



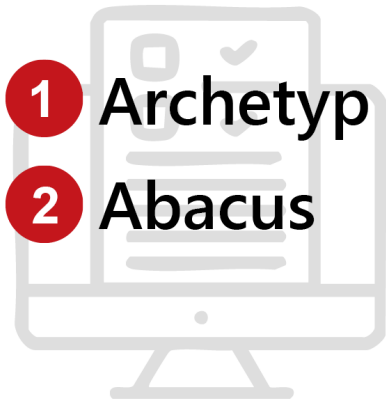
Trends in the availability and types of drugs sold on the internet via cryptomarkets, June 2024 - May 2025

Nicola Man, Rachel Sutherland, Monica J. Barratt, Raimondo Bruno, Vandit Sadaphale and Amy Peacock

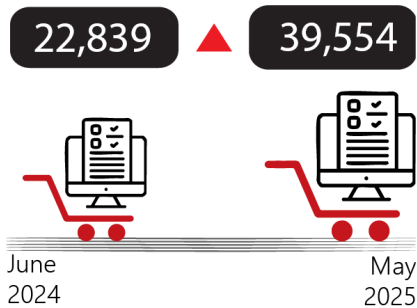
This report was prepared by the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW Sydney
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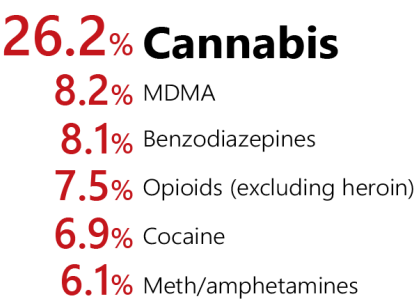
From 1st June 2024 to 31st May 2025, 15 cryptomarkets were monitored, of which 14 remained active at the end of the reporting period.



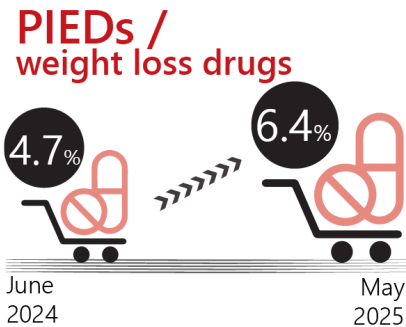
The cryptomarkets reaching more than 10,000 listings in a snapshot during the 12-month period.



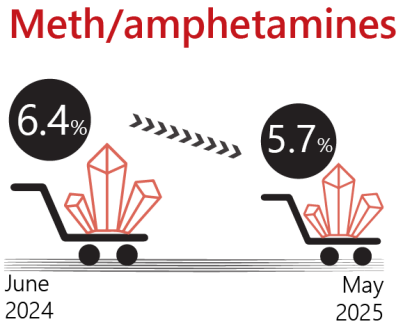
There were 22,839 and 39,554 drug listings per snapshot in June 2024 and May 2025, respectively, with significant increase of 5.1% per month in the drug market size.



Top 6 drugs across cryptomarket listings from June 2024 to May 2025.



The market share of PIEDs/weight loss drugs showed the highest rate of increase from 4.7% in June 2024 to 6.4% in May 2025.



The market share of meth/amphetamines showed a decrease, from 6.4% in June 2024 to 5.7% in May 2025.

Key Findings

- From 1st June 2024 to 31st May 2025, 15 cryptomarkets were monitored, of which 14 remained active at the end of the reporting period.
- The two markets reaching more than 10,000 listings in a snapshot during this period were Archetyp and Abacus.
- There were 22,839 and 39,554 drug listings per snapshot in June 2024 and May 2025, respectively, with a significant increase of 5.1% per month in the drug market size during the 12-month period.
- Cannabis comprised the greatest percentage of drug listings from June 2024 to May 2025 (26.2%), followed by MDMA (8.2%), benzodiazepines (8.1%), opioids (excluding heroin) (7.5%), cocaine (6.9%), and meth/amphetamine (illicit) (6.1%).
- The market share of PIEDs/weight loss drugs showed the highest rate of increase from 4.7% in June 2024 to 7.2% in May 2025. The greatest significant rate of decrease in market share was observed for meth/amphetamines, from 6.4% in June 2024 to 5.7% in May 2025.

Figure 1. Word cloud of cryptomarkets monitored from June 2024 to May 2025 based on market size



Note: The one cryptomarket (Quantum) that closed before the end of May 2025 is in grey colour font. The maximum size of the market (in the period from 1st June 2024 to 31st May 2025 as shown in Table 1) is proportional to the font size of the cryptomarket.

Table of Contents

Key Findings	2
Table of Figures.....	4
Table of Tables	4
Background.....	5
Panel A. Terminology	5
Findings.....	7
Profile of Cryptomarkets from June 2024 to May 2025.....	7
Which cryptomarkets were monitored during this period?.....	7
Which cryptomarkets closed during this period?.....	7
Which cryptomarkets from this period have been monitored for the longest?	9
Which cryptomarkets from this period were the largest based on maximum number of drug listings? ...	9
Size of Drug Market via Cryptomarkets from June 2024 to May 2025.....	10
Did the overall drug market size (based on number of drug listings in the monitored marketplaces) change over this period?.....	10
Did the market size of the main drugs available via cryptomarkets change over this period?	11
Market Share of Drugs Available via Cryptomarkets from June 2024 to May 2025	12
What were the main drugs available via cryptomarkets during this period?	12
Did the market share of the main drugs available via cryptomarkets change over this period?.....	14
Funding and Copyright	14
Recommended Citation	14
Acknowledgements	14
Related Links	14
Contact us	14

Table of Figures

Figure 1. Word cloud of cryptomarkets monitored from June 2024 to May 2025 based on market size	2
Figure 2. Cryptomarkets monitored from June 2024 to May 2025.....	8
Figure 3. Number of drug listings by cryptomarkets with maximum of >1000 listings in a snapshot from June 2024 to May 2025.	10
Figure 4. Number of listings disaggregated by drug class for the overall market from June 2024 to May 2025.	11

Table of Tables

Table 1. Characteristics of cryptomarkets identified in this bulletin.....	9
Table 2. Market size (number of listings) by drug class and their average monthly percent change (AMPC in %) from June 2024 to May 2025.	12
Table 3. Market share (percentage of listings) by drug class, and their average monthly percent change (AMPC in %) from June 2024 to May 2025.	13

Background



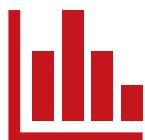
This bulletin series reports on trends in the availability and types of drugs sold on the internet via cryptomarkets over the last 12 months (a new bulletin is released typically every four months). The current bulletin focuses on analysis of drug listings on cryptomarkets from 1st June 2024 to 31st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



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).

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 June 2024 to May 2025

Which cryptomarkets were monitored during this period?



The current bulletin reports findings for the time period 1st June 2024 to 31st May 2025 (**Figure 2**). In the current monitoring period, 15 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 August 2024 and 15th November 2024 snapshots because the frequency of CAPTCHA was too labour-intensive for regular scraping. For this reason, Abacus is excluded from the analyses of trend over time in this bulletin. It is only presented with respect to **Table 1**, and **Figures 1 and 2** which do not quantify trend in the number or proportion of listings over time.

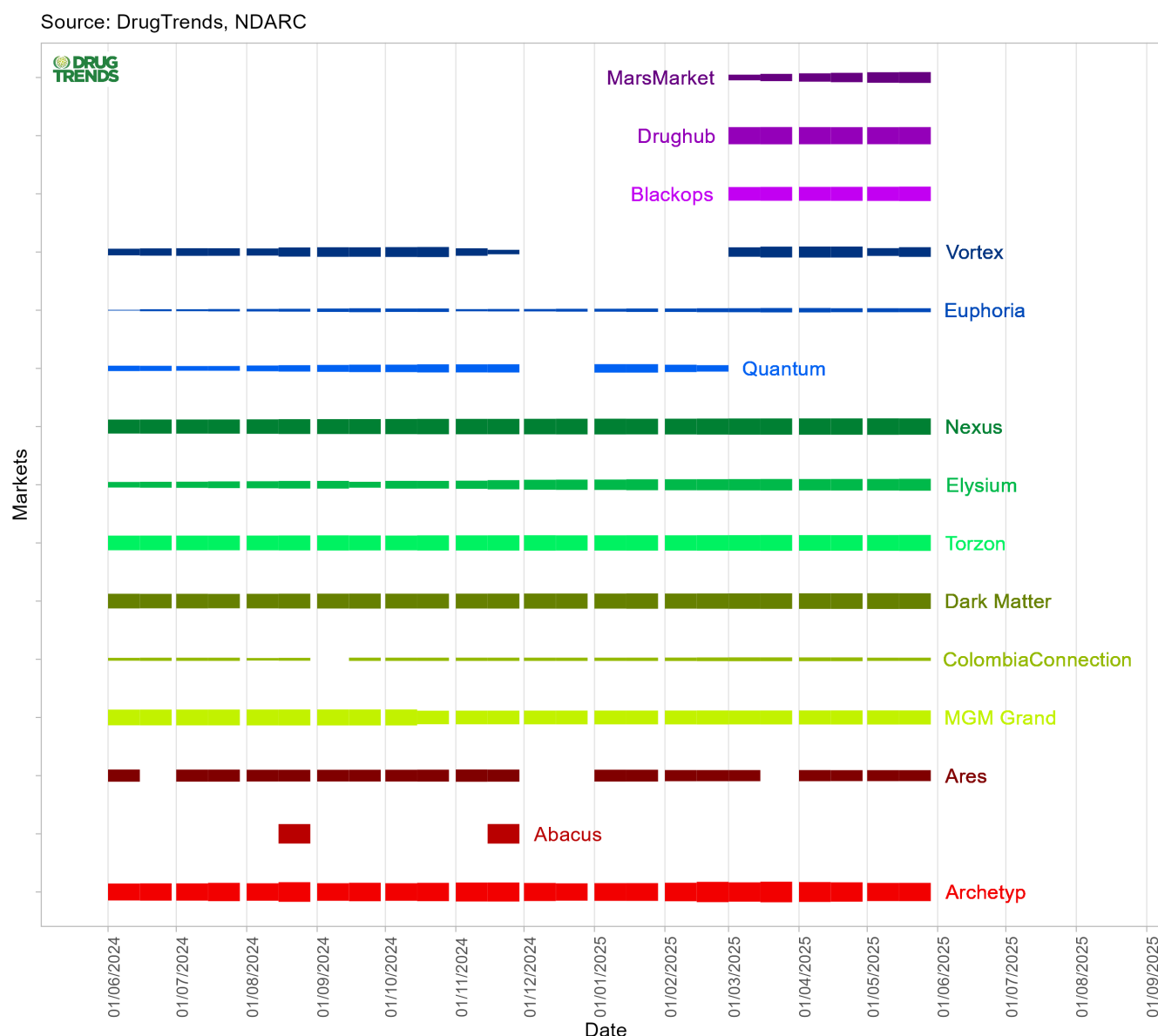
Which cryptomarkets closed during this period?



Of the 15 markets monitored in this bulletin, only Quantum closed within the reporting period. It was last scraped in the two weeks starting on 15th February 2025 and closed for unknown reasons (**Table 1**).

The other 14 markets remained active at the end of the 12-month period (**Table 1**). However, Abacus could not be accessed in the last month of monitoring (May 2025).

Figure 2. Cryptomarkets monitored from June 2024 to May 2025.



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 height 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 of May 2025 (reported reason ^a)	Earliest subDread post	First snapshot	Last snapshot	Duration in months ^b	Maximum number of listings ^c
Archetyp	Open	19 th Apr 2020	15 th Jan 2022	Ongoing ^d	40.5*	13,397
Abacus^e	Open	27 th Sep 2020	15 th Feb 2022	Ongoing ^d	39.5*	10,640
MGM Grand	Open	26 th Apr 2021	15 th May 2022	Ongoing ^d	36.5*	4,589
Ares	Open	26 th Aug 2021	15 th May 2022	Ongoing ^d	36.5*	1,933
ColombiaConnection	Open	3 rd Nov 2020	15 th Jul 2022	Ongoing ^d	34.5*	275
Dark Matter	Open	22 nd Sep 2022	15 th Mar 2023	Ongoing ^d	26.5*	4,362
Torzon	Open	15 th Nov 2022	15 th Nov 2023	Ongoing ^d	18.5*	4,560
Elysium	Open	28 th Jun 2023	1 st Mar 2024	Ongoing ^d	15*	1,802
Nexus	Open	5 th Jan 2024	1 st Mar 2024	Ongoing ^d	15*	5,117
Quantum	Closed (unknown)	-- ^f	15 th Mar 2024	15 th Feb 2025	11.5	798
Vortex	Open	28 th Nov 2023	15 th Apr 2024	Ongoing ^d	13.5*	1,451
Euphoria	Open	18 th Apr 2024	15 th Apr 2024	Ongoing ^d	13.5*	313
Blackops	Open	21 st Sep 2024	1 st Mar 2025	Ongoing ^d	3*	3,221
Drughub	Open	17 th Aug 2023	1 st Mar 2025	Ongoing ^d	3*	6,243
MarsMarket	Open	12 th Jan 2025	1 st Mar 2025	Ongoing ^d	3*	1,407

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 31st May 2025 (indicated by *), the duration was computed as the number of months between the first snapshot and 31st May 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 31st May 2025. ^e Abacus was still active as of 31st May 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.

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

Of the 15 markets monitored, the [following markets](#) had been monitored for two years or more:

- Archetyp for 40.5 months since 15th January 2022 (ongoing);
- Abacus for 39.5 months since 15th February 2022 (ongoing);
- MGM Grand for 36.5 months since 15th May 2022 (ongoing);
- Ares for 36.5 months since 15th May 2022 (ongoing);
- ColombiaConnection for 34.5 months since 15th July 2022 (ongoing); and
- Dark Matter for 26.5 months since 15th March 2023 (ongoing).

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 maximum number of drug listings?

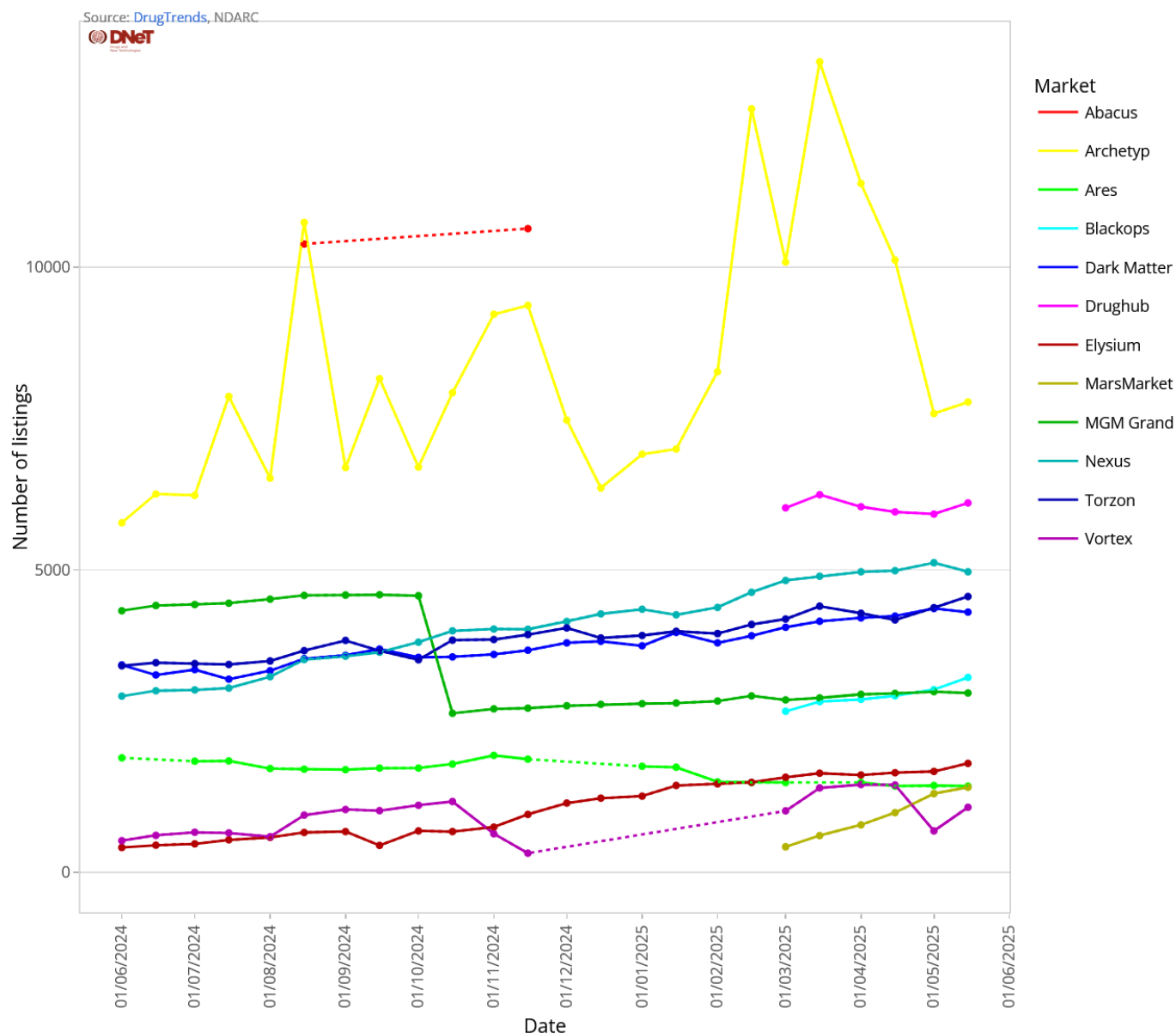
The markets reaching more than 10,000 listings in a snapshot during the 12-month period (**Table 1** and **Figure 3**) were:

- Archetyp with maximum number of listings in a snapshot of 13,397; 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 maximum of >1000 listings in a snapshot from June 2024 to May 2025.



Note: ColombiaConnection, Euphoria and Quantum had a maximum of ≤ 1000 listings and are not shown in the figure. To view the data on all cryptomarkets, please see our [interactive visualisation](#).

Size of Drug Market via Cryptomarkets from June 2024 to May 2025

Market listings captured through cryptomarket monitoring have been identified and categorised into drug classes according to this [methodology](#).

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

There were 22,839 and 39,554 drug listings per snapshot in June 2024 and May 2025, respectively, with a significant increase of 5.1% per month during the [12-month period](#) (**Table 2**). This increase could have been

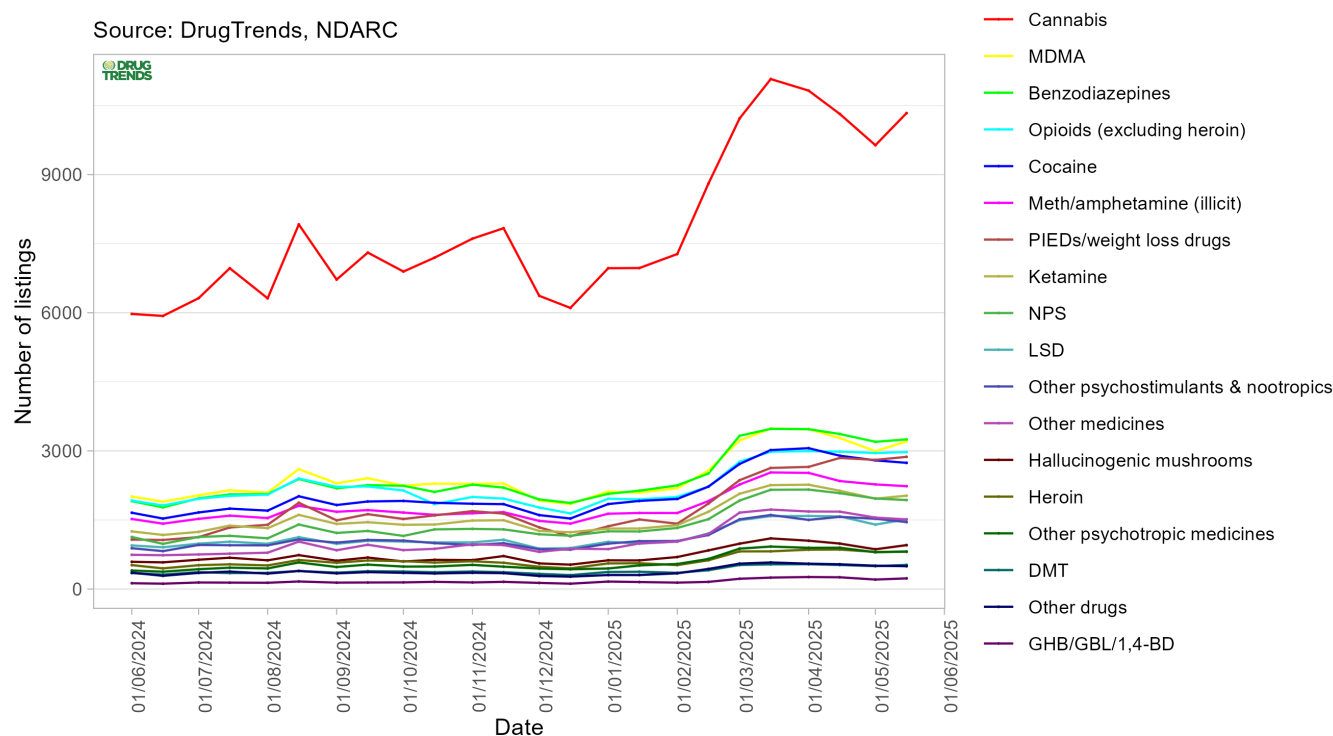
inflated by the emergence of bigger markets towards the end of the monitoring period. Drughub and Blackops already had over 1,000 listings when we started monitoring them in March 2025, although they could have existed for quite some time before our first scrape.

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

All drug classes had a significant increase in number of listings over the 12-month period. PIEDs/weight loss drugs had the greatest rate of increase from 1,070 to 2,838 listings (9.8% per month). Compared with the overall increase in number of listings in the 12-month period, the drugs below had a significantly greater magnitude of relative increase in average listings (**Table 2** and **Figure 4**):

- Other psychotropic medicines from 390 to 808 listings (in June 2024 and May 2025, respectively) with an increase of 6.9% per month;
- Other medicines from 740 to 1,532 listings (6.1% per month); and
- Benzodiazepines from 1,841 to 3,224 listings (5.2% per month)

Figure 4. Number of listings disaggregated by drug class for the overall market from June 2024 to May 2025.



Note: The drug classes with <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 2. Market size (number of listings) by drug class and their average monthly percent change (AMPC in %) from June 2024 to May 2025.

Drug	Market size (Mean number of listings) ^a			AMPC (95%CI) ^b
	Overall	Jun 2024	May 2025	
PIEDs/weight loss drugs^c	1,761	1,070	2,838	9.8 (7.8, 11.7)*
Other psychotropic medicines^d	581	390	808	6.9 (5.3, 8.5)*
Other medicines^e	1,077	740	1,532	6.1 (4.4, 7.4)*
Benzodiazepines	2,429	1,841	3,224	5.2 (3.9, 6.5)*
NPS	1,431	1,056	1,950	4.9 (3.6, 5.9)*
Cocaine	2,076	1,594	2,768	4.8 (3.8, 5.7)*
Ketamine	1,564	1,214	1,996	4.7 (3.4, 6.0)*
Other psychostimulants & nootropics	1,120	856	1,491	4.7 (3.7, 5.7)*
Cannabis	7,828	5,952	9,986	4.4 (2.9, 5.7)*
MDMA	2,459	1,954	3,100	4.4 (3.0, 5.8)*
Heroin	620	484	808	4.4 (2.9, 5.8)*
GHB/GBL/1,4-BD	167	122	220	4.4 (2.3, 5.9)*
Opioids (excluding heroin)	2,240	1,868	2,964	4.3 (2.5, 5.9)*
Meth/amphetamine (illicit)	1,805	1,471	2,253	3.8 (2.8, 4.8)*
Other drugs	390	322	502	3.5 (1.9, 5.2)*
LSD	1,138	927	1,457	3.4 (2.3, 4.3)*
DMT	402	330	511	3.2 (1.7, 4.1)*
Hallucinogenic mushrooms	731	586	909	3.0 (1.6, 4.2)*
Total^f	29,969	22,839	39,554	5.1 (4.0, 6.2)*

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 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. ^e These are all other medicines not in other categories of drugs. 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.

Market Share of Drugs Available via Cryptomarkets from June 2024 to May 2025

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

Cannabis comprised the largest proportion of listings identified across the overall market over the 12-month period (26.2%) (see [Table 3](#)). This was followed by:

- MDMA, with 8.2% of listings;
- benzodiazepines, with 8.1% of listings;
- opioids (excluding heroin), with 7.5% of listings;
- cocaine, with 6.9% of listings; and
- meth/amphetamine (illicit), with 6.1% of listings.

New psychoactive substances (NPS) comprised 4.8% 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.

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

Drug	Market share (percentage of listings) ^a			AMPC (95%CI) ^b
	Overall	Jun 2024	May 2025	
Cannabis	26.2	26.1	25.2	-0.4 (-0.8, 0.1)
MDMA	8.2	8.6	7.8	-0.8 (-1.0, -0.5)*
Benzodiazepines	8.1	8.1	8.2	0.1 (-0.2, 0.3)
Opioids (excluding heroin)	7.5	8.2	7.5	-0.8 (-1.7, -0.2)*
Cocaine	6.9	7.0	7.0	0.2 (-0.2, 0.7)
Meth/amphetamine (illicit)	6.1	6.4	5.7	-1.2 (-1.6, -0.8)*
PIEDs/weight loss drugs^c	5.8	4.7	7.2	4.5 (3.6, 5.6)*
Ketamine	5.2	5.3	5.0	-0.3 (-0.6, -0.1)*
NPS	4.8	4.6	4.9	0.9 (0.4, 1.4)*
LSD	3.8	4.1	3.7	-0.9 (-1.3, -0.3)*
Other psychostimulants & nootropics	3.7	3.7	3.8	-0.1 (-0.6, 0.4)
Other medicines^d	3.5	3.2	3.9	2.5 (1.7, 3.2)*
Hallucinogenic mushrooms	2.4	2.6	2.3	-1.3 (-2.9, 0.4)
Heroin	2.1	2.1	2.0	-0.7 (-1.2, -0.1)*
Other psychotropic medicines^e	1.9	1.7	2.0	— ^g
DMT	1.4	1.4	1.3	— ^g
Other drugs	1.3	1.4	1.3	— ^g
GHB/GBL/1,4-BD	0.55	0.53	0.55	— ^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 $\leq 2\%$ due to unreliability of estimates.

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

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

PIEDs/weight loss drugs had the greatest rate of relative increase in market share (4.5% per month) from June 2024 to May 2025 (4.7% of all drug listings to 7.2%, respectively; **Table 3**). This was followed by:

- other medicines increasing at 2.5% per month, from 3.2% to 3.9%; and
- NPS increasing at 0.9% per month, from 4.6% to 4.9%.

Meth/amphetamine (illicit) had the greatest significant decrease in market share (relative decrease of 1.2% per month) from June 2024 to May 2025 (6.4% of all drug listings to 5.7%, respectively; **Table 3**). The magnitude of relative decrease in market share of hallucinogenic mushrooms was similar (-1.3% per month) but it was not statistically significant. Other drugs with significant decreases in the 12-month period include LSD, opioids (excluding heroin), MDMA, heroin and ketamine.

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Recommended Citation

Man, N., Sutherland, R., Barratt, M. J., Bruno, R., Sadaphale, V., & Peacock, A. (2025). [Trends in the availability and type of drugs sold on the internet via cryptomarkets, June 2024 - May 2025](#). Drug Trends Bulletin Series. Sydney: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW Sydney. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.26190/unsworks/31342>

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the following individuals for their contribution to this project: Anant Mathur, Max Pedersen, Rajat Katyal, Dr Qingyuan Linghu, Yang Yan, Agata Chrzanowska, Dr Amanda Roxburgh, Joe van Buskirk, A/Prof Timothy Dobbins, A/Prof Lucinda Burns, Dr Courtney Breen, Sundresan Naicker and Rosie Swanton.

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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