

March 31<sup>st</sup> - April 6<sup>th</sup>

## PERSPECTIVES by Eric F. Risley

Strong week with nine crypto M&A transactions announced, but let's talk about the big impact items of the week.

Circle's IPO S-1 became public on Tuesday, April 1. Circle's success is a particularly important milestone for several reasons.

First, Circle is all about payments, perfectly aligned with bitcoin's founding intent as stated in the first line of the abstract: "A purely peer-to-peer version of electronic cash would allow online payments to be sent directly from one party to another without going through a financial institution." Payments are the second fastest-growing commercial use case for crypto.

Second, demonstrating the unpredictable nature of how markets evolve, Circle is intricately intertwined with the same financial institutions which were to be avoided. Every USDC stablecoin issued triggers the purchase, using US dollars, of an equivalent value of US Treasury bills through traditional financial institutions. This has lent legitimacy to crypto, and the IPO filing demonstrates that groups like the Federal Reserve, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), Congress, and the Executive Branch are offering tacit approval.



Third, Jeremy Allaire, Co-founder and CEO, reminds us of the challenging ambition to recraft the global financial system in his letter to shareholders.

*"What we're doing is not easy given the complexity of navigating an evolving ecosystem where innovative technology and highly regulated, legacy financial services are intersecting in ways that will give rise to challenges and uncertainties. Building a new internet financial system, creating major new infrastructure for money and economic activity, shaping and responding to policy, and operating this infrastructure in a complex global macro environment—well, it's hard. It's complex and difficult, and will challenge you every day. But it is also an exciting financial and technological adventure."*

Jeremy Allaire, Circle CEO

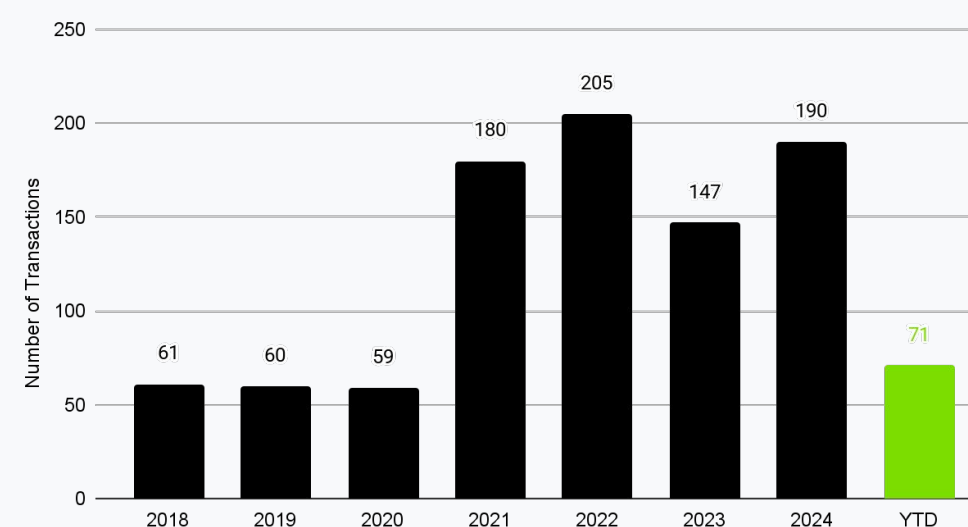
On an equally, and perhaps more important topic, we cannot ignore the macro environment—namely, the so-called "Liberation Day" tariffs. Crypto doesn't exist in isolation, and impacts, both negative and perhaps positive, will become apparent over time. My partner Elliot Chun offers some observations in this week's [Public Company Snapshot](#).

## RECENT CRYPTO M&A TRANSACTIONS (click here for full AP M&A Tracker)

Target	Acquirer	Transaction Summary	M&A Alert
		<b>Transaction Value:</b> \$54.8M <b>Rationale:</b> Expansion of its blockchain investment services, like trading security tokens or swapping RWAs <b>Sector:</b> Investing & Trading Infrastructure <b>Target Description:</b> Infrastructure provider for digital asset trading, investing and payments	
		<b>Transaction Value:</b> ND <b>Rationale:</b> Formation of a new JV partnership between Hut8 and Trump's American Data Centers <b>Sector:</b> Mining & Staking <b>Target Description:</b> Bitcoin mining utilizing Hut8's ASICs and American Data Center's data centers	
		<b>Transaction Value:</b> ND <b>Rationale:</b> Expansion of offerings to include NFTs <b>Sector:</b> DApp: Consumer, Media <b>Target Description:</b> Blockchain-enabled collectibles auction platform	
		<b>Transaction Value:</b> ND <b>Rationale:</b> Establishes foothold in the U.S. through an acquisition of a SEC and FINRA regulated broker-dealer <b>Sector:</b> Investing & Trading Infrastructure <b>Target Description:</b> Capital-raising platform designed to automate and significantly streamline post-trade processes	
		<b>Transaction Value:</b> ND <b>Rationale:</b> Combine technology, customer support and businesses together to expand beyond South Korea <b>Sector:</b> Investing & Trading Infrastructure <b>Target Description:</b> Cryptowallet company	
		<b>Transaction Value:</b> ND <b>Rationale:</b> Bolsters bid for regulatory compliance under the MiCA framework <b>Sector:</b> Payments Infrastructure <b>Target Description:</b> Euro-stablecoin for payment purposes	
		<b>Transaction Value:</b> ND <b>Rationale:</b> Assisting in the building of next-generation Web3 and Digital Art Infrastructure with Takashi Murakami <b>Sector:</b> DApp: Consumer, Media <b>Target Description:</b> NFT platform designed to offer true ownership of smart contracts and NFTs	
		<b>Transaction Value:</b> ND <b>Rationale:</b> Formation of Kissmetrics Gaming, which allows for data-insights into gaming consumer habits <b>Sector:</b> Data & Data Analytics <b>Target Description:</b> Metaverse multi-media platform on Polygon and Ethereum blockchains	
		<b>Transaction Value:</b> ND <b>Rationale:</b> Allows Punchup, a comedy platform, to directly utilize Tixologi's technology in its ecosystem <b>Sector:</b> Enterprise Solutions <b>Target Description:</b> Blockchain-enabled even ticketing platform	

## OVERALL CRYPTO M&A ACTIVITY LEVELS

Past Eight Years



Past 52 Weeks

