

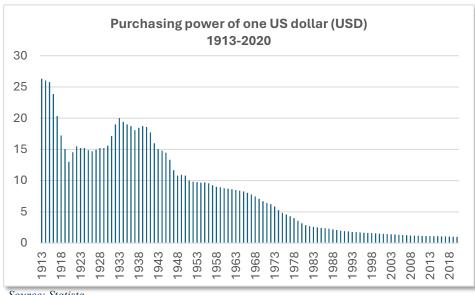
The following is primarily based on research and commentary published in the October 2025 Horizon Kinetics Fixed Income & Contrarian Compendium.

Historical context is needed to properly study cryptocurrency data, which is mostly observable over the past decade. One particularly relevant measure is the purchasing power of \$1 since 1913, when the Federal Reserve System was founded.

The Purchasing Power of One Dollar over the Past Century (1913-2020)

In 1913, the purchasing power of \$1 was actually \$26.29, which is to say it could purchase \$26.29 of goods and services. This is based on the purchasing power of \$1 as of year-end 2020.

With interim exceptions, the dollar has gradually lost value over this entire century-plus period.



Source: Statista

Sometimes the change has been abrupt: From 1913-1920, the dollar lost about 50% of its purchasing power. The ensuing 1929-1933 deflationary period should be viewed as a reaction to the severe 1913-1920 inflationary loss of purchasing power. In 1938, preparation for—and then participation in—World War II sparked another inflationary spiral. From 1950 to 1953, there was some inflation due to the Korean War.

By 2020, the index value was 1. It's probably less than 1 right now. Accordingly, per this data, the dollar has lost 96.2% of its purchasing power value since 1913. This experienced is widely shared amongst other fiat currencies of the world.

The Purchasing Power of One Bitcoin over the Past Decade

Bitcoin, on the other hand, has an inflation rate that is precisely pre-determined, is well known in advance and—being hardwired into the code—is unchangeable.

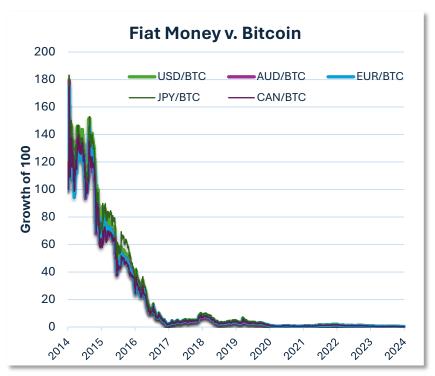


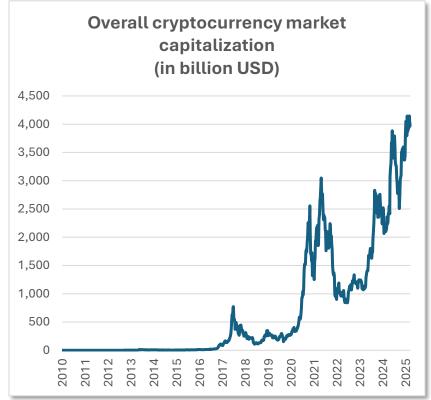
Bearing in mind the preceding discussion, a purchase of bitcoin is nothing other than a short sale of world currencies.

When the dollar is diluted in the manner indicated by the money supply, and inflation is at double-digits, the dollar-based system is essentially reducing people's purchasing power by an amount of that magnitude. This can be considered a hidden tax on the users of the currency.

On January 28, 2016, the market capitalization of all the cryptocurrencies in existence, including Bitcoin, was \$12.27 billion.

On October 1, 2025, the market capitalization was \$3.99 trillion. That's a 32,448% return, from a U.S. investor perspective.



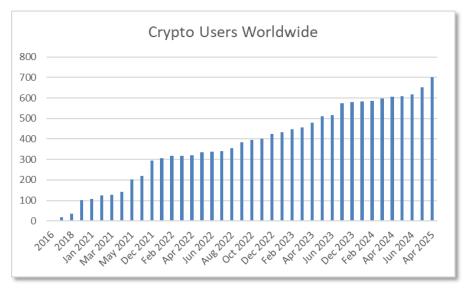


Source: Statista



In 2018, according to Statista, we had 35.3 million cryptocurrency users worldwide.

By April 2025, there were 700 million cryptocurrency users. That is about 8% of the world's population.



Source: Statista

Also according to Statista, in January 2022, there were 9,929 cryptocurrencies in existence. In August 2025, there were 9,521. So the number of cryptocurrencies in existence has stopped increasing, and actually declined by a little over 400.

Number of Cryptocurrencies Worldwide

January 2022	9,929
February 2022	10,397
November 2022	9,310
February 2023	8,685
August 2023	9,321
December 2023	8,866
January 2024	9,024
June 2024	10,037
August 2024	10,025
September 2024	9,844
November 2024	9,935
December 2024	10,309
January 2025	10,567
March 2025	10,531
June 2025	9,717
July 2025	9,385
August 2025	9,521
Source: Statista	

Source: Statista



Bitcoin as a National Asset

In prior discussions, we laid out the premise that share/debt issuance to fund a Bitcoin purchase strategy is not a viable long-term business plan. Nevertheless, there are at least 100 publicly traded companies in the U.S. that hold Bitcoin as a balance sheet asset. They collectively own 1,064,688 bitcoin.

If Bitcoin is a superior investment to cash, one should reasonably expect sovereign balance sheets to hold some portion of their liquid assets in Bitcoin. In fact, some countries do.

Country	Amount (Bitcoin/USD)
United States	326,588 BTC / \$35.33 billion
China	190,000 BTC / \$20.61 billion (estimated)
United Kingdom	61,245 BTC / \$6.64 billion
Ukraine	46,351 BTC / \$5.02 billion (estimated)
United Arab Emirates	6,420 BTC / \$692.4 million
El Salvador	6,365 BTC / \$690.3 million
Bhutan	6,227 BTC / \$678 million
North Korea (Lazarus Group ¹)	803 BTC / \$87.22 million (estimated)
Venezuela	240 BTC / \$26 million (estimated)
Finland	90 BTC / \$10 million (estimated)

Source: Ccn.com; Arkham Intelligence; Bitcoin Treasuries. As of October 30, 2025.

El Salvador's Bitcoin holding is now worth about \$690 million. According to the CIA World Factbook, the country's GDP—measured on a purchasing power parity basis—is approximately \$74 billion. The Bitcoin holding is not yet sufficient to alter the fortunes of El Salvador. El Salvador also owns 14.59 metric tonnes of gold worth roughly \$1.88 billion (the value of one tonne now exceeds \$129 million).

However, since the country made its purchase, Bitcoin has outperformed any possible asset mix that could have been established if El Salvador had a well-diversified sovereign wealth fund.

The trend is away from fiat currencies as a store of value for national reserves. It is not inconceivable to deduce that the trend is toward Bitcoin as a national reserve of value.

¹ The Lazarus Group is a state-sponsored hacker group made up of unknown members, alleged to be run by the government of North Korea.



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