

**JUST THE FACTS:
HELPING YOU TALK ABOUT MONEY**

Bitcoin (Cryptocurrency)

Cryptocurrency is independent, digital currency that exists only in virtual form.

- In theory, cryptocurrency can be stored and transferred – like money – from anywhere in the world, with no central bank or administrator.
- In 2018, there were more than 1,600 cryptocurrencies in the marketplace.
- Bitcoin is the best known example of this kind of peer-to-peer payment network.

It is still largely experimental.

- Cryptocurrency technology is still in its early stages.
- At this time, it is only recommended for highly sophisticated investors.

Although growing in popularity, cryptocurrencies are a risky investment.

- Securities regulators and other investor protection agencies have warned the general public about the risk of investing in cryptocurrencies.
- Among other concerns, cryptocurrency:
 - Is not legal tender (i.e. it is not legal money)
 - Can be difficult to sell or exchange
 - Can fluctuate in value significantly
 - Is susceptible to theft through hacking
 - Has repeatedly been a source of fraud and scams



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