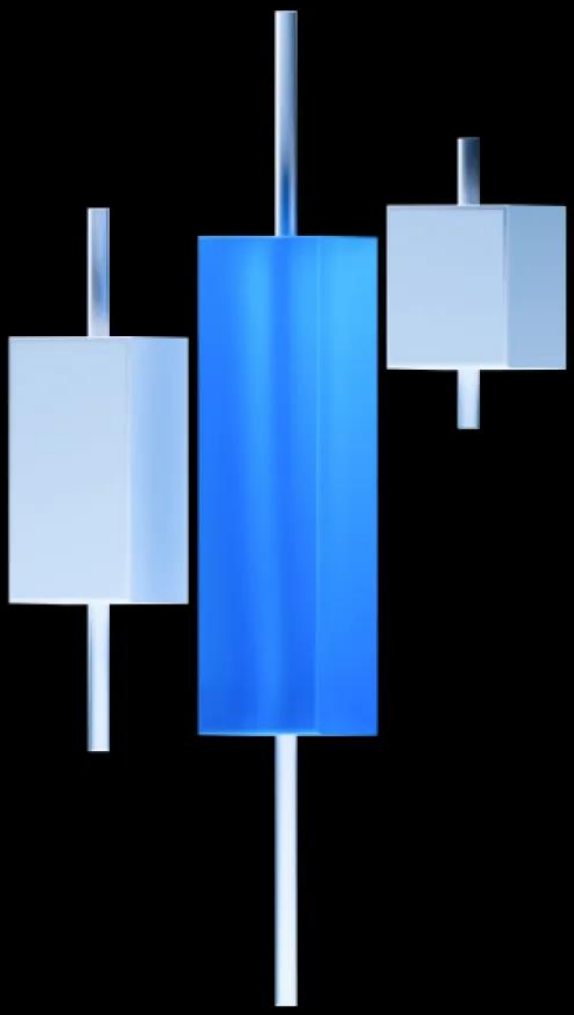
April Crypto Market Review



Gate Research: April Crypto Market Review

Abstract

- **Tariff Policy Dominates Market Sentiment**

Cryptocurrency prices were significantly impacted by U.S. government tariff policies in April. Following the introduction of new tariffs on April 2, BTC and ETH experienced sharp declines of over 10% within a short period, leading to substantial liquidations of long positions in the derivatives market and significant outflows from spot ETFs. However, as tariff policies became more moderate and the U.S. government engaged in negotiations with multiple countries, market confidence gradually recovered. By the end of April, BTC had rebounded to the $90,000 level, and the Fear & Greed Index rose from 18 to 72. Overall, April was a policy-driven month, with U.S. government decisions playing a notable role in shaping price movements across both cryptocurrency and global financial markets.

- **Robust On-Chain Activity Defies Macro Volatility**

Despite the pronounced impact of U.S. tariff policies on cryptocurrency prices, the fundamentals of major blockchain projects remained largely unaffected. Both before and after the tariff announcement, Solana and Ethereum maintained robust transaction volumes, with Solana processing over 90 million transactions and Ethereum exceeding 1 million. In the lending and staking sectors, platforms like Aave, Lido, and EigenLayer saw growth in their Total Value Locked (TVL). The decentralized exchange (DEX) landscape continued to be dominated by Uniswap and Raydium, while in the perpetual DEX space, Hyperliquid recorded $6.3 billion in trading volume, marking a 13.4% month-over-month increase.

- **Infrastructure Upgrades and Strategic Partnerships**

Performance optimization remained a key focus for public blockchains in April. Solana successfully implemented its SIMD-0207 upgrade, increasing the computational unit limit per block to 50 million, a roughly 4% improvement. Meanwhile, Soneium, a blockchain network backed by Sony, announced partnerships with AltLayer and EigenLayer, reducing its transaction finality time from 15 minutes to under 10 seconds.

- **Funding Slowdown Amid Mega-Deals**

In terms of fundraising, the total project funding in April amounted to $2.37 billion, marking a significant decrease compared to March. The largest single financing event of the month was Ripple's $1.25 billion acquisition of Hidden Road. This move not only allows Ripple to quickly fill the gaps in its institutional service offerings but also strengthens its systemic capabilities in crypto market compliance, liquidity, and settlement efficiency.

- **Security Risks Persist**

Regarding security, the Web3 industry experienced a total of 18 security incidents in April, with cumulative losses reaching $21.1 million. Among these, the DEX perpetual contract project KiloEx suffered a direct loss of $8.44 million due to a security breach. The blockchain ecosystem continues to face significant systemic risks in areas such as high-frequency trading, reliance on oracles, and protocol complexity.

- **May 2025 Market Outlook**

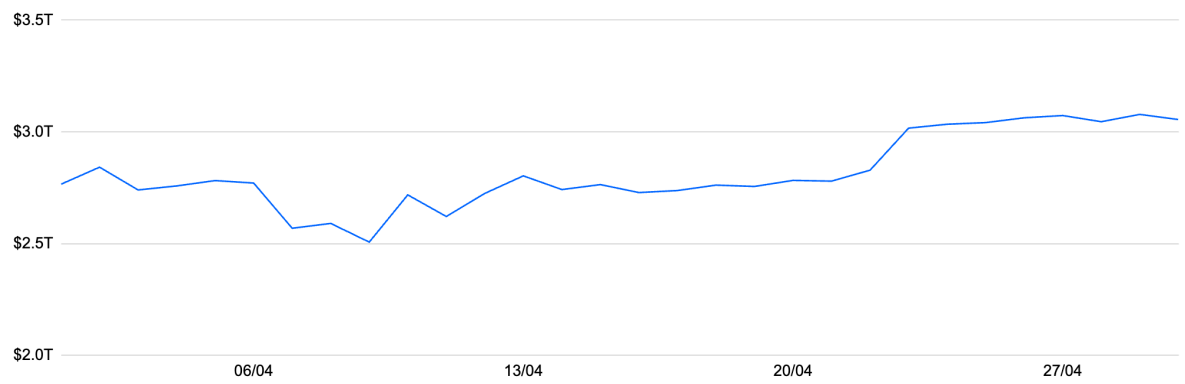
Looking ahead to the crypto industry in May, firstly, several high-market-cap token projects are set to undergo substantial token unlocks. PYTH leads with an unlocked amount of $403 million, representing 28.33% of its circulating market capitalization, which could introduce potential selling pressure to the broader market. Simultaneously, May will be a period of intensive activity for the Web3 ecosystem. The Ethereum Pectra upgrade on May 7th, the SEC cryptocurrency roundtable on May 12th, and the Accelerate 2025 summit on May 22nd are all important events for the crypto industry. These events will reflect shifts in industry trends, and investors are advised to maintain close attention.

1. Market Performance

1.1 Cryptocurrency Total Market Capitalization Trend

In April, the total market capitalization of cryptocurrencies exhibited a trend of starting low and ending high. Following the Trump administration's announcement of tariff policies on April 2, the crypto market saw a significant pullback, dropping from $2.8 trillion to $2.5 trillion. However, as tariff policies eased and countries began tariff negotiations with the U.S., the crypto market experienced a notable rebound. By the end of April, the total market capitalization of cryptocurrencies had recovered to $3 trillion.【1】

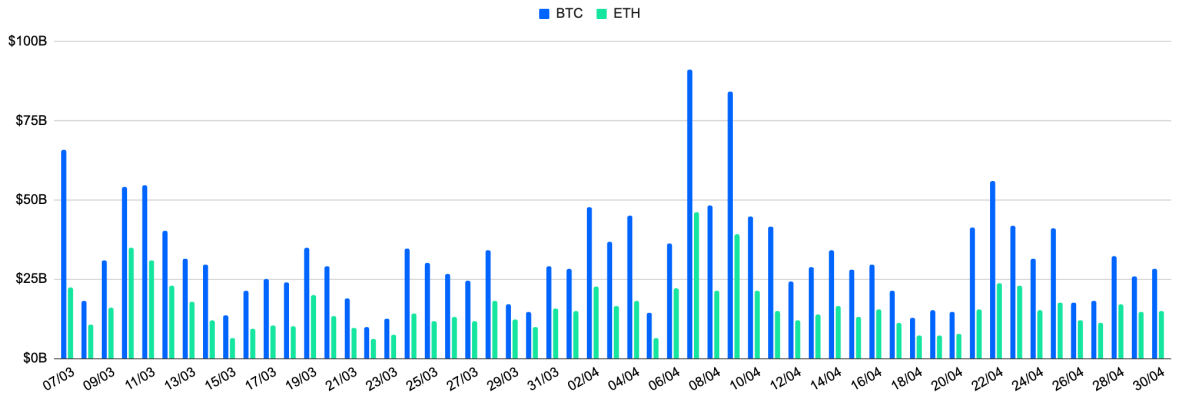
Figure 1: April Cryptocurrency Total Market Capitalization Trend



1.2 BTC and ETH daily trading trend

In April, BTC's average daily trading volume was $35.3 billion, marking a significant increase from the trading volume at the end of March. Notably, on April 8 and April 10, BTC's trading volume on both days surpassed $75 billion. For ETH, the average daily trading volume in April was $17 billion, with significant trading volume increases also observed on April 8 and April 10.【2】

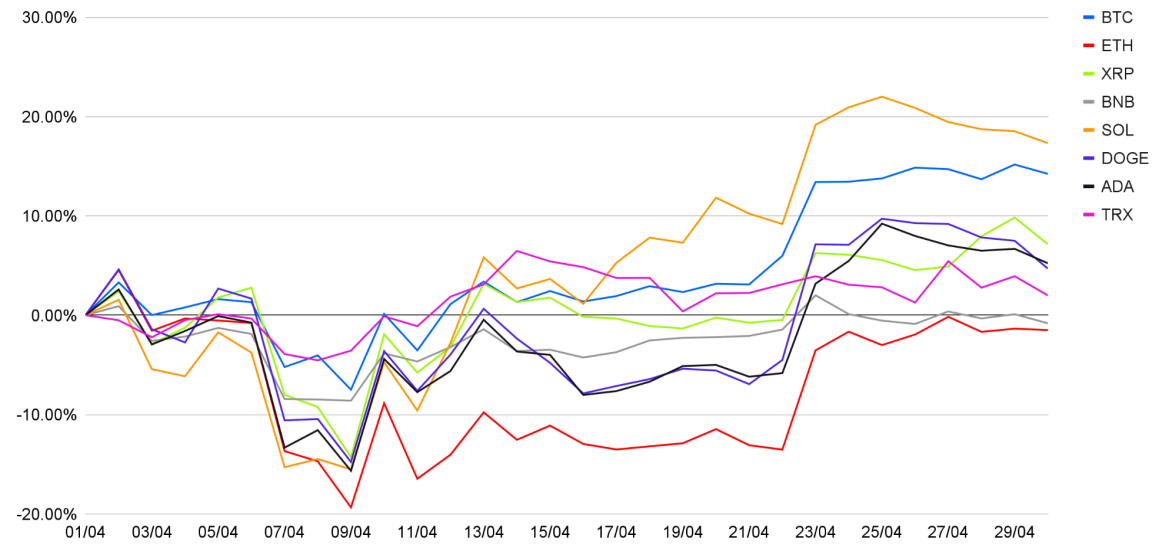
Figure 2: Daily Trading Volume of BTC and ETH



1.3 Monthly Price Changes of the Top 8 Tokens by Market Capitalization

In April 2025, the top 8 cryptocurrencies by market capitalization generally exhibited an upward trend. Among them, BTC and SOL led with gains of 14.23% and 17.32%, respectively. ETH and BNB underperformed compared to the broader market, declining by 1.49% and 0.81%, respectively. Overall, mainstream cryptocurrencies showed a clear recovery after bottoming out in early April.【3】

Figure 3: Price changes of the Top8 Tokens



1.4 Price Trend of BTC

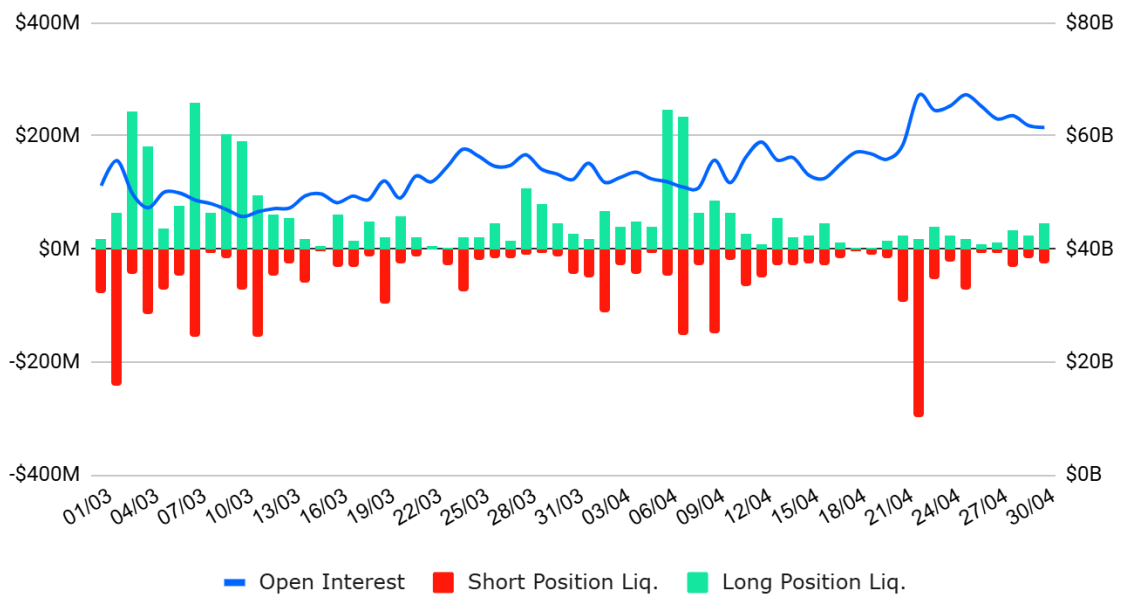
Due to the tariff policy announced by Trump in early April, BTC's price fell from $85,000 to below $75,000 during this period. However, as the tariff policy eased, BTC experienced a corrective rally. Two significant time points were April 10 and April 23. On April 10, BTC's price reclaimed the $80,000 mark, stabilizing after a week of decline. On April 23, BTC's closing price broke through $94,000, officially signaling a shift from a cold to a hot market, laying the foundation for a push toward the $100,000 mark by the end of the month. In terms of technical indicators, the MACD formed a "golden cross," and by late April, the MA12 moving average crossed above the MA26 moving average, indicating strong short- to medium-term upward momentum.【4】

Figure 4: April BTC Volume and Price Indicators Chart

1.5 BTC Contract Liquidation Amount and Open Interest

Due to the significant impact of U.S. tariff policies on global capital markets and the cryptocurrency industry in April, the liquidation amount of BTC long contracts reached a recent peak in early April. From April 6 to April 7, BTC's price rapidly fell from $83,000 to $75,000, with a cumulative liquidation of long positions amounting to $477 million over the two days. As tariff policies eased, the liquidation amount of BTC short contracts gradually increased by the end of April. From April 22 to April 23, BTC's price quickly rose from $87,000 to $94,000, with a cumulative liquidation of short positions amounting to $351 million over the two days.【5】

Figure 5: BTC Daily Long & Short Liquidation Amounts and Open Interest Trends



After the large-scale liquidation of long contracts in early April, as tariff policies eased and market confidence gradually recovered, the total open interest in contracts steadily increased, peaking at $67.3 billion on April 25. The average open interest for BTC contracts in April was $57.3 billion, up 12.65% from March.

Form 1: BTC Contract Total Liquidation Volume and Contract Open Interest

BTC April Contract Total Liquidation Volume	
Long Position Liquidations	$1.352 billion
Short Position Liquidations	$1.552 billion
Total Position Liquidations	$2.905 billion
BTC April Contract Open Interest	
Average Open Interest	$57.3 billion
Maximum Open Interest	$67.3 billion
Minimum Open Interest	$50.8 billion

1.6 Daily and Cumulative Net Inflows of BTC ETFs

The panic caused by tariff policies led to outflows in BTC ETFs at the beginning of the month, with outflows peaking at $326 million on April 8. As tariff policies gradually eased,

investor confidence steadily recovered, and BTC spot ETFs saw significant net inflows by the end of the month. On April 22 and April 23, net inflows exceeded $900 million for two consecutive days, reflecting investors' optimistic outlook on BTC's future price appreciation.

Figure 6: Trend of Daily and Cumulative Net Inflow Changes for BTC ETFs

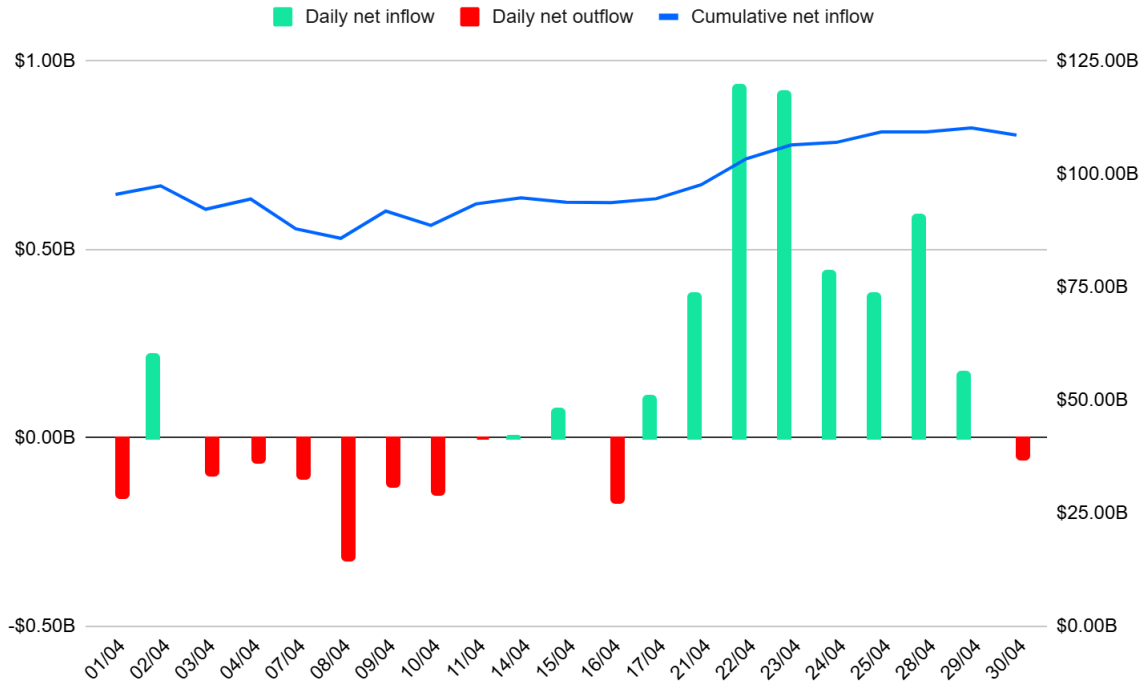
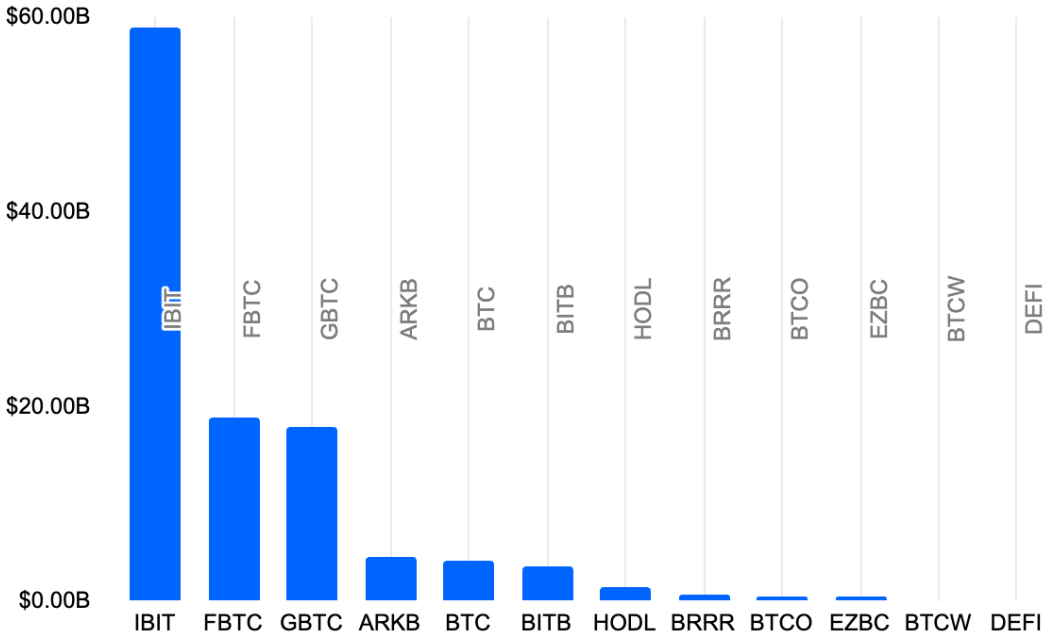


Figure 7: Assets Under Management of BTC ETF Issuers



1.7 Price Trend of ETH

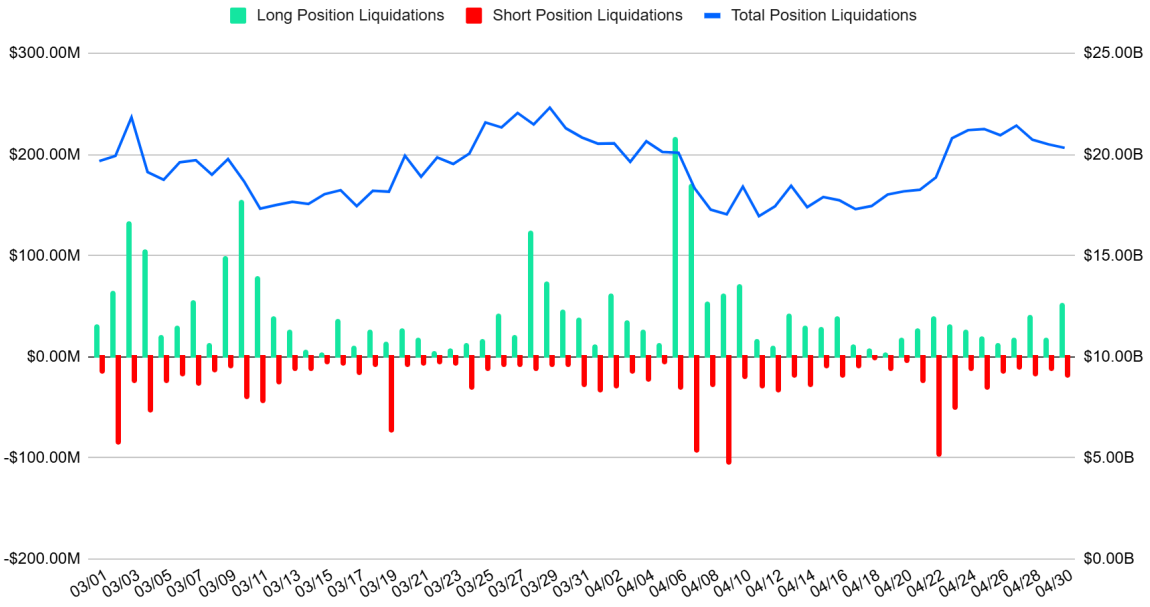
In April, ETH's price consistently consolidated below $2,000. Since the start of 2025, ETH has underperformed compared to the broader market. Affected by the U.S. government's tariff policies, ETH's price further declined from $1,900 to $1,400 in early April, a drop of over 25%. As tariff policies gradually softened, ETH's price staged a strong rebound to $1,800 on April 23. Thereafter, ETH's price formed a range between $1,700 and $1,800, without a significant breakout.

Figure 8: April ETH Volume and Price Indicators Chart

1.8 ETH Contract Liquidation Amount and Open Interest

Similar to the trend of BTC contract liquidations, influenced by tariff policies, ETH long contract liquidations reached a periodic peak in early April. From April 6 to April 7, the cumulative liquidation amount of ETH long contracts over two days reached $385 million. However, as market confidence gradually recovered by late April, the cumulative liquidation amount of ETH short contracts from April 22 to April 23 was only $56 million over two days. After the market warmed up, the volume of ETH short liquidations was significantly lower than that of BTC short liquidations, indicating that investors generally viewed $1,500 as a relative low for ETH. Consequently, fewer investors chose to open short positions at this level.【8】

Figure 9: ETH Daily Long & Short Liquidation Amounts and Open Interest Trends



In April, the average open interest for ETH contracts was $19.1 billion. After a liquidation of long positions early in the month, investor confidence in opening new long positions was low. Meanwhile, the room for shorting below $1,500 was limited, resulting in a modest rebound in total open interest. By the end of April, the total open interest reached a relative high of $21.4 billion.

Form 2: ETH Contract Total Liquidation Volume and Contract Open Interest

ETH April Contract Total Liquidation Volume	
Long Position Liquidations	$1.198 billion
Short Position Liquidations	$850 million
Total Position Liquidations	$2.049 billion
ETH April Contract Open Interest	
Average Open Interest	$19.1 billion
Maximum Open Interest	$21.4 billion
Minimum Open Interest	$16.9 billion

1.9 Daily and Cumulative Net Inflows of ETH ETFs

ETH ETFs exhibited net outflows at the beginning of the month and net inflows toward the end. On April 10, ETH spot ETFs saw a net outflow of $38 million, the highest for the month. On April 25, net inflows reached $104 million. However, compared to BTC spot ETFs, ETH spot ETFs showed lower liquidity, with zero net flows on April 7 and April 17, indicating low participation enthusiasm from traditional financial investors.

Figure 10: Trend of Daily and Cumulative Net Inflow Changes for ETH ETFs

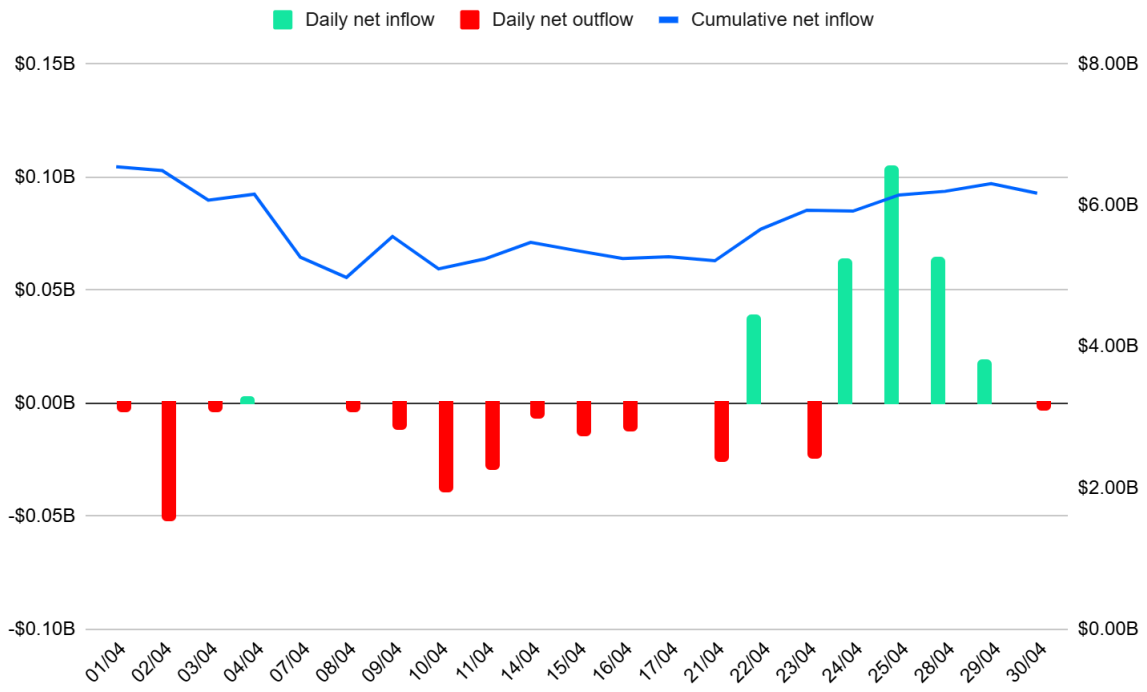
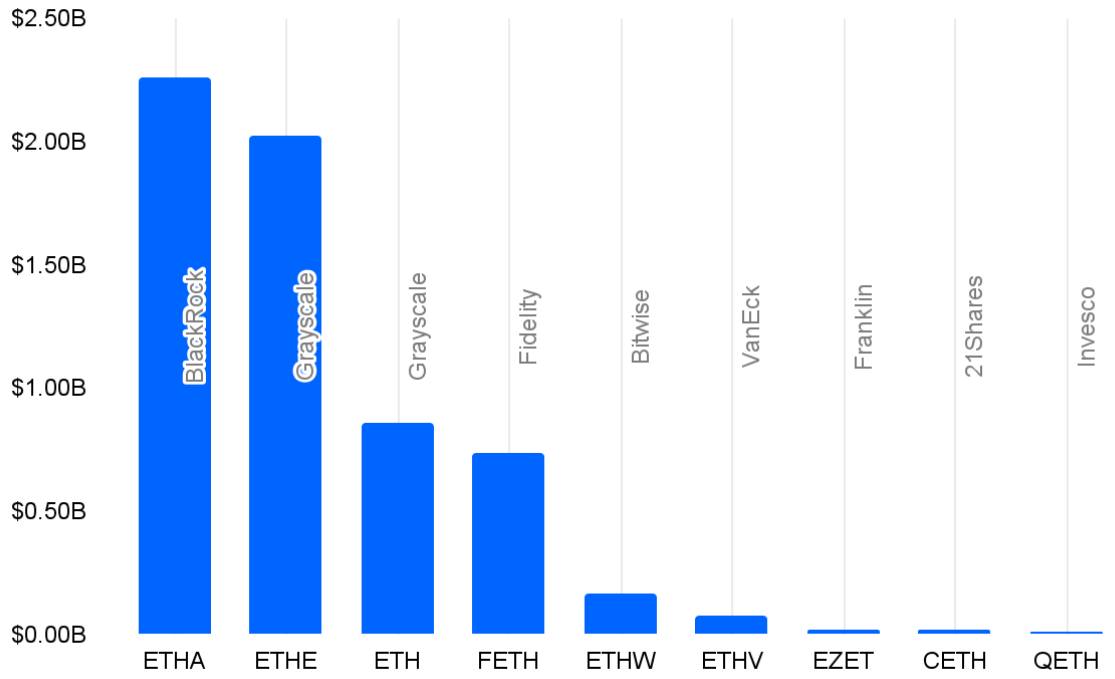


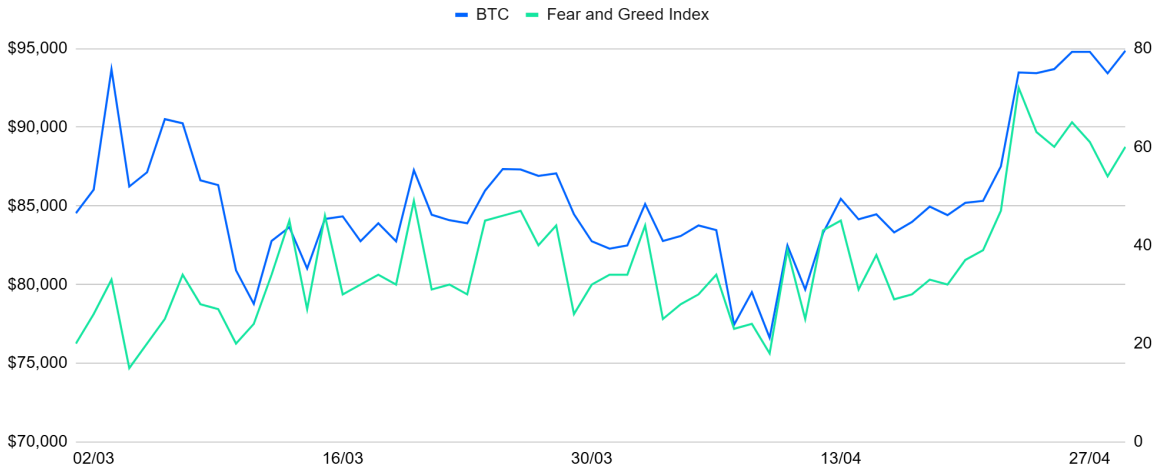
Figure 11: Assets Under Management of ETH ETF Issuers



1.10 Fear and Greed Index

In April, the Fear and Greed Index averaged 40.1, up 23% from the previous month, indicating a gradual recovery in investor confidence. During the week when the U.S. government announced tariff policies, the index dropped to 18, reflecting investor panic. However, as tariff implementation slowed and the U.S. began tariff negotiations with multiple countries, the index rebounded to 72 by the end of the month, demonstrating investor optimism toward the market.

Figure 12: Trend of Fear and Greed Index



2.On-Chain Data

2.1 Major Public Chains: Daily Transaction Volume and Gas Fee Analysis

On-chain data was minimally impacted by real-world economic data and U.S. tariff policies. On April 1, before the U.S. tariff policy announcement, Solana and Ethereum network transaction volumes were 91.44 million and 1.3 million, respectively. On April 7, when major cryptocurrencies like BTC and ETH experienced significant price drops, Solana and Ethereum network transaction volumes were 93.97 million and 1.43 million, respectively. Subsequently, daily transaction volumes on Solana and Ethereum networks remained stable above 90 million and 1 million transactions, respectively.

Solana led as the "dual champion" in total gas fees and transaction volume for April. Solana's total transaction volume reached 2.813 billion, up 8.21% from March. Base and Sui ranked second and third with total transaction volumes of 210 million and 185 million, respectively. In terms of gas fees, Solana's total gas fees for April amounted to $37.54 million, while Ethereum, in second place, recorded total gas fees of $20.88 million.【11】

Figure 13: Trend of Daily Transaction Volume Changes Across Networks

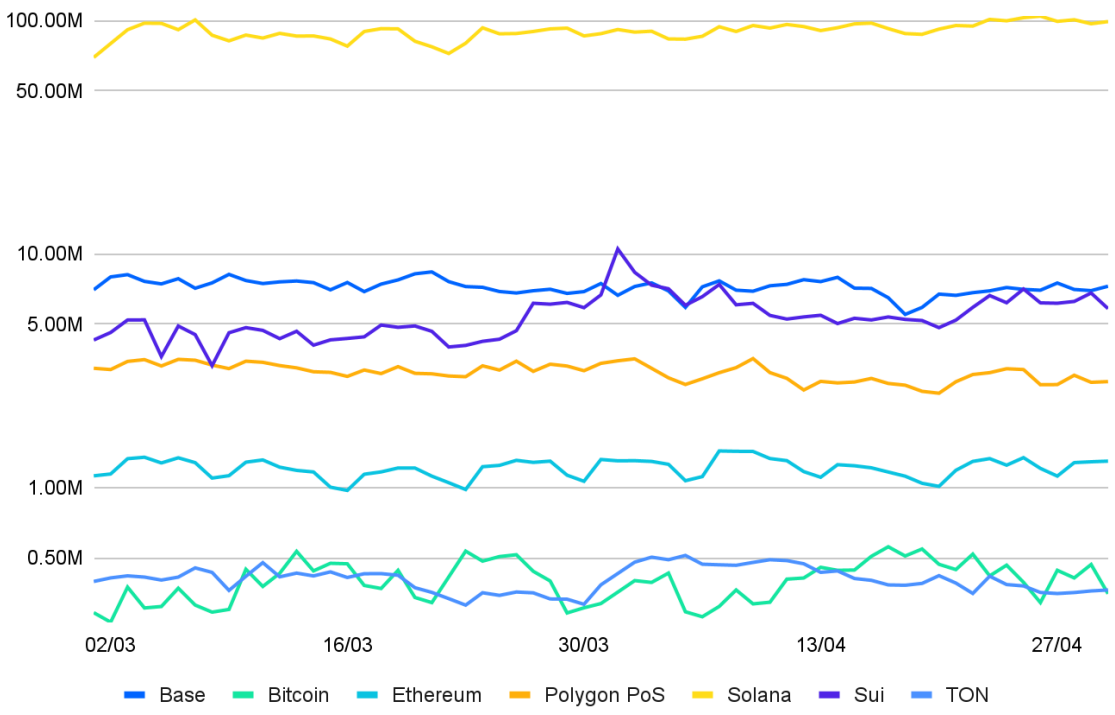
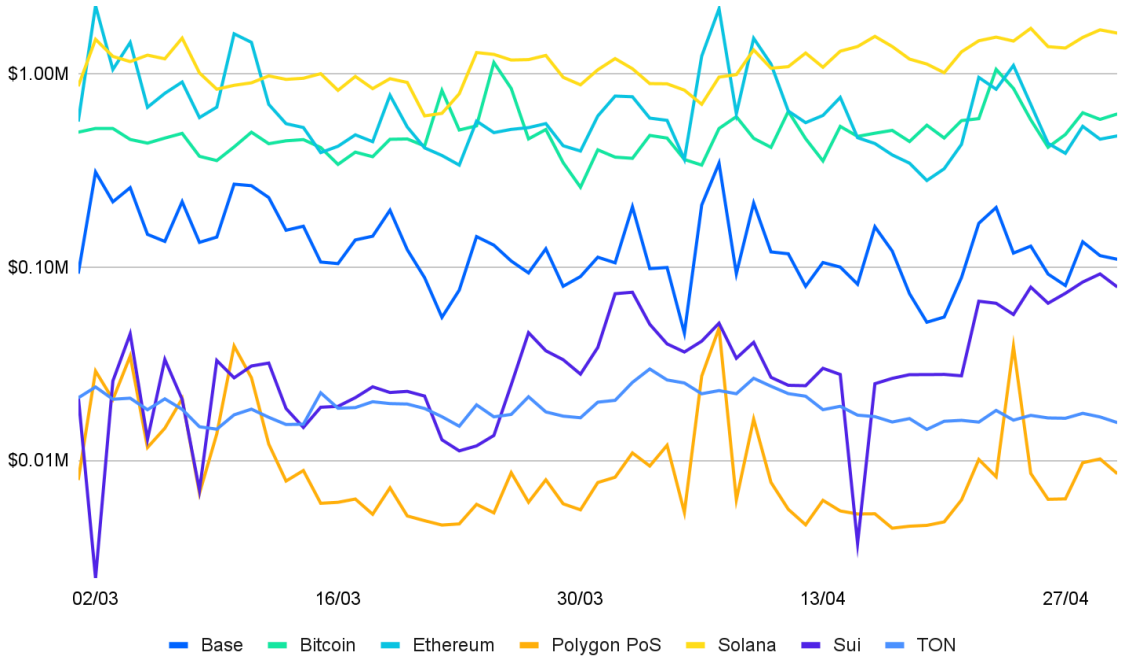


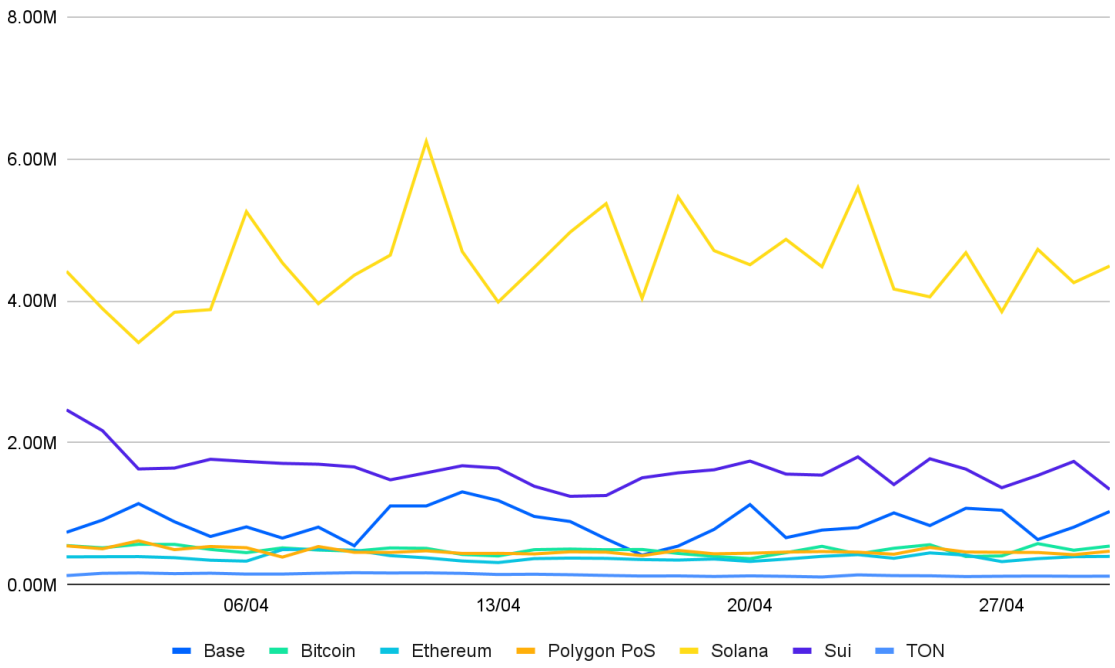
Figure 14: Trend of Daily Gas Fee changes



2.2 Major Public Chains: Active Address Overview

The number of active addresses across major chains remained generally stable. Solana led with 4.52 million active addresses. Sui recorded 1.63 million active addresses, up 16.07% from March. Notably, this marks the second consecutive month of over 15% growth in Sui's active addresses, highlighting its increasing appeal to users. Base saw the largest decline in active addresses, dropping below the 1 million mark to 19.9% lower than in March.【12】

Figure 15: Trend of Daily Active Address Changes Across Networks



Form 3: Active contract addresses number on public chains

Blockchain Network	March Active CA	April Active CA	Growth Rate
Base	1,082,900	866,512	-19.98%
Bitcoin	507,505	488,047	-3.83%
Ethereum	374,805	386,683	+3.17%
Polygon PoS	557,707	473,144	-15.16%
Solana	4,245,167	4,528,965	+6.69%
Sui	1,405,457	1,631,269	+16.07%
TON	141,012	139,730	-0.91%

2.3 Major Public Chains: Stablecoins and Capital Inflows

The total market capitalization of stablecoins reached $241.3 billion, with a net inflow of over $6.7 billion in April. The Ethereum network's stablecoin ecosystem had a total market cap of $124.4 billion, accounting for 51.6% of the total. Ethereum also recorded the highest stablecoin inflow this month, with a net inflow of $904 million. In contrast, Berachain

experienced a significant net capital outflow of $704 million, indicating a clear decline in its liquidity.【13】

Figure16: Stablecoin Market Capitalization Share of Public Chains at the End of April

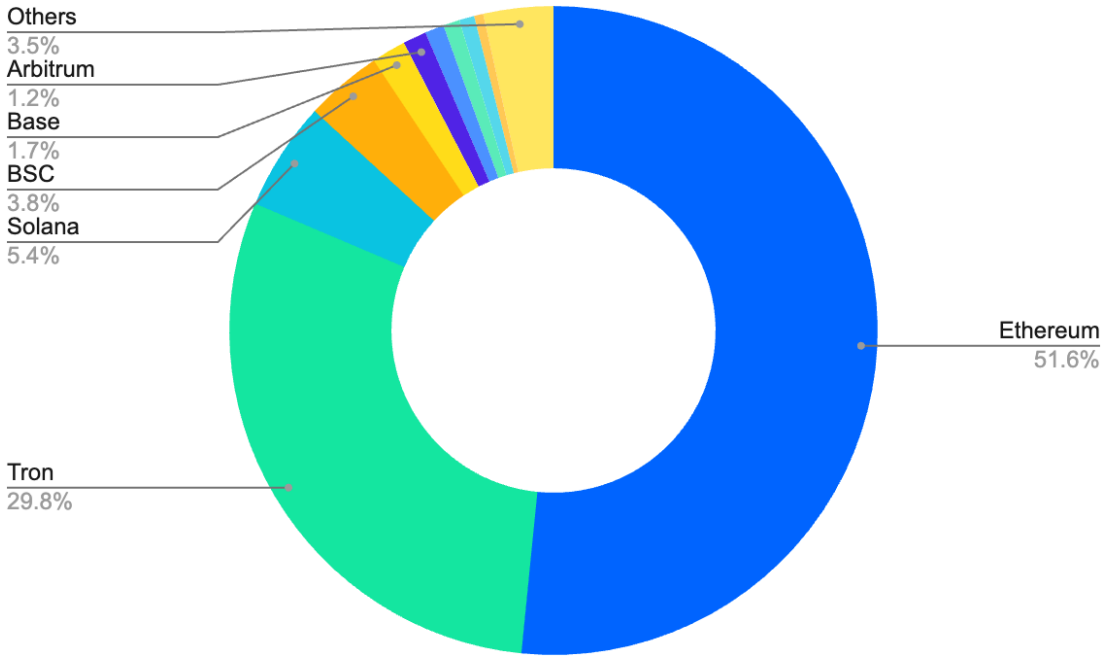
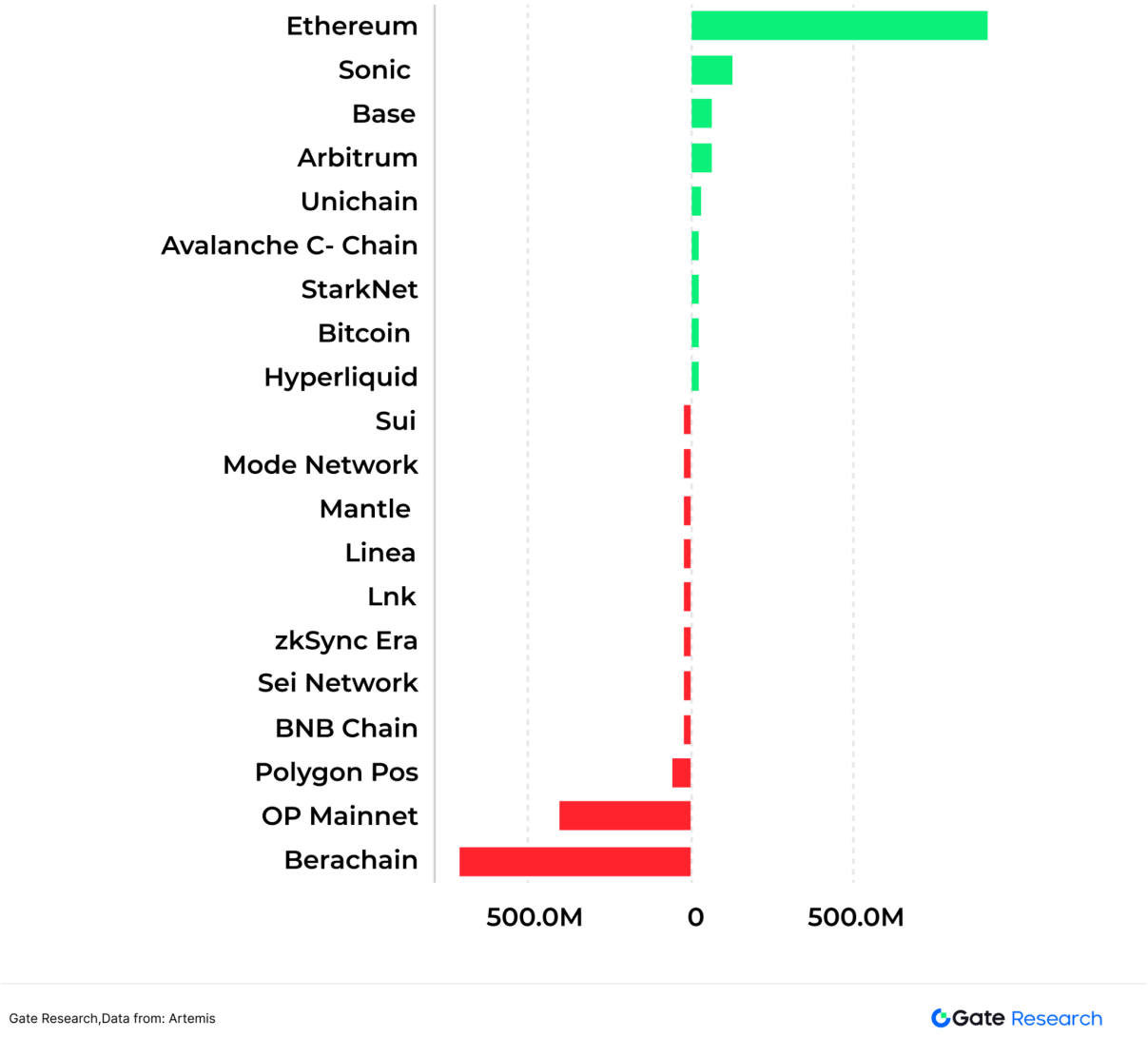


Figure 17: Net stablecoin flow on public chains



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2.4 DeFi: Top 10 Protocols by TVL and Major Public Chains

Among the top 10 DeFi protocols by Total Value Locked (TVL), Aave, Lido, and Eigenlayer continue to hold the top three positions. The Sky universal protocol Spark saw a 23.27% increase in TVL this month, making it the protocol with the highest TVL growth. Spark's newly added TVL was primarily allocated to BUIDL (in collaboration with Securitize), Superstate's USTB, and Centrifuge's JTRSY. The Sky protocol itself experienced a 22.84% decline in TVL, possibly due to a reallocation of locked value between Sky and Spark. From a public chain perspective, Ethereum's DeFi protocols accounted for 59% of the network's total TVL. Sui saw the fastest TVL growth, with its on-chain DeFi protocol TVL increasing by over 54% in April.【15】

Figure 18: Top10 Defi Protocol TVL changes

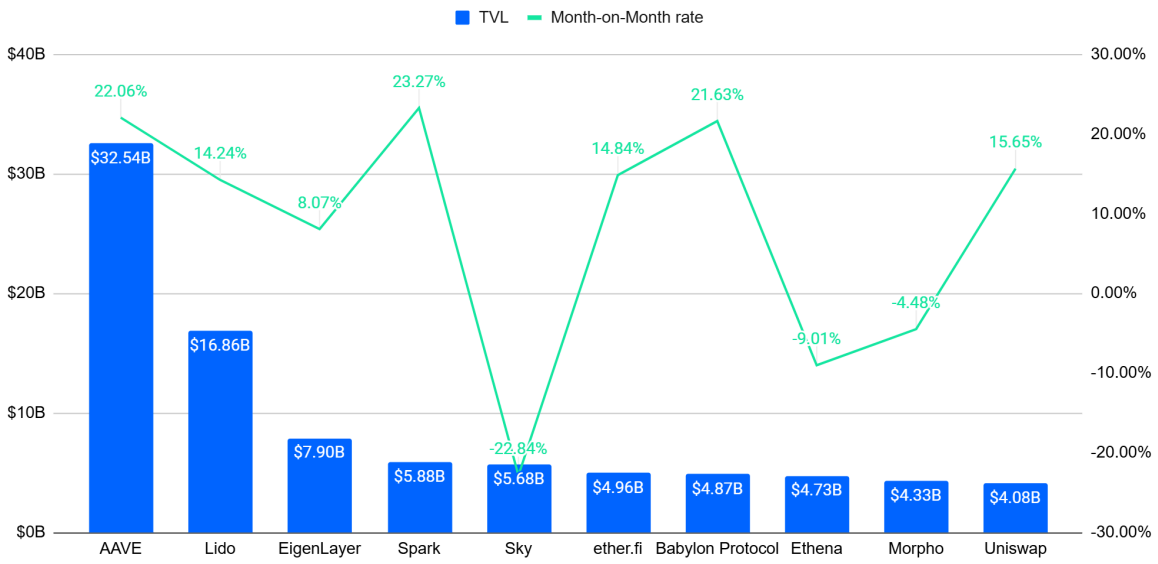
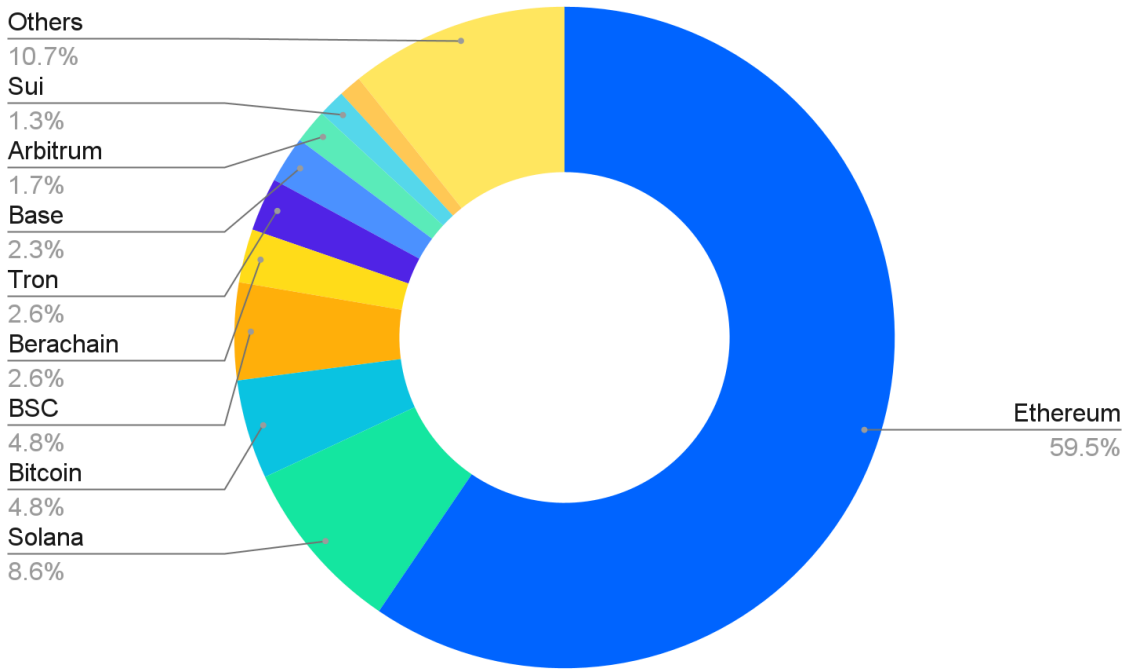


Figure 19: TVL share of DeFi protocols across public chains



2.5 DeFi: DEX and Perpetual Contract DEX Daily Trading Volume Overview

In the DEX sector, April continued to see a rivalry between Uniswap and Raydium, with both decentralized exchanges surpassing $1 billion in average daily trading volume. For perpetual contract DEXs, Hyperliquid has maintained its position as the absolute leader in the industry

since its launch, leveraging its unique advantage of being built on its own Layer 1 public chain. In April, Hyperliquid's average daily trading volume reached $6.3 billion, up 13.4% from March【15】.

Figure 20: April DEX daily transaction volume

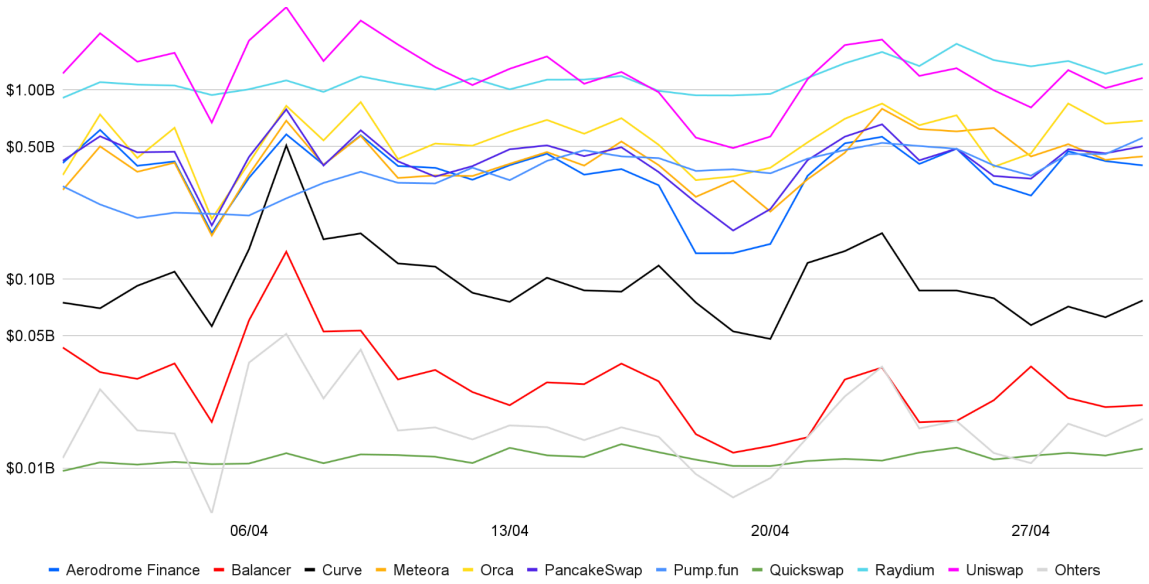
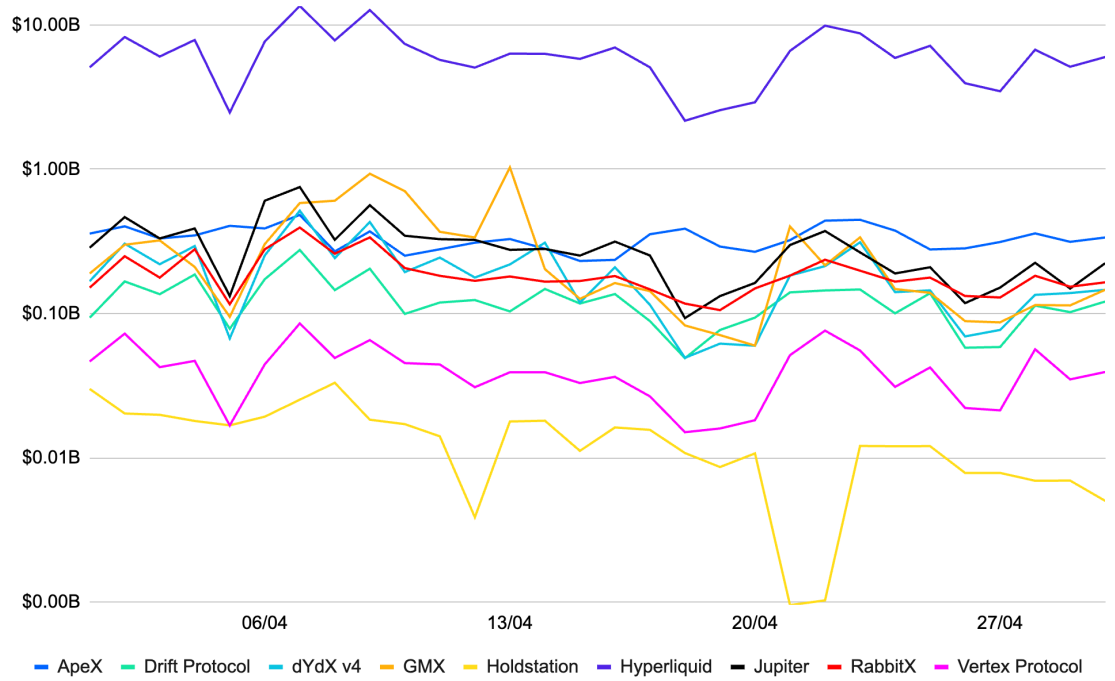


Figure 21: April Perp DEX daily transaction volume



2.6 NFT: Transaction Data and Cumulative Sales

In April, Ethereum was the most active NFT trading network, with an average daily trading volume of $4.05 million, down 21.34% from March. Solana's NFT average daily trading volume was $0.65 million, down nearly 30% from March. Looking back at NFT sales trends over the past year, a rebound occurred only in December 2024, followed by a continuous decline in sales. April's sales dropped to $370 million, the lowest since October 2024.【16】

Figure 22: NFT transaction volume on different chains

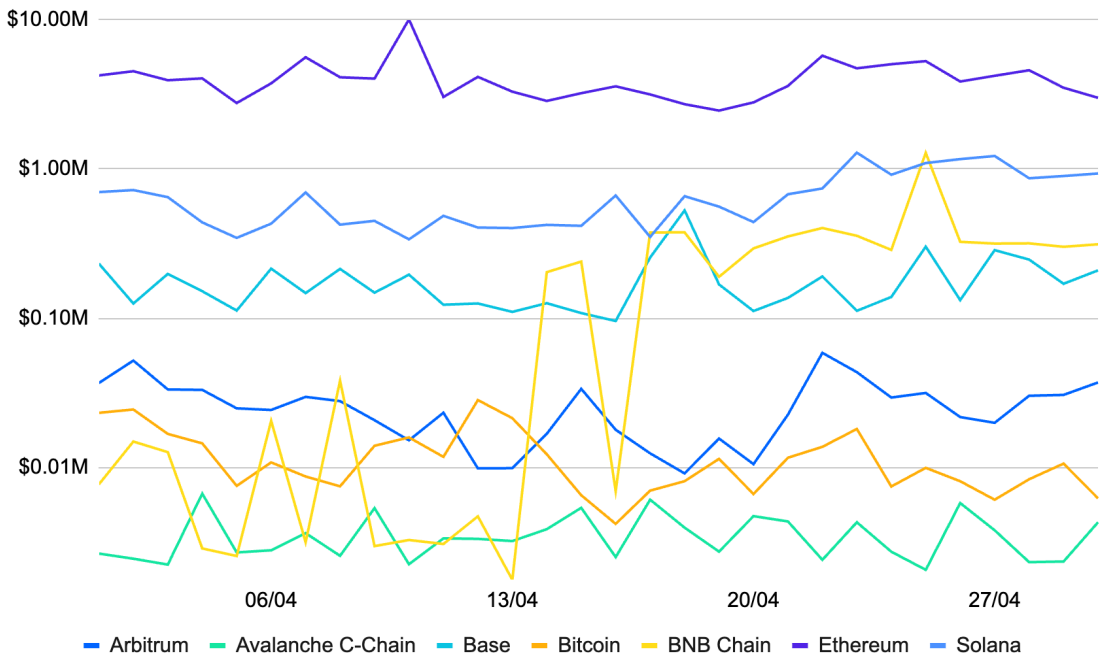
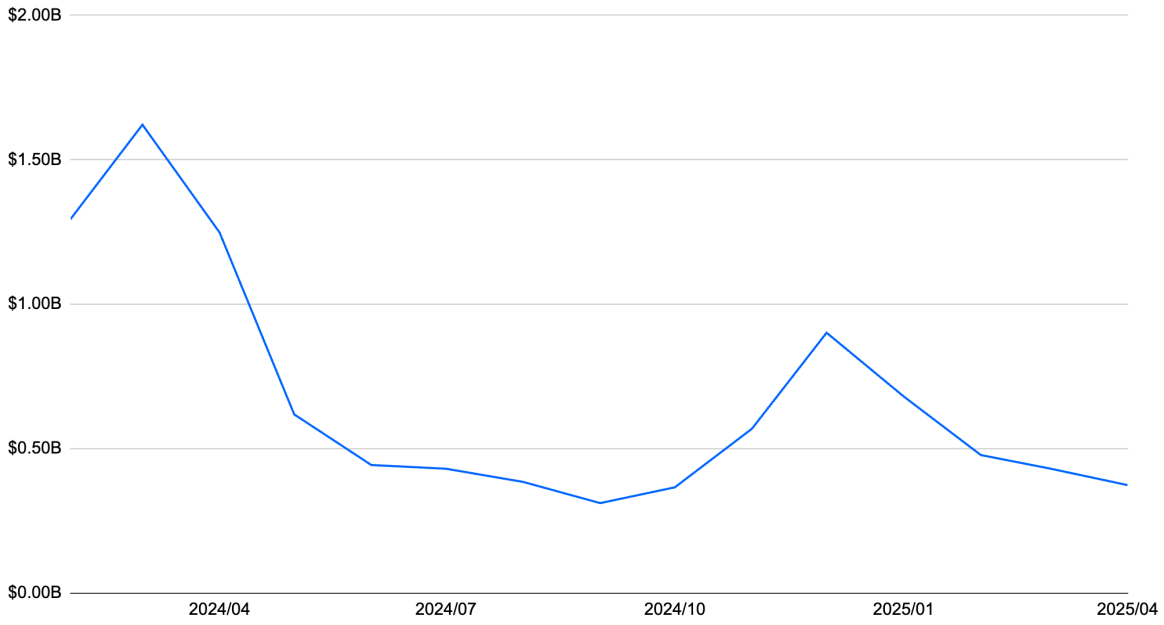


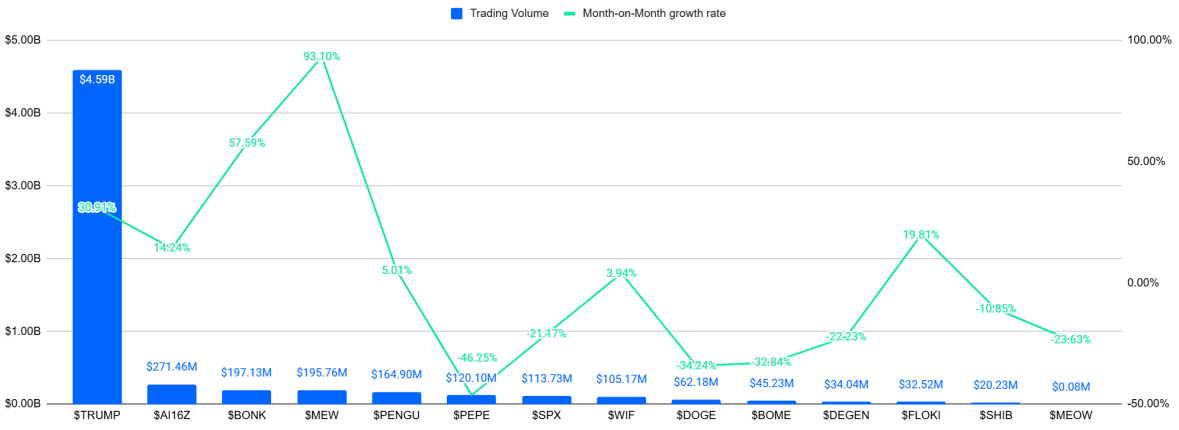
Figure 23: Overview of NFT Monthly Sales Volume from February 2024 to April 2025



2.7 Meme: On-Chain Transaction Volume Rankings for Major Tokens

In April, among mainstream Memecoins, $TRUMP led with a transaction volume of $459 million, with the overall on-chain transaction volume reaching approximately $4.5 billion, a month-on-month increase of 30.91%. Notably, $MEW performed exceptionally well, achieving a monthly transaction volume of $195 million, up 93.1% from the previous month, standing out among numerous projects. This growth reflects market interest in new themes and community engagement, indicating that capital continues to seek high-growth potential assets.【17】

Figure 24: Major Memecoins transaction volume on chain



3. Industry Updates

3.1 Solana Block Compute Limit Increase and Network Performance Upgrade

In April, the Solana network successfully implemented the SIMD-0207 proposal, increasing the compute unit limit per block to 50 million, a 4% rise. This upgrade enhances Solana's transaction throughput, enabling it to process more transactions without compromising performance. The proposal was initially put forward by Anza engineer Andrew Fitzgerald. While some community members expressed concerns that larger blocks could increase hardware requirements for validator nodes, potentially impacting decentralization, others advocated for further expanding block limits to push network performance boundaries. Solana also plans to raise the block limit to 60 million compute units through the SIMD-0256 proposal and introduce the Firedancer validator client developed by Jump Crypto, expected to significantly boost network throughput and security.

Solana is steadily advancing its scalability roadmap, reinforcing its position as a high-performance Layer 1 blockchain. Higher transaction processing capacity is likely to attract more decentralized applications and users, increasing network activity and ecosystem growth. However, as technology evolves, balancing performance improvements with decentralization and network security remains a critical goal for Solana to continuously optimize.【18】

3.2 Soneium Partners with EigenLayer to Shorten Blockchain Finality Time

Soneium, a blockchain network backed by Sony, announced a strategic partnership with AltLayer and EigenLayer to launch a "Fast Finality Layer," reducing transaction finality time from 15 minutes to under 10 seconds, achieving a confirmation speed improvement of over 98%. This breakthrough is expected to significantly enhance user experience and provide the high-performance support needed for mainstream blockchain applications, including payments, gaming, and real-time data processing.

In the blockchain domain, transaction finality time determines when a transaction is considered irrevocably valid, serving as a key metric for assessing usability and security. Previously, Soneium, built on Optimism's OP Stack architecture, was constrained by sequencer and challenge period mechanisms, requiring approximately 15 minutes for finality. By introducing a decentralized validator network based on EigenLayer and integrating AltLayer's elastic execution layer, Soneium has developed a Layer 2 infrastructure that

balances throughput and security, laying the technical foundation for future performance optimization and ecosystem expansion.【19】

3.3 Eliza Labs Launches AI Agent Launchpad Platform Auto-Fun

Eliza Labs has introduced Auto-Fun, a no-code AI agent Launchpad platform, aimed at addressing incentive imbalances and value capture issues in current AI projects through an innovative “fairer-than-fair” token economic model. The platform plans to provide sustainable funding for the ecosystem by requiring developers to pay a percentage of fees at project launch, which will be allocated to a DAO treasury. Additionally, Auto-Fun proposes introducing a staking mechanism, a reputation system, and a community review process to ensure project quality and encourage long-term participation.

This initiative serves as a remedial measure following challenges faced by Eliza Labs’ earlier token model. Previously, the AI16Z token, launched under a “fair mint” model with no initial allocation to the founding team, suffered from a lack of sustainable funding. Despite reaching a $2 billion market cap, the token’s value plummeted to $300 million this year due to the absence of effective value capture mechanisms, prompting the team to reevaluate its token economics.【20】

While the traditional “fair launch” model can initially attract community attention, it often lacks incentives for developers and long-term holders, making it difficult to sustain project development. By introducing launch fees, staking mechanisms, and a reputation system, the successful rollout of the Auto-Fun platform is expected to restore market confidence, attract new users, and foster stronger consensus within the community.

3.4 Hyperliquid Updates Mainnet Validator Mechanism: 21 Permissionless Nodes Participate

Hyperliquid has introduced a validator delegation program to enhance network security and decentralization by delegating HYPE tokens to high-performance and trusted validators. The mainnet will dynamically select the top 21 nodes by stake to form an active validator set, strengthening network security and decentralization. Applicants must meet specific criteria, including holding and locking at least 10,000 HYPE tokens for over a year, operating at least two high-uptime non-validator nodes, publicly disclosing node IPs, completing KYC/KYB verification, and not being from restricted regions.【21】

By delegating tokens to reliable and high-performing validators, Hyperliquid aims to bolster network security and promote validator diversity, thereby increasing decentralization and addressing past issues like the Jelly token loss that impacted security and trust. This mechanism also incentivizes validators committed to long-term ecosystem development and network stability, fostering a more robust and sustainable financial infrastructure ecosystem.

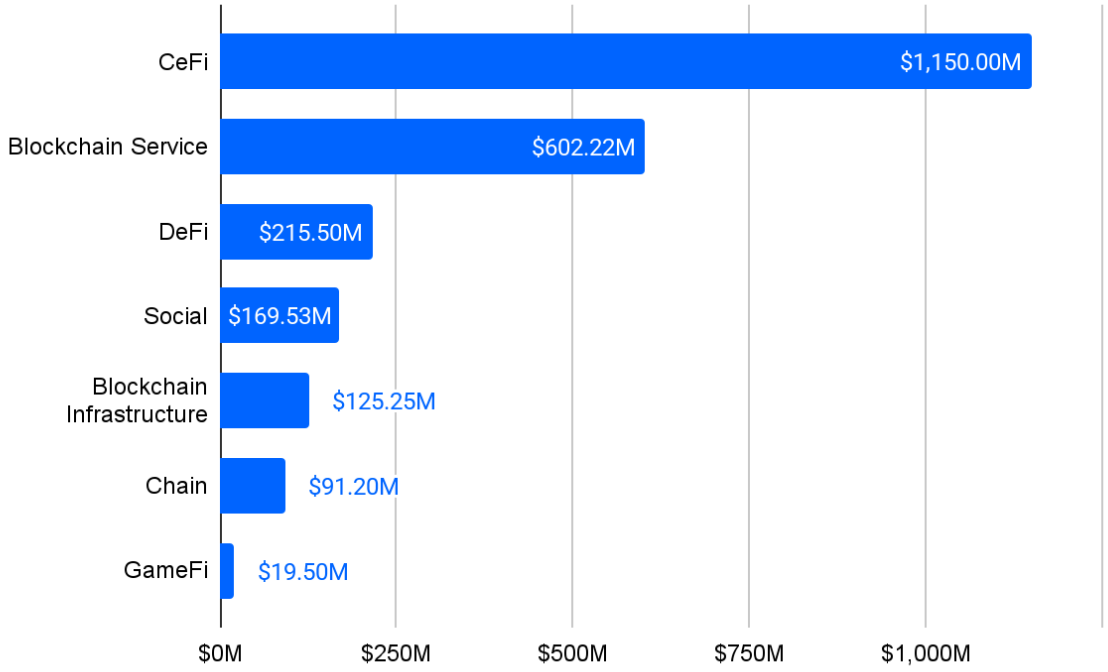
4. Financing Updates

4.1 Web3 Financing Overview

In April 2025, the Web3 sector maintained its funding momentum, though overall activity declined. According to data from CryptoRank Dashboard, a total of 94 funding deals were completed globally in the Web3 space this month, amounting to $2.37 billion. This marks a significant decrease compared to the previous month, reflecting signs of tighter capital flow amid broader macroeconomic volatility.【22】

From a sectoral perspective, CeFi (Centralized Finance) and blockchain infrastructure services emerged as the primary destinations for capital inflow, securing $1.15 billion and $602 million respectively—together accounting for over 70% of total funding. CeFi attracted significant attention from traditional financial institutions, particularly in areas such as regulatory licensing, credit networks, and asset custody. Meanwhile, blockchain infrastructure funding focused on core technology developments including infrastructure building, cross-chain interoperability, and advancements in ZK (zero-knowledge) technologies.

Figure 25：Total Web3 Funding by Sector

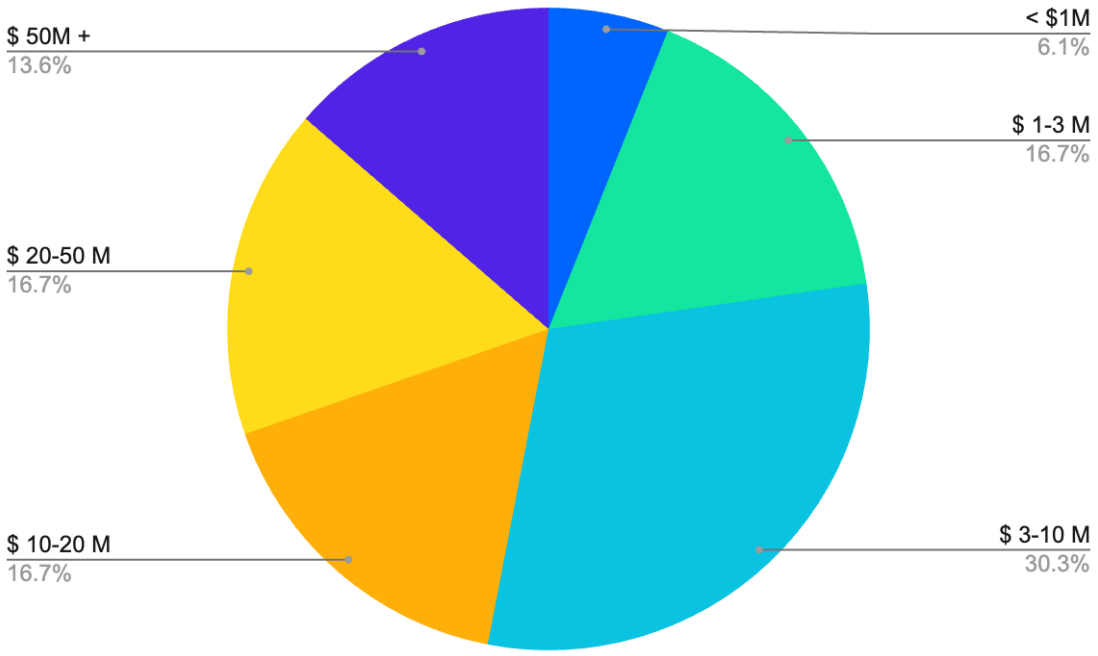


Notably, among all projects that disclosed funding amounts, over 47% secured more than $10 million in a single round—highlighting continued strong investor confidence in leading projects and platforms with well-defined business models and technological roadmaps. This trend indicates that in a more rational funding environment, capital is increasingly

concentrating in projects with clear growth trajectories and strong implementation capabilities.

At the same time, this month's funding activity exhibited structural characteristics. On one hand, the high concentration of capital in top-tier projects significantly boosted the total funding volume. On the other hand, investor behavior is shifting from a "broad-net" approach to targeted, structured bets. Compared to earlier stages where quantity-driven investments were common, nearly half of this month's deals were small to mid-sized rounds, suggesting a more cautious stance by venture capital toward early-stage projects. VCs are now placing greater emphasis on executability and product maturity, reflecting a structural shift in the primary market toward quality over quantity. This may mark the beginning of a new cycle where investors apply stricter selection criteria and focus more on long-term value and real-world applicability.

Figure 26：Web3 Project Funding Size Distribution



Data from: CryptoRank

4.2 Top 10 Funding Projects in April

In terms of single-round funding size, April's spotlight was undoubtedly on Ripple's acquisition of Hidden Road, a landmark $1.25 billion deal. This transaction not only dwarfed other funding rounds in terms of value but also sent a strong signal to the CeFi credit network space—indicating that major blockchain players are accelerating their integration with traditional financial infrastructure.

Hidden Road is a global credit network platform for institutional investors, known for its core capabilities in connecting multi-asset liquidity with advanced risk management frameworks. Through this acquisition, Ripple is not only filling a gap in its institutional service offerings but also significantly enhancing its system-level capabilities in compliance, liquidity, and settlement efficiency within the crypto market.

Other notable fundraises included SOL Strategies ($500 million) and Securitize ($400 million), both of which reflect a growing trend toward traditional asset participation, security tokenization, and increased involvement of publicly listed companies in the Web3 ecosystem.

Bitcoin mining companies such as Bitdeer ($179 million) and Auradine ($153 million) also stood out, benefitting from the cyclical tailwinds brought on by the Bitcoin halving event. These firms have become key targets for industry-focused capital.

In terms of project types, the top 10 funding projects in April spanned across CeFi, mining, payments, cross-chain protocols, and MEV—highlighting a broader trend of horizontal technological expansion and vertical scenario specialization within the evolving Web3 landscape.

Figure 27：Top 10 Funding Projects in April 2025

Project	Introduction	Funding Amount	Round	Investors	Date
Hidden Road	Global credit network for institutional investors	$ 1.25B	M&A	Ripple	2025/04/08
SOL Strategies	Public company investing in blockchain, BTC, SOL, etc.	$ 500.00M	Post-IPO Debt	ATW Partners	2025/04/23
Securitize	Digital asset securities platform	$ 400.00M	Undisclosed	Mantle	2025/04/24
Bitdeer	Digital asset mining service provider	$ 179.00M	Post-IPO Debt	Matrixport	2025/04/22
Auradine	Bitcoin mining & AI data center network solutions	$ 153.00M	Series C	StepStone Group, MARA, Qualcomm	2025/04/16
ZenMEV	Crypto platform based on MEV (Maximal Extractable Value) model	$ 140.00M	Strategic	VC VentureX	2025/04/14
Upexi	Consumer data platform	$ 100.00M	Post-IPO	GSR, Delphi Ventures, Big Brain Holdings	2025/04/21
Felix	WhatsApp-based payment chat and remittance service	$ 75.00M	Series B	QED Investors	2025/04/03
INX	Digital asset trading and investment	$ 60.00M	M&A	Republic	2025/04/03
LayerZero	Cross-chain interoperability protocol	$ 55.00M	Undisclosed	Andreessen Horowitz (a16z)	2025/04/17

Gate Research,Data from: cryptorank

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5. Security Incidents

5.1 Overview of Web3 Security Incidents

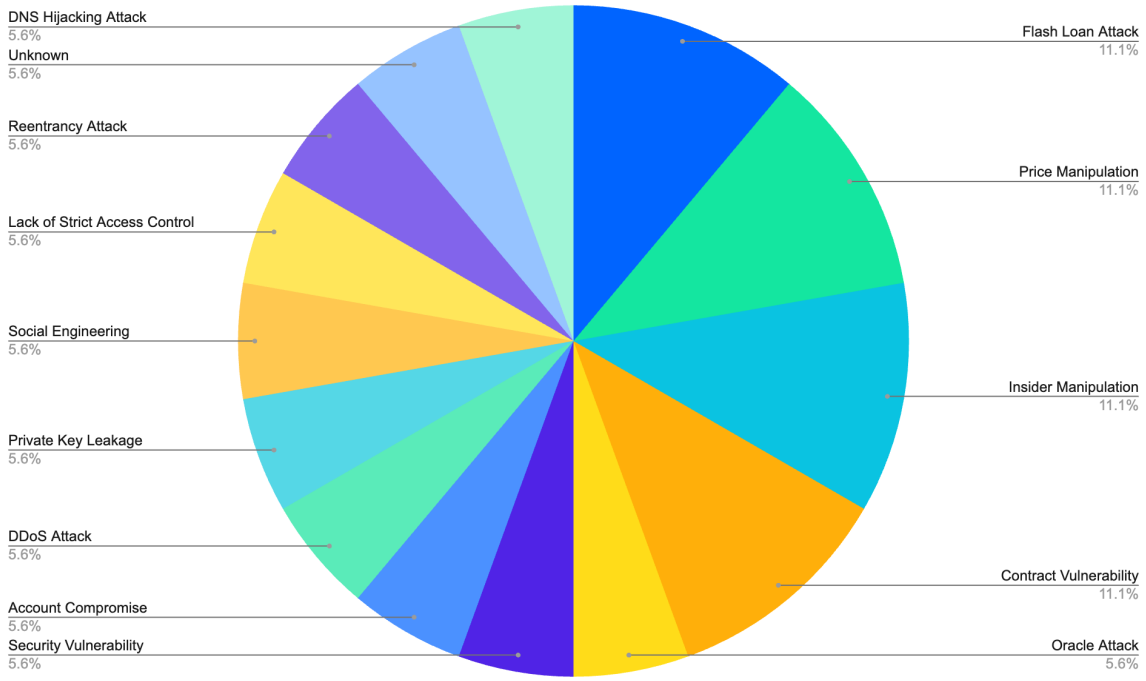
Entering the second quarter of 2025, the Web3 security landscape remains challenging. Despite ongoing improvements in industry compliance and audit standards, attackers' methods continue to evolve, with no significant decline in attack frequency. According to SlowMist data, 18 security incidents occurred in the Web3 industry in April, resulting in total losses of $21.1 million (excluding undisclosed data). This highlights persistent systemic risks in the blockchain ecosystem, particularly in high-frequency trading, oracle dependency, and protocol complexity.【23】

In terms of attack types, contract vulnerabilities (especially those related to oracle dependencies), internal privilege abuse, and flash loan attacks remained prevalent, accounting for 33.3% of incidents. These events were concentrated in DeFi protocols and cross-chain bridges, indicating that frequent iterations of new functional modules often lack

sufficient testing and auditing processes before deployment or upgrades. Additionally, some attacks involved address shuffling and cross-chain hopping, increasing tracking difficulties and exposing weaknesses in security infrastructure.

Notably, the most significant incident this month was the KiloEx attack. Due to the contract's lack of validation mechanisms for oracle price updates, attackers exploited extreme price fluctuations to create "fake liquidation" conditions, enabling fund extraction. Although the team ultimately recovered all lost funds, the incident damaged the platform's reputation and served as a warning for other high-leverage DeFi platforms. It underscores the importance of robust oracle mechanisms, price delay tolerance, and anomaly detection modules in high-frequency trading scenarios.

Figure 28：Distribution of Attack Methods in Security Incidents



5.2 Web3 Security Incident Loss Amount Rank

Based on publicly disclosed and community-tracked data, the major security incidents in April with losses exceeding $1 million include the following:

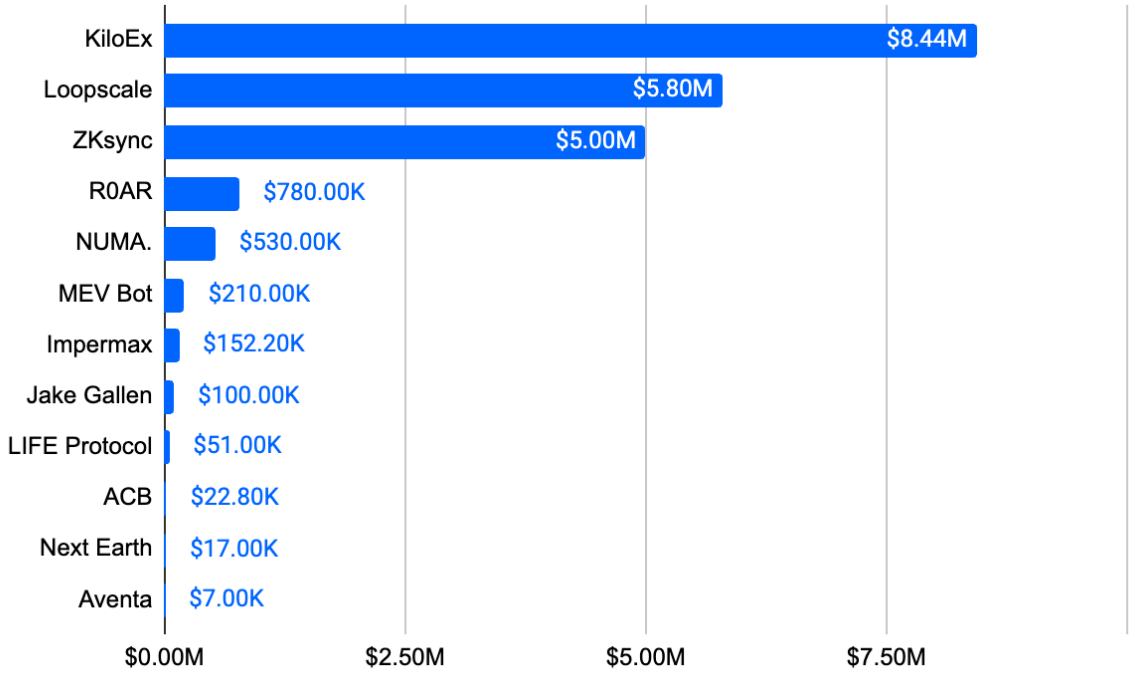
- **KiloEx ($8.44 million loss)**: A decentralized perpetual contract platform suffered an "abnormal liquidation attack" due to a lack of validation mechanisms for oracle price updates. Attackers manipulated extreme market data to simulate liquidation processes, extracting significant platform assets. All funds were later recovered through tracking efforts. The platform plans to relaunch its mainnet in early May with new risk control modules.
- **Loopscale ($5.8 million loss)**: A Solana-based lending protocol was exploited due to delays in its on-chain price oracle synchronization mechanism, allowing attackers

to borrow large amounts of assets for arbitrage before accurate price updates. The platform has since suspended lending functions and committed to enhancing multi-source oracle validation and time lock mechanisms.

- **ZkSync ($5 million involved)**: On April 15, hackers exploited a vulnerability in an airdrop contract to illicitly mint ZK and ETH tokens worth approximately $5 million. The protocol team offered a “white hat bounty” deal, allowing the hacker to retain 10% of the funds while returning 90%. The hacker accepted and returned approximately $5.7 million in tokens within 72 hours, with the actual amount exceeding the initial estimate due to market fluctuations.

Additionally, April saw several mid-scale incidents involving emerging projects, such as unaudited Meme project airdrop contracts being exploited and reentrancy attacks targeting smart contracts in certain gaming asset NFT protocols. These incidents indicate that, while major chains are advancing toward modularization and standardization, peripheral ecosystems still face significant risk vulnerabilities, underscoring the urgent need for improved security governance frameworks and education systems.

Figure 29：Web3 Security Incident Losses



6. Event Preview

6.1 Upcoming Token Unlocks

In May 2025, several high-market-cap token projects are set to undergo large-scale unlocks. These events not only mark critical moments in the operation of token economies but could also serve as catalysts for short-term market volatility.【24】

In terms of total unlock value, PYTH leads with a scheduled unlock worth $403 million, accounting for 28.33% of its circulating market cap. Given PYTH's widespread use across multiple on-chain oracle applications, the increased token supply may pose a significant source of selling pressure, making its liquidity and price stability a key risk factor within the broader oracle ecosystem.

Additionally, LAYER and TAO are set to unlock $67.83 million and $86.71 million, respectively, in mid-May. While their unlock ratios are relatively smaller, the current high market volatility means such large releases could trigger shifts in trading strategies and capital reallocation—potentially impacting price structures across secondary markets.

Figure 30：Overview of High-Value Token Unlocks in May

Project	Market Cap	Circulating Supply	Unlocked Tokens as % of Circulating Supply	Unlock Date	Unlock Value
STRK	$425.56M	3.1B	1.63%	2025/5/15	$22.33M
SEI	$1.06B	5.1B	2.25%	2025/5/15	$46.92M
LAYER	$303.25M	210M	4.64%	2025/5/16	$67.83M
SAROS	$175.83M	1.16B	2.14%	2025/5/19	$32.25M
ZKJ	$629.58M	292.86M	1.55%	2025/5/19	$33.31M
PYTH	$515.65M	3.62B	28.33%	2025/5/20	$403.05M
TAO	$3.50B	8.75M	1.03%	2025/5/21	$86.71M

Gate Research,Data from: CoinMarketCap

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6.2 Key Events and Conferences in May

May is set to be a highly active month for the Web3 ecosystem, with several key industry conferences scheduled to take place. These events will cover a broad range of cutting-edge topics, including technical standards, crypto finance, DePIN, and real-world assets (RWA).

Highlighted events include:

- **Ethereum Pectra Upgrade (May 7):**This major upgrade will implement Proto-Danksharding and account abstraction optimizations, aiming to significantly reduce transaction costs. It will lay the technical foundation for Layer 2 scalability and greater application diversity.
- **SEC Cryptocurrency Roundtable (May 12):**Focused on the topic of “Token Classification and Regulatory Pathways,” this event is expected to shape the future regulatory direction of the U.S. crypto market—especially for sectors like RWA and stablecoins. The participation of major institutions such as BlackRock and Fidelity indicates growing alignment between mainstream finance and regulatory expectations.
- **Accelerate 2025 (May 22):**Hosted by Solana, this annual ecosystem summit is anticipated to feature major announcements related to DePIN, GameFi, and high-frequency trading tools. The event may serve as a catalyst to reignite interest in the SOL ecosystem.
- **Bitcoin Las Vegas & Litecoin Summit (Late May):**These are key gatherings for the traditional PoW blockchain communities. Expected topics include mining innovations, enhanced privacy features, and the expansion of the BRC-20 standard—making them significant barometers for the post-halving cycle.

In addition, developer-oriented events such as ETHWomen and ETHGlobal Prague will also take place throughout the month, offering platforms for showcasing and incubating early-stage projects, and fostering continued evolution within the ecosystem.【25】

Figure 31：Key Events and Conferences in May

Date	Event Name	Location / Platform	Event Overview
05/07	Ethereum Mainnet Pectra Upgrade	Ethereum	The Ethereum core developers plan to implement the Pectra upgrade on the Ethereum mainnet on May 7. This upgrade follows the Cancun-Deneb update and marks another major step forward in Ethereum's evolution toward enhanced scalability, security, and user experience.
05/09	Galaxy to Be Listed on Nasdaq	Nasdaq	Galaxy is awaiting shareholder approval on May 9 for its public listing. If approved, Galaxy will be listed on Nasdaq on May 16.
05/10	TON to Disable Toncoin Bridge	TON	TON will officially disable the Toncoin Bridge on May 10, after which users will no longer be able to transfer Toncoin from the TON network to Ethereum or the BNB Smart Chain. However, previously bridged assets can still be claimed.
05/11	Canada Crypto Week	Canada	Canada Crypto Week will be held from May 11 to 17, 2025, in Toronto, Canada.
05/12	SEC Cryptocurrency Roundtable	United States	U.S. SEC Chair Paul Atkins will deliver a keynote speech on May 12 at the SEC Cryptocurrency Roundtable, focusing on tokenization. Panelists include representatives from Fidelity, Nasdaq, BlackRock, and Invesco.
05/13	ETHWomen	Canada	ETHWomen will take place on May 13, 2025, in Toronto, Canada.
05/14	New Crypto-Related ETF "NODE"	United States	VanEck plans to launch a new crypto-related ETF called "NODE" on May 14. The ETF will invest in 30 to 60 stocks tied to the digital asset economy, including crypto exchanges, Bitcoin mining companies, and data centers.
05/22	Accelerate 2025 Crypto Summit	United States	Solana will host the Accelerate 2025 Crypto Summit in New York City, USA, from May 22 to 23, aiming to highlight the resurgence of crypto in the United States.
05/27	Bitcoin Las Vegas 2025	United States	Bitcoin Las Vegas 2025 will be held from May 27 to 29 in Las Vegas, USA.
05/29	Litecoin SUMMIT 2025	United States	Litecoin SUMMIT 2025 will take place from May 29 to 30 in Las Vegas, USA.
05/30	ETHGlobal Prague	Czech Republic	ETHGlobal Prague will be held from May 30 to June 1, 2025, in Prague, Czech Republic.

Gate Research,Data from: CoinMarketCap

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