

The Convergence of DeFi, TradFi and CeFi

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01 / Key Takeaways

- TradFi, CeFi, and DeFi are rapidly converging into one financial ecosystem. Crypto is moving from standalone trading platforms toward full-stack financial ecosystems.
- Crypto neobanks are targeting mainstream financial use cases, not just crypto-native trading. Crypto cards are becoming a major adoption driver, with monthly volume up 223.5% YoY. Tokenized stocks are booming: US\$38 million to US\$1 billion within a single year, an extraordinary 26x increase.
- TradFi institutions and fintech platforms are aggressively integrating crypto services to become the financial Super Apps. Average weekend trading volume has risen approximately 300% from January to March 2026, reaching an equivalent of 38% of weekday volume over the trailing four-week period.
- CeDeFi is emerging as a practical bridge between centralized platforms and decentralized protocols. Institutions favor vault-based lending with configurable parameters: vault share in DeFi borrowing climbed to 22.8% in 2026.
- Cross-chain infrastructure is becoming critical, with cross-chain transfer volume-to-DEX volume rising from 3.4% to ~15% between early 2025 and April 2026.
- The labels — "Neo-Finance," "Super App," "CeDeFi" — will inevitably blur as the financial system becomes more integrated.

02 / Introduction

The financial services industry is undergoing a structural transformation. Three historically distinct paradigms — Traditional Finance (TradFi), Centralised Finance (CeFi), and Decentralised Finance (DeFi) — are converging toward a unified architecture that integrates the regulatory infrastructure and institutional scale of legacy finance, the accessibility and onboarding efficiency of centralised crypto platforms, and the composability and transparency of permissionless protocols. This report examines the forces accelerating this convergence and the competitive dynamics shaping the race to build the first truly integrated financial hub.

2.1 Defining the Terminology

- ◆ **Neo-Finance / Neo Bank:** Operates exclusively online without physical branches, delivering banking services primarily through mobile apps and websites. In the crypto-native context, the definition extends further: products that provide day-to-day financial services (stablecoin payments, decentralised lending, real-yield savings, crypto card spending) build on the blockchain infrastructure.
- ◆ **Super App:** A single platform offering a comprehensive suite of financial products – saving, trading, lending, payments, cards, prediction markets and more – designed to maximise user stickiness and monetise the full financial lifecycle.
- ◆ **CeDeFi:** A hybrid model where centralised entities wrap decentralised protocols with their UX layer, enabling non-technical users to access DeFi yields and composability with familiar interfaces.

03 / Crypto Neo Finance

DeFi protocols are expanding well beyond on-chain trading and yield generation to deliver services historically associated with retail banking — debit cards, bill payments, and fiat on/off-ramps. The strategic imperative is clear: broaden the addressable market from crypto-native power users to mainstream consumers.

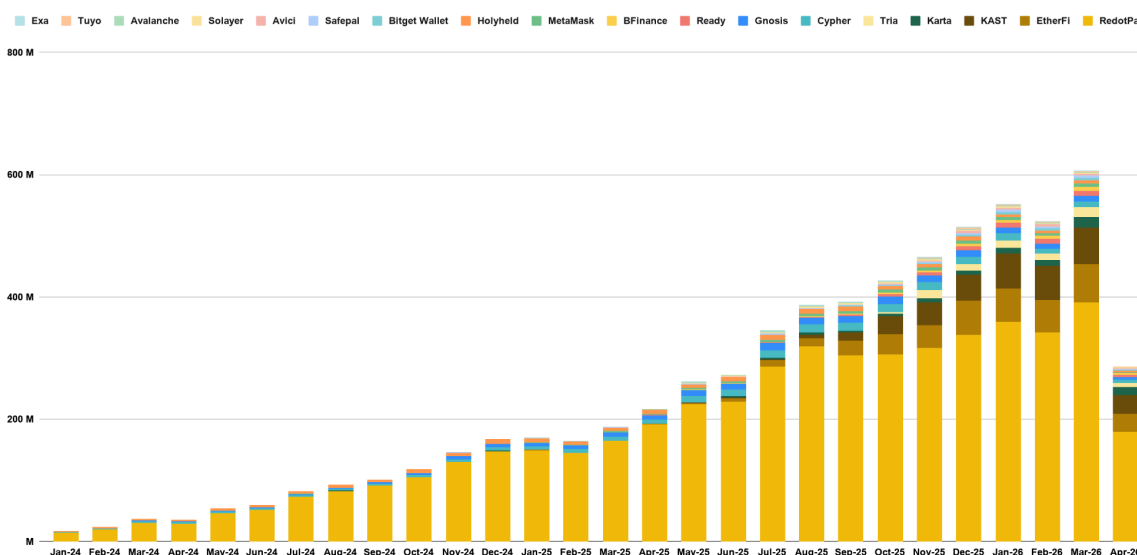
3.1 Crypto Card Spending and Banking Services

According to PYMNTS and broader industry surveys, 41% of existing crypto users identify fast, reliable off-ramp solutions as their single greatest unmet need. The frustration is acute for builders and professionals who accumulate wealth on-chain yet face prohibitive fees and friction when converting crypto to fiat for everyday spending.

This demand has catalysed a growing wave of DeFi-native protocols launching crypto debit card products — enabling users to spend crypto balances at traditional merchants seamlessly and effectively solving the "last-mile" problem for crypto holders. The barriers to issuance have fallen dramatically through partnerships with banks and Card-as-a-Service full-stack providers such as Rain Cards, which handle Visa/Mastercard integration and fiat settlement, freeing protocols to focus entirely on user acquisition and product differentiation.

Redotpay leads in gross volume according to PaymentScan, though its figures represent top-up volume rather than actual spending — an important methodological distinction. On a spending-adjusted basis, Ether.fi is the leading decentralised crypto card protocol with approximately 30% market share. Its value proposition is compelling: 3% cashback with a 1% foreign exchange fee (yielding a net 2% return — compared with average off-ramp fees of 0.8–2%, or 1.3–3.5% when FX conversion is involved), layered on top of above-average DeFi yields on vault deposits, effectively eliminating the opportunity cost of idle card balances. KAST follows closely at roughly 28% market share, sharing the same card issuer infrastructure through Rain. In aggregate, total monthly crypto card volume has grown 223.5% year-on-year.

Figure 1: Monthly Crypto Card Volume Grew by an Average of 11% Over The Past 12 Months



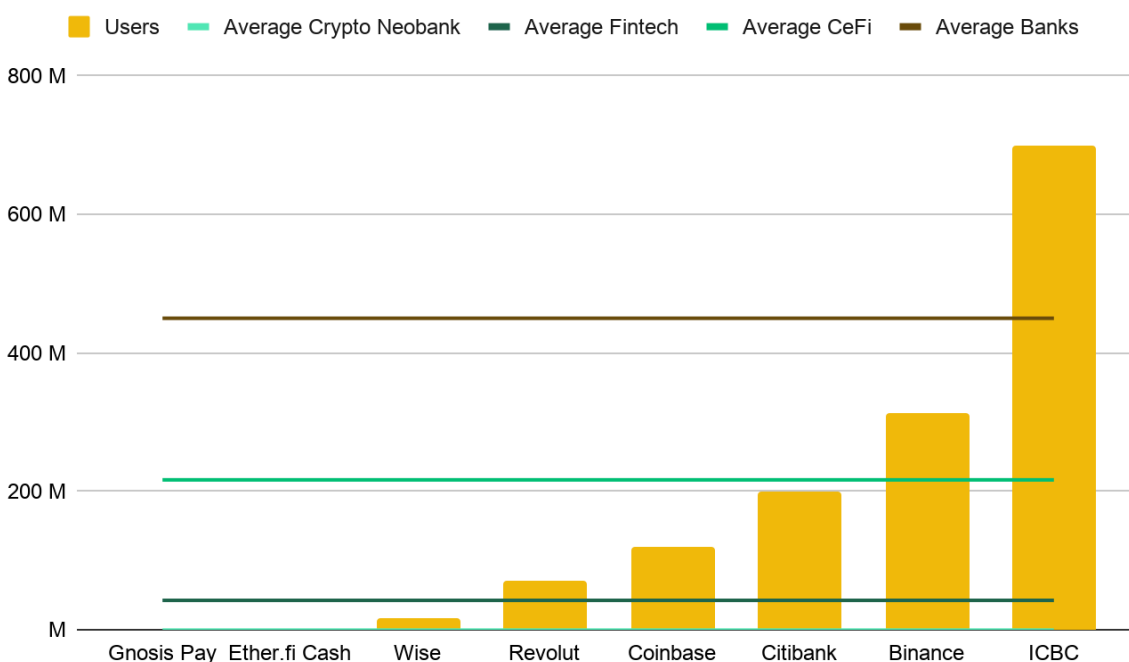
Source: Paymentscan, Binance Research, as of April 15, 2026

3.2 Expanding the Addressable Audience

The strategic rationale is straightforward: DeFi's on-chain user base comprises an estimated 5–10 million active wallets, while the global digital banking market serves hundreds of millions. By delivering everyday financial services on decentralised infrastructure, DeFi protocols can capture users worldwide who would never interact with a DEX or liquidity pool directly — but would readily adopt a card backed by on-chain yields, high cashback rewards, and an optimised payment structure. Rain Cards' status as a principal member of the Visa network is a key structural advantage here, enabling protocols like Ether.fi to issue cards directly without leaking interchange fees and FX spreads to intermediary partner banks.

The scale gap underscores the opportunity. Among the two leading players used as benchmarks in this analysis, the current average user base by segment is approximately 40,000 for crypto neobanks, 43 million for fintechs, 216 million for CeFi platforms, and 450 million for traditional banks.

Figure 2: Customer Balances Gap between DeFi and Fintech: The TAM Opportunity for DeFi Neobank

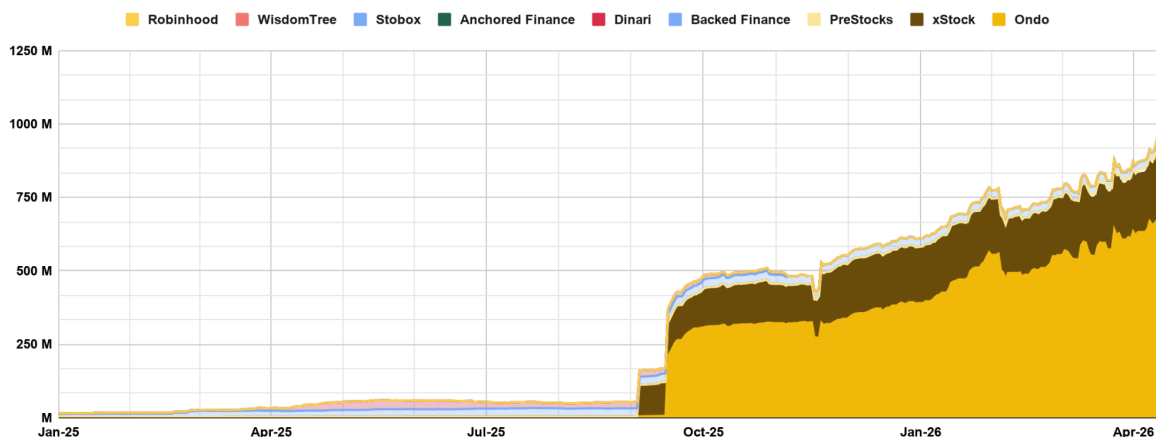


Source: Binance Research, as of April 15, 2026

3.3 Tokenisation: The RWA Bridge

Tokenisation has evolved from a crypto-native curiosity into the most contested infrastructure battle in capital markets. The sector grew ~248% year-on-year to approach nearly US\$30 billion in market value in April 2026. Within this broader expansion, on-chain tokenised publicly traded equities represent one of the fastest-growing categories — surging from US\$38 million to ~US\$1 billion within a single year, an extraordinary 26x increase.

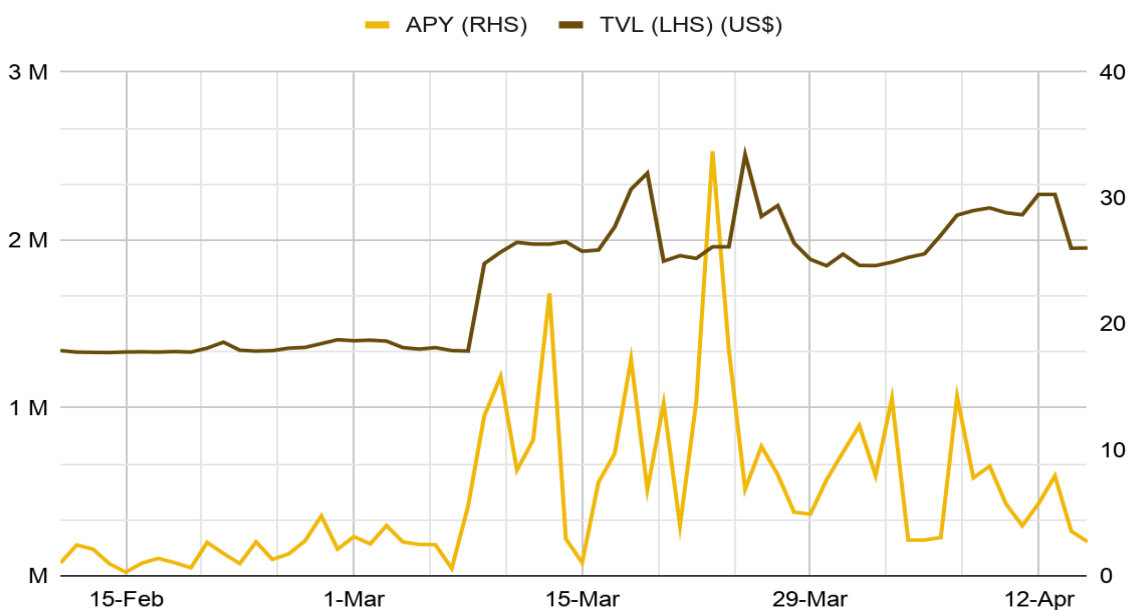
Figure 3: On-chain Tokenised Publicly Traded Stocks Market Value



Source: Defillama, Binance Research, as of April 15, 2026

The transformative potential of tokenised equities extends well beyond 24/7 trading access. Once on-chain, tokenised stocks can be deployed as DeFi collateral — generating yield on positions that previously sat idle in brokerage accounts producing zero return. As a practical illustration, providing liquidity to the SPYx/USDC pool on Raydium has delivered an average trading yield of approximately 8% over the trailing 30-day period. Beyond yield generation, tokenisation also unlocks fully transparent, composable portfolio strategies that are simply not possible within traditional custody infrastructure.

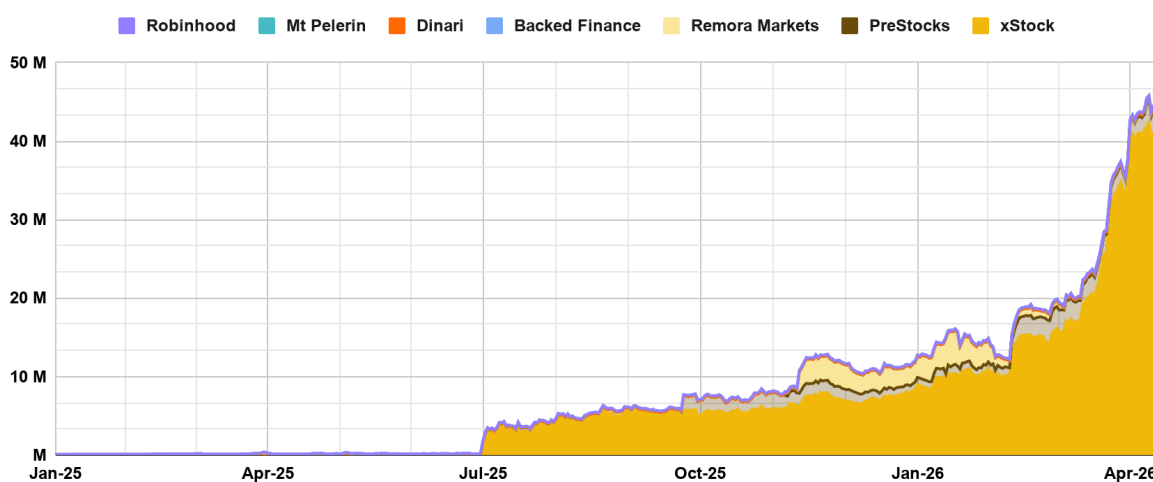
Figure 4: The Average 30-day yield of SPYx/USDC Liquidity Pool on Raydium



Source: Defillama, Binance Research, as of April 15, 2026

In Ondo's model, capital is deployed to purchase real equities held with regulated custodians — liquidity therefore resides in the underlying stock market and is accessed through mint/redeem mechanisms rather than automated market makers. In xStocks' model, capital is largely concentrated with market makers, and the majority of trading occurs via request-for-quote (RFQ) flows, where pricing and hedging are executed off-chain rather than sourced from on-chain pools. The net effect across both models is that very little capital is actually parked in AMM liquidity. Most meaningful volume is routed through mint/redeem or RFQ channels, leaving on-chain pools structurally shallow — a dynamic that poses notable constraints on DeFi use cases dependent on deep, composable on-chain liquidity.

Figure 5: XStocks Captured Over 80% of On-Chain Stocks DeFi TVL



Source: DeFillama, Binance Research, as of April 15, 2026

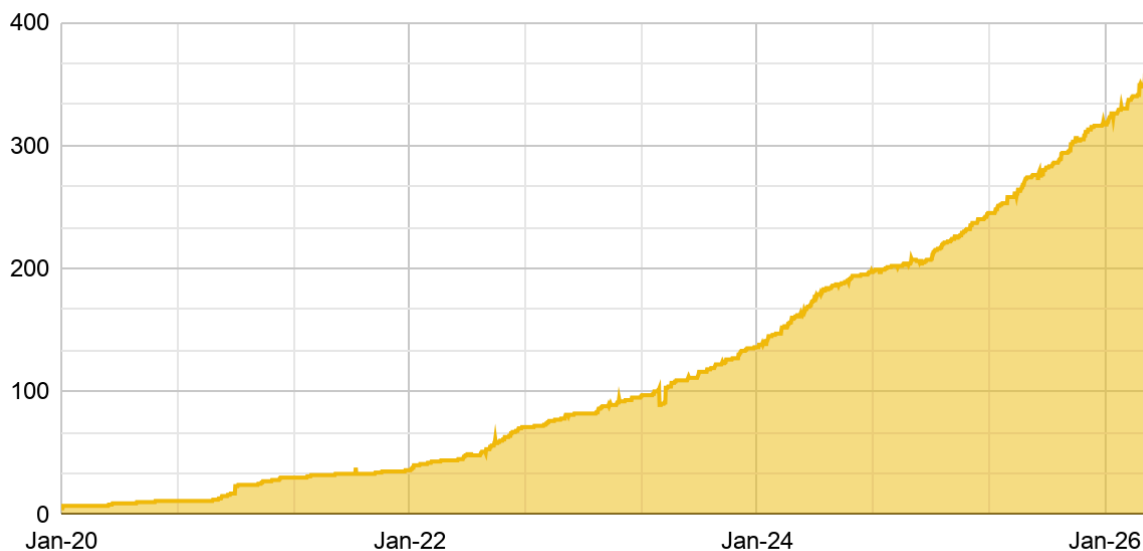
3.4 Stablecoin-as-a-Service

The watershed moment arrived when President Trump signed the GENIUS Act into law on July 18, 2025 — the first federal legislation regulating cryptocurrency in the United States, establishing a comprehensive supervisory framework for payment stablecoins backed one-to-one by high-quality liquid assets. The implications extend well beyond incumbent issuers. Smaller non-financial institutions can now credibly enter the stablecoin sector to build user bases, enable agentic transactions, deliver instant settlement finality, and monetise deposited customer funds — all without the overhead of complex treasury management infrastructure.

The incentive structure is well illustrated by Starbucks. The company's float economics — breakage plus interest income on stored-value balances — have been remarkably stable in dollar terms, generating roughly US\$200 million in annual breakage and US\$100–120 million in interest income. More notably, the float's contribution as a percentage of net income has approximately doubled from 9% to 17% in FY2025. The lesson is clear: wherever

possible, companies will gravitate toward bank-like economics — and stablecoin issuance under the GENIUS Act framework dramatically lowers the barrier to doing so.

Figure 6: The Number of Branded Stablecoins Increased from 5 in 2020 to 360 in 2026



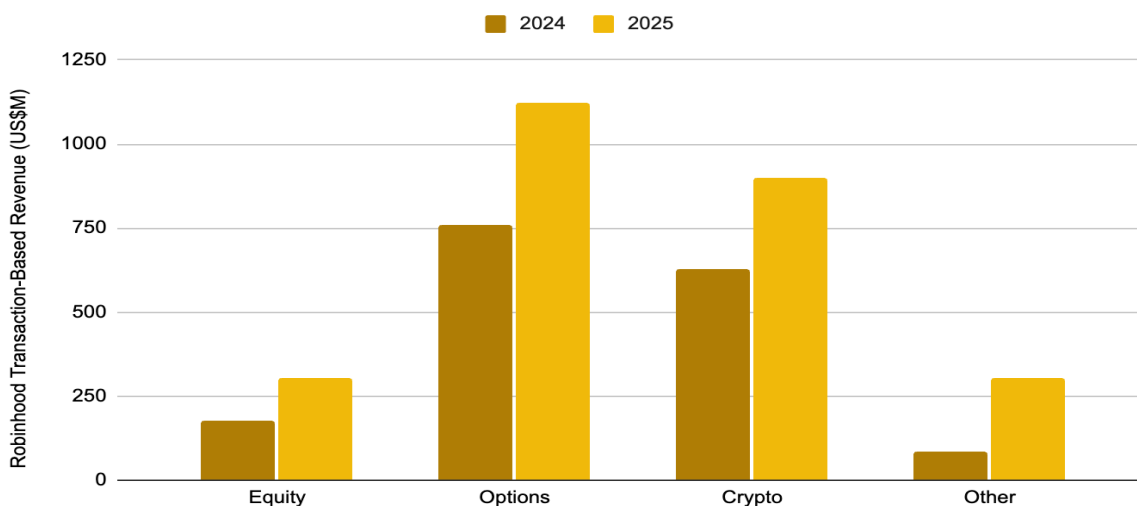
Source: DeFillama, Binance Research, as of April 15, 2026

04 / The Super App Thesis

TradFi institutions and fintech platforms are aggressively integrating crypto services to become comprehensive financial hubs — and crypto exchanges are pursuing the same convergence from the opposite direction. The logic is consistent across both sides: increase user stickiness, monetise the full economic lifecycle of a customer, leverage proprietary data advantages, pre-empt competition from cross-sector challengers, and diversify revenue streams beyond core business lines that are structurally vulnerable to fee compression.

Robinhood illustrates the model clearly. The platform built its user base on commission-free equities trading, fundamentally levelling the playing field against the high-fee brokerage incumbents. But equities trading was always the acquisition channel, not the revenue engine. In FY2025, transaction-based revenue reached US\$2.6 billion, accounting for approximately 59% of Robinhood's record full-year revenue of US\$4.5 billion. Net interest revenue contributed a further 34%. Within the transaction-based segment, options trading was the largest contributor at approximately US\$1.1 billion (42% of transaction-based revenue), while crypto generated US\$901 million over the same period — up 44% year-on-year and representing 34% of transaction-based revenue. The takeaway is instructive: revenue diversification is not merely a defensive strategy but a structural growth driver, and crypto trading in particular has demonstrated its capacity to become a meaningful revenue pillar for any platform willing to integrate it.

Figure 7: Robinhood Transaction-Based Revenue Generated by Cryptos Increased 44% in 2025



Source: Robinhood, Binance Research, as of April 15, 2026

4.1 Strategic Implications for Crypto Exchanges

The on-ramp experience remains one of crypto's most significant user-retention bottlenecks. According to PLG Insider, up to 50% of on-ramp transactions fail post-KYC, driven largely by traditional bank issuers blocking transactions flagged as crypto-related on fraud-prevention grounds. Authorisation rates deteriorate further at higher values, plummeting to just 19% for transactions exceeding US\$5,000. Separately, a Visa study found that debit cards are the most popular funding mechanism among cryptocurrency owners — particularly younger demographics. While cards offer the lowest time-to-value of any payment method, they also carry the highest friction in terms of cost, with processing fees typically ranging from 2% to 4%.

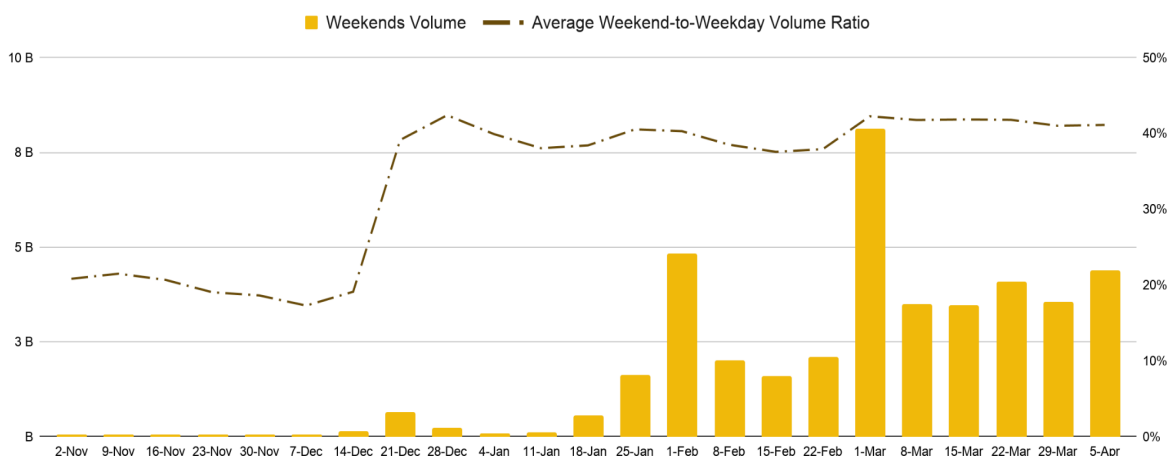
This is precisely the problem that integrated banking services within crypto exchanges are designed to solve. By keeping deposits within the platform's own financial infrastructure, exchanges can reduce on-ramp friction by an order of magnitude. The strategic value of this integration extends well beyond user convenience — it is a direct mechanism for increasing deposit-driven trading volume and fee revenue, transforming what would otherwise be a growth initiative into a core revenue multiplier.

4.2 Perpification of Everything

Demand for off-hours trading is not new — equity markets have grown increasingly liquid outside regular sessions — but extended weekday hours alone are insufficient. As tradable macro events increasingly occur over weekends, perpetual futures on traditional assets have seen surging demand. Average weekend trading volume has risen approximately 300% from January to March 2026, reaching an equivalent of 38% of weekday volume over the trailing four-week period. Notable catalysts have driven specific spikes: metals speculation fuelled elevated silver perp volumes in early 2026, while crude oil price discovery shifted meaningfully to weekend sessions following a Middle East escalation that broke over a Saturday.

To quantify the efficiency of this weekend price formation, we define the weekend capture ratio as the proportion of Monday's eventual opening gap that was priced in during weekend perpetual trading. The median capture ratio stands at 57%, with a tracking error of approximately 30 basis points. While the magnitude of price discovery has room to improve, directional accuracy is already compelling — weekend perpetual price movements correctly predict the direction of Monday's opening gap 89% of the time.

Figure 8: TradFi-Perps Volume on Weekends Increased Gradually, While Weekends-to-Weekdays Ratio Held Steady Around 41%



Source: Binance Research, as of April 9, 2026

Learn more about TradFi perps at: [The Rise of TradFi-Perps](#)

4.3 The Regulatory Environment: From Uncertainty to Clarity

The global regulatory landscape for digital assets has shifted decisively from ambiguity to structured frameworks, creating the institutional preconditions for TradFi-CeFi-DeFi convergence to accelerate.

United States: A cascade of regulatory clarity. The signing of the GENIUS Act in July 2025 was the opening salvo, but the momentum has compounded rapidly. The SEC, under Chairman Atkins' "Project Crypto" initiative, has executed a wholesale pivot from enforcement-first to framework-first regulation. On March 17, 2026, the SEC and CFTC jointly issued a landmark interpretive release establishing a formal five-part taxonomy for crypto assets — distinguishing digital commodities, digital collectibles, digital tools, stablecoins, and digital securities. Four of the five categories are expressly carved out as non-securities, with only digital securities remaining under full SEC jurisdiction. The release explicitly classified 16 cryptocurrencies — including BTC, ETH, SOL, and XRP — as digital commodities, resolving years of jurisdictional ambiguity in a single document.

This taxonomy built upon a series of earlier actions: the SEC approved listing standards for crypto ETFs tracking assets such as DOGE, SOL, and XRP; declared that proof-of-stake staking activities do not constitute securities transactions; and published custody guidance for broker-dealers. Chairman Atkins has since previewed a proposed "Regulation Crypto Assets" framework, including a startup exemption offering a time-limited registration exemption of up to four years for early-stage token offerings, a potential "Super App" registration regime allowing platforms to offer multiple services under one

roof, and an innovation exemption sandbox — a proposal that has now advanced to the White House's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs for final review.

On the banking side, the OCC granted conditional approval on December 12, 2025, for five prominent crypto firms — Ripple, Circle, BitGo, Fidelity Digital Assets, and Paxos — to establish national trust banks. This marked the first time the OCC granted such approvals to multiple crypto-native firms simultaneously, and the signal effect was immediate: fourteen de novo charter applications were filed with the OCC in 2025, nearly equalling the number received in the previous four years combined.

European Union: MiCA enters enforcement phase. The Markets in Crypto-Assets Regulation entered into force with a phased rollout beginning in June 2024 for stablecoin issuers, followed by full applicability to crypto-asset service providers from December 30, 2024. Authorities in the Netherlands and Malta issued the first CASP licences on December 30, 2024, with Germany following in mid-January 2025. Since then, more than 40 CASP licences have been issued across EU member states, with full enforcement expected by mid-2026. Germany and the Netherlands lead in approvals, followed by France, Malta, Spain, and Luxembourg — with major traditional financial institutions including Commerzbank, N26, and Trade Republic among the licensees.

In **Abu Dhabi**, ADGM's Financial Services Regulatory Authority implemented amendments to its digital asset framework in June 2025, reinforcing the emirate's positioning as a global financial centre, while Binance became the first crypto exchange to secure a comprehensive global licence under ADGM's framework. **Japan** introduced the PSA Amendment Act 2025, establishing a dedicated licensing regime for crypto intermediaries and stablecoin reserve requirements.

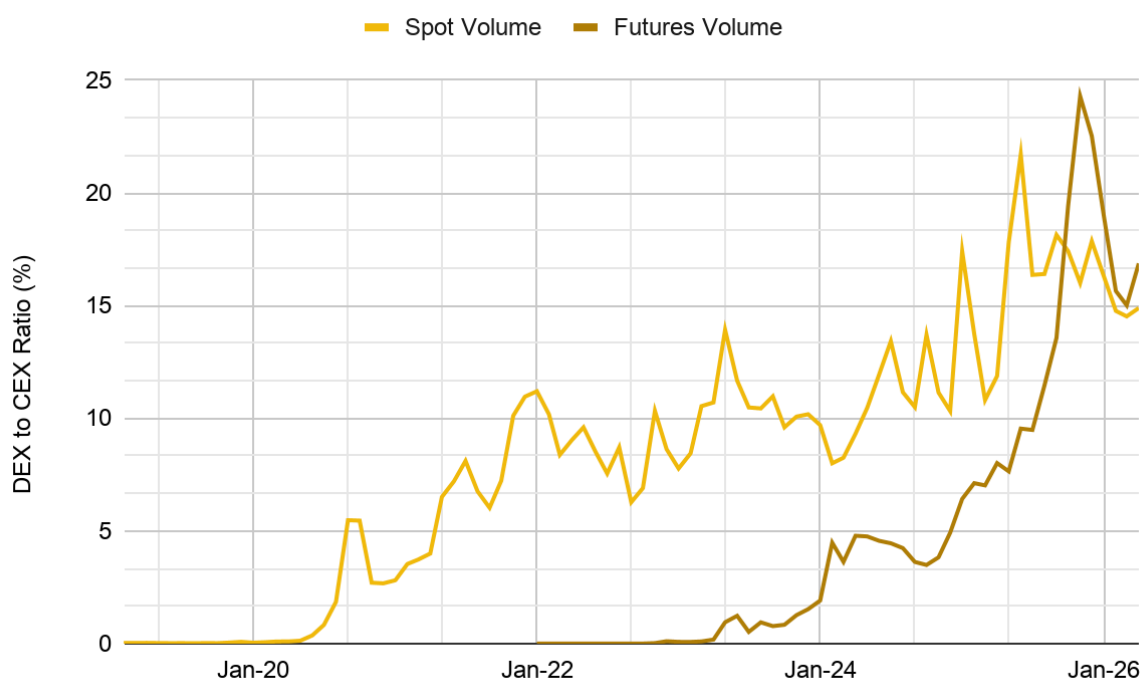
The net result is a self-reinforcing cycle: regulatory clarity encourages TradFi institutions to offer crypto products, which in turn incentivises crypto exchanges to secure traditional financial licences, accelerating convergence toward the unified financial hub. Each jurisdiction's framework creates competitive pressure on others to match or exceed its clarity, compressing what would normally be a decade-long regulatory evolution into a matter of quarters.

05 / CeDeFi

Despite the blockchain community's philosophical commitment to decentralisation and self-custody, the majority of crypto users continue to rely on centralised exchanges for day-to-day activity. For retail users, the technical friction of self-custody — private key management, gas token provisioning, and cross-chain bridging — remains a hard barrier to adoption. For institutions, CEXes provide what DeFi cannot yet reliably deliver at scale: deep, instant trading liquidity and the stringent compliance frameworks required by fiduciary mandates.

Yet DeFi's competitive position is strengthening at a remarkable pace. The DEX-to-CEX spot volume ratio and perpetual futures volume ratio have increased by approximately 53% (from 9.7% to 14.8%) and 760% (from 1.9% to 16.4%) respectively from 2020 to April 2026, underscoring DeFi's structural resilience and its accelerating capture of marginal trading activity. While CEXes retain dominant market share in absolute terms, the directional trend is unmistakable — and shows no sign of plateauing.

Figure 9: Spot and Futures DEX-to-CEX Volume Ratio



Source: TheBlock, Binance Research, as of April 15, 2026

This dynamic is precisely what motivates CEXes to aggressively integrate DeFi components into their service stack — not merely to defend existing market share, but to capture the on-chain activity that is increasingly migrating away from centralised order books.

5.1 Differences in CeDeFi Models

CeDeFi models offer tangible advantages on both sides of the user experience: logistical convenience for accessing DeFi protocols through a familiar interface, and a meaningful security layer for less technical users who would otherwise be exposed to phishing attacks, smart contract vulnerabilities, or wallet mismanagement. Beyond the user-facing benefits, understanding the profitability dynamics and strategic incentives underpinning each model is essential to mapping the future trajectory of CeDeFi development.

Table 1: CeDeFi Business Models Comparison

Model	Profitability	Sustainability
Full Centralised Services	High profit, moderate margin. Driven by massive volume.	Hefty competition to drive fees lower. High overhead costs on compliance and infrastructure.
Custodial DeFi Access (Alpha)	Moderate profit and margin. Charge on execution/routing fees and yield spreads.	Serves on the CEX's compliance framework. Active rebalancing and risk management.
Non-Custodial DeFi Mullet	Low profit, moderate margin. Curator fees, interface charges.	Non-custodial model attempts to position the CEX purely as a software interface, removing regulatory burden.
Full Decentralised Services (L1/L2)	Moderate profit, high margin. Sequencer fees (L2), gas fees (L1).	Competes for capturing assets and volume on-chain. Expanding the TAM beyond traders.

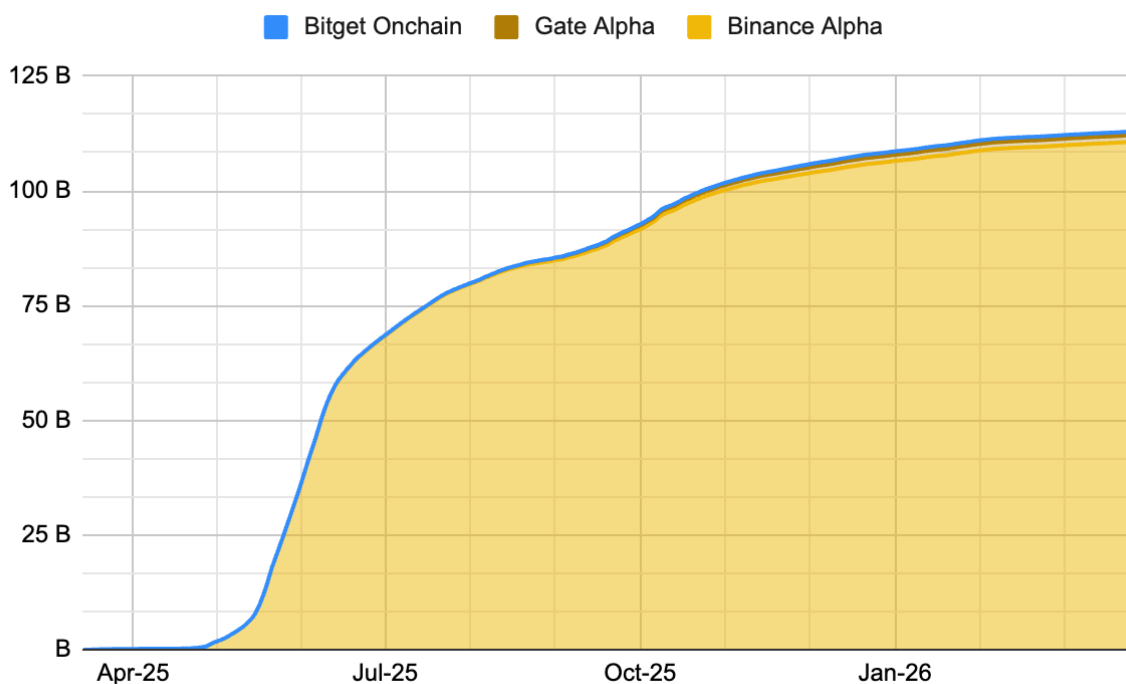
Source: Binance Research, as of April 15, 2026

From a user experience standpoint, the Alpha and DeFi Mullet models are nearly indistinguishable. Both offer one-click access to yield or trading, abstracting away the underlying friction of gas tokens, RPC endpoints, and private key management. Both serve as new distribution channels through which an exchange's existing user base can access decentralised protocols — often funnelling substantial assets and transaction volume onto the exchange's own L1/L2 networks in the process. This capital injection creates a virtuous cycle: improved capital efficiency on-network (deeper liquidity, tighter borrowing rates) enhances the competitiveness of DeFi products, which in turn attracts more DeFi-native routing through the network, compounding the effect.

The structural distinction, however, is fundamental. The Alpha model is a balance sheet expansion strategy: capital flows through CEX-managed omnibus wallets, with the exchange assuming direct custody. The DeFi Mullet model, by contrast, is an infrastructure abstraction — users operate through embedded smart wallets rather than the exchange's balance sheet. This positions the exchange as a software interface and

wallet provider, sidestepping the heavier regulatory obligations and operational overhead associated with direct custody.

Figure 10: Cumulative Volume Traded on Centralised Exchanges Alpha Platform Exceeded US\$100B



Source: Dune, Binance Research, as of April 15, 2026

5.2 DeFi Mullet

A defining trend in DeFi Mullet adoption has been the overwhelming preference for vault-based lending architecture over traditional pooled money markets. The reasoning is structural, not ideological: vaults offer simplicity, risk isolation, and configurable risk parameters that platform operators can tailor to their own compliance requirements — capabilities that pooled protocols, by design, cannot provide at the same granularity.

In a vault model, it is the platform operator — not a DAO governance vote — that controls the specific risk profile of each deployment. This means custom loan-to-value ratios calibrated to different investor risk appetites, choice of oracle provider, selection of permissible collateral assets, and the ability to create permissioned or KYC-gated vaults that restrict participation to whitelisted addresses. For institutions navigating compliance requirements around counterparty exposure and risk segregation, this configurability is not a feature — it is a prerequisite. Critically, these vaults are often battle-tested and immutable at the smart contract level, offering a degree of security assurance that governance-upgradeable contracts cannot match.

The market data confirms the shift is structural, not anecdotal. From 2022 through early 2024, vault-style isolated and modular lending represented effectively zero percent of all DeFi borrowing. That changed almost entirely on the back of a single catalyst: the launch of Morpho Blue on January 11, 2024. From that point, vault share climbed steadily — reaching 22.8% of all DeFi borrow in April 2026, with a new all-time high of 23.36% recorded on March 22, 2026. This is not a trend that is plateauing; it is still accelerating.

Figure 11: Vault-to-Total DeFi Borrowing Increased Despite a Slowdown in On-Chain Activity



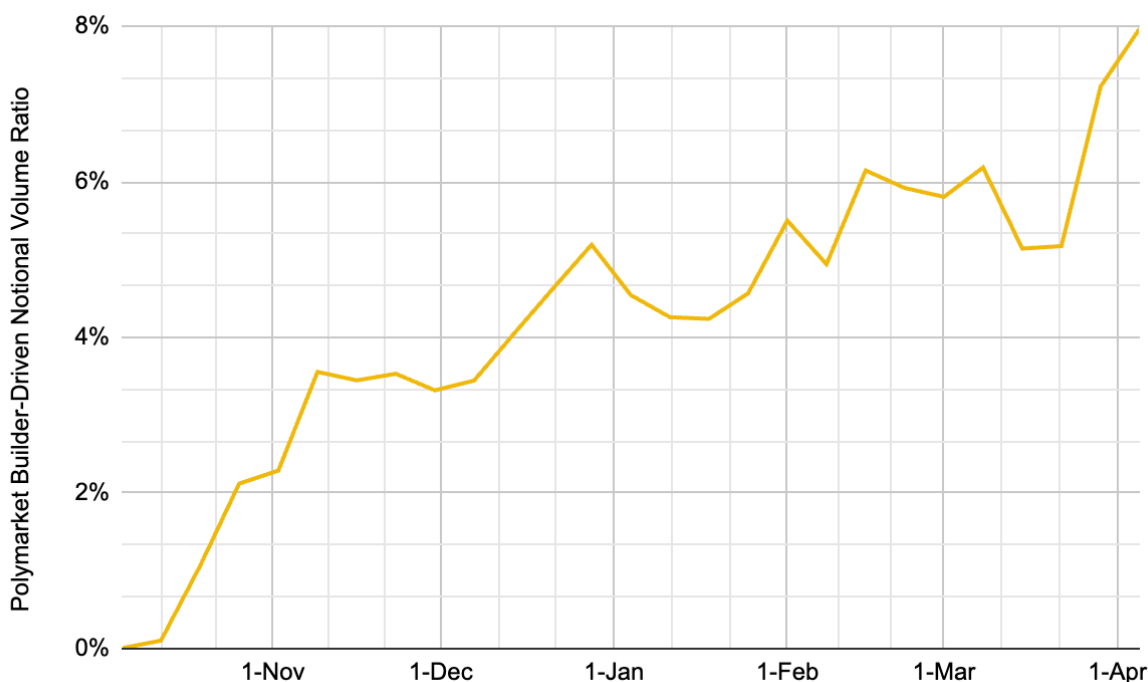
Source: DeFillama, Binance Research, as of April 15, 2026

That said, pooled money markets retain distinct advantages that vault architecture cannot easily replicate. For institutions seeking to park idle treasury capital with minimal friction, a deep, liquid, and widely recognised pool like Aave offers something vaults do not: immediate deposit-and-earn simplicity without the need to evaluate individual vault curators, strategy logic, or counterparty-specific risk parameters.

Moreover, the competitive landscape is not static. Aave has pivoted toward modular architecture in V4, introducing a Hub and Spoke model where the Liquidity Hub consolidates protocol-wide liquidity and accounting, while Spokes implement modular borrowing with isolated risk. Vault Spokes, for example, can be configured to allow borrowing against assets held in isolated vaults with tailored collateral and redemption rules — all while tapping into the Liquidity Hub for unified liquidity access across the network. This architectural evolution effectively repositions Aave to compete directly in the modular lending arena it once ceded to vault-native protocols. The broader pattern extends well beyond Aave: "Builder Code" frameworks and "Hook" architectures introduced by other DeFi protocols serve the same strategic objective — positioning the

protocol as core infrastructure while delegating distribution, user experience, risk management, and strategy deployment to third-party builders and curators.

Figure 12: The Share of Polymarket Notional Volume Driven by The Builder Platforms Increased to 8%



Source: Dune, Binance Research, as of April 15, 2026

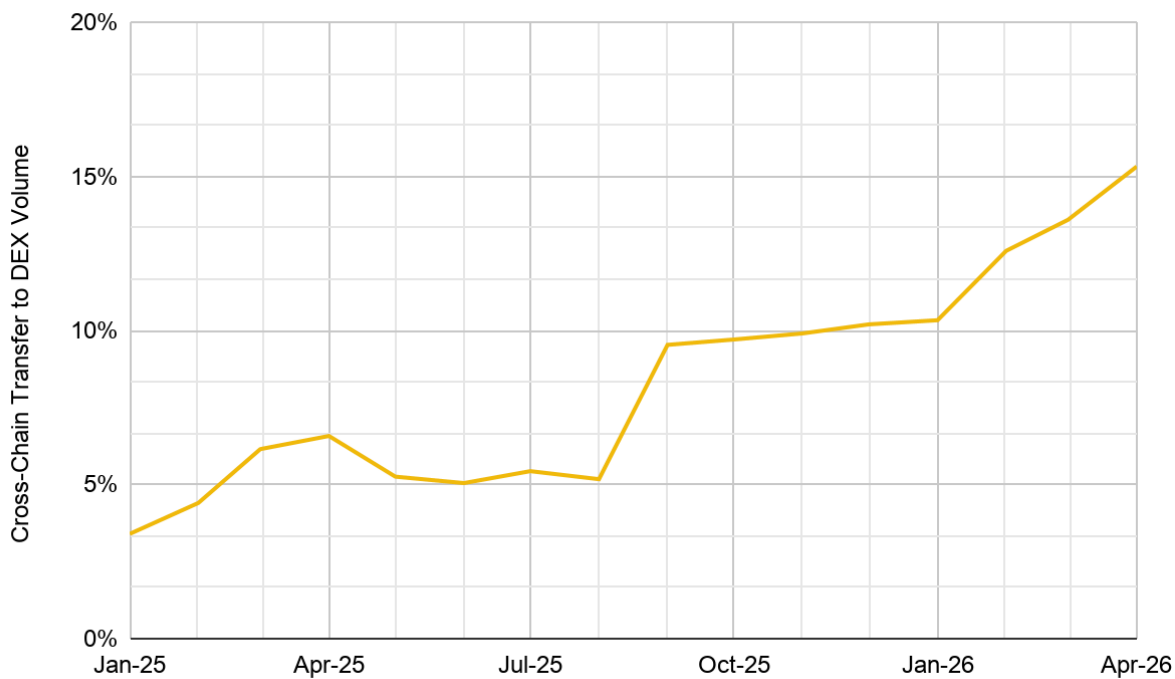
5.2 Institutional Blockchain

The same configurability and risk control capabilities extend to blockchain infrastructure selection whenever institutions seek to issue tokenised assets. Issuers can opt to deploy on public blockchains with freeze and clawback controls embedded at the token level, leveraging the existing liquidity and composability of established ecosystems. For institutions requiring greater sovereignty, purpose-built frameworks offer a spectrum of control: Canton Network enables institutions to operate their own permissioned domains while retaining the ability to transact atomically with counterparties across the network, while zkSync's Prividium allows organisations to launch fully permissioned networks with bespoke configurations while inheriting Ethereum's security guarantees.

However, the proliferation of institutional blockchains does not eliminate the need for connectivity — it amplifies it. Tokenised assets must still reach a broader user base, plug into high-liquidity DeFi ecosystems, and settle transactions with other institutional counterparties. Cross-chain infrastructure therefore becomes increasingly critical as more institutional networks come online. The data supports this thesis: cross-chain transfer volumes have proven remarkably resilient relative to broader DeFi activity, with the cross-chain transfer volume-to-DEX volume ratio increasing from 3.4% at the beginning of

2025 to ~15% in April 2026 — even against a backdrop of lower overall DeFi trading volumes. The growth has been led by NEAR Intents, LayerZero, and Chainlink CCIP, with median month-over-month growth rates of 60%, 21%, and 18% respectively over the same period.

Figure 13: Interop Volume Demonstrate Incredible Resilience Despite Lower DeFi Activities



Source: Bridgewater, DeFiLlama, Binance Research, as of April 15, 2026

06 / Risks and Considerations

RWA tokenisation is poised for exponential growth through 2026 and beyond. However, optimism should be tempered with rigorous due diligence — the structural complexity beneath the surface varies enormously across products, and the risks are not always immediately visible.

Most tokenised equities today represent custodial claims on an underlying share held by a regulated broker-dealer, rather than direct equity ownership in the issuing company (though notably, both Nasdaq and NYSE are actively exploring direct issuance models). Critically, not all tokenised stock products are created equal. Across the current landscape, issuers diverge significantly on several foundational design axes: mint and redemption access (who can create and redeem tokens, and under what conditions), KYC and transfer restriction enforcement, contract admin functions (including pause, freeze, and upgrade authority), corporate actions handling (dividends, stock splits, and voting rights pass-through), proof of reserves and audit transparency, and bankruptcy remoteness structures that determine whether token holders' claims survive an issuer insolvency. Users should conduct thorough due diligence on the underlying assets — understanding precisely what has been tokenised (particularly in private credit and private equity products, where asset quality can vary dramatically) — and verify that issuers hold the appropriate licences for the jurisdictions in which they operate.

Vault-based strategies have also emerged as one of the most popular deployment instruments for RWA tokens, adding an additional layer of complexity. Users should understand who curates the vault and manages its risk parameters, whether the vault carries an on-chain credit rating from providers such as Credora or Xerberus, and how key parameters are configured — including whether the oracle tracks the token's market price or the net asset value of the underlying portfolio, a distinction that can materially affect liquidation behaviour and risk exposure.

07 / Closing Thoughts

The convergence of TradFi, CeFi, and DeFi is no longer a theoretical possibility — it is actively underway. Major financial incumbents including Fidelity, Visa, and Meta are hiring for DeFi-related roles. Legislative frameworks are advancing on multiple fronts: the CLARITY Act passed the House in July 2025 with bipartisan support and is now awaiting Senate action, where competing committee drafts are being reconciled. Alongside MiCA's enforcement in Europe and the SEC-CFTC joint taxonomy in the United States, the regulatory architecture that institutional participants have long demanded is rapidly taking shape. And the underlying infrastructure — from Layer 2 scaling solutions to cross-chain interoperability protocols to tokenisation platforms — is maturing at a pace that would have been difficult to anticipate even twelve months ago.

The winners of this race will not necessarily be the protocols with the most innovative technology. They will be the platforms that successfully integrate three capabilities: institutional-grade compliance, consumer-grade user experience, and DeFi-native composability. The financial hub that achieves this combination first will accrue a structural advantage that compounds over time through network effects, deepening liquidity, and regulatory moats.

The labels — "Neo-Finance," "Super App," "CeDeFi" — will inevitably blur as the financial system becomes more integrated. But the direction of travel is clear: the future of finance is not TradFi or DeFi. It is both, converging into a seamless whole.

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starbuck.com/

robinhood.com/

theblock.co/

09 / New Binance Research Reports

Navigating Crypto: Industry Map [Link](#)

The Industry Map provides an overview of the crypto ecosystem.



Weekly: The Rise of TradFi-Perps [Link](#)

TradFi-perps volume rose 188% in Q1, rapidly closing in on overtaking legacy venues.



About Binance Research

Binance Research is the research arm of Binance, the world's leading cryptocurrency exchange. The team is committed to delivering objective, independent, and comprehensive analysis and aims to be the thought leader in the crypto space. Our analysts publish insightful thought pieces regularly on topics related but not limited to, the crypto ecosystem, blockchain technologies, and the latest market themes.

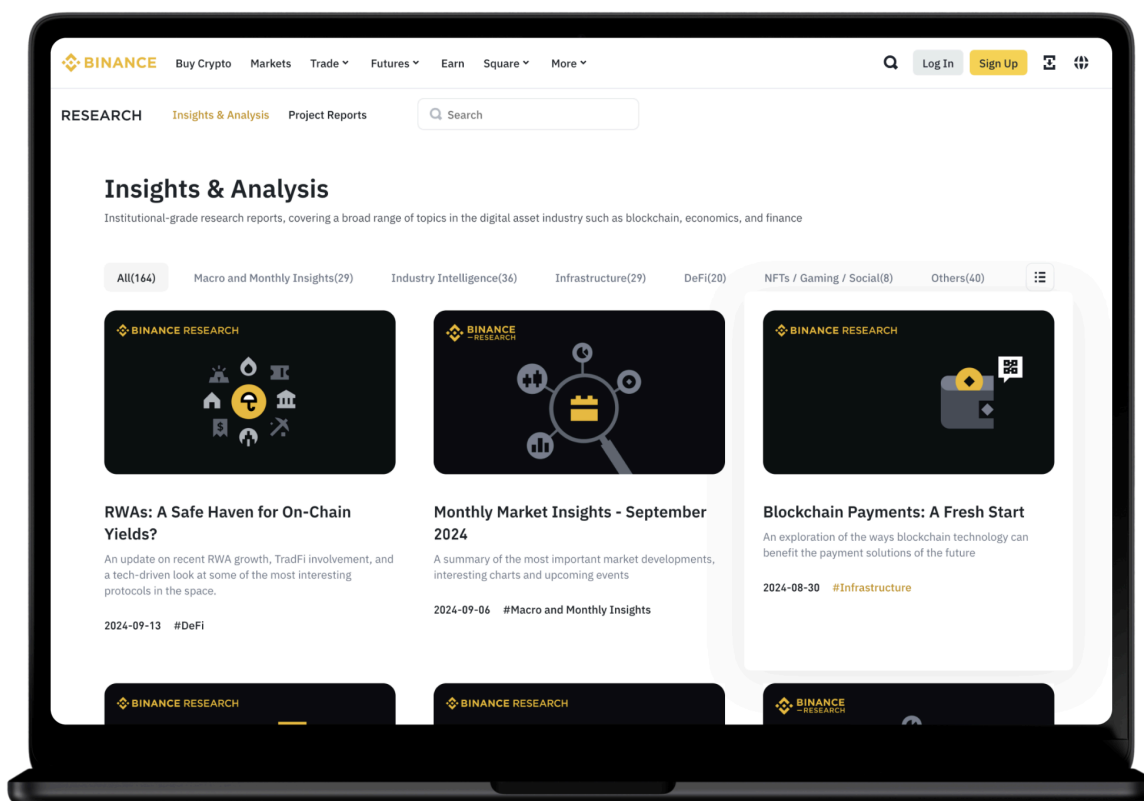


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