



# Nasdaq Crypto Index<sup>™</sup> (NCI<sup>™</sup>)

# What is the Nasdaq Crypto Index (NCI)?

Launched in February 2021, NCI is Nasdaq's first Digital Asset Index offering<sup>1</sup>. The index measures the performance of a basket of the most actively traded digital assets and provides a benchmark for institutional investment in this new and emerging asset class. The Index is specifically designed to be dynamic in nature, broadly representative of the market, and readily trackable by investors.

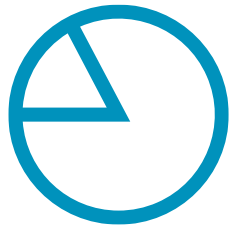
## Index Overview:

- Tracks the performance of a diverse basket of USD-traded digital assets
- Applies liquidity, exchange and custody standards for asset eligibility
- Rebalanced and reconstituted on a quarterly basis
- Free float market cap weighted
- Governed by a robust methodology and the Nasdaq Cryptocurrency Index Oversight Committee (CIOC)



<sup>1</sup>In June 2021, Nasdaq launched additional digital asset indexes including the Nasdaq Bitcoin Reference Price™ Index (NQBTC™) and the Nasdaq Ether Reference Price™ Index (NQETH™). In April 2022, Nasdaq launched additional indexes including the Nasdaq Crypto Index Europe Reference Price™ Index (NCIE™) and the Nasdaq Bitcoin/Ethereum Index Reference Price™ Index (NQBEI™).

# Index Design Principles



## Representative

Provides a representative benchmark for institutional investment into the asset class



## Investible

Utilizes exhaustive selection criteria to include digital assets available at vetted core exchanges and custodians



## Adaptable

Adjusts index composition at each reconstitution to ensure that it remains a flexible representation of the asset class as it evolves

# How does it work?



How does it work?

# I. Asset Eligibility Determination

## I. Determining Eligibility

The universe of eligible assets is initially filtered on the basis of USD trading availability on approved “Core Exchanges” and with consideration of custody solution support by “Core Custodians”.

Specifically, eligible assets must:

- Meet minimum liquidity standards outlined in the methodology with USD trade pair<sup>1</sup>
- Be traded on at least two core exchanges<sup>2</sup>
- Be supported by at least one core custodian<sup>2</sup>, and
- Have free-floating price

These filters allow the Index to remain neutral and passive while ensuring constituents possess sufficient liquidity and appropriate custody options required for institutional grade investment products.

1) Minimum liquidity standard requires eligible assets to have a median daily trading volume that is no less than 0.5% of the constituent crypto asset that has the highest median daily trading volume. Calculations are performed using the aggregate of the respective USD pair across all core exchanges, measured during the first 30 calendar days immediately following the previous reconstitution and rebalance day.

2) Revised Core Exchange and Core Custodian requirements of two and one, respectively, become effective on June 1, 2022. Previous to this change, three Core Exchanges and two Core Custodians are required.

How does it work?

## II. Constituent Selection from Eligible Assets

### II. Constituent Selection

When all eligible assets are identified, the market capitalization of each asset is calculated.

Market capitalization of assets is calculated by multiplying the price of the asset across Core Exchanges by the free-float supply of the asset as defined in the methodology and calculated by Nasdaq's calculation agent, CF Benchmarks.

Assets that exceed 0.5% of the full market capitalization of all eligible assets are selected for inclusion.

How does it work?

## III. Index Weights Applied

### III. Weighting Constituents

Constituent assets selected for entry into the Index will be weighted according to their relative free float market cap.

This is calculated by dividing the free float market cap of a digital asset by the total free float market cap of all constituent assets included in the Index.

Weighting according to Circulating Supply of an asset without the application of capping is important to maintain an investable and accurate representation of the asset class.

# Overview of Asset Selection Process





# Core Exchanges

With almost 500 crypto exchanges globally and varying degrees of user protection, it is important to source pricing only from vetted exchanges in order to form a trusted and accurate index price.

Nasdaq's pricing methodology requires a minimum of 2 Core Exchange<sup>1</sup> pricing inputs as part of mechanisms to reduce the impact of potential manipulation in the index price.

Limiting inclusion to assets supported by at least 2 Core Exchanges<sup>1</sup> ensures inclusion only of those assets that have been on-boarded by a critical mass of “institutional-ready” infrastructure.



<sup>1</sup> Core Exchange requirements were revised from three to two, effective on June 1, 2022.

This page provides an overview of the selection criteria. For an exhaustive list and description, please review the NCI Methodology: [https://indexes.nasdaqomx.com/docs/methodology\\_NCI.pdf](https://indexes.nasdaqomx.com/docs/methodology_NCI.pdf).

# Core Exchanges

## Key Selection Criteria<sup>1</sup>

1. Effective AML/KYC controls in place
2. Licensed by independent public governing body
3. Effective trade monitoring, surveillance and enforcement procedures
4. Demonstrate robust IT infrastructure and capacity management
5. Commitment to cooperate with regulators and law enforcement

## Approved Core Exchanges

1. Coinbase
2. BitStamp
3. Gemini
4. itBit
5. Kraken

# Core Custodians

Custodians hold digital assets for safekeeping against theft and loss and ensure that digital asset transactions and trades are secure.

Limiting inclusion to assets supported by at least 1 Core Custodian<sup>1</sup> ensures an asset pool with sufficient market maturity as Core Custodians evaluate security and legal risks as well as market demand when deciding to provide custody services to an asset.



<sup>1</sup> Core Custodian requirements were revised from two to one, effective on June 1, 2022.

This page provides an overview of the selection criteria. For an exhaustive list and description, please review the NCI Methodology: [https://indexes.nasdaqomx.com/docs/methodology\\_NCI.pdf](https://indexes.nasdaqomx.com/docs/methodology_NCI.pdf).

# Core Custodians

## Key Selection Criteria<sup>1</sup>

1. Licensed by an independent governing body
2. Provide independent segregated client accounts
3. Utilize advanced security infrastructure to include private key segmentation, multi-signature capabilities & geographic distribution
4. Insurance policy that covers, at least partially, theft or loss of private keys
5. Offers timely and secure redemption process
6. Demonstrate comprehensive risk management and risk mitigation processes
7. Evidence of third-party security audits

## Approved Core Custodians

1. Coinbase
2. BitGo
3. Fidelity
4. Gemini



<sup>1</sup> This is an overview of the selection criteria. For an exhaustive list and description, please review the NCI Methodology: [https://indexes.nasdaqomx.com/docs/methodology\\_NCI.pdf](https://indexes.nasdaqomx.com/docs/methodology_NCI.pdf).

# Nasdaq Crypto Index Oversight Committee

Comprised of senior members across Nasdaq's Legal, Risk, Compliance, Trading, Surveillance, IT, and Index teams to ensure varying viewpoints and expertise.

Responsible for the implementation, administration, and general oversight of the Index, including the selection of Core Exchanges and Core Custodians, adjustments to account for regulatory changes, and periodic methodology reviews.

Committee conducts a final review of all eligible assets prior to entry at the quarterly reconstitution wherein it reserves the right to exclude any assets based on one or more factors, including, but not limited to, its review of general reputational, legal, regulatory, or security concerns connected to any asset.

Nasdaq will review new Core Exchange and Core Custodian candidates throughout the year and announce any new additions when approved. The list of existing Core Exchanges and Core Custodians will be recertified by the CIOC at minimum on an annual basis.

# NCI Weights and Components (as of 9/29/2023<sup>1</sup>)

| Component              | Weight |
|------------------------|--------|
| Bitcoin (XBT)          | 66.71% |
| Ethereum (ETH)         | 30.86% |
| Litecoin (LTC)         | 0.74%  |
| Chainlink (LINK)       | 0.57%  |
| Polkadot (DOT)         | 0.35%  |
| Stellar Lumens (XLM)   | 0.34%  |
| Uniswap (UNI)          | 0.26%  |
| Ethereum Classic (ETC) | 0.17%  |

# Historical Performance<sup>1</sup>

## Nasdaq Crypto Index Settlement Price™ Index (NCIS™)

NCIS Performance: 6/1/2020 - 9/29/23



|                      | NCIS                | S&P 500            |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Q3 2023              | -14.5%              | -3.8%              |
| LTM <sup>2</sup>     | 33.2%               | 17.8%              |
| Total Common History | 224.4% <sup>3</sup> | 40.3% <sup>4</sup> |

<sup>1</sup> Past performance may not be indicative of future returns  
<sup>2</sup> Data included is from 9/29/2022 to 9/29/2023  
<sup>3</sup> Data included is from 6/1/2020 to 9/29/2023 and includes backtested performance for NCIS prior to 2/2/2021  
<sup>4</sup> Data included is from 6/1/2020 to 9/29/2023



# Portfolio Performance with NCIS Allocation<sup>1</sup>

The impact of small allocations to NCIS on a typical investor portfolio consisting of a standard basket of equities

|                                   | S&P 500 | Portfolio with 1% NCIS | Portfolio with 2% NCIS | Portfolio with 5% NCIS |
|-----------------------------------|---------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Q3 2023                           | -3.8%   | -3.9%                  | -4.0%                  | -4.3%                  |
| LTM                               | 17.8%   | 17.9%                  | 18.1%                  | 18.6%                  |
| Total Common History <sup>2</sup> | 40.3%   | 42.2%                  | 44.0%                  | 49.5%                  |



<sup>1</sup> Past performance may not be indicative of future returns

<sup>2</sup> Total Common History includes NCIS data from 6/1/2020 to 9/29/2023 and includes backtested performance for NCIS prior to 2/2/2021. Total Common History includes S&P 500 data from 6/1/2020 to 9/29/2023



# Additional Information

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Ticker Symbol                            | NCI (Real-Time) and NCIS (Daily Settlement)   |
| Calculation Agent                        | The Index is calculated by CF Benchmarks Limited  |
| Reconstitution and Rebalancing Frequency | Reconstitution and rebalances occur quarterly (First business day of March, June, September and December)   |
| Index Back-test Start Date               | June 1, 2020  |
| Index Launch Date                        | February 2, 2021  |
| Daily Index Publication (NCIS)           | The level of the Settlement Index is calculated once a day on Business Days at 3:00:00 PM ET and is published on the Nasdaq Global Index Data Service (GIDS)                    |
| Real-Time Index Level (NCI)              | Real-time calculation of the Index is available on the CF Benchmarks website at <a href="https://www.cfbenchmarks.com/indices/NCI">https://www.cfbenchmarks.com/indices/NCI</a> |
| Currency                                 | USD   |

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