

Exchange Review

APRIL 2023

About CCData

CCData is an FCA-authorised benchmark administrator and 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, CCData's thought-leadership reports and analytics offer objective insights into the digital asset industry.

About This Report

CCData's Exchange Review aims to capture the key developments within the cryptocurrency exchange market. Our review focuses on analyses related to exchange volumes, including 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.

CCData'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@CCData.io.

Explore the data on CCData's API

For those interested in accessing CCData's API and data solutions 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 CCData's API [here](#).

Disclaimer

Due to the nature of exchange API endpoints and the practice of backfilling data, there may be data discrepancies between this edition and previous reports. The data presented below is correct up to the release date of this report.

Note: We are constantly developing our products to ensure the most value to our readers. Recently we have applied more filters to ensure all volumes reported are as truly representative of the market ecosystem as possible, and have greatly increased the scope of this report, as such, this month's data will not be directly comparable to last. **All data included in this report is up to the 31st of March 2023, unless stated otherwise.**

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Key Market Insights

In April, the combined spot and derivatives trading volume on centralised exchanges fell 27.9% to \$2.77tn, recording the first month-on-month decline in trading volume this year. The decline in trading activity saw centralised exchanges record their lowest volumes since December 2022. This follows a month in which the price of major crypto assets, including Bitcoin and Ethereum, stayed largely range-bound after failing to break key resistance levels.

Trading Activity Falls to a Four-Month Low

In April, spot trading volume on centralised exchanges fell 40.2% to \$621bn, recording the lowest volumes since December 2022 and the second-lowest spot trading volumes since July 2020, reversing the trend in trading activity this year. The uncertainty surrounding macroeconomic conditions, including looming recession threats and a possible pause on Fed rate hikes amidst the turmoil in the banking sector, has contributed to the declining volumes this month.

Derivatives trading volume on centralised exchanges fell 23.3% to \$2.15tn in April. However, the market share of derivatives reached a new all-time high for the second consecutive month, with a market share of 77.6%. This highlights the speculative nature of the digital asset markets.

Binance's Spot Market Share Falls to Pre-FTX Collapse Levels

Spot trading volume on Binance fell 48.1% to \$287bn in April, recording its second-lowest monthly trading volume since 2021. Binance's market share also continued to slide, falling for the second consecutive month to 46.3%, its lowest market share since October 2022 (prior to the FTX collapse which triggered a consolidation of trading activity to Binance).

Binance's position as the dominant exchange in the industry is still a long way from being threatened with Coinbase and OKX, the next largest exchanges, accounting for only 5.60% and 5.39% of the total spot trading market. Meanwhile, the Korean exchange, Upbit, resumed its impressive trend in trading activity this year, now accounting for 4.77% of the market share compared to 2.81% at the beginning of the year – an all-time high for the exchange.

BTC Trading Volume with TUSD Hits All-time High

Since the launch of zero-fee trading of the BTC-TUSD pair on March 22nd, the TUSD trading volumes for the trading pair have soared to an all-time high, rising 851% to \$34.0bn in April. TUSD is now the third largest stablecoin by trading volume on centralised exchanges, surpassing USDC for the first time since June 2020.

Since Paxos halted the minting of BUSD in February, Binance has favoured TUSD as the preferred stablecoin for the exchange - offering zero-fee trading for multiple TUSD pairs. BTC trading volume with USDT and BUSD has seen a heavy decline in April, with the former trading pair falling 65.9% to \$117bn and being surpassed by the BTC/TUSD pair for the first time on Binance on April 15th.

April Exchange News

COMPANY	STORY	DATE
OKX	OKX Wallet Is First in Web3 To Utilize Leading-Edge MPC Technology Together With Support of 37 Blockchains	April 4
Gemini	Adding More Transparency to the Reserves Backing Gemini Dollar (GUSD)	April 5
BitMEX	BitMEX Joins TRUST Solution To Expand Travel Rule Capabilities	April 13
Uniswap	Uniswap Wallet Is Available Now	April 13
Binance	23rd BNB Burn	April 14
Coinbase	An Update to Coinbase's Global Scale To Go Broad and Deep	April 19
Gemini	Introducing Gemini Foundation — A Non-US Crypto Derivatives Platform	April 21
Binance	Introducing Binance Sensei: Your AI-Powered Web3 Mentor	April 24
Bitfinex	Reduced Trading Fees: A Game-Changer for Customers	April 27
Coinbase	Coinbase Responds to the SEC's Wells Notice	April 27

Definitions

Metric	Definition
Top Tier Exchanges	Exchanges that have scored Grade BB and above in CCData's biannual Exchange Benchmark.
Lower Tier Exchanges	Exchanges that have scored Grade B and below in CCData's biannual Exchange Benchmark.
Spot Volumes	Trading volumes on crypto assets with immediate delivery.
Derivatives Volumes	Trading volumes on crypto assets via derivative contracts (futures and options).
Futures Contracts	Derivative contracts where two parties agree to exchange the underlying asset at a specified (Calendars) or unspecified (Perpetuals) date in the future.
Options Contracts	Derivative contracts that give the holder the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell an asset by a certain date at a specified price.
Open Interest	US-dollar value of outstanding derivative contracts that have not been settled for an asset.

Exchange Benchmark Analysis

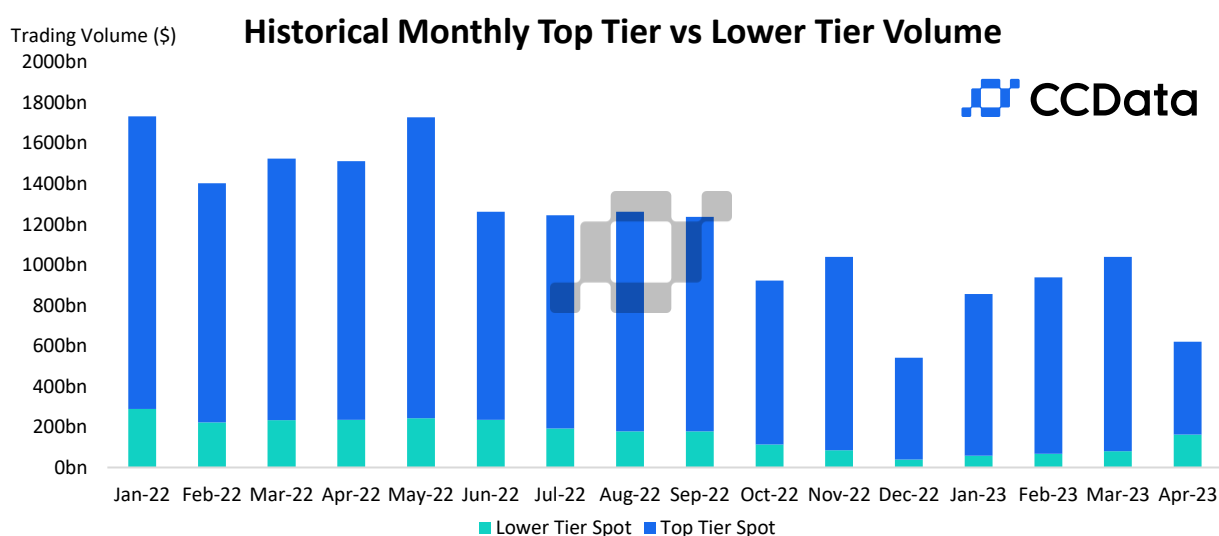
CCData's biannual Exchange Benchmark aims to serve investors, regulators and industry participants by scoring and ranking exchanges based on risk. This includes operational transparency, security, operational quality, regulatory standing, data provision, management team, and ability to monitor trades and illicit activity effectively.

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](#)

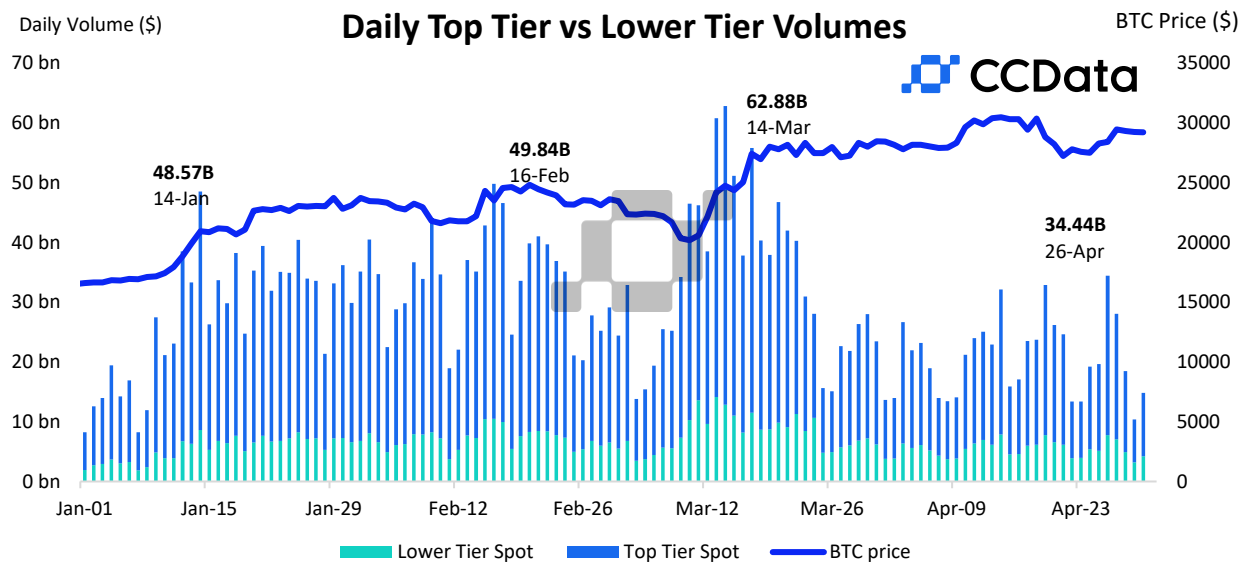
This report assesses exchange activity via the above segmentation, particularly for spot markets. We also assess the market segmentation between different exchanges and assets, derivatives, and dive deeper into CME data, one of the largest derivatives exchanges across multiple asset classes.

Top Tier vs Lower Tier Exchange Volumes



In April, total spot trading volumes fell 40.2% to \$621bn, recording the first decrease in monthly volumes this year. Top-Tier spot volumes fell 42.0% to \$458bn, and Lower-Tier spot volumes fell 34.5% to \$163bn. This is the lowest spot trading volume recorded on centralised exchanges since December 2022.

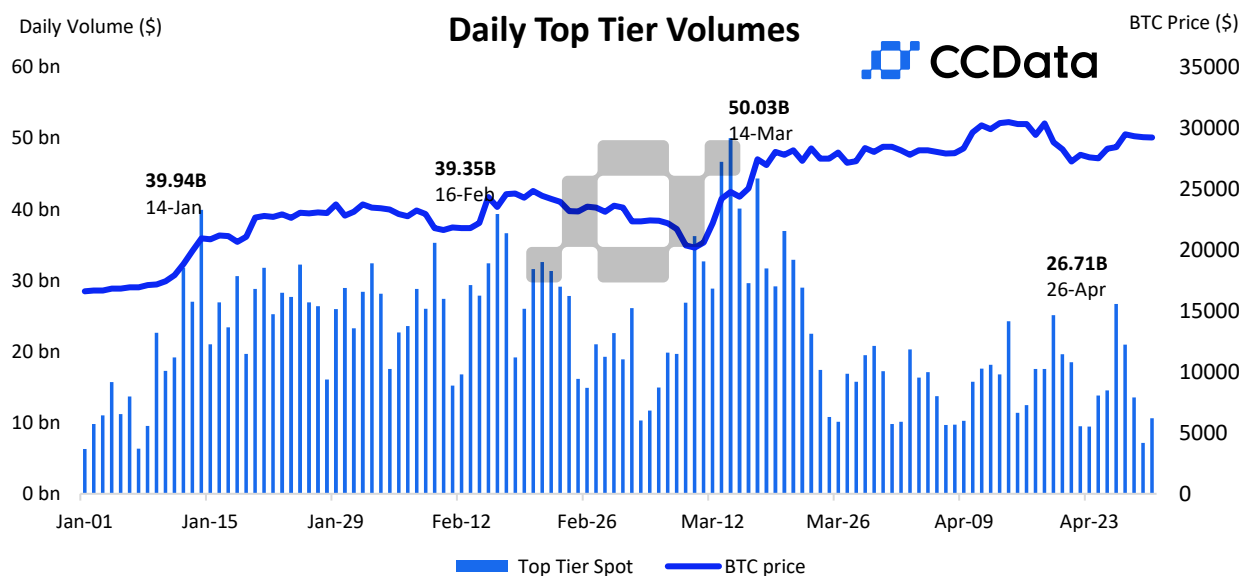
Top-Tier exchanges now represent 73.8% of total spot volume based on CCData's latest April 2023 Exchange Benchmark Ranking, compared to 92.3% last month based on the October benchmark.



Trading activity across spot markets decreased in April, with both Bitcoin and Ethereum struggling to break key resistance levels at \$30,000 and \$2,000, respectively.

A daily volume maximum of \$34.4bn was traded on the 26th of March, down 45.2% from the intra-month high in March, after further banking crisis in US, sparked by the sale of First Republic of Bank, added to the increased interest in digital assets.

Top-Tier exchanges traded a daily volume maximum of \$26.7bn on the 26th of April, down 46.6% from March. Top-Tier exchanges are selected based on our rigorous [Exchange Benchmark Methodology](#).



CCData Releases the Latest Exchange Benchmark Rankings

CCData released the ninth edition of its Exchange Benchmark in April, ranking over 150 exchanges across more than 200 quantitative and qualitative metrics. Bitstamp remained the top exchange, continuing to hold the only AA rating, followed by Coinbase with a grade A.

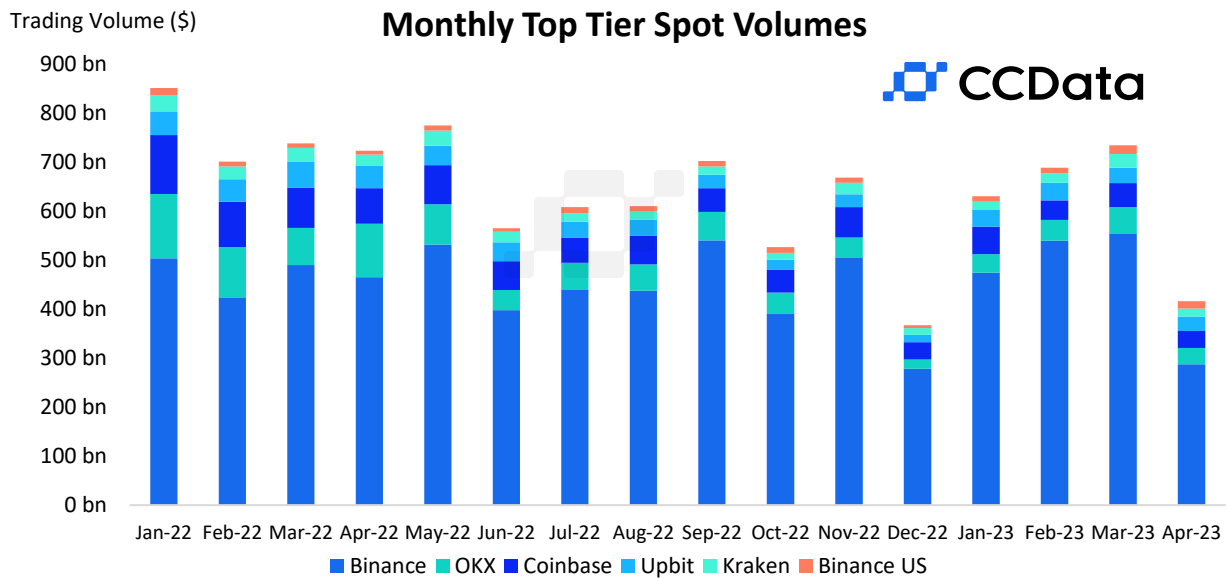
In light of recent events, including the collapse of FTX, the threshold for top tier exchanges was raised to grades BB and above, while introducing a new category of metrics focusing on transparency. Only 22 exchanges met the criteria to be classified as ‘Top-Tier’ among centralised spot trading exchanges, compared to 86 in October 2022.

Top Centralised Exchanges	Top Decentralised Exchanges	Top Derivatives Exchanges
AA Bitstamp	A UNISWAP	A Kraken
A coinbase	BB Curve	A BYBIT
A BITFINEX	BB dYdX	A BINANCE
A LMAX Digital	B Balancer	BB crypto.com
A PAXOS	B GMX	BB OKX

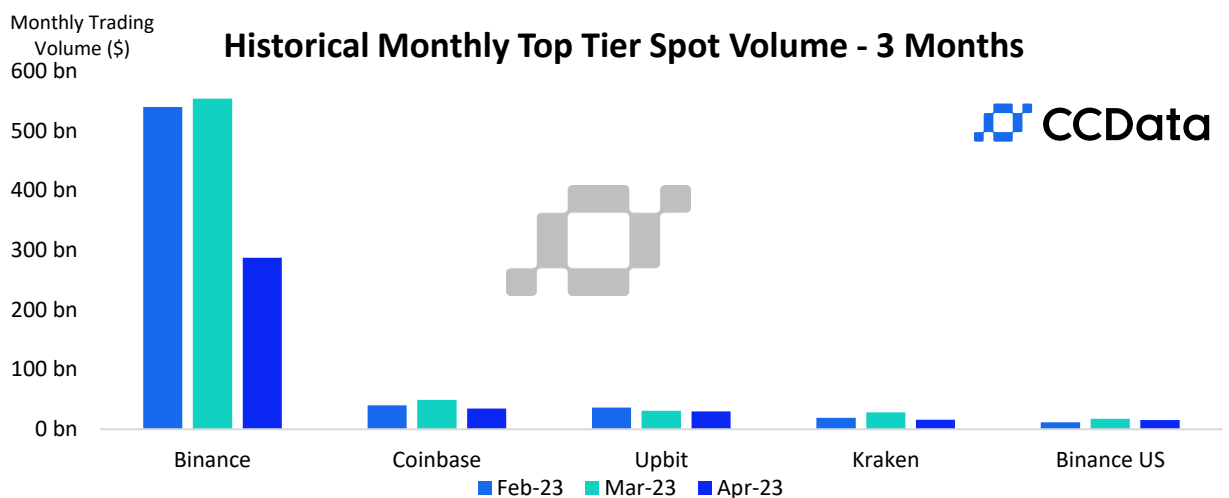
Only 3 decentralised exchanges met the threshold for top tier exchanges in this iteration compared to 16 in October 2022. Uniswap remained the only DEX with an A rating and dYdX secured the highest grade among decentralised derivatives exchanges, graded BB.

This edition of the benchmark also included the expansion of the product to cover centralised derivatives exchanges, with more nuanced assessment of risks associated with derivatives platforms. 8 derivatives exchanges met criteria for top tier exchanges, with Kraken, Bybit and Binance leading the group with an A rating.

Macro Analysis and Market Segmentation

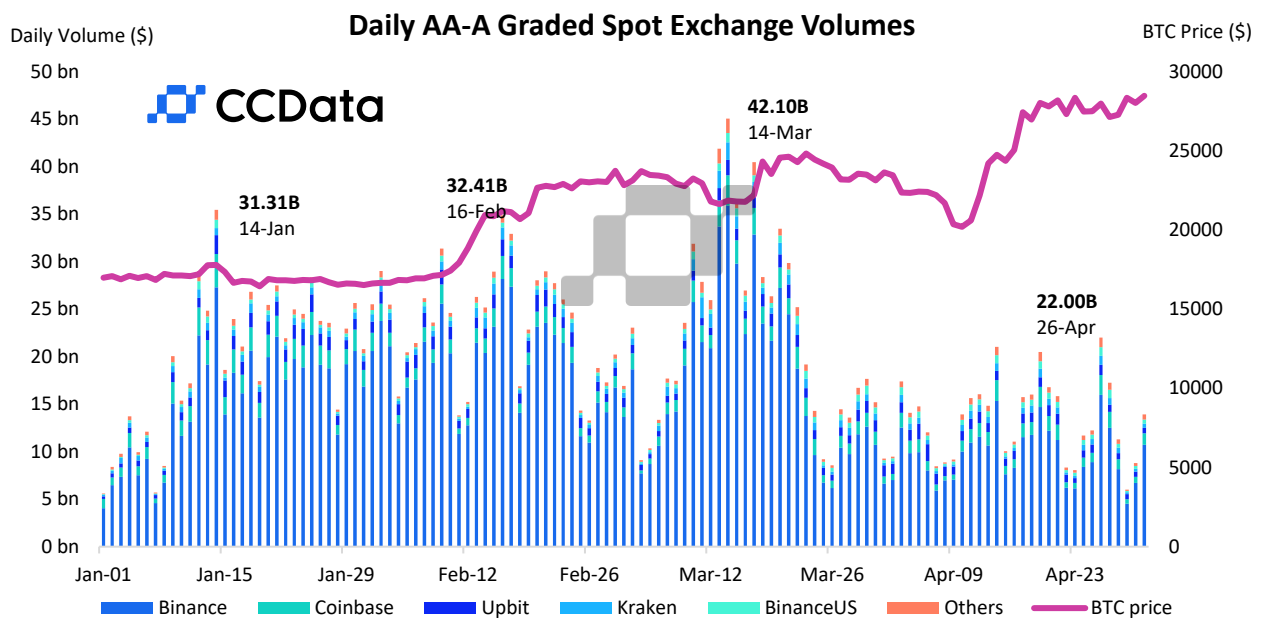


In April, spot volume from the 11 graded AA-A exchanges decreased by 43.3% compared to March, with aggregated spot volumes totalling \$397bn.



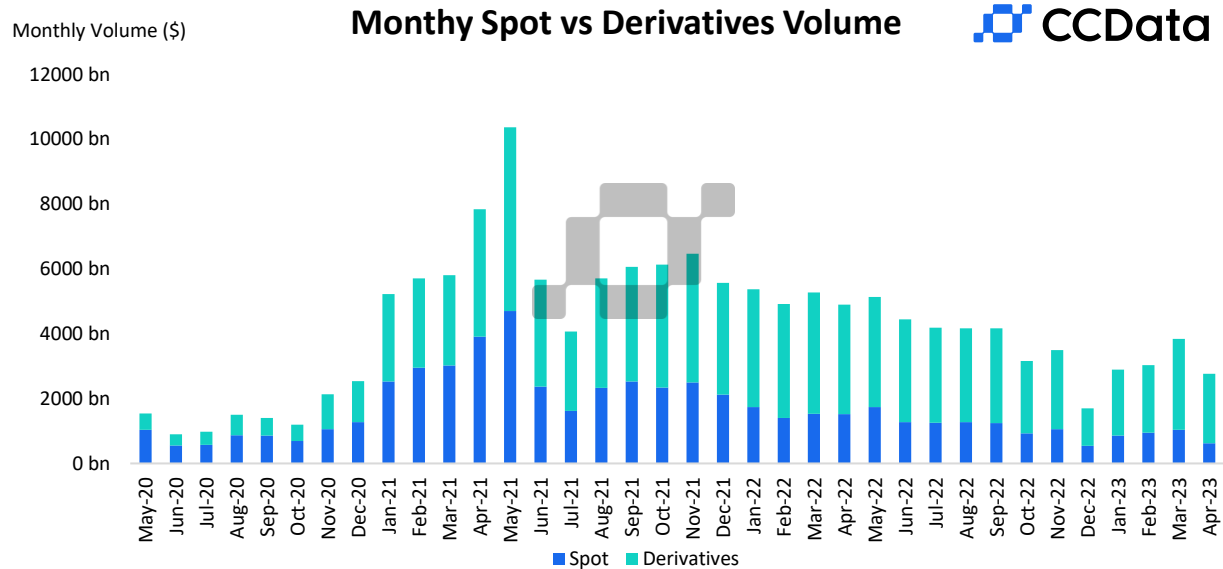
Considering individual exchanges, Binance (Grade A) was the largest Top-Tier spot exchange among AA-A graded exchanges, by volume in April, trading \$287bn (down 48.1%). This was followed by Coinbase (Grade A) trading \$34.8bn (down 29.5%) and Upbit (Grade A) trading \$29.6bn (down 4.72%).

Kraken (Grade A) and Binance US (Grade A) followed, trading \$15.9bn (down 43.4%) and \$15.1bn (down 14.4%) in monthly volumes, respectively.

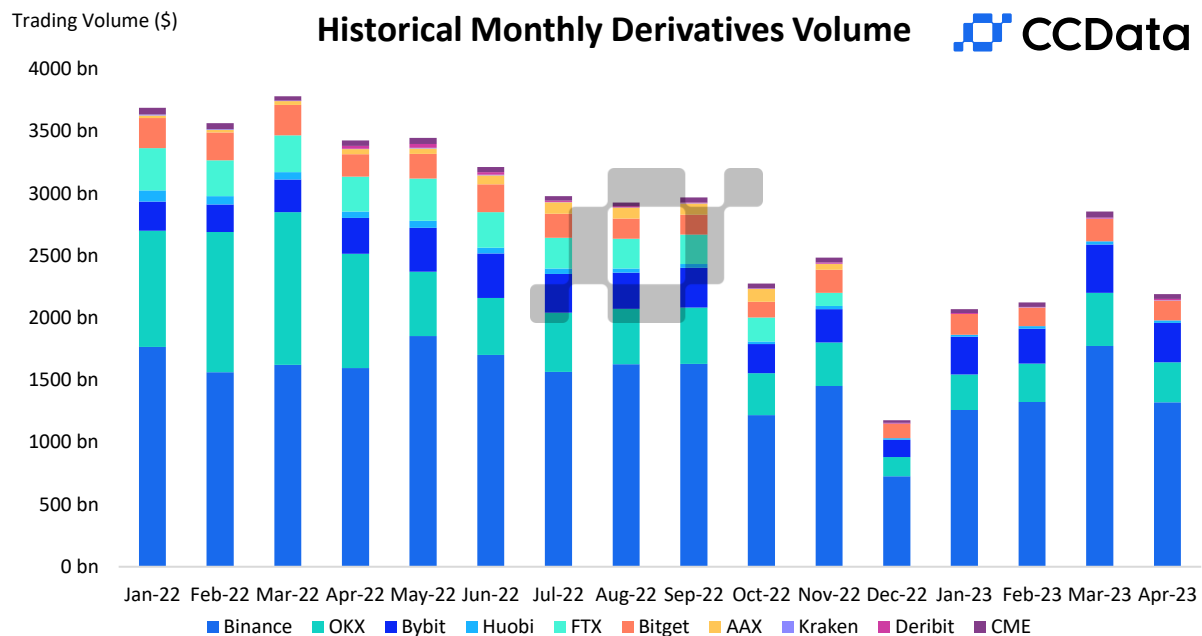


Binance, Coinbase, and Upbit were the top exchanges in terms of spot volume in April relative to other AA-A graded exchanges. Among the Top-Tier exchanges, they represented approximately 76.7% of total volume (vs 80.2% in March). The decline is largely due to the drop in Binance's market share, which fell to 46.3% from 53.3% (of the total spot market).

Derivatives



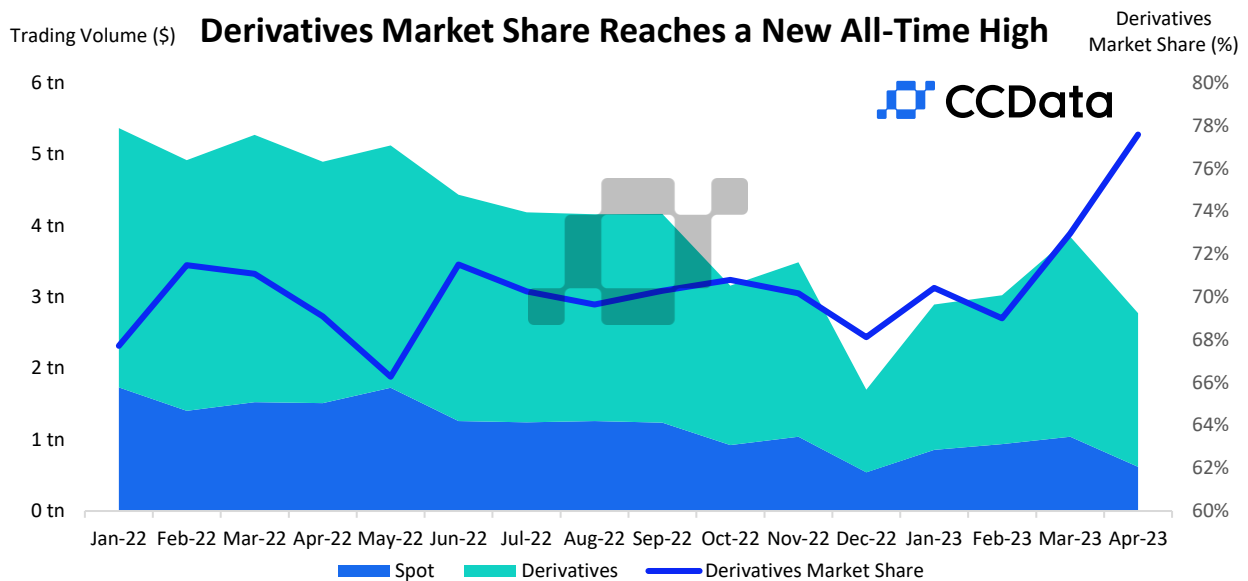
Derivatives volumes decreased by 23.3% in April to \$2.15tn. The derivatives market now represents 77.6% of the entire crypto market (vs 73.0% in March). This is an all-time high for the market share of derivatives, highlighting the increase in usage of leverage as traders speculate on the current uncertain macroeconomic conditions over the potential pause on rate hikes.



Among the top 8 derivatives exchanges, Binance leads with a market share of 61.4% (\$1.32tn) of total volumes in April. This was followed by OKX (15.0% market share, \$323bn) and Bybit (14.6% market share, \$315bn).

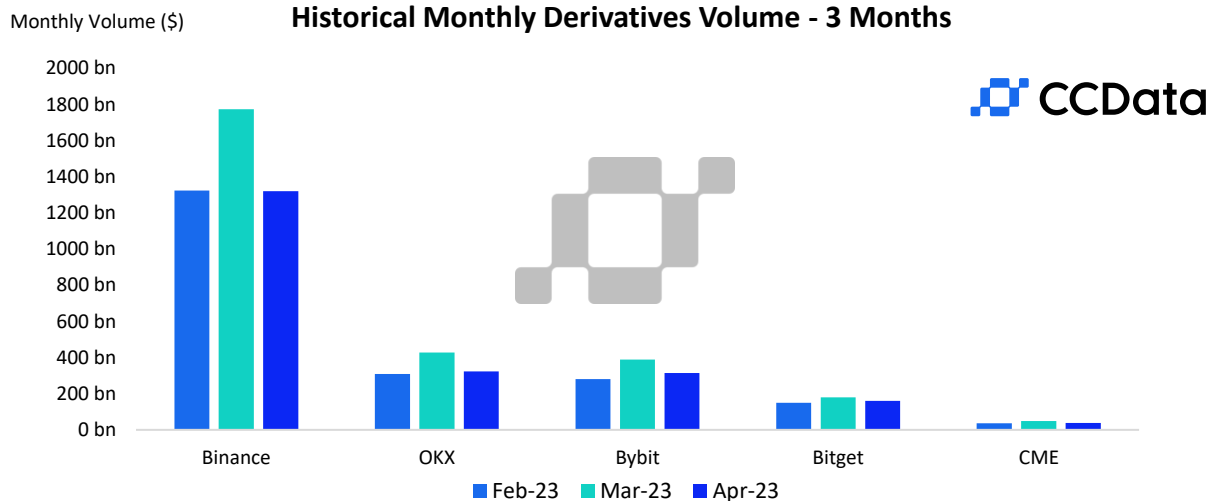
Derivatives Market Share Reaches New All-Time High

In April, derivatives trading volume on centralised exchanges fell 23.3% to \$2.15tn, while the spot trading volume fell 40.2% to \$621bn as major crypto assets traded largely rebound after failing to break key resistance levels. The market share of derivatives trading increased for the second consecutive month, reaching an all-time high of 77.6%, highlighting the speculative nature of the market amid uncertainties around the possibility of pause on the rate hikes by the Federal Reserve.



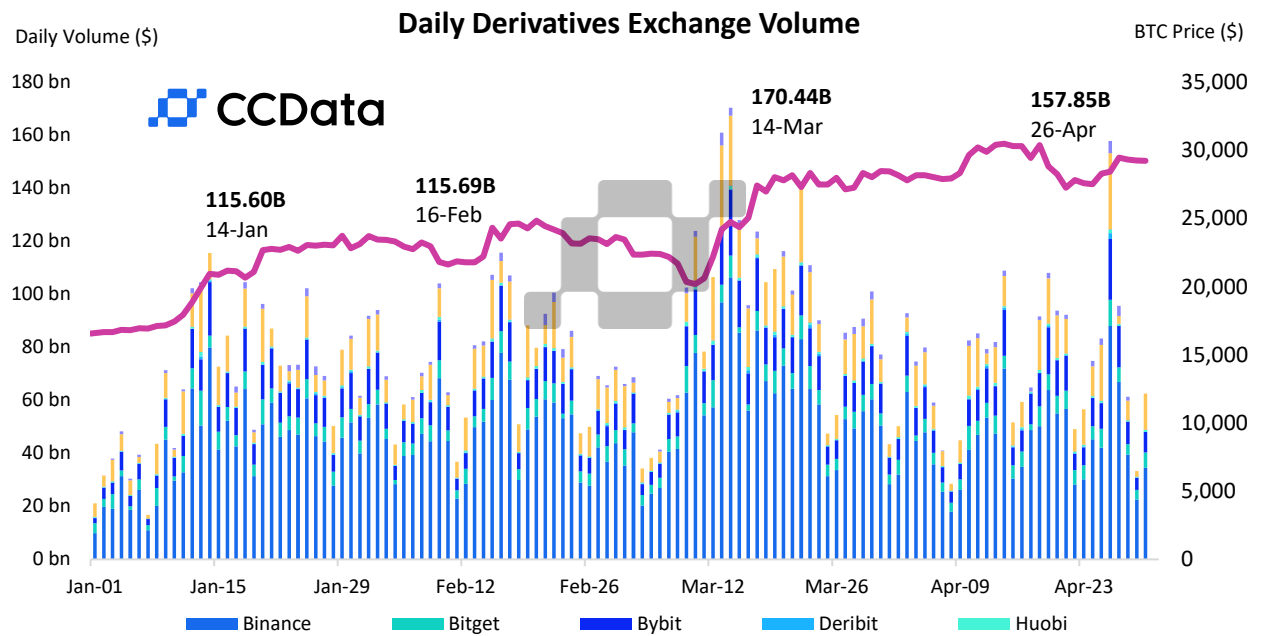
Binance remains the largest derivatives trading platform, trading \$1.32tn and accounting for 61.4% of the market share. OKX and Bybit followed in second and third place, with a market share of 15.0% and 14.6%. Coinbase and Gemini also announced their respective derivatives platform in May, which is likely to further increase the market share of digital asset derivatives markets.

Historical Monthly Derivatives Volume - 3 Months



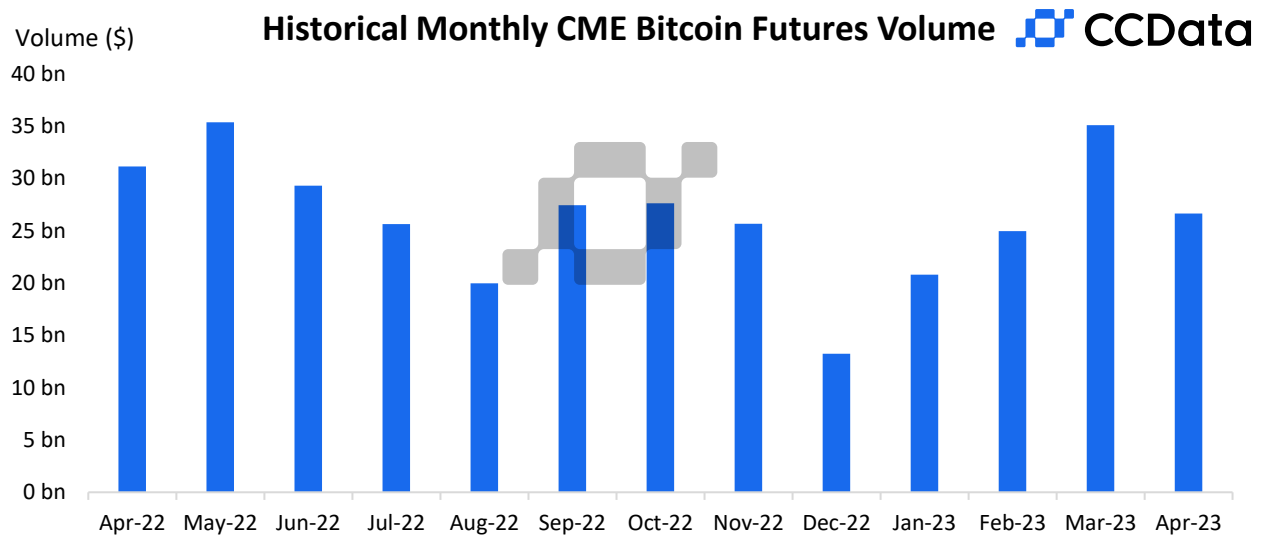
Binance was the largest derivatives exchange in April by monthly volume, trading \$1.32tn (down 25.5% compared to March), followed by OKX (\$323bn, down 24.5%) and Bybit (\$315bn, down 19.0%). Bybit

and OKX continue to battle for second place, with the latter reclaiming its second position for the third month in a row.

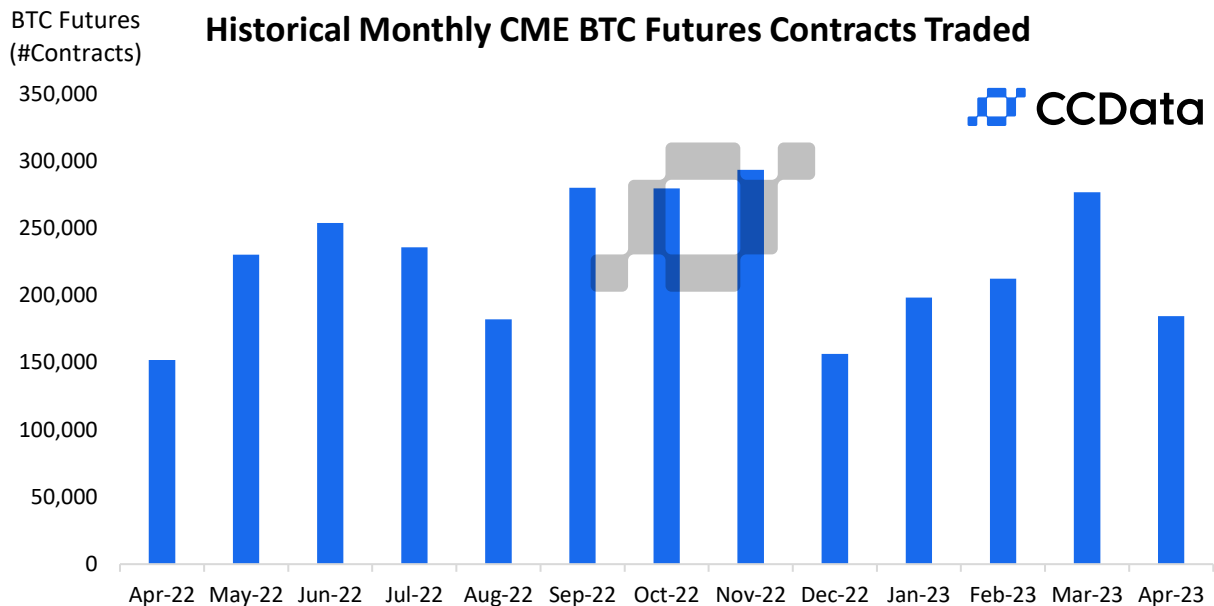


Derivatives exchanges traded a daily maximum of \$158bn on the 26th of April, a 7.39% decrease from March's intra-month high of \$170bn.

CME Institutional Volume

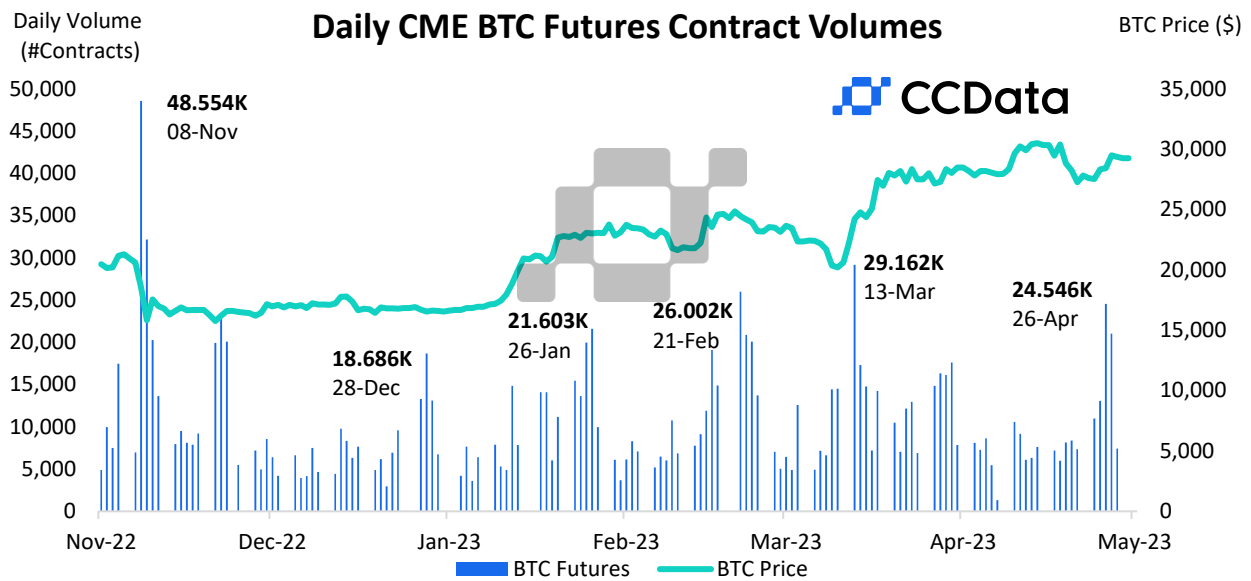


In April, CME's BTC Futures volume fell 24.0% to \$26.7bn, while CME's BTC Micro Futures traded \$702mn in monthly volume, up 0.72% from the month prior. This is the first decline in four months for the BTC futures volume traded in CME.

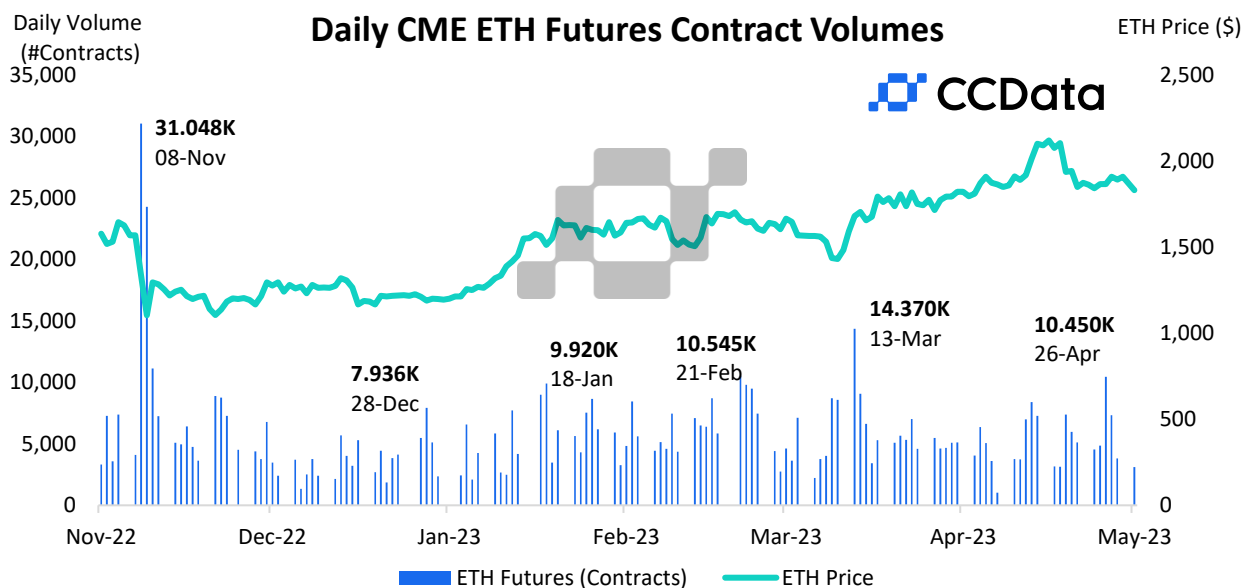


184,551 BTC futures contracts were traded in April, down 33.3% since March. This only includes CME's Bitcoin Futures, where the underlying asset is 5 Bitcoin. It excludes Bitcoin Micro Futures, where the underlying asset is 1/10th of a Bitcoin.

A total of 242,303 Bitcoin Micro Futures were traded in April, down 10.7% compared to March.

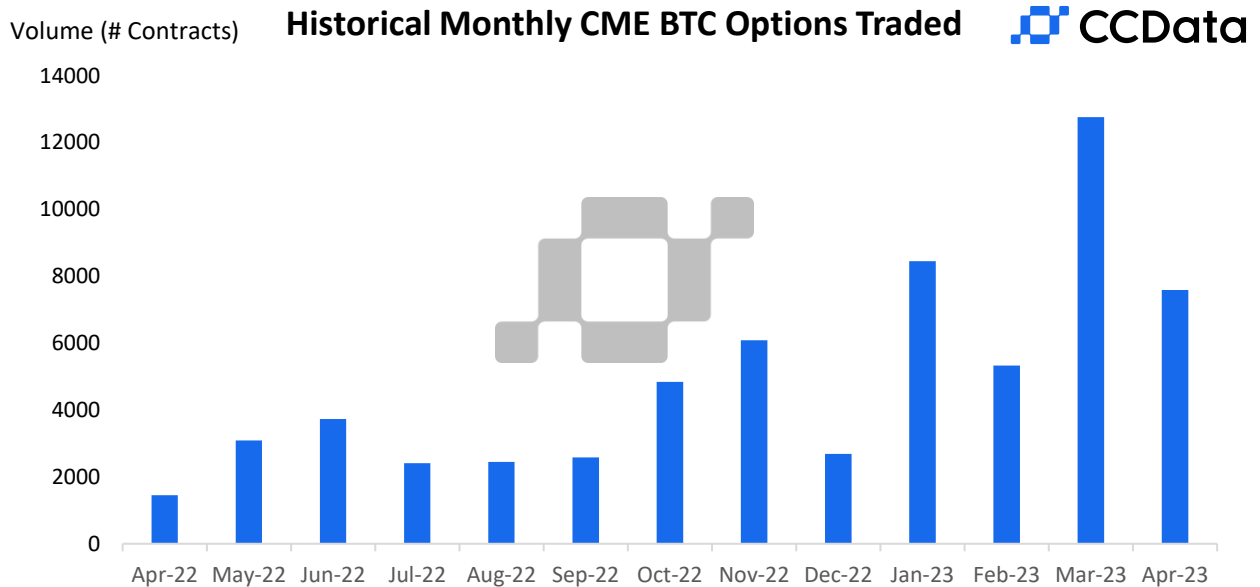


On April 26th, 24,546 BTC futures contracts and 10,450 ETH futures contracts were traded, a daily maximum for digital assets in April.

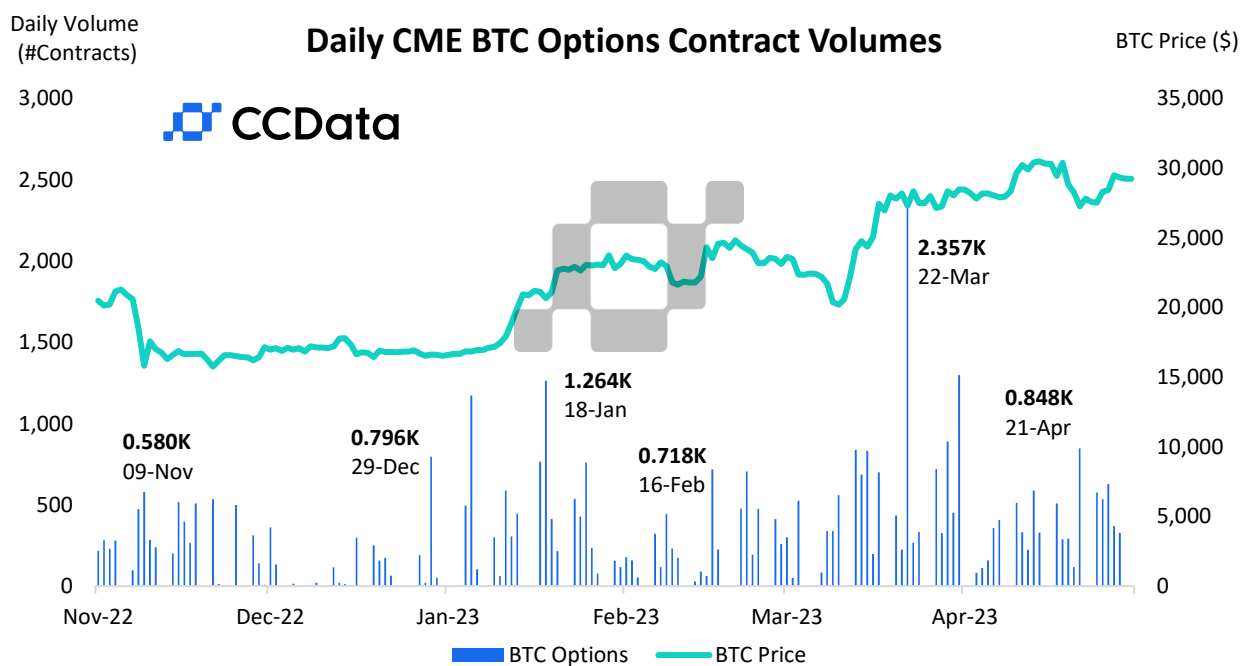


106,026 ETH futures contracts were traded in April, down 21.0% since March. This only includes CME's Ethereum Futures, where the underlying asset is 50 ETH. It excludes Ethereum Micro Futures, where the underlying asset is 1/10th of an Ether.

A total of 270,097 Ethereum Micro Futures were traded in April, up 35.7% compared to March.



CME's BTC options contracts fell 40.5% in April to 7,592 contracts traded, after recording the highest number of BTC contracts traded on the exchange last month. An aggregate volume of \$1.10bn was traded in BTC options on the exchange in April.

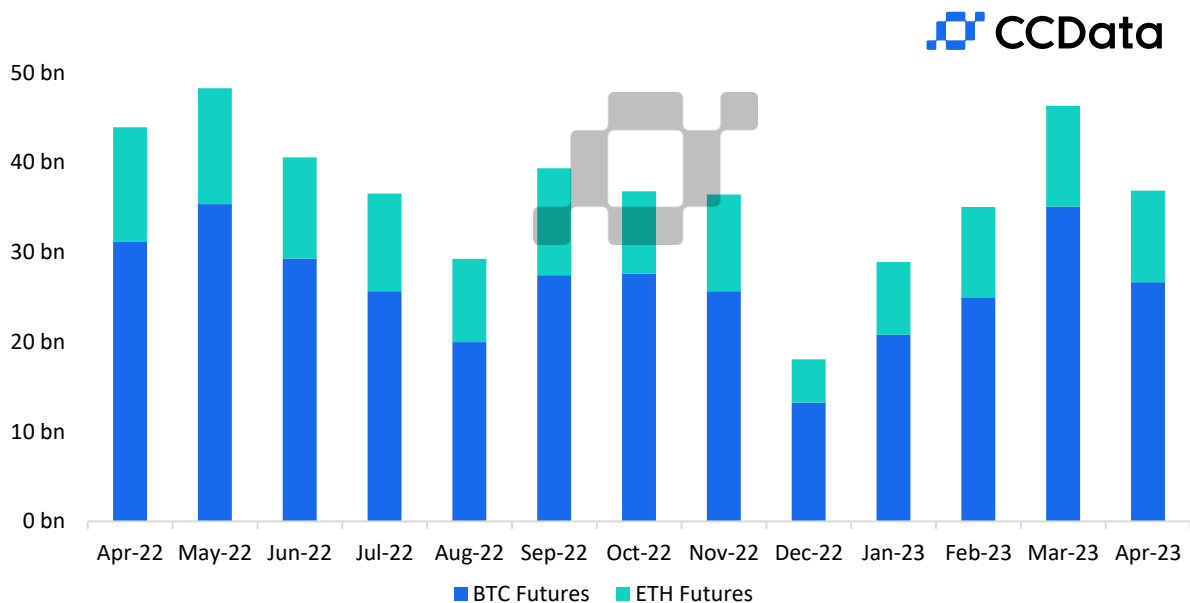


BTC options contract volumes reached a daily maximum of 848 contracts traded on the 21st of April, down 64.0% from the intra-month high in March.

Regarding total USD trading volume, CME's ETH futures reached \$10.2bn in April (down 9.13% since March), recording the first decline in four months. Meanwhile, CME's BTC futures volumes fell 24.0% to \$26.7bn. On aggregate ETH + BTC futures volumes fell 20.4% to \$36.9bn. This does not include Micro Futures.

Monthly Trading
Volumes (\$)
60 bn

Historical Monthly CME Futures Volumes (\$)

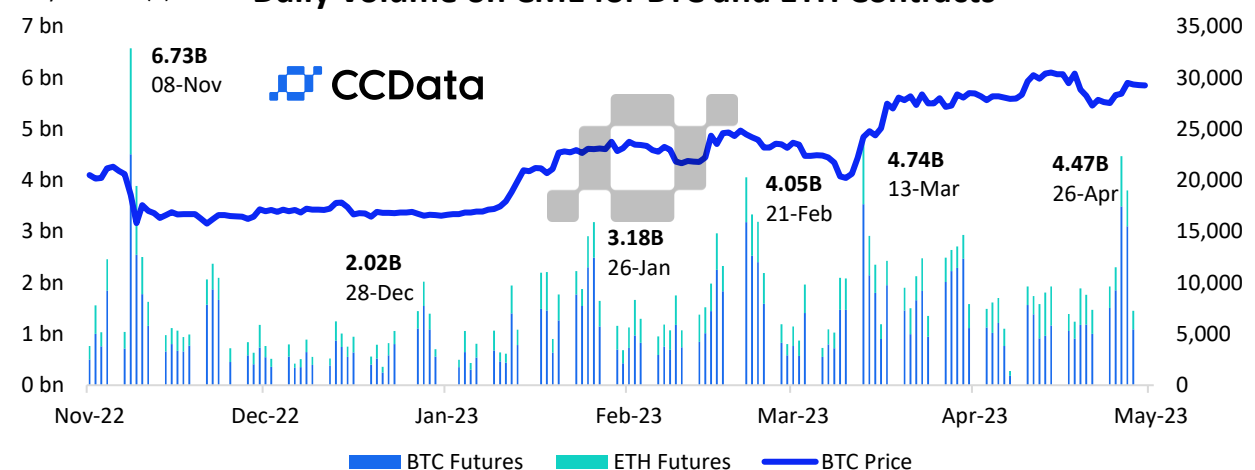


A combined volume of \$4.47bn in BTC and ETH futures was traded on the 26th of April – a maximum for the month, down 5.74% from the intra-month high in March.

Daily Volume (\$)

Daily Volume on CME for BTC and ETH Contracts

BTC Price (\$)



Conclusion: In April, the combined trading volume of spots and derivatives on centralised exchanges fell 27.9% to \$2.77tn as the price of Bitcoin and Ethereum stayed largely range-bound after struggling to break key resistance levels. This was the first decline in trading volumes this year, recording the lowest trading activity on centralised exchanges since December 2022.

Access More of Our Research and Insights

As the digital asset markets continue to grow, so does the need for high-quality research that brings greater clarity and transparency to this rapidly evolving industry. CCData's suite of research reports provides market participants with trusted, high-quality data and analysis.

Recurring Reports:

Report	Description
Exchange Review	Captures key developments within the cryptocurrency exchange market — providing readers with an in-depth analysis of exchange volumes, trading activity, and derivatives open interest.
Digital Asset Management Review	Tracks and provides analysis of the most innovative institutional products in the industry, assessing volumes, assets under management (AUM), and product flow trends.
Exchange Benchmark	Brings clarity to the crypto asset exchange sector. Two years on, it has become the industry standard for assessing and evaluating cryptocurrency exchanges, with the methodology and rankings now being utilised to help create financial products and indices.
Asset Report	Provides professionals in the financial services space, particularly the investment management industry, with a summarised analysis of the latest movements in five of the largest cryptocurrencies.
Market Outlooks	A quarterly report that identifies the most important developments of the last quarter, which may thereafter set the tone for key trends to look out for in the following months. This includes references to the macroeconomic environment, DeFi, NFTs, stablecoins, and more.
Stablecoins and CBDCs	Captures the key developments within the stablecoins and CBDCs sector — providing analysis relating to the market capitalization and trading volume of stablecoins, segmented by their type based on collateral.

Topic Deep Dives:

Report	Description
Centralised Exchange Retrospective	Created in collaboration with Bybit — it includes a retrospective analysis of the centralised exchange landscape and the key trends to look out for this year following the collapse of FTX in November 2022.
UST's Fall From Grace	Summarises the depegging of UST and the subsequent debacle of LUNA and the Terra ecosystem, including analysis of the ripple effects of the event and where it situates the digital asset industry.