

March 2024 Investor Update

ProChain Capital increased in value **+13.27%** in March. **Year-to-date**, ProChain has gained **+46.06%**.

ProChain in the News

You can hear David Tawil (@DavidDTawil) on **X** (**Twitter**) daily at **8am ET**. He is the co-host of **#FinanceDaily**, the most listened-to live daily finance program on **X**.

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ProChain in the News

Market's 1Q performance was 'incredible'; Fox Business News, Mar 28

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1. Adoption

Investment.

- Some of the most significant crypto news continues to relate to **Bitcoin** and the related **ETFs**.
 - Japan's national pension fund (GPIF), the largest pension fund in the world (\$1.4T), is evaluating the diversification dynamic of investment in Bitcoin.
 - The Arizona State Senate is <u>considering including Bitcoin ETFs into the retirement</u> <u>portfolios</u> of the Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) and the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS), which service approximately 700,000 active members.
 - BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager and the sponsor of the world's largest Bitcoin ETF (IBIT), may purchase Bitcoin ETFs in its Global Allocation Fund (MALOX; \$17B AUM).
 - The 10 U.S. Bitcoin ETFs, which currently own 4% of the total Bitcoin supply are expected to continue to grow and hold >10% by 3Q24.
 - Some are expecting up to \$220B of inflows over 3 years (currently, holding ~\$50B).
 - In mid-March, Bitcoin surpassed Silver as the worlds' 8th most valuable asset.

- The ETFs have experienced substantial net inflows overall <u>but have experienced</u> days of outflows.
 - ProChain- We are encouraged by the few days of outflows, which are
 evidence of a healthy growth pattern and provide a better base of
 constant holdings. A streak of constant in-flows would be unsustainable
 and would lead to concern of swift capital flight in a down-market.
- JPMorgan's CEO Jamie Dimon has stated that he will never buy Bitcoin, though JPMorgan will support other's right to buy.
- With regard to broader retail investment in Bitcoin ETFs and overall investment allocation to Bitcoin, the opinions are diverse.
 - According to Bitwise, investors generally are <u>targeting a 3% allocation to</u> Bitcoin.
 - **JPMorgan** believes that Bitcoin allocation will never reach the level of the allocation to gold.
 - Traditional financial advisors (RIAs) are still evaluating Bitcoin ETFs, and to-date, retail investment in Bitcoin ETFs has largely been by direct participation.
- The SEC has delayed a decision on approval of Bitcoin ETF options.
- **Ethereum**'s most recent software upgrade (**Dencun**) has been <u>implemented successfully</u>. The update is aimed toward lowering transaction costs and raising efficiency of the network.
- Although <u>efforts toward a **Ether ETF** continue</u>, including expanding the ETFs mandate to <u>include</u> staking of assets, it is seemingly less likely that the SEC will approve the ETF in the near-term.
- Multi-strategy hedge fund, GoldenTree Asset Management, has sold its cryptocurrency subsidiary, effectively exiting the asset-class.

Currency and Use.

- BlackRock has <u>created and launched a tokenized money-market fund</u> (BUIDL) utilizing the
 Ethereum blockchain, and has already amassed <u>\$245 million under management</u> (within one
 week of launch).
 - ProChain- This is a MAJOR breakthrough. BlackRock's initiative recognizes an important use-case for Ethereum, a public blockchain. Clearly, the effort, if successful, could lead to additional tokenization of financial assets. Moreover, the effort validates the value proposition of tokenization; cryptocurrencies are a cheaper and safer way to do business.
- Similarly, HSBC has tokenized investments in Gold for investors in Hong Kong.
- <u>Stablecoin flows are continuing unabated</u>, evidencing continued cryptocurrency investment inflows, despite recent crypto price pullbacks.

2. Regulation and Legal

- U.S. regulators are explicitly at-war over the status of **Ether**, with the **CFTC** maintaining that <u>ETH</u> is a commodity and the **SEC** refusing to say that ETH is not a security.
- The **SEC**'s war with **Coinbase** (**COIN**) is ongoing and widening.
- Custodia Bank, the Wyoming-based upstart crypto bank, <u>lost its argument in federal court</u> that
 the Federal Reserve inappropriately rejected its application for a Fed master account and Fed
 membership.

3. Public Companies

• Similar to the efforts of BlackRock and HSBC, **Mastercard (MA)** is working with **MetaMask** on a <u>cryptocurrency-supported and blockchain-powered payment card</u>. The card will allow users to spend their cryptocurrency everywhere credit cards are accepted.



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