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Market Cap: $270,113,785,318 • 24h Vol: $59,789,827,395 • BTC Dominance: 62.8% • Cryptocurrencies: 5,709 • Markets: 22,839

Crypto Glossary

A glossary of crypto words, crypto terms, and crypto definitions.

Search for a term...

Categories:

All   General   Slang and Memes   CoinMarketCap Specific

# #

1hr:
Stands for data for the past 1 hour.

24hr:
Stands for data for the past 24 hours.

7d:
Stands for data for the past 7 days.

30d:
Stands for data for the past 30 days.

A

All-Time-High (ATH):
The highest point (in price, in market capitalization) that a cryptocurrency has been in history. *see All-Time-Low (ATL).

All-Time-Low (ATL):
The lowest point (in price, in market capitalization) that a cryptocurrency has been in history. *see All-Time-High (ATH).

Altcoin:
As Bitcoin is the first cryptocurrency that captured the world's imagination, all other coins were subsequently termed "altcoins," as in "alternative coins."

API:

API stands for Application Programming Interface. It is a set of routines, protocols, and tools for building software applications. APIs specify how software components should interact, such as what data to use and what actions should be taken.

B

Blockchain:

A blockchain is a continuously growing, append-only, list of records called blocks, which are linked and secured using cryptography.

Bots:

Automated trading software bots that execute trade orders extremely quickly, based on a preset algorithm of buy-and-sell rules.

Burned:

When a coin or token has been made permanently unspendable or unusable.

C

Circulating Supply:

The best approximation of the number of coins that are circulating in the market and in the general public's hands. *see Max Supply and Total Supply.

Coin:

A coin is a cryptocurrency that can operate independently.

D

Date of Launch:

A term used for when ICOs will put up their tokens for sale.

Decentralized:

Decentralization refers to the property of a system in which nodes or actors work in concert in a distributed fashion to achieve a global goal.

Decentralized Exchange (DEX):

A peer-to-peer exchange that allows users to buy and sell cryptocurrency and other assets without a central intermediary involved.

Derivative:

A contract deriving its value from the performance of an underlying asset, index or interest rate.

Derivatives Market:

A public market for derivatives, instruments such as futures contracts or options, which are derived from other forms of cryptocurrency assets.

Dominance:

Also known as BTC Dominance for Bitcoin Dominance, it is an index that compares the market capitalization of Bitcoin with the overall market cap of all other cryptocurrencies in existence.

F

Futures:

A futures contract is a standardized legal agreement to buy or sell a particular commodity or asset at a predetermined price at a specified time in the future. They are different from forward contracts, which can be customized for each trade and can be conducted over-the-counter, instead of being traded on an exchange.

M

Market:

An area or arena, online or offline, in which commercial dealings are conducted. Usually referred to as the "crypto market," which refers to the cumulative cryptocurrencies and projects operating within the industry.

Market Capitalization / Market Cap / MCAP:

Total capitalization of a cryptocurrency's price. It is one of the ways to rank the relative size of a cryptocurrency. *see Circulating Supply.

Margin Trading:

A practice where a trader uses borrowed funds from a broker to trade a cryptocurrency, which forms the collateral for the loan from the broker. It can be relatively risky for inexperienced traders who may receive a margin call if the market moves in the opposite direction of their trades.
* Margin Bear Position: The position you are taking if you are going "short" on margin.
* Margin Bull Position: The position you are taking if you are going "long" on margin.

Max Supply:

The best approximation of the maximum amount of coins that will ever exist in the lifetime of the cryptocurrency. *see Circulating Supply and Total Supply.

Mineable:

Some cryptocurrencies have a system through which miners can be rewarded with newly-created cryptocurrencies for creating blocks through contributing their hash power. Cryptocurrencies with this ability to generate new cryptocurrencies through the process of confirmation is said to be mineable.
* Not Mineable: Some cryptocurrencies are generated only through other mechanisms, such as annual inflation through staking. These cryptocurrencies are said to be not mineable.

O

Option:

A contract giving the buyer the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell an underlying asset or instrument at a specified strike price. There are American and European options, the former of which may be exercised at any time before expiration, and the latter exercised only at the expiration date.

Options Market:

A public market for options, giving the buyer an option to buy or sell a cryptocurrency at a specific strike price, on or before a specific date.

Over The Counter (OTC):

Over-the-counter is defined as a transaction made outside of an exchange, often peer-to-peer through private trades. In jurisdictions where exchanges are disallowed or where amounts traded will move the markets, traders will go through the OTC route.

P

Pair:

Trade between one cryptocurrency and another, for example, the trading pair: BTC/ETH.

Platform:

On CoinMarketCap, platform refers to the parent blockchain of tokens. It may also refer to a cryptocurrency exchange on which you may trade cryptocurrencies.

R

Rank:

The relative position of a cryptocurrency by market capitalization.

S

Spot:

A contract or transaction buying or selling a cryptocurrency for immediate settlement, or payment and delivery, of the cryptocurrency on the market.

Symbol:

The [ticker](#) of a cryptocurrency; for example, bitcoin's symbol is BTC.

T

Ticker:

An abbreviation used to uniquely identify cryptocurrencies. *see [Symbol](#).

Token:

A digital unit designed with utility in mind, providing access and use of a larger crypto economic system. It does not have a store of value on its own, but is made so that software can be developed around it.

Trade Volume:

The amount of the cryptocurrency that has been traded in the last 24 hours.

Transaction (TX):

The act of exchanging cryptocurrencies on a blockchain.

U

UTC Time:

Coordinated Universal Time. It is the primary time standard by which the world regulates clocks and time, kept using highly precise atomic clocks combined with the Earth's rotation.

V

Volume:

The amount of cryptocurrency that has been traded during a certain period of time, such as the last 24 hours or more. Volume can show the direction and movement of the cryptocurrency as well as a prediction of future price and its demand.

W

Watchlist:

A watchlist is a feature of the website where users can create their own lists of cryptocurrencies to follow. Alternative definition: A watchlist is a set of pages a user has selected to monitor for changes.

Y

YTD:

Stands for Year to Date.

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