

ARE WE SEEING A RESURGENCE IN BITCOIN IN 2024?

By Staff

UNITED STATES—Bitcoin has once again captured the spotlight in 2024, signaling a resurgence that is both significant and indicative of the digital asset’s enduring appeal.

The revival can be attributed to a confluence of factors, ranging from institutional investment to regulatory developments and technological advancements. The following analysis explores these key elements and their implications for Bitcoin’s trajectory.

Bitcoin’s Rally in 2024

In 2024, Bitcoin demonstrated remarkable resilience and growth, rebounding from a value of \$42,265 on January 1 to an extraordinary high above \$71,000 (•64,780) on March 11. The surge was fueled by increasing demand and optimism that the US Federal Reserve might cut interest rates within the year.

The record-breaking rally has significantly impacted the cryptocurrency landscape, with crypto analytics firm Kaiko Research reporting the creation of approximately 1,500 new “millionaire wallets” daily, reflecting a burgeoning wealth generation phenomenon within the crypto market.

The ascent of Bitcoin in 2024 underscores the cryptocurrency’s growing acceptance and maturity. Institutional investments, especially with the introduction of spot exchange-traded funds (ETFs) in the United States, have played a pivotal role in attracting significant capital inflow, indicating a shift towards more sophisticated investment strategies in the crypto to sphere.

Institutional Investments and ETFs

The US Securities and Exchange Commission’s approval and introduction of



Photo courtesy of Dmytro Demidko via Unsplash.

spot ETFs is pivotal in Bitcoin’s recent rally. These financial instruments have attracted billions of dollars in institutional investment, marking a significant shift in the market dynamics.

Unlike previous bull runs driven by speculative retail investment, the current surge is bolstered by a more calculated approach from institutional players.

Broader Acceptance and Technological Innovations
Major companies’ acceptance of Bitcoin as a legitimate form of payment and integrating digital assets into traditional financial platforms have contributed to its growing popularity. Countries like El Salvador’s introduction of Bitcoin as a national currency underscores its increasing utility and accessibility.

Moreover, Bitcoin’s influence has notably expanded into the gaming industry, reflecting a broader trend of cryptocurrency adoption. The gaming sector, known for its quick adaptation to technological innovations, has embraced Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies as payment methods. The integration has been particularly visible in online casino platforms. These Bitcoin casino platforms have

gained popularity among gaming fans for several reasons.

Halving Events and Market Predictions

The anticipation of Bitcoin’s halving event, expected this month, has historically been a precursor to price increases. Halving reduces the reward for mining new blocks, thereby diminishing the supply of Bitcoin and making it more attractive to investors.

The scarcity and institutional interest set a bullish outlook for Bitcoin. Predictions for its price in 2024 vary widely, with some analysts forecasting it could reach unprecedented highs .

The Role of Bitcoin Ordinals

Innovations like Bitcoin Ordinals have also contributed to Bitcoin’s resurgence. Ordinals allow digital files to be embedded in Bitcoin units, increasing on-chain activity and miner revenue.

Technological advancements support cryptocurrency’s price and encourage further development and usage within the Bitcoin ecosystem.

Caution and Volatility
Despite the optimism, investors remain cautious.

Bitcoin’s history is marked by volatility, with significant price fluctuations influenced by various factors, including geopolitical events, regulatory changes, and market sentiment.

The involvement of institutional investors through spot ETFs has introduced a new level of market confidence, yet the digital asset’s volatility remains a consideration for both retail and institutional investors.

Conclusion

As Bitcoin approaches new heights in 2024, its resurgence shows the evolving cryptocurrency market landscape. Institutional investment, regulatory progress, technological innovations, and broader acceptance have all contributed to its current rally. However, the inherent volatility of digital assets necessitates a cautious approach. Investors are advised to stay informed and consider the risks and opportunities of investing in Bitcoin. The coming months will be crucial in determining whether this resurgence marks the beginning of a new era for Bitcoin or another chapter in its volatile history.

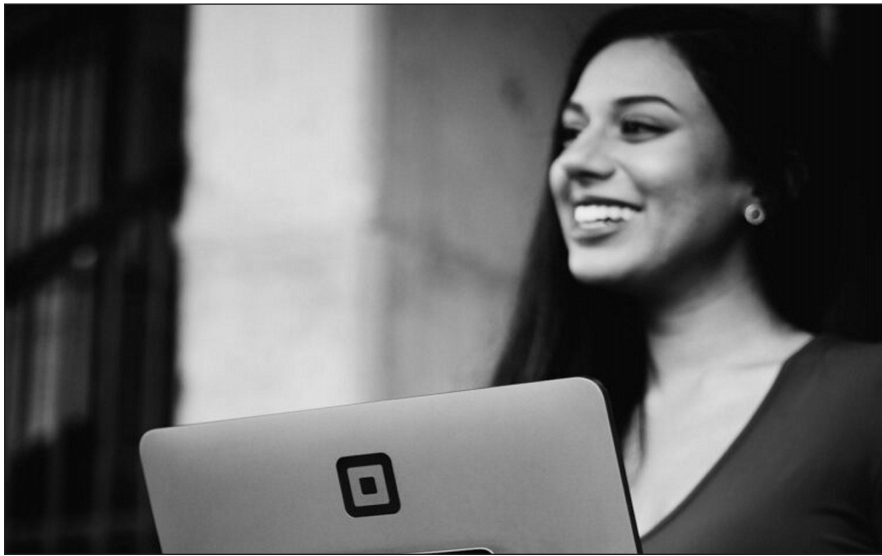
DOES GOOD CUSTOMER SERVICE ACTUALLY EXIST ANYMORE?

By Staff

UNITED STATES—I have worked in the customer service industry for quite some time now and I have always prided myself on treating people the way that I want to be treated, but I am seriously starting to question if actual good customer service actually exists in this country anymore. It seems that no matter where you go there are people with bad attitudes and I mean that in the worst possible way.

I know what some of you are thinking, you’re referring to the service industry. Not quite. I’ve had a few bad experiences at some fast-food, fast-casual and actual dining establishments, but I’m seeing more of a trend in the retail industry and in the provider industry. When I say provider, I’m referring to your streaming services, cable, internet, TV, electric, gas, insurance and cell phone.

It seems those providers that we pay on a monthly basis just don’t care as much about the consumer as they should and I’m going to tell you why. I recently had to reach out to a company about services that I pay for and it baffled me that I called numerous times in a single day and left several messages and guess what? I could not reach a live person, not a single person returned my phone call, and their excuse was the fact that they were overwhelmed with inquiries. I’m sorry, but that is NOT a solid excuse. You have customers trying to reach you and if they have a problem, what are you



Many people are starting to wonder if actual good customer service exists anymore. Photo by Patrick Tomasso via Unsplash.

just going to ignore them?

That is not right, and it shows the customer that you don’t value them, you just value the money they’re loading into your pockets, and I have a massive issue with that. This same trend happens with my cable and internet provider. Every single time I have an issue with my service and I need to speak to someone, it is near impossible and I mean impossible to talk to a live person.

They always want you to utilize their stupid app or a chat agent. Here’s the problem with that, if my internet is NOT properly working how can I utilize your app or the chat bot/agent without being able to connect to them? That’s the key I can’t, but that is something they are failing to understand or comprehend to say the least. Then when you finally get a live

person and explain to them the issue with not speaking to a live person it goes in one ear and out the other. I get frustrated with this because it feels like these companies, some which are monopolizing on their popularity just do what they please and they are never held accountable for their actions.

That is like my electric and gas providers that are trying to raise rates yet again, after just raising rates a few months ago. Their excuse, “We’re trying to upgrade the grid.” You mean the same grid that whenever it goes down it takes you days to restore the service and you can’t even provide a single update to the consumer via TEXT or by phone?

I believe in that mantra of treating people the same way that you would like to be treated,

but that doesn’t seem to be the same sentiment that other people or companies have. If they have a bad day the entire damn world hears and has to deal with it and that is not fair. If you need a moment take a moment. If you need your co-worker to step in to give you an assist while you collect yourself so be it, but you don’t want to start pushing customers away to the point where they don’t come back and plenty of companies are beginning to do that with no remorse.

What is the issue with that? When you deliver really bad customer service and it can hurt your overall bottom line and when a customer finds top tier service elsewhere they are not willing to return to somewhere where they are mediocre no matter how much you promise them.

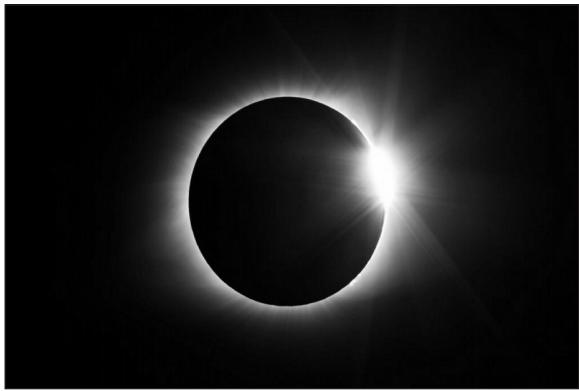
THE SOLAR ECLIPSE EVENT

By Davy Jones

UNITED STATES—The event that the globe was talking about happened on Monday, April 8. I’m referring to the Total Solar Eclipse that was visible for so many cities throughout the United States. I have never seen Americans so happy about space and astronomy. It was like an event unlike anything ever seen in this country. A Total Solar Eclipse is something that doesn’t happen often, especially to a degree where it crosses multiple states in the USA.

Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Tennessee, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, New York, Vermont and so much more. People were traveling across the country to get the opportunity to see this moment in the sky. It started at around 1:58 p.m. EST in Mexico and then it started to move across the country. If you were lucky enough to see some of the live streams across the country and you were NOT in the path of totality it was amazing.

I mean there were parts of the country where it was light one minute and then it went dark. Then guess what, the sunlight came back. I was visibly speechless watching this



The Total Solar Eclipse was something worth seeing. Photo by Jongsun Lee via Unsplash.

any reputable establishment. I was able to purchase several pairs of glasses at Lowes to ensure my family was safe and protected because the sunlight was pretty bright on April 8.

Now, let’s talk about what I witnessed. The sun was bright, and then it started to slowly get dark, it almost felt like it was about to storm, but it wasn’t. To see the moon cross Earth’s path right in front of the sun was awesome.

The temperature changed outside. It got a bit windy and then chilly for a moment and it was near 70 degrees where I was. Then the eclipse takes place, and it gets darker America. It was like witnessing

something I have never seen before in my life. My region didn’t get pitch black, but it was darker than normal, and it was NOT a storm or extreme cloudiness occurring. It was the moon crossing Earth and the Sun at the perfect time creating a near blackout or shadow in some instances. For several minutes, I experienced something I have NEVER seen in my life before and I will likely not see ever again and to be in that moment was just awesome.

It really made me want to study space, the galaxy, the sun, the planets and so much more that is out there that we know nothing about. The world is this vast extravaganza of knowledge that not many people explore to its fullest potential. I don’t like to touch complicated subject matters at times because it fries my brain, but the realization has hit me; if something frustrates you it’s because you’re interested in it. The next Total Solar Eclipse that cross minor parts of the U.S. is in 2044, then for more parts of the U.S. that is in 2099. Yeah, not many of us will be around in 2099, so hopefully you could enjoy the 2024 event if possible.

HOUSEHOLD REPAIR ANNOYANCE

By Trevor Roberts

UNITED STATES—I have been told a thousand times that having a house comes with a lot of responsibilities. It’s not just that you’re paying the bills (and trust me there is plenty) it is the fact that unexpected things tend to happen all the time. When I say this, I’m referring to those repairs or fixes that you least expect. For me the big one right now is my refrigerator.

I have had it for a few years and never had a problem in sight, but suddenly a problem has arisen and it’s a big one. It is making a weird humming or buzzing sound. I wish I could explain it with words, but trying to do so would be near impossible if we’re going to be honest. We had a repair guy come out and tinker with it a few months ago and whatever he did totally fixed the problem.

This week however, that odd sound has returned and it is literally driving me bonkers. So the realization has come to me that I’m going to have to purchase a new fridge. I haven’t done this in quite a well, and when you start to look at the costs your brain is rattled. Yes, I could try to have a fridge expert look at it once again (and I might do that), but the reality is the fridge has lived a pretty good life and it is time for a new one.



Paying for a new refrigerator can be costly. Photo courtesy of Unsplash.

It is a costly expense, it truly is and when you look at all the options out there, it is simple a new fridge is about to range from \$600 upwards to \$1,000, if not more. That is just the reality and to have to swallow my pride and fork over that type of money for an appliance is a gut punch I truly don’t

want to have to deal with. It is either that or I don’t have anywhere to store food.

Well, that is not totally true. I have a deep freezer, but I can only keep frozen items in there, I would need a place to store the everyday staples like the bread, milk, eggs, butter, condiments, fruits, veggies and I to

tally understand NOW why some people have two refrigerators: usually one in the basement and the kitchen, or the kitchen and the garage. It is just good to have a backup because you never know when one is going to kick the bucket, as I’m discovering.

I have done some pricing around town and almost everyone is pretty even on the cost, I guess it depends on what you want in a fridge. I want a simple one, a freezer and the fridge; I prefer the side refrigerator, with the long vertical doors. They are a bit pricier, but they work better when it comes to space parameters for my kitchen. However, if I stumble upon a good deal than I will take whatever I can get because I need to sleep at night and the buzzing sound the fridge is making (while still fully operational I must say) is a hindrance to sleep.

This is why they all say, having that rainy day fund is always a plus because you never know when something unexpected is going to happen and that money you stashed is going to become quite handy to say the least because purchasing a new appliance or having to do an unexpected repair can place a dent in most people’s pockets.

HOW DO YOU LIKE TO TRAVEL?

By Davy Jones

UNITED STATES—How do you like to travel? That is a simple question, but there are various ways to travel people. You can do the classic, via vehicle or what most people do nowadays which is by air (a plane) and then you have the train and there is also boat for those who like to go on a cruise. So, what is best? I think it depends on the person, as a kid we did a bevy of travel via car and when I say car, I mean it. We traveled on long road trips that would take hours. I remember when we drove to Alabama that was a 20-hour road trip, or our trips to Florida that were 24 plus hours.

Yes, we drove to Florida multiple times as a kid and we did it more than once and it seemed like it was forever, but as a kid I loved it. When you would see the various sights, get out the car and stretch and eat at restaurants or places that you have never visited before. As an adult, I can’t do those long road trips anymore. I rather get on a plane and get to my destination within four to five hours at best. If I have to be a on a plane any longer, I just don’t think it is something I can do.

My body cannot do it. I think the longest road trip I took maybe a decade ago was to Charlotte, North Carolina that was about 12 hours. It felt like forever, and you know that feeling you get where you arrive at your location and you’re so happy that you have finally reached your destination. Plane is my choice now because you get there quicker. I have flown to Chicago,



Plane is the way most people travel nowadays. Photo courtesy of Leio McLaren via Unsplash.

Florida, California, Las Vegas, to name a few, but when it comes to train or car I have been to Chicago, Wisconsin, Indianapolis, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Atlanta, Montgomery, Colorado. I have been to a lot of states people.

As I get older, I want to travel even more; there are a ton of states in the U.S. I want to visit before I start to travel overseas. There aren’t a ton of places overseas I want to visit, but Greece and Italy, are at the top of my list. The only caveat is you can only reach those places by plane and those rides are going to be several hours to say the least.

I truly want to get back to Orlando, Florida after not visiting there in almost 20 years. I guess I had been there so many times I got tired of it, but I’m starting to reminisce a bit about the fun family moments and that nostalgia has come

back to me. I recently traveled to Las Vegas, which was fun, but Vegas is a place where more than three to four days is just too much. I want it to be short and sweet because if you go there during the summer months the heat is brutal as hell. I mean eight in the morning it is near 90 degrees and you’re sweating bullets.

The long road trips are fun because it is great bonding time for the family which is an opportunity to create moments that stay with you forever. The plane can be annoying if you have a delayed flight or a plane ride with crying kids or someone kicking that chair, crowding your space or just annoying. You cannot pick who you travel with when you fly, in a car you have a choice. The cruise is something I am hearing more and more about the fun, but also it is not the best be-

cause being on that boat you can get motion sickness because you’re always moving and even when sleeping.

I don’t know if that is something I want, yeah, the endless food sounds fun, but you can only do so much on a boat, yes, you can get off and visit the various ports and cities and places you stop, but time is of the essence, it is not endless. You better be back on that boat before they depart, or you’ll be in some trouble. The key about travel is that you have options and there are plenty of options out there that fit any and all personalities, it just depends on where you go and what you want to do. I think when it comes to travel, I prefer to go places I have never been before. Going to a place familiar is fun, but versatility opens you to new experiences and things.