



CRYPTOCURRENCY REWIND 2018

It's fair to say that 2018 has been a tough year for cryptocurrencies. A rising tide of legislation, coupled with rumours of a bubble, has sent shockwaves across the entire concept of digital currencies. Reflect on a challenging year for cryptocurrencies by reading through the stats below.

2018 CRYPTOCURRENCY STATS AT A GLANCE

48%

Bitcoin continues to enjoy nearly half of the cryptocurrency market, with **48% market capitalization**



However, Bitcoin's price fell significantly throughout the year, from **\$10,116.51 in January to \$4214.74 in November**



Altcoins struggled in 2018; by June, 800+ cryptocurrencies had a value of less than 1 cent

OPTIMISTIC SIGNS FOR CRYPTOCURRENCIES IN 2018



The number of blockchain wallet users grew in 2018 from **23,952,849 in Q1 to 28,888,424 in Q3**



The number of cryptocurrency users has also risen, from **85 million in 2017 to 139 million by late 2018**



In March, Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey said he expects Bitcoin to be the world's **"single currency" within 10 years**



In June, a study found **20% of millennials** in the UK would rather invest in Bitcoin than real estate



In July, an online store - Lynx Art - claimed that their **sales had jumped 427%** after adding cryptocurrencies as an accepted payment method

In August, the owner of the New York Stock Exchange, The Intercontinental Exchange, announced they were opening a **Bitcoin exchange called Bakkt**



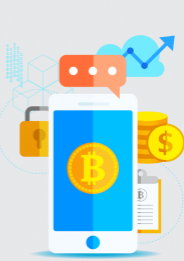
EOS' ICO was hugely successful, raising a total of **\$4,197,956,136**



June was the best performing month for ICOs, with **\$5,803,909,395 raised in total**



In May, Seminole County of Florida announced they would start to **accept payment in cryptocurrencies via Bitpay** for a range of county services in an effort to improve payment accuracy and efficiency



CRYPTOCURRENCY NEWS AND REGULATORY ACTIVITIES IN 2018



In February, a US District Judge ruled that virtual currencies are commodities and can thus be **regulated by the Commodities Futures Trading Commission**

In January, South Korea's Financial Services Commission **banned anonymous cryptocurrency trading**, sending a shockwave through the market as a result



Also in January, **Samsung began producing ASIC chips** specifically designed for Bitcoin mining for a Chinese company



In June, a study conducted by University of Texas professor John M. Griffin found **price manipulation of the digital currency Tether** caused the Bitcoin price surge in 2017

In May, the San Francisco Federal Reserve announced their research had found that **Bitcoin's sharp fall in price was due to the launch of a futures market**



Also in June, South Korean cryptocurrency exchange Bithumb announced that **\$31.5 million worth of virtual coins had been stolen by hackers**

In September, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) completed **enforcement action against TokenLot**, who were accused of acting as an unregistered broker dealer. TokenLot were ordered to pay \$478,929 in disgorgement and prejudgment interest and the owners each had to pay a \$45,000 fine as a result of the action



Also in September, the SEC took action against **Crypto Asset Management (CAM) for multiple securities law violations** when seeking funding for their pooled investment fund, Crypto Asset Fund (CAF). CAM and its owners were subsequently forced to pay \$200,000 in civil penalties.

Resources
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