

RIVEMONT

Rivemont - Week 391

June 17th, 2025

Rivemont is the portfolio manager responsible for the investment decisions of the Rivemont Crypto Fund.

The price of Bitcoin remains relatively stable despite escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, notably between Israel and Iran. Despite a modest decline of 1.3% in 24 hours, Bitcoin is holding around \$105,750. This stability contrasts with usual concerns related to international conflicts and mirrors a similar correlation observed in stock markets, which have also remained steady following recent attacks. Some institutional investors even view this period of geopolitical uncertainty as a buying opportunity. Indeed, Bitcoin ETFs recorded significant inflows, exceeding \$400 million, on Monday.

This relative resilience of Bitcoin amidst geopolitical unrest confirms, according to some analysts, its increasing status as a safe-haven asset. Historically,

Bitcoin tends to quickly recover after initial periods of stress, underscoring fundamental confidence in its medium- and long-term potential, as well as its growing perception as a less risky asset during times of global economic uncertainty.

U.S. Bitcoin-linked ETFs continue to attract substantial capital, totaling net inflows of \$1.78 billion over six consecutive days. BlackRock remains significantly ahead with its IBIT fund, capturing \$1.38 billion alone during this period. Fidelity and Bitwise follow, but remain significantly behind BlackRock. Despite these positive inflows, the market remains cautious due to recent price volatility, exacerbated by escalating geopolitical tensions between Israel and Iran. Bitcoin had reached \$110,000 last week before quickly retreating following Israeli military strikes and Iranian retaliation, further intensified by U.S. President Donald Trump's premature departure from the G7 summit.

However, Bitfinex analysts stress that the recent decline of approximately 9% from its historical peak remains within Bitcoin's usual volatility range. They believe that if the market can maintain its level above \$102,000 to \$103,000, this would suggest the current selling pressure is effectively absorbed, potentially paving the way for renewed upward momentum. Furthermore, some experts highlight a structural shift in the market, now dominated by institutional investors and large corporations rather than retail investors, who often sell prematurely. This dynamic suggests that despite current turbulence, Bitcoin's growth potential remains high for 2025, especially if positive sentiment quickly returns among individual investors.

Bitcoin ETFs now represent 25% of total transaction volume on the global spot market. This rapid growth marks a significant increase compared to October 2024, when their share was barely 10%. The recent peak of nearly 30% clearly demonstrates the growing importance of traditional financial infrastructures within the crypto ecosystem, at the expense of purely crypto trading platforms. The rapid success of Bitcoin ETFs can largely be attributed to their operational simplicity, appealing to both individual and institutional investors. These funds eliminate the usual constraints associated with direct Bitcoin ownership, such as complex private key management, digital asset security, and the technical

expertise required to use specialized platforms. Beyond these practical benefits, ETFs offer a stable regulatory framework, simplified tax reporting, and settlement processes aligned with traditional financial practices. Additionally, they significantly reduce counterparty risk associated with crypto exchanges, which have experienced several high-profile bankruptcies, further reassuring institutional investors.

Amazon and Walmart are currently exploring issuing their own stablecoins backed by the U.S. dollar to accelerate and simplify payments while reducing costs associated with traditional financial systems. However, this project heavily depends on regulatory clarity in the United States, which is essential for the launch of these stable cryptocurrencies. These two giants join other major U.S. companies considering entering this promising market, contingent on regulatory frameworks being clarified. Currently, legislation known as the GENIUS Act is being debated in the U.S. Senate, with a vote expected soon. This bill aims to create a consistent regulatory framework for fiat-backed stablecoins, significantly facilitating their adoption by businesses.

The Trump administration is actively pushing for clear stablecoin regulation by August, thus promoting their adoption by the private sector. This momentum has already seen Ripple launch its RLUSD stablecoin and generated interest among major entities such as DTCC and several American banks. Other e-commerce players like Shopify have integrated existing stablecoins such as Circle's USDC. Recently, the overall stablecoin market exceeded \$250 billion, and U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent estimates it could surpass \$2 trillion by 2028, provided a clear and supportive regulatory framework is quickly established.

In 2024, cryptocurrency-related activities represented Donald Trump's second-largest source of income, following his hospitality business. According to recently published financial disclosures, Trump earned over \$58 million from the crypto sector, primarily through sales of WLF1 tokens issued by his family platform, World Liberty Financial. While hospitality remains his largest income source in 2024, with revenues of \$418 million, the trend is expected to shift significantly in favor of cryptocurrencies in 2025. Since resuming his role in the

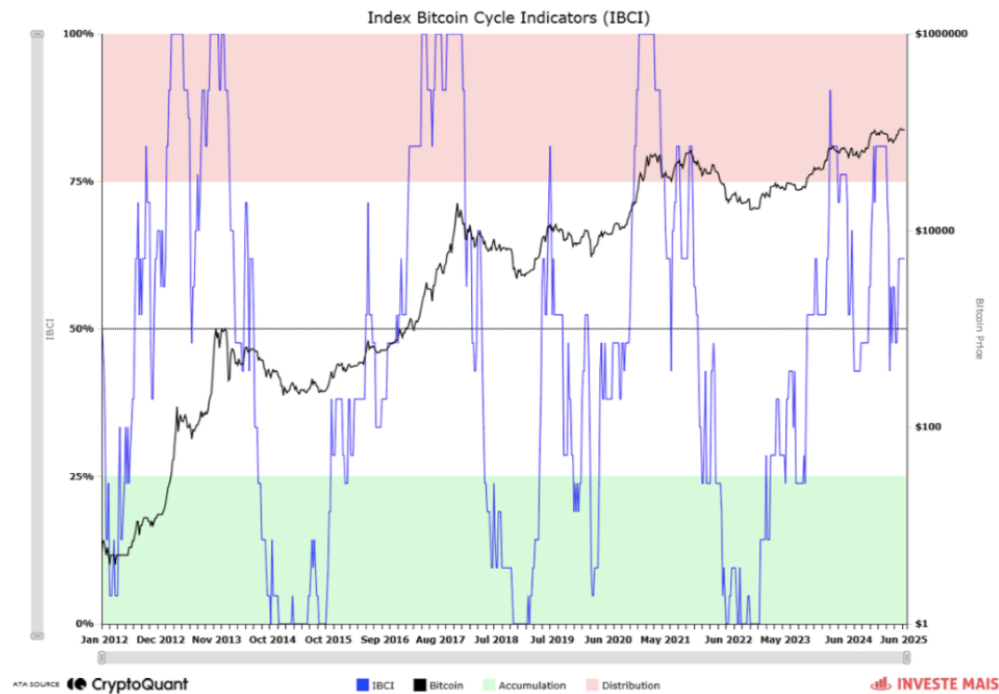
White House, Trump has potentially earned billions from new crypto ventures, including a massive fundraising by World Liberty and the launch of a meme cryptocurrency currently valued at approximately \$10 billion. These figures are particularly remarkable as they significantly surpass other traditional revenue sources for Trump, such as real estate, international licensing deals, and royalties from branded products. For example, his real estate income brought in between \$24 million and \$63 million, whereas royalties from derivative products generated around \$11 million. However, Trump's increasing involvement in the crypto sector while serving as president has sparked significant political criticism. Several lawmakers denounce potential conflicts of interest, potentially complicating the passage of key cryptocurrency legislation currently under consideration in the U.S. Congress.

The company Strategy, formerly known as MicroStrategy, recently acquired an additional 10,100 bitcoins for over \$1 billion. This operation, conducted between June 9 and June 15, represents its largest purchase since early May. The company now holds a total of 592,100 bitcoins, worth more than \$64 billion at current prices. Despite geopolitical and economic instability, Strategy's strategy remains unchanged: accumulate Bitcoin for the long term. This marks the tenth consecutive week the company has announced a significant Bitcoin purchase. Moreover, it recently launched STRD, a Bitcoin-backed preferred stock traded on NASDAQ, aiming to raise an additional \$250 million to further strengthen its cryptocurrency reserves.

Japanese firm Metaplanet recently achieved its annual target by accumulating a total of 10,000 bitcoins after purchasing an additional 1,112 BTC for approximately \$117.2 million. This announcement coincided with its board's approval of a \$210 million bond issuance to EVO Fund, a Cayman Islands-based investment firm, intended to finance further Bitcoin acquisitions. These bonds, which carry no interest and mature in December, are part of an ongoing series of securities issuances designed to increase the company's cryptocurrency reserves. Although Metaplanet did not explicitly clarify if the recent bitcoin purchase was directly funded by this bond issuance, the timing strongly suggests a connection. Since its strategic pivot in 2024 from a hotel and technology-focused company to a dedicated Bitcoin holding structure,

Metaplanet now aims to hold 210,000 BTC by 2027, representing approximately 1% of Bitcoin's total supply. The company closely models its approach on the U.S.-based firm Strategy, positioning itself as an Asian-listed reference for Bitcoin exposure.

According to recent CryptoQuant data, Bitcoin's current bull market has not yet reached its peak, despite recent record prices around \$112,000. The Index Bitcoin Cycle Indicators (IBCI) tool, combining several historical metrics, currently stands at a neutral level (around 50%), suggesting substantial upside potential before reaching peak euphoria. This situation is described as a "transitional phase," distinctly different from previous intense profit-taking moments following historical highs. The lack of excessive investor euphoria indicates potential for further bullish momentum rather than an imminent end to the current cycle.



Furthermore, analysis of the "Puell Multiple," a metric linked to miner

revenues, currently shows atypical behavior. Despite Bitcoin's record price, this metric remains relatively low, indicating the market may still be in an accumulation phase. Typically, such moderate levels suggest Bitcoin's long-term growth potential isn't fully reflected in its current price.

In summary, these indicators clearly show the Bitcoin market remains robust, with continued upward potential in coming months. Many analysts thus anticipate further growth, potentially surpassing current levels significantly, with some even projecting prices exceeding \$200,000 before the current bull cycle reaches its peak.

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