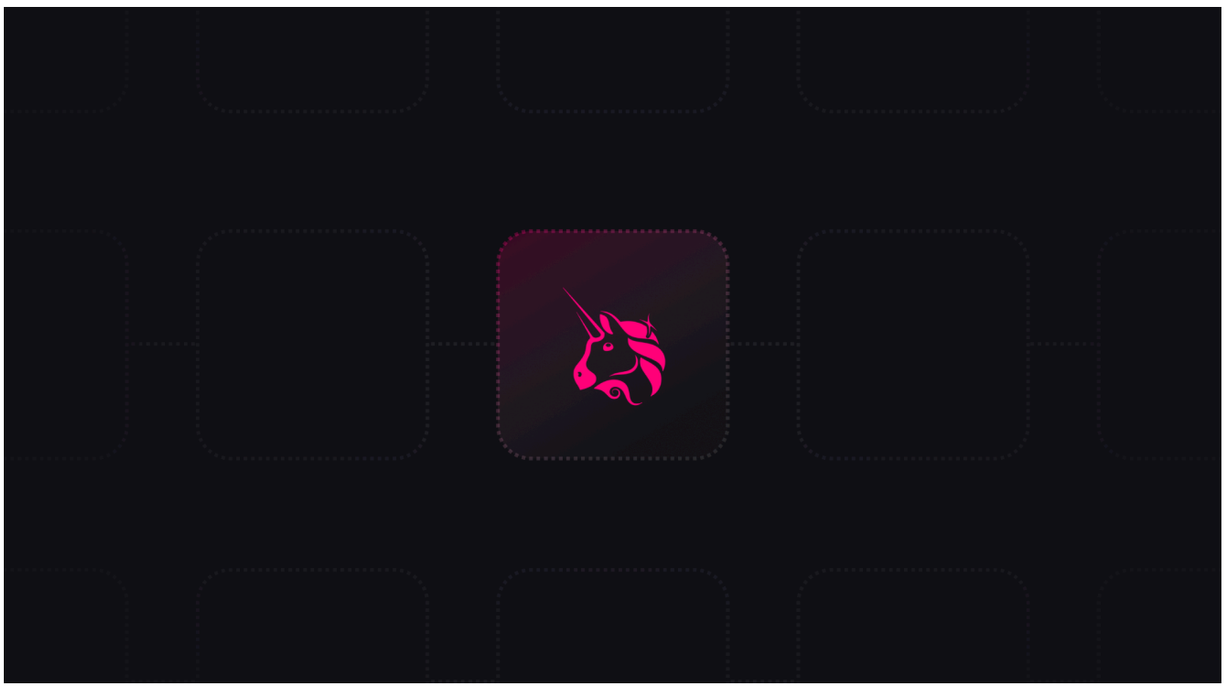
Uniswap after UNIfication: A new model



Introduction

Uniswap is the largest decentralized spot trading exchange. As of August 8, 2026, Uniswap had processed approximately $3.7 trillion in cumulative trading volume and generated approximately $5.1 billion in cumulative trading fees, according to Token Terminal data. This economic activity is supported by an ecosystem that extends beyond the protocol itself, including Uniswap Labs, the Uniswap Foundation, DUNI, liquidity providers, traders, developers, and integrators.

For much of Uniswap's history, its ecosystem responsibilities remained distinct. Certain operating responsibilities were distributed primarily across Uniswap Labs and the Uniswap Foundation, while UNI governance controlled protocol-level decisions and governance-controlled resources. At the same time, traders generated substantial volume and trading fees, but there was no direct mechanism connecting a portion of that economic activity to UNI. UNI holders could therefore measure Uniswap's adoption and the economic value generated through the protocol, but had a less direct framework for connecting those metrics to UNI.

UNIfication changed this. It directs certain ecosystem development and growth responsibilities to Uniswap Labs and formalizes the relationship between Labs and governance. Economically, the activation of protocol fees allows a portion of trading fees to accrue as protocol revenue, while a programmatic burn mechanism connects that revenue to UNI supply reduction. These changes make Uniswap Lab's remit and the relationship between protocol activity and UNI more explicit.

This report examines Uniswap after UNIfication across three dimensions. First, we map how certain responsibilities are divided across Uniswap Labs, the Uniswap Foundation, and DUNI. Second, we explain how protocol fees and UNI burn change Uniswap's economic model. Finally, we use Token Terminal data to evaluate the resulting model in practice, with particular focus on protocol-level value capture, UNI value accrual, and the implications of observable protocol revenue for fundamental analysis.

1. UNIfication streamlines Uniswap's responsibilities

1.1 Before UNIfication

Before UNIfication, certain responsibilities were divided between Uniswap Labs and the Uniswap Foundation. Labs led the development of the Uniswap protocol and built products through which users and developers could access it. The Foundation, established via UNI governance vote in 2022, supported the broader ecosystem through grants, governance support, developer relations, and community growth. UNI governance operated separately from both organizations, controlling specific protocol-level decisions and the allocation of governance-controlled treasury assets.

This structure separated protocol and product development from many of the activities intended to support ecosystem growth. It also reflected a broader distinction between governance and execution. UNI governance could approve proposals, modify eligible protocol parameters, and allocate treasury resources, but governance itself was not an operating organization. Implementing decisions that required contracts, service providers, tax administration, or other interactions with conventional counterparties required an interface between onchain governance and the offchain world.

1.2 DUNI connects onchain governance with the offchain world

UNI governance addressed this limitation before UNIfication. In September 2025, governance adopted DUNI, a Wyoming Decentralized Unincorporated Nonprofit Association, as its legal structure. DUNI was designed to preserve Uniswap's decentralized governance process while giving governance a recognized legal interface through which it can enter into contracts, retain service providers, manage funds and obligations, and address regulatory and tax responsibilities. The structure also provides liability protections intended to prevent members from becoming personally responsible for DUNI's debts or obligations solely through their participation.

DUNI extends the capabilities of UNI governance. Governance decisions continue to originate through the established onchain process; DUNI provides the legal capacity required when those decisions need to be implemented offchain. The Uniswap Foundation serves as DUNI's Ministerial Agent, with authority limited to defined ministerial and administrative functions. DUNI also uses an administrator for other functions such as tax compliance and reporting.

This distinction becomes important under UNIfication because DUNI provides the legal counterparty through which governance can establish a formal service provider relationship with Uniswap Labs.

1.3 UNIfication moves operating execution under Uniswap Labs

UNIfication transitions most ecosystem development and growth responsibilities traditionally performed by the Foundation to Labs. Functions historically managed by the Foundation, including ecosystem support and funding, governance support, and developer relations, transition to Labs, alongside most Foundation employees. Labs therefore combines its existing protocol and product development responsibilities with a broader mandate to contribute to the development and growth of the Uniswap ecosystem. The Foundation retains a smaller team responsible for grants and incentives and continues to perform defined functions, including its role as DUNI's Ministerial Agent.

The new operating model is supported by an annual 20 million UNI growth budget in exchange for services performed by Labs, distributed from the existing treasury supply quarterly, with two years of funding approved through UNIfication. The budget is governed by a service provider agreement between DUNI and Labs and can fund protocol development, integrations, grants, incentives, partnerships, developer activity, and other growth initiatives. The final agreement was negotiated by

an independent committee of the Foundation acting in its capacity as DUNI's Ministerial Agent. UNIfication was executed in late December 2025, and the first quarterly tranche of 5 million UNI was transferred to Labs in January 2026.

The post-UNIfication structure can therefore be reduced to three distinct functions: UNI governance determines, DUNI provides governance with legal capacity, and Uniswap Labs executes. The Foundation retains defined responsibilities alongside this structure. UNIfication moves operating execution under Labs without transferring the underlying authority of UNI governance to Labs.

With the operating structure established, the next question is economic: how does activity generated through the protocol translate into value captured at the protocol level and, ultimately, into UNI value accrual?

2. UNIfication establishes a clearer economic model for UNI

The changes described in Section 1 establish who governs, contracts, and executes as amongst Labs, Foundation and governance. UNIfication also changes how economic value generated through the protocol relates to UNI. Historically, the Uniswap protocol generated substantial trading activity and trading fees, but there was no recurring mechanism through which a portion of those fees accrued as protocol revenue connected to UNI. The activation of protocol fees, which were designed in the Uniswap smart contracts from the start, addresses that gap.

2.1 From protocol usage to UNI value accrual

The economic model begins with traders and the activity they generate. Monthly active traders measure participation, trading volume measures the value exchanged through the protocol, and trading fees measure the economic value generated from that activity. Protocol revenue represents the portion of trading fees captured at the protocol level. The burn mechanism then connects protocol revenue to UNI by requiring UNI to be permanently removed from supply when accumulated protocol fees are released.

How value flows through Uniswap:

STAGE	METRIC	ECONOMIC INTERPRETATION
1	Monthly active traders	Demand
2	Trading volume	Protocol usage
3	Trading fees	Economic value generated
4	Protocol revenue	Economic value captured
5	UNI burn	Value accrual through supply reduction

The distinction between trading fees and protocol revenue is particularly important. Trading fees measure the total fees generated through trading activity, while protocol revenue measures the portion captured by the protocol. Protocol revenue therefore represents a subset of the economic value generated through Uniswap rather than a separate charge applied to all trading activity.

2.2 Protocol fees introduce protocol-level value capture

The new revenue mechanism is applied to an already established economic base. As of August 8, 2026, Uniswap had processed approximately $3.7 trillion in cumulative trading volume and generated approximately $5.1 billion in cumulative trading fees, according to Token Terminal data.

Historically, these trading fees accrued solely to the liquidity providers supplying the assets required to facilitate trades. Protocol fee activation changes the allocation of a portion of those fees rather than creating a new source of underlying trading activity.

The initial implementation activated protocol fees for Uniswap v2 and selected v3 pools on Ethereum mainnet. For v2, the total swap fee remains 0.30%, but its allocation changes: 0.25% accrues to liquidity providers and 0.05% to the protocol.

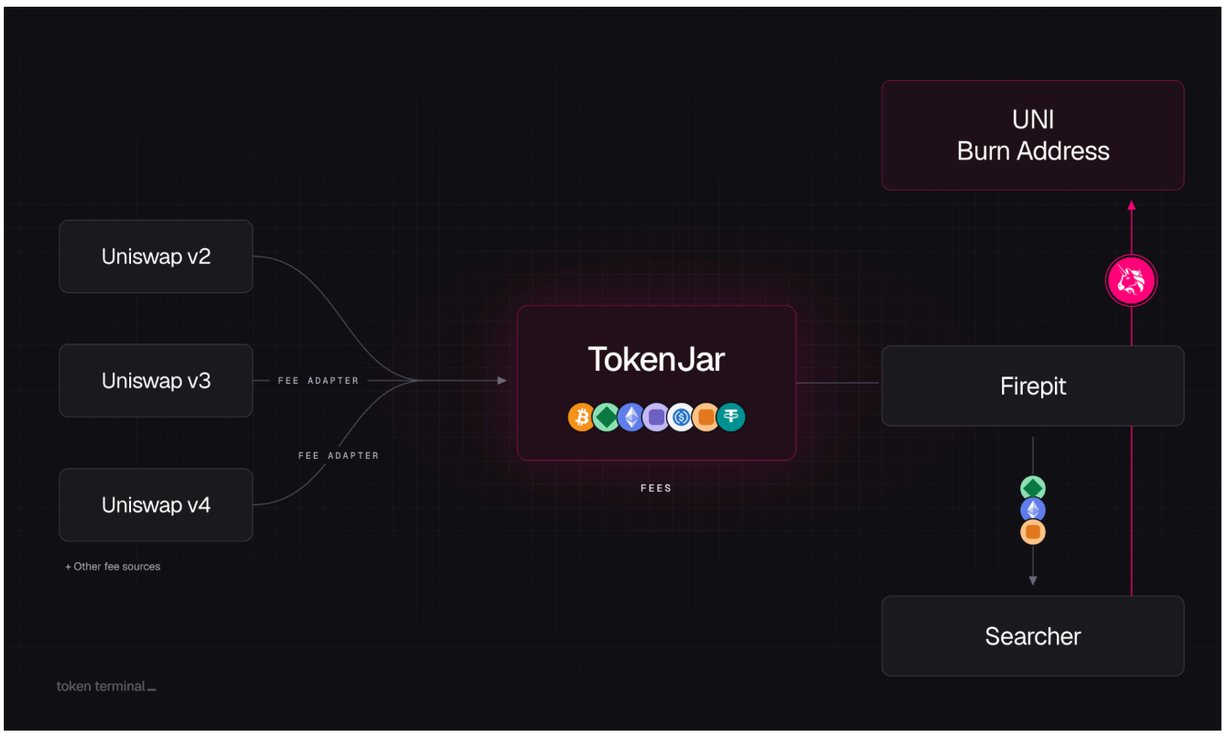
The mechanics become more flexible in v3. Protocol fees can be set by UNI governance at the individual pool level. Under the initial configuration, the protocol receives one-quarter of LP fees from pools in the 0.01% and 0.05% fee tiers and one-sixth from pools in the 0.30% and 1.00% tiers. The initial rollout covered a set of pools representing most mainnet activity, with UNI governance retaining the ability to adjust protocol fees and expand their coverage over time.

That flexibility increases further in v4. The protocol fee is charged separately on the trader side: it is taken from the swap input first, after which the LP fee is applied to the remaining amount. Protocol fees can also be determined through governance-controlled policy and adjusted at the pool level.

Protocol revenue is therefore variable rather than a fixed percentage of trading volume or trading fees. It depends on the composition of trading activity, applicable fee tiers, the pools for which protocol fees are active, and the parameters set through governance. These variables determine how efficiently the economic value generated through trading converts into protocol-level revenue.

2.3 Protocol revenue connects to UNI through an autonomous burn mechanism

Protocol revenue is connected to UNI through two smart contracts introduced as part of the fee architecture. Protocol fees (collected in many tokens) are directed into TokenJar, an immutable contract in which fee assets accumulate. Firepit provides the release mechanism: a market participant pays a specified amount of UNI to receive the assets accumulated in TokenJar, and the UNI used in the transaction is permanently burned. The protocol therefore does not need to sell accumulated fee assets for UNI itself.



Protocol revenue to UNI burn flow.

This mechanism is distinct from a distribution of protocol revenue to token holders. UNI holders do not receive the accumulated fee assets as dividends or cash distributions. Instead, protocol revenue provides the economic basis for recurring UNI supply reduction. The timing of revenue

generation and UNI burn can also differ because fee assets accumulate in TokenJar until their value creates sufficient incentive for a market participant to trigger a release.

UNIfication separately approved a one-time burn of 100 million UNI from the governance treasury. The proposal described this amount as an estimate of the UNI that might have been burned had protocol fees been active from the launch of UNI. The one-time treasury burn should therefore be distinguished from the recurring mechanism: the former reduces treasury-held supply once, while the latter connects future protocol revenue to ongoing UNI burn.

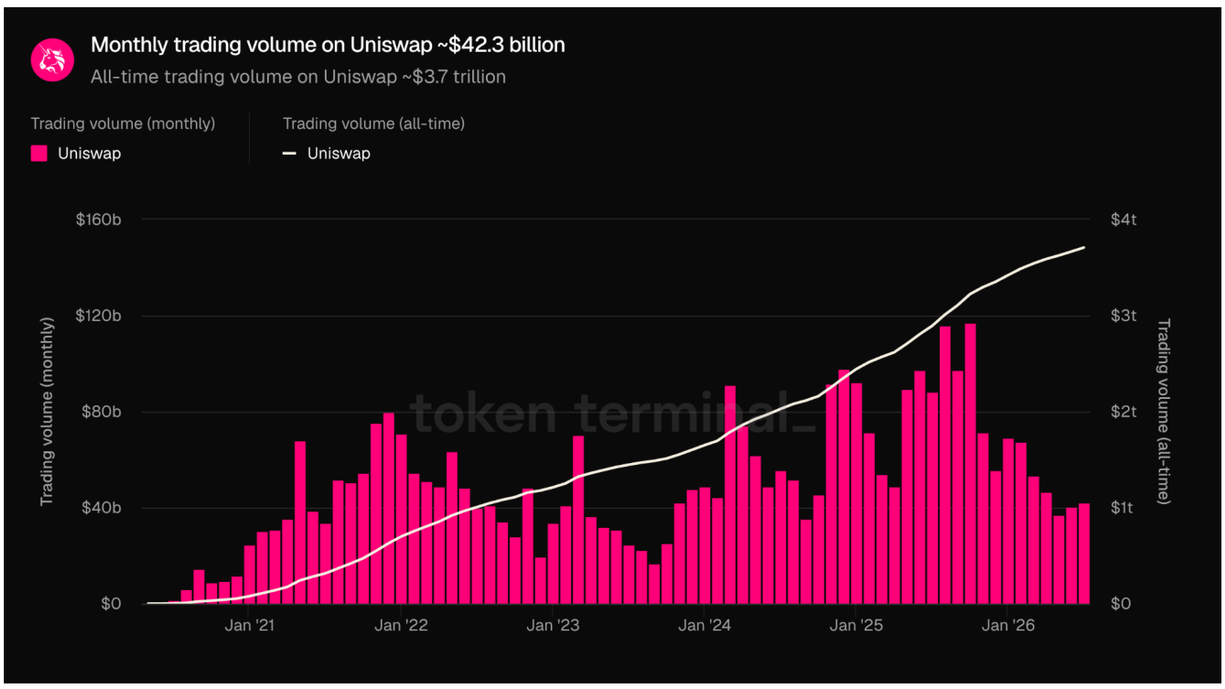
With the mechanism established, the relevant questions become quantitative. How much activity is Uniswap facilitating, how much economic value does that activity generate, how much is captured as protocol revenue, and what do those economics imply for UNI? Section 3 addresses these questions using Token Terminal data.

3. The new economic model is now measurable

Sections 1 and 2 establish the changes introduced through UNIfication. The resulting structure can now be evaluated using observed usage and financial data. Token Terminal data provides a consistent view of the underlying activity generated through Uniswap, the portion of that activity captured as protocol revenue, and the relationship between protocol revenue and UNI. This section focuses on the period following implementation, using complete calendar months where possible and separating observed results from the mechanisms that may influence them.

3.1 Uniswap continues to attract traders and facilitate substantial trading activity

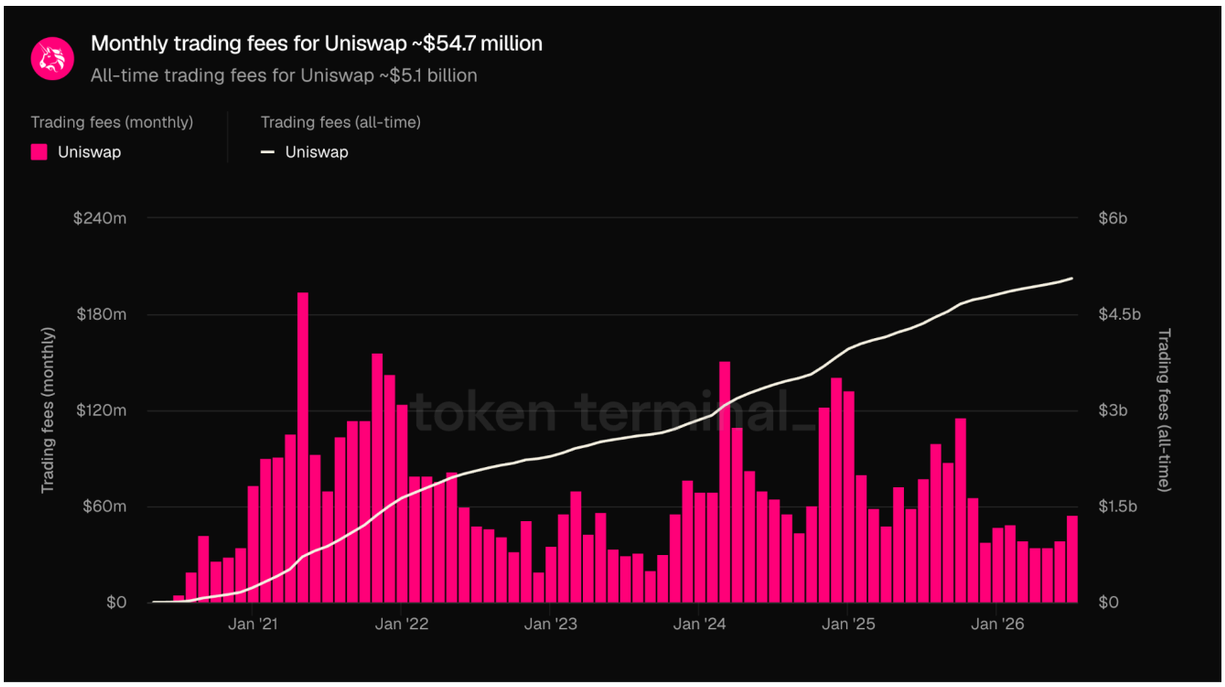
Uniswap's economic model ultimately depends on continued demand for trading through the protocol. Monthly active traders provide a measure of that demand, while trading volume and trading fees measure the economic activity generated by those traders. These metrics are useful to evaluate together because changes in participation do not necessarily translate proportionally into changes in trading volume: a larger number of traders can generate less aggregate volume if average trading activity declines, while a smaller number of traders can generate more volume if average activity increases.



Monthly and all-time trading volume on Uniswap.

From January through July 2026, Uniswap processed approximately $357.6 billion in trading volume, equivalent to an average of approximately $51.1 billion per month. Monthly trading volume

declined from approximately $69.5 billion in January to $37.0 billion in May, before increasing to approximately $40.8 billion in June and $42.3 billion in July. The data therefore shows a contraction in trading activity during the first half of the period followed by a partial recovery in June and July.



Monthly and all-time trading fees for Uniswap.

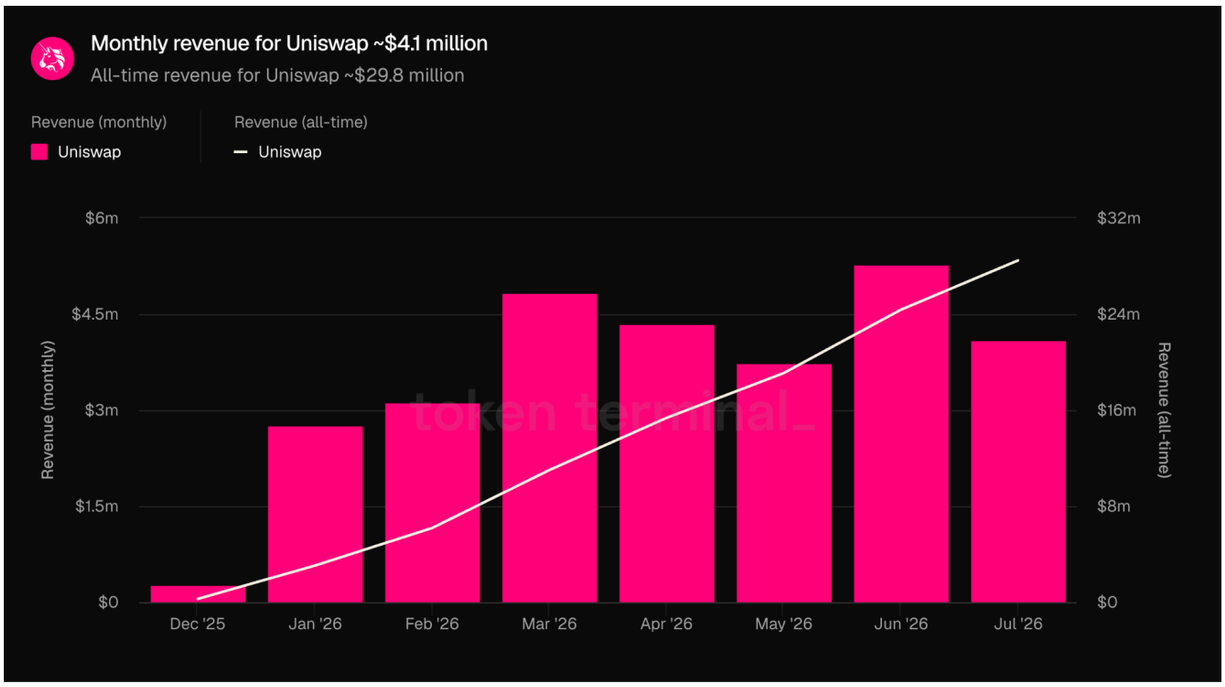
Trading activity generated approximately $297.9 million in trading fees over the same seven months. Monthly trading fees were approximately $47.6 million in January and $48.8 million in February, declined alongside trading activity in March and April, and subsequently increased from approximately $35.0 million in May to $54.7 million in July. July therefore generated the highest monthly trading fees of the seven-month period despite trading volume remaining materially below January levels.

The divergence between volume and trading fees illustrates why the two metrics should be analyzed separately. Trading fees depend not only on aggregate volume but also on where that volume occurs and the fee tiers applicable to those trades. From January through July, Uniswap generated approximately 8.3 basis points of trading fees for every dollar of trading volume on average, but the effective rate varied with the composition of activity. Trading volume measures the scale of protocol usage; trading fees provide a closer measure of the economic value generated by that usage.

These results establish the operating base against which the new protocol revenue mechanism can be evaluated. The relevant question is no longer only how much trading activity Uniswap facilitates, but how much of the economic value generated by that activity is captured at the protocol level.

3.2 Protocol fees introduce an observable revenue and value accrual layer

Protocol revenue began accruing following fee activation in late December 2025. From January through July 2026, Uniswap generated approximately $28.2 million in protocol revenue, compared with approximately $297.9 million in trading fees over the same period. Protocol revenue therefore represented approximately 9.5% of trading fees and 0.79 basis points of trading volume during the first seven complete calendar months of 2026.

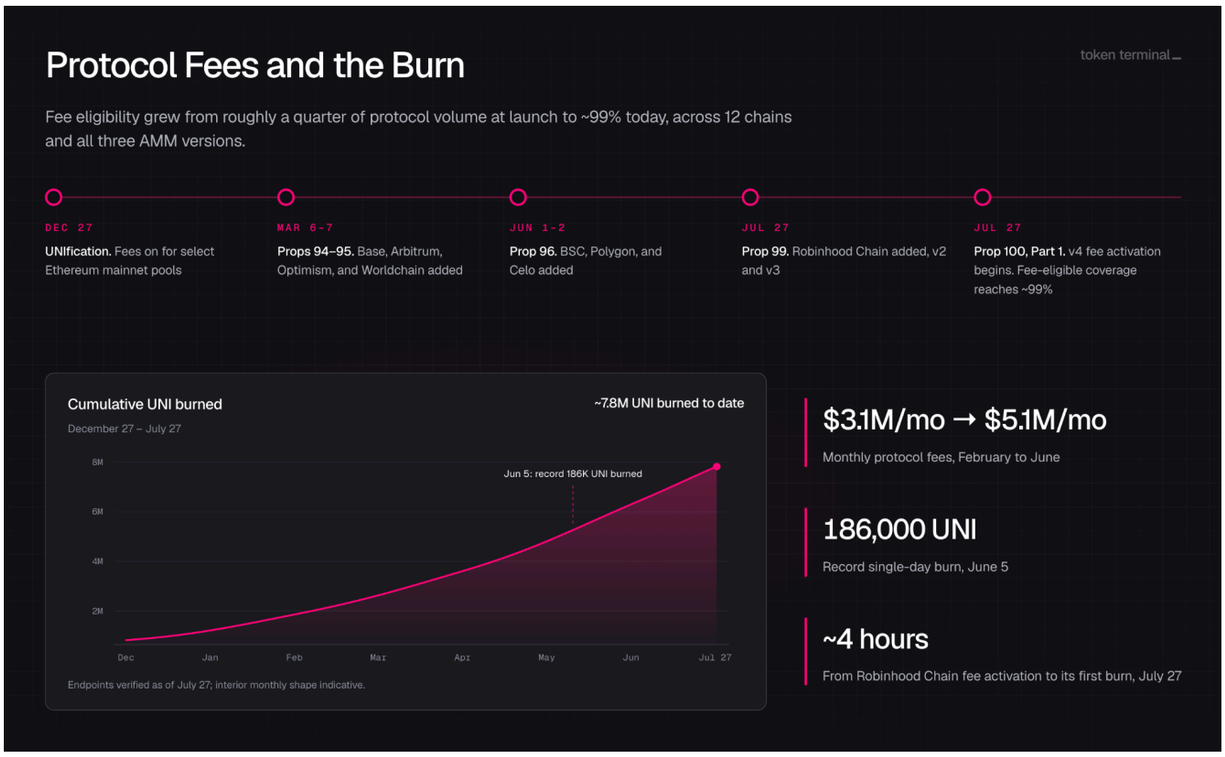


Monthly and all-time revenue for Uniswap.

These ratios provide a more useful measure of the new economic model than protocol revenue in isolation. Trading fees quantify the economic value generated through trading, while the ratio of protocol revenue to trading fees measures how much of that value is captured at the protocol level. The revenue-to-volume ratio provides a second perspective by measuring protocol revenue relative to the underlying trading activity from which it originates. Together, the two ratios allow changes in protocol-level monetization to be separated from changes in aggregate usage.

Protocol revenue has not developed in a straight line. Monthly revenue increased from approximately $2.8 million in January to $4.8 million in March, declined to approximately $3.7 million in May, increased to approximately $5.3 million in June, and reached approximately $4.1 million in July. By August 8, 2026, cumulative protocol revenue since activation had reached approximately $29.8 million, according to Token Terminal data. The monthly variation reflects both changes in underlying trading activity and the gradual rollout of protocol fees across pools, versions, and chains since the start of the year.

The rollout began in December 2025 with all Ethereum v2 pools and selected Ethereum v3 pools. Coverage then expanded to additional chains, all v3 pools on those chains, and selected v4 pool families. Annualizing revenue from early 2026 therefore understated the protocol's revenue potential because only a subset of Uniswap's trading volume was subject to protocol fees at the time.



Protocol fee rollout schedule for Uniswap.

This distinction matters because protocol revenue is not governed by a single fixed take rate applied uniformly across Uniswap. Revenue depends on the pools in which trades occur, the applicable trading fee-tier, whether protocol fees have been activated for those pools, and the protocol fee parameters determined through governance. A change in this mix can therefore increase or decrease protocol revenue even when aggregate trading volume remains unchanged. Similarly, an expansion or adjustment of protocol fee coverage can change revenue capture without requiring a corresponding change in user activity.

The first seven complete months provide an initial measure of the resulting economics. For every $100 of trading fees generated from January through July, approximately $9.50 accrued as protocol revenue. Viewed relative to trading activity, approximately $7,900 of protocol revenue was generated for every $1 billion of trading volume. These figures describe the realized economics of the period rather than a permanent protocol take rate. Their development over time will depend on both the underlying trading business and governance decisions affecting protocol fee coverage and parameters.

Protocol fees introduce a measurable value capture layer:

JAN.-JUL. 2026	VALUE	ECONOMIC INTERPRETATION
Trading volume	$357.6B	Underlying trading activity
Trading fees	$297.9M	Economic value generated
Trading fees / volume	~8.3 bps	Effective fee generation
Protocol revenue	$28.2M	Economic value captured
Protocol revenue / trading fees	~9.5%	Revenue capture rate or take rate
Protocol revenue / volume	~0.79 bps	Protocol monetization of trading activity
UNI burned through recurring mechanism	$28.2M	Value accrual through supply reduction

Protocol revenue is only one side of the new value accrual mechanism. Assets captured by the protocol accumulate in TokenJar and can subsequently be released through Firepit in exchange for

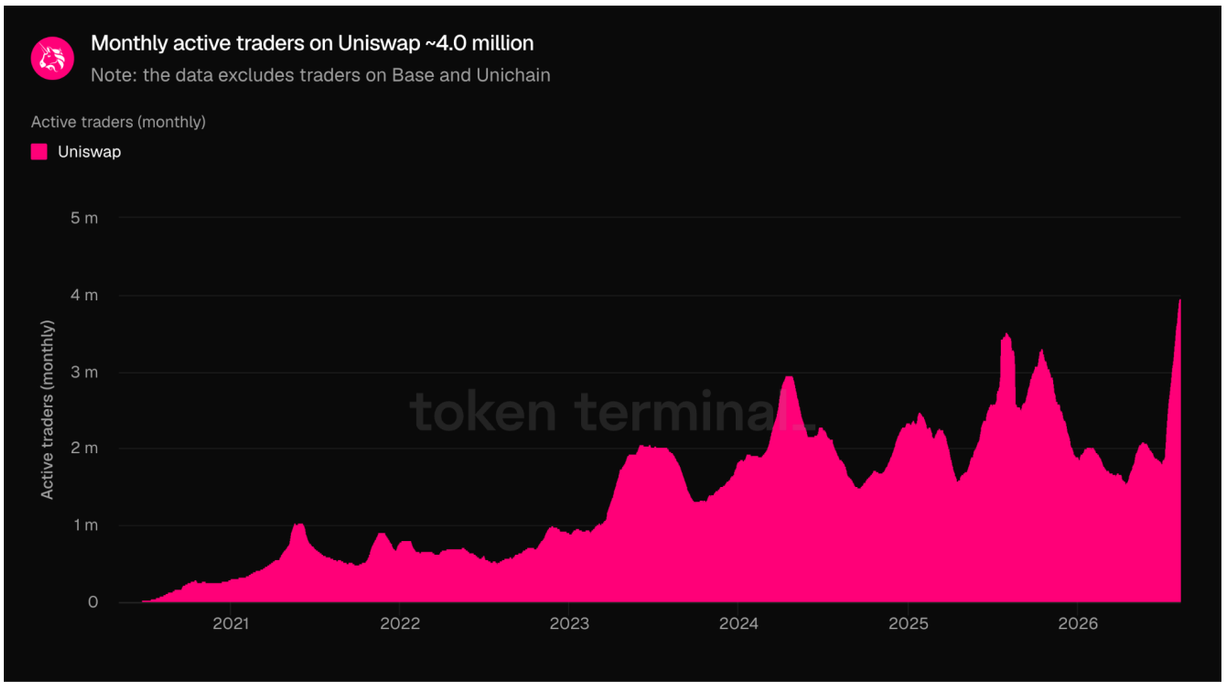
UNI that is permanently burned. Revenue generation and UNI burn should therefore not be expected to occur simultaneously. Protocol revenue can accumulate before a release becomes economically attractive, creating a timing difference between when revenue is recorded and when the corresponding burn occurs.

This timing distinction is important when evaluating the mechanism. Protocol revenue measures value captured by the protocol during a period; UNI burned measures the realized supply reduction resulting from releases of accumulated assets. Comparing the two over short periods can therefore produce misleading conclusions if a material amount of revenue remains in TokenJar at the measurement date. Over longer periods, the relationship between cumulative protocol revenue and cumulative UNI burn should provide similar values.

The economic significance of UNIfication can consequently be evaluated through two distinct observations. First, protocol activity now generates an observable revenue stream at the protocol level. Second, that revenue is connected to a recurring mechanism for reducing UNI supply. The magnitude of both effects remains dependent on trading activity, fee generation, protocol fee coverage, governance parameters, and the timing of TokenJar releases. These variables can now be measured rather than inferred.

3.3 Observable protocol revenue introduces a new basis for fundamental analysis of UNI

The introduction of protocol revenue also changes how UNI can be analyzed. Before protocol fees were activated, UNI holders could evaluate Uniswap through metrics such as monthly active traders, trading volume, trading fees, liquidity (TVL), and market share thereof. These metrics provided evidence of protocol adoption and the economic value generated through trading, but there was no recurring protocol revenue stream (connected to UNI supply reduction). The relationship between protocol performance and UNI economics was therefore less direct.



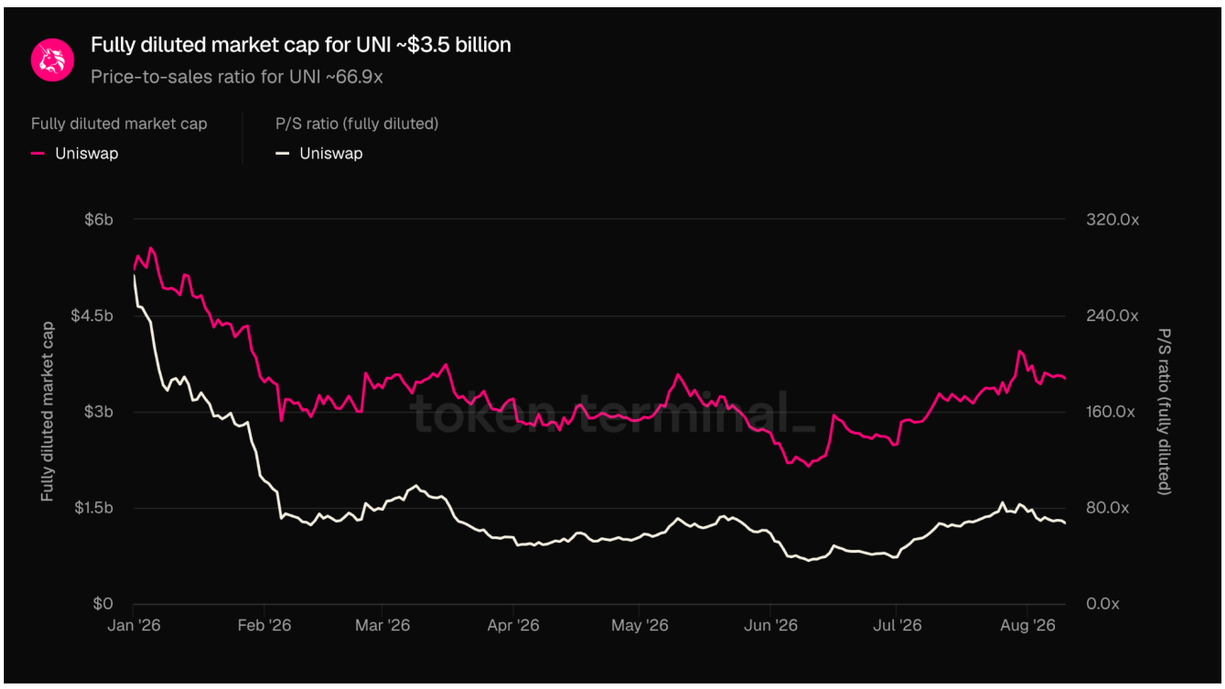
Monthly active traders on Uniswap.

Protocol revenue and recurring UNI burn add two observable variables to that framework. Investors can now measure how much economic value Uniswap generates, what portion is captured at the protocol level, and how captured value contributes to UNI supply reduction. This does not make UNI equivalent to equity or give UNI holders conventional ownership, dividend, or shareholder rights. It does, however, allow protocol operating performance and UNI economics to be analyzed within a more directly connected framework.

A fundamental analysis of UNI can consequently incorporate several layers:

INVESTOR QUESTION	RELEVANT METRIC
How broad is protocol usage?	Monthly active traders
How much activity do traders generate?	Trading volume
How much economic value does that activity generate?	Trading fees
How efficiently does the protocol capture that value?	Protocol revenue / trading fees
How much protocol revenue is generated relative to activity?	Protocol revenue / trading volume
How quickly is protocol-level value capture developing?	Protocol revenue growth
How does captured value affect UNI supply?	Recurring UNI burn / protocol revenue
What valuation does the market assign to protocol revenue?	Fully diluted valuation / annualized protocol revenue
What is the corresponding revenue yield?	Annualized protocol revenue / fully diluted valuation

The valuation implications are best understood as an expansion of the analytical toolkit rather than the introduction of a single definitive valuation method. As of August 8, 2026, UNI had a fully diluted valuation of approximately $3.5 billion, according to Token Terminal data. Based on annualized protocol revenue at that date, UNI traded at approximately 67x fully diluted price-to-sales. The inverse of this multiple represents an annualized protocol revenue yield of approximately 1.5% relative to fully diluted valuation.



Fully diluted market cap and P/S ratio for Uniswap (UNI).

The approximately 67x multiple should not be interpreted as a direct analogue to the P/S ratio of a conventional corporation. UNI does not represent an equity claim on Uniswap Labs, and protocol revenue is not distributed to UNI holders as corporate revenue (profit). The usefulness of the metric is narrower: it provides a standardized way to compare the market value assigned to UNI with the amount of economic value currently captured by the protocol.

The denominator also remains relatively immature. Protocol revenue has been generated for less than a year, fee coverage can change through governance, and annualizing a recent revenue period can materially overstate or understate future revenue if trading activity or capture rates change. A

revenue multiple should therefore be evaluated alongside revenue growth, revenue capture, underlying trading activity, and the realized relationship between protocol revenue and UNI burn rather than used as a standalone measure of fair value.

This is nevertheless a meaningful analytical change. UNI holders no longer need to evaluate UNI solely through governance rights, protocol adoption, relative market share, or expectations about future monetization. They can observe a protocol revenue stream, measure the rate at which trading fees convert into that revenue, track how captured value translates into UNI burn, and compare those economics with UNI's market valuation.

UNIfication therefore makes the economic relationship between Uniswap and UNI more measurable. The relevant economic questions increasingly resemble those applied to economically productive businesses: how quickly activity grows, how efficiently that activity is monetized, and what valuation the market assigns to that value, while the answers remain specific to Uniswap's protocol and governance structure.

Summary

UNIfication shifted responsibilities between the Uniswap Foundation and Uniswap Labs and changed how economic value generated through the protocol relates to UNI. Organizationally, most development and ecosystem growth responsibilities historically performed by Uniswap Foundation are now primarily under Uniswap Labs, while governance, legal capacity, and execution remain distinct. DUNI retains control over certain protocol-level decisions and governance-controlled resources, and provides the legal interface required to implement certain decisions offchain, and Labs serves as a service provider to DUNI responsible for contributing to the development and growth of the Uniswap protocol. The Uniswap Foundation retains a narrower set of responsibilities, including its role as DUNI's Ministerial Agent.

Economically, protocol fee activation introduces a recurring protocol revenue stream on top of Uniswap's existing trading activity. From January through July 2026, Uniswap processed approximately $357.6 billion in trading volume, generated approximately $297.9 million in trading fees, and captured approximately $28.2 million in protocol revenue, according to Token Terminal data. Protocol revenue represented approximately 9.5% of trading fees over the period. Through TokenJar and Firepit, captured value can subsequently contribute to recurring UNI supply reduction.

For investors, the principal change is that the relationship between protocol performance and UNI is now more observable. Uniswap could already be analyzed through active traders, trading volume, trading fees, liquidity (TVL), and market share thereof. Protocol revenue and recurring UNI burn add measures of value capture and value accrual to that framework, while revenue-based valuation metrics provide an additional way to compare UNI's market value with the economics of the underlying protocol.

UNIfication therefore does not determine the value of UNI or the future performance of Uniswap. It establishes a new operating and economic structure through which both can be analyzed. Governance authority, operating execution, protocol-level value capture, UNI supply reduction, and market valuation are now more explicitly connected and independently measurable.