving Way for Exchange-Traded Funds,” Swarajya, July 15, 2026. https://swarajyamag.com/world/japan-clears-crypto-reform-bill-that-treats-digital-assets-as-financial-instruments-paving-way-for-exchange-traded-funds
18. CoinTelegraph, “Hong Kong Grants First Stablecoin Licenses to Anchorpoint and HSBC,” CoinTelegraph, April 10, 2026. https://cointelegraph.com/news/hong-kong-first-stablecoin-licenses-issued
19. The Block, “Putin Signs Russia Crypto Law,” The Block, August 5, 2026. https://theblock.co/post/410951/putin-signs-russia-crypto-law
20. CoinTelegraph, “Why South Korea Is Struggling to Decide Who Can Issue Stablecoins,” CoinTelegraph, January 9, 2026. https://cointelegraph.com/features/why-south-korea-is-struggling-to-decide-who-can-issue-stablecoins
21. PayPal Holdings, Inc., “Q4 2025 Earnings Presentation,” PayPal Investor Relations, 2025. https://s205.q4cdn.com/875401827/files/doc_financials/2025/q4/PYPL-4Q-25-Earnings-Presentation.pdf
22. U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Exhibit 99.1 (Form 8-K), SEC EDGAR, filed October 2026. https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/0001512673/000119312526335117/d91486dex991.htm
23. PayPal, “Make Payments,” PayPal Enterprise, accessed October 13, 2026. https://www.paypal.com/us/enterprise/make-payments?locale.x=en_US
24. World, “Virtual Accounts Powered by Bridge Unlock Direct USDC Payroll and Deposits,” World Developer Blog, accessed October 13, 2026. https://dev.world.org/blog/announcements/virtual-accounts-powered-by-bridge-unlock-direct-usdc-payroll-and-deposits
25. ether.fi, “Personal,” ether.fi, accessed October 13, 2026. https://www.ether.fi/personal
26. Banco Central do Brasil, “Pix,” Banco Central do Brasil, accessed October 13, 2026. https://www.bcb.gov.br/estabilidadefinanceira/pix
27. Western Union, “Western Union Launches Stablecard in Partnership with Rain,” Western Union Investor Relations, accessed October 13, 2026. https://ir.westernunion.com/news/archived-press-releases/press-release-details/2026/Western-Union-Launches-Stablecard-in-Partnership-with-Rain/default.aspx
28. Open Standard, “Company Structure and Leadership,” Open Standard Blog, accessed October 13, 2026. https://joinopenstandard.com/blog/company-structure-and-leadership
29. Stripe, “Everything We Announced at Sessions 2026,” Stripe Blog, accessed October 13, 2026. https://stripe.com/blog/everything-we-announced-at-sessions-2026
30. Morpho, “Robinhood Chooses Morpho to Power New Earn Product,” Business Wire, July 1, 2026. https://via.tt.se/pressmeddelande/4465346/robinhood-chooses-morpho-to-power-new-earn-product
31. The Defiant, “Phantom Hires Ventuals Founders After Hyperliquid Perps Venue Winds Down,” The Defiant, 2026. https://thedefiant.io/news/defi/phantom-hires-ventuals-founders-after-hyperliquid-perps-venue-winds-down
32. Coin360, “MetaMask Expands into On-Chain Derivatives with Hyperliquid and Polymarket Integrations,” Coin360, 2025. https://coin360.com/news/metamask-hyperliquid-polymarket-derivatives-integration
33. Uniswap, “Introducing Permissioned Pools on Uniswap v4,” Uniswap Blog, accessed October 13, 2026. https://blog.uniswap.org/introducing-permissioned-pools-on-uniswap-v4
34. Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, and Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, “Interagency Statement on Bank Capital Treatment of Tokenized Securities,” Federal Reserve Press Release, March 5, 2026. https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/bcreg20260305a.htm
35. Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, and Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, “Capital Treatment of Tokenized Securities: FAQs,” Federal Reserve, accessed October 13, 2026. https://www.federalreserve.gov/supervisionreg/capital-treatment-of-tokenized-securities-faqs.htm
36. Aave, “Coinbase Tokenized Stocks on Aave,” Aave Blog, accessed October 13, 2026. https://aave.com/blog/coinbase-tokenized-stocks
37. Aave Labs, “ARFC: Custodied Collateral Lending — Aave v4 Isolated Hub & Spoke,” Aave Governance Forum, accessed October 13, 2026. https://governance.aave.com/t/arfc-custodied-collateral-lending-aave-v4-isolated-hub-spoke/25639
38. Chainlink, “Introducing CCIP 2.0,” Chainlink Blog, accessed October 13, 2026. https://chain.link/blog/introducing-ccip-2-0
39. Chainlink, “Introducing Chainlink Fulcrum,” Chainlink Blog, accessed October 13, 2026. https://chain.link/blog/introducing-chainlink-fulcrum
40. DeFiLlama, “RWA Perpetuals Volume,” DeFiLlama, accessed October 13, 2026. https://defillama.com/rwa/perps?chartType=volume&flowMode=quarterly
41. Blockworks, “Spot DEX Tokenized Equities,” Blockworks Analytics, accessed October 13, 2026. https://app.blockworks.com/analytics/spot-dex/spot-dexs-tokenized-equities
42. 21shares Research, “Hyperliquid: The Global Liquidity Index Amid Geopolitical Conflict,” 21shares insights, accessed October 13, 2026. https://www.21shares.com/en-us/insights/hyperliquid-the-global-liquidity-index-amid-geopolitical-conflict
43. 21shares Research, “Hyperliquid Dashboard,” Dune Analytics, accessed October 13, 2026. https://dune.com/21sharesresearch/hyperliquid
44. ASXN, “HIP-3 Markets Overview,” Hyperscreener, accessed October 13, 2026. https://hyperscreener.asxn.xyz/hip3markets/overview?chart=hip3-categories
45. 21shares Research, “Hyperliquid Runs an Exchange Wall Street Recognizes,” 21shares insights, accessed October 13, 2026. https://www.21shares.com/en-us/insights/hyperliquid-runs-an-exchange-wall-street-recognizes
46. CoinDesk, “Hyperliquid Predicted 80% of an Oil Market Move Before Traditional Exchanges Even Opened, Says TD Securities,” CoinDesk, June 2, 2026. https://www.coindesk.com/markets/2026/06/02/hyperliquid-predicted-80-of-an-oil-market-move-before-traditional-exchanges-even-opened-says-td-securities
47. ASXN, “HIP-3 Markets,” Hyperscreener, accessed October 13, 2026. https://hyperscreener.asxn.xyz/hip3markets/markets
48. DeFiLlama, “RWA Perpetuals Volume (Monthly, Excluding CEX),” DeFiLlama, accessed October 13, 2026. https://defillama.com/rwa/
49. Blockworks, “Spot DEX Tokenized Equities,” Blockworks Analytics, accessed October 13, 2026. https://app.blockworks.com/analytics/spot-dex/spot-dexs-tokenized-equities
50. Blockworks, “Robinhood Analytics,” Blockworks Analytics, accessed October 13, 2026. https://app.blockworks.com/analytics/robinhood
51. DeFiLlama, “Options Protocols,” DeFiLlama, accessed October 13, 2026. https://defillama.com/protocols/options
52. Cboe Global Markets, “State of the Options Industry: Options Market Continued to Break Records in Q2 2026,” Cboe Insights, accessed October 13, 2026. https://www.cboe.com/insights/posts/state-of-the-options-industry-options-market-continued-to-break-records-in-q-2-2026
53. CoinGlass, “Crypto Options,” CoinGlass, accessed October 13, 2026. https://www.coinglass.com/options
54. DeFiLlama, “Derive Protocol,” DeFiLlama, accessed October 13, 2026. https://defillama.com/protocol/derive
55. ASXN, “Hyperscreener,” Hyperscreener, accessed October 13, 2026. https://hyperscreener.asxn.xyz/home
56. CryptoBriefing, “Hyperliquid to Add Options to Platform, Enhancing Derivatives Offerings,” CryptoBriefing, October 7, 2026. https://cryptobriefing.com/hyperliquid-to-add-options-to-platform-enhancing-derivatives-offerings/
57. ChainCatcher, “Lighter Launches BTC and ETH Binary Options on Core,” ChainCatcher, October 20, 2026. https://www.chaincatcher.com/en/article/2297411
58. DeFiLlama, “Perpetuals,” DeFiLlama, accessed October 13, 2026. https://defillama.com/perps
59. CoinGlass, “Futures Liquidation Events,” CoinGlass, accessed October 13, 2026. https://www.coinglass.com/pro/futures/liquidation-events
60. Pew Research Center, “Prediction Markets Trading Volume Doubled Between May and July, Largely Driven by Sports,” Pew Research Center, September 23, 2026. https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2026/09/23/prediction-markets-trading-volume-doubled-between-may-and-july-largely-driven-by-sports/
61. Robinhood Markets, Inc., “Robinhood Markets, Inc. Reports August 2026 Operating Data,” Robinhood Investor Relations, accessed October 13, 2026. https://investors.robinhood.com/news-releases/news-release-details/robinhood-markets-inc-reports-august-2026-operating-data
62. Artemis, “Prediction Markets,” Artemis, accessed October 13, 2026. https://www.artemis.ai/sectors/prediction-markets
63. Kalshi, “Kalshi Commodities Trading Volume: $400 Million,” Kalshi News, accessed October 13, 2026. https://news.kalshi.com/p/kalshi-commodities-trading-volume-400-million
64. CoinGecko, “Cryptocurrency Categories,” CoinGecko, accessed October 13, 2026. https://www.coingecko.com/en/categories
65. CertiK, “Intel3D: H1 2026 Wrench Attacks Report Reveals 33% Surge in Physical Crypto Crime, Estimated Losses Top $124 Million,” GlobeNewswire, July 25, 2026. https://pr.taosnews.com/article/CertiK-Intel3D-H1-2026-Wrench-Attacks-Report-Reveals-33percent-Surge-in-Physical-Crypto-Crime-Estimated-Losses-Top-dollar124-Million/6a644ab197aa-4d3295d588c5
66. OpenAI, “Hugging Face Incident and the Road Ahead,” OpenAI, accessed October 13, 2026. https://openai.com/index/hugging-face-incident-and-the-road-ahead/
67. Rosenblatt Securities, “Let There Be Light: US Edition — Year-in-Review,” Rosenblatt Market Structure Reports, 2026. https://www.rblt.com/market-structure-reports/let-there-be-light-us-edition-75
68. Tiger Research, “Below the Surface: How Canton Network Is Reshaping Capital Market Infrastructure,” Tiger Research Reports, 2026. https://reports.tiger-research.com/p/below-the-surface-how-canton-network-eng
69. Finextra, “BNP Paribas and HSBC Join Canton Foundation,” Finextra, 2026. https://www.finextra.com/newsarticle/46568/bnp-paribas-and-hsbc-join-canton-foundation
70. CoinGecko, “Cryptocurrency Prices, Charts and Market Capitalizations,” CoinGecko, accessed October 13, 2026. https://www.coingecko.com/
71. Blockworks, “Zcash Overview,” Blockworks Analytics, accessed October 13, 2026. https://app.blockworks.com/projects/zcash/analytics/zcash-overview
72. CoinGecko, “Global Cryptocurrency Charts,” CoinGecko, accessed October 13, 2026. https://www.coingecko.com/en/charts
73. Venice AI, “Venice AI,” Venice AI, accessed October 13, 2026. https://venice.ai/
74. CryptoBriefing, “Venice Becomes 3rd Largest Crypto AI Platform by Market Cap,” CryptoBriefing, 2026. https://cryptobriefing.com/venice-third-largest-crypto-ai-platform/
75. 21shares Research, “AI-Crypto Convergence Use Cases,” 21shares insights, accessed October 13, 2026. https://www.21shares.com/en-us/insights/ai-crypto-convergence-use-cases
76. Blockworks, “NEAR Intents Dashboard,” Blockworks Analytics, accessed October 13, 2026. https://app.blockworks.com/projects/near-protocol/analytics/near-intents-dashboard
77. x402scan, “All Payments,” x402scan, accessed October 13, 2026. https://www.x402scan.com/all
78. Gitnux, “Openclaw AI Statistics,” Gitnux, February 24, 2026. https://gitnux.org/openclaw-ai-statistics/
79. Häner et al. (IonQ), “Breaking 256-Bit Elliptic Curve Signatures with a Quantum Computer,” arXiv, September 4, 2026. https://arxiv.org/abs/2609.05625
80. Glassnode, “Measuring Bitcoin’s Quantum-Exposed Supply,” Glassnode Research, May 20, 2026. https://research.glassnode.com/measuring-bitcoins-quantum-exposed-supply/
81. 21shares Research, “Bitcoin Quantum Vulnerability Monitor,” Dune Analytics, accessed October 13, 2026. https://dune.com/21sharesresearch/bitcoin-quantum-vulnerability-monitor
82. Glassnode, share of exchange BTC held “operationally safe” fell from ~55% (2018) to ~45% (2026), 20 May 2026: https://research.glassnode.com/measuring-bitcoins-quantum-exposed-supply/
83. 21shares, exposed share of BTC at a fixed list of tier-1 exchange addresses, 78% (Oct 2024) to 86% (Oct 2026): https://dune.com/queries/8885724
84. 21shares analysis of Binance, OKX and Bitfinex proof-of-reserves addresses and Robinhood’s labelled cold wallet, via mempool.space, 21–22 Oct 2026. https://www.binance.com/en/proof-of-reserves, https://www.okx.com/proof-of-reserves/download, https://github.com/bitfinexcom/pub/blob/main/w
85. onQ, “IonQ Publishes World’s First Fully Compiled End-to-End Blueprint for Breaking 256-Bit Elliptic Curve Signatures,” IonQ Investor Relations, September 8, 2026. https://investors.ionq.com/news/news-details/2026/IonQ-Publishes-Worlds-First-Fully-Compiled-End-to-End-Blueprint-for-Breaking-256-Bit-Elliptic-Curve-Signatures/default.aspx
86. Federal Bureau of Investigation, “Cyber Division Public Service Announcement: Bybit Theft Attributed to North Korea,” FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center, February 26, 2025. https://www.ic3.gov/PSA/2025/PSA250226
87. U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Form 10-Q (Exhibit), August 6, 2026. https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1980994/000143774926026004/bit20260630c_10q.htm
88. Coinbase, “What Coinbase Is Doing to Prepare for Post-Quantum Cryptography,” Coinbase Blog, July 23, 2026. https://www.coinbase.com/blog/what-coinbase-is-doing-to-prepare-for-post-quantum-cryptography
89. Wallet balances and labels: ChainQuery, largest quantum-exposed addresses (https://chainquery.com/lists/quantum-at-risk). Single-key structure checked on chain, 21–22 Oct 2026: Binance (https://mempool.space/address/34xp4vRoCGJym3xR7yCVPFHoCNxv4Twseo; https://mempool.space/address/3M219KR5vEneNb47ewrPfWyb5jQ2DjxRP6), Robinhood (https://mempool.space/address/bc1ql49ydapnjafl5t2cp9zqpjwe6pdgmxy98859v2).
90. Bitcoin BIPs, “BIP-360: Pay to Quantum Resistant Hash (P2QRH),” GitHub, accessed October 13, 2026. https://github.com/bitcoin/bips/blob/master/bip-0360.mediawiki
91. StarkWare, “The First Quantum-Safe Bitcoin Transaction Has Been Mined,” StarkWare Blog, August 26, 2026. https://starkware.co/blog/the-first-quantum-safe-bitcoin-transaction-has-been-mined/
92. StarkWare, “AI Research Competition Cut Quantum-Safe Bitcoin Costs by 79% in a Week,” StarkWare Blog, September 23, 2026. https://starkware.co/blog/ai-research-competition-cut-quantum-safe-bitcoin-costs-by-79-in-a-week/
93. Bitcoin BIPs, “BIP-361,” GitHub, accessed October 13, 2026. https://github.com/bitcoin/bips/blob/master/bip-0361.mediawiki
94. Babbush et al. (Google Quantum AI), “Quantum Computing and Cryptocurrency,” Google Quantum AI, March 30, 2026. https://quantumai.google/static/site-assets/downloads/cryptocurrency-whitepaper.pdf

DISCLAIMERS

This report has been prepared and issued by 21Shares AG for publication globally. All information used in the publication of this report has been compiled from publicly available sources that are believed to be reliable, however we do not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this report. Crypto asset trading involves a high degree of risk. The crypto asset market is new to many and unproven and may have the potential to not grow as expected.

Currently, there is relatively small use of crypto assets in the retail and commercial marketplace in comparison to relatively large use by speculators, thus contributing to price volatility that could adversely affect an investment in crypto assets. In order to participate in the trading of crypto assets, you should be capable of evaluating the merits and risks of the investment and be able to bear the economic risk of losing your entire investment.

Nothing in this report does or should be considered as an offer by 21Shares AG and/or its affiliates to sell or solicitation by 21Shares AG or its parent of any offer to buy bitcoin or other crypto assets or derivatives. This report is provided for information and research purposes only and should not be construed or presented as an offer or solicitation for any investment. The information provided does not constitute a prospectus or any offering and does not contain or constitute an offer to sell or solicit an offer to invest in any jurisdiction.

Readers are cautioned that any such forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve risks and uncertainties, and that actual results may differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements as a result of various factors. The information contained herein may not be considered as economic, legal, tax, or other advice and users are cautioned against basing investment decisions or other decisions solely on the content hereof.


21shares
21shares.com