Wiston Capital

DIGITAL ASSETS RESEARCH **REPORT**

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Executive Summary: Tron - Stablecoin Powerhouse Under Pressure

Tron's evolution from its 2017 Initial Coin Offering (ICO) to a stablecoin payments powerhouse in 2025 is one of the more striking arcs in crypto. At the heart of its rise is an architecture designed for efficiency: the "Delegated Proof-of-Stake" consensus mechanism delivers fast block validation, while a dual resource model splits costs between Bandwidth for transaction size and Energy for smart contracts. By staking TRX, users gain access to these resources without constant token burns, a system that underpins millions of free transactions each quarter and **positions Tron as one of the lowest-cost settlement layers for global payments.**

That infrastructure has made Tron the backbone of stablecoin flows. It now **hosts roughly half of Tether's supply** and clears billions in daily USDT volume, surpassing even Ethereum on that front.

Yet the growth story is not without tension. Tokenomics have turned inflationary for the first time as reduced burns weigh on supply, while revenues have been squeezed by shifting activity.

Still, momentum remains, anchored by expansion efforts in DeFi and AI through the Builders League, plus integrations with players like deBridge and MetaMask that strengthen cross-chain reach. The ecosystem counts over 1,400 dApps and partnerships ranging from Tether to U.S. government data initiatives.

Against competitors, Tron's position is nuanced. It outpaces Ethereum on fees but lacks the same gravitational pull for developers. It dwarfs XRP and Stellar in payments volume despite their narrow focus on that vertical, and it offers a compelling challenge to PayPal and Stripe in cross-border remittances, where high fees remain entrenched. Visa and Mastercard still dominate in scale, but Tron's low-cost, always-on settlement offers speed and access for underbanked markets that TradFi rails continue to miss. At the same time, new threats are closing in: Ethereum and L2s are narrowing the efficiency gap, while Tether's push into Bitcoin's Lightning Network rails could redirect institutional flows toward security-first settlement layers.

Our March 2025 LITMUS rating captures this balance, awarding Tron an "A" with a score of 77/100. **Market leadership and execution are clear, but decentralisation concerns, ESG scrutiny, and inflationary pressures remain watchpoints.** Even so, Tron has carved out a role as crypto's payments specialist, one defined less by hype than by utility. Whether it can refine its model fast enough to defend its stablecoin crown will shape its trajectory in the next phase of an increasingly competitive market.

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Introduction

Tron entered the scene in 2017 with bold ambitions. Born in the heat of the ICO boom, its mission was to create a decentralised web where content and applications could bypass centralised gatekeepers. Founder Justin Sun positioned Tron as an Ethereum challenger, promising high throughput, smart contracts, and an ecosystem that would support a new kind of internet. For years, that pitch defined how the project was perceived. Grand in vision, but often dismissed as hype-heavy.

Fast forward to 2025, and Tron's real impact looks very different. Rather than rebuilding the web, it has become the quiet backbone of stablecoin settlement. Today, it processes billions of dollars in USDT transfers every day, often at costs so low they're practically invisible. This pivot has made it indispensable in regions where cheap, fast, and reliable payments matter most, from remittances in underserved regions to crypto-fueled commerce in Southeast Asia. Tron may not have delivered the decentralised web it promised, but it has carved out something just as powerful: the rails for global, borderless money movement.

Tron Architecture

The way the Tron blockchain operates is quite unique. In fact, its architecture is one of a kind among top layer-1 blockchains in the industry. This is not just a technical distinction but also the foundation of why Tron has become such a dominant force in global payments, particularly in stablecoin settlement.

In this section, we will take a deep dive into the intricacies of the Tron blockchain and examine its unique value proposition as an efficient payments gateway layer.

Delegated Proof of Stake (DPoS) Consensus

Tron uses a Delegated Proof of Stake (DPoS) consensus mechanism to validate blocks and ensure network security. Based on the widely adopted Proof of Stake (PoS) consensus model, DPoS serves as the engine that validates transactions and maintains network integrity.

At the heart of Tron's DPoS consensus are 27 Super Representatives (SRs), also known as block producers. These SRs are responsible for collecting newly executed transactions, validating their credibility, packaging them into blocks, recording them on the ledger and broadcasting them across the network. Other SR nodes then verify the legality of the transaction data to ensure consistency. This process is continuously repeated so that all new transaction data can be securely recorded.

As long as the majority of nodes comply with the consensus rules, the network ensures results remain credible even in an untrusted environment. Consensus in Tron, therefore, is not just about validating transactions but about creating an agreement among honest nodes to preserve blockchain stability.

One might ask: doesn't having only 27 node operators make Tron highly centralised?

While the election process mitigates this, critics argue it still concentrates power, as noted in the LITMUS report later on.

Super Representators (SR)

Super Representatives are one of the most critical entities in the Tron ecosystem. These positions are not static. They are earned through an on-chain voting process. Anyone can become an SR candidate by paying 9,999 TRX (about $3,300 at current prices). At the same time, any TRX holder with voting rights can cast votes, ensuring that decentralisation is preserved through community participation.

From a pool of 127 SR candidates, the top 27 with the most votes become SRs. These SRs must operate nodes, participate in block production and receive both block production rewards (staking rewards) and voting rewards. Importantly, voters who support SRs also earn rewards, creating a symbiotic incentive model.

Candidates ranked 28th to 127th are called SR Partners. While they do not produce blocks, they are still entitled to voting rewards, keeping them engaged in the ecosystem.

This governance model is a cornerstone of Tron's architecture, a hybrid approach that balances efficiency with democratic participation. However, to fully understand why Tron's consensus and governance work so well in practice, we must look at its resource model, which redefines how users interact with blockchain fees.

Tron's Resource Model

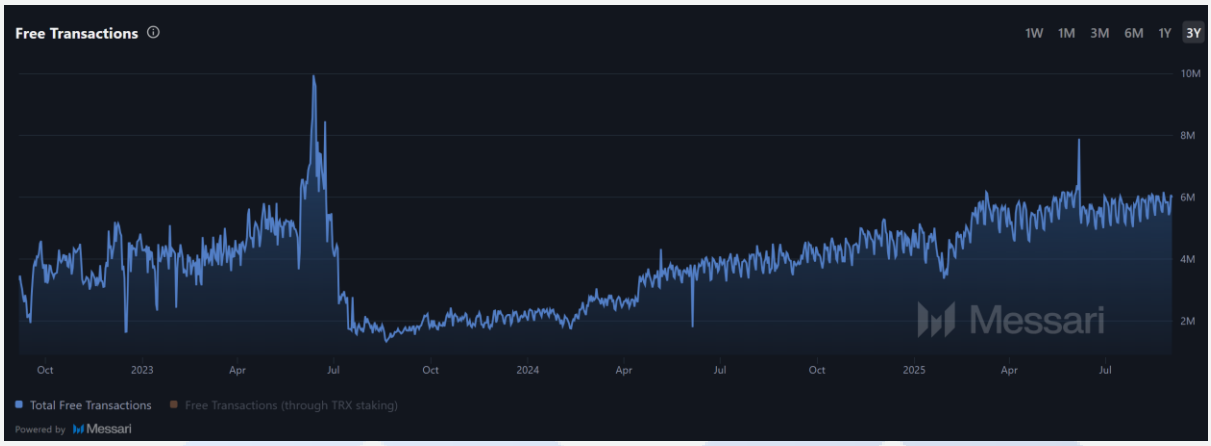
Unlike most layer-1s that require their native token to pay transaction fees (e.g., ETH on Ethereum, SOL on Solana), Tron takes a different approach. Instead of gas fees being the only cost, Tron introduces two resources: Bandwidth and Energy.

This model makes Tron particularly efficient as a payments layer, enabling users to transact at extremely low cost, or even for free.

Bandwidth

Bandwidth measures the size of transaction bytes stored on the blockchain. The larger the transaction, the more Bandwidth it consumes. All transactions, except certain smart contract queries, require Bandwidth.

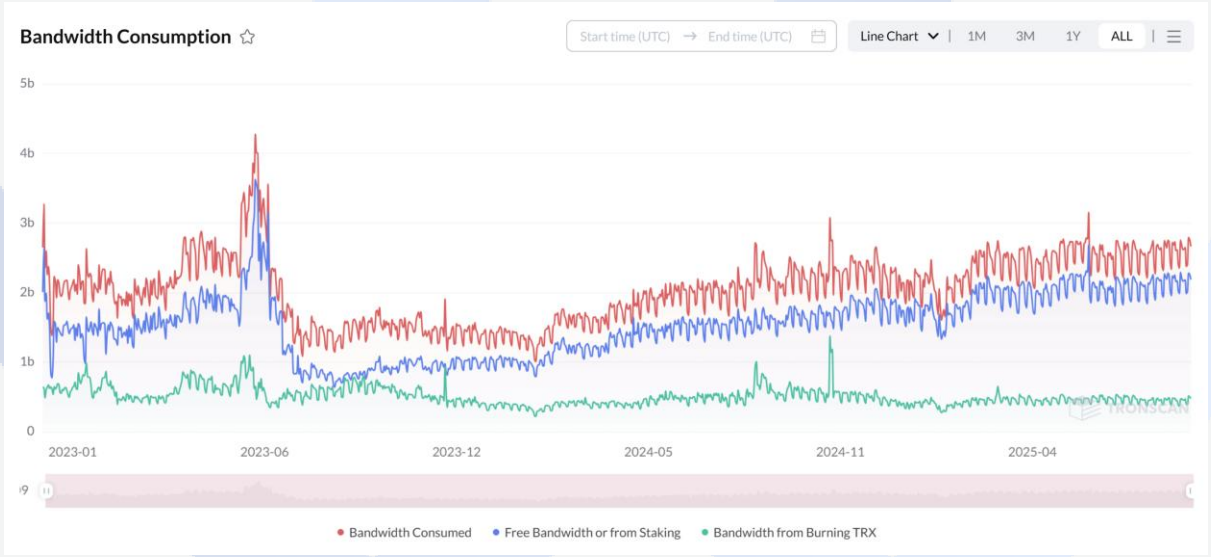
Every Tron account receives 600 free Bandwidth per day, which makes many day-to-day transfers completely cost-free. Additional Bandwidth can be earned by staking TRX. If a user's transaction fits within the free allowance, it costs nothing. If it exceeds the allowance, staked Bandwidth is used, which is also essentially free, apart from the opportunity cost of locking up TRX.



Source: Messari. *Total Free Transactions on Tron*.

In Q2 2025 alone, Tron facilitated over 500 million free transactions. In Q1 2025, the number was 439 million, and in the ongoing Q3 2025, the network has already processed 366 million free transactions. This is one of the primary reasons Tron dominates stablecoin transfers, particularly USDT payments.

In a scenario where both free Bandwidth and staked Bandwidth are insufficient to execute a transaction, TRX is burned to pay for the required Bandwidth at a rate of 0.001 TRX per unit. This mechanism directly contributes to TRX's deflationary tokenomics, a topic we'll return to later.



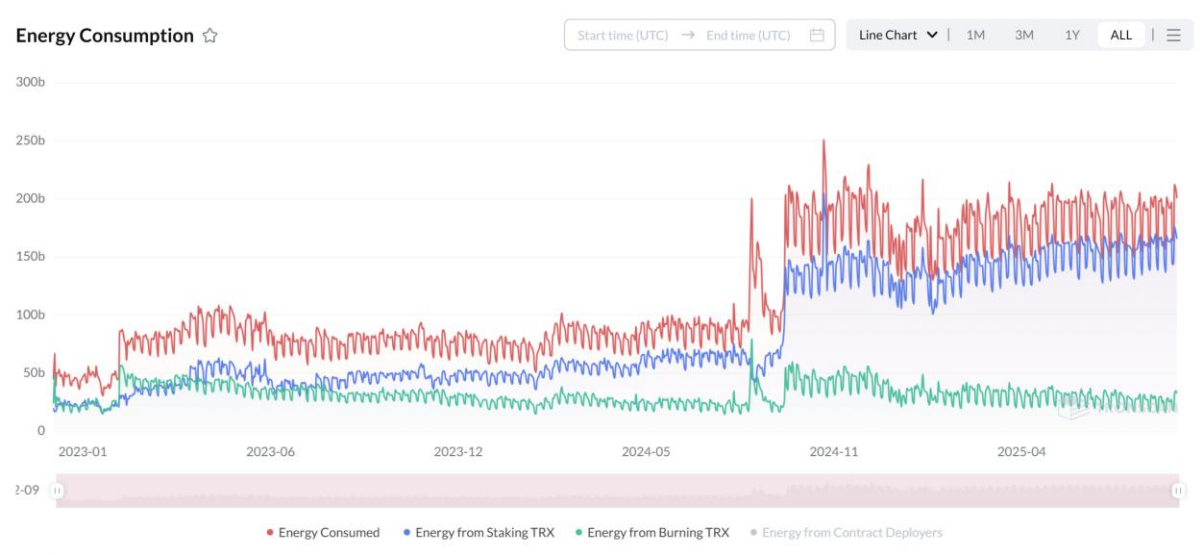
Source: Tronscan. *Bandwidth Consumption*.

Data also shows a consistent rise in overall Bandwidth consumption (red line above) since 2023, reflecting growing blockchain activity. However, most of this demand is being met via free or staked Bandwidth (blue line above) rather than TRX burning (green line above). While this keeps transactions cheap and user-friendly, it reduces the deflationary pressure on TRX supply.

Energy

While Bandwidth covers standard transactions, executing smart contracts on Tron requires Energy. Unlike Bandwidth, there is no daily free Energy allowance. The only way to obtain Energy is through staking TRX.

If Energy earned through staking is sufficient for executing a smart contract, that execution is free, if not, TRX must be burned at a cost of 0.0001 TRX per unit of Energy to pay the excess.



Source: Tronscan. *Energy Consumption*.

Energy consumption spiked in Q4 2024, coinciding with Trump's presidential victory, the approval of crypto ETFs and a broader surge in global markets. This indicated increased smart contract usage. However, similar to Bandwidth, most of this demand is covered by Energy earned through TRX staking rather than burning.

This has two key implications:

1. **Positive**: The system strongly incentivises TRX staking, which enhances network security.
2. **Negative**: With less TRX burned, the token's deflationary rate is slower than it could be.

Why This Model Stands Out

Tron's resource model goes beyond lowering fees, it fundamentally reshapes the cost structure of blockchain usage. By separating transaction size (Bandwidth) from computational complexity (Energy), it creates a more efficient and predictable system for users.

- **For retail users**: Many payments, especially simple token transfers, can be executed at no cost.
- **For developers and enterprises**: Costs are predictable and can be optimised by staking, making Tron attractive for large-scale applications.

- **For the ecosystem**: Staking TRX not only provides rewards but also allocates essential network resources, reinforcing both security and utility.

This dual-resource approach is one of the reasons why Tron has become the largest blockchain by stablecoin volume, powering a significant share of global USDT settlement.

Tron's Payment Volume

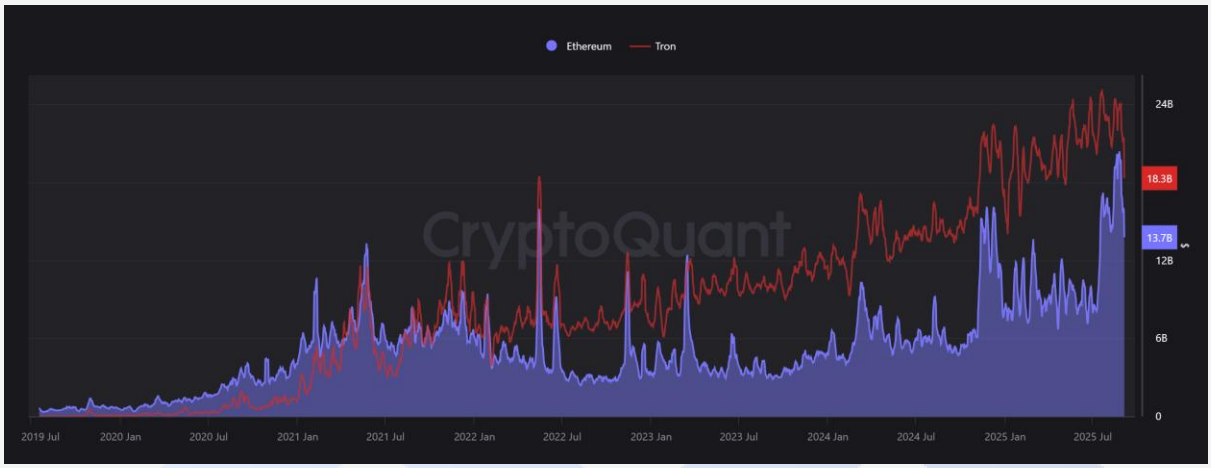
Tron leads in stablecoin payment volumes with a particular edge in USDT transfers, making it the backbone of global stablecoin settlement. Tron's low fees, speed and high throughput have turned it into the preferred blockchain for remittances, peer-to-peer payments and exchange transfers across the globe.

USDT Dominance

While the overall stablecoin market continues to expand at a rapid pace, USDT remains the undisputed market leader. With a market capitalisation of $168 billion, USDT accounts for nearly 63% of the entire stablecoin market. Out of this, more than $82 billion worth of USDT is currently issued on Tron, giving the network a commanding position in the stablecoin economy.

Source: Tronscan. *USDT Supply on Tron vs Ethereum*.

The growth trajectory of USDT supply on Tron has closely mirrored that of Ethereum, but what's important is that both chains are expanding, reflecting rising demand for stablecoins. However, supply only tells half the story, the real differentiator lies in usage.



Source: CryptoQuant. *USDT volume on Tron vs Ethereum*.

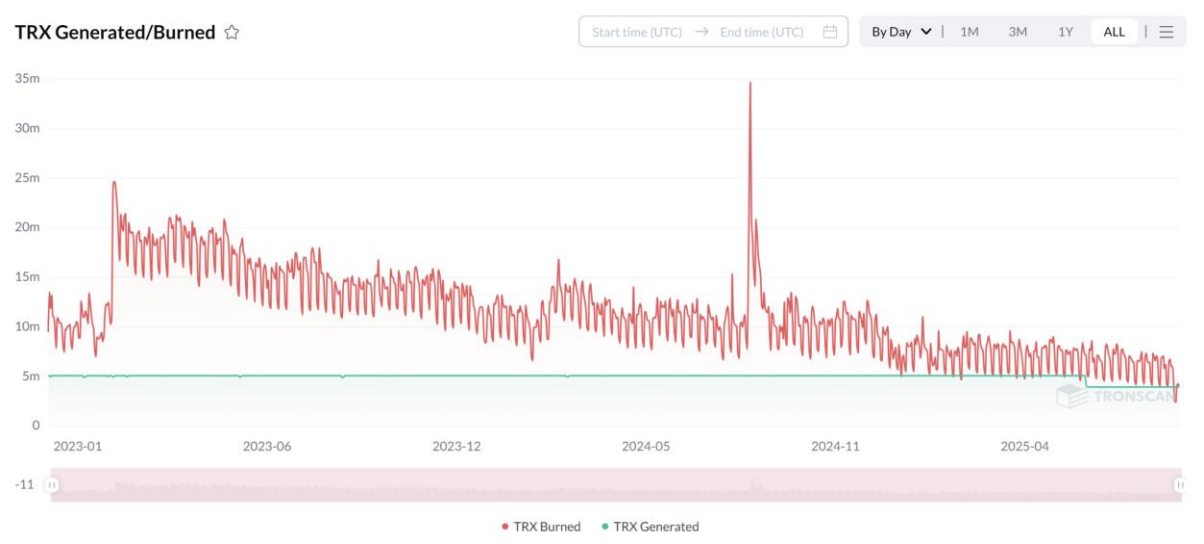
When it comes to actual usage, Tron is far ahead of Ethereum. The data clearly shows USDT volume on Tron (highlighted in red) consistently outpacing Ethereum's (in blue). Despite Ethereum's recent resurgence, fuelled by record-breaking ecosystem activity, liquidity growth, and renewed investor interest, Tron still holds a $4.6 billion daily lead in USDT transfer volume compared to Ethereum. Yet Ethereum's resurgence could narrow this, as explored in the Emerging Threats section.

What's fascinating is Tron's track record of resilience. Even during periods of global market turmoil, from regulatory crackdowns to macroeconomic shocks, Tron has managed to steadily grow its on-chain stablecoin activity. This demonstrates the chain's reliability as a payment settlement layer.

Ethereum is not to be underestimated, however. With its DeFi dominance, the rise of Ethereum Layer-2 solutions, and renewed interest from institutions, Ethereum could claw back stablecoin payment share. Still, the immediate cost and throughput advantages give Tron a firm edge for now, especially in high-frequency, high-volume transactions like remittances and exchange transfers.

TRX Tokenomics

TRX, the native utility token of Tron, plays a central role in governance, staking and resource management. Originally launched in August 2017 as an ERC-20 token on Ethereum, TRX migrated to its own chain once the Tron mainnet went live. The Tron Virtual Machine (TVM), a fork of Ethereum's EVM, ensured full EVM compatibility from the start, another key reason why Tether was able to quickly expand USDT issuance on Tron.



Source: Tronscan. *TRX Burned vs Generated*.

Historically, TRX had a deflationary design, with tokens being burned through resource consumption (Bandwidth and Energy). However, as seen in the chart above, TRX burning (red line) has been on a consistent decline. At the same time, TRX minting (green line) has maintained pace, meaning **burn activity no longer offsets token issuance**.

This dynamic has pushed TRX to the brink of becoming inflationary, ending its multi-year deflationary streak.

Source: Tronscan. *TRX Supply Change*.

On August 31, 2025, net TRX supply increased by over 1.5 million tokens, as shown on the right in green above. This marked a turning point where supply growth outpaced burn-driven deflation, largely due to reduced consumption of resources earned through TRX burning.

Source: Tronscan. *Daily Tron Revenue*.

Tron's daily revenue, which directly reflects TRX burned for Bandwidth and Energy, has **recently seen sharp drops, with revenue nearly halving overnight**. This decline coincided with Ethereum regaining significant stablecoin market share. If this revenue compression persists, it could have negative implications for TRX value.

That said, Ethereum faces its own structural challenges: high fees, limited base-layer throughput and reliance on L2s for scalability. While Ethereum is attractive for DeFi-transactions, Tron's low-cost and frictionless architecture makes it a strong contender.

It's worth noting that the Ethereum blockchain, given its high fees and low throughput, is unsuitable for payments. Not to mention the benefits of using Tron, especially free transactions.

Nevertheless, Ethereum being the hub of DeFi, it's possible for its USDT payments volume to grow, not to mention that users can just use Ethereum L2s to make cheaper and much faster payments compared to the Ethereum blockchain.

Future upgrades like the Fusaka hard fork (November 2025), adjusting gas costs for efficiency and capping block sizes for scalability, alongside ongoing Danksharding enhancements, are set to move Ethereum closer to Tron's speed and cost advantages, potentially narrowing the performance gap further.

Balancing Efficiency and Value

For TRX holders, the key question becomes: can Tron continue driving enough resource consumption and burning to offset inflationary pressures? The answer depends on three factors:

1. **Sustained Stablecoin Growth:** If USDT on Tron continues expanding, transactional demand will keep resources in use. Potential large-scale adoption in emerging markets and cross-border remittances could further solidify Tron as a go-to payments gateway for dollar-denominated digital payments.

2. **Developer Adoption**: Currently, most of the activity on Tron comes from USDT payments. There should be efforts to attract developers to build dApps and services on Tron, which will increase Energy usage, contributing to burns. Expanding beyond payments into areas like DeFi, gaming and tokenised assets could also diversify demand and strengthen the network's long-term fundamentals.

3. **Competition from Ethereum**: Ethereum's resurgence and L2 adoption could redirect volume away from Tron, impacting its revenue stream. To counter this, Tron will need to emphasise its unique advantage of free and near free transactions and portray itself as an EVM -compatible alternative to Ethereum's high costs.

In many ways, Tron is a paradox: hyper-efficient and user-friendly as a payments layer, yet increasingly pressured to deliver sustainable tokenomics in the face of intensifying competition. While its architecture provides unparalleled advantages in cost-effectiveness, this very strength has led to fewer TRX burns, as most activity leverages free or staked resources rather than burning tokens. This creates a delicate balancing act for Tron's future, where it must not only continue to dominate the stablecoin payments sector but also find ways to ensure TRX maintains its value proposition in an environment where efficiency is paradoxically undermining its deflationary design.

This efficient token model underpins Tron's appeal for stablecoins like USDT. To understand how Tron became the home for Tether, let's trace their partnership from its 2019 roots to today's dominance

Timeline of Tron and Tether's Partnership

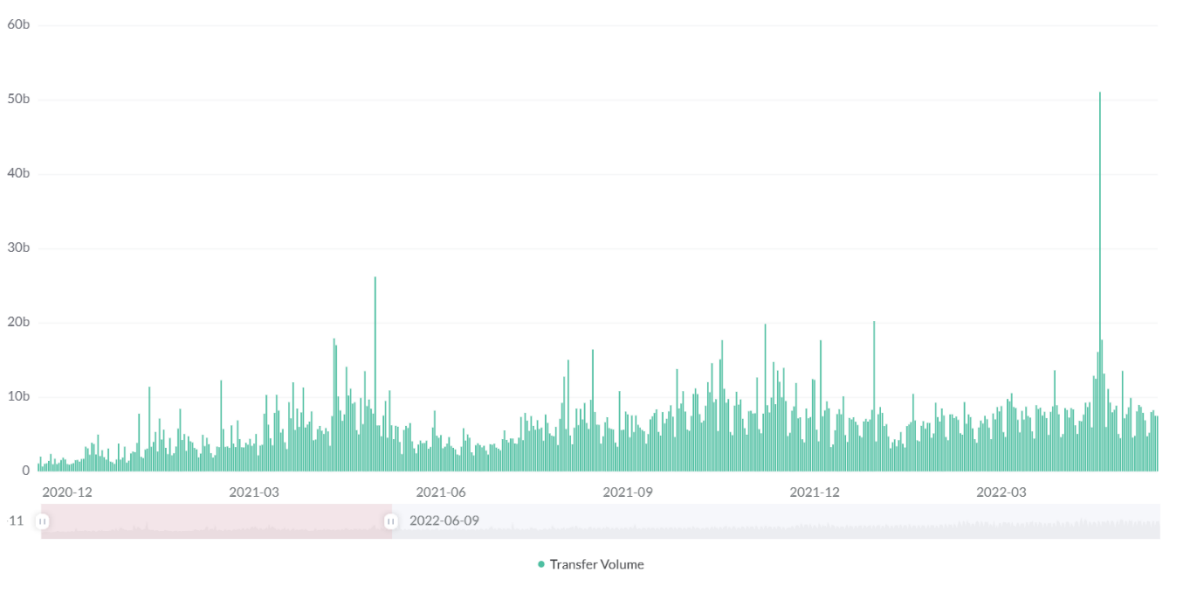
The story of how Tether became Tron's largest partner started as a straightforward tech play but evolved into the home of stablecoin liquidity. It began in early 2019, when blockchain networks were racing to host USDT amid Ethereum's congestion issues. The partnership aimed to leverage Tron's speed for cheaper, faster transfers, and it snowballed from there. Driven by adoption in emerging markets and exchange integrations, it's now the backbone of global stablecoin flows, with Tron hosting over half of USDT's supply.

The seeds were planted in March 2019, when Tron and Tether announced their collaboration to issue USDT as a TRC-20 token on the Tron network by Q2 that year. At the time, USDT was mostly on Ethereum (ERC-20), but rising gas fees made alternatives appealing. Tron pitched itself as a high-throughput option, capable of 2,000 TPS (versus Ethereum's15 TPS at the time) with significant cost efficiency, targeting users in Asia and beyond for everyday transactions.

By April, the launch went live: USDT debuted on Tron, marking the first major stablecoin migration to its chain. Early adoption was modest, with initial supply in the millions, but exchanges like Binance quickly integrated it, offering zero-fee deposits to bootstrap liquidity. This set the stage for growth, as Tron's low fees contrasted with Ethereum's volatility, drawing retail users for peer-to-peer sends.

The 2020-2021 bull run accelerated things. As DeFi boomed, USDT on Tron surged from under $1 billion in early 2020 to $6.7 billion by end-2021, fuelled by yield farming and cross-border use. Tron's ecosystem expanded with dApps like JustLend, while Tether minted billions more

amid crypto's hype. By mid-2021, Tron overtook Ethereum in daily USDT transfer, thanks to its efficiency in high-frequency scenarios.



Source: Tronscan – USDT Volume on Tron

Challenges hit in 2022-2023, with regulatory scrutiny on Tether's reserves and illicit activity reports linking 45% of crypto crime to Tron in 2023[1]. But the partnership adapted: In July 2024, Tether, Tron and TRM Labs formed the T3 Financial Crime Unit (T3 FCU) to monitor and freeze suspicious funds. This cleaned up the network, slashing illicit volume by 50% and freezing $130 million, including $12 million in its first week[2]. It shifted the narrative from risk to responsibility, boosting trust.

Entering 2025, minting has ramped up dramatically, and Tron is currently one of the most dominant forces in stablecoins, as demonstrated in our earlier sections.

What started as a simple token migration has made Tron indispensable to Tether's empire. The duo's focus on compliance and efficiency turned an early tech synergy into the preferred rail for real-world finance.

Building on this evolution, Tron's stablecoin stronghold sets the stage for broader expansion. Here's how its growth outlook leverages USDT for DeFi, AI, and beyond.

Growth Outlook and Use Cases for the Future

Tron’s rise in 2025 has been quiet: no loud hype, but steady wins. With $6 billion in Total Value Locked (TVL), over 2.5 million daily wallets[3] and 11 billion lifetime transactions[4], it’s a blockchain that delivers where others overpromise. Its edge lies in real-world utility to handle billions in daily stablecoin flows and power a sprawling ecosystem of dApps. Yet, growth hinges

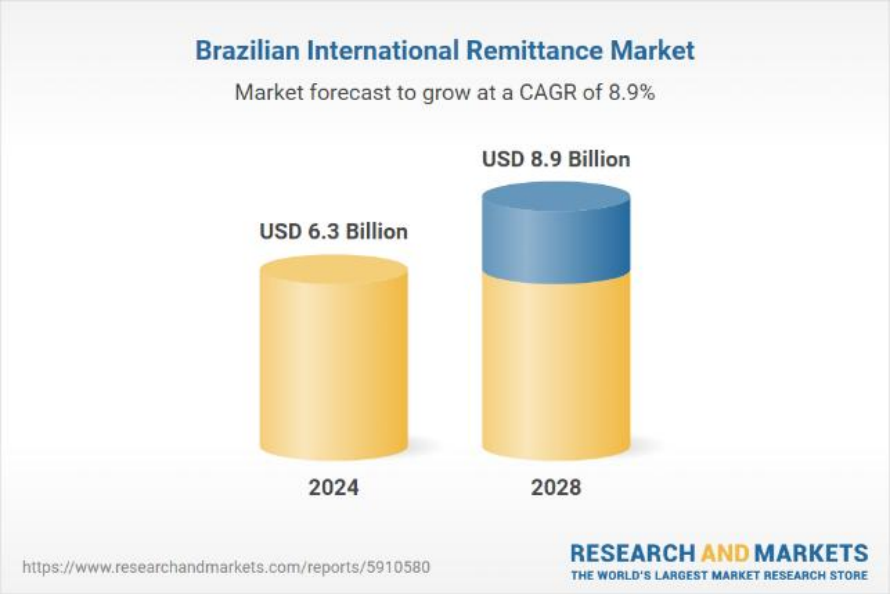
[1] https://www.trmlabs.com/reports-and-whitepapers/the-illicit-crypto-economy-2023
[2] https://thecryptobasic.com/2024/09/11/tether-announces-collaboration-with-tron-network-to-combat-crypto-crimes/
[3] https://defillama.com/chain/tron
[4] https://tronscan.org/#/

on navigating regulatory minefields and outpacing rivals like Ethereum and XRP Ledger. It's a story of practical bets in a volatile space, grounded in numbers and execution.

Stablecoin Dominance and the Tether Partnership

Tron has carved out a niche as the go-to chain for stablecoins, and Tether's USDT is the engine. As outlined in Payment Volume, Tron hosts half of USDT's supply and moves billions daily. That's not pocket change; however, that is now only 25% more than Ethereum's USDT volume.

For users in places like Brazil, where remittances hit $6.34 billion in inbound flows in early 2024 and are projected to grow at 8.9% CAGR to $8.92 billion by 2028[5], or Southeast Asia, where digital remittances are set to reach $20.83 billion by 2029 with a 6.29% CAGR[6], Tron's speed and cost effectiveness make it a strong alternative to traditional payment rails.



Data from 31 stablecoin payment companies shows Tron as the preferred blockchain in 35 of 50 countries for these transfers, with 60% of USDT transactions under $1,000 signalling everyday use by retail users and remittance senders[7]. Partnerships like AEON Pay, enabling 20 million Southeast Asian merchants to accept USDT, and Kripton Market in Argentina, where 2,000 merchants process USDT for cross-border needs, underscore this traction. In emerging markets, where 98% of stablecoin payments via providers like Orbital occur on Tron and 99% use USDT[8], it's become a lifeline for avoiding volatile local currencies and high fiat fees.

Tether itself is the dominant force in stablecoins, commanding 65% of the $280 billion market, with USDC trailing at 20%. Analysts see stablecoins hitting $400 billion by year-end[9], maybe $2 trillion by 2028[10], and Tether's lead looks sticky. Its appeal is simple: it's the crypto dollar, liquid

[5] https://www.researchandmarkets.com/reports/5910580/brazil-international-remittance-market-business
[6] https://www.statista.com/outlook/fmo/digital-payments/digital-remittances/southeast-asia
[7] https://cryptobriefing.com/tron-stablecoin-transfers-dominance/
[8] https://news.bitcoin.com/orbital-analysis-emerging-markets-overwhelmingly-embrace-usdt-payments-on-tron/
[9] https://www.coindesk.com/markets/2024/12/11/stablecoin-market-cap-hits-200-b-milestone-could-double-in-2025-as-adoption-accelerates
[10] https://beincrypto.com/stablecoin-market-2-trillion-2028/

and borderless, perfect for everything from peer-to-peer transfers to yield farming. Tron's role as Tether's preferred chain is a cultural fit for markets where trust in local banks is thin.

As an institution, Tether is a paradox: wildly successful yet perpetually under fire. Based in the British Virgin Islands and now cosying up to El Salvador's crypto-friendly laws, Tether claims full USDT backing with $98.5 billion in Treasuries and cash equivalents, per 2025 audits[11]. That's progress from the murky days of 2021, when a $41 million fine from the New York AG forced better disclosures. But sceptics still grumble about audit depth compared to USDC's real-time attestations. Tether's rebellious nature keeps it thriving in less regulated zones, though it's a lightning rod for scrutiny.

Tron's growth is handcuffed to Tether's fate. If Tether adds another $20 billion in supply this year, as it did in Q1 2025, then Tron could be the main benefactor. Their joint work with TRM Labs, freezing $130 million in illicit funds and slashing shady volume by 50%, has polished Tron's image. But storm clouds gather: the U.S. GENIUS Act could tighten stablecoin rules, squeezing Tether if it doesn't comply fast.

Across the pond, Europe's MiCA regulation already did just that. Fully enforced by March 31, 2025, MiCA demands e-money licenses for stablecoin issuers, full reserve transparency, and strict audits. These are rules that Tether doesn't wish to comply with, and as a result USDT is classified as a non-compliant e-money token. Major exchanges like Coinbase delisted USDT for EU users in December 2024, followed by Binance and Crypto.com by early 2025, effectively banning new offerings and trading in the EEA.

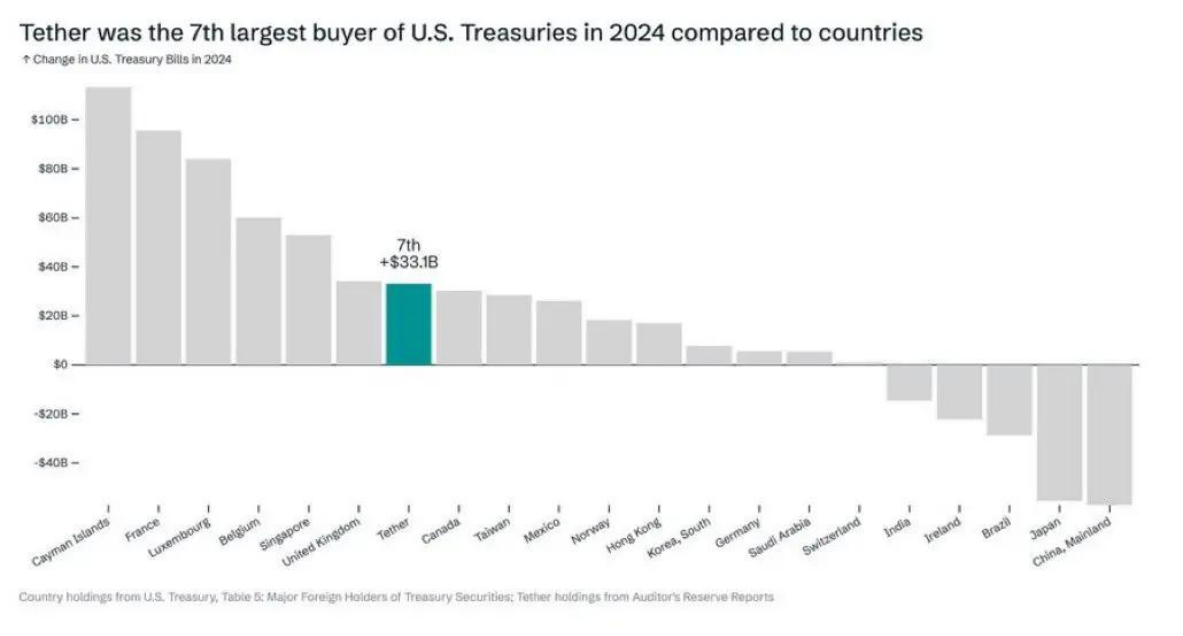
While custody and transfers persist via private wallets or DEXs, this ousted USDT from regulated platforms, pushing users to compliant alternatives like USDC. Yet Tron and Tether would not bend the knee, and it has barely dented them. USDT supply has jumped by $26 billion in 2025, regardless, with Tron volumes holding steady and even rising as Asia and Latin America adopt this new technology faster.

Europe's 10-15% slice of Tether's volume might seem like a decent chunk, but the real story is how this exit highlights regulators shooting themselves in the foot and stifling innovation. This crackdown could potentially isolate the EU from crypto's liquidity boom while the rest of the world moves on.

Has USDT grown too big for regulators to fully tame?

With Tether holding over $127 billion in US Treasury, it now outstrips countries like South Korea and Germany in T-bills, ranking them as the seventh-largest foreign buyer last year, ahead of Canada or Taiwan.

[11] https://kensoninvestments.com/transparency-in-stablecoins-how-tethers-reserve-reporting-has-evolved/



Source: Cointelegraph

It's quietly becoming a pillar of global economies, soaking up government debt to back its reserves. For the US, that's a steady demand for Treasuries, helping fund deficits at low yields. If Tether diversifies into other nations' debt, those countries get cheap financing and deeper liquidity; alienate it, and you risk missing out on that capital inflow in a world where stablecoins are being woven into trade and remittances.

Tron and Tether are a power couple in crypto finance, with Tron's pipes pumping Tether's liquidity. It's not fancy tech like AI oracles, but it's the kind of boring reliability that markets reward.

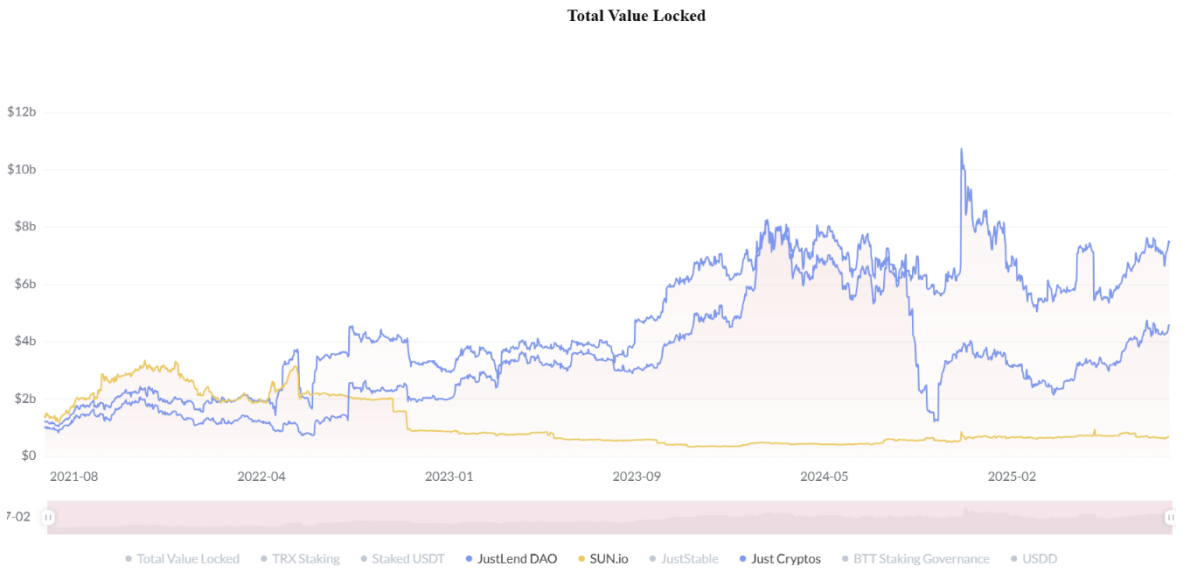
DeFi and AI Integration Expansion

Tron's push into DeFi and AI feels like a smart pivot, layering innovation on its stablecoin stronghold to pull in more developers and capital. The Builders League, launched by TRON DAO in February 2025, is the key vehicle here. It boasts a $10 million incubator fund aimed at high-potential projects in DeFi, AI, and related areas like RWAs. By mid-2025, it will have begun onboarding participants and distributing initial grants, with allocations ranging from $50,000 to $500,000 based on project maturity and market fit.

These aren't just handouts either. It comes with mentorship from TRON experts and ecosystem integrations, like priority listings on SunSwap or tech support for gasless USDT flows. The fund's focus on practical builds aims to draw institutional interest as DeFi volumes are on the rise.

On the payments side, where USDT reigns, the fund backs dApps that supercharge Tron's role as a settlement layer. Take Trenergy, a project in the Builders League that optimises energy rentals for fee savings on USDT transfers. It's helped users cut costs on high-volume remittances, tying directly into Tron's $20 billion daily churn. Making cross-border payments more efficient for retail in emerging markets.

Another standout is JustLend DAO, which has racked up $5.2 billion in TVL by letting users borrow against USDT at competitive rates. Builders League funding helped scale their oracle integration and boost daily active users.



Source: Tronscan

Then there's AEON Pay's integration, **enabling 20 million Southeast Asian merchants to accept USDT offline**. It streamlines fiat-to-crypto ramps, adding to Tron's growing transaction volume. These plays leverage Tron's payment backbone, turning stablecoin dominance into a moat that fuels growth without relying on hype cycles.

AI integrations are where Tron gets forward-looking, blending machine learning with blockchain for smarter DeFi. Oraichain for AI oracles, enhances data feeds for DeFi protocols and reduces risk in lending markets, potentially lifting ecosystem engagement as institutions seek data-efficient chains amid rising compute costs. This isn't just AI buzzwords; it grounds it in Tron's strengths, automating valuations for tokenised assets, projected to add billions in volume to Tron.

Beyond DeFi and AI, Tron's ecosystem is also facilitating on-chain betting. WINkLink provides oracles for provably fair bets, powering on-chain platforms that handle millions in wagers. Paired with BitTorrent's file-sharing backbone, it creates a niche for decentralised entertainment that could expand Tron's user base.

This segment isn't the star, but it provides balance. This mix positions Tron for sustainable expansion, turning its payment dominance into a launchpad for broader adoption.

Cross-Ecosystem Integrations and Web3 Expansions

Tron's cross-chain moves in 2025 are turning it from a stablecoin specialist into a connected Web3 player. Partnerships with deBridge and MetaMask open doors to broader liquidity and more users. These partnerships tackle silos, reduce migration risks, and boost Tron's transaction volume by linking it to diverse ecosystems.

The deBridge integration, rolled out in late August 2025, connects Tron to over 25 blockchains, enabling near-instant transfers of TRC-20 assets like USDT with low slippage and MEV

protection. Tron's high-throughput network makes it an ideal backbone, ensuring efficient, secure swaps without congestion.

This supports projects building cross-chain DeFi or RWAs by tapping Tron's $20 billion daily USDT volume as a liquidity source, bridging to ecosystems like Ethereum or Binance. For institutions, this means smoother stablecoin flows across chains, strengthening Tron's role as a settlement hub.

MetaMask's native support, announced in August 2025, lets its 30-100 million users store TRX, manage USDT, and engage with Tron dApps directly. Tron's fast settlements and low costs simplify cross-chain operations for yield farming or remittances, empowering projects like JustLend or SunSwap by exposing them to MetaMask's Ethereum-heavy crowd. This broadens Tron's user reach, drawing in Web3 newcomers and boosting daily active addresses by making it a wallet staple for multi-chain portfolios.

BitTorrent Chain (BTTC), upgraded to 2.0 in 2025, enables bi-directional asset moves across Tron, Ethereum, and BNB Chain, using sidechains for scalability. Tron's energy-efficient DPoS and massive transaction volume provide a stable, low-latency base, helping projects like decentralised storage apps scale across chains without high fees. With over 14 million addresses, BTTC funnels traffic to Tron, enhancing its ecosystem stickiness.

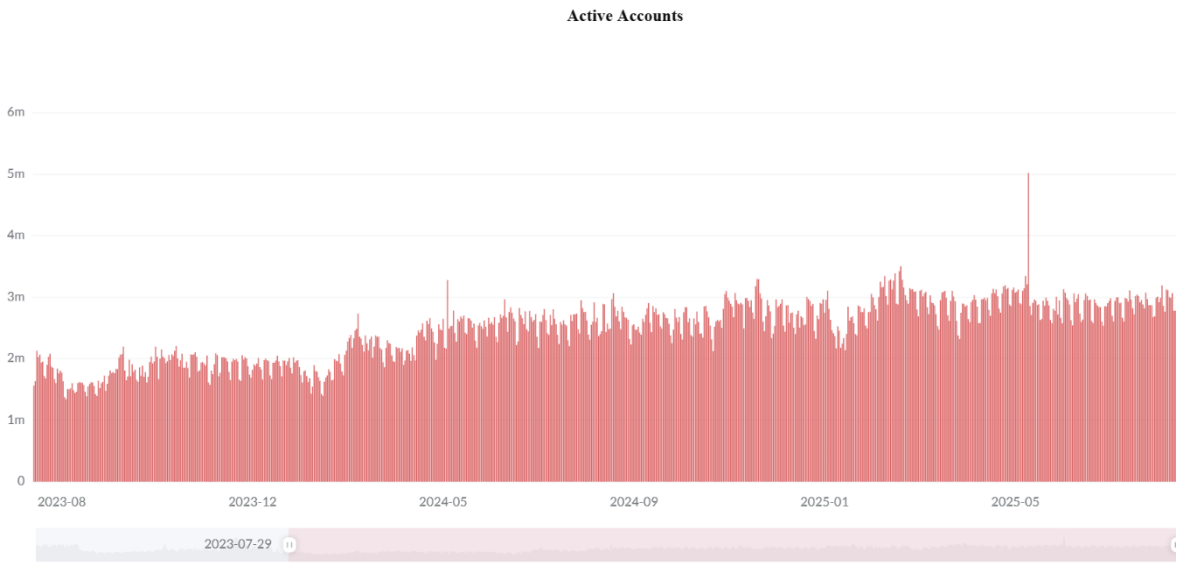
The HTX DAO collaboration, highlighted at Hong Kong's Web3 Festival in April 2025, focuses on decentralised governance and finance. Tron's tools for community-driven decisions and stablecoin integrations aid HTX's regional push in Asia, strengthening Tron's foothold in crypto hubs. This drives institutional partnerships and regional user growth. However, the partnership's impact dims given Justin Sun's significant equity stake in HTX[12], raising questions about its independence and true decentralised value[13].

These expansions hedge against single-chain risks, fostering a networked ecosystem that broadens Tron's market reach. It is not about dominating every niche; it is about being the reliable connector in a fragmented space.

The Ecosystem and Its Partners

Tron's ecosystem in 2025 is a web of interconnected projects and alliances, quietly scaling beyond its stablecoin roots. With over 1,400 dApps[14] driving daily utility, it pulls in 3 million active users through diverse tools, from lending protocols to decentralised storage. Their partnerships don't herald flashy announcements; they're strategic links that bridge crypto with traditional systems, including ties to governments and high-profile figures. This setup fosters resilience, turning Tron into a platform that surprises outsiders with its real-world reach.

[12] https://blockworks.co/news/huobi-founder-sells-100-stake-to-justin-sun-fund-report
[13] https://protos.com/justin-sun-advised-htx-plays-games-with-its-reserves/
[14] https://dappradar.com/rankings/protocol/tron



Source: Tronscan

Ecosystem funds keep the innovation flowing. The $1 billion Ecosystem Fund, running from 2021 up until 2031, backs long-term builds, while HackaTRON has funded over 100 projects this year alone. These incentives draw developers, sparking tools that enhance dapps and build ecosystem depth.

What might surprise outsiders is Tron's ties to recognisable institutions. Founder Justin Sun brings diplomatic heft as Grenada's WTO ambassador. But the real eye-opener is their connections to the US government.

In 2025, the Department of Commerce selected Tron as one of nine blockchains to publish official GDP data on-chain, putting national economic stats directly on chain for transparency. This initiative started with the July 2025 GDP release, hashed and distributed across chains like Ethereum and Tron to demonstrate tamper-proof data sharing. A proof-of-concept that could evolve into broader federal use for economic transparency.

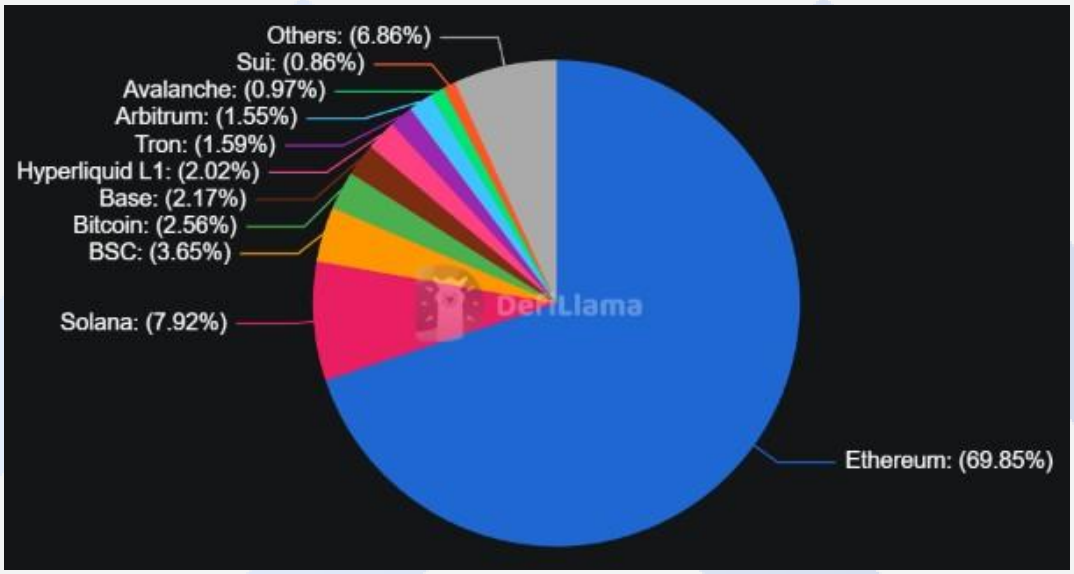
With these alliances strengthening Tron's ecosystem, it's worth examining how it stacks up against rivals in both crypto and traditional finance to gauge its competitive moat.

Main Competitors in Both Traditional Finance and Crypto

Tron competes against blockchain peers and traditional finance giants, carving out a unique edge as the go-to platform for stablecoin settlements. We will break this down by category, starting with blockchain peers, where Tron holds its ground without chasing every trend. Then, we examine the payments specialists, where Tron's current real-world dominance stands out, though rising competition challenges its lead. Finally, for traditional finance giants, we focus on how Tron stacks up in ways that matter to institutional eyes—cost, speed, and reach—while being honest about the hurdles to mainstream crossover. It is a landscape where Tron is not trying to be everything to everyone, but it excels where volume and efficiency count.

Crypto Competitors: Ethereum (Layer-1 Focus)

Ethereum represents the Layer-1 heavyweights, but Tron plays a different game. Tron clocks in at up to 2,000 TPS with average fees now dipping to $0.0003 after recent cuts, making it a lean machine for high-volume tasks. Ethereum, by contrast, averages around $0.41 per transaction, often spiking to $1-5 during congestion.

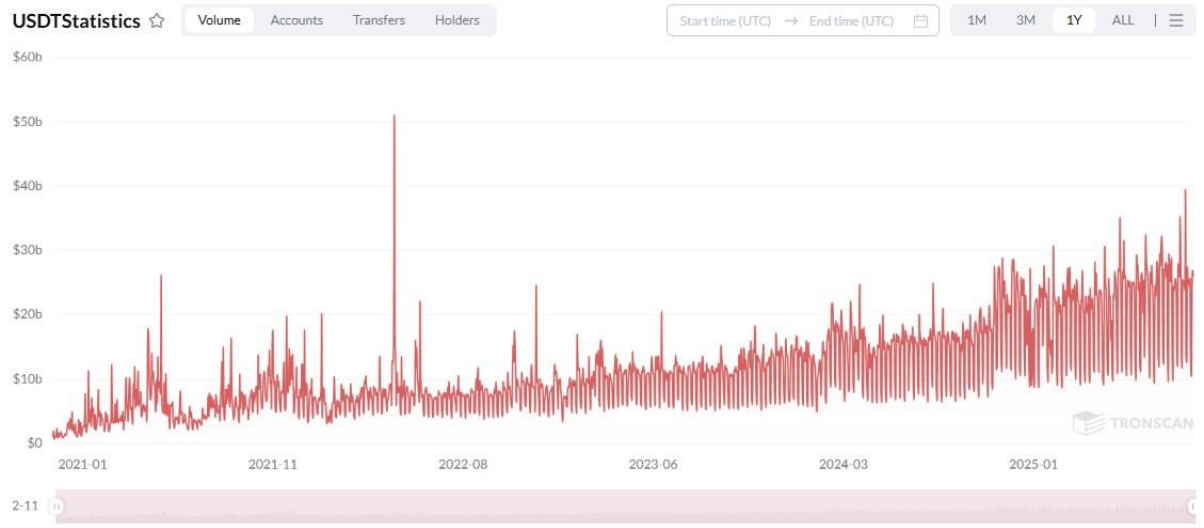


Source: DefiLlama

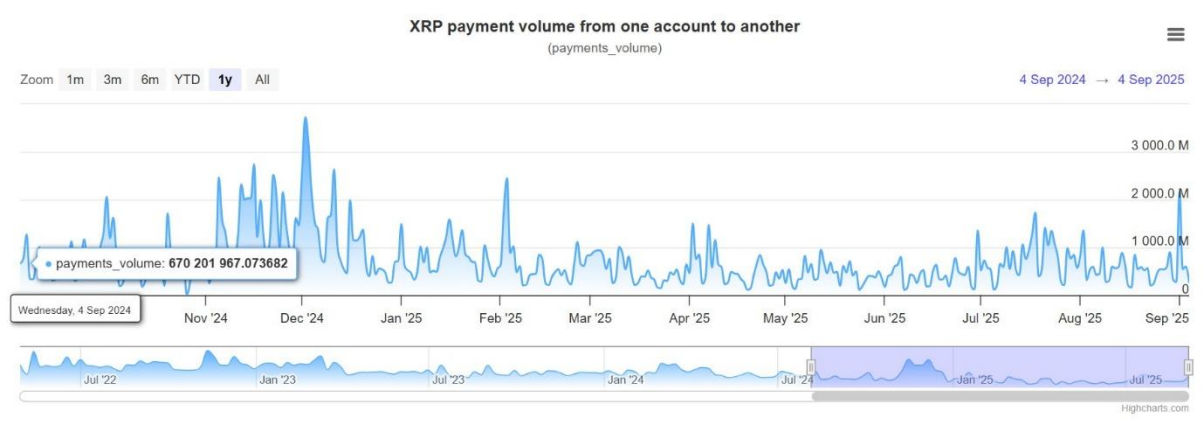
Sure, Tron trails Ethereum in sheer ecosystem size and developer pull. But here is the thing: Tron is not gunning for that generalist crown. It is a specialist in stablecoin rails, dominating USDT flows where raw scalability for payments trumps everything else. Investors should not sweat the dev gap; Tron's focus keeps it efficient and profitable in its lane, without the bloat that slows others.

Crypto Competitors: XRP Ledger (XRP) and Stellar (XLM) (Payments Specialists)

Comparing Tron to the XRP ledger or Stellar (XLM) feels like bullying these days. Tron is lapping them in the very space they were built for. Tron handles around $20 billion in daily USDT volume, as noted earlier, dwarfing XRP's payment volume of around $727-$807 million (or 256m - 284m XRP).



Source: TronScan – *USDT Daily Volume on Tron*



Source: XRPScan – *Daily Volume in XRP*

XRP Ledger was hyped as the SWIFT killer back in its 2017-2018 pump, promising instant cross-border settlements at 1,500 TPS with fees under a penny. Stellar aimed at low-cost remittances, settling in 3-5 seconds for fractions of a cent. Both sound great on paper, but Tron is the one actually moving the needle and processing real volume, making their competitors' designs look more like wishful thinking.

Let's break it down further. On speed, Tron's Delegated Proof-of-Stake (DPoS) hits up to 2,000 TPS, settling in under a minute. XRP's Ripple Protocol Consensus Algorithm (RPCA) claims 1,500 TPS in theory, but real-world averages hover around 40-150 TPS, with fees at about $0.0002. Tron edges out on consistent high-volume throughput, while XRP and XLM shine in niche low-latency bursts but neither match Tron's sustained daily grind.

Decentralisation tells a similar story. Tron's DPoS uses 27 elected Super Representatives, which critics call semi-centralised, but it still distributes voting power across millions of users staking TRX. XRP's RPCA relies on a Unique Node List (UNL) of trusted validators, heavily steered by Ripple Labs, making it the most centralised of the three. Ripple currently controls about 35 billion XRP in escrow[15].

[15] https://xrpscan.com/balances

The Stellar Consensus Protocol (SCP) is more open, with community-chosen quorum slices and no single entity dominating, though the Stellar Development Foundation holds 42% of the supply. Tron isn't perfect, but its broad user base and on-chain governance give it more resilience than XRP Ledger's top-down model, while matching Stellar's community vibe without the foundation's heavy hand.

Adoption and partnerships? XRP boasts 100+ banks like Santander and SBI, but its SEC lawsuit stifled U.S. growth, limiting it to pilots rather than full-scale rollouts. Stellar partners with MoneyGram and IBM for remittances, focusing on unbanked users in 180+ countries, but its USDC integration ($220 million on-chain) pales next to Tron's Tether dominance (63% of total USDT supply, $80 billion+).

Tron is the quiet workhorse, powering zero-fee USDT transfers with real traction in Latin America and Asia. XRP Ledger's enterprise deals are flashy but bogged down by regs, and Stellar's grassroots push is noble but small in scale. Tron just executes, handling 25% more USDT volume than Ethereum without any stress.

Tron wins on volume because it is not waiting for bank buy-in; it is already the de facto rail for USDT, blending speed with low costs. XRP fans blame regs for its underperformance, but Tron and Tether are no strangers to regulatory crackdowns, yet they kept minting billions. It is not regulation holding XRP back; it is execution**. Tron is quietly doing what the XRP Ledger promised: disrupting global payments at scale.**

While Ripple does everything in its power to nurse its valuation through overhyped announcements that never materialise, Tron has built the tech that actually works.

This dominance positions Tron for outsized growth in payments, where volume begets more volume. As stablecoins continue to be woven into the financial system, Tron's specialisation locks in network effects that XRP and XLM can only envy, making it the clear leader in this arena.

Traditional Finance Competitors: PayPal and Stripe (Digital Payments)

For traditional investors eyeing crypto's overlap with fintech, PayPal and Stripe should be familiar giants. Polished, user-friendly platforms that dominate digital payments. Tron steps into this arena with its borderless USDT transfers at near-zero fees, a stark contrast to PayPal's 2.29-3.49% plus $0.49 per transaction and Stripe's 2.9% + $0.30 for card payments. PayPal, with a market cap of approximately $65 billion, processed a total transaction volume of $1.68 trillion in 2024, an average of $4.6 billion per day[16]. While Stripe, valued at $91.5 billion, uses its API-driven system to fuel e-commerce giants like Shopify and Amazon, it reported an annual payment volume of $1.4 trillion, or about $3.8 billion daily[17].

Tron, by contrast, moves $25-30 billion daily in USDT alone, with 9 million daily transactions, positioning it as a lean, blockchain-based challenger to these centralised behemoths.

PayPal's strength lies in its seamless UX and ability to send money globally with an email, no crypto wallet needed, backed by fraud protection. It's 426 million active accounts in 2025,

[16] https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1633917/000163391725000017/pypl4q-24earningsrelease.htm

[17] https://assets.stripeassets.com/fzn2n1nzq965/2pt3yIHthraqR1KwXgr98U/cbec59afdec826fb322271a56626aa9a/Stripe-annual-letter-2024-en-gb.pdf

including 35 million merchants, make it a household name, with mobile apps handling 70% of transactions instantly.

Stripe excels in developer-friendly APIs, enabling businesses to embed payments, subscriptions, or invoicing in minutes, with full compliance to standards like PCI DSS and GDPR.

PayPal Instant Transfer clears in seconds for a 1.75% fee, while Stripe's payouts hit bank accounts in 1-2 days.

Stripe's September 2025 announcement of a new permissioned Layer-1 blockchain for stablecoin payments, Tempo[18], adds a direct threat. Tempo optimises for high-throughput (10k+ TPS) and low-latency settlements, with fiat-denominated fees and a built-in Automated Market Maker for neutral stablecoin swaps. It partners with Visa for real-world integrations, aiming to onboard tradfi flows like remittances. This challenges Tron by luring USDT volumes to Stripe's ecosystem, blending crypto's speed with centralised protections.

However, crypto enthusiasts have branded Tempo a "wolf in sheep's clothing". They see it as a centralised system dressed up as blockchain innovation. Stripe designed it this way to maintain corporate control from the start. A permissioned validator set lets them handpick participants, ensuring compliance with regulations like AML and KYC without delays. This also allows fiat-denominated fees, which boost profitability by avoiding crypto volatility. Plus, centralisation speeds up development and scalability, as Stripe can optimise for high throughput without the mess of open consensus.

But this approach won't work in crypto's core philosophy. Crypto values decentralisation to prevent single points of failure, censorship, and gatekeeping by big players. When tradfi replicates on-chain like this, it skips the permissionless ethos, where anyone can join without approval. This dilutes crypto's borderless promise, turning it into another controlled system that stifles true innovation and erodes community trust, much like Facebook's Libra failed when its corporate incentives centralised power despite open rhetoric.

Tron's edge is cost and accessibility. Its USDT transfers cost pennies, dodging the 5-10% fees banks charge for remittances. It's also a lifeline for the unbanked. Without the ability to set up bank accounts, these people lean on crypto for cross-border needs.

Tron's censorship resistance is another win. No central authority can freeze funds mid-transfer, unlike PayPal, which suspended 4.7 million accounts in 2024 for policy violations. Speed-wise, Tron settles in under a minute, rivalling PayPal's instant transfers but beating Stripe's payout delays, especially for international flows where banks lag 2-5 days.

Where Tron stumbles is onboarding and trust. PayPal and Stripe require minimal setup. Regulatory scrutiny also adds friction as Tron's ties to Tether draw eyes from bodies like the SEC, while PayPal and Stripe skate by with full compliance baked in. Stripe's Radar tool, for instance, catches 80% more fraud than manual systems, a level that Tron's decentralised setup can't match without third-party integrations. PayPal's buyer protection refunds 99% of disputed transactions. These protections build consumer trust that Tron lacks, especially for retail users wary of crypto volatility.

[18] https://tempo.xyz/

For institutional investors, Tron's low-cost, borderless model is a disruptor where fees kill margins, like cross-border e-commerce or gig economy payouts. But PayPal and Stripe's polished systems keep them entrenched for mainstream retail. **Tron's not gunning to replace them outright; it's carving out a niche where centralised systems overcharge or exclude, and that's enough to shake things up as stablecoins grow.**

Traditional Finance Competitors: Visa and Mastercard (Card Networks)

Visa and Mastercard are the titans that traditional investors know inside out. Their card networks power global commerce with unmatched scale. In 2024, Visa processed 233.8 billion transactions, with a total payment volume of $13.2 trillion[19], while Mastercard handled 159.4 billion transactions, clocking $9.8 trillion in volume[20].

Their merchant fees, typically 1.3-2.6% for Visa and 1.45-2.9% for Mastercard, add up fast, especially for cross-border transactions. Tron, by contrast, moves $20-25 billion daily in USDT at near-zero fees, settling in seconds via the blockchain. It's a lean challenger, not aiming to topple these giants but eating into their margins where speed and cost matter most.

Visa's strength is its ubiquity: 4.3 billion cards accepted at 130 million merchants across 200+ countries, with authorisation times under 100 milliseconds[21]. Mastercard mirrors this, with 3.2 billion cards and 95 million acceptance points, boasting 99.9% uptime on its global network[22].

Both lean on robust fraud detection. Visa's AI catches 99% of fraudulent attempts[23], saving $27 billion annually[24], while Mastercard's Decision Intelligence flags 98.5% of risks in real time[25].

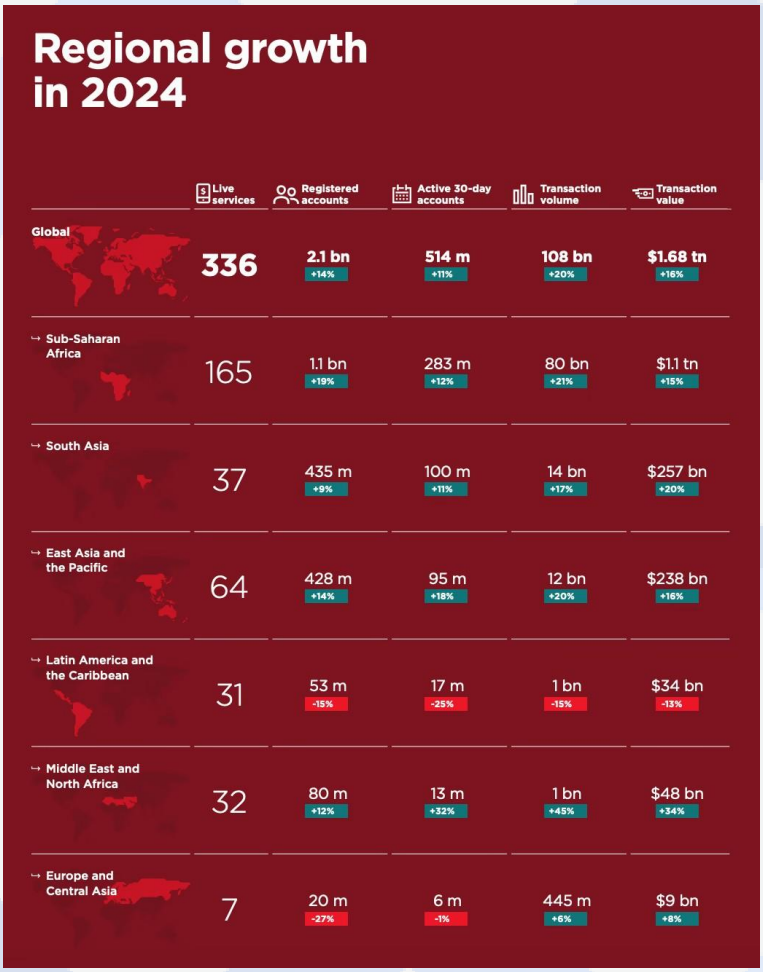
Tron's edge is speed and inclusivity. Its USDT transfers settle in under a minute, beating the 1-3 days for Visa/Mastercard cross-border payments, which often carry 3-5% foreign exchange fees. For the 1.4 billion unbanked globally, Tron's wallet-based system sidesteps the need for bank accounts, unlike card networks requiring credit or debit linkage.

[19] https://s29.q4cdn.com/385744025/files/doc_downloads/2024/Visa-Fiscal-2024-Annual-Report.pdf
[20] https://www.annualreports.com/HostedData/AnnualReports/PDF/NYSE_MA_2024.pdf
[21] https://www.statista.com/statistics/1339837/visa-use-among-merchants-in-the-world/
[22] https://www.mastercard.com/us/en/news-and-trends/stories/2025/commercial-card-acceptance.html
[23] https://corporate.visa.com/content/dam/VCOM/corporate/solutions/documents/visa-perc-biannual-report-spring-2025.pdf
[24] https://merchantcostconsulting.com/lower-credit-card-processing-fees/credit-card-fraud-statistics/
[25] https://b2b.mastercard.com/ai-and-security-solutions/fraud-and-decisioning/decision-intelligence/

In regions like Southeast Asia, where remittances hit $20.83 billion in 2025 projections[26], or Africa, where mobile payments grew 20% YoY[27], Tron's low-cost USDT flows (98% of Orbital's stablecoin payments) serve users that traditional networks miss.

Africa drives global mobile money growth

According to the report, the growth of the global mobile money industry in 2024 was largely driven by SSA. The region accounted for more than two-thirds of registered accounts in 2024, pushing its total number of registered accounts



Source: The State of the Industry Report on Mobile Money 2025, GSMA, Apr 2025

Censorship resistance is another win. Tron's decentralised ledger means no central party can block transactions, unlike Visa and Mastercard, both of whose fraud protection is unmatched. Visa's Advanced Authorisation system processes billions of risk assessments annually, while Tron relies on third-party tools like TRM Labs, which froze $130 million in illicit funds but lacks real-time granularity.

Regulatory scrutiny also bites. Tron's Tether ties draw eyes from the SEC and global watchdogs, while Visa and Mastercard sail through with full AML/KYC compliance. Merchant adoption is

[26] https://marketresearchsoutheastasia.com/insights/articles/southeast-asia-remittance-flows-shape-spending
[27] https://fintechnews.africa/45192/fintechafrica/sub-saharan-africa-and-asia-pacific-fuel-the-growth-of-the-global-mobile-money-sector/

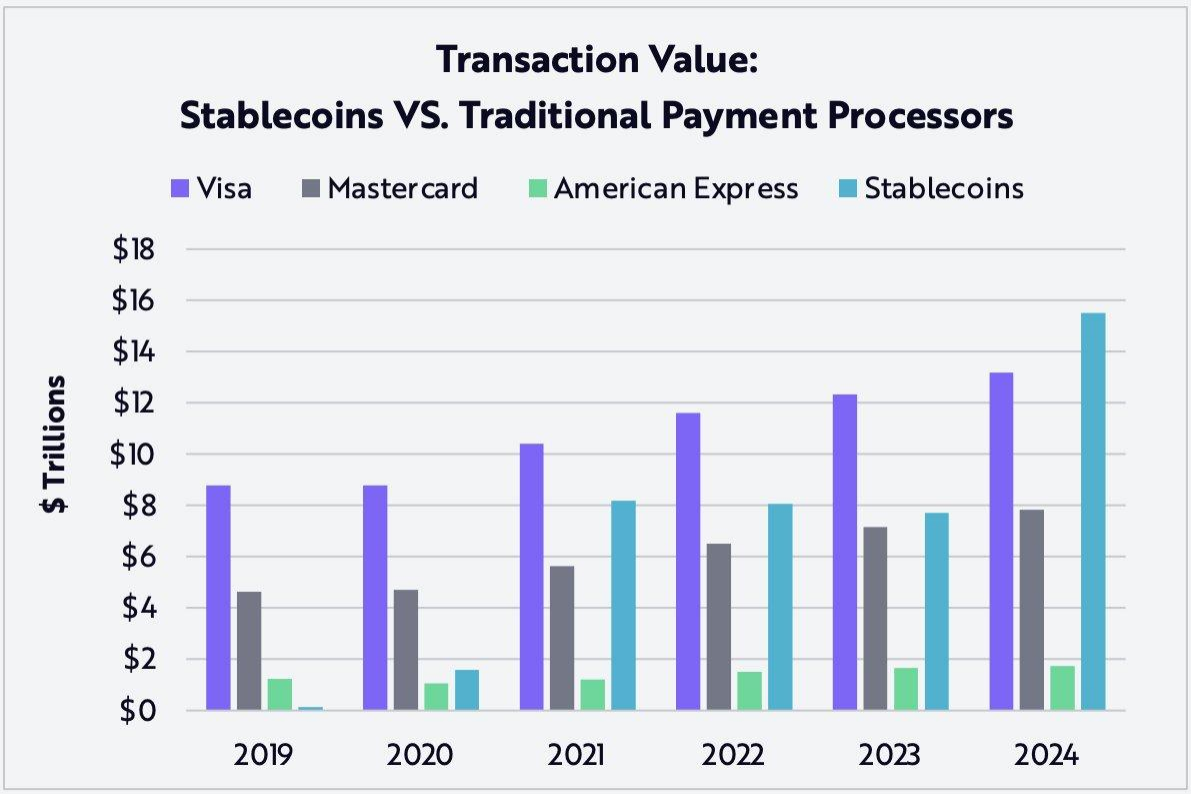
another gap. Tron's 20 million merchants via partners like AEON Pay pale next to Visa's global footprint, and integrating USDT into POS systems remains clunky compared to card swipes.

Scalability tilts heavily toward the incumbents. Visa's VisaNet handles an average of 25,000 TPS with the capabilities of handling 65,000, dwarfing Tron's 2,000 TPS cap. Tron's blockchain, while efficient, can hit congestion during DeFi spikes, slowing confirmations to 10-15 seconds versus Visa's instant authentication.

User trust also lags as card networks' decades of reliability contrast with crypto's volatility stigma, and Tron's onboarding feels fiddly next to a card tap.

For institutional investors, Tron's disruption potential lies in high-fee, high-friction niches like cross-border payments, where $860 billion in remittances globally face 5-10% bank fees. Its microtransaction prowess suits gig economies and e-commerce in emerging markets, where Visa/Mastercard's fees sting small merchants. But mainstream penetration is a slog; card networks' entrenched trust and fraud safeguards keep them dominant in retail.

Tron's not poised to unseat them, but it's carving a slice where legacy systems overcharge or exclude, and that's a wedge traditional investors can't ignore as stablecoin volumes have already passed the like of Mastercard and Visa combined.



Source: The Crypto Basic

Emerging Threats to Tron's Stablecoin Dominance

Tron's grip on USDT volume is facing fresh headwinds in late 2025 that could erode its edge faster than expected. Daily revenue from TRX burned for fees, a true measure of network income, has plummeted from $2.2 million to $1.2 million since late August, reflecting reduced

transaction activity as users increasingly stake TRX to cover resource needs (per Resource Model). This has flipped the script, with minting for rewards now outpacing destruction and pushing net supply up 1.5 million tokens by August's end, marking Tron's first inflationary phase in years.

Ethereum, buoyed by upgrades like Dencun's blob data and Prague's execution improvements, has slashed fees to $0.41 average and ramped up Layer-2 liquidity, closing the USDT volume gap behind Tron (per Payment Volume).

Meanwhile, Tether announced in January 2025 that they integrated USDT with Bitcoin's Lightning Network. The Lightning Network is a system built on top of Bitcoin, allowing users to make fast payments off the main blockchain. It works by creating payment channels, similar to shared tabs at a bar, where multiple payments can be settled at once without recording each one on the blockchain immediately. This enables near-instant settlements in milliseconds, with fees of $0.01 or less in satoshis. Institutions find this appealing for high-value moves, as Bitcoin provides strong, reliable backing.

Tether followed with an August 2025 announcement to launch USDT on the RGB protocol. RGB is a lightweight add-on to Bitcoin, enabling users to create and trade assets like stablecoins. It ties directly to Bitcoin's chain, with users verifying transactions privately on their devices, avoiding reliance on the full network for every check. This keeps transactions efficient and private, and RGB often pairs with Lightning for quick transfers.

These developments challenge Tron's dominance, as they shift USDT to Bitcoin's ecosystem. Bitcoin has over 14,000 nodes, making it highly decentralised. Tron, in contrast, relies on just 27 Super Representatives, which critics argue gives too much control to founder Justin Sun. For institutions handling large USDT transactions, Bitcoin's ledger is tamper-proof, proven secure for 15 years with no major core hacks, offering a safer option. This reduces risks like network outages, such as Tron's 2020 incident, and mitigates centralisation concerns.

If USDT becomes a global reserve asset, users may prefer Bitcoin, given its unassailable decentralisation and strong network effects. This could pull volume away from Tron. Lightning and RGB match Tron's speed, with Tron's confirmations taking under a minute, while Lightning achieves this in milliseconds. Fees are comparable or lower, with Lightning at $0.01 or less when using satoshis versus Tron's $0.0003. Users prioritising security may favour Bitcoin over Tron, putting Tron's USDT volumes at risk.

While Tron leads today, emerging shifts in stablecoin rails could challenge its throne.

These comparisons highlight Tron's specialised edge, but a deeper assessment reveals strengths and vulnerabilities. Our March 2025 LITMUS report provides that balanced view.

LITMUS Report

These threats echo LITMUS concerns on sustainability, where Tron's strengths shine but vulnerabilities loom.

Our LITMUS assessment from March 2025 gave Tron an overall score of 77 out of 100, earning it an A rating as a solid performer in the blockchain space. This evaluation weighed factors like legitimacy, innovation, technology, market position, utility, and sustainability, highlighting Tron's

strengths in areas like community governance and stablecoin leadership while flagging room for improvement in decentralisation and environmental factors.

Since then, developments like a 60% fee cut in recent months have addressed some critiques we had back in March, boosting activity and underscoring Tron's adaptability.

Tron's legitimacy stands out through its community-driven governance model, where elected Super Representatives handle network tweaks like fees and rewards. This setup promotes efficiency over broad voter turnout, fostering long-term viability. Post-ICO, Tron shifted to self-sustaining revenue from on-chain transactions and token issuance, a move that bolsters stability. For investors, this builds confidence, especially amid past controversies like founder Justin Sun's SEC battles. It signals resilience, turning early scepticism into a narrative of maturity, though lingering reputational risks remind us no chain is bulletproof.

On the market front, Tron's pivot to stablecoin settlements has carved a strong moat, positioning it as a leader in on-chain volumes. This shift from general dApp development to a specialised payments layer taps into growing demand for efficient transfers, with risks like user migration to rivals if fees or speeds falter.

It hedges against crypto volatility by tying Tron to real-world utility, like its use in remittances, but demands vigilance. Investors see this as a growth engine, provided Tron keeps innovating to lock in its edge.

Innovation-wise, Tron's roadmap promises upgrades like parallel transaction execution to boost throughput and a fast finality mechanism, cutting confirmation times to seconds via a hybrid consensus. This gives Tron the ability to scale its DeFi footprint, handling more complex apps without bottlenecks.

Analytically, they address past limitations, potentially drawing more builders amid 2025's multi-chain trend. For the bigger picture, such enhancements could elevate Tron from a payments workhorse to a versatile infrastructure play, though execution timelines matter.

Technologically, Tron excels in scalability, processing thousands of transactions per second at low costs, and has made strides in security through partnerships that have halved illicit activity since 2023. Yet dilemmas emerge surrounding decentralisation. The ability to freeze assets, as seen in recent law enforcement collaborations, raises centralisation concerns despite community governance. This balance is key for strong tech foundations to support growth, but seizure powers could deter purists, tying into broader debates on blockchain autonomy versus regulatory compliance.

Sustainability ties in here too, with Tron's energy-efficient consensus earning points, but ESG factors like reputational hits from Sun's profile drag it down.

For investors, Tron stands out as a reliable payments specialist, not the flashiest or fastest, but its execution shines where it matters, though its inflationary tokenomics and rising competition in USDT volumes signal risks that demand refinement for broader adoption. The LITMUS assessment underscores Tron's staying power as a stablecoin leader, rewarding those who back its practical focus, yet vigilance is needed as rivals like Ethereum and Bitcoin's Lightning Network challenge its dominance.

Conclusion

Tron has stood out as an amazing blockchain for many years. It has been far ahead of its competitors in stablecoin efficiency. From its 2017 launch to 2025, Tron built a reliable system that powers billions in daily USDT flows. Its low fees and fast settlements made it the go-to for remittances and global payments. This gave it a clear edge over rivals like Ethereum and Ripple.

Recent announcements raise a few concerns. Tether's expansion to Bitcoin's Lightning Network in August offers near-instant transfers with strong security. This could pull volume away from Tron. Ethereum's upgrades have also cut fees and boosted Layer-2 activity. USDT volumes on Ethereum are catching up fast.

Tron's appeal might be losing some shine. Institutions may favour Bitcoin's decentralisation for large transactions. Ethereum's safety and speed appeal for others. We still see Tron as a great project with strong execution. However, its stablecoin throne is under threat. Investors should watch these shifts closely. Tron needs to adapt to stay ahead.

Jake Anderson

Shehriyar Ali

15th September 2025

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