



INDUSTRY ANALYST REPORT

# The state of *stablecoins* and the players behind them.

Issuers, infrastructure, custody, rails, payments, and the unresolved questions shaping the next 18 months.

**\$33T**

2025 ON CHAIN  
TRANSACTION VOLUME

**\$320B**

TOTAL MARKET CAP  
MAY 2026

**8**

JURISDICTIONS WITH  
ACTIVE FRAMEWORKS

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*2025 in review, 2026 in motion*

Published May 2026

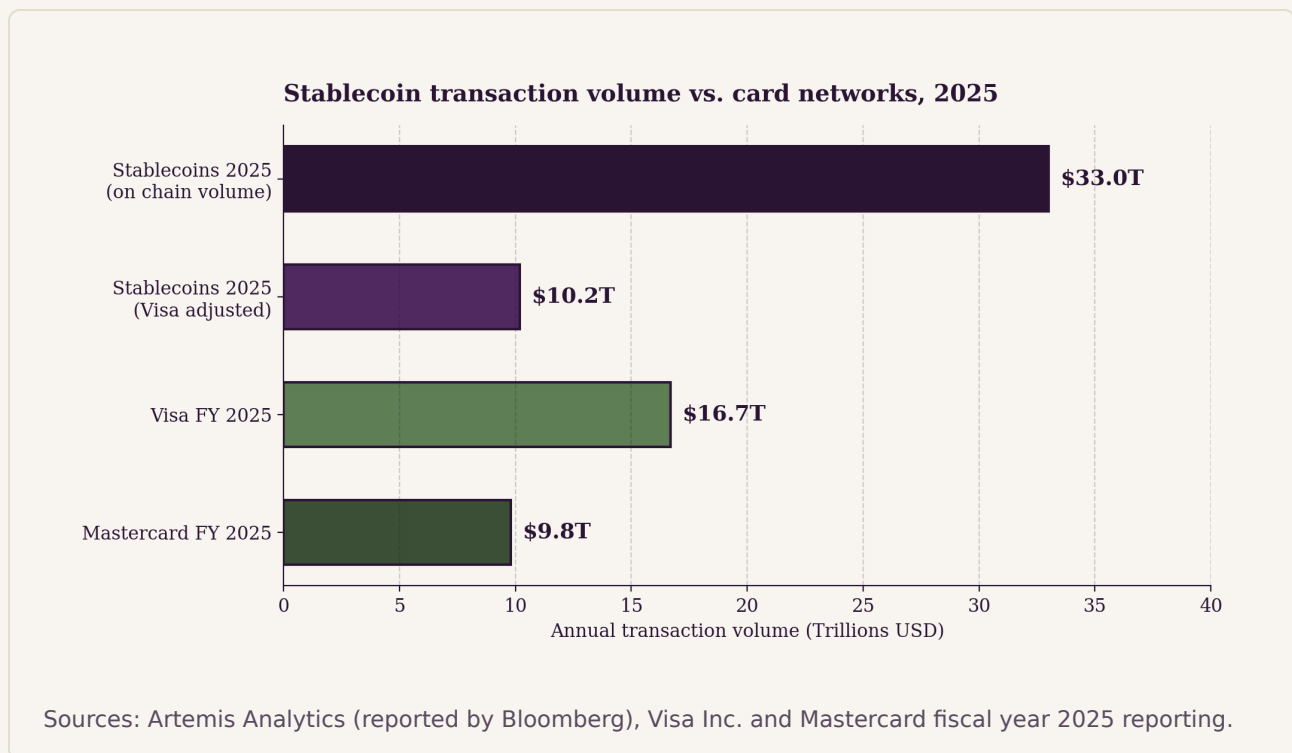
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# A market that *crossed over* in 2025.

Stablecoins moved from "crypto plumbing" to global settlement infrastructure in 2025. Total on chain transaction volume hit roughly \$33 trillion for the year, up 72 percent year over year. Visa processed \$16.7 trillion in its fiscal year 2025.

Total market capitalization sat at approximately \$320.6 billion in May 2026, up from \$205 billion at the start of 2025. But the headline numbers obscure the story that actually matters for operators, treasurers, and policymakers: the market has stratified into a full stack ecosystem with distinct roles at each layer, and the open questions about how that stack interconnects are far from settled.



## What this report covers

1. **Issuers**, where two firms still control roughly 88 to 93 percent of supply, but the challenger tier has genuine momentum.
2. **Issuance and orchestration platforms**, which have collapsed the time to launch a custom stablecoin from years to weeks.
3. **Custodians**, where bank chartered firms now sit alongside MPC native crypto firms with different risk profiles.
4. **Settlement rails**, where Tron still moves more stablecoin volume than every other chain combined.
5. **The payments layer**, where Visa and Mastercard have moved from spectators to acquirers.
6. **Regulators**, with the U.S. GENIUS Act now law, MiCA in force, and parallel frameworks active in Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, and the UAE.
7. **Tokenized deposits**, which banks are positioning as a parallel rail with bank balance sheet protection and the ability to pay interest.

### BOTTOM LINE

The unresolved issues are not technical. They are structural: build versus rent, the yield prohibition and its third party loophole, fraud vectors that are not chargebacks but are no less expensive, UX fragmentation across chains and wallets, and the open question of whether stablecoins or tokenized deposits become the default for institutional flows.

SECTION 01

# Market *size* and velocity.

A \$320 billion asset class moving more than \$33 trillion a year. The headline numbers are real. The methodology behind them matters.

SECTION 01

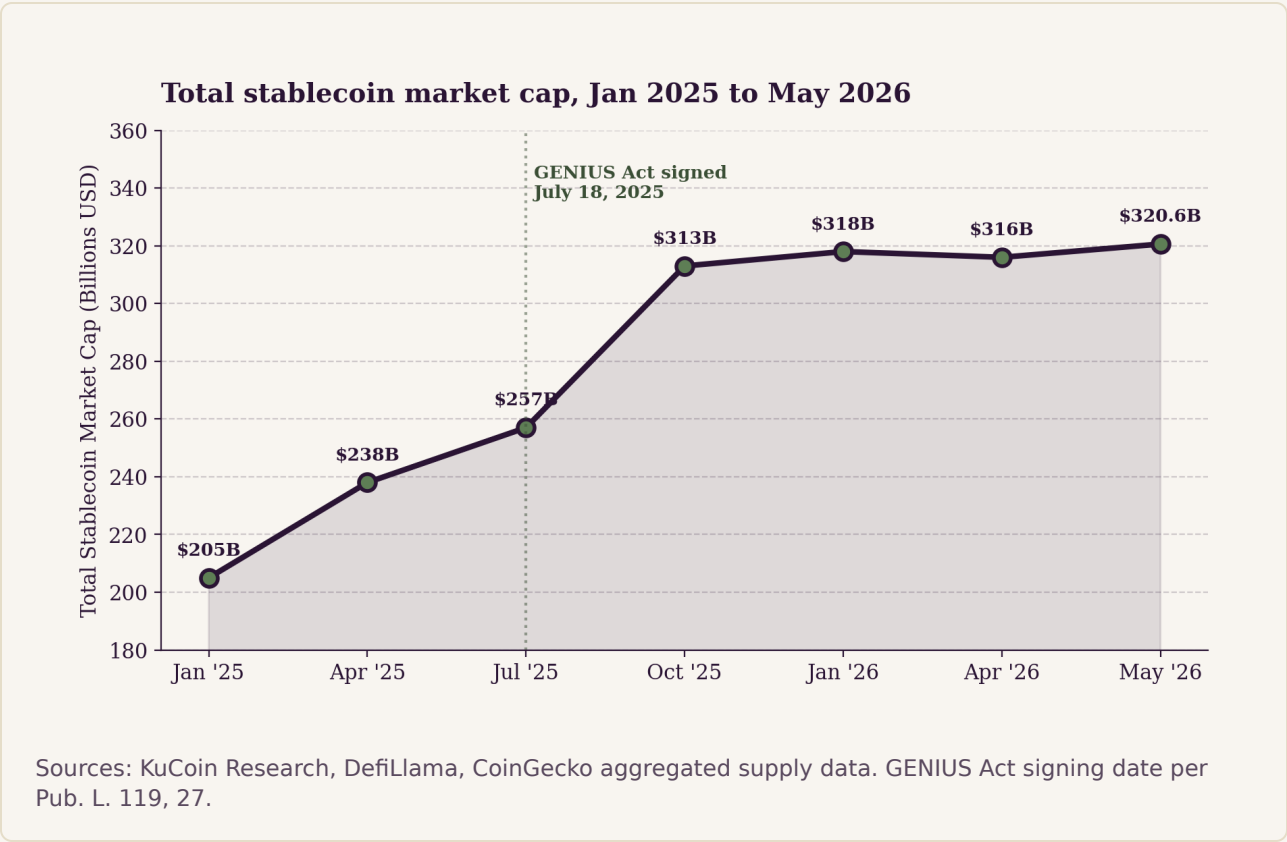
# The numbers that *anchor* the market.

**\$320.6B**  
TOTAL MARKET CAP, MAY 2026

**+72%**  
YOY GROWTH IN 2025 TRANSACTION VOLUME

**\$11T**  
Q4 2025 TRANSACTION VOLUME

The basic numbers worth anchoring on: total stablecoin market cap reached approximately \$320.6 billion in May 2026, per KuCoin's tracking citing DefiLlama and CoinGecko data. 2025 annual transaction volume was approximately \$33 trillion (Artemis Analytics, reported by Bloomberg January 2026). Q4 2025 volume alone hit approximately \$11 trillion, up from \$8.8 trillion in Q3. Stablecoins represented approximately 30 percent of all on chain crypto transaction volume in 2025.



## The methodology caveat

The \$33 trillion figure deserves a caveat. On chain volume includes bot activity, intra exchange transfers, and DeFi looping that does not represent real economic settlement. Visa's adjusted methodology pegs comparable stablecoin volume closer to \$10.2 trillion for the trailing twelve months. Both numbers are real. They measure different things.

*If you are pitching stablecoins as a payments rail, the \$10 trillion figure is the defensible one. If you are sizing the asset class as financial infrastructure, the \$33 trillion figure captures what the chains actually moved.*

## Growth forecasts vary widely

| FORECASTER                        | PROJECTION     | TIMING        |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| <b>J.P. Morgan Research</b>       | \$500 billion  | By 2028       |
| <b>Standard Chartered</b>         | \$2 trillion   | By 2028       |
| <b>U.S. Treasury Sec. Bessent</b> | \$3.7 trillion | End of decade |
| <b>Bernstein Research</b>         | \$4 trillion   | By 2035       |

The range itself is the signal. No serious institution disagrees that growth continues. They disagree by an order of magnitude on the slope.

## SECTION 02

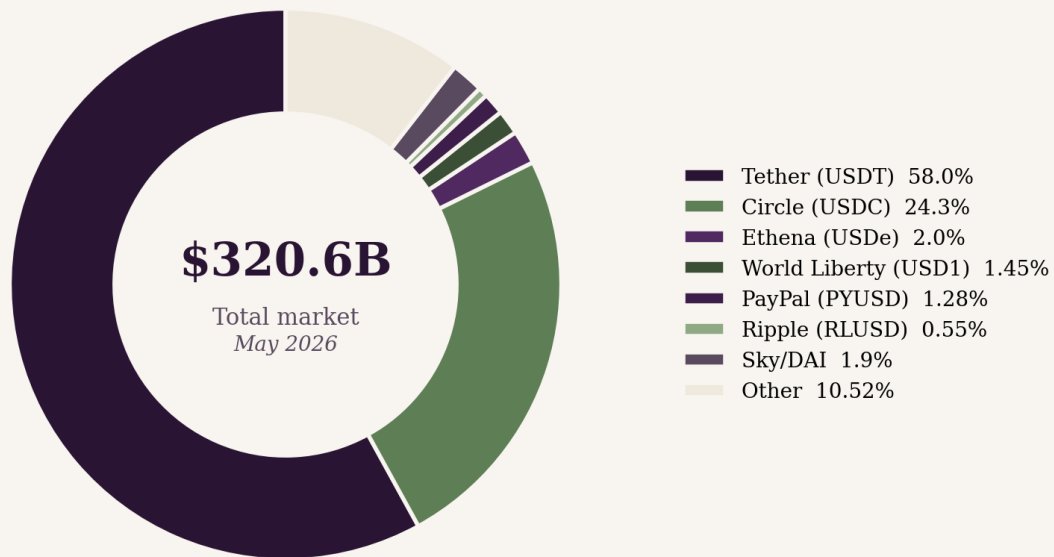
# The *issuer* landscape.

A duopoly that controls 88 to 93 percent of supply. A challenger tier with real momentum. And a fourth tier emerging from the unbundling of issuance from distribution.

## SECTION 02

# The *duopoly* and the challenger tier.

## Issuer market share by capitalization



Sources: CoinMarketCap, CoinGecko, DefiLlama (May 2026). Market share calculated against total stablecoin market capitalization of \$320.6 billion.

## Tier 1: The duopoly

### Tether (USDT)

**\$188B**

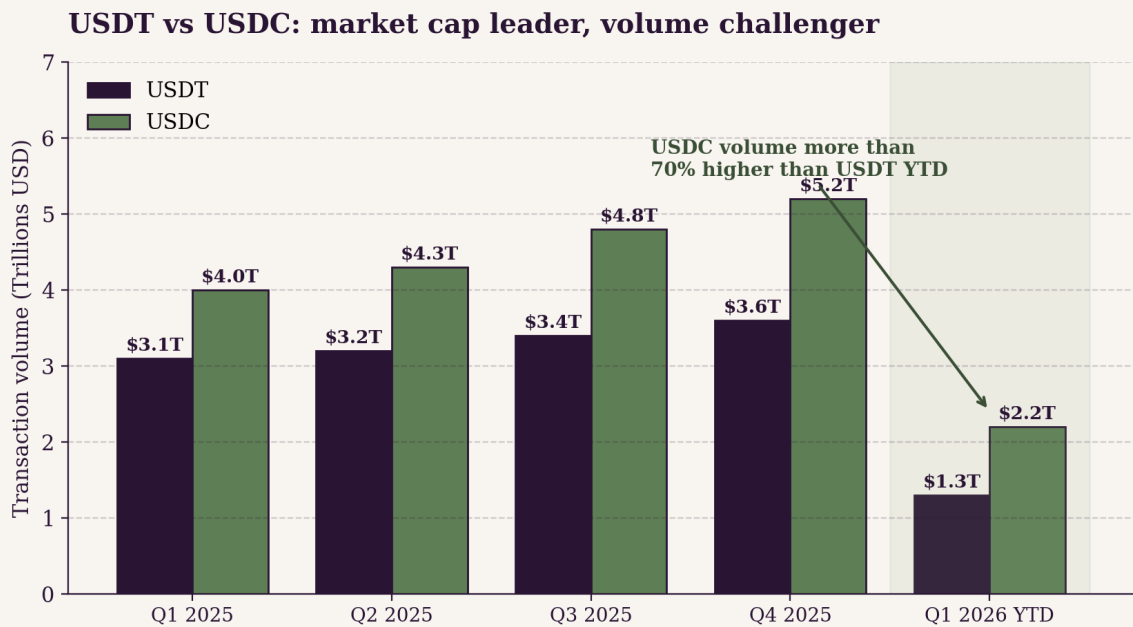
**~58 to 60% market share.** All time high market cap reached April 2026. Approximately 63% of reserves in U.S. Treasury bills per BIS Working Paper 1270. Reported \$10 billion profit through Q3 2025, almost entirely from Treasury reserve interest. More than 60% of USDT supply lives on Tron. Not MiCA compliant. Launching a U.S. compliant variant (USAT) to operate alongside USDT under the GENIUS Act.

## Circle (USDC)

**\$78B**

**~24 to 25% market share.** Grew 73% in 2025, outpacing USDT's 36% for the second consecutive year. NYSE listed since June 2025 (CRCL). MiCA compliant under EMI authorization. Per Mizuho analyst research (March 2026), USDC processed \$2.2T in adjusted transaction volume YTD 2026 versus USDT's \$1.3T. **First time since 2019 USDC led on volume.**

The volume crossover is the most important issuer development since GENIUS. If real economic usage is what determines the long term winner, USDC is winning where it matters even though USDT is still bigger by market cap.



Source: Mizuho analyst report (March 2026) citing Artemis Analytics methodology. Quarterly bars show adjusted transaction volume excluding intra exchange transfers and bot activity.

## Tier 2: Credible challengers

### Ethena (USDe)

**\$6.3B**

Third largest stablecoin overall. Synthetic dollar backed by a delta neutral basis trade (long staked ETH plus short ETH perpetual futures). sUSDe (staked version) currently pays approximately 9.4% on a seven day trailing basis. Not classified as a payment stablecoin under GENIUS. SEC posture toward yield distributing tokens is the largest tail risk.

### World Liberty Financial USD (USD1)

**\$4.66B**

Less than 14 months old, launched March 2025. BitGo Trust custody. 1:1 cash and short term U.S. Treasury backing. Filed de novo OCC application for a national trust bank (WLTC, N.A.) in early 2026. Achieved early scale via a \$2B settlement payment from Abu Dhabi sovereign fund MGX into Binance, drawing congressional scrutiny over Trump family affiliation.

### PayPal USD (PYUSD)

**\$4.1B**

Fastest growing top tier stablecoin at 680% year over year. Extended to 70 international markets March 2026. Key integrations: YouTube creator payouts (Dec 2025), Visa Direct cross border remittance (Jan 2026), \$1B USDAI incentive program at 4.5% deposit yield. Only top tier stablecoin with built in retail distribution to hundreds of millions of consumers.

## Tier 3: Specialized challengers

### Ripple USD (RLUSD)

**\$1.75B**

Up from \$898M in October 2025. 82% of supply on Ethereum, 18% on XRP Ledger. Institutional integrations: Deutsche Bank, BlackRock (uses RLUSD as BUIDL redemption mechanism), SBI Japan (Q1 2026 rollout), LMAX Group (core collateral). Ripple spent ~\$3B on acquisitions (Hidden Road, Rail, GTreasury) to build the institutional plumbing.

### Sky USDS and DAI

**\$5-7B**

Combined supply across the formerly MakerDAO ecosystem. Crypto collateralized (DAI) and partially algorithmic / RWA backed (USDS). Largest decentralized stablecoin issuer. Shrinking relative share as fiat backed and synthetic models gain ground.

SECTION 03

# The *infrastructure* stack.

From reserves and issuance through custody, rails, and orchestration.  
Six layers, each with distinct economics and competitive structure.

## SECTION 03

# Six layers, *distinct* economics.

The stablecoin stack now mirrors the layered architecture of traditional payments: reserves, issuance, custody, settlement rails, cross chain interoperability, orchestration, and application.

**Reserves**

Cash, Treasury bills, repos. Subject to GENIUS Act and MiCA reserve requirements.  
BlackRock, Fidelity, BNY Mellon, JPMorgan custody divisions

**Issuance**

Mint and redeem the stablecoin. White label platforms have collapsed launch time from years to weeks.  
Bridge (Stripe), M0, Brale, Paxos, Agora, Bastion, Circle, Tether, Crossmint

**Custody**

Hold the keys that authorize movement. Bank chartered firms now sit alongside MPC native crypto custody.  
Fireblocks, Anchorage Digital, BitGo, Coinbase Custody, Copper, Cobo, Fidelity Digital Assets

**Settlement rails**

Where stablecoins actually move. Tron dominates volume. Ethereum dominates institutional flows.  
Tron, Ethereum, Solana, Base, Stellar, BSC, Plasma, Tempo, Arc

**Cross chain interoperability**

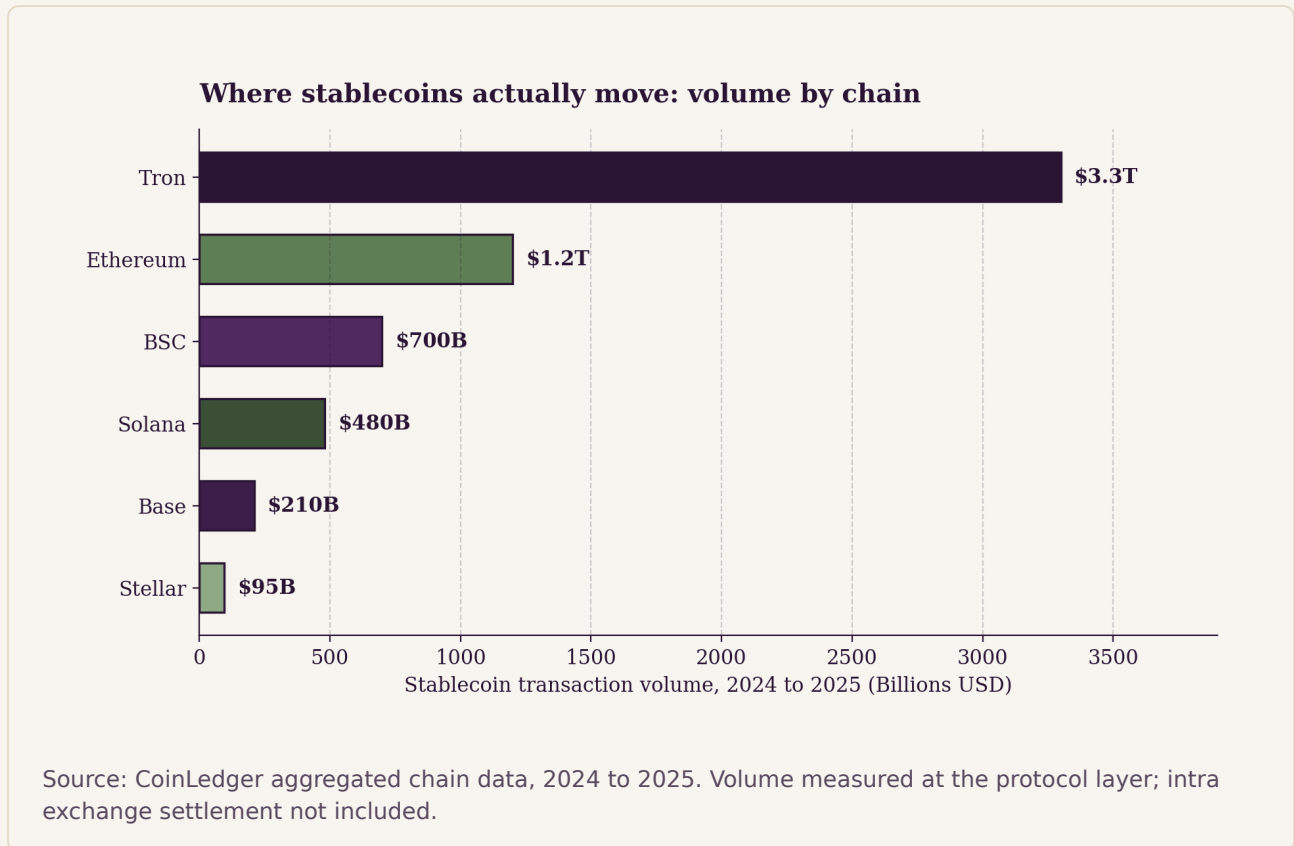
Move stablecoins between chains. Native burn-and-mint protocols vs generalized messaging.  
Circle CCTP, LayerZero, Wormhole, Hyperlane, Stargate, Polymer

**Orchestration and application**

Route intent to the right rail, abstract complexity from the user. Where end user UX gets solved.  
Eco, Relay, Across, LI.FI, Jumper, Squid, Crossmint, application wallets

## Where the money actually moves

A frequently missed point: stablecoins are not primarily a U.S. retail phenomenon. More than 80% of stablecoin transactions occur outside the United States. The composition by chain is sharply skewed.



**Tron is the dominant settlement chain for stablecoin payments.** Approximately \$3.3 trillion in stablecoin transactions across 2024 and 2025, more than every other chain combined. Hosts more than 60% of USDT supply. The operational backbone for emerging market remittances in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

**Ethereum** hosts approximately \$1.2 trillion in stablecoin volume over the same period. The institutional default; where RLUSD and most of USDC live.

**Solana** is favored for retail and merchant payments with settlement finality under 400 milliseconds.

**Stellar** hosts PayPal, U.S. Bank, and Wirex production workloads. Stablecoin market cap on Stellar grew 53% year over year to \$244M driven by PYUSD.

## Regional adoption

Stablecoin usage patterns vary significantly by region, reflecting local currency stability, regulatory posture, and corridor specific demand.

### SUB SAHARAN AFRICA

#### 43% of crypto volume

Stablecoins represent 43% of crypto transaction volume in the region per TRM Labs. Used as a dollar hedge against local currency volatility.

### LATIN AMERICA

#### 71% cross border use

The highest cross border share globally. Argentina, Venezuela, and Mexico lead. USDT on Tron dominates the corridor.

### ASIA PACIFIC

#### Settlement infrastructure

Tron and BSC dominate. SBI Japan rolling out RLUSD for institutional distribution. Hong Kong actively licensing issuers.

### UNITED STATES

#### 20% of global flow

Institutional core. The home of most issuers and custodians. GENIUS Act effective January 2027.

## SECTION 04

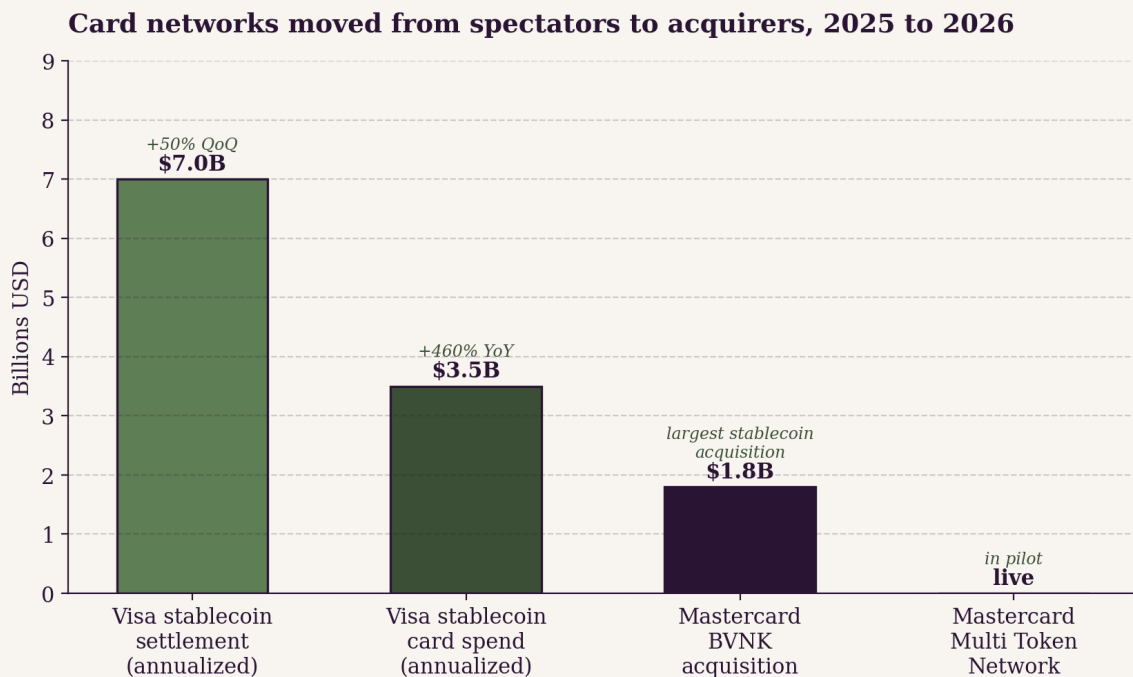
# The *payments* layer.

Where stablecoins meet the real economy. Card networks are no longer spectators. Processors have multiplied. Merchant acceptance is a race for distribution.

## SECTION 04

# Card networks moved from *spectators* to acquirers.

This is where the most consequential competitive moves of 2025 and 2026 happened. Both card giants explicitly framed their bets as defensive infrastructure: be the orchestrator of stablecoin flows, not the casualty.



Sources: Visa quarterly reporting (April 2026), Mastercard press releases on BVNK acquisition. Visa settlement expanded to 9 blockchains in April 2026.

## Visa

Visa's stablecoin settlement program reached **\$7B annualized** by April 2026, growing 50% quarter over quarter. Card linked stablecoin spend hit **\$3.5B annualized**, up 460% year over year. Stablecoin card programs are now live in more than 50 countries, on track for 100+ by year end.

## Mastercard

- Announced acquisition of **BNK for up to \$1.8 billion** in early 2026, the largest stablecoin focused acquisition on record
- SoFi partnership uses SoFiUSD as a network settlement option
- Multi Token Network supports stablecoins, tokenized deposits, and other tokenized money
- Targeting card transaction settlement in stablecoins (back end) without changing checkout UX (front end)

*The strategic logic is that if AI agents and DeFi rails route around 2 to 3 percent interchange fees, the card networks need to be present at the settlement layer to capture some portion of the fee economics.*

## Active payment processors handling production volume

| PROCESSOR                | POSITION                 | NOTABLE                            |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Stripe (Bridge)</b>   | Full stack, U.S. centric | ~1.5% fees, default for SaaS       |
| <b>BNK</b>               | Enterprise B2B           | \$30B+ annual, Mastercard owned    |
| <b>BitPay</b>            | Merchant invoicing, POS  | Operating since 2011, multi crypto |
| <b>Coinbase Commerce</b> | Institutional grade      | x402 protocol for AI agents        |
| <b>NOWPayments</b>       | High risk friendly       | iGaming up 40% YoY                 |
| <b>Triple-A</b>          | Compliance forward       | Strong APAC presence               |
| <b>Conduit / Fipto</b>   | Cross border B2B         | Emerging EU and corridor specific  |
| <b>Yellow Card</b>       | Africa focused           | Local on/off ramps                 |

## SECTION 05

# The *regulatory* map.

Stablecoin regulation went from speculative to enforceable across most major jurisdictions in the 18 months ending Q2 2026. Eight frameworks now active.

## SECTION 05

# Convergence on framework, *divergence* on pace.

Every major economy has now landed on full reserve backing, licensed issuers, and guaranteed redemption rights. Frameworks differ on three axes: who can issue, what reserves qualify, and how fast issuance pace is permitted.

## UNITED STATES

### GENIUS Act

Signed July 18, 2025. Effective January 2027 (or 120 days after final rules). OCC NPRM issued February 2026. Three permitted issuer categories. Yield prohibition with active third party loophole debate.

ACTIVE

## EUROPEAN UNION

### MiCA

Title III and IV effective June 30, 2024. Transitional period ends July 1, 2026. USDT delisted across EEA. USDC and EURC are MiCA compliant. Commission reopened review May 2026.

ACTIVE

## HONG KONG

### Stablecoins Ordinance

Effective August 1, 2025. HK\$25M minimum capital. HKMA received 36 applications. Only 2 licenses granted in first round (May 2026). Goal: a small, controlled cohort.

ACTIVE

## SINGAPORE

### MAS SCS Framework

Single Currency Stablecoin framework in force since 2023, expanded 2025. High quality reserve assets, 1:1 redemption, capital requirements, direct MAS supervision.

ACTIVE

## JAPAN

### Payment Services Act

PSA amendments effective June 2023, refined through 2026. Three issuer categories. MUFG, SMBC, Mizuho active. JPYC classified April 2026. SBI/Startale JPYSC launching Q2 2026.

ACTIVE

## UNITED KINGDOM

### FCA Framework

FCA released consultation paper December 2025. Bank of England signals preference for tokenized deposits over private stablecoins. Tokenized deposit pilots at HSBC, Lloyds, NatWest.

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES****Payment Token Regulation**

Central Bank of UAE Payment Token Services Regulation in effect. AED denominated stablecoins permitted under license. HSBC tokenized deposit rollout in UAE H1 2026.

**ACTIVE****SOUTH KOREA****Digital Asset Basic Act**

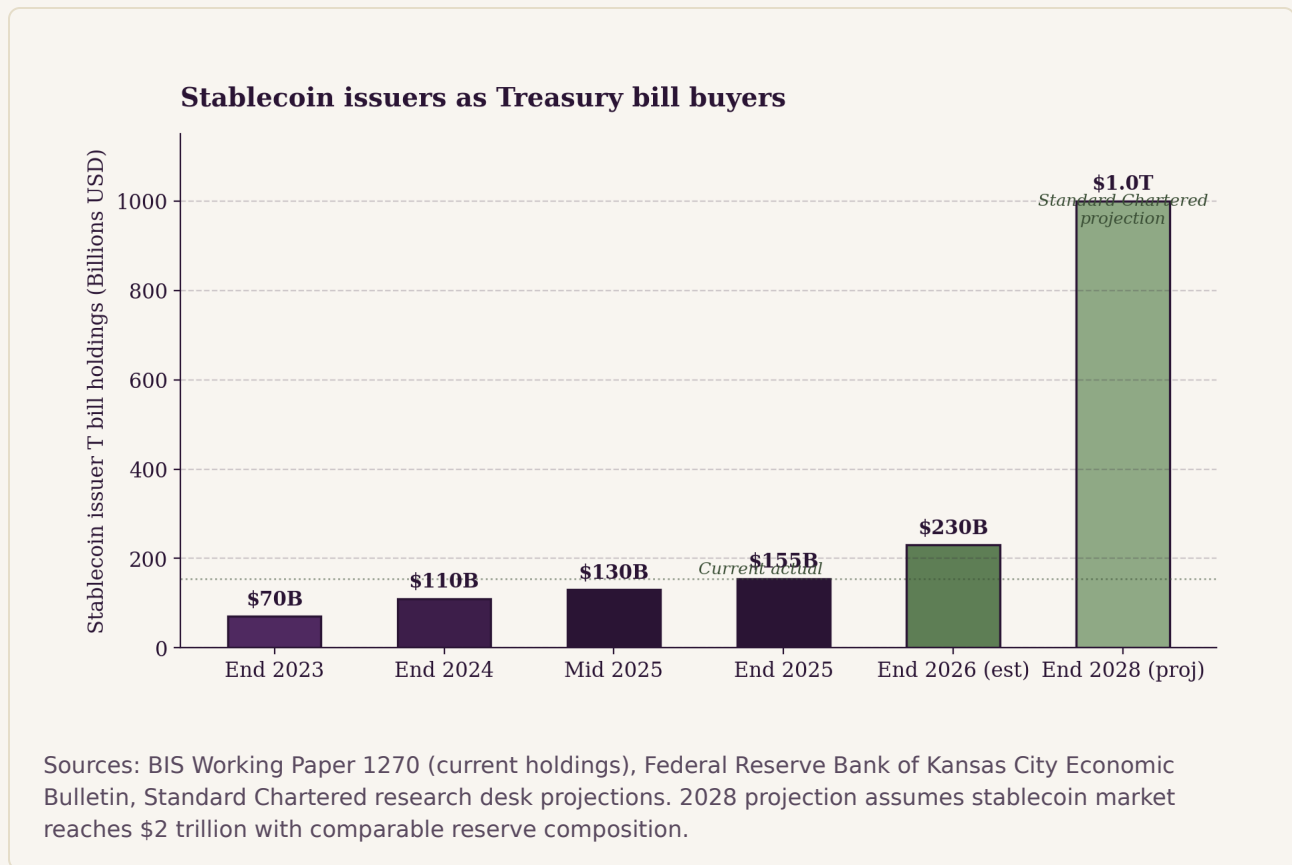
Introduced April 2026. Active dispute between Bank of Korea and FSC over a proposed 51% bank ownership requirement. Foreign issuers may face local branch requirements.

**EMERGING****THE COMPETITIVE MAP**

The U.S. created the broadest issuer permission set. The EU created the strictest. The UK is openly favoring tokenized deposits over stablecoins. Hong Kong is creating a small, controlled cohort. The next 24 months will be shaped by where issuers can legally serve which customer base.

## The Treasury market connection

Stablecoin reserves have become a non trivial buyer of short dated U.S. government debt. Per TD Securities, USDC and USDT together owned approximately 2.25% of the Treasury bill market as of June 30, 2025, or roughly \$130 billion.



The Bank of International Settlements working paper on stablecoins and safe asset prices finds that stablecoin issuer Treasury purchases reduced 3 month bill yields by 2 to 2.5 basis points, while outflows produced an asymmetric increase of 6 to 8 basis points. Translation: **stablecoin growth modestly cheapens short term U.S. funding, but a stablecoin run could pressure rates more sharply on the way out than it pressed them down on the way in.**

## Tokenized deposits: the bank alternative

Tokenized deposits are the bank industry's structural answer to stablecoins. The two products are not the same thing despite being used for overlapping purposes.

|                        | STABLECOINS                      | TOKENIZED DEPOSITS                 |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Issuer</b>          | Nonbank or bank subsidiary       | Regulated bank directly            |
| <b>Reserves</b>        | Off bank balance sheet           | On bank balance sheet              |
| <b>FDIC coverage</b>   | No                               | Yes, where applicable              |
| <b>Yield to holder</b> | Prohibited under GENIUS          | Can pay interest                   |
| <b>Network</b>         | Public blockchains, bearer       | Permissioned or hybrid             |
| <b>Best use case</b>   | Cross border, DeFi, public chain | Institutional settlement, treasury |

JPMorgan's JPMD launched on Base (public chain) in late 2025 for whitelisted institutional clients. HSBC announced tokenized deposit rollout for U.S. and UAE corporate clients in H1 2026. Citi, BofA, and Wells Fargo are all publicly preparing.

*Per J.P. Morgan research (May 2026), tokenized money market funds account for only ~5% of the stablecoin universe despite offering yield, and analysts expect they will not exceed 10 to 15% absent regulatory changes.*

## SECTION 06

# The *unresolved* questions.

Build versus rent. Yield. Chargebacks and fraud. UX. Cross chain fragmentation. Agentic commerce. The eight issues that will shape the next 18 months.

## SECTION 06

# Eight issues that *decide* the next 18 months.

## 1. Build versus rent

The platforms (Bridge, M0, Brale, Agora, Paxos) have reduced the marginal cost of issuance enough that the build case only holds for institutions with multi billion dollar balance sheets, dedicated compliance teams, and a strategic reason to own the full stack. Even JPMorgan, with all of those, runs JPMD in part on public infrastructure (Base). **For most enterprises in 2026: rent.**

## 2. Yield: the prohibition and the third party loophole

The GENIUS Act prohibits issuers from paying yield to holders. The Act is silent on whether exchanges, affiliates, or third party platforms can offer rewards or yield programs. The OCC's March 2026 proposed rule creates a rebuttable presumption that affiliates and "related third parties" paying yield are engaged in impermissible structuring.

If the loophole closes, the only legal path to yield on dollar pegged tokens is through synthetic dollars like USDe or tokenized money market funds. If it stays open, exchanges become the de facto distributor of stablecoin yield.

## 3. Chargebacks and fraud relocation

Stablecoin payments are push transactions. Once confirmed on chain, they are final. **No chargebacks.**

But "no chargebacks" does not mean "no fraud." The fraud vectors shift: address poisoning, approval fraud on malicious smart contracts, off chain dispute resolution friction, AML and Travel Rule compliance burden, illicit activity exposure (TRM Labs: 60% of illicit crypto activity in Q1 2025 used stablecoins).

# \$15B

U.S. merchant chargeback losses, 2025

Per Mastercard. Stablecoins eliminate chargeback as a fraud vector but redistribute the operational burden to merchants and processors who must absorb AML and address verification.

## 4. Speed to market

In 2023, launching a branded stablecoin took roughly a year. In 2026, the same launch takes weeks with Bridge, M0, or Brale. MoneyGram went from contract signing to live production in 2 months. MetaMask launched mUSD in weeks. **The constraint shifted from technology to compliance review and banking partner due diligence.**

## 5. End user UX

The honest assessment from operators: stablecoin UX is still bad for ordinary users. Recurring friction points include wallet seed phrase management, gas fees in native chain tokens, chain selection and bridging, address copy paste with no human readable handles, and off ramp complexity.

The 2026 thesis from most operators: *the apps that solve UX win disproportionately*, and that solution is to abstract crypto entirely.

## 6. Cross chain fragmentation

A stablecoin issued on Ethereum and one issued on Tron are technically different tokens. Cross chain transfer requires either a bridge, a native burn-and-mint protocol like CCTP, or an orchestration layer. PYMNTS reported in 2025 that finance officers identify cross chain fragmentation as a primary barrier to enterprise stablecoin adoption.

## 7. Compliance burden

Money transmitter licensing in each U.S. state, GENIUS Act compliance, MiCA compliance, country specific licensing in HK/Singapore/Japan/UAE, Travel Rule reporting, sanctions screening, KYC/KYB, SOC 2 Type II, monthly attestations, annual audits. **Significant enough that build versus rent is increasingly a compliance decision, not a technical one.**

## 8. Agentic commerce

The Stripe / Tempo Machine Payments Protocol, Coinbase's x402 (now stewarded by Linux Foundation), and Wirex Agents position stablecoins as the default settlement layer for AI agent commerce. Visa CLI lets agents trigger card payments via terminal. Mastercard and Visa are partners in the protocol layer, not just acceptance.

*Directional bet:* AI agents will route through stablecoin rails because per transaction economics matter at machine speed. *Directional risk:* real production volume from AI agents is small as of mid 2026.

## SECTION 07

# Trade offs worth being *explicit* about.

For builders, treasurers, and policymakers, the choices are not symmetric. A single stablecoin strategy is increasingly an artifact of inexperience, not optimization.

| THE CHOICE                                | ONE SIDE                                                    | THE OTHER                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Compliance vs. Reach</b>               | USDC: MiCA compliant, GENIUS ready                          | USDT: Unmatched depth in emerging markets, Tron dominant              |
| <b>Reserve Transparency</b>               | USDC: Monthly attestations with CUSIP detail                | USDT: Quarterly attestations, never broke peg                         |
| <b>Yield vs. Stability</b>                | USDe / synthetic: 9-12% on sUSDe, funding rate risk         | Payment stablecoins under GENIUS: zero yield, full regulatory clarity |
| <b>Bank vs. Crypto Native</b>             | Bank issued: deeper TradFi integration, FDIC considerations | Crypto native: programmability, DeFi composability                    |
| <b>Build vs. Rent</b>                     | Build: full control, direct economics                       | Rent: weeks to market, compliance absorbed                            |
| <b>Stablecoins vs. Tokenized Deposits</b> | Stablecoins: bearer, public chain, no yield                 | Tokenized deposits: bank balance sheet, FDIC, can pay interest        |

*Most sophisticated treasury operations hold more than one stablecoin sized to the jobs each does. USDC for U.S. and EU institutional flows. USDT for emerging market corridors. USDe if you want yield and can stomach funding rate risk.*

## Three things are true for operators in 2026

1. **The cost of doing nothing has gone up significantly** because customers, partners, and competitors are moving.
2. **The cost of doing something has dropped dramatically** because the infrastructure layer has matured.
3. **The strategic question is no longer whether to engage but at which layer of the stack to position.**

## SECTION 08

# Twelve items to *watch* through year end 2026.

1. **OCC, FDIC, and Federal Reserve final rules under the GENIUS Act.** Expected throughout 2026. Will determine whether bank issued stablecoins launch in 2027 or slip.
2. **OCC final rule on the yield third party loophole.** Determines whether Coinbase, Binance, and others can continue offering stablecoin yield programs.
3. **MiCA review outcomes from the European Commission.** May 2026 reopening signals potential relaxation to support euro denominated stablecoins.
4. **Whether USDC's transaction volume lead over USDT holds.** If it does, market cap will likely follow within 12 to 18 months.
5. **First wave of bank issued payment stablecoins under GENIUS.** JPMorgan, Citi, BofA, Wells Fargo are all candidates.
6. **Mastercard BVNK acquisition closing and integration.** Expected before year end 2026.
7. **Visa stablecoin settlement run rate.** \$7B annualized in April 2026 with 50% quarterly growth.
8. **HKMA second wave stablecoin licenses.** First two granted in May 2026; rest contingent on observed performance.
9. **Real production volume from AI agent commerce.** Machine Payments Protocol launched with major partners; actual usage is the test.
10. **Visa and Mastercard's combined stablecoin card spend.** Currently \$3.5B annualized for Visa, growing 460% year over year.
11. **Tokenized deposit launches at HSBC, Citi, BofA.** Will reveal whether the bank lane competes with or coexists with the issuer lane.
12. **Cross chain interoperability standards.** Whether CCTP, the OCC interoperability standards mandated by GENIUS, or proprietary network solutions become the default.

**BOTTOM LINE**

The trajectory of the asset class is no longer in doubt. The competitive structure is. The next 12 to 18 months will be decided through rulemaking, market structure, and product iteration.

## SOURCES

# Primary *sources.*

## Market data and transaction volume

- Artemis Analytics 2025 Year End Stablecoin Report (reported by Bloomberg, January 2026)
- DefiLlama, CoinGecko, CoinMarketCap aggregated supply data
- KuCoin Research Stablecoin Liquidity Milestone Report, May 2026
- TRM Labs 2025 Crypto Adoption and Stablecoin Usage Report
- Visa Onchain Analytics, FY 2025
- CoinDesk Data (Circle USDC growth metrics)
- Mizuho analyst report on USDC vs USDT transaction volume, March 2026
- StablecoinInsider 50 Stablecoin Statistics 2026

## Regulation

- GENIUS Act, S.1582, 119th Congress, Pub. L. 119-27
- OCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, February 2026 (Bulletin 2026-3)
- CSBS GENIUS Act Implementation Comment Letter
- MiCA Regulation (EU) 2023/1114 and ESMA Level 2 technical standards
- Hong Kong Stablecoins Ordinance, Cap. 656
- Singapore MAS Single Currency Stablecoin Framework
- Japan FSA Payment Services Act amendments
- UAE Central Bank Payment Token Services Regulation
- UK FCA Consultation Paper on Crypto Activities, December 2025
- European Commission MiCA Review announcement, May 2026

## Issuers and infrastructure

- Tether quarterly attestations
- Circle USDC Economy Outlook (Q1 2026)
- Ethena Labs protocol documentation
- World Liberty Financial press releases
- PayPal PYUSD expansion announcement, March 2026
- Ripple RLUSD attestation reports
- Bridge / Stripe Open Issuance documentation
- M0 protocol documentation and PYMNTS reporting
- Brale Algorand expansion announcement, January 2026
- Crossmint product documentation and partner network
- Fireblocks Network institutional data
- Agio Ratings Q1 2026 custodian default risk rankings

## Payments and card networks

- Visa stablecoin settlement expansion announcements, April 2026
- Mastercard BVNK acquisition announcement
- Bank of America analyst note on onchain banking shift, December 2025
- SoFi Mastercard SoFiUSD partnership announcement, March 2026

## Treasury market and tokenized deposits

- BIS Working Paper 1270, Stablecoins and Safe Asset Prices
- Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City Economic Bulletin
- Brookings working paper on stablecoins and U.S. Treasury markets
- TD Securities Impact of Stablecoins and Digital Assets in the U.S.
- Standard Chartered research desk projections
- JPMorgan Kinexys product documentation and JPMD launch on Base
- HSBC tokenized deposits announcement
- New York Fed staff report on stablecoins vs tokenized deposits, February 2026



## ABOUT THIS REPORT

# Produced by *OwenPay*

OwenPay is the modern cross border payouts platform for businesses with international contractors and partners. Built on regulated stablecoin infrastructure. Settle in 60 seconds. Save 4 to 7 percent per payment.

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## METHODOLOGY NOTES

All figures sourced from publicly available regulatory filings, issuer attestation reports, and named third party research. Transaction volume figures reflect on chain measurement; where Visa adjusted methodology is available, both numbers are presented.

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