

Purchasing Power Under a Bitcoin Standard

Forecasting Bitcoin's Purchasing Power as it Demonetizes other Asset Classes

Executive Summary



Humanity is naturally converging on a global Bitcoin Standard due to BTC having unrivaled monetary properties. This Blockware Intelligence Research Report forecasts the future purchasing power of BTC as it becomes the dominant store of value through the demonetization of other asset classes.

Store of Value Maintains value over time

Achieved by 2 Properties:

Immutable Scarcity: Limited in supply relative to other goods

Durability: Can be used repeatedly without losing function

Medium of Exchange

Used in indirect exchange for trade rather than consumption

Achieved by 2 Properties:

Acceptability: Used by others and accepted widely

Portability: Easily moved across distances

Unit of Account

Used as a common unit of measurement to determine the market value of goods and services

Achieved by 2 Properties:

Divisibility: Easily divided into smaller units

Fungibility: One unit is exactly the same as another

Source: Yakes.io

Key Points



- 1. The nominal value of assets is determined by their utility value plus a monetary/savings premium. Fiat currencies have failed to store wealth across time thus incentivizing humans to use non-cash assets in order to preserve wealth; resulting in some percentage of said asset's nominal value being a monetary premium. A hyperbitcoinized world will result in BTC absorbing the monetary premium of other asset classes.
 - a. Utility Value: The total satisfaction or benefit derived from consuming a good or service.
 - b. Monetary Premium: The portion of a good's nominal value owed to its use as a store of value.
- 2. The market cap of BTC is currently ~0.05% of the total market cap of all financial assets. Gold, Base Money, Equities, Debt, and Real Estate represent the other 99.95%. Should BTC cannibalize the monetary premium of these financial assets it would then represent ~61.38% of the total market cap of financial assets.
- 3. The devaluation of fiat money via monetary expansion results in it poorly servicing the unit of account monetary function as \$1 yields a diminishing quantity of real goods over time. Our forecasts are quantified using 2021 US Dollars as the unit of account. However, should the hyperbitcoinization thesis play out, expansion of the fiat monetary base will be a driving factor. As such, the nominal growth of BTC's market cap, as well as the nominal demonetization of the market caps of other asset classes, will likely be much higher than the real values projected in our forecast.
 - a. Hyperbitcoinization: The adoption of Bitcoin as the world's reserve currency

Key Points



4. The methodology used to determine the monetary premium of each demonetizable asset class varies. For a detailed breakdown of each methodology, see the slides of each individual asset class. The estimated monetary premium's of each asset class are listed below in order of addressable market caps, smallest to largest.

a. Gold: 53%

b. Base Money (all fiat currencies, in USD terms): 100%

c. Equities: 58.7%

d. Debt: 100%

e. Real Estate: 23.1%

- 5. How a Global Bitcoin Standard will alter traditional market dynamics:
 - a. Absent monetary expansion, long term changes in equity valuations will primarily be a result of changes in productivity. Under the fiat standard, any increase in the nominal valuation of equities less increases in overall productivity can be attributed to a monetary premium bestowed upon the asset class.
 - b. Absent monetary expansion, the purchasing power of money generally increases at the same rate as productivity. After BTC has absorbed the monetary premium of other financial assets, it is likely that BTC purchasing power will continue to increase in perpetuity in accordance with productivity increases resulting from technological advancements. Deflationary prices consequence of BTC's increasing purchasing power will switch the incentive structure to one that rewards savers and disincentivizes debt.

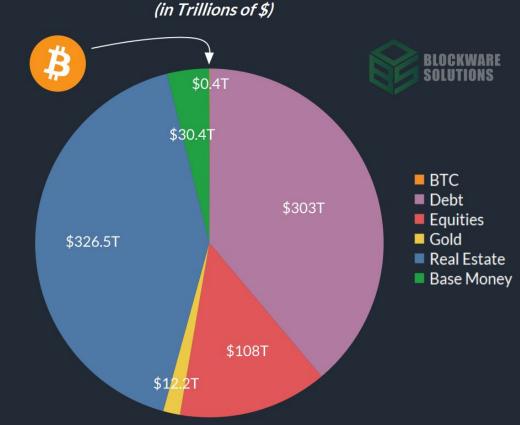
BTC as a Store of Value



Due to the failure of fiat to maintain its value over time, humans are forced to use non-monetary goods as tools for savings. The nominal market value of assets is comprised of their utility value, the value derived from direct consumption of the good, plus a monetary (savings) premium, value attributed to use of the good as a store of value. Under a global Bitcoin Standard, with BTC serving as a savings mechanism free from counterparty risk and debasement via inflation, humans will no longer be forced to use risk assets as savings vehicles; thus the monetary premium will be greatly reduced. Assets will be priced on their utility, and the function of supply and demand. During the transition to a Bitcoin Standard, BTC will absorb the monetary premium of other asset classes.

Despite already having widespread notoriety, BTC is still in its infancy as a store of value. When juxtaposed with other assets the market cap of BTC is fairly high, ranking 14th against public companies and precious metals, but BTC is more than just a unique asset. BTC is a unique asset class and, as such, it should be compared to the market caps of other asset classes.

Market Cap of Different Asset Classes



We have estimated the total global value of financial assets to be roughly ~\$780 Trillion. This calculation consists of the market cap of BTC plus the market caps of total global debt, equities, real estate, and gold. Of the ~\$780T in global financial assets, BTC currently represents ~0.05%.

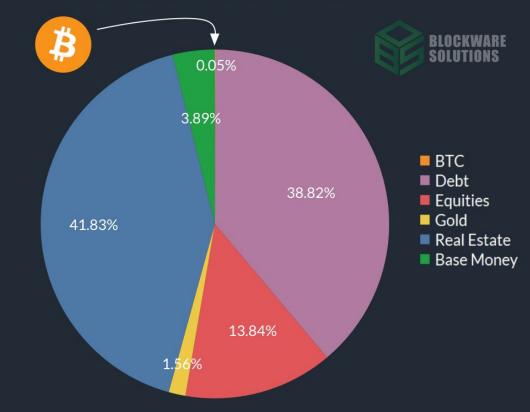
BTC as a Store of Value



In order to conceptualize the future purchasing power of BTC, we must use fiat as the unit of account for this forecast. As the world transitions from a fiat standard to a Bitcoin standard, the former will continue to debase and the values in the model will likely be vastly underestimated in nominal terms. The values forecasted in this model are represented in real terms with 2021 dollars as the unit of account.

Market Cap of Different Asset Classes

(as % of Total Global Asset Value)



During the transition to a global Bitcoin standard, the supply of dollars is likely to continue growing exponentially. Thus it is helpful to view the breakdown of asset classes by percentage rather than just nominal values.

Monetization of BTC through the Demonetization of Other Asset Classes



In order to determine the future value of BTC, we must estimate the monetary premium of each asset class. Given our assumption that BTC will absorb the monetary premiums of other assets, we can determine the future value of BTC in terms of 2021 dollars by subtracting the monetary premiums from their respective market caps and adding it to the market cap of BTC.

The degree to which each of these asset classes contains a monetary premium varies. Other precious metals such as silver and copper are excluded as they have already been demonetized by gold.

The order in which we present the demonitizations is not a chronological prediction; they are presented in order of the smallest addressable market cap to the largest addressable market cap. The demonetization of these asset classes will likely occur simultaneously over a long period of time.



Gold, Real Estate, Equities, Debt, and Base Money will all be demonetized during the transition to a Bitcoin standard. With these asset classes no longer used as a tool for saving wealth, their value will be derived solely from their utility.

Demonetization of Gold



Gold finished 2021 with an estimated market cap of ~\$12 Trillion.

Sources estimate that 47% of gold's market cap is comprised of jewelry. The remaining 53% (~\$6.4T) is bars, coins, ETFs, and other financial holdings.

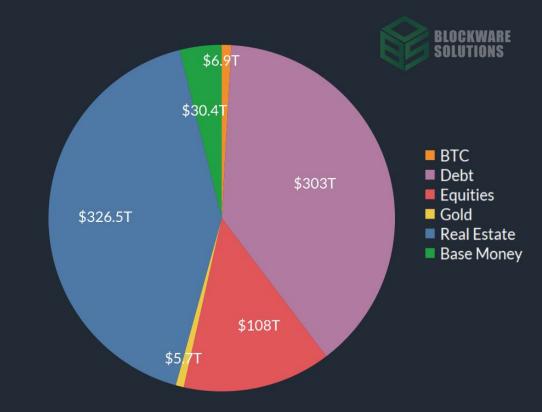
Adding the 53% monetary premium to BTC's market cap brings the market cap of gold down to ~\$5.7T and the market cap of BTC up to ~\$6.9T.

\$6,868,650,000,000 / 21,000,000 = ~\$327,078 per BTC

There is a valid argument that the jewelry sector of gold's market cap will be demonetized as well. A large and unknown percentage of gold's utility value as jewelry is likely derived from the "clout" factor due to the association of gold with wealth. Gold as a signal of wealth and power would be in jeopardy should Bitcoin usurp it in market cap. In turn, the demand for and price of gold jewelry would be negatively affected. This point is worth noting, however, to remain conservative in our forecast, we will not be factoring in this possibility.

Market Cap of Different Asset Classes

(BTC Absorbs Monetary Premium of Gold)



After absorbing the monetary premium of gold, the BTC market cap will be nearly \$7 Trillion and the price of BTC will be ~\$327K.

BTC Price: \$327,078

Demonetization of Base Money



The thesis of this report is predicated on a future in which BTC replaces fiat currency as the global monetary standard. As such it is appropriate to allocate the market cap of base fiat money to the market cap of BTC. Afterall, the value of money is 100% predicated on a monetary premium; it has no utility value as it cannot be consumed.

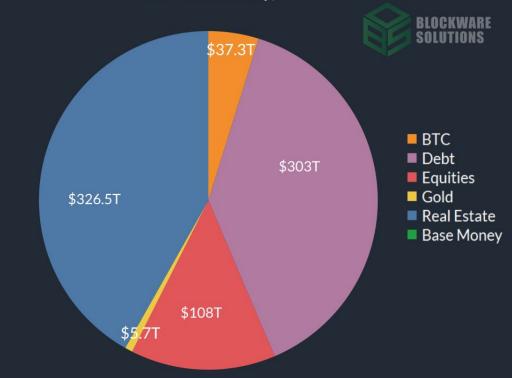
The base money of all fiat currencies have a combined market cap of ~\$30.4 Trillion USD. Adding that to BTC's market cap, including the previous addition of gold's monetary premium, brings it up to ~\$37.3 Trillion.

\$37,268,650,000,000 / 21,000,000 = ~ \$1,774,697 per BTC.

The monetary premium of other asset classes being substantially greater than the monetary premium of the base money is a symptom of fiat's failure to be a reliable store of value. If today's base money was good at being a store of value, all of the monetary premium in other assets would be in the base money.

Market Cap of Different Asset Classes

(BTC Absorbs Market Cap of Gold, Base Money)



After absorbing the monetary premium of gold and base money, the BTC market cap will be ~\$37.3 Trillion and the price of BTC will be ~\$1,774,697.

Demonetization of Equities



Over time, through innovation and technological advancements, the aggregate productivity of humanity increases. In other words, the output of goods and services in the economy increases at a faster rate than the inputs of labor and capital. Humans are able to produce more value and increase the overall standard of living.

Under a monetary system that is not plagued by indefinite monetary expansion the driving force behind increasing equity values would be increasing productivity. However, in the present fiat system, the dominant factor in increasing the nominal value of equities over time is the perpetual depreciation of fiat currencies. Any increase in the nominal value of equities greater than the increase in productivity can be categorized as monetary premium:

% Equity Growth = % Productivity Growth + % Monetary Premium

We have data on equity and productivity growth. So all we need to do is apply the associative property then divide by total equity growth and now we have a formula for determining the percentage of equity value that is monetary premium

(% Equity Growth - % Productivity Growth) % Monetary Premium



increasing equity values. The year 2020 is a great example of the monetary premium bestowed upon equities. Despite being a year of negative GDP growth, equity values soared as central banks

% Equity Growth

Demonetization of Equities



From 1961 to 2021, the S&P had a Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 7.16%. During this same period, US GDP had a CAGR of 2.96%.

Using our formula:

$$58.7\% = \frac{7.16\% - 2.96\%}{7.16\%}$$

We can now subtract the 58.7% monetary premium from the total market cap of all equities and add it to the BTC market cap.



On a yearly basis the S&P 500 Index tends to move directionally alongside GDP Growth; albeit in a more volatile fashion. However, over the long run the S&P 500 Index has increased much more on a percentage basis than productivity has. This is due to the monetary premium applied to equities.

Demonetization of Equities



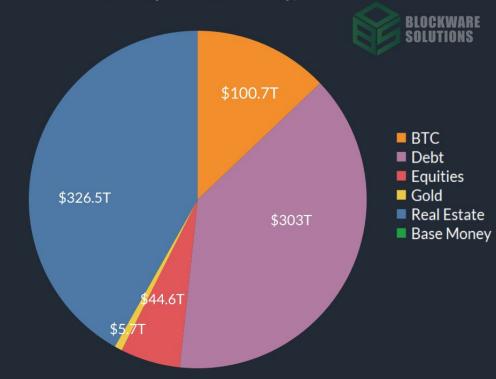
$$58.7\% = \frac{7.16\% - 2.96\%}{7.16\%}$$

Reallocating the 58.7% monetary premium of equities (~\$63.4T) to BTC, including the previously added monetary premiums of gold and base money, brings the market cap of BTC up to ~\$100.7 Trillion. The equity market cap has now fallen to ~\$44.6 Trillion.

\$100,664,650,000,000 / 21,000,000 = ~\$4,793,554 per BTC.

Market Cap of Different Asset Classes

(BTC Absorbs Market Cap of Gold, Equities, Base Money)



After absorbing the monetary premium of gold, base money, and equities, the BTC market cap will be \sim \$100.7 Trillion and the price of BTC will be \sim \$4,793,554.

Demonetization of Debt



Bonds, Treasuries, Fixed Income, Fiat Contracts, etc.; this asset has many monikers. We will refer to it as debt. The fiat monetary system is built upon the shaky foundation that the promise of money (debt) is as good as actual money. The debasement of fiat creates an incentive structure such that, most of the time, the most profitable financial move is taking on as much debt as possible.

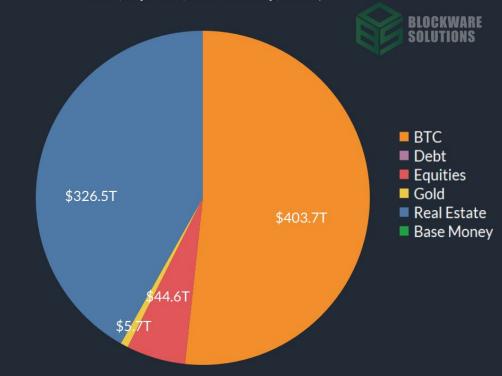
Debt, as with base money, has zero utility value. It is 100% monetary premium. We will allocate the ~\$373T market cap of global debt to the market cap of BTC. That brings the market cap of BTC to ~\$403.7 Trillion.

\$403,664,650,000,000 / 21,000,000 = **\$19,222,126** per BTC.

Under a Bitcoin standard, debt will be very different and the quantity of it relative to the monetary base will pale in comparison to the current monetary system. Once it is the global reserve asset, BTC will increase in purchasing power alongside global productivity (see <u>slide 20</u> for more on this). As such, debt will be far less necessary as the real yield generated from saving BTC will be the new "risk-free rate." Debt on a Bitcoin standard will likely take the form of short-term (less than 5 years) loans. The 30-year mortgage will most likely be extinct. Nevertheless, it is not our intent speculate on the role of debt in a hyper-bitcoinized economy. Rather, we are presenting the idea that debt in its present, fiat-denominated form, will be absorbed by Bitcoin.

Market Cap of Different Asset Classes

(BTC Absorbs Monetary Premium of Gold, Equities, Base Money, Debt)



After absorbing the monetary premium of gold, base money, equities, and debt, the BTC market cap will be ~\$403.7 Trillion and the price of BTC will be ~\$19,222,126.



% Change in Average Sales Price for

Michael Saylor describes increasing prices with the expression "inflation is a vector." The price of different goods and services increase at different rates when the underlying currency is devalued. Goods that are difficult to produce and highly desirable tend to have the greatest price increases as a consequence of monetary debasement. This is why certain goods have a more sensitive response to monetary expansion than other goods. Kraft mac n' cheese is inexpensive to produce and not in high demand; thus its price is minimally inflationary. Buildings are difficult to produce as they require the inputs of many different raw materials; lumber, steel, labor, time, etc.; Moreover, they are in constant demand due to their high utility value. For this reason housing is very reactive to monetary expansion.

While there has not yet been a year in which M2 had a negative growth rate, you can observe that during the time periods in which the M2 growth rate slowed down, the housing market reciprocated with slowed or negative growth. Inversely, periods of high growth in M2 corresponds with high growth in housing prices.



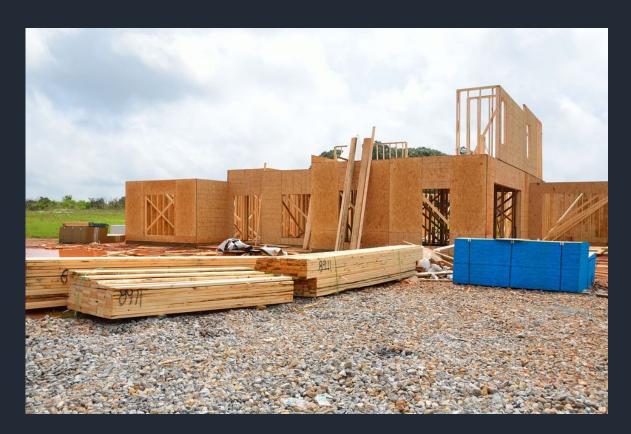
Similarly to the aforementioned equities, the foremast factor of increasing real estate prices over time has been the expansion of the money supply.



To determine the monetary premium of real estate we will be comparing the cost of construction overtime with the sales price of new houses overtime.

The reasons these metrics provide the best calculation for the monetary premium of real estate are as follows. First, the debasement of fiat currency increases the nominal cost of raw materials used to build houses. As such, not all of the increase in the sales price of new houses can be attributed to an increasing monetary premium; the increasing nominal cost of construction is a major contributing factor. Second, by looking at new houses specifically, we eliminate the physical depreciation occurring in used houses that acts as a deflationary force on their real price. The only deflationary force on the sales price of new houses is increasing productivity.

Observing changes in the price of undeveloped land could be a valid way to determine the monetary premium of real estate. However, this is a less viable option than our method because A.) data on this is scarce and incomplete and B.) determining the monetary premium requires comparing the rate of change for a productivity metric and a price metric. Looking at the rate of change for a single metric does not give any insight regarding monetary premium.



The sales price of housing increases over time due to monetary expansion. However, some of amount of the total increase in sales price can be attributed to price increases of the raw materials used in construction.



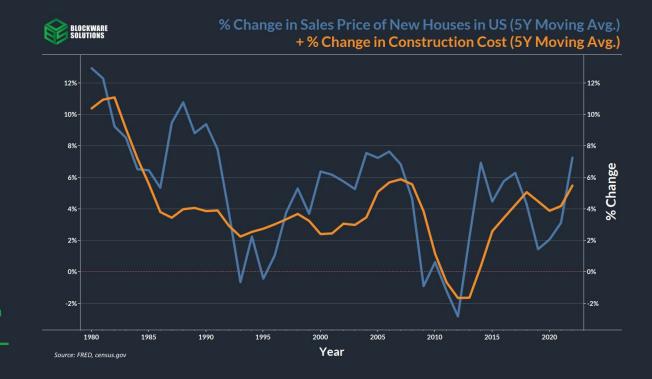
We can calculate the monetary premium of real estate in a similar fashion to our calculation for the monetary premium of equities; in which we compared the growth rate of stock prices with the growth rate of productivity. Here, we are comparing the growth rate of the sales price of new houses with the growth rate of construction costs. Under a sound monetary standard we would expect the change in the price of new houses to move congruently with the change in the cost of construction. This is not the case under the fiat standard and we can contribute the difference to a monetary premium that is placed on housing.

The following formula will be used to determine real estates monetary premium:

% Monetary Premium

(% Housing Price Growth - % Construction Cost Growth)

% Housing Price Growth

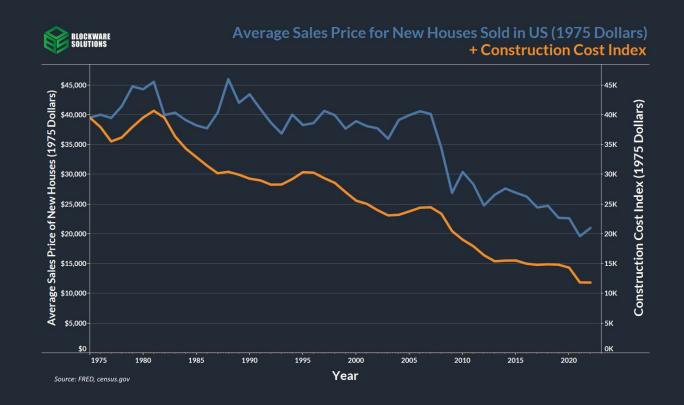


Looking at the graph of the rates of change (5-year Moving Average applied for visual smoothing) we see that the sales price of new houses and construction costs are roughly correlated with sales price being the more volatile of the two metrics.



Note: The data available on construction costs is an annual rate of change (plotted on the previous slide with a 5-year moving average); there's no reliable data on construction prices themselves. To juxtapose the change in construction costs vs. sales prices we have created an index such that the cost of construction is initially set to the sales price of housing in the base year, 1975, and the rates of change from the construction data set are applied from there.

As discussed previously, under a sound monetary system the cost of goods is deflationary due to increasing productivity; housing is no exception. When adjusting for M2, the price of construction has gotten tremendously cheaper over time, as has the final sales price.



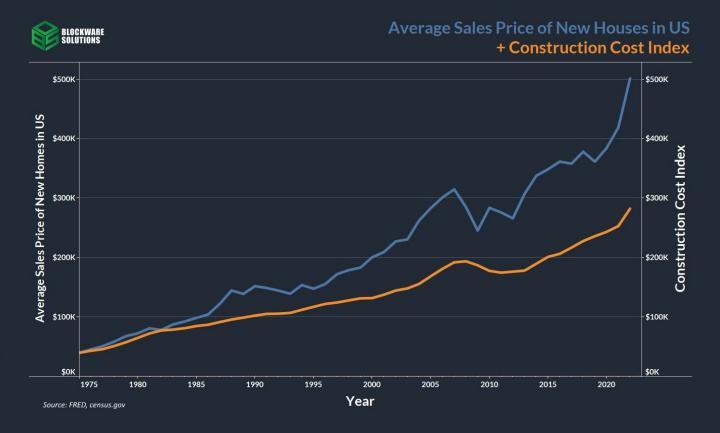
When adjusting for inflation, it is important to adjust for the growth in money supply rather than CPI, which simply reflects an arbitrary basket of goods. The real cost (adjusted for M2) of constructing a house, as well as the final sales price, has gotten tremendously cheaper over time.



This chart contains the nominal values for the average sales price of new houses and the construction cost index. To determine real estate's monetary premium, we will be calculating the Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of both. The sales price of housing has a CAGR of ~5.55%, while construction cost has had a CAGR of ~4.27%.

That gives real estate a monetary premium of ~23.1%

 $23.1\% = \frac{5.55\% - 4.27\%}{5.55\%}$



Despite the cost of constructing a house only increasing an average of 4.27% per year, the final sales price of new houses has increased an average of 5.55% per year. This ~23% difference in the rates of change represents the monetary premium of real estate.



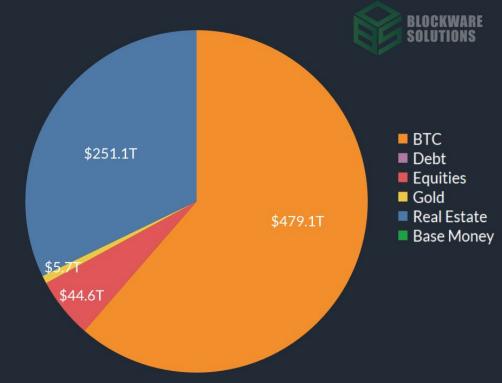
$23.1\% = \frac{5.55\% - 4.27\%}{5.55\%}$

Adding the 23.1% monetary premium to BTC brings the market cap of BTC up to \sim \$479.1 Trillion. The real estate market cap has now fallen to \sim \$251.1 Trillion

\$479,095,945,000,000 / 21,000,000 = ~\$22,814,092 per BTC

Market Cap of Different Asset Classes

(BTC Absorbs Monetary Premium of Gold, Equities, Base Money, Debt, Real Estate)



After absorbing the monetary premium of gold, base money, equities, debt, and real estate, the BTC market cap will be ~\$479.1 Trillion and the price of BTC will be ~\$22,814,092

Conclusion



After completing the demonetization of other asset classes, the purchasing power of Bitcoin will comprise of roughly 61.4% of the total global market cap of financial assets. 1 BTC will have a purchasing power equivalent to ~\$22,814,092, 2021 US Dollars.

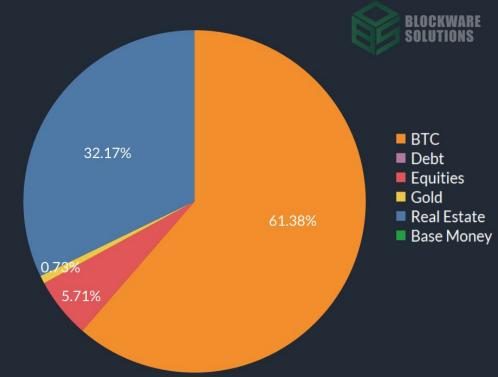
The last point to note is that the purchasing power of BTC will increase in perpetuity corresponding to productivity increases. As discussed in the equity and real estate sections, technological advancements increase economic productivity over time. As such, the real cost of goods and services, which, on a Bitcoin standard, will be measured in BTC, will decrease every year. Holders of BTC will accrue purchasing power without having to invest in risk-on assets. This appreciation in purchasing power will represent the new "risk-free rate" that is the opportunity cost and target return of all investments. Under the fiat standard the "risk-free rate" has been that of government treasuries.

Assuming an average annual global GDP growth rate of 2%, the <u>purchasing power</u> of BTC will double every 36 years.

This forecast does not include a timeline as it is impossible to predict exactly how long this transition may take; if it occurs at all. However, considering BTC's superior monetary properties, its <u>accelerating rate of adoption</u>, and the sustained high levels of inflation among all flat currencies, it is reasonable to assume that a transition to a global Bitcoin standard is becoming an increasingly likely outcome.

Market Cap of Different Asset Classes

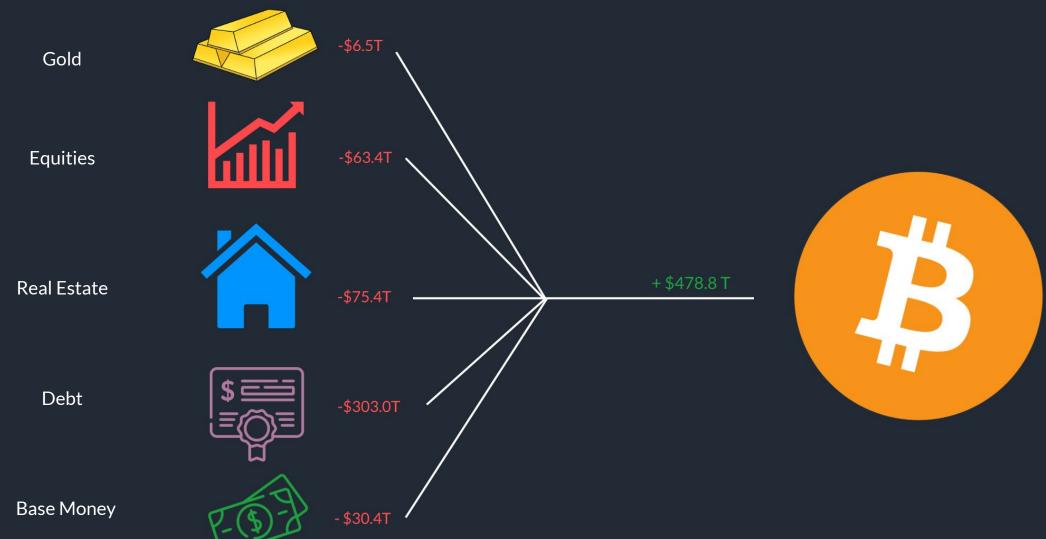
(BTC Absorbs Monetary Premium of Gold, Equities, Base Money, Debt, Real Estate)



Even after demonetizing other financial assets, Bitcoin will still incentivize savings and low-time preference behavior. The increase in purchasing power obtained by simply holding Bitcoin will be the "risk free rate."

Conclusion





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