

Alternative Investments Accessible to Retail Investors

Category	Access Method	Key Features/Notes
Real Estate	Direct Property Ownership	Buying physical property (rental, commercial). High capital needed, illiquid, requires active management or costs.
	Publicly Traded Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)	High liquidity; available through standard brokerage accounts.
Commodities	REIT Mutual Funds & Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs)	Accessible via standard brokerages; offers diversification within real estate sectors.
	Commodity ETFs	Tracks indexes (gold, silver, oil, agriculture, etc.); standard brokerage access.
	Physical Gold & Precious Metals	Purchase via dealers (coins, bars); requires storage/insurance considerations.
	Futures-Based Commodity Funds	Exposure to commodity futures contracts; accessible via standard brokerages.
Cryptocurrency	Mining Company Stocks	Indirect exposure via publicly traded mining companies.
	Direct Cryptocurrency Holdings	Purchase via crypto exchanges (e.g., Coinbase, Gemini); requires digital wallet/custody understanding.
	Crypto ETFs	Tracks crypto prices (incl. spot Bitcoin ETFs); standard exchange access.
Hedge Fund-Like Strategies	Blockchain-Focused Equity ETFs	Invests in companies involved in blockchain/crypto technology.
	Liquid Alt Mutual Funds and ETFs	Funds using hedge fund strategies (long/short, managed futures, etc.); daily liquidity.
Private Equity & VC	Hedge Fund Replication ETFs	Designed to mimic hedge fund index returns using liquid securities.
	Business Development Cos (BDCs)	Publicly traded; invests in debt/equity of small/mid-sized private businesses.
Private Credit	Pre-IPO Investing Platforms	Buy shares in late-stage private companies before IPO; illiquid, high minimums.
	BDC Funds	Exposure to private lending via publicly traded funds holding BDC assets.
	Interval Funds	Registered funds investing in private credit; offer periodic (e.g., quarterly) share repurchases; less liquid.

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Infrastructure	Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Lending	Direct lending to individuals/businesses via platforms (e.g., Prosper, LendingClub); involves credit risk.
	Private Credit Interval Funds	Specific interval funds focused on private credit assets.
	Infrastructure ETFs/Mutual Funds	Invests in publicly traded infrastructure companies (utilities, energy, transport).
	Yieldcos	Publicly traded companies owning operating infrastructure assets generating stable cash flows.
	Infrastructure REITs	Specialty REITs focused on infrastructure (cell towers, data centers, pipelines).
Collectibles and Art	Municipal Bond Funds	Indirect exposure by financing public infrastructure projects via municipal bonds.
	Direct Purchase	Buying physical items (art, wine, cars, stamps, etc.). Requires expertise, storage, insurance. Highly illiquid.

Table: Investopedia/Peter Gratton