

HALF-YEAR REPORT H2 2024



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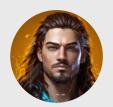
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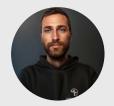
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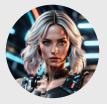
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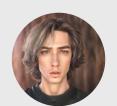
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Executive Summary

Castrum Capital, Turkey's largest Web3 venture capital firm, is dedicated to empowering crypto startups.

Our extensive network includes key opinion leaders, gaming guilds, news outlets, influencers, launchpads, and fellow venture capitalists, providing unparalleled support within Turkey's dynamic blockchain ecosystem.

Castrum Capital's investment strategy is grounded in meticulous research, focusing on tokenomics, technical infrastructure, and product design. Beyond capital infusion, we forge partnerships with early-stage startups, offering marketing, community, and strategic support to help them realize their full potential.

We actively listen to founders, address their challenges, and provide professional guidance to develop effective go-to-market strategies aligned with current market narratives. Additionally, we facilitate connections with market makers, assist in exchange and launchpad negotiations, and introduce startups to potential investors.

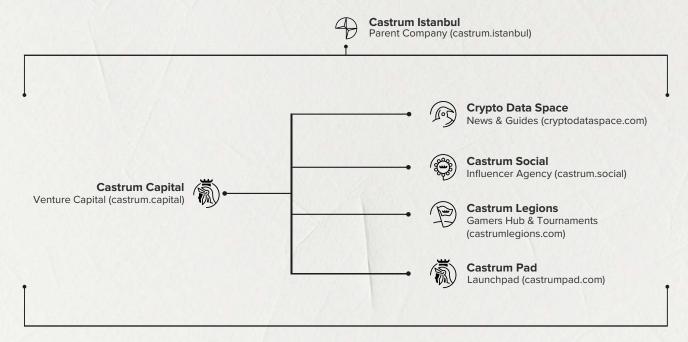
Our multi-stage investment approach spans seed, private, pre-sale, and public rounds, with a track record of supporting over 50 blockchain startups.

At Castrum Capital, we adapt our investment strategies to the evolving crypto market, upholding professionalism and integrity. We believe that a collaborative approach and comprehensive support can unlock the full potential of the blockchain ecosystem.



Executive Summary -

1 Introduction to the Castrum Ecosystem



1.1. Castrum Capital – Venture Capital (castrum.capital)

Castrum Capital stands as Turkey's leading **Web3 venture** capital firm specializing in blockchain and cryptocurrency. We empower Web3 startups with strategic investments and expert guidance in tokenomics, infrastructure, and product design. More than just funding, we connect projects to a vast network of industry leaders, market makers, and launchpads, driving innovation and sustainable growth. With over \$20M invested across 50+ startups, our mission is to build a thriving blockchain ecosystem and shape the future of decentralized technologies.

1.2. Crypto Data Space – News & Guides (cryptodataspace.com)

CDS provides simplified overviews of the crypto space, based on primary sources, to enlighten readers. We are passionate about crypto and dedicated to sharing content about this industry. As of December 2024, cryptodataspace.com has **500k+ monthly unique visitors,** with **2.71M+ total page views** during H2 2024 and an average visit time of 3.49 minutes per user. We're working with top professionals and continue aiming for further growth and engagement in 2025.

1.3. Castrum Legions – Gamer's Hub & Tournaments (castrumlegions.com)

Castrum Legions is a gamers' hub that connects players worldwide through **accessible tournaments** and a **vibrant community**. It offers a comprehensive suite of features, including streamlined entry, player profiles, performance tracking, and social tools, making esports

more accessible while introducing unique innovations like PvP bets and Web3 partnerships.

Our vision is to expand with blockchain integration and global tournaments, making Castrum Legions the **ultimate platform for casual and competitive gamers a like.**

1.4. Castrum Social – The Influencer Agency (castrum.social)

Castrum Social is a premier influencer marketing agency specializing in blockchain and crypto. Leveraging a global network of Tier 1 Key Opinion Leaders (KOLs), we deliver data-driven campaigns that boost visibility, credibility, and engagement. Our strategies connect projects to target audiences, fostering growth and trust in the competitive Web3 landscape. Whether launching or scaling, Castrum Social ensures your brand thrives in crypto's fast-paced world.

1.5. Castrum Pad – Launchpad (castrumpad.com)

Castrum Pad is an innovative decentralized fundraising platform dedicated to empowering the next generation of Web3 projects, with a focus on cutting-edge sectors such as DePIN, AI, RWA, Infrastructure, DeFi, Decentralized Science (DeSci), GameFi, and SocialFi.

Our platform combines the exclusivity of a private investor network with the transparency and accessibility of an Initial DEX Offering (IDO) model. Through a unique NFT-tier system, we ensure a balanced and structured approach to project funding, aligning ambitious founders with well-capitalized backers. Beyond fundraising, Castrum Pad offers comprehensive support in tokenomics, compliance, marketing, and scaling, making it the ultimate launchpad for visionary blockchain projects.

2 Portfolio in 2024 H2

2.1 Launched Projects in H2 2024

Project Name	Ticker	Listing Date	Launchpads	CEXs	
Dtec	DTEC	01.08.2024	Ordify, Red Kite, BullPerks, OpenPad	Gate.io, MEXC, Bitget, Bitci TR, TRIV	
Omnia Protocol	OMNIA	15.10.2024	ChainGPT	KuCoin, Gate.io, HTX, MEXC, Bitget, WEEX, TRIV	
RWA INC.	RWA	25.11.2024	Decubate, Eesee, Ape Terminal	KuCoin, Gate.io, MEXC	
Kima Network	KIMA	26.11.2024	ChainGPT, Polkastarter, Dextools Pad	KuCoin, Gate.io, MEXC, BitMart	
World of Dypians	WOD	27.11.2024	Finceptor, Ordify, Poolz, WePad	Gate.io, MEXC	
Supra Oracles	SUPRA	27.11.2024	N/A	Bybit, Bitfinex, KuCoin, Gate.io, HTX, MEXC, Crypto.com, Bitget, BitMart	
Shieldeum	SDM	28.11.2024	ChainGPT, DegenPad	KuCoin, Gate.io, MEXC, BingX	
ALTCOINIST	ALTT	04.12.2024	ChainGPT, Eesee, Seedify	DEX Only	
Stage	STAGE	11.12.2024	ChainGPT, Eesee, Decubate, Ape Terminal	KuCoin, Gate.io, MEXC	
Tevaera	TEVA	27.12.2024	N/A	KuCoin, Gate.io, MEXC, Crypto.com	

2.2 Projects Yet to Launch

Project	Website	Project	Website	
Interswap	<u>interswap.io</u>	XYRO	xyro.io	
Inception LRT	inceptionIrt.com	TrenFinance	tren.finance	
BluWhale	<u>bluwhale.com</u>	penomo	penomo.io	
Legends	<u>belegends.com</u>	TSFC	tsfc.io	
Avalon	playavalon.com	Ultrade	<u>ultrade.org</u>	
Klink	klinkfinance.com	Memes Lab	x.com/memeslabxyz	
Nexis	nexis.network	Redacted	x.com/redactedcoin	
Midle <u>midle.io</u>		Quboid	<u>qubo.id</u>	
Everreach Labs	erreach Labs <u>everreachlabs.io</u>		linktr.ee/toygers	
DYOR	<u>dyor.exchange</u>	Mind Al	mind-ai.io	
VersaX <u>versadex.finance</u>		Nova Real Chain	novarealchain.com	

3 Brief Introduction to Our 2024 H2 Portfolio

Dtec

The Dtec project, an artificial intelligence-driven car assistant, has been making significant strides in the automotive sector. Supported by KOSGEB (Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization in Turkey), the project has successfully completed various initiatives and has established itself as a leader and innovator in its field.







RWA Inc.

RWA Inc. delivers end-to-end real-world asset (RWA) tokenization via an advanced multi-asset platform, including tokenization as a service, a launchpad, and a marketplace. With a short-term focus on startup utility tokens for our go-to-market strategy, our primary emphasis is on strategically expanding into startup equity tokens, real estate, collectibles, and other asset classes. Our comprehensive services enhance liquidity, broaden market reach, support business development, and create new avenues for value creation, aligning with market demands.



World of Dypians

WORLD OF DYPIANS (WOD) is an MMORPG focused on enjoyable gameplay, education, and learning. World of Dypians, the leading BNB Chain gaming ecosystem available on Epic Games, integrates DeFi, Gaming, NFTs, and Al. It is part of BNB Chain's Alliance Program and a DAU Incentive Winner.

WOD has launched on Trust Wallet's Launchpool

DAU: 900,000+ MAU: 2,850,000+

WOD Holders: 264,504,579+

Total on-chain transactions: 264,504,579+

Sold NFTs: 1,525,172

Community Members: 1,500,000+

Omnia protocol

Omnia Protocol is a decentralized infrastructure protocol for securely accessing the blockchain, so that no single point of failure will ever disrupt blockchain applications or wallets integrating with it.

Reading and writing to blockchain shouldn't be centralized or managed, but rather performed in a decentralized manner, in which every node (mining non-mining) should be incentivized to help with the access to blockchain, in a trusted and decentralized way. Omnia allows anyone to earn rewards by hosting and maintaining a node on a specific blockchain.





Kima

Kima Network: Revolutionizing Financial Interoperability. Kima Network is a cross-ecosystem money transfer protocol that enables seamless and secure TradFi/DeFi interoperability without smart contracts. Kima empowers financial institutions and apps to focus on growth, free from the burden of complex technical integrations.









Shieldeum

Shieldeum produces Secure Computing Power for 440 million Crypto Users by Al powered Decentralized Physical Infrastructure Network (DePIN).

Shieldeum's ecosystem uses datacenter servers for computing power, enabling app hosting, encryption, threat detection, and high-performance tasks to secure Crypto and Web3 enterprises.





Stage

Stage is a SocialFi music platform (iOS, Android soon) that merges Idol-style contests with fan-driven engagement. With 10% of the global population voting in talent shows, fans shape artists' success and earn real-world assets, creating a vibrant music community.



Supra

Supra is a powerful Layer-1 blockchain ecosystem bringing users a new level of interoperability and decentralization. Supra's suite of groundbreaking protocols includes a highly-performant decentralized oracle, a trustless, decentralized bridge, and a highly-advanced decentralized Verifiable Random Function (sVRF) service.



Altcoinist

Revolutionizing Social Trading with Gated Trenches. Altcoinist is transforming the way creators, traders, and communities monetize and interact, leveraging Web3 infrastructure to introduce Social Trading with Gated Trenches—a game-changer in the creator economy and crypto space.



Tevaera

Tevaera Protocol is a UX-first decentralized gaming platform that simplifies launching and playing multi-genre games effortlessly. The network operates on an elastic chain powered by ZKsync, designed to provide native interoperability and scaling.

3.1. Upcoming TGEs in Q1 2025

Nexis - nexis.network
Klink Finance - klinkfinance.com
Everreach Labs - everreachlabs.io
Nova Real Chain - novarealchain.com

Inception LRT - inceptionIrt.com XYRO - xyro.io Mind AI - mind-ai.io And many more..

4 Castrum Exclusive: Midle (The Best Marketing Tool)

Castrum Capital is the **lead investor** in Midle, offering various support to promote the company's growth and development. Midle is the **go-to marketing platform** for brands aiming to **supercharge user acquisition**, **engagement**, **and retention**. With our innovative task-to-earn business model and cutting-edge data processing features, we deliver measurable and sustainable marketing results.



Users completing simple social media and onchain tasks to earn rewards. By creating these tasks, brands aim to increase user acquisition, retention and engagement.



There are many different social media tasks such as Like/RT/Mention Tweet, Follow LinkedIn, Comment on Instagram, Join Discord, Join Telegram, Reddit.

As onchain tasks, there are currently tasks such as bridge, mint NFT, hold token, stake token, swap token in 200+ networks. It also continues to expand the onchain task pool day by day by integrating into new networks.

Integrated Social Media: Twitter, Telegram, Discord, Github, Steam, Spotify, Youtube, Reddit, Instagram, Facebook Integrated Networks: Ethereum, Arbitrum, Binance Smart Chain, Linea, Aurora, Celo, Palm, Starknet, Near, Optimism, Polygon, Taiko, Mode Network, Mantle, Manta, Zora and 200+ more.

Brands



There are many different ways for brands to use midle. Midle offers a service for every budget and use.

Subscription: By subscribing to Midle with a monthly subscription system, brands can meet all their marketing needs without any effort. Midle's professional marketing team prepares special campaigns for subscribed brands and offers all the services of Midle.

From campaign images to campaign tasks, from discord events to quiz nights, from automated task creation to prize distribution, many services for the brand are completely carried out by the Midle team. Tasks like liking, retweeting, and commenting are automatically generated for all brand posts on social media platforms.

Campaign Creation for Brands

Brands can create their own campaigns on the dashboard by purchasing Midle points in Midle. They can add the tasks they want to the campaign and reward users with the token/nft reward they want. If they wish, they can also distribute only Midle point rewards.

Single Tasks: Brands can also create single tasks by purchasing Midle points if they wish. With single tasks, they can create the tasks they want on a daily basis. They reward users with midle points for single tasks.

Airdrop Campaign: Brands can create their own project-specific airdrop pages on Midle. In these campaign sections prepared with brand assets specific to their brands. Brands can create all the tasks that can be opened in Midle. They can also integrate their own application and in-platform tasks into Midle through the API system.

KOL Base: Midle also offers KOL (Key Opinion Leader) service to help partner brands reach global and local markets. Partner brands have the opportunity to work with KOLs contracted by Midle in line with their marketing targets. Midle team manages all the processes between KOLs and brands and successfully realizes the targeted cooperation.

Users

Users can earn rewards in Midle in many different ways. Users earn Midle points for each task they complete. These midle points turn into tickets.

Giveaways: Midle organizes weekly and monthly giveaways. Users can win token rewards by participating in these giveaways with the tickets they earn.

Leaderboards: Users are ranked according to the Midle points they collect each month. The 10 users who collect the most Midle points during the month win token rewards.

Clan Leaderboards: Users can join or create a clan. The points earned by each user are also added to their clan's score. At the end of the month, the top 5 clans in the clan leaderboard win a prize. This prize is distributed to 5 members in the clan and the clan leader with a giveaway.

Campaigns for Users

Users can participate in campaigns by completing the tasks in the campaigns created by brands. Campaigns have their own special rewards. These rewards are determined by the brands. Brands can distribute midle points, their own tokens/NFTs or a stable token of their choice as a reward.



Airdrop: Users can participate in the airdrops of projects by completing airdrop tasks created specifically for those projects. Airdrop campaigns have their own rewards. These rewards are determined by the brands. Brands can distribute tokens of their own projects as rewards.

Stake To Drop: By staking Midle tokens, Midle token users earn tokens as rewards from projects that run Airdrop campaigns on Midle.

5 Castrum Exclusive: Cointel (Al-Powered Analysis & Data Aggregation Platform)

Cointel is an advanced data aggregation platform based in Dubai and South Korea that integrates artificial intelligence (AI) and blockchain technology to provide investors with powerful, data-driven tools aimed at enhancing transparency and improving decision-making. It offers real-time alerts, exchange management, and comprehensive market insights, helping users optimize their blockchain investment strategies.

By leveraging Al algorithms, Cointel delivers timely, actionable information that empowers investors to make informed decisions in the dynamic world of blockchain and cryptocurrency.







Strategic Alliances with Leading Innovators

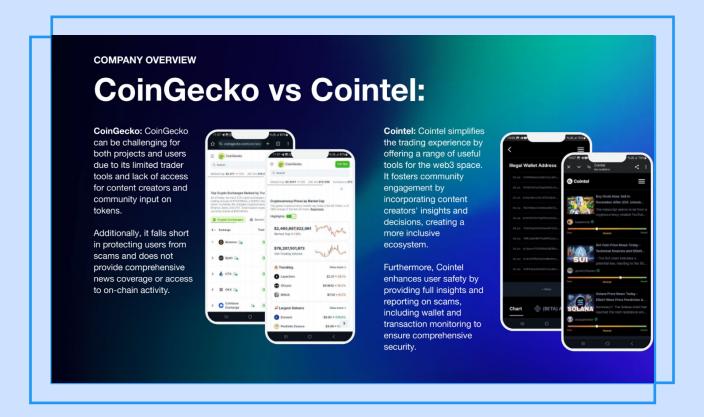


Cointel offers both on-chain and off-chain data, news and media with proprietary content and analysis intended to swiftly engage users in a contemporary cryptocurrency investment community. By providing all forms of necessary data within one place thanks to Cointel's innovative backend Al. It helps users spend less time on their analysis efforts, helps users make better decisions and supports local communities through the efficient localization features of the platform.

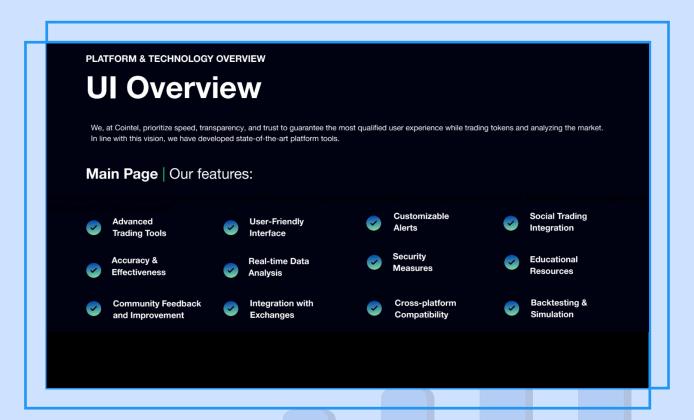


Alongside the platform Cointel will also have its own centralized exchange called Colbit. Colbit will serve as a typically centralized exchange however with an initial focus on copy trading. Alongside copy trading the exchange will include Spot and futures trading and the connection between Cointel and Colbit will be done for when the exchange launches funneling users and traffic to both sides.





UI Excellence: Features That Redefine Web3 Trading



6 Introducing Castrum Pad

Castrum Pad stands at the forefront of Web3 fundraising innovation, serving as the newest addition to the Castrum Istanbul family—Turkey's largest venture capital firm specializing in blockchain and emerging technologies. With a deep-rooted mission to foster sustainable growth and global impact, Castrum Pad merges the exclusivity of a private investor network with the transparency and wide reach of an Initial DEX Offering (IDO) model.

Quality Over Quantity

Castrum Pad emphasizes an **elite community** of well-capitalized investors, prioritizing **value-driven participation** over mass involvement. Membership is defined by the sale of **3,000 NFTs**, structured into **tiers** based on the number of NFTs held, with a maximum of **5 NFTs per wallet**. This **curated approach** ensures **intimate collaboration** between ambitious founders and influential backers, fostering a **focused** and **impactful environment** for advancing high-potential projects.

Flexible Refund Policies

Investor confidence is central to Castrum Pad. Unlike conventional platforms with rigid structures, Castrum Pad offers **customizable refund policies** tailored to **project needs** and **market conditions**, fostering trust and **long-term partnerships** with both founders and backers.



Global KOL Fundraising

Through Castrum Social, our marketing division, we connect projects to a global network of Key Opinion Leaders (KOLs) across regions like Turkey, CIS, LATAM, MENA, and beyond. This expansive reach boosts visibility, credibility, and funding potential, ensuring projects gain the traction needed to succeed.



Exclusive NFT-Tier System

Castrum Pad's **tier-based NFT system** governs IDO allocations, offering flexible participation through **Bronze to Diamond tiers**. With a maximum of **5 NFTs per wallet**, investors can tailor their involvement while projects benefit from a **stable**, **structured capital base**.





TIER BENEFITS	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD	DIAMOND
Minimum NFTs	1	2	4	5
Pool Weight / Allocation Multiplier	✓	✓	√	√
Guaranteed Round	✓	✓	√	1
FCFS	✓	✓	1	✓
Public Round	√	1	1	✓
Refund	✓	✓	√	1
Private Round	-) +)	√	1
Exclusive Deal	-	-	-	√
Airdrop		1-	-	1
Event Attendance	-	-	-	✓

Strategic Partnerships

Castrum Pad extends beyond fundraising by connecting projects with **top market makers**, **marketing agencies**, **legal advisors**, and more. These partnerships accelerate **time-to-market**, streamline operations, and fuel **long-term success**, making Castrum Pad the **ultimate launchpad** for visionary blockchain projects.

In short, Castrum Pad embodies Castrum Istanbul's vision to empower the most promising Web3 startups while cultivating a sustainable, high-value investor ecosystem. By combining elite funding capabilities, robust advisory services, global KOL networks, and an innovative NFT-tier system, we deliver an unparalleled launch experience tailored to the needs of today's most ambitious blockchain projects.

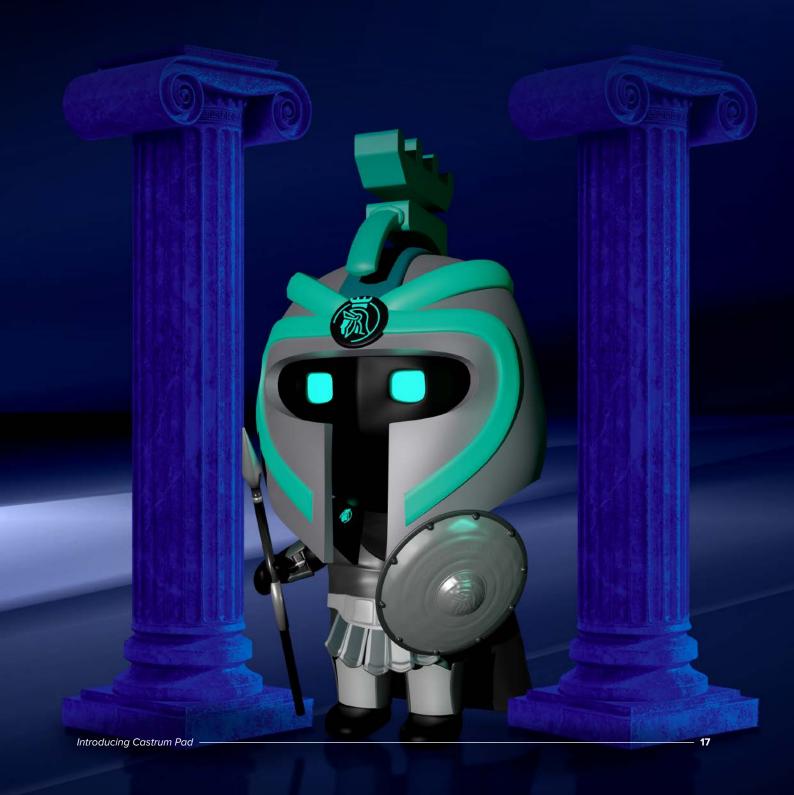


Multi-Stage Investment & Advisory

As part of the Castrum Istanbul ecosystem, Castrum Pad doesn't just facilitate IDOs—it actively invests alongside 150+ venture capital partners to extend financial and strategic backing at every pre-public round. Our in-house experts and seasoned advisors provide robust guidance on tokenomics, compliance, marketing, and scaling strategies, ensuring founders are well-prepared for each phase of growth.

Private + IDO Funding Rounds

In an industry where timing and adaptability can make or break a project, Castrum Pad offers a dual fundraising approach. From early private rounds to public IDO sales, our integrated model provides comprehensive support from inception through the Token Generation Event (TGE) and beyond. This synergistic strategy aligns visionary startups with both strategic capital and broader market engagement—allowing founders to capture momentum right from the start.



7 Events in H2 2024

Castrum Istanbul has been actively engaged in the global blockchain ecosystem, participating in a series of high-profile events. From local meetups to international conferences, our team has been at the forefront of the industry. We've had the pleasure of attending Istanbul Blockchain Week, IstanHack, Castrum Gates of Day Zero, InnoBlock, Token2049 Singapore, Binance Blockchain Week, Bitcoin Mena, and Devcon Thailand.

These events provided invaluable opportunities for networking, knowledge sharing, and fostering strategic partnerships within the vibrant web3 community.

7.1. Istanbul Blockchain Week & IstanHack 2024

Istanbul Blockchain Week stands as a premier annual event, nestled in the vibrant heart of Istanbul — a city that bridges continents and cultures, where cryptocurrency and web3 already play a key part in the lives of its people.

IBW is a melting pot where the brightest minds in the web3 space — from founders to executives of leading companies and emerging projects — converge to share insights and shape the industry's future.

IstanHack, providing a platform for developers to collaborate and innovate.

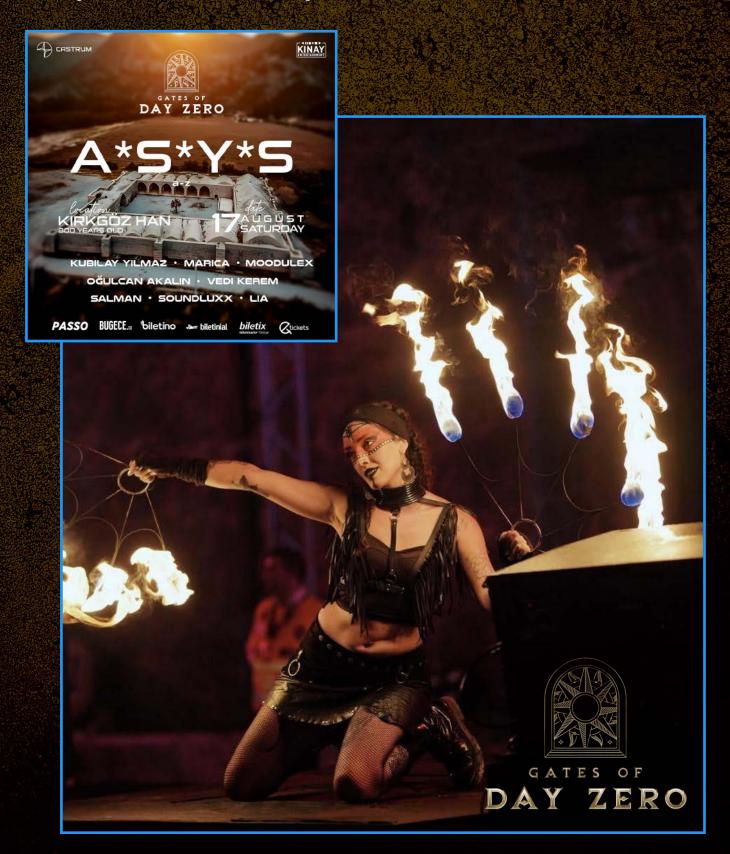


This hackathon fostered the development of groundbreaking Web3 applications and contributed to the growth of the Turkish blockchain ecosystem.

7.2. Castrum Gates of Day Zero

Castrum hosted an epic night with 9 world known DJ performances, dance shows, live music and non-stop entertainment. In the breathtaking atmosphere of KIRKGÖZ HAN, located in Döşemealtı and with its 800-year history, which has also hosted many film scenes, we embarked on an electronic music journey.

The Gates of DAY ZERO concept offered an unforgettable experience with its costumed dancers and unconventional stage shows. The event featured the techno legend A*S*Y*S.



7.3. InnoBlock 2024

A Web3 innovation festival held alongside Token2049 Singapore, featuring keynote speeches, panel discussions, and workshops on Web3, Al, GameFi, and DePIN. Castrum Istanbul actively participated in InnoBlock, contributing to discussions on Building the Backbone of Bitcoin.



7.4. Token2049 Singapore

A global conference series where decision-makers in the crypto ecosystem connect to exchange ideas, network, and shape the industry.



Source: Enes, our CMO, interviewed Vitalik Buterin, the co-founder of Ethereum, at Token 2049 in Singapore. He inquired about the latest upgrades to Ethereum.

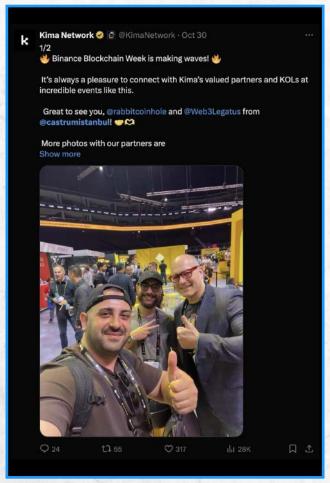




Chris James Murphy(On the left)- Co-Founder of Klink Finance

7.5. Binance Blockchain Week

A two-day conference focusing on the momentum of the blockchain industry and covering topics such as technology, regulation, community, and societal impact.







Source: KimaNetwork

7.6. Bitcoin MENA

The region's first Bitcoin conference, enabling individuals and businesses across the MENA region to embrace the transformative potential of Bitcoin.





7.7. Devcon Thailand Bangkok

A major conference for Ethereum network developers, focusing on decentralized protocols, tools, and culture.

7.7.1. MEMECON - The PARQ, The Memecoin Conference Bangkok



7.7.2. The Best Event DevCon BKK with TBV & BitcoinOS



7.7.3. VC Horizons - Investing Goes Parabolich



With Sasha / Co-Founder of Arcanum Ventures

7.7.4. Private event Hosted by AlfaCatalyst, Decubate and Castrum Capital





Source: Castrumistanbul, AlfaCatalyst

7.7.5. tbv Manila event



7.7.6. The Cross-Chain House



Source: tbvxyz

8 H2 2024 Market Analysis

8.1. Global Market

The **global cryptocurrency market** experienced remarkable growth in 2024¹. **Bitcoin**, the world's largest cryptocurrency, reached a **record-breaking price** of over **\$100,000** and a **market capitalization of \$2 trillion**, solidifying its dominance in the global financial landscape¹. This surge was partly attributed to the election of pro-crypto President Donald Trump and the appointment of crypto advocate Paul Atkins as the new chair of the US SEC³. The overall **global cryptocurrency market size** reached **\$2.45 billion** in 2024 and is projected to grow to an **astounding \$8.24 billion** by 2034⁴. This growth is indicative of the increasing adoption and integration of cryptocurrencies into mainstream financial systems.

The number of individuals holding **\$1** million or more in crypto assets increased significantly in 2024, reaching **172,300**, a **95% increase** from 2023⁵. This surge in crypto millionaires highlights the growing wealth creation opportunities in the cryptocurrency space.

In 2024, approximately **562 million people**, representing **6.8%** of the **global population**, owned some type of **cryptocurrency**⁶. This marked a **33% increase in global crypto ownership** compared to 2023⁶. Every region worldwide experienced growth in crypto ownership, driven by increased investor confidence and more supportive regulatory environments⁶.

8.2. Key Factors Contributing to Market Growth

Several factors contributed to the remarkable growth of the cryptocurrency market in 2024:

- Approval of Bitcoin and Ethereum ETFs: The SEC's approval of spot Bitcoin exchange-traded funds (ETFs) in January 2024 played a crucial role in attracting renewed attention to crypto markets and driving institutional investment⁷.
- Technological Advancements: Ethereum's proto-dank sharding upgrade significantly reduced Layer 2 transaction costs, boosting blockchain adoption and making transactions more efficient⁷.
- Increased Accessibility: The use of mobile wallets surged, leading to a record number of active crypto addresses, making it easier for people to access and use cryptocurrencies⁷.
- **Political Support:** The election of a **pro-crypto president** and the appointment of a crypto advocate to the SEC fostered a positive regulatory environment, encouraging investment and innovation in the crypto space³.

The countries with the highest rates of crypto ownership in 2024 include Nigeria (34.8%), Vietnam (20.2%), Ukraine (19.9%), and Argentina (18.9%)⁸.

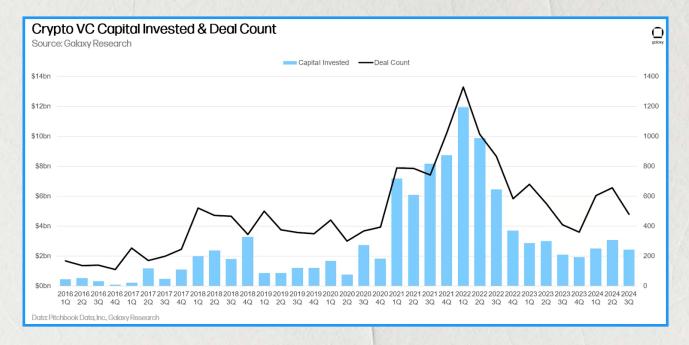
8.3. VC Investment in Cryptocurrency in H2 2024

Venture capitalists invested approximately **\$13.7 billion in crypto and blockchain startups** in 2024, a 28% increase from the \$10.7 billion deployed in 2023¹⁰. Despite this growth, funding remained significantly lower than the peaks of \$33.3 billion in 2022 and \$29 billion in 2021¹⁰. This suggests a more cautious approach by venture capitalists, potentially due to the market volatility and regulatory uncertainty surrounding cryptocurrencies.

8.4. Deal Count and Capital Invested

In **Q2 2024**, venture capitalists poured a notable **\$3.194** billion into crypto and blockchain-focused companies, spanning a total of **577** deals. This demonstrated a strong recovery in investor activity, with a **28%** quarter-over-quarter increase in the total capital invested. This growth suggested renewed confidence in the crypto sector as investors appeared eager to back promising projects and technologies despite a challenging macroeconomic environment. Interestingly, while the total capital invested surged, the deal count saw a modest **4%** decrease.

In Q3 2024, however, venture capital activity in the crypto and blockchain space experienced a **notable decline**. A total of \$2.4 billion was invested across 478 deals¹², representing a significant 20% decrease in capital invested compared to Q2 2024¹². The decline in deal count was even sharper, dropping by 17%, which underscored a shift toward greater caution among investors. This pullback could suggest that market participants were responding to uncertainties in the broader financial landscape or a recalibration of valuations and expectations in the crypto space. Despite the decline, the figures still reflected considerable interest and ongoing investment in the sector, highlighting its long-term potential.



8.5. Valuation Trends

Median pre-money valuations for VC-backed crypto companies surged to \$37 million in Q2 2024, reaching their highest levels since Q4 20211. This increase was attributed to improved market sentiment and increased competition among investors11.

In Q3 2024, the median valuation for crypto-specific deals was \$23.8 million, slightly lower than the \$25 million observed in Q212. Despite this slight decline, crypto-specific deal valuations continued to rise at a faster rate than the broader VC industry¹².

8.6. Investment by Category

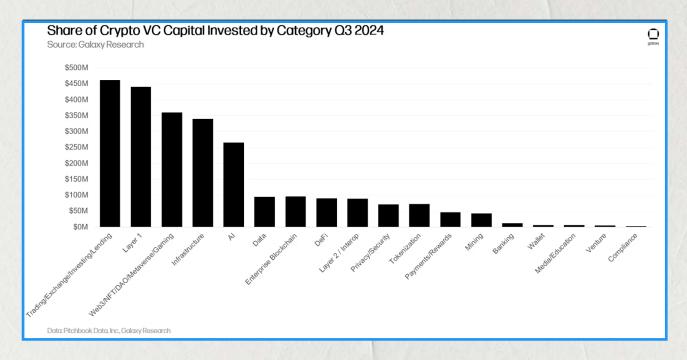
Infrastructure dominated crypto VC funding in 2024, with approximately \$5.5 billion invested across over 610 deals¹⁰. This represented a 57% year-over-year increase and the highest investment in the sector to date¹⁰. Investments in infrastructure focused on scaling blockchain networks to enhance speed, cost, and scalability, with a strong emphasis on Layer-2 solutions for Bitcoin and other blockchains¹⁰.

Insight: The focus on infrastructure investments is likely driven by the need to improve the scalability, security, and user experience of blockchain networks to support wider adoption and address the challenges of increasing transaction volumes and network congestion¹⁰.

In Q2 2024, the "Web3/NFT/DAO/Metaverse/Gaming" category attracted the largest share of crypto VC capital (24%), totaling \$758 million in VC fundraising11. The two most significant deals in this category were Farcaster (\$150 million) and Zentry (\$140 million)11. This indicates continued interest in the development of decentralized applications and platforms, particularly in the areas of gaming, social networking, and the metaverse.



H2 2024 Market Analysis



8.7. Emerging Trends in Cryptocurrency in H2 2024

Several emerging trends shaped the cryptocurrency landscape in the second half of 2024:

- Layer 2 Solutions: Layer 2 scaling solutions continued to gain traction, with projects like Linea, Eclipse, and Fuel attracting attention¹⁶. These solutions aimed to improve the scalability and efficiency of blockchain networks by processing transactions off-chain and reducing the load on the main blockchain.
- **Al Tokens**: The search volume for "Al tokens" increased significantly in 2024¹⁷. Al tokens serve various functions, including paying for services, accessing data, and providing governance rights within Al-powered platforms and protocols¹⁷. The combined market value of **Al tokens** surpassed **\$39 billion**, up from \$2.7 billion in April 2023¹⁷. This growth reflects the increasing interest in the intersection of artificial intelligence and blockchain technology.

Insight: While AI tokens offer exciting possibilities, they also present potential risks and challenges, such as regulatory uncertainty, security vulnerabilities, and ethical concerns related to data privacy and algorithmic bias¹⁷.

8.8. Conclusion

The **cryptocurrency market in H2 2024** demonstrated resilience and growth, driven by regulatory approvals, technological advancements, and increased adoption. **Bitcoin's surge past \$100,000** and the approval of **Bitcoin ETFs** marked significant milestones, attracting institutional investors and boosting market confidence⁹. **VC investment** in the **sector increased**, with **infrastructure** and **Web3** emerging as **key areas of focus. Emerging trends** such as **Layer 2 solutions, Al tokens, and DeFi** continued to shape the **evolving cryptocurrency landscape**.

Sources: (Source 1, Source 2, Source 3, Source 5, Source 6, Source 7, Source 9, Source 10, Source 11, Source 12, Source 13, Source 14, Source 15, Source 17, Source 18)

9 Fundraising Data in H2 2024

9.1. Web3 Fundraising in H2 2024: A Summary

Web3 fundraising in the latter **half of 2024** saw a surge in crypto fundraising, a shift towards sector-specific investments, evolving regional dynamics, and a cautiously optimistic investor sentiment. Despite an overall venture capital slowdown, the crypto sector experienced a **25.1**% year-on-year increase in publicly disclosed funding rounds, reaching 1,530 rounds and totaling **\$10.04 billion** in funds raised¹. This growth, following three consecutive quarters of increase, was partly attributed to the **SEC's approval of Bitcoin and Ethereum spot ETFs¹** and new opportunities in areas like decentralized GPU networks and stablecoins¹.





9.2. Sector-Specific Focus

While **blockchain infrastructure** remained **dominant, Decentralized Finance** (**DeFi**) emerged as a **significant** area of interest, with funding rounds increasing in size². **DeFi projects** raised **\$1.59 billion** across 158 projects in **Q2 2024**⁴, with Monad securing the highest single amount at \$225 million². The **NFT market** also showed **resilience**, attracting interest in projects focused on real-world applications and utility3, exemplified by Rexas Finance's \$33 million presale for its real estate tokenization platform⁴. **Gaming** continued to be a **significant** sector, with fundraising activity focusing on projects leveraging blockchain for in-game assets and new revenue models⁵.

9.3. Regional Shifts

North America led in **Web3 funding**, with startups raising **\$2 billion** across 300+ deals in **Q3 2024**⁶. However, **Europe** showed **substantial growth**, particularly in countries like Spain⁸. **Asia**, especially **Singapore**, also saw **significant activity**, accounting for nearly 67% of Southeast Asia's total funding at \$1.9 billion¹⁰.

9.4. Cautious Optimism

Investor sentiment remained **cautiously optimistic**¹⁸, driven by the **approval of Bitcoin** and **Ethereum spot ETFs**¹³ and interest in DeFi and NFTs¹⁴. However, concerns about oversaturation in certain sectors like chatbots persisted¹², leading investors to focus on projects with real-world applications and long-term potential¹⁰. Security concerns, particularly around private keys⁹, also influenced sentiment.

9.5. Conclusion

Web3 fundraising in **H2 2024** demonstrated the **sector's maturation and resilience**. Investors are becoming more discerning¹², prioritizing projects with strong fundamentals and real-world applications¹². Emerging technologies like zero-knowledge proofs (ZKPs) are gaining traction¹², and regulatory developments continue to shape the landscape¹⁴. While navigating a complex environment, the **Web3 ecosystem** appears **poised for continued growth.**

Sources: (Source 1, Source 2, Source 3, Source 4, Source 5, Source 6, Source 7, Source 8, Source 9, Source 10, Source 11, Source 12, Source 13, Source 14)

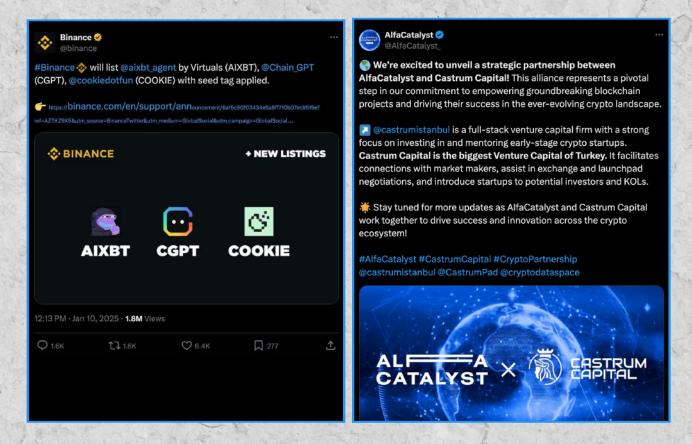
10 Castrum Capital Funding & Partnerships

We successfully observed five Token Generation Events (TGEs) from our portfolio companies!



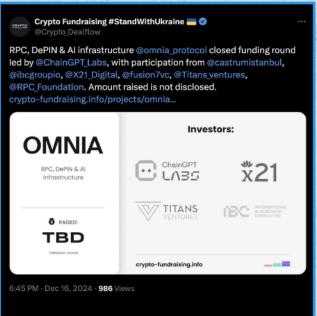
Source: castrumistanbul

We are excited to share that two of our portfolio companies, COOKIE and ChainGPT, have successfully secured listings on the Binance exchange!



Source: Binance, AlfaCatalyst





Source: CryptoRank, Crypto_Dealflow



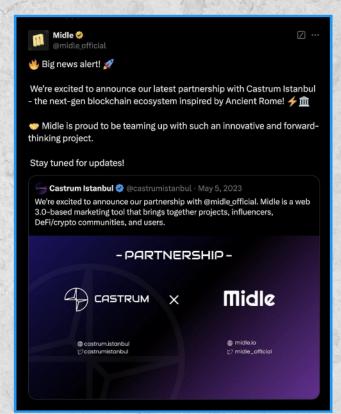


Source: tsfc_io, Crypto_Dealflow



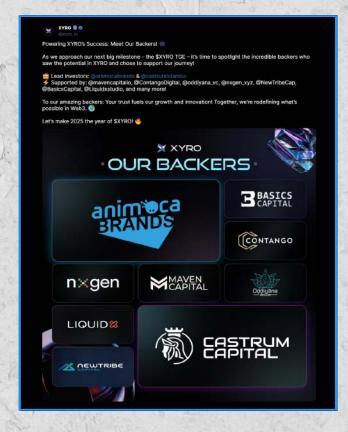


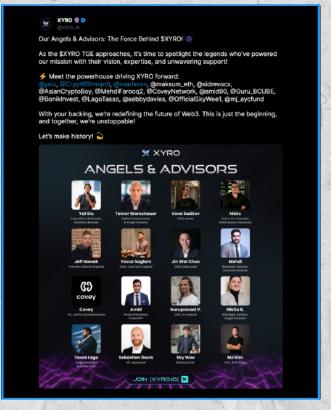
Source: worldofdypians, ULTRADE



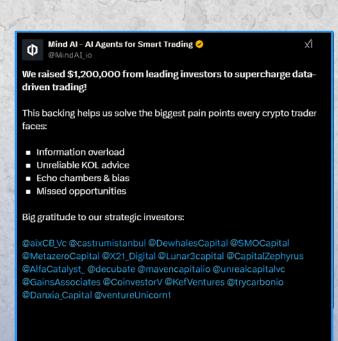


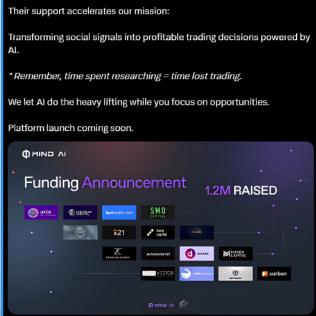
Source: Midle, Shieldeum





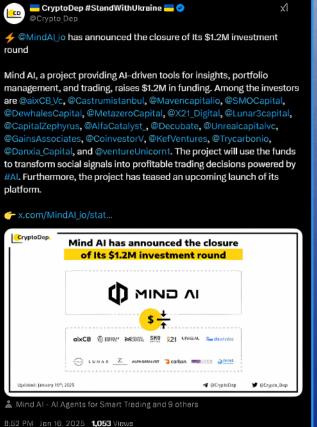
Source: Xyro_io, Xyro Advisory





Source: MindAl





Source: CryptoRank, CryptoDep

11 2024 H2 A Detailed Overview

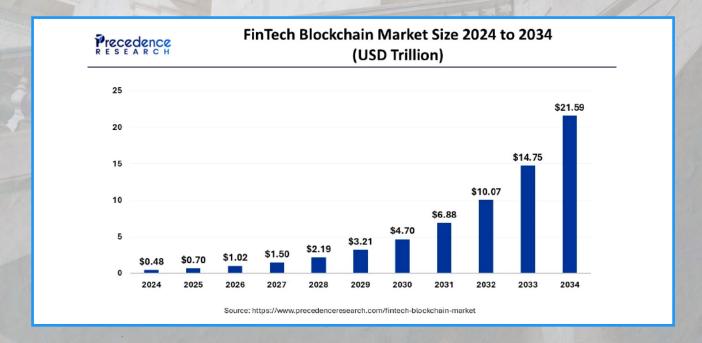
11.1. Important News in Crypto

The second half of 2024 saw significant developments in the crypto market, marked by increased institutional adoption, the rise of Bitcoin, continued growth of DeFi, and the evolving landscape of NFTs.

Key Trends:

- **Cryptocurrency Wallet Data Targeted**: Rising crypto values made cryptocurrency wallet data a prime target for cybercriminals¹.
- **Crypto Equities and Mining Stocks Surge**: Bitcoin's strong performance fueled substantial growth in crypto equities and mining stocks, with MicroStrategy seeing an astronomical rise due to its Bitcoin holdings².
- Institutionalization of Digital Assets: Spot Bitcoin ETFs significantly drove institutional adoption, attracting billions in inflows².
- Transformative Year for Crypto: 2024 was transformative, highlighted by the SEC's approval of spot Bitcoin ETFs and Ethereum's proto-dank sharding upgrade. Mobile wallet usage and active crypto addresses reached all-time highs³.

Mobile wallet usage and active crypto addresses reached all-time highs. Fintech Blockchain Market Growth: The fintech blockchain market is projected to experience rapid growth, expanding from USD 0.48 trillion in 2024 to a massive USD 21.59 trillion by 2034⁴.



11.2. Altcoin Performance and Potential:

- Ethereum (ETH) is projected to reach \$4,000⁵. Other potential bullish altcoins include Solana (SOL) and Fantom (FTM), among others⁵.
- Weekend trading volume declined, suggesting a shift towards alignment with traditional markets. Meme coins performed exceptionally well, and the overall crypto market exhibited a high correlation with traditional markets⁵.

2024 H2 A Detailed Overview — 33

11.3. Crypto Market Performance:

Bitcoin: Emerged as the top-performing asset, surpassing \$100,000 and boasting a significant compound annual growth rate². Ethereum: Surged to \$3,900 levels, with projections ranging from \$4,000 to \$6,500 by the end of 2024. The launch of Ethereum ETFs is anticipated to further boost ETH's price⁵. Market Capitalization: Reached a record US\$3.47 trillion in November 2024, fueled by Bitcoin's rally and institutional participation⁶.

11.4. Decentralized Finance (DeFi):

- Growth: The DeFi market size, valued at USD 14.35 billion in 2023, is projected to grow substantially between 2024 and 2032⁷.
- DAOs: Decentralized Autonomous Organizations (DAOs) are becoming increasingly important in the DeFi space⁷.
- New Protocols: Innovations like Uniswap's 'Hooks', EigenLayer, and others are shaping the DeFi landscape.
- Challenges: Scalability, interoperability, security, and regulatory uncertainty remain key challenges.

11.5. Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs):

- Evolution: NFTs are expanding beyond digital art into sectors like media, logistics, and property ownership.
- Market Volatility: The NFT market experienced volatility but showed signs of revival, with increasing adoption and new
 use cases.
- Challenges: Environmental concerns, regulatory uncertainty, market fluctuations, and scalability continue to pose challenges.

11.6. Conclusion:

H2 2024 was a dynamic period for the crypto market. Bitcoin's dominance persisted, institutional adoption accelerated, DeFi expanded, and NFTs continued to evolve. While challenges remain, the market is poised for further growth, driven by innovation, increasing adoption, and the prospect of greater regulatory clarity.

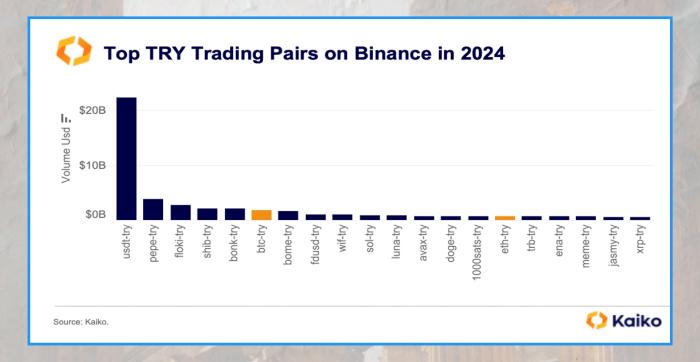
Sources: (Source 1, Source 2, Source 3, Source 4, Source 5, Source 6, Source 7, Source 8)

12 Turkish Market

Turkey has rapidly become a significant player in the global cryptocurrency market, driven by unique economic conditions, a tech-savvy population, and evolving regulations.

12.1. Market Size and Growth:

- Turkey ranks as the seventh-largest cryptocurrency market globally, with a transaction value of \$136.8 billion between July 2023 and June 2024¹.
- Monthly trading volume involving the Turkish Lira (TRY) consistently exceeded \$10 billion for eight months in 2024, a record period².
- The TRY is the fourth most traded fiat currency in crypto, and its market share against the EUR has risen significantly².
- 2024's trading volume is estimated to reach \$170 billion, representing over 100% year-on-year growth.



12.2. Key Drivers:

- Lira Volatility: The significant depreciation of the Turkish Lira against the US dollar has driven many to adopt cryptocurrencies, particularly stablecoins, as a hedge against inflation¹.
- Young, Tech-Savvy Population: Turkey's young population, comfortable with digital technologies, has readily embraced cryptocurrencies.
- Alternative Investment: Cryptocurrencies are increasingly viewed as a viable alternative investment option, even surpassing real estate in popularity among Turkish investors⁵.

12.3. Regulatory Landscape:

- Cryptocurrency Bill (July 2024): Introduced regulations for crypto asset service providers (CASPs), including licensing requirements, market abuse prevention, consumer protection measures, and AML compliance³.
- Stricter Regulations (February 2025): New measures will enforce mandatory identity verification for transactions over 15,000 TRY, stricter checks on unregistered wallets, and mandatory licensing for crypto firms⁴.
- · These regulations aim to align Turkey with global standards, enhancing market stability and investor confidence.

12.4. Investment Patterns:

- **Broad Adoption**: 52% of Turkish adults aged 18-60 have invested in crypto, with a notable increase in female participation, particularly among younger investors.
- Preferred Assets: Bitcoin and Ethereum remain the most popular cryptocurrencies, while stablecoins are gaining traction.
- **Investment Motivations**: Turks are using crypto for personal purposes and value transfer, including gifting, peer-to-peer transfers, salaries, and donations.

12.5. Emerging Trends:

- Local Blockchain Projects: Growth of Turkish blockchain projects like AIA Chain.
- Government Support: The "National Blockchain Infrastructure" initiative encourages blockchain development in public and private sectors.
- **Technological Advancements**: Increased mobile and internet accessibility, along with user-friendly platforms, are driving wider adoption.

Turkish Market — 35

12.6. Challenges and Opportunities:

Economic instability, regulatory uncertainty, and technological barriers (internet access, transaction fees) pose challenges. However, opportunities lie in Turkey's young and tech-savvy population, a growing economy, and the potential for cryptocurrencies to enhance financial inclusion.

12.7. Future Outlook:

The Turkish cryptocurrency market is poised for continued growth, supported by a proactive regulatory approach, increasing adoption, and a strong interest in digital assets. The new regulations are expected to create a more secure and trustworthy environment, potentially attracting larger, established firms and further boosting investor confidence.

12.8. Conclusion:

Turkey's cryptocurrency market presents a dynamic landscape shaped by economic factors, technological advancements, and evolving regulations. While challenges exist, the country's young, tech-savvy population, coupled with a growing economy and a proactive regulatory approach, positions Turkey as a significant player in the global crypto arena.

Sources: (Source 1, Source 2, Source 3, Source 4, Source 5)

13 Crypto Market Outlook: H1 2025 and Beyond

The cryptocurrency market is poised for transformative growth in 2025, building on the momentum of a strong 2024¹. Analysts project a bullish outlook, particularly for the first half of 2025, fueled by increased institutional adoption, expanding use cases, and technological advancement.

13.1. Looking Ahead: H1 2025 Projection

- Bitcoin Price Target: Bitcoin is projected to cross \$150,000 in H1 2025, potentially reaching \$185,000 by Q4 2025², 3.
- Key Drivers:
 - Institutional Adoption: The approval of Bitcoin spot ETFs has attracted significant institutional investment², expected to continue driving demand.
 - Corporate Interest: More Nasdaq-100 companies are anticipated to add Bitcoin to their balance sheets³.
 - Nation-State Adoption: Several nations are exploring Bitcoin as a treasury asset³.
 - Bitcoin Halving: The April 2024 halving, reducing new Bitcoin supply, could further increase its price.

13.2. Key Trends in Crypto – H1 2025:

- **Bitcoin and Ethereum Dominance**: Both are expected to remain dominant, with significant market capitalization increases². Bitcoin DeFi market is projected to expand².
- Altcoin Surge: Analysts predict a potential surge in altcoins, some potentially experiencing their largest rally ever⁴.
- **Stablecoin Expansion**: Continued growth and integration into the global payments framework are expected, with settlement volumes projected to triple by the end of 2025⁵.
- Tokenization of RWAs: Tokenization of real-world assets (RWAs) like real estate and stocks is gaining momentum, potentially unlocking trillions of dollars in value⁵.
- Al and Crypto Integration: A deeper intersection of Al and crypto is anticipated, improving blockchain efficiency and security.

13.3. Market Performance and Institutional Involvement:

- Spot Bitcoin ETFs: Continued success is expected, with AUM potentially exceeding \$250 billion by the end of 2025².
- Hedge Fund Participation: Growing acceptance among institutional investors is evident².
- Regulatory Clarity: Anticipated regulatory changes could unlock further institutional capital.

13.4. Upcoming Key Events for 2025:

- Technological Advancements: Ongoing developments in blockchain technology, including layer-2 solutions and Al
 integration, are expected.
- Major Conferences and Events: Events like Paris Blockchain Week and Bitcoin 2025 will provide platforms for industry discussion and collaboration.
- **Potential US Bitcoin Reserve**: The potential establishment of a US strategic Bitcoin reserve could significantly impact Bitcoin's adoption and price.

13.5. Regulatory Developments:

- · Potential changes in SEC leadership under a new administration could lead to a more favorable regulatory environment.
- Proposed legislation may establish the CFTC as the lead regulator for crypto.
- The Stablecoin Transparency Act is expected to be reintroduced.

13.6. Technological Advancements:

- · Layer-2 solutions are improving scalability and reducing transaction fees.
- Blockchain interoperability projects are enabling seamless transfer of assets and data.
- Al integration is leading to new applications like decentralized Al marketplaces.

13.7. Conclusion:

The crypto market outlook for H1 2025 and beyond is overwhelmingly positive⁶, driven by **strong price projections for Bitcoin and Ethereum**, emerging trends with high growth potential, an evolving regulatory landscape, and continuous technological advancements.

Sources: (Source 1, Source 2, Source 3, Source 4, Source 5, Source 6)

14 Acknowledgements

We extend our **heartfelt gratitude to everyone** who has contributed to **our success in H2 2024**. This includes our visionary founders, dedicated team members, valued investors, and strategic partners who have been instrumental in driving our mission forward. Your unwavering trust, collaboration, and commitment have been the foundation of our achievements.

Special thanks to the dynamic Castrum Capital team for their relentless pursuit of excellence and innovation. Your expertise and passion have been the driving force behind our ability to navigate the evolving blockchain landscape and achieve remarkable milestones.

We also acknowledge the **vibrant blockchain and Web3** communities for their support, engagement, and shared vision of a decentralized future. Your contributions inspire us to push boundaries and explore new possibilities in the cryptocurrency ecosystem.

Finally, we extend our appreciation to our stakeholders and supporters for believing in our mission and enabling us to create meaningful impact.

Together, we are shaping the future of blockchain technology and empowering the next generation of Web3 pioneers.

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15 Conclusion

Castrum Capital's journey through H2 2024 has been marked by significant milestones, strategic advancements, and impactful collaborations within the blockchain and cryptocurrency ecosystem. As **Turkey's leading Web3 venture capital firm** specializing in Web3 innovation, we remain committed to empowering startups, fostering groundbreaking technologies, and driving sustainable growth in the global crypto landscape.

Through a multi-faceted approach encompassing strategic investments, ecosystem partnerships, and community engagement, we have solidified our position as a catalyst for innovation in blockchain technology. Our unwavering dedication to professionalism, integrity, and value creation has enabled us to forge strong relationships with founders, investors, and thought leaders across the industry.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue shaping the future of blockchain and decentralized technologies in 2025 and beyond. With a focus on emerging trends, expanding opportunities, and fostering a collaborative ecosystem, Castrum Capital remains steadfast in its mission to unlock the full potential of Web3 and deliver transformative impact across the global cryptocurrency market.

Thank you for your continued trust and support in our vision. Together, we will build a decentralized future.



