



crypto.com

# Alpha Navigator

*Quest for Alpha*

10 May 2022

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# Macro

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# Asset Class Performance

- Commodities was the best performing asset class (mainly driven by oil) during the 1-month period, rising +5.56% amid inflation concerns, monetary tightening, and a volatile geopolitical environment. **BTC** and **ETH** dropped -18.67% and -17.19%, respectively. Fixed Income was down due to rising yields. Equities corrected across the board.

		Price Performance (%)				
		YTD	1-month	3-month	6-month	12-month
Crypto	BTC	-16.49	-18.67	2.26	-38.03	-27.97
	ETH	-23.37	-17.19	8.21	-36.29	2.10
Equity	S&P 500	-13.26	-10.74	-6.78	-10.29	-1.92
	NASDAQ 100	-21.26	-15.61	-10.96	-18.87	-7.93
	MSCI All Country World	-13.28	-10.05	-7.28	-12.90	-8.38
	MSCI Emerging Markets	-13.24	-7.81	-10.38	-16.77	-22.88
Real Assets	Gold	3.48	-1.24	5.87	6.16	6.43
	S&P REIT Index	-8.56	-6.46	-0.47	-2.10	10.15
	Invesco DB Commodity Index	32.48	5.56	23.23	28.95	52.44
Fixed Income	U.S. Treasury Bond 20+ Year	-19.39	-8.64	-16.54	-19.12	-13.64
	U.S. Core Aggregate Bond	-9.83	-3.73	-8.00	-10.27	-10.06
	International Aggregate Bond	-6.60	-1.94	-5.62	-7.18	-7.05

As of 30 Apr 2022 Sources: CoinGecko, TradingView, Crypto.com Research



# Asset Class Correlations

- **BTC** remains highly correlated to equities, particularly the Nasdaq at 0.93 over a 1-month period. Correlations with real assets are generally insignificant, while 1-month correlation with fixed income is high.

BTC price correlation vs.:		1-month	3-month	6-month	12-month
<b>Crypto</b>	ETH	0.98	0.87	0.94	0.90
<b>Equity</b>	S&P 500	0.87	0.64	0.64	0.49
	NASDAQ 100	0.93	0.63	0.75	0.52
	MSCI All Country World	0.88	0.55	0.74	0.51
	MSCI Emerging Markets	0.86	0.23	0.65	0.04
<b>Real Assets</b>	Gold	0.07	0.06	-0.44	-0.28
	S&P REIT Index	0.40	0.29	0.29	0.24
	Invesco DB Commodity Index	-0.65	0.07	-0.54	-0.06
<b>Fixed Income</b>	U.S. Treasury Bond 20+ Year	0.92	-0.04	0.58	0.25
	U.S. Core Aggregate Bond	0.90	-0.07	0.61	0.17
	International Aggregate Bond	0.90	-0.13	0.66	0.21

As of 30 Apr 2022 Sources: CoinGecko, TradingView, Crypto.com Research



## Asset Class Correlations (cont.)

- **ETH** shows highest correlation to NASDAQ 100 over a 1-month period at 0.95. Correlation with gold is generally negative, and correlations with fixed income are mixed depending on the time period.

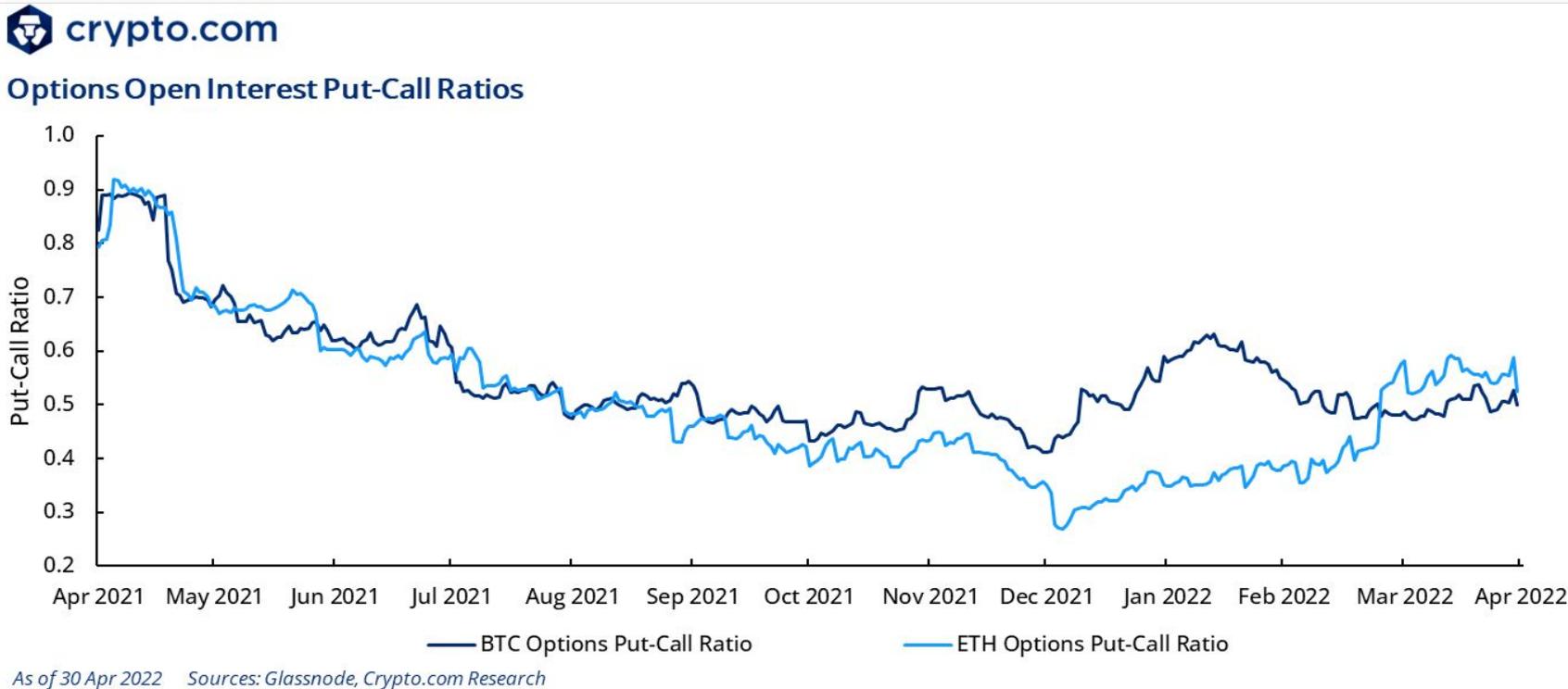
ETH price correlation vs.:		1-month	3-month	6-month	12-month
<b>Crypto</b>	BTC	0.98	0.87	0.94	0.90
<b>Equity</b>	S&P 500	0.90	0.69	0.76	0.65
	NASDAQ 100	0.95	0.61	0.85	0.62
	MSCI All Country World	0.92	0.58	0.81	0.54
	MSCI Emerging Markets	0.91	0.16	0.66	-0.10
<b>Real Assets</b>	Gold	0.18	-0.01	-0.57	-0.21
	S&P REIT Index	0.43	0.60	0.47	0.44
	Invesco DB Commodity Index	-0.60	0.22	-0.64	0.02
<b>Fixed Income</b>	U.S. Treasury Bond 20+ Year	0.87	-0.36	0.64	0.22
	U.S. Core Aggregate Bond	0.87	-0.37	0.66	0.08
	International Aggregate Bond	0.89	-0.41	0.72	0.13

As of 30 Apr 2022 Sources: CoinGecko, TradingView, Crypto.com Research



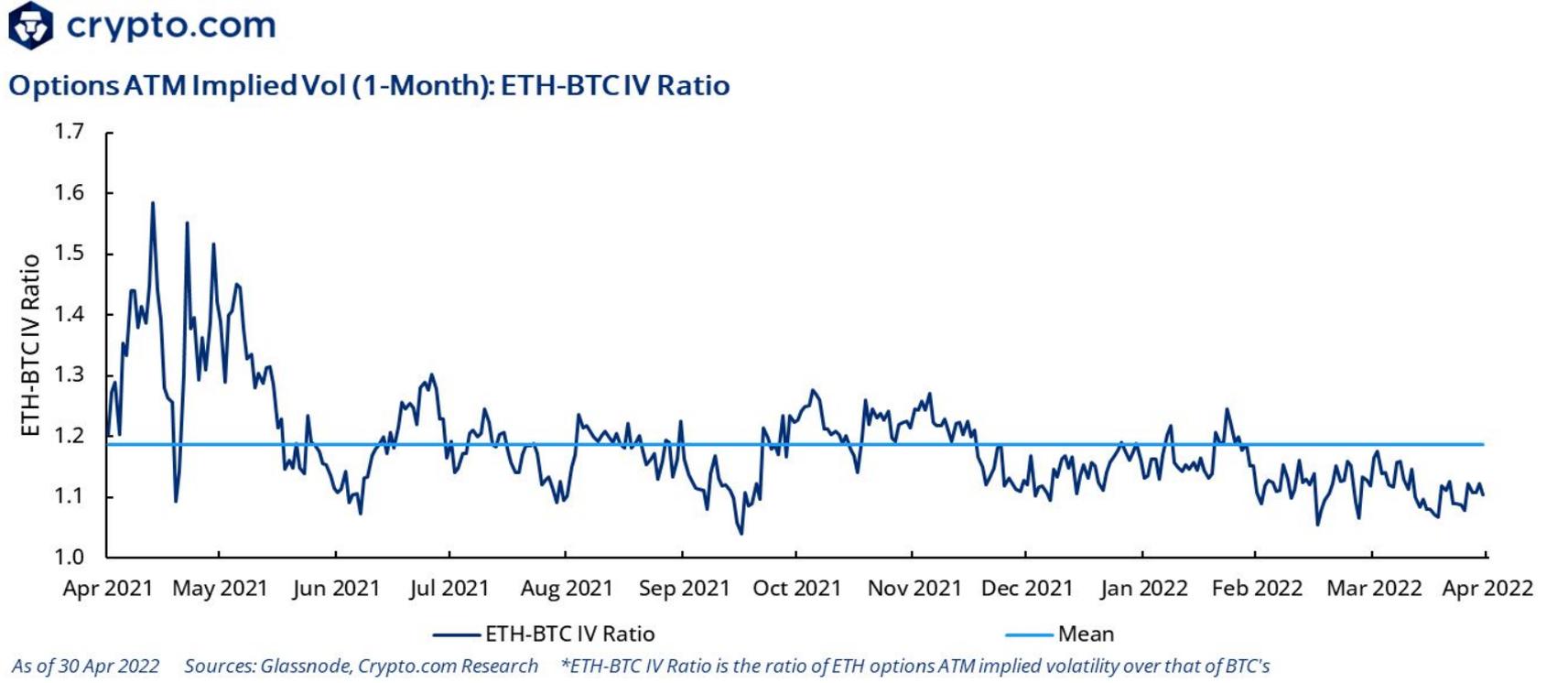
# Derivatives Pulse

- Options open interest put-call ratios for BTC and ETH are telling diverging stories. Since January 2022, the put-call ratio has been falling for BTC but rising for ETH, potentially indicating that investors are increasingly hedging ETH exposure.



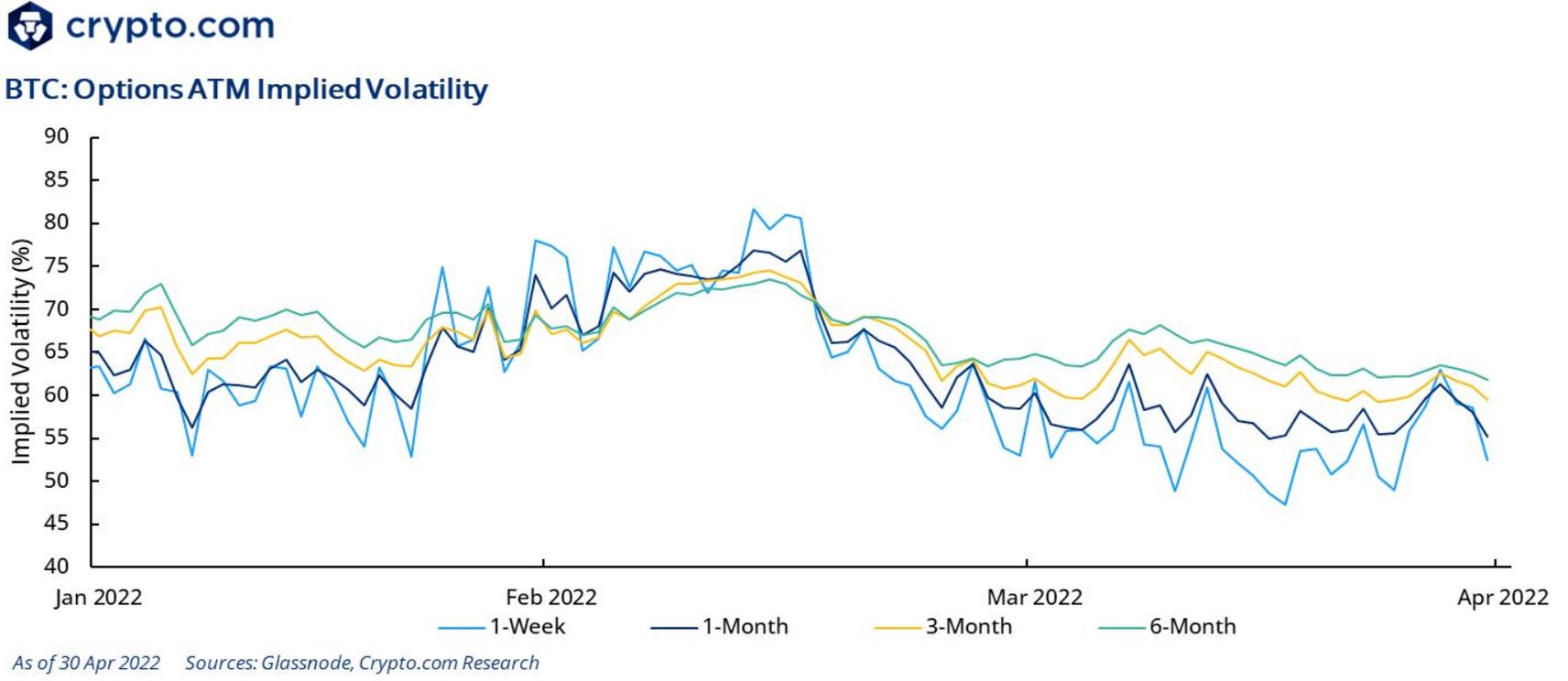
# Derivatives Pulse (cont.)

- Expectations of ETH volatility over that of BTC's are at a low, as the ETH-BTC implied volatility (IV) ratio is below the historical average.



# Derivatives Pulse (cont.)

- BTC 1-week implied volatility (vol) spiked to exceed back-end vols, touching 6-month vol recently, but has since fallen back. Current 1-month implied vol stands at 55.20%.

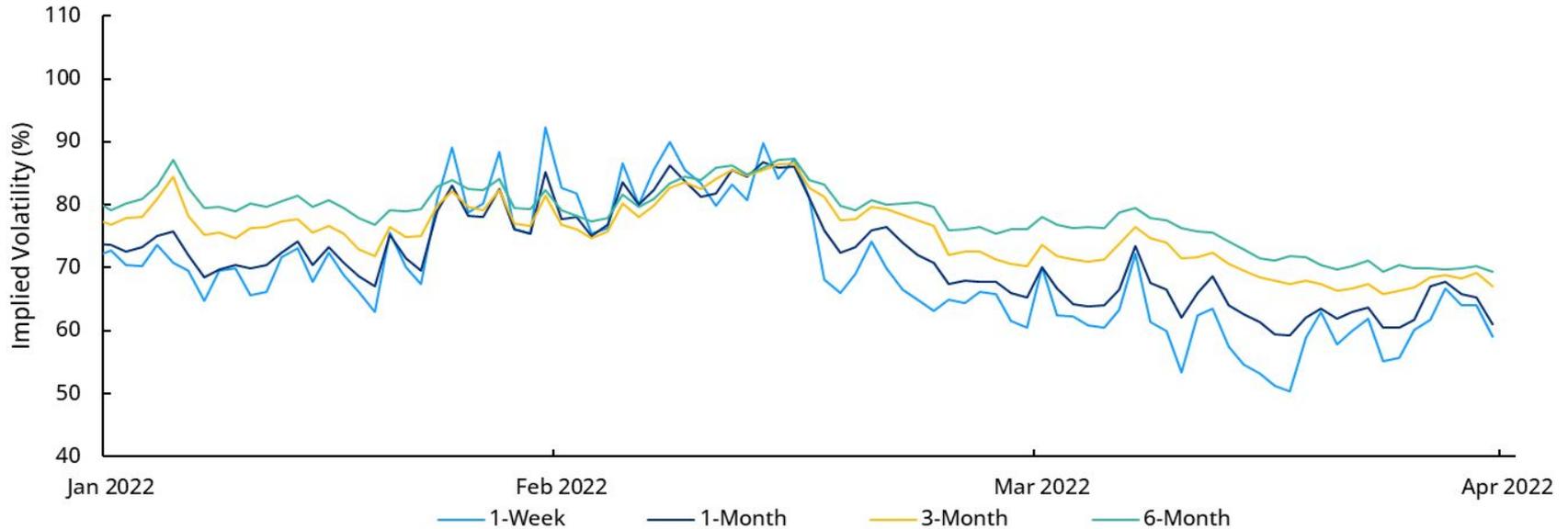


# Derivatives Pulse (cont.)

- ETH options ATM implied vols remain muted; although, they have risen from the lows established in mid-April. Front-end (1-month) implied vol currently stands at 60.94%.



## ETH: Options ATM Implied Volatility



As of 30 Apr 2022 Sources: Glassnode, Crypto.com Research

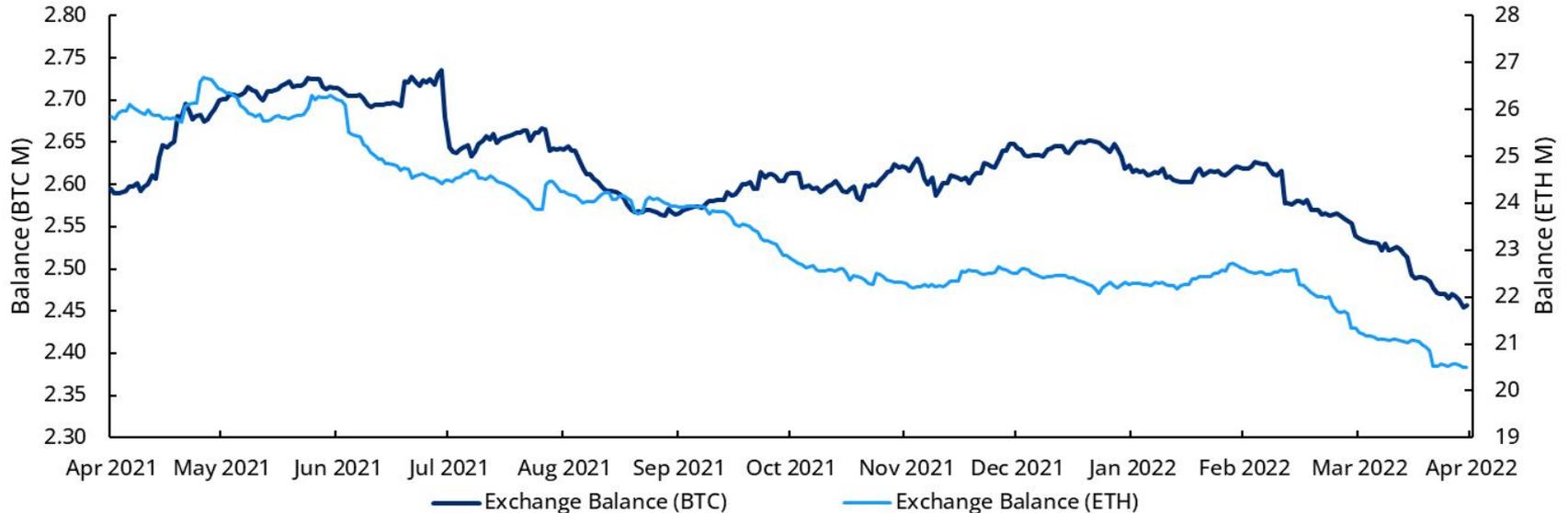


# Fund Flow Tracker

- Aggregated exchange balances of BTC and ETH continue to fall as net flows remain negative (i.e., net outflow). The past month saw 121.2K and 5.8M net outflows for BTC and ETH, respectively.



## Aggregated Exchange Balances

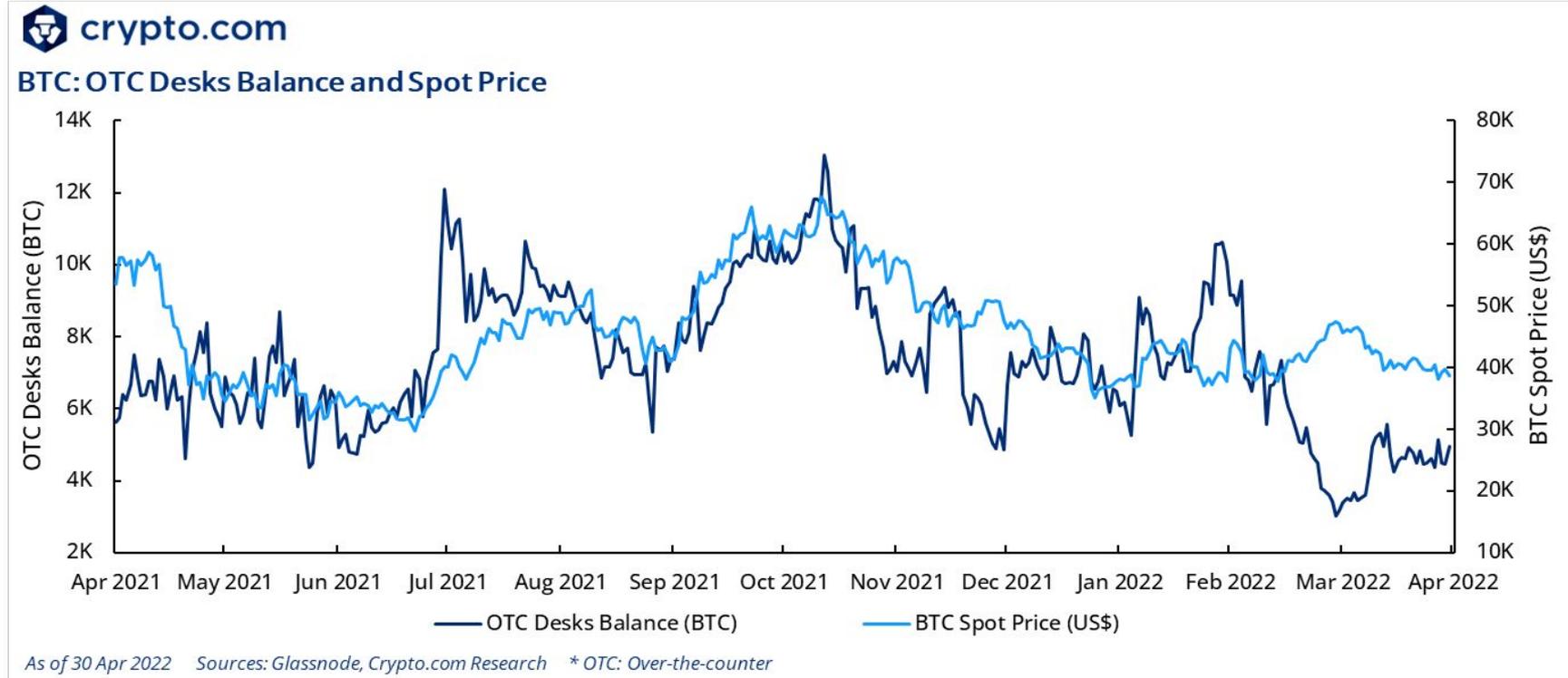


As of 30 Apr 2022 Sources: Glassnode, Crypto.com Research



# Fund Flow Tracker (cont.)

- The BTC balance of OTC desks saw a rebound after establishing yearly lows in March 2022.



# Market-Neutral Pair Trader

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# Picking Pairs

- We introduce **Market-Neutral Pair Trader** to identify correlated tokens whose price ratios currently deviate from their historical averages; thus, they are ripe for consideration as a market-neutral pair trade (i.e., long the underperforming token and short the outperforming token, with equal dollar value positions in each token).

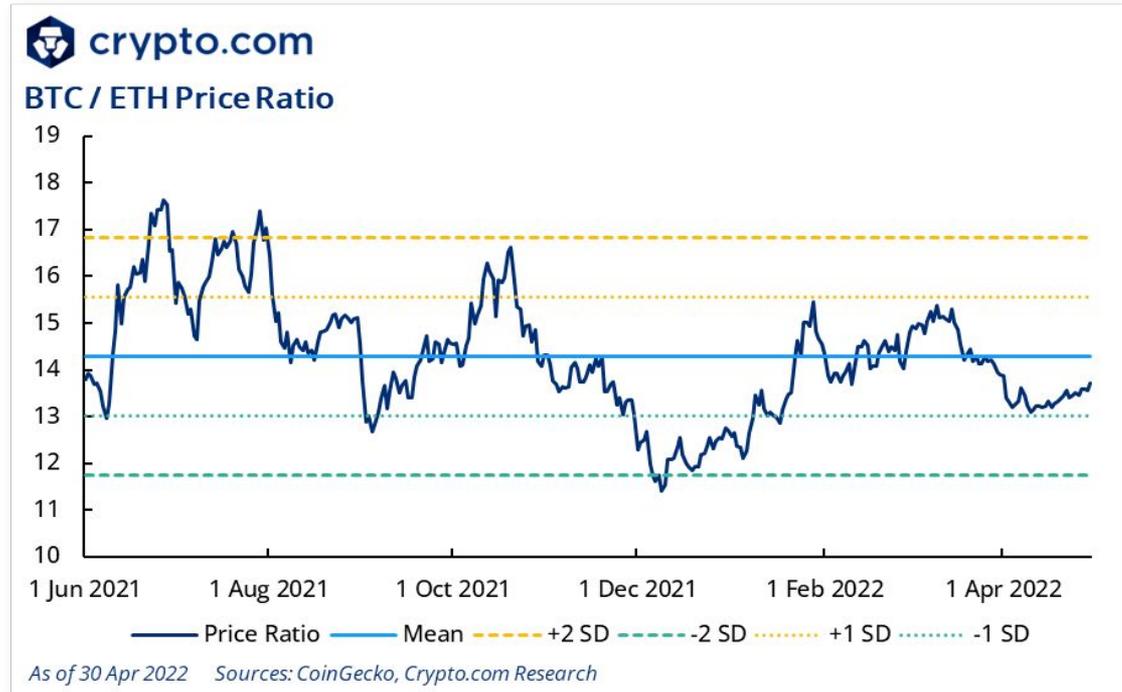
Price Correlations (1-year) of Top Tokens by Market Cap											
	BTC	ETH	BNB	SOL	ADA	LUNA	AVAX	DOT	MATIC	NEAR	CRO
BTC	-	0.91	0.84	0.73	0.53	0.14	0.45	0.91	0.28	0.24	0.25
ETH	0.91	-	0.89	0.85	0.44	0.33	0.64	0.84	0.53	0.41	0.48
BNB	0.84	0.89	-	0.67	0.30	0.27	0.58	0.79	0.46	0.36	0.50
SOL	0.73	0.85	0.67	-	0.31	0.49	0.79	0.68	0.58	0.59	0.60
ADA	0.53	0.44	0.30	0.31	-	-0.42	-0.16	0.65	-0.03	-0.28	-0.40
LUNA	0.14	0.33	0.27	0.49	-0.42	-	0.82	-0.05	0.52	0.89	0.76
AVAX	0.45	0.64	0.58	0.79	-0.16	0.82	-	0.31	0.65	0.82	0.90
DOT	0.91	0.84	0.79	0.68	0.65	-0.05	0.31	-	0.27	0.13	0.09
MATIC	0.28	0.53	0.46	0.58	-0.03	0.52	0.65	0.27	-	0.57	0.64
NEAR	0.24	0.41	0.36	0.59	-0.28	0.89	0.82	0.13	0.57	-	0.72
CRO	0.25	0.48	0.50	0.60	-0.40	0.76	0.90	0.09	0.64	0.72	-

As of 30 Apr 2022 Sources: CoinGecko, Crypto.com Research \*Correlations equal to or above 0.60 highlighted in green



# Pair Trader: BTC vs. ETH

- **BTC** (Price: US\$38,650.5, MCap: US\$735.8B, Volume: US\$27.7B). **ETH** (Price: US\$2,817.4, MCap: US\$340.3B, Volume: US\$15.9B).
- After a period of BTC underperformance vs. ETH, resulting in the price ratio (BTC price divided by ETH price) hitting the 2-standard deviation (SD) floor band in December 2021, BTC rebounded.
- Price ratio currently back up to near the mean.
- Market-neutral pair trade (i.e., long one and short the other) on price ratio touching standard deviation bands.



# Pair Trader: BTC vs. DOT

- **BTC** (Price: US\$38,650.5, MCap: US\$735.8B, Volume: US\$27.7B). **DOT** (Price: US\$16.1, MCap: US\$17.9B, Volume: US\$615.0M).
- Price ratio (BTC price divided by DOT price) currently at a high, near the 2-standard deviation (SD) ceiling band.
- Use case activity on DOT's parachains remains healthy (e.g., Acala recently announced significant incentive fund for its DeFi platform).
- Market-neutral pair trade (i.e., long one and short the other) on price ratio touching standard deviation bands.



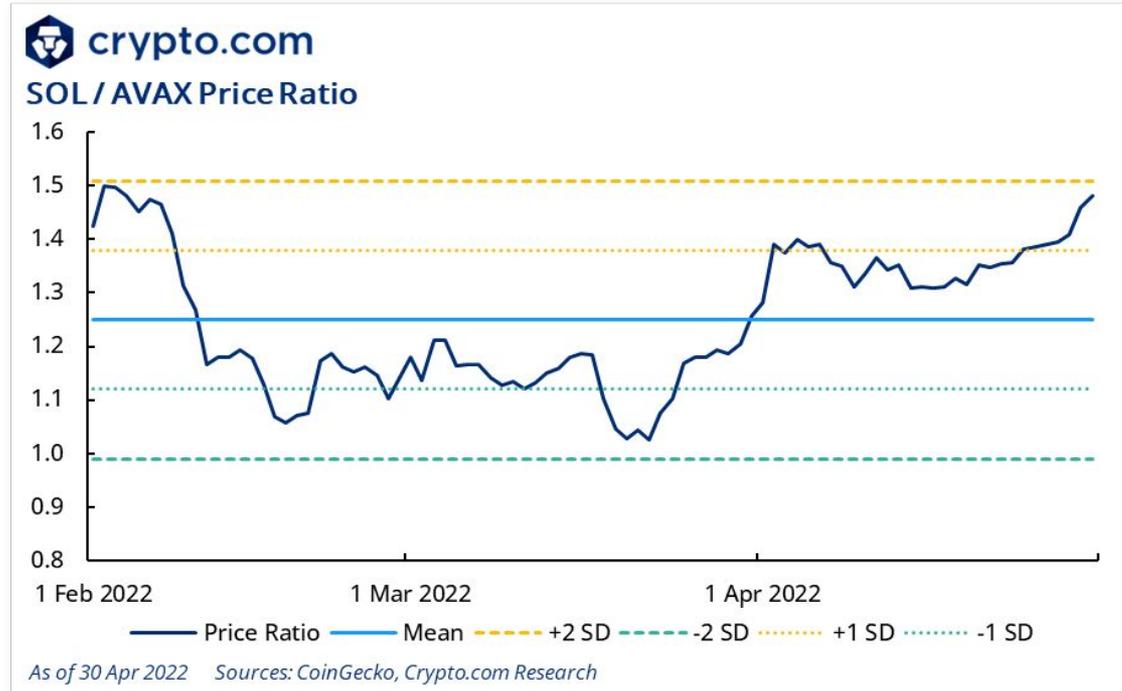
# Pair Trader: LUNA vs. NEAR

- **LUNA** (Price: US\$85.0, MCap: US\$29.4B, Volume: US\$2.2B). **NEAR** (Price: US\$11.2, MCap: US\$7.6B, Volume: US\$1.1B).
- Price ratio (LUNA price divided by NEAR price) currently at the 1-standard deviation (SD) ceiling band.
- LUNA DeFi platform Anchor recently changed its earn rate mechanism, resulting in the rate dropping from 20% APY to 18% APY.
- NEAR protocol's security bots recently successfully defended against a hack on its Rainbow Bridge, resulting in a 2.5 ETH loss for the attacker.
- Market-neutral pair trade (i.e., long one and short the other) on price ratio touching standard deviation bands.



# Pair Trader: SOL vs. AVAX

- **SOL** (Price: US\$94.0, MCap: US\$31.5B, Volume: US\$1.7B). **AVAX** (Price: US\$63.5, MCap: US\$17.1B, Volume: US\$767.7M).
- Price ratio (SOL price divided by AVAX price) currently near high, at the 2-standard deviation (SD) ceiling band.
- AVAX tokens were recently purchased by Terraform Labs and Luna Foundation Guard for Terra's stablecoin strategic reserves.
- SOL blockchain recently affected by outages due to bot attacks.
- Market-neutral pair trade (i.e., long one and short the other) on price ratio touching standard deviation bands.



# Style Factor Screen

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# Screening for Value, Growth, Momentum, Risk

- We introduce style factor screening based on value, momentum, growth, and risk. Style factors seek to capture common drivers of return and risk. Metrics used within each style factor category are shown below:

Style Factor Category	Description	Metrics
Value	Seeks to capture excess returns to tokens with lower valuation.	Market Cap (MCap)/Total Value Locked (TVL) % off 1-year high
Momentum	Seeks to capture excess returns to tokens with stronger past performance.	1-month price performance 3-month price performance 6-month price performance
Growth	Seeks to capture excess returns to tokens with higher growth rates in fundamentals.	1-month TVL growth rate
Risk	Seeks to capture excess risk-adjusted returns to tokens with lower risk.	Volatility Beta (vs. ETH) Beta (vs. BTC)



# Style Factor Screen — Layers 1 & 2

- **NEAR** grew TVL by +265.6% despite a falling token price. **LUNA** has a relatively low MCap/TVL ratio of 1.2 and grew TVL by +5.7% despite a negative return on token price. **ADA** shows the lowest beta (vs. ETH) at 0.79.

Protocol	Symbol	Price (US\$)	MCap (US\$B)	Volume (US\$M)	Momentum			Value		Growth	Risk		
					Price Performance (%)			MCap/ TVL	% off 1Y High	1M TVL Growth (%)	Volatility 1Y (%)	Beta (vs ETH)	Beta (vs BTC)
					1M	3M	6M						
Ethereum	ETH	2,817.49	340.3	15,996.1	-17.2	8.2	-36.3	3.00	-41.5	-9.5	94.4	-	1.09
Binance	BNB	392.96	66.2	1,644.8	-9.5	0.7	-25.8	5.30	-41.8	-14.0	97.9	0.89	1.06
Solana	SOL	94.09	31.5	1,734.8	-15.8	-2.2	-52.9	6.00	-63.7	5.7	134.7	1.00	1.13
Terra	LUNA	85.06	29.4	2,229.2	-21.8	67.2	86.2	1.20	-27.0	5.7	168.4	1.06	1.25
Cardano	ADA	0.81	25.9	907.3	-32.3	-24.2	-60.0	98.70	-88.5	-34.6	106.3	0.79	1.03
Polkadot	DOT	16.17	17.9	615.0	-27.8	-13.8	-63.3	-	-70.1	-8.0	127.1	1.08	1.32
Avalanche	AVAX	63.51	17.1	767.7	-31.5	-12.1	-1.7	1.20	-52.8	2.0	141.5	0.98	1.20
Cronos	CRO	0.37	9.4	58.6	-22.9	-14.5	65.2	2.40	-95.9	7.8	117.5	0.83	1.13
Polygon	MATIC	1.14	7.9	563.3	-31.9	-32.8	-43.7	1.70	-89.6	-22.0	153.1	1.17	1.30
Near	NEAR	11.28	7.6	1,115.2	-20.1	1.9	-2.4	9.80	-44.3	265.6	157.8	0.89	1.12

As of 30 Apr 2022 Sources: CoinGecko, DeFi Llama, Crypto.com Research \*Volume = 30-day average volume



# Style Factor Screen — DeFi

- **KAVA** shows the strongest short-term price momentum, rising +16.6% in 1 month, and the lowest beta (vs. ETH) at 0.94. **CRV** has the lowest MCap/TVL ratio at 0.04. **UNI** has the smallest TVL contraction at -2.3%.

Protocol	Symbol	Price (US\$)	MCap (US\$B)	Volume (US\$M)	Momentum			Value		Growth	Risk		
					Price Performance (%)			MCap/ TVL	% off 1Y High	1M TVL Growth (%)	Volatility 1Y (%)	Beta (vs ETH)	Beta (vs BTC)
					1M	3M	6M						
Uniswap	UNI	7.63	3.5	196.1	-32.1	-31.6	-69.9	0.46	-82.2	-2.3	122.3	1.08	1.24
PancakeSwap	CAKE	7.73	2.3	211.9	-10.8	6.8	-58.4	0.44	-81.2	-26.2	116.0	0.98	1.20
AAVE	AAVE	157.37	2.2	341.4	-28.5	2.1	-51.9	0.11	-75.1	-16.3	131.9	1.11	1.23
THORChain	RUNE	6.80	2.0	221.9	-42.8	60.9	-50.0	2.13	-66.4	-28.5	172.5	1.30	1.57
Convex	CVX	24.90	1.5	27.2	-14.5	-9.7	-22.1	0.11	-50.1	-6.8	237.9	1.45	1.67
Maker	MKR	1,554.36	1.4	88.0	-26.5	-20.3	-36.7	0.10	-74.4	-22.6	115.7	1.00	1.09
Loopring	LRC	0.79	1.0	163.9	-38.8	-18.7	43.9	3.48	-76.8	-32.5	190.3	1.14	1.40
Kava	KAVA	5.25	1.0	106.5	16.6	60.3	-7.5	1.42	-39.4	-2.4	125.7	0.94	1.17
Curve DAO	CRV	2.23	0.9	173.8	-20.5	-25.4	-51.9	0.04	-65.7	-6.1	150.0	1.11	1.36
Compound	COMP	113.95	0.8	101.7	-21.9	-8.0	-65.1	0.09	-86.7	-21.5	123.1	1.01	1.20
yearn.finance	YFI	16,949.28	0.6	73.6	-27.3	-30.2	-51.3	0.25	-79.3	-19.3	128.1	1.00	1.10

As of 30 Apr 2022 Sources: CoinGecko, DeFi Llama, Crypto.com Research \*Volume = 30-day average volume



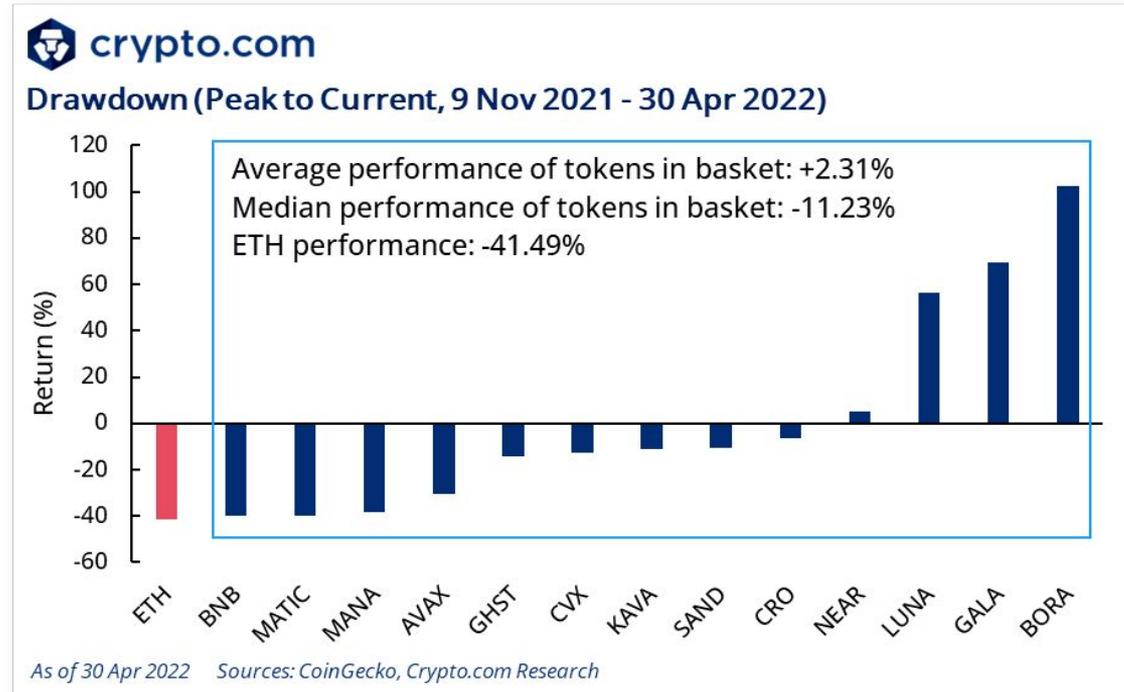
# Thematic

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# Drawdown Outperformers

- With the market in risk-off mode, we examine which tokens are outperforming ETH in the current drawdown (9 Nov 2021 to 30 Apr 2022, peak to current). During this period, ETH has fallen -41.49%.
- Our **Drawdown Basket** contains tokens extracted from our factor and thematic screens that are outperforming ETH during this drawdown period.
- The average performance of the tokens in the basket was +2.31% during this period versus -41.49% for ETH.



# Drawdown Outperformers (cont.)

- Our **Drawdown Basket** contains tokens extracted from our factor and thematic screens that are outperforming ETH in the current drawdown (9 Nov 2021 to 30 Apr 2022, peak to current).

Protocol	Symbol	Price (US\$)	MCap (US\$B)	Volume (US\$M)	Momentum			Value	Risk		
					Price Performance (%)			% off	Volatility	Beta	Beta
					1M	3M	6M	1Y High	1Y (%)	(vs ETH)	(vs BTC)
Binance SC	BNB	392.96	66.2	1,644.8	-9.5	0.7	-25.8	-41.8	97.9	0.89	1.06
Terra	LUNA	85.06	29.4	2,229.2	-21.8	67.2	86.2	-27.0	168.4	1.06	1.25
Avalanche	AVAX	63.51	17.1	767.7	-31.5	-12.1	-1.7	-52.8	141.5	0.98	1.20
Cronos	CRO	0.37	9.4	58.6	-22.9	-14.5	65.2	-95.9	117.5	0.83	1.13
Polygon	MATIC	1.14	7.9	563.3	-31.9	-32.8	-43.7	-89.6	153.1	1.17	1.30
Near	NEAR	11.28	7.6	1,115.2	-20.1	1.9	-2.4	-44.3	157.8	0.89	1.12
The Sandbox	SAND	2.30	2.7	364.8	-34.1	-41.1	96.5	-69.3	191.8	0.96	1.26
Decentraland	MANA	1.67	2.5	273.3	-38.0	-29.8	18.9	-67.9	208.6	0.95	1.18
Convex Finance	CVX	24.90	1.5	27.2	-14.5	-9.7	-22.1	-50.1	237.9	1.45	1.67
Gala	GALA	0.16	1.2	339.3	-42.8	-19.5	68.0	-78.4	267.7	0.70	0.88
Kava	KAVA	5.25	1.0	106.5	16.6	60.3	-7.5	-39.4	125.7	0.94	1.17
BORA	BORA	0.67	0.6	48.8	-28.1	-36.5	162.3	-54.3	180.5	0.60	0.81
Aavegotchi	GHST	1.88	0.1	13.3	-7.9	-8.2	-18.5	-35.2	65.1	0.28	0.34



# GameFi: The New Battleground

- Our **GameFi Basket** tracks the performance of the top 10 by market cap GameFi tokens, with select accompanying factor screen metrics.

Protocol	Symbol	Price (US\$)	MCap (US\$M)	Volume (US\$M)	Momentum			Value	Risk		
					Price Performance (%)			% off	Volatility	Beta	Beta
					1M	3M	6M	1Y High	1Y (%)	(vs ETH)	(vs BTC)
Decentraland	MANA	1.67	2,529.5	273.3	-38.0	-29.8	18.9	-67.9	208.6	0.95	1.18
The Sandbox	SAND	2.30	2,671.9	364.8	-34.1	-41.1	96.5	-69.3	191.8	0.96	1.26
Axie Infinity	AXS	34.28	2,661.8	382.2	-46.6	-31.2	-76.0	-78.5	183.4	1.07	1.36
Gala	GALA	0.16	1,168.9	339.3	-42.8	-19.5	68.0	-78.4	267.7	0.70	0.88
Enjin Coin	ENJ	1.21	1,130.0	162.1	-30.8	-31.2	-50.2	-72.9	148.8	1.13	1.37
BORA	BORA	0.67	555.9	48.8	-28.1	-36.5	162.3	-54.3	180.5	0.60	0.81
WAX	WAXP	0.24	470.4	36.3	-33.3	-26.2	-35.5	-75.0	178.6	0.91	1.12
Illuvium	ILV	472.00	307.1	12.1	-27.2	-19.3	-51.3	-74.4	143.3	1.17	1.33
PlayDapp	PLA	0.79	287.8	28.9	-27.9	-17.0	-24.3	-73.9	181.9	0.83	1.02
Vulcan Forged	PYR	8.83	210.9	77.2	-33.1	-15.7	-26.1	-80.0	213.2	1.08	1.30

As of 30 Apr 2022 Sources: CoinGecko, Crypto.com Research \*Volume = 30-day average volume



# NFT: Speculator's Delight

- Our **NFT Basket** tracks the performances of the top 10 by market cap NFT tokens (filtered for prices greater than US\$1 and overlap with our GameFi Basket) with select accompanying factor screen metrics.

Protocol	Symbol	Price (US\$)	MCap (US\$M)	Volume (US\$M)	Momentum			Value	Risk		
					Price Performance (%)			% off	Volatility	Beta	Beta
					1M	3M	6M	1Y High	1Y (%)	(vs ETH)	(vs BTC)
Theta Network	THETA	2.55	2,558.7	191.1	-34.4	-14.5	-63.3	-79.4	130.9	1.00	1.32
Flow	FLOW	4.96	1,798.1	88.8	-29.9	-24.2	-63.8	-85.0	129.7	0.86	1.09
Sushi	SUSHI	2.70	521.7	175.9	-36.0	-35.6	-76.5	-87.4	145.5	1.18	1.32
Immutable X	IMX	1.54	362.9	85.0	-42.7	-45.5	-	-83.4	184.2	0.72	0.83
MOBOX	MOBOX	2.19	300.1	100.6	-17.7	-16.2	-46.6	-82.8	260.6	1.05	1.24
WEMIX	WEMIX	2.90	292.3	35.0	-40.3	-54.5	-57.1	-88.0	213.1	0.94	1.24
ApeCoin	APE	19.20	238.6	1,276.6	41.3	-	-	-18.8	237.2	3.36	2.52
Yield Guild Games	YGG	1.77	155.3	35.7	-39.7	-42.3	-72.5	-83.0	188.6	0.82	1.11
Aavegotchi	GHST	1.88	111.9	13.3	-7.9	-8.2	-18.5	-35.2	65.1	0.28	0.34
MyNeighborAlice	ALICE	5.88	102.2	126.0	-22.9	-15.0	-54.5	-78.2	178.0	1.08	1.44

As of 30 Apr 2022 Sources: CoinGecko, Crypto.com Research \*Volume = 30-day average volume



# Event Driven

Token	Catalysts
Ethereum (ETH)	2.0 Merge upgrade estimated to be in 2H2022.
Polkadot (DOT)	Polkadot Decoded conference, 29-30 June 2022. Updates to the ecosystem on agenda.
Terra (LUNA)	Terra Dapp Expo 2022, 9-10 June 2022. New products and tokens in Terra ecosystem to be introduced.
Cosmos Hub (ATOM)	Rho upgrade estimated to be in 2H2022.
Cardano (ADA)	Vasil hardfork estimated to be in 2H2022.
Nexo (NEXO)	Recently launched a crypto-backed payment card in partnership with Mastercard.
Bancor (BNT)	V3 protocol upgrade. Currently in beta testing.



# Economic Events Calendar

## 11 May

- U.S. consumer price index
- China consumer price index; producer price index

## 12 May

- U.S. producer price index; jobless claims
- Britain GDP
- Australia consumer inflation expectations

## 13 May

- Eurozone industrial production
- U.S. Michigan consumer sentiment index
- Australia consumer inflation expectations

## 17 May

- U.S. retail sales
- Eurozone GDP
- China retail sales
- Australia RBA meeting minutes

## 20 May

- China PBOC interest rate decision
- Japan GDP; consumer price index

## 26 May

- U.S. FOMC minutes

## 1 June

- U.S. ISM manufacturing PMI

## 3 June

- U.S. non-farm payrolls; ISM services PMI

## 6 June

- Eurozone retail sales

## 14 June

- U.S. FOMC meeting (market expecting another 50 bps hike)



# Crypto Conferences Calendar

## 9-10 June

### Terra Dapp Expo 2022 in Austin, Texas

- New products and token launches in Terra ecosystem
- Sharing by Neptune Finance
- Terra NFT Museum by OnePlanetNFT, NFT auction
- “Speed-greeting” event for projects and VCs to connect

## 9-12 June

### Consensus 2022 by CoinDesk in Austin, Texas

- Covering all aspects of blockchain, crypto, Web3 and the metaverse
- Deeper insight for projects like AAVE, Avalanche, Solana and Chainlink

## 29-30 June

### Polkadot Decoded

- Community voted to curate the upcoming agenda
- Keynotes and talks in Polkadot ecosystem

## 19-21 July

### ETHCC 5 Conference in Paris

- Covering different subjects and to address different levels of comprehension of the blockchain technology
- Sharing by Kevin Owocki (Gitcoin), Mudit Gupta (Polygon) and others

## 21-23 September

### Mainnet 2022 Summit by Messari in New York

- Official agenda will be available on [Mainnet](#) soon





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