

South Africa retail interoperability, shipped Bitcoin e-commerce, and BTC Map merchant growth

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By Bitcoin Payment Adoption Tracker • March 10, 2026

This brief covers South Africa's newest checkout and e-commerce milestones, infrastructure updates that reduce merchant friction, and the clearest quantitative signal in the set: BTC Map's reported addition of 1.1k merchants and 5 communities. No regulatory changes surfaced in the provided sources.

Major Adoption News

South Africa — Blink Wallet gains compatibility with retailer QR flows via MoneyBadger

Blink said its wallet can scan local, proprietary QR codes at retailers like Pick n Pay in South Africa through the MoneyBadger bridge [1].

Significance: This expands practical spendability at checkout by letting a wallet interoperate with an existing merchant QR flow instead of requiring a separate merchant-side setup.

South Africa — BitcoinFriendlySA moves from launch to fulfilled Bitcoin commerce

BitcoinFriendlySA said its first order has shipped: a bag of Siki's coffee traveled from Cape Town to Johannesburg and was paid entirely with Bitcoin [2]. The store also opened nationwide shipping [2], added **10% satsback** on every order and automatic entry into a monthly **R1000** Bitcoin giveaway for three months [3, 4], and said purchases help partner merchants earn Bitcoin directly [4, 5].

Significance: This is a stronger commercial signal than a store launch alone. It shows a Bitcoin checkout completing a full order cycle and adds incentive testing aimed at repeat purchasing.

Store: <https://www.bitcoinfriendlysa.co.za/shop> [3]

Payment Infrastructure

South Africa — Blink describes a low-complexity bridge for proprietary retailer QR codes

Blink said the MoneyBadger connection relies on a Lightning Address-based integration using just **3 lines of code** and no complex third-party APIs, describing it as open-source, permissionless innovation that meets merchants where they are [1].

Significance: Lower integration complexity can make wallet-to-merchant interoperability easier to reproduce.

Technical details: <https://www.blink.sv/blog/lightning-wallet-integration-the-3-line-solution-behind-moneybadger> [1]

Aggregate / no regional split in cited span — BTC Map updates localization, Android, and API tooling

BTC Map's February update reported major internationalization progress together with significant Android and API upgrades [6].

Significance: Discovery and developer tooling are part of payment usability. Better localization and app/API support can make accepting merchants easier to find and integrate across markets.

Full update: <https://blog.btcmap.org/posts/2026-02/> [7]

Geography not specified in the cited spans — Numopayapp launches Android NFC acceptance

Numopayapp launched as a free, open-source Android app that lets merchants accept Bitcoin by NFC tap, with no extra hardware required [8]. It uses Cashu for offline payments and Lightning for instant settlement [8], charges zero platform fees, and can auto-sweep to a Lightning address [8].

We took a look at this and the tap-to-pay with NFC works surprisingly seamless. [9]

Significance: The product targets a familiar tap-to-pay experience while minimizing hardware and fee overhead for merchants.

Geography not specified in the cited spans — Cashu.me adds BIP-321 support for BOLT11 invoices

Cashu.me now supports BIP-321 for BOLT11 invoices [10].

Significance: Standards support can simplify how Lightning payment requests are generated and interpreted across wallets and services.

Geography not specified in the cited spans — BTCPay Server and NBXplorer work continue, while retail POS integration remains incomplete

Nicolas Dorier said work on BTCPay Server and NBXplorer will continue [11]. He also said Digital Garage’s Blockchain Lab developed BTCPay Server, NBXplorer, and Hack0 [11], and that Digital Garage sponsored the BTCPay Server Foundation in 2019 [11]. At the same time, he said Bitcoin integration was not completed in Digital Garage’s retail point-of-sale business [11].

Significance: The update highlights both continued maintenance of core payment infrastructure and the remaining difficulty of pushing Bitcoin into established retail POS environments.

Regulatory Landscape

- **Africa:** No regulatory changes affecting Bitcoin payments surfaced in the provided sources for this period.
- **Americas:** No regulatory changes affecting Bitcoin payments surfaced in the provided sources for this period.
- **Europe / Asia-Pacific:** No regulatory changes affecting Bitcoin payments surfaced in the provided sources for this period.

Usage Metrics

Aggregate / no regional split in cited span — BTC Map reports February merchant and community growth

BTC Map said February added **1.1k new merchants** and **5 new communities** [6].

Significance: This is the clearest quantitative adoption signal in the source set, indicating continued expansion in visible merchant acceptance infrastructure.

Geographic note: The cited update provides aggregate figures but no regional breakdown [6].

Cross-source data gap

No transaction volume, settlement volume, or merchant throughput figures were surfaced in the other provided sources.

Emerging Markets

Geography not specified in the cited spans — Bitcoin Ekasi thrift shop shows sats being spent on everyday goods

At the Bitcoin Ekasi Center thrift shop, a shack owner receives her portion of sats and uses them to buy items she needs [12].

Significance: This is a concrete medium-of-exchange example: Bitcoin is not only being distributed, but spent on ordinary goods in a local retail setting.

Geography not specified in the cited spans — Banxaas combines existing Bitcoin swaps with planned mobile-money-network swaps

Banxaas said Bitcoin swaps are already available and that users will also be able to swap across different mobile money networks [13].

Significance: In payment environments built around mobile money, linking Bitcoin with those rails can widen practical entry and exit points for transactions.

Geography not specified in the cited spans — A farmers market scene highlights live merchant-side Bitcoin use

A post featuring the Bitcoin Farmers Market described food vendors and conversations with sound money moving quietly in the background [14].

Bitcoin living, not just Bitcoin talking. [14]

Significance: The value here is observational rather than numeric: it points to Bitcoin being used in a market setting rather than only discussed in abstract.

Adoption Outlook

This period's strongest signals came from payment execution and interoperability rather than regulation. South Africa supplied both retailer QR compatibility through Blink/MoneyBadger and a fulfilled Bitcoin-paid e-commerce order through BitcoinFriendlySA [1, 2]. Across the broader tool stack, updates focused on reducing merchant friction through localization and app/API improvements, NFC tap acceptance, and better invoice-format support [6, 8, 10]. The clearest growth metric was BTC Map's addition of **1.1k merchants** and **5 communities** in February [6], but the provided sources still lack regulatory movement and transaction-volume data needed to measure payment activity depth.

Sources

1. X post by @blinkbtc
2. X post by @NickDarlington

3. X post by @NickDarlington
4. X post by @NickDarlington
5. X post by @NickDarlington
6. X post by @btcmmap
7. X post by @btcmmap
8. X post by @TFTC21
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10. X post by @callebtc
11. X post by @NicolasDorier
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