



EXCHANGE REVIEW

August 2021



About CryptoCompare

CryptoCompare is a global leader in digital asset data providing institutional and retail investors with high-quality real-time and historical data. Leveraging its track record of success in data expertise, CryptoCompare's thought-leadership reports and analytics offer objective insights into the digital asset industry.

About This Report

CryptoCompare's Exchange Review aims to capture the key developments within the cryptocurrency exchange market. Our review focuses on analyses that relate to exchange volumes, which include those related to crypto derivatives trading, market segmentation by exchange fee models, and crypto to crypto vs fiat to crypto volumes. We also conduct an analysis of bitcoin trading into various fiats and stablecoins, an additional overview of top crypto exchange rankings by spot trading volume, as well as a focus on how volumes have developed historically for the top trans-fee mining and decentralized exchanges.

CryptoCompare's Exchange Review is conducted on a monthly basis and caters to both the crypto-enthusiast interested in a broad overview of the crypto exchange market, as well as investors, analysts and regulators interested in more specific analyses.

Please note that in certain circumstances, historical figures found in previous monthly reports may be updated in more recent reports to reflect our most up to date database information.

For questions related to our research or any potential requests, feel free to contact our research department at research@cryptocompare.com.

Explore the data on the CryptoCompare API

For those interested in accessing CryptoCompare's data for their own purposes, including cryptocurrency trade data, order book data, blockchain data, social data or historical data across thousands of cryptocurrencies and 200+ exchanges, please take a look at CryptoCompare's API here: <https://min-api.cryptocompare.com>



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Track record

EXMO has been operating in the market since 2014



Safety

24/7 anti-money laundering team and user verification for your peace of mind



Institutional custody

Fidelity Digital and Ledger Vault solutions for secure custodian transactions

Crypto market at your fingertips



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Key Market Insights

Cryptocurrencies gained ground in August with Bitcoin rising 18.3%, while Ethereum saw a larger monthly increase of 35.7% following the London hard fork on August 5th. In other news, Ethereum competitors experienced a significant rally, with both Cardano and Solana up 110.2% and 194.9% respectively. This rally, combined with an [NFT resurgence](#), contributed to a surge in trading volumes and open interest. For example, Top-Tier spot volumes increased 43.6% to \$2.4tn in August, while a daily volume maximum of \$104.8bn was traded on the 23rd of August, up 7.9% from the intra-month high in July.

A \$1 trillion [infrastructure bill](#) containing mandates on cryptocurrency brokerages tax-compliance, as well as a [bug detected on the Ethereum network](#), seemed to have little effect on the bullish sentiment within the crypto-community.

Top-Tier Exchanges Reach Highest Level of Dominance Since 2018

Top-Tier spot volumes increased 43.6% in August to a total of \$2.4tn, taking top-tier exchange dominance to 91.7% - the highest proportion of spot volume since June 2018. Binance traded the largest spot monthly volume in August, rising 65.2% month-on-month to \$751bn. Spot daily volumes hit an intra-month high of \$104.8bn on August 23rd (up 6.9% since July), with over 92% of that (\$964.5bn) occurring on top-tier exchanges.

ETH Open Interest Breaks All Time High in August with \$5.6bn

Futures and perpetual futures open interest in ETH rose 41.0% in August to \$5.6bn, an all-time high for ETH open interest. This has been mainly driven by CME, whose perpetual and futures open interest grew by 47.2% and 78.3% to \$1.7bn and \$613mn respectively, both all-time highs for the exchange. While all other exchanges also saw positive growth, they are still well below their all-time highs from around March and April. Aggregate open interest for Bitcoin also rose to \$12.4bn (up 22.4%), although this remains significantly below the all-time high open interest reached in April (\$19.1bn).

Binance Dominates Aggregate Open Interest

Aggregate open interest rose 37.7% in the month of August to \$24.4bn, the highest level seen in three months. Binance open interest grew at the fastest rate (51.8% vs July) and now accounts for 39.8% of all derivative open interest, the highest dominance level recorded. ByBit surpassed OKEx to become the second-largest exchange for open interest at \$3.3bn, growing 39.4% since July.



Spot exchange

Buy and sell crypto easily

Reduced fees depending on trading volume
180+ trading pairs
Deep-liquidity and tight spreads



Expeditious OTC desk

Trade large volumes

Competitive rates
No ceiling for trading
Expeditious transactions



Market making program

Earn from liquidity provision

Rebates on maker fees
Retainer fees
Low taker fees
Higher API and withdrawal limits



Robust human support

Get answers from our team 24/7

Multilingual team
Fast response time
Extensive knowledge base

Crypto market at your fingertips



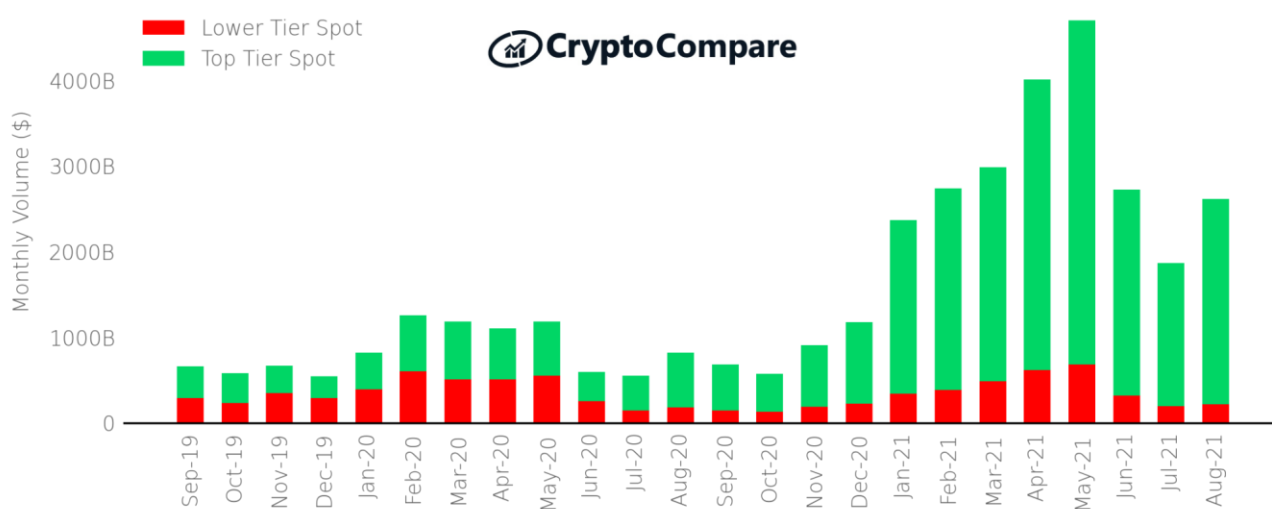
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Exchange Benchmark Analysis

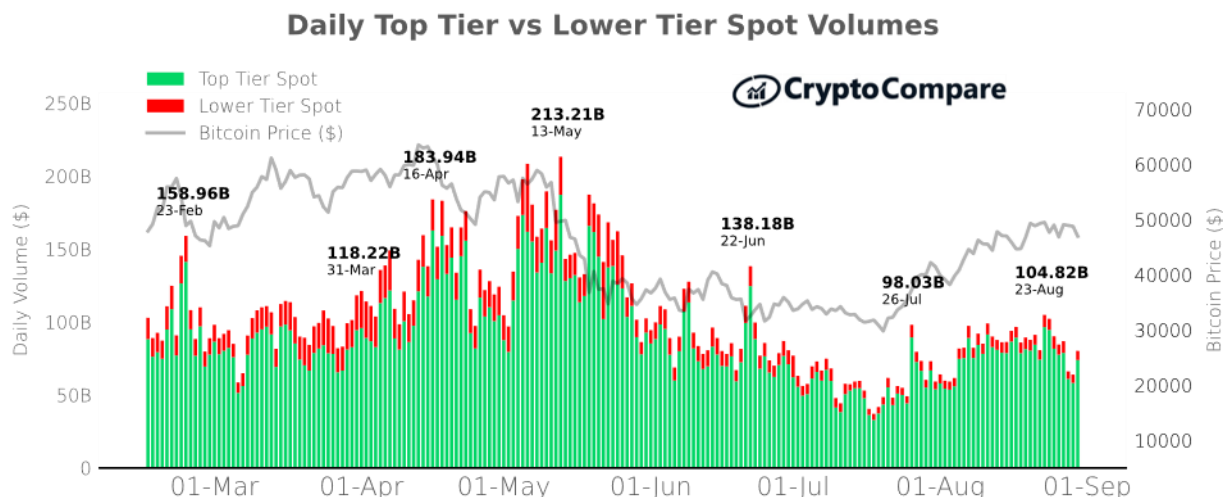
CryptoCompare's biannual Exchange Benchmark aims to serve investors, regulators and industry participants by scoring and ranking exchanges on the basis of their operational transparency, security, operational quality, regulatory standing, data provision, management team, and ability to monitor trades and illicit activity effectively. Rather than focussing on bad actors, we instead choose to highlight those that behave in a manner conducive to maintaining efficient and fair markets, ensuring greater safety of investors. We hence refer to the notion of "Top-Tier" vs "Lower-Tier" volumes and exchanges, as explained in greater detail in the Exchange Benchmark Report methodology.

Explore the Exchange Benchmark [here](#)

Historical Monthly Top Tier vs Lower Tier Volume

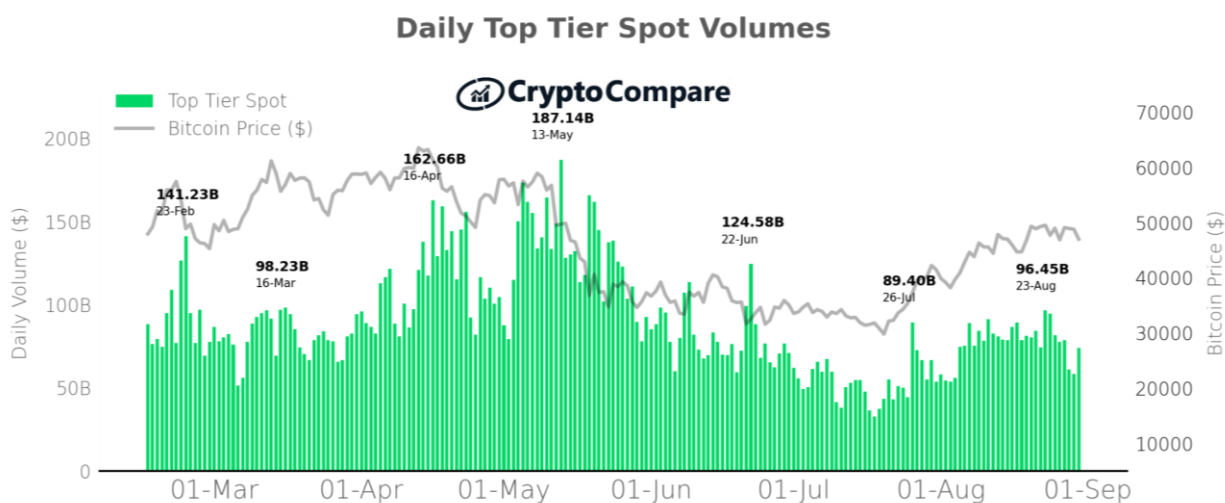


In August, Top-Tier spot volumes increased 43.6% to \$2.4tn and Lower-Tier spot volumes increased 10.4% to \$218bn. Top-Tier exchanges now represent 91.7% of total spot volume.



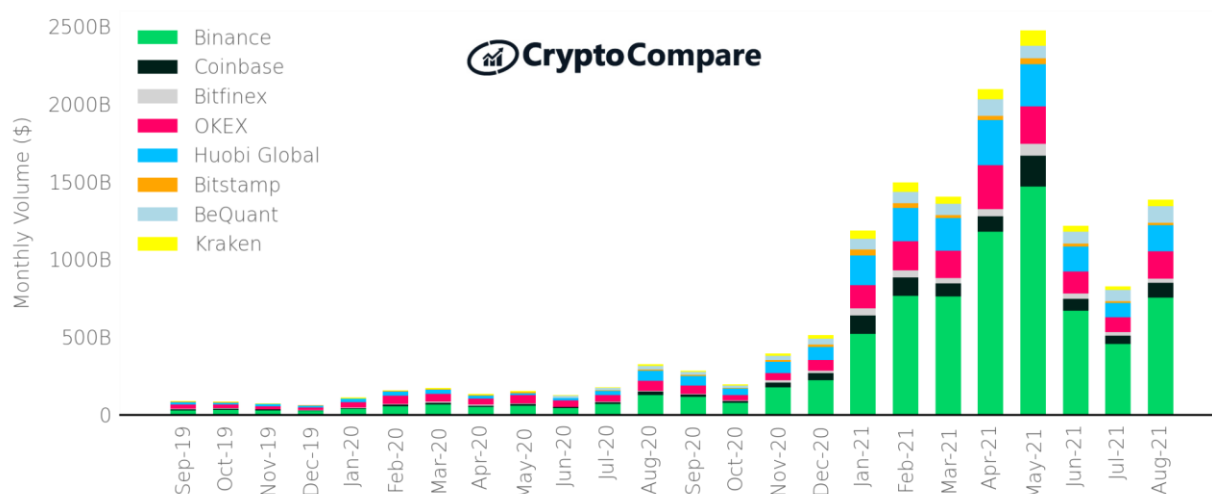
Trading activity across all spot markets rose in August compared to the previous month, as cryptocurrency prices continued to rise. A daily volume maximum of \$104.8bn was traded on the 23rd of August, up 6.9% from the intra-month high in July.

Top-Tier exchanges traded a daily volume maximum of \$96.5bn on the 23rd of August, up 7.9% from July. Top-Tier exchanges are selected based on our rigorous [Exchange Benchmark Methodology](#).



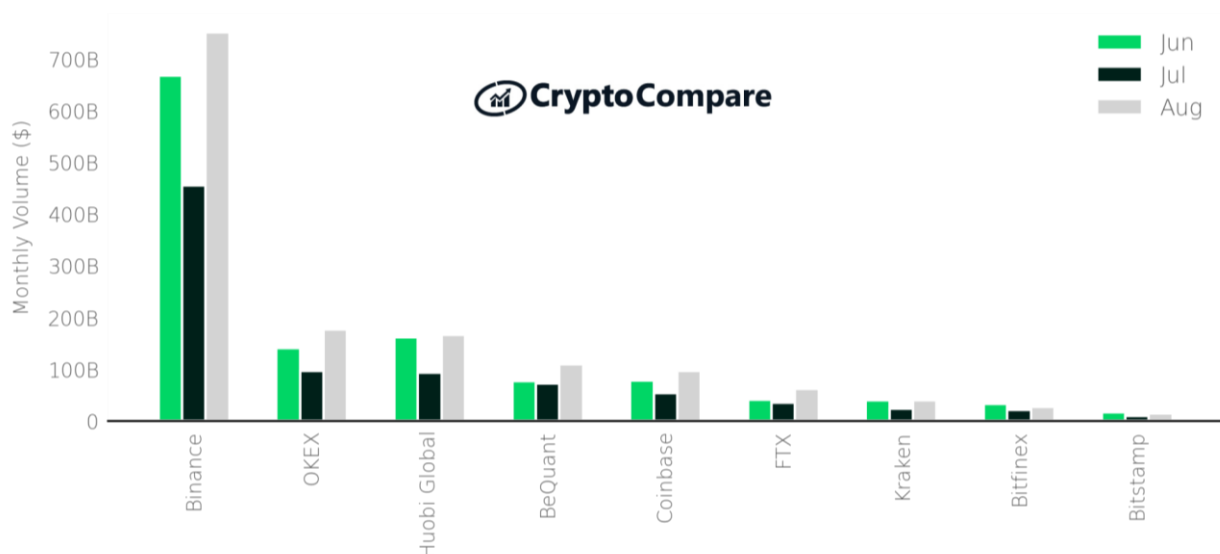
Macro Analysis and Market Segmentation

Monthly Top-Tier Spot Volume



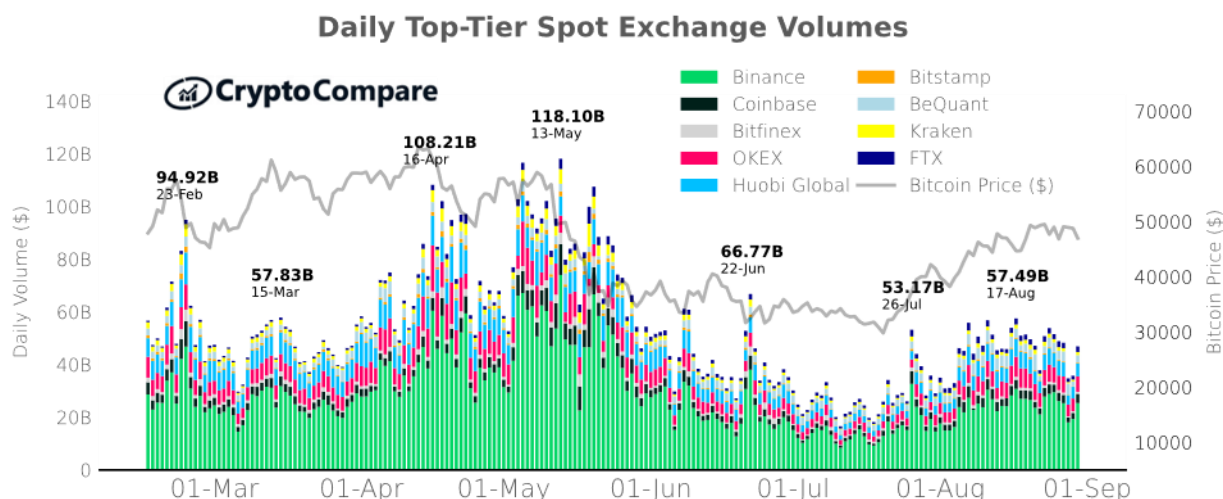
In August, spot volume from the 15 largest Top-Tier exchanges increased 67.9% on average compared to July.

Historical Monthly Top-Tier Spot Volume - 3 Months



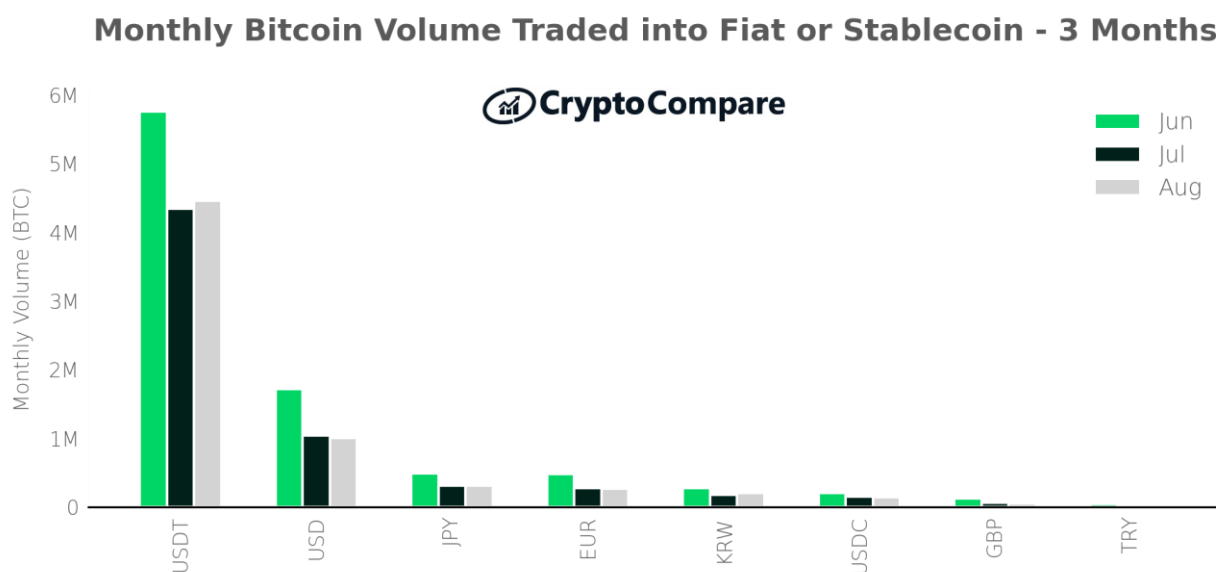
Binance (Grade BB) was the largest Top-Tier spot exchange by volume in August, trading \$751bn (up 65.2%). This was followed by OKEx (Grade BB) trading \$177.8bn (up 82.4%), and Huobi Global (Grade BB) trading \$166bn (up 79.4%).

BeQuant (BB), Coinbase (AA) and FTX (BB) followed, trading \$109bn (up 51.5%), \$96.3bn (up 79.1%) and \$61.1bn (up 73.5%) respectively.



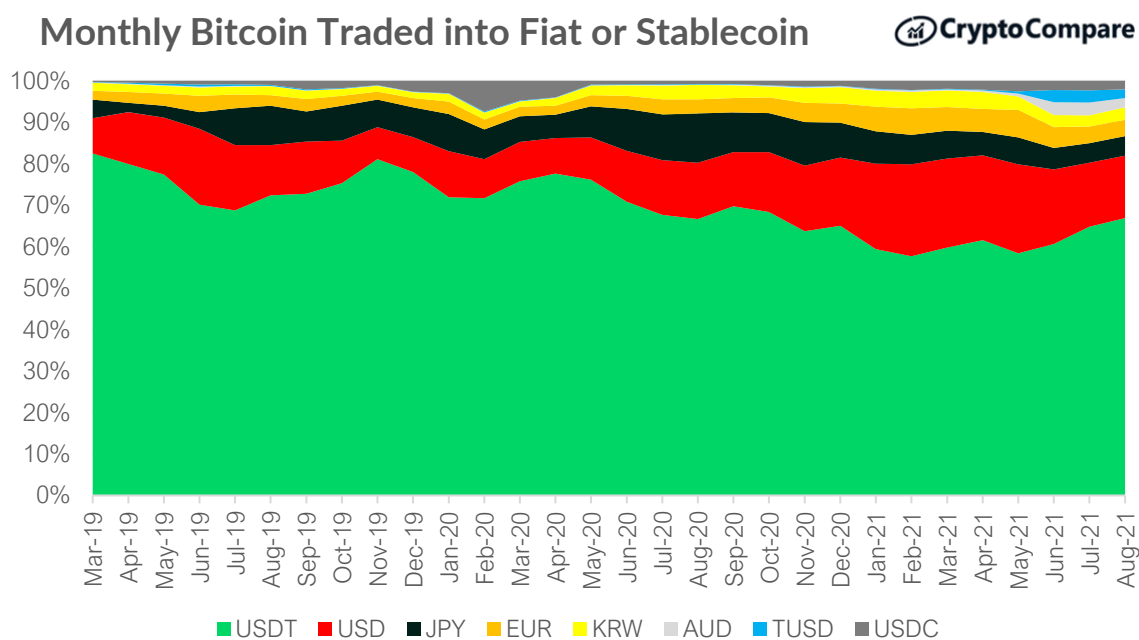
Binance (BB), OKEx (BB) and Huobi Global (BB) remained the top players in terms of spot volume in August relative to other Top-Tier exchanges. Among the largest 15 Top-Tier exchanges by volume, they represented approximately 70.0% of total volume (vs 70.1% in July).

Bitcoin to Fiat Volumes



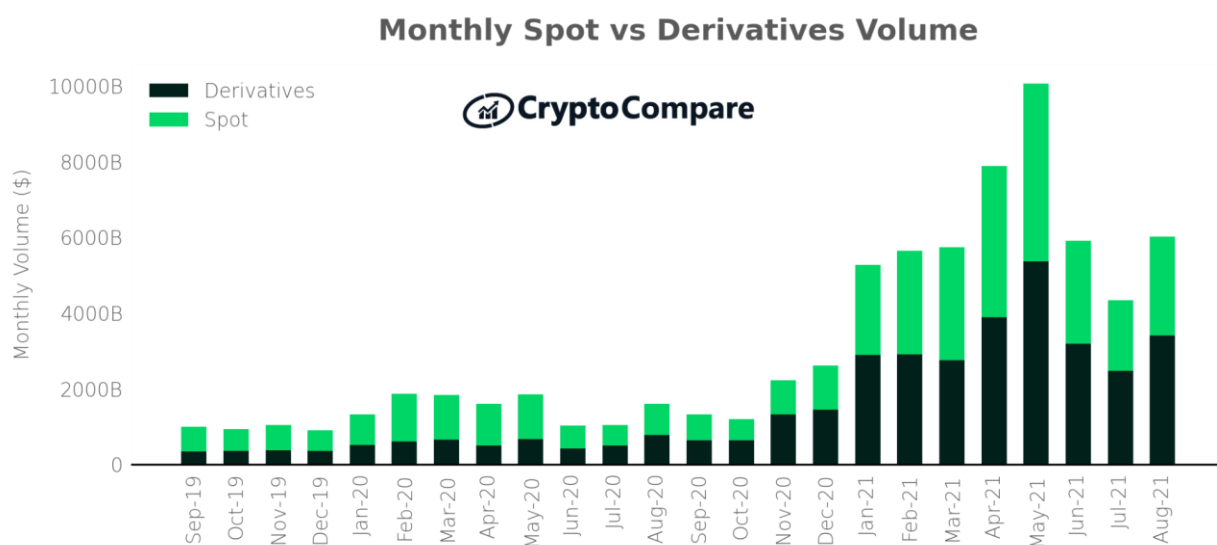
BTC spot trading into USDT increased by 2.6% in August to 4.5mn BTC, while trading into USD decreased to 1.0mn BTC (down 3.2%). Trading into JPY remained broadly unchanged, decreasing to 0.3mn BTC (down 0.2%). Trading in EUR markets decreased 3.1%.

TUSD and USDC were the largest stablecoin markets after USDT, having traded 139,082 and 137,005 BTC (down 29.8% and 10.4% respectively) in August.

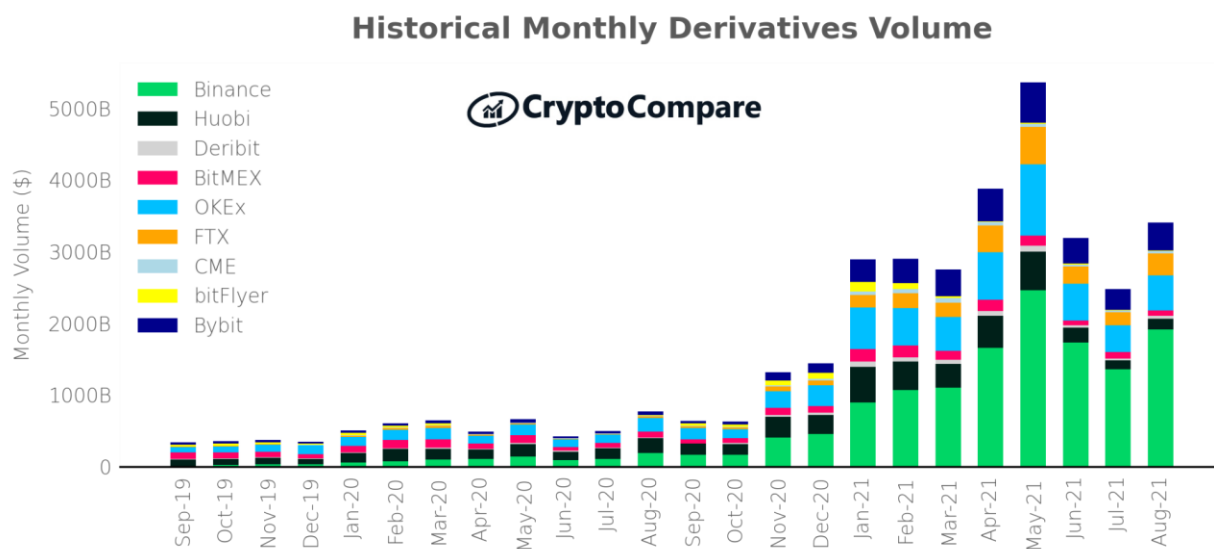


BTC/USDT trading still represents the majority of BTC traded into fiat or stablecoin spot markets in August at 64.1% (vs 61.6% in July).

Derivatives

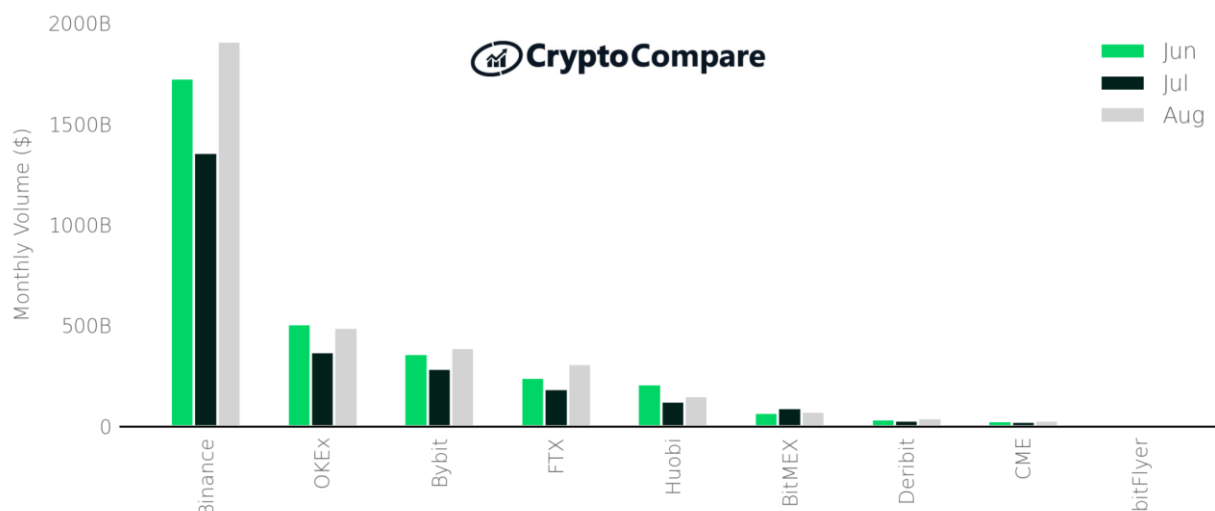


Derivatives volumes increased by 37.8% in August to \$3.4tn. Meanwhile, total spot volumes increased by 40.0% to \$2.6tn. The derivatives market now represents 56.6% of the total crypto market (vs 56.9% in July).

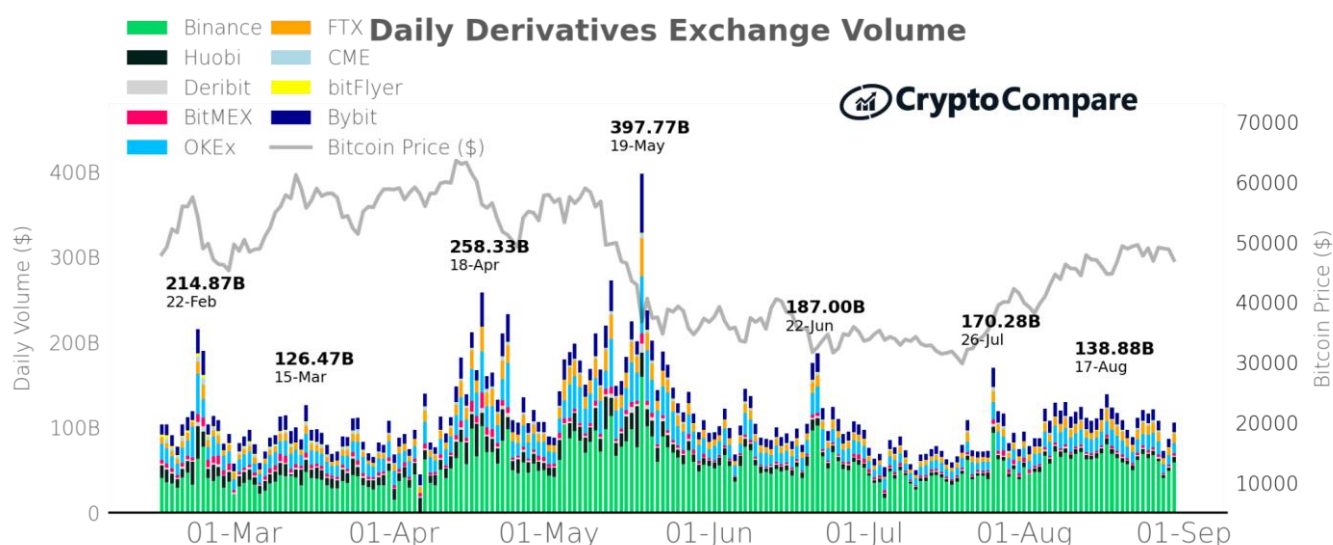


Binance leads the derivative markets with 56.1% (\$1.9tn) of total volumes in the month of August. This was followed by OKEx (14.3% market share, \$488bn) and Bybit (11.4% market share, \$389bn).

Historical Monthly Derivatives Volumes - 3 Months



Binance was the largest derivatives exchange in August by monthly trading volume with \$1.9tn (up 40.8% since July) followed by OKEx (\$488bn, up 32.8%), Bybit (\$389bn, up 36.5%) and FTX (\$311bn, up 68.0%).



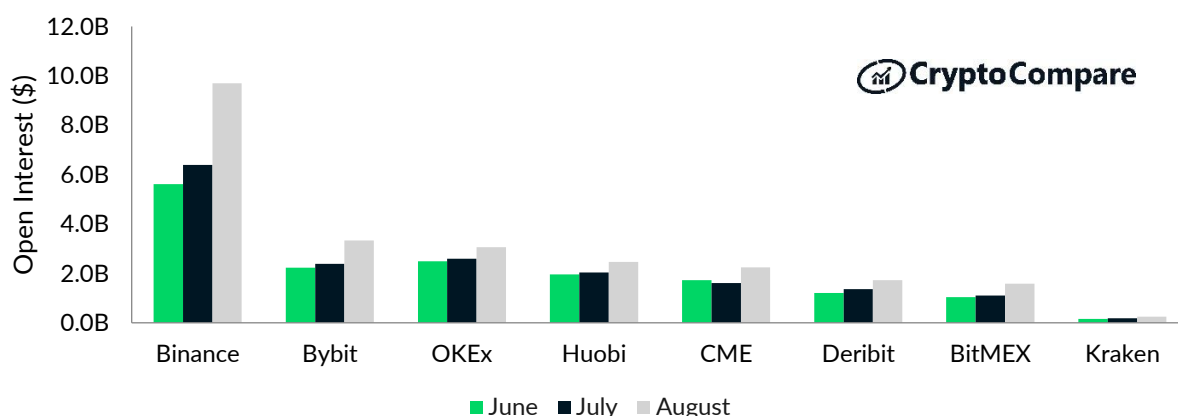
Derivatives exchanges traded a daily maximum of \$139bn on the 17th of August, down 18.4% from July's intra-month high of \$170bn.

Open Interest

August had the highest level of aggregate open interest in three months, from a weekly average of \$17.7bn in July to \$24.4bn in August (37.7% increase). This is adjacent with the rise in price in cryptocurrency markets in August, as Bitcoin and Ethereum saw a price increase of 18.3% and 35.7% respectively.

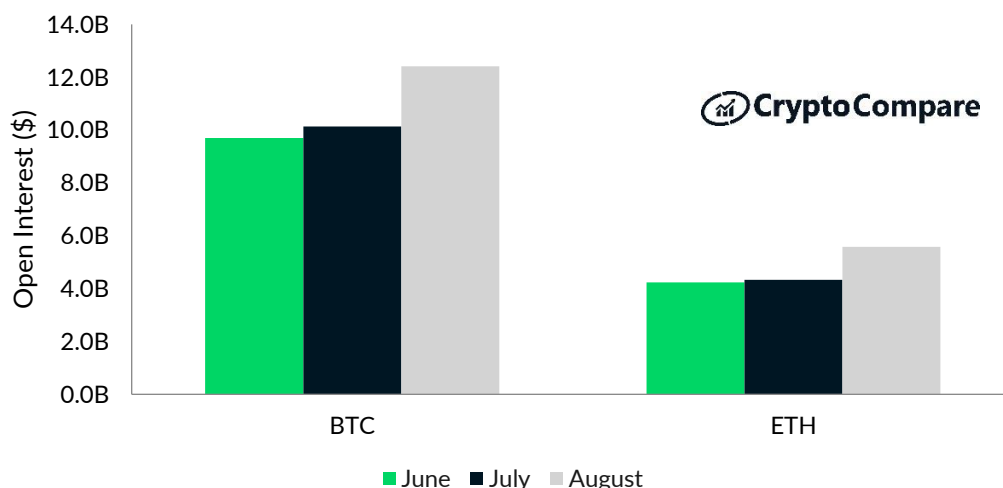
Binance had the highest open interest across all derivative products on average at \$9.7bn (up 51.8% since July). This was followed by Bybit (\$3.3bn, up 39.4%) and OKEx (\$3.1bn, up 18.2%).

Aggregate Derivatives Open Interest (\$)



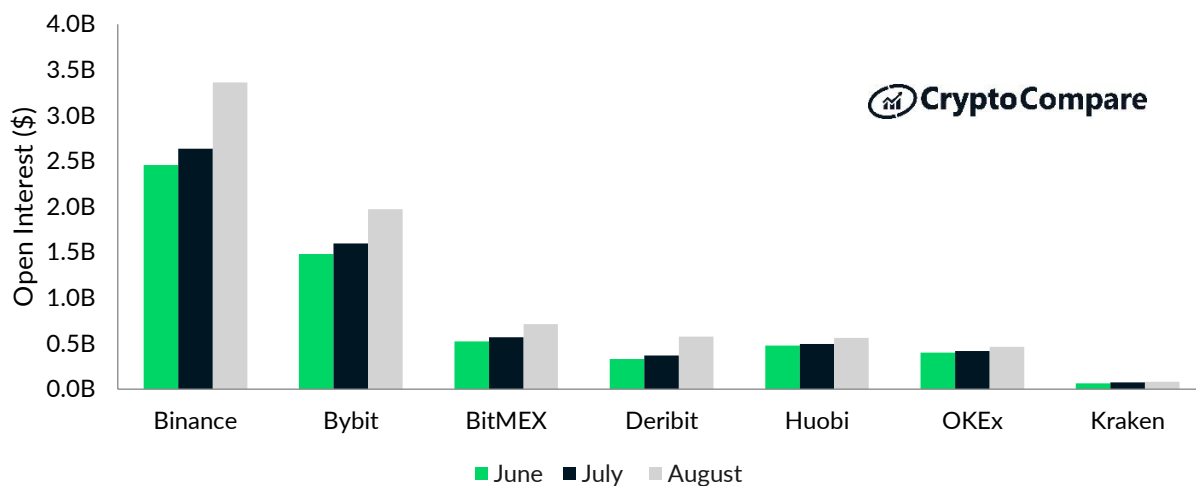
Aggregate open interest across BTC futures products rose to \$12.4bn (up 22.4% from July) while open interest across ETH futures products also rose to \$4.9bn (up 28.6%).

Aggregate Futures Open Interest (\$) - BTC vs ETH



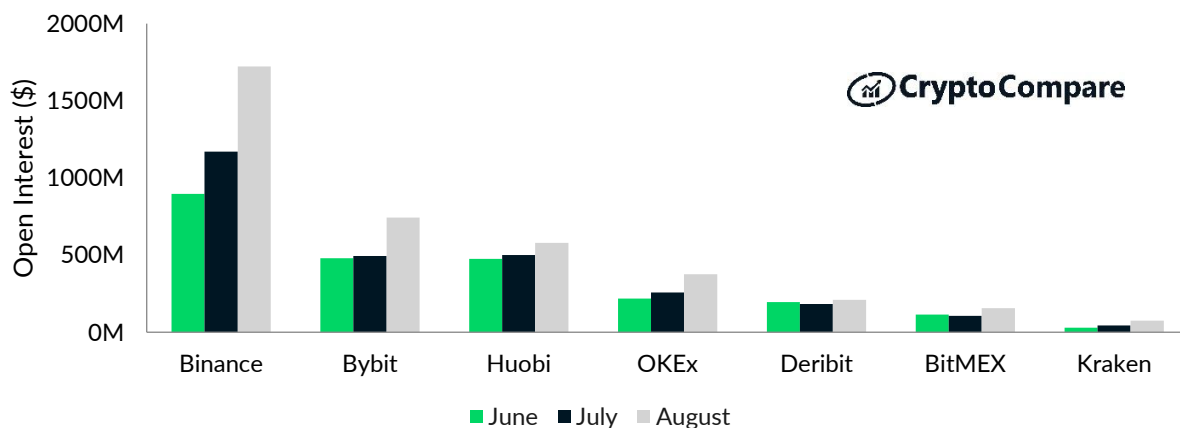
In terms of BTC perpetual futures, Binance had the highest open interest at \$3.4bn (27.6% increase from July), followed by Bybit at \$2.0bn (up 23.6%). Total perpetual BTC open interest rose 25.6% to \$7.7bn.

Perpetual BTC Open Interest (\$)



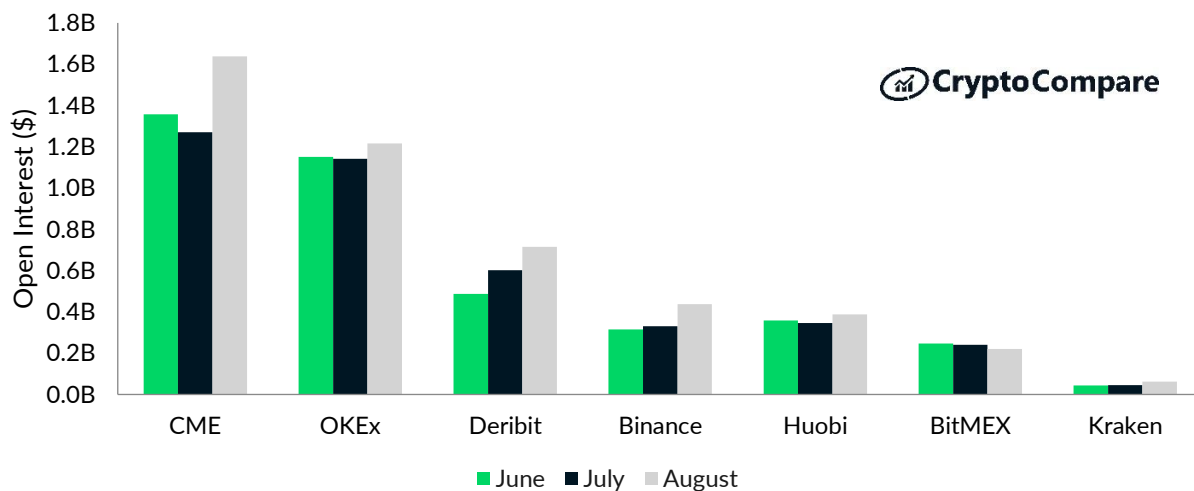
Open interest in ETH perpetual futures contracts rose significantly to \$3.9bn (up 40.0% from July). Binance had the highest open interest value at \$1.7bn, up 47.2% from July.

Perpetual ETH Open Interest (\$)



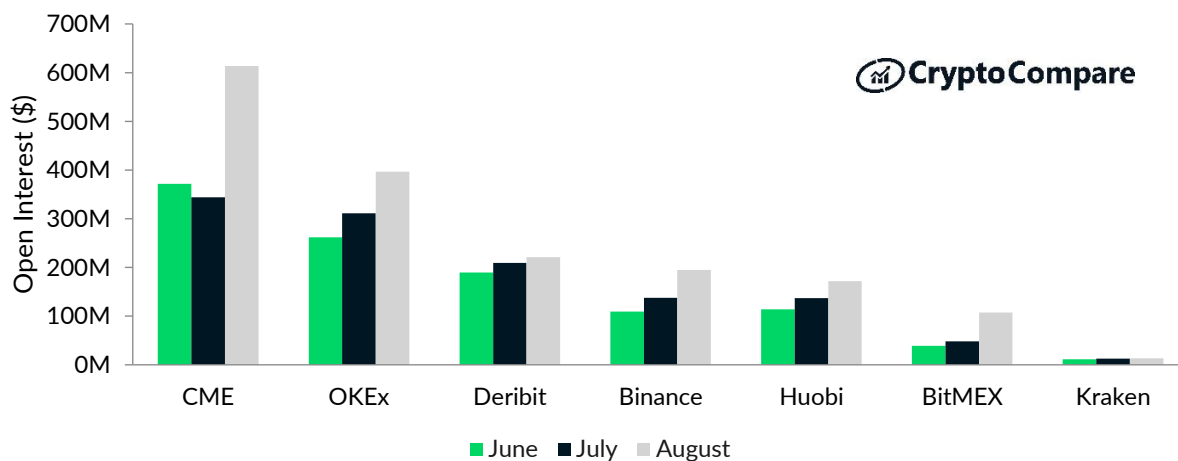
The regulated futures exchange CME had the highest open interest for BTC futures at \$1.6bn (up 28.9%) followed by OKEx at \$1.2bn (up 6.4%). Deribit followed at \$602mn, a 19.0% increase from the month prior. BitMex was the only exchange that saw a decrease in futures open interest, falling to \$221mn (down 8.2%).

BTC Futures Open Interest (\$)



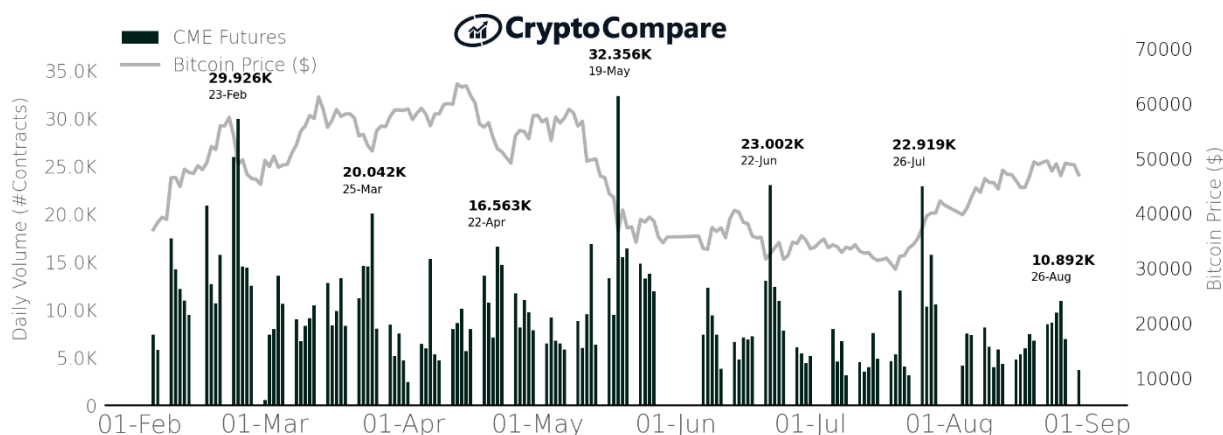
In August, CME gained market share in the ETH futures market with \$613mn average open interest (up 78.3%). ETH futures open interest at OKEx and Deribit rose 27.4% and 5.8% respectively to \$396mn and \$221mn.

ETH Futures Open Interest (\$)



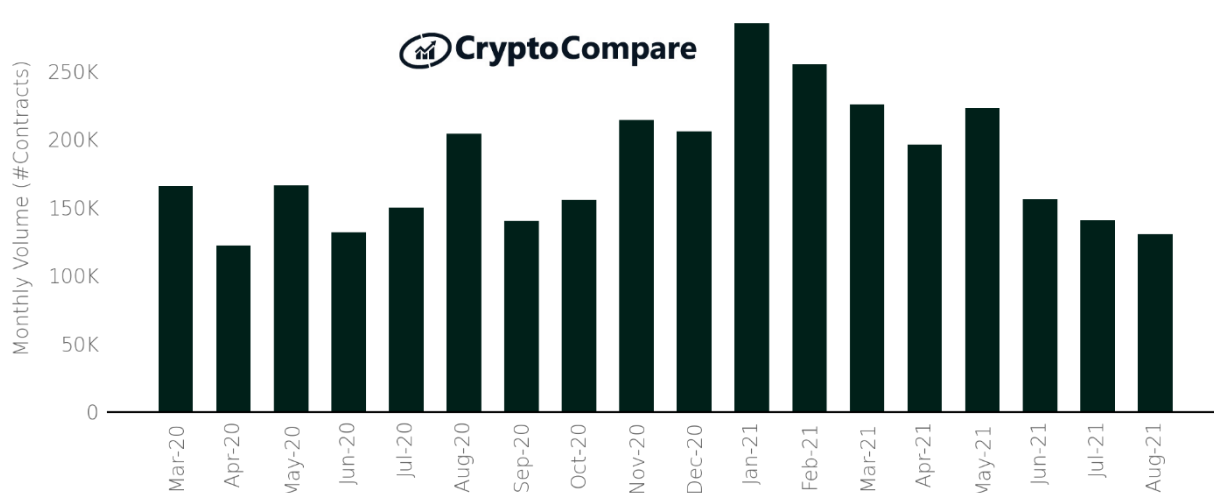
CME Institutional Volume and Open Interest

Daily CME BTC Futures Contract Volumes

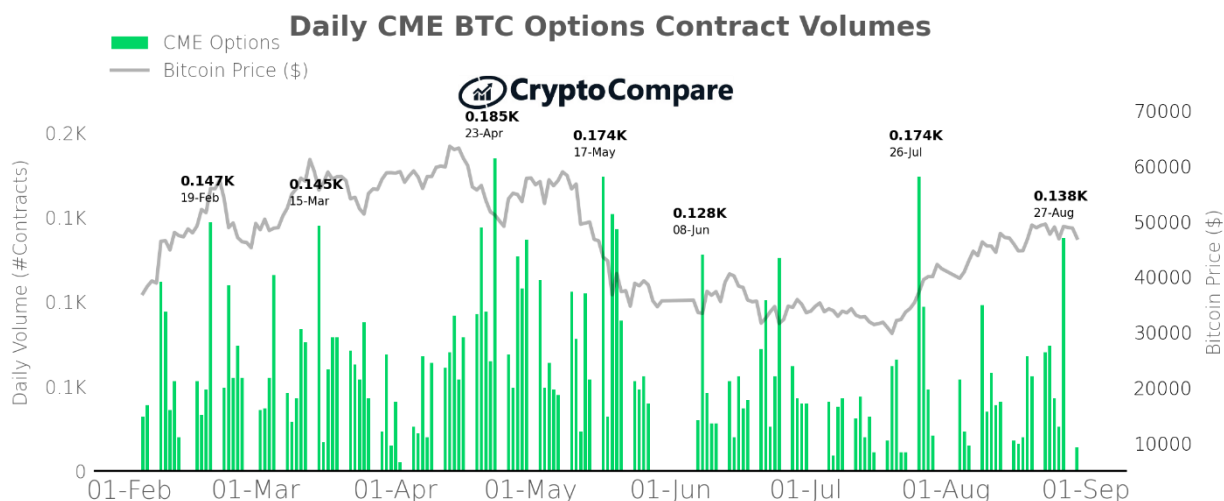


A daily maximum for the month was achieved on the 26th of August where 10,892 BTC futures contracts were traded.

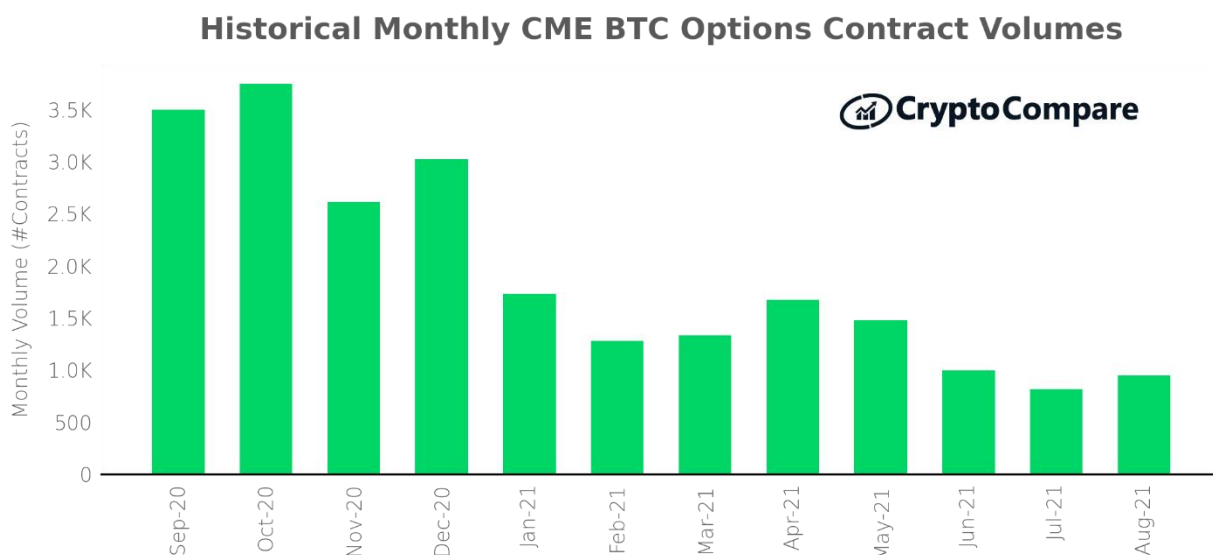
Historical Monthly CME BTC Futures Contract Volumes



Roughly 130,000 monthly contracts were traded in August, (down 7.3% since July). This was the lowest amount since April 2020, when 120,000 contracts were traded.

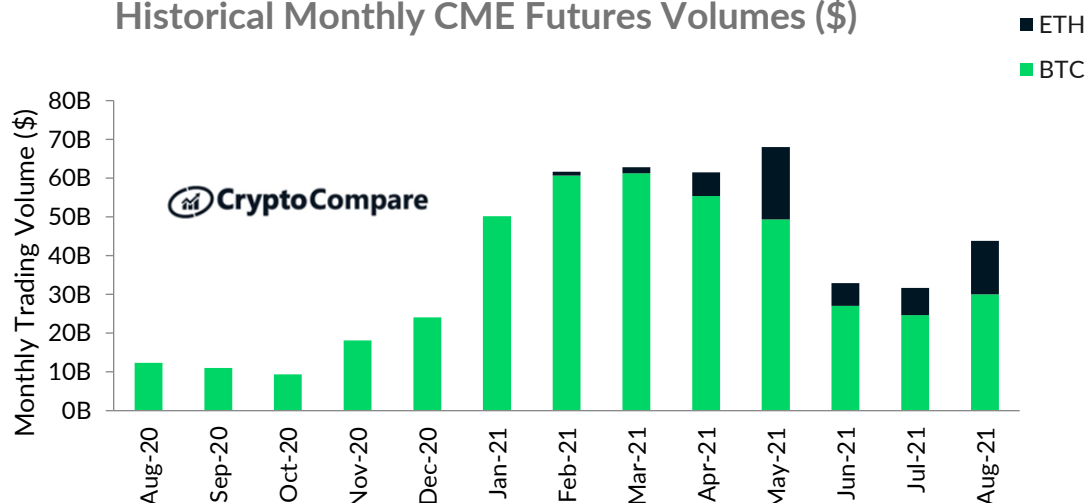


CME option contract volumes increased 16.2% in August to 949 contracts traded. Options contract volumes reached a daily maximum of 138 contracts traded on the 27th of August, down 20.7%.



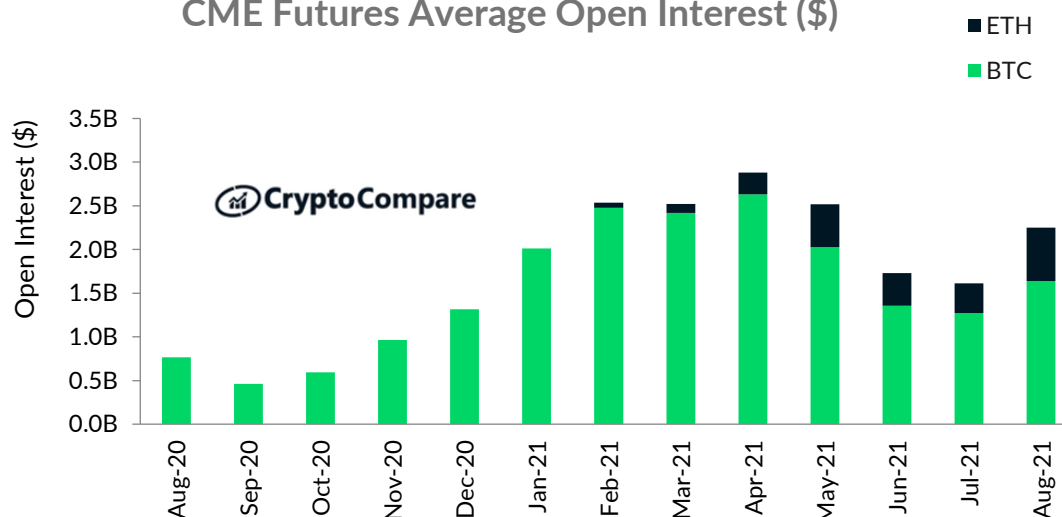
In terms of total USD trading volume, CME's ETH futures reached \$13.7bn in August (up 94.4% since July), the highest level since the peak in May. Meanwhile, CME's BTC futures volumes increased by 22.0% to \$30.1bn. On aggregate (ETH + BTC futures) volumes rose 38.2% to \$43.8bn, a notable rise from the July lows.

Historical Monthly CME Futures Volumes (\$)



CME's average open interest figures for BTC futures increased 28.9% to \$1.6bn in August. Similarly, ETH open interest averaged \$613mn, an all-time high for the exchange (up 78.3% against July).

CME Futures Average Open Interest (\$)



To conclude, during the month of August cryptocurrency exchanges experienced strong rebounds in volumes, in line with the rise in price levels in cryptocurrencies seen throughout the month. Derivative open interest saw a similar increase, driven by ETH derivative products and by CME's stellar growth.