

Presto Data Team

Crypto Flow Report: January 2025

Feb 6, 2025

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Summary

- With the Presidential inauguration occurring in January, it was always going to be a month dominated by Trump headlines. However, the velocity of crypto-related news driven by the Trump family came as a bit of a surprise to the market. The family launched \$TRUMP and \$MELANIA, and the Trump-controlled World Liberty Financial raised strategic rounds and conducted a public token sale (more on this [in the next section](#)). For more on Trump's policies and what to expect, please refer to [Welcome to Trump's Presidential Term #2](#) (21 Jan 25).
- Featured in the [December 2024 Flow Report](#), \$XRP continued to shine, leading January in returns amongst the top 10 market cap coins ([Figure 1.1](#)).
- As crypto assets rallied into Trump's 20Jan25 inauguration ([Figure 1.1](#)), perpetual futures APR (as a proxy for positioning on crypto exchanges) and CME futures basis (reflects institutional positioning) deviated: perp APRs rose into the inauguration ([Figure 3.3](#)) while the CME basis compressed into negative territory ([Figure 3.1](#)), indicating retail and crypto native traders chasing the rally while institutional traders taking or locking in a profit.
- This institutional mindset was reflected in the options market as we can see in the negative BTC 25-delta skew ([Figure 5.2a](#)), with values dropping to their monthly lows across most timeframes. This was accompanied by ATM IVs hitting monthly highs also across most timeframes ([Figure 5.5](#)) and the 30-day IV-RV spread hitting monthly highs on inauguration day ([Figure 5.7](#)).
- There was an interesting phenomenon in liquidity, again around the inauguration date, as order book depths in spot \$BTC and \$ETH markets dried dramatically, driven by Bitfinex's abrupt liquidity deterioration ([Figure 4.1](#)).

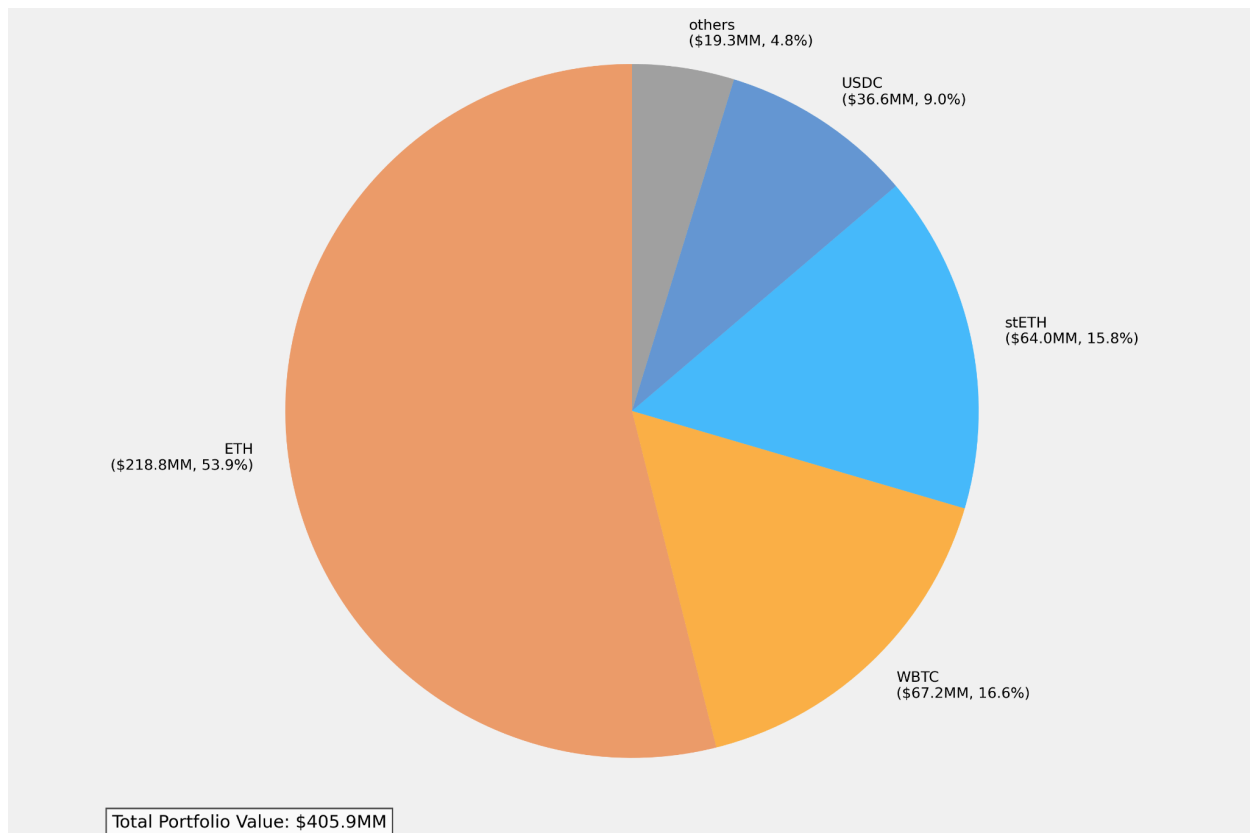
January Spotlight: What is World Liberty Financial?

The cryptocurrency world has a new player with political star power. World Liberty Financial (WLF), a DeFi project backed by current President Donald Trump and his family, has rapidly emerged as one of the most discussed – and controversial – ventures in the crypto space.

At its core, WLF is essentially a thin wrapper around the Aave lending protocol (\$AAVE), positioning itself as a platform for borrowing and lending cryptocurrencies. The project's stated mission is ambitious: to strengthen the U.S. dollar's position in the DeFi space and potentially "restructure where the United States debt is held."

Recent on-chain analysis reveals significant growth in WLF's portfolio. As of January 31, 2025, the ERC wallet controlled by the project holds assets worth \$405.9 million, with Ethereum (\$ETH) comprising the largest portion at 53.9% (\$218.8MM), followed by Wrapped Bitcoin (\$WBTC) at 16.6% (\$67.2MM) and staked \$ETH at 15.8% (\$64.0MM) (Figure 0.1).

Figure 0.1: World Liberty Financial On-Chain Portfolio Snapshot (31Jan25)

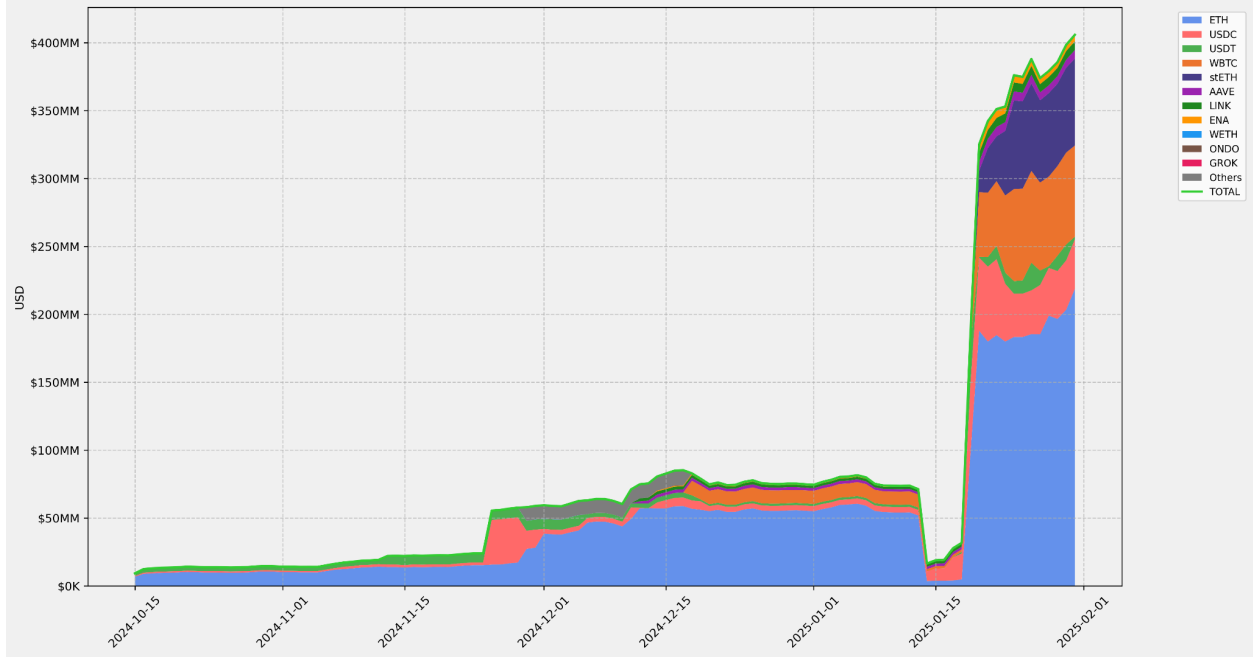


Source: Presto Research

The project's growth trajectory has been remarkable, particularly since mid-January 2025. On-chain data shows the portfolio value remained relatively stable at around \$75 million through

most of late 2024 before experiencing a dramatic surge to over \$400 million (Figure 0.2). This growth coincided with Trump's inauguration, when WLF made strategic purchases of various cryptocurrencies.

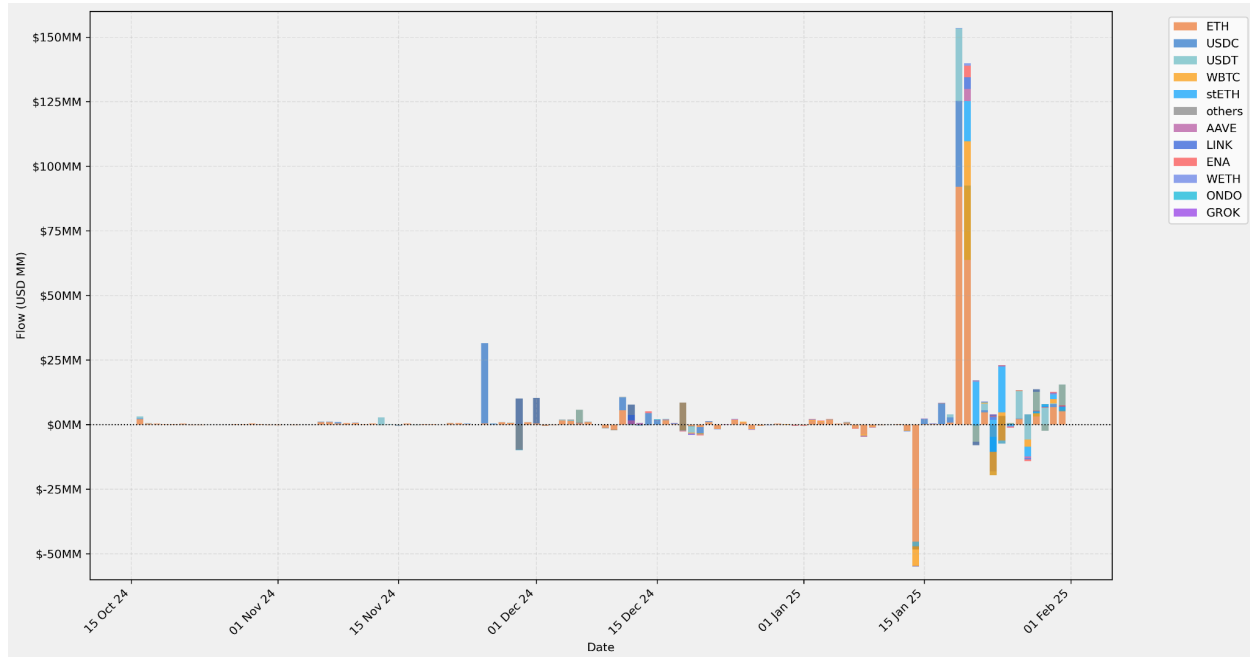
Figure 0.2: World Liberty Financial On-Chain Portfolio Value Time Series



Source: Presto Research

The mid-January surge can also be seen in the wallet's flows, with significant inflows across multiple assets, particularly ETH and stablecoins. This surge aligns with the project's public token sale and strategic investments, including a notable \$75 million investment from Tron founder Justin Sun.

Figure 0.3: World Liberty Financial On-Chain Portfolio In/Out-Flows



Source: Presto Research

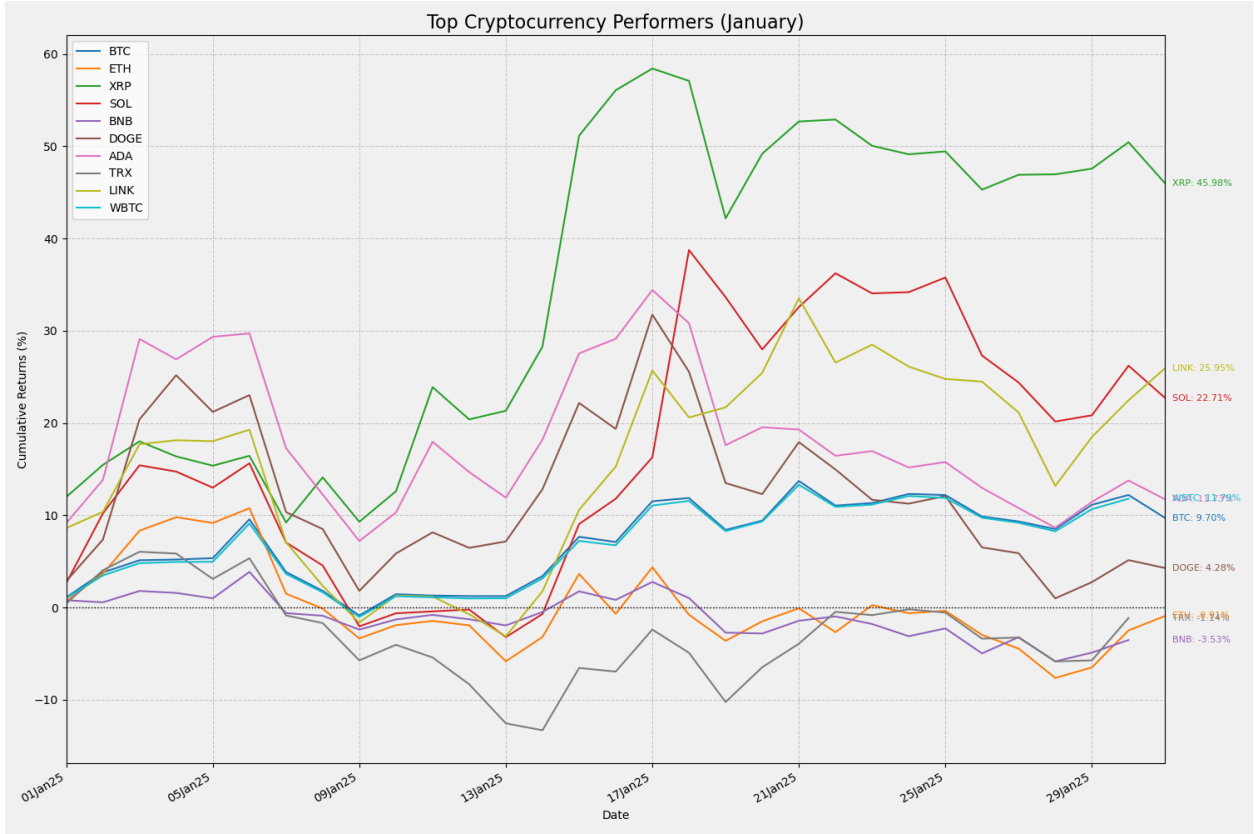
However, the project's structure raises eyebrows among market observers. The \$WLFI token, WLF's governance token, has unusual characteristics: it's non-transferable and carries no economic rights, making it a fairly unprecedented offering in the DeFi space. Trump and affiliates control approximately 22.5 billion \$WLFI tokens through subsidiaries and are set to receive 75% of certain revenue streams.

Despite – or perhaps because of – these peculiarities, the project has attracted significant investment. Records show over 2,900 token holders, including prominent crypto investors like Mike Dudas, who invested \$145,000, citing the Trump connection as a key factor.

The project faces several challenges, including technical difficulties with its website and criticism over its high level of centralisation - many have raised concerns about potential conflicts of interest, though no laws appear to have been violated. As WLF continues to expand its operations and portfolio, its unique position at the intersection of politics and cryptocurrency makes it a significant case study in the evolving DeFi landscape. Whether it can deliver on its ambitious promises remains to be seen.

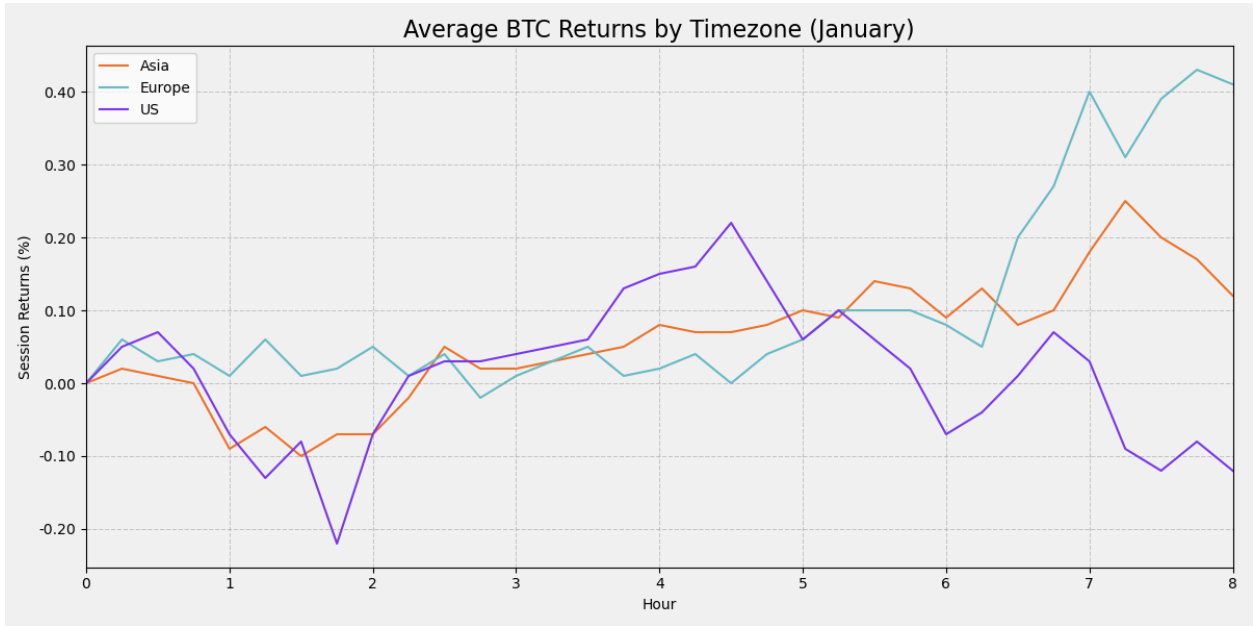
1. Performance

Figure 1.1: Top 10 Coins by Market Cap



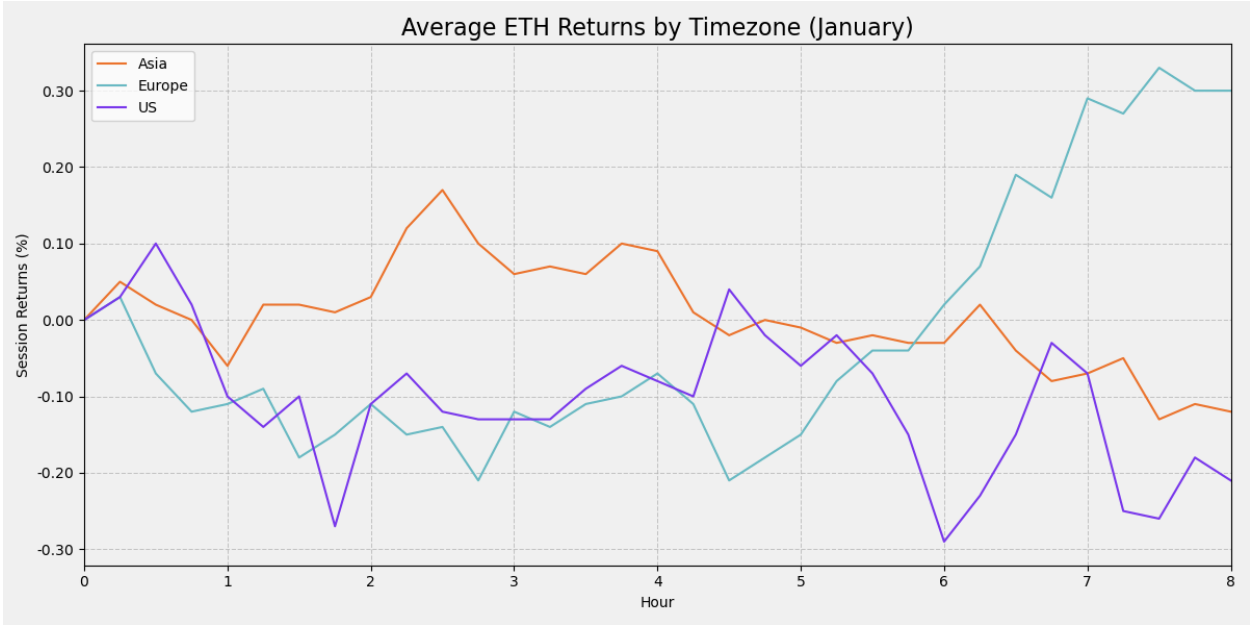
Source: Coinbase, Binance, Presto Research

Figure 1.2a: BTC returns by timezone



Source: Presto Research

Figure 1.2b: ETH returns by timezone



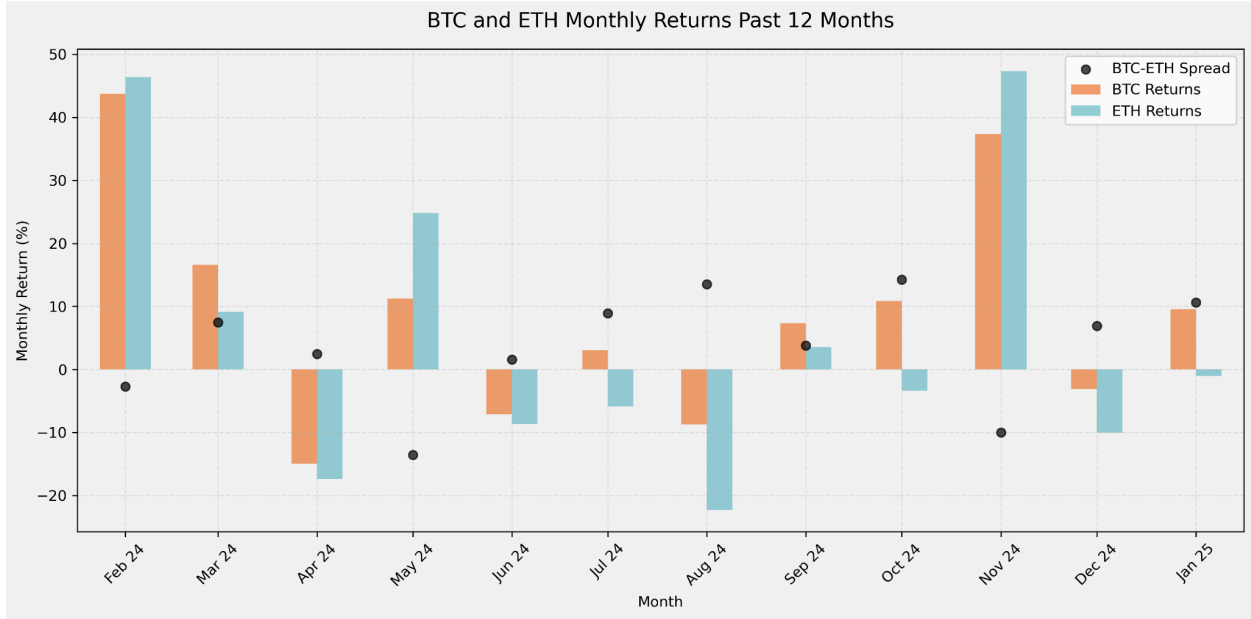
Source: Presto Research

Figure 1.3: BTC monthly returns matrix

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Yearly
Average	0.35	11.51	-0.92	8.50	11.81	1.83	7.42	-0.97	-4.13	18.45	9.49	8.17	95.95
2025	9.58												9.58
2024	0.67	43.71	16.60	-14.93	11.26	-7.09	3.07	-8.71	7.35	10.88	37.33	-3.11	121.07
2023	39.95	0.02	23.08	2.71	-6.94	11.97	-4.06	-11.28	3.96	28.51	8.84	12.07	155.78
2022	-16.66	12.18	5.41	-17.30	-15.60	-37.22	16.87	-13.99	-3.13	5.51	-16.24	-3.72	-64.22
2021	14.35	36.51	29.96	-1.71	-35.44	-6.08	18.41	13.61	-7.04	40.02	-7.08	-18.98	59.40
2020	30.22	-8.64	-24.66	34.31	9.52	-3.33	24.31	2.67	-7.53	28.12	42.72	47.04	304.36
2019	-7.60	11.16	7.99	28.67	62.11	25.90	-6.22	-4.81	-13.51	10.22	-17.46	-5.13	94.11
2018	-27.16	1.89	-32.84	33.53	-19.00	-14.70	20.97	-9.18	-6.42	-3.97	-37.01	-7.03	-73.41
2017	-0.17	22.88	-9.20	26.02	68.80	6.80	16.68	65.37	-8.52	48.58	54.80	39.32	1331.17
2016	-14.80	20.10	-5.23	7.35	18.83	26.61	-7.10	-8.08	6.25	14.44	6.40	30.72	126.19
2015	-33.04	18.49	-4.38	-3.44	-3.14	14.95	8.20	-18.67	2.22	33.62	19.27	13.83	33.11
2014	8.92	-31.70	-16.91	-1.74	39.46	2.33	-9.49	-17.62	-19.01	-12.97	12.79	-15.16	-56.40

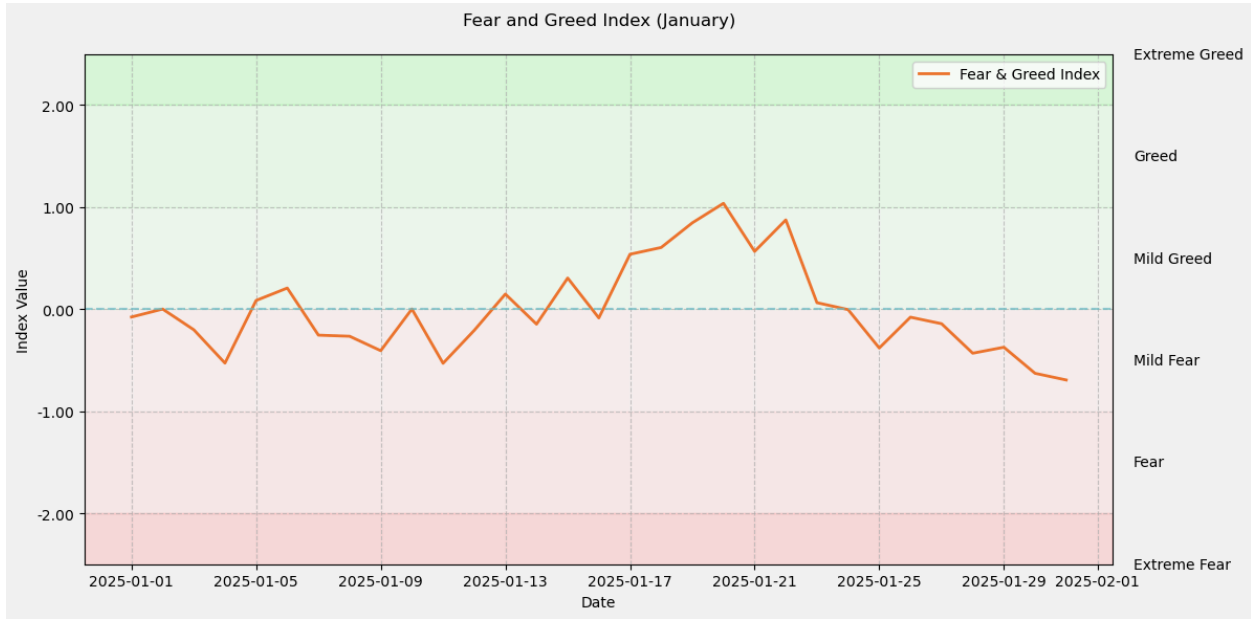
Source: Presto Research

Figure 1.4: BTC and ETH monthly returns YTD



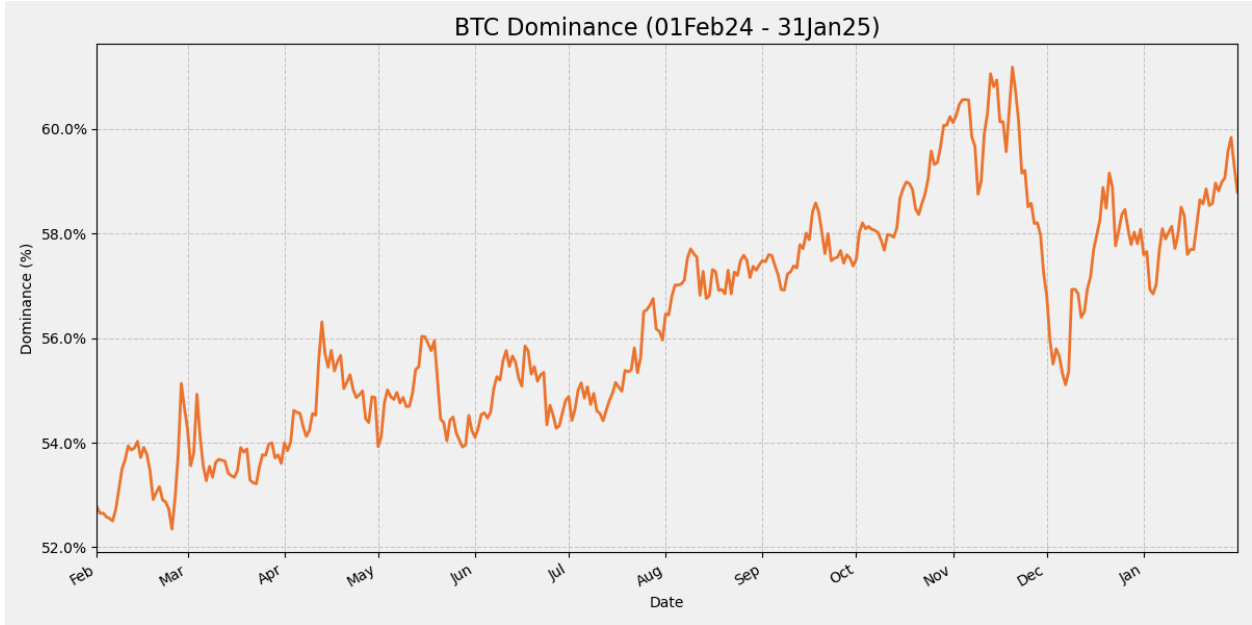
Source: Presto Research

Figure 1.5: Presto Research Fear-Greed Index - [Appendix 1](#)



Source: Presto Research

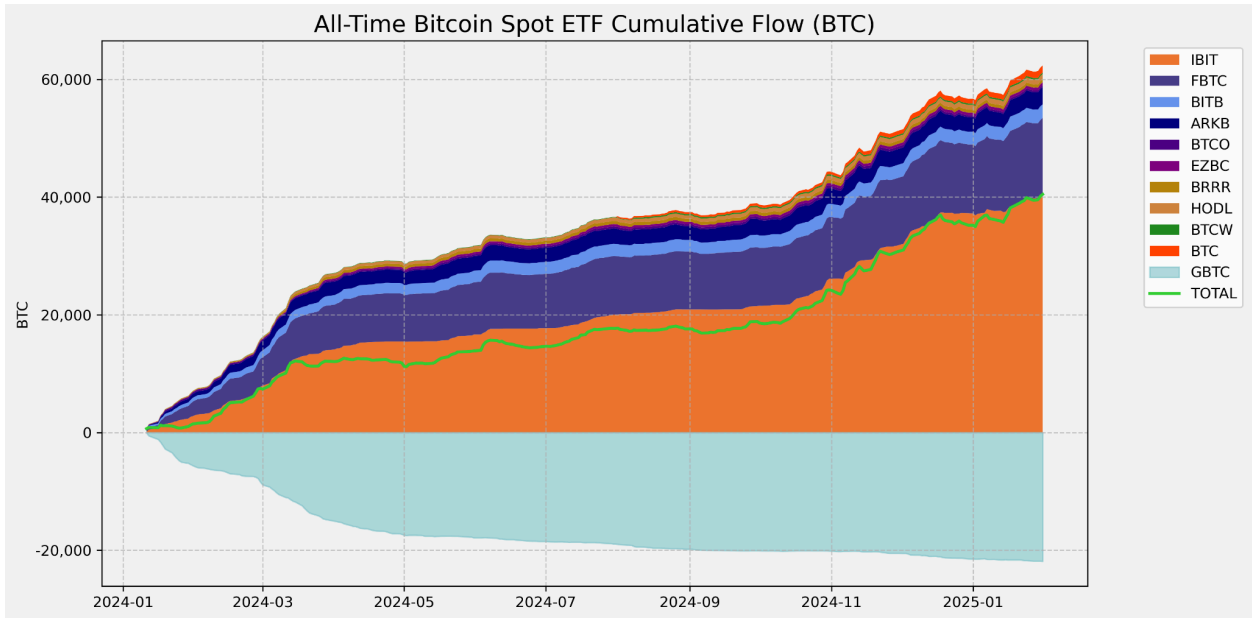
Figure 1.6: BTC dominance



Source: Presto Research

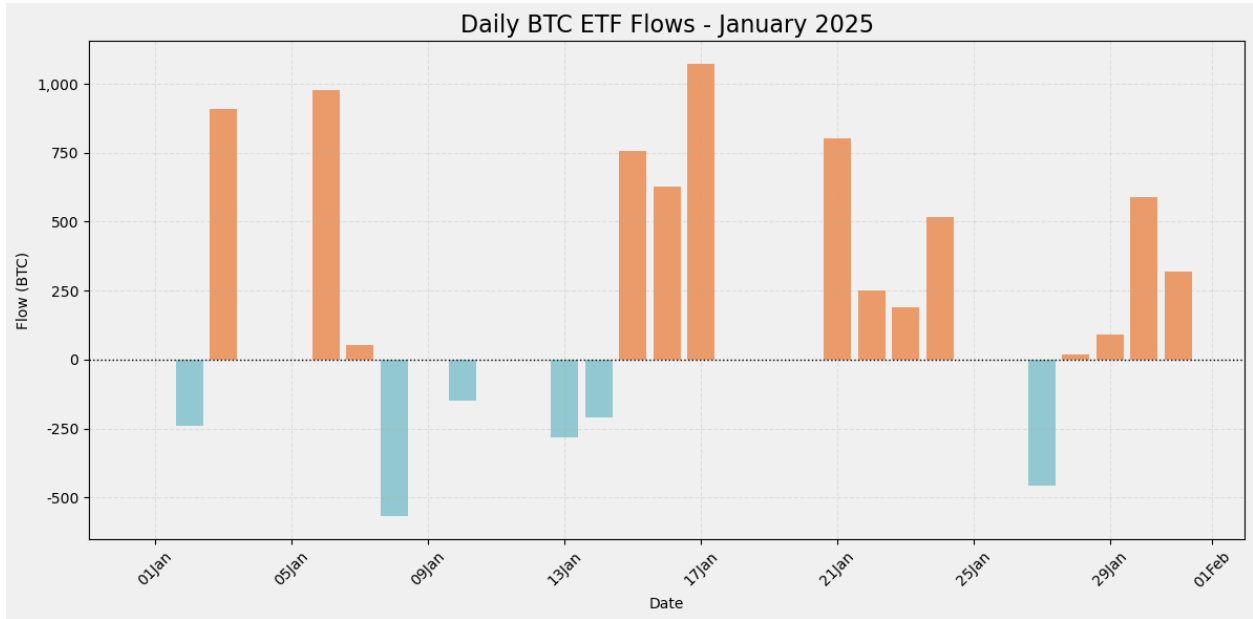
2. ETF Flows

Figure 2.1: All-Time Aggregate BTC ETF Flows



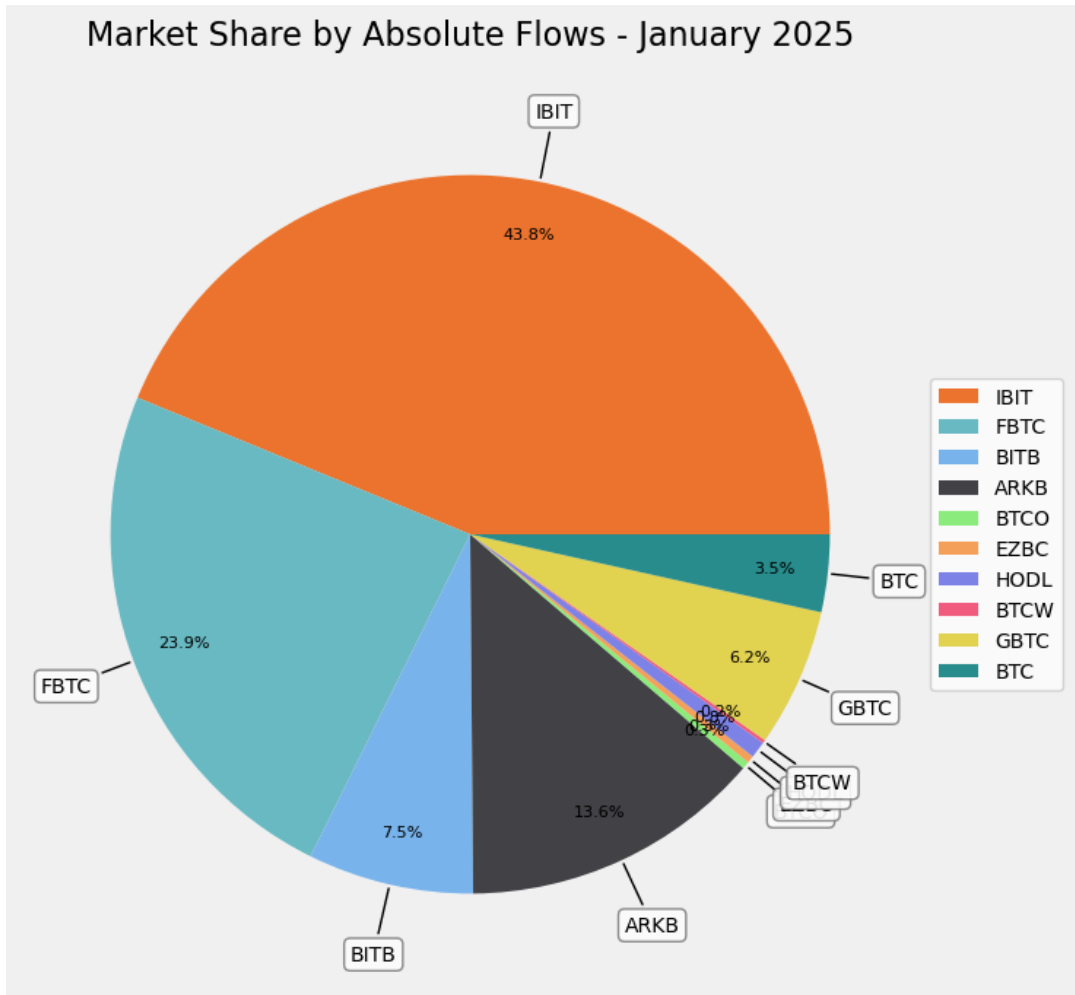
Source: Farside Advisors, Presto Research

Figure 2.2: Total BTC ETF Flows in December



Source: Farside Advisors, Presto Research

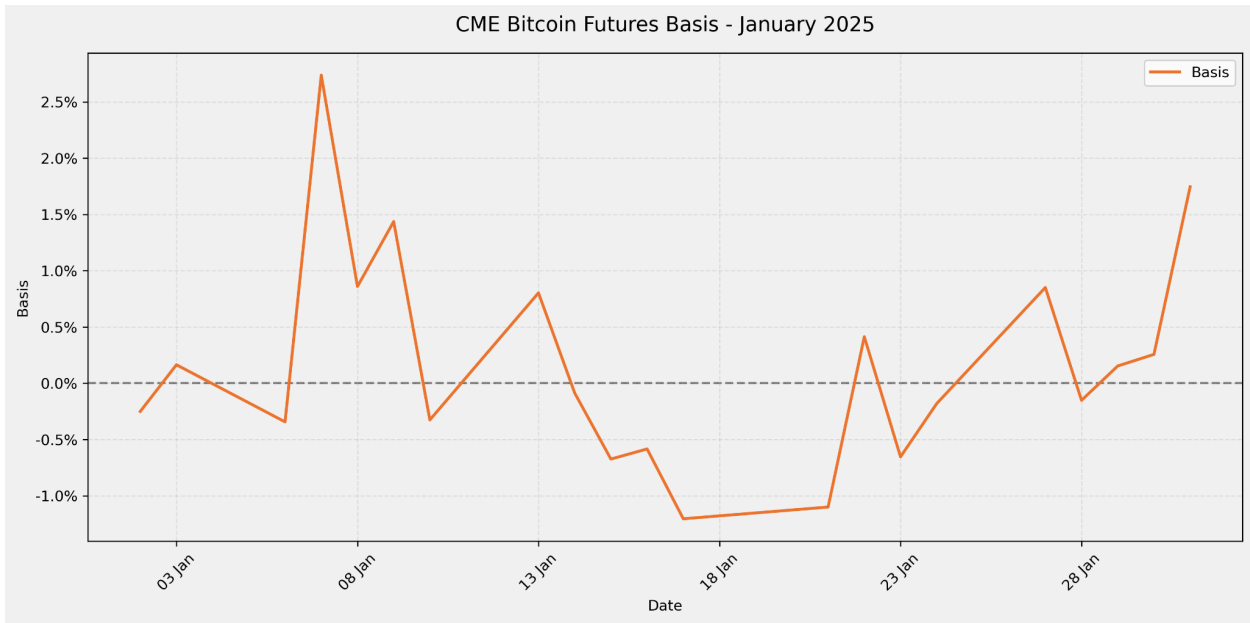
Figure 2.3: BTC ETF December Share



Source: Farside Advisors, Presto Research

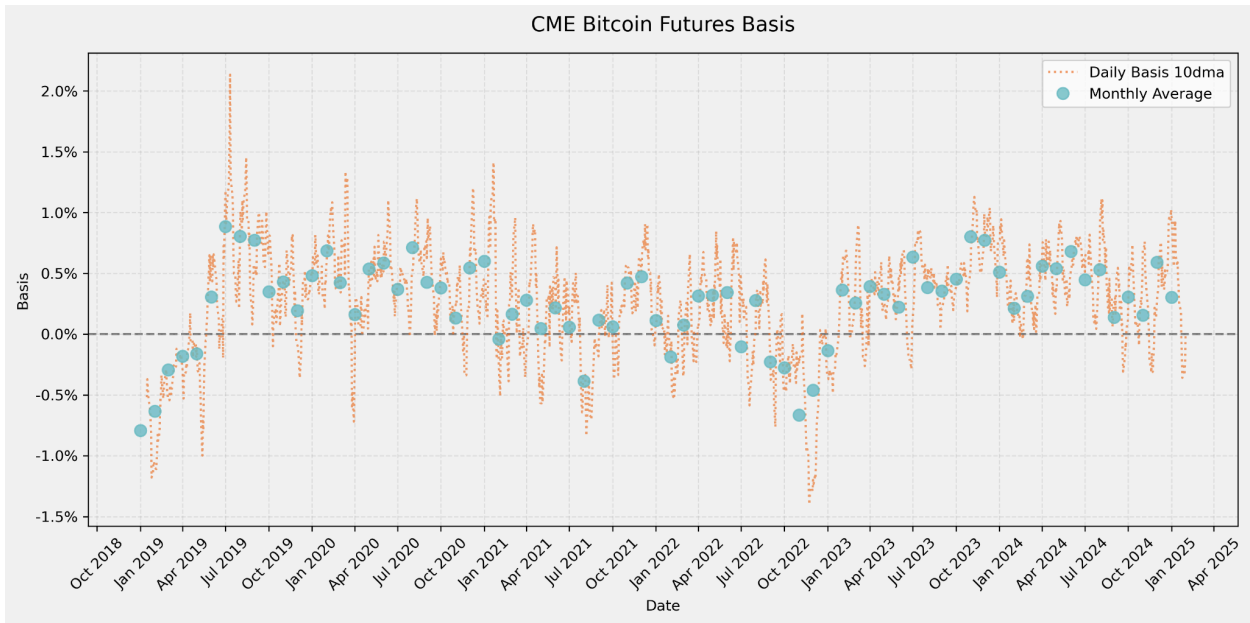
3. Basis & Funding Rates

Figure 3.1: CME Futures Basis (Monthly) - [Appendix 2](#)



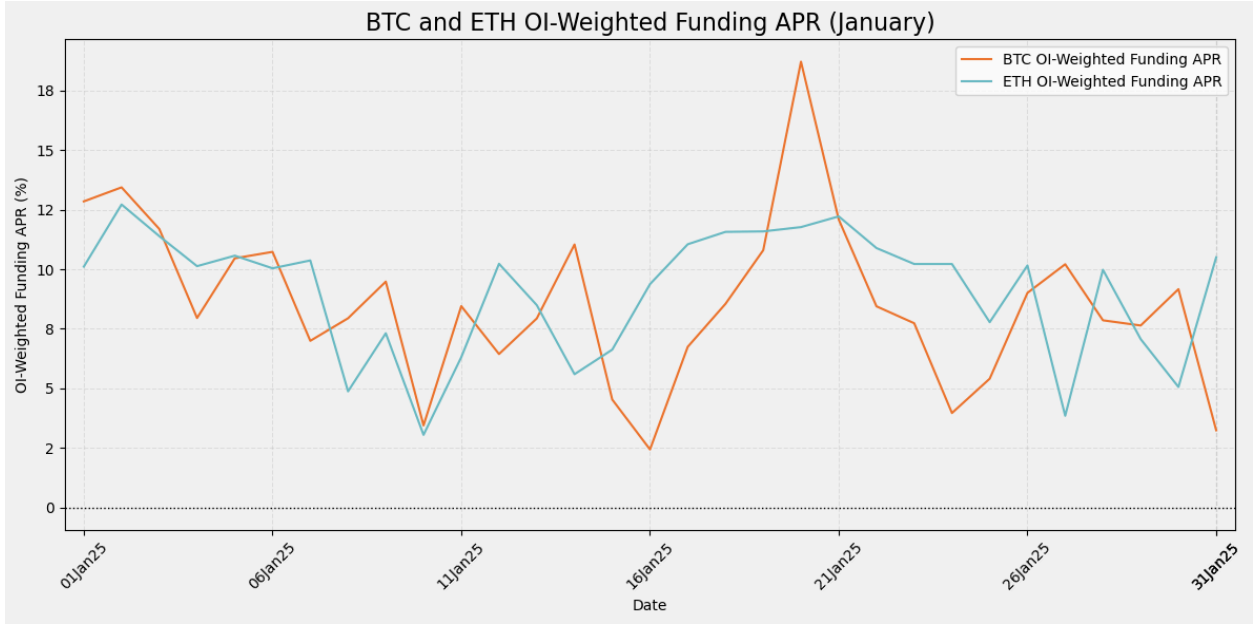
Source: Laevidas

Figure 3.2: CME Futures Basis - [Appendix 2](#)



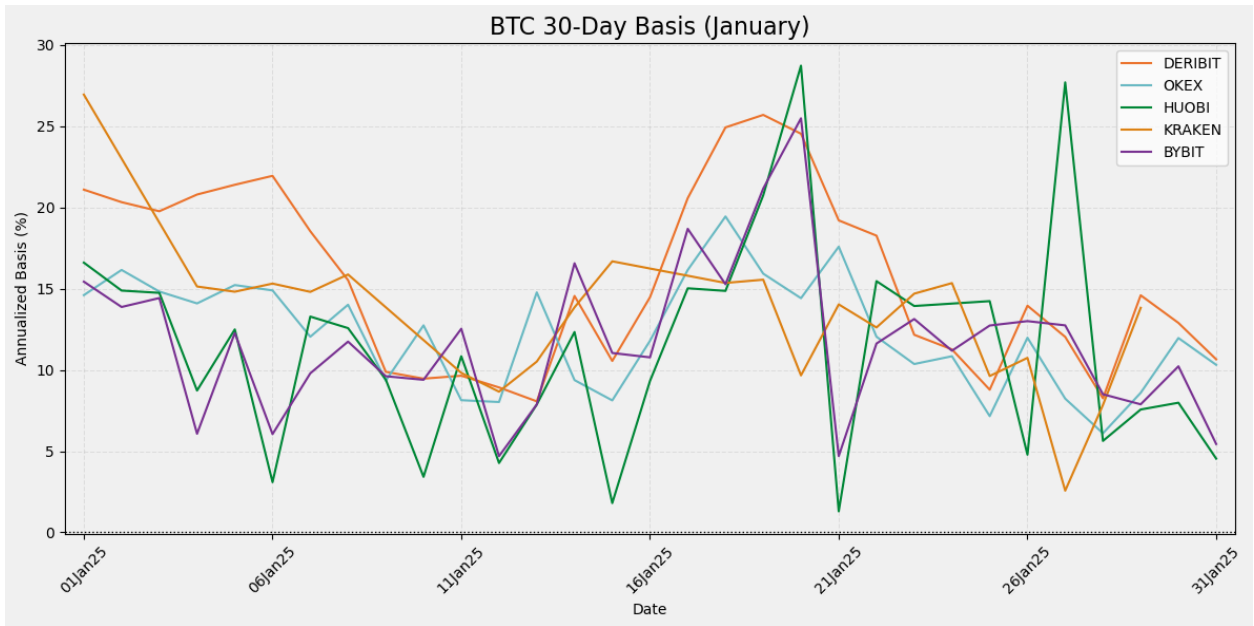
Source: Laevidas

Figure 3.3: OI-Weighted Funding APR



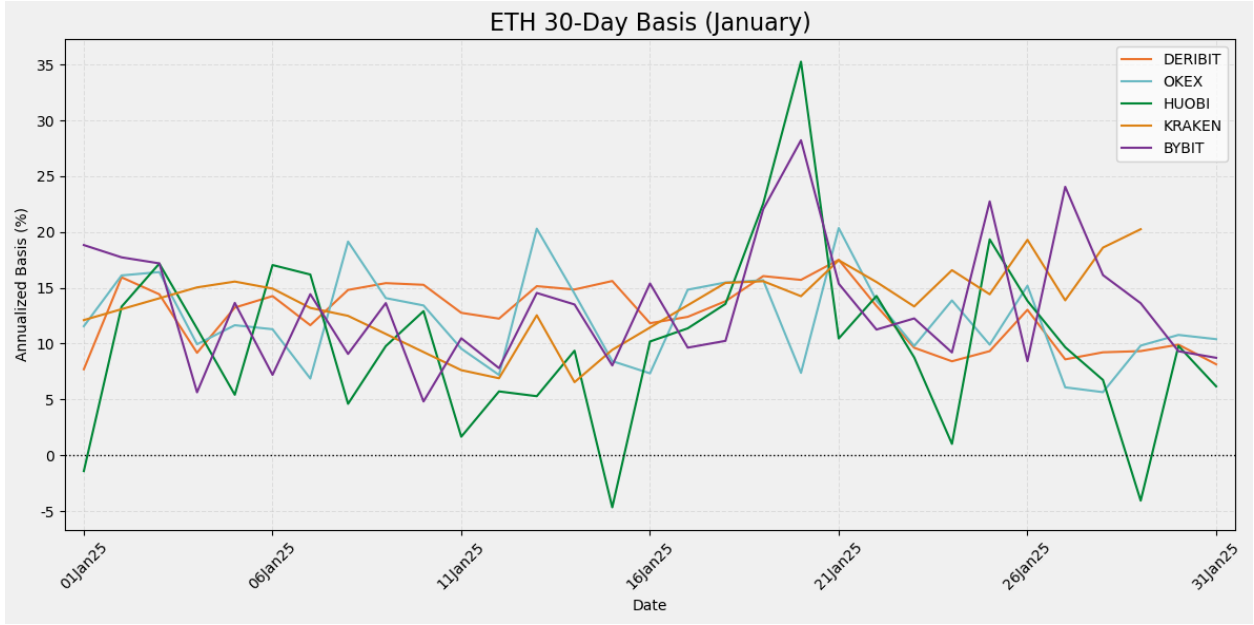
Source: Laevidas

Figure 3.4a: BTC Futures 30-day Basis



Source: Laevidas

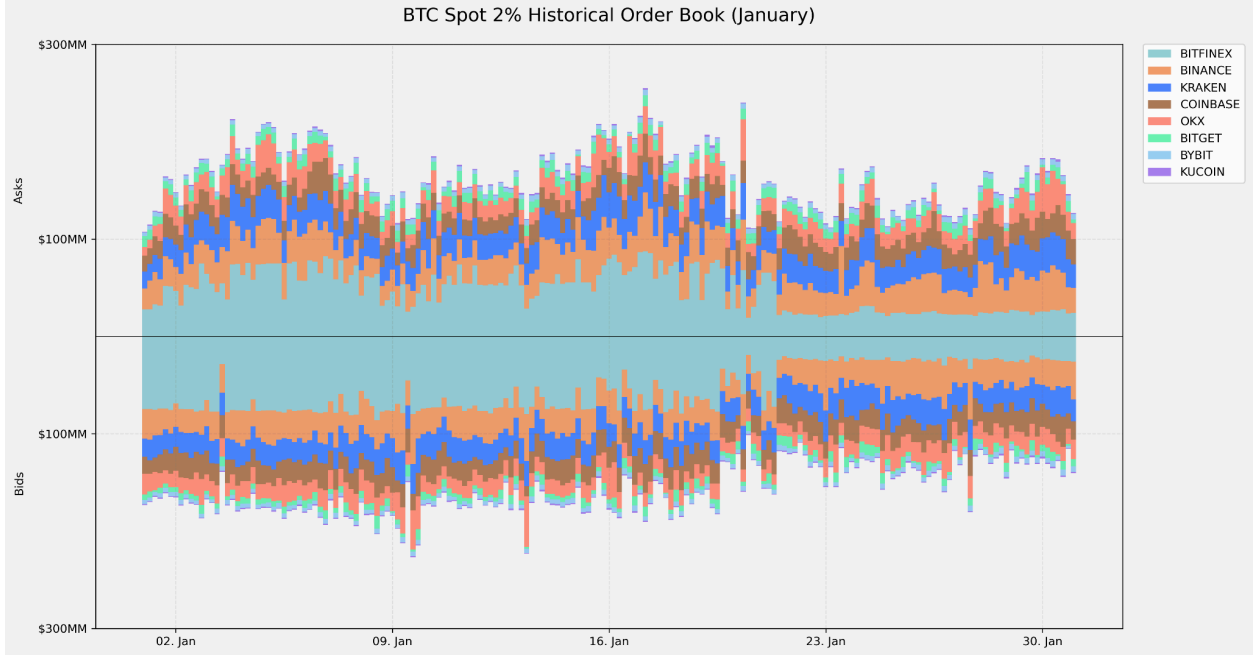
Figure 3.4b: ETH Futures 30-day Basis



Source: Laevidas

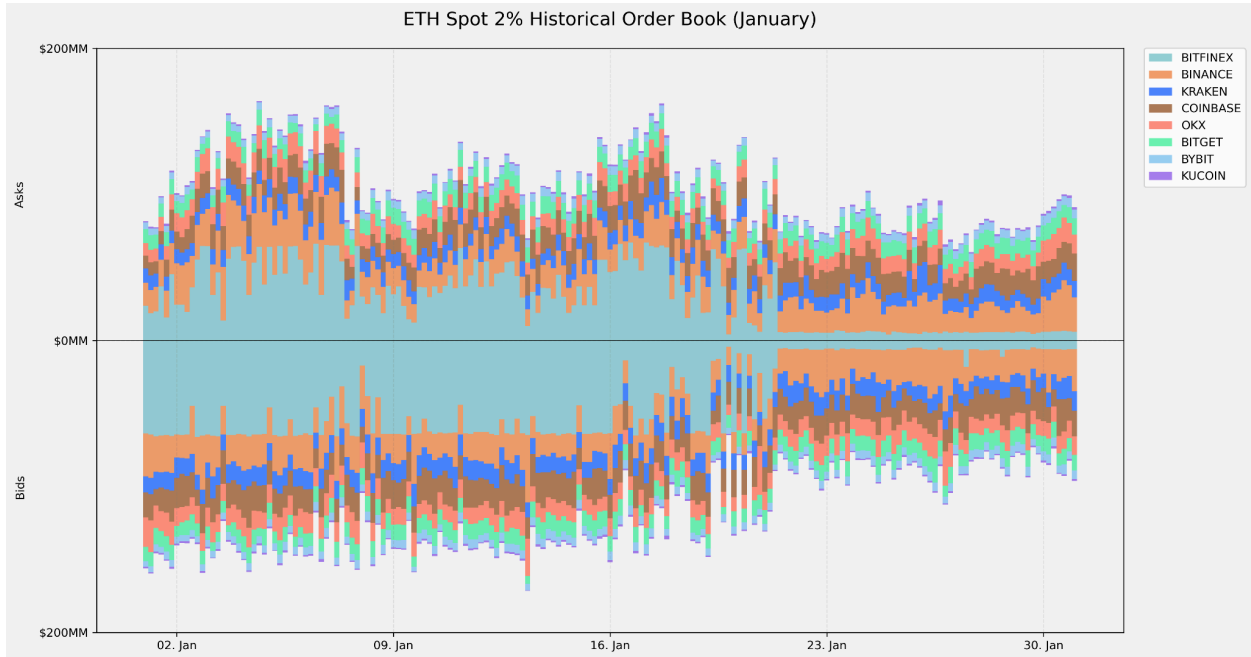
4. Volume and Liquidations

Figure 4.1a: Spot BTC Order Book Depth



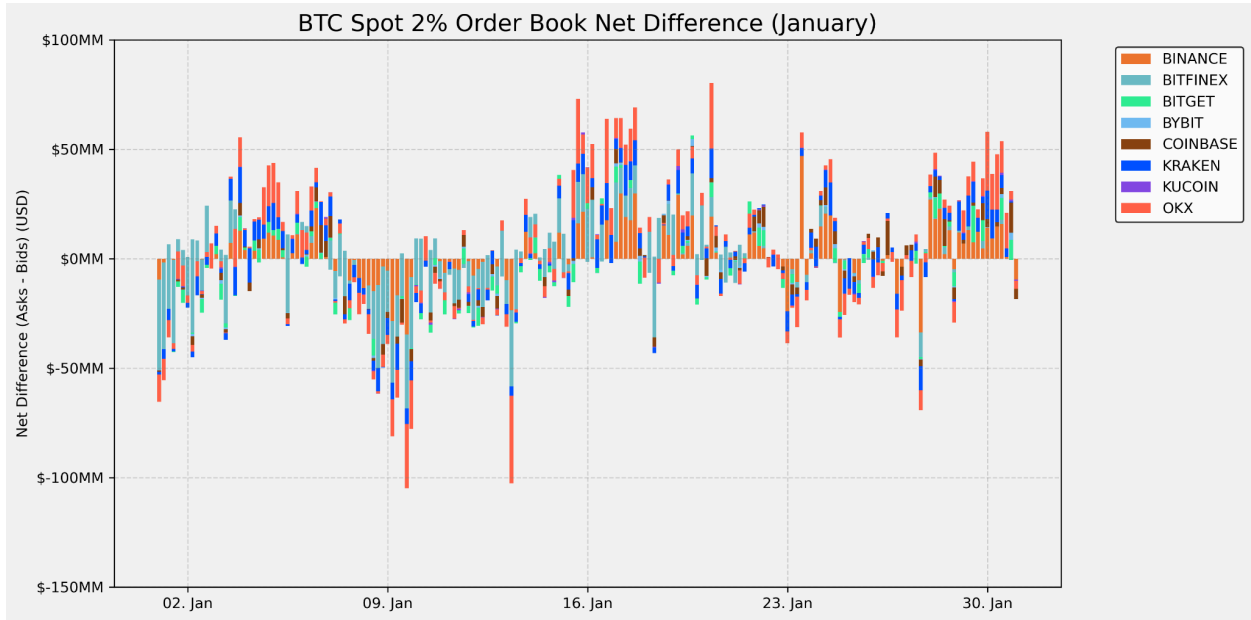
Source: Laevidas, Presto Research

Figure 4.1b: Spot ETH Order Book Depth



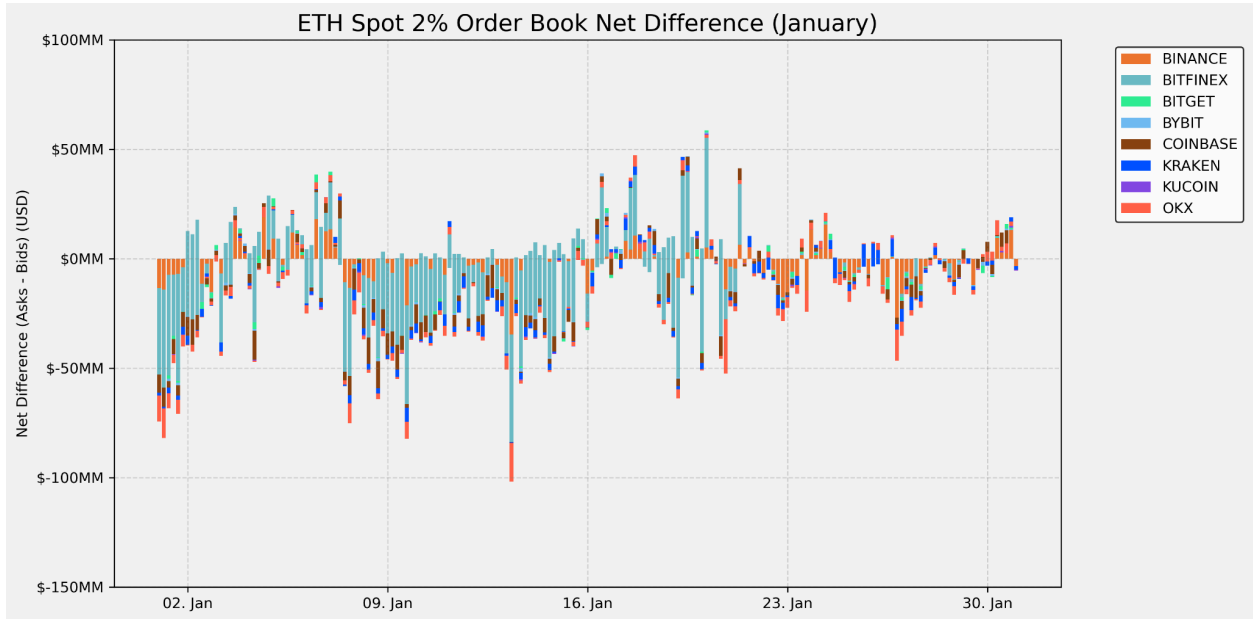
Source: Laevidas, Presto Research

Figure 4.2a: Spot BTC Order Book Ask-Bid Difference



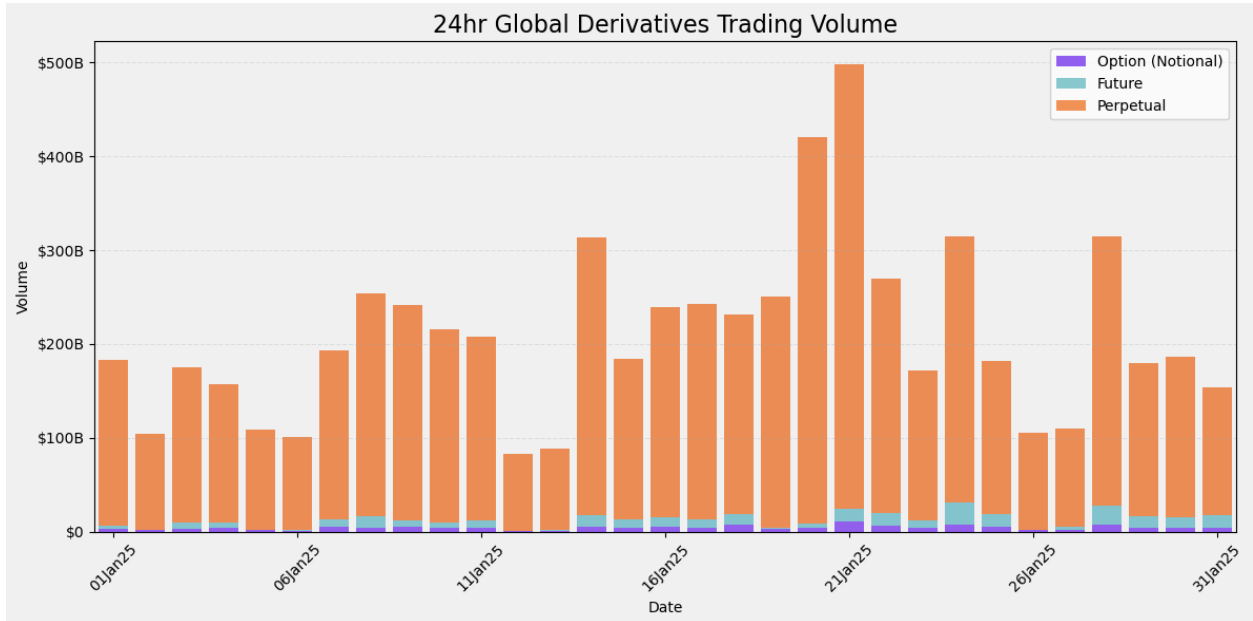
Source: Laevidas, Presto Research

Figure 4.2b: Spot ETH Order Book Ask-Bid Difference



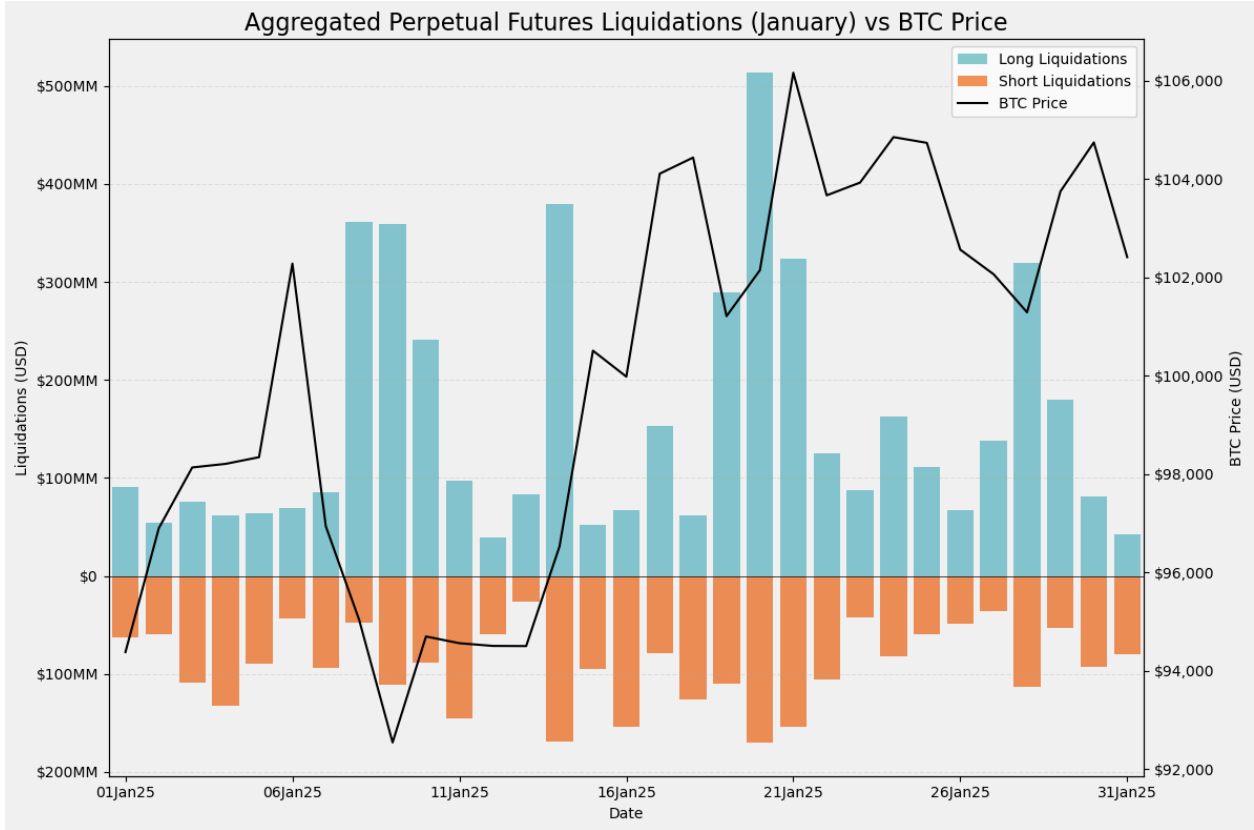
Source: Laevitas, Presto Research

Figure 4.3: Total Derivatives Volume - Appendix 3



Source: Laevitas, Presto Research

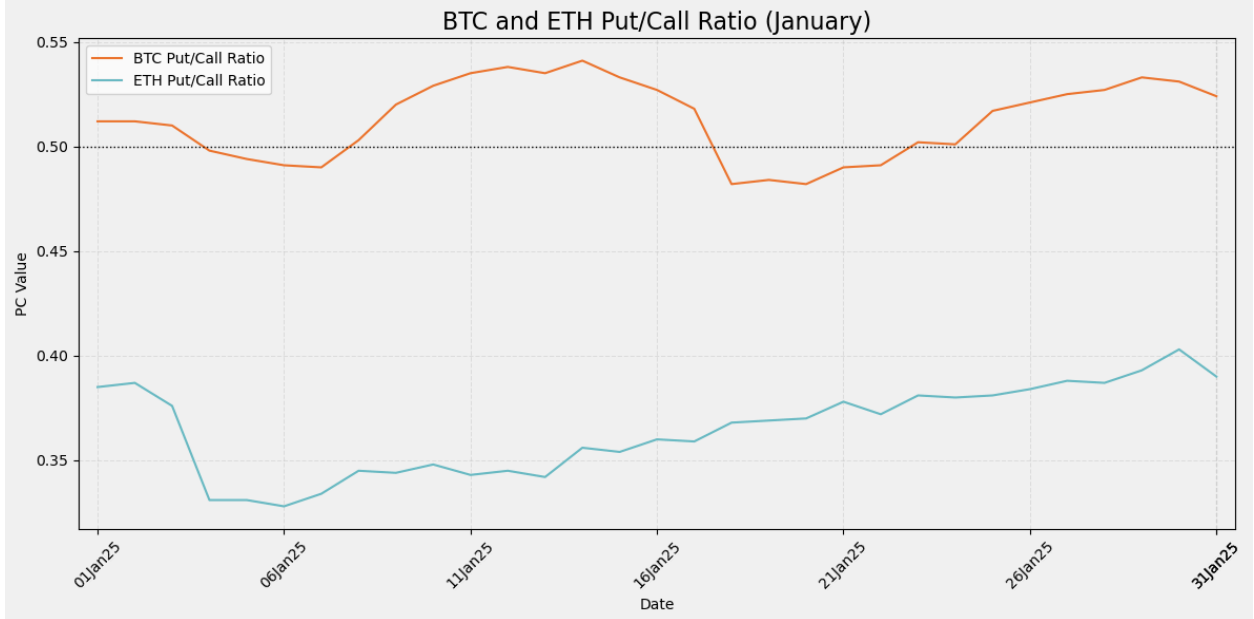
Figure 4.4: Perpetual Futures Liquidations - Appendix 4



Source: Laevidas, Presto Research

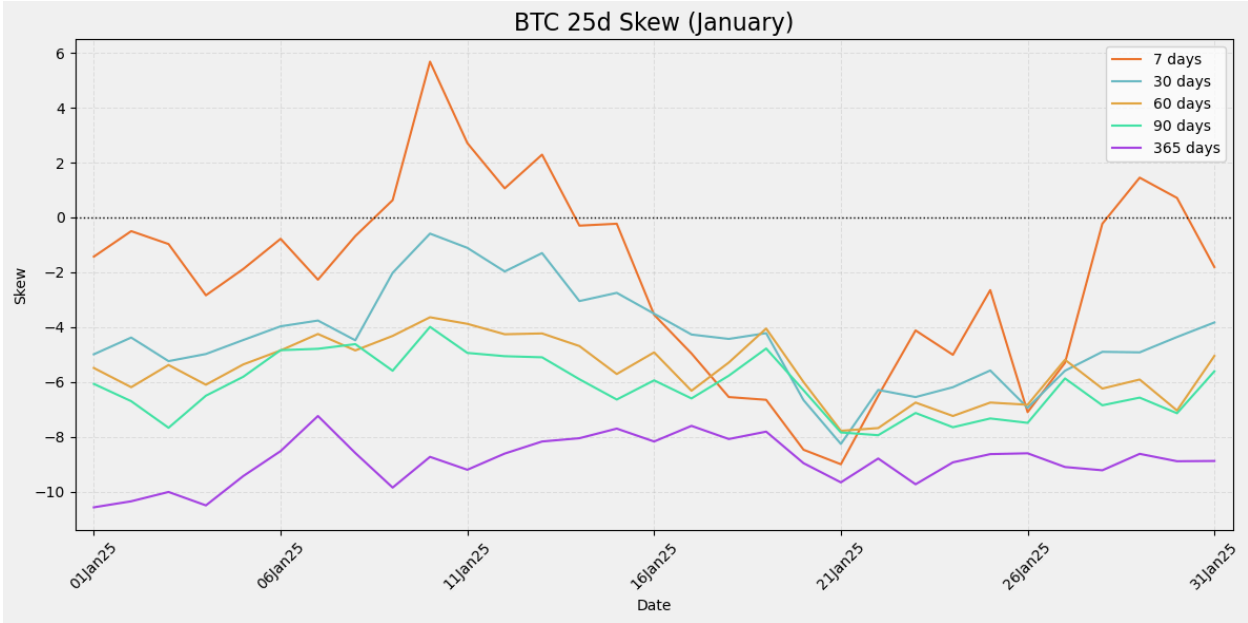
5. Options

Figure 5.1 : BTC and ETH Put/Call Ratio



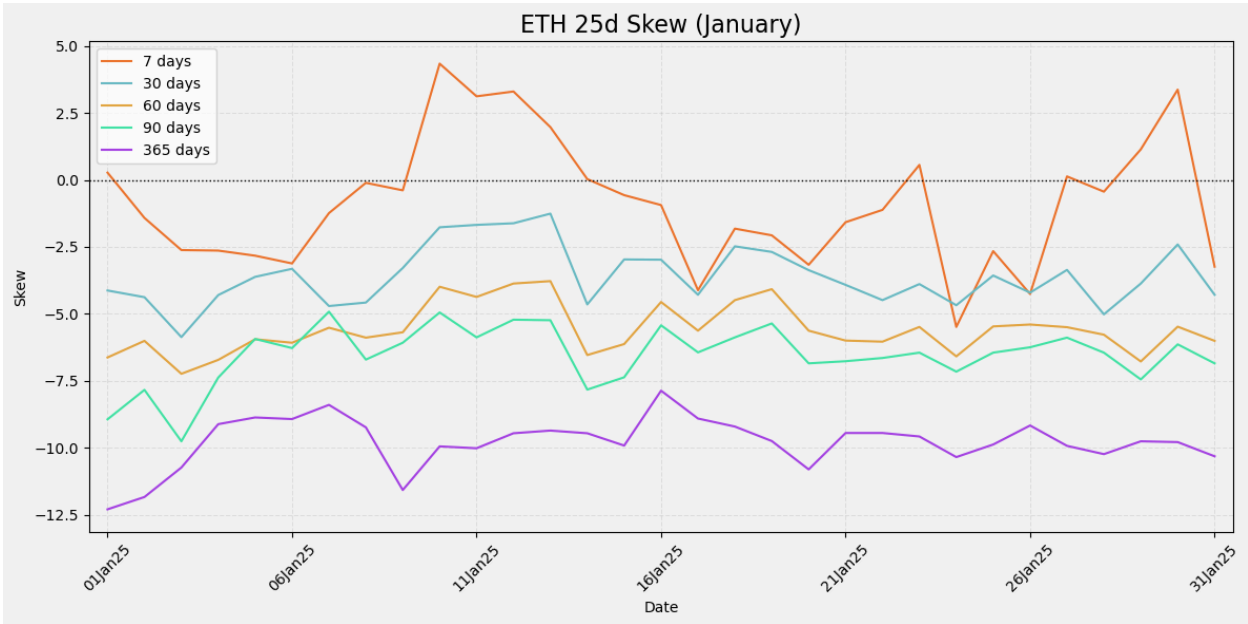
Source: Deribit via Laevidas, Presto Research

Figure 5.2a: BTC Skew



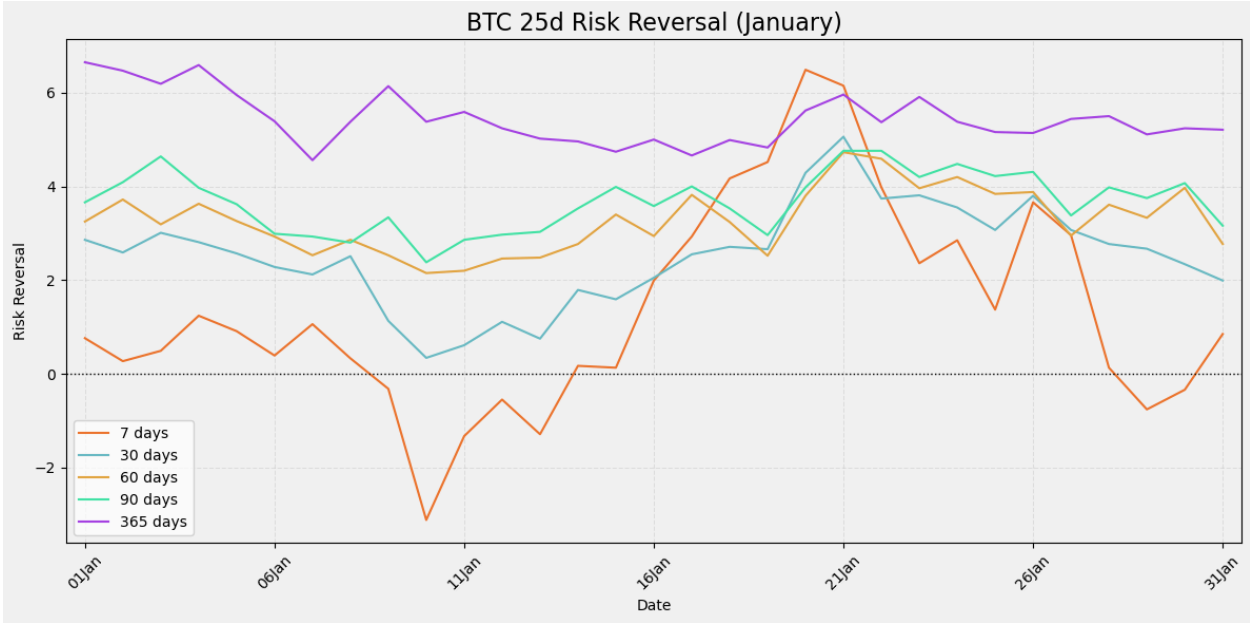
Source: Deribit via Laevitas, Presto Research

Figure 5.2b: ETH Skew



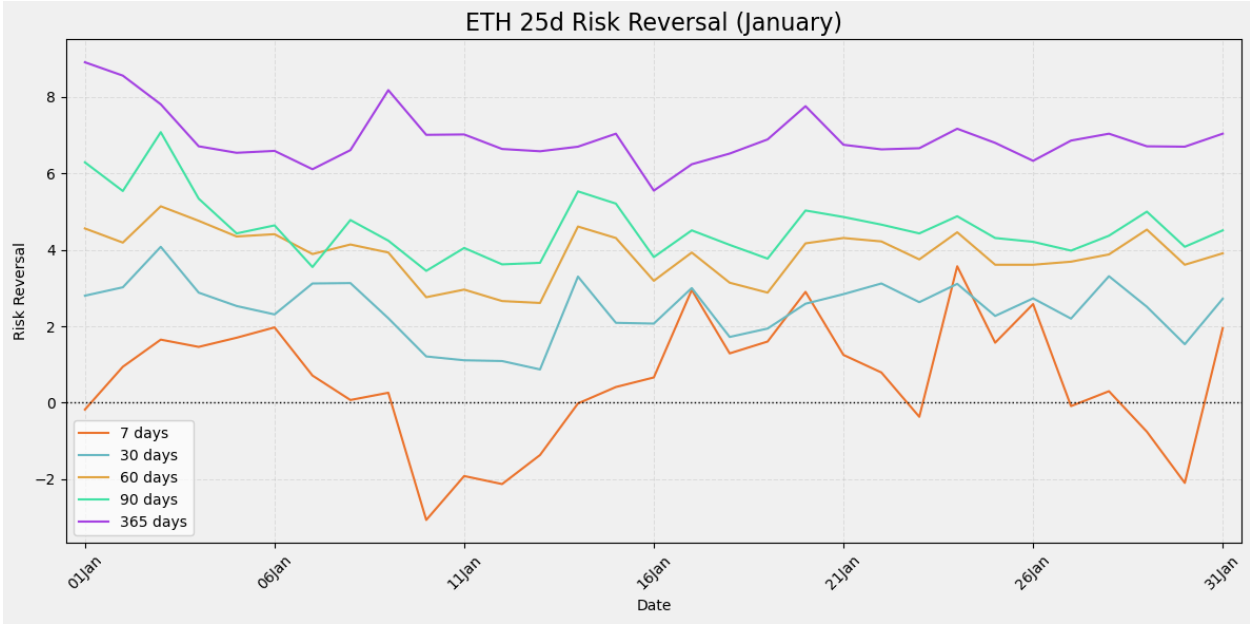
Source: Deribit via Laevitas, Presto Research

Figure 5.3a : BTC Risk Reversals



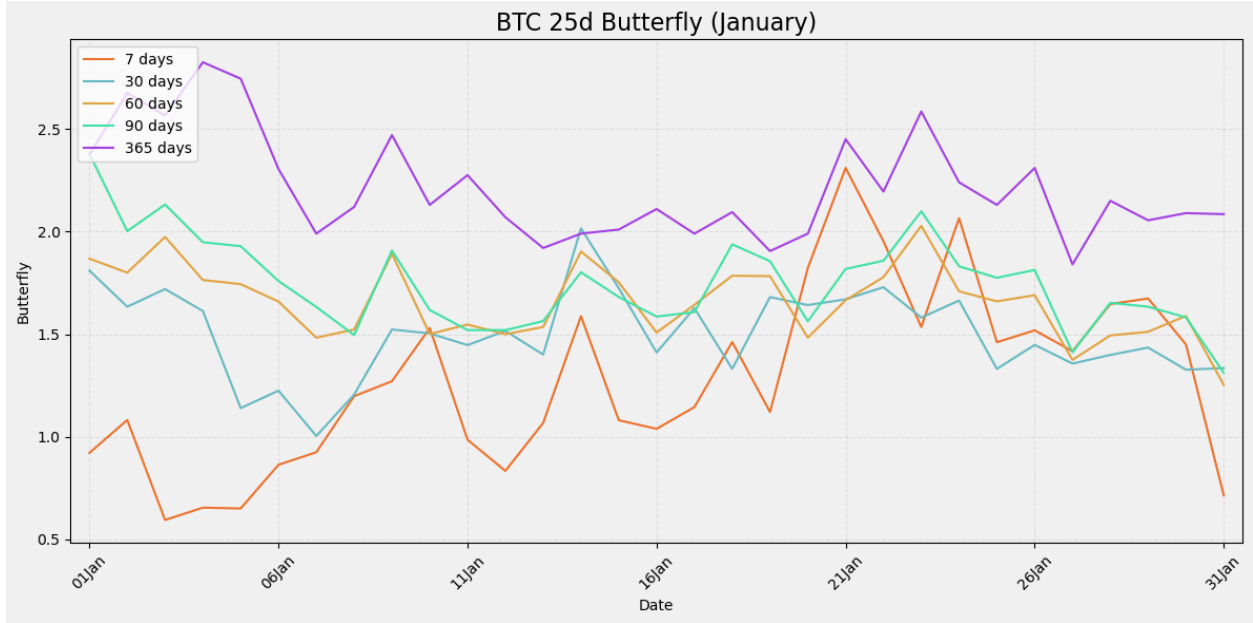
Source: Deribit via Laevitas, Presto Research

Figure 5.3b : ETH Risk Reversals



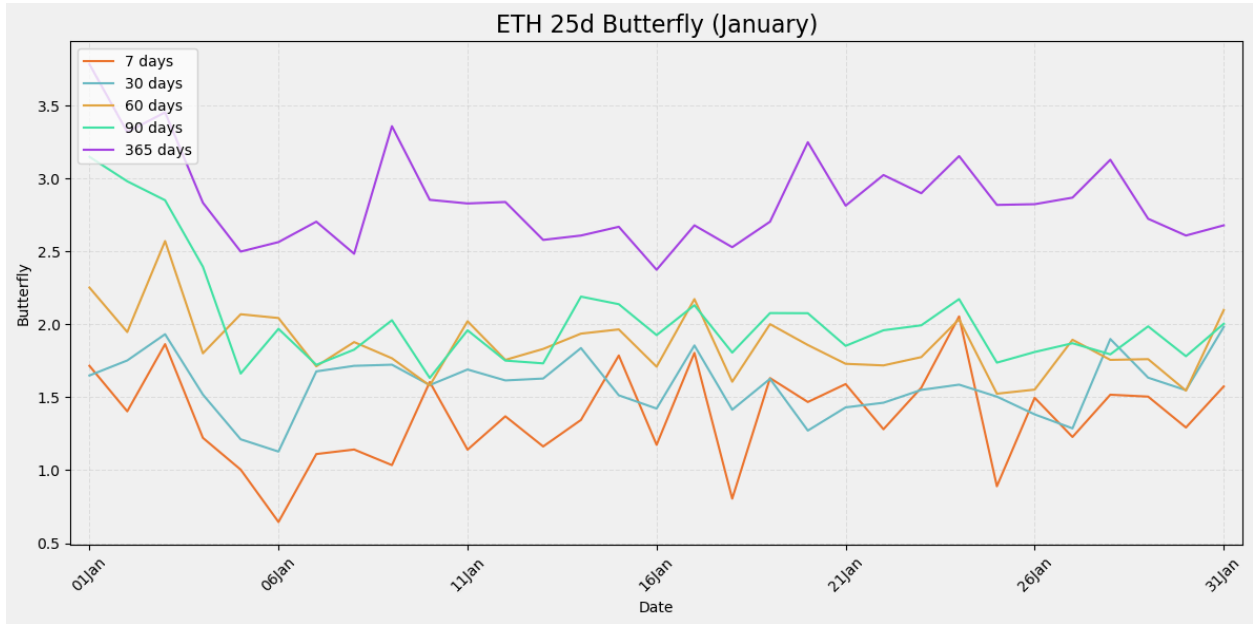
Source: Deribit via Laevitas, Presto Research

Figure 5.4a : BTC Butterfly



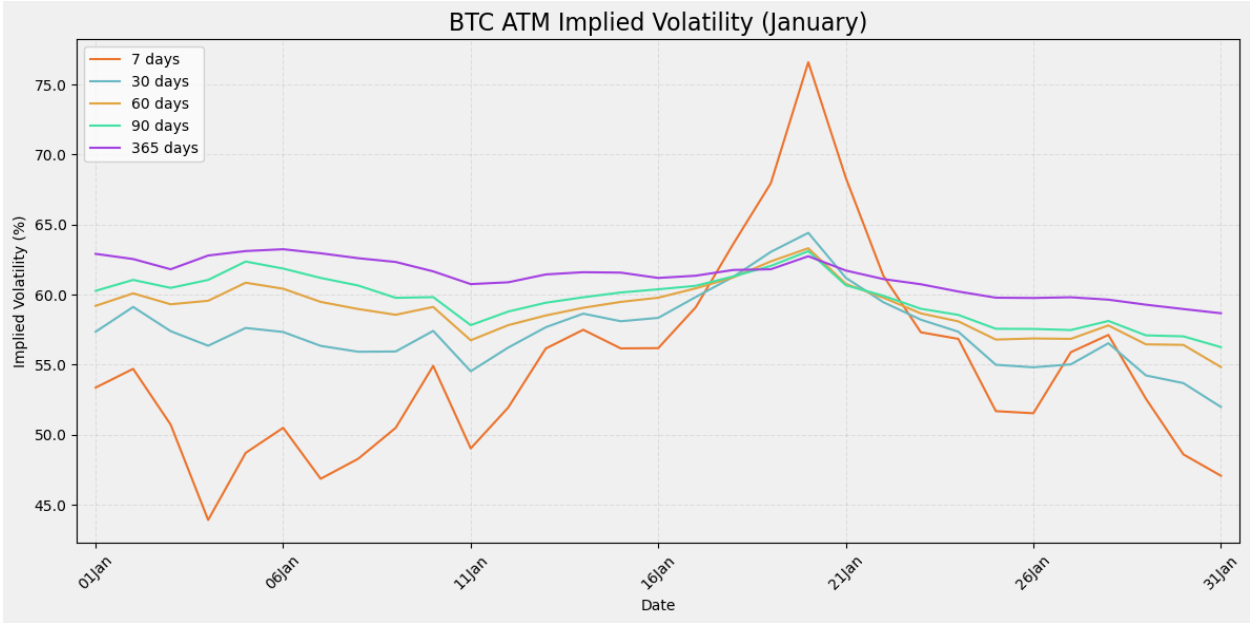
Source: Deribit via Laevidas, Presto Research

Figure 5.4b : ETH Butterfly



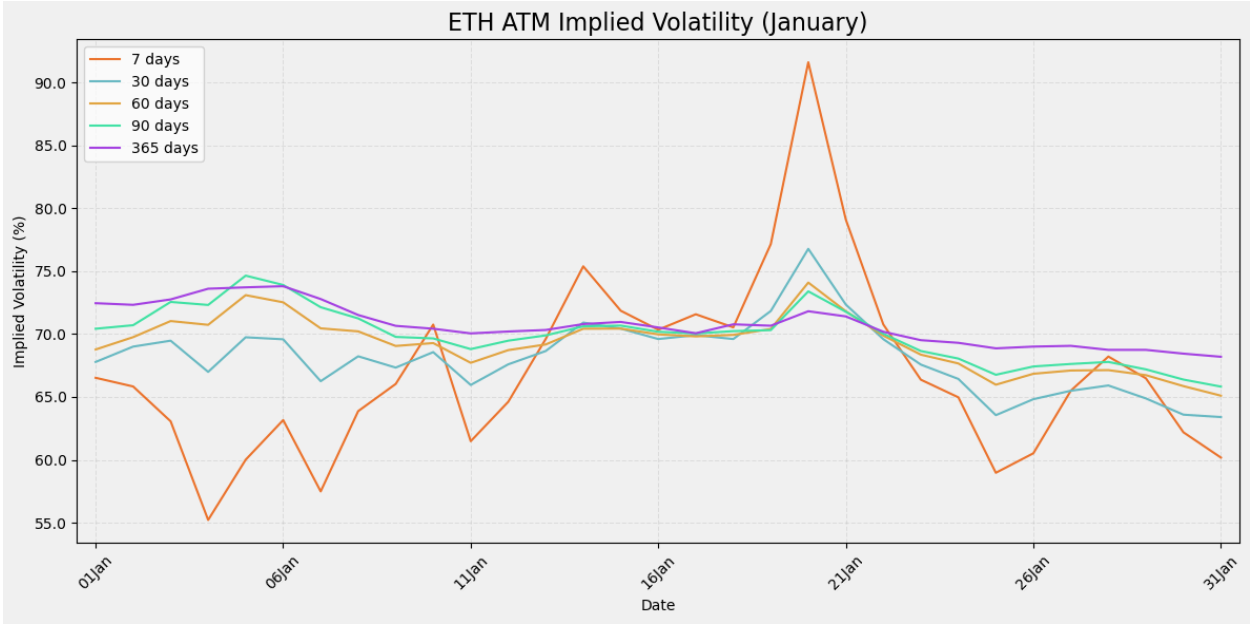
Source: Deribit via Laevidas, Presto Research

Figure 5.5a : BTC IV



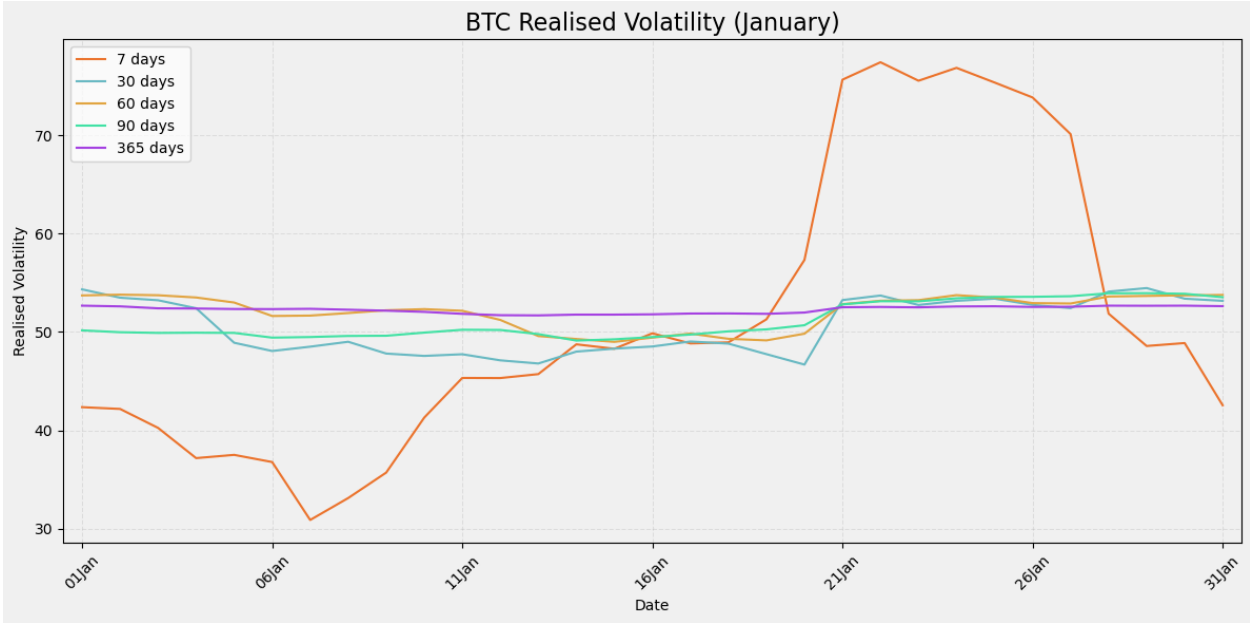
Source: Deribit via Laevitas, Presto Research

Figure 5.5b : ETH IV



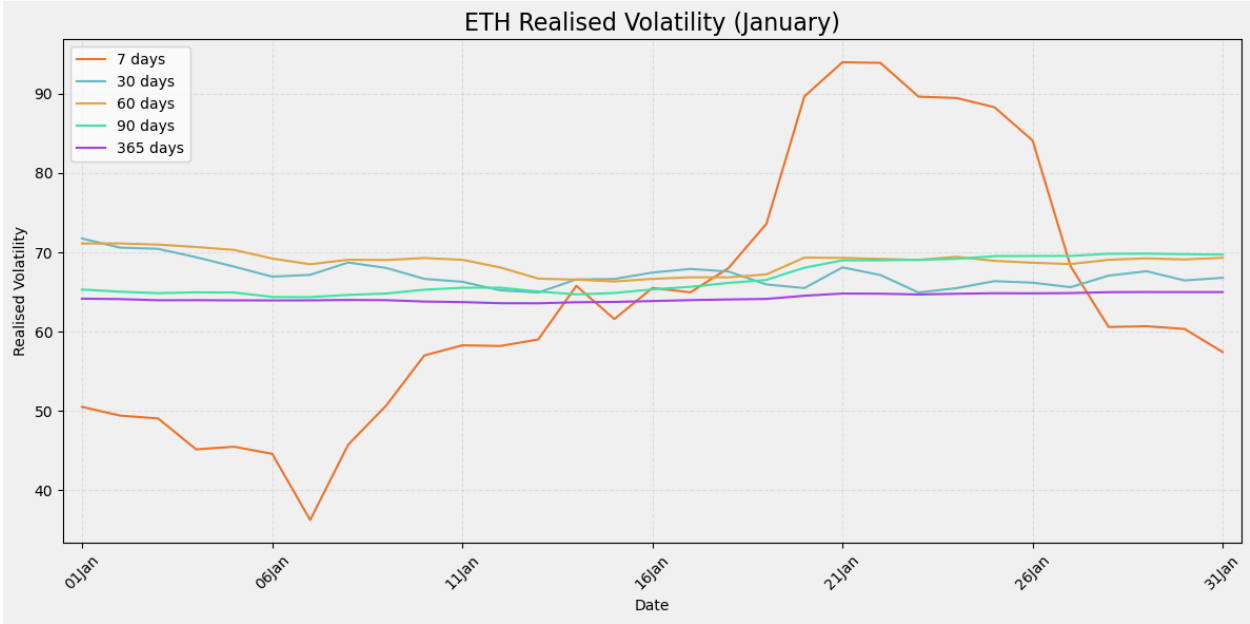
Source: Deribit via Laevitas, Presto Research

Figure 5.6a : BTC RV



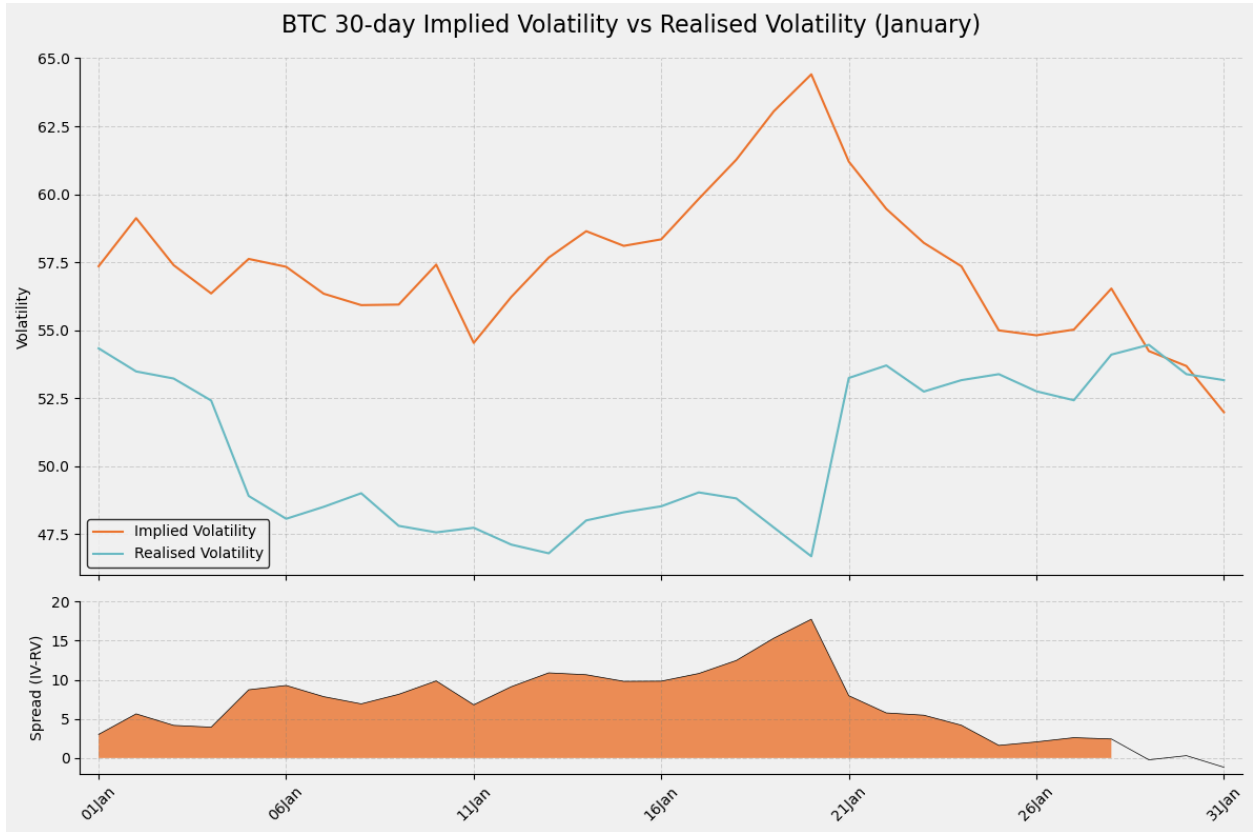
Source: Deribit via Laevitas, Presto Research

Figure 5.6b : ETH RV



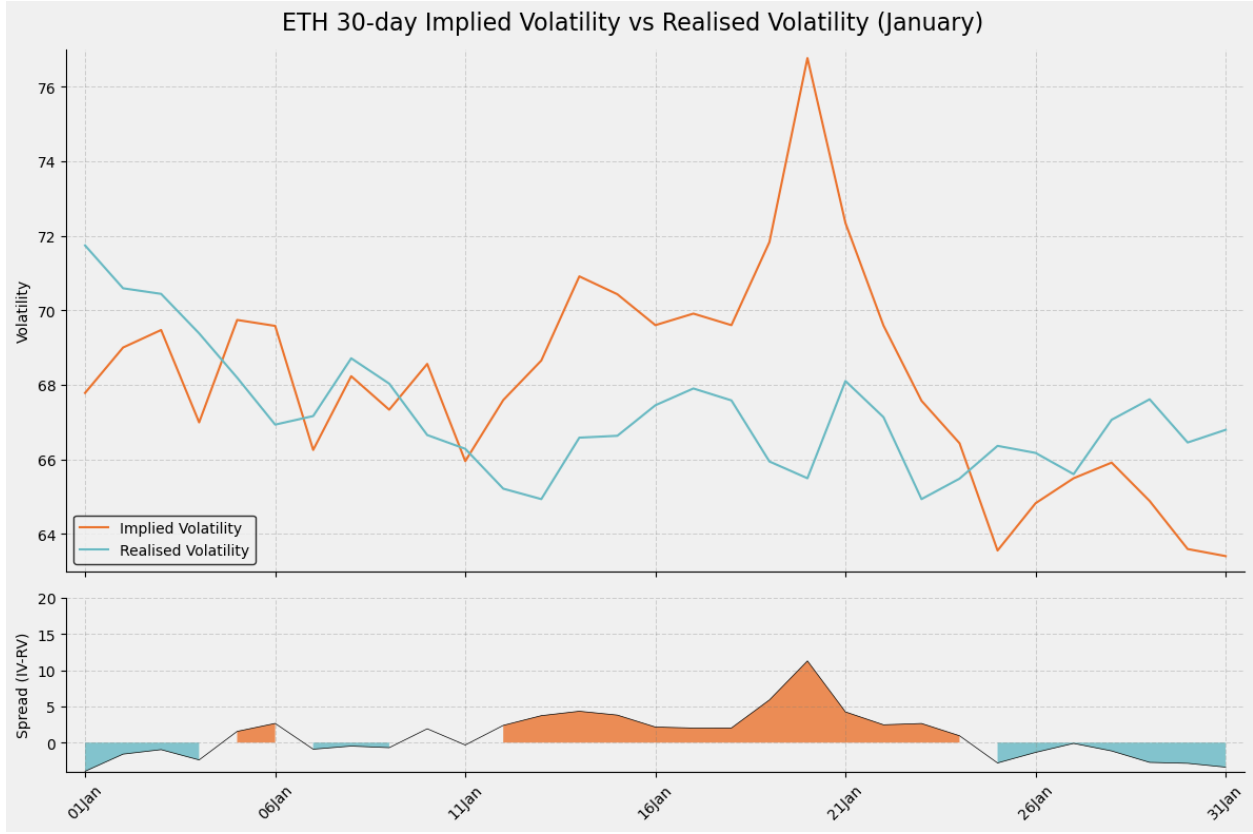
Source: Deribit via Laevitas, Presto Research

Figure 5.7a : BTC IV-RV



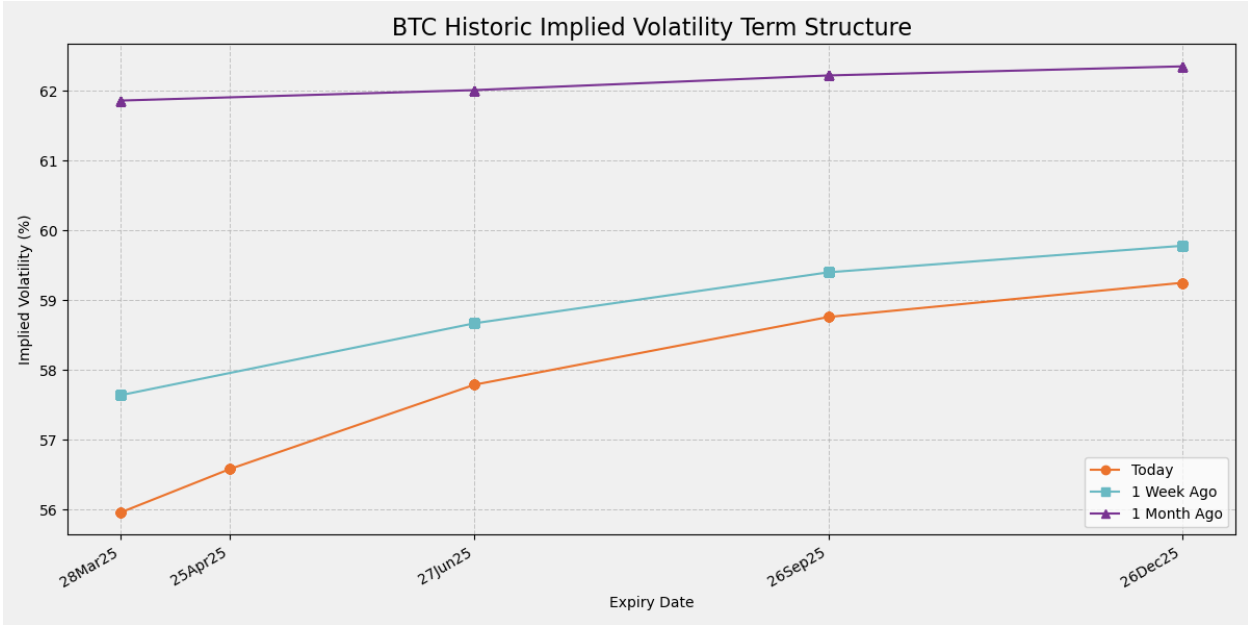
Source: Deribit via Laevitas, Presto Research

Figure 5.7b : ETH IV-RV



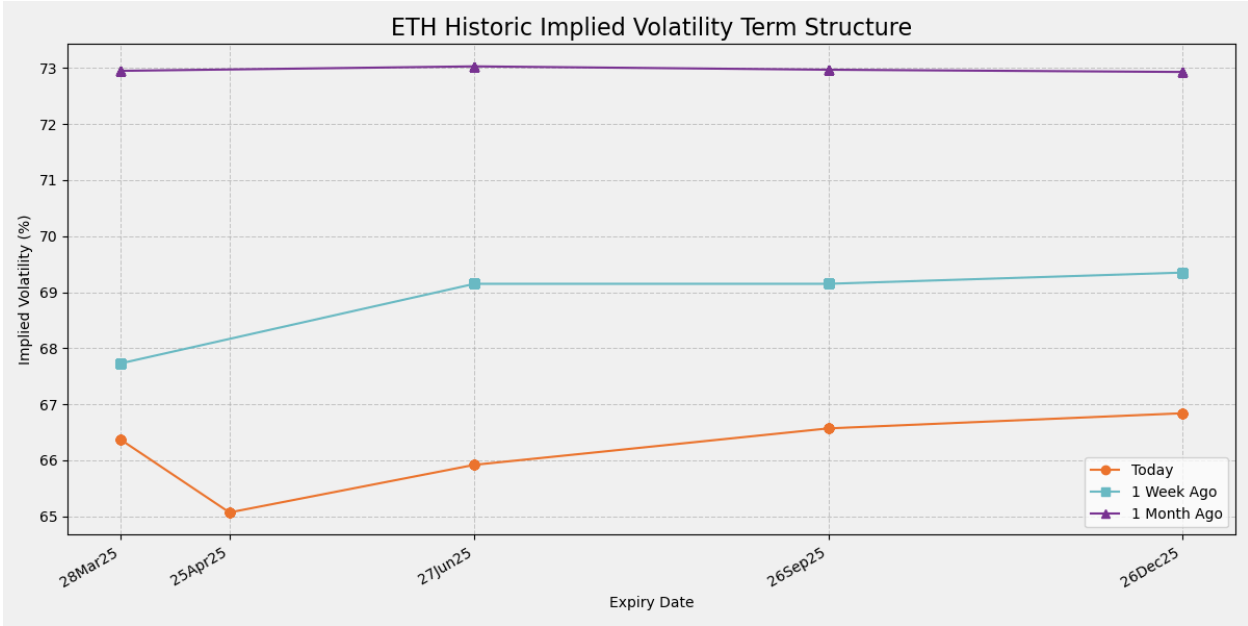
Source: Deribit via Laevitas, Presto Research

Figure 5.8a : BTC Term Structure



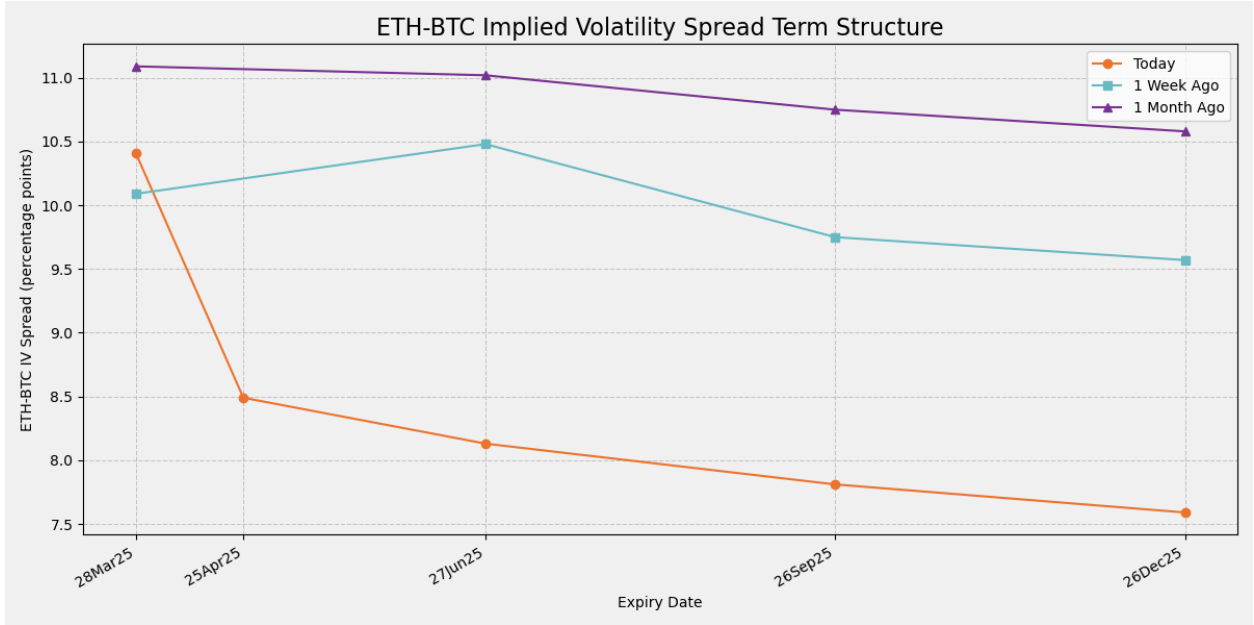
Source: Deribit via Laevidas, Presto Research

Figure 5.8b : ETH Term Structure



Source: Deribit via Laevidas, Presto Research

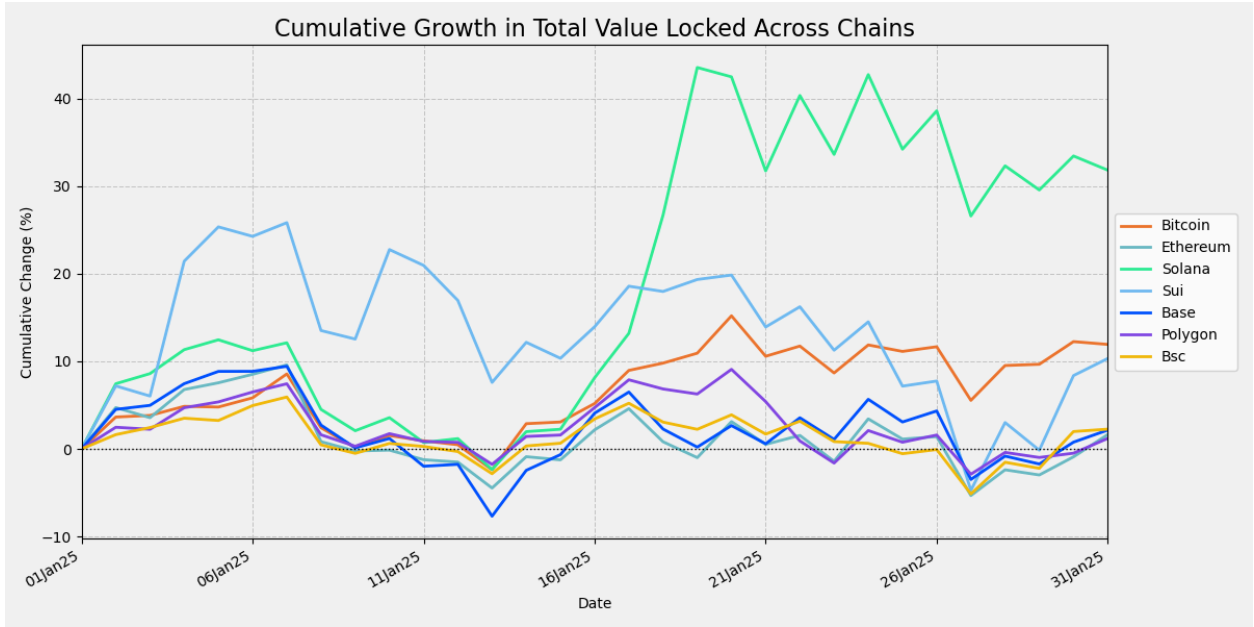
Figure 5.9 :ETH-BTC IV Spread



Source: Deribit via Laevitas, Presto Research

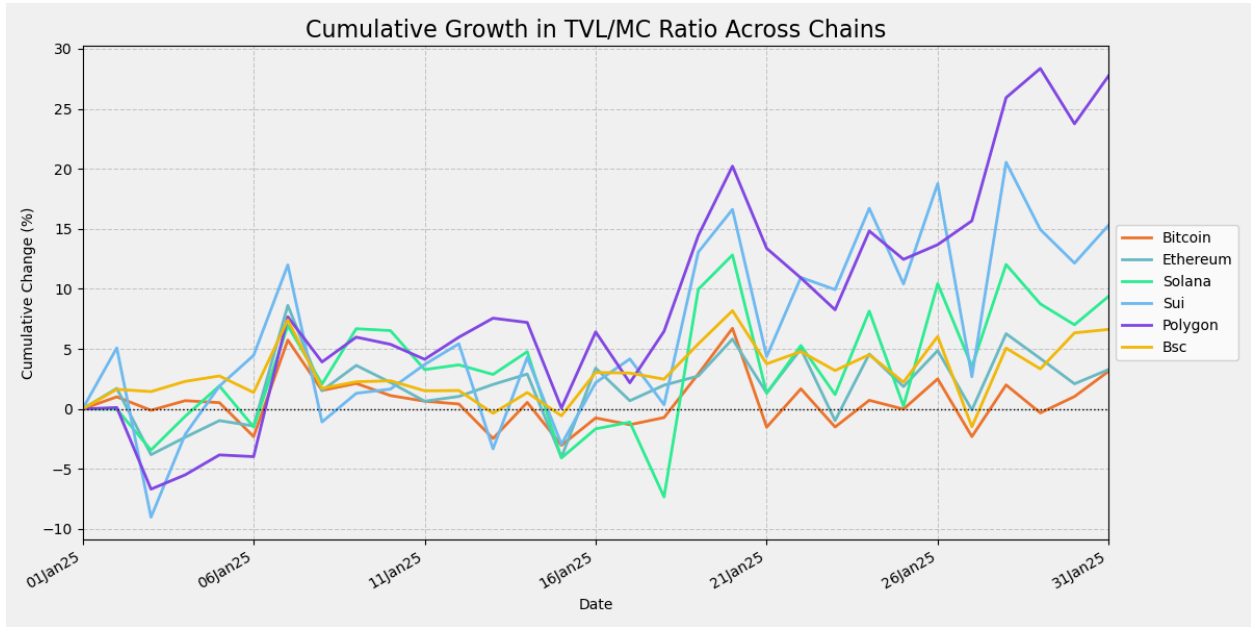
6. On-Chain

Figure 6.1: TVL \$ Change



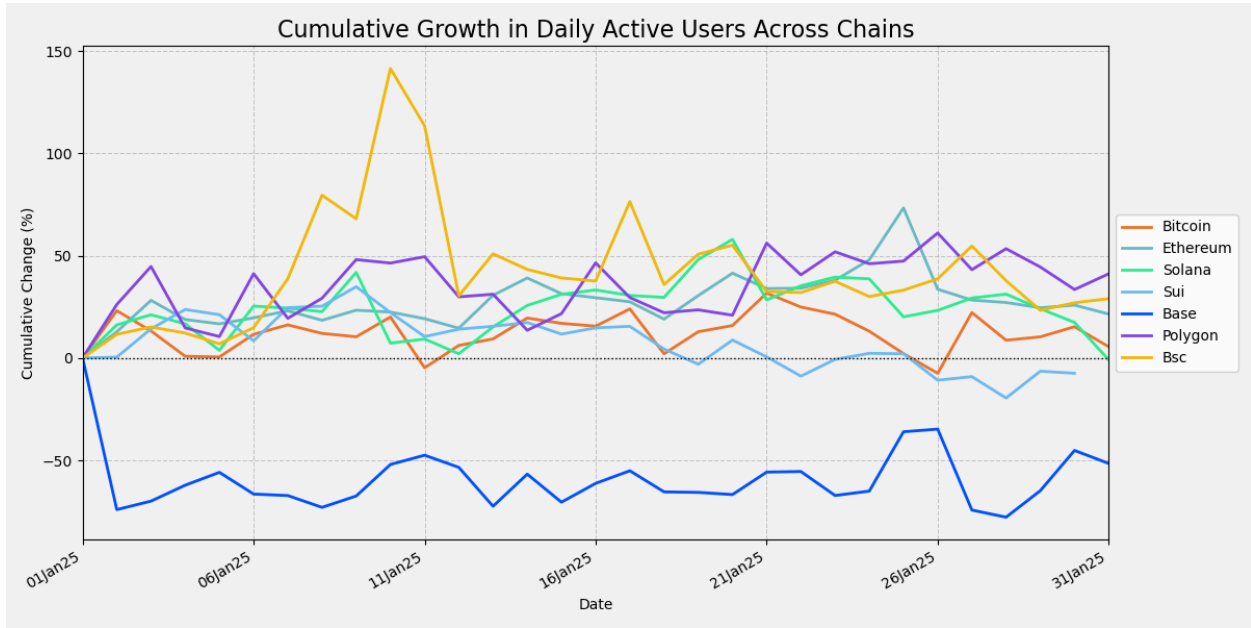
Source: Artemis, Presto Research

Figure 6.2: TVL/MC Ratio Change



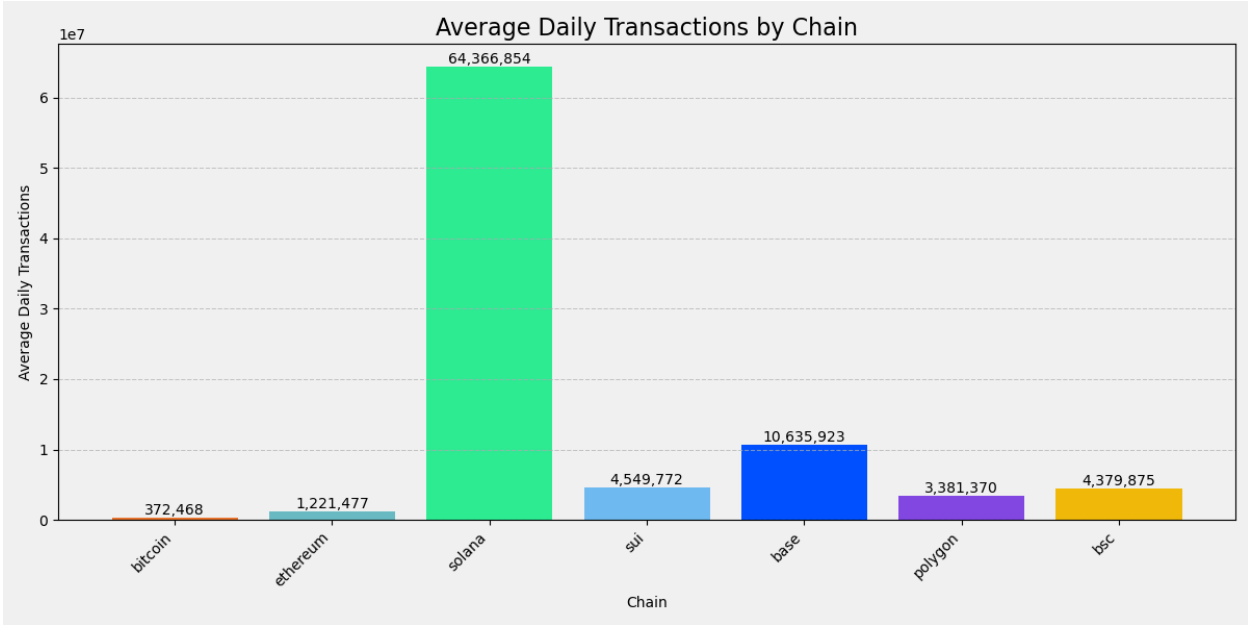
Source: Artemis, Presto Research

Figure 6.3: DAU Change



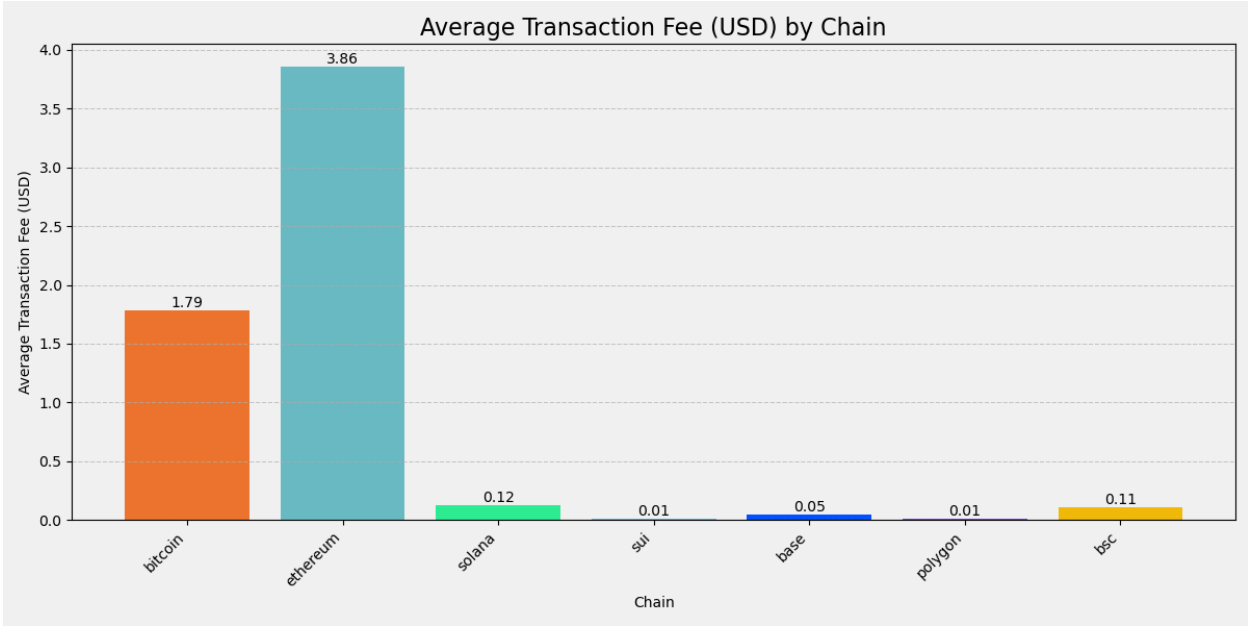
Source: Artemis, Presto Research

Figure 6.4: Average daily transaction count in December



Source: Artemis, Presto Research

Figure 6.5: Average daily transaction fee (USD) in December



Source: Artemis, Presto Research

Appendix

Appendix 1

Presto Research Fear Greed Index: This is a normalised index that takes into account a combination of short-term momentum, put-call ratios in BTC and ETH options markets, implied volatility in BTC and ETH options markets, and perpetual future funding rates.

Appendix 2

Here we use the "raw" basis as opposed to the annualised basis, as the monthly roll (traders rolling their monthly expiring futures contract into the next contract) creates huge spikes when we annualise the data. Readers are welcome to request the annualised basis.

- Raw Basis
 - Formula: $\text{Futures/Index} - 1$ or $(\text{Futures}-\text{Index})/\text{Index}$
 - This represents the percentage difference between the futures price (VWAP) and the spot price (Index) at a given point in time. It's the "instantaneous" or "raw" premium/discount of futures over spot.
- Annualised Basis
 - Formula: $((\text{Futures}-\text{Index})/\text{Index}) * (252/\text{Days_until_expiration})$
 - If $\text{Days_until_expiration} = 0$, we use the Raw Basis.
 - The implied yearly return of the basis if it were to remain constant until expiration, making it easier to compare basis across different expiration periods and standardising to an annual rate.

The **Futures** price we use is the Volume-Weighted Average Price (VWAP), while the **Index** price we use is the CME CF BTC-USD Reference Rate taken at 16:00 NY time.

Appendix 3

Exchanges: Binance, ByBit, OKX, Bitget, CME, Coinbase, Deribit, Huobi, Kraken, BitMEX, Vertex, Bitfinex, Kwenta, Paradex, Blitz, Coincall, Aevo, Bit.com

Appendix 4

Exchanges: Binance, ByBit, OKX, Deribit, Huobi, BitMEX, Bitfinex

Data Partners

Laevitas

Laevitas aggregates crypto derivatives data across options, perpetual futures, and dated futures from all major venues, providing historical and real-time analytics. The platform serves institutional clients with complete options chains, trade flows, Greeks, funding rates, liquidations, and order book data through both UI and API access.

About Presto

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