

# BITFINEX Alpha



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Waiting on Macro

Bitcoin's first quarter of 2025 has proven to be its [weakest](#) in nearly a decade, closing with a decline of nearly 11 percent, despite a strong start that saw prices rally to an all-time high of \$109,590 in January. Optimism on US President Donald Trump's re-election and expectations of a pro-crypto policy, quickly gave way to textbook "sell-the-news" trading as tangible regulatory changes have failed to materialise. Since its all-time high, Bitcoin has traded as far down as \$77,041, a near [29 percent drop](#), and has largely oscillated in a trading range between \$78,000 and \$88,000.

**Bitcoin Dominance (LHS, %) vs. Crypto Market Cap (RHS, \$ trillions)**

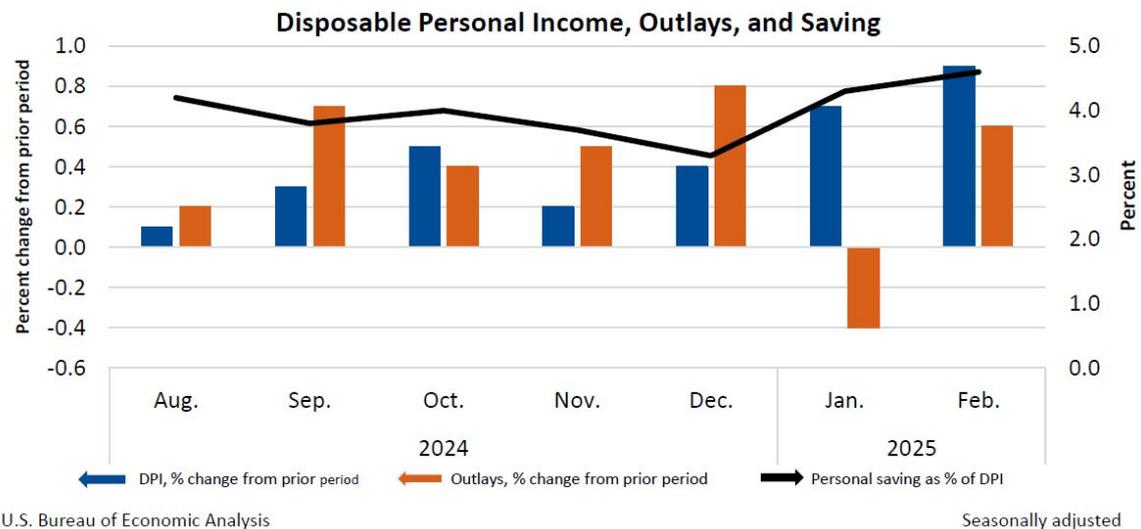


**Bitcoin Dominance vs Total Crypto Market Capitalisation**

Market breadth, however, continues to favour Bitcoin, with BTC [dominance rising](#) to over 61 percent even as the total crypto market cap declined sharply—signalling capital rotation from riskier altcoins into Bitcoin during heightened macro uncertainty. Ethereum and Solana and [other altcoins](#) have fallen by more than 35-50 percent from their cycle highs, reinforcing Bitcoin's status as the reserve asset of the digital market.

As Q2 begins, price action remains reactive to macroeconomic signals, with Fed policy and ETF flows expected to dictate direction. For now, signs of capitulation have eased, but with liquidity still tight, a breakout will likely require a significant catalyst.

In terms of the macro picture, some parts of the US economy are showing signs of resilience—such as a [narrowing trade deficit](#) and a rise in durable goods spending—but these bright spots are overshadowed by deeper structural concerns. [Inflation](#) is accelerating faster than expected, fuelled in part by rising import costs tied to new tariffs. Core inflation rose 0.4 percent in February, marking its sharpest monthly gain in over a year, while consumer expectations suggest inflation could stay elevated well into the future.



**Disposable Personal Income, Outlays and Saving**  
(Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis)

At the same time, growth is slowing. Real income gains remain tepid once [government transfers are excluded](#), and services spending—a key economic driver—has begun to contract. Consumer confidence is eroding, with the [Conference Board index](#) falling to a two-year low and more Americans anticipating rising unemployment. These trends point to growing caution among households, reflected in a rising personal [savings rate](#).

Trade policy remains a [central pressure point](#). Recent tariff hikes and expectations of further measures in April and May are prompting businesses and consumers to adjust behaviour, front-loading purchases, delaying investments, or scaling back hiring. While the February trade deficit [narrowed](#), this followed a January import surge that likely distorted GDP forecasts. As a result, first-quarter growth is expected to slow sharply.

Despite these ongoing economic uncertainties, the broader cryptocurrency industry is still benefiting from the increasing commitment to regulatory clarity, underpinned by political support, and growing institutional interest.

The US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has officially [dropped its lawsuits](#) against Kraken, Consensus, and Cumberland DRW—three major players in the industry. This move signals a significant shift from the agency's previous enforcement-heavy stance to a more collaborative regulatory approach. It also foreshadows a commitment to establishing clear, constructive rules for the industry.

Further solidifying this direction, the SEC's Crypto Task Force [announced](#) four upcoming roundtables to be held between April and June 2025. These sessions will engage stakeholders on key issues such as crypto trading regulation, custody of digital assets, tokenisation, and the future of decentralised finance (DeFi). The events are open to the public and reflect the SEC's intent to foster open dialogue and transparency in shaping crypto policy.

In parallel, Trump Media & Technology Group (TMTG) has [announced a high-profile partnership](#) with Crypto.com to launch a series of crypto-focused ETFs. This venture marks TMTG's expansion into financial products, aiming to tap into the growing demand for digital asset investment vehicles. While the initiative still awaits regulatory approval, it could significantly boost the visibility of both TMTG and Crypto.com within traditional finance circles.



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# MARKET SIGNALS



# Bitcoin on Track to Register the One Of The Worst Q1s in Eight Years

Bitcoin began the year on a strong footing, rallying to its current all-time high of \$109,590 on the back of renewed optimism following President Donald Trump's return to office. The peak in the price was in fact reached on the day of the President's inauguration on January 20th, fuelled by expectations of a more favourable regulatory stance towards digital assets. However, what has followed since then has been textbook "sell-the-news" trading, as the administration's early days have so far failed to deliver any substantial policy shifts to sustain the market's bullish momentum.

Since peaking, Bitcoin has steadily declined, eroding much of the gains made earlier in the quarter. As it stands, the digital asset is now on course to post one of its worst Q1 performances in over eight years. This marks a significant shift in sentiment, particularly given the strength of the rally that preceded it, and highlights the increasing dependency of crypto markets on macroeconomic signals and political developments.

Time	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2025	-10.95%			
2024	+68.68%	-11.92%	+0.96%	+47.73%
2023	+71.77%	+7.19%	-11.54%	+56.9%
2022	-1.46%	-56.2%	-2.57%	-14.75%
2021	+103.17%	-40.36%	+25.01%	+5.45%
2020	-10.83%	+42.33%	+17.97%	+168.02%
2019	+8.74%	+159.36%	-22.86%	-13.54%
2018	-49.7%	-7.71%	+3.61%	-42.16%
2017	+11.89%	+123.86%	+80.41%	+215.07%
2016	-3.06%	+62.06%	-9.41%	+58.17%
2015	-24.14%	+7.57%	-10.05%	+81.24%
2014	-37.42%	+40.43%	-39.74%	-16.7%
2013	+539.96%	-3.97%	+40.6%	+479.59%
Average	+51.28%	+26.89%	+6.03%	+85.42%
Median	-1.46%	+7.38%	-0.80%	+52.31%

Figure 1. Bitcoin Quarterly Performance Since 2013. (Source: Coinglass)

In the past week, Bitcoin has traded in a relatively tight range, opening around \$86,276 and closing the week near \$83,273. Any buying momentum is currently being capped at the \$89,000 level—coinciding with the previous range lows seen in December 2024, and acting as a firm resistance level to further gains. This resistance is also coinciding with further downside in equities, with the S&P 500 closing the week 1.5 percent lower.



**Figure 2. BTC/USD Weekly Chart. (Source: Bitfinex)**

Given the rising correlation between Bitcoin and traditional financial markets, the broader risk-off sentiment has begun to weigh more heavily on crypto markets.

Last week’s modest +2.4 percent mid-week uptick—roughly a \$2,430 move—failed to break out meaningfully and came in the wake of considerable volatility earlier in the month. For March 2025, Bitcoin registered a monthly loss of approximately 1.4 percent, a stark deviation from its historical average return of +12.28 percent for March. More notably, Q1 2025 closed with a roughly 10 percent decline for BTC—its first significantly negative first quarter since 2020 and a sharp departure from the +51.28 percent average Q1 gain observed across previous years dating back to 2013.

This quarter’s correction is historically significant, featuring a nearly 29 percent peak-to-trough decline from the all-time high of \$109,590 set on January 20th to the March lows around \$77,041. This makes it one of the steepest drawdowns of the current bull cycle. Despite the turbulence, price action in recent weeks appears to have carved out a consolidation range between \$78,000 and \$88,000. Notably, signs of capitulation are easing, with fewer reactive sellers present and long-term holders beginning to accumulate once more.

### Historical Context: A Heavy Quarter, But Not Unprecedented

While Q1 2025 marked one of the most challenging quarters for Bitcoin in recent history, the scale of the decline—though sharp—was far from unprecedented. The near 10.9 percent quarterly drop (as of March 30th) is just over the 10.8 percent pullback recorded in Q1 2020, yet it remains modest when compared to the more brutal downturns of previous bear market phases, such as the severe correction in 2018.

Volatility spiked notably mid-quarter, particularly in response to macroeconomic developments, such as was seen over two days in late February when BTC fell 11 percent, temporarily pushing the price below the \$90,000 level for the first time since November. However, despite the magnitude of these drawdowns, there were no record-breaking daily losses in percentage terms—most single-day declines remained in the single digits, showcasing a degree of stability even in a fragile environment.

Importantly, market breadth during this correction has continued to strongly favour Bitcoin. BTC dominance climbed to approximately 61 percent by mid-March, reinforcing Bitcoin’s role as the reserve asset of the crypto ecosystem.(refer to Figure 3 below)

**Bitcoin Dominance (LHS, %) vs. Crypto Market Cap (RHS, \$ trillions)**



**Figure 3. Bitcoin Dominance vs Total Crypto Market Capitalisation**

Bitcoin dominance has climbed to a new cycle high, signalling a clear shift in capital flows within the crypto market. The brief altcoin rally—sparked in November following Trump’s election victory—proved fleeting, peaking in early December before quickly fading. A stronger-than-expected US jobs report soon after triggered a pivot in market focus towards a more hawkish Federal Reserve, dousing speculative enthusiasm across higher-beta altcoins.

In the weeks since, seasoned market participants have steadily rotated capital back into Bitcoin. Despite experiencing its own correction, Bitcoin has significantly outperformed the broader altcoin sector, underlining its position as the digital market’s reserve asset during periods of rising macroeconomic uncertainty.

For now, hopes of a renewed rally rest on a rebound in market liquidity. However, with the Federal Reserve showing little sign of easing its stance, risk assets may need to weather a longer consolidation period. Patience, rather than aggressive positioning, could prove the more prudent approach in the short term.

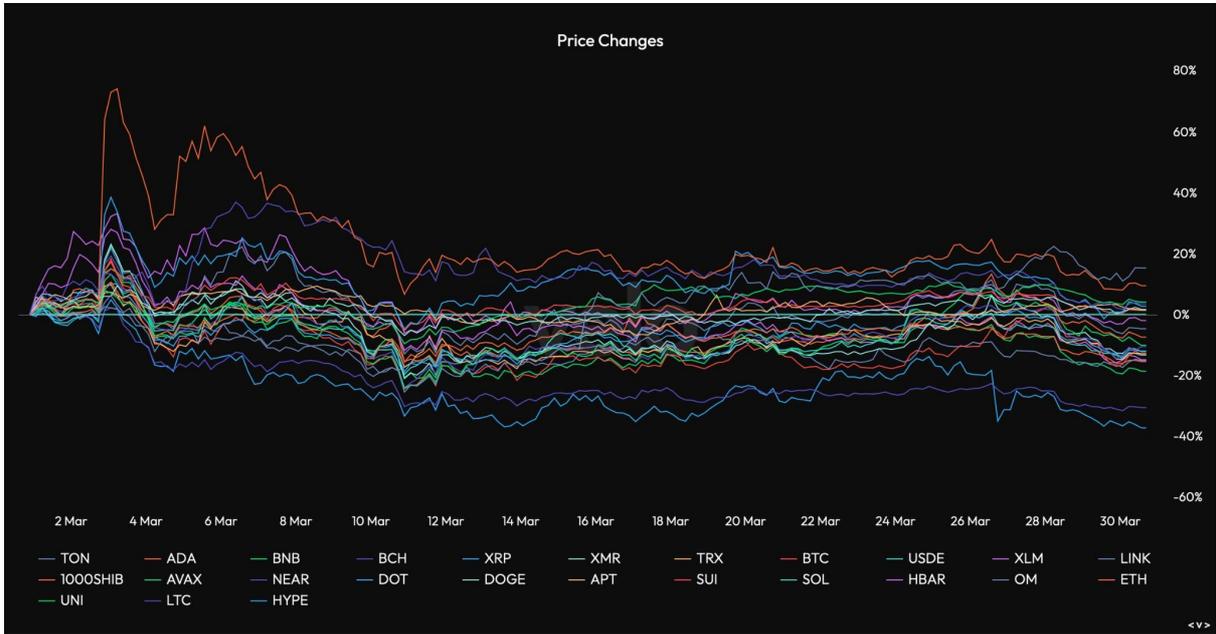


Figure 5. Large Cap Crypto Assets Performance In March. (Source: VeloData)

### Alts have suffered more than BTC

In contrast to Bitcoin, alternative cryptocurrencies suffered significantly steeper losses, with Ethereum falling 38 percent—its worst Q1 performance since 2018. As is clear from the figure 5 above, a majority of the crypto assets have continued to bleed lower in March, with most listed coins underperforming BTC which itself has closed the month 1.4 percent lower. Many popular altcoins, especially the memecoins are more than 80-90 percent lower than their all-time highs as we approach the Monthly and Quarterly close.

This divergence underscores Bitcoin’s relative strength in periods of macro uncertainty and risk aversion, as investors rotated out of higher-beta altcoins into what is increasingly perceived as the most robust and most liquid digital asset.



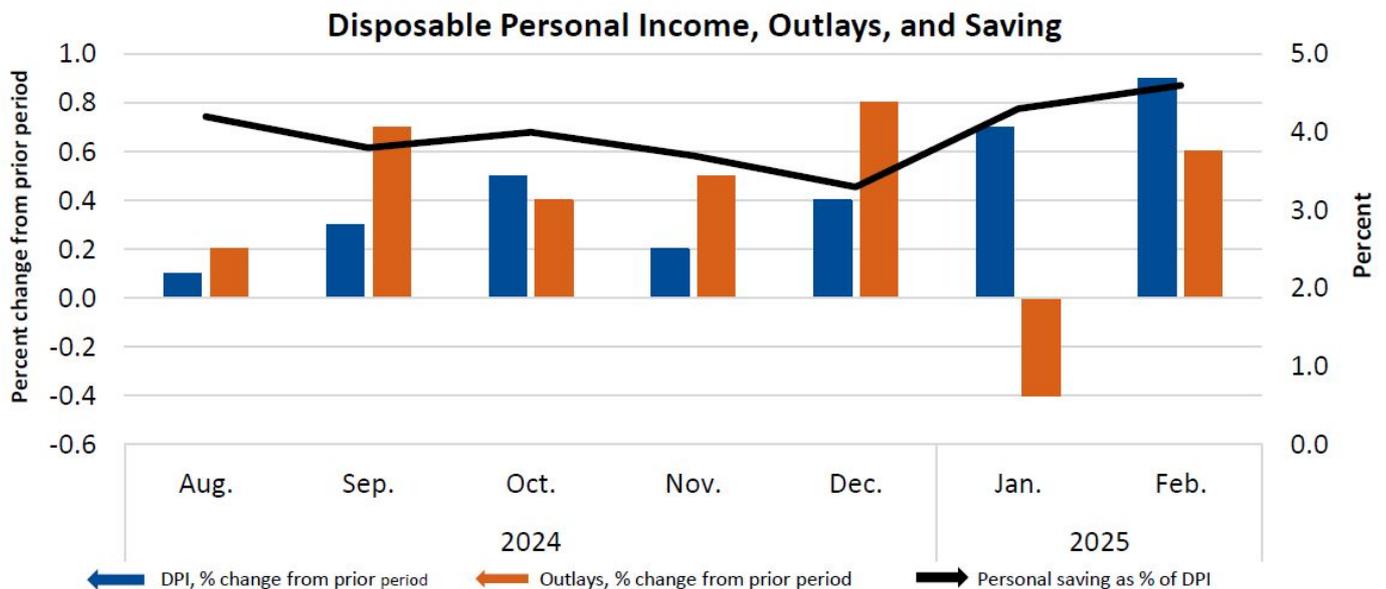
# GENERAL MACRO UPDATE



# US Economy Caught Between Slowing Growth and Rising Inflation as Trade Tensions Escalate

[The Personal Income and Outlays report](#), released last Friday, March 28th, paints a concerning picture: consumer spending in February grew less quickly than expected, while inflation continues to heat up. The combination of sluggish demand and rising prices—a dynamic often referred to as stagflation—raises red flags for both policymakers and investors, especially as trade tensions intensify.

Consumer spending in February saw only a modest rebound, increasing 0.4 percent on the month, some way short of the consensus forecast of 0.5 percent. When adjusted for inflation, spending on durable goods such as cars and appliances rose by 1.0 percent, while nondurable goods like food and clothing increased by 0.5 percent. However, spending on services—the largest component of consumer expenditures—slipped by 0.1 percent. This shift hints at a significant behavioral change: households appear to be prioritising purchases of goods that are expected to rise in price soon, likely in anticipation of new trade tariffs.



U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Seasonally adjusted

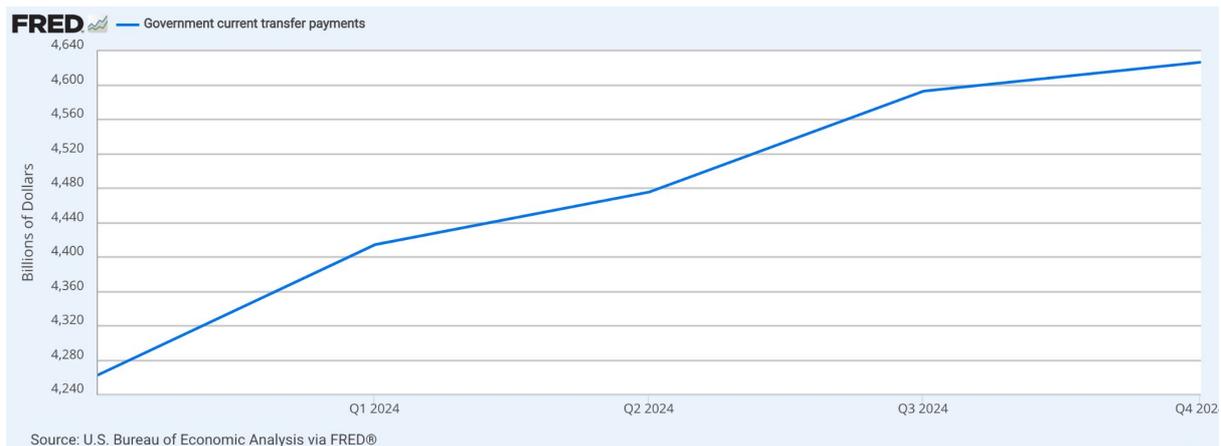
**Figure 6. Disposable Personal Income, Outlays and Saving**  
(Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis)

**Personal Income and Related Measures**  
[Percent change from Jan. to Feb.]

Current-dollar personal income	0.8
Current-dollar disposable personal income	0.9
Real disposable personal income	0.5
Current-dollar personal consumption expenditures (PCE)	0.4
Real PCE	0.1
PCE price index	0.3
PCE price index, excluding food and energy	0.4

**Figure 7. Personal Income and Related Measures**

While total personal income grew by 0.8 percent, a notable fraction of that growth—2.2 percent—was driven by increased government transfer payments (such as social security, unemployment benefits, and welfare programmes). This suggests that the income boost was not broadly reflective of wage strength. In fact, real income growth excluding these transfers edged up by just 0.1 percent, underscoring limited spending power if support from transfers fades.



**Figure 8. Government Current Transfer Payments**

The personal savings rate also ticked up to 4.6 percent in February from 4.3 percent in the prior month, reflecting a degree of caution among households. Although this may indicate financial prudence, it also means less fuel for consumer-driven economic expansion in the near term.

### **Inflation is also growing**

The latest inflation data reveals more than just higher prices—it shows underlying inflation accelerating faster than expected. Core inflation, which excludes volatile food and energy prices, rose 0.4 percent month-over-month in February and was up 2.8 percent compared to a year earlier. This marks the largest monthly gain in core prices in over a year, driven in part by rising import costs due to tariffs.



The topline Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) price index, the Federal Reserve's preferred inflation gauge, increased 0.3 percent on the month and 2.5 percent year-over-year. Of particular concern is the core services excluding housing category, which is closely watched by the Fed and which rose by 4.1 percent on a three-month average. This indicates that inflation is becoming sticky in areas less impacted by global supply chain factors.

### **Consumer sentiment is declining**

What makes this scenario more precarious is the shift in consumer psychology. [A recent University of Michigan survey](#) showed that consumers' expectations for inflation over the next 12 months have surged. Perhaps more critically, longer-term expectations are also on the rise, implying that consumers believe inflation will remain elevated well into the future.

This matters because inflation expectations can be self-fulfilling. If households, businesses, and investors begin to act as if prices will continue to climb, they may accelerate spending or demand higher wages, which in turn puts further upward pressure on prices.

At the heart of this economic turbulence lies US trade policy. The Trump administration's protectionist measures, including multiple rounds of tariff hikes, have already begun to inflate the cost of imported goods. These costs are likely to increase further as new trade taxes take effect in April and May.

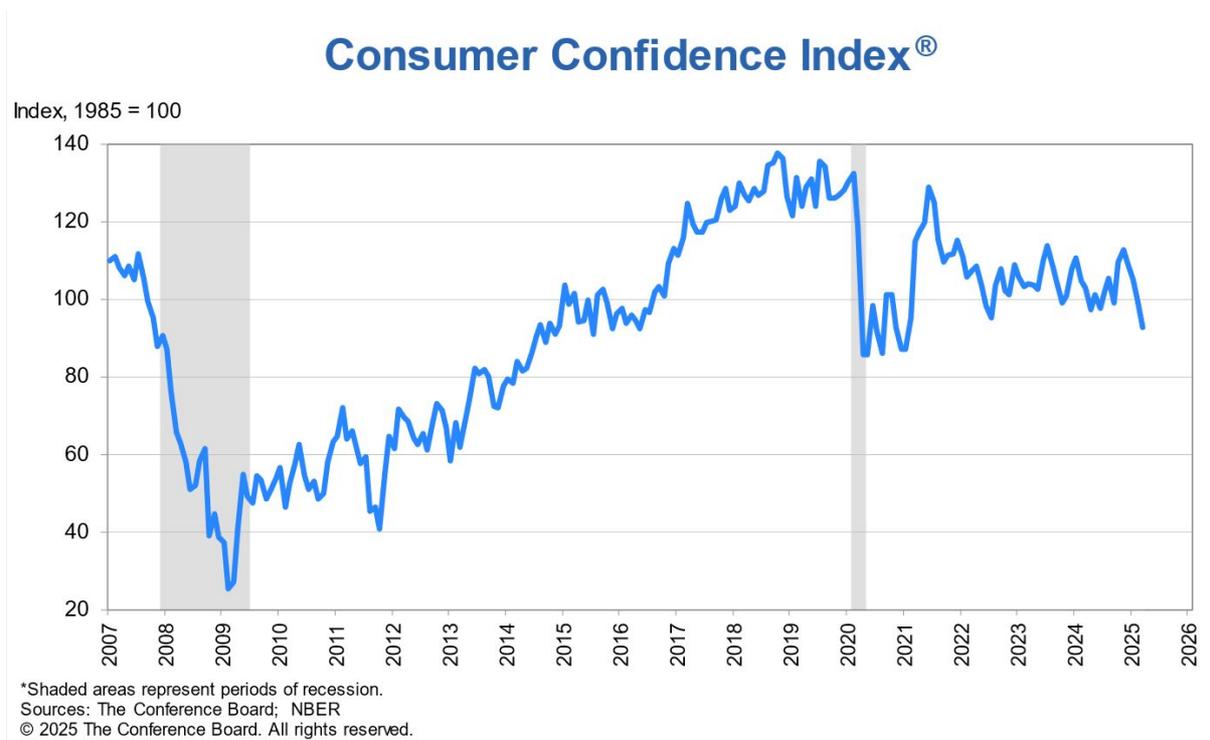
Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell [recently acknowledged](#) that inflation had begun rising, attributing part of this trend to tariffs. While he attempted to reassure markets that the inflation surge might not persist, we think that the central bank may now hesitate to cut interest rates as previously expected in June, especially if inflation continues to accelerate.

Furthermore, retaliatory actions by America's trade partners threaten to deepen the economic fallout. These countermeasures may not only raise prices further but also dampen business investment and confidence.

The US economy is navigating a delicate balance: growth is losing momentum, yet inflation is becoming more entrenched. Consumers, sensing another round of price increases, are front-loading purchases and pulling back on spending in services—typically a stable economic driver. With wage gains modest and real income flat once government aid is removed, the outlook for sustained consumer-led growth appears dim.

# Rising Inflation Expectations and Falling Confidence: A Warning Sign for US Consumer Spending

Recent consumer confidence and sentiment data point to growing unease among American households. Amid rising inflation concerns, a weakening labour outlook, and persistent policy uncertainty—especially around tariffs—consumer sentiment has dropped, potentially signalling cracks in the foundation of US consumer spending. These developments gain even more relevance when viewed alongside the latest [Personal Consumption Expenditures \(PCE\) report](#), which showed inflation heating up despite only modest growth in consumer activity.



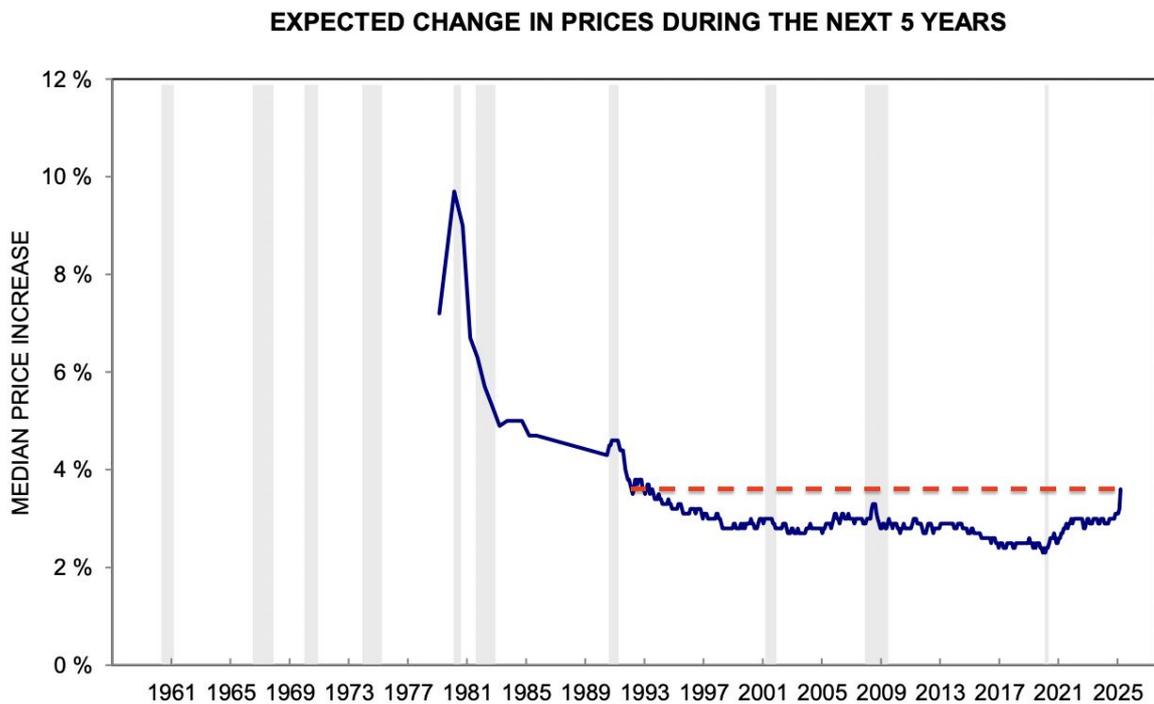
**Figure 9. Consumer Confidence Index (Source: The Conference Board)**

[US Consumer confidence](#), as reported by the Conference Board last Tuesday, March 25th, fell to its lowest point in two years, dipping to a headline index reading of 92.9. This came slightly below the consensus forecast of 93.5 and reflects broader anxiety over both inflation and employment. Ongoing policy-induced disruptions—such as federal government layoffs and uncertainty over tariffs—have clearly impacted consumer sentiment.

Meanwhile, the [Labor Market Differential](#) (calculated by subtracting the percentage of respondents who perceive jobs as "hard to get" from those who view jobs as "plentiful"), which tracks perceptions of job availability and is a proxy for labour market strength, also fell to a five-month low. This drop suggests that consumers expect fewer job opportunities ahead, aligning with survey results showing that two-thirds of Americans believe unemployment will rise over the next year—the highest percentage since 2009.

While confidence may be slipping, it's the rise in inflation expectations that is particularly alarming. According to the Conference Board, median expectations for inflation over the next year jumped to 5.8 percent, the highest since mid-2023.

Similarly, the [University of Michigan's March](#) survey revised its inflation forecast upward, with year-ahead expectations hitting 5.0%—a level not seen since late 2022.



**Figure 10. University of Michigan Inflation Expectations in the Next 5 Years**

Even more concerning, long-term inflation expectations (spanning five years) rose to 4.1 percent in March, marking the first time since 1993 that long-run expectations breached the 4 percent level in this survey. These expectations matter because they often shape actual economic behavior. When consumers believe that prices will remain elevated, they may alter their purchasing decisions, potentially triggering broader inflationary pressure as businesses adjust prices accordingly.



Despite declining confidence, consumer plans to spend remained mixed in March. According to the Conference Board's Survey, fewer Americans expect to purchase vehicles in the near term, likely due to concerns about future affordability. However, intentions to buy homes, refrigerators, and televisions increased. This pattern suggests that while headline sentiment is deteriorating, consumers are not yet uniformly cutting back on all categories of discretionary spending.

This discrepancy might reflect timing behavior—households anticipating price increases due to tariffs may be accelerating purchases of goods expected to become more expensive. It mirrors the phenomenon noted in recent PCE data, where durable goods spending rose even as services spending fell, pointing to a strategic shift in consumer behavior rather than broad-based strength.

[The latest PCE data reinforces](#) the findings from these consumer surveys. In February, core inflation—excluding food and energy—rose by 0.4 percent on the month and 2.8 percent from the previous year, marking the largest increase in over a year. Services inflation, particularly in categories outside housing, continued to climb. These price pressures, coupled with only modest real income gains, present a worrying mismatch: costs are rising faster than consumers' ability to pay.

This helps explain why consumer confidence is eroding. While spending hasn't collapsed, there's growing tension between what households can afford and what they expect to pay in the months ahead. The increase in the personal savings rate seen in the PCE report—rising to 4.6 percent—may reflect consumers hedging against future financial strain rather than confidence in their financial outlook.

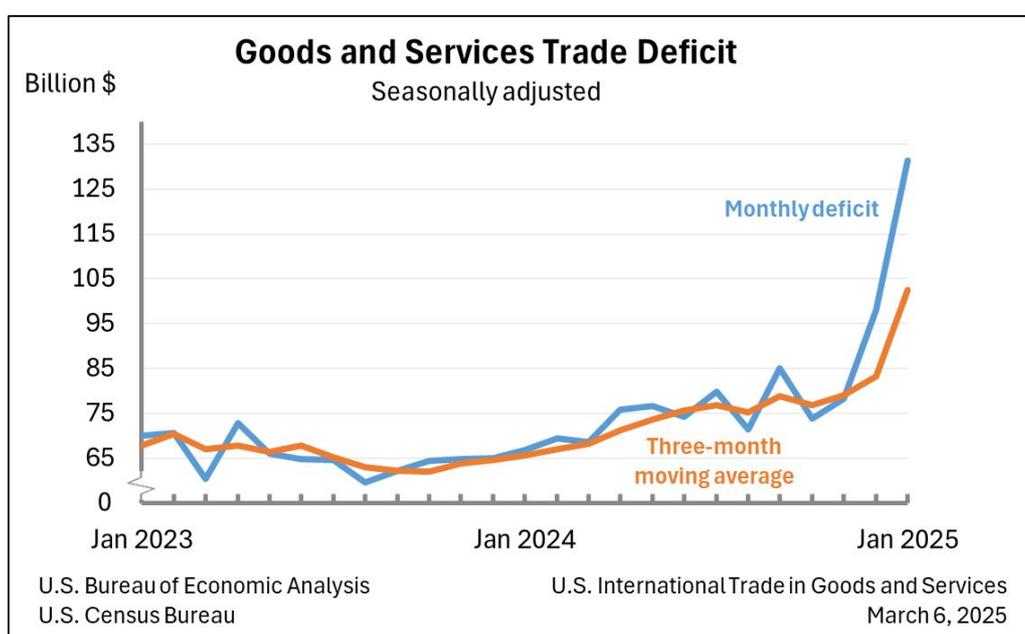
# US Trade Deficit Narrows, But Growth Outlook Remains Clouded by Tariff Effects

The [Monthly Advanced Economic Indicators](#) report, issued by the US Census Bureau released last Thursday, March 27th, shows that the nation's goods trade deficit shrank in February, offering a glimmer of hope for an economy under pressure from trade disruptions. While this narrowing might slightly ease concerns over a sharp economic slowdown, deeper analysis suggests the road ahead remains uncertain—particularly due to lingering effects from tariffs and changes in business behaviour.

## A Narrower Deficit, But Not Without Context

In February, the US goods trade deficit decreased by 4.9 percent, settling at \$147.9 billion. This contraction came as exports picked up, slightly improving the trade balance. At first glance, this improvement might suggest stronger economic momentum in the first quarter. However, this number must be viewed in light of the broader context—particularly the sharp widening of the deficit in January.

Back in January, businesses accelerated their imports to stay ahead of planned tariff hikes. This phenomenon, known as *front-loading*, caused a temporary surge in imports, especially of items like automobiles, consumer goods, and gold. That spike led to [lower expectations for first-quarter GDP growth by the Atlanta Federal Reserve](#), which projected it would fall below a 1.5 percent annualised rate. This marked a steep drop from the 2.4 percent growth recorded in the fourth quarter of the previous year.



**Figure 11. Goods and Services Trade Deficit**  
(Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis, US Census Bureau)

Another key factor affecting trade data was the delayed imposition of tariffs on Canadian and Mexican goods, which are now expected to take effect in April. As a result, economists believe that the trade deficit may stay relatively high through March. This persistent imbalance poses a continued risk to first-quarter GDP, reinforcing the notion that early 2025 could reflect slower economic growth.

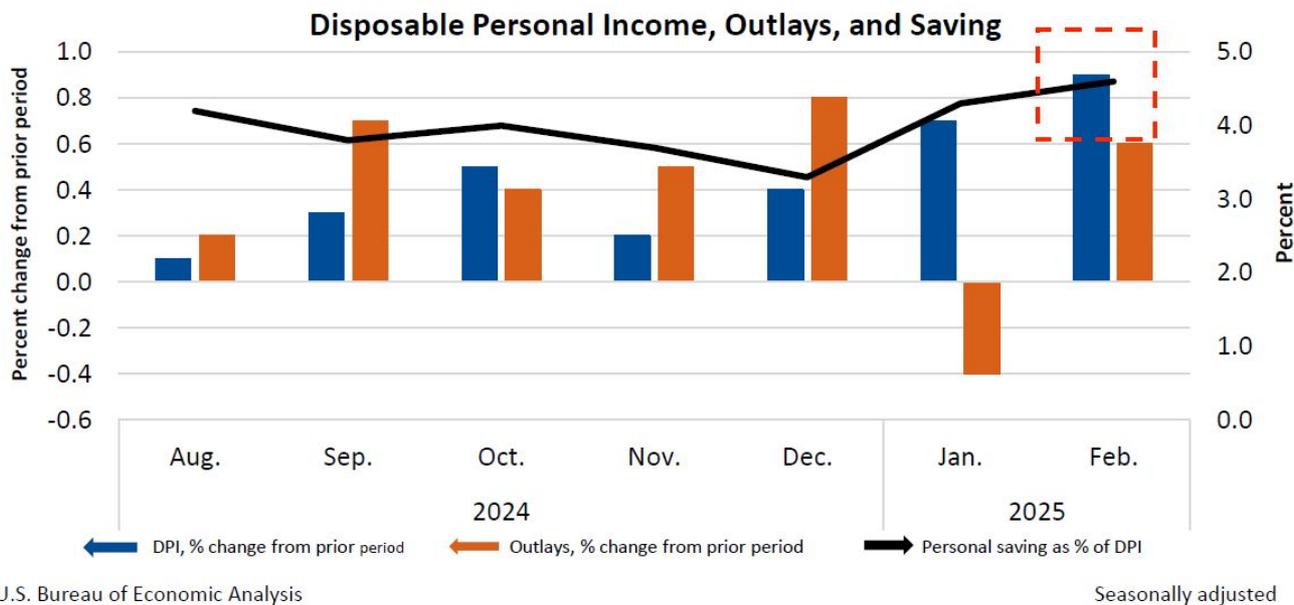
However, there is a silver lining. The buildup in wholesale and retail inventories during this period appears to be more manageable than previously feared. Businesses and consumers seem to have absorbed much of the extra inventory accumulated from advanced imports. Wholesale and retail inventories didn't surge much in February, suggesting inventory levels were being worked through or sold.

	 <b>ADVANCE INTERNATIONAL TRADE: GOODS DEFICIT</b>	 <b>ADVANCE WHOLESALE INVENTORIES</b>	 <b>ADVANCE RETAIL INVENTORIES</b>
<b>FEBRUARY 2025</b>	\$147.9 Billion      -4.9%°	\$902.9 Billion      +0.3%	\$823.0 Billion      +0.1%*
<b>JANUARY 2025</b>	\$155.6 Billion	\$899.8 Billion (R)	\$822.4 Billion (R)
<b>Next release: April 29, 2025.</b>			
<small>* The 90 percent confidence interval includes zero. There is insufficient evidence to conclude that the actual change is different from zero.            ° Statistical significance is not applicable or not measurable.            Data adjusted for seasonality but not price changes.            Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Advance Economic Indicators Report, March 27, 2025.</small>			

**Figure 12. Monthly Advance Economic Reports (Source: US Census Bureau)**

[This mitigates earlier worries](#) that a glut of unsold goods would weigh down the economy by tying up capital and reducing the need for future orders.

While February's improvement in the trade balance is a welcome development, it does not fully offset the economic drag caused by January's surge in imports. The first-quarter GDP figures, when released, may still appear weak due to the temporary distortions in trade flows. Looking forward, the implications of front-loaded imports may extend into the second quarter. Since many businesses and consumers already made purchases in advance of expected tariffs, demand for both business equipment and consumer goods may drop in the coming months. This potential slowdown in spending, combined with higher prices from tariff-induced cost increases, could weigh on economic momentum.



**Figure 13. Rise in Personal Savings Rate (Red Box, Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis)**

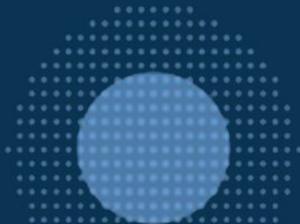
### Policy Implications: Tariffs and the Fed’s Dilemma

Underlying much of this anxiety is trade policy. President Donald Trump’s ongoing push for tariffs—especially those expected to take effect in April and May—has introduced considerable uncertainty. Consumers and businesses alike are adjusting behaviour in anticipation of these policy moves. We expect that these measures could further fuel inflation, especially if retaliation from trade partners drives up import costs even more.

For the Federal Reserve, this presents a dilemma. While the central bank has signaled caution, citing rising inflation partly driven by tariffs, it now faces the challenge of managing inflation expectations without choking off growth. Any plans for further rate cuts could be delayed if inflation continues to rise, tightening financial conditions at a time when consumer sentiment is already fragile.



# NEWS FROM THE CRYPTO-SPHERE



# SEC Drops Cases Against Kraken, Consensys, and Cumberland as New Crypto Regulatory Era Begins



**Figure 14. SEC Drops Cases Against Kraken, Consensys, and Cumberland as New Crypto Regulatory Era Begins**

- The SEC has officially dropped its lawsuits against Kraken, Consensys, and Cumberland, marking a shift away from its previous enforcement-led approach to crypto regulation
- This move follows leadership changes under a new pro-crypto US administration, signaling a push toward clearer, more collaborative regulatory frameworks

The US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has officially ended its legal battles against three major crypto firms—[Kraken](#), [Consensys](#), and [Cumberland DRW](#)—marking a significant shift in the agency's approach to regulating the digital asset industry.

In a set of announcements released late Thursday, the SEC confirmed it had filed joint stipulations last Thursday, March 27th, to dismiss the civil enforcement actions against all three companies *with prejudice*. This legal term means the cases are permanently closed and cannot be reopened.

According to the SEC, the decision to drop the lawsuits was not based on the strength or weakness of the charges but rather aimed at supporting the agency's efforts to reshape how it oversees the crypto sector. "The dismissal will help advance the Commission's ongoing reform efforts," the SEC stated. It also emphasised that the decision to end these specific lawsuits should not be interpreted as a signal about other ongoing or future cases.



Kraken, a well-known cryptocurrency exchange, had its lawsuit originally filed in November 2023. The SEC accused the company of running an unregistered securities platform and mismanaging user funds. However, on March 3rd, the SEC [agreed in principle](#) to dismiss the case without requiring Kraken to pay any fines or make changes to its operations. “This puts an end to a wasteful, politically motivated campaign,” Kraken said in a statement at the time. Co-CEO Dave Ripley [expressed relief over the closure](#), saying, “Glad to finally close this chapter. Back to what really matters, building the future of finance.”

Similarly, Consensus, the developer behind the popular MetaMask crypto wallet, [faced SEC action in June 2024](#) over its staking service, which the agency claimed violated securities laws. Founder Joseph Lubin noted that while the company was prepared to fight the charges to the end, it welcomed the dismissal announced on February 27.

Cumberland DRW, a crypto trading firm, also had its case dropped. The SEC had [sued the company in October 2024](#), alleging it operated as an unregistered dealer while handling \$2 billion in crypto transactions. The firm reached an agreement with the SEC to end the case on March 4. In response, Cumberland stated that it remains committed to integrity and transparency and looks forward to helping shape a more balanced regulatory environment.

These dismissals come amid broader changes at the SEC following the January inauguration of President Donald Trump, who has taken a more supportive stance toward the crypto industry. The dismissal of these high-profile cases signals a new chapter in the US government’s relationship with the crypto industry—one that appears to favour constructive engagement over litigation.

# SEC Crypto Task Force Announces Four Upcoming Roundtables on Crypto Asset Regulation

PRESS RELEASE

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## SEC Crypto Task Force to Host Four More Roundtables

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Washington D.C., March 25, 2025 — The Securities and Exchange Commission's Crypto Task Force announced today it will hold four more [roundtables](#) in its ongoing series discussing crypto asset regulation. The dates and topics for each roundtable are as follows:

- April 11, 2025 - [Between a Block and a Hard Place: Tailoring Regulation for Crypto Trading](#)
- April 25, 2025 - [Know Your Custodian: Key Considerations for Crypto Custody](#)
- May 12, 2025 - [Tokenization - Moving Assets Onchain: Where TradFi and DeFi Meet](#)
- June 6, 2025 - [DeFi and the American Spirit](#)

### **Figure 15. SEC Crypto Task Force Announces Four Upcoming Roundtables on Crypto Asset Regulation**

On March 25, 2025, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) announced that its Crypto Task Force will host four additional roundtable discussions focused on various aspects of crypto asset regulation. These sessions aim to foster dialogue among stakeholders and enhance understanding of the evolving crypto landscape.

#### **Schedule and Topics:**

1. April 11, 2025 – *Between a Block and a Hard Place: Tailoring Regulation for Crypto Trading*
  - This session will explore the challenges and considerations in developing regulatory frameworks specific to crypto trading platforms.
2. April 25, 2025 – *Know Your Custodian: Key Considerations for Crypto Custody*
  - Discussions will focus on the importance of custodial services in the crypto space and the regulatory measures necessary to ensure asset security.
3. May 12, 2025 – *Tokenisation - Moving Assets Onchain: Where TradFi and DeFi Meet*
  - This roundtable will examine the intersection of traditional finance (TradFi) and decentralized finance (DeFi) through asset tokenisation and its regulatory implications.
4. June 6, 2025 – *DeFi and the American Spirit*
  - The final session will delve into the principles of decentralized finance and its alignment with American financial innovation and regulation.

These roundtables represent the SEC's ongoing commitment to engaging with industry participants, investors, and other stakeholders to navigate the complexities of crypto asset regulation effectively.

# Trump Media to Partner with Crypto.com for ETF Launch

# TMTG

**TRUMP MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY GROUP**

*Figure 16. Trump Media to Partner with Crypto.com for ETF Launch*

- **Trump Media is partnering with Crypto.com to launch crypto-focused ETFs, marking its entry into the financial sector beyond social media**
- **The success of the ETFs depends on regulatory approval and could position both companies more prominently in the evolving crypto investment space**

Trump Media & Technology Group (TMTG) [announced last Monday](#), March 24th, its intention to partner with Crypto.com to develop and launch a series of exchange-traded funds (ETFs) focused on cryptocurrency and digital assets. This collaboration aims to provide investors with greater exposure to the crypto market while aligning with TMTG's broader strategy of expanding into the financial sector.

## **Key Details of the Partnership**

TMTG, the company behind Truth Social, is moving beyond its roots in social media to venture into financial products. Partnering with Crypto.com—a cryptocurrency exchange—TMTG aims to develop ETFs that could include major cryptocurrencies, blockchain-related equities, and potentially even politically-themed investment products tailored to Trump's support base. Crypto.com will provide the technical expertise and infrastructure required for these ETF offerings.



## **Strategic Implications**

This move represents a strategic expansion for TMTG as it seeks to build a brand that appeals not only through media but also through financial products targeting a politically conservative investor base. Launching crypto ETFs could enhance the group's positioning among retail investors who are interested in alternative investments aligned with their values. At the same time, the partnership leverages growing interest in digital assets as the crypto market matures and gains mainstream traction. However, the success of these ETFs will hinge on regulatory approval, especially given the SEC's historically cautious stance on crypto-based financial products.

## **Market Impact & Next Steps**

If the ETF initiative proves successful, it could significantly elevate Crypto.com's profile in traditional finance by positioning it as a key infrastructure provider for regulated crypto investments. For Trump Media, the venture marks a notable pivot toward the financial sector and hints at the potential for a broader lineup of politically-aligned financial instruments. While the announcement signals ambitious intent, no official timeline for the ETF launch has been released, and regulatory approval remains an important and uncertain step ahead.



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