

F E L L O W S

ALL THINGS CRYPTO

An Overview of Digital Currencies

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F E L L O W S



Crypto and Digital Assets

- Cryptocurrency = digital money
- Bitcoin is the most well-known example, but there are thousands
- Runs on blockchain for security and transparency
- Digital assets also include NFTs, smart contracts, among others



Bitcoin:

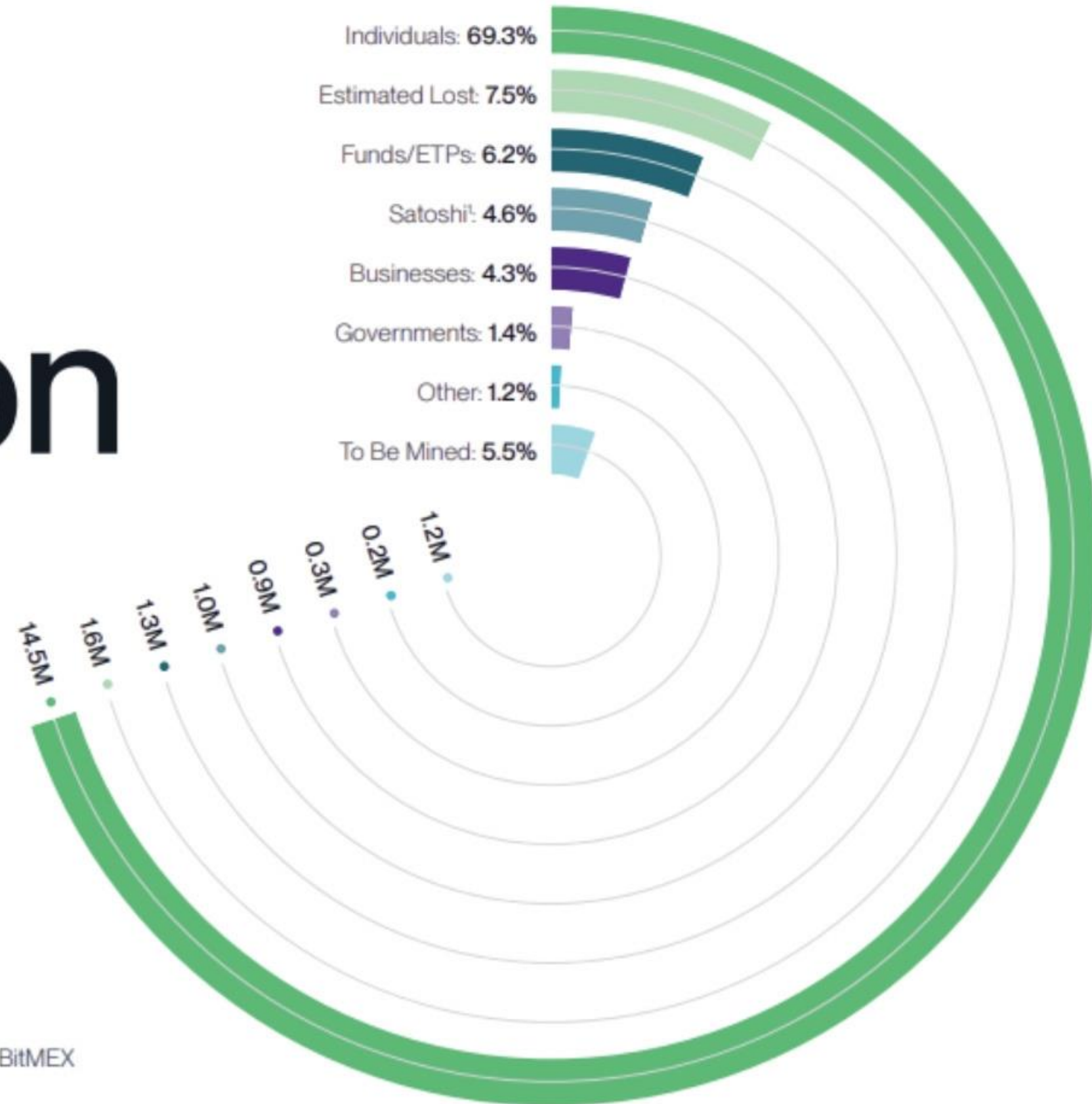
The First Big Cryptocurrency

- Launched in 2009 by the anonymous “Satoshi Nakamoto.”
- Built to work without banks, using secure blockchain technology.
- Grew from a tech experiment to a global asset as its value surged.
- Now seen less as currency and more as “digital gold”—a store of value and a major brand in the crypto world.

Bitcoin Ownership By Type

Total Bitcoin Supply:

21 Million



Source: Bitwise Asset Management with data from River and BitMEX Research. Data as of March 16, 2025.

(1) Psuedonymous creator of bitcoin.

Values in table may not add to total due to rounding.

The Blockchain

- Blockchain = a decentralized digital ledger
- Records transactions across many computers at once
- Extremely secure and difficult to alter
- Used by major companies:
 - Banking: JP Morgan, HSBC, Citigroup
 - Supply chain: Walmart, Nestle, Coca-Cola
 - Gaming: Atari, Gala Games, Animoca



Beyond Bitcoin



Ethereum

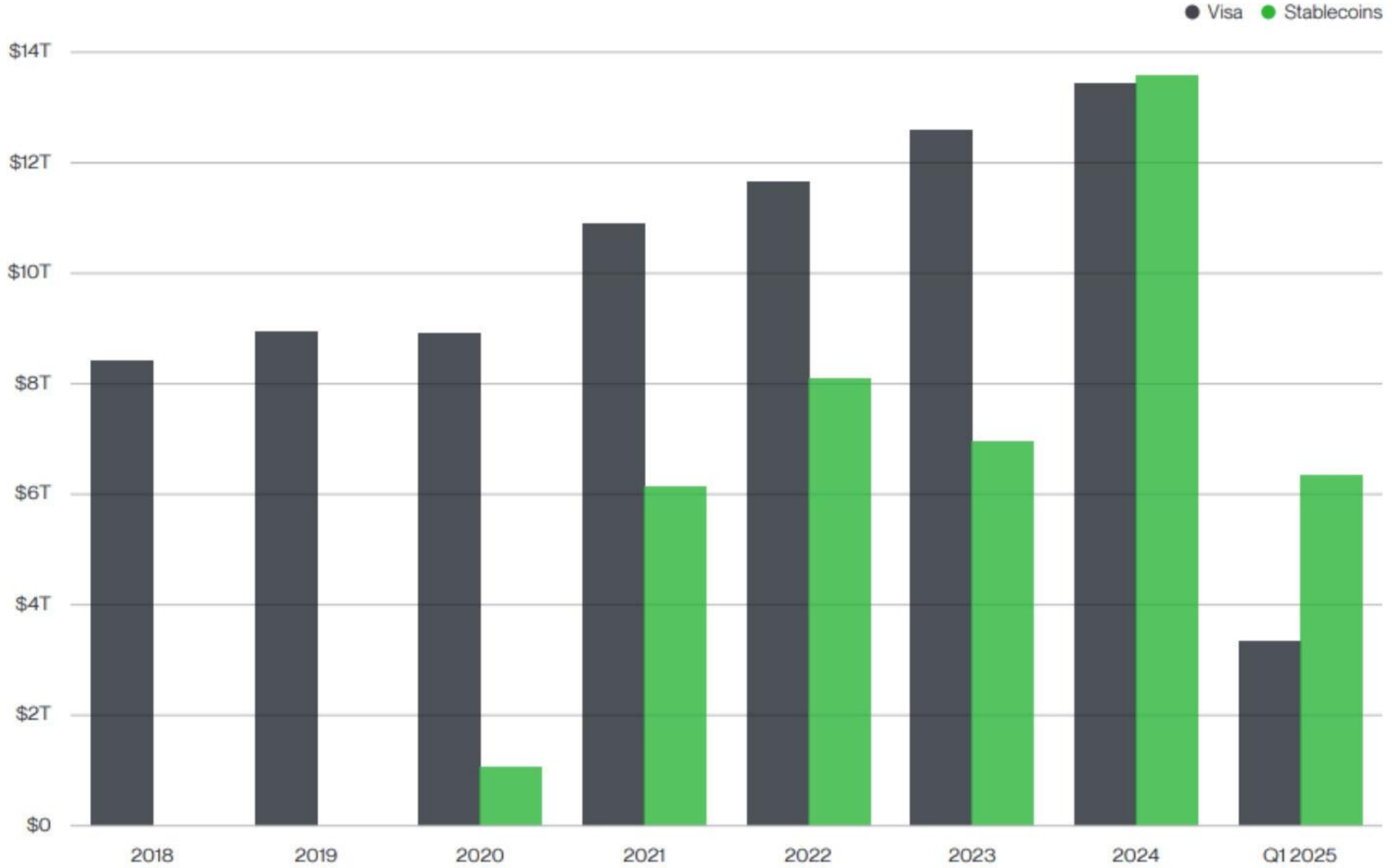


Solana



Stablecoins

Volume: Stablecoin Transactions vs. Visa Payments



A glowing green padlock is positioned on the left side of the slide, set against a background of a glowing green circuit board. The padlock is slightly tilted and has a keyhole in the center. The circuit board features intricate patterns of lines and small, bright green dots representing components or solder points.

Crypto Safety

Strengths:

- Built on advanced cryptography
- Transactions recorded across decentralized networks
- Extremely difficult to tamper with or forge

Risks:

- Losing private keys = losing funds
- Exchanges and wallets can be targeted by phishing or malware
- Crypto transactions are irreversible



NFTs

- NFT = Non-Fungible Token (*a unique digital asset*)
- Represents ownership of digital art, music, files, or collectibles
- Verified and tracked on the blockchain
- Used by artists, musicians, athletes, and major brands
- Prices can be volatile; ownership does not always include copyright



Tokenization

- Turns real-world assets into digital tokens on a blockchain
- Enables fractional ownership (e.g., art, real estate)
- Expands access to high-value assets
- Allows trading and investing in smaller, flexible amounts

Taxation of Crypto

- Crypto may trigger capital gains tax when sold, traded, or spent
- Earning crypto (mining, staking) is treated as taxable income
- Detailed record-keeping is essential
- Crypto allows tax-loss harvesting without the 30-day wash sale rule



Should You Invest?

Is crypto right for you?

- Depends on your goals and risk tolerance
- Evaluate within your broader financial plan
- Discuss with a financial planner to determine fit

How to Invest

Ways to invest in crypto:

- **Directly:** Buy crypto through exchanges (Coinbase, Kraken)
- **Spot ETFs:** Access crypto via investment accounts (Bitcoin/Ethereum ETFs)
- **Indirect exposure:** Companies using blockchain, payments, supply chain tech, or crypto mining



Thank You For Your Attention



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