Trends in the availability and types of drugs sold on the internet via cryptomarkets, June 2025 - May 2026

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21 cryptomarkets monitored

June 2025 — May 2026

From June 2025 to May 2026, 19 cryptomarkets were monitored, of which 16 remained active at the end of the reporting period.

1 Drughub

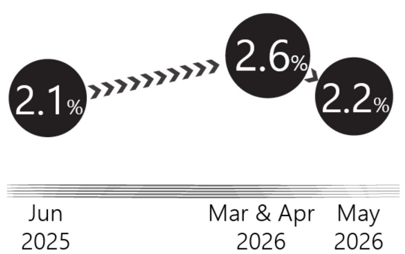
2 Torzon

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

- 25.2% **Cannabis**
- 7.3% Opioids (excluding heroin)
- 7.2% Benzodiazepines
- 7.2% MDMA
- 6.9% Cocaine
- 6.8% PIEDs/weight loss drugs

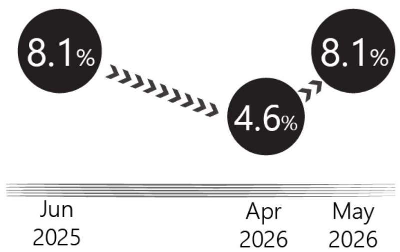
These were the most frequently listed drugs from June 2025 to May 2026.

Heroin



The market share of heroin had the highest relative rate of increase from 2.1% in June 2025 to 2.6% in March and April 2026.

Benzodiazepines



The greatest relative rate of decrease in market share was observed for benzodiazepines, from 8.1% in June 2025 to 4.6% in April 2026.

Cryptomarkets online interactive visualisation available here.

Last update: 23 July 2026

https://doi.org/10.26190/unsworks/32528

Key Findings

- From June 2025 to May 2026, 19 cryptomarkets were monitored, of which 16 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 Drughub and Torzon.
- In the final month of monitoring, Drughub, Torzon, Nexus, MarsMarket, and Blackops were the largest accessible cryptomarkets.
- Cannabis comprised the greatest percentage of drug listings from June 2025 to May 2026 (25.2%), followed by opioids (excluding heroin) (7.3%), benzodiazepines (7.2%), MDMA (7.2%), cocaine (6.9%), and PIEDs/weight loss drugs (6.8%).
- The market share of heroin showed the highest relative rate of increase at 1.7% per month, from 2.1% in June 2025 to 2.6% in March and April 2026, before decreasing to 2.2% in May 2026. This was followed by cannabis increasing at 1.5% per month, from 24.9% in June 2025 to 26.2% in May 2026.
- Benzodiazepines (e.g. alprazolam, diazepam) showed the largest relative decline in market share, decreasing from 8.1% in June 2025 to 4.6% in April 2026 (-4.2% per month), before returning to 8.1% in May 2026. GHB/GBL/1,4-BD showed the second largest relative decline in market share, decreasing by 3.3% per month, from 0.6% in June 2025 to 0.4% in May 2026.

Figure 1. Word cloud of cryptomarkets monitored from June 2025 to May 2026 based on market size

Note: The maximum size (i.e. number of drug listings) of the market (in the period from June 2025 to May 2026 as shown in Table 1) is proportional to the font size of the cryptomarket. The three cryptomarkets that closed before the end of May 2026 are in grey colour font, the two largest cryptomarkets with a maximum of more than 10,000 drug listings are in blue font, the seven cryptomarkets that we began monitoring in the last 12 months are in red font and all other cryptomarkets are in purple font.

Table of Contents

KEY FINDINGS 2
BACKGROUND 5
Panel A. Terminology 6
FINDINGS 7
Profile of Cryptomarkets from June 2025 to May 2026 7
Which cryptomarkets were monitored during this period? 7
Which cryptomarkets closed during this period? **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Which cryptomarkets from this period were the largest based on number of drug listings in a snapshot? 8
Size of Drug Market via Cryptomarkets from June 2025 to May 2026 9
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 2025 to May 2026 11
What were the main drugs available via cryptomarkets during this period? 11
Did the market share of the main drugs available via cryptomarkets change over this period? 12
Funding and Copyright 13
Recommended Citation 13
Acknowledgements 13
Related Links 13
Contact us 13

List of Figures

Figure 1. Word cloud of cryptomarkets monitored from June 2025 to May 2026 based on market size 2
Figure 2. Cryptomarkets monitored from June 2025 to May 2026. 7
Figure 3. Number of drug listings by cryptomarkets with minimum of >1000 listings in a snapshot from June 2025 to May 2026. 9

List of Tables

Table 1. Characteristics of cryptomarkets monitored from June 2025 to May 2026. 8
Table 2. Market size (number of listings) by drug class and their average monthly percent change (AMPC in %) from June 2025 to May 2026. 10
Table 3. Market share (percentage of listings) by drug class in June 2025 and May 2026, and their average monthly percent change (AMPC in %) from June 2025 to May 2026. 12

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 June 2025 to May 2026.

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 using a drug terms dictionary 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. The drug terms dictionary for this bulletin was updated to detect some of terms for new psychoactive substances (NPS) on the UNODC database. 'Pink cocaine', 'tuci ', 'tucibi', 'tusi', 'tusibi' were also added as drug terms for 'Mixed/uncategorised drugs'. Further background and information regarding the methods are available for download.

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 before June 2025, and as monthly snapshots from June 2025 onwards. We present data on number of listings observed in a given snapshot in the bulletin (see **Panel A**).

In this bulletin, changes over the 12-month reporting period are summarised using the average monthly percentage change (AMPC) in the number or proportion of listings. AMPC was estimated using a generalised additive model (GAM) to account for non-linear trends over time, with a linear trend fitted to calculate the average monthly percentage change. Further details are provided in the accompanying 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.

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 for illegal drugs, though licit drugs (e.g., alcohol, paracetamol) may occasionally be advertised on these platforms (Christin and Thomas, 2019).
- A **snapshot** of the cryptomarkets was on a monthly basis from June 2025 onwards. Older data were collected at more frequent intervals.
- **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 fitted as a Poisson variable in a generalised additive model using the mgcv package in R.

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 detailed in the accompanying methods document. We

[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.

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).

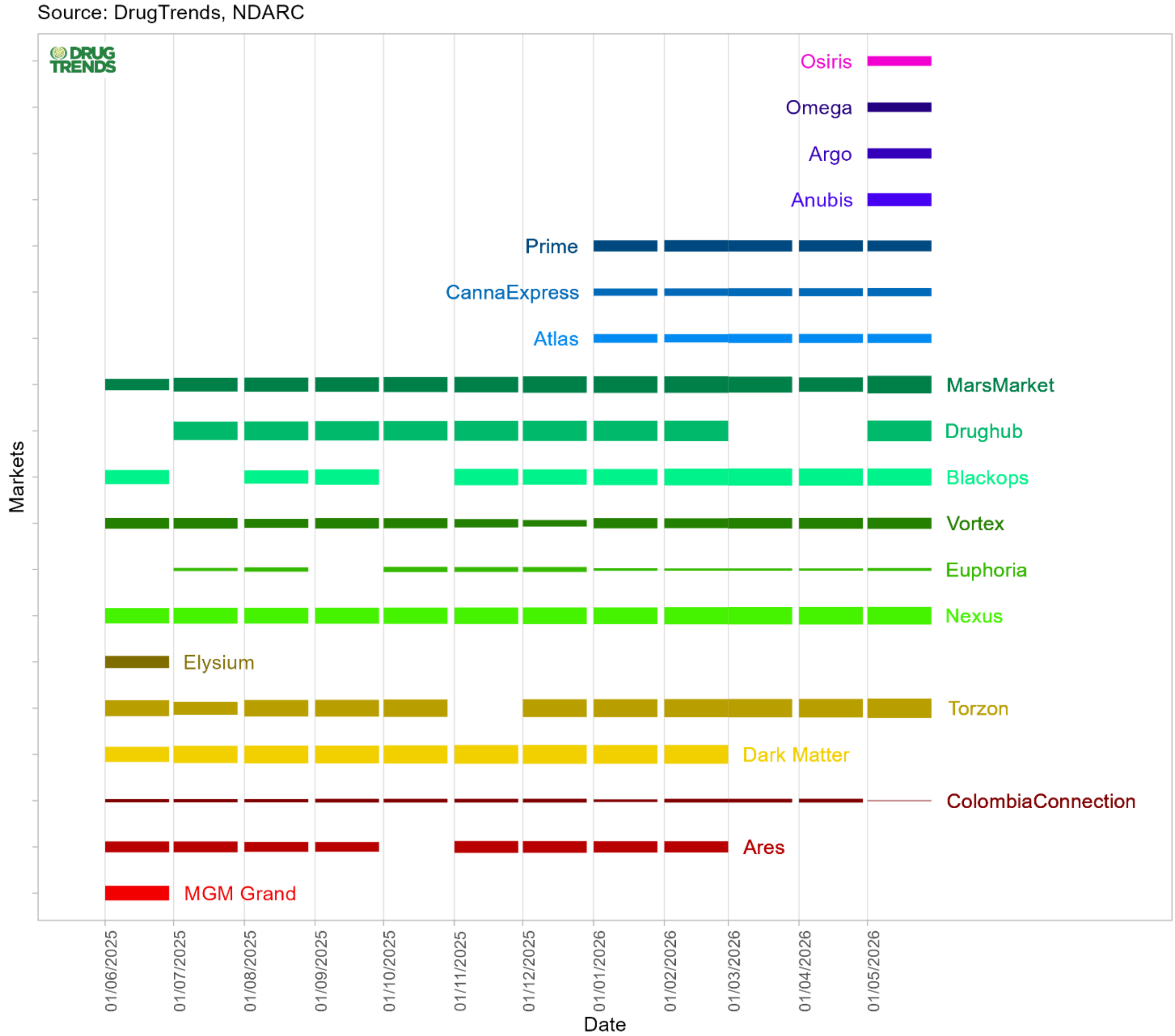
Findings

Profile of Cryptomarkets from June 2025 to May 2026

Which cryptomarkets were monitored during this period?

The current bulletin reports findings for the time period June 2025 to May 2026 (**Figure 2**). During this period, 19 cryptomarkets were monitored, although data were unavailable for some markets at certain time points (see **Figure 2**). Notably, while Dark Matter remained active, changes to the marketplace website prevented complete data collection during the final months of the reporting period.

Figure 2. Cryptomarkets monitored from June 2025 to May 2026.



Note: There are short breaks at the end of each month to indicate the monthly interval for data collection. 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. Note that data collection commenced for three new marketplaces in January 2026 and four new marketplaces in May 2026.

Of the 19 markets monitored in this bulletin, three cryptomarkets (i.e., Elysium, MGM Grand and Ares) closed within the reporting period and the other 16 remained active at the end of May 2026. Seven cryptomarkets (see Figure 2) were added to the data collection, of which three were added in January 2026 and four were added in May 2026. There were other cryptomarkets satisfying the data collection criteria but not included in this bulletin (e.g., Awazon, ShadowX). They will be included in the next bulletin for reporting. Crown and Titanix were excluded from our monitoring because they were reported on the Dread forum as scam markets (i.e., markets with primarily fake listings).

Table 1. Characteristics of cryptomarkets monitored from June 2025 to May 2026.

Market	Status as of May 2026 (reason[a])	Number of listings	
		Maximum[b]	May 2026
Drughub	Open	14,386	14,386
Torzon	Open	10,479	10,479
Dark Matter	Open	9,260	NA[c]
Nexus	Open	6,943	6,943
MarsMarket	Open	6,888	6,888
Blackops	Open	6,473	6,281
MGM Grand	Closed (voluntary exit)	3,597	–
Anubis	Open	2,362	2,362
Elysium	Closed (exit scam)	1,949	–
Ares	Closed (unknown)	1,863	–
Prime	Open	1,726	1,384
Vortex	Open	1,549	1,549
Argo	Open	1,237	1,237
Osiris	Open	1,119	1,119
Omega	Open	1,028	1,028
Atlas	Open	960	960
CannaExpress	Open	811	811
Euphoria	Open	382	222
ColombiaConnection	Open	279	136

Note: The cell for the markets that closed during the 12-month period are greyed out. Markets are in descending order by maximum number of listings. [a] Purported reason for closure is given in brackets. [b] Maximum number of listings in a scrape was computed from the snapshots over the 12-month reporting period. [c] NA=Not Accessed. Undetected website changes resulted in an incomplete scrape in May 2026 for the Dark Matter marketplace.

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

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

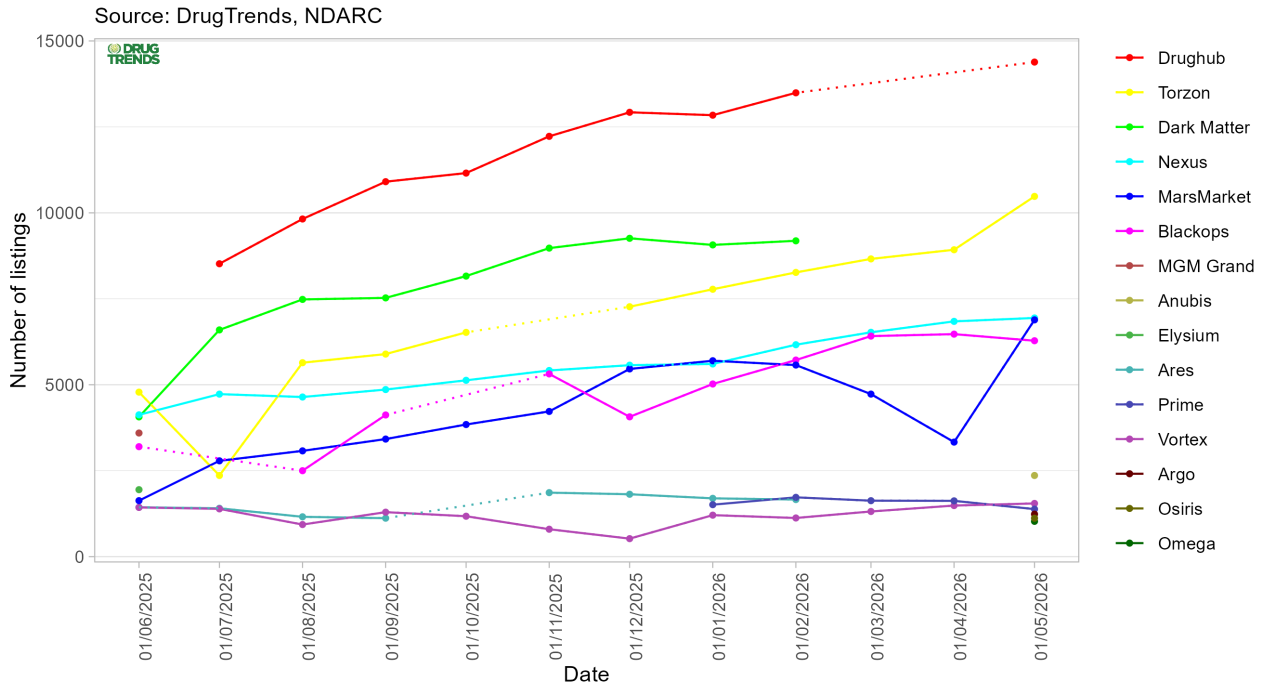
- Drughub with maximum number of listings in a snapshot of 14,386 (May 2026); and
- Torzon with maximum number of listings in a snapshot of 10,479 (May 2026).

In the final month of monitoring (May 2026), 15 out of the 16 active cryptomarkets were successfully scraped as data collection from Dark Matter was incomplete. The five markets whose number of listings were above the average of 3,719 listings in May 2026 were (**Figure 3**):

- Drughub with 14,386 listings;
- Torzon with 10,479 listings;
- Nexus with 6,943 listings;
- MarsMarket with 6,888 listings; and
- Blackops with 6,281 listings.

Dark Matter was also a moderately big market with a maximum of 9,260 drug listings in the 12-month period but its data were not collected in the last three months of monitoring due to undetected changes on its website.

Figure 3. Number of drug listings by cryptomarkets with maximum of >1000 listings in a snapshot from June 2025 to May 2026.



Note: Markets with <1000 listings in a snapshot across all snapshots in the 12-month period (i.e., ColombiaConnection, Euphoria, CannaExpress and Atlas) were excluded to improve visibility. 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**.

Size of Drug Market via Cryptomarkets from June 2025 to May 2026

Market listings captured through cryptomarket monitoring have been identified and categorised into 25 main drug classes (Level 2, as described in our methodology). Number of cryptomarket listings of specific drugs belonging under these drug classes are shown in our data visualisation (e.g., benzodiazepines at Level 1).

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

There were 26,462 and 55,785 drug listings per snapshot in June 2025 and May 2026, respectively, with an estimated increase in listings of 2.8% per month during the 12-month period but the increase was not statistically significant (**Table 2**).

Table 2. Market size (number of listings) by drug class and their average monthly percent change (AMPC in %) from June 2025 to May 2026.

	Market size (Mean number of listings)[a]			Average monthly percent change (AMPC)[b]	
Drug	**Overall**	**Jun 2025**	**May 2026**	**AMPC (95%CI)**	**P-value**
Cannabis	10115	6598	14595	4.3 (-0.6, 9.5)	0.080
Benzodiazepines	2888	2143	4545	-1.7 (-7.2, 4.3)	0.569
Opioids (excluding heroin)	2880	2130	3732	0.4 (-3.7, 4.7)	0.849
MDMA	2874	2012	4033	2.0 (-2.8, 6.9)	0.415
PIEDs/weight loss drugs[c]	2738	1550	3627	3.2 (-2.3, 9.0)	0.246
Cocaine	2724	1842	3954	**3.6 (0.2, 7.1)***	**0.033**
Meth/amphetamine (illicit)	2186	1577	2907	2.9 (-0.2, 6.1)	0.062
Ketamine	2120	1357	2810	3.6 (-1.5, 9.0)	0.160
NPS	2100	1310	3026	3.2 (-0.7, 7.2)	0.106
Other medicines[d]	1962	1002	2440	1.9 (-4.4, 8.6)	0.558
Other psychostimulants & nootropics	1536	940	2069	1.8 (-2.7, 6.6)	0.423
LSD	1275	1032	1834	**4.0 (0.5, 7.7)***	**0.022**
Other psychotropic medicines[e]	1033	516	1264	1.0 (-5.4, 7.8)	0.768
Hallucinogenic mushrooms	1014	658	1438	**4.4 (0.2, 8.8)***	**0.035**
Heroin	873	556	1252	**4.5 (1.0, 8.2)***	**0.011**
Other drugs	698	564	1021	3.2 (-0.5, 7.1)	0.081
DMT	439	371	587	2.8 (-1.1, 6.7)	0.149
GHB/GBL/1,4-BD	171	165	213	-0.3 (-3.8, 3.5)	0.891
Total[f]	40235	26462	55785	2.8 (-1.7, 7.4)	0.215

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 $p<0.05$ 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 size of the main drugs available via cryptomarkets change over this period?

The drugs below had a significant increase in number of listings (**Table 2**):

- Heroin from 556 to 1,252 listings (4.5% per month);
- Hallucinogenic mushrooms from 658 to 1,438 listings (4.4% per month);
- LSD from 1,032 to 1,834 listings (4.0% per month); and
- Cocaine from 1,842 to 3,954 listings (3.6% per month).

Market Share of Drugs Available via Cryptomarkets from June 2025 to May 2026

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 (25.2%) (**Table 3**). This is followed by:

- opioids (excluding heroin), with 7.3% of listings;
- benzodiazepines, with 7.2% of listings;
- MDMA, with 7.2% of listings;
- cocaine, with 6.9% of listings; and
- PIEDs/weight loss drugs, with 6.8% of listings.

New psychoactive substances (NPS) comprised 5.3% of listings. The categorisation framework has been updated for the data series from June 2021 onwards to incorporate additional drug terms, including those from the UNODC NPS database, however NPS listings may still be underestimated. Further details on categorisation of listings are in the accompanying Methods document. We will continue to update the drug terms from various drug term databases and as new drugs emerge.

Table 3. Market share (percentage of listings) by drug class in June 2025 and May 2026, and their average monthly percent change (AMPC in %) from June 2025 to May 2026.

Drug	Market share (percentage of listings)[a]			Average monthly percent change (AMPC)[b]	
	Over-all	Jun 2025	May 2026	AMPC (95%CI)	P-value
Cannabis	25.2	24.9	26.2	**1.5 (0.8, 2.2)*****	**<0.001**
Opioids (excluding heroin)	7.3	8.0	6.7	**-2.3 (-3.7, -0.9)*****	**<0.001**
Benzodiazepines	7.2	8.1	8.1	**-4.2 (-6.0, -2.4)*****	**<0.001**
MDMA	7.2	7.6	7.2	-0.8 (-1.8, 0.3)	0.161
Cocaine	6.9	7.0	7.1	0.8 (-0.8, 2.5)	0.325
PIEDs/weight loss drugs[c]	6.8	5.9	6.5	0.4 (-1.0, 1.9)	0.549
Meth/amphetamine (illicit)	5.6	6.0	5.2	0.1 (-2.0, 2.3)	0.917
NPS	5.3	5.0	5.0	0.8 (-0.5, 2.2)	0.220
Ketamine	5.3	5.1	5.4	0.4 (-0.5, 1.3)	0.374
Other medicines[d]	4.9	3.8	4.4	-0.9 (-3.1, 1.4)	0.446
Other psychostimulants & nootropics	3.9	3.6	3.7	-0.9 (-2.1, 0.2)	0.113
LSD	3.3	3.9	3.3	1.2 (-2.0, 4.5)	0.452
Other psychotropic medicines[e]	2.6	1.9	2.3	-1.8 (-4.1, 0.7)	0.148
Hallucinogenic mushrooms	2.5	2.5	2.6	1.6 (-0.4, 3.6)	0.104
Heroin	2.2	2.1	2.2	**1.7 (0.1, 3.3)***	0.033
Other drugs	1.8	2.1	1.8	0.4 (-1.0, 1.8)	0.579
DMT	1.1	1.4	1.1	0.0 (-3.0, 3.0)	0.978
GHB/GBL/1,4-BD	0.4	0.6	0.4	**-3.3 (-5.1, -1.4)*****	**<0.001**
Total[f]	100.0	100.0	100.0	--	--

Note: [a] Market share is 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 $p<0.05$ 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.

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

Heroin had the greatest rate of relative increase in market share (1.7% per month) from 2.1% in June 2025 to its highest at 2.6% in March and April 2026 before decreasing to 2.2% in May 2026 (Table 3). This was followed by cannabis increasing at 1.5% per month, from 24.9% to 26.2%.

Benzodiazepines showed the greatest relative decrease in market share (-4.2% per month), falling from 8.1% of all drug listings in June 2025 to a low of 4.6% in April 2026, before increasing to 8.1% again in May 2026. Within the benzodiazepine category, alprazolam, diazepam, clonazepam and zolpidem all showed significant decreases in their proportion of listings. The following drugs also decreased significantly in market share (**Table 3**):

- GHB/GBL/1,4-BD decreasing at -3.3% per month, from 0.6% to 0.4%; and
- opioids (excluding heroin) decreasing at -2.3% per month, from 8.0% to 6.7%.

Funding and Copyright

Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing under the Drug and Alcohol Program

Recommended Citation

Man, N., Sutherland, R., Barratt, M. J., Bruno, R., Sadaphale, V., & Peacock, A. (2026). Trends in the availability and types of drugs sold on the internet via cryptomarkets, June 2025 - May 2026. Drug Trends Bulletin Series. Sydney: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW Sydney. Available from: https://doi.org/10.26190/unsworks/32528

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the following individuals for their contribution to this project: Dr 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.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which the work for this project was undertaken. We pay our respect to Elders past and present, and extend that same respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We recognise their continuing connection to Country, culture and community.

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

Contact us

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