Trends in the availability and types of drugs sold on the internet via cryptomarkets, February 2024 - January 2025

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This report was prepared by the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW Sydney
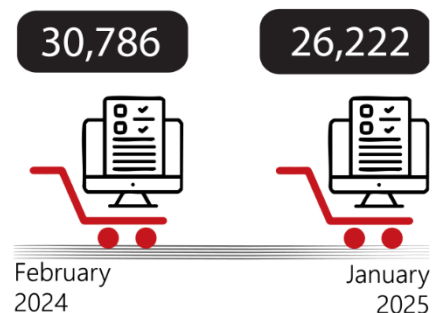For further information: drugtrends@unsw.edu.au

14 cryptomarkets monitored

Feb 2024 — Jan 2025

From 1st February 2024 to 31st January 2025, 14 cryptomarkets were monitored, of which 11 remained active at the end of the reporting period.
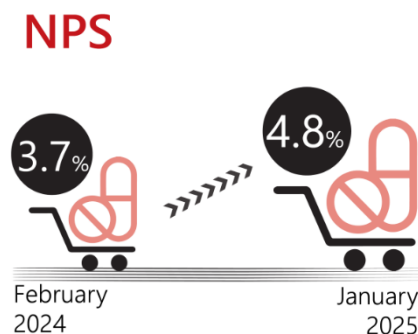
1 Incognito
2 Archetyp
3 Abacus

The cryptomarkets reaching more than 10,000 listings in a snapshot during the 12-month period.

30,786 | 26,222
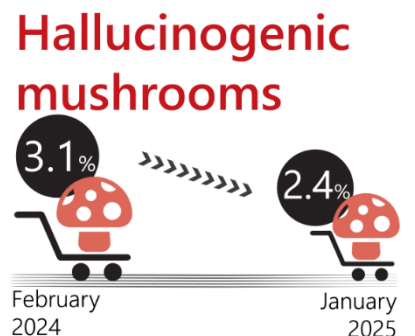
February 2024 | January 2025

There were 30,786 and 26,222 drug listings per snapshot in February 2024 and January 2025, respectively, with no significant change in overall trend in the drug market size.

27% Cannabis
8.4% MDMA
8.1% Benzodiazepines
7.6% Opioids (excluding heroin)
6.9% Cocaine
6.1% Meth/amphetamines

Top 6 drugs across cryptomarket listings from February 2024 to January 2025.

NPS

3.7% → 4.8%

February 2024 | January 2025

The market share of NPS showed the highest rate of increase from 3.7% in February 2024 to 4.8% in January 2025.

Hallucinogenic mushrooms

3.1% → 2.4%

February 2024 | January 2025

The market share of hallucinogenic mushroom showed a decrease, from 3.1% in February 2024 to 2.4% in January 2025.

Key Findings

- From 1st February 2024 to 31st January 2025, 14 cryptomarkets were monitored, of which two closed during the reporting period.

- The three markets reaching more than 10,000 listings in a snapshot during this period were Incognito, Archetyp and Abacus.

- In the final month of monitoring, Archetyp, Nexus, Torzon, Dark Matter and MGM Grand were the largest accessible cryptomarkets.

- There were 30,786 and 26,222 drug listings per snapshot in February 2024 and January 2025, respectively, with no significant change in overall trend in the drug market size during the 12-month period.

- Cannabis comprised the greatest percentage of drug listings from February 2024 to January 2025 (26.5%), followed by MDMA (8.4%), benzodiazepines (8.1%), opioids (excluding heroin) (7.6%), cocaine (6.9%), and meth/amphetamine (illicit) (6.1%).

- The market share of NPS showed the highest rate of increase from 3.7% in February 2024 to 4.8% in January 2025.

- The greatest rate of decrease in market share was observed for other medicines, from 4.2% in February 2024 to 3.5% in January 2025, and for hallucinogenic mushrooms, from 3.1% in February 2024 to 2.4% in January 2025.

Figure 1. Word cloud of cryptomarkets monitored from February 2024 to January 2025.

Note: The two cryptomarkets that closed before the end of January 2025 are in grey colour font. The maximum size of the market (in the period from 1st February 2024 to 31st January 2025 as shown in **Table 1**) is proportional to the font size of the cryptomarket.

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Background

This bulletin series reports on trends in the availability and types of drugs sold on the internet via cryptomarkets over the last 12 months (a new bulletin is released typically every four months). The current bulletin focuses on analysis of drug listings on cryptomarkets from 1st February 2024 to 31st January 2025.

Drug Trends has identified, crawled (or 'scraped'), extracted, categorised and analysed drug listings on cryptomarkets on a regular basis since 1st January 2014, formerly using VBA programming processes, and since 9th August 2018 using a range of programmed automated processes in Python that operate with minimal manual input. Following extraction of common text features across each listing (e.g., drug listing name, vendor name), individual listings were then categorised according to a pre-specified drug classification structure. Drug categorisation is carried out through rules-based text-matching in the first instance, followed by a long short-term memory (LSTM) artificial neural network (target predictive percentage 90%) that had been trained on historically categorised listings for those not matched through the former process. Further background and information regarding the methods are available for download.

Panel A. Terminology

- **Cryptomarkets** ('darknet markets') are online marketplaces that facilitate the purchasing of illicit goods and services via multiple sellers, and provide their users with anonymity via their location on the hidden web (Barratt and Aldridge, 2016). Our data collection and reporting focuses on drug listings advertised on cryptomarkets. A large proportion of listings are of prohibited drugs though licit drugs (e.g., alcohol, paracetamol) may occasionally be advertised on these platforms (Christin and Thomas, 2019).

- A **snapshot** of the cryptomarkets is taken on a twice monthly basis, in the two weeks starting on the 1st and 15th of each month.

- **Number of listings** is the sum of listings per snapshot belonging to a specific market and/or drug class. For this measure, duplicate listings (defined as listings with identical names by a single vendor on a single market within the same snapshot) are removed. Listings are further deduplicated for quantity variants (see **section 5.2.1** in the Methods document).

- **Market size** is defined as the number of drug listings per snapshot, overall, by market or by drug class.

- **Market share** is defined as the percentage of total drug listings by drug class.

- **Average monthly percent change (AMPC)** is the relative percent change in number or percentage of listings per month estimated using the Joinpoint regression program (National Cancer Institute, 2022).

Our reporting focuses on identified cryptomarkets which comply with the following: presented in English; have an accessible Tor link for scraping; have >1 vendor; vendors ship to and/or from Australia, or ship to and/or from multiple countries; and have had >100 drug listings (see the Methods document for more details). For a historical record of marketplaces monitored by Drug Trends, we refer the reader to our interactive timeline.
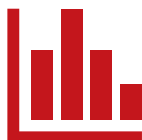
An accompanying public online interactive data visualisation is available, allowing viewers to interact with data collected since February 2014. Data in the current bulletin and the accompanying interactive visualisation are presented as twice monthly snapshots in each of the two weeks starting on the 1st and 15th of each month. We present data on number of listings observed in a given snapshot in the bulletin (see **Panel A**).

In this bulletin, we provide estimates of change over the 12-month reporting period by estimating average monthly percent change (AMPC) in number or proportion of listings per month. This is done using the Joinpoint regression program (National Cancer Institute, 2022) as detailed in the Methods document.

While these data can be considered reasonable estimates for trends in drug availability, we cannot guarantee exhaustive and/or immediate identification and capture of cryptomarkets once they emerge. As a result, there were some cryptomarkets which had existed for periods of time before our first scrape, resulting in a lack of data availability for these periods. In this bulletin, we show the date of the first post on a subDread [1] for each monitored market to give an indication of when that market might have started (**Table 1**). There could also have been challenges in certain periods of time (e.g., distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks on sites) that prevented a routine scrape of an identified market.

Since our findings do not reflect the total of all cryptomarkets existing in the reporting period, the analysis and estimates in this bulletin should not be used to infer the number of drug listings across all cryptomarkets. Further, they should only be considered a proxy indicator of drug availability: we have not provided any metric that reflects sales or purchasing of drugs via cryptomarkets. See here for further discussion of caveats to interpretation.

There are various approaches to collecting, collating, categorising and analysing cryptomarket data, and inherent challenges in these processes. Our monitoring is an ongoing process. Refinements to our reporting processes in each bulletin are reported in the accompanying methods document. We welcome feedback and suggestions so that we can continue to improve utility of these data and our reporting on them (contact us at drugtrends@unsw.edu.au).

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[1] Dread is a forum on the darkweb that is analogous to Reddit. A subDread is a forum group on Dread. The administrators of a cryptomarket often open a subDread for their marketplace. However, the market may not yet be fully functional as there can be several months of web development, beta testing and onboarding of vendors before a market becomes fully operational. Thus, it is likely that monitored cryptomarkets reported on in this bulletin reached our eligibility criteria sometime between their first subDread post and our first scrape.

Findings

Profile of Cryptomarkets from February 2024 to January 2025

Which cryptomarkets were monitored during this period?

The current bulletin reports findings for the time period 1st February 2024 to 31st January 2025 (**Figure 2**). In the current monitoring period, 14 cryptomarkets were monitored. Table 1 shows the characteristics of these cryptomarkets since the date of our first scrape. Scraped data might be missing for some markets in certain periods (see **Figure 2**). In particular, we note that we only performed a complete scrape for Abacus in the 15th-28th August 2024 and the 15th-28th November 2024 snapshots because the frequency of CAPTCHA was too labour-intensive for regular scraping. We note, however, that we could not access Abacus for a scrape in the whole of December 2024 and January 2025. For this reason, Abacus is excluded from the analyses of trend over time in this bulletin. It is only presented with respect to **Tables 1 and 5**, and **Figures 1, 2 and 6** which do not quantify trend in the number or proportion of listings over time. We also note that we have detected two cryptomarkets, BlackOps and MarsMarket, with >10,000 listings each in March 2025 but we have not yet started collecting data from these markets.

Which cryptomarkets closed during this period?

Of the 14 markets monitored in this bulletin, two markets (14% of monitored markets) closed within the reporting period for the following purported reasons (**Table 1**):

- Incognito was last scraped in the two weeks starting on 1st March 2024 and is considered to have closed (exit scam);
- Nemesis was last scraped in the two weeks starting on 1st March 2024 and is considered to have closed (law enforcement); and

The other 12 markets remaining active at the end of the 12-month period were Archetyp, Abacus, MGM Grand, Ares, ColombiaConnection, Dark Matter, Torzon, Elysium, Nexus, Quantum and Euphoria (**Table 1**). However, Abacus and Vortex could not be accessed in the last two months of monitoring (December 2024 and January 2025).

Figure 2. Cryptomarkets monitored from February 2024 to January 2025.

Source: DrugTrends, NDARC

Note: There are short breaks at the end of each month because the twice-monthly snapshots were based on 2-week intervals starting on the 1st and 15th of each month, i.e., days of the month after the 28th were excluded from monitoring. Extended breaks indicate periods where market crawling was not achievable or incomplete. The width of the bar is proportional to the log of the number of drug listings observed in each snapshot for each market.

Table 1. Characteristics of cryptomarkets identified in this bulletin.

Market	Status as at Jan 2025 (reported reason[a])	Earliest subDread post	First snapshot	Last snapshot	Duration in months[b]	Maximum number of listings[c]
Incognito	Closed (exit scam)	19th Oct 2020	1st Oct 2021	1st Mar 2024	29.5	11,967
Archetyp	Open	19th Apr 2020	15th Jan 2022	Ongoing[d]	36.5*	10,742
Abacus	Open	27th Sep 2020	15th Feb 2022	Ongoing[d, e]	35.5*	10,640
MGM Grand	Open	26th Apr 2021	15th May 2022	Ongoing[d]	32.5*	4,589
Ares	Open	26th Aug 2021	15th May 2022	Ongoing[d]	32.5*	2,934
Colombia Connection	Open	3rd Nov 2020	15th Jul 2022	Ongoing[d]	30.5*	244
Nemesis	Closed (law enforcement)	5th Jun 2021	1st Feb 2023	1st Mar 2024	13.5	7,622
Dark Matter	Open	22nd Sep 2022	15th Mar 2023	Ongoing[d]	22.5*	3,965
Torzon	Open	15th Nov 2022	15th Nov 2023	Ongoing[d]	14.5*	4,041
Elysium	Open	28th Jun 2023	1st Mar 2024	Ongoing[d]	11*	1,436
Nexus	Open	5th Jan 2024	1st Mar 2024	Ongoing[d]	11*	4,348
Quantum	Open	--[f]	15th Mar 2024	Ongoing[d]	10.5*	798
Vortex	Open	28th Nov 2023	15th Apr 2024	Ongoing[d]	9.5*	1,171
Euphoria	Open	18th Apr 2024	15th Apr 2024	Ongoing[d]	9.5*	279

Note: Markets are ordered by date of first snapshot, then date of earliest subDread post. [a] Most probable reason for closure is given in brackets. [b] Duration of monitoring is the number of months between the start of the first snapshot and the end of the last snapshot, including when data could not be scraped from the cryptomarket. Where the cryptomarket was still active and monitored as of end of January 2025 (indicated by *), the duration was computed as the number of months between the first snapshot and end of January 2025. [c] Maximum number of listings in a scrape was computed from the snapshots over the 12-month reporting period. [d] The cryptomarket was active as of end of January 2025. [e] Abacus was still active as of end of January 2025; however, we only had two snapshots with a scrape of the whole market in the 12-month period (see *Which cryptomarkets were monitored during this period?* for details). [f] Quantum's subDread could not be found on Dread.

What cryptomarkets were monitored for the first time during this period?

Of the 14 markets in this reporting period, five markets were monitored for the first time. These are:

- Elysium, first monitored in the 1st-14th March 2024 snapshot;
- Nexus, first monitored in the 1st-14th March 2024 snapshot;
- Quantum, first monitored in the 15th-28th March 2024 snapshot;
- Vortex, first monitored in the 15th-28th April 2024 snapshot; and
- Euphoria, first monitored in the 15th-28th April 2024 snapshot.

These markets were still active and being monitored at the end of January 2025.

Which cryptomarkets from this period have been monitored for the longest?

Of the 14 markets monitored, the following markets had been monitored for two years or more:

- Archetyp for 36.5 months since 15th January 2022 (ongoing);
- Abacus for 35.5 months since 15th February 2022 (ongoing);
- MGM Grand for 32.5 months since 15th May 2022 (ongoing);
- Ares for 32.5 months since 15th May 2022 (ongoing);
- ColombiaConnection for 30.5 months since 15th July 2022 (ongoing); and

- Incognito for 29.5 months between 1st October 2021 and 14th March 2024.

However, as noted above (see *Background*), some of the cryptomarkets might have existed for some time before we started scraping them as indicated by the earliest date of the subDread forum posts (**Table 1**).

Which cryptomarkets from this period were the largest based on number of drug listings?

The markets reaching more than 10,000 listings in a snapshot during the 12-month period (**Table 1** and **Figure 3**) were:

- Incognito with maximum number of listings in a snapshot of 11,967;
- Archetyp with maximum number of listings in a snapshot of 10,742; and
- Abacus with maximum number of listings in a snapshot of 10,640.

The smallest of the scraped cryptomarkets with a maximum of less than 1,000 listings per snapshot were ColombiaConnection, Euphoria and Quantum (**Table 1**).

Figure 3. Number of drug listings by cryptomarkets with a maximum of ≥1000 listings in a snapshot from February 2024 to January 2025.

Source: DrugTrends, NDARC
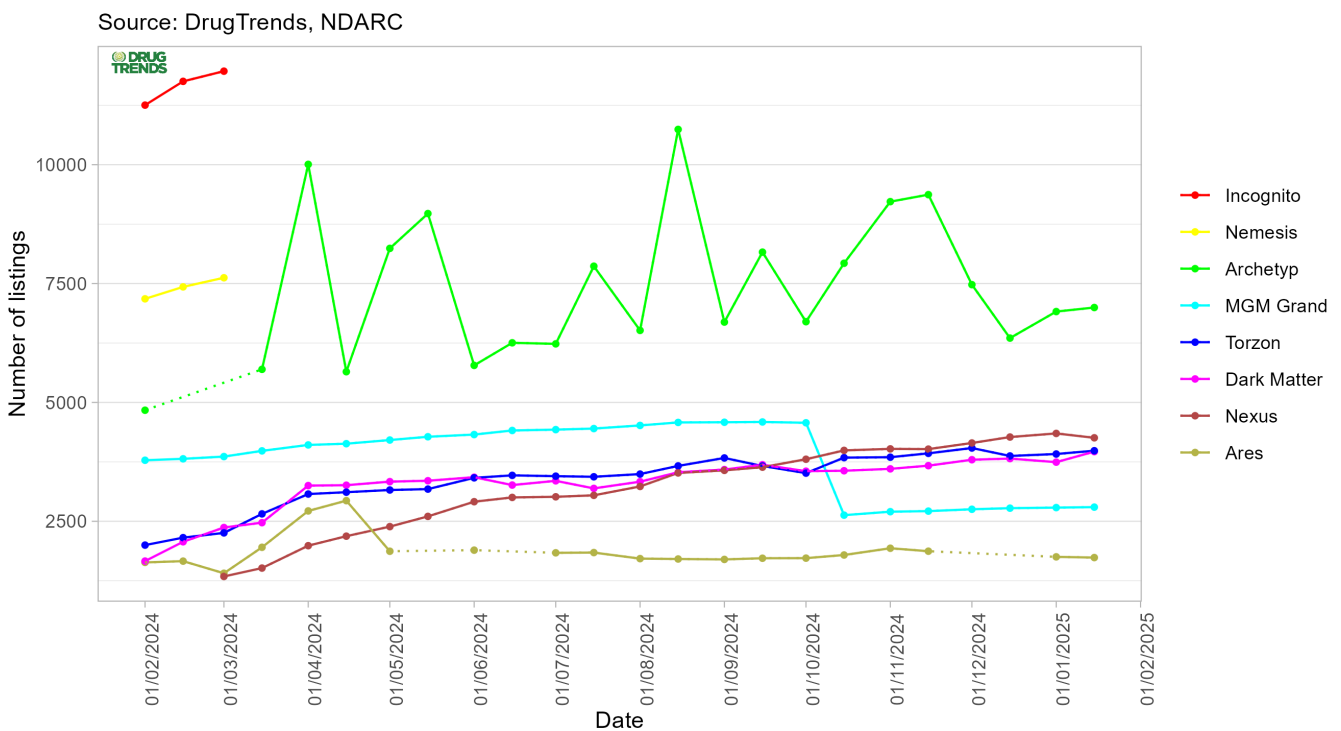
Note: Markets with <1000 listings in a snapshot across the whole 12-month period (i.e., ColombiaConnection, Euphoria and Quantum) were excluded to improve visibility. Abacus is excluded because it only had two snapshots with a scrape of the whole market in the 12-month period. Complete interactive visualisation available here. The markets are ordered by maximum number of listings per snapshot over the 12-month period as shown in **Table 1**.

In the final month of monitoring (January 2025), 10 markets were scraped. The markets whose mean number of listings per snapshot (including interpolated data for missing scrapes) were above the average of 2,624 listings in January 2025 were (**Table 2**):

- Archetyp with an average of 6,954 listings per snapshot;

- Nexus with an average of 4,302 listings per snapshot;

- Torzon with an average of 3,950 listings per snapshot;

- Dark Matter with an average of 3,854 listings per snapshot; and

- MGM Grand with an average of 2,793 listings per snapshot.

Table 2. Number of drug listings (including interpolated data for missed scrapes) and average monthly percent change (AMPC in %) on the marketplaces monitored from February 2024 to January 2025.

Market (Number of months) [a]	First snapshot [b]	Last snapshot [b]	Mean in Feb 2024 [c]	Mean in Jan 2025 [c]	AMPC (95%CI) [d]
Incognito (1.5)	11,253	11,967	11,503	– [e]	– [f]
Nemesis (1.5)	7,179	7,622	7,304	– [e]	– [f]
Archetyp (12)	4,836	6,996	4,982	6,954	2.5 (-0.1, 5.3)
Nexus (11)	1,340	4,256	– [g]	4,302	**12.1 (11.3, 12.9)***
Torzon (12)	1,999	3,984	2,078	3,950	**6.7 (6.1, 7.7)***
Dark Matter (12)	1,663	3,965	1,866	3,854	**7.4 (6.8, 8.2)***
MGM Grand (12)	3,784	2,798	3,800	2,793	**-2.5 (-3.3, -1.7)***
Ares (12)	1,635	1,737	1,648	1,744	0.5 (-0.5, 1.9)
Elysium (11)	213	1,436	– [g]	1,348	**19.0 (17.3, 21.4)***
Quantum (10.5)	254	796	– [g]	813	**13.1 (11.9, 14.4)***
Vortex (7.5)	184	317	– [g]	– [h]	**8.4 (3.1, 13.6)***
Euphoria (9.5)	100	250	– [g]	236	**9.0 (7.2, 10.8)***
ColombiaConnection (12)	169	244	171	242	**2.9 (2.1, 4.3)***

Note: The marketplaces are in descending order by their number of listings in the last snapshot. [a] Number of months is the number of intervening months between the first and last snapshot in the 12-month period, i.e., including when data could not be scraped from the marketplace. [b] Note that the 'first snapshot' and the 'last snapshot' of each individual marketplace are their respective first and last scrape in the 12-month period. [c] The mean in the first and last month are calculated as the mean of the number of listings including the interpolated number of listings for missed scrapes. [d] Average monthly percent change (AMPC) in number of listings is the estimated percent change in number of listings on the marketplace (or market size) per month. Because regular data points are required, intervening data points with no data were interpolated for estimating AMPC. The estimates that are statistically significant at $p<0.05$ have 95% confidence intervals (95%CI) that do not include 0. They are marked with "*" and highlighted in bold. [e] These marketplaces closed before January 2025. [f] There are insufficient data points for an analysis of trend over time. [g] [h] Monitoring for these markets had not yet started in February 2024. [h] Vortex could not be accessed in January 2025 even though the market had not yet closed.

Did the size of the individual marketplaces change over the 12-month period?

Of the 11 cryptomarkets with sufficient time points (i.e. more than two months of data), 8 had a significant rate of increase in number of listings (**Table 2**). Elysium had the highest rate of increase in number of listings (increase of 19.0% per month), increasing from 213 listings in its first snapshot in 1st-14th March 2024 to 1,436 listings in the last snapshot in 15th-28th January 2025. This was followed by:

- Quantum with an increase of 13.1% per month from 254 listings in the first snapshot to 796 in the last snapshot over 10.5 months;

- Nexus with an increase of 12.1% per month from 1,340 listings in the first snapshot to 4,256 in the last snapshot over 11 months;

- Euphoria with an increase of 9.0% per month from 100 listings in the first snapshot to 250 in the last snapshot over 9.5 months; and
- Vortex with an increase of 8.4% per month from 184 listings in the first snapshot to 317 in the last snapshot over 7.5 months.

MGM Grand had a significant rate of decrease of -2.5% per month, with a notable drop between the 1st-14th October and 15th-28th October 2024 snapshots (**Figure 2**).

Drugs Available via Cryptomarkets from February 2024 to January 2025

Market listings captured through cryptomarket monitoring have been categorised into drug classes according to this methodology.

What were the main drugs available via cryptomarkets during this period?

Cannabis comprised the bulk of the listings identified across the overall market over the 12-month period (26.5%) (see **Table 3**, **Figure 4** and **Figure 5**). This was followed by:

- MDMA, with 8.4% of listings;
- benzodiazepines, with 8.1% of listings;
- opioids (excluding heroin), with 7.6% of listings;
- cocaine, with 6.9% of listings; and
- meth/amphetamine (illicit), with 6.1% of listings.

New psychoactive substances (NPS) comprised 4.5% of listings; however, it should be noted that new drugs might have appeared since we created our dictionary terms (see methods of our earlier summary bulletin for further detail) that may not have been captured as NPS. We plan to update our dictionary terms for NPS and our machine learning model for drug listing categorisation in the future. For more information about the availability of nitazenes on cryptomarkets, please refer to our previously published bulletin[2].

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[2] Only the terms 'etazen', 'etazene', 'etonitazene', 'etonitazepipne', 'metonitazene' and 'protonitazene' were used to identify nitazenes in the current bulletin, i.e., not all nitazenes in our previously published bulletin on nitazenes were identified in the current bulletin.

Table 3. Market share (percentage of listings) by drug class, and their average monthly percent change (AMPC in %) from February 2024 to January 2025.

Drug	Market share (percentage of listings)[a]			AMPC (95%CI)[b]
	Overall	Feb 2024	Jan 2025	
Cannabis	26.5	27.1	26.6	0.1 (-0.4, 0.6)
MDMA	8.4	8.0	8.0	0.2 (-0.3, 0.7)
Benzodiazepines	8.1	8.3	8.0	0.0 (-0.4, 0.4)
Opioids (excluding heroin)	7.6	6.8	7.5	0.1 (-1.1, 1.4)
Cocaine	6.9	7.3	7.2	0.1 (-0.7, 0.6)
Meth/amphetamine (illicit)	6.1	5.5	6.3	**1.0 (0.5, 1.6)***
PIEDs/weight loss drugs[c]	5.4	5.9	5.5	**-0.8 (-1.7, -0.1)***
Ketamine	5.3	5.0	5.0	0.4 (-0.1, 1.0)
NPS	4.5	3.7	4.8	**2.7 (1.9, 4.0)***
LSD	3.8	3.1	3.8	**1.9 (1.3, 2.7)***
Other psychostimulants & nootropics	3.7	3.7	3.9	0.0 (-0.5, 0.5)
Other medicines[d]	3.4	4.2	3.5	**-2.4 (-4.2, -0.6)***
Hallucinogenic mushrooms	2.6	3.1	2.4	**-2.3 (-3.0, -1.7)***
Heroin	2.1	2.2	2.1	-0.5 (-1.2, 0.1)
Other psychotropic medicines[e]	1.9	2.2	1.8	—[g]
DMT	1.4	1.3	1.4	—[g]
Other drugs	1.3	1.6	1.2	—[g]
GHB/GBL/1,4-BD	0.52	0.46	0.60	—[g]
Total [f]	100.0	100.0	100.0	—

Note: Abacus is excluded from the data in this table because it only had two snapshots with a scrape of the whole market in the 12-month period (see *Which cryptomarkets were monitored during this period?* for details). [a] Market share is the proportion of the number of listings of the drug as a percentage of the number of all drug listings per snapshot across all marketplaces observed in the stated period. [b] Average monthly percent change (AMPC) in market share is the estimated relative percent change in percentage of listings of the particular drug per month. The estimates that are statistically significant at p<0.05 have 95% confidence intervals (95%CI) that do not include 0. They are marked with "*" and highlighted in bold. See methods for further details. [c] PIEDs: performance and image enhancing drugs. Please refer to our interactive visualisation for examples. [d] These are all other medicines not in other categories of drugs. Please refer to our interactive visualisation for examples. [e] These are pharmaceutical drugs with psychotropic effects excluding drugs already in other categories of drugs, e.g., psychostimulants and opioids which are in their specific classes of 'other psychostimulants & nootropics' and 'opioids (excluding heroin)', respectively. Please refer to our interactive visualisation for examples. [f] The 'Total' row comprises all drug listings including those not shown in this table due to small values, i.e. alcohol, e-cigarette, inhalants, MDA, paraphernalia, PCP and tobacco, with each constituting <0.5% of the overall market share. However, GHB/GBL/1,4-BD is still shown because of recent interest in this drug in Australia. [g] Estimates of AMPC for market share are not shown where overall percentage of listings of the drug is ≤2% due to unreliability of estimates.

Figure 4. Percentage breakdown of listings for the overall market by drug class and month from February 2024 to January 2025.
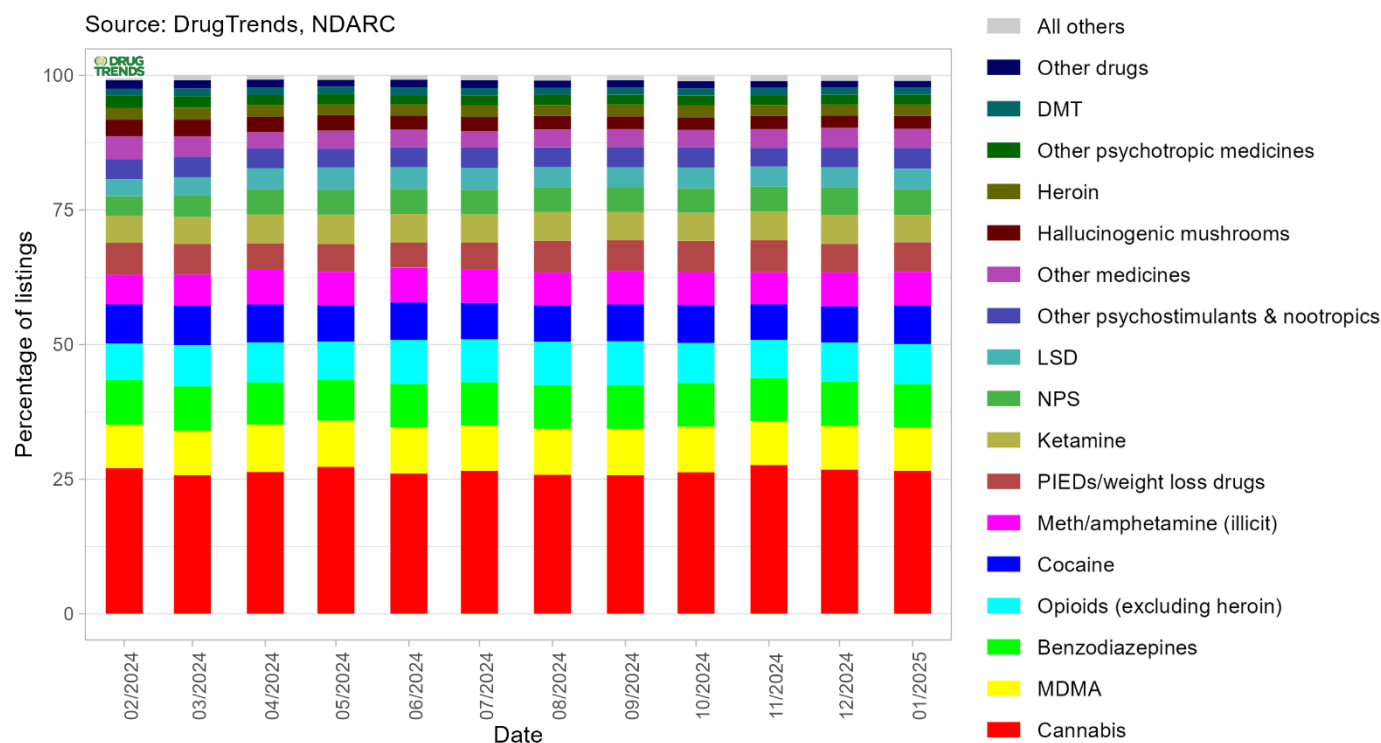
Note: 'All others' comprised drugs or related products that each constitute <0.5% of the overall market share. These are alcohol, e-cigarette, GHB/GBL/1,4-BD, inhalants, MDA, paraphernalia, PCP and tobacco. Complete interactive visualisation for all drug classes available here.

Did the overall drug market size (based on number of drug listings in the monitored marketplaces) change over this period?

There were 30,786 and 26,222 drug listings per snapshot in February 2024 and January 2025, respectively, with no significant change in the overall drug market size in the 12-month period (**Table 4**). While there was the closure of two big markets (Incognito and Nemesis) in March 2024, 8 other markets significantly increased in size during the 12-month period. There were also two scrapes in February and March 2024 when Archetyp (which was the next largest market after Incognito and Nemesis) was inaccessible, thus reducing the impact of a drop in number of listings over this 12-month period.

Did the market size of the main drugs available via cryptomarkets change over this period?

Hallucinogenic mushrooms had the greatest rate of decrease in market size (-4.7% per month) from February 2024 to January 2025 (from 946 to 623 listings, respectively; **Table 4**; **Figure 5**). This was followed by:

- Other drugs from 488 to 305 listings (-4.5% per month);
- Other medicines from 1,301 to 930 listings (-4.2% per month);
- Other psychotropic medicines from 686 to 480 listings (-4.1% per month);
- Cocaine from 2,242 to 1,880 listings (-2.5% per month);
- PIEDs/weight loss drugs from 1,826 to 1,438 listings (-2.3% per month); and

- Opioids (excluding heroin) from 2,093 to 1,955 listings (-1.8% per month).

NPS was the only drug class with a significant increase in market size (1.7% per month) from February 2024 to January 2025 (1,127 to 1,252 listings, respectively).

Figure 5. **Number of listings disaggregated by drug class for the overall market from February 2024 to January 2025.**
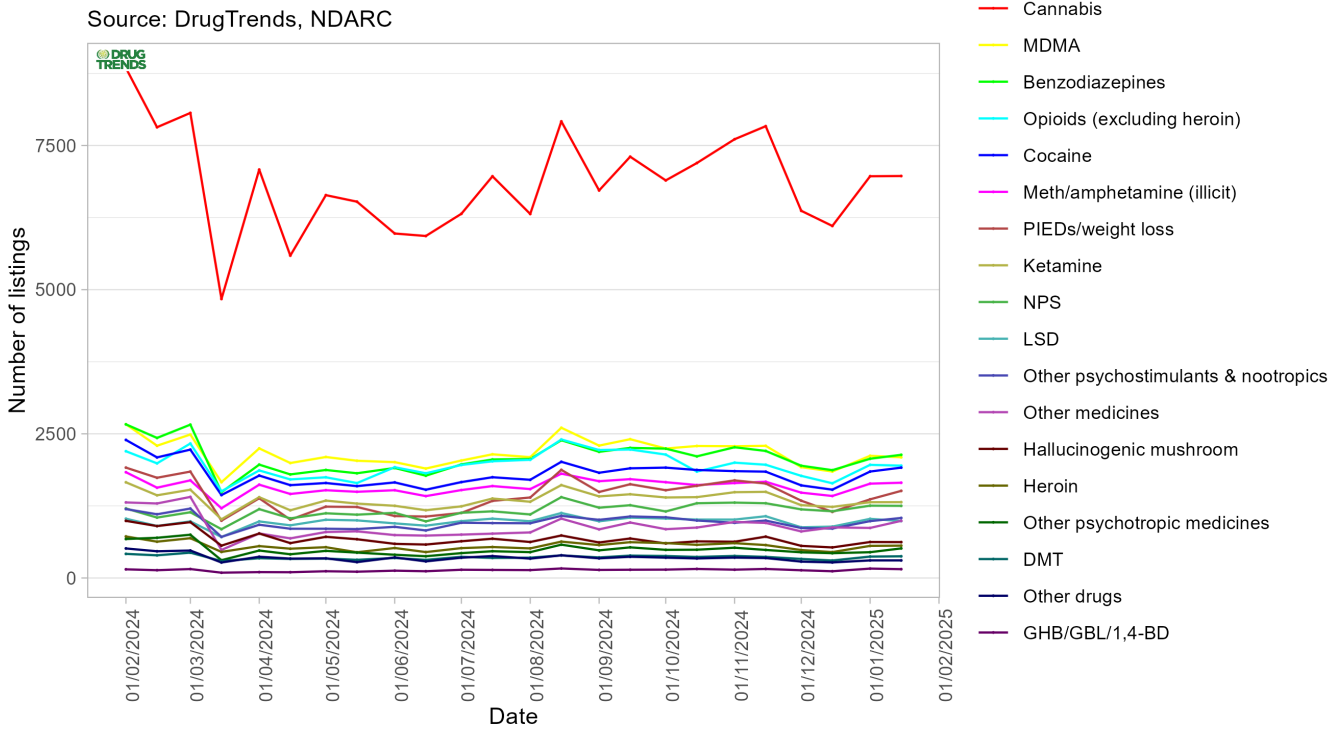
Note: The drug classes with small number of listings, each comprising <0.5% of the overall market share (i.e. alcohol, e-cigarette, GHB/GBL/1,4-BD, inhalants, MDA, paraphernalia, PCP and tobacco) are not shown in the figure. To view the data on all drug classes, please see our interactive visualisation.

Table 4. Market size (number of listings) by drug class and their average monthly percent change (AMPC in %) from February 2024 to January 2025.

Drug	Market size (Mean number of listings) [a]			AMPC (95%CI) [b]
	Overall	Feb 2024	Jan 2025	
Cannabis	6,866	8,330	6,969	-2.0 (-3.8, 0.9)
MDMA	2,169	2,480	2,106	-1.6 (-3.2, 0.8)
Benzodiazepines	2,089	2,546	2,102	-2.2 (-3.9, 0.1)
Opioids (excluding heroin)	1,953	2,093	1,955	**-1.8 (-3.5, -0.3)***
Cocaine	1,800	2,242	1,880	**-2.5 (-4.0, -0.7)***
Meth/amphetamine (illicit)	1,582	1,700	1,644	-0.7 (-1.9, 1.2)
PIEDs/weight loss drugs[c]	1,423	1,826	1,438	**-2.3 (-5.0, -0.3)***
Ketamine	1,358	1,546	1,314	-1.4 (-3.0, 1.2)
NPS	1,166	1,127	1,252	**1.7 (0.5, 2.9)***
LSD	977	966	1,006	0.7 (-0.6, 2.0)
Other psychostimulants & nootropics	966	1,150	1,014	-1.9 (-3.5, 0.2)
Other medicines[d]	891	1,301	930	**-4.2 (-7.2, -0.9)***
Hallucinogenic mushroom	677	946	623	**-4.7 (-6.5, -1.9)***
Heroin	554	675	559	-2.4 (-4.1, 0.2)
Other psychotropic medicines[e]	490	686	480	**-4.1 (-6.6, -0.9)***
DMT	359	406	374	-1.5 (-2.9, 0.4)
Other drugs	350	488	305	**-4.5 (-6.3, -1.7)***
GHB/GBL/1,4-BD	135	142	158	0.1 (-2.0, 3.1)
Total[f]	25,914	30,786	26,222	-1.9 (-3.5, 0.6)

Note: [a] This shows the mean number of listings per snapshot across all marketplaces observed in the stated period. [b] Average monthly percent change (AMPC) in market size is the estimated relative percent change in number of listings of the particular drug per month. The estimates that are statistically significant at p<0.05 have 95% confidence intervals (95%CI) that do not include 0. They are marked with "*" and highlighted in bold. [c] PIEDs: performance and image enhancing drugs. Please refer to our interactive visualisation for examples. [d] These are all other medicines not in other categories of drugs. Please refer to our interactive visualisation for examples. [e] These are pharmaceutical drugs with psychotropic effects excluding drugs already in other categories of drugs, e.g. psychostimulants and opioids which are in their specific classes of 'other psychostimulants & nootropics' and 'opioids (excluding heroin)', respectively. Please refer to our interactive visualisation for examples. [f] The 'Total' row comprises all drug listings including those not shown in this table due to small values, i.e. alcohol, e-cigarette, inhalants, MDA, paraphernalia, PCP and tobacco, with each constituting <0.5% of the overall market share. However, GHB/GBL/1,4-BD is still shown because of recent interest in this drug in Australia.

Did the market share of the main drugs available via cryptomarkets change over this period?

NPS had the greatest rate of relative increase in market share (2.7% per month) from February 2024 to January 2025 (3.7% of all drug listings to 4.8%, respectively; **Table 3** and **Figure 4**). This was followed by:

- LSD increasing at 1.9% per month, from 3.1% to 3.8%; and

- meth/amphetamine (illicit) increasing at 1.0% per month, from 5.5% to 6.3%.

Other medicines had the greatest relative decrease in market share (-2.4% per month) from February 2024 to January 2025 (4.2% of all drug listings to 3.5%, respectively; **Table 3** and **Figure 4**). This was followed by:

- hallucinogenic mushrooms decreasing at -2.3% per month, from 3.1% to 2.4%; and

- PIEDs/weight loss drugs decreasing at -0.8% per month, from 5.9% to 5.5%.

What were the differences in market share of drugs between the individual cryptomarkets over this period?

Figure 6 shows the breakdown of listings by drug class per market during the 12-month reporting period. The analyses shows that most markets monitored listed an array of different drugs. Note that this section includes data from Abacus as we analysed the aggregate data over this 12-month period. The market share of cannabis varied between 17% for Elysium and 31% for ColombiaConnection with a relative difference [3] from the overall market of -37.5% and 18%, respectively (**Figure 6** and **Table 5**).

The three smallest markets with a maximum of less than 1,000 listings in a snapshot throughout the monitoring period (i.e., Euphoria, ColombiaConnection and Elysium) were also markets with the highest proportion of listings from particular drug classes (**Table 5**). The drug classes for which these three marketplaces had the highest percentages that were significantly different from the overall market were:

- Listings of LSD in Elysium and Euphoria (relative difference of 158% and 139%, respectively from the overall market).

- Listings of opioids excluding heroin in ColombiaConnection and Euphoria (relative difference of 228% and 98%, respectively from the overall market).

- Listings of NPS and other drugs in Elysium (relative difference of 96% and 107%, respectively, from the overall market).

Drug classes with the highest percentage of listings that were significantly different by more than a third (>33%) from the overall market were also found in the following marketplaces:

- Opioids excluding heroin in Vortex and Ares (relative difference of 81% and 41%, respectively, from the overall market).

- Cocaine in Vortex with relative difference of 56% from the overall market.

- PIEDs/weight loss drugs in Dark Matter with relative difference of 35% from the overall market.

- LSD in Quantum with relative difference of 80% from the overall market.

- Other medicines in Nemesis and Dark Matter (relative difference of 58% and 47%, respectively, from the overall market).

- Hallucinogenic mushrooms in Incognito with relative difference of 44% from the overall market (note: the closure of this market could have contributed to the drop in the market share of hallucinogenic mushrooms (and of PIEDs/weight loss drugs) over this 12-month period).

- Heroin in Ares with relative difference of 133% from the overall market.

- Other psychotropic medicines in Dark Matter with relative difference of 65% from the overall market.

- Other drugs in Ares and MGM Grand (relative difference of 85% and 48%, respectively, from the overall market).

- DMT in Ares with relative difference of 50% from the overall market.

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[3] The relative difference in market share of a drug is the difference in market share of the drug in the individual market from the overall market as a proportion of the overall market share of that drug. Please refer to section 6.1.2 of methods for further details.

Figure 6 Drug composition of cryptomarkets monitored from February 2024 to January 2025 (in ascending order by proportion of cannabis listings, and overall market in last column).

Source: DrugTrends, NDARC
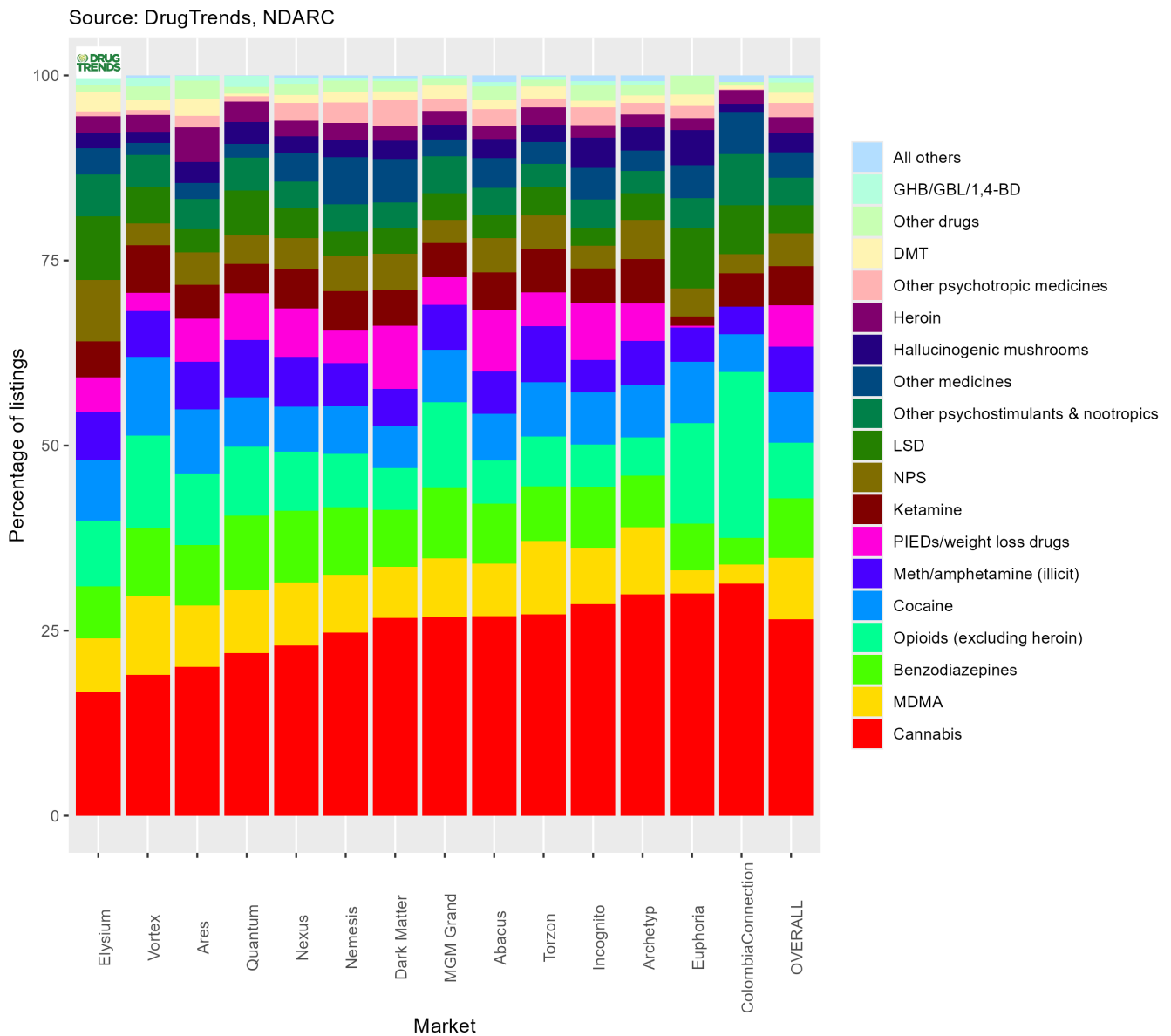
Note: This figure displays drug class percentage of all listings observed from 1st February 2024 to 31st January 2025 for each marketplace monitored. See **Figure 2** and our interactive timeline for the duration of monitoring each market. 'All others' comprised drugs or related products that each constitute <0.5% of listings over the reporting period. These are alcohol, e-cigarette, GHB/GBL/1,4-BD, inhalants, MDA, paraphernalia, PCP and tobacco.

Table 5. Relative percent difference in drug market share between each market and the overall market from February 2024 to January 2025.

Market	Cannabis	MDMA	Benzo-diazepines	Opioids (excl. heroin)	Cocaine	Meth/amphetamine	PIEDs/weight loss drugs	Ketamine	NPS	LSD	Other psycho-stimulants	Other medicines	Hallucinogenic mushrooms	Heroin	Other psycho-tropic med.	Other drugs	DMT	All others
Elysium[c]	**-37**	-8	-14	28	23	14	-26	-7	**96**	**158**	49	-12	-24	7	-71	**107***	-42	-46
Vortex	**-29**	34	13	**81**	**56**	8	**-62**	26	-30	43	16	**-59***	-47	11	-72	6	22	-21
Ares	**-24**	4	-1	**41**	**27***	13	-7	-12	3	-6	9	**-47**	0	**133**	-28	**85**	**50***	**-81***
Quantum	-18	7	22	35	-2	35	-1	-21	-10	**80***	19	-55	6	40	-72	-68	-50	-100
Nexus	**-14**	8	**17***	17	-11	19	4	3	-1	19	-3	-3	-23	5	13	-14	-9	-40
Nemesis[a]	**-7**	-1	11	5	-5	2	**-28**	2	9	2	-3	**58**	**-20***	17	**29**	14	-6	-31
Dark Matter	0	-13	-7	**-18***	-16	-12	**35**	-7	16	3	-9	**47**	-15	-2	**65**	-7	-14	-25
MGM Grand	1	-1	**15***	**69**	5	6	**-40**	-11	**-26***	6	**33**	**-42**	**-30***	-9	-27	**48***	**-43***	**-86**
Abacus[b]	1	**-11***	-2	**-15**	-8	1	**31**	0	7	-7	-1	0	-10	-13	6	-6	15	**54**
Torzon	2	**25**	-10	-2	8	**33**	**-27**	13	7	14	-15	**-27***	-17	15	**-42**	26	**-44***	**-69***
Incognito[a,b]	**7**	-4	1	**-17**	3	**-23**	**22**	-8	**-28**	**-29**	4	6	**44**	-17	11	**-27***	**28**	34
Archetyp[b]	**12**	**14***	**-15**	**-24**	3	5	**-19**	**17***	**24**	7	**-19***	**-33**	10	-13	**-27***	-16	-14	41
Euphoria[c]	13	-62	-21	**98**	18	-20	**-92**	-80	-6	**139**	8	12	59	-25	-6	19	57	–
ColombiaConnection[c]	18	**-66***	-56	**228**	-27	-37	–	-12	-37	101	81	34	-52	-11	-100	-65	-72	59

Note: Each column is colour coded to highlight the lowest numbers in green, the mid-range numbers in yellow and highest numbers in purple, following the colour scale range. ** indicate relative difference is statistically significant at $p<0.001$ (with numbers in bold and underlined), and * indicate relative difference is statistically significant at $p<0.01$. (with numbers in bold). 'All others' category comprised alcohol, e-cigarette, GHB/GBL/1,4-BD, inhalants, MDA, paraphernalia, PCP and tobacco, with each constituting <0.5% of the overall market share. [a] The cell of the marketplaces that closed before January 2025 are shaded in grey. [b] The biggest marketplaces, with a maximum of more than 10,000 listings in a snapshot across the 12-month period, are in bold. [c] The smallest marketplaces, with less than 1,000 listings in a snapshot across the 12-month period, are italicised.

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Acknowledgements

Related Links

- Data visualisations: https://drugtrends.shinyapps.io/cryptomarkets

- For more research from the Drug Trends program go to: https://www.unsw.edu.au/research/ndarc/research-impact/research-areas/drug-trends

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