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Bitcoin Payment Adoption Tracker

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By Bitcoin Payment Adoption Tracker • August 24, 2026

A reported BTCPay-to-non-custodial-wallet deployment at Oslo Airport leads a period of creator-payment tooling, payment-stack security hardening, and grassroots merchant discovery; the evidence remains richer in acceptance footprints than settlement data.

Major Adoption News

Oslo Airport, Norway — a duty-free Bitcoin checkout is reported to settle directly into self-custody. Blink's linked brief says Tax Free Norway's shop routes all of its Bitcoin "freedom money" sales through BTCPay Server directly to a non-custodial Blink account, with no custodian between the till and the merchant's wallet. It describes a live deployment at one store, with no sales figures disclosed. [1] The significance is a concrete airport-retail integration that removes a custody layer at settlement; it is not evidence of airport-wide scale.

Witsand, Western Cape, South Africa — a small-town acceptance footprint remains the strongest grassroots scale signal. Blink reports roughly 600 residents and about 45 Bitcoin-accepting establishments across groceries, restaurants and fuel. The linked report dates that count to April 2025, so it is a footprint baseline rather than current-period growth. Merchants reportedly receive guaranteed fiat exchange rates, while the initiative began with a local programmer and restaurant owner and benefits from Garden Route tourism; no transaction volumes are reported. [1]

Payment Infrastructure

Online creator payments — Blink has extended its Donate Button to non-custodial accounts. The same one-minute embed and donor experience now work for custodial and non-custodial Blink users, with sats arriving in a wallet where the recipient holds the keys. [2] The button resolves a username to a Lightning address and generates an invoice; Blink says it needs no backend, server, Lightning node or installation, and any Lightning wallet can pay the invoice. [2] For non-custodial accounts, payment uses LNURL-pay and lands in Bitcoin Balance; the feature currently supports only `blink.sv` Lightning addresses and cannot route those donations to Dollar Balance. [2] Blink cites Molo BTC in South Africa as using the button as its only donation channel, an implementation example rather than a donation-volume measure. [2]

Payment-processor security — BTCPay is trading feature velocity for a smaller attack surface, according to Blink's brief. BTCPay founder Nicolas Dorier is quoted as saying the project will put the brakes on new features, with future releases potentially removing features or breaking compatibility because combining features creates attack surface. The same brief says ZEUS's post-mortem of an August 5 breach found that an exploited BTCPay vulnerability closed most of its LSP channels, but channel closures settled balances back to their owners and no customer funds were lost or put at risk. [1] These are reported hardening and resilience signals, not evidence of higher payment throughput.

Agentic payments — Lightning Enable is specifying an audit layer for machine-initiated spending. Its proposed payment receipt would show the service called, sats spent, policy authorizing the payment, remaining budget and how access can be revoked; the account describes the wallet balance as the leash and the receipt as the evidence. [3] This is a control specification for auditable Lightning payments, not a reported deployment or usage metric.

Regulatory Landscape

No country-specific legal-tender, licensing, taxation or transaction-rule change can be grounded from the current-period material reviewed. Blink's roundup labels `@btcdominicana` under "Policy" but provides no rule, jurisdictional change or implementation detail, so it supplies only an unelaborated policy signal. [4]

Usage Metrics

The measurable evidence is concentrated in acceptance footprints rather than settled value or transaction frequency:

Geography	Reported measure	Interpretation
Witsand, Western Cape, South Africa	About 45 accepting establishments among roughly 600 residents; the count is dated April 2025. [1]	Historical footprint baseline, not current-period growth; no transaction volume is reported.

Geography	Reported measure	Interpretation
Berlín, El Salvador	Bitcoin Berlin SV says four pizza places now accept direct sat payments. [5, 6]	A food-sector availability count, not a sales or repeat-use statistic.
Livingstone, Randwest 1759, De Rust 6650 and Agbozume	Four current-period posts advertise individual Blink paycodes and BTCMap entries. [7, 8, 9, 10]	Supply-side discoverability; the posts do not report settled amounts or transaction counts.

No source read here supplies a comparable total transaction count, settled value or repeat-use rate, so the figures should not be combined into an adoption rate.

Emerging Markets

African grassroots networks — payment discovery is being packaged as paycode plus map listing. In Livingstone, Bitcoin Victoria Falls posted `firstspringenterprise@blink.sv`; the linked entry identifies First Sping Enterprise on John Hunt Way, lists Lightning acceptance and associates the location with Bitcoin Victoria Falls. [7, 11]

In Randwest 1759, Bitcoin Sisonke posted `Mucambe@blink.sv`; the linked BTCMap record identifies Mkambi on Folly Ledwaba Street and shows an LN acceptance icon. [8, 12] In De Rust 6650, Bitcoin Karoo promoted `herries@blink.sv`; the Herries record shows Lightning and Bitcoin acceptance icons plus a "Contactless" label. [9, 13] In Agbozume, Bitcoin Dua promoted `leni12@blink.sv`; Leni Boutique's listing explicitly accepts Lightning, on-chain and contactless payments. [10, 14]

These records are useful for merchant discovery but are not a count of newly onboarded businesses: Mkambi's map activity is nine months old, Herries was created two years ago, and Leni Boutique was created five months ago. The current posts therefore show continued promotion and payment-route visibility, not confirmed settlement activity. [12, 13, 14] The listings also do not state merchant sectors in the fields read, so industry should not be inferred from names alone.

Adoption Outlook

The period's strongest progress is in the payment path: a reported direct-to-self-custody airport checkout, a no-server Lightning receiving tool for creators, and explicit controls for auditable agent spending. [1, 2, 3] African communities are simultaneously making local acceptance searchable through Blink paycodes and BTCMap, but the evidence remains richer in availability than demand. [7, 8, 9, 10] The principal constraint is measurement: Witsand's 45-business figure is an April 2025 baseline, Berlín's four-pizzeria count has no sales data, and the promoted merchant endpoints expose payment routes rather than settlement totals. [1, 5, 11, 13, 14]

Sources

1. Weekly Brief 2026/34
2. The Blink Donate Button Goes Non-Custodial: A Tip Jar for the Borderless Internet
3. X post by @lightningenable
4. X post by @blinkbtc
5. X post by @BitcoinBerlinSV
6. X post by @BitcoinBerlinSV
7. X post by @BitcoinVicFalls
8. X post by @sisonkeBTC
9. X post by @BitcoinKaroo
10. X post by @bitcoin_dua
11. First Sping Enterprise - BTC Map
12. Mkambi - BTC Map
13. Herries - BTC Map
14. Leni Boutique - BTC Map - Merchant