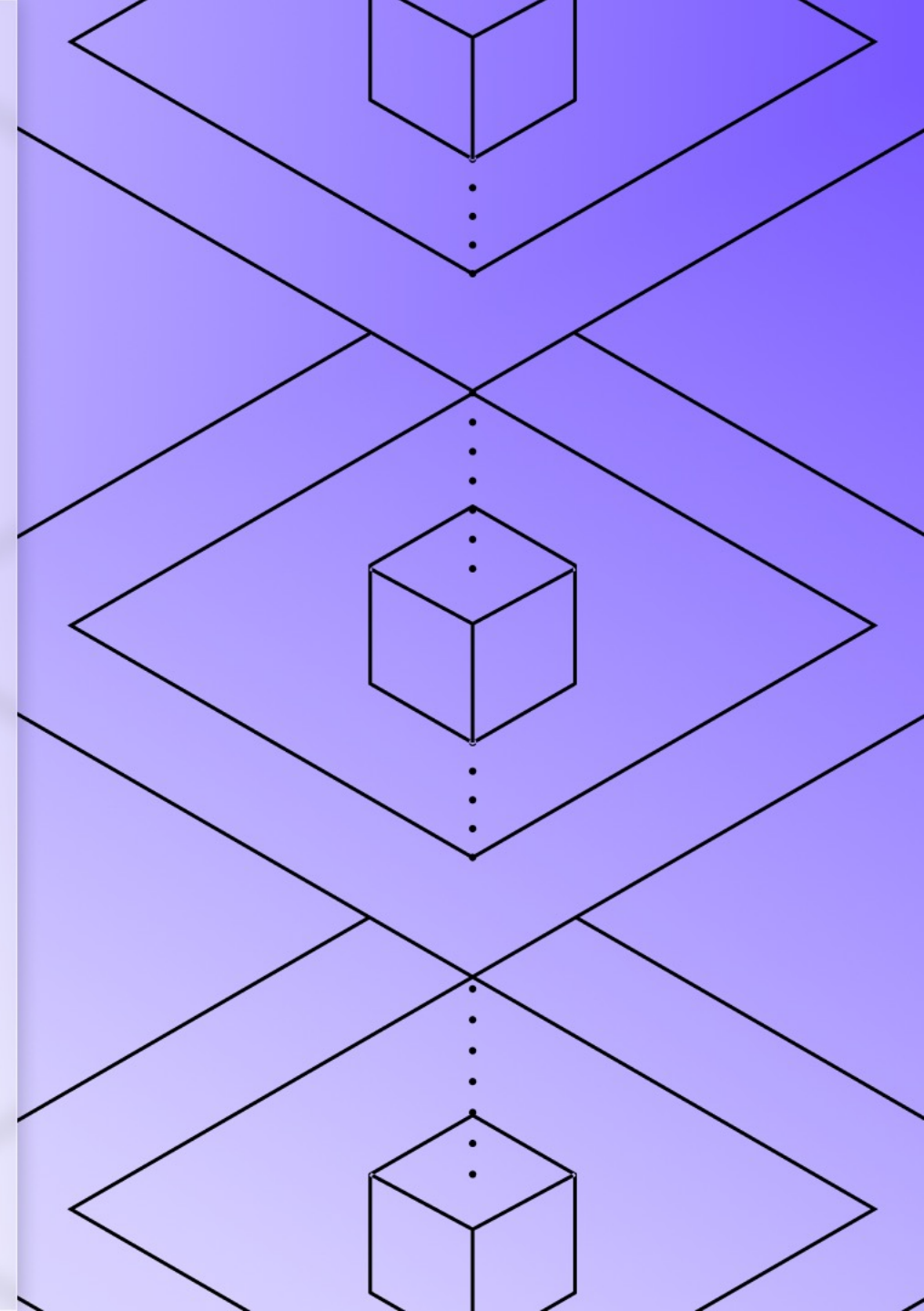




Data as of June 30, 2026

The DeFi Quarterly



Important Information

This material is intended for informational and educational purposes only and does not constitute financial, investment, legal, or tax advice.

Decentralized Finance (DeFi) and stablecoins involve significant and evolving risks. While stablecoins are designed to maintain price stability, they can still lose their peg due to market volatility, liquidity imbalances, or failures in their underlying mechanisms. DeFi platforms and protocols are often experimental, exposing users to the risk of rapid and substantial financial loss due to high market volatility, low liquidity, or flawed economic design.

The technology underlying these systems—particularly smart contracts—can contain bugs, vulnerabilities, or security flaws that may be exploited. Even well-audited protocols can fail due to logic errors, implementation mistakes, or integration issues. Additionally, DeFi protocols are often governed by decentralized communities or token holders, and governance decisions—such as protocol upgrades or changes to collateral standards—can materially affect outcomes, risks, or user expectations.

Finally, the legal and regulatory environment for DeFi and stablecoins is still developing. Changes in rules or restrictions can impact how these systems operate or are accessed. Users may find themselves subject to new obligations or experience disruptions in service, depending on how and where they engage with these technologies. In many cases, there are limited or no consumer protections, meaning users may not have access to insurance, legal recourse, or recovery mechanisms if assets are lost or inaccessible.

Engaging with DeFi or stablecoins involves a high degree of risk. Individuals and institutions should carefully assess these risks, conduct thorough due diligence, and consult with appropriate professionals before making any financial decisions or commitments.

Please note that historical data shown in some of the charts presented herein may differ from prior publications. Such differences arise because certain data providers continuously refine their methodologies to improve the accuracy of on-chain metrics and we use the most current and accurate data available at the time of publication, which may lead to discrepancies between current and previously published figures.



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Risk-Off Conditions But Select Crypto Categories Are Resilient

Stablecoins, RWAs, And Tokenization

- Stablecoin active addresses hit an all-time high near 51 million, up from ~44 million in the first quarter.
- The market value of real-world assets (RWAs) grew ~10% quarter-over-quarter to ~\$32 billion, with tokenized Treasuries accounting for the majority of new issuance.

Network And Application Economics

- Application-layer revenue declined ~37% quarter-over-quarter as speculative activity continued to diminish; yet, apps continued to out-earn blockchains by 1.6x.
- Tron surpassed Solana in network revenue for the second time in the last 3 quarters, a feat not seen since 2023, while Hyperliquid captured ~30% of all application-layer revenue.

Decentralized Exchanges And Market Spotlight

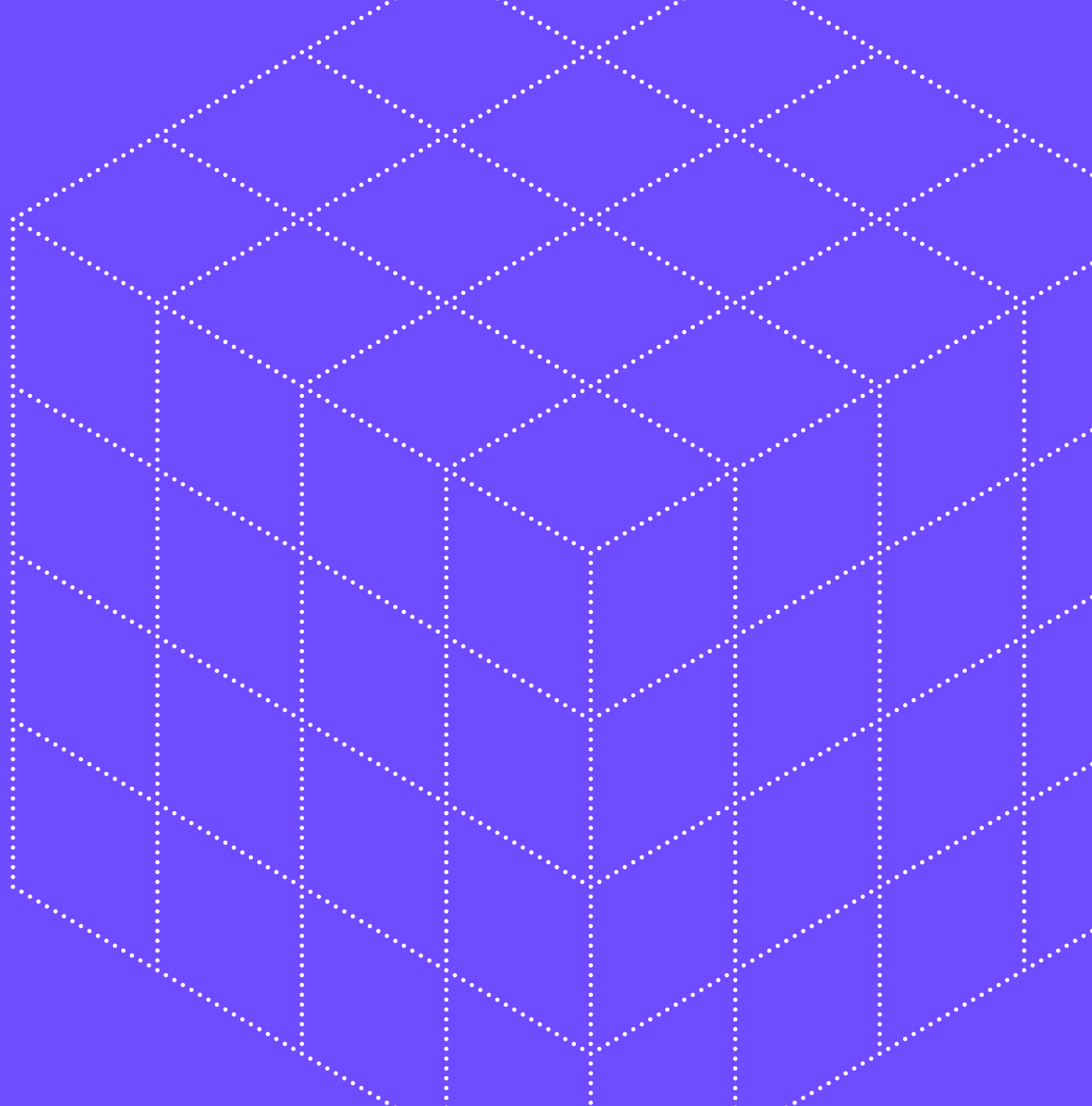
- Spot Decentralized Exchange (DEX) volumes were 0.49x their level from 12 months earlier (Q2 2025). Perpetual Futures (Perp) DEX volume was more resilient, driven by HIP-3 commodity perps and pre-initial public offering (IPO) perps on Hyperliquid.
- Base was the only major blockchain to see an increase in spot DEX volume, driven by its largest decentralized exchange, Aerodrome, posting a 29% quarter-over-quarter increase in volume.
- The quarterly volume of prediction markets surged ~11.87x year-over-year, with FIFA World Cup trading triggering a sharp spike in June.

ARK'S KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. The long tail of perpetual DEXs is taking share from incumbents, signaling that the perp DEX landscape is becoming structurally more competitive and fragmented rather than consolidating around a single winner.
2. Stablecoin active addresses hit an all-time high of ~51 million while speculative trading volumes fell, indicating that utility-driven demand—payments, settlement, and remittances—has become increasingly durable during times of negative market sentiment.
3. Prediction markets are becoming a major vertical as indicated by a ~11.9x year-over-year surge in quarterly volume, stimulated by FIFA World Cup trading.
4. Hyperliquid's HIP-4 framework is aiming to bring prediction markets natively, within Hyperliquid's core infrastructure.

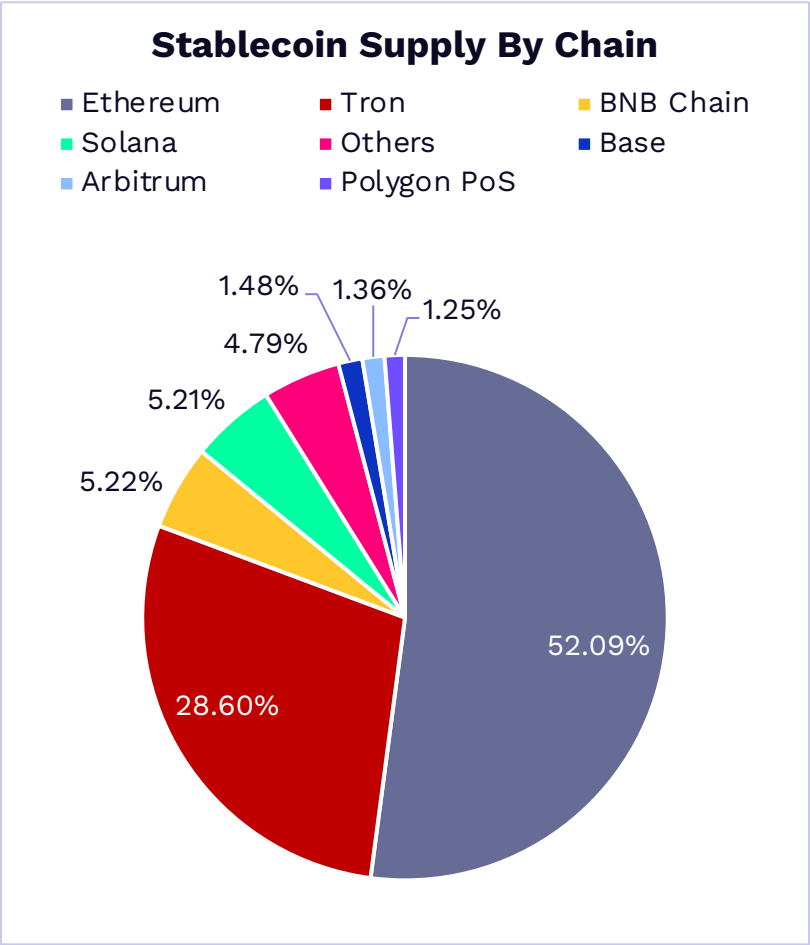
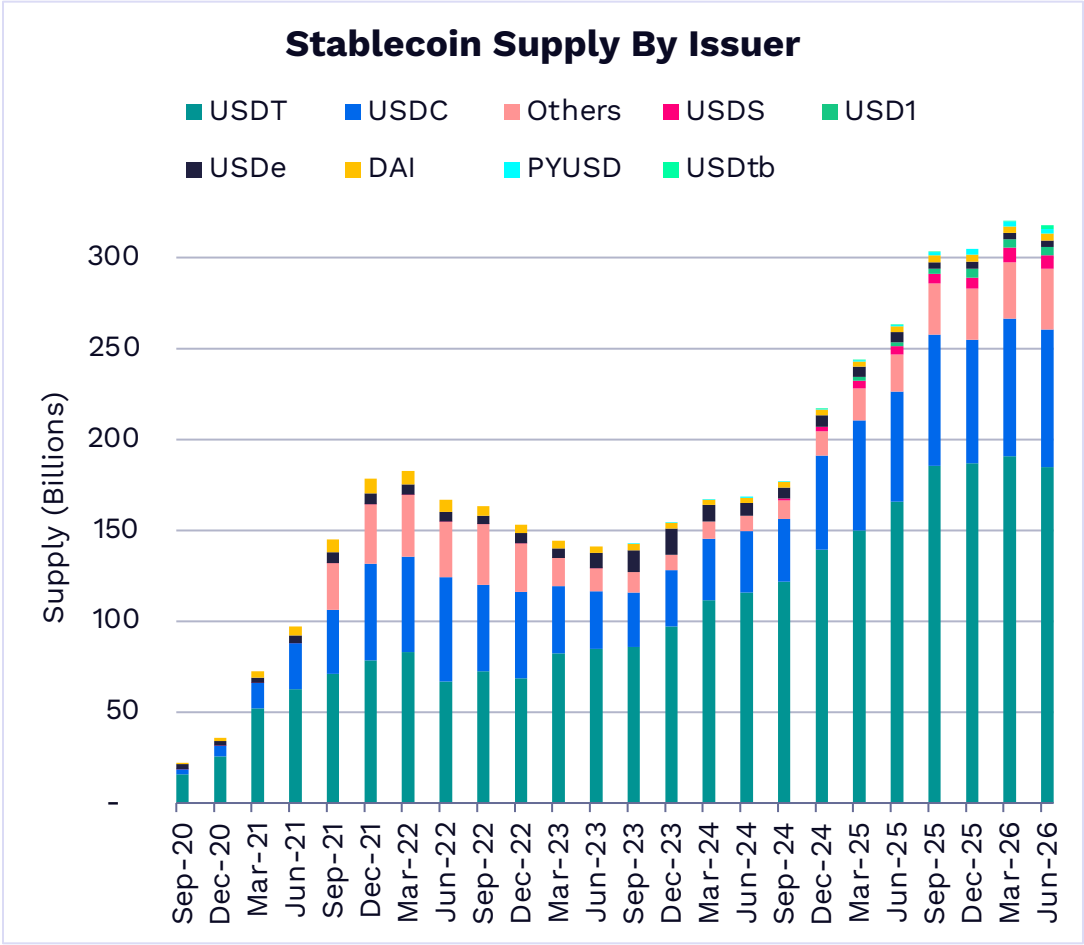
Section 01

Stablecoins, RWAs, And Tokenization





Stablecoin Supply Paused Its Growth Streak, Though Growth Year-Over-Year Remained Strong



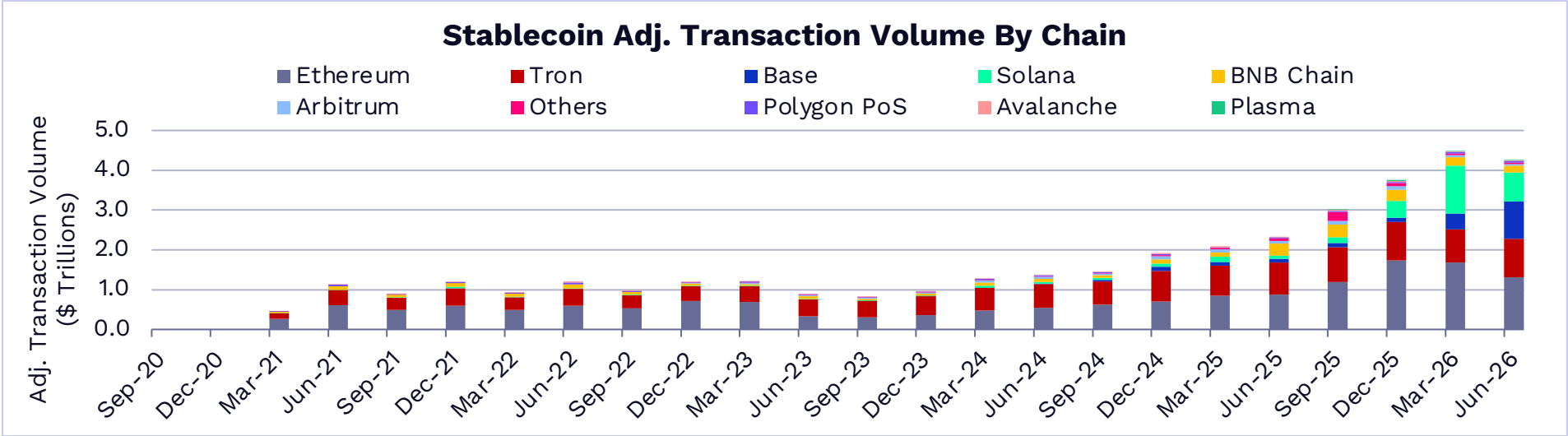
- Total stablecoin supply ended the quarter at ~\$317 billion, down slightly after four consecutive quarters of growth.
- Year-over-year, supply has grown ~22%, reflecting durable demand for on-chain dollars, even as trading activity cooled.
- USDT and USDC maintained their duopoly at ~82% of total supply.
- BNB Chain overtook Solana marginally as the blockchain with the third highest stablecoin supply.

Note: Tokenized Money Market Funds (MMFs) such as Blackrock’s BUIDL and Circle’s USYC are excluded from the stablecoin supply data used in this publication. Source: ARK Investment Management LLC, 2026. Chart data from Allium and Artemis. Information as of June 30, 2026. For more information on certain terms, please read our Glossary Of Terms in the Appendix of this report. For informational purposes only and should not be considered investment advice or a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold any particular security or cryptocurrency. Forecasts are inherently limited and cannot be relied upon. Past performance is not indicative of future results.



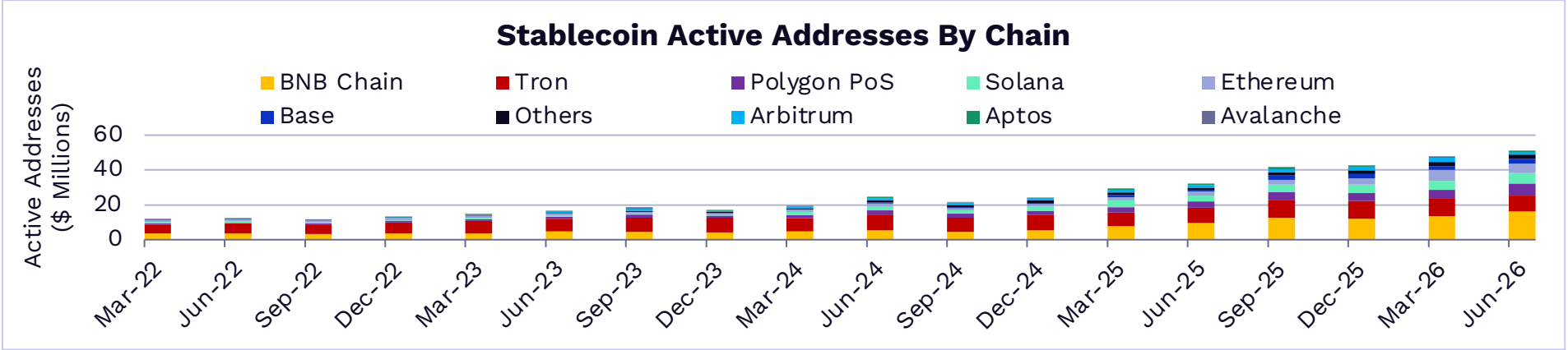
User Adoption Hit A New High, Even As Stablecoin Volume Pulled Back

Stablecoin Adj. Transaction Volume By Chain



- Adjusted stablecoin transaction volume dipped ~5% quarter-over-quarter to ~\$4.3 trillion, ending a four-quarter growth streak. Despite the quarterly pullback, volume nearly doubled year-over-year.
- Base was the standout chain, with stablecoin volume more than doubling as Coinbase expanded its consumer product suite.
- Both Solana and Ethereum saw meaningful declines in stablecoin transaction volume.
- Active addresses hit a new high at ~51 million, driven by BNB Chain, Solana, and Polygon, suggesting that adoption is broadening, even as large institutional flows slow.
- Active addresses on Polygon increased 31%, the largest quarter-over-quarter jump.

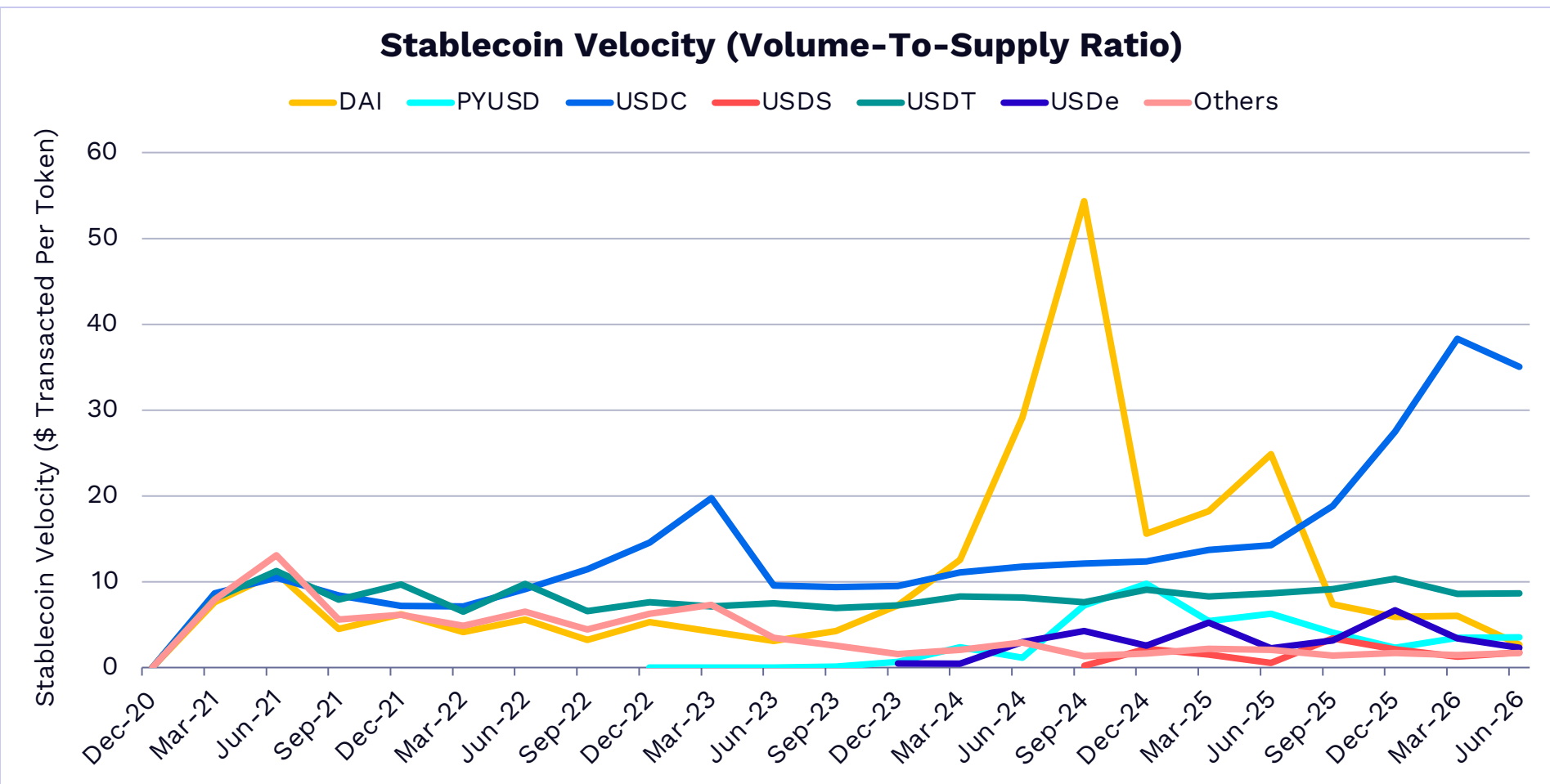
Stablecoin Active Addresses By Chain



Note: Due to abnormal data fluctuations relating to stablecoin volume on Base we have transitioned to Allium data for Adjusted Stablecoin Transaction Volume in this quarter’s publication. We express stablecoin trading activity as “volume” on the y-axis in dollar terms. Because stablecoins are pegged 1:1 to the US dollar, trading volume (units exchanged) and trading value (USD equivalent) are identical. As a result, “volume” and “value” are used synonymously throughout the stablecoin section of this report. Source: ARK Investment Management LLC, 2026. Chart data from Allium and rwa.xyz. Information as of June 30, 2026. For more information on certain terms, please read our Glossary Of Terms in the Appendix of this report. For informational purposes only and should not be considered investment advice or a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold any particular security or cryptocurrency. Forecasts are inherently limited and cannot be relied upon. Past performance is not indicative of future results.



USDC Remained The Most Actively Transacted Stablecoin By A Wide Margin



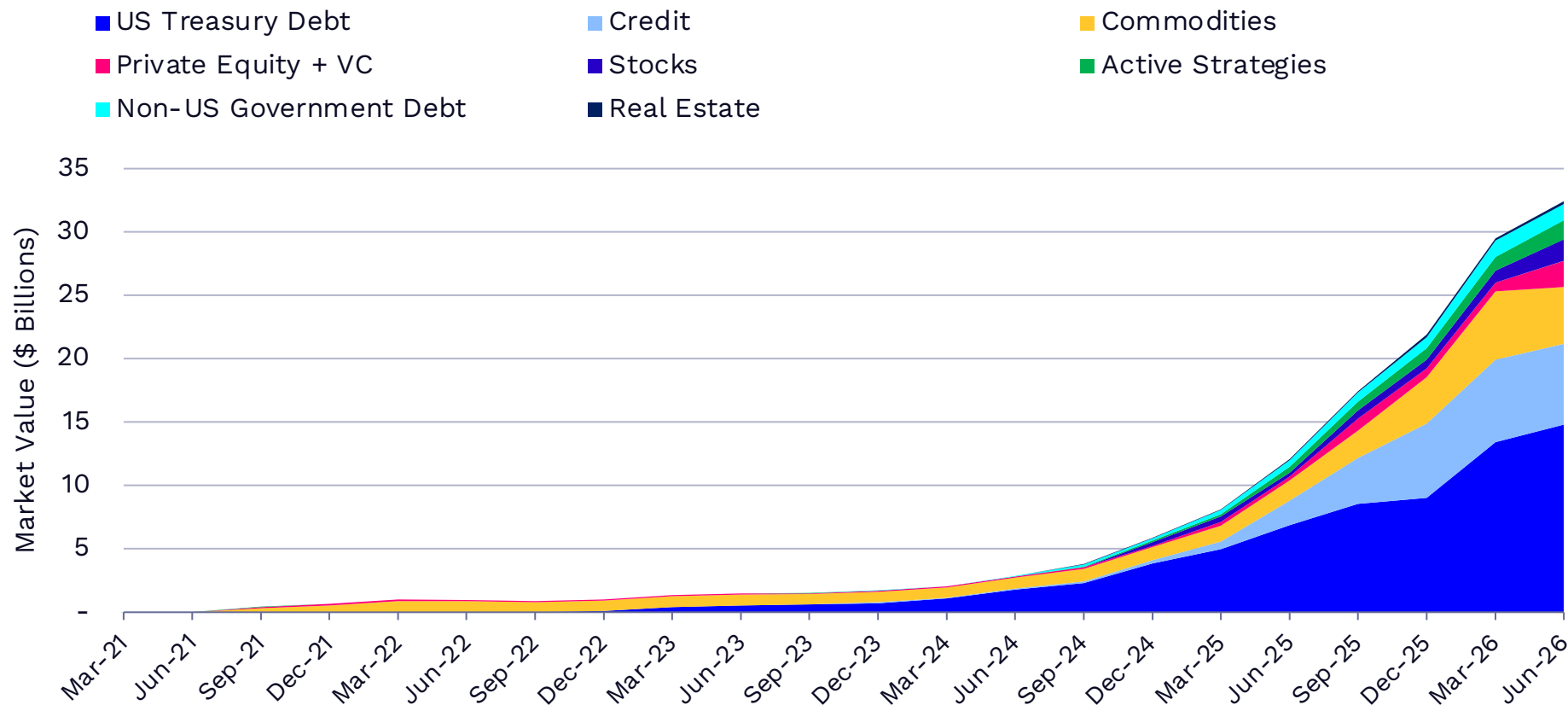
- USDC velocity held at ~35x, meaning that each dollar of supply changed hands roughly 35 times during the quarter—still well above all others despite a slight pull back from last quarter.
- USDT's velocity was stable at ~8.7x, consistent with its role as a store of value in emerging markets instead of as an active payment rail.
- USDe's velocity declined, despite a doubling in its supply, suggesting that new issuance is likely being held as a yield asset through Ethena's savings products instead of being transacted actively.

Note: Due to abnormal data fluctuations relating to stablecoin volume on Base we have transitioned to Allium data for Adjusted Stablecoin Transaction Volume in this quarter's publication. Source: ARK Investment Management LLC, 2026. Chart data from Allium and Artemis. Information as of June 30, 2026. For more information on certain terms, please read our Glossary Of Terms in the Appendix of this report. For informational purposes only and should not be considered investment advice or a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold any particular security or cryptocurrency. Forecasts are inherently limited and cannot be relied upon. Past performance is not indicative of future results.



Tokenized RWAs Continued Their Steady Climb, Led By Private Equity And Credit

RWA Market Value By Asset Class

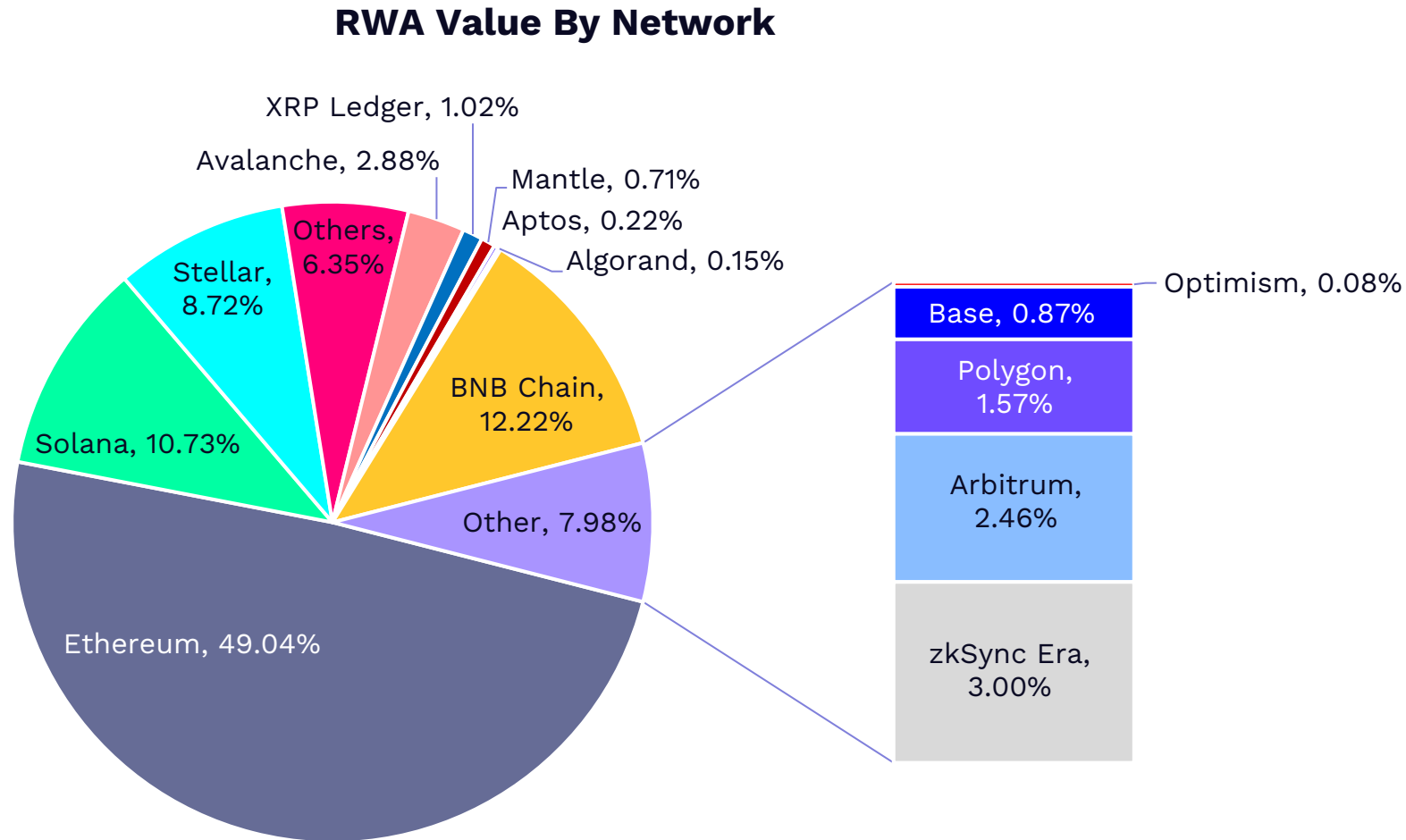


- Total RWA market value grew ~10% quarter-over-quarter to ~\$32 billion, extending a multi-quarter growth trend. Overall RWA value has grown ~4x since the start of 2025.
- Tokenized private equity and venture capital assets were among the fastest-growing RWA categories, thanks primarily to the tokenization of institutional investment vehicles like Blockchain Capital's BCAP fund and private equity offerings like Titan III and Hera I.
- Tokenized U.S. Treasuries increased ~10%, driven by Franklin Templeton's iBenji and Ondo's USDY.

Note: The category "RWAs" refers to any assets that natively exist in traditional markets but are brought on-chain into crypto markets through a process known as tokenization. This includes, but is not limited to, all asset classes displayed in the above chart. Of these assets, only those that use the blockchain as a means of distribution are counted, as opposed to those using the blockchain solely as a means of record-keeping or accounting. This chart represents the total RWA value distributed between private & public blockchains globally. Source: ARK Investment Management LLC, 2026. Chart data from rwa.xyz. Information as of June 30, 2026. For more information on certain terms, please read our Glossary Of Terms in the Appendix of this report. For informational purposes only and should not be considered investment advice or a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold any particular security or cryptocurrency. Forecasts are inherently limited and cannot be relied upon. Past performance is not indicative of future results.



Ethereum Led On-Chain RWAs, But Solana And ZKsync Era Were The Fastest-Growing Destinations

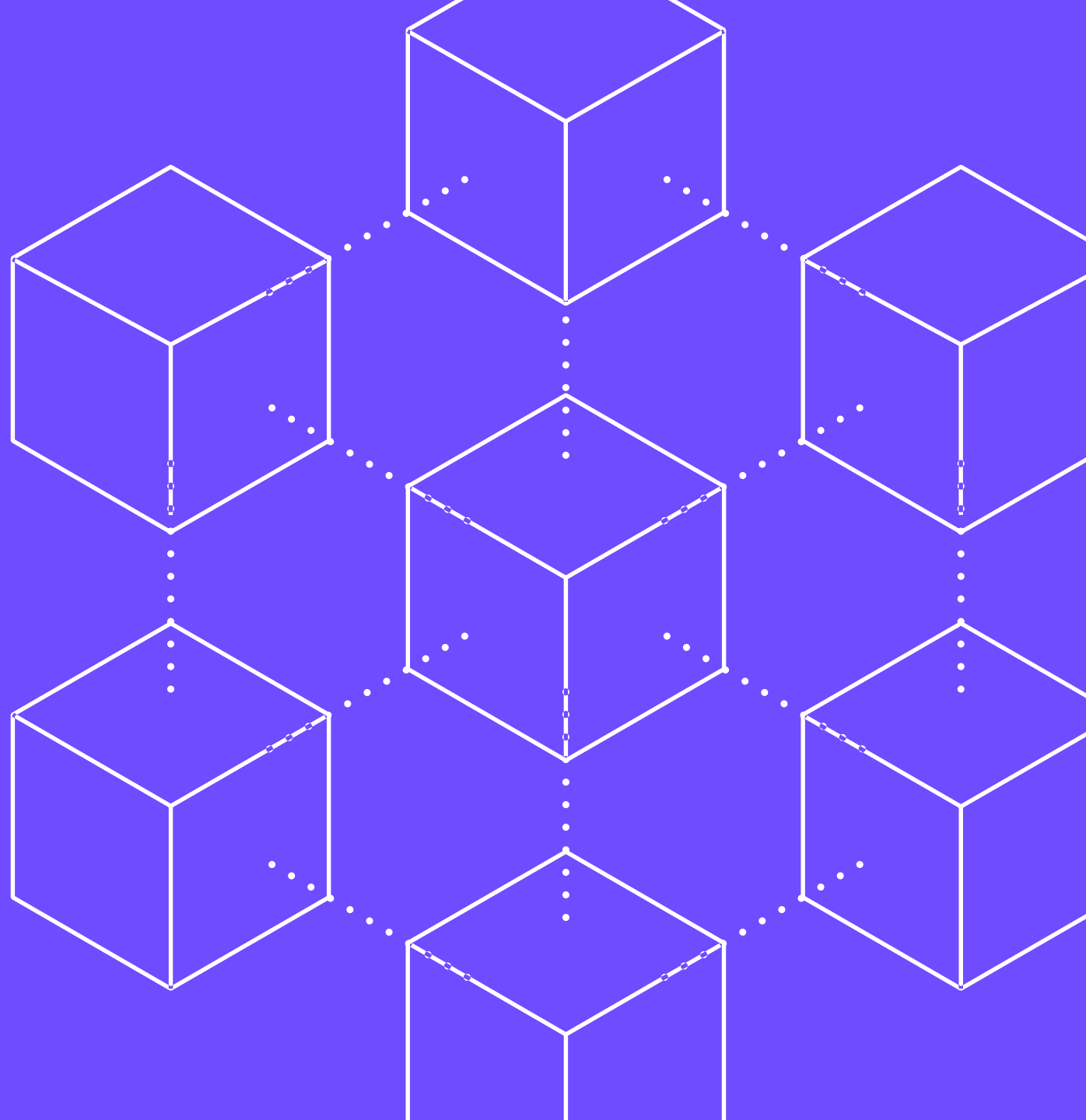


- Ethereum hosted ~\$15.9 billion in RWA value, roughly half of the total on public blockchains, and up ~33% year-to-date. Its scale and institutional familiarity have made Ethereum the primary settlement layer for tokenized assets.
- Solana increased its RWA value ~149% year-to-date to ~\$3.5 billion, while zkSync Era's RWA value surged ~366% from a low base, reflecting a broadening of options for tokenized asset infrastructure.
- The long tail of blockchains, including XRP, Ledger, Mantle, Aptos, and Algorand continued to lose RWA share.

Note: This chart represents the network distribution of the RWA value on public blockchain networks. Source: ARK Investment Management LLC, 2026. Chart data from rwa.xyz. Information as of June 30, 2026. This chart represents data from public blockchains only. For more information on certain terms, please read our Glossary Of Terms in the Appendix of this report. For informational purposes only and should not be considered investment advice or a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold any particular security or cryptocurrency. Forecasts are inherently limited and cannot be relied upon. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

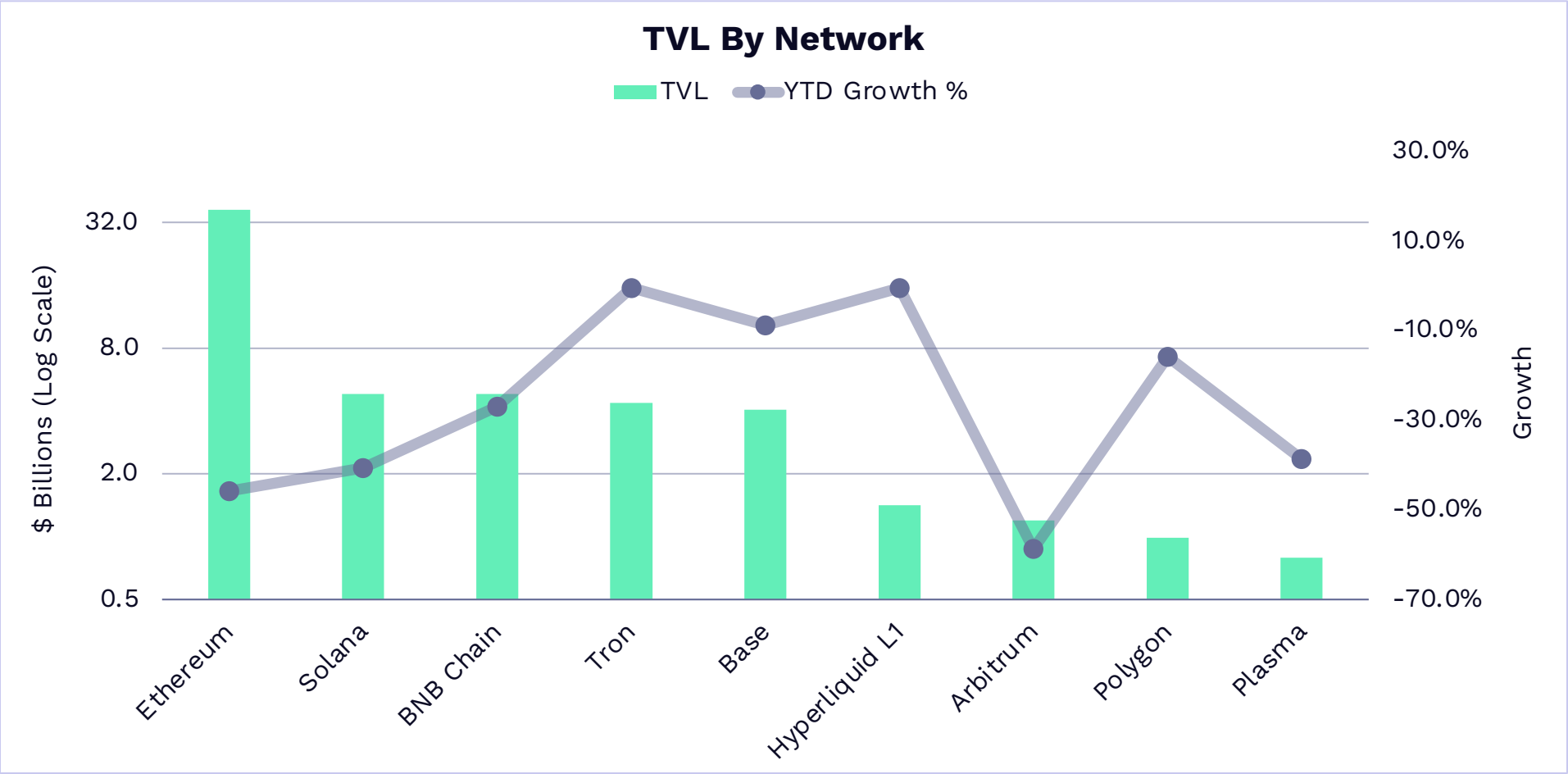
Section 02

Network And Application Economics





DeFi TVL Fell Sharply As Multiple Exploits And Weaker Prices Hit Confidence

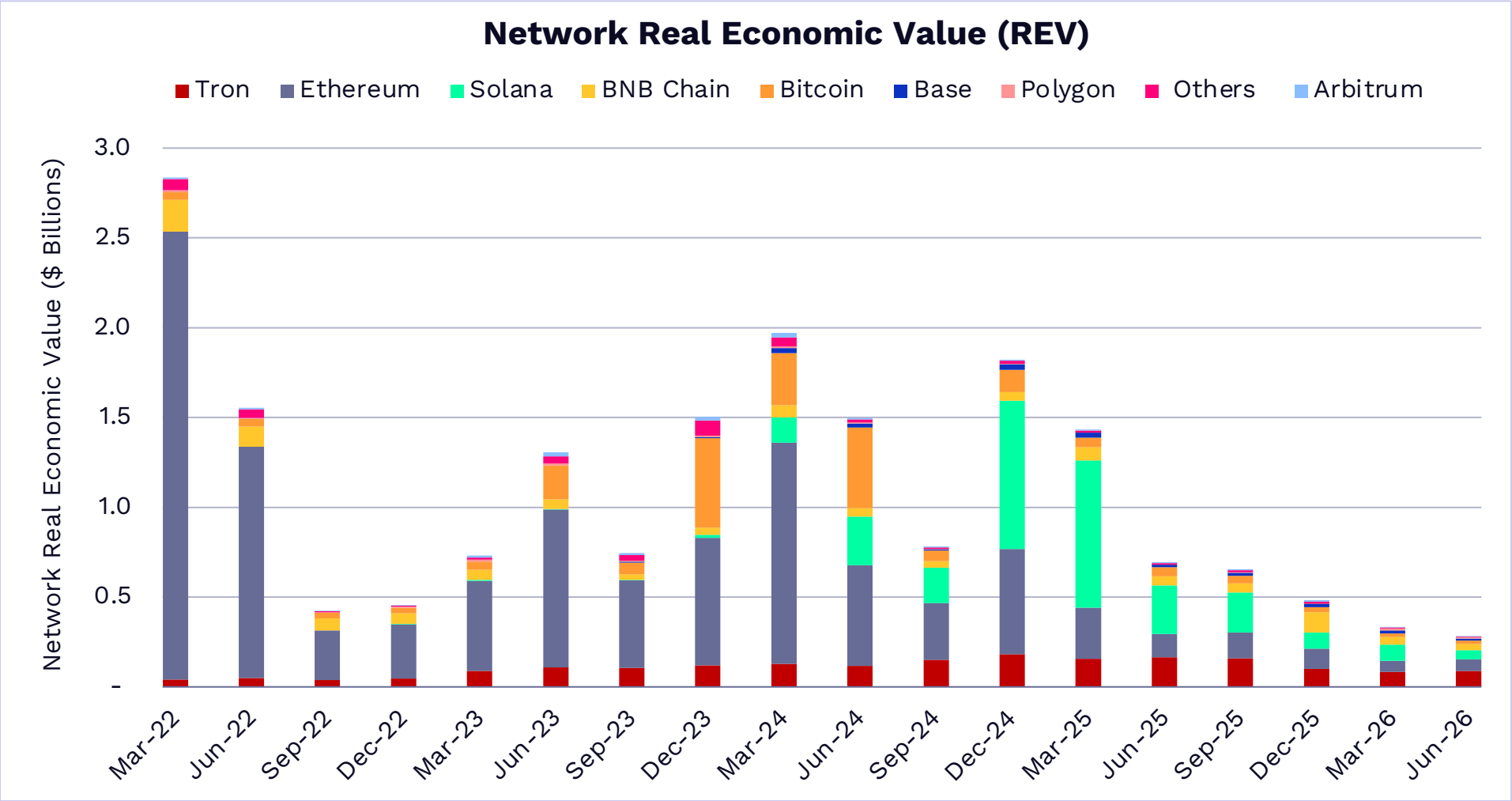


- DeFi TVL (Total Value Locked) dropped ~22% quarter-over-quarter in response to the combination of falling crypto prices and high-profile security incidents. The rsETH and Drift exploits, for example, caused ~\$293 million in losses and left Aave with significant bad debt—an issue which has since been resolved.
- The absolute decline in Ethereum’s TVL was the steepest among blockchains. Base was the only major chain to post quarter-over-quarter TVL growth, supported by the Azul network upgrade and an expansion of Coinbase's lending products.
- Hyperliquid's L1 entered the TVL league table rankings at ~\$1.4 billion, reflecting capital locked in its perp trading and prediction market infrastructure.

Source: ARK Investment Management LLC, 2026. Chart data from Defillama. Information as of June 30, 2026. For more information on certain terms, please read our Glossary Of Terms in the Appendix of this report. For informational purposes only and should not be considered investment advice or a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold any particular security or cryptocurrency. Forecasts are inherently limited and cannot be relied upon. Past performance is not indicative of future results.



Tron Overtook Solana As The Largest Revenue-Generating Network, But Fee Income Dropped On Average



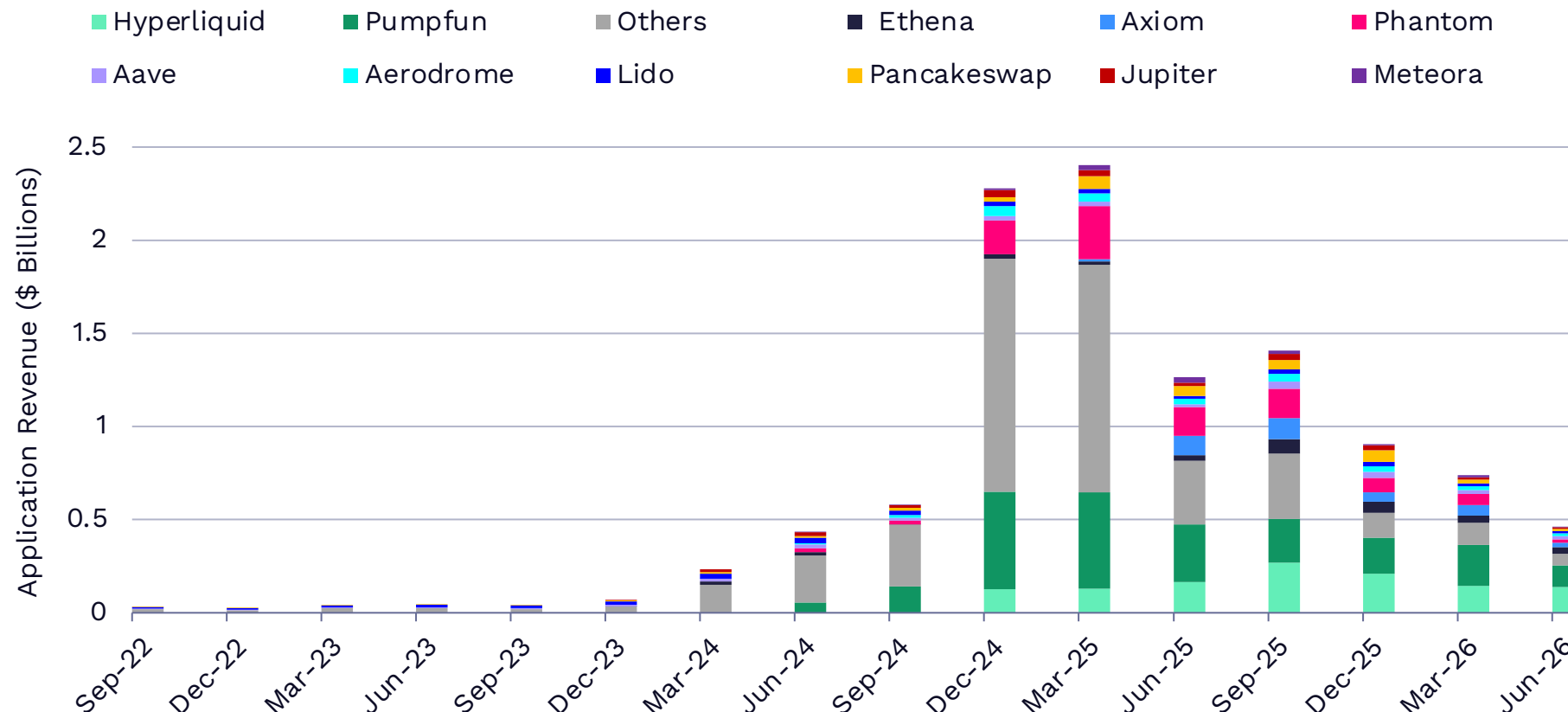
- Total network REV (Real Economic Value) fell ~16% quarter-over-quarter, continuing a multi-quarter decline from the elevated fee environment of early 2025. Bucking the trend, Tron grew ~9% to ~\$90 million thanks to stablecoin settlement volume, becoming the top network.
- After the Drift protocol hack in April, Solana's REV contracted ~43%. Ethereum's REV remained relatively stable.
- The broad compression of network fees reflects a normalization of speculative activity and the shift toward low-cost, high-throughput chains for everyday settlement.

Source: ARK Investment Management LLC, 2026. Chart data from Blockworks Research. Information as of June 30, 2026. For more information on certain terms, please read our Glossary Of Terms in the Appendix of this report. For informational purposes only and should not be considered investment advice or a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold any particular security or cryptocurrency. Forecasts are inherently limited and cannot be relied upon. Past performance is not indicative of future results.



Application Revenue Fell Sharply As Memecoin Trading Normalized, But Hyperliquid Continued To Stand Out

Application Revenue

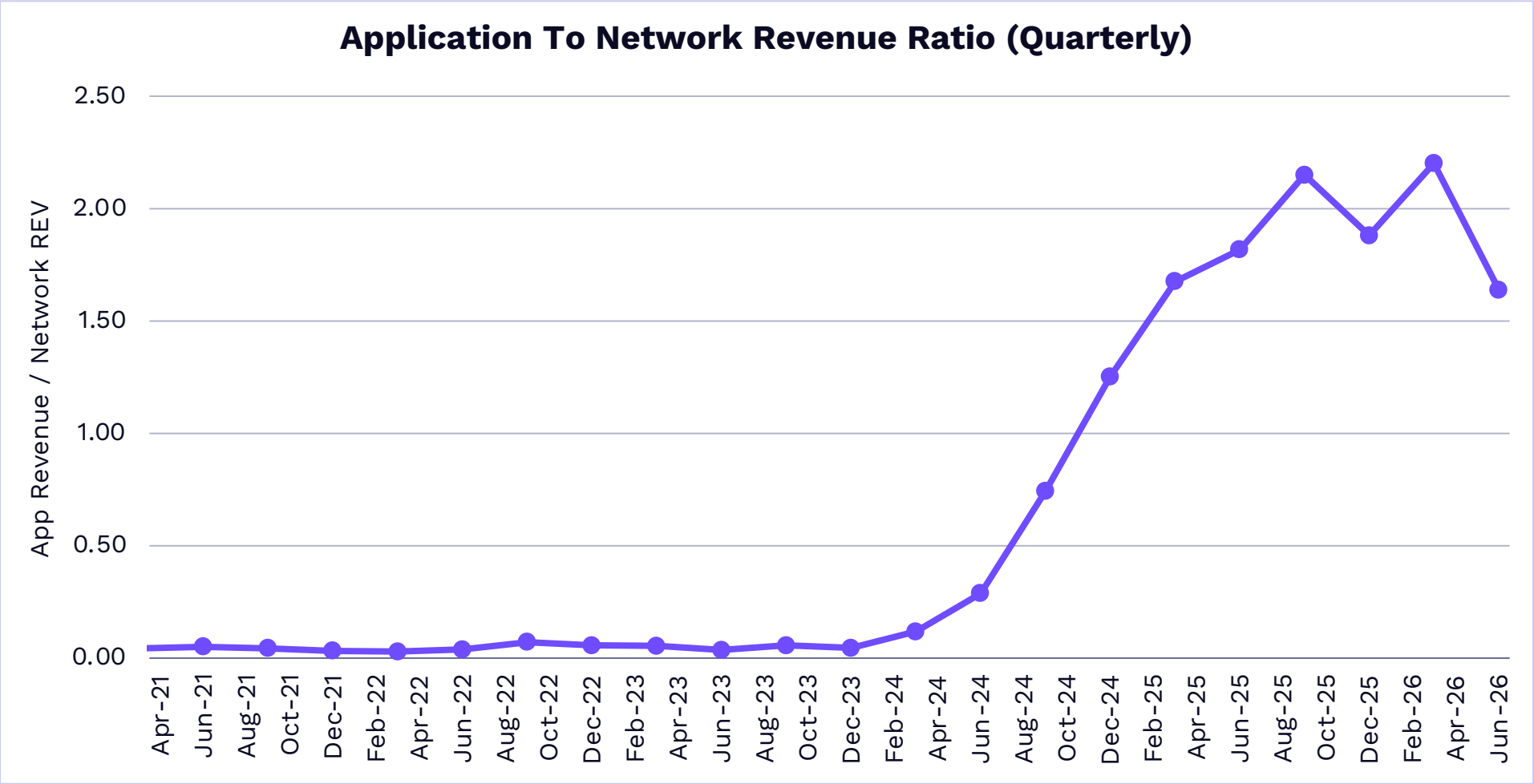


- Total application revenue declined ~37% quarter-over-quarter to ~\$463 million as speculative trading activity continued to cool.
- Hyperliquid remained dominant at ~\$139 million, nearly unchanged quarter-over-quarter and now accounting for ~30% of all application revenue—up from ~20% last quarter.
- Ethena also held steady, supported by its savings partnership with Coinbase and a flurry of other announcements.
- Pump.fun— while still the second most revenue generating application— fell ~48% quarter-over-quarter, Axiom ~60%, and Phantom ~67%—all tied directly to the slowdown in Solana-native memecoin activity.

Note: An application is a user-facing product, built on top of a blockchain (Layer 1 or Layer 2), that leverages smart contracts to provide specific financial or social functionality beyond the base ledger. Source: ARK Investment Management LLC, 2026. Chart data from Blockworks Research. Information as of June 30, 2026. For more information on certain terms, please read our Glossary Of Terms in the Appendix of this report. For informational purposes only and should not be considered investment advice or a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold any particular security or cryptocurrency. Forecasts are inherently limited and cannot be relied upon. Past performance is not indicative of future results.



Applications Continued To Outpace Blockchains In Revenue, Though The Gap Narrowed Last Quarter

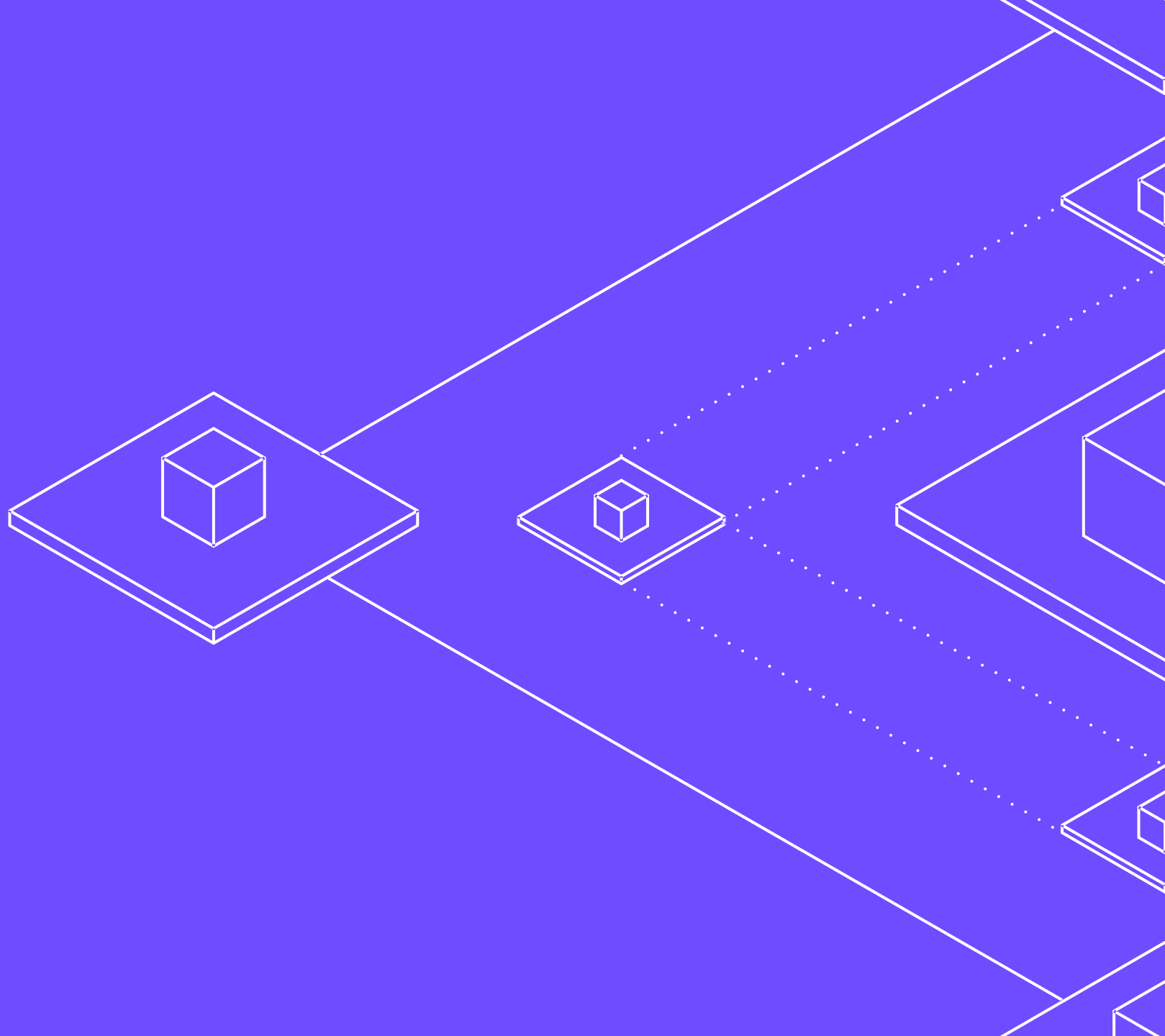


- The app-to-network revenue ratio declined from ~2.2x to ~1.6x as application revenue fell faster than network fees. The ratio has remained above 1.0x for six consecutive quarters, reflecting a structural shift from on-chain value capture toward user-facing protocols.
- Memecoin-adjacent apps like Pump.fun, Axiom, and Phantom drove much of the compression, while network REV proved more resilient thanks to Tron's stablecoin activity and Ethereum's stable base.
- The ratio's expansion from below 1.0x in early 2024 to ~2.2x at its peak reinforces a fundamental change in crypto's economic architecture: applications increasingly monetize at the user layer while base chains compete on cost and throughput.

Source: ARK Investment Management LLC, 2026. Chart data from Blockworks Research. Information as of June 30, 2026. For more information on certain terms, please read our Glossary Of Terms in the Appendix of this report. For informational purposes only and should not be considered investment advice or a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold any particular security or cryptocurrency. Forecasts are inherently limited and cannot be relied upon. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

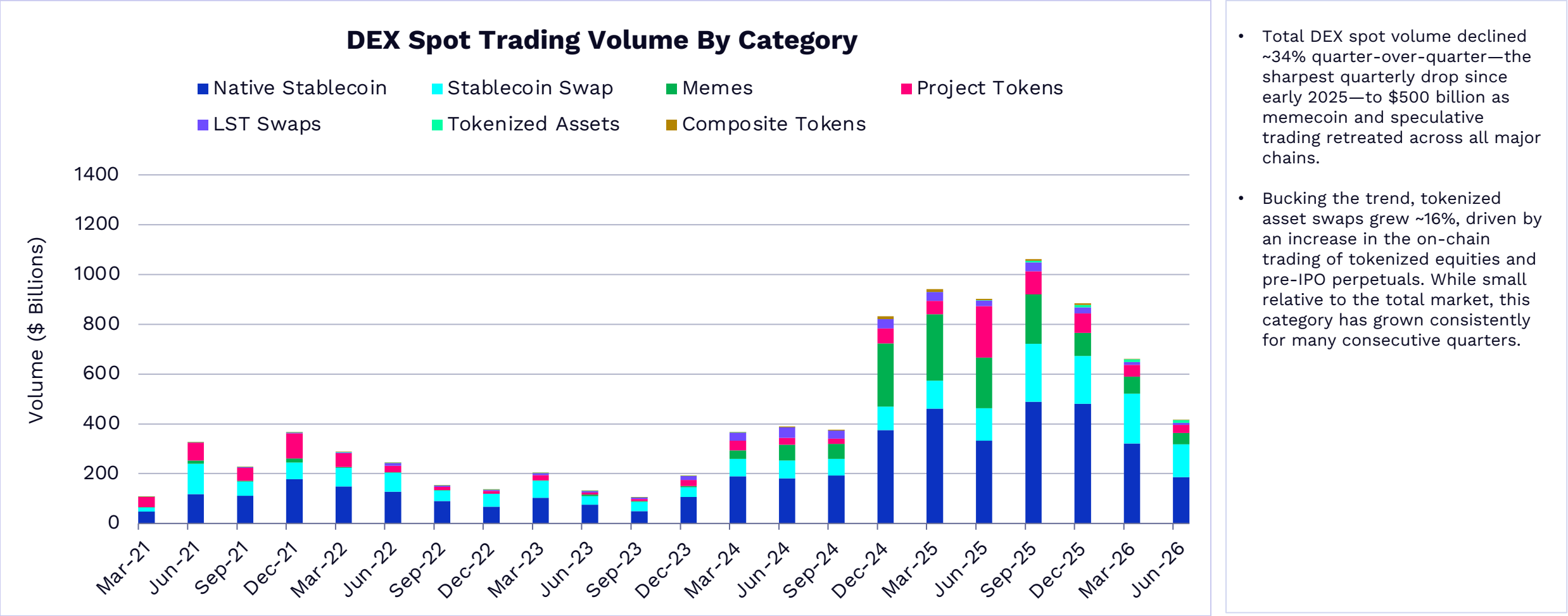
Section 03

Decentralized Exchanges





DEX Spot Volume Pulled Back Broadly As Speculative Activity Cooled, With Tokenized Assets The Only Growing Category

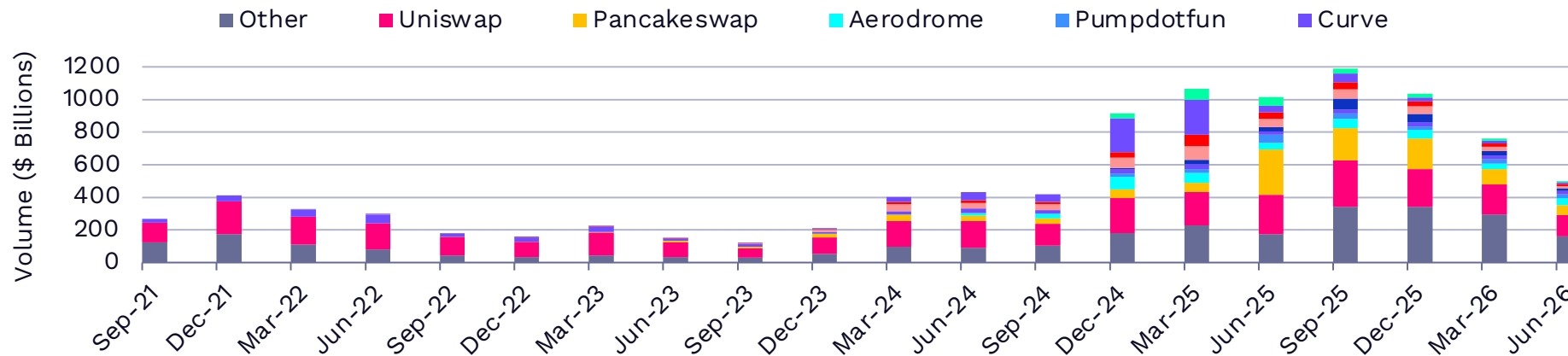


Source: ARK Investment Management LLC, 2026. Chart data from Blockworks Research. Information as of June 30, 2026. For more information on certain terms, please read our Glossary Of Terms in the Appendix of this report. For informational purposes only and should not be considered investment advice or a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold any particular security or cryptocurrency. Forecasts are inherently limited and cannot be relied upon. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

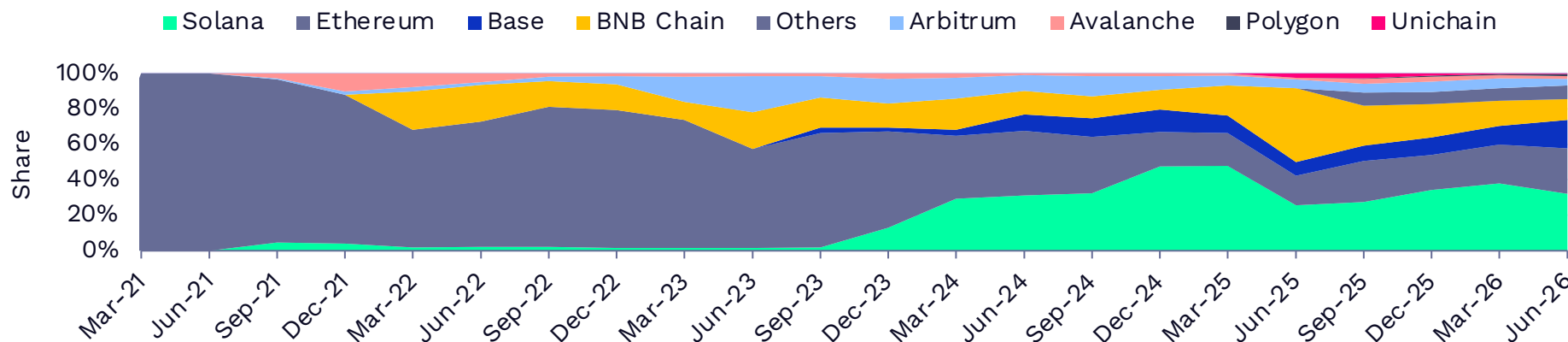


Base Held Steady As Nearly All Other Networks And Apps Lost Ground

DEX Spot Trading Volume By App



DEX Spot Trading Volume By Network

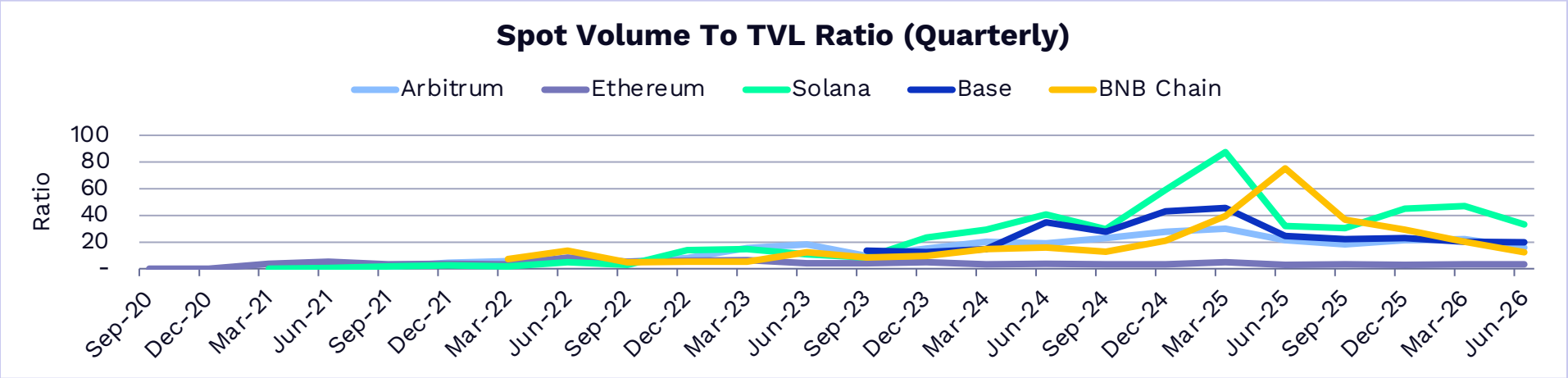


- Base's spot trading volume was fairly flat while all other major chains saw declines. Base's market share increased from ~11% to ~16% of total DEX volume.
- Base's resilience likely reflects the growth of its largest decentralized exchange, Aerodrome, the only top DEX to post volume growth, surging ~29% quarter-over-quarter.
- Solana lost the most market share, falling from ~38% to ~32% of total DEX volume as the Drift protocol hack reduced on-chain activity.
- Ethereum's share improved modestly to ~26%, despite a drop in volume.
- Uniswap retained its overall lead at ~\$130 billion, despite a ~30% decline, while Solana-native DEXs—including Orca, Raydium, and Solfi—contracted sharply along with Solana's activity.

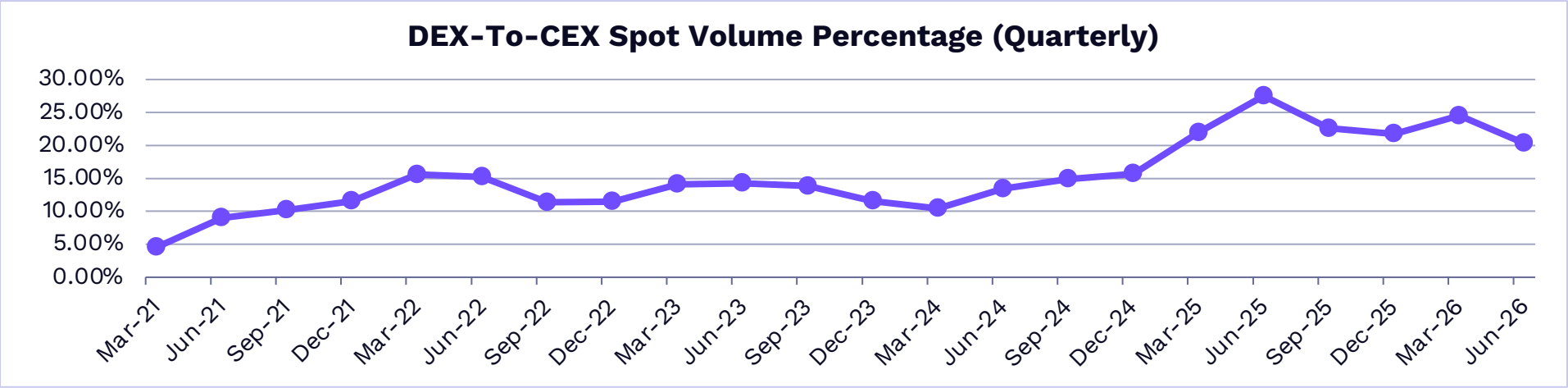
Source: ARK Investment Management LLC, 2026. Chart data from Blockworks Research. Information as of June 30, 2026. For more information on certain terms, please read our Glossary Of Terms in the Appendix of this report. For informational purposes only and should not be considered investment advice or a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold any particular security or cryptocurrency. Forecasts are inherently limited and cannot be relied upon. Past performance is not indicative of future results.



DEX-To-CEX Spot Ratio Retreated But Remained Well Above Its Prior-Year Level



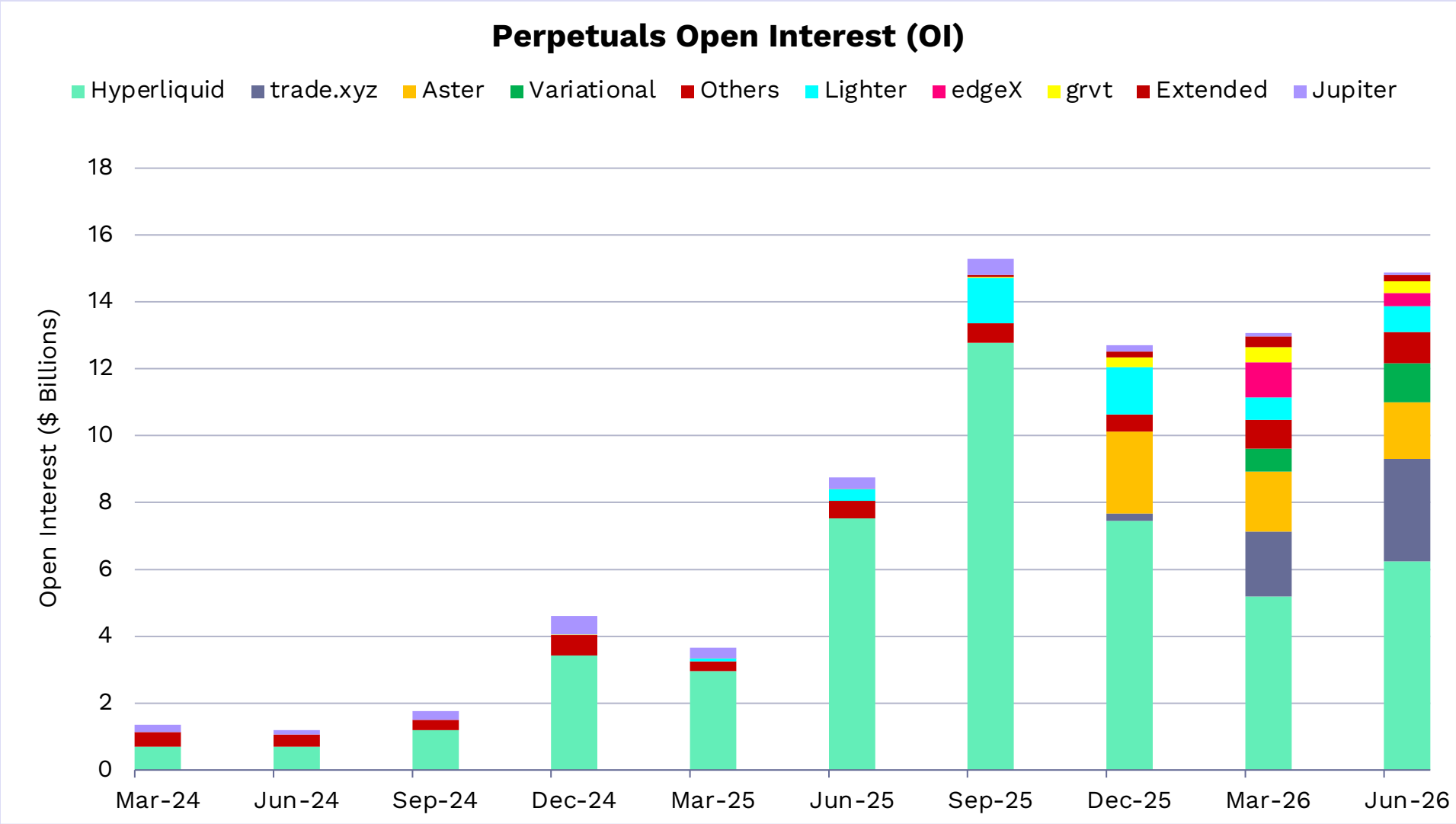
- The DEX-to-CEX (centralized exchange) spot ratio fell ~4 percentage points to ~20%, reversing some of last quarter's gain. Despite the pullback, the ratio is significantly above its ~16%, the level hit during the fourth quarter of 2024, suggesting that the structural shift toward decentralized exchanges remains intact.
- Base had the most stable capital efficiency of any major chain, its spot-volume-to-TVL ratio holding near ~20x.
- Solana's volume-to-TVL ratio declined from ~47x to ~33x, but the network still retained the top position with the most spot trading activity relative to locked value.



Source: ARK Investment Management LLC, 2026. Chart data from Blockworks Research & Defillama. Information as of June 30, 2026. For more information on certain terms, please read our Glossary Of Terms in the Appendix of this report. For informational purposes only and should not be considered investment advice or a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold any particular security or cryptocurrency. Forecasts are inherently limited and cannot be relied upon. Past performance is not indicative of future results.



Perpetuals Open Interest Rebounded As trade.xyz Continued To Take Share



- Total perpetuals open interest rose ~14% quarter-over-quarter to ~\$13.95 billion, the second consecutive quarterly increase.
- trade.xyz—a HIP-3 market—was the standout performer, its open interest growing ~62% to ~\$3.0 billion. trade.xyz’s OI has grown to nearly half the size of Hyperliquid Core’s OI, thanks to pre-IPO stocks and commodities perpetuals.
- The long-tail of Perp DEXs has propelled incremental growth over the last 12 months, as the OI in perp DEXs, excluding Hyperliquid, trade.xyz, Lighter, and Aster, has grown 2.2x since Q2 2025.
- Similarly, Hyperliquid Core’s share is now 45%, down from 91%, its high in the second quarter of 2025.
- With many long-tail Perp DEXs having launched over the past two years, it is important to consider the role of incentives programs in shaping the competitive landscape.

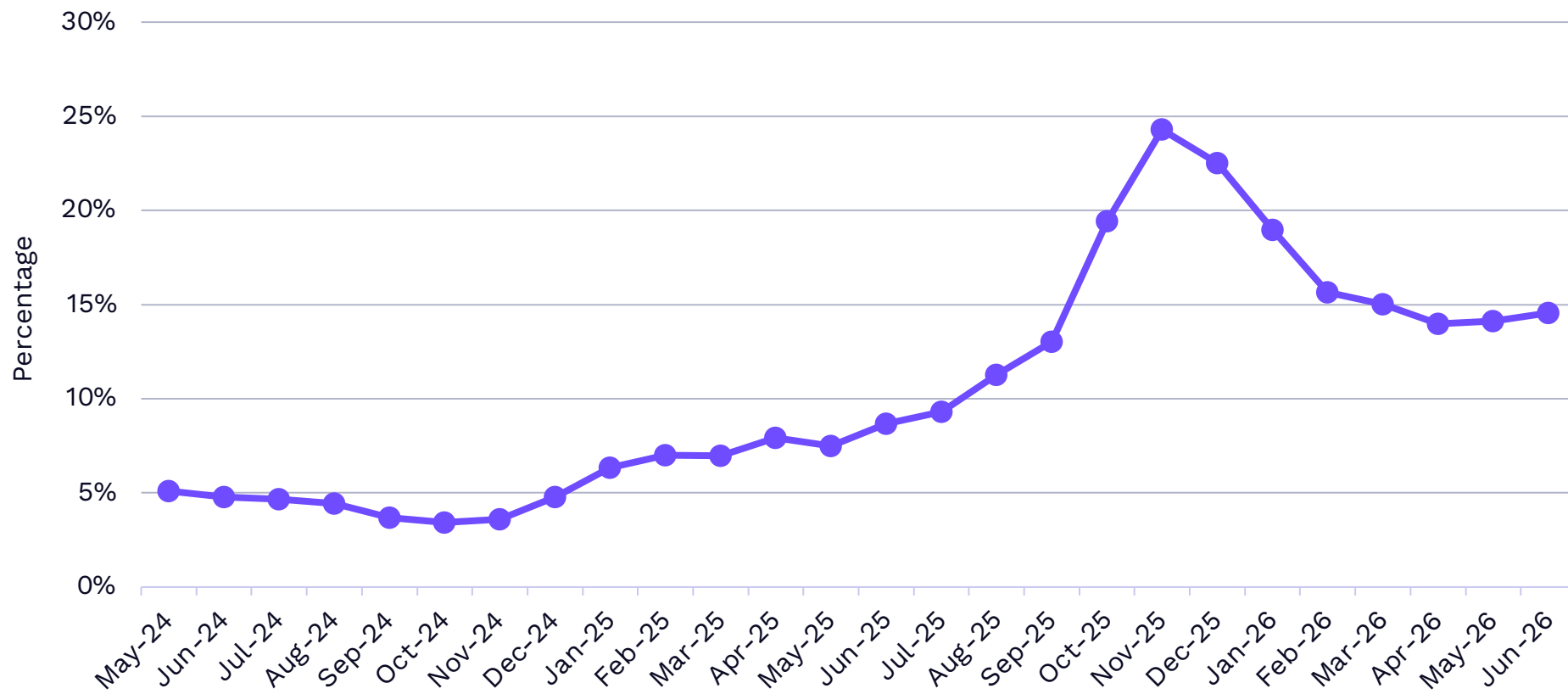
Note: “Perpetuals Open Interest” refers to the dollar-denominated value of outstanding perpetual futures contracts that have not been settled and exist on permissionless, blockchain-based exchanges. Note: HIP-3 markets are permissionless, builder-deployed perpetual futures markets on Hyperliquid that let anyone spin up custom perp markets on top of HyperCore’s existing order book infrastructure. Source: ARK Investment Management LLC, 2026. Chart data from Blockworks Research. Information as of June 30, 2026. For more information on certain terms, please read our Glossary Of Terms in the Appendix of this report. For informational purposes only and should not be considered investment advice or a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold any particular security or cryptocurrency. Forecasts are inherently limited and cannot be relied upon. Past performance is not indicative of future results.



DEX Futures Market Share Held Steady As On-Chain Perps Continued To Gain Ground

DEX-To-CEX Futures Trade Volume (%)

—●— DEX To CEX Futures Trade Volume

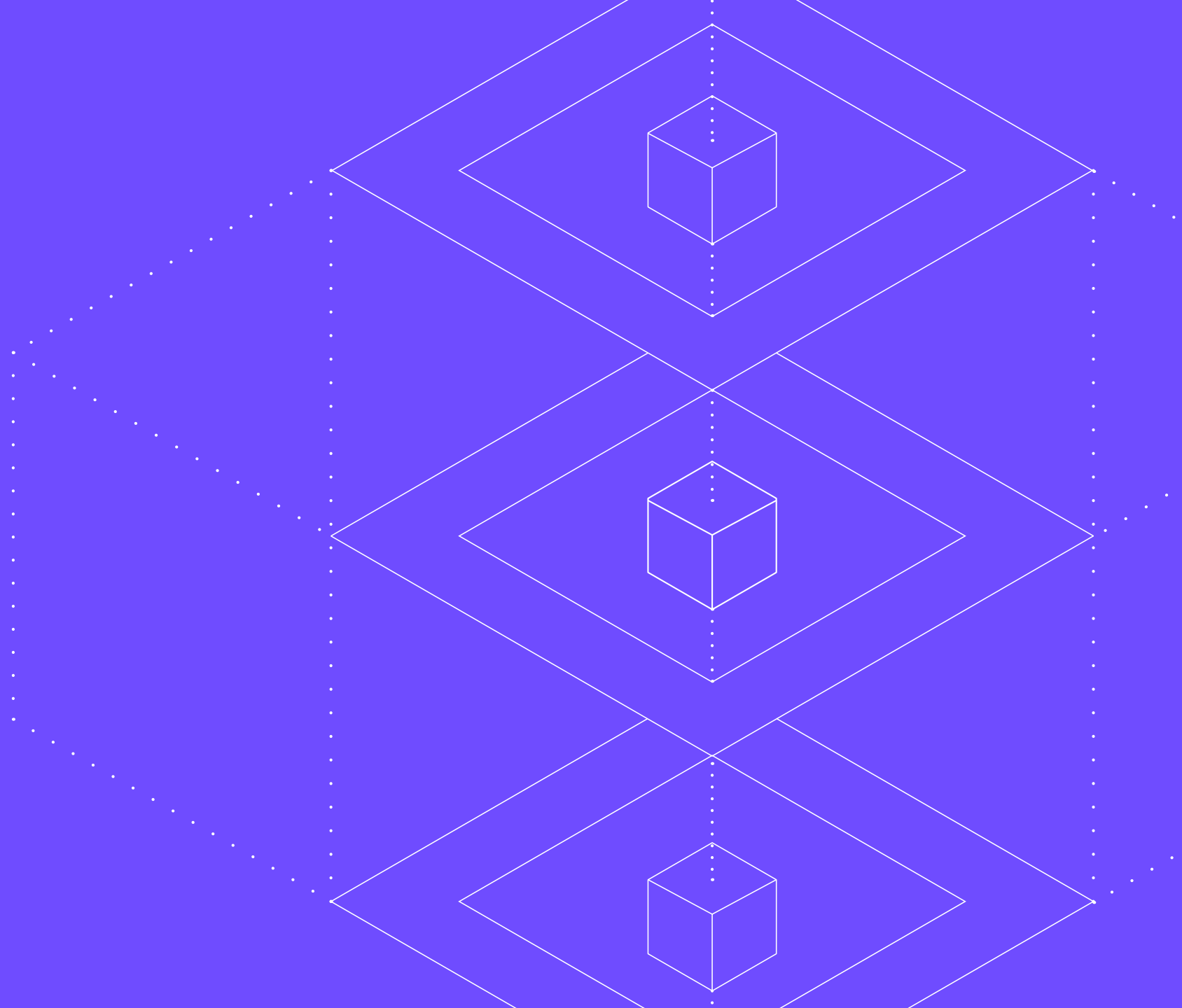


- The DEX-to-CEX futures ratio held at ~14.6%, essentially unchanged quarter-over-quarter, having increased ~6 percentage points year-over-year. Onchain perpetuals are attracting growth in both users and liquidity.
- Futures volumes on both centralized and decentralized exchanges declined, suggesting less speculative positioning at both venues.
- The broadening perpetuals landscape—trade.xyz and the long-tail of DEXs eating into Hyperliquid Core’s share of open interest—suggests that the perp DEX market is maturing beyond single-platform dependency, potentially signaling a more distributed and competitive landscape.

Source: ARK Investment Management LLC, 2026. Chart data from The Block. Information as of June 30, 2026. For more information on certain terms, please read our Glossary Of Terms in the Appendix of this report. For informational purposes only and should not be considered investment advice or a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold any particular security or cryptocurrency. Forecasts are inherently limited and cannot be relied upon. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

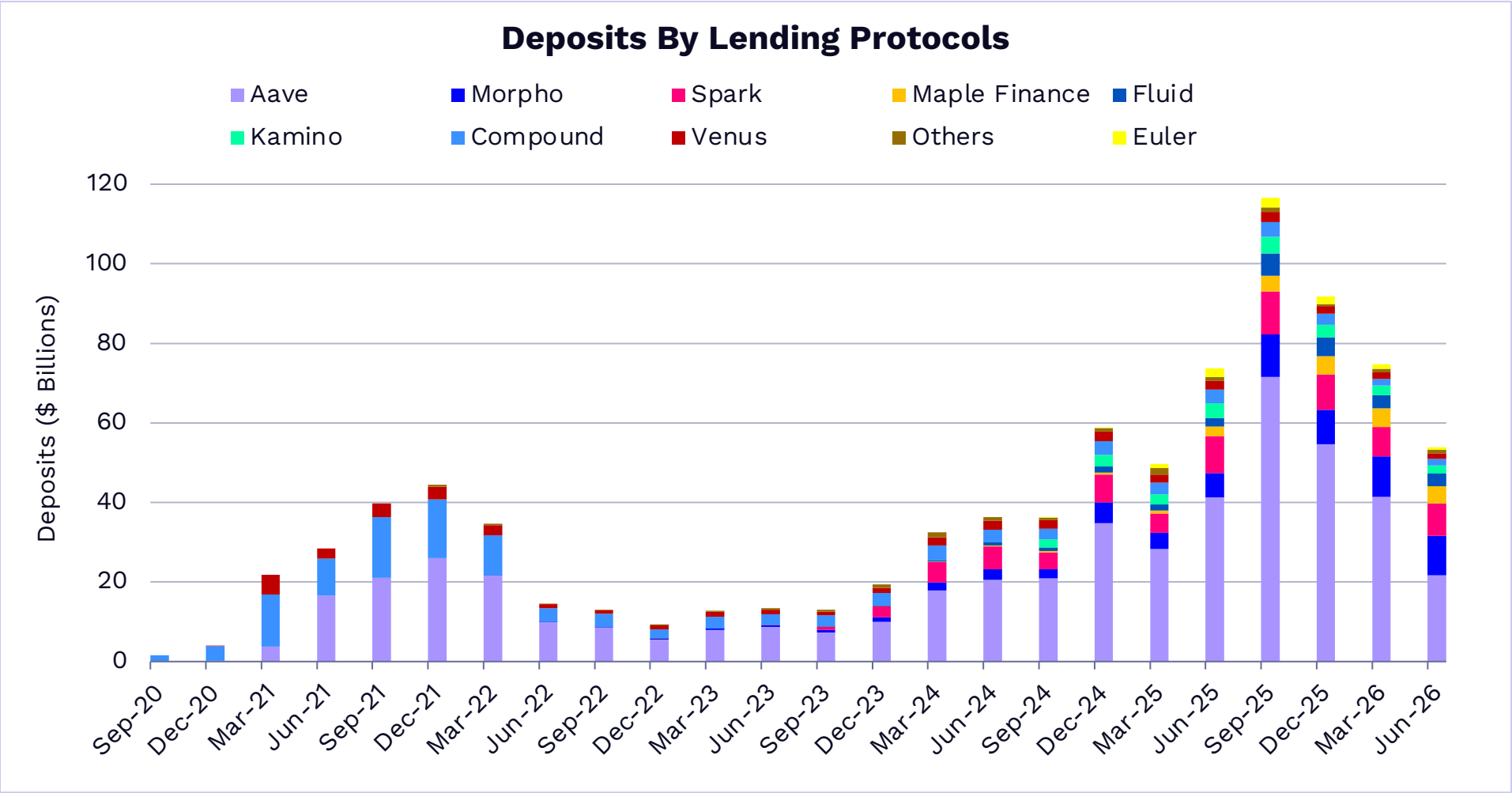
Section 04

Lending Protocols





Lending TVL Fell Sharply As The rsETH Exploit Triggered Outflows Across Protocols

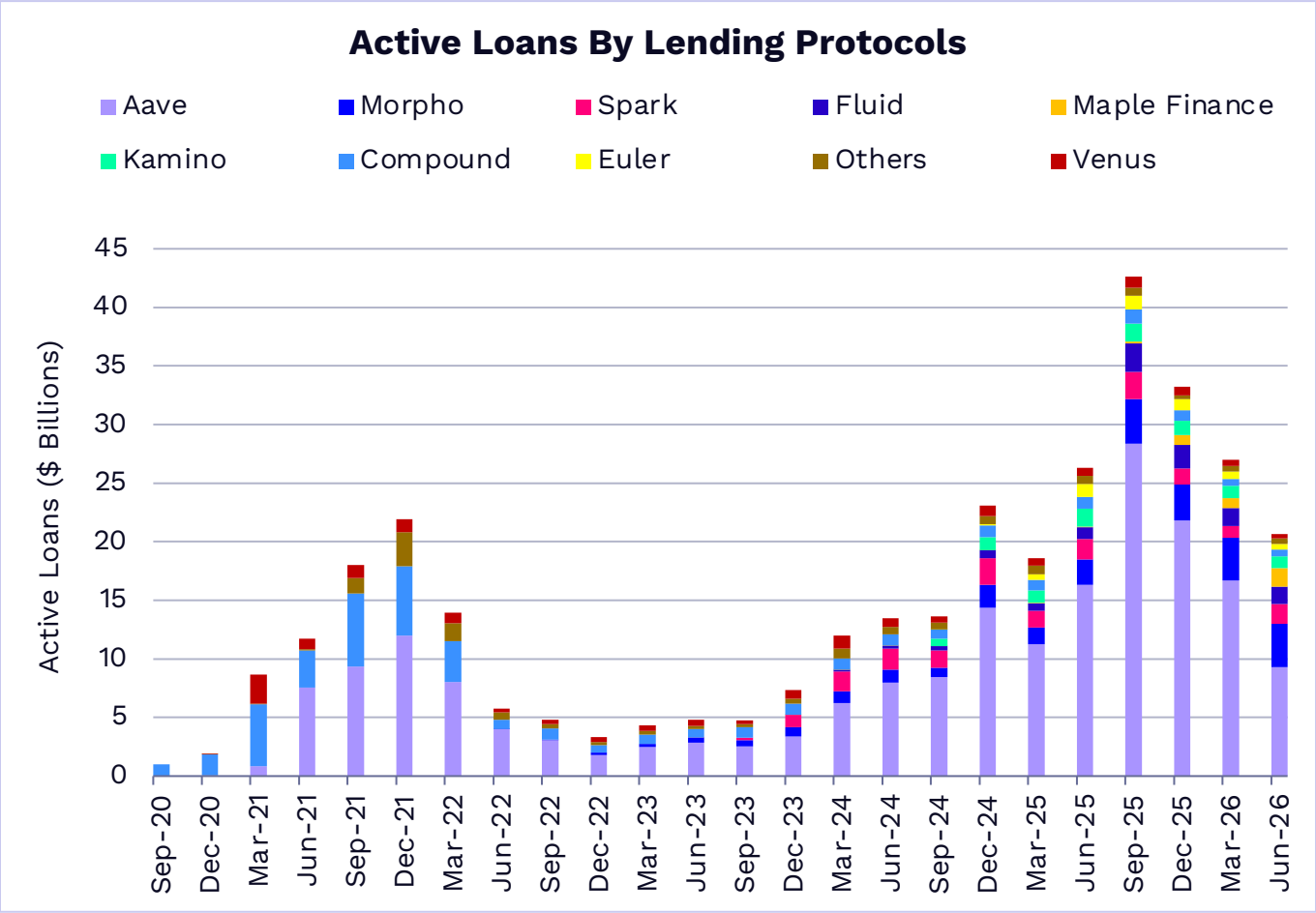


- Total lending protocol TVL declined ~28% quarter-over-quarter to ~\$54 billion, driven by lower collateral values and the rsETH exploit in April. The exploit saddled Aave with ~\$123 million in bad debt and triggered significant deposit outflows.
- The Aave protocol retained its dominant position, even as deposits fell ~48%.
- Morpho was notably resilient at -4%, thanks to its Coinbase integration and a \$175 million fundraise in June.
- Spark grew ~12%, its institutional positioning providing insulation.
- Maple Finance and Spark both grew through the quarter by serving institutional borrowers with structured lending products less exposed to the volatility hitting DeFi protocols.

Note: “Lending Protocols” are Smart contract applications on blockchains (Layer 1 & Layer 2) that enable users to lend and borrow assets without intermediaries. Source: ARK Investment Management LLC, 2026. Chart data from Token Terminal. Information as of June 30, 2026. For more information on certain terms, please read our Glossary Of Terms in the Appendix of this report. For informational purposes only and should not be considered investment advice or a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold any particular security or cryptocurrency. Forecasts are inherently limited and cannot be relied upon. Past performance is not indicative of future results.



Active Loans Contracted Given The Increase In Risk Aversion, With Institutional Protocols Outperforming



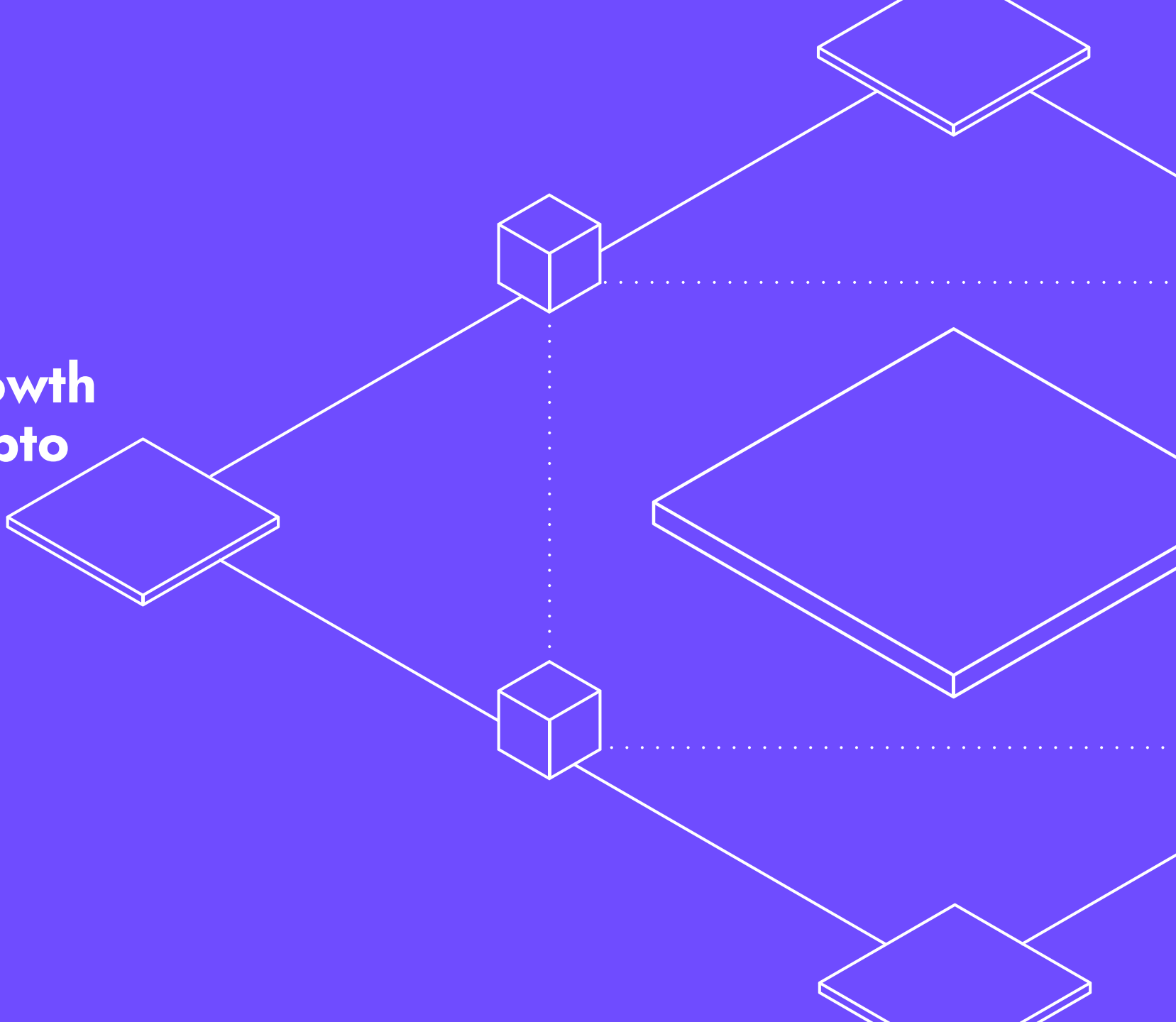
Protocol	YTD Growth
Maple Finance	95.6%
Others	37.6%
Spark	19.5%
Morpho	19.4%
Kamino	-21.1%
Fluid	-24.2%
Compound	-36.6%
Euler	-45.9%
Venus	-49.7%
Aave	-57.6%

- Total active loans declined ~24% quarter-over-quarter to ~\$20.6 billion as depressed collateral values, exploits, and competitive offchain yields reduced borrowing demand.
- Maple Finance was the quarter's standout, its active loans growing ~88% as institutional demand grew at a time when broader DeFi borrowing was contracting.
- Spark also expanded ~68%.
- Morpho held nearly flat at ~\$3.7 billion—the second-largest active loan book—reinforced by Coinbase's integration of SOL-backed loans.

Note: To calculate the year-to-date growth rate for active loans, we use the active loan values of the protocol on January 1 (the beginning of the first quarter) and June 30 (the end of the second quarter). Source: ARK Investment Management LLC, 2026. Chart data from Token Terminal. Information as of June 30, 2026. For more information on certain terms, please read our Glossary Of Terms in the Appendix of this report. For informational purposes only and should not be considered investment advice or a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold any particular security or cryptocurrency. Forecasts are inherently limited and cannot be relied upon. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

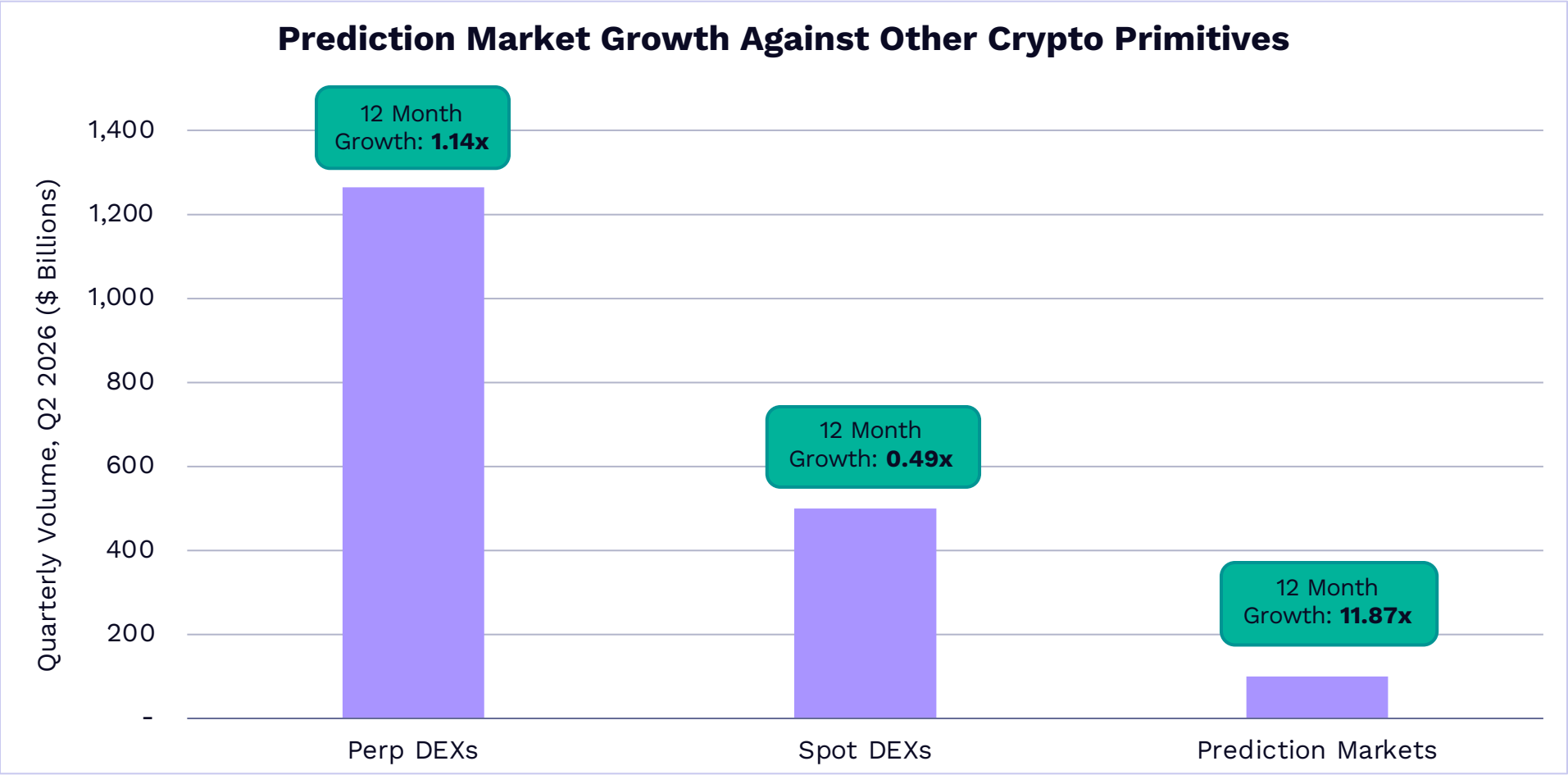
Section 05

Market Spotlight: Prediction Market Growth Relative To Other Crypto Primitives





Prediction Markets Grew ~12x In The Last 12 Months, A Rate Far Outpacing Spot And Perp DEXs

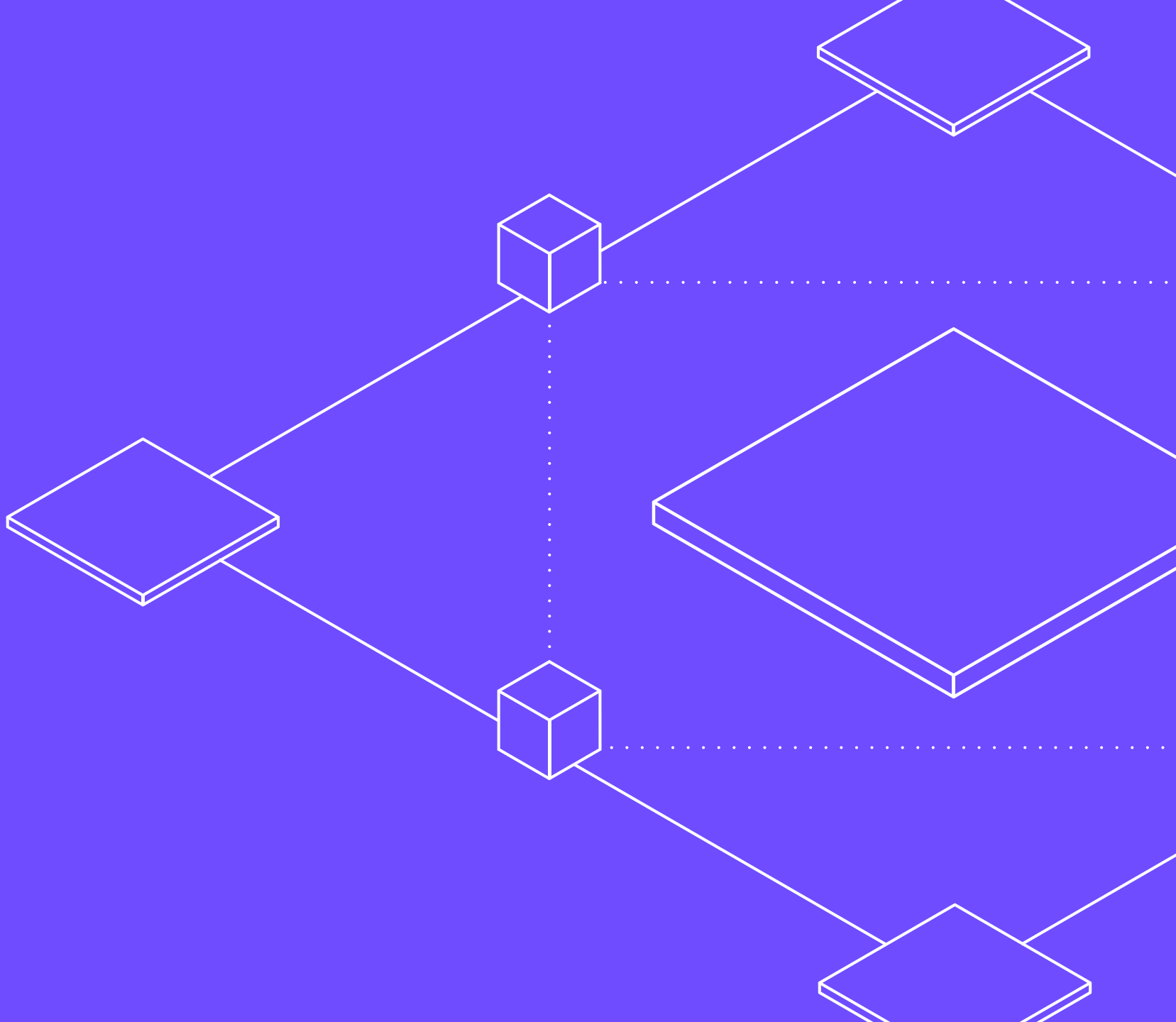


- Prediction markets grew ~11.87x in volume over the last 12 months, making them the fastest-growing primitive by a significant margin.
- The FIFA World Cup, which kicked off in mid-June, drove a notable spike in prediction market volumes.
- The expansion of HIP-3 markets on Hyperliquid, which enabled permissionless commodity perpetuals and pre-IPO perpetuals, drove Perp DEX growth.
- Hyperliquid's HIP-4 launch in May introduced validator-governed prediction markets, though volume contributions were negligible during the quarter.

Note: HIP-3 markets are permissionless, builder-deployed perpetual futures markets on Hyperliquid that let anyone spin up custom perp markets on top of HyperCore's existing order book infrastructure. Source: ARK Investment Management LLC, 2026. Chart data from Allium and Blockworks Research. Information as of June 30, 2026. For more information on certain terms, please read our Glossary Of Terms in the Appendix of this report. For informational purposes only and should not be considered investment advice or a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold any particular security or cryptocurrency. Forecasts are inherently limited and cannot be relied upon. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

Section 06

Market Pulse





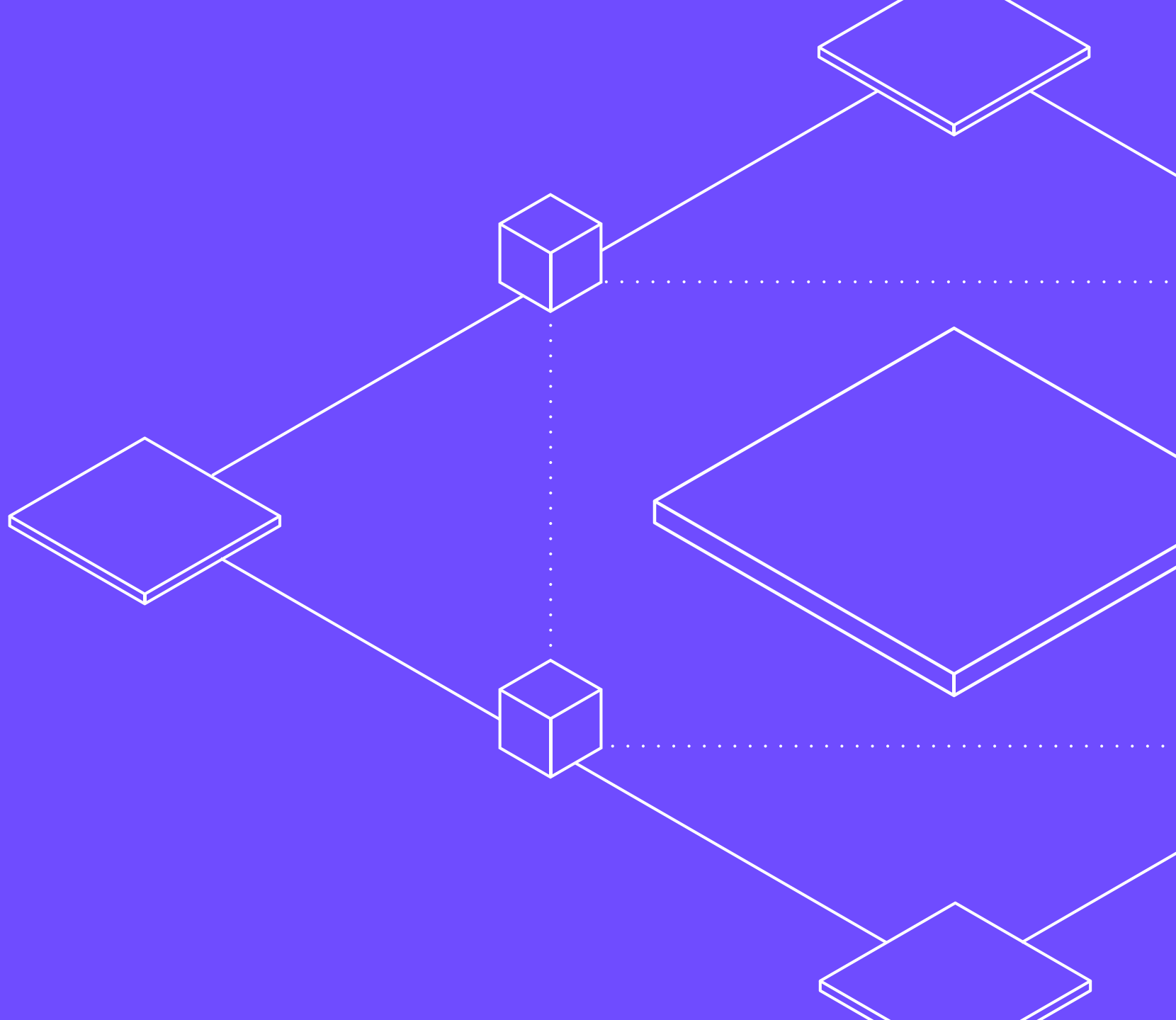
Notable News

Open USD Stablecoin Launches with Revenue Share Model	Coinbase adds SOL-backed loans through Morpho
Zama, Morpho & Steakhouse Launch Confidential DeFi Yield Vault	Arbitrum DAO approves \$70 million ETH release for Aave Bad Debt Recovery
Coinbase Release New Products During System Update Announcement	Bullish to Acquire Equiniti for \$4.2B
Circle's cirBTC is now live on Ethereum	Bipartisan CLARITY Act Deal Bans Passive Stablecoin Interest
Morpho raises \$175M to build 'open credit network'	Arbitrum DAO Votes to Release 30,766 Frozen ETH Post-rsETH Attack
Securitize Goes Public via SPAC; NYSE Listing as SECZ	Meta Launches USDC Creator Payouts on Solana and Polygon
Coinbase & Better Launch First Token-Backed Conforming Mortgages	Computershare & Securitize Partner to Tokenize S&P 500 Shares
Ethena partners with Coinbase for stablecoin savings products	DeFi raises full recovery to plug hole for rsETH bad debt in Aave
Mastercard Expands Stablecoin Settlement to USDC, PYUSD & RLUSD	Kalshi Selects Pyth for Commodity Price Feeds
Base Launches Azul: First Independent Network Upgrade	Tether Freezes Record \$344M USDT on Tron
Hyperliquid Launches Validator-Governed Prediction Markets (HIP-4)	\$293M rsETH Exploit Leaves Aave with \$123M Bad Debt
Vitalik Updates Ethereum Roadmap; Foundation Takes Opinionated Stance	Following \$280m hack, Drift is announcing a collaboration with Tether to relaunch with USDT at the center
SpaceX starts trading on Trade.xyz (Hyperliquid) as a pre-IPO Perp	Visa, Stripe and Zodia Custody become validators on Tempo
Coinbase & Circle Become Official USDC Treasury Deployers on Hyperliquid	Ethena Updates Roadmap for More Resilient Collateral Backing
21Shares Hyperliquid ETF (THYP) Launches with Strong Volumes	Largest Solana trading platform, Drift, hacked for \$200m+

Information as of June 30, 2026. For informational purposes only and should not be considered investment advice or a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold any particular security or cryptocurrency. News articles are collated by ARK’s Digital Assets Analysts to provide readers with what they believe to be broad market news in the DeFi ecosystem.

Section 07

Appendix: Glossary Of Terms





Glossary Of Terms

Adjusted Stablecoin Transaction Volume: Stablecoin transaction volume less MEV and intra-exchange stablecoin volumes.

Centralized Exchange (CEX): Traditional orderbook exchange existing as a regulated entity as a public or private company providing the liquidity and infrastructure for users to trade crypto native assets.

Crypto Credit Cards: Cards that enable users to spend stablecoin and cryptocurrency balances at traditional merchants, typically relying on traditional payment network infrastructure.

Decentralized Exchange (DEX): A smart contract-based application natively deployed to blockchain networks that provides the liquidity and UX to allow crypto native assets to be exchanged.

Decentralized Finance (DeFi): A permissionless financial ecosystem powered by smart contracts on public blockchains.

Digital Asset Treasury Company (DAT): Public company that has taken up the mandate to buy and accumulate a specific cryptocurrency to their treasury.

Genius Act: Enacted July 18, 2025, the Guiding and Establishing National Innovation for U.S. Stablecoins Act (GENIUS Act), is a US federal law that aims to create a comprehensive regulatory framework for stablecoins.

HIP-3 Markets: HIP-3 (Builder-Deployed Perpetuals) is a permissionless feature on Hyperliquid that allows anyone who meets the staking requirements to deploy custom perpetual futures markets directly on HyperCore, inheriting the platform's high-performance order books and margining infrastructure.

Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC): A revolving line of credit secured by the equity in your home, allowing you to borrow funds as needed up to a predetermined credit line.

Layer 1s: Layer 1 blockchain, or L1, refers to the base protocol of a blockchain network, responsible for essential functions like transaction processing, consensus mechanisms, and data storage on their own chains.

Layer 2s: Scaling solutions, such as Ethereum, built on top of a main blockchain network (Layer 1) to increase transaction speed, lower costs, and improve overall scalability.

Lending Protocols: Smart contract applications on blockchains (Layer 1 & Layer 2) that enable users to lend and borrow assets without intermediaries.

Liquid Staking Token: A freely transferable liquid token that represents a user's staked position in a crypto network while receiving the accrued rewards in the crypto-native asset of the network.

Maximum Extractable Value (MEV): Defined as the maximum value miners or network validators can extract by rearranging and reordering transactions waiting to be added to the blockchain.

Memecoin: A speculative crypto token driven by memes or cultural trends, usually without inherent utility.

Perpetual futures: Derivatives contracts without an expiration date that allow traders to speculate on the underlying asset prices indefinitely.

Perpetuals Open Interest: Refers to the dollar-denominated value of outstanding perpetual futures contracts that have not been settled and exist on permissionless, blockchain-based exchanges.

Perpetuals Volume: The dollar-denominated trading volume of perpetual futures contracts on permissionless, blockchain-based exchanges.

Real Economic Value (REV): Defined as the total value a network generates consisting of both in-protocol transaction fees and out-of-protocol tips.

Real World Assets (RWAs): Assets not natively issued on blockchain networks. RWAs include assets native to traditional markets, including, but not limited to, stocks, private credit, money market funds, commodities, sovereign & non-sovereign debt, private debt, and private institutional funds.

Stablecoin: A tokenized asset that maintains parity with some pegged asset (typically the US dollar), stabilized through arbitrage mechanisms and backed by collateral reserves, which may be managed through traditional custodians, automated on-chain mechanisms, or a combination of both.

Stablecoin Velocity: Defined as the total adjusted transaction volume per week divided by the total stablecoin supply that week. This metric is aggregated across all networks and stablecoins.

Stablecoin Transaction Volume (expressed in \$): For stablecoins, the terms "volume" and "value" can be used interchangeably when referring to trading activity. Unlike assets such as BTC or ETH—where trading volume represents the number of units exchanged and trading value represents the dollar equivalent—stablecoins are designed to be pegged 1:1 to the US dollar (or another fiat currency). As a result, one traded unit of USDC, USDT, or DAI (etc.) is effectively equal to one US dollar in value. Therefore, when we measure trading "volume" for stablecoins, we express it directly in US dollar terms. For example, \$10 billion in USDC traded corresponds both to the volume (10 billion USDC units) and to the value (\$10 billion USD). In other words, "volume" and "value" are synonymous terms in the context of stablecoins.

Total Value Locked (TVL): The sum of the value of crypto assets that have been deposited by users to a protocol for the purpose of earning rewards or interest. ARK includes borrows in this calculation.



Stablecoins And Their Issuers

USDT Issuer: Tether

USDC Issuer: Circle Internet Group

USDe Issuer: Ethena Labs

DAI Issuer: Sky Protocol

USDS Issuer: Sky Protocol

USDtb Issuer: Ethena Labs

PYUSD Issuer: Paxos

DEX Spot Volume Pair Categories

AI Agents: Trades that involve an AI agent token.

Bitcoin: Trades that involve Bitcoin-pegged assets. Some notable trading pairs are: BTC-ETH, BTC-USD, and BTC-BTC (ex. cbBTC-WBTC).

Composite Tokens: Trades that involve a composite asset. Examples include leveraged crypto tokens, portfolio of crypto tokens, and LP tokens.

LST Swaps: Trades that involve a liquid staking token (LST).

Memes: Trades that make up the remaining volume from known memecoins as well as unclassified tokens.

Native Stablecoin: Trades that involve only the native gas token on the blockchain and a stablecoin.

Project Tokens: Trades that involve tokens that are issued by projects. An example would be governance tokens and L1 tokens (excluding Bitcoin).

Stablecoin Swap: Trades where both the bought token and sold token are stablecoins.

Tokenized Assets: Trades that involve on-chain RWAs. Examples include Gold, Equities, and Treasuries.



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