Embargo time: April 22, 2024, 10 AM UTC

Bitget Research Report: Middle East Crypto Market Surges, Daily Traders Up 166% in Year

Victoria, Seychelles, April 22nd, 2024 — Bitget Research, the research arm of the world's leading cryptocurrency exchange and Web3 company Bitget, has released an in-depth report on cryptocurrency adoption in the Middle East region. The document delves into key aspects influencing the rate of adoption, as well as their impact on user behavior.

Key takeaways:

— In 2024, there was an average of **500,000 daily crypto traders** locally, marking a 166% increase year-over-year.
— The UAE leads the region in crypto adoption, with **72% of local users investing in Bitcoin**.
— Local countries predominantly rely on global centralized exchanges, with **minimal demand for local exchange platforms**.

— Crypto adoption in the region is projected to reach **700,000 daily traders** by the end of 2024.

— This growth is attributed to favorable local crypto regulations, the approval of Bitcoin ETFs, and the increasing attractiveness of digital assets amid a market upturn.

Centralized exchanges have seen the biggest inflow of users engaged in cryptocurrency trading in the six countries examined throughout the study, with over 500,000 daily active users on average in February of 2024, as compared to 300,000 in February of last year. The UAE has showcased the highest cryptocurrency adoption rate in the region. The approval of BTC Spot ETFs and the continuous rise in the total market value of cryptocurrencies is deemed to be the main contributor to such a rise in interest on the part of local users.

The leading position of the UAE as a hub of crypto activity is not surprising, considering that it has the most crypto-friendly policies in the Middle East. In the meantime, most other countries are gradually improving their cryptocurrency regulations, moving from outright bans to a more compliant approach to stream new investments, projects, and users to their jurisdictions.

The UAE has also seen the highest statistics in terms of interest towards cryptocurrencies, as 29% of users surveyed during the study believe that digital assets offer a more convenient way of holding assets. Another 34% of users are cryptocurrency traders, and 22% use them for daily payments. Users in the UAE have also expressed the highest willingness to invest in BTC and ETH, BTC being referred to as “digital gold” by UAE users, with 72% of the latter investing in the asset.

The research revealed that Middle Eastern countries are heavily reliant on global-level centralized exchanges. Local exchange platforms are not in the Top-10 in terms of absolute traffic. The Bitget research division has attributed such lackluster values to the lower variety and liquidity of tradable assets on local exchanges compared to global exchanges, as well as the convenience of local currency deposit and withdrawal channels available on most global competing platforms.

Decentralized exchanges are also among the go-to venues for users across the Middle East. The primary platforms for P2P trading are based on blockchains like Solana, BSC, and Ethereum, and include DEXs such as Uniswap, Pancakeswap, Raydium, and others. Decentralized exchange aggregators like 1inch and Jupiter are used to a lesser extent. Related analysis of user preferences has uncovered that Trust Wallet, MetaMask, Phantom, Coinbase Wallet, and Bitget Wallet are the Top 5 wallets among users from the Middle East region.

The report released by Bitget highlights in conclusion that cryptocurrency adoption rates in the Middle East are expected to continue rising from 330,000 daily active users in 2023 to around 700,000 by the end of 2024. The main factors influencing such growth are favorable crypto regulation in the analyzed countries, as well as the investment attractiveness of digital assets as a whole in light of a market upturn.

Gracy Chen, Managing Director of Bitget, states: "We are excited about the potential of the Middle East market and anticipate continued growth in both users and market size. The UAE, in particular, holds significant importance as a base within the region. It has emerged as a hub for cryptocurrency talents, funds, and enterprises, while also steadily gaining global influence in the crypto space. We look forward to contributing to and witnessing the further development of this dynamic market."

About Bitget

Established in 2018, Bitget is the world's leading cryptocurrency exchange and Web3 company. Serving over 20 million users in 100+ countries and regions, the Bitget exchange is committed to helping users trade smarter with its pioneering copy trading feature and other trading solutions. Formerly known as BitKeep, Bitget Wallet is a world-class multi-chain crypto wallet that offers an array of comprehensive Web3 solutions and features including wallet functionality, swap, NFT Marketplace, DApp browser, and more. Bitget inspires individuals to embrace crypto through collaborations with credible partners, including legendary Argentinian footballer Lionel Messi and official eSports events organizer PGL.

For more information, visit: Website | Twitter | Telegram | LinkedIn | Discord | Bitget Wallet
For media inquiries, please contact: media@bitget.com