

De-Dollarisation Dynamics: How a Weakening Dollar Shapes Bitcoin's Performance

Your top-down guide to the most important
macro themes for Bitcoin & Cryptoassets

This document is intended for professional investors only. Capital at risk.

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About Bitwise

Bitwise is one of the world's leading crypto specialist asset managers. Thousands of financial advisors, family offices, and institutional investors across the globe have partnered with us to understand and access the opportunities in crypto. Since 2017, Bitwise has established a track record of excellence managing a broad suite of index and active solutions across ETPs, separately managed accounts, private funds, and hedge fund strategies—spanning both the U.S. and Europe.

In Europe, for the past four years Bitwise (previously ETC Group) has developed an extensive and innovative suite of crypto ETPs, including Europe's largest and most liquid bitcoin ETP.

This family of crypto ETPs is domiciled in Germany and approved by BaFin. We exclusively partner with reputable entities from the traditional financial industry, ensuring that 100% of the assets are securely stored offline (cold storage) through regulated custodians.

Our European products comprise a collection of carefully designed financial instruments that seamlessly integrate into any professional portfolio, providing comprehensive exposure to crypto as an asset class. Access is straightforward via major European stock exchanges, with primary listings on Xetra, the most liquid exchange for ETF trading in Europe.

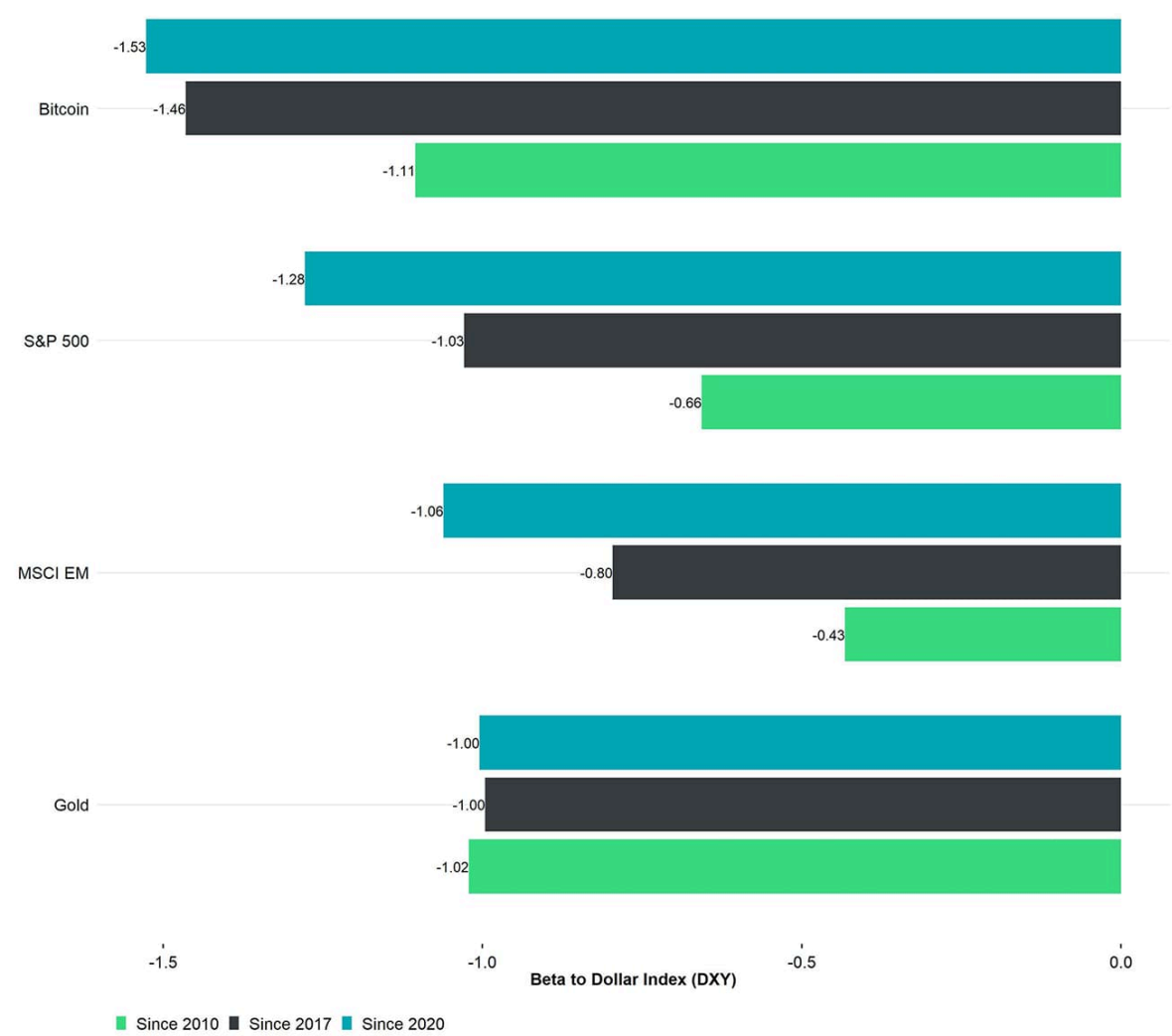
Retail investors benefit from easy access through numerous DIY/online brokers, coupled with our robust and secure physical ETP structure, which includes a redemption feature.

Executive Summary

- **Performance:** April's stability in Bitcoin and broader cryptoassets, driven by a reversal in risk appetite, a persistent supply deficit on exchanges and weakening dollar amid rising Fed-cut expectations, underscores Bitcoin's growing role as a hedge against US Treasury and equity market stress. With macro uncertainty still elevated but now priced in, on-chain improvements and a potential Fed rescue suggest Bitcoin has already bottomed, setting the stage for renewed bull-market positioning.
- **Macro:** We think that mounting US recession risks and high policy uncertainty will drive Fed rate cuts and dollar weakness, creating looser financial conditions that have already enabled Bitcoin's decoupling from equities. Combined with structural de-dollarisation, expanding global money supply and Bitcoin's rising inverse sensitivity to the dollar, this positions Bitcoin as a superior hedge and alternative reserve asset—likely to outperform gold and traditional safe havens in the months and years ahead.
- **On-Chain:** Macro developments remain in the driver's seat and, after a lag, are now visibly reversing on-chain weakness—our 'apparent demand' metric has turned positive thanks to renewed spot-ETF inflows and a surge in corporate accumulation (notably MSTR's outsized April buys). At the same time, aggregate exchange supply is sinking to new multi-year lows, tightening liquid supply. Taken together, these factors underpin our constructive view that the current Bitcoin bull market still has room to run.

Chart of the Month

Bitcoin exhibits one of the highest inverse sensitivities to the Dollar
Full-Sample Beats of Assets vs. DXY



Source: Bloomberg, Bitwise Europe

Performance

The performance in April was characterized by stabilization in Bitcoin and other cryptoassets due to a reversal in global cross asset risk appetite and continued support via an ongoing supply deficit of bitcoins on exchanges. It seemed as if financial markets have passed the point of 'peak economic uncertainty' caused by the US trade policies but remain relatively volatile. In fact, the US economic policy uncertainty index we highlighted in our previous weekly report has come off its recent all-time highs but remains elevated.

Meanwhile, higher Fed rate cut expectations and Dollar weakness amid US recession risks have moved into the spotlight of markets and are increasingly providing a tailwind for Bitcoin and cryptoassets.

What is also worth noting is that Bitcoin managed to decouple from the performance of US equities during the escalation of the trade feud as highlighted in one of our [weekly reports](#) which also resulted in a systemic bond market capitulation.

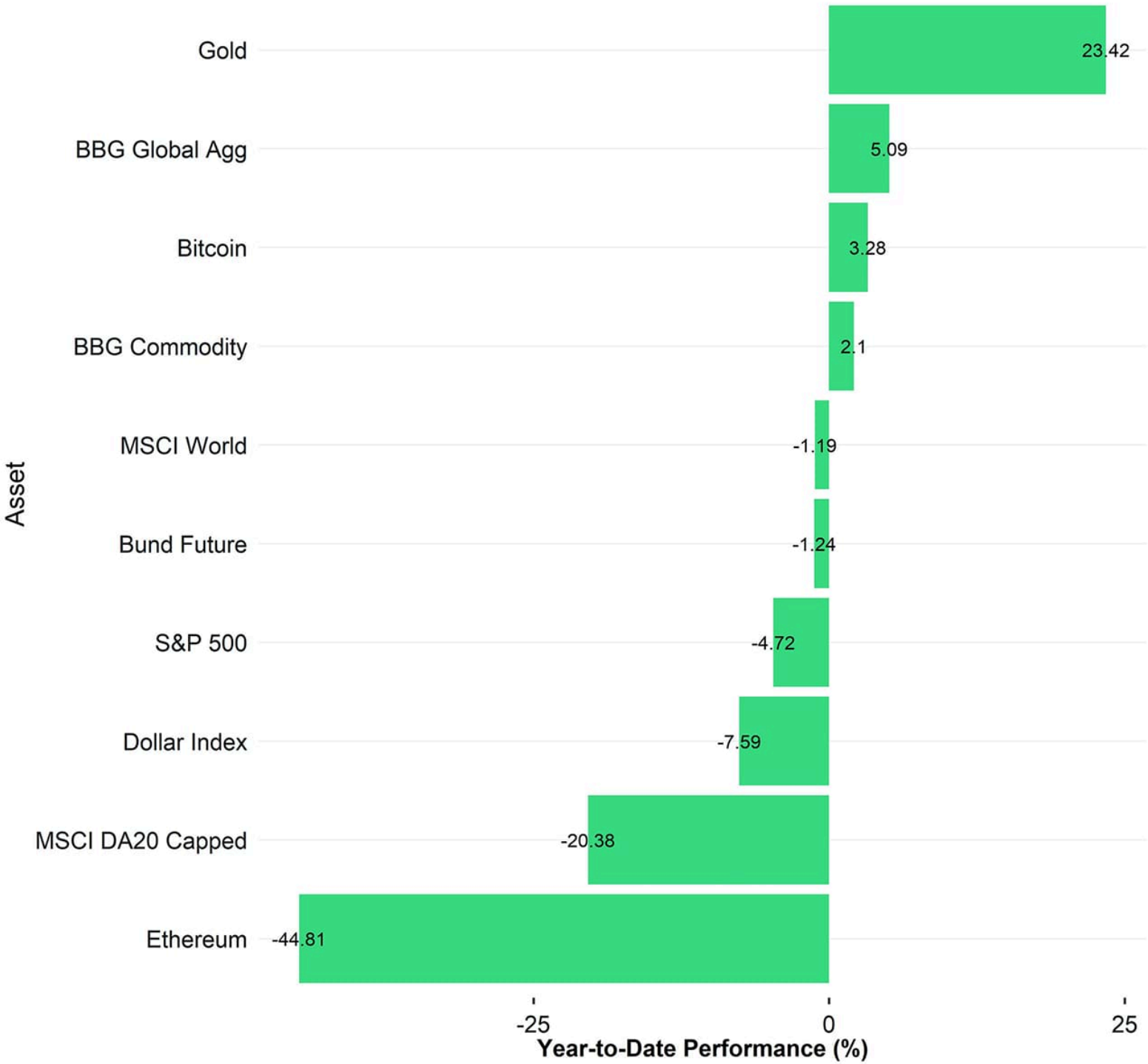
The 'sell America' trade has led to a big international investor rotation away from US assets and in particular away from US Treasury bonds which suffered significantly despite a broad-based risk-off in financial markets. This was also one of the key reasons for the significant Dollar weakness observed during April.

In this context, it is worth mentioning that Bitcoin can serve as a hedge against US Treasury downside due to its low correlation and the fact that it is essentially free of counterparty risks as highlighted in one of our recent [Crypto Market Espresso](#) reports as well.

The short-term increase in systemic risks related to the US Treasury market has not only renewed interest in bilateral trade talks between the US and China, but it was also most likely the reason why Bitcoin started to decouple from the performance of US equities as a systemic risk hedge. In any case, a significant dysfunction of the US Treasury market had likely entailed an intervention by the Fed which would have been a major tailwind for Bitcoin and cryptoassets.

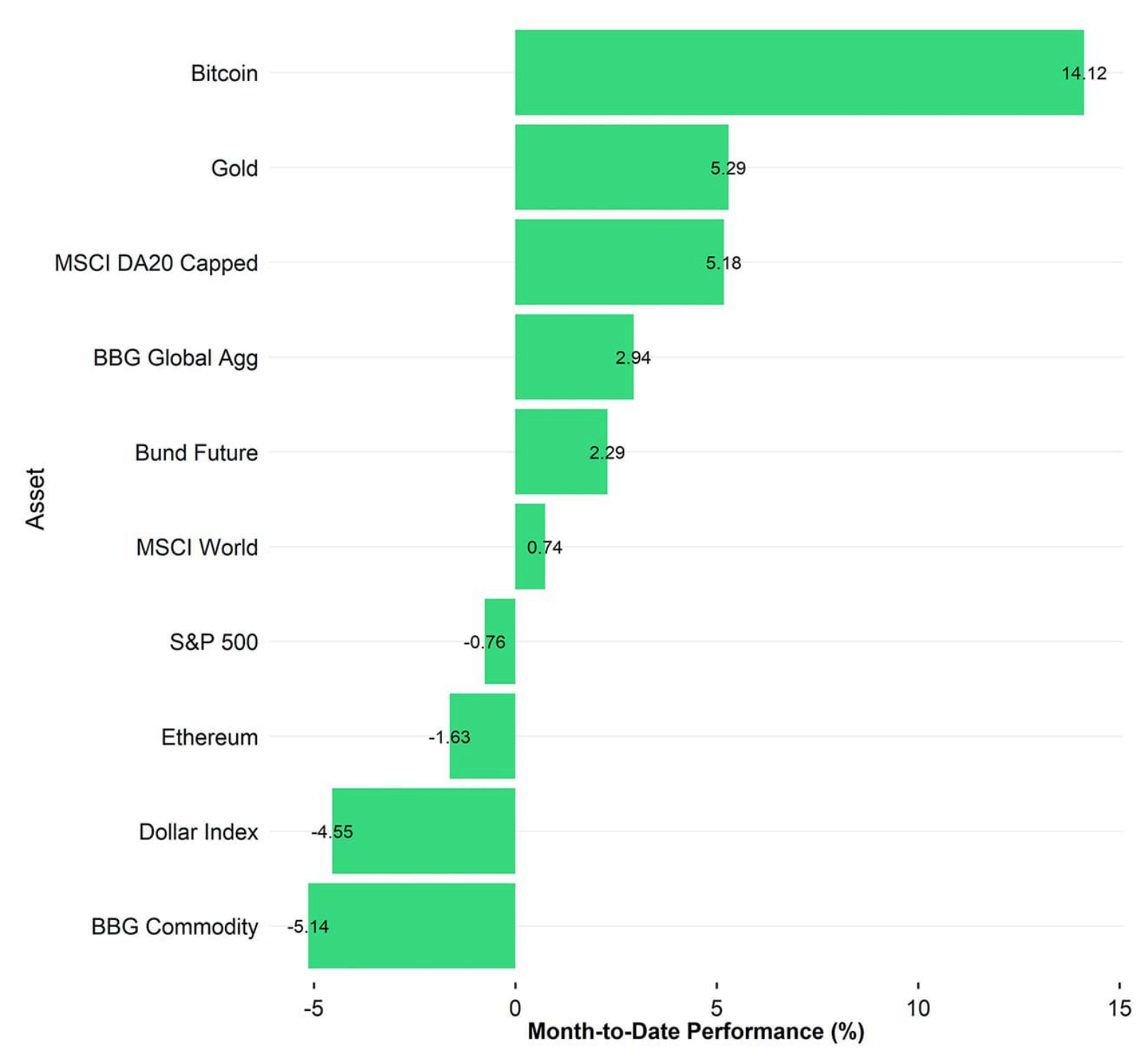
In general, the seeds for a likely intervention of the Fed appear and a protracted Dollar weakness seem to be growing. The latest regional manufacturing surveys have cemented the view that the US economy is sliding into recession as we speak which is so far also being implied by the latest nowcast of the Fed of Atlanta. Besides, leading labour market indicators also signal an imminent increase in US unemployment over the coming months.

Cross Asset Performance (YtD)



Source: Bloomberg, Coinmarketcap; performances in USD except Bund Future

Cross Asset Performance (MtD)



Source: Bloomberg, Coinmarketcap; performances in USD except Bund Future

A closer look at our product performances reveals that Bitcoin has mostly outperformed other altcoins in April. Altcoins were generally under pressure relative to Bitcoin as overall market risk sentiment remained cautious.

Bitwise Europe Product Performance Overview (%)

	Year-to-Date	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year	3 years	5 years
Bitwise MSCI Digital Assets Select 20	-21	9.2	-29.3	21.6	22.7	-	-
Bitwise Physical Bitcoin	1.3	16	-8.3	36.3	55.7	138	-
Bitwise Core Bitcoin	1.1	15.9	-8.4	36.3	57.8	-	-
Bitwise Diaman Bitcoin & Gold ETP	-	4.1	-	-	-	-	-
Bitwise Physical Ethereum	-45.8	0.4	-46	-27.9	-39.3	-36.6	-
Bitwise Ethereum Staking	-45.8	0.6	-45.5	-27.7	-37.8	-	-
Bitwise Physical Solana	-23.1	20.3	-36.4	-10.7	16.7	55.5	-
Bitwise Solana Staking	-21.7	20.8	-35.6	-	-	-	-
Bitwise Physical Litecoin	-16.5	5.1	-33.1	23.8	8.1	-16.7	-
Bitwise Physical XRP	5.1	5.7	-27.9	336.2	341.5	248.5	-
Bitwise Physical Cardano	-19.2	7.2	-28.2	102.8	59.7	-16.8	-
Bitwise Aptos Staking	-37.5	2.9	-32.4	-	-	-	-
Bitwise Web 3.0 UCITS ETF	-12.9	5.5	-17	2.2	6.8	44.6	-

Source: Bloomberg, Bitwise Europe; Performances in EUR; all information are subject to change; past performance not indicative of future returns; Data as of 2025-04-30

Performance dispersion among altcoins also declined considerably to the lowest level since November 2022 as altcoin performances remained dominated by global macro developments and less by coin-specific investment narratives.

We think it’s quite likely that macro developments will remain at the forefront of Bitcoin and crypto markets over the coming months amid ongoing uncertainty around US trade policies and increasing evidence that the US economy is sliding into recession.

However, we think that due to very pessimistic sentiment in April, improving on-chain data and a rising tailwind from monetary policy as well as a weaker Dollar that Bitcoin has most-likely passed the bottom already. Investors should reposition their exposure for a continuation of the bull market.

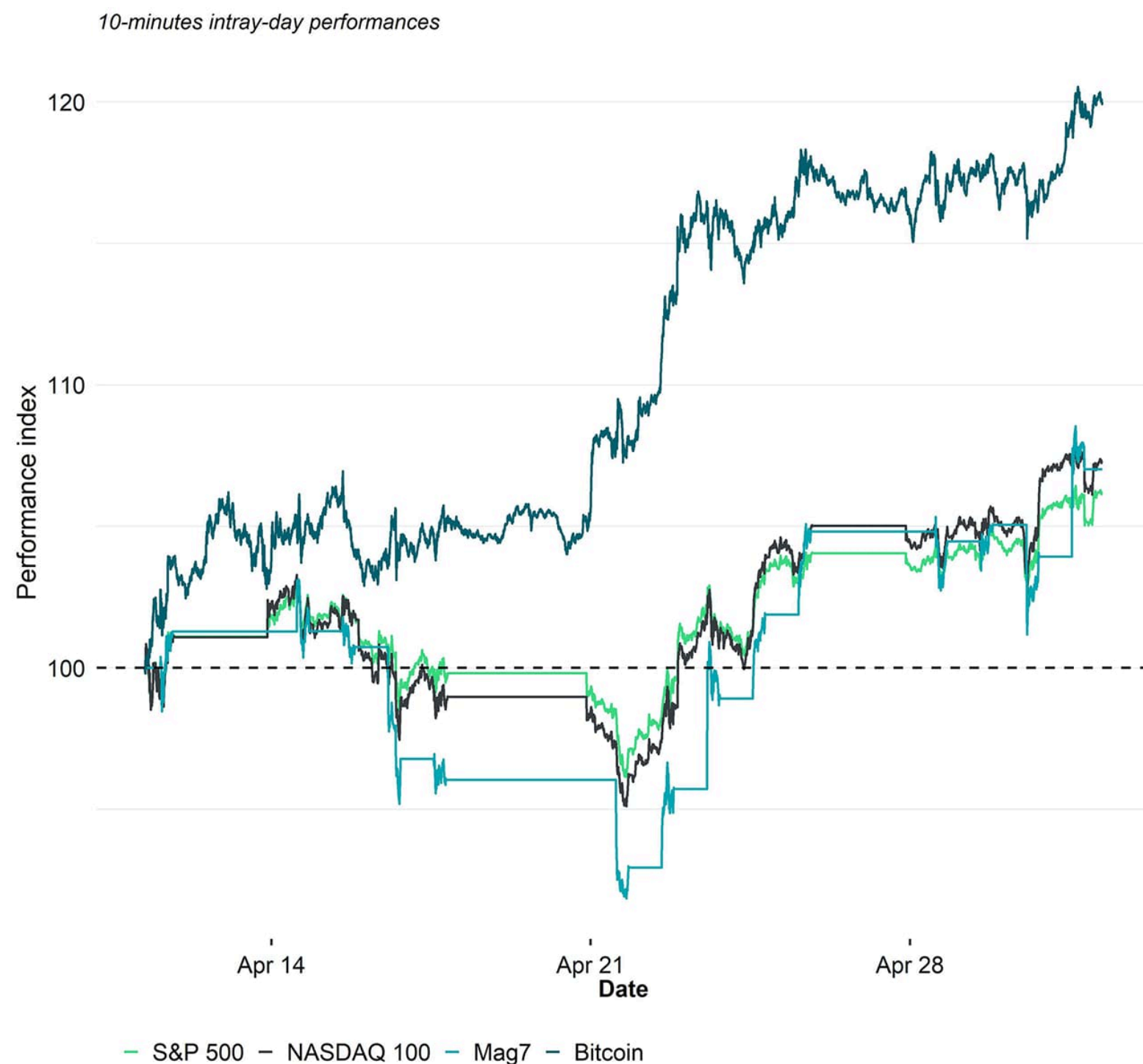
Bottom Line: April’s stability in Bitcoin and broader cryptoassets, driven by a reversal in risk appetite, a persistent supply deficit on exchanges and weakening dollar amid rising Fed-cut expectations, underscores Bitcoin’s growing role as a hedge against US Treasury and equity market stress. With macro uncertainty still elevated but now priced in, on-chain improvements and a potential Fed rescue suggest Bitcoin has already bottomed, setting the stage for renewed bull-market positioning.

Macro Environment

The macro environment in April continued to be heavily influenced by high economic policy uncertainty in the US.

However, a notable development was the performance decoupling of Bitcoin from US equities. Bitcoin managed to decouple and outperform US equities due to rising US Treasury risks for which Bitcoin appears to be a superior hedge than gold as highlighted in one of our latest [Crypto Market Espressos](#).

Bitwise has recently managed to outperform US equities



Source: Bloomberg, Bitwise Europe

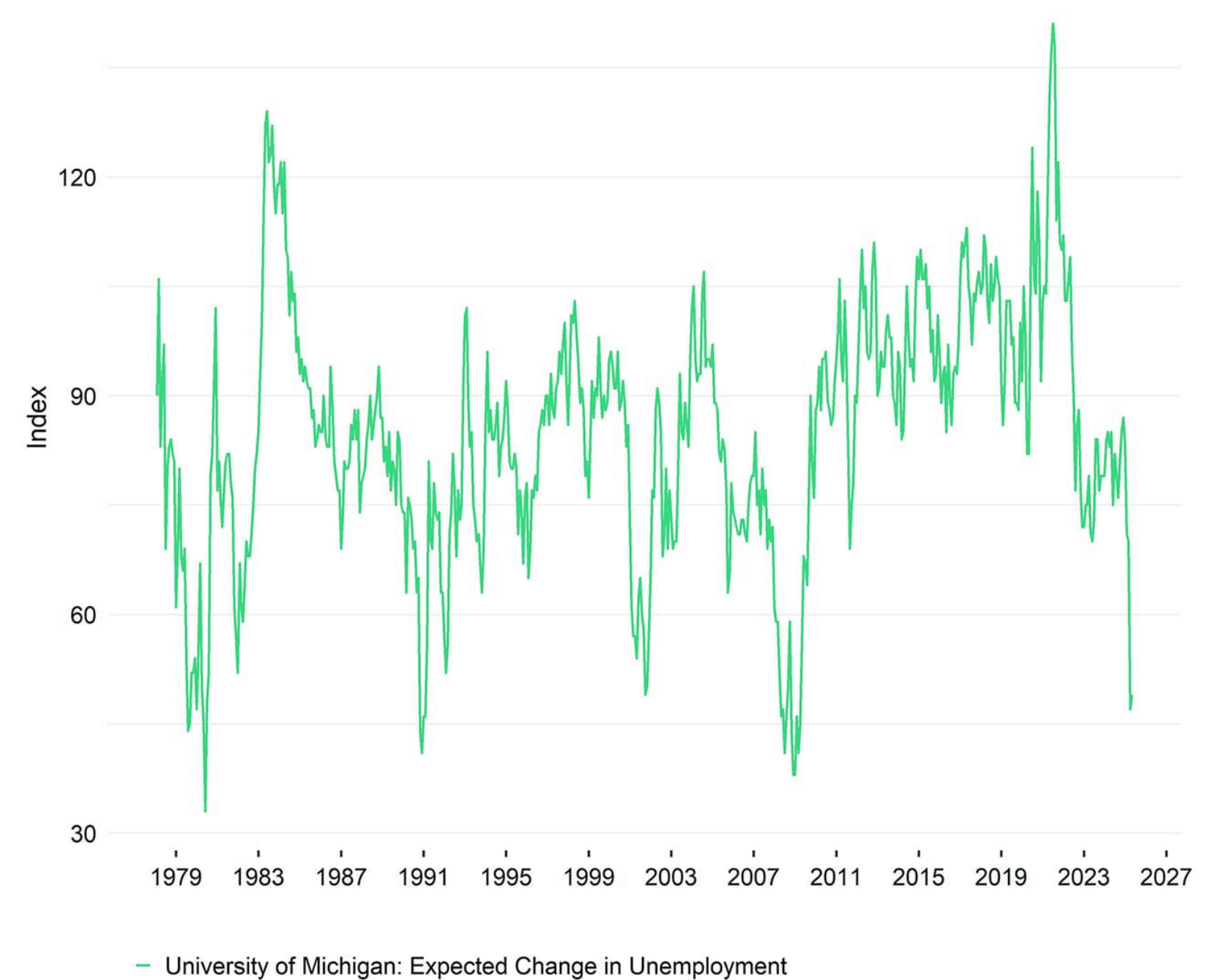
In fact, major tailwinds for Bitcoin and crypto assets have emerged in April such as expectations for looser Fed monetary policy and the weaker Dollar due to increasing US recession risks and the new US trade policies.

It is quite likely that both of these drivers will continue to provide a major macro support for Bitcoin in particular.

As far as **monetary policy** is concerned, it is quite likely that markets will start to price in more Fed rate cuts over the coming months.

The reason is that [leading US employment indicators](#) have continued to deteriorate which increase the likelihood of a negative non-farm payroll print over the coming months. It will become increasingly harder for the Fed to justify high rates especially amid an increase in the unemployment rate.

US consumer employment expectations have deteriorated more recently
UMich: Expected Change in Unemployment



Source: Bloomberg, Bitwise Europe

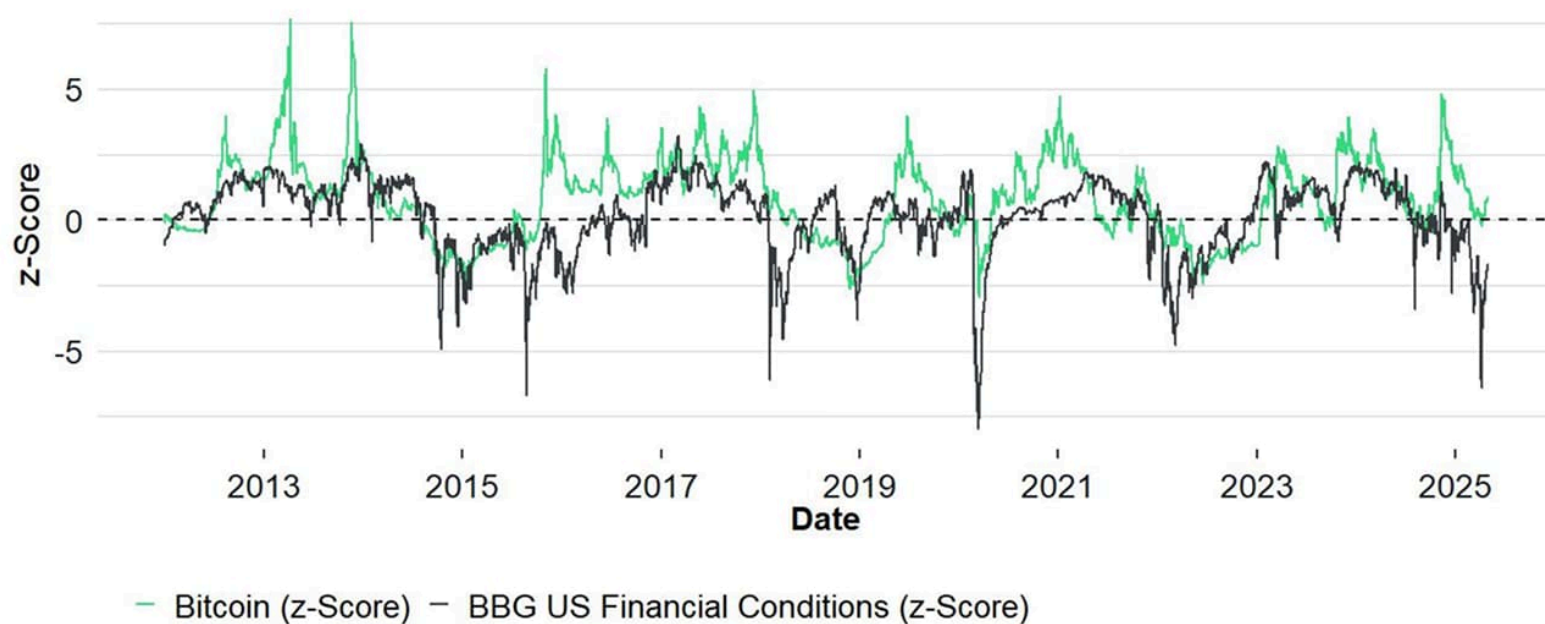
In this context, a classical Taylor Rule already implies that the Fed Funds Target Rate should be significantly lower than today and a continuous decline in the inflation rate implied by high-frequency indicators as well as an increase in unemployment will likely increase that gap between Fed Funds Target and what is warranted by underlying economic conditions even further.

Moreover, there is rising political pressure on Fed chairman Powell exerted directly by president Trump as can be seen [here](#) and [here](#).

We think that a negative NFP print could be the catalyst to watch for a commencement of larger easing measures by the Fed. In this scenario, it's very likely that financial markets will start to price in more Fed rate cuts in advance which will most-likely entail a further depreciation of the US Dollar and looser financial conditions.

US financial conditions have been the tightest since the Covid recession in 2020 so there is a high chance that these could loosen from here due to further rate cuts and Dollar depreciation. Bitcoin tends to thrive during periods of loosening financial conditions and usually tends to be under pressure when financial conditions tighten as the chart below highlights:

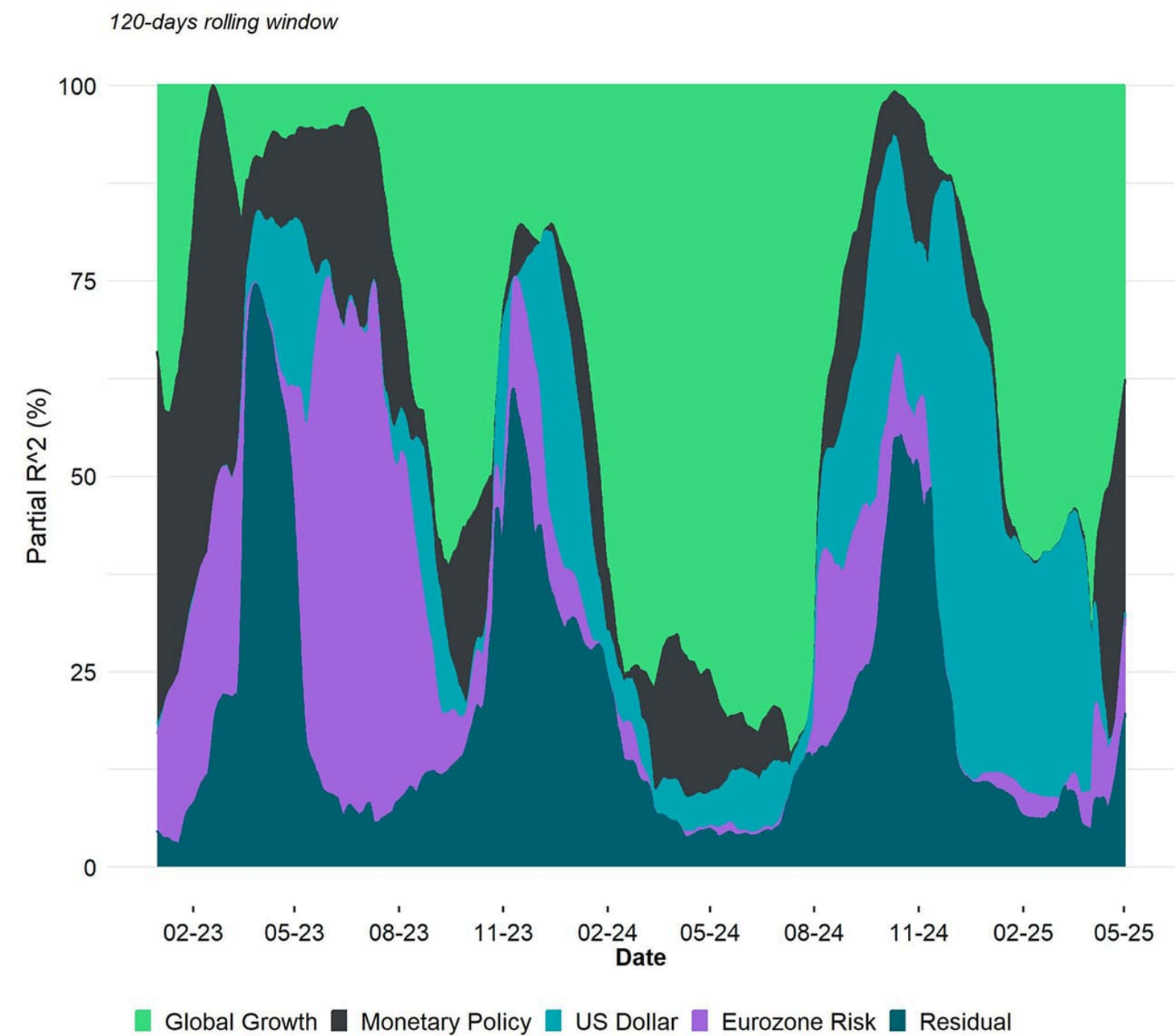
Bitcoin vs US Financial Conditions



Source: Bloomberg, Bitwise Europe

The reason is that monetary policy is becoming increasingly relevant for the performance of Bitcoin as the quantitative analysis below shows. From a pure quantitative perspective, the share of bitcoin's performance explained by global growth has been declining recently in favour of a rising share of monetary policy:

How much of Bitcoin's performance can be explained by macro factors?
Rolling partial R^2 of macro factors to Bitcoin



Source: Bloomberg, Bitwise Europe

These looser financial conditions will be a key positive macro driver for Bitcoin & cryptoassets over the coming months.

As far as the **US Dollar** is concerned, recent political developments in the US have accelerated the depreciation and the Dollar Index (DXY) has recently touched a 3-year low.

An increase in US import tariffs are bound to reduce the US merchandise trade deficit over the medium- to long-term due to the so-called 'J-curve effect' which is supposed to strengthen the Dollar.

However, the key to understand the recent depreciation of the Dollar is related to its global reserve currency status which necessitates a continuous expansion of the US trade deficit to disseminate US dollars to the rest of the world.

In other words, the US economy needs to run an increasing trade deficit to increase the supply of Dollars to the rest of the world which is unsustainable for the Dollar-based system as a whole over the long run (so-called 'Triffin Dilemma').

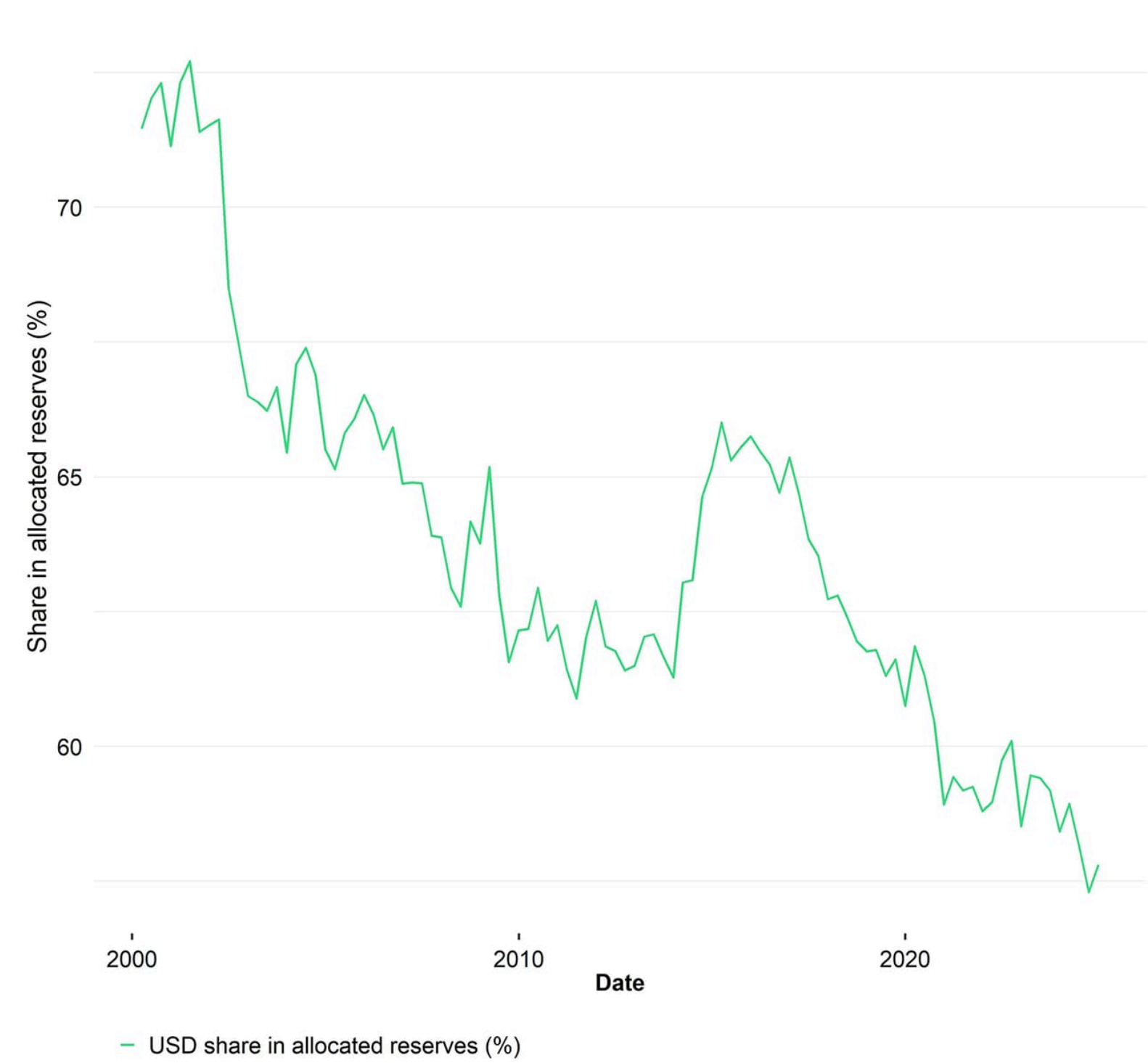
Key to understand is that the decline in the supply growth rate of Dollars to the rest of the world via lower trade deficits will ultimately entail lower 'recycling' of those accumulated US Dollars overseas into domestic US assets.

This is also what is being anticipated by US capital markets as well.

Moreover, the trade feud between the US, China and other foreign countries will likely entail a lower usage of the US Dollar in international trade which should accelerate the ongoing De-Dollarisation trend – another factor that should structurally weigh on the Dollar.

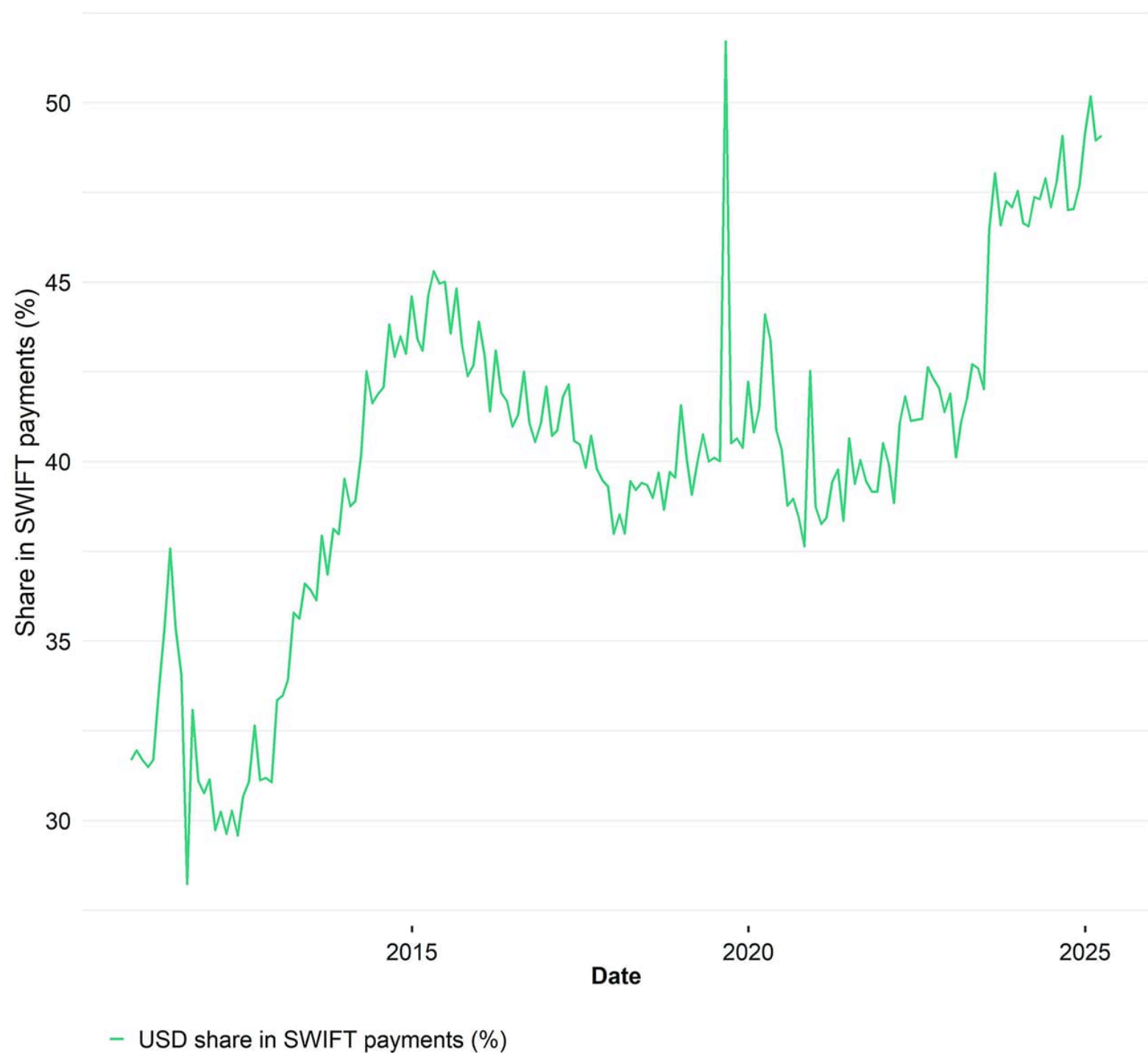
In this context, it is important to highlight that De-Dollarisation has been ongoing since the 1990s already based on the US dollars share in international FX reserves. For instance, the share of the US Dollar in international reserves was around 71.4% in Q1 1999 – it has now declined to only 57.8% per Q4 2024.

US Dollar share in global FX reserves



Source: IMF, Bloomberg, Bitwise Europe

Share of Payments via SWIFT in US Dollar



Source: IMF, Bloomberg, Bitwise Europe

Meanwhile, the US Dollar's share in SWIFT payments has actually increased and is close to a multi-year high. This is mostly a consequence of the Russian-Ukrainian war and the lower usage of Euros in Russian trade.

But it can generally be stated that the US dollar is less being used as *store-of-value* in international reserves and increasingly being used as a *medium-of-exchange* in international payments..

This also means that the velocity of circulation of international Dollars is increasing which tends to be *inflationary*. This should be interpreted as a red flag since inferior monies tend to be spent while superior monies tend to be hoarded.

All in all, these developments also imply that a transition to a new global reserve currency is already well underway.

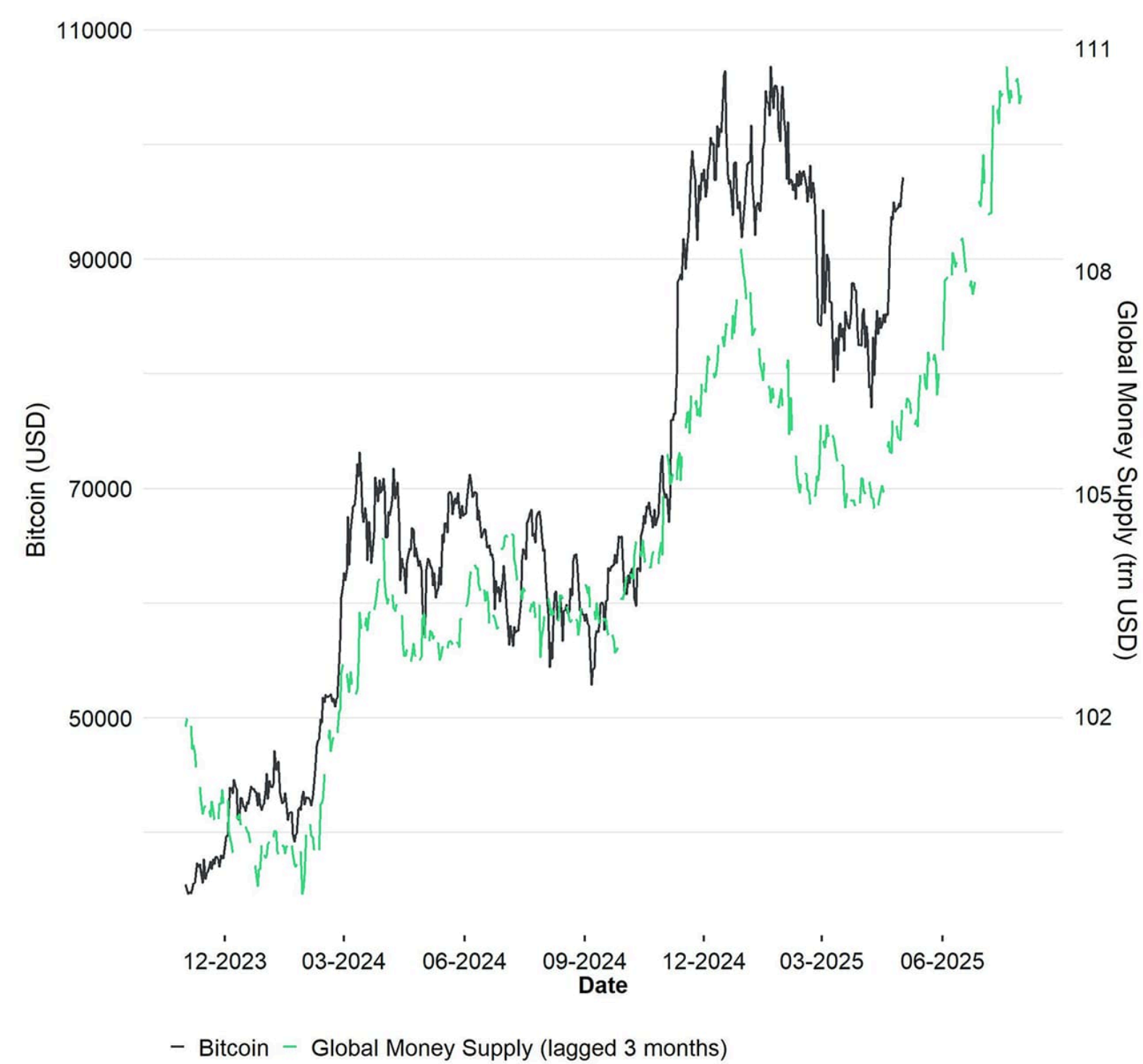
It is also no surprise that both gold and bitcoin are one of the best performing assets year-to-date in such an environment.

Bitcoin generally profits from Dollar depreciations for several reasons:

- Dollar depreciation implies a loosening of global financial conditions
- Dollar depreciation tends to increase global money supply
- Dollar depreciation implies a decline in the denominator of the BTC/USD exchange rate

On the money supply, global supply is expanding and even Crossborder Capital's Michael Howell has recently stated in one of his newsletters that **global liquidity has reached a new all-time high as well.**

Bitcoin vs Global Money Supply



Source: Bloomberg, Bitwise Europe

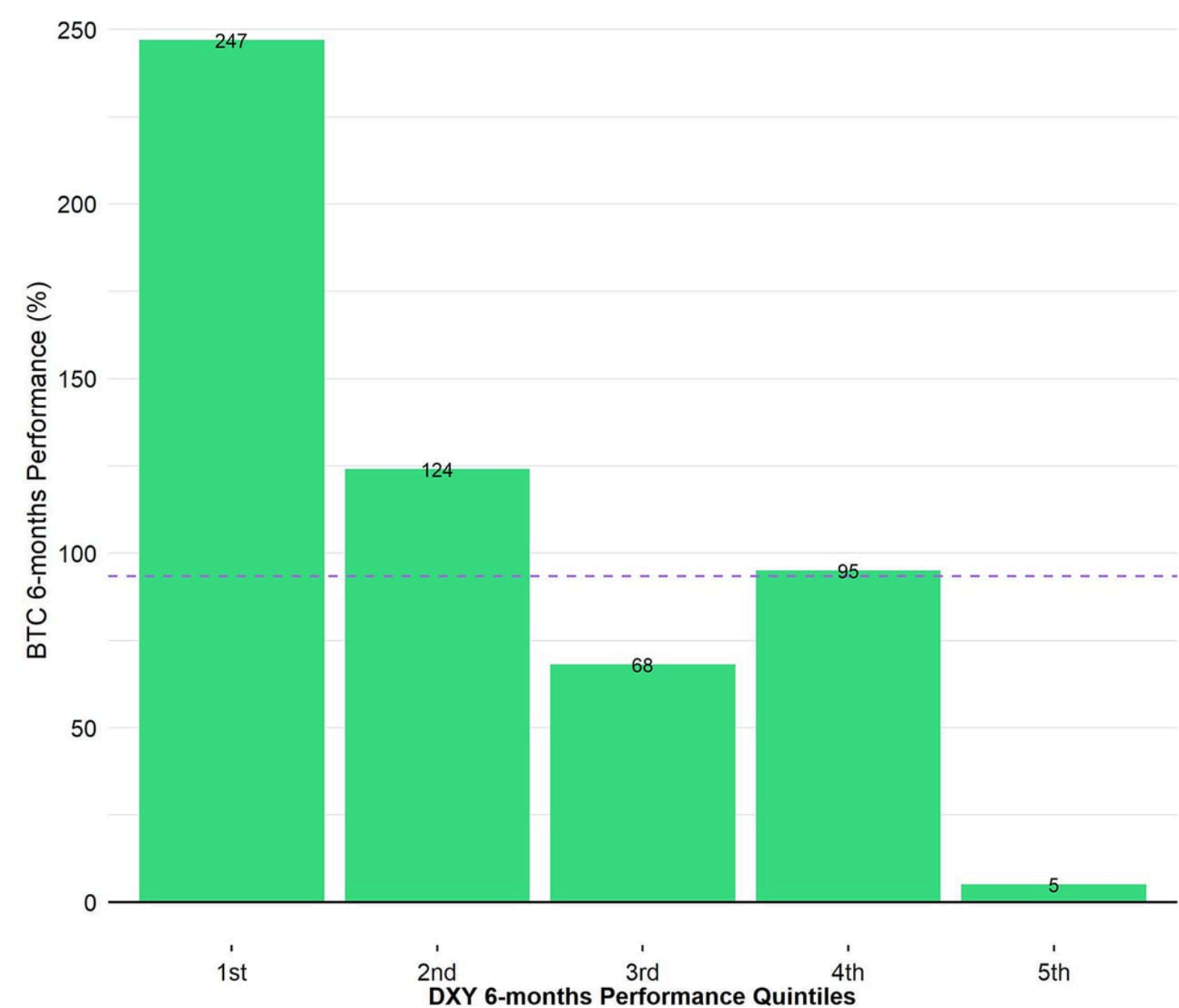
In fact, Bitcoin’s performance tends to be inversely related to changes in the Dollar and the best performances for Bitcoin have been recorded during periods when the Dollar depreciated the most and vice versa.

Dollar's performance and Bitcoin's performance are inversely correlated
Bitcoin vs Dollar Index (DXY)



Source: Bloomberg, Bitwise Europe; Sample: Jan 2011 - Today

Dollar weakness historically provides a significant tailwind for Bitcoin Bitwise
Bitcoin: Average 6M Performance per Dollar Quintile

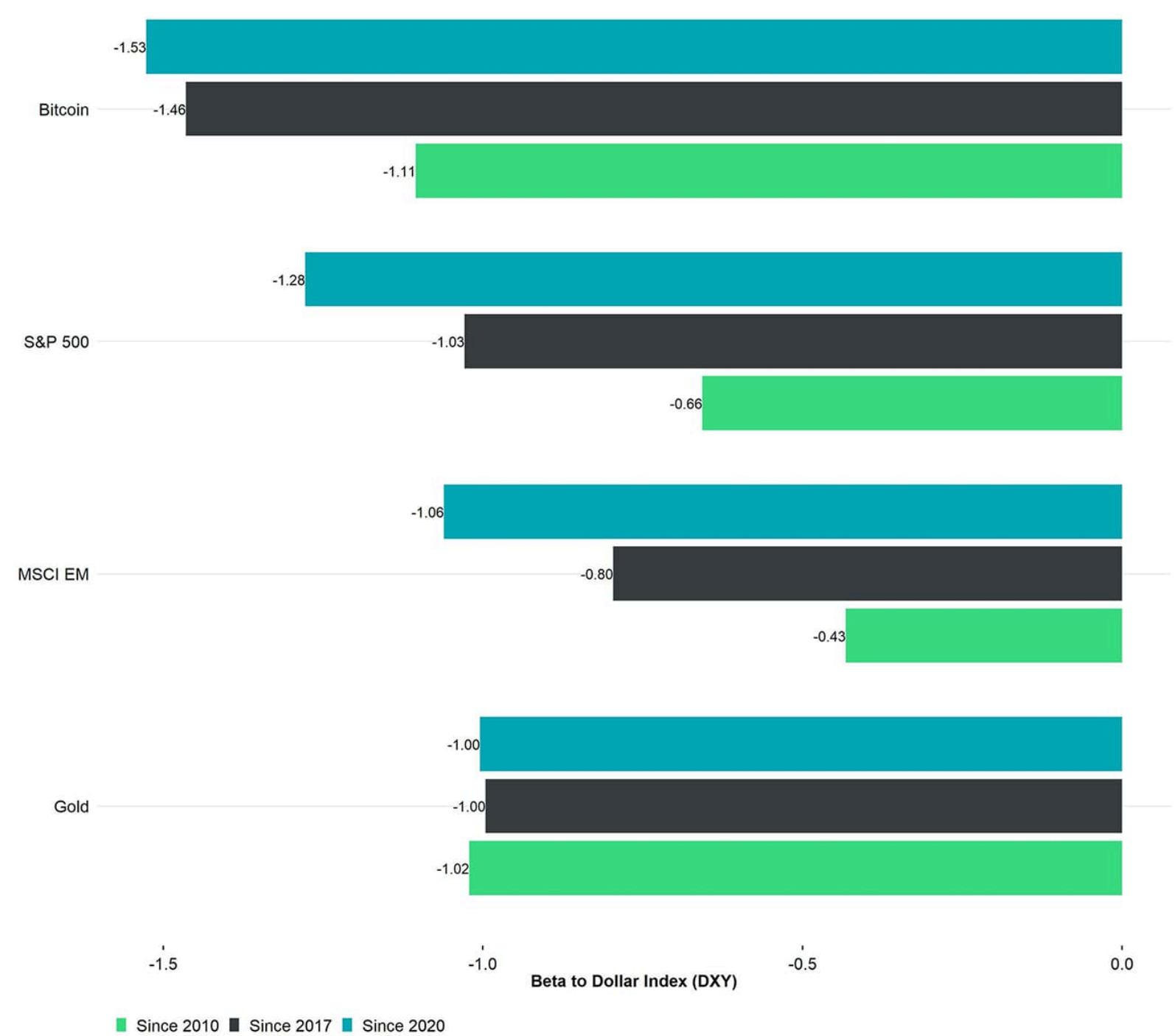


Source: Bloomberg, Bitwise Europe; Sample: Jan 2011 - Today;
Gray dashes line denotes mean BTC performance over a 6-months time period

We think that Bitcoin could emerge as the best hedge against pervasive Dollar depreciation and as an alternative reserve asset next to gold and US Treasury bonds.

In this context, Bitcoin may provide one of the best hedges against such a scenario since it exhibits one of the highest inverse sensitivities (beta) to the Dollar. What is more is that bitcoin’s beta to the Dollar has increased in recent years, especially since Covid, and is also significantly higher than gold’s beta to the Dollar.

Bitcoin exhibits one of the highest inverse sensitivities to the Dollar
Full-Sample Beats of Assets vs. DXY



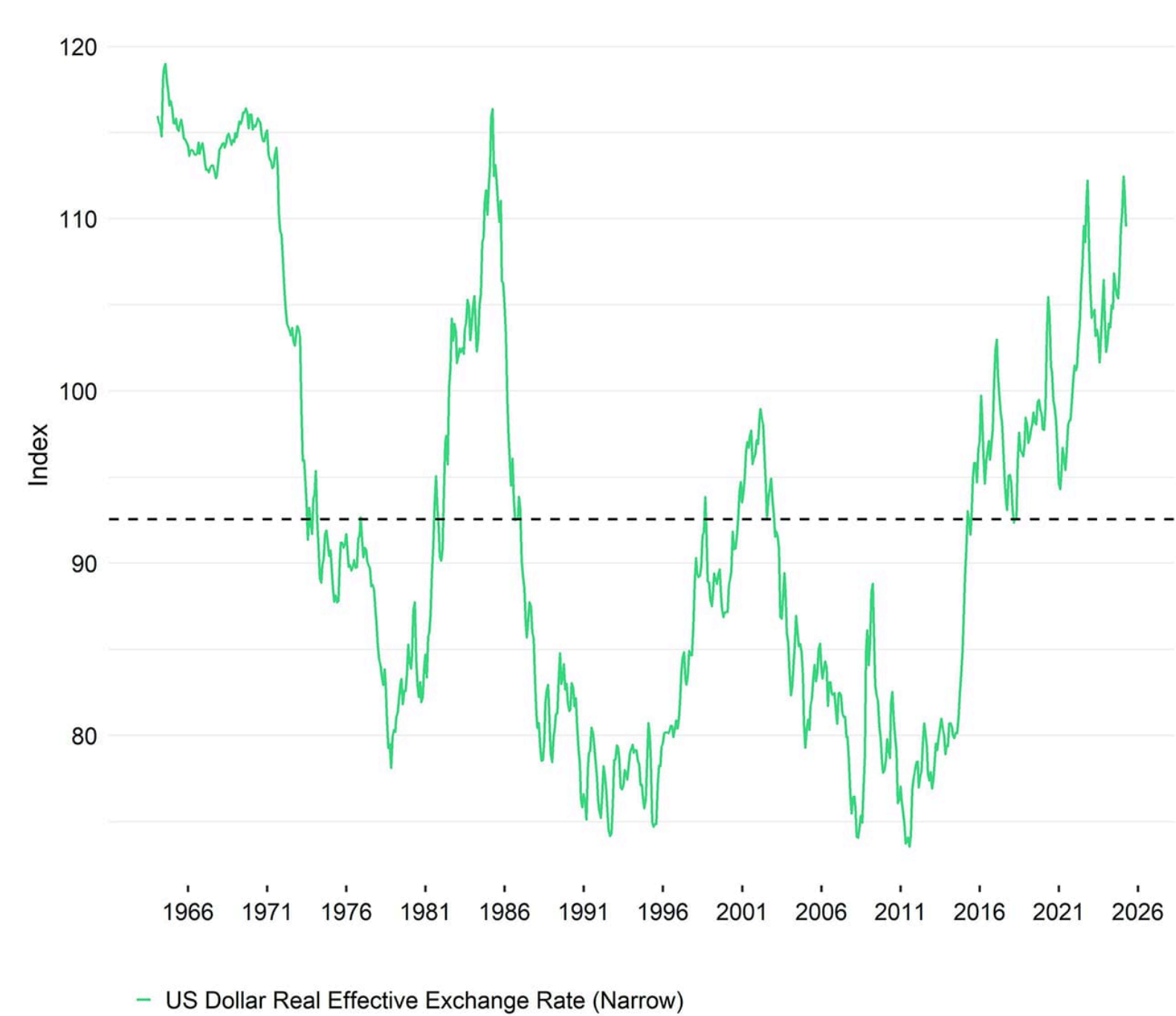
Source: Bloomberg, Bitwise Europe

It is important to highlight that the US Dollar generally faces significant depreciation potential. Based on the real effective exchange rate calculated by the BIS, the US Dollar is still significantly overvalued by historical standards. It is higher than its peak in 2001 and also close to its peak marked in the 1980s which prompted the ‘Plaza Accord’ in 1985 to weaken the Dollar.

Historically speaking, such large deviations from its long-term average increase the likelihood of so-called ‘mean reversion’. In fact, based on our estimations, the US Dollar faces around an average of -4% p.a. in depreciation over the next 5 years.

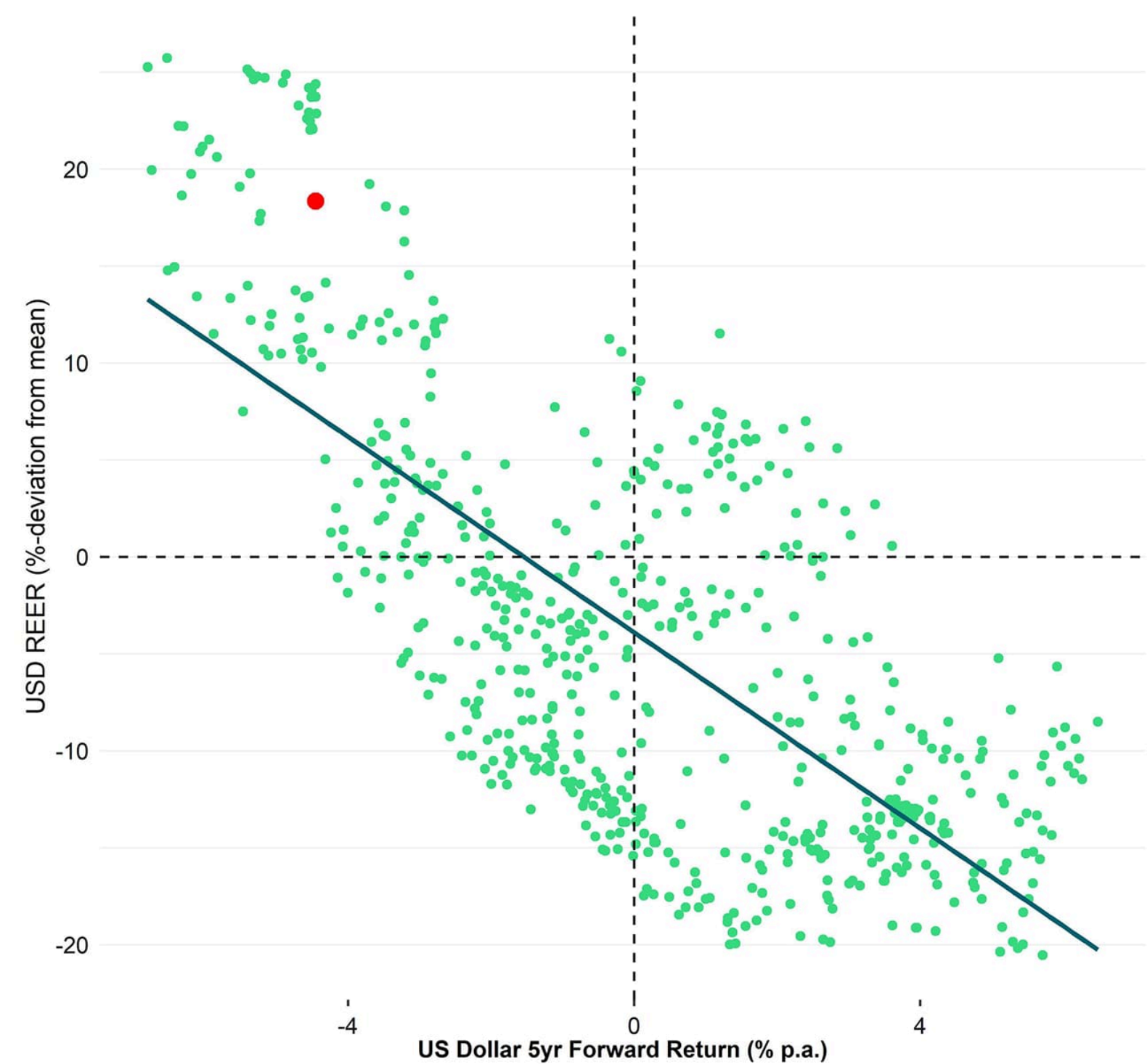
The US Dollar is still significantly overvalued

US Dollar: Real Effective Exchange Rate



Source: BIS, Bloomberg, Bitwise Europe

Predicted USD Performance over the next 5 years



Source: BIS, Bloomberg, Bitwise Europe

Structural Dollar depreciation could also increase inflation rates *structurally* as well since a weak Dollar environment tends to be associated with a bull market in commodity prices. This will likely also benefit scarce store-of-value assets like Bitcoin.

Bottom Line: We think that mounting US recession risks and high policy uncertainty will drive Fed rate cuts and dollar weakness, creating looser financial conditions that have already enabled Bitcoin’s decoupling from equities. Combined with structural de-dollarisation, expanding global money supply and Bitcoin’s rising inverse sensitivity to the dollar, this positions Bitcoin as a superior hedge and alternative reserve asset—likely to outperform gold and traditional safe havens in the months and years ahead.

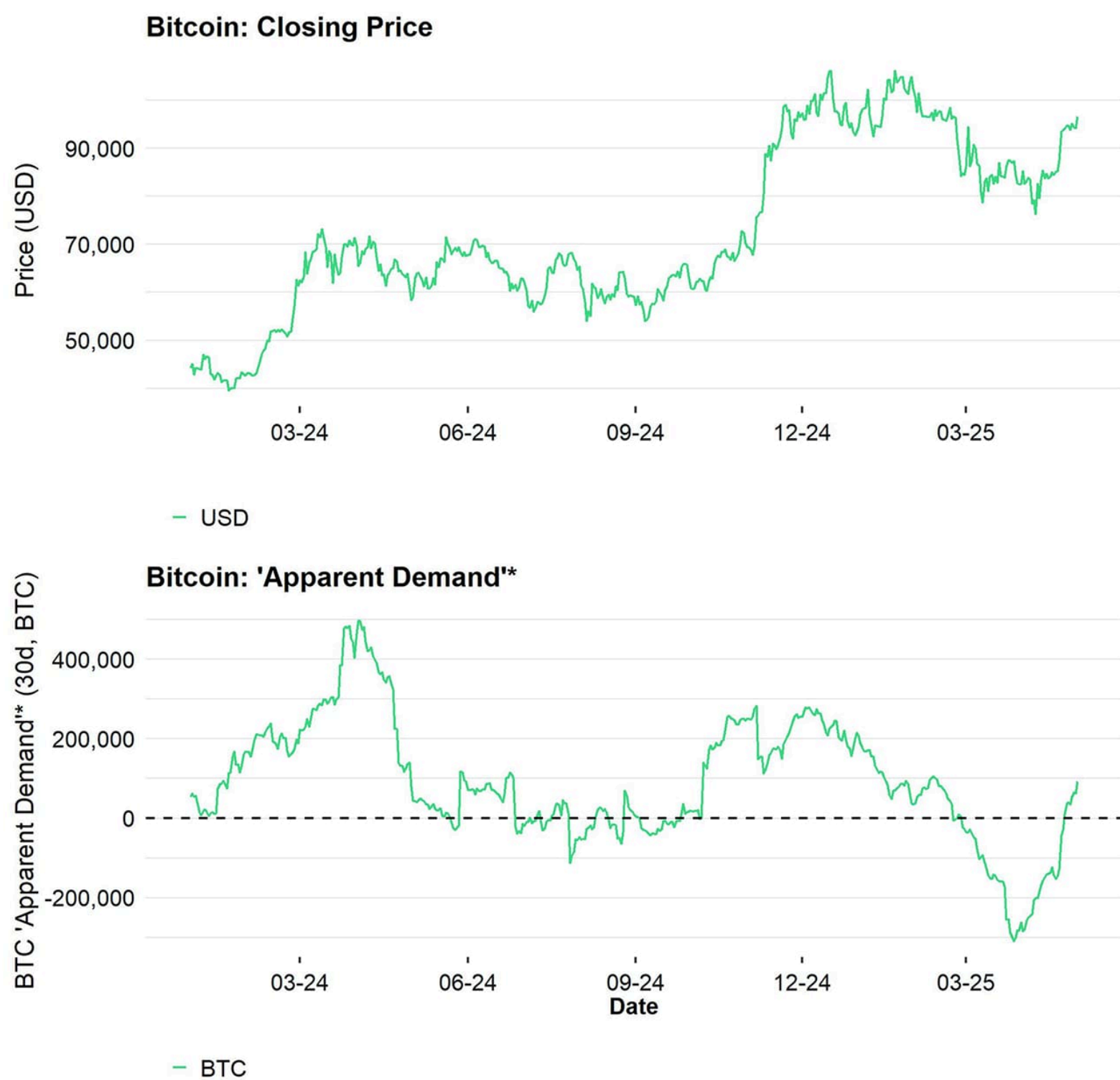
On-Chain Developments

Our key thesis remains that macro developments remain in the driver's seat right now, i.e. macro developments will likely lead changes in on-chain developments.

More specifically, we wrote in our [April report](#) last month: **'Based on past patterns, our expectation is that this significant improvement in macro factors more recently will reverse the weakness in broader bitcoin on-chain fundamentals *with a lag again.*'**

This appears to be happening right now.

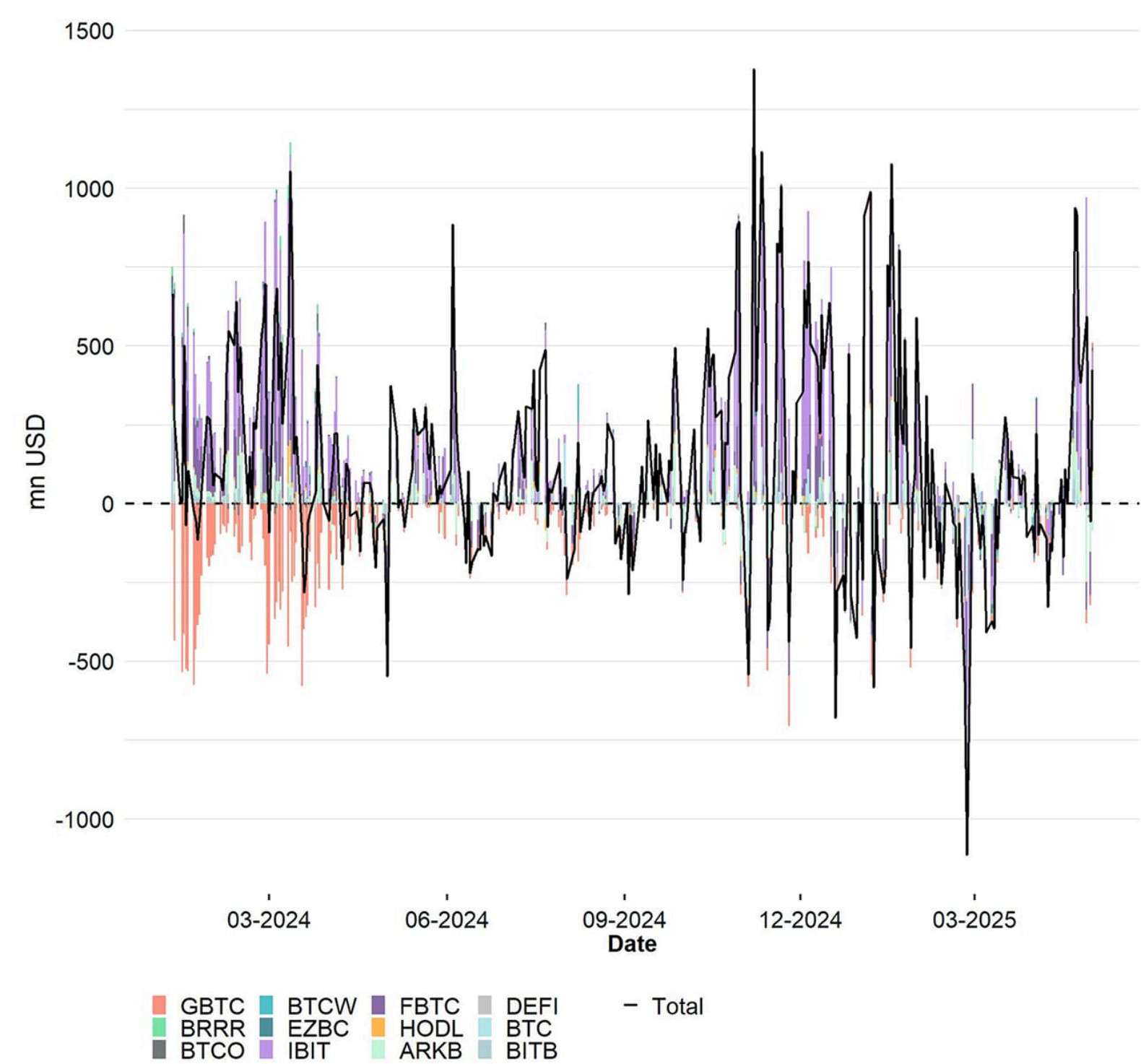
One of the key driver's of this improvement is an improvement in on-chain demand for bitcoin. In this context, our metric of 'apparent demand' has stabilised and has turned positive again.



Source: Glassnode, Bitwise Europe; *mined supply - supply last active 1+ years

This appears to be mostly related to a significant reversal in spot Bitcoin ETF flows which appear to be the "[marginal buyer](#)" of bitcoins at the moment. The reason is that spot Bitcoin ETF flows can have a significant effect on net buying volumes on bitcoin spot exchanges.

US Spot Bitcoin ETF Fund Flows

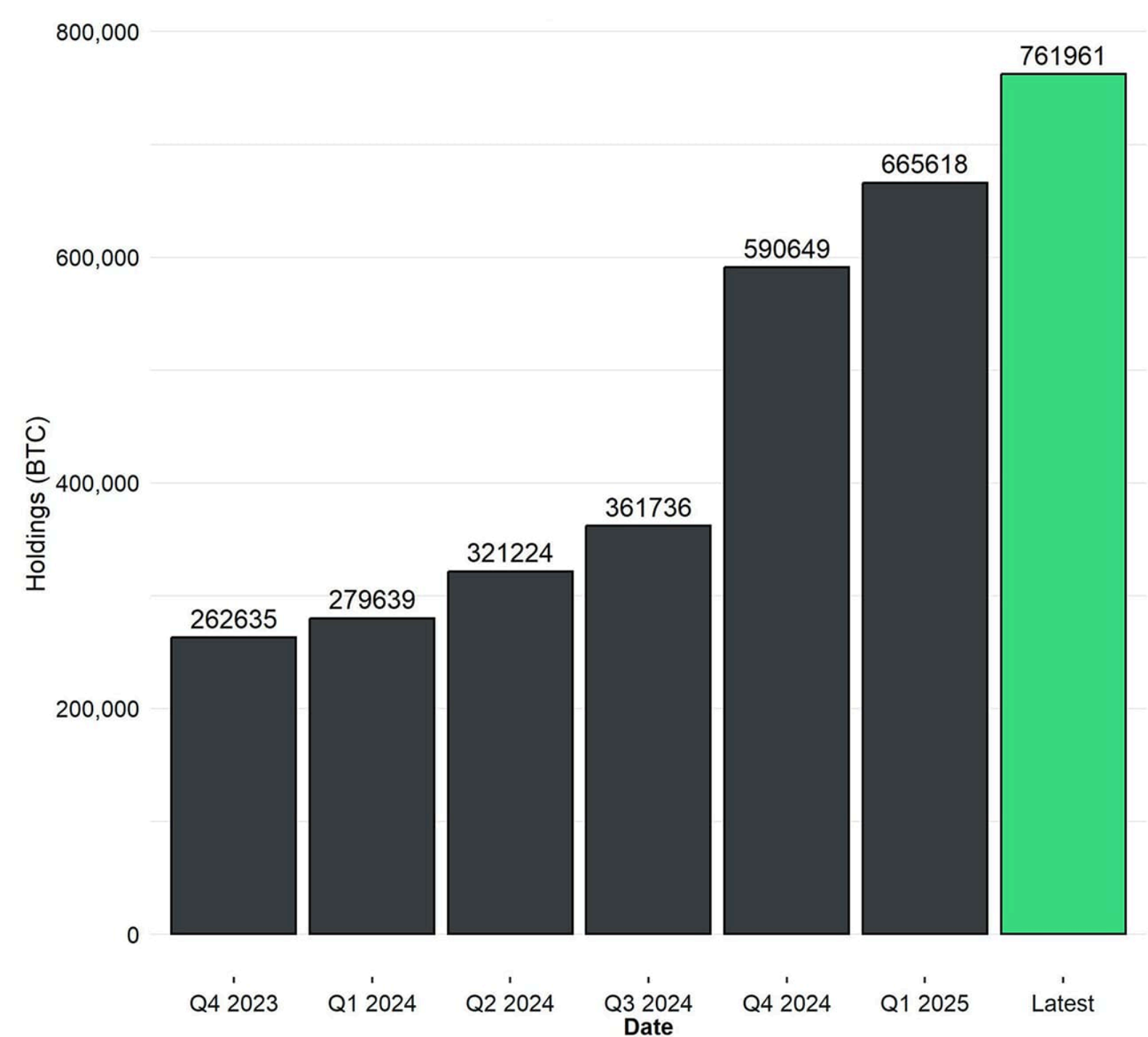


Source: Bloomberg, Bitwise Europe; data subject to change

This strong reversal in US spot Bitcoin ETF flows and crypto ETP flows more broadly also appears to be related to the improvement in global cross asset risk appetite in recent weeks.

Moreover, corporations have evolved as one of the key demand drivers for Bitcoin in April. According to the latest data provided by bitcointreasuries.net, the number of corporations which hold BTC on their balance sheet has increased by +15 while amount of bitcoins held by corporations has increased by another +96,343 BTC, led by Strategy (MSTR) which has increased its bitcoin holdings by +25,370 BTC in April.

Global corporate Bitcoin adoption continues to accelerate
Global Corporate BTC holdings



Source: [bitcointresuries.com](https://www.bitcointresuries.com) Bloomberg, Bitwise Europe; latest data as of 2025-04-29

Based on the latest estimates, proceeds via their equity ATM issuance, which were supposed to be used until 2027, appear to be depleted already (after 6 months). In other words, Strategy has bought significantly more bitcoins than what was initially planned. However, Strategy still owns around 16 bn USD in capital from their fixed income security offerings that could possibly deployed to acquire more bitcoins.

In the context of corporate adoption, major players with deep pockets have announced that they will pursue a similar business strategy like MSTR.

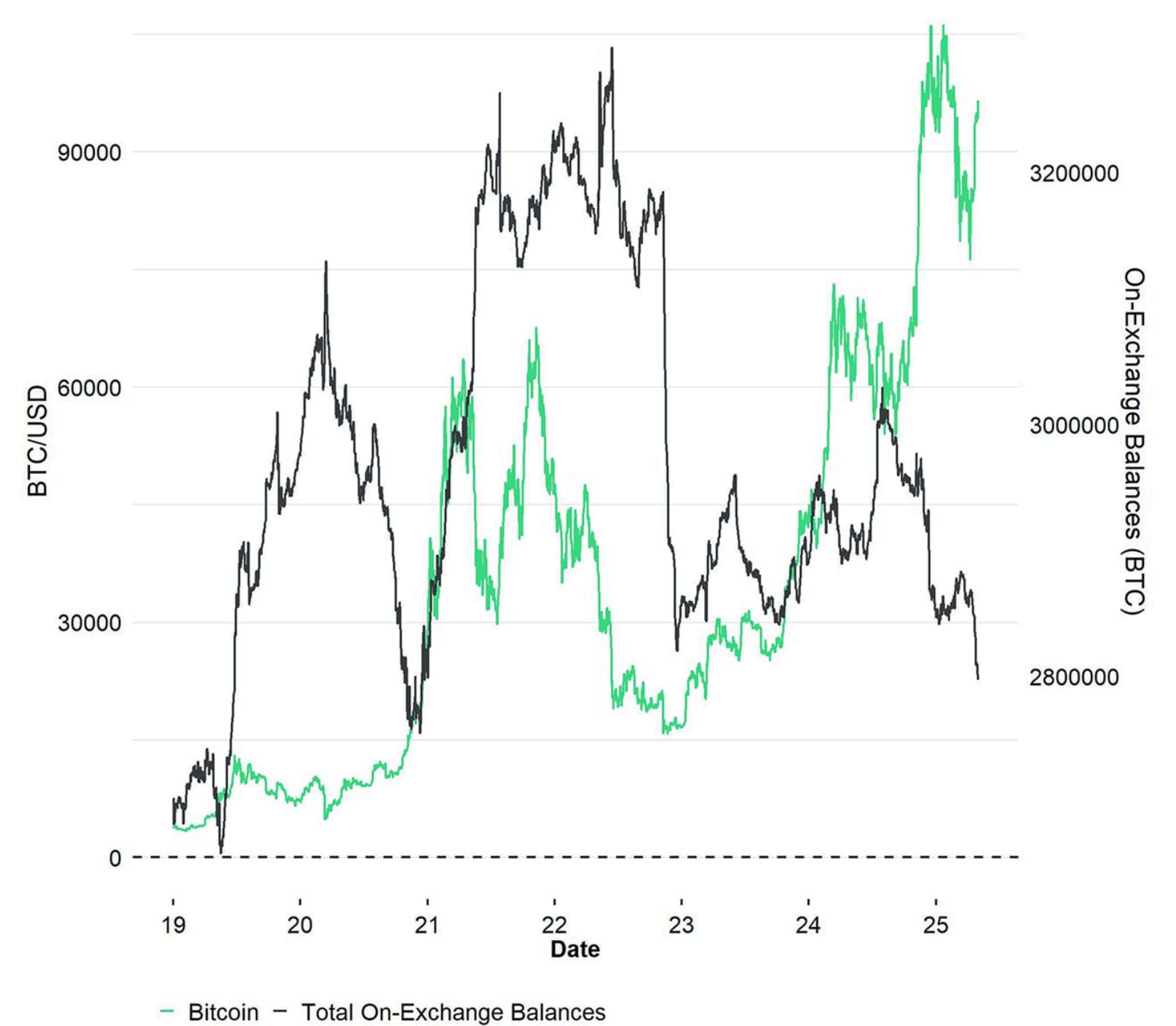
Most notably, Twenty One a joint venture funded by the likes of Cantor, Bitfinex, Tether and Softbank will likely debut their operations with a multi-billion dollar market cap. At the current share price, the Cantor Equity Partner SPAC is already valued at 12 billion USD with approximately 4 billion USD

worth of bitcoin holdings. Meanwhile, a similar company has been established in Brazil with the name Oranje which will be funded by the Brazilian banking behemoth Itaú.

Twenty One and others will certainly increase competition in the race for global bitcoin acquisitions.

A major trend which continues to intensify is the ongoing decline in aggregate bitcoin supply on exchanges.

Bitcoin vs Exchange Balances



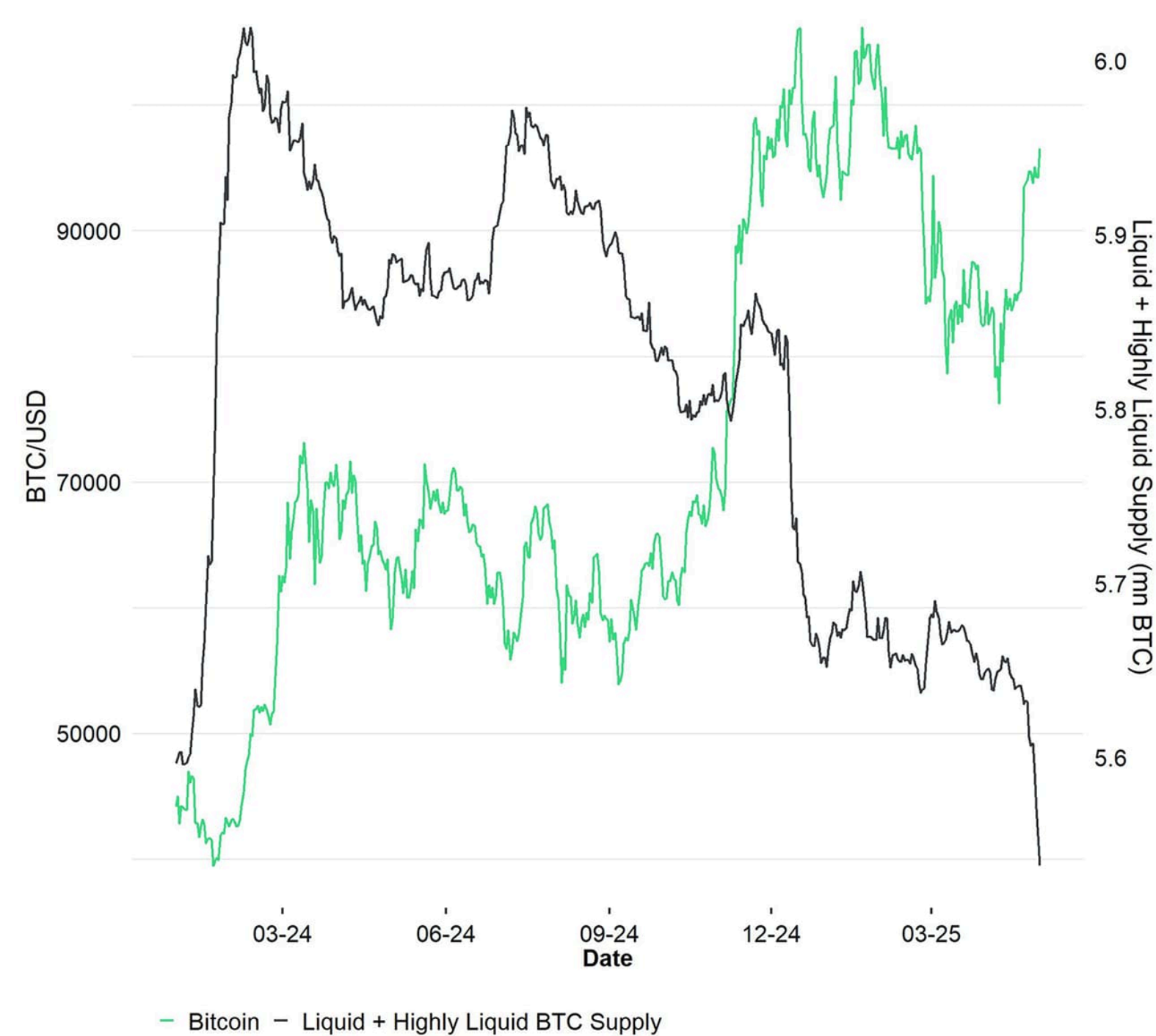
Source: Glassnode

Despite the flurry of net outflows from global bitcoin ETPs until mid-April, aggregate exchange balances have marked a new multi-year low. On-chain analysts have repeatedly tried to dismiss this phenomenon with the remark that most of these exchange outflows appear to be related to off-

exchange holdings at Coinbase (Prime) itself or mostly resembling internal exchange transfers. However, from our point-of-view the decline in exchange balances truly resembles a decline in overall liquid supply for the following reasons:

- (Highly) liquid supply is consistently making new multi-year lows as well (see chart below)
- Although some exchange outflow data might be erroneous, major data providers like Glassnode and CryptoQuant report a similar downtrend in balances
- ETF balances custodied at major custodians like Coinbase prime effectively remain rather illiquid supply and are literally off-exchange in cold-storage (not in hot wallets).

Bitcoin vs (Highly) Liquid Supply



Source: Glassnode, Bitwise Europe

All in all, the on-chain data point towards a continuation of the current bull market which is why we remain constructive on the market.

Bottom Line: Macro developments remain in the driver's seat and, after a lag, are now visibly reversing on-chain weakness—our 'apparent demand' metric has turned positive thanks to renewed spot-ETF inflows and a surge in corporate accumulation (notably MSTR's outsized April buys). At the same time, aggregate exchange supply is sinking to new multi-year lows, tightening liquid supply. Taken together, these factors underpin our constructive view that the current Bitcoin bull market still has room to run.

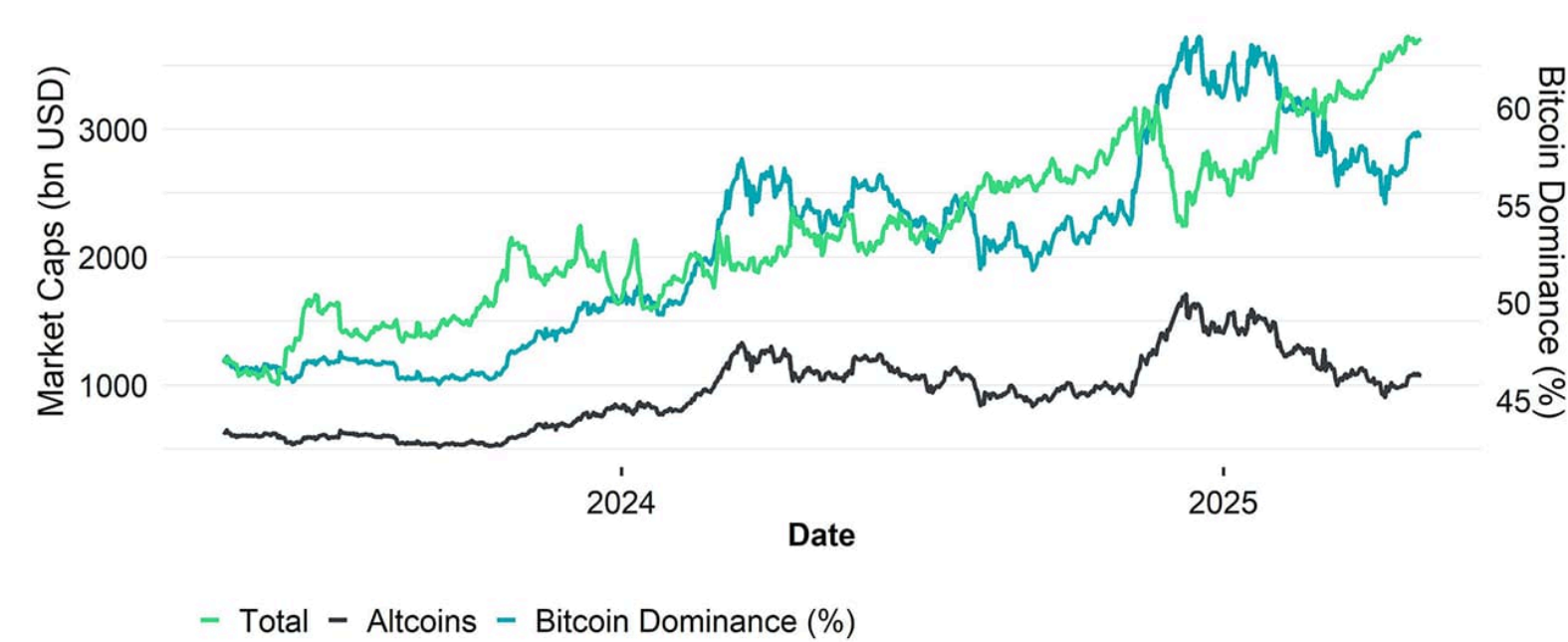
Bottom Line

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Appendix

Cryptoasset Market Overview

Global Cryptoasset Market Caps



Source: Glassnode, Bitwise Europe

Bitcoin Performance



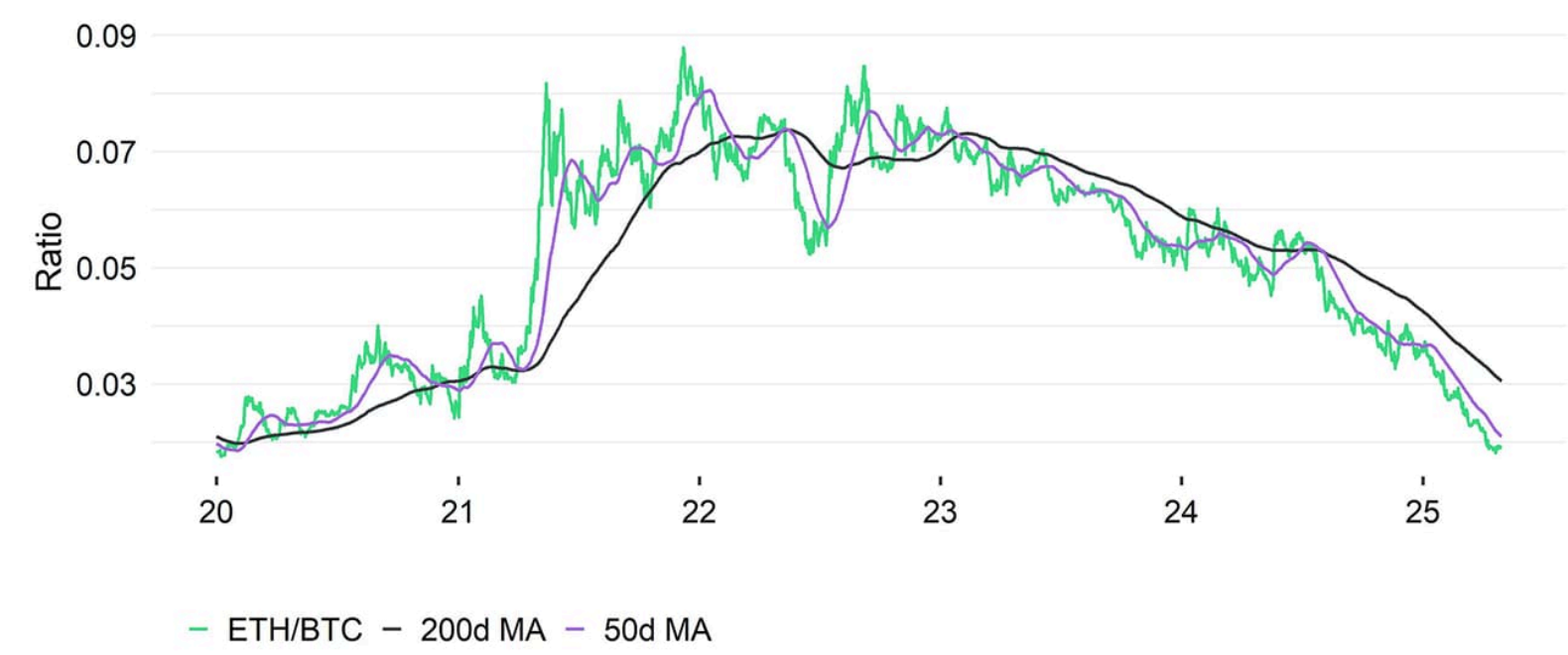
Source: Glassnode, Bitwise Europe

Ethereum Performance



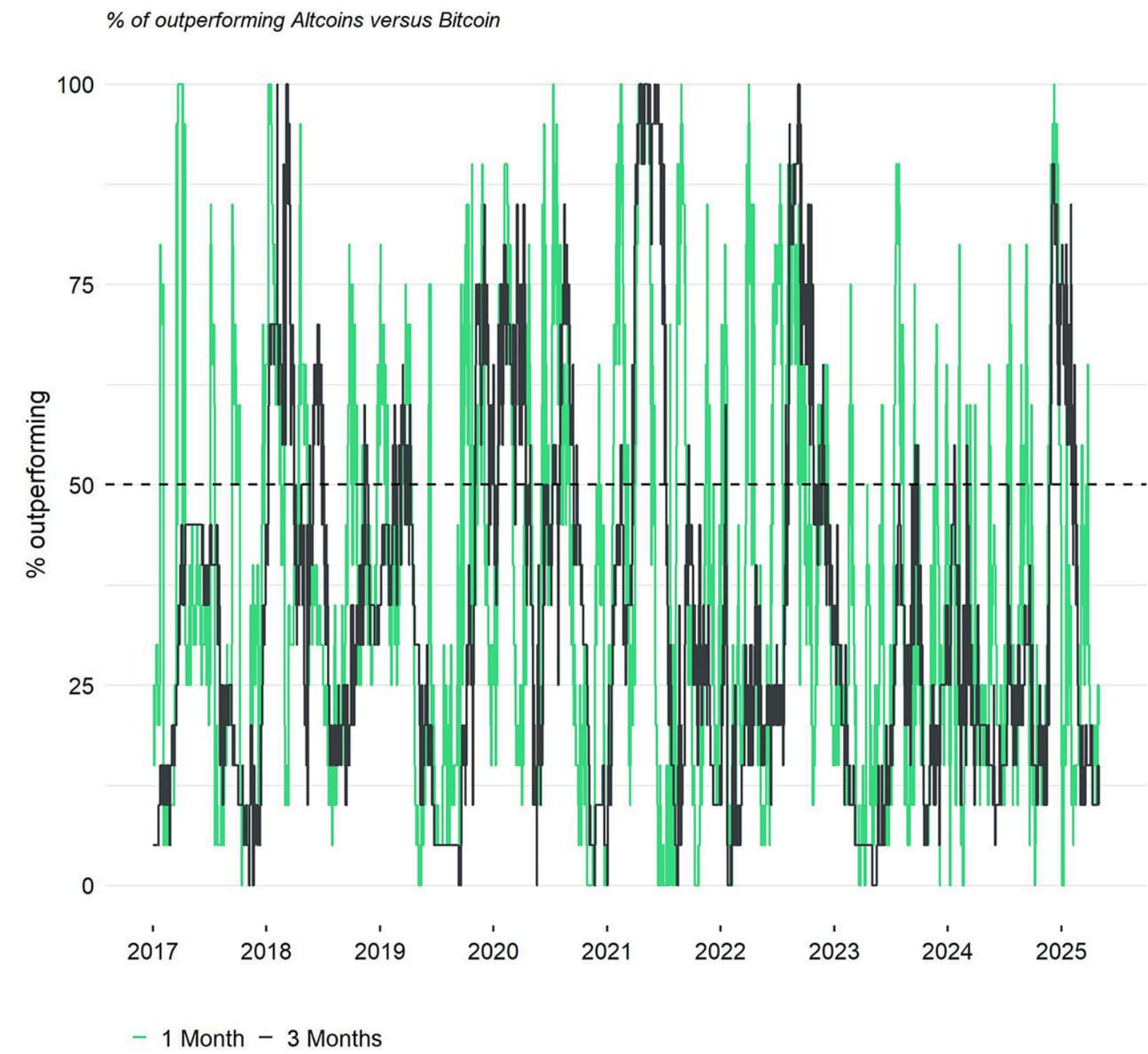
Source: Glassnode, Bitwise Europe

Ethereum vs Bitcoin Relative Performance



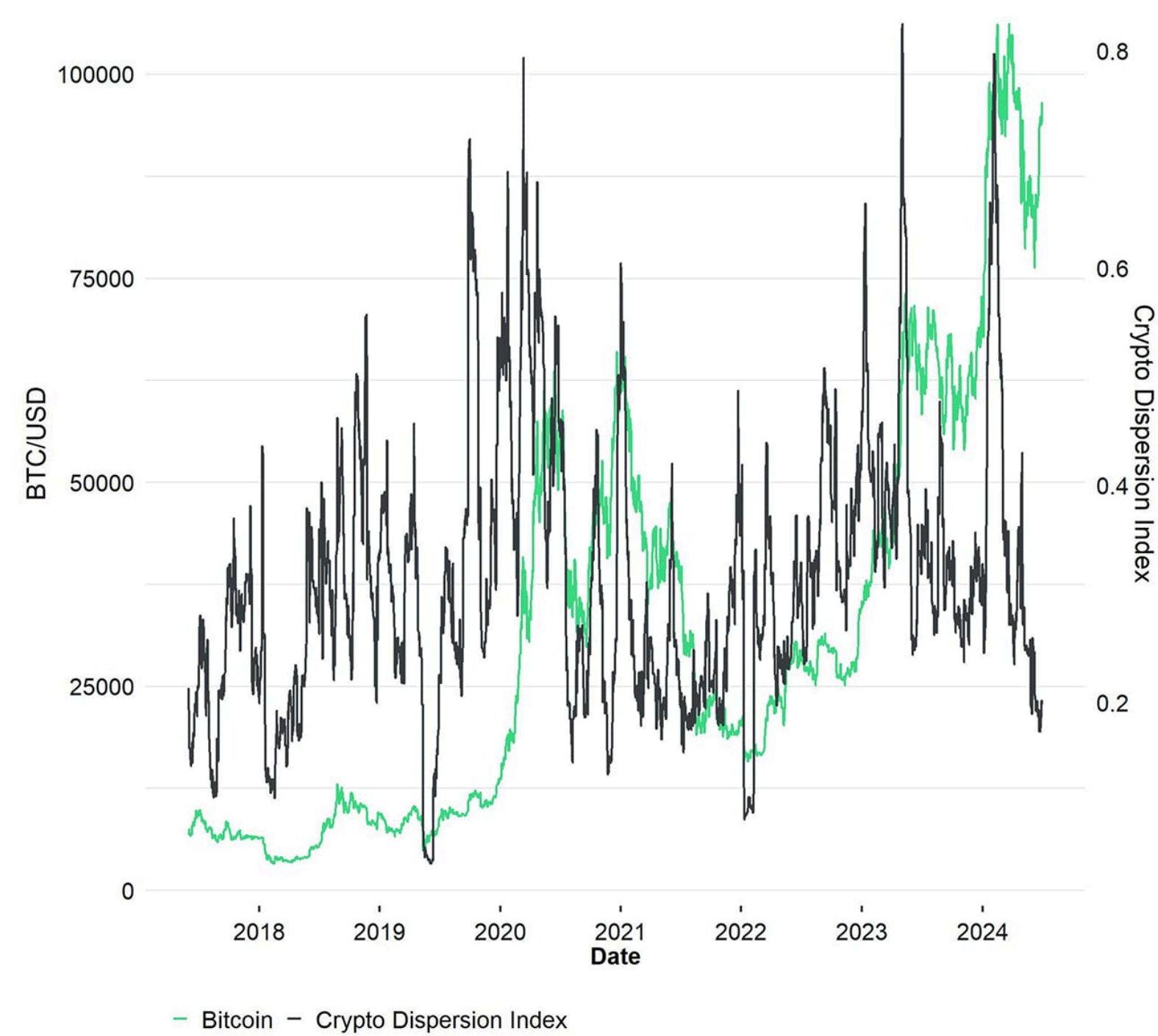
Source: Glassnode, Bitwise Europe

Altseason Index



Source: Coinmetrics, Bitwise Europe

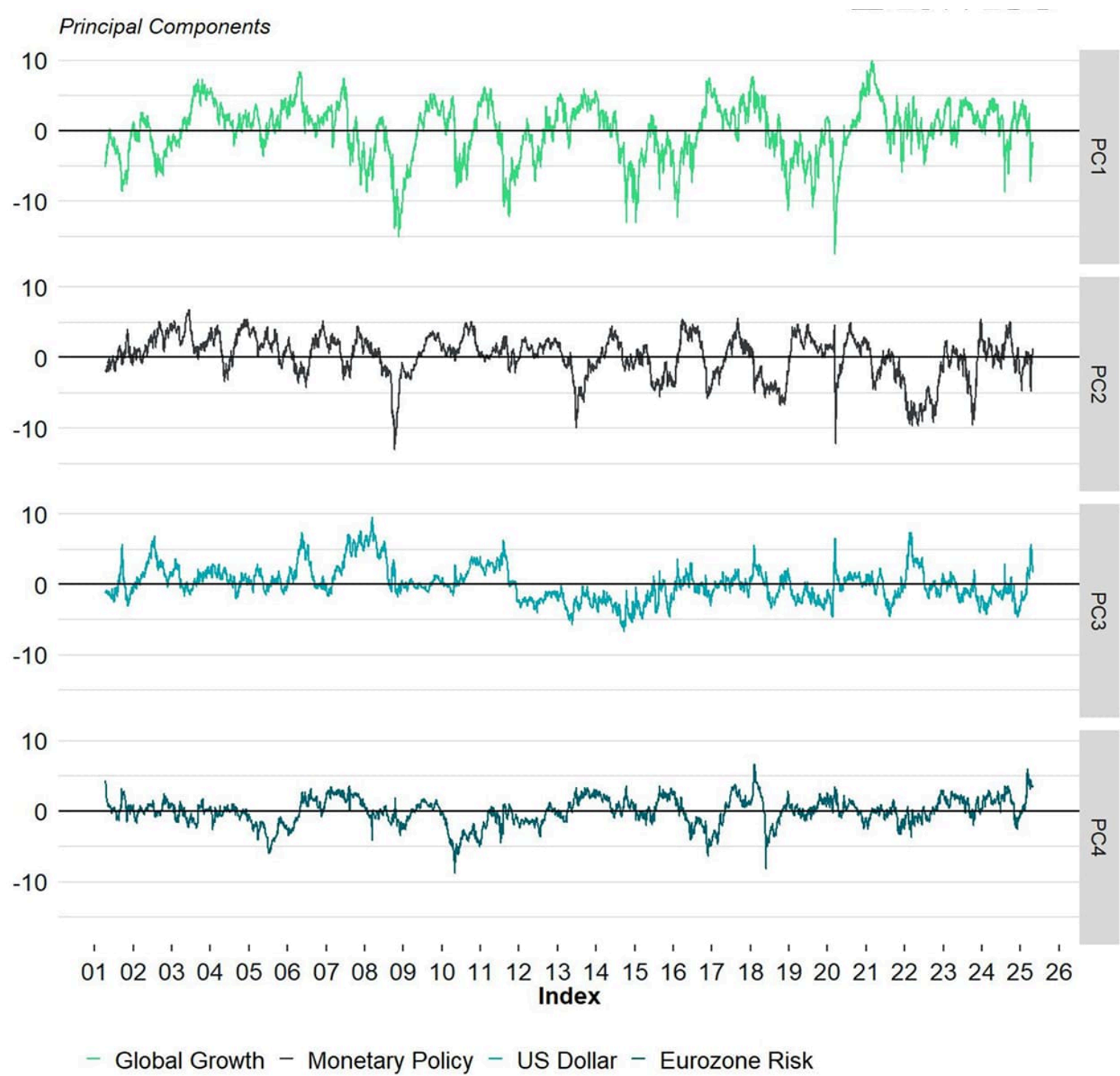
Bitcoin vs Crypto Dispersion Index



Source: Glassnode, Coinmetrics, Bitwise Europe; Dispersion = (1 - Average Altcoin Correlation with Bitcoin)

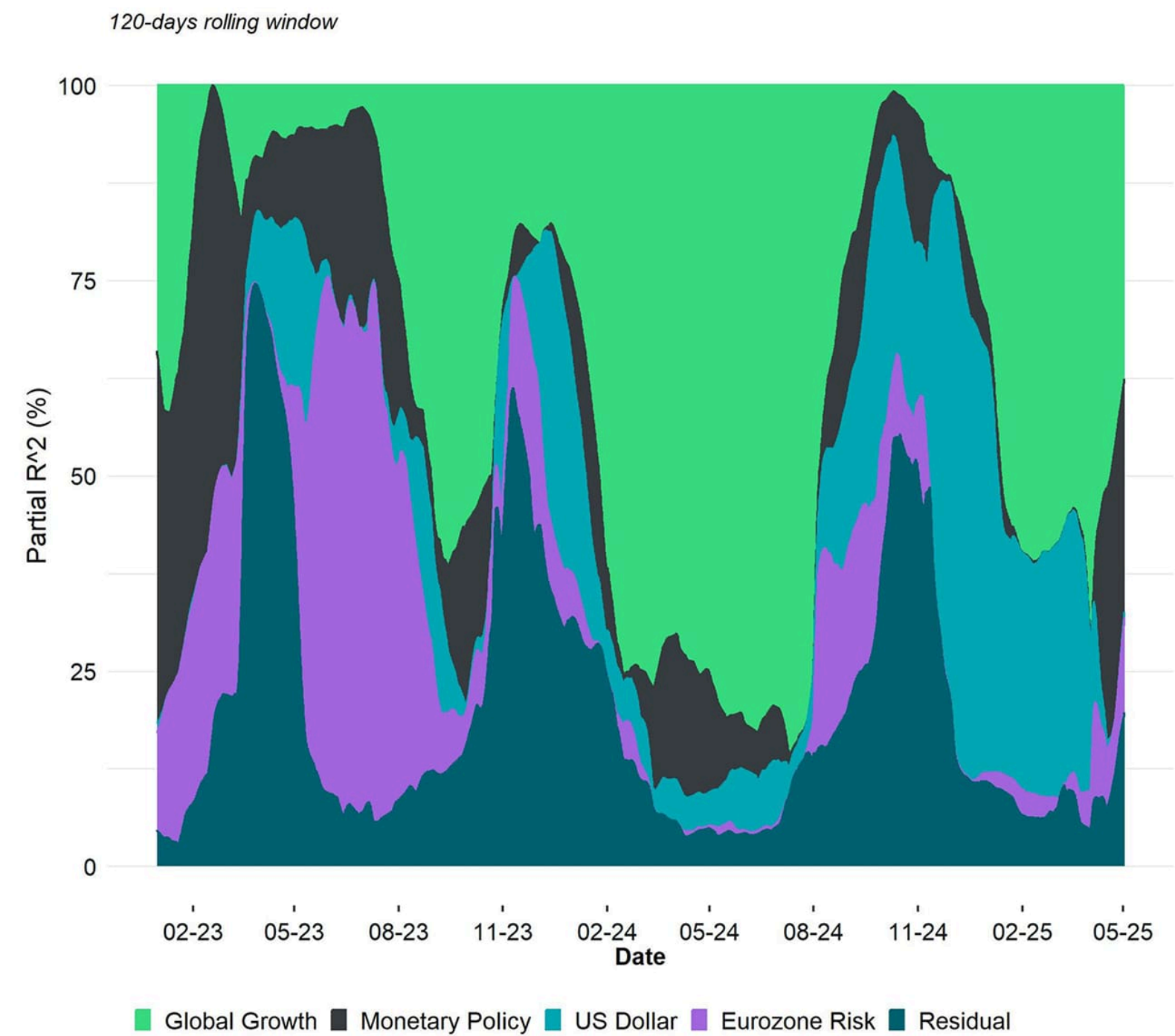
Cryptoassets & Macroeconomy

Macro Factor Pricing



Source: Bloomberg, Bitwise Europe

How much of Bitcoin's performance can be explained by macro factors?



Source: Bloomberg, Bitwise Europe

Cryptoassets & Multiasset Portfolios

Multiasset Performance with Bitcoin (BTC)



	60/40 Portfolio	1% BTC	2.5% BTC	5% BTC
Cumulative Return (%)	241.1	286.2	374.1	573.6
Annual Return (% p.a.)	10.3	12.5	15.9	21.6
Volatility (% p.a.)	10.6	10.6	11.1	12.6
Sharpe Ratio	0.83	1.01	1.25	1.49
Sortino Ratio	1.06	1.29	1.62	2.01
Max Drawdown (%)	15.2	15.7	16.4	21.4

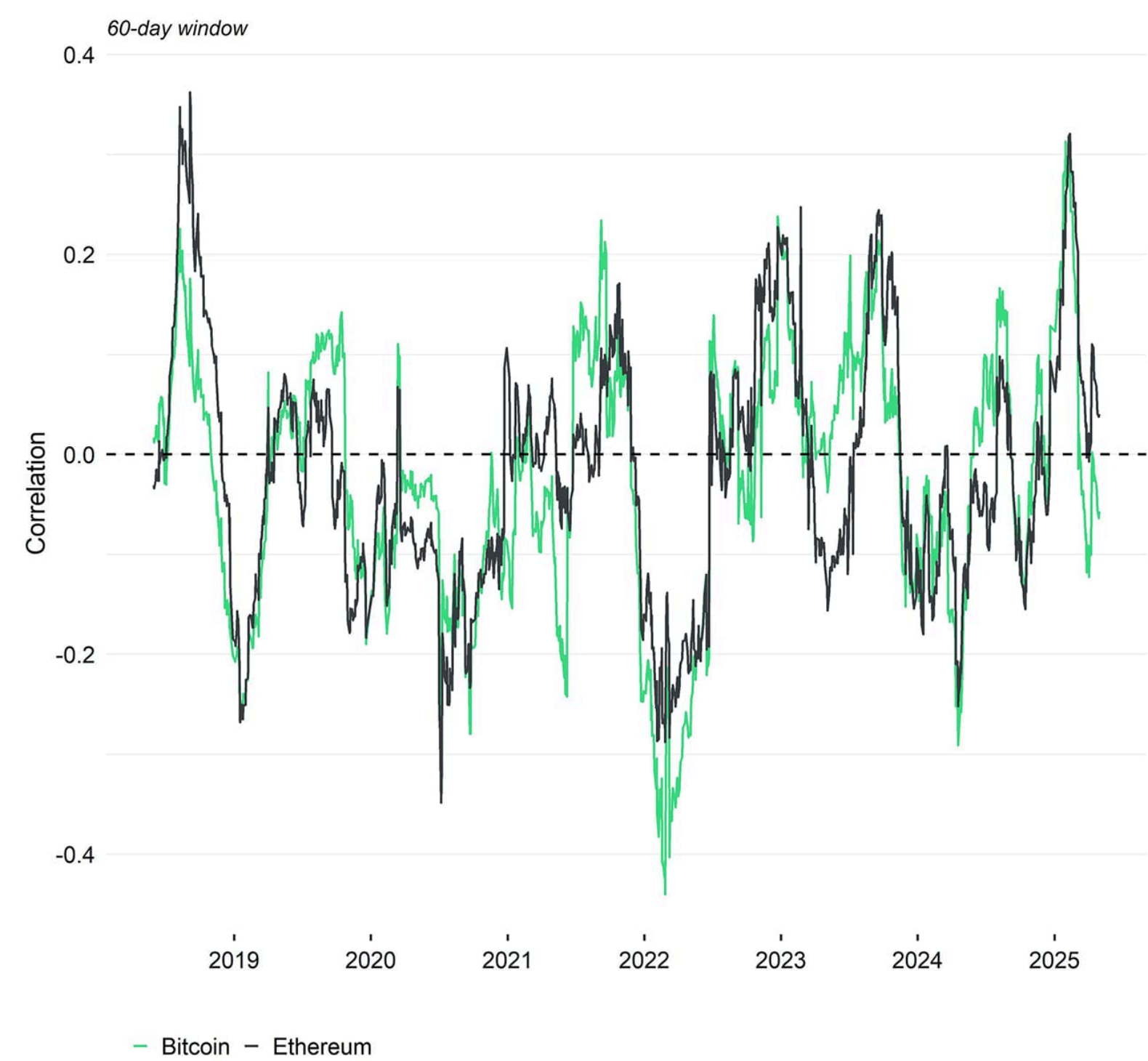
Source: Bloomberg, Bitwise Europe; Monthly rebalancing; Sharpe Ratio was calculated with 3M USD Cash Index as assumed risk-free rate; BTC allocation is taken out of equity allocation of 60%, bond allocation remains at 40%; Past performance not indicative of future returns.

Rolling correlation: S&P 500



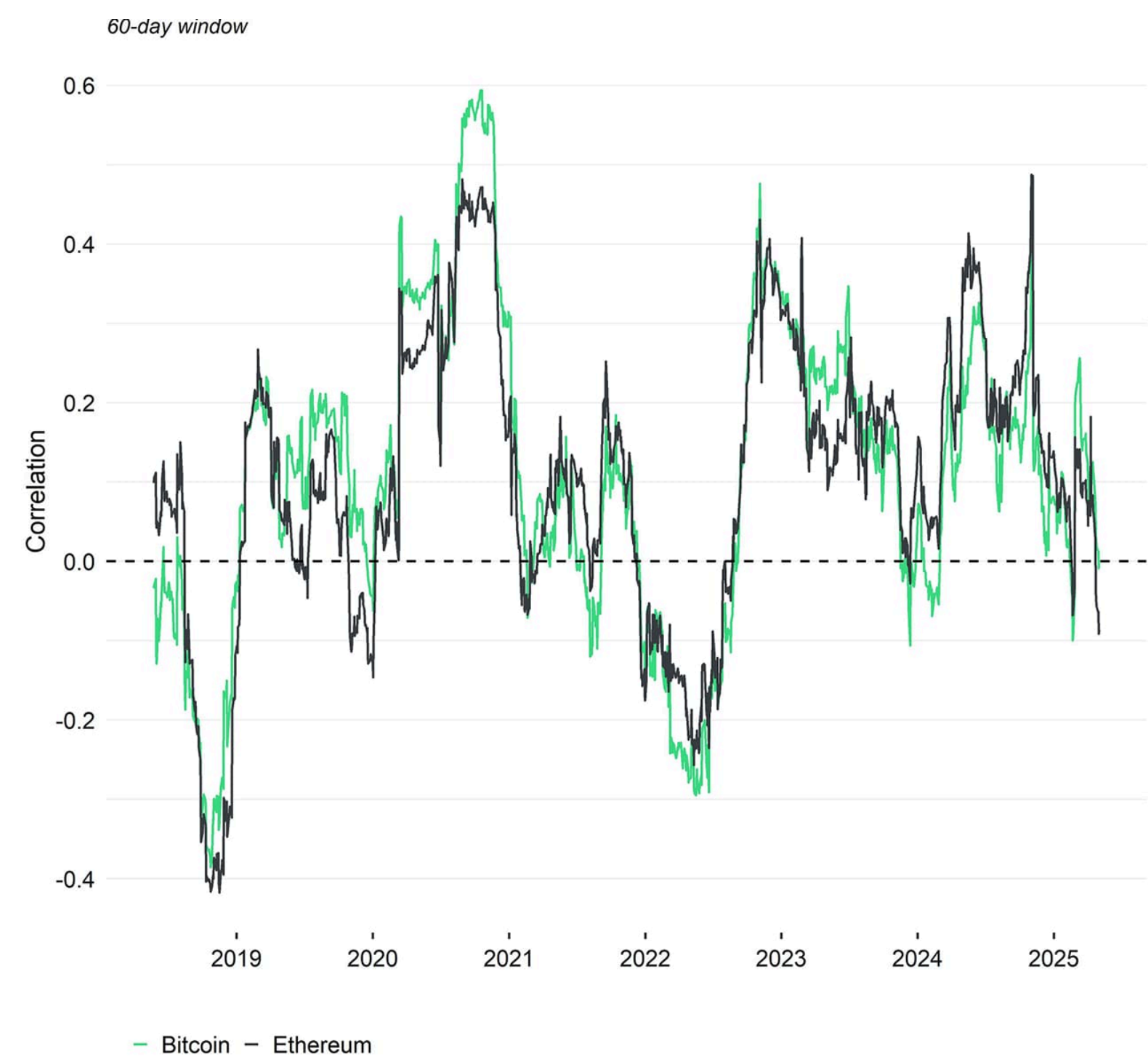
Source: Bloomberg, Bitwise Europe

Rolling correlation: Bund Future



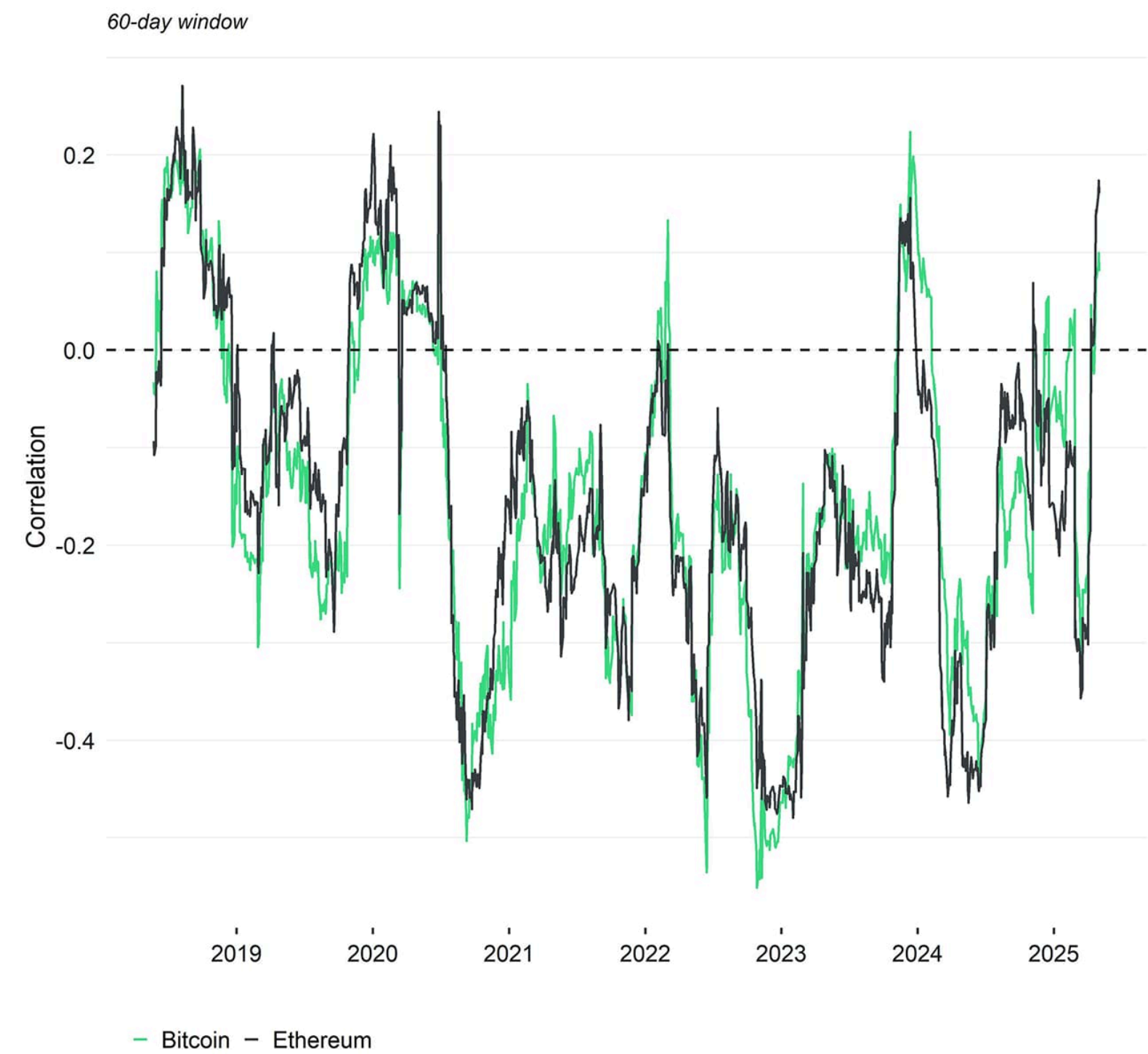
Source: Bloomberg, Bitwise Europe

Rolling correlation: Gold



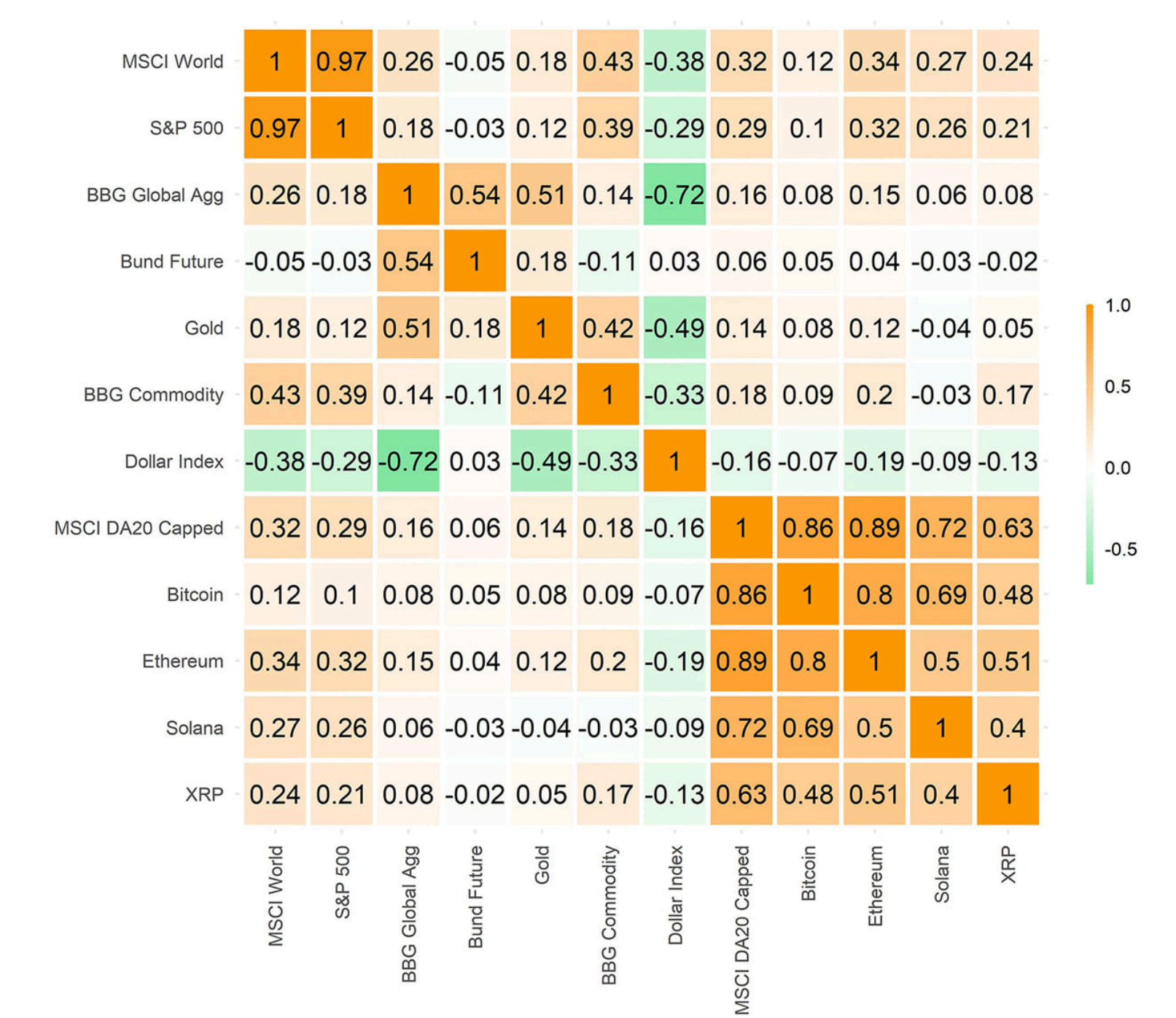
Source: Bloomberg, Bitwise Europe

Rolling correlation: Dollar Index (DXY)



Source: Bloomberg, Bitwise Europe

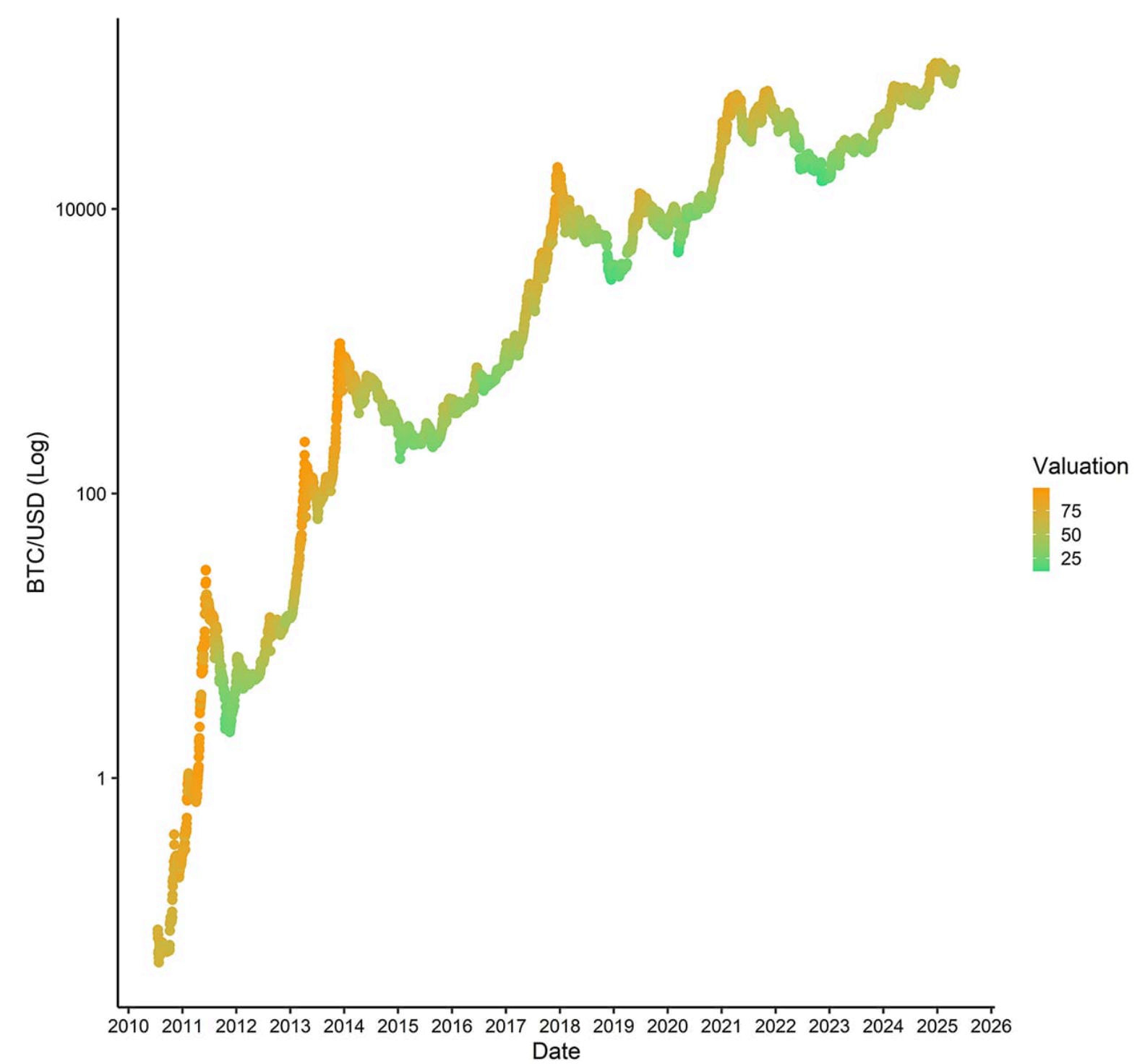
Cross Asset Correlation Matrix



Source: Correlations of weekly returns; Source: Bloomberg, ETC Group earliest data start: 2011-01-03; data as of 2025-05-02

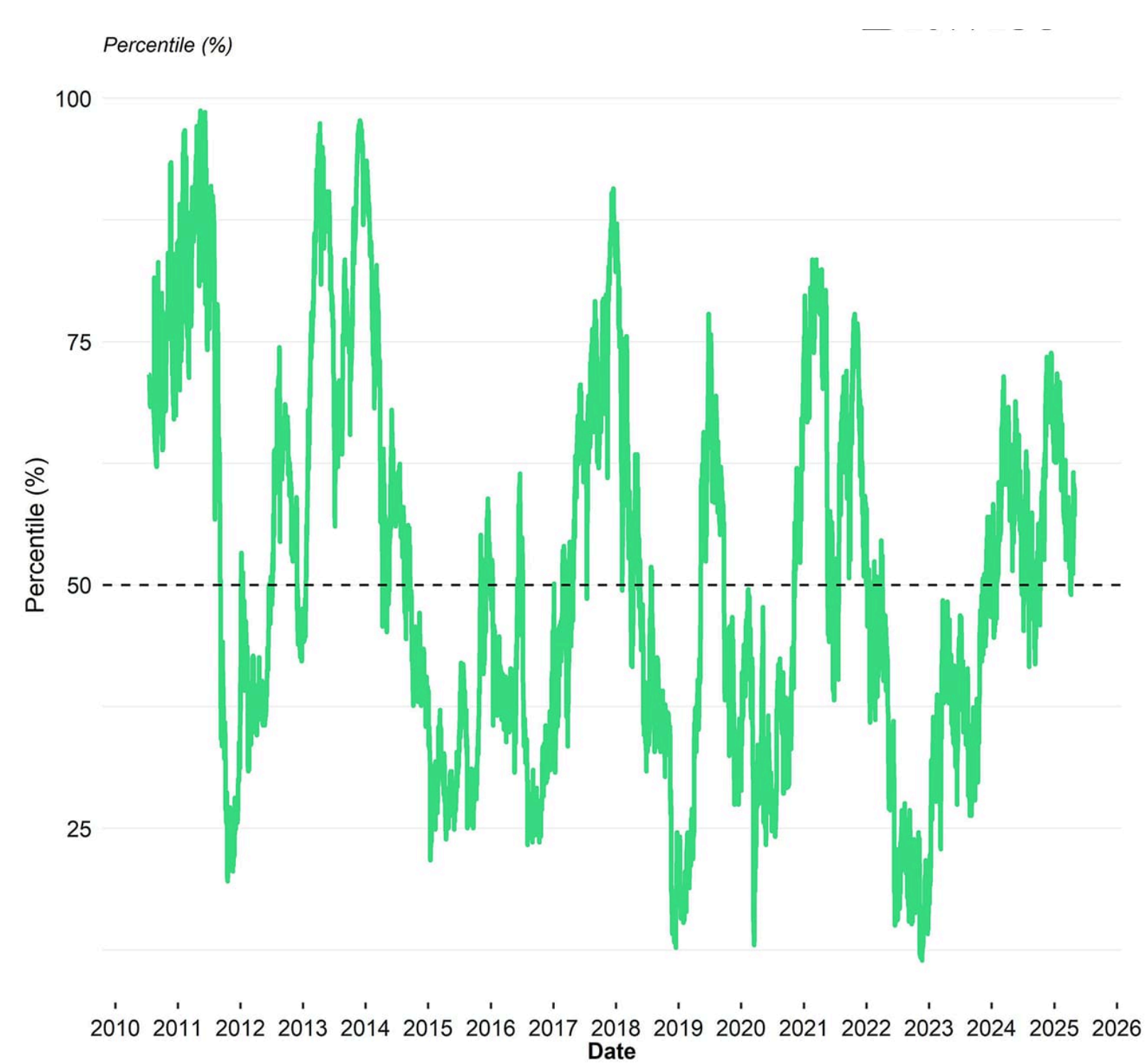
Cryptoasset Valuations

Bitcoin: Price vs Composite Valuation Indicator



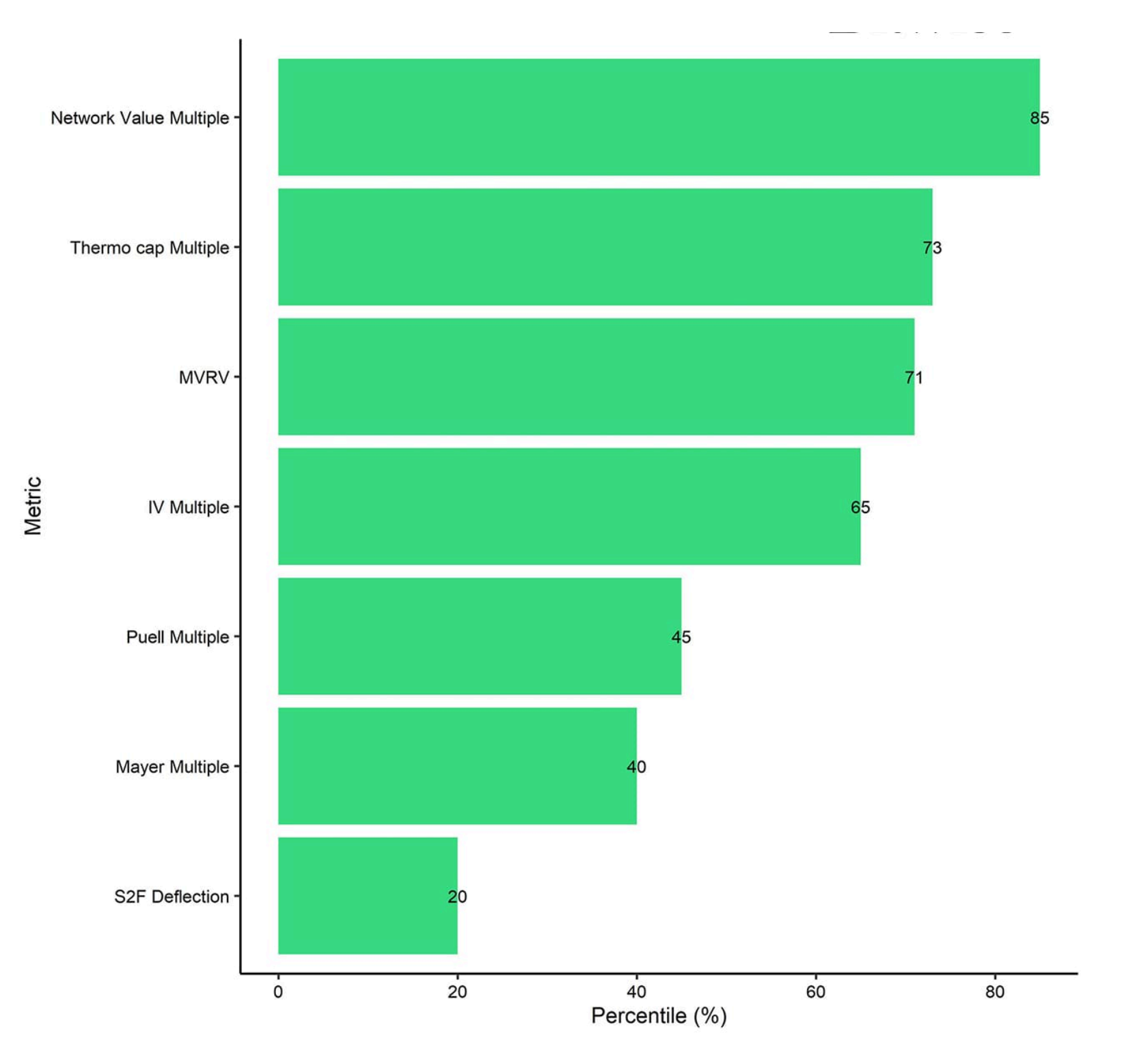
Source: Coinmetrics, Bitwise Europe

Bitcoin: Composite Valuation Indicator



Source: Coinmetrics, Bitwise Europe

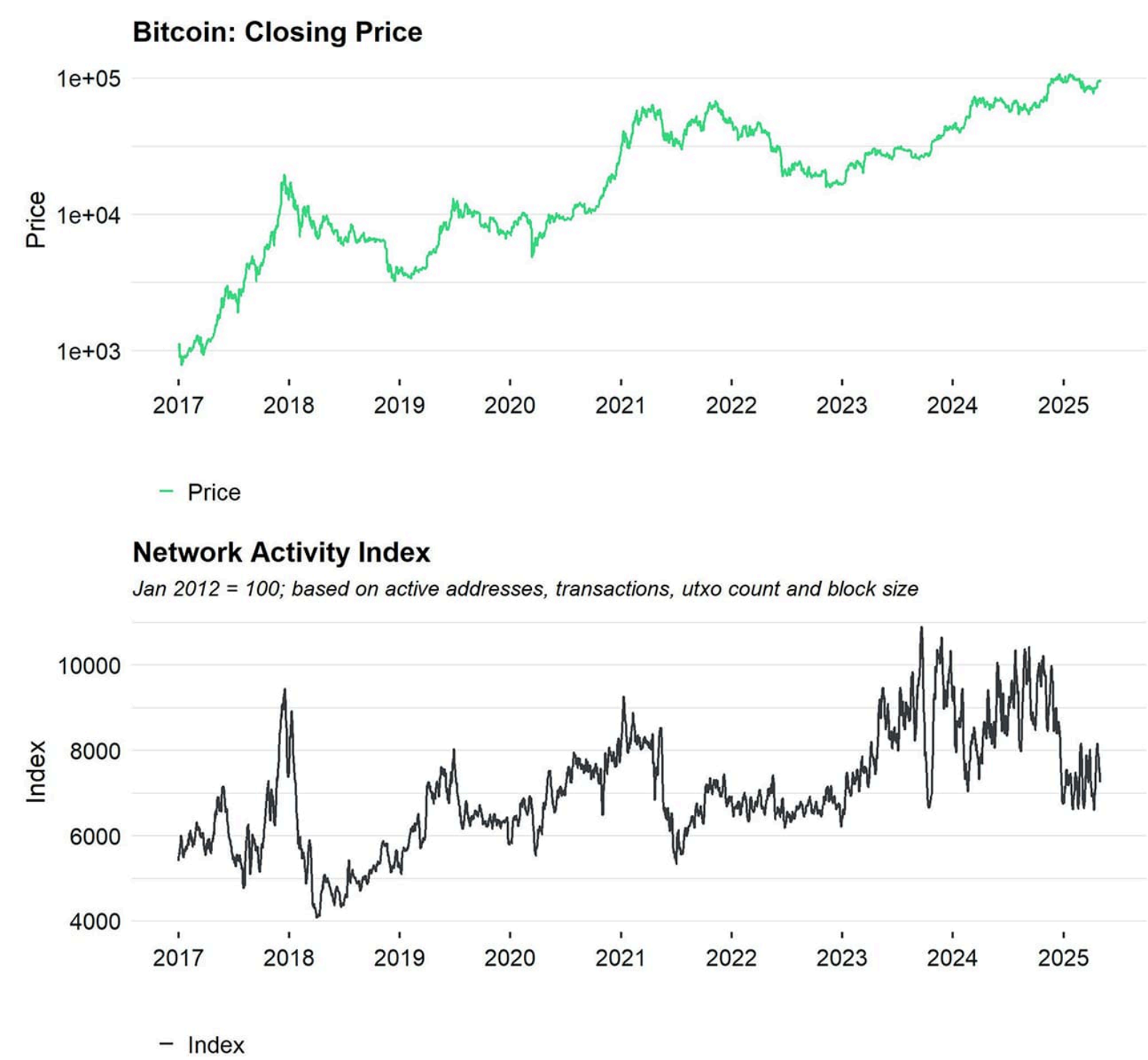
Bitcoin: Valuation Metrics



Source: Coinmetrics, Bitwise Europe

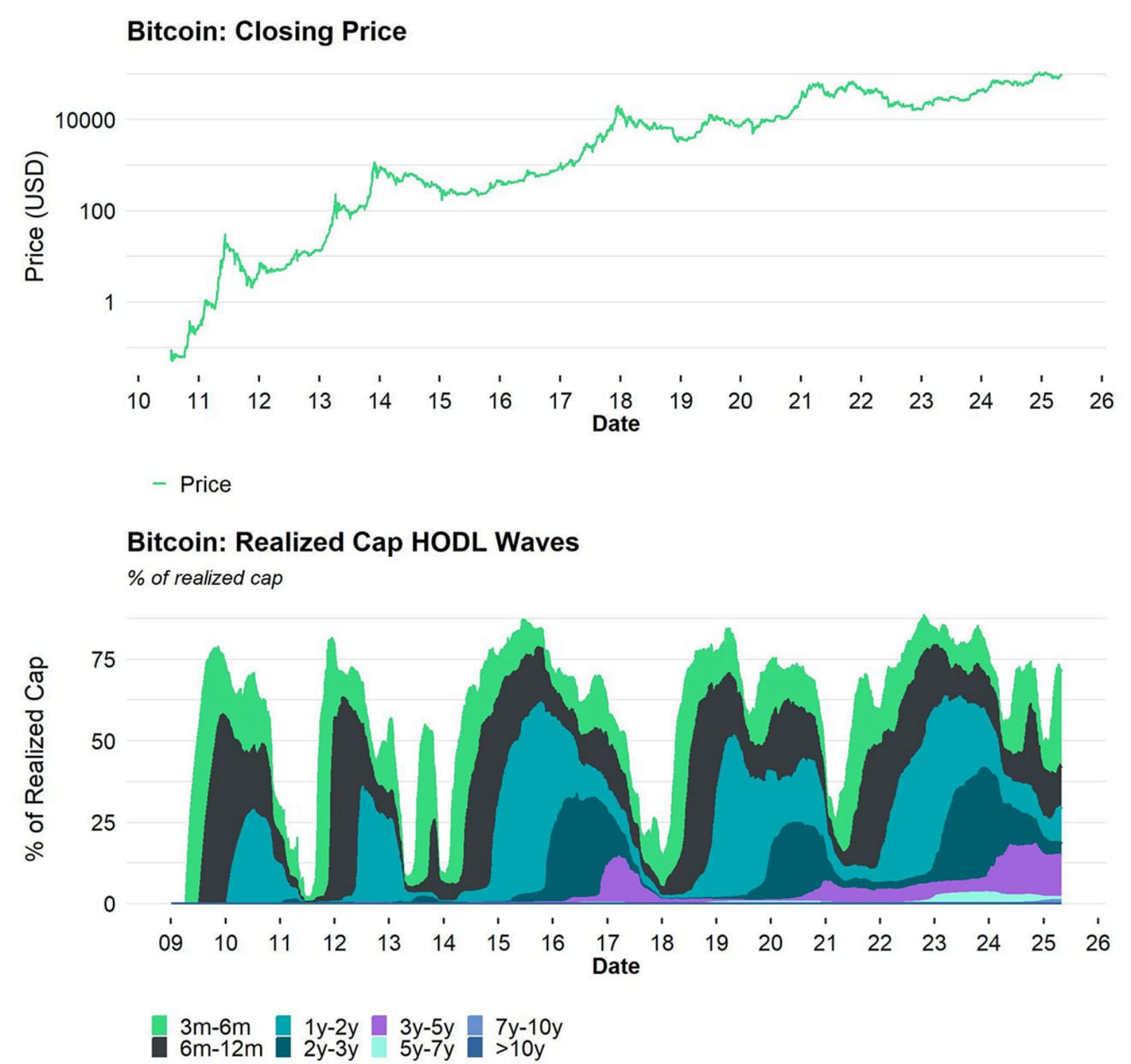
On-Chain Fundamentals

Bitcoin: Price vs Network Activity Index



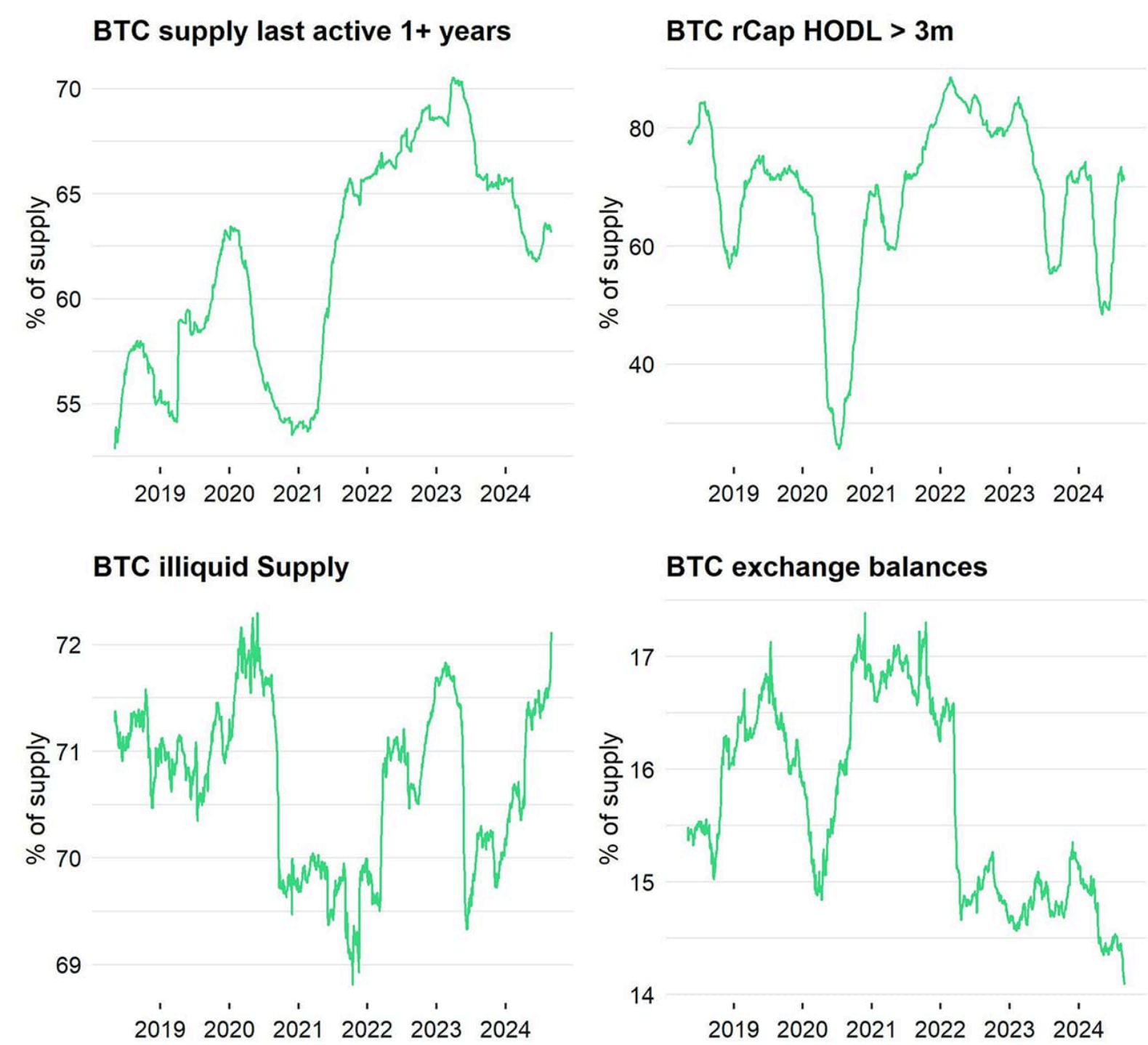
Source: Glassnode, Bitwise Europe

Bitcoin: Closing Price



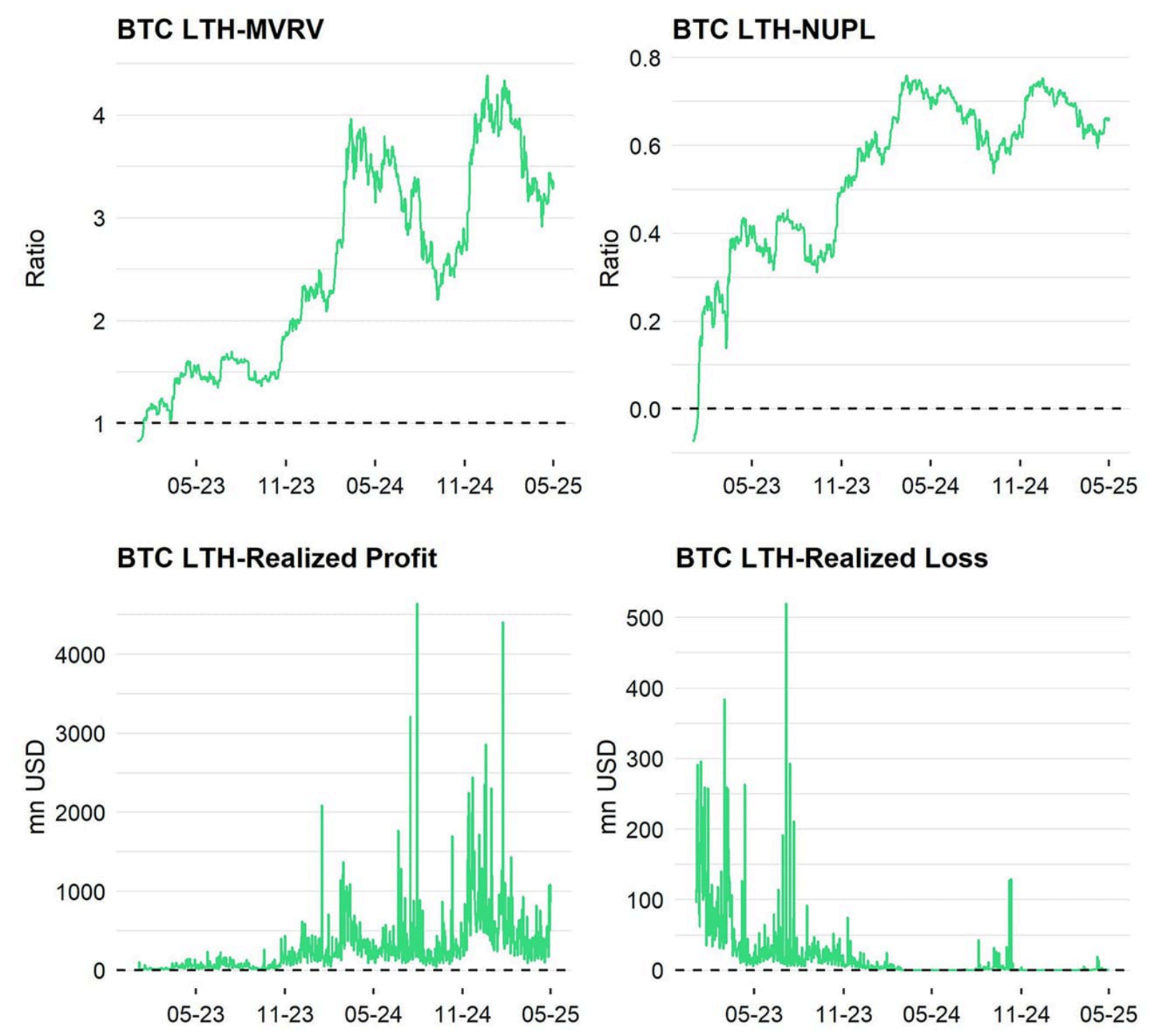
Source: Glassnode

Bitcoin's supply scarcity is more pronounced that during the last cycle



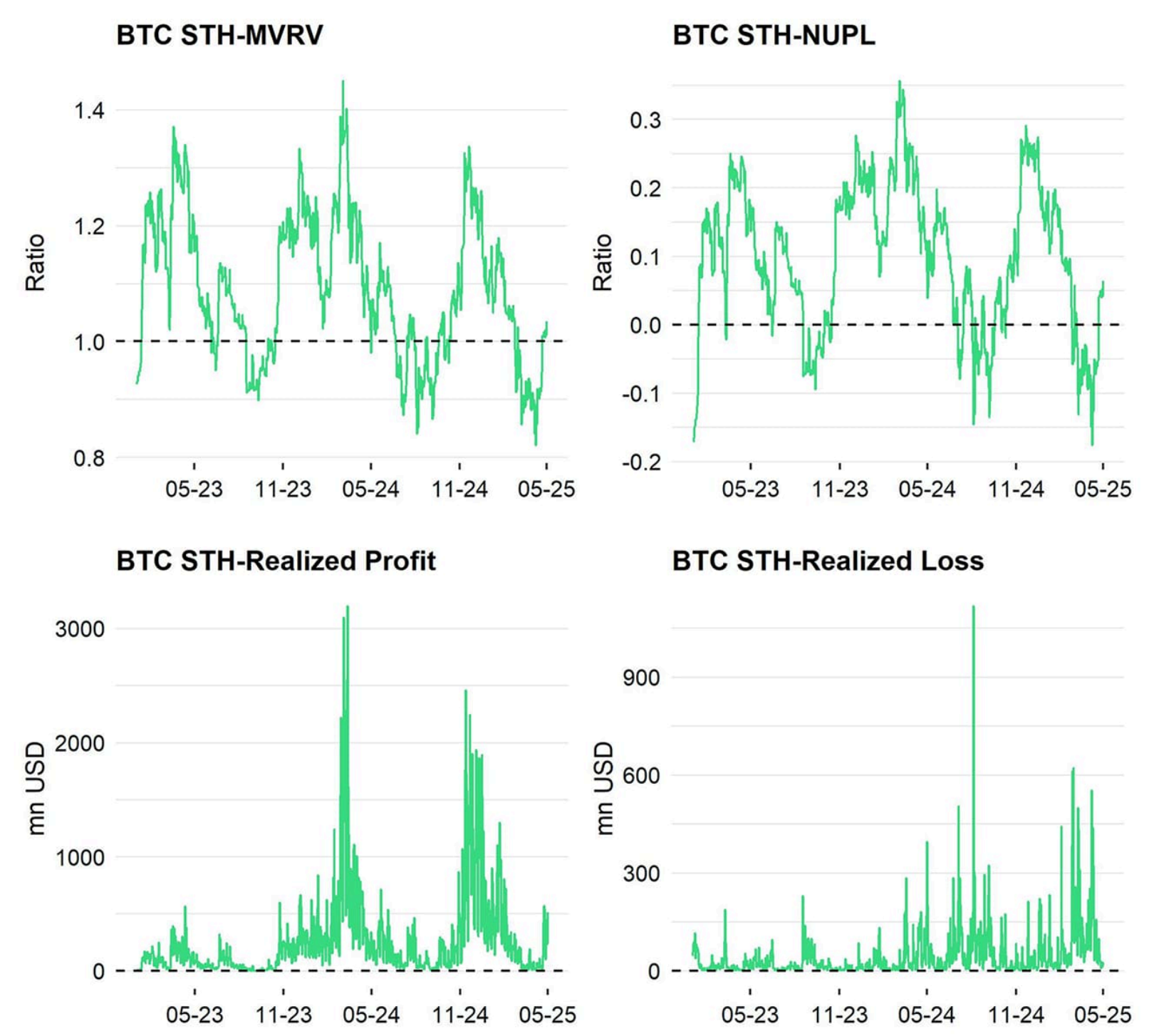
Source: Glassnode, Bitwise Europe

Bitcoin Long-term Holder (LTH) Dashboard



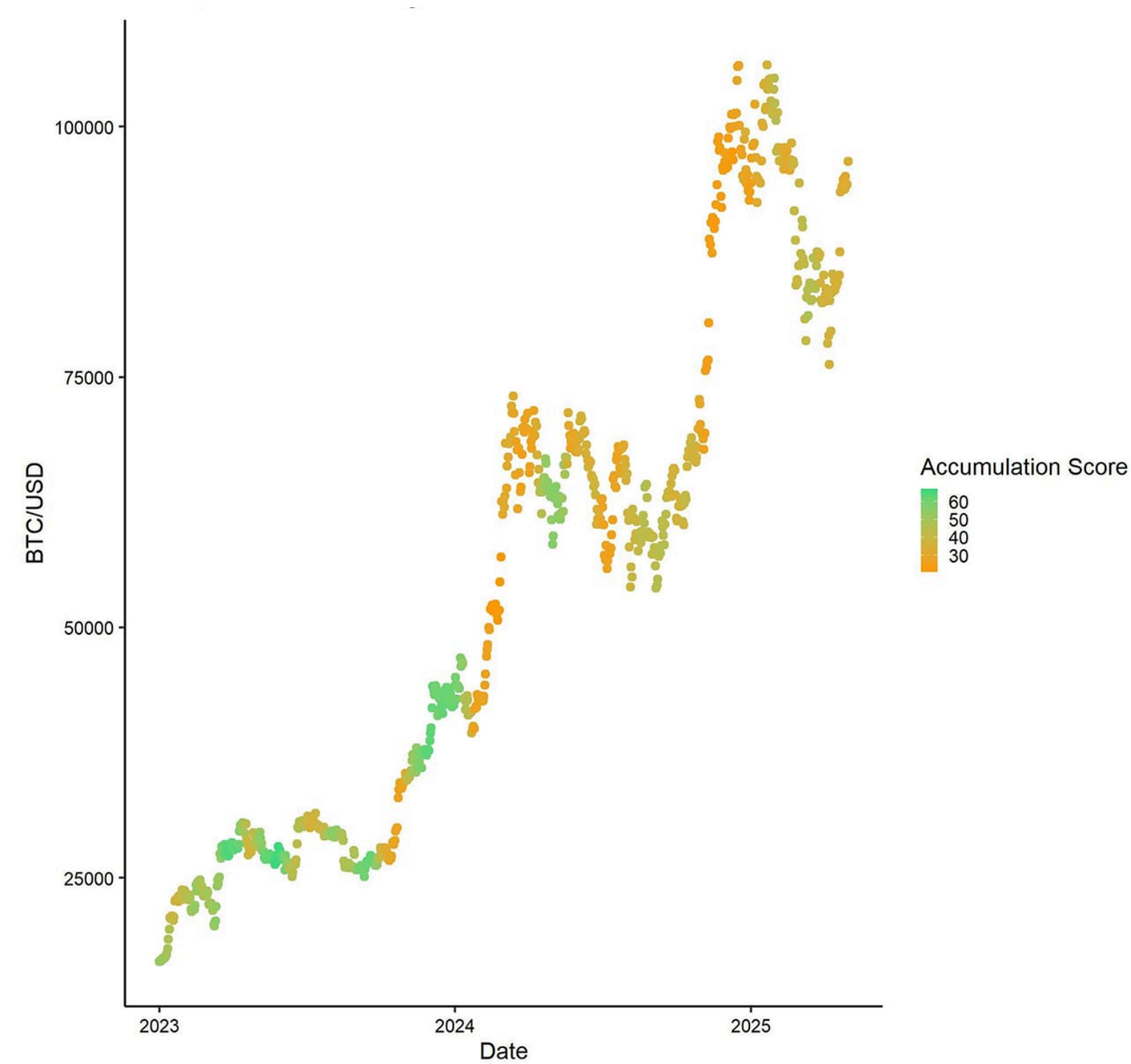
Source: Glassnode, Bitwise Europe

Bitcoin Short-term Holder (STH) Dashboard



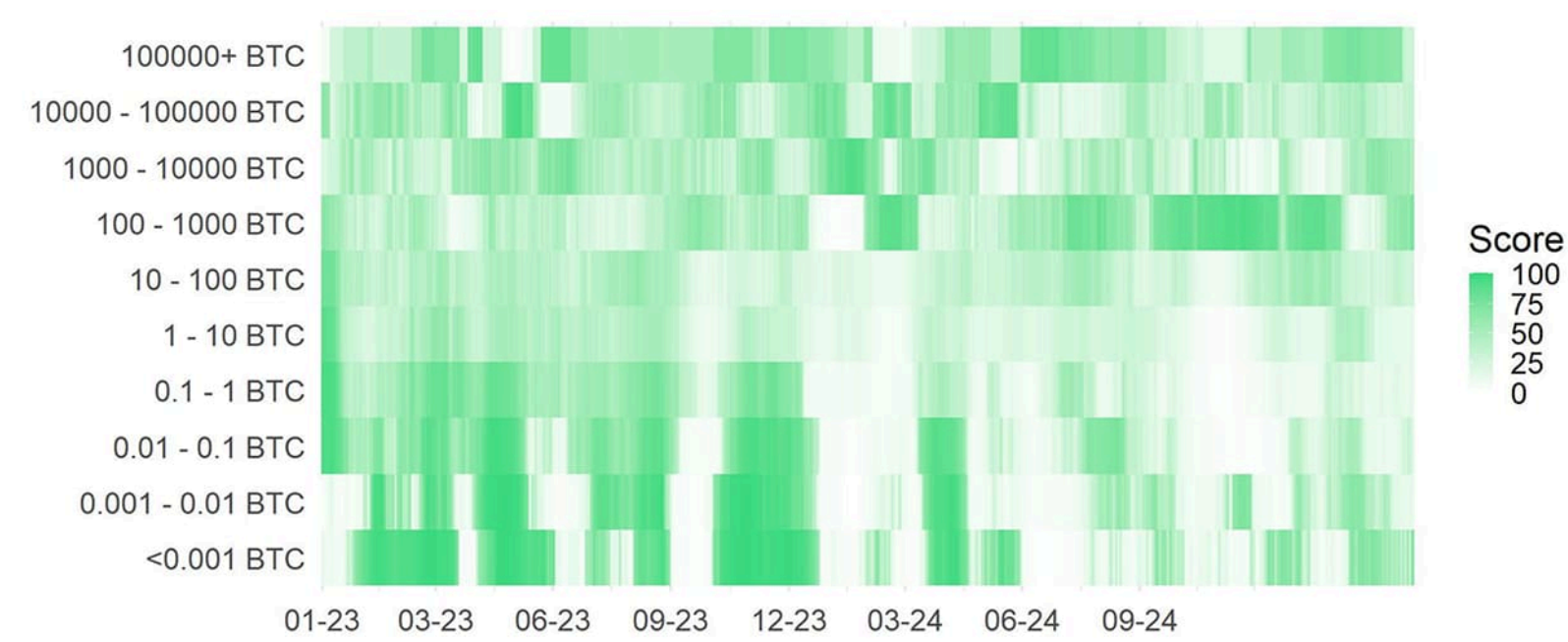
Source: Glassnode, Bitwise Europe

Bitcoin: Price vs Average Accumulation Score



Source: Glassnode, Bitwise Europe

Bitcoin Accumulation Score



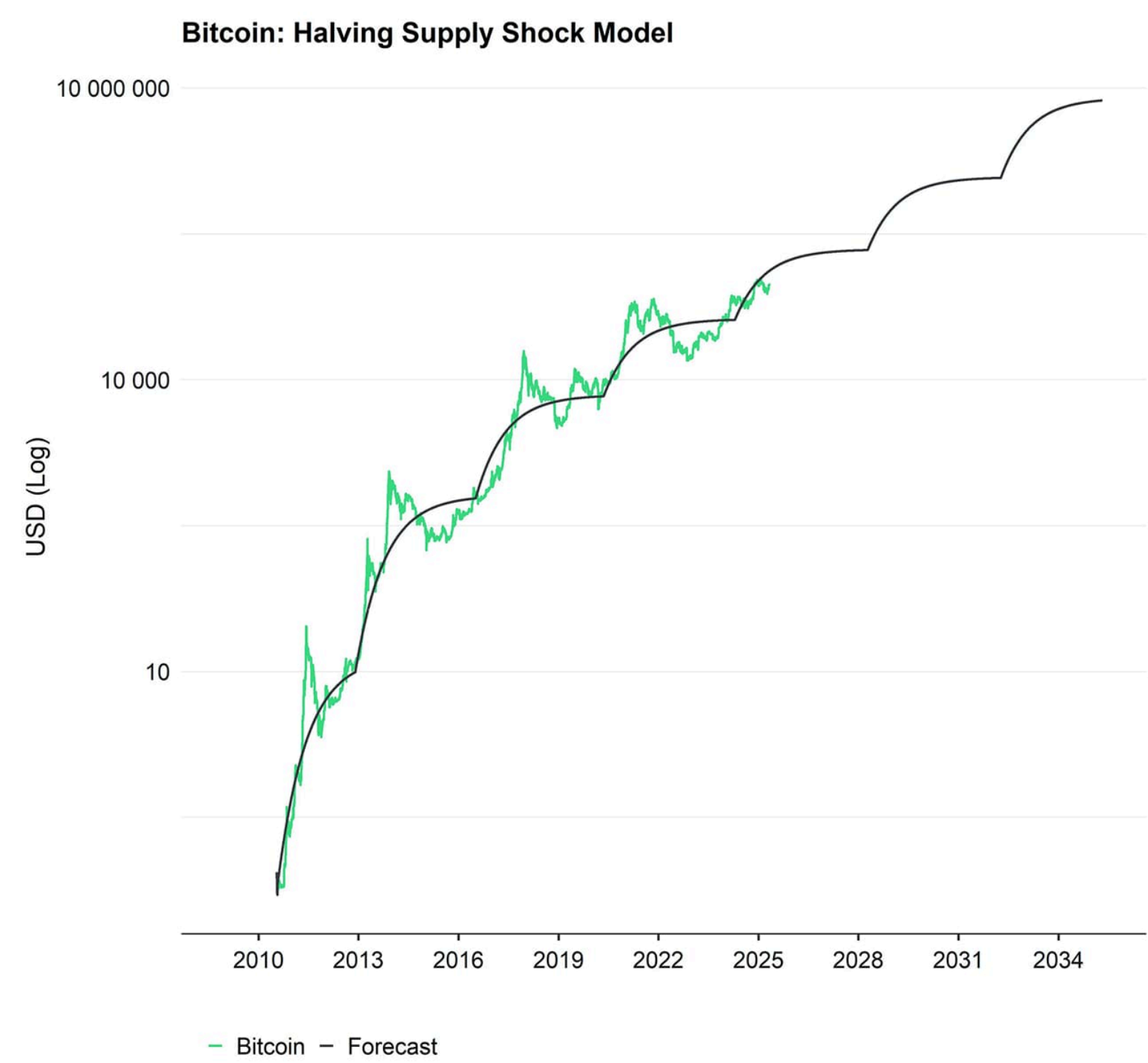
Source: Glassnode, Bitwise Europe

Bitcoin: Post-Halving Performance



Source: Glassnode, Bitwise Europe; Results based on the previous Halvings in 2012, 2016, and 2020

Bitcoin: Steady increase in scarcity will provide a tailwind for price appreciations



Source: Coinmetrics, Bitwise Europe; @ciphernom

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