

THE SPRING UNCOILS

AUGUST–SEPTEMBER OVERVIEW · ISSUE 04 · OCTOBER 2026

- Why This Issue Covers Two Months
- The Spring Uncoils: the US Treasury Lit the Fuse
- The Senate Said “No,” Regulators Said “Plan B”
- Banks vs. Crypto: the Era Is Ending
- ETH and the Altseason Everyone Is Talking About
- + ■ Buy the Dip: No Signals





From EarnPark

At EarnPark, we believe that growing your crypto with confidence starts with understanding the market you're in. That's why we publish EarnPark Monthly — a look back at the events that moved EarnPark and the crypto market, what they mean, and what to watch next. This issue covers two months at once: August and September.



In this issue

PERSONAL OPINIONS

- 04 **Why This Issue Covers Two Months**
- 06 **The Spring Uncoils: the US Treasury Lit the Fuse**
- 10 **The Senate Said “No,” Regulators Said “Plan B”**
- 11 **Banks vs. Crypto: the Era Is Ending**
- 12 **ETH and the Altseason Everyone Is Talking About**
- 15 **Buy the Dip: No Signals**

SECTION

Personal Opinions

The market as our authors saw it in August and September — how a debt-market decision woke Bitcoin up, why bad news stopped working, and why a rule-based buyer sat on cash.



Alexandr Rodionov

Advisor at EarnPark



Valeriya Pogrebnova

Finance & Strategy Analyst, EarnPark

DISCLAIMER

This review is provided for informational and educational purposes only and does not constitute investment, financial, legal, or tax advice, nor an offer or recommendation to buy, sell, or hold any digital asset or other financial instrument.

The views and opinions expressed in the Personal Opinions section are solely those of the authors in their personal capacity. They do not represent the views, positions, or recommendations of EarnPark. EarnPark accepts no

responsibility or liability for any decisions made or actions taken based on the information contained in this review.

Cryptocurrency markets are highly volatile, and investing in digital assets involves significant risk, including the possible loss of your entire investment. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Always do your own research and consider consulting a licensed financial advisor before making any investment decisions.

PERSONAL OPINIONS

**Alexandr Rodionov**

Advisor at EarnPark

Why This Issue Covers Two Months

This review covers two months at once — August and September. That was not the original plan, but the August 23 incident seriously disrupted the calendar: plans had to change, and more urgent matters came first.

Although I am not a full-time EarnPark employee, my work has given me a certain number of contacts with the platform's users. So talking to clients came to the forefront and took up almost all of September.

Writing a review without understanding the causes of the incident would have been wrong, and a month ago the picture was not yet fully clear. Now it is clear, but that has not made things any easier. The main point here: no one made a mistake on purpose, stole anything, or intended to cause harm. The cause of the liquidation lies in an error in how altcoin positions were accounted for in margin lending: they had not previously been used in the Maker Core strategy, and so they were not accounted for the way they should have been. Before that, the work was done with heavy tokens — mainly BTC and stablecoins, as well as ETH, BNB and SOL, where there is practically no haircut. The account was liquidated while positions were being built, not because of excessive risk or leverage. I repeat: this is an important point. The incident and the measures taken afterward are described in detail in the reports: [post-mortem of the August 23 liquidation](#).

It was also important for me to hear from Binance on this matter. We often read about how many billions the largest players set aside to support users — here was a chance to see it in practice and judge the industry's behavior first-hand. Binance has formally responded to our request, and negotiations are ongoing. There are no results yet, but the dialogue continues — and that gives hope and the strength to keep going.

If EarnPark had reserves to cover users' losses, they would have been used — I have no doubt about that. But the project is developing on the founders' funds and is not yet profitable, so the platform does not have the compensation fund one would so much like to lean on. A difficult period lies ahead: rebuilding trust, new products and strategies, and launching them on-chain, where every position is visible. A separate task is to give the PARK token a clear function, so that liquidity forms around it.

At the end of this review I will ask you one question. The answer matters both to me and to the platform — what we do next, and how, depends on it. Thank you in advance for your feedback.

PERSONAL OPINIONS

What Moved Bitcoin in Aug–Sep



- ① Aug 1–5 Coldcard hardware wallets hacked
- ② Aug 10 Weekly spot BTC ETF inflows hit a 4-month high
- ③ Aug 18 Bitcoin.org domain turns 18
- ④ Aug 19 US Treasury expands long-dated bond buybacks
- ⑤ Aug 20 \$3.3B+ liquidated in 24h: 8th largest, top for shorts
- ⑥ Aug 20 US national debt tops \$40T for the first time
- ⑦ Sep 15 CLARITY Act falls short of 60 Senate votes
- ⑧ Sep 16 Fed hikes rates for the first time since July 2023
- ⑨ Sep 18 CFTC sends its crypto rules to the White House
- ⑩ Sep 20 SEC "Innovation Exemption" opens door to tokenized stocks
- ⑪ Sep 25 Bitget confirms \$387M hack

PERSONAL OPINIONS

The Spring Uncoils

By Alexandr Rodionov, Advisor at EarnPark

August and September reminded us why we love this market in the first place. Over the past two months the picture changed completely: after a dull summer range, the market delivered its most powerful impulse in a long while. The third quarter closed with impressive numbers — Bitcoin gained more than 40%, and Ethereum and the top altcoins flew even higher. And yes, the market has started talking about altseason — agree?

	CHANGE IN AUGUST	CHANGE IN SEPTEMBER	CHANGE IN Q3
BTC	24.95%	6.42%	42.64%
ETH	32.48%	8.85%	70.86%
SOL	41.43%	14.61%	60.34%
BNB	17.79%	11.26%	40.76%

Change in month-end close, USD; Q3 = September close vs June close

August in brief: the US Treasury lit the fuse

“Doze in July” lasted until August 19. For almost three weeks Bitcoin dutifully played out its boring game: a narrow corridor, minimal volumes and zero reaction to any news — including the hack of Coldcard “cold” wallets. Then the US Treasury announced it was doubling its buybacks of long-dated government bonds, and the spring the market had been compressing for two months uncoiled: the largest short liquidation on record, a return to \$80,000 within days, and BTC’s strongest monthly gain since November 2024. August’s main story did not come from crypto — it came from the US debt market.

September in brief: the Senate said “no,” the market said “Plan B”

September’s dates were set back in August: the 15th — the Senate vote on the CLARITY Act; the 16th — the Fed meeting. Both events went the worst way possible: the crypto market structure bill was blocked, and the Fed raised rates for the first time since 2023. Bitcoin reacted the way an asset should when everyone who wanted to sell has already sold: it corrected a little, thought for two days and flew to \$87,000 — its highest since spring. The month closed up 6%, total crypto market cap was back above \$3 trillion, and September’s main story was not Bitcoin, nor even the Senate, but the regulators’ “Plan B” — they decided waiting for Congress was no longer necessary.

The first half of August: still “doze”

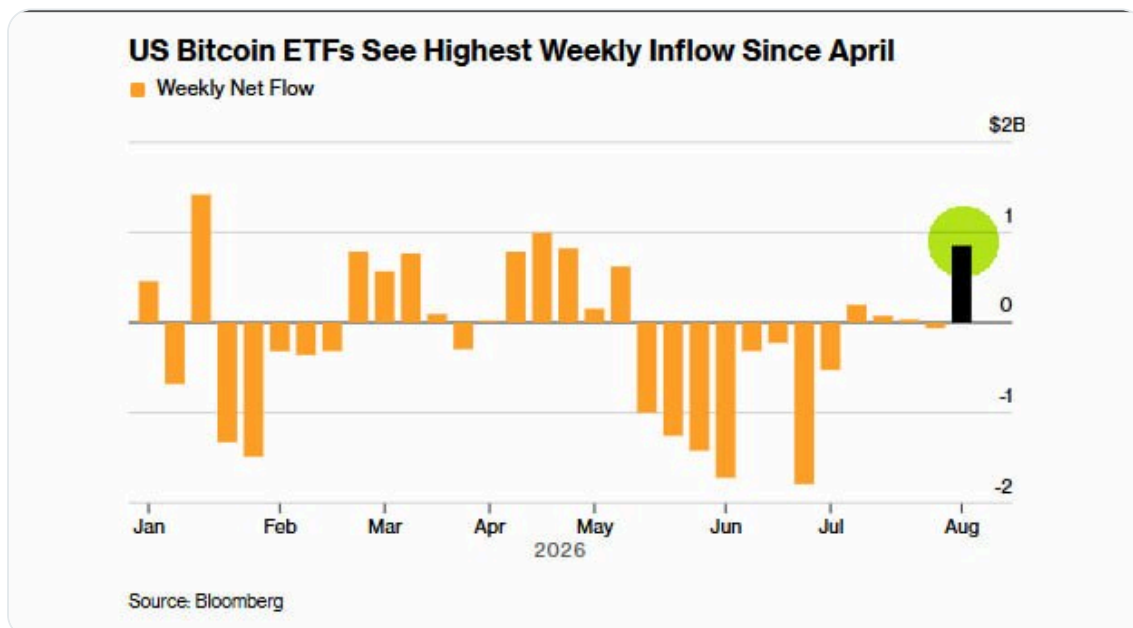
August began as a copy of July, only duller. Average daily crypto trading volume on the major exchanges kept falling: futures dropped to their lowest since December 2023, and spot to a two-year low. Volatility compressed toward historic limits: by mid-month Bitcoin had spent 67 days in the \$58,000–\$67,000 range, and the last four weeks in an ultra-narrow \$63,000–\$65,000 corridor. The exit from a consolidation like that is always swift — all that remained was to wait and see when, and in which direction.

Saylor kept tidying up the structure of his Strategy. The optimization came down to building up cash by selling BTC and MSTR shares, and using part of the proceeds to buy STRC preferred stock. In his Sunday orange-dot posts Saylor no longer wrote that it was time to buy — now Strategy simply “does business.” For a company that for three years was a synonym for the word bid, the wording spoke volumes.

The news flow in the first half of August was negative overall:

- network hashrate had been declining for more than nine months — the longest miner capitulation in history (though we know part of the miners simply moved into the AI business);
- Hashdex liquidated its spot BTC ETF — and it is not an isolated case in this bear market: more than a hundred crypto projects have shut down in 2026. Small players and early adopters are giving up, and their business is being picked up by BlackRock, Morgan Stanley and the other big boys;
- the CLARITY Act, as July promised, left for recess: it never reached a Senate vote, and the date was set for September 15. The SEC and CFTC, however, promised to propose their own rules regardless of the bill's fate.

And yet Bitcoin traded inside its channel and ignored all of it. But something was already happening under the boring surface — in the first week of August, spot BTC ETFs unexpectedly drew their largest sums in four months.



In the first week of August, inflows into spot BTC ETFs rose to a four-month high — \$853.5 million.

Weekly net flows, US spot Bitcoin ETFs, 2026. Source: Bloomberg

Coldcard: the hack the market didn't notice

The main event of the first half of the month was a vulnerability in the firmware of Coldcard hardware wallets. A key-generation bug turned “impossible to guess” seed phrases into predictable ones, and attackers simply recovered the private keys. The thefts came in waves over several days, and according to final data from Galaxy Research, 1,719 BTC were stolen from 8,092 addresses — total damage exceeded \$111 million.

The irony is that what got hacked was exactly the place the industry spent ten years telling people to move their coins to for maximum security.

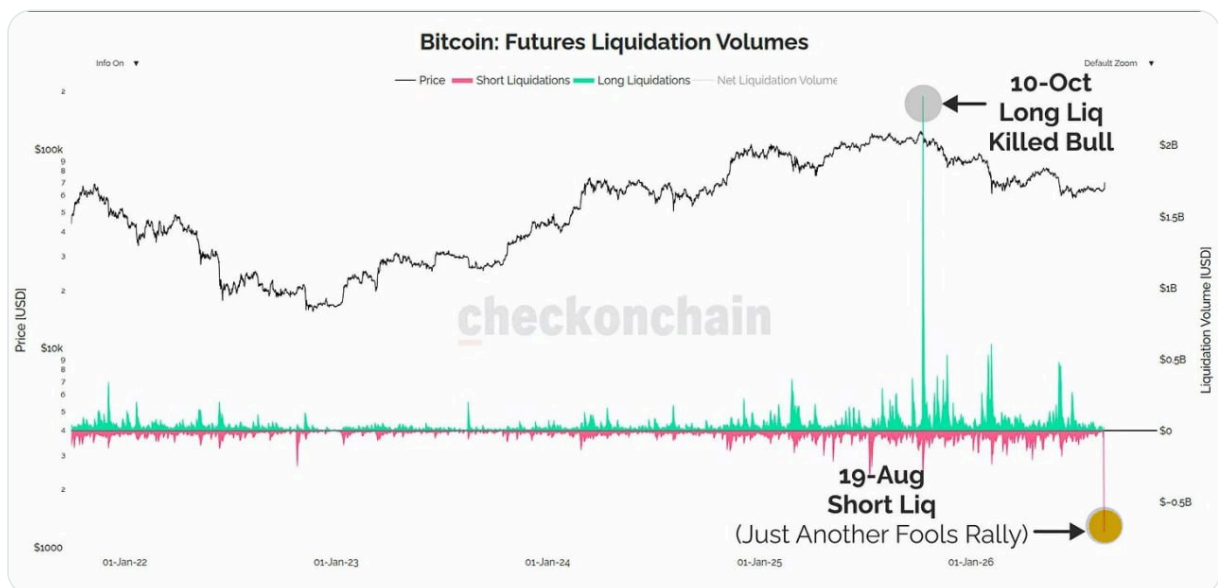
But the most interesting part was the price reaction. There wasn't one. Bitcoin's immunity to any news knew no exceptions! There was, however, a reaction from holders: the attack triggered the largest movement of BTC to new addresses since the collapse of FTX. Less than 10% of the moved volume went to exchanges — people were not panicking or selling, they were simply moving to clean wallets.

A bombshell from the US Treasury

On August 19 the US Treasury announced it would at least double the size of its buybacks of long-dated government bonds — from \$2 billion to \$4 billion per operation (the interventions began on September 9). Formally, a technical measure to support liquidity in long-dated debt. In practice, a clear signal to markets: the authorities are ready to actively buy back their own debt to keep yields in check.

If you like beautiful coincidences... in those same days Bitcoin turned exactly 18. On August 18, 2008 Satoshi registered the bitcoin.org domain, and on August 20 wrote to Adam Back for the first time. A nice coming-of-age present from the Treasury, wasn't it?

The news set off an unthinkable chain of events across the whole crypto market: a reflexive rally was followed by a short squeeze and a cascade of short liquidations which, as it later turned out, was the largest on record for BTC futures. On August 19, \$1.46 billion in positions were liquidated, \$1.29 billion of them shorts. On the 20th — \$3.31 billion, with \$3.03 billion in shorts, and that is certainly one of the largest liquidations in crypto market history.



Liquidation hunting had been the bears' favorite pastime for almost a year — and on August 19 the bulls reminded them that two can play that game.

Bitcoin futures liquidation volumes. Source: checkonchain

Notably, the Treasury's decision coincided with a meeting between top crypto industry figures and Trump at the White House (yes, under Trump such coincidences happen). After the meeting, many participants called on Congress to pass the CLARITY Act, and Trump himself managed to say that the SEC is working on bringing Hyperliquid to the US market, and that the US has discussed buying a "significant" amount of bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies (presumably for the reserve).

Within days Bitcoin was back at \$80,000. The whole crypto ecosystem did what it hadn't done in months:

- Exchange trading volumes doubled in 5 days
- Spot BTC ETFs saw inflows 9 days in a row (\$1.92 billion in a week — the best result in 10 months)
- Crypto funds took in \$3.2 billion, per BofA (the most since autumn 2025)

This is perhaps the best illustration of June's thesis: *when the whole market is waiting for a specific level, it may never come*. Instead of the \$40,000 everyone was nervously expecting for Bitcoin, we got \$80,000.

And most importantly: on August 20, for the first time in seven months, spot and futures demand for BTC synchronized and turned positive at the same time. That was exactly the combination the market had been missing for a full reversal.

The cherry on top: Strategy moved into profit on its position at an average price of \$75,385, and at the end of August it emerged that the company had bought 4,603 BTC (about \$370 million) — its first purchase in two months. Looking ahead, there were purchases in September too, which took the company's position to 848,000 BTC. The beast is back?

Late August and early September passed in anticipation of the CLARITY Act vote and the Fed meeting. Heavy profit-taking stood in the way of further gains: short-term holders sent 467,000 BTC to exchanges (CryptoQuant), and their unrealized profit hit a record \$9 billion. In normal times that

much selling would have been enough for a deep correction. But the price didn't fall — the market digested this overhang fairly easily. Against rising trading volumes, Bitcoin's resilience to selling and the rally in altcoins, the market began talking about the end of the bear market and the start of a growth cycle.

US debt anti-records: the foundation for a new cycle

August brought records not only to the crypto market. US government debt exceeded \$40 trillion for the first time in history. Servicing costs reached \$1.38 trillion annualized — 4.2% of GDP (the highest since 1997), and total debt crossed 100% of GDP for the first time since World War II. Government bond yields hit multi-year highs, and the trend swept over the bonds of almost every developed country.

The US Treasury's attempt to support the market with bond buybacks had the opposite effect: August closed near local yield highs, and in September the Treasuries sell-off turned into genuine hysteria. In a single month the 10-year yield shot up from 4.79% to 5.29%. For the debt market of the world's largest economy, a jump like that is close to a catastrophe.

Don't expect this trend to reverse any time soon. High rates are more a consequence of the risk of high inflation, which is only beginning to seep into economies because of the protracted energy crisis (by the way, Treasury Secretary Bessent blamed oil specifically for rising bond yields!). High inflation pushes central banks to raise rates, which feeds into government bond yields. Without a real solution to the root causes of the energy crisis, don't expect things to improve.

Bloomberg has already written that buybacks alone may not be enough and full-scale QE may be needed. In that case a new wave of dollar liquidity could reach crypto assets. The dollar "debasement" narrative is back, and BlackRock has already linked Bitcoin's appeal to growing government debt in one of its reviews. ***Bitcoin as a safe haven again?!***

The Senate, September 15: the CLARITY Act fails

The finale of the bill's story was worthy of a political thriller. On September 10 the Republicans published a new version of the bill, and on the 14th another one — a “last, best and final” offer to the Democrats: Trump agreed to most of the ethics demands, including an obligation to sell significant crypto holdings or place them in a trust, and the Treasury Secretary got an “emergency brake” in case of a mass flight of deposits from banks into stablecoins. A compromise found, it seemed — what could go wrong?

Then everything went wrong. The day before the vote, 18 state attorneys general came out against it, the Democrats sent yet another ethics counterproposal overnight, and by afternoon the Republicans had rejected it. The result is known: the 60 votes needed to advance the procedure were not there.

That said, just two days later seven Democratic senators said they were ready to rework the document by the end of the year, so a return to the bill is still possible.

Plan B: the regulators meant what they said

The morning after the vote, the crypto industry's chorus sang in remarkable unison.

- Brian Armstrong: “The SEC and CFTC have all the tools they need; clarity will come either way” — and three days later he went further: “We no longer need the CLARITY Act.”
- Garlinghouse, CZ, Lubin — all with one voice: the law would have been a powerful accelerator, but integration is inevitable even without it.
- Michael Saylor drew the line: “Progress will not wait for Congress.” And he went further, noting that it is even better for the industry to move under SEC, CFTC and Treasury rules than to accept additional legislative restrictions.

The regulators did not keep anyone waiting. The CFTC chair said on the very day of the vote that the CFTC was fully ready and was starting rulemaking, and Paul Atkins confirmed that the SEC would act decisively within its authority, with or without the law.

On September 17 the SEC approved the Innovation Exemption — a five-year exemption allowing tokenized stocks to trade on blockchain venues without a traditional exchange license. The conditions are simple: shareholder rights are preserved, the issuer has the right to opt out, and a specific legal entity stands behind the venue.

On September 18 the CFTC sent its own set of crypto asset rules to the White House.

“Plan B” kicked in faster and more decisively than many expected. And we have every reason to believe this is only the beginning of a wave of bullish initiatives from US regulators — this is their finest hour.

The Fed, September 16: Warsh raises rates

The market had no illusions going into the September Fed meeting. Back on August 28, Kevin Warsh, speaking at Jackson Hole for the first time, made it clear that without progress on inflation, rates could go up (and inflation is far from where it should be). The market heard him, and a September hike became the base case.

So the day after the failed Senate vote, the Fed unanimously raised rates for the first time since July 2023.

Key markers for forecasting the Fed's next move at its late-October meeting:

- 12 of 18 officials expect another hike this year;
- Warsh's main thesis: inflation remains too high for too long, and a hike is needed to keep the oil shock from spilling over into the rest of the economy.

A rally in defiance of the calendar

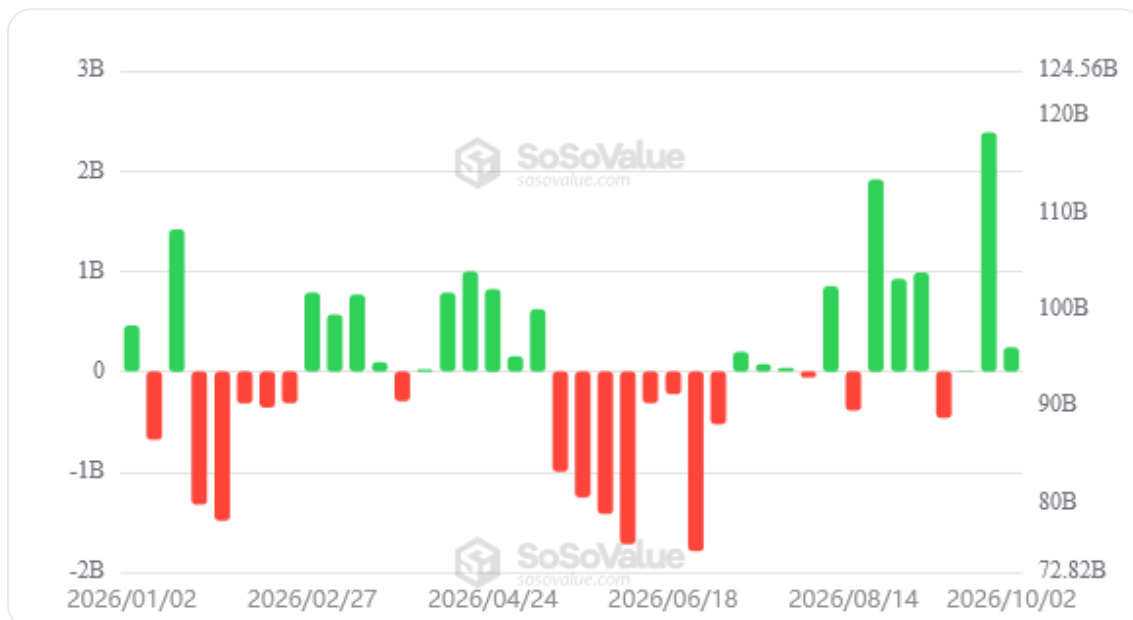
So how did Bitcoin react to the big events? With great confidence! On the night after the vote the price dipped to \$75,400, setting the month's low. After \$768 million in liquidations (this time mostly longs) and short-term holder capitulation (per CryptoQuant, 23,200 BTC were sold at a loss), the market shook out the weak hands and went on to set multi-month highs.

- **September 21:** what the market had waited 45 weeks for happened — Bitcoin closed the week above its 50-week moving average (50 WMA).

Historically, this is the main signal that the cyclical bottom is behind us.

- **September 22:** total crypto market cap was back above \$3 trillion (or “just \$3 trillion,” given that is 0.5% of global financial assets — the room for growth is enormous).
- **September 23:** Bitcoin set the month's high at \$87,158 — crossing \$87,000 for the first time since the start of the year.

Bitcoin didn't just shrug off the bill's failure in the Senate and the Fed hike — it set new local highs. That is the strongest proof that we are looking at a genuinely strong bull market.



Weekly inflows into spot BTC ETFs hit their high for the year.

Weekly net flows, US spot Bitcoin ETFs, January 2 – October 2, 2026. Source: SoSoValue

Infrastructure: the era of banks vs. crypto is ending

In two months TradFi did more than in some entire years — the scale of the transformation is simply unimaginable. Very soon the standard product

lineup of an investment bank and of a crypto exchange will be indistinguishable: round-the-clock trading in any asset (crypto, stocks, bonds or commodities), instant settlement in stablecoins, and all of it with AI agents actively involved. Just a few months ago this was hard to imagine.

Stock tokenization has finally turned from a tech experiment into a race of giants. On September 16 Circle launched the mainnet of its Arc blockchain — its validators include BlackRock, DTCC, Mastercard, ICE, Standard Chartered and Visa. Nasdaq invested \$100 million in Kraken's parent company for tokenized-stock infrastructure, the LSE plans to launch trading in them in 2027, and the NYSE is exploring an Avalanche integration and signed a memorandum on 24/7 trading of tokenized stocks and ETFs.

The SEC held a roundtable on moving the stock market onto blockchain with Robinhood, NYSE, BlackRock, Nasdaq, DTCC and Citadel. And DTCC confirmed that its tokenization service for \$114 trillion in assets launches in October. Robinhood CEO Vlad Tenev calls it “the early stage of a global tokenization supercycle that will absorb the entire financial system” — and so far the numbers are on his side.

Robinhood Chain, which we wrote about in July, earned \$42.6 million in 70 days, became the top L2 by revenue and overtook Binance in the number of tokenized-stock holders. At HOOD Summit Tenev announced 24/7 tokenized stock trading, crypto perpetual futures for the US, and direct swaps of tokens for the underlying shares with voting rights.

Wall Street and crypto are building the same thing — they're just coming at it from different sides.

Stablecoins have gone government-level.

Bloomberg reported that the US government is considering promoting dollar stablecoins abroad to support the dollar and demand for Treasuries. Bessent said it plainly: the use of dollar stablecoins will increase demand for dollar assets. Corporations are already here: Mastercard closed its acquisition of BVNK and launched a pilot of cross-border stablecoin payments, Visa now serves 160 stablecoin card programs (+200% year over year), Western Union released a stablecoin wallet and card

in 37 markets, and Tether completed the first audit in its history — by KPMG, something people had been waiting on for years.

The final chord came on September 30, when the OpenUSD (OUSD) consortium, which we wrote about back in June, officially launched. Coinbase, Mastercard, Shopify, Stripe and Visa put \$1 billion into initial liquidity and are starting to use the token in their ecosystems. Just three months from announcement to launch — for the traditional financial establishment, that is incredible speed.

ETH and the altseason everyone is finally talking about

Morgan Stanley flatly called Ethereum the core infrastructure of the future financial system, which is hard to deny by now: stablecoins live on Ether, tokenization is being built on it, and even Robinhood Chain runs on it via the Arbitrum L2 — exactly everything TradFi is so taken with right now.

The new narrative “AI agents need stablecoins” has become the official position of the world's largest asset manager. In its report BlackRock calls stablecoins the agents' main payment instrument, and Ethereum and Arc the base environment where this economy will live. Coinbase has already shown who generates most of the volume on its platform for agents: Grok accounts for 59.5% of volume, and Claude for 13.4%.

Ether has looked stronger than Bitcoin for the third month running. Starting August in historically oversold territory, it closed September at \$2,686, its highest since the start of the year. The amount of ETH staked set an all-time record, and exchange balances fell to historic lows. The buyers are the same and just as methodical: Tom Lee's BitMine bought coins every week and took its position to 6 million ETH — almost 5% of total supply! BlackRock, after a short pause, returned to aggressive buying, putting more than \$1.5 billion into Ether in just twenty days.

Altseason is no longer a secret. Amid Bitcoin's explosive growth in August, total altcoin market cap also soared within days, and in September open interest in altcoin futures exceeded BTC's for the first time since December 2024. Spot trading volumes in alts were four times Bitcoin's.

If we pick out the period's leading tokens by objective metrics, first comes ARB, which tripled in a month and a half on the explosive success of Robinhood Chain, which is breaking records on every metric. Then HYPE, which fully lives up to its name and never leaves the headlines: Coinbase built Hyperliquid perpetual futures into its app, Kraken is integrating its markets to launch perps in the US, the platform itself became the crypto industry's leader by annual revenue (\$429 million), and Binance is officially listing the HYPE token.

The quiet leader of the quarter was Solana, at +60%. In September Solana, for the first time in history, processed more trades in a week than the NYSE, and in stablecoin growth it is steadily catching up with Ethereum (incidentally, OpenUSD launched on Solana, among other chains). If tokenization and stablecoins are the main storyline of recent months, Solana firmly holds second place in it. Finally, the privacy coin ZEC became a bright bet on privacy: back in August it jumped 63% in a week and broke its 2018 peak, continuing to rise in September. The demand is understandable: the Coldcard hack, user data leaks at Trezor and Revolut, and talk of the quantum threat were reminders that a fully transparent blockchain carries its own risks. And although skeptics warn that this surge rests on narrative rather than mass adoption, in crypto the right narrative is already an asset.

Bitget: a \$387M theft and the market's Olympian calm

On the morning of September 25, the Bitget exchange officially confirmed the largest hack of the year — \$387.5 million. A grim event, yet the reaction of the ecosystem and of the market itself showed how much the industry has matured in recent years.

First, we saw textbook damage control. Bitget's own 5,500 BTC User Protection Fund fully covered the losses, rival exchanges Bybit and MEXC immediately offered operational and technical help, and stablecoin issuers Tether and Circle blocked the attackers' addresses. The only one that refused on principle to freeze anything was THORChain, which reminded everyone that a decentralized protocol is open to all without exception — just like Bitcoin itself. Once it had confirmed its systems were secure, Bitget gradually resumed withdrawals by the end of the month.

Second — and this is the main thing — Bitcoin's price held confidently around \$84,000 through those days and didn't so much as flinch. The phenomenal immunity to bad news that showed up during the Coldcard story worked flawlessly this time too.

In sum: the bottom wasn't a point — and wasn't where people looked for it

For two months in a row we wrote that the bottom is not a one-off event but a long process of assets passing from the impatient to the patient. In August that process reached its logical end — and exactly the way it usually does: not through a panicked capitulation and a break to new lows, which the whole market was waiting for, but through an exhausting sideways range. And the main spark came not from crypto but from the US debt market.

September was a tough stress test, and the market passed it under the harshest scenario. The main legislative catalyst failed in the Senate, the Fed raised rates, Treasury yields hit multi-year highs, and one of the largest exchanges was hacked for almost \$400 million. And despite all of it, Bitcoin closed the month higher than it opened, approaching January's levels.

In July we said: a market that doesn't fall on bad news is already sold out. Now we can add: a market that actively rises on bad news is already being bought.

These two months brought three key structural shifts. First, for the first time in seven months demand turned positive in sync on both spot and futures — exactly the combination the market lacked all summer. Second, regulatory clarity in the US stopped depending on Congress: the SEC and CFTC proved within days that they are ready to act on their own. Third, capital flowed en masse into altcoins and

infrastructure, and tokenization and stablecoins turned from a crypto narrative into official US government policy.

It is too early to celebrate, though. After an impulsive +42% for Bitcoin and +70% for Ether in a quarter, it is far more sensible to plan for consolidation than to believe the rally will continue at the same speed. Especially since by the end of September demand began shifting back to futures while spot lagged behind — and without spot support, any bounce is short-lived. On top of that, 12 of 18 Fed officials openly expect another hike before year-end.

But the autumn calendar looks busy too. The next Fed meeting is in late October, and the US midterm elections are ahead, where crypto and AI companies have become the largest campaign donors. The Stand With Crypto movement is gaining serious momentum again, and the “pre-election pump” people started talking about back in August is fully playing out so far. It looks like the election cycle will be the market's main driver in the coming weeks.

BOTTOM LINE

**As Michael Saylor said the morning after the CLARITY Act failed:
“Progress will not wait for Congress.”**

A QUESTION FOR YOU

Finally, I'd like to ask: do you need this review — do you read it? Should I (we) keep making it? What would you like to see in it, what should we add or change? Send your answers to alex.r@earnpark.com. Thank you in advance!

PERSONAL OPINIONS · STRATEGY

**Valeriya Pogrebnova**

Finance & Strategy Analyst, EarnPark

Buy the Dip: No Signals

Over the past two months, BtD would not have made a single purchase. Our instrument simply did not show any, unlike in June and July, when the market was shaping up differently. In June alone the algorithm recorded 6 matches of the entry conditions, and in July one more. This is not just about the price falling: in each of those cases the drop came with a spike in trading volume and a fairly high level of fear in the market. If you look at these two months through the eyes of someone who buys Bitcoin by the rules rather than by the calendar or by mood, there are no surprises: not one of these days met the formal conditions for a purchase. There was fear, but no panic — and no signals.

What exactly counts as a dip, what a buyer could have seen over the last two months — and why the answer to that question is worth more than it seems.

What kind of dip we intend to buy and accumulate

A reminder of the rule. The Buy the Dip strategy, which we have been writing about for several months now, buys Bitcoin neither all at once nor on a schedule, but only when three conditions line up at the same time:

1. the Fear & Greed Index is below the threshold (30 in a rising market, 15 in a falling one);
2. hourly turnover is at least 2.5× the average across exchanges over the three preceding hours (a sign of a spike in trading activity);
3. the price has fallen at least 4% over the last 24 hours.

Three conditions — three different signs of panic: sentiment, activity, price. No more than one purchase per day, the size depends on how deep the fear is, and there are no sales. While there is no buy

signal, the cash works in the USDT LP or USDC LP strategies, earning 5% a year.

August: a bottom without panic and without signals

For the first three weeks, Bitcoin stood still in a narrow \$63–65K corridor. Trading volumes fell to their lowest since December 2023, and volatility to its lowest in a year. This matters for the strategy: the second and third conditions — a volume spike and a sharp drop — reflect panic and require movement, and there was none. The market was not falling. It was drifting sideways, dully. A range on the outside, a market at the bottom on the inside.

The Fear & Greed Index during this time read between 25 and 29, which corresponds to fear but does not give a buy signal. And even if the index had reached the extreme values a purchase requires (below 15), there would have been no purchase, because the other two conditions remained unmet. Not once in two and a half weeks was there a turnover spike or a 4% drop within a day.

In other words, the first half of August delivered a bottom without panic and without signals. A bottom is a long process, not a point, and to find it you have to look wider. Not even the hack of Coldcard wallets could break this slow, exhausting range of early August: everyone who wanted to sell had done so earlier (read more in our previous reviews for [June](#) and [July](#)).

September: no fear and no signal

September managed to rattle some nerves and delivered what August could not: a sharp move down on bad news. The CLARITY Act failed to get the 60 votes it needed to move forward. The Senate sank the major crypto bill everyone had been waiting for.

So what happened in the market? Let's count. On the 15th, Bitcoin fell from \$78,250 to \$75,000 within a day — a recorded move down of more than 4%. There was a spike in trading volume, too. But the Fear & Greed Index on the morning of September 16 stood at 51. A very long way from the threshold of 30.

In August, the panic was not in the price. In September it was in the price, but not in the sentiment: the market fell on the news while staying greedy. Once again, not a single signal, because the three conditions were never all met.

So what's the result?

In sixty-one days, there was not a single signal. Over that time Bitcoin gained 33%. The strategy's free cash was working in LP the whole time, earning 5% APY. If you have been with us since the start of summer, you can see that the entry conditions appeared more than once.

For example, on June 5, amid another wave of selling, the algorithm recorded all three indicators lining up with Bitcoin at around \$61,341. The Fear & Greed Index dropped to 12 points, the price had fallen 4.63% over the previous 24 hours, and trading activity exceeded the baseline by 2.5×. During the

same day the conditions repeated at even lower prices — down to \$60,391.

Another telling moment came on June 25: Bitcoin was trading around \$58,849, the daily decline was 4.31%, and volumes were more than four times their usual level. In July the same combination of indicators appeared on the 28th, at a price of around \$62,850.

These are exactly the episodes the Buy the Dip strategy is supposed to find. Not every price decline becomes a reason to buy: the algorithm waits for a situation in which market movement, trading activity and participant sentiment confirm one another.

An investor following these rules could have received entry signals in June and July. In August and September no new buying points appeared — the strategy would have preferred to keep its free capital rather than try to guess the next local bottom, which does not mean the approach stayed idle all year. And if you have only just joined, you have no bitcoin yet.

The main lesson for us is not about the market but about method.

In mid-August, every sign of a bottom lined up except one — the one we use to decide whether to enter. In September, it was the Fear & Greed reading itself that gave no signal to act. The buy threshold on the Fear & Greed Index has shifted to 30 — yes, we also believe the market has moved into a growth phase, and in that case fear takes on quite different values. This does not mean the rule doesn't work. It means the rule catches it earlier — when everyone is scared all at once, and that shows up in sentiment, in turnover and in price simultaneously. Such days are rare, and in a rising market there may be none for months. The strategy knows this: the threshold moves with the market phase, and the free cash does not sit idle.

A bottom can come without panic in the price — like August. And panic can be in the price without panic in the sentiment — like September. The three-condition rule deliberately skips both kinds of exception and waits for the third: when everyone is scared all at once. This year there were such moments — from January to July, except April. Do the math on the results of those purchases yourself and draw your own conclusions about whether Buy the Dip is viable. In early February, when the Fear & Greed Index sank to 9–17 points, the algorithm found buying conditions amid a sharp drop in Bitcoin. On February 5 a signal was recorded at around \$67,327, and on February 6 at around \$61,230, when the daily drop reached 16.24%.

The market returned to such episodes later as well — in June and July. For Buy the Dip, this is not an attempt to catch the absolute bottom, but a chance to buy at moments when several independent market indicators point to pronounced stress at the same time.

August and September showed the flip side of this approach: when there is no confirmation, the

strategy is in no hurry to buy.

And that, perhaps, is its main difference from ordinary averaging: the decision is driven by the state of the market, not by the calendar.

What's next

The market wants rules. We will provide them. We are gradually approaching a full description and presentation of the Buy the Dip strategy. Once all the tests and checks are passed, and the strategy performs in line with our expectations and has been signed off by the whole team, we will release the product to the public. Soon the whole puzzle will come together!

For the Buy the Dip strategy, the main question for October is simple: will fear return? At the start of October the index stands at 74; the threshold in a rising market is 30, so a purchase is a long way off. If a dip comes, it will most likely come unexpectedly — and then we will see whether market sentiment gets scared along with the price.

Sources: Alternative.me — Fear & Greed Index; EarnPark Monthly, June 2026 and July 2026 issues (static.earnpark.com/guides).

This material is for information only and is not investment advice, an offer, or a recommendation to buy or sell any asset. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Strategy figures are based on a backtest and are not a promise of returns. Third-party forecasts are attributed to their sources and reflect their views, not EarnPark's position. Digital assets carry the risk of total loss.



Earn 
more

with
US EarnPark 

[Explore EarnPark](#)

[X \(Twitter\)](#)

[YouTube](#)

[Discord](#)

[Telegram](#)

[LinkedIn](#)