

What's Hot: Is the U.S. building a crypto reserve?

Published 10 March 2025

Dovile Silenskyte

Director, Digital Assets Research

Key Takeaways

- President Donald Trump's executive order recognizing bitcoin as a strategic reserve asset signals a major shift in U.S. policy toward digital assets.
- With over 200,000 bitcoins in government holdings, the U.S. is positioning itself as a key player in the crypto space, potentially reshaping global financial markets.
- A formal bitcoin reserve would require congressional approval, regulatory coordination, and secure custody frameworks, making full adoption a long-term process.
- Related Products [WisdomTree Physical Bitcoin](#) Find out more

The United States (U.S.) is no longer just a bitcoin holder – it may be laying the groundwork for a national crypto reserve. Is this the moment bitcoin goes fully mainstream?

Strategic bitcoin accumulation?

Recent estimates suggest that the U.S. government is sitting on 200,000+ bitcoins – over \$13 billion worth – mostly seized from criminal operators such as the Silk Road¹. That stash makes Uncle Sam one of the largest bitcoin holders in the world. But here is the real question: what is the endgame?

Historically, seized bitcoin was auctioned off at deep discounts, flooding the market with sell pressure. This time, however, President Donald Trump's latest executive order has put a halt to rapid liquidations, signalling a strategic shift. Instead of fire sales, the U.S. government is deliberately holding onto its bitcoin, driving speculation about a potential long-term reserve strategy.

Is this merely a temporary pause, or the first step toward establishing a full-fledged crypto reserve? While the executive order marks a clear change in approach, formally integrating bitcoin into the U.S. financial system would demand congressional approval, regulatory coordination, and a robust custody framework. The path forward is not just about policy – it is about power.

Digital gold for digital age

Crypto is not just a speculative asset anymore – it is a strategic economic lever in global power dynamics. With the U.S. dollar facing growing pressure from alternative currencies and central bank digital currencies (CBDCs), bitcoin's appeal as a neutral, hard asset is undeniable.

Unlike traditional assets, bitcoin cannot be printed, seized by sanctions, or easily manipulated. If the U.S. sees what other nations are beginning to recognise – that bitcoin is the 21st century version of gold – it may rethink its role as a long-term reserve asset.

Figure 1: Countries already own over 2% of the bitcoin total supply

Source: *BitcoinTreasuries.net* 05 March 2025.

The conversation around crypto is no longer confined to industry circles. President Donald Trump recently issued an executive order officially recognising bitcoin as a strategic reserve asset, marking a significant policy shift. This move has sparked widespread discussion about the future role of digital assets in national reserves.

Further reinforcing this shift, the White House is set to host a Crypto Summit on March 7, where top policymakers and industry leaders will discuss digital assets. While details are scarce, this could be the first step toward formal integration of crypto into U.S. financial policy.

Meanwhile, the Federal Reserve has remained largely silent, leaving questions about its stance on bitcoin's role in national monetary policy. Will the central bank embrace digital assets, or will it resist this historic shift?

What would it take to make it official?

Turning bitcoin into a recognised U.S. reserve asset is not just a simple executive order. It would require:

- **Congressional approval** to classify bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies as strategic reserves.
- **Regulatory coordination** between the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), Federal Reserve, and Treasury.
- **A secure custody framework** to manage holdings without risking security breaches or market instability.
- **A phased rollout** – starting with bitcoin before expanding to other cryptocurrencies or beginning with small holdings before gradually increasing them.

This would not happen overnight. A realistic timeline? Years, not months. Expect feasibility studies, pilot programs, and intense political battles before crypto earns a seat next to gold in the U.S. balance sheet.

Market shockwaves

If the U.S. openly adopts bitcoin as a reserve asset, expect seismic shifts in global markets:

- **Sovereign bitcoin FOMO2** – other nations would likely follow suit, sparking a global race to accumulate bitcoin.
- **Institutional confidence surge** – a U.S. endorsement would cement bitcoin's status as digital gold, driving massive institutional inflows.
- **Reduced sell pressure** – unlike past cycles of seized bitcoin dumps, retention would tighten supply and bolster price stability.

If this trend accelerates, we could be looking at a fundamental shift in the financial system – one where bitcoin plays a central role in sovereign wealth strategies. The question is not if, but when and how fast governments will adapt to this new reality.

The bottom line

With the world's largest economy holding one of the biggest bitcoin reserves, the question is not just about policy – it is about power. Will this be the turning point where bitcoin cements itself as the next global reserve currency?

1 US Government Bitcoin Holdings, Bitcoin Treasuries by BitBO (<https://treasuries.bitbo.io/usa/>)

2 FOMO = fear of missing out.

Important Risks Related to this Article

Important Information

Marketing communications issued in the European Economic Area (“EEA”): This document has been issued and approved by WisdomTree Ireland Limited, which is authorised and regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.

Marketing communications issued in jurisdictions outside of the EEA: This document has been issued and approved by WisdomTree UK Limited, which is authorised and regulated by the United Kingdom Financial Conduct Authority.

WisdomTree Ireland Limited and WisdomTree UK Limited are each referred to as “WisdomTree” (as applicable). Our Conflicts of Interest Policy and Inventory are available on request.

For professional clients only. The information contained in this document is for your general information only and is neither an offer for sale nor a solicitation of an offer to buy securities or shares. This document should not be used as the basis for any investment decision. Investments may go up or down in value and you may lose some or all of the amount invested. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Any decision to invest should be based on the information contained in the appropriate prospectus and after seeking independent investment, tax and legal advice.

The application of regulations and tax laws can often lead to a number of different interpretations. Any views or opinions expressed in this communication represent the views of WisdomTree and should not be construed as regulatory, tax or legal advice. WisdomTree makes no warranty or representation as to the accuracy of any of the views or opinions expressed in this communication. Any decision to invest should be based on the information contained in the appropriate prospectus and after seeking independent investment, tax and legal advice.

This document is not, and under no circumstances is to be construed as, an advertisement or any other step in furtherance of a public offering of shares or securities in the United States or any province or territory thereof. Neither this document nor any copy hereof should be taken, transmitted or distributed (directly or indirectly) into the United States.

Although WisdomTree endeavours to ensure the accuracy of the content in this document, WisdomTree does not warrant or guarantee its accuracy or correctness. Where WisdomTree has expressed its own opinions related to product or market activity, these views may change. Neither WisdomTree, nor any affiliate, nor any of their respective officers, directors, partners, or employees accepts any liability whatsoever for any direct or consequential loss arising from any use of this document or its contents.