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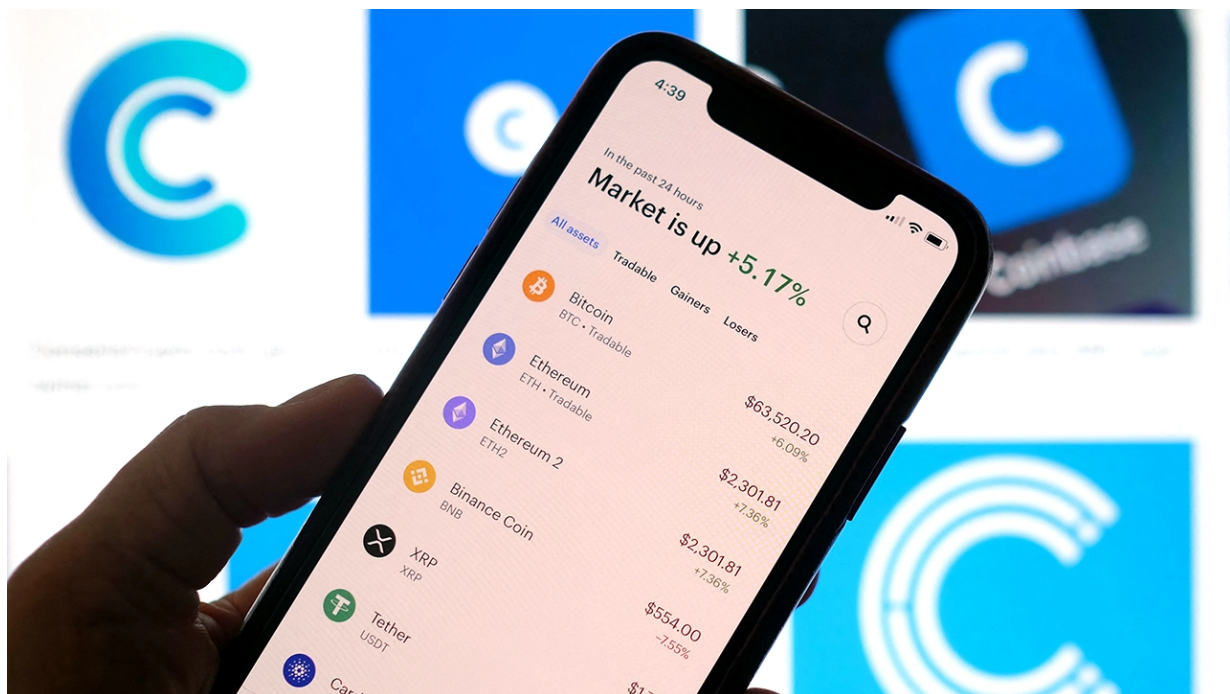
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NOVEMBER 11, 2021



16% of Americans say they have ever invested in, traded or used cryptocurrency

BY [ANDREW PERRIN](#)

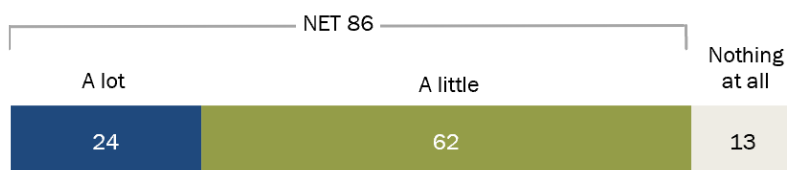


A smartphone app shows cryptocurrency exchange rates in April. (Chris Delmas/AFP via Getty Images)

The vast majority of U.S. adults have heard at least a little about cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin or Ether, and 16% say they personally have invested in, traded or otherwise used one, according to a new Pew Research Center survey. Men ages 18 to 29 are particularly likely to say they have used cryptocurrencies.

Nearly nine-in-ten Americans say they have heard at least a little about cryptocurrency ...

% of U.S. adults who say they have heard ___, if anything, about cryptocurrency such as Bitcoin or Ether



... and 16% say they have ever invested in, traded or used one themselves

% of U.S. adults who say they themselves ___ ever invested in, traded or used a cryptocurrency such as Bitcoin or Ether



Note: The 14% of U.S. adults who said they had heard nothing at all about cryptocurrency, or gave no answer, did not receive the question about investing in, trading or using a cryptocurrency. Those who did not give an answer are not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 13-19, 2021.

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Overall, 86% of Americans say they have heard at least a little about cryptocurrencies, including 24% who say they have heard a lot about them, according to the survey of U.S. adults, conducted Sept. 13-19, 2021. Some 13% say they have heard nothing at all.

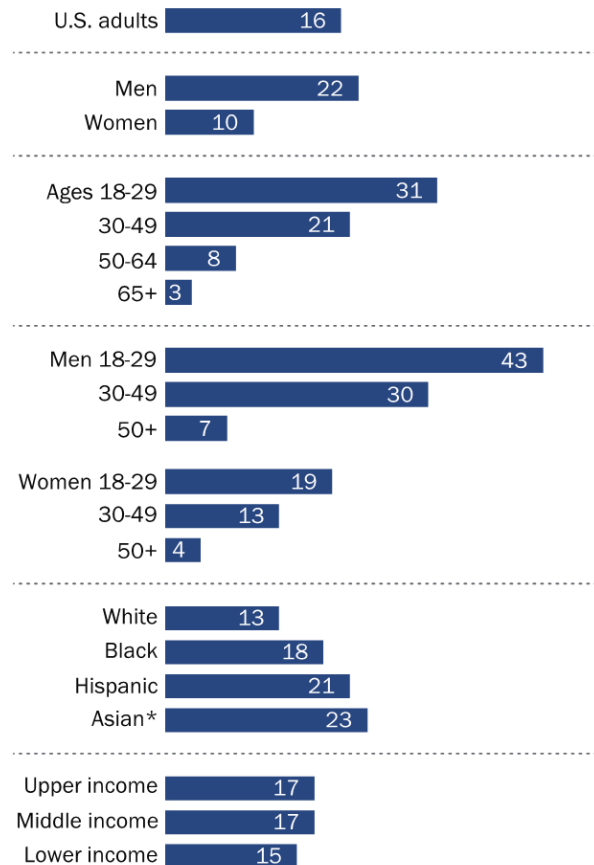
In 2015, the Center asked Americans [different questions](#) that were focused exclusively on Bitcoin. At the time, 48% of adults said they had heard of Bitcoin (to any degree), and just 1% said they had ever collected, traded or used it.

How we did this ⊕

In the new survey, certain demographic groups are particularly likely to say they have used cryptocurrencies, with some of the largest differences by age and gender.

43% of men ages 18 to 29 say they have invested in, traded or used a cryptocurrency

% of U.S. adults who say they themselves have ever invested in, traded or used a cryptocurrency such as Bitcoin or Ether



*Asian adults were interviewed in English only.

Note: Family income tiers are based on adjusted 2020 earnings.

White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Those who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 13-19, 2021.

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Roughly three-in-ten Americans ages 18 to 29 (31%) say they have ever invested in, traded or used a cryptocurrency such as Bitcoin or Ether, compared with smaller shares of adults in older age groups. Men are about twice as likely as women to say they ever used a cryptocurrency (22% vs. 10%).

These differences are especially pronounced when looking at age and gender together. About four-in-ten men ages 18 to 29 (43%), for example, say they have ever invested in, traded or used a cryptocurrency, compared with 19% of women in the same age range. Among both men and women, the likelihood of having invested in, traded or used cryptocurrency decreases with age.

Asian, Black and Hispanic adults are more likely than White adults to say they have ever invested in, traded or used a cryptocurrency. There are no statistically significant differences by household income.

While majorities across demographic groups say they have heard at least a little about cryptocurrency, smaller shares say they have heard a lot. For example, adults under 50 (31%) and men (35%) are more likely than older Americans (16%) and women (15%), respectively, to say they have heard a lot.

The share of adults who have heard a lot about cryptocurrency also varies by race, ethnicity and household income. For example, 43% of Asian Americans say they have heard a lot about cryptocurrency, compared with 29% of Hispanic adults and about a quarter of Black or White adults. Americans with higher incomes (31%) are more likely than those with middle (25%) and lower incomes (21%) to have heard a lot about cryptocurrency.

These findings emerge as government leaders and others [debate the regulation](#) of cryptocurrency – which [has been defined](#) as a medium of exchange that is digital, encrypted and decentralized, with no central authority that manages and maintains its value. Financial regulators have worried about [policing cryptocurrencies](#) and have raised concerns about the [long-term viability](#) of such currencies, such as Bitcoin.

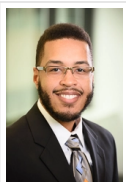
China recently [banned transactions using cryptocurrencies](#). U.S. Federal Reserve Board Chairman Jerome Powell said this summer that these currencies [need more regulation](#), and the Biden administration is trying to [combat ransomware](#) by cracking down on cryptocurrency payments. At the same time, El Salvador in September became the first country [to declare Bitcoin](#) as legal tender.

Note: Here are [the questions used for this report, along with responses, and its methodology](#).

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