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Alpha Navigator

Quest for Alpha

6 June 2023

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Crypto.com Research & Insights



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Macro

Macro View: US Debt Ceiling Dispute Defused

- US President Joe Biden on Saturday signed a bill that <u>suspends the government's US\$31.4 trillion debt ceiling</u>, averting what would have been a first-ever default. Despite this, Fitch Ratings said the US' "AAA" credit rating would <u>remain on negative watch</u>. The Federal Reserve's routine economic report known as the <u>'Beige Book'</u> recently released key takeaways are that economic activity was little changed overall in the last two months while expectations for future growth deteriorated slightly.
- The European Commission's monthly Economic Sentiment Indicator (ESI) dropped by 2.5 points to 96.5, reaching its lowest level since November 2022. Inflation fell in Germany, France, and Spain during the month. In Germany, the annual rate of 6.1%, down from 7.6% in April, was the lowest in more than a year. At 6.0% (6.9% the previous month), France's inflation rate also fell to its lowest level in a year.
- There were conflicting signals in the manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) data from China. On one hand, the National Bureau of Statistics' PMI fell for the second consecutive month to 48.8 points in May, indicating contraction territory. However, a separate PMI reading from the widely followed Caixin private survey, released shortly after, showed a rise. In Australia, inflation exceeded expectations, reaching 6.8% in May, up 6.3% from the prior month.
- Major asset classes mostly dipped during the last month and head into June facing interest rate decisions from multiple central banks. The Reserve Bank of Australia is first up on 6 June, followed in quick succession by the US Federal Reserve (14 June), the European Central Bank (15 June), the Bank of Japan (16 June), the People's Bank of China (20 June), and the Bank of England (22 June).

Asset Class Performance

• Risk assets generally dipped in May, although US equities bucked the trend on the back of the tech sector. As 2023 nears the halfway mark, crypto remains the best performing asset class YTD.

		Price Performance (%)									
		YTD	1-month	3-month	6-month	12-month					
Crypto	BTC	66.51	-6.00	17.84	68.56	-12.69					
	ETH	58.22	-0.22	16.35	56.22	-4.75					
Equity	S&P 500	9.68	0.46	5.85	3.36	2.91					
	NASDAQ 100	30.89	7.88	18.72	19.09	13.75					
	MSCI All Country World	7.94	-1.05	3.85	2.96	1.14					
	MSCI Emerging Markets	0.77	-2.40	-0.10	-1.89	-8.30					
Real Assets	Gold	7.47	-1.34	7.39	10.62	6.53					
	S&P REIT Index	0.10	-3.06	-4.89	-5.03	-12.24					
	Invesco DB Commodity Index	-10.55	-6.41	-7.20	-12.97	-22.98					
Fixed Income	US Treasury Bond 20+ Year	4.49	-3.02	2.02	1.76	-9.19					
	US Core Aggregate Bond	2.64	-1.14	2.05	1.74	-2.18					
	International Aggregate Bond	3.47	0.12	2.63	0.77	-0.61					

As of 31 May 2023 Sources: Crypto.com Research, CoinGecko, Yahoo Finance

Asset Class Correlations

• **BTC's** 1-month correlation with equities turned negative, and its longer-term correlations are stronger with gold than with most of the equity indices.

BTC price correlat	ion vs:	1-month	3-month	6-month	12-month
Crypto	ETH	0.86	0.93	0.98	0.87
Equity	S&P 500	-0.36	0.59	0.73	0.59
	NASDAQ 100	-0.60	0.51	0.86	0.74
	MSCI All Country World	-0.16	0.60	0.73	0.62
	MSCI Emerging Markets	0.20	0.51	0.02	0.42
Real Assets	Gold	0.51	0.85	0.86	0.69
	S&P REIT Index	0.63	-0.16	-0.20	0.15
	Invesco DB Commodity Index	0.43	0.11	-0.49	-0.04
Fixed Income	US Treasury Bond 20+ Year	0.74	0.40	0.15	0.28
	US Core Aggregate Bond	0.66	0.72	0.53	0.49
	International Aggregate Bond	0.43	0.62	0.55	0.43

Asset Class Correlations (cont.)

• **ETH's** 1-month correlation with equities also flipped into negative territory.

ETH price correlat	ion vs:	1-month	3-month	6-month	12-month
Crypto	ВТС	0.86	0.93	0.98	0.87
Equity	S&P 500	-0.19	0.69	0.77	0.74
	Nasdaq 100	-0.23	0.57	0.87	0.79
	MSCI All Country World	-0.24	0.70	0.78	0.70
	MSCI Emerging Markets	-0.03	0.53	0.09	0.37
Real Assets	Gold	0.28	0.77	0.85	0.59
	S&P REIT Index	0.38	-0.03	-0.13	0.26
	Invesco DB Commodity Index	0.15	0.16	-0.45	-0.21
Fixed Income	US Treasury Bond 20+ Year	0.50	0.24	0.14	0.18
	US Core Aggregate Bond	0.43	0.60	0.52	0.44
	International Aggregate Bond	0.33	0.49	0.54	0.46

As of 31 May 2023 Sources: Crypto.com Research, CoinGecko, Yahoo Finance

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Derivatives Pulse

• **BTC** options implied volatilities (vols) continued to fall in May. The persistent muted implied vols are consistent with the currently directionless market, although quiet periods in the past have often preceded significant moves.



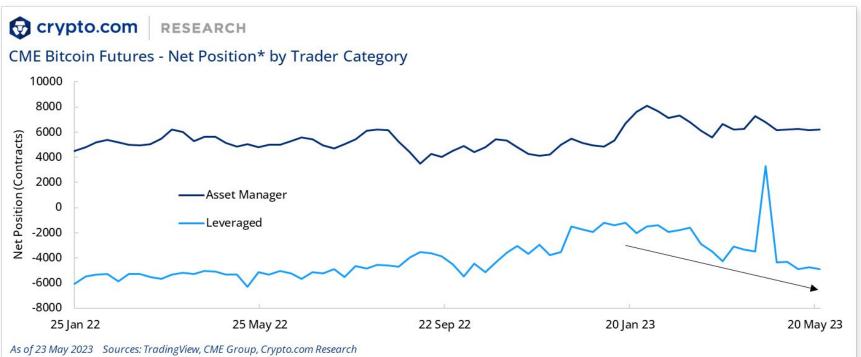
Derivatives Pulse (cont.)

• ETH options implied vols also continued to fall in May and are now at yearly lows.



Derivatives Pulse (cont.)

• Leveraged traders' net short position in **CME Bitcoin futures** has generally increased (i.e., become more negative) since the start of this year, although there was a brief spike into positive territory in April.



*Net Position = No. of open interest long contracts minus no. of open interest short contracts

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Market-Neutral Pair Trader

Picking Pairs

• **Market-Neutral Pair Trader** hunts for strongly correlated tokens. Such pairs with price ratios that deviate from historical averages can be considered as candidates for a market-neutral pair trade (i.e., long the underperforming token and short the outperforming token, with equal dollar value positions in each token to enable market neutrality).

Price Correlations (1-year) of Top Tokens by Market Cap													
	BTC	ETH	BNB	SOL	ADA	AVAX	DOT	MATIC	NEAR	CRO	LTC	ATOM	TRX
BTC	-	0.87	0.61	0.22	0.39	0.46	0.37	0.30	0.10	0.11	0.50	0.09	0.80
ETH	0.87	-	0.81	0.15	0.30	0.50	0.31	0.54	0.11	0.04	0.57	0.39	0.67
BNB	0.61	0.81	-	-0.10	0.00	0.28	0.09	0.74	-0.11	-0.16	0.66	0.60	0.35
SOL	0.22	0.15	-0.10	-	0.92	0.84	0.87	-0.34	0.93	0.92	-0.55	0.05	0.55
ADA	0.39	0.30	0.00	0.92	-	0.86	0.93	-0.32	0.91	0.90	-0.40	0.00	0.63
AVAX	0.46	0.50	0.28	0.84	0.86	-	0.91	0.06	0.83	0.79	-0.14	0.20	0.64
DOT	0.37	0.31	0.09	0.87	0.93	0.91	-	-0.16	0.90	0.89	-0.32	0.04	0.61
MATIC	0.30	0.54	0.74	-0.34	-0.32	0.06	-0.16	-	-0.36	-0.44	0.76	0.66	0.05
NEAR	0.10	0.11	-0.11	0.93	0.91	0.83	0.90	-0.36	-	0.96	-0.60	0.08	0.44
CRO	0.11	0.04	-0.16	0.92	0.90	0.79	0.89	-0.44	0.96	-	-0.64	-0.06	0.47
LTC	0.50	0.57	0.66	-0.55	-0.40	-0.14	-0.32	0.76	-0.60	-0.64	-	0.31	0.16
ATOM	0.09	0.39	0.60	0.05	0.00	0.20	0.04	0.66	0.08	-0.06	0.31	-	0.03
TRX	0.80	0.67	0.35	0.55	0.63	0.64	0.61	0.05	0.44	0.47	0.16	0.03	-

Picking Pairs (cont.)

• Price correlations between tokens in the DeFi category are shown below:

Price Correlations (1-year) of Top Tokens by Market Cap in DeFi Category													
	UNI	AAVE	MKR	RUNE	CAKE	LRC	SNX	CVX	KAVA	CRV	GNO	COMP	LDO
UNI	-	0.72	0.42	0.50	0.50	0.33	0.68	0.55	0.30	0.68	0.42	0.68	0.53
AAVE	0.72	-	0.67	0.77	0.50	0.73	0.80	0.88	0.63	0.92	0.81	0.83	0.47
MKR	0.42	0.67	-	0.78	0.35	0.68	0.65	0.74	0.82	0.62	0.70	0.66	-0.06
RUNE	0.50	0.77	0.78	-	0.31	0.81	0.72	0.76	0.85	0.75	0.84	0.69	0.01
CAKE	0.50	0.50	0.35	0.31	-	0.15	0.20	0.33	0.31	0.29	0.26	0.64	0.09
LRC	0.33	0.73	0.68	0.81	0.15	-	0.76	0.82	0.67	0.80	0.77	0.59	0.24
SNX	0.68	0.80	0.65	0.72	0.20	0.76	-	0.76	0.60	0.89	0.76	0.66	0.50
CVX	0.55	0.88	0.74	0.76	0.33	0.82	0.76	-	0.59	0.89	0.73	0.73	0.38
KAVA	0.30	0.63	0.82	0.85	0.31	0.67	0.60	0.59	-	0.59	0.86	0.66	-0.23
CRV	0.68	0.92	0.62	0.75	0.29	0.80	0.89	0.89	0.59	-	0.79	0.77	0.54
GNO	0.42	0.81	0.70	0.84	0.26	0.77	0.76	0.73	0.86	0.79	-	0.65	0.16
COMP	0.68	0.83	0.66	0.69	0.64	0.59	0.66	0.73	0.66	0.77	0.65	-	0.28
LDO	0.53	0.47	-0.06	0.01	0.09	0.24	0.50	0.38	-0.23	0.54	0.16	0.28	-

Pair Trader: BTC vs. ETH

- **BTC** (Price: US\$27,713.9, MCap: US\$537.4B, Volume: US\$11.7B). **ETH** (Price: US\$1,901.0, MCap: US\$228.6B, Volume: US\$7.2B).
- The price ratio (BTC price divided by ETH price) is currently near the historical average.
- Developers are working on <u>Ethereum's</u> next major upgrade in 2H 2023 called 'Dencun', which will include proto-danksharding. **Bitcoin** has become the second-most popular NFT blockchain, gaining a lead over Solana and Polygon.
- Market-neutral pair trade (i.e., long one and short the other) on price ratio reaching standard deviation band areas.



Pair Trader: DOT vs. ADA

- DOT (Price: US\$5.4, MCap: US\$6.7B, Volume: US\$114.1M). ADA (Price: US\$0.38, MCap: US\$13.3B, Volume: US\$211.6M).
- The price ratio (DOT price divided by ADA price) has been dropping since reaching a peak in April and is now near the 2-standard deviation (SD) floor band.
- According to **Polkadot**'s recent <u>Q1 2023</u> <u>update</u>, it has the most active developer community in Web3.
- **Cardano** announced the <u>launch of</u> <u>Marlowe</u>, a new smart contract creation tool set, on its mainnet.
- Market-neutral pair trade (i.e., long one and short the other) on price ratio reaching standard deviation band areas.



Pair Trader: LTC vs. MATIC

- LTC (Price: US\$92.3, MCap: US\$6.7B, Volume: US\$544.4M). MATIC (Price: US\$0.9, MCap: US\$8.4B, Volume: US\$266.4M).
- This played out in favour of LTC since our last issue, as the price ratio (LTC price divided by MATIC price) rose to near the 2-standard deviation (SD) ceiling in May.
- Litecoin's <u>mining rewards halving</u> draws ever closer (July/August 2023).
- Polygon's <u>May metrics update</u> highlighted steady growth for its zkEVM Mainnet Beta.
- Market-neutral pair trade (i.e., long one and short the other) on price ratio reaching standard deviation band areas.



Style-Factor Screen

Screening for Value, Growth, Momentum, Risk

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

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

Layer-1 and Layer-2

• Layer-1 and layer-2 tokens mostly dropped in price during May. **ATOM** posted a significant growth in TVL of +163.2%.

					Momentum		Value		Growth	th Risk			
		Price	МСар	Volume*	Price Pe	rformar	nce (%)	MCap/	% off	1M TVL	Volatility	Beta	Beta
Protocol	Symbol	(US\$)	(US\$B)	(US\$M)	1M	3M	6M	TVL	1Y High	Growth (%)	1Y (%)	(vs ETH)	(vs BTC)
Ethereum	ETH	1,901.08	228.6	7,250.6	-0.2	16.3	56.2	4.2	-10.3	2.7	126.3	-	1.05
Binance	BNB	311.60	49.2	495.3	-3.2	2.3	5.1	9.7	-11.7	-7.2	116.5	0.85	0.96
Cardano	ADA	0.38	13.3	211.6	-6.1	3.4	21.9	75.9	-41.2	13.3	123.1	0.90	0.99
Solana	SOL	21.25	8.4	332.6	-8.1	-6.4	58.9	15.9	-55.0	-2.3	151.3	1.05	1.12
Polygon	MATIC	0.90	8.4	266.4	-10.0	-26.9	7.5	6.5	-41.1	0.5	145.2	1.03	1.09
TRON	TRX	0.08	6.9	339.9	12.4	10.0	43.2	1.2	-9.1	3.4	111.6	0.78	0.90
Polkadot	DOT	5.44	6.7	114.1	-9.8	-17.3	2.5	-	-48.0	-	124.7	0.92	1.01
Avalanche	AVAX	14.44	5.0	142.1	-17.3	-19.4	15.7	5.4	-50.9	-14.7	137.4	1.00	1.07
Cosmos	ATOM	10.84	3.2	103.1	-7.4	-15.2	6.2	-	-34.8	163.2	136.0	0.96	1.05
Cronos	CRO	0.06	1.5	10.3	-20.2	-25.2	-5.7	4.2	-68.4	-9.7	127.0	0.92	1.02
Near	NEAR	1.61	1.5	58.6	-16.9	-31.4	-0.1	20.3	-73.2	-7.5	141.1	1.01	1.09
Algorand	ALGO	0.15	1.1	40.9	-17.4	-40.6	-37.0	7.4	-64.1	-14.9	130.2	0.93	1.02
Optimism	OP	1.42	0.5	107.7	-34.9	-51.0	59.1	0.4	-54.3	-1.9	189.3	1.17	1.21

• DeFi tokens mostly fell in price during May, with the exception of **KAVA** and **LDO**, which were up +35.3% and +3.0%, respectively.

					Momentum		Value		Growth	irowth R			
		Price	МСар	Volume*	Price Pe	erformai	nce (%)	MCap/	% off	1M TVL	Volatility	Beta	Beta
Protocol	Symbol	(US\$)	(US\$M)	(US\$M)	1M	3M	6M	TVL	1Y High	Growth (%)	1Y (%)	(vs ETH)	(vs BTC)
Uniswap	UNI	5.13	3,870.2	54.5	-8.7	-20.3	-6.1	0.94	-44.5	-0.4	90.7	0.92	1.18
Lido	LDO	2.16	1,899.0	59.2	3.0	-34.0	96.6	0.14	-34.0	9.6	153.1	1.33	1.66
AAVE	AAVE	66.69	961.1	40.5	-7.1	-16.9	8.2	0.18	-43.2	0.2	95.1	1.02	1.30
Synthetix	SNX	2.41	766.1	35.5	-2.5	-14.9	46.3	1.84	-44.0	-0.6	134.0	1.13	1.49
Curve DAO	CRV	0.84	688.8	41.0	-10.1	-17.3	26.8	0.16	-45.4	-3.2	119.4	1.21	1.51
Kava	KAVA	1.08	589.6	42.0	35.3	25.5	20.0	1.50	-63.1	-16.2	97.0	0.79	1.08
Maker	MKR	643.41	580.1	14.3	-9.1	-18.5	-0.4	0.09	-53.0	-8.4	93.9	0.90	1.11
THORChain	RUNE	1.16	348.0	29.7	-15.6	-28.4	-6.0	3.34	-64.9	-9.1	100.4	1.12	1.47
PancakeSwap	CAKE	1.72	347.0	50.3	-35.9	-57.0	-55.7	0.18	-65.0	-12.7	66.9	0.63	0.86
Convex	CVX	4.40	341.5	2.8	-16.7	-27.6	11.0	0.10	-58.8	23.8	106.8	0.99	1.23
Compound	COMP	36.47	250.2	11.4	-14.0	-27.5	-1.7	0.19	-44.7	-3.2	99.5	0.94	1.23
yearn.finance	YFI	6,630.60	218.8	18.7	-19.9	-29.3	2.8	0.49	-45.6	-4.8	103.1	0.96	1.24
VVS Finance	VVS	0.00003	106.2	0.5	-19.2	-26.1	-14.5	0.65	-64.9	-14.9	74.0	0.70	0.98

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GameFi

• GameFi tokens' prices were also mostly down in May, with **CHR** the relative outperformer at +0.8%.

					M	Momentum		Value		Risk	
		Price	МСар	Volume*	Price Pe	erformance	e (%)	% off	Volatility	Beta	Beta
Protocol	Symbol	(US\$)	(US\$M)	(US\$M)	1M	3M	6M	1Y High	1Y (%)	(vs ETH)	(vs BTC)
The Sandbox	SAND	0.56	1,029.7	87.0	-6.0	-22.2	-1.6	-62.0	96.7	0.96	1.29
Decentraland	MANA	0.48	879.1	58.2	-13.2	-26.5	22.1	-55.9	91.7	0.84	1.14
Axie Infinity	AXS	7.07	819.1	45.3	-11.4	-29.0	3.9	-70.7	106.5	0.95	1.24
Gala	GALA	0.03	721.6	114.7	-23.8	-26.3	19.0	-65.9	121.4	0.91	1.25
Enjin Coin	ENJ	0.34	338.2	15.1	-15.0	-30.0	12.7	-52.1	86.6	0.86	1.17
Illuvium	ILV	49.71	264.0	4.5	-6.2	-32.8	24.9	-84.2	102.8	1.10	1.37
Stepn	GMT	0.26	228.6	43.3	-22.1	-32.9	-29.6	-78.8	123.9	1.15	1.57
WAX	WAXP	0.05	181.4	4.3	-20.2	-35.6	-5.8	-59.9	82.0	0.76	1.07
PlayDapp	PLA	0.18	98.7	3.5	-17.1	-32.8	-11.5	-68.9	102.8	0.74	1.02
Chromia	CHR	0.16	92.0	9.0	0.8	-8.7	44.9	-39.2	88.8	0.84	1.11
My Neighbor Alice	ALICE	1.30	90.0	10.7	-18.3	-32.4	6.3	-59.7	96.1	0.96	1.29
Alien Worlds	TLM	0.02	56.5	4.1	-19.4	-31.3	3.7	-58.6	89.8	0.83	1.15
Radio Caca	RACA	0.00015	49.3	2.6	-22.9	-33.4	-30.8	-72.6	74.1	0.66	0.89

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• Following the broader crypto market dip, NFT tokens' prices also all dropped in May.

					Momentum		Value	Risk			
		Price	МСар	Volume*	Price Pe	erformanc	e (%)	% off	Volatility	Beta	Beta
Protocol	Symbol	(US\$)	(US\$M)	(US\$M)	1M	3M	6M	1Y High	1Y (%)	(vs ETH)	(vs BTC)
ApeCoin	APE	3.19	1,178.2	62.5	-21.6	-37.0	-21.7	-57.7	105.4	0.98	1.27
Theta Network	THETA	0.87	874.3	10.0	-14.4	-25.9	-6.0	-47.8	82.8	0.77	1.02
Immutable X	IMX	0.78	777.6	21.7	-23.1	-19.6	76.4	-49.9	112.0	0.96	1.31
Flow	FLOW	0.75	777.3	13.6	-17.2	-38.1	-32.0	-75.9	101.6	0.94	1.29
Chiliz	CHZ	0.10	538.3	50.7	-21.4	-25.0	-38.7	-63.5	108.4	0.84	1.13
Fetch.ai	FET	0.28	289.3	51.3	-19.4	-36.7	343.7	-49.6	134.4	0.84	1.16
DigiByte	DGB	0.01	127.2	1.7	-18.1	-31.6	6.3	-42.1	81.0	0.80	1.09
MOBOX	MBOX	0.43	83.7	6.1	-13.1	-19.4	-6.3	-58.1	80.1	0.73	1.03
SuperFarm	SUPER	0.15	58.8	7.4	-1.5	-4.1	28.9	-37.2	101.3	0.84	1.10
Aavegotchi	GHST	0.99	50.5	1.4	-9.9	-34.1	-6.9	-39.6	50.0	0.18	0.28
Origin Protocol	OGN	0.10	49.9	4.6	-13.9	-28.1	-4.1	-70.5	106.0	0.84	1.16
Yield Guild Games	YGG	0.20	36.8	8.3	-16.6	-37.0	-7.7	-77.1	125.8	1.02	1.42

Event Driven

Event Driven

Token (7-Day Price Change)	Catalysts
Ethereum (ETH) (+2.7%)	Developers are working on <u>Ethereum's next major upgrade (expected in 2H 2023) called</u> <u>'Dencun'</u> , which will include proto-danksharding.
Bitcoin (BTC) (+2.0%)	Bitcoin has become <u>the second-most popular NFT blockchain</u> . Bitcoin Ordinals NFT trading volume was in second place behind Ethereum in the past month or so, resulting in Bitcoin gaining a significant lead over other blockchains like Polygon and Solana.
Optimism (OP) (-10.7%)	Optimism's <u>'Bedrock' upgrade has been given a launch date of 6 June</u> . It is expected to result in significantly reduced transaction fees, as well as provide greater network security and enhanced compatibility with Ethereum.
STEPN (GMT) (-9.5%)	STEPN is <u>integrating payment service Apple Pay</u> as a fiat on-ramp for in-app purchases in a bid to make its app more widely accessible. Users will no longer have to connect a crypto wallet to purchase in-game assets.
Litecoin (LTC) (+0.5%)	Mining rewards halving (from 12.5 LTC to 6.25 LTC) is coming up in July/August 2023.
Kava Network (KAVA) (-12.2%)	Kava's <u>13 Mainnet launched recently on 17 May</u> . The upgrade brings <u>architecture enhancements</u> such as a new Cosmos-Ethereum internal bridge, Kava EVM 2.0, and expanded functionality for the Strategic Vault controlled by Kava DAO.

Economic Events Calendar (Eastern Time)

6 Jun

Australia RBA Interest Rate Decision

8 Jun

• Eurozone Gross Domestic Product (Q1)

9 Jun

China Consumer Price Index (May)

13 Jun

• US Consumer Price Index (May)

14 Jun

US Federal Reserve Interest Rate Decision

15 Jun

Eurozone ECB Interest Rate Decision

16 Jun

Japan BoJ Interest Rate Decision

20 Jun

China PBoC Interest Rate Decision

22 Jun

UK BoE Interest Rate Decision

27 Jun

• US Gross Domestic Product Annualised (Q1)

US Fed target interest rate decisions upcoming:

Current	14 Jun	26 Jul	20 Sep		
5.00% - 5.25%	5.25% - 5.50%		5.25% - 5.50%		

As of 31 May 2023 Sources: CME FedWatch Tool, Crypto.com Research

Crypto Conferences Calendar

17 - 20 July 2023

EthCC 6 — Paris, France

• The largest annual European Ethereum event focused on technology and community.

4 - 9 September 2023

Korea Blockchain Week — Seoul, South Korea

• Brings together the brightest minds in the industry to discuss, redefine, and celebrate the future of finance.

11-13 Sep 2023

Permissionless 2023 by Blockworks — Austin, Texas, US

• "The world's largest DeFi conference" attended by DeFi builders, DAO participants, protocol developers, crypto companies, funds and institutions, and more.

13 -19 November 2023

Devconnect — Istanbul, Turkiye

• A gathering that features independent Ethereum events each with a unique focus.

