

# ICO bench

## Digest of the Year 2018

As of Christmas of 25th, 2017 the total market cap was \$540 billion that turned out to \$138.6 billion by the Christmas, 2018. That was the sharpest surge during the year that affected the crypto investors around the world. It's safe to say that 2018 was the exact opposite of 2017 as far as the year-over-year cryptocurrency market price changes.

On Dec. 31, 2017, the top ten market capitalizations and the prices of each coin were vastly different than today. The top three coins had considerably more fiat value at the time with bitcoin core (BTC) trading for \$13,170 per coin, ripple (XRP) for \$2.12 and Ethereum (ETH) for \$721.

### Total Market Capitalization



Beginning the crypto rally in 2017, the Bitcoin reached significant price of \$16k by the Christmas 2017. However, through the year it declines almost in four times to the \$3,8K by the Christmas 2018. Regretfully, all the valuable forecasts given through the year weren't proved. Obviously, market cap was reduced from \$270 billion to \$66,5 billion.

### Bitcoin Charts



## Monthly tracker of Crypto news throughout the year

### January

- **The crisis of Bitcoin and cryptocurrencies was born** at the first month of the calendar year, after BTC was over \$15k per BTC.
- **The cumulative market cap of all cryptocurrencies was around \$500 billion.**
- The US state of Illinois has confirmed that they intend to create an environment conducive to crypto innovation, as the rest of the US remains ambiguous over the industry
- The infamous bitcoin lending platform BitConnect received an emergency cease and desist order issued by the Texas Securities Commissioner. The controversial platform had a 4.1 billion USD market cap and was shrouded in mystery.

### February

- **On 15th February 2018, Telegram ICO raised the enormous \$1,7 billion.**
- **Facebook Issues Ban on cryptocurrency ads** following consistent complaints of fraudulent ICOs being advertised on the social media platform.
- **The Chinese government recently blocked** websites that deal with cryptocurrency transactions. Even initial coin offerings (ICOs) are blacklisted, whether it's local or foreign. the reason behind this is to prevent financial risk.
- **Italian Crypto Exchange Loses \$195M** to Hackers. The founder of BitGrail discovered that 17 million Nano coins have been stolen, presumably by hackers

### March

- **Cryptocurrency Market Takes a Dip of More than \$60B.** The Bitcoin dump from a former Mt.Gox trustee, Google's new advertisement policy regarding cryptocurrency related ads, and the recent increased government scrutiny in the area all contribute to the market's recent dip
- **Bitcoin price drops below \$10k due** to binance phishing hacks. Binance automatically spotted this activity and immediately suspended all withdrawals
- **Bithumb rolls out app for offline purchases.** The new service is run in partnership with Korea Pay Services.
- Switzerland to offer new real estate backed crypto coin. SwissRealCoin has been announced as the world's first Real Estate backed stablecoin.
- The Venezuela has introduced its own cryptocurrency. The country is backing the cryptocurrency with oil: one Petro = one barrel. The crypto launch was hailed as a great success with the ICO reportedly raising \$735 million on the opening day.
- Crypto bans bring lawsuits to Google, Facebook and Twitter.

### April

- **Google bans chrome crypto mining extensions.** Google confirmed its plan to ban all cryptocurrency mining browser extensions in its Chrome browser.
- **Three new cryptocurrency bills approved by Malta's Cabinet**

## May

- **TRON (TRX) has shown a whopping 53% surge** in price over making its way to the top 10 biggest cryptocurrencies in terms of market cap.
- **First App for tracking crypto prices finally** released by Coinmarketcap.
- **Telegram's canceled ICO has become a billion-dollar mess**, especially since early backers have already cashed in, selling their GRAM tokens for significant returns.
- **Former Head of Visa UK joins cryptocurrency startup**- Marc O'Brian is appointed as CEO of Crypterium.
- **New York Consensus 2018**, a three-day conference which features talks and exhibitions on everything cryptocurrency, Bitcoin, and the underlying blockchain, was this year the biggest yet -- and the first since last Bitcoin's price explosion that saw Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies skyrocket in price.
- **Coinbase claims that its worth \$8 billion**
- Pavel Nyashin, a well-known youtube blogger, and Russian cryptocurrency investor was recently found dead in his apartment in St. Petersburg.
- Upbit, Korea's most prominent cryptocurrency exchange, was raided by the financial investigation team from Seoul Southern District.
- A partnership between Bloomberg and Galaxy Digital Capital Management LP has been announced.
- Crypto Startup Circle (raised \$110 million) launches USD-backed cryptocurrency.
- Steve Wozniak Believes Ethereum Could Be the Next Apple.
- Banco Masventas in Argentina decided to use Bitcoin for cross-border money transfers, as a way to replace the highly popular SWIFT payment system.

## June

- **Bitcoin slumped to its lowest in two months** after news of South Korean crypto exchange Coinrail's hack. The coin reached \$6,647.33, its lowest in two months.
- **The price of popular cryptocurrency Bitcoin had dropped** to its lowest value this year so far. And experts believe that the price of cryptocurrency just might go even lower.
- **EOS ICO raised record \$4.2 billion**
- **Iota releases beta version** of Trinity Mobile Wallet to see 30% price surge in 48 hours.
- **One of the world's largest crypto exchanges, Bitfinex, was hacked.** The company announced an 'unplanned maintenance' before revealing it underwent a DDoS attack once again.
- **A \$75 million ICO scam was unearthed in Mumbai**, India which duped investors in the name of Money Trade Coin (MTC), a new cryptocurrency.
- **Apple announced a ban on cryptocurrency mining** on its Mac and iOS devices.
- **Bithumb Loses \$30 million after South Korean exchange is hacked.**
- Tron's Mainnet went live but no one seemed to care.
- BitTorrent being bought for \$140 million in cash by Tron [TRX].
- Bittrex announced FIAT pairing to be available for its customer after striking a deal with Signature Bank.
- 51% Hacks Imminent for Most Cryptocurrencies.
- Polish Authorities deny a legal ban on cryptocurrency trading.
- Coinbase adds Ethereum Classic
- US retail bigwig Walmart patents a new electrical grid powered by Bitcoin that could be used for better management of energy consumption.
- First-ever Bitcoin ATM in European airport lands in Amsterdam.

## July

- Although Bitcoin is experiencing a bearish market, **Bitcoin hit a weekly all-time high of \$6437.77** despite falling to \$5,838.80. Bitcoin has remained fairly stable at the \$6,300 mark since. With extremely volatile price swings BitMEX's CEO is quite confident that Bitcoin could reach all-time highs of \$50,000 by the end of the year.
- **EOS Network is living up to the hype.** The network surpassed Ethereum's transaction volume capacity per second for the first time. In the past, it was criticized for its centralized blockchain governance model. Some also termed EOS as an Ethereum killer.
- **Tezos ICO, supported by US hedge funds, has raised \$232 million.**
- **The Financial Services Commission of South Korea has unveiled its new cryptocurrency regulations and guidelines.** These new guidelines are related to KYC and AML requirements to be followed by the crypto exchanges in the country.
- **TaTaTu**, a first-of-its-kind blockchain-based social entertainment platform led by Italian-Canadian entrepreneur and filmmaker Andrea Iervolino, has announced what it calls the "largest cryptocurrency giveaway" till date. TaTaTu has raised \$575 million.
- **Malta positions itself as 'world's blockchain island'** after passing world's first DLT law.
- **OKEx and Malta stock exchange** to launch a security token trading platform.
- Israeli Crypto Platform **Bancor loses \$23.5 million** worth of tokens in security breach.
- **Line, a Japanese messaging app**, will launch its own crypto exchange in July. The new exchange is called BitBox, and it will support Bitcoin, Bitcoin Cash, Ethereum, and Litecoin.
- **Andreessen Horowitz** is launching a \$300 million fund to invest in cryptocurrency tokens and protocols.
- **Pornhub will now accept** Tron [TRX] and ZenCash [ZEN] .
- Tron & Ripple among top altcoins trending on Google's search index last month.
- Coinbase officially launched on July 2nd its custody service, in partnership with an SEC-regulated broker-dealer. The service is currently available for institutional investors in the US and Europe and will expand to Asia by year-end.
- Turkish "National" Coin Turcoin defrauds millions of people. The founders of Hipper, the company behind the Turkish "national" coin Turcoin were arrested. They have allegedly dumped over 10,000 investors of \$22 million since October 2017.
- A crypto phone by Sirin Labs will debut later this year that promises to deliver ultra-secure connections for cryptocurrency transactions.
- Binance, one of the largest cryptocurrency exchanges in the world by volume, is all set to burn 2.5 million tokens this quarter. The total value of the tokens is over \$32 million.
- OKEx, a Hong Kong based cryptocurrency exchange, has announced the addition of ADA tokens on its network. ADA is the native token of the Cardano blockchain.
- NEO Global Capital (NGC), the investment arm of the NEO platform, has just announced a large multimillion-dollar investment in the smart contract project Certik.
- Google starts Coinbase advertisements again, following Facebook's lead.
- Coinbase announces new 'e-gift Card' allowing users to spend cryptos with Nike, Tesco, Uber, and more.
- The operator of defunct Bitcoin-dominated unregulated exchange BitFunder Jon E. Montroll has pleaded guilty to charges of defrauding investors and obstruction of justice.
- Google has announced a new change in its Developer Policy for Android apps, which will now ban crypto-mining applications on the native Google Play Store.

## August

- **Most cryptocurrencies prices sunk this month below historic levels** (about \$200 billion down in total market cap), on concerns over regulatory updates, and due to the major selloffs that took place after a generalized bearish sentiment took over the cryptocurrencies market.
- **The official KuCoin account on Twitter was restricted** after someone wrote about their unsuccessful attempt at locating the KuCoin office in Hong Kong.
- **After luring big crypto firms such as Binance and OKEx** early this year, Malta scored big once more by convincing ZB.com to put up a crypto exchange in the island.
- **Kaspersky Labs has released a new report** that states that \$2.3 million was lost to cryptocurrency scams in the second quarter of 2018.
- **Pornhub's Tube8 has teamed up with Vice Industry Token** to enable users to earn VIT tokens for watching pornographic videos.
- **eToro Brings Bitcoin [BTC] to English Premier League** After Signing Sponsorship Deals With 7 Clubs.
- **Coinbase unveils Coinbase Wallet, Cryptocurrency Wallet and Browser.**
- **Bitcoin Core announces Hard Fork as success**, claiming BTCC is faster than Bitcoin Cash [BCH].
- Iran is pushing ahead with its plan of introducing its own national cryptocurrency. With this move, it will join the ranks of crypto-friendly countries as it also plans to legalize the use and mining of other cryptos.
- A new app called Bettergram designed for crypto investors improves the Telegram design by letting users pin up to 50 chats in their feed and provides tools for real-time in-app monitoring of crypto prices..
- A cryptocurrency investor is suing AT&T for \$224M because of negligence involved in the theft of \$24M of cryptocurrency.
- Playboy Enterprises has started a lawsuit against Global Blockchain Technologies at the Los Angeles County Superior Court for fraud and breach of contract of an agreement made in March.
- Binance Partners with Liechtenstein Cryptoassets Exchange (LCX), Launches Fiat-to-Crypto Exchange for Cryptocurrency Investors
- The bearish crypto market and the resulting decline in the mining industry are forcing NVIDIA to recalibrate its production strategy for mining-focused graphics cards and chips.
- John McAfee shared the news about the upcoming hard fork of Zclassic (ZCL). He said he was excited to have ZCL fork to ANON.
- Binance exchange announced the beta launch of Binance Academy, set to educate the cryptocurrency community on how to "exchange the world."
- Cybercriminals are now using fake celebrity endorsements to add a degree of legitimacy to the investments being offered. In addition, criminals are now using social media to expand their reach.
- Cryptocurrency trading platform , eToro has announced the addition of IOTA to its list of crypto assets, bringing the total number of coins available on the popular cryptocurrency trading platform to 12.
- Crypto influencer John McAfee has announced the launch of McAfee Market News, a website dedicated to providing quotes, charts, and news on over 1,800 crypto coins.
- Multimillion-dollar crypto hedge fund Pantera Capital is set to reach a \$175-million goal for its recent VC-style fund. The company claims it is now close to \$100 million.

## September

- **Bitcoin, which is currently trading at a \$7,200 range, had finally recovered** from last month's decline when the price of the world's largest cryptocurrency plunged 19% in just nine days. But a trader says that the best is yet to come and that the token still has potential to reach the \$10,000 mark again.
- **Bittrex, one of the largest crypto exchanges in the world, has invested in Malta-based blockchain company Palladium.** The exchange has bought a 10-percent stake in the blockchain company.
- **The Maltese Stock Exchange** recently signed a memorandum of understanding with cryptocurrency exchange Binance to start a new trading platform for trading digital assets.
- **LINE, the Tokyo-based messaging giant,** unveiled its first cryptocurrency token, LINK, and its blockchain network, LINK Chain. LINE Corporation intends to create a strong token economy via LINK and LINK Chain to foster win-win relationships between consumption and rewards.
- **The Gemini exchange,** which is operated by Winklevoss brothers Tyler and Cameron, has launched a new stablecoin pegged to the US dollar called the Gemini dollar.
- Tron Foundation burns 4.9 Billion ERC20 tokens
- Tezos Foundation announced the launch of its blockchain mainnet, soon after which the price of the token experienced an over nine-percent decline. The coin was also listed on Bitfinex.
- One of the world's largest crypto exchanges in the world, Binance, opens a new fiat-crypto exchange, the beta goes live in Singapore today.
- Crypto exchange Kraken announced the expansion of its over-the-counter trading services and claimed to offer competitive packages for large block trades.
- OKEx Announces "We Don't Fake Volume" but then removes the Blog Post.
- Cryptocurrency finance company Circle has recently introduced a US stable coin into several Asian cryptocurrency exchanges.

## October

- **Binance, the largest cryptocurrency exchange in the world, has invested \$2.5 million** in Australian start-up TravelbyBit, with the aim of launching crypto payments across airports globally.
- **The US District Court for the District of Massachusetts decided that the term "commodity"** from now on will include cryptocurrencies as well. This empowers the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to independently prosecute fraudsters in the crypto sphere.
- **Binance announced that Bytecoin (BCN), ChatCoin (CHAT), Iconomi (ICN), and Triggers (TRIG)** would be delisted from its platform. Following the announcement, all four cryptocurrencies have been significantly losing in value, and Binance's move has raised controversy in the community.
- Mike Novogratz, says Bitcoin won't cross \$9,000 by year-end
- Cryptocurrency exchange Bithumb has announced a new transaction fee payback program for overseas users who can earn up to 70 percent as refund benefits.
- A new stablecoin called Tiberius Coin was just launched this month. The token differs from other fiat-backed tokens such as Tether because it is backed by seven different metals.
- Gaming development suite creator Xsolla has rolled out two new digital currencies, MobileGo and GameCredits, for developers and gamers around the world. Binance, the largest cryptocurrency exchange in the world, has invested \$2.5 million in Australian start-up TravelbyBit, with the aim of launching crypto payments across airports globally.

## October

- Caspian, a digital asset management ecosystem, and B2C2, a high-liquidity market maker, have announced their partnership that will direct more institutional investors to high-liquidity OTC trading.
- Cryptocurrency exchange Poloniex made shocking announcements recently. It is removing margin trading and lending products for US customers and delisting three crypto assets from its platform.
- The world's largest cryptocurrency exchange by trading volume, Binance, has announced that it will be making key changes to its listing fee policy. Binance decides to donate 100% of listing fees.
- Manny Pacquiao will be promoting his own crypto – the PAC token – during the Blockchain Fair Asia event which runs October 11-12.
- Forbes 400 introduced two exciting developments in its recent top 400 wealthiest list. With a net worth of \$160B, Jeff Bezos firmly overtook Bill Gates, whose net worth is now at \$97B.
- Crypto exchange Gemini is partnering with institutional investing platform Omniex to facilitate high-performance trading for large investors.
- Binance announces \$17,000,000 BNB coin burn in Q5 Recap
- Government-backed venture capital firm Vertex Ventures recently invested in Binance to develop a fiat-to-crypto exchange in Singapore.
- Sydney block producer candidate GenerEOS recently did a comparative analysis of power consumption between Bitcoin, Ethereum and EOS protocols. EOS is 66,000 times more energy efficient than Bitcoin.

## November

- **The crypto markets continued to fall seeing a most significant drop** off throughout 2018, with the total market cap around \$115 billion.
- **Bitcoin suffers major losses** and is trading around \$3,800.
- **Bitcoin crashes 37% in November**, wiping \$70 billion off of the cryptocurrencies' market value.
- **GigaWatt ICO faced accusations of securities fraud** that resulted in the firm being hit with a lawsuit at the beginning of this year while their liabilities possibly extending to \$50 million.
- **The SEC's orders found that Mayweather and DJ Khaled** failed to disclose promotional payments from three ICO issuers, including \$100,000 from Centra Tech.
- **SEC Delays Decision on Bitcoin ETF**, sets Deadline for Late February
- Lykke crypto exchange teams up with Nxchange to develop Europe's first regulated tokenized securities exchange. They aim to create a fully regulated environment in the blockchain, on which users will trade securities with convenience.
- Wizards.One creates a Cryptokitties-styled Game on EOS Blockchain. The new game brings together CryptoWizards to CryptoKitties-style gameplay and a new scalable trading system.
- Tokyo police arrested a group of eight men in connection with a cryptocurrency scheme that conned approximately \$68 million from 6,000 people.
- The company's shares skyrocketed after it added 'Blockchain' to its name which led to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) issuing a subpoena.
- New York Woman who laundered money for ISIS using Bitcoin pleads guilty.
- EOS proves yet again that decentralization is not its priority.
- The SEC charges against two ICOs and promoting celebrities (Dj Khaled and Floyd Mayweather).
- Bitmain, Roger Ver, Kraken Sued for Alleged Bitcoin Cash Hard Fork Manipulation.

## December

- **Bitcoin continues to slump, falls by 10%** as prices dropped to \$3,790.96.
- **The recent fall of crypto prices** is taking its toll as blockchain and crypto businesses are laying off staff or even closing divisions to survive.
- **Christmas time that brings all green gifts to the crypto market.** It brought total market cap to the \$146.1 billion gained over \$40 billion compare to the previous week.
- **Chinese crypto giants Bitmain and Huobi** are planning to cut staff which comes amid this years cryptocurrency bear market.
- **Boaz Manor, the scammer** who ran the fraudulent blockchain ICO Blockchain Terminal has had two identities and is alleged the \$31 Million Scam.
- **\$80 million TenX Founder** linked to Austrian Pyramid Scheme, the TenX ICO ran into troubles with its crypto payment cards.
- **CEO of Defunct Mt. Gox Exchanges Faces** Ten Year Jail Sentence Over Embezzlement.
- **Social networking giant Facebook could be developing a cryptocurrency** to enable WhatsApp transfers.
- Fast food chain KFC has become the latest in a long line of food outlets in Venezuela accepting cryptocurrency as payment.
- Customers will be able to purchase Ledger products with Crypto.com pay. The transactions will be facilitated by Crypto.com chain
- The U.S. Congress will discuss updating the existing Securities Acts and restructuring taxation framework in respect to digital currencies.
- Binance CEO says the 'industry will grow stronger than ever' in year-end review.
- Cryptocurrency's Christmas Rally Could Indicate Bitcoin's Independence from U.S. Stock Market
- US SEC Chairman Speaks Positively of Initial Coin Offerings as Capital Raising Tool.
- Cypherpunks Co-Founder Tim May Passes Away of Natural Causes
- Head of Largest Romanian Crypto Exchange Arrested for Fraud on US Warrant

## Top 10 Merging and Acquisitions of 2018

<p><b>IBM and Stellar</b></p> 	<p>IBM's Universal Payment Solution currently uses Stellar Lumen (XLM) as a bridge asset for cross-border transaction. However, IBM is not limited to this and are open to additional assets being deployed on the platform. BM released the Blockchain World Wire with the vision of making cross-border payments happen in seconds rather than days, using the Stellar protocol.</p>
<p><b>Litecoin and TokenPay</b></p> 	<p>Litecoin would aid TokenPay in the development of its own blockchain, ensuring its stability and future success. TokenPay would, in turn, integrate Litecoin into the WEG Bank and into their merchant services platform.</p>
<p><b>Binance and Malta Stock Exchange</b></p> 	<p>Binance signed an MOU with Malta Stock Exchange (MSX) to launch a new security token digital exchange. Malta has committed its legal minds to create an appropriate regulatory framework for the crypto industry. This partnership implied that Binance would probably launch the world's first security token trading platform in Malta</p>
<p><b>AWS and Qtum</b></p> 	<p>Qtum announced a partnership with the China division of Amazon Web Services (AWS) on October 17, 2018. This partnership is in the bid to develop Blockchain-as-a-Service solutions for enterprises and developers. Qtum will be providing a smart contract development platform on AWS</p>
<p><b>Dow Jones Media Group and Brave Browser</b></p> 	<p>The Brave browser and its cryptocurrency BAT has been making a lot of strides in 2018. In December 2017, the browser recorded about 1 million active users. Meanwhile, 2018 is not over yet, and the platform has over 4 million active users and more than 10 million downloads.</p>

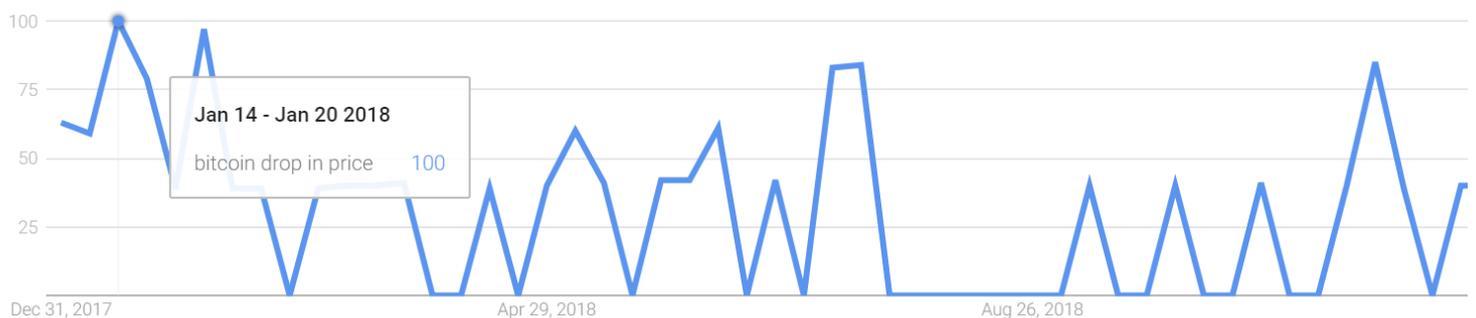
<p><b>Wanchain and MakerDAO</b></p> 	<p>Wanchain is a blockchain project that focuses on the interoperability (or interaction and communication) of blockchains.</p> <p>MakerDAO is a project that produces a stablecoin known as Dai, soft-pegged to the USD on a 1:1 ratio</p> <p>This 2-way relationship between Wanchain and MakerDAO is expected to add great value to both platforms and their respective coins.</p>
<p><b>Coinbase and Circle</b></p> 	<p>Coinbase has listed a new stablecoin on its platform known as USDC. USDC is a product of the partnership between Coinbase, the renowned cryptocurrency wallet and exchange, and Circle, the Goldman Sachs-backed tech company.</p> <p>The partnership created the Centre consortium, which is the initiative that brought about USDC. This partnership is expected to continue producing more stablecoins of fiat currencies, connecting everyone to financial services.</p>
<p><b>Binance and Tron</b></p> 	<p>On October 4, 2018, Binance announced the Binance Blockchain Charity Foundation and their charge to facilitate Sustainable Development Goals.</p> <p>Tron jumped on the same wagon with a donation and a commitment to the development of the nonprofit sector along with Binance.</p>
<p><b>Blockchain.com and Ledger</b></p> 	<p>Blockchain.com, one of the earliest web wallet providers for cryptocurrency, partnered with Ledger to produce a new hardware wallet called the Lockbox.</p> <p>This device is compatible with the Blockchain.com wallet. It is expected to give Blockchain.com users the flexibility of keeping (at least) a portion of their funds in a cold wallet while keeping the option of the web wallet for ease of accessibility.</p>
<p><b>ICON and Line</b></p> 	<p>On May 15, 2018, ICON made an announcement that they will be collaborating with Line to develop their own blockchain network.</p> <p>This joint venture is known as Unchain. Unchain will be the developer organization of the blockchain ecosystem for Line.</p> <p>The joint venture between Line and Icon is expected to connect more dapps and users to the Icon network, as Icon will look to leverage on the over 200 million users of Line.</p>

## Crypto community's interest

The section below presents the most searched terms in google about recent crypto industry news during the year. The graphs below show the percentage ratio between requests and their historical maximum. It allows to track on popularity and actual community's interest through the time.

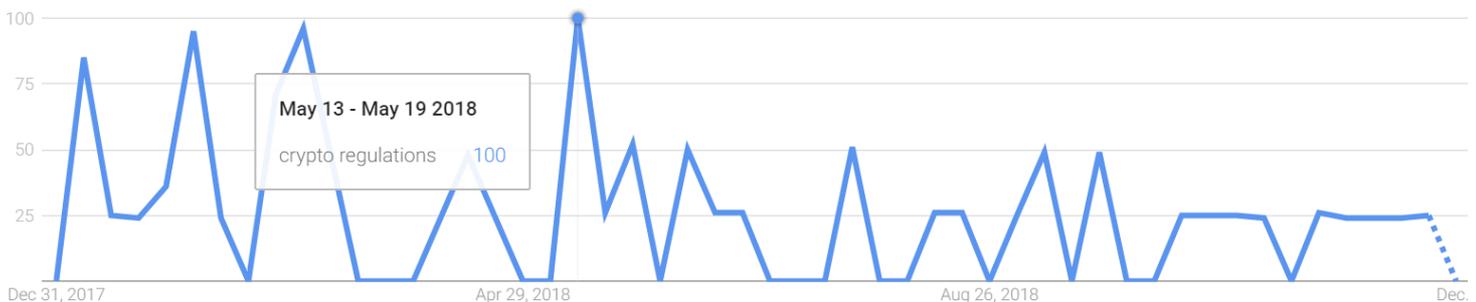
### Bitcoin's price drop

Obviously, the community was paying high interest to the Bitcoin trading from enormous high prices to the dramatical floor trading by the end of the year. The trend of Bitcoin, the most dominant cryptocurrency in the market, has been predictable. Since February of this year, Bitcoin has experienced a pattern of achieving a new monthly high and dropping to a yearly low the subsequent month. The gap between the monthly high and the yearly low declined as time passed. However, the BTC has never lost interest to itself from the crypto traders



### Crypto currency regulations

Through the year, the community was expecting most regulations to manage all cryptocurrencies, Bitcoin being one of them. U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (The SEC), Financial institutions in China and other Macro-influencers affected crypto markets in some ways. The SEC labels cryptocurrencies as securities. On the other hand, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) identifies crypto-assets as commodities. The SEC Commissioner Hester Peirce has said that she believes that a bid for a bitcoin ETF should have received the green light. A new ruling has come in to North Carolina, banning crypto donations for political campaigns. In addition, Japan is opening up a new division of its Financial Services Authority, named the Strategy of Development and Management Bureau, to keep up with its ever-growing cryptocurrency and fintech sectors



## Crypto Valley in Switzerland

Switzerland has once again shown itself to be one of the world's leading authorities on blockchain technology. The Crypto Valley Association is a Switzerland-based non-profit association supporting the development of blockchain and cryptographic-related technologies and businesses. Switzerland finally presented Legal Framework for Blockchain Technology in partnership with Crypto Valley Association



## ICO regulations

This year monetary authorities in many countries have introduced ICO regulation and expressed their attitude toward this way of attracting investment.

So, China and South Korea officially banned the ICO held on their territories.

On the contrary, the USA, Canada, Switzerland, Japan, Singapore, and U.A.E. issued several decisions that permit ICO officially, with ICO being subjected to the fiscal authorities' regulation. Issued tokens may fall under existing laws, for example, the one regulating interfund transactions. In the USA, some specific tokens in an ICO are considered securities and regulated under relevant laws (Howey Test).



## National digital currency

During the year many countries mentioned on their plans to come up with national crypto currency to follow the crypto market mainstream. Around 100 countries are experimenting with issuing digital currencies in favor of eliminating their paper currency and exiting dependence upon the USD.

Russia would get its own national digital currency, cryptoruble. The government will take control over issuance and circulation of cryptoruble in Russia, with cryptocurrency mining becoming impossible. Also, Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro issued an instruction, according to which the launch of the national cryptocurrency El Petro is planned in the next year. Venezuelan natural resource stocks, such as gold, oil, and diamonds, would back El Petro.

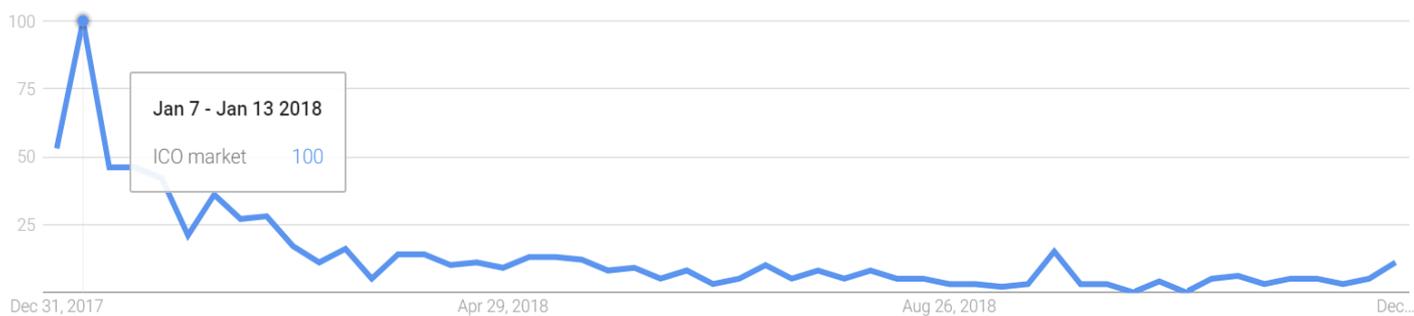
The ICO and crypto trading were officially banned in China, but it was the first country that tested the digital prototype of the national currency. National cryptocurrency is targeted to serve as a legal tender as soon as possible.



## ICO market

As trends indicate, the community does not have as much hype by the end of this year to the ICOs. ICOs have picked up a bad rap in recent times, with some major names hitting major difficulties — such as Tezos, which suffered a slew of lawsuits after infighting between the members shattered its progress and EOS that is involved in development issues with its investors.

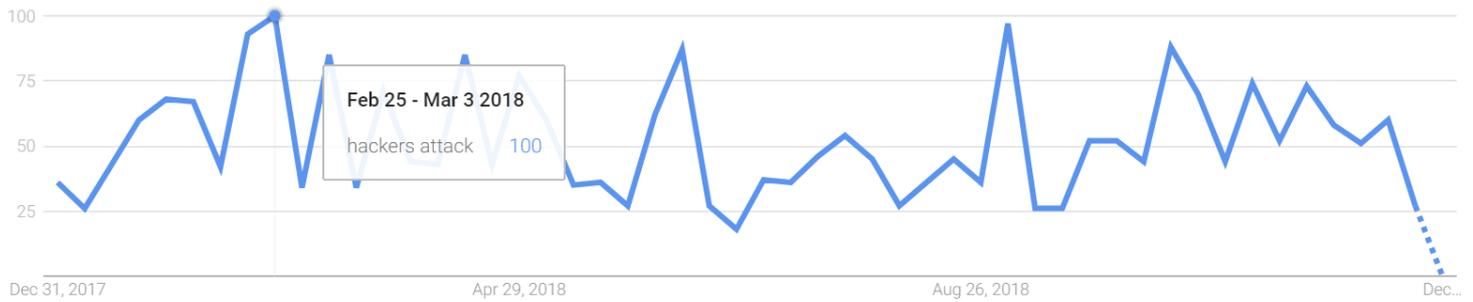
Also, it could be linked to the trustworthy issues with ICOs where there are a few big problems with the ICO space in terms of not delivering on projects after investors have taken part in ICOs. This partly comes down to failed ICOs, but also down to a number of scams.



## Crypto exchanges' hacks

So far in 2018 over \$673 million has reportedly been lost due to cryptocurrency hacks. Since the inception of bitcoin and the cryptocurrency markets, that number totals in the billions.

While western exchanges have not been immune to hackers, it is exchanges in Asia that routinely fall victim. For example, **Coincheck**, **Coinrail**, **Bitfinex**, **Bithumb**, **Mt.Gox**, and **Zaif** have suffered some of the biggest cryptocurrency exchange hacks, having lost a combined amount of \$1.2 billion



**Coincheck Hack** - \$534 million

**Mt.Gox Hack**- \$473 million

**Bitfinex Hack** - \$72 million

**Zaif Hack** - \$60 million

**Coinrail Hack** - \$40 million

**Bithumb Hack** - \$31million