

2021 Crypto Market Outlook

A REVIEW OF THE CRYPTO SECTOR

DURING 2020 AND THE FUTURE OF THE

SPACE OVER THE COMING YEAR

Agout

Every week, Bloqport helps over 20,000 Bitcoin, crypto and DeFi investors get straight to the news, stories, data, research & analytics that matter most.

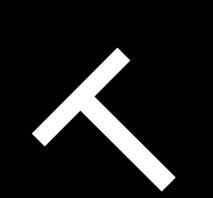
Things move incredibly fast in the crypto space.

That's why we started a comprehensive, data-driven newsletter with the purpose of providing investors and institutions with a full 360° outlook on the markets.

Our newsletter is written in a short form, high impact content style, with everything you need to know in 1 minute read, so it's easy to digest and saves our readers time.

Join our free crypto newsletter

Every week, you will gain access to the top breaking news, exclusive research plus all the data, analytics and key takeaways you can't afford to miss, all in a 1-minute read.











Sign up

Table of Contents

06 Highlights

07 Market Overview

Market growth

2020'S top performers

Top 10 assets by market cap

2020 Year in review

Regulatory timeline



11 Bitcoin

Bitcoin in numbers

Bitcoin's status as a hedge against USD inflation became more widely accepted

Bitcoin outperformed gold, oil and the Dow

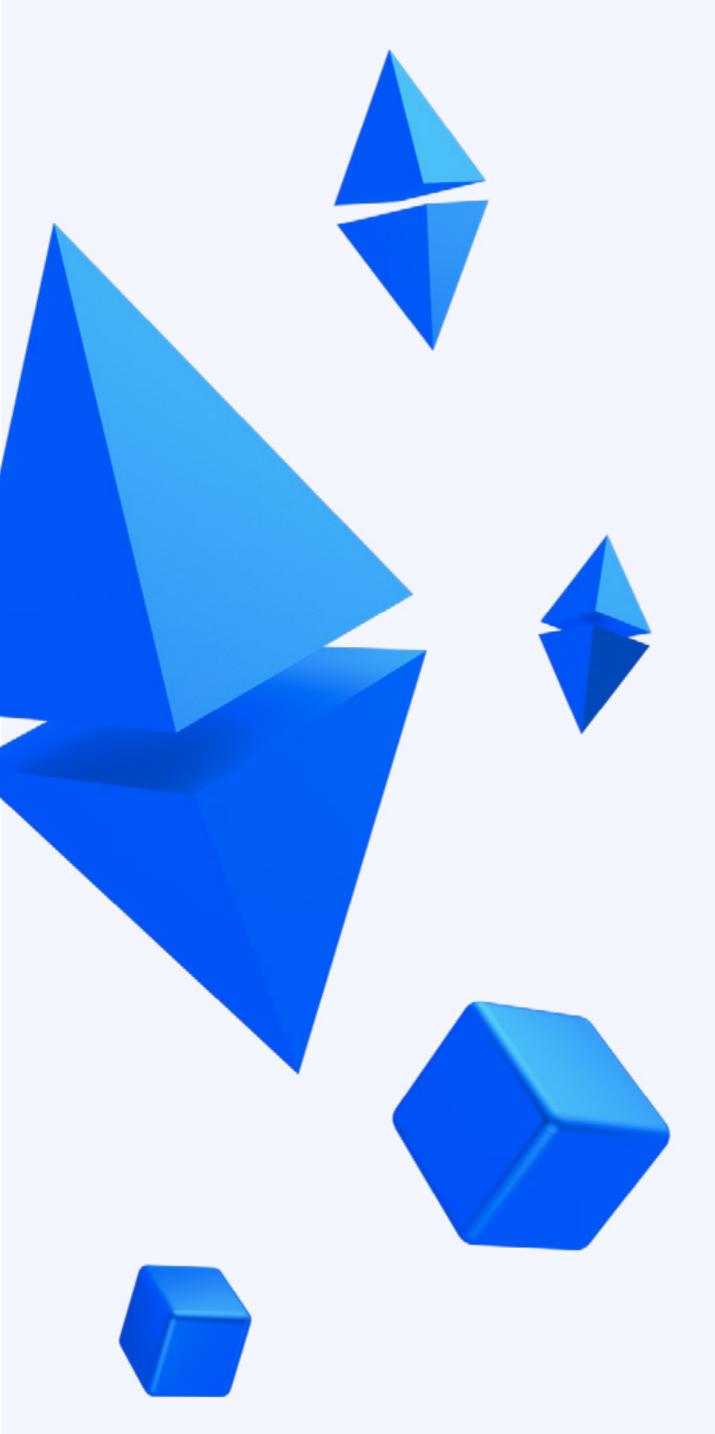
78% of the circulating Bitcoin supply is illiquid

Bitcoin options grew significantly with total open interest set to exceed \$20bln in 2021

What we're expecting for Bitcoin in 2021

17 Institutional Interest

Quotes from top investors and institutions



Institutional investment overview

15 publicly traded companies hold 115,357 BTC

Digital asset manager Grayscale Investments reached \$19b in AUM on December 28th

What we're expecting from institutions in 2021

22 Ethereum

Ethereum in numbers

Ethereum 2.0 finally shipped in early December

ETH 2.0 staking growth exploded

ETH gas fees point towards increasing demand

ETH held on exchanges is at 1.5 yearly low

Ethereum's hash rate has seen a massive surge

Number of addresses holding ETH hit a new alltime high

Number of addresses holding 10k ETH hit a new all-time high

ETH Futures Open Interest broke a new all time high of \$2.21b

Ether options grew by 150%, reaching over \$1 bin December

Grayscale Ethereum Trust has moved past \$2.1b in assets under management

CME Group announced that it will list an ETH futures product this year

What we're expecting for Ethereum in 2021

28 Defi

Top 10 DeFi Assets

DeFi TVL went parabolic, reaching \$16b

DeFi user growth exploded in 2020 when it reached over 1m users

Uniswap

yearn.finance

Sushiswap

Aave

What we're expecting for DeFi in 2021

33 Stablecoins

Top 10 Stablecoins

Total market cap of stablecoins to \$29.2b

Working Group on Financial Markets statement

What we're expecting for stablecoins in 2021

36 Final thoughts

Closing statement

Trends to watch in 2021

Predictions



2020 was a record year for crypto assets

The global crypto market capitalization began 2020 at \$191.5B and reached \$760.7B on Dec 31, increasing 119.55%. (pg 8)

Bitcoin smashed its previous all time high

The benchmark cryptocurrency reached an all time high of \$29,000, returning 314.19% year-to-date. (pg 12)

Bitcoin's status as a hedge against USD inflation became more widely accepted

In response to unprecedented levels of money printing, the 'BTC as an inflation hedge' narrative has grown in strength. (pg 14)

Bitcoin balance on exchanges is dropping significantly

The amount of Bitcoin that's being held in exchange wallets is decreasing as the demand for Bitcoin is increasing. (pg 15)

Institutions showed increased interest in BTC as a macro portfolio optimizer

2020 can be regarded as the year institutional investors came forward in publicly confirming their interest in crypto. (pg 18)

15 publicly traded companies now hold a total of 115,357 BTC

15 publicly traded companies now hold a total of 115,357 Bitcoin worth \$2.6 billion on their balance sheets. (pg 21)

Grayscale Investments reached \$19 billion in asset under management

Grayscale's AUM has climbed from \$2 billion at the start of December 2019 to \$19 billion in December 2020. (pg 22)

ETH balance on exchanges is dropping significantly

ETH held on exchanges is at 1.5 year low while e number of addresses holding +10k Ether reached a 9-month high. (pg 26)

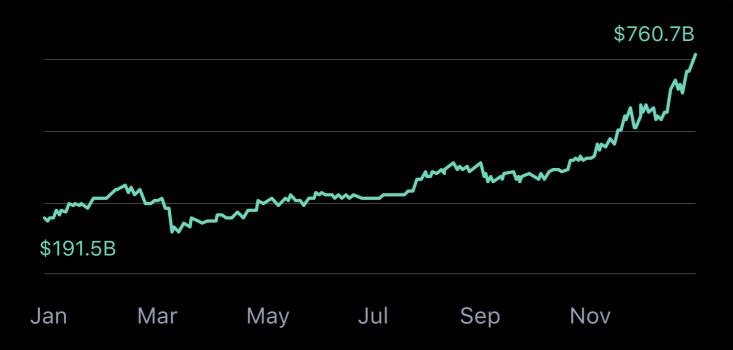
DeFi grew from under \$1b in locked assets to over \$16b

The DeFi sector saw an explosive rise in 2020, with the total value locked crossing \$16B. (pg 30)

Stablecoins saw staggering growth in 2020

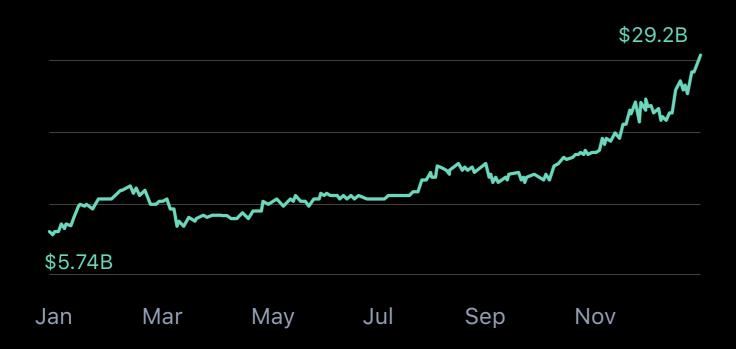
The total stablecoin market capitalization began 2020 at \$5.74B and reached \$29.2B on Dec 31, increasing 134.28%. (pg 36)

Market Overview



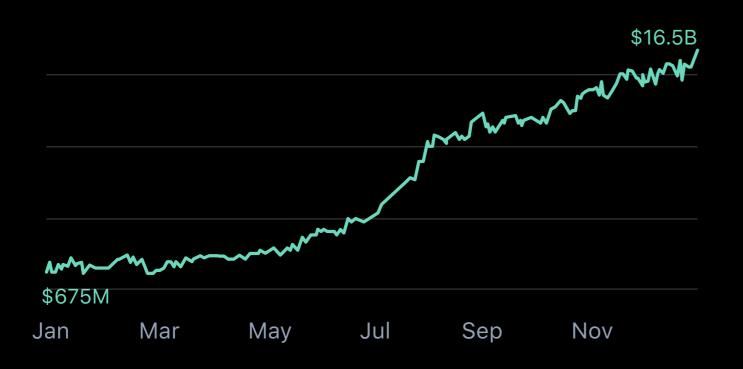
Global market cap

The global crypto market capitalization began 2020 at \$191.5B and reached \$760.7B on Dec 31, increasing 300.89%



Total stablecoin market cap

The total stablecoin market capitalization began 2020 at **\$5.74B** and reached **\$29.2B** on Dec 31, increasing 408.71%



Total value locked in DeFi

The total value locked in DeFi began 2020 at **\$675.5M** and reached **\$16.3B**, increasing 2,314.81%

2020's Top Perfomers

Asse	et	Market cap	YTD
~	Kusama	\$611.2 M	+5,605%
C	Celsius	\$2.08 B	+3,334%
#	Theta Token	\$2.19 B	+2,085%
ල්ව	yearn.finance	\$657.2 M	+2,085%
₹	Zilliqa	\$928.0 M	+1,544%
3	Compound	\$593.9 M	+926.0%
f	Filecoin	\$999.9 M	+570.1%
	NEM	\$1.98 B	+553.3%
•	Waves	\$604.1 M	+549.8%
0	Chainlink	\$4.78 B	+527.6%
•	СЕТН	\$823.3 M	+434.5%
	Ethereum	\$83.2 B	+416.5%
	Cardano	\$5.49 B	+390.3%
B	Bitcoin	\$543.9 B	+281.7%
B	WBTC	\$3.30 B	+276.40%

^{*}assets with market caps > US\$500 million



Top 10 Assets By Market Cap

Rank	Asset	Price	Market Cap	1 Year
1	Bitcoin втс	\$29,303.00	\$544.67 B	+307.57%
2	● Ethereum етн	\$739.81	\$84.37 B	+472.22%
3	₹ Tether uspt	\$1.00	\$21.11 B	N/A
4	XRP SNX	\$0.238263	\$10.82 B	+23.12%
5	Polkadot DOT	\$9.02	\$8.51 B	+232.5%
6	Litecoin LTC	\$127.77	\$8.47 B	+208.54%
7	Bitcoin Cash всн	\$348.45	\$6.49 B	+70.04%
8	Binance Coin BNB	\$38.60	\$5.71 B	+181.56%
9	Cardano ADA	\$0.180160	\$5.61 B	+447.73%
10	O Chainlink LINK	\$11.72	\$4.67 B	+598.29%

2020 Year In Review

January '

- Bitcoin begins trading at \$7,134 on Jan. 1
- Crypto asset firm Amun launch inverse Bitcoin ETP
 - Grayscale crypto investments surpassed \$600M
 - 700K addresses hold +1 BTC

March ·

- South Korean parliament pass landmark crypto bill
- German banks allowed to manage crypto for clients
- BTC crashes 48% in less than 24 hours on March 11
 - Federal Reserve slash interest rates to zero

May ·

- Bitcoin undergoes halving on May 11
- Chinese officials propose a regional stablecoin
- JPMorgan offer banking services to Gemini & Coinbase
- Square's Cash App reports \$306 million in BTC revenue

July

- US use blockchain tech to track Covid-19 data
 - Visa announce integration of crypto assets
- OCC allows US banks to hold crypto for clients
 - Coinbase announce plans to go public
 - Deutsche Boerse list Bitcoin ETP

September · · ·

- Grayscale's total AUM reaches almost \$6 billion
- U.S. regulators allow banks back dollar stablecoins
- Kraken wins approval to create first US crypto bank
- MicroStrategy 's Bitcoin holdings reach \$500 million
- Morgan Stanley recommends BTC as hedge against QE

November

- · VanEck launch ETP physically-backed by Bitcoin
 - SBI Group debuts crypto lending product
- Gazprombank announce launch of crypto services
 - Stanley Druckenmiller announces owning Bitcoin
 - SEC qualifies U.S. banks as crypto custodians
- Ricardo Salinas Pliego announces owning Bitcoin
- DAIM announce launch of 401(k) BTC retirement plan

se Bitcoin ETP • Bitcoin brea

- Bitcoin breaks 500 million transaction milestone
- US announce launch of US digital currency
- DeFi sector reaches over \$1 billion
- Bitcoin drops \$10 billion in 24hrs

· · April

February

- Google searches for "Bitcoin Halving" began trending worldwide
- Global debt reached \$255T
- The FED's balance sheet reached \$6T

· · June

- Grayscale's Bitcoin AUM reaches 400,000 BTC
- Japan's Nomura launch #Bitcoin custody service
- PayPal announce plans for crypto buying and selling
- Forbes calls BTC a hedge against the financial system

· August

- Fidelity files with the SEC for a new Bitcoin fund
- NYDFS approves the trading of 8 crypto assets
- JPMorgan leads \$20 million fundraiser for ConsenSys
- MicroStrategy purchases 21,454 BTC for \$250 million

· · October

- 22 Indian banks announce crypto banking services
- DBS announce launch a fiat-to-crypto exchange
- Square purchase 4,709 BTC worth over \$50 million

December

- Ethereum 2.0 Beacon Chain goes live
- Visa connect its 60 million merchants to USDC
- Hauck & Aufhäuser announce launch of crypto fund
- World's first Ethereum ETF debuts on TSX
- DeFi sector's TVL surpassing \$16 billion
- Ruffer announce \$744 million Bitcoin buy
- CME Group announce ETH futures product
- Northern Trust, BBVA and Standard Chartered announce crypto custody services
- SkyBridge Capital launch Bitcoin fund
- Alan Howard backs \$1 billion in crypto investment
- MicroStrategy 's Bitcoin holdings reach \$1.5 billion
- Grayscale AUM reaches \$13.7b
- Bitcoin reaches \$29,000 on Dec. 31

Regulatory timeline

A brief look at some of the major regulatory events of 2020

	January	
February Enigma settles with SEC over \$45M ICO		
March India's Supreme Court lifts crypto ban		March SEC rejects Bitcoin ETF again
April		March SEC wins preliminary injunction against Telegram
SEC Commissioner Hester Peirce proposes token safe harbor		May NYDFS grants BitLicense to ErisX
	June	
July Abra settles with SEC over digital asset swap violation		July
September SEC wins summary judgment against Kik		OCC grants banks authority to custody crypto
October BitMEX charged by CFTC, DOJ		September SEC grants no-action letter to certain ATD Broker-Dealers
October		October John McAfee sued by SEC for ICO Promotions
Securitize gets SEC/FINRA approval for digital assets ATS & Broker-Dealer		December SEC files lawsuit against Ripple

Source: blockchaincaptial



BICCOIN

A REVIEW OF THE BENCHMARK

CRYPTOCURRENCY DURING 2020

AND ITS FUTURE OVER THE COMING YEAR

Bitcoin in numbers



Bitcoin price

Bitcoin's price began 2020 at \$7,195 and reached an all time high of \$29,022 on Dec 31, returning 307.5% YTD

Hash rate

Bitcoin's hash rate began 2020 at 95.7 TH/S and climbed to 126.19 TH/s in Dec 2020—with an increase of 41% in 2020, Bitcoin's network is significantly more secure this bull run

Market cap

Bitcoin's market capitalization began 2020 at \$130.3 billion and reached an all time high of \$542.5 billion—exceeding its 2017 peak by more than a third

Dominance

Bitcoin's market dominance fluctuated considerably between 56% and 70% throughout 2020

Bitcoin's 24 hour trading volume began 2020 at \$21.1 billion and reached an all time high of \$180.1 billion its highest ever

Trading Volume

Addresses

Bitcoin's number of unique addresses began 2020 at 389.7k and reached 775.9k at its peak in early December—an increase of 99.22%



Bitcoin's status as a hedge against USD inflation became more widely accepted

Perhaps the most significant crypto trend in 2020 was
Bitcoin's status as hedge against inflation became more
widely accepted. Bitcoin started off 2020 at just over
\$7,200 and since then more than quadrupled to \$29,000 by
December, surpassing Berkshire Hathaway, Visa, Walmart,
JPMorgan, Mastercard, Disney, PayPal, Coca-cola and
Netflix in market capitalization.

Although Bitcoin was not immune to the Coronavirus crash—dropping 48 per cent in less than 24 hours—since its 12-month low in March, **Bitcoin experienced a 294.3 per cent price climb in 2020.**

Many factors have contributed to this: May's Bitcoin halving, pandemic-induced money printing, HODLer mentality intensifying, and a few large institutional investors buying.

- * Following the halving event in May, Bitcoin began to catch the eye of institutional investors and high-net worth family offices that were **seeking to hedge against U.S dollar inflation,** after central banks continued to extend coronavirus relief packages for the U.S economy
- * Square, Microstrategy and MassMutual invested in Bitcoin, triggering an avalanche of institutional interest
- * Global financial services such as Visa and PayPal announced **Bitcoin-related services** on their platforms, introducing accessible on-ramps for retail customers

While these giant institutional investments in Bitcoin may be impressive, we have seen the most profound reversal of attitudes from the legacy banking sector. One of the most notable shifts in attitudes was from JP

Morgan who said back in 2017 that "Bitcoin is a fraud that

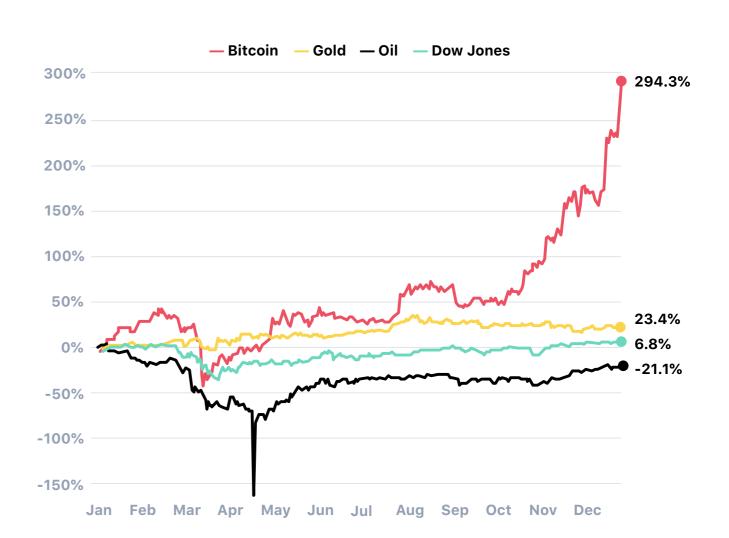
will eventually blow up" to "Bitcoin's intrinsic value should

rise significantly over the coming months" in 2020.

The American multinational investment bank not only described Bitcoin as a **gold substitute**, but also anticipated droves more of institutional investments in 2020 and onwards.

All of this signals a monumental shift in Bitcoin awareness from its stigmatised perception as shady money from the Silk Road days to its ascent into the category of institutional asset class.

Bitcoin outperformed gold, oil and the Dow Jones



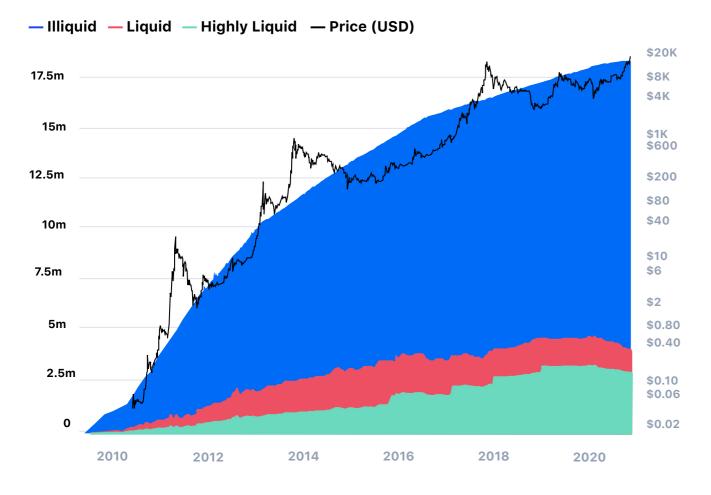
78% of the circulating Bitcoin supply is illiquid

Data from Glassnode revealed that **78 per cent of the circulating Bitcoin supply has become illiquid over the past 12 month.** With 88.5 percent of the total supply already mined,
we know that the circulating supply of Bitcoin is approximately
18.6 million.

But the number available on the market for purchase is significantly lower. While Bitcoin's perceived status as a safe heaven asset continues to rise and while investors increasingly adopt the HODL mentality, the 'real' liquid supply could be considerably lower.

This signals a **bullish investor sentiment** as large quantities of Bitcoin are being hoarded — which significantly reduces sell pressure heading in 2021.

Bitcoin: Liquid and Illiquid Supply



Bitcoin balance on exchanges is dropping

One significant trend we've noticed in 2020 is **the amount of Bitcoin that's being held in exchange wallets is decreasing** as the demand for Bitcoin is increasing, which in result reflects the recent price action that we have seen.

Bitcoin: Balance On All Exchanges

Balance on All Exchanges (BTC)
 Price (USD)

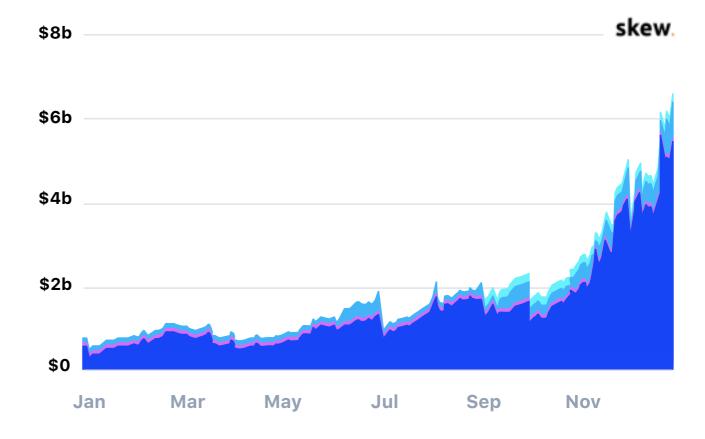


Source: glassnodeinsights

However, with Bitcoin's recent price surge to \$29,000, a period of **consolidation or correction is to be expected sometime after \$30,000.** Historically, Bitcoin experiences multiple 30-40% dips in a bull run. Between 2016 to 2017, we saw at least six. On November 13 2017, Bitcoin hit a low of \$5,844. It then took just 34 days to reach nearly \$20,000.

Bitcoin options grew significantly in 2020 with total open interest set to exceed \$20 billion in 2021

Total BTC Options Open Interest Source: skew.

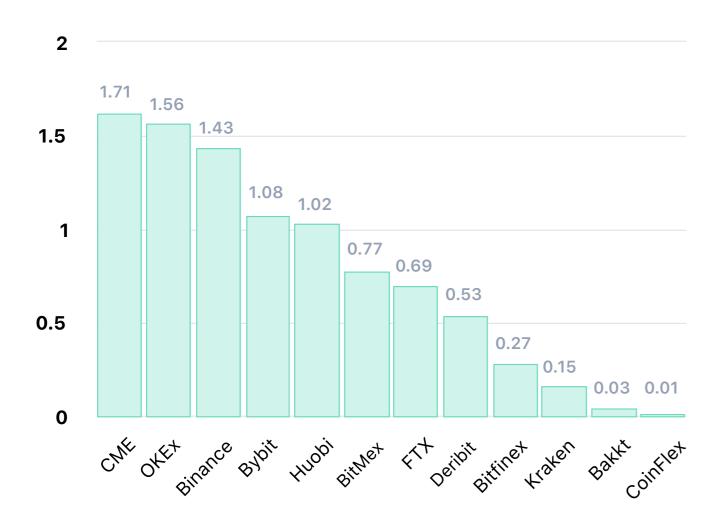


- Deribit Max: \$5.4b, Last: \$5.3b
- OKEx Max: \$472m, Last: \$472m
- CME Max: \$441m, Last: \$429m
- LedgerX Max: \$121m, Last: \$82m
- Huobi Max: \$9.4M, Last: \$9.4M
- Bakkt Max: \$1.1m, Last: \$65k
- bit.com Max: \$453m, Last: \$380m

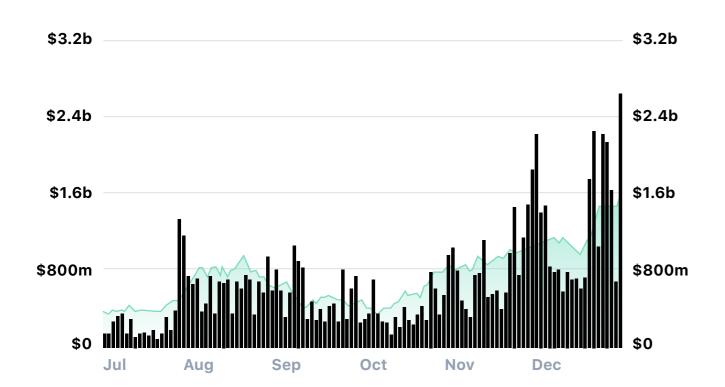
On December 29th, open interest on the CME reached a\$1.7 billion, the highest among the leading derivatives exchanges including OKEx, Binance and Bybit. CME now accounts for 18.1% of the total global open interest, which stood at approximately \$9.18 billion. This indicates a strengthening momentum ahead in 2021, particularly among institutional entities that rely on regulated exchanges such as the CME to gain exposure to the Bitcoin market.

Derivatives instruments provide Bitcoin and Ether a massive competitive advantage for attracting professional investors' capital. The growth also of the Bitcoin futures markets **signals** an increased ability to hedge risk, particularly for traders and miners who can be over exposed to price volatility. The greater number of advanced tools in the market, the greater capital inflows the markets can oblige.

Exchange Bitcoin Futures Open Interest (\$b)



CME Bitcoin Futures: Total Open Interest & Volume



- Daily Volume Max: \$2.6b, Avg: \$661m, Last: \$2.6b
- Open Interest Max: \$1.7b, Avg: \$734m, Last: \$1.7b

The derivatives market reflects the institutional demand for any financial instrument. Thus, CME Bitcoin products are the most accurate reflection for institutional interest in the market among other crypto futures exchanges. The significance of these highly-regulated exchanges and growing liquidity supports the potential for a Bitcoin ETF, as these markets are heavily surveilled and considered to be trustworthy.

What we're expecting for Bitcoin in 2021

Regulatory attitudes will continue to shift in Bitcoin's favour

Over the summer of 2020, the U.S. Office of the Comptroller of the Currency—one of the more important offices in the U.S. for regulating banks, which is overseen by former Coinbase executive Brian Brooks—announced that **U.S** banks could act as crypto custodians.

The SEC also announced on December 23rd that it would let crypto-focused broker-dealers operate for five years without fear of an enforcement action provided they can verify they have possession and control of customers' digital asset securities.

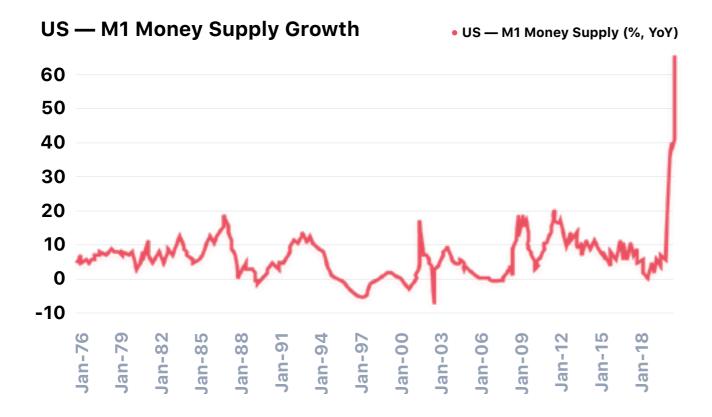
While many in the space feel uneasy due to the potential for over-regulation, Bitcoin now has **SEC commissioner Hester Pierce** on its side who frequently disputes rulings that are viewed as restrictive for the industry.

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission is also drafting comprehensive regulation of crypto as a commodity which in short could mean that the regulatory environment is beginning to take shape for Bitcoin to be on the balance sheet of more major institutional investors in 2021.

We're confident that the crypto industry will move more and more into the mainstream of finance and the banking world over the next year.

Institutional interest will continue to gain momentum

While entering in 2021, the global economy is shaky and uncertain to say the least, however one thing we are sure of is that government balance sheets will continue to expand and global debt will continue to reach unprecedented levels.



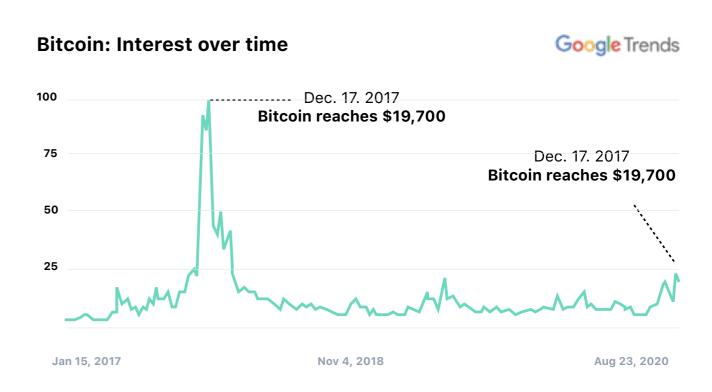
Despite the stock market recovering from its lows in March, the U.S is still down 11% as deficit fears strike currency traders. Oil and energy prices continue to weaken as more people stay indoors, and agricultural prices remain stagnant as demand from the eat-out sector dwindles.

Institutions are looking for somewhere to park their capital. We're confident that **Bitcoin will continue to gain monument as the go-to safe haven asset for 2021,**which in turn will continue to see increased interest from institutional entities.

Retail interest will increase dramatically

Despite Bitcoin reaching \$29,000, Google search volume remains less than a quarter of its highest ever volume, which was achieved in January 2018. Which means mainstream retail interest hasn't quite caught on yet.

This bull run is unique because of the many new on-ramps for retail, brought about by the likes of Visa, Paypal, Square and Cashapp.



PayPal will now let its 350 million users buy and sell Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies in their accounts and spend it at 26 million merchants. Visa has partnered with BlockFi to offer a credit card that rewards purchases with Bitcoin and has also partnered with Simplex, Coinbase and Wirex.

Visa is reportedly also developing a long term crypto strategy and CEO Alfred Kelly says he "can see digital currencies running on our network on a more regular basis".

It has probably never been easier for retail investors to access cryptocurrencies and with the brand power of Paypal and Visa, the stigma of cryptocurrency investing is being dimished.

Bitcoin's price will continue to surge in 2021

If Bitcoin exchange netflows remains negative and the 'HODLer' mentality continues to grow, we can expect sustained growth in the Bitcoin price.

We've already seen institutional money creating a crisis on the buy side, as all of the sell-side liquidity is being absorbed.

With several new entities such as publicly traded companies, hedge funds and other financial institutions set to enter, we can expect the continued decrease of exchange balances and the increase of Bitcoin's price in 2021.

• • • 2021 Crypto Market Outlook

Institutional Interest

In 2020, institutional attitudes completely shifted towards Bitcoin, expressing supportive views:

"I like Bitcoin even more now than I did then.

It's like investing with Steve Jobs and Apple
or investing in Google early. I've never had an
inflation hedge where you have a kicker that you

also have great intellectual capital behind it, so that makes me even more constructive on [Bitcoin]."

Paul Tudor Jones, 22 Oct 2020



"I have warmed up to the fact that Bitcoin could be an asset class that has a lot of attraction as a store of value to both millennials and new the new west coast

money, and as you know they've got a lot of it. It's been around for 13yrs, and with each passing day, it picks up more, more of its stabilization as a brand... Frankly if the gold bet works, the Bitcoin bet will probably work better."

Stanley Druckenmiller, 9 Nov 2020



"So [Bitcoin] could serve as a diversifier to gold and other such storehold of wealth assets. The main thing is to have some of these type of assets (with limited supply, that

are mobile, and that are storeholds of wealth)"

Ray Dalio, 8 Dec 2020

"The Bitcoin story is very easy, which is that its supply demand it's economics, not 101, point 01, which is that Bitcoin's supply is growing at about 2.5% per year, and the demand is growing faster than that. And there's gonna be a fixed number of them. So I think every major bank, every major investment bank, every major high net worth firm is gonna eventually have some exposure to Bitcoin or what's like it."

Bill Miller, Miller Value Funds, 6 Nov 2020

"Do I think [Bitcoin] is a durable mechanism that will take the place of gold to a large extent? Yeah, I do..."

Rick Rieder, CIO, BlackRock, 20 Nov 2020

"Our fundamental work shows that Bitcoin should be worth about 400,000 dollars... It's based on the scarcity and relative valuation to things like gold as a % of GDP. So Bitcoin actually has a lot of the attributes of gold and at the same time has an unusual value in terms of transactions."

Scott Minerd, CIO, Guggenheim Global, 16 Dec 2020

"The adoption of Bitcoin by institutional investors has only begun, while for gold its adoption by institutional investors is very advanced"

JPMorgan, American multinational investment bank, 9 Dec 2020

"Bitcoin is the new Gold."

Tom Fitzpatrick, Managing Director, Citibank, 15 Nov 2020

"All the big hitters in the hedge fund world are coming out to endorse Bitcoin. ... We have been positioning in gold for our clients for many, many years now. Now we're doing it with Bitcoin."

Vimal Gor, Pendal Group Head of Bond, Income, and Defensive Strategies, 23 Nov 2020

"...post-pandemic changes to the policy environment, debt levels and diversification options for investors mean the asset manger now has 'to admit [Bitcoin] does' have a role in asset allocation, at least over the long term."

Inigo Fraser Jenkins, Co-Head, Portfolio Strategy at AllianceBernstein, 1 Dec 2020

"The 50 per cent weight in physical gold bullion in the portfolio will be reduced for the first time in several years by five percentage points with the money invested in Bitcoin. If there is a big drawdown in Bitcoin from the current level, after the historic breakout above the \$20,000 level, the intention will be to add to this position."

Christopher Wood, Global Head of Equity Strategy, Jefferies Group, 18 Dec 2020



• • • • • 2021 Crypto Market Outlook

Bitcoin's allure has attracted institutions because it exists outside of the Federal Reserve's quantitative easing, outside of the stock market, and outside of cumbersome gold.

When we consider in 2020 alone that Bitcoin returned 307.5%, gold +24% and the S&P 500 returned +15%; we see BTC's extreme out performance vs other assets even amidst a global pandemic.

Riding on this momentum, 2020 can be regarded as the year institutional investors came forward in publicly confirming their interest in cryptocurrencies:

MicroStrategy Business intelligence

company, MicroStrategy, accumulated 70,470 BTC — 0.33 per cent of the total BTC supply — bringing their total exposure to Bitcoin to a staggering \$1.9 billion

GUGGENHEIM The Guggenheim Fund filed with to the SEC

to invest \$500 million — 10 per cent of its net

asset value — in the Greyscale

Bitcoin Trust

Stone Ridge US asset manager, Stone Ridge, invested

\$115 million in Bitcoin

Mode Global Holdings

PLC, allocated 10 per cent of its treasury cash

reserve in Bitcoin

PayPal Major payments giant, Paypal, launched a

new service to enable 346 million users to buy, hold and sell cryptocurrencies directly

from their PayPal account

■ Square Jack Dorsey's Square put 1 per cent of the

company's total assets in Bitcoin after purchasing 4,709 BTC worth over \$50 million in October. Speaking at the virtual Oslo

Freedom Forum 2020, Dorsey also said that

Bitcoin is the future of Twitter

Ricardo Salinas Pliego

Mexican billionaire Ricardo Salinas Pliego announced holding 10 per cent of his liquid

assets in Bitcoin

SKYBRIDGE

Anthony Scaramucci's hedge fund SkyBridge Capital filed documents with the U.S. SEC for

its first Bitcoin fund

Stanley Druckenmiller

Billionaire hedge fund manager Stanley

Druckenmiller announced owning Bitcoin in

November

 $\begin{array}{c}
R U \not f E R
\end{array}$

UK-based asset manager Ruffer accumulated

\$744 million of Bitcoin since November,

representing 2.7 per cent of the firm's AUM

Paul Tudor Jones

Macro investor Paul Tudor Jones announced

in May he bought Bitcoin as a hedge against

inflation

...MassMutual Or

One of the world's largest insurance

companies with \$675 billion AUM,

Massachusetts Mutual Life, invested \$100

million in Bitcoin via NYDIG

Alan Howard

Billionaire hedger fund manager, Alan

Howard, backed a new institutional

investment firm that's eyeing a \$1 billion

allocation in Bitcoin and Ethereum

VanEek[®]

Asset manager VanEck—with \$49 billion

AUM—filed with SEC in December for a new

Bitcoin exchange trade fund

GREEN PRO

Greenpro Capital announced in December

that intends to invest \$100 million in Bitcoin

SKYBRIDGE

Anthony Scaramucci's Skybridge Capital

announced in December that it had already invested up to \$182 million in Bitcoin on

behalf of its investment funds

15 publicly traded companies now hold a total of 115,357 Bitcoin worth \$2.6 billion on their balance sheets

Company Name	Market Cap	% BTC	Basis Price	Today's Value	Holdings	%
MicroStrategy inc.	\$3.613B	57%	\$1.12B	\$2.05B	70,470 BTC	.336%
Galaxy Digital Holdings	\$979.9M	49%	\$134M	\$484.7M	16,651 BTC	.079%
Square inc.	\$99.6B	0.1%	\$50.0M	\$137.0M	4,709 BTC	.022%
Hut 8 Mining Corp	\$358.8M	24%	\$36.7M	\$86.0M	2,954 BTC	.014%
Voyager Digital LTD	\$272.7M	13.2%	\$7.92M	\$36.0M	1,239 BTC	.006%
Riot Blockchain, Inc.	1.16B	2.9%	\$7.2M	\$34.2M	1,175 BTC	.006%
Bit Digital, Inc.	\$662.0M	4.2%	\$10.0M	\$27.6M	949.5 BTC	005%
Coin Citadel Inc	Not on G.F.		\$184.9K	\$14.9M	513.0 BTC	.002%
Advanced Bitcoin Technologies	Not on G.F.		\$2.11M	\$7.39M	253.8 BTC	.001%
DigitalX	\$57.5M	11%	\$874.8K	\$6.25M	215.0 BTC	.001%
Hive Blockchain	\$871M	1%	\$6.15M	\$6.15M	211.4 BTC	.001%
Cypherpunk Holdings Inc.	\$18.0M	45%	\$1.63	\$8.04M	276.5 BTC	.001%
BIGG Digital Assets Inc.	\$77.1M	5%	\$ 1.07	\$4.22M	145.0 BTC	.001%
Argo Blockchain	\$105.7M	4.9%	\$1.34M	\$5.18M	178.0 BTC	.001%
FRMO Corp.	\$440.3M	0.4%	\$1.82M	\$1.82M	62.8 BTC	.000%

The figures released by **Bitcointreasuries.org** shows that a total of **15 publicly traded companies now own 5.48 per cent of Bitcoin's total supply** in their treasuries. Despite cryptocurrency positions only amounting to a small percentage of their portfolio, this a clear sign that **institutional investors regard Bitcoin as a reserve asset to hedge against fiat money inflation** and as an undeniable macro portfolio optimizer.

Digital asset manager Grayscale Investments reached \$19 billion in AUM on December 28th

Grayscale's assets under management have climbed from \$2 billion at the start of Dec 2019 to \$19 billion in Dec 2020, with inflows running at about \$1 billion per month.

PRODUCTS	AUM	HOLDINGS PER SHARE*	DAY CHANGE	OTC SYMBOL	MARKET PRICE PER SHARE"	DAY CHANGE
Grayscale Bitcoin Trust	\$16,300.1M	\$25.51	15.95%	GBTC	\$30.48	11.579
Grayscale Bitcoin Cash Trust	\$85.5M	\$3.33	27.59%	BCHG	\$36.50	-5.191
Grayscale Ethereum Trust	\$2,107.3M	\$7.39	22.96%	ETHE	\$16.90	4.321
Grayscale Ethereum Classic Trust	\$72.9M	\$5.32	12.71%	ETCG	\$7.01	0.861
Grayscale Horizen Trust	\$6.9M	\$11.78	42.27%		-	
Grayscale Litecoin Trust	\$151.3M	\$12.21	26.40%	LTCN	\$310.00	5.089
Grayscale Stellar Lumens Trust	\$4.0M	\$14.14	7.37%	***	-	
Grayscale XRP Trust	\$11.2M	\$26.76	8.47%		-	
Grayscale Zcash Trust	\$14.8M	\$6.33	22.67%		-	-
Grayscale Digital Large Cap Fund	\$236.0M	\$15.33	16.84%	GDLC	\$20.00	10.569

16% of Bitcoin's \$166 billion realized market cap is now owned by institutional investors

Grayscale AUM: **\$19 billion**

Institutions AUM: **\$30 billion**

What we're expecting from institutions in 2021

A more sustained, maturing market due to institutional investors

Compared to most individual investors, institutional investors create considerably larger trading volumes and usually operate on longer time frames, meaning that even if there are fewer trading entities transacting, markets can become more self-sustaining and absorb drawdowns more easily.

An avalanche of continued institutional interest

With the top money managers in the world now publicly taking positions in the market, the 'career risk' of jumping in crypto has been eliminated. These first few trail blazers have now made it social acceptable to embrace Bitcoin and have essentially **opened the floodgates to wave of institutional interest in 2021.** Dorsey's Square even went as far as to release a 'Bitcoin Investment Whitepaper', an open-source blueprint of their treasury entry process into Bitcoin in the hopes of encouraging others to also do so.

When we consider that Microstragegy's share price rose from \$134.89 to \$389.97—almost triple growth since August—after its big bet on Bitcoin, it's easy to see why many more publicly traded companies might want to do the same.

Moves like Ruffer's and Massmutal's are now being widely interpreted as the dawn of a macro portfolio diversification trend into Bitcoin. Consequently, if the buyer demand surpass its current valuation, Bitcoin's probability of rapid growth increases exponentially in 2021.



Ethereum

A REVIEW OF THE NO.2

CRYPTOCURRENCY DURING 2020 AND

ITS FUTURE OVER THE COMING YEAR

Ethereum in numbers



Ether price

ETH's price began 2020 at \$129.19 and reached an all time high of \$750.43 on Dec 31, returning 466.5% year-to-date

Hash rate

Ethereum's hash rate began 2020 at 146.42 TH/S and climbed to 278.61 TH/s in December 2020—an increase of 90.28%

Market cap

ETH's market cap began 2020 at \$14 billion and reached an all time high of \$85.7 billion—an increase of 512.14%

Dominance

ETH's market dominance fluctuated considerably between 7.45% and 13.98% throughout 2020

Trading Volume

ETH's 24 hour trading volume began 2020 at \$7.1 billion and reached a high of \$24.7 billion—an increase of 248.03%

Addresses

The number of addresses holding Ethereum began 2020 at 34.7 million and reached an all time high of 51.4 million on December 31st —an increase of 48.13%



Alongside Bitcoin, Ethereum has been gaining momentum moving past \$700 levels and hit a new 2020-high of \$750. Despite current price levels, ETH was still trading at below **50 per cent from its all-time high** of \$1,448 while Bitcoin proceeds to enjoy the spotlight for the time being.

Aside from price action, ETH still has lot to celebrate, 2020 saw an explosive growth in metrics and benchmarks that clearly represents the adoption of Ethereum as the base-layer structure for the decentralized, next-generation 'internet of value'.

Ethereum 2.0 finally shipped in early December

2020 saw the much awaited launch of Ethereum's primary scaling solution with the genesis of ETH 2.0, fundamentally transitioning from ETH 1 to the ETH 2.0 Beacon Chain.

Launched in early December, Ethereum 2.0 transforms the network validation method from **Proof-of-Work (PoW)** to **Proof-of-Stake (PoS)** from which an entirely new use case for Ether emerges through staking.

ETH 2.0 staking growth exploded

In order to meet the deadline for launch on December

1, 524,288 ETH need to be transferred by validators to

Ethereum 2.0 deposit contract until November 24. Not only
hours before the activation deadline, the target was met.

ETH 2.0 Deposit Contract





The contract now holds over **1.5 per cent of the total ETH supply,** representing over \$1.1 billion in value securing Ethereum's eventual public chain.

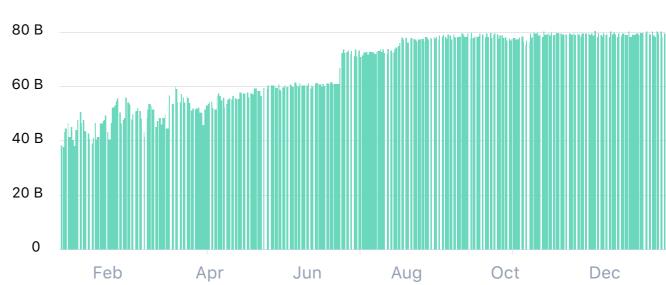
1.5 per cent of the total ETH supply has now effectively been rendered **illiquid for 18 months**, which is not only bullish for the network but for the significant reduction in circulating supply moving forward in to 2021.

ETH gas fees point towards increasing demand

Gas fees skyrocketing in 2020 has highlighted scalability issues once again, however there is an upside. Despite these high gas fees, users have not been deterred from using the network. An upcoming Ethereum updated to look forward to somewhere in late 2021 (hopefully) is the EIP 1559 fee model, which will take the demand of gas and use it to burn ETH.

Burning the base fee creates a positive feedback loop between the network usage and the ETH supply. Put simply; the more ETH that gets used, the more ETH supply gets burned, which can help lower the supply rate and increase the valuation of pre-existing ETH. Now, here's where things get even more interesting; if gas usage exceeds the supply rate, ETH becomes a functional digital asset with a steadily declining supply as its usage grows.

Total Gas Used per Day



From the chart above, we can already see the increasing frequency with which users are driving gas demand, once the EIP 1559 upgrade is implemented, it should drive significant price appreciation in the near future.

ETH held on exchanges is at a 1.5 year low

the crypto exchanges have fallen to a 1.5 year low while ETH miners balances are at a 2-year low. This means more traders are moving less ETH onto exchanges, anticipating a potential increase in price. This also signals an increasing demand for Ether in over-the-counter and retail markets.

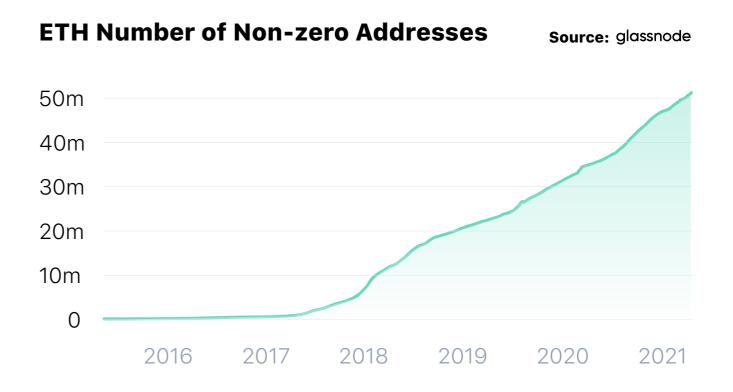


Ethereum's hash rate has seen a massive surge

Despite ETH's move to Proof of Stake, its hash rate has climbed to new highs, indicating miners are not phased by this transition. Ultimately the **ETH network is more secure** than it has ever been.



Number of addresses holding ETH hit a new all-time high



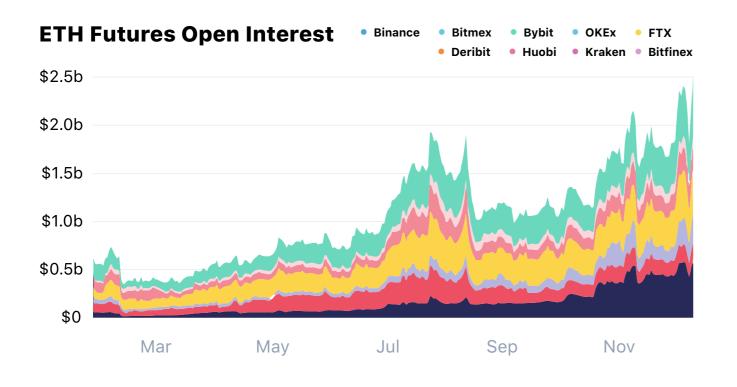
The number of addresses holding Ethereum began 2020 at 34.7 million and reached an all time high of 51.4 million on December 31st —an increase of 48.13%. The growth can be attributed to two things—the market maturing, brought on by institutional investors, and the explosive rise of DeFi.

Number of addresses holding 10k ETH hit a new all-time high



In late December, the number of addresses holding 10,000+ Ether reached a 9-month high of 1,073, a bullish sign for Ethereum's near-term outlook because it indicates an ongoing accumulation trend by big money players or "whales".

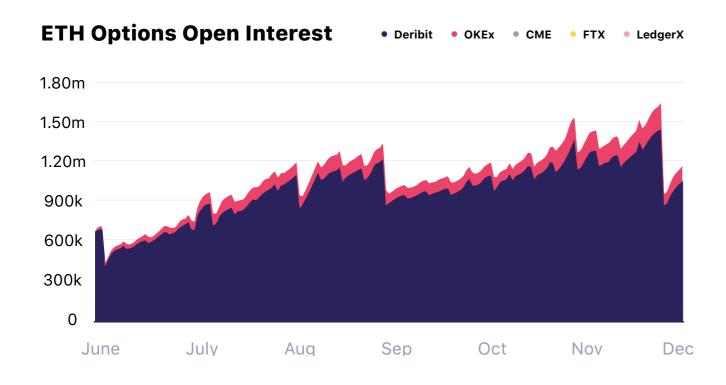
ETH Futures Open Interest broke a new all time high of \$2.21 billion



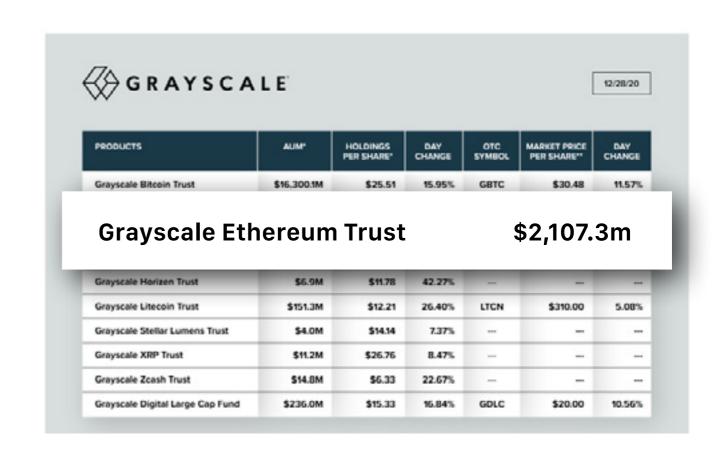
This chart reflects the current total value of Ethereum futures that have not been settled yet. On December 28th, the ETH Futures Open interest broke a new all time high of \$2.21b, signalling a strong market amid an upward trend.

Ether options grew by 150%, reaching over \$1 billion in December

Over the past three months, the open interest on Ether options grew by 150% to over \$1 billion in December. This is positive sign of a maturing market because the increase in more sophisticated tools available for market participants means it can naturally support more capital inflow.



Grayscale Ethereum Trust has moved past \$2.1 billion in assets under management



The Grayscale Ethereum Trust began 2020 at \$66.2 million and reached \$2.1 billion in assets under management in December. That's an impressive increase of 3081.8 per cent, which clearly indicates that ETH's price rally in 2020 was indeed supported by institutional buying.

CME Group announced that it will list an ETH futures product this year

The CME announced in December the launch of Ether futures, due in February of 2021. The CME is already among the biggest Bitcoin futures exchanges by open interest, and this move indicates that institutional demand for Bitcoin continues to expand into other crypto assets, particularly Ethereum.

"Based on increasing client demand and robust growth in our Bitcoin futures and options markets, we believe the addition of Ether futures will provide our clients with a valuable tool to trade and hedge this growing cryptocurrency," said Tim McCourt of CME Group.

What we're expecting for Ethereum in 2021:

DeFi will continue to grow and ETH will continue to benefit from its momentum

Even though DeFi began 2020 with under 1 billion of capital and then rose to \$16 billion, there's still much more to expect from the young sector in 2021. When we also consider that ETH is its base-layer and is first need in order to access the majority of DeFi applications, we can expect ETH to continue to benefit from DeFi's rise.

Ethereum will attract new institutional money

Alongside Bitcoin, it makes sense that institutional investors could move into Ethereum—the second largest by market capitalization—when we consider that BTC and ETH are the only digital crypto asset that the SEC official recognises as non securities.

Regulation clarity is absolutely critical for any cryptocurrency hoping to attract institutional investment.



Speaking in an interview with Bloomberg in 2020, Michael Sonnenshein, managing director at Grayscale said:

"Over the course of 2020, we are seeing a new group of investors who are Ethereum first and, in some cases, Ethereum-only. There's a growing conviction around Ethereum as an asset class."

The Grayscale ETHE Trust is a clear indicator of the growing institutional demand for ETH:

"Grayscale Ethereum Trust has garnered the attention of a new segment of Ethereum-focused institutional allocators.

During 3Q 2020, over 17% of inflows into the Grayscale

Ethereum Trust came from new institutional investors."

Ethereum's market cap could exceed \$300 billion

Once the Bitcoin rally cools down, we can expect major capital inflows into Ethereum. Ethereum's network capabilities should improve dramatically with the Eth 2.0 upgrade, which should attract more users, use cases and hopefully more institutional investors, driving the price to new all time highs.

With Eth 2.0 causing the reduction of sell-side pressure and the CME futures listing coming in Q1, this year should be explosive for ETH with a new all time high just around the corner.



Top 10 DeFi Assets

Rank	Asset	Price	Market Cap	1 Year
1	O Chainlink LINK	\$11.26	\$4.48 B	+562.3%
2	® Wrapped Bitcoin wвтс	\$28,837	\$3.26 B	+733.78%
3	Dai DAI	\$1	\$1.23 B	N/A
4	Synthetix Network Token SN	ıx \$7.34	\$996.7 M	+1429.1%
5	Aave AAVE	\$81.42	\$980.3 M	+59.15%
6	Uniswap UNI	\$4.94	\$895.7 M	+135.8%
7	yearn.finance YFI	\$21,879	\$664.7 M	+2,085.9%
8	© Compound COMP	\$157.72	\$649.2 M	+100.71%
9	Empty Set Dollar ESD	\$0.81	\$173.1 M	N/A
10	Maker мкг	\$576.40	\$519.4 M	+29.85%

• • • • • 2021 Crypto Market Outlook

While Bitcoin and the traditional financial sector looked bleak in early 2020, a new wave decentralised finance was just beginning to heat up. In 2020, the spirit of decentralisation truly began to take off with **P2P trading within decentralised smart contracts,** sprouting new ecosystems for generating passive yields that could be accessed by any investor with a Metamask wallet and some Ether.

The emerging DeFi sector which kicked off with rather buggy decentralised apps and exchanges, quickly began to find its feet, evolving into **giant unicorns yielding high volumes and high returns** that even rivalled many top exchanges.

Starting in June with the launch of Compound's COMP, new ecosystems for staking known as yield farming took off, allowing investors to offer their digital assets as collateral to DeFi start-ups in return for new tokens.

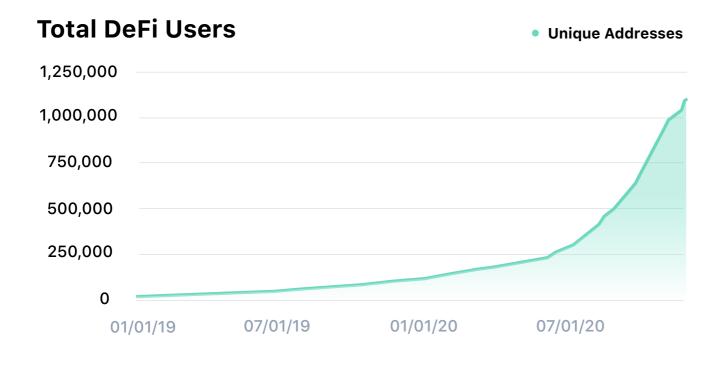
While some projects ended brutally as clear cash grabs and rug pulls, a few unique DeFi projects came out on top for their innovative and improved approaches, attempting to challenge the legacy financial sector.

Total USD Value Locked in DeFi



DeFi TVL went parabolic, reaching \$16 billion in December

\$675.59 million was locked into DeFi on Jan. 1, 2020. This number exploded to over \$16 billion.



DeFi user growth exploded in 2020 when it reached over 1m users

DeFi reached over 1 million unique addresses across all protocols, despite only starting 2020 with less than 100,000.

Uniswap	UNI
Category	AMM
Price	\$4.94
TVL	\$1.8 B
Market cap	\$895.7 M
1 Year	+135.8%

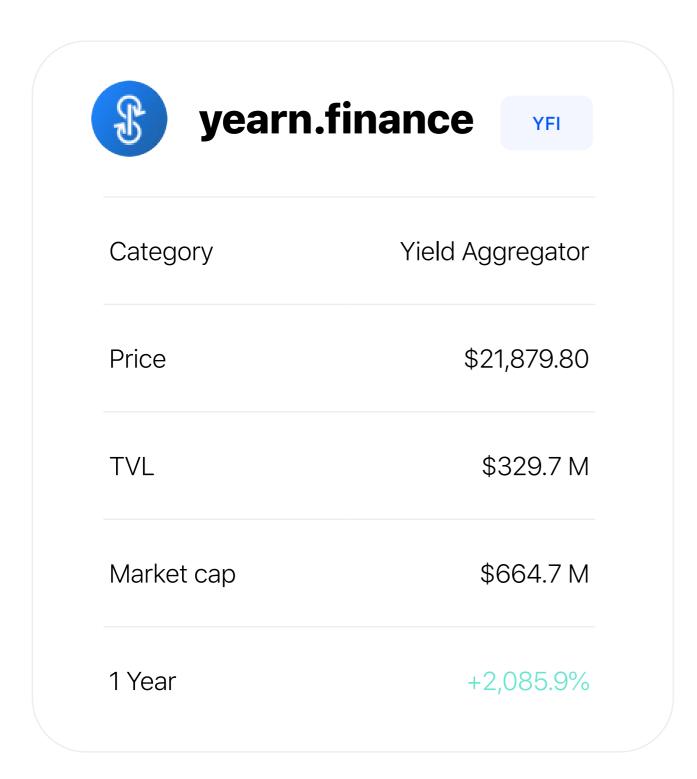
1.2 Uniswap

Launched in 2018, a fully decentralized Ethereum based protocol which provides **automated liquidity for the swapping of ERC20 tokens**, Uniswap, quickly rose to prominence as one the main underlying catalyst for the DeFi sector's 2020 boom.

With less than \$1 million in volume in Q1 of 2020, Uniswap reached billions in liquidity by the summer, peaking at \$1 billion in trading volume.

Dubbed the 'DeFI Stimulus check', Uniswap airdropped 400 UNI tokens worth \$1,200 in mid September to every wallet that had previously provided liquidity to the protocol. UNI soared briefly to \$8.38, resulting in an airdrop of \$3,300 for early Uniswap users.

With big backers including **Andreesen Horowitz and Union Square Ventures**, we're expecting UniSwap to continue innovating in 2021 and beyond.



1.2 yearn.finance

Providing an open-source yield aggregating platform that automatically allocates liquidity between DeFi lending products based on returns, yearn.finance and the YFI governance token emerged as another 'blue chip' project within the sector.

The YFI token which governs the yearn.finance ecosystem, began trading below \$800 in July and quickly grew to \$43,000 as the project gained traction as Andre Cronje's Yearn.finance became one of the most popular protocols for yield farmers. yearn.finance continued to expand its

ecosystem through mergers—as seen with its merger with SushiSwap, Pickle Finance, C.R.E.A.M Finance, Cover Protocol and Akropolis—becoming a conglomerate within the DeFi space. This strategy should prove immensely positive for the yearn.finance ecosystem, because it enables developers from varying DeFi projects to focus on their unique skills and services, while still brining innovation into the DeFi space at a more rapid and productive pace.

All of these factors are likely to converge to create a powerful network effect — more users participating in the platform's services, which then attracts even more users.

Sushiswap	SUSHI
Category	DEX
Price	\$2.88
TVL	\$1.4 B
Market cap	\$367.91 M
1 Year	+84.5%

1.2 Sushiswap

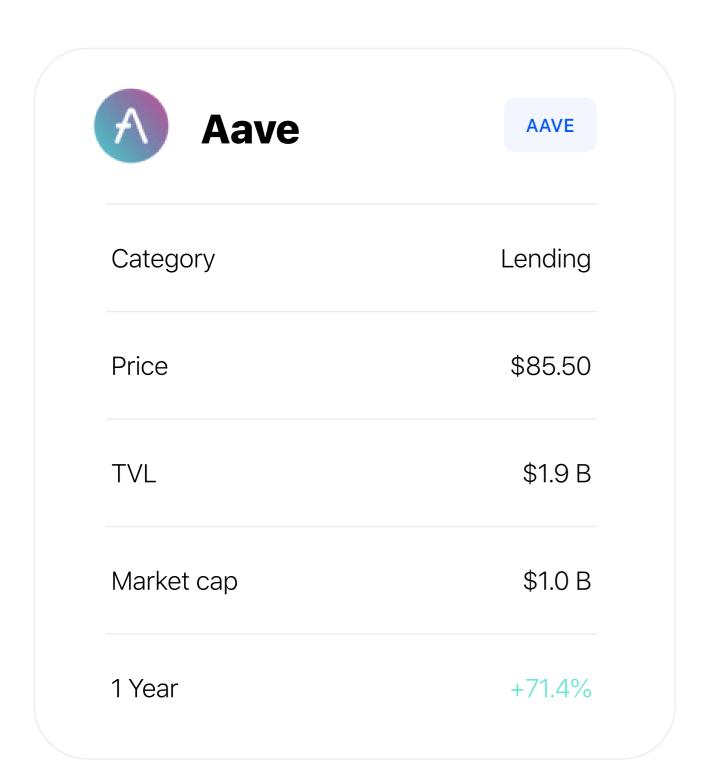
The DeFi boom wasn't without its good number of forks and copycats. Most notably, Sushiswap began by forking the code of Uniswap to accept Uniswap pool tokens for yield farming and then redeeming the tokens to collect the underlying liquidity for itself at the end of the yield period.

The SUSHI token was launched from \$0.15 to \$15 amidst the DeFi summer boom but was clouded in controversy when its

• 2021 Crypto Market Outlook

lead developer, Chef Nomi, quickly sold almost \$14 million worth of tokens after announcing his exit from the project. The projects TVL crashed and dragged the price below a dollar. Despite the controversy, the project today continues to develop and confidence has been restored in the project with its recent merger with Yearn. Finace announced in early December by Andre Cronje.

Today, the SUSHI token has recovered to \$3 and the platform has over \$1 billion in locked liquidity. Consequently, the price of SUSHI rallied by 400% since its bottom on November 4. With its new chef, FTX CEO Sam Bankman-Fried, and merger with Yearn.finance, plus its daily volume in the US\$50 million to US\$100 million range, Sushiswap has moved on from being simple fork to a serious player in DeFi space for 2021.



1.2 Aave

Formerly known as ETHLend back in 2017 and the first project to deliver synthetic forms of collateral plus an under-collateralised borrowing mechanism for borrowing and lending in crypto, Aave became a trailblazer in the DeFi sector. The LEND token was migrated to AAVE, to be

used to vote on proposals made by the AAVE team, as well as economic variables such as interest rates, liquidation configurations, and new assets.

1.1 What we're expecting for DeFi in 2021

The DeFi sector's staggering rise in TVL surpassing \$16 billion in December has undeniably made it of the most talked about topics of 2020 and while the sector has seen a lot of success, there is still a lot underlying infrastructure for most decentralised apps that needs to be approved upon.

But ultimately, DeFi has the potential to reshape how we consume financial services and how the banking sector operates, providing a new way to expand financial market access to a broader range of individuals and entities, especially in a world where 1.7 billion people still lack access.

If macroeconomic trends of low (and even negative) interest rates across the legacy financial system continue to progress, we're confident that the **DeFi sector will become increasingly relevant to everyday consumers.**

DeFi markets will begin to mature and total DeFi locked will exceed \$150 billion

One trend we anticipate, DeFi apps and use cases will continue to gain momentum in 2021. Despite a capitulation-like correction where major DeFi tokens fell by over 50% across the board in October, many 'blue chip' protocols such as yearn. finance, SushiSwap, Aave, and Uniswap remained resilient.

yearn.finance continued to expand its ecosystem through mergers, Sushiswap has gone on to reach \$50 million to \$100 million in volume and Uniswap has seen backing from the likes of Andreesen Horowitz and Union Square Ventures.

Institutional investors will want in on Decentralized Finance

Another trend we anticipate in 2021 is that institutional money and professional investors will increasingly want exposure to DeFi. Moving forward in to 2021, Bitcoin has began flashing signs of a more sustainable up trend, in which the DeFi market could benefit from. However, an increase in institutional investor confidence could be sparked if DeFi assets begin to develop a lower correlation with Bitcoin, Ethereum and other large cap cryptocurrencies over the next year.

DeFi will advance further than finance services and products

In 2021, we will see some of the DeFi core innovations, like pool lending and shared ownership, seep into other applications we wouldn't typically categorise as 'finance.'

DeFi will continue set the stand for project fund raising

While the DeFi boom of 2020 does in some fundamental ways resemble the ICO craze of 2017, DeFi boom has changed how projects raise funding forever.

After the end of the 2017 ICO boom, it was assumed that it would be difficult for new projects to find their funding. But in 3 years, we've gone from pie-in-the-sky ICOs raising millions on promises to genuinely promising DeFi platforms with hundreds of millions of dollars in weekly volume and with real user demand, distributing their tokens for free.

CEX will embrace DEX & DEFI

Several exchanges, such as Binance and Huobi, are investing heavily into DeFi in 2021. Huobi, for instance, has established its own DeFi research lab, which may bring new products to market over the next year.

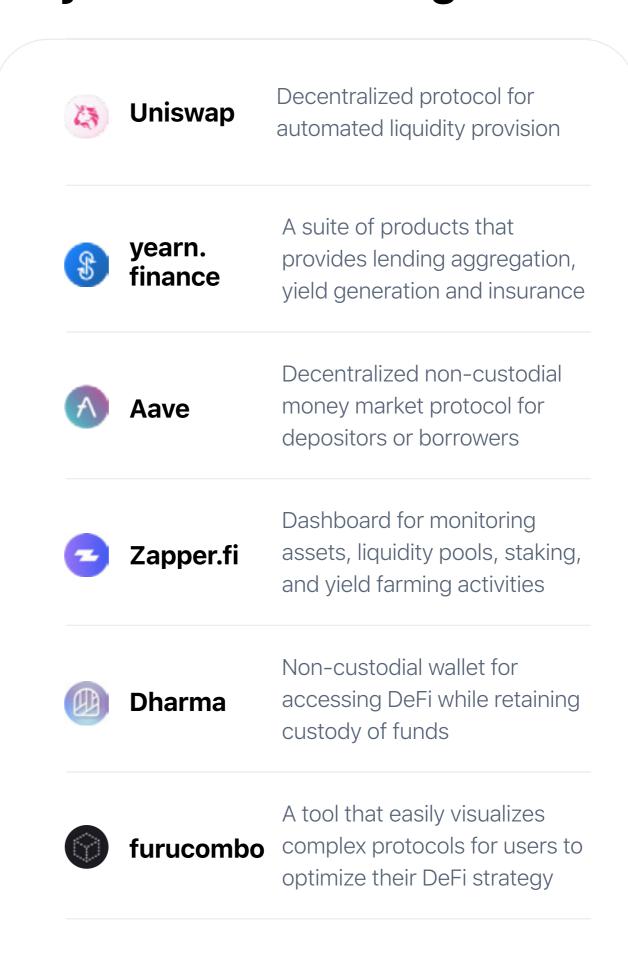
DeFi derivatives will be big in 2021

Access to affordable leverage is currently the main reason funds are kept on CEXs, however this could be about to change once DeFi derivatives can provide the same exposure.

DeFi will still see its share of hacks and exploits in 2021

There were 15 hacks of DeFi platforms in 2020, amounting to \$120 million in funds being stolen. Automating money through smart contracts is both exciting and terrifying at the same time. While we usher in this new era of Decentralized Finance, the space will need to learn how to manage the risks associated such as hacks and contract exploits. We've already seen this in 2020 but it will have to progress further over the coming year.

Projects we're watching in 2021:



Compound

An algorithmic, autonomous

interest rate protocol





Stablecoins

A REVIEW OF THE STABLECOIN MARKET

DURING 2020 AND ITS FUTURE OVER

THE COMING YEAR



Top 10 Stablecoins

Rank	Asset	Market Cap	24h Volume
1	Tether uspt	\$21.35 B	\$86.33 B
2	(S) USD Coin usdc	\$4.19 B	\$24.24 B
3	Dai DAI	\$1.23 B	\$902.6 M
4	Binance USD BUSD	\$1.15 B	\$2.66 B
5	Empty Set Dollar ESD	\$401.7 M	\$33.62 M
6	O Paxos Standard PAX	\$383.4 M	\$105.5 M
7	TrueUSD TUSD	\$284.2 M	\$440.5 M
8	5 HUSD HUSD	\$196.2 M	\$132.4 M
9	S SUSD SUSD	\$133.8 M	\$111.6 M
10	Neutrino usdn	\$118.0 M	\$904.9 K

Stablecoins—digital tokens pegged to a fiat currency acting as hedging mechanisms against the potential decline of cryptocurrency prices—boosted liquidity in the crypto market, enabling cheaper and faster asset trading.

The total market cap of stablecoins grew from \$5.74 billion to \$29.2 billion

2020 was a record year for stablecoins, the total market capitalisation of stablecoins grew from \$5.74 billion to 29.2 billion by the end of the year, and on-chain transaction volumes crossed the \$1 trillion mark in 2020, increasing 303.22 per cent since last year.

The aggregate stablecoin supply grew from \$5.9 billion to over \$26 billion — an impressive 340 per cent increase. We can expect this momentum to continue in 2021.

1.1 Responsible innovation must exist in line with existing law: Working Group on Financial Markets

Stablecoins made headlines in December 2020 when the
Working Group on Financial Markets released a statement
providing an assessment of key regulatory factors for
participants in "significant stablecoin arrangements with a U.S.
nexus that are primarily used for retail payments."

"The statement reflects a commitment to both promote the important benefits of innovation and to achieve critical objectives related to national security and financial stability. Regulators will continue to look closely at stablecoin arrangements, and look forward to future dialogue on these issues," said Treasury Deputy Secretary Justin Muzinich.

What we're expecting for stablecoins in 2021

Regulation will legitimize stablecoins but may also hinder them

With the continued growth of the crypto market in 2021, it will no doubt continue to attract the attention of central banks and governments looking to urgently regulate the sector. While this may be a positive move towards legitimising the space and providing much needed clarity, it may also result in restrictive laws that could hinder innovation.

Advanced algorithmic stablecoin projects will huge in the DeFi sector

Algorithmic stablecoins are cryptocurrencies which attain price stability by algorithmically expanding the coin's circulating supply to reflect market behaviour.

With increasing regulatory pressure on more centralised stablecoins, new decentralised algorithmic stablecoins with elastic supply properties could be just what the DeFi sector is looking for in 2021. Some of these might include the likes of ESD, RAI, DSD & FRAX.

Tether will be potentially dethroned in 2021

In 2020, Tether has suffered a number of highly publicized issues while in the background the stablecoin sub-industry began to gain momentum. A slew of alternative stablecoins have already seen great growth in 2020 and are now positioned to potentially overthrow Tether in 2021.

Final thoughts

With only three days in to January 2021, Bitcoin has already reached over \$34,000, made a new all time high against gold, over taken Berkshire Hathaway in market capitalization and become 17th largest currency in the world. Without a doubt, there's a lot to be bullish about as we begin 2021.

With ETH trading above \$900 for the first time since 2018, Eth 2.0 causing the reduction of sell-side pressure and the CME futures listing coming in Q1, this year should also be explosive for Ethereum.

And while predictions are just that, predictions, and while the specifics of 2021 we can't tell for sure, one thing we are certain of; no matter how much exposure we have to cryptocurrencies, it won't feel like enough.

Trends to watch in 2021:

Institutional-driven flow will continue to surge when we consider that trailblazers like Microstragegy are up 205% on their Bitcoin bet—MST stock price increased from \$135 to \$388—and Square Inc. is up 220%—SQ stock price increased from \$135 to \$388, we can expect to see an influx of companies and institutions entering the space over the coming year.

With on ramps like Paypal now enabling hundreds of millions of retail customer to acquire crypto assets on their smartphones, we can expect a wave of new retail money to enter the market this year.

This retail-driven flow will almost definitely push some altcoins higher, as capital trickles down from Bitcoin to Ethereum to larger cap cryptos and the possibly to top DeFi projects.

But unlike 2017, some altcoins have real use cases this time and are perhaps more deserving of their billion dollar market caps.

Based on the usage increase in 2020, the sectors likely to see growing interest include oracles, algo-stablecoins, DeFi derivatives NTF platforms, decentralized exchange tokens, non-custodial lending and liquidity provision.

Predictions:

Bitcoin will become a trillion dollar asset

Ethereum will reach a 300 billion dollar market capitalisation

Dollar backed stablecoins will reach \$150 billion

Total value locked in DeFi will exceed \$150 billion

2021 will see the rise of nonfungible token platforms

The digital dollar will be delayed, China's digital Yuan will go live

ETH will begin to see institutional buying

Tether will be dethroned

Something big is coming.

Our new crypto platform is set to launch in 2021

We're excited to announce the launch of our cryptocurrency research platform this year, sign up here to find out more.



The information provided in this report is intended for general guidance and information purposes only. Contents of this report are under no circumstances intended to be considered as investment, business, legal or tax advice.

We do not accept any responsibility for individual decisions made based on this article and we strongly encourage you to do your own research before taking any action. Although best efforts are made to ensure that all information provided herein is accurate and up to date, omissions, errors, or mistakes may occur.