

Drug Market and Crime workbook 2025

FRANCE

Contributors

Yasmine Salhi

2025 National report (2024 data) to the EUDA by the French Reitox National Focal Point

Supervision: Guillaume Airagnes

Coordination: Marianna Perebenesiuk

Contribution to the workbooks

1. *Drug policy*: Cristina Díaz Gómez
2. *Legal framework*: Caroline Protais
3. *Drugs*: Olivier Le Nézet, Sabrina Cherki, Eric Janssen
4. *Prevention*: Carine Mutatayi
5. *Treatment*: Sophie Véron, Cindy Feng
6. *Best practice*: Valérie Ulrich, Carine Mutatayi
7. *Harms and Harm Reduction*: Cindy Feng, Sophie Véron, Eric Janssen
8. *Drug market and crime*: Yasmine Salhi
9. *Prison*: Caroline Protais, Cindy Feng, Sophie Veron, Lucas Bérard
10. *Research*: Valérie Ulrich, Isabelle Michot, Cristina Díaz Gómez

Proofreading: Nicolas Prisse, president of the Interministerial Mission for Combating Drugs and Addictive Behaviours, and the project managers of the MILDECA
Ivana Obradovic, Valérie Ulrich, Stanislas Spilka

Proofreading (English version): Anne de l'Eprevier, Marianna Perebenesiuk

Bibliographic references: Isabelle Michot

Legal references: Anne de l'Eprevier

Table of Contents

T0. Summary	3
T1. National profile	4
T2. Trends	23
T3. New developments	31
T4. Additional information	31
T5. Sources and methodology	32

When responding to the workbook, please be certain to use the fields associated with each question to allow the EMCDDA to identify the relevant parts.

T0. Summary

Please provide an abstract of this workbook (target: 500 words) including a summary of the following points:

National profile

- Domestic drug market (domestic production/cultivation; trafficking routes for imported drugs) (a summary of T1.1.1 & T1.1.2)
- National drug law offences (main drugs linked to offences; distinguishing between possession/use, trafficking, cultivation/production) (a summary of T1.2)
- Key drug supply reduction activities (summary of T1.3)

Domestic drug market (summary of T1.1.1 & T1.1.2)

The illicit drug market in France is structured around four main substances: cannabis (resin, herbal), cocaine, heroin and MDMA/ecstasy. There are also secondary markets - amphetamines, new psychoactive substances (NPS) but, given the low consumption levels of these products among the general population, the supply is difficult to quantify. Given France's geographic position at the heart of Western Europe, it is a transit area for the main illegal substances (cannabis, cocaine, heroin, and synthetic drugs) produced worldwide. France is also a production area for certain drugs, particularly cannabis. While almost all illicit psychoactive drugs consumed in France are produced abroad, herbal cannabis is subject to significant cultivation activity, both in mainland France and in the overseas territories, in addition to the volumes imported from EU countries, particularly neighbouring countries (such as Spain). More generally, the cannabis market in France remains characterised by the significance of cannabis resin but this share has been decreasing in the past decade in favour of herbal cannabis. Cannabis resin comes almost entirely from Morocco.

Over the last ten years or so, like other EU countries with a coastline, France has been particularly affected by cocaine trafficking on container ships, partly because of the geographical proximity of its overseas territories (Antilles, French Guiana) to the major production zones (Colombia, Peru, Bolivia) and transit zones (Ecuador, Brazil, etc.) in South America. A significant share of the cocaine imported across the French territory goes through French Guiana or the French Antilles and crosses the Atlantic to be unloaded at the main French commercial ports such as Le Havre, Dunkirk, Saint-Nazaire and Marseille. The port of Le Havre had seen a decrease in cocaine flows in 2023 but returned to its central role as an entry point for this drug into mainland France in 2024. Another route towards France leaves from the Port of Santos in Brazil which is playing an increasingly large role in the supply of the European market. Couriers transporting the drug in their bodies or luggage are still widely used to bring cocaine into mainland France. Historically, Cayenne-Paris was one of the main routes, but tighter checks at Cayenne airport have led traffickers to adapt their strategies. They now favour alternative routes, notably via the French Antilles or on direct flights from South America to Paris, such as the São Paulo-Paris or Lima-Paris routes, which appear to be increasingly used in 2024. France has also seen an increase in cocaine flows from the Iberian Peninsula. This development could be explained by enhanced checks in the ports of the Northern Range, in particularly Antwerp and Rotterdam.

2024 stands out for record seizures by law enforcement, particularly of cocaine and ecstasy/MDMA. Cocaine seizures amounted to 53.4 tonnes, compared to 23.2 tonnes in 2023, an increase of 130%. Ecstasy/MDMA seizures also rose sharply from over 4 million tablet equivalents in 2023 to more than 9 million in 2024, an increase of 123%. At the same time, both substances saw a decrease in their retail prices. The cannabis market was marked by a significant drop in seizures, on the other hand. Resin seizures were down by 26%, from 87 tonnes in 2023 to 64.7 tonnes in 2024. Herbal cannabis seizures decreased slightly by 4%, from 37.7 to 36.3 tonnes. Despite this decline, retail prices of these two substances remained broadly stable. As for the heroin market, seizure volumes remained relatively stable, but there was a reversal in price trends: after more than ten years of relative decline, the retail price started to rise again in 2024.

National drug law offences (summary of T1.2)

In 2024, the total number of people charged for the use of narcotics in France was around 262 876. Most of the people prosecuted for drug offences were charged for simple use (86%). The police and gendarmerie charged 24 172 people with trafficking and resale of narcotics without personal use, 17 193 people with use and resale of narcotics, and 1 815 people with other offences against narcotics legislation. As of September 2020, simple use violations can be sanctioned by a criminal fixed fine (AFD in French). In 2024, the Interior Ministry's statistics department made a list of almost 200 000 criminal fixed fines, thus demonstrating the significant growth of this measure to tackle drug use (particularly those of cannabis). Since 2022, criminal fixed fines have become the main response to drug use. However, these progressions are very contrasting geographically. Most of the fines relate to the use of cannabis (almost 98%), far ahead of cocaine (less than 2%), with other products accounting for virtually no share.

Key drug supply reduction activities (summary of T1.3)

Action for combating drug trafficking is part of the 2023-2027 Interministerial Strategy for Mobilisation against Addictive Behaviours, which establishes the new strategic government policy framework, and the priorities for the coming years. This strategy highlights the importance of comprehensive and coordinated action between the different services involved, particularly cooperation between internal security forces and the judicial system to combat drug trafficking and organised crime. It also emphasises the need for public action to be underpinned by in-depth knowledge, promoting the dissemination of knowledge, the involvement of the scientific community, and continuous support for research. The strategy calls for strengthening European cooperation to prevent, deter, and disrupt drug-related crime, particularly organised crime. That includes police, customs, and judicial cooperation, exchanging intelligence, seizing and confiscating criminal assets, alongside combating corruption. Between 2024 and 2025, France reinforced its legal framework to combat drug trafficking and organised crime more effectively. This resulted in two bills being tabled in the Senate in July 2024. The bills were presented jointly by senators from the Les Républicains and Socialist, Ecologist and Republican groups. They were based on the findings of a parliamentary report. The first bill was entitled "*Getting France out of the drug trafficking trap*", and aimed to endow the State with new means to weaken criminal organisations. The second was for an organic law and concerned the creation and status of a public prosecutor specialising in organised crime. These bills were definitively adopted on 29 April 2025, following an agreement reached in a joint committee. The Constitutional Council approved the main provisions of these laws in its decision of 12 June 2025, although it did censor certain provisions. The laws were promulgated on 13 June 2025 and published in the Official Journal the following day. The reform comprises several major measures. It provides for the creation of a national prosecutor's office dedicated to organised crime and responsible for handling the most serious cases. It also introduces a specific regime for high-level traffickers with stricter prison conditions. The informant system has been revised, and individuals who cooperate with the justice system can now benefit from a reduction of their sentence by up to two thirds, compared with one third previously. The system also includes other administrative measures. For example, traffickers may be evicted from social housing. Businesses suspected of money laundering may be closed by administrative decision. The organic law on the status of the specialised prosecutor will enter into force on 5 January 2026.

T1. National profile

The purpose of this profile is to provide a commentary on the drug supply chain within your country.

T1.1. Drug market

The purpose of this section is to summarise the basic structure of the drug market in your country. Namely it should provide a commentary on

- Sources of drugs in your country: international sources of the drug, trafficking routes, domestic production/cultivation
- Information available on the wholesale drug market
- Information available on the retail drug market
- The numerical data submitted through ST11, ST13, ST14, ST15, ST16

Note: Please focus on the main/most important drugs in your country.

T1.1.1. Please describe any domestic production of drugs within your country by drug.

For synthetic drugs please include also processing stages such as tableting operations.

Herbal cannabis is the main illegal substance leading to a domestic production in France, even though a portion of the volumes consumed come from other European countries, mainly Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium and Albania. Going by the volumes of plants seized by law enforcement (customs, police, gendarmerie) in certain parts of the country (67 607 plants seized in 2024), production is prevalent in the overseas territories (French Polynesia, Reunion), which accounted for 61% of seizures in 2024 (OFAST 2025b). In 2024, the National Gendarmerie made 81% of the cannabis plant seizures on French territory. Among these seizures, outdoor cultivation remained the most common, representing 42% of cases, against 24% for indoor cultivation. In 31% of cases, however, the method of cultivation was not specified. Large-scale cannabis farms exceeding 500 plants are generally set up indoors to reduce the risk of detection [contribution from the Central Criminal Intelligence Service of the National Gendarmerie dated 12/06/2025]. According to OFAST, Albanian criminal networks are particularly active in indoor cannabis cultivation in France. In March 2024, an industrial farm of 500 plants was discovered in Metz (Grand Est region), leading to the arrest of seven Albanian nationals. In May 2025, another network was dismantled in Roubaix (Nord), where three production sites were uncovered, including one that was in the process of being installed. More than 5 000 plants were seized on this occasion (OFAST in press). The Central Criminal Intelligence Service also reports that those responsible for these large-scale farms often commit electricity theft to reduce production costs and make their activity more discreet. In the overseas territories, large-scale farms are usually outdoors, taking advantage of favourable climatic conditions and a geography that is conducive to concealment. In mainland France, it is the departments bordering Belgium that are most exposed to this type of industrial cultivation [contribution from the Central Criminal Intelligence Service of the National Gendarmerie dated 12/06/2025].

Different producers of herbal cannabis can be distinguished in France:

- Small growers, estimated between 150 000 and 200 000 persons in the years 2010s, who produce for themselves or for their immediate circle of friends or family.
- Individuals getting involved in relatively large-scale commercial herbal cannabis production (several dozen plants).
- Criminal groups implementing real production units ("cannabis factories") with up to several thousand plants, with an increasing involvement of groups specialised in importing and distributing cannabis resin.

In 2024, France identified a methamphetamine production network on its territory for the first time. This followed the seizure of 215 kg of methamphetamine in the Var department in June 2024. The investigation established a link with an earlier seizure of 5.6 tonnes of precursors at the port of Le Havre in September 2023, as well as with another seizure of 8.8 tonnes of chemicals in Marseille in November 2024 (OFAST in press). In May 2025, investigations carried out on the basis of this evidence led to the discovery of a clandestine laboratory in a villa located in the Var. The facility was supplied with precursors from China and had an estimated production capacity of 400 kg of methamphetamine (Région de Gendarmerie de Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (RPACA) 2025).

- T1.1.2. Please comment on any available information on the routes of trafficking for drugs imported into your country whether in transit or not. Information relevant to this answer includes:
- origin
 - most recent country prior to your country
 - any other information on trafficking routes as well as the mode of transport

Owing to its geographical position at the heart of Western Europe, France is a transit area for certain illegal drugs. The South-to-North route is used for the transit of cannabis resin, produced in Morocco and transiting via Spain (where it is stored and redistributed), notably destined to supply Northern European markets. The North-to-South route is used for the transit of synthetic drug shipments through France (ecstasy, MDMA), produced in the Netherlands and Belgium, destined for Spain, Italy or more recently for North Africa (OFAST 2023a). This transit route is also reported for heroin, stored in the Netherlands (Rotterdam, Maastricht, etc.), in transit from North and South of France to Spanish and Italian markets. Finally, France appears to be a strategic cocaine transportation zone, given its overseas departments in the American continent (French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique) near the main areas of production (Colombia, Bolivia, Peru) and cocaine transportation (Brazil, Venezuela and Suriname for cocaine, and Iran, Turkey and Albania for heroin), which represent departure points of cocaine towards Europe, but also due to its many ports which are used by the trafficking networks as a gateway into Europe for cocaine.

Cannabis

The supply of cannabis, in both France and the European Union, is essentially centred on two products, herbal cannabis and cannabis resin, even though other substances are observed on the market, such as the oil or derivatives of cannabis which are high in THC (butane hash oil, ice-o-lator or ice hash¹). The cannabis resin smoked in France comes almost exclusively from Morocco. Shipments leaving the Rif region in Morocco, after crossing the Mediterranean, reach Spain via speedboats or goods vehicles. Spain is the main transit country of cannabis resin transported to France, and is now in competition with other countries in the Eastern Mediterranean. France is also a transit zone supplying the markets of neighbouring countries, notably Germany, Belgium and Italy. 30.9% of the cannabis seized in 2024 on French territory (i.e. 31.2 tonnes) was destined for a foreign country (OFAST in press). Road transport is therefore very important in cannabis logistics chains in France, as reflected in the seizures: according to OFAST, 68% of the cannabis seized in France was transported by road (OFAST 2025b). At the beginning of the 2010s, the French market, marked for a long time by the supremacy of cannabis resin imported from Morocco, experienced a change due to the increase in the consumptions of herbal cannabis (Obradovic 2016), imported from Spain or the Netherlands, or produced across the national territory (Gandilhon *et al.* 2019) particularly in the overseas departments (Obradovic 2020). In 2024, OFAST highlighted a new trend in the French cannabis market, with a diversification of the origins of herbal cannabis. Whereas cannabis seizures historically came mainly from Morocco, there is now a growing share of products imported from Asia and North America, notably from Thailand, the United States and Canada, where cannabis has been legalised in whole or in part (in half of the states in the United States and all of Canada). This trend is particularly evident in the seizure of 1.3 tonnes of herbal cannabis from these regions, representing 3.6% of total herbal cannabis seizures for the year. The majority of these consignments were transported by air, as freight and with passengers. In 2024, 488 kg of herbal cannabis from the United States and 115 kg from Canada were seized. In May 2025, a seizure of 1.2 tonnes of herbal cannabis was also made in the Paris region, after arriving via Roissy-Charles-de-Gaulle airport. For the first time in France, the operation revealed the activity of a structured Canadian criminal group in the transport and distribution of large quantities of herbal cannabis to France and

¹ BHO and ice-o-lator are both resins with very high THC contents (in general, 60 to 80%) and extraction processes based on butane, on one hand, and iced water on the other hand, in order to obtain higher contents.

other European countries. North American herbal cannabis is also widely distributed via individual orders placed on the internet and then delivered by post, often in small quantities (less than 10 grams) (OFAST 2025b, in press).

Cocaine

The cocaine consumed in France comes mainly from Colombia, which remains the world's largest producer of coca leaf (UNODC 2022). Once it has arrived on the European continent, it passes via Spain and Portugal in the south, and via the Netherlands and Belgium in the north to reach France. Most of the cocaine reaches France by sea (mainly via containers but also sailing boats or even submersibles). In 2024, the vast majority of cocaine seizures in France took place in maritime transport, accounting for 78% of the total, or 41.8 tonnes. This volume included 20.7 tonnes intercepted during boardings at sea, 16.8 tonnes seized in ports, and 4.2 tonnes recovered in other maritime contexts, mainly during "drop-offs" (OFAST 2025b). This *modus operandi* consists of dropping bales of drugs at sea attached to flotation devices equipped with geolocation beacons, and was particularly widely used in 2023 and 2024. Several tonnes of cocaine were thus found washed up on beaches or drifting off the French coast, illustrating the growing importance of this method in transatlantic trafficking (OFAST in press).

Over the past few years, the port of Le Havre has become a major gateway for cocaine to France. This change is explained by the connections between the Antilles port of Fort-de-France and Le Havre in the West-Northern metropolitan area in a context where the French West Indies are becoming a major developing zone for cocaine destined for France and Europe. The shipping line between the port of Santos in Brazil and Le Havre also seems to play an increasing role in supplying the French market. Increased security and checks at the port of Le Havre in 2023 reduced the use of this port by drug traffickers to bring their goods into France that year (Durain and Blanc 2024). Despite the tighter security measures, traffickers managed to adapt their methods in 2024 to continue using French ports, particularly Le Havre. According to OFAST, some resorted to sophisticated techniques such as clone containers or the fraudulent use of secure codes allowing the goods to be collected without arousing suspicion. The port of Le Havre, which had seen a decrease in cocaine flows in 2023, returned to its central role as an entry point for this drug into mainland France in 2024. This trend was reflected in the sharp increase in volumes seized: 14.4 tonnes of cocaine were intercepted in 2024 compared with 5.3 tonnes the previous year (OFAST in press). One major operation illustrates this phenomenon: at the end of December 2024, more than two tonnes of cocaine were seized in a single operation by the Rouen gendarmerie (Hours 2025).

The port of Dunkerque, the third largest seaport in France, appears increasingly exposed to the activities of drug traffickers. This vulnerability was demonstrated in March 2025 by the exceptional seizure of nearly 10 tonnes of cocaine concealed in a container from Guadeloupe, whereas only 157 kg of illicit drugs had been intercepted there in 2024. The port is also used as a departure point to the United Kingdom. OFAST also draws attention to so-called secondary ports, such as Rouen, Nantes-Saint-Nazaire/Montoir-de-Bretagne or Gennevilliers, which are particularly vulnerable to this type of activity due to a lower level of compliance checks. It also notes that certain bays that are far from commercial ports could be used to pick up cocaine after drop-off operations at sea (OFAST in press).

Because of its geographical position in the EU, France is particularly affected by cocaine trafficking (OFDT 2023). On the one hand due to its location in the heart of Western Europe which makes it a transit location connecting the Netherlands and Spain in particular; on the other hand, due to its proximity to the main areas of production in South America and in the French Antilles across the overseas territories. The French Antilles and French Guiana traditionally play a central role as a transit area for cocaine trafficking to Europe. French Guiana is particularly exposed to transit of cocaine from Suriname, Brazil and Guyana. In the Antilles, trafficking is developing both in the zone between the islands of the Caribbean and through the arrival of shipments from other territories,

notably by maritime means such as go-fast boats, fishing vessels or pleasure craft (OFAST in press). In avril 2024, an operation by the national gendarmerie led to the seizure of 1.8 tonnes of cocaine on board of a speedboat in Saint-Martin, illustrating this type of modus operandi (Hours 2024). 2024 was marked by a significant volume of seizures in the area: 2.6 tonnes in the ports of the Antilles (commercial, leisure, anchorages, marinas), and 28.1 tonnes intercepted at sea. Seizures in ports in mainland France of narcotics arriving directly from the Antilles amounted to 6.2 tonnes. A significant proportion of the cocaine entering Guadeloupe and Martinique transits via the Dominican Republic and Saint Lucia (OFAST in press).

The Cayenne-Paris air route has traditionally been used extensively by smugglers transporting goods in corpore and/or in their luggage. However, at the end of 2022, security measures at Cayenne Airport were strengthened, particularly through the introduction of systematic passenger screening (“100% control” system) for those departing for Paris. This system enabled more effective interception of trafficking attempts in Cayenne, which drastically reduced the number of mules arrested in Paris: the number of mules intercepted in Paris from Cayenne fell from 334 in 2022 to 120 in 2024 (OFAST in press). Nevertheless, it appears that the traffickers, faced with this strengthened customs response in Cayenne, have sought ways to bypass through the West Indies, opting for origins which are considered to be less monitored, such as Guadeloupe and Martinique. In 2024, there was a 117% increase in arrests of mules coming from Martinique (OFAST in press). In 2024, Brazil became a major departure point for mules intercepted in French airports, with 247 people arrested, up 53% on the previous year. Another indicator of this trend is that 55% of mules arrested at São Paulo airports in 2024 were bound for France. OFAST also highlights the rise in the trend of mules coming from Peru, particularly via the Lima-Paris route by air. In addition, flights to Paris airports from West Africa, and more specifically from Mali, Benin, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal, are regularly used for drug trafficking by mules. In total, 1 474 mules were arrested on French territory in 2024, with total seizures of 4.2 tonnes of substances, representing a 52% increase in the number of mules in one year. Among those apprehended, 60% came from the Antilles and French Guiana, with 3.3 tonnes of cocaine seized (OFAST in press).

Regarding intra-European routes, the Netherlands and Belgium, due to their importance as a cocaine market for Western Europe, are a source of the cocaine consumed in France. However, tighter checks in the ports of Antwerp and Rotterdam in 2024 led to a redirection of cocaine flows in Europe, shifting from the south to the north of the continent. As a result, France saw an increase in cocaine flows heading northwards from the Iberian Peninsula in 2024. According to OFAST, the road routes crossing the Pyrénées-Atlantiques and Pyrénées-Orientales were particularly affected by this context, with cocaine taking the same land routes as cannabis (OFAST in press).

Heroin

The introduction of opioid substitution treatments (methadone, Subutex®) in the mid-1990s had the effect of breaking the dynamics of the distribution of heroin, which started in the 1980s, and marked the beginning of a clear fall in the following years, particularly through the very clear decrease in the number of seizures and arrests of users and traffickers. However, from the second half of the 2000s, the seizures faced another clear increase in quantities and numbers, thus confirming the persistence of a market which nonetheless remains insignificant compared to the cannabis or cocaine market. In addition, the heroin market, unlike the cocaine or cannabis resin markets, is characterised by strong regional variations. It is particularly in the suburban territories in the North East and East of France that this market remains the most persistent, particularly due to the proximity of the Netherlands, the main redistribution zone of heroin in Western Europe (EMCDDA and Europol 2019) but also the proximity of the end of the “Balkans route”. One of the noteworthy phenomena in terms of supply, in addition to the record heroin levels recorded in France these last few years, is the increasing role, which began almost ten years ago, of the Albanian branches in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region (OCRTIS 2019).

The heroin used in France mainly comes from Afghanistan (brown heroin), the world's leading producer, and is transported *via* the Balkan route (Turkey, Greece, Albania/Bulgaria) through Iran. White heroin originating from the Golden Triangle (Thailand, Myanmar and Laos) is also imported. However, this phenomenon is unclear due to its marginal nature. The Netherlands, ahead of Belgium, is the main platform which supplies French dealers. As with cocaine and synthetic drugs, the Netherlands and Belgium are a significant secondary source of the French market. In these two countries, there are wholesale or retail markets where the criminal or user-dealer networks come, mainly via road vehicles, to get their supplies and they then redistribute the product across mainland France. France is also a transit zone for heroin, particularly towards the United Kingdom. In 2024, OFAST estimates that 11% of the heroin seized on national territory was merely transiting on its way to other destinations (OFAST in press).

Amphetamines and MDMA/ecstasy

The market for amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) in France has been largely dominated by MDMA/ecstasy since the late 1990s. The synthetic drugs market is expanding, as evidenced by the significant increase in MDMA/ecstasy seizures since 2023. In 2023, 4 072 704 tablets or powder equivalents of MDMA/ecstasy were seized, marking an increase on the previous year. In 2024, this record was far surpassed, with a total of 9 090 510 tablets or powder equivalents seized, an increase of 123% on 2023 and of 489% compared to 2022. Seizures of amphetamines and methamphetamines also saw a sharp increase in 2024, reaching 618 kg, which represents a rise of 133% on 2023 (265 kg) (OFAST 2025b).

Synthetic drugs used in France, such as MDMA/ecstasy and amphetamines, hail predominately from the Netherlands, the main production zone in Western Europe, and are mainly transported by land. France also serves as a transit country for traffickers, particularly to the United Kingdom and Spain, via the same channels. In addition, a share of these drugs are returned via express and postal freight to the American continent, Oceania, and less often, to Réunion. In recent years, France has become an important conduit for the Belgian-Dutch supply of MDMA/ecstasy to be shipped to North Africa, with mules trafficking via air or sea, and also via road transport in hiding places (OFAST 2023a). In fact, according to OFAST, 75% of seized substances whose destination was known were headed abroad in 2024 compared to 70% in 2023, and 22% of the amphetamine/methamphetamine seized whose destination was known were intended for abroad (OFAST 2025b).

Some territories, such as French Polynesia (Simon and Valiergue 2022), are particularly exposed to circulation of amphetamines and methamphetamines. Importation of methamphetamine into French Polynesia is mainly by air. Daily flights operate between the archipelago and the cities of Los Angeles, San Francisco and Honolulu. Express and postal freight have also been identified, with parcels sent from the United States (OFAST in press).

New psychoactive substances (NPS)

NPS, which circulate on the French market via the web, are mainly produced in Asia, particularly in China and India. They all have legal applications in the industry or pharmacy.

T1.1.3. Please comment on any available contextual information on trafficking within your country.

Information relevant to this answer includes:

- range and relative importance of different products
- size of transactions
- smuggling methods
- organisation

2024 was marked by an exceptional level of drug seizures, particularly for cocaine and ecstasy/MDMA. Cocaine seizures reached 53.5 tonnes, an increase of 130% compared to 2023. This record is partly explained by an exceptional seizure of 10.5 tonnes on the high seas. For ecstasy/MDMA, more than 9 million tablets or powder equivalents were seized (9 090 510 in total), representing an increase of 123% on the previous year (4 072 704). As in previous years, cannabis remained the most seized drug, with 101 tonnes in 2024, a decrease of 19% compared to 2023 (124.7 tonnes). The majority of this was resin, with 64.7 tonnes seized, compared to 36.3 tonnes of herbal cannabis. Conversely, heroin seizures decreased to 1 045 kg, a drop of 7% compared to 2023 (1 421 kg) (OFAST 2025b).

In France, the main segments of the illicit drug trade are cannabis, cocaine and heroin. In 2023, total turnover of the illicit drug market, including cannabis, cocaine, heroin, MDMA/ecstasy and amphetamines, was estimated to be €6.7 billion, with a range between €3.8 and €9.7 billion. The market is experiencing strong growth, as the previous estimate from 2017 was €4.2 billion. In 2017, cannabis represented the largest market by value at €1.2 billion, but cocaine overtook it for the first time in 2023. The estimated turnover for cocaine was €3.1 billion (between €1.4 and €4.7 billion), compared with €2.7 billion for cannabis (between €1.7 and €3.6 billion), despite an increase from €2.1 billion in 2017. Regarding other drugs, the heroin market was valued at €231 million (between €158 and €304 million), MDMA/ecstasy at €312 million (between €97 and €527 million), amphetamines at €73 million (between €23 and €122 million), and crack cocaine at €311 million (between €267 and €362 millions) (Ben Lakhdar and Massin in press).

The French cocaine market is increasingly influenced by the three overseas departments located near coca production areas, particularly Colombia. Latin America and the West Indies supply mainland France through two main means: maritime and air. Maritime supply is by far the most prominent: 78% of cocaine seizures made in 2023 are reported to be carried out through this means, with containers playing a major role, as they remain the preferred method of concealment for traffickers (OFAST 2025b). In 2024, 78% of the cocaine seized by the French authorities was during maritime transport, amounting to a total of 41.8 tonnes. Of these seizures, 20.7 tonnes were intercepted during boardings at sea, 16.8 tonnes in ports and 4.2 tonnes in other maritime contexts, mainly during drop-offs at sea (OFAST 2025b). According to OFAST, traffickers made fairly frequent use of drop-offs in 2023 and 2024. They dropped bales attached to makeshift flotation devices equipped with geolocation systems off the French coast. Several tonnes of cocaine were thus found washed up on beaches or drifting at sea (OFAST in press).

The exit ports are generally located in Brazil and Ecuador, as the producer countries are being increasingly controlled. These maritime flows sometimes go through the French Antilles and French Guiana. Martinique and Guadeloupe are no longer only areas where free base cocaine (crack) is used but it now plays an increasingly important role in supplying the mainland market through maritime routes (Obradovic 2020). In this respect, given its status as France's leading port for container transportation, linking it to the French West Indies and Latin America, the port of Le Havre is an important gateway for cocaine on the French and European markets, as are other major ports in northern Europe, such as Rotterdam, Antwerp and to a lesser extent Hamburg (OFDT 2023). Just like other European countries (especially Belgium, Spain and the Netherlands), some cocaine transformation laboratories have been demolished in France. The latter involve defendants linked to different South American organisations.

While sea transportation remains dominant for cocaine, air transportation is also important. It represented 17.1% of the quantities seized in 2022 (i.e 3.7 tonnes) compared to 12.4% in 2021 (OFAST 2022). At the heart of the air routes, the role of French Guiana is central, to the point that the route from Cayenne to Metropolitan France is one of the main routes for bringing cocaine into France. The strengthening of air traffic control between Paramaribo, the capital of Suriname, and Amsterdam is probably one of the causes of French Guiana's growing role in the supply of cocaine to Metropolitan France. As the only airport with direct daily flights to France (and therefore Western

Europe), French Guiana is also a strategic point for Surinamese organised crime to export cocaine via Cayenne and its international airport. In parallel with the predominant role of Surinamese drug traffickers, in the past few years, criminal gangs in Guiana have become more empowered. They recruit French "mules" to travel to Paris, so as to set down roots in small and medium-sized metropolitan cities. In 2018, police services recorded an increasing collaboration of these networks with the criminal community that controls the cocaine and crack market.

The cocaine which passes via Guiana is of equivalent quality (average purity of about 65% in 2017) but half the cost (5 000 euros per kg on average) as that purchased in the West Indies or in the Dominican Republic. This competitive price, combined with the uncertainty faced by the inhabitants, has contributed to the significant growth of the French Guyanese channel in recent years. However, in October 2022, security measures at Cayenne Airport were drastically strengthened, particularly through the introduction of systematic passenger screening for those departing for Paris. This control appears to have had a deterrent effect, according to law enforcement authorities. Faced with this strengthened customs response in Cayenne, traffickers have sought ways to bypass through the West Indies, opting for origins which are considered to be less monitored, such as Guadeloupe and Martinique (OFAST 2023b). Similar phenomena to those observed in Martinique currently in play, with the emergence of a local market and bartering of cannabis resin for cocaine. The law enforcement services have also observed an increase in postal cocaine trafficking originating from French overseas departments such as Guiana and the French West Indies (Guadeloupe and Martinique). Express and postal freight is emerging as a main alternative to mules, with fake home removals or shipments of cocaine concealed in legal products, for example (OFAST in press). In 2022, this mode of transport represented 36% of cocaine seizures made by Roissy Fret customs services, originating from French Guiana (OFAST 2023b). The customs figures show an increased use of postal and express freight for all "traditional" drugs: as well as cocaine, these transport vehicles are also reported for cannabis and heroin (DGDDI 2023). In 2024, customs services recorded 1 591 offences related to seizures of synthetic drugs. Of these, 87% were via express or postal freight (DGDDI 2025).

In fact, postal delivery is increasingly mentioned as a purchase method by illicit drug users. This choice offers a certain comfort to the latter because it does not involve any physical contact with the drug dealer or the delivery person. The speed of delivery, often guaranteed within 24 to 48 hours, is also a major factor of its appeal. Traffickers using this distribution method usually have a storage location, such as an apartment rented through *Airbnb*, which also serves as an order packing workshop. These apartments are often equipped with vacuum sealers to mask suspicious odours, and printers for labelling packages. People circulate these locations to collect orders and ship them at the nearest post office or pick-up point (Tissot 2024). The postal route was initially used mainly for trafficking substances in relatively small, often specific, quantities, such as cannabis concentrates or ketamine, and GBL or cathinones, ordered on specialised websites. However, users have increasingly resorted to using this delivery method for other, more widespread substances such as cannabis and cocaine, no longer via dedicated websites, but instead via trafficker accounts on applications and social networks.

In 2024, OFAST and Lille customs noted an increase in drug transport via coach. Although there were a large number of seizures, they involved relatively small quantities (10 to 15 kilos on average). The TREND scheme in Hauts-de-France indicates that drugs are transported by "mules" who swallow bullets, but mainly by passengers carrying substances on them or in unconnected luggage. The main routes run from Belgium and the Netherlands to Paris, with returns from Spain for cocaine, synthetic products and cannabis. Lille coach station mainly serves as a transit point. Tighter checks since 2023 could explain the more effective detection of this phenomenon (Dutilleul 2025).

The wholesale and semi-wholesale levels of drug markets are controlled by major organised crime networks. The police departments highlighted Spain's major role as a gateway and rebound area for cocaine destined for the rest of Western Europe, where French criminal gangs are well

established. It is in the south of the Iberian Peninsula that they wholesale trade resin from metropolitan wholesalers and launder a share of the money made from trafficking. Alongside these "large" networks exist a myriad of small trafficking channels run by user-dealers, directly supplied by the Netherlands and Belgium (Cadet-Taïrou *et al.* 2020).

Heroin trafficking in France is highly fragmented and relatively diversified. In addition to foreign criminal organisations particularly Turkish, Georgian, and Albanian ones, there are small groups from the outskirts of the metropolitan areas that supply the Netherlands, the main destination country for the substance in Europe. What's more, so-called "cités" networks (housing estate networks within deprived neighbourhoods) have become increasingly involved in heroin trafficking in recent years. Micro-networks of user-dealers, sourcing from the Netherlands and Belgium, play an important role in explaining the availability of heroin in France, particularly in the north-east of the country, where use in rural and peri-urban areas is no longer confined to eastern France, as evidenced by TREND observations in the Grand-Est region (Bailly and Zieleskiewicz 2024; Tissot 2024). The involvement of networks "within deprived neighbourhoods" contributes to the expansion of the availability of heroin in the suburbs of many French cities. In 2024, heroin remained accessible in public places, notably via dealing points and after making contact by phone, by calling or by SMS. In Hauts-de-France, observations show particular use of SMS by people in situations of poverty, with or without a home, who have limited access to Internet and digital applications. The regular presence of dealers in public places has also been reported in several cities in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region. Moreover, the supply of heroin deliveries is continuing to grow. The number of accounts offering this service is increasing in cities of various sizes. The range of such deliveries now extends beyond city centres and into surrounding towns and even rural areas located tens of kilometres from the hub of the network (Dutilleul 2025; Tissot 2025). The past few years has seen the significantly strong presence of criminal Albanian gangs in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region, operating in both the wholesale and retail drug markets. Whilst their visibility in the retail trade has decreased in metropolitan Lyon, they remain active in the more rural and cross-border areas of the region. Points of sale in central Lyon, once held by these groups, disappeared in favour of suburban networks which have taken over heroin trafficking in the city in recent years (Tissot 2024). The observations from the TREND scheme also indicate the increasingly widespread practice of fixed price sales in Lyon, Lille, and Rennes (€50, €20, or €10) for small quantities, which allows the most precarious users to access the product (Gérome 2023).

In August 2024, the arrest of the CEO of Telegram led to a reorganisation of drug trafficking networks on this platform. Traffickers started to favour the use of Signal, WhatsApp or SMS, while clearing some accounts of all explicit content and keeping only basic information (opening times, contacts). Several accounts migrated to Potato, another encrypted messaging service, and some were sold along with their client portfolios. Identity checks have also been stepped up, with new clients now having to provide proof of identity more systematically (Tissot 2025).

T1.1.4. Please comment on available information on the wholesale drug and precursor market.

Information relevant to this answer includes:

- range and relative importance of different products
- size of transactions
- common prices
- product transformation
- adulteration
- the nature and organisation of buyers, sellers and intermediaries

France is not a direct producer of synthetic drugs but is a precursor transit country, especially given the platform of Roissy, in a context where Europe, today, is one of the major production zones of synthetic drugs.

Regarding wholesale markets, one of the major events of these last years was the control of the cocaine market by the criminal organisations importing cannabis resin, thus showing a merger of these two wholesale markets. In 2024, the average price per kilogram of wholesale cocaine in metropolitan France is €29 800, an 8.6% decrease compared to €32 586 in 2023. Since the peak of the 2010s (reached in 2014 at €35 000), the wholesale price has decreased by 14.9%. A wholesale cocaine market exists, notably in the French West Indies and French Guiana, where prices are lower as dealers obtain supplies at €5 000 per kilogram in 2024.

A similar trend is observed for cannabis. In 2024, the wholesale price of cannabis resin reached €3 100 per kilogram, compared with €3 206 in 2023, a decrease of 3.3%. The price of herbal cannabis, meanwhile, stood at €4 329 per kilogram, compared with €4 852 in 2023, a decrease of 10.8%. Conversely, the wholesale price of heroin was on the rise from €14 600 in 2023 to €16 031 in 2024, an increase of 9.8%. There is also an increase in the wholesale price of amphetamines: from €5 342 per kilogram in 2023 to €5 715 in 2024, an increase of around 7%. As for ecstasy tablets, the current wholesale price in 2024 was €1 957 per kilogram (OFAST 2025a).

2024 was marked by a historic record in drug precursor seizures. Customs recorded a total of 10.19 tonnes of precursors seized, an eighteenfold increase in volume compared to the previous year. This exceptional increase is largely explained by a major seizure of 8 tonnes of substances in October 2024, including 14 different precursors and pre-precursors (DGDDI 2025).

T1.1.5. Please briefly comment on available information on the retail drug market.

Information relevant to this answer includes:

- nature and organisation of buyers, sellers and intermediaries
- range and relative importance of different products
- size of transactions
- common prices
- purity of products
- market locations and settings

Three types of players are at the heart of the illegal drug street market. First of all, the so-called “city” networks, established in the popular peripheral districts of the large metropolises, invested either in the sales of different narcotic products, in wholesale or in retail. The most notable changes these last ten years particularly concern their growing dominance on the cocaine market, at the wholesale and retail level, and the increasingly frequent use of home deliveries or techniques comparable to direct marketing techniques (packaging, “best deals”, loyalty cards, etc.) through social media (Gérome and Gandilhon 2020). The second type of players are organised crime gangs, particularly Albanian and Georgian ones, which are very present on the heroin markets and the markets focused on the trafficking of opioid substitutes such as Subutex® (Balduc and Gandilhon 2020). The third and oldest one, finally, are the users-dealers at the head of micro-networks who get their supplies in the Netherlands or Spain in particular.

According to the Ministry of the Interior's Cyber Command (COMCYBER-MI), darknet drug sales targeting France are organised via a few specialised platforms. Among the most active darkmarkets are *Abacus Market*, *Archetype*, *Dark Matter*, *Drughub* and *Cocorico Market*. While there are several dozen other markets, most offer a mixed range, including but not limited to drugs. With the exception of *Cocorico Market*, which stands out by catering exclusively to French customers and sellers, most of these platforms target an international audience. Regarding the geographical origin of shipments, on the *Abacus Market* platform, only 644 listings mentioned a French origin, which represents around 2% of drug offers. Among the substances actually indicated as being shipped from France, the breakdown was as follows: 26% cannabis, 23% stimulants, 19% ecstasy, 12% dissociatives, 10% opioids, 8% psychedelics and 2% miscellaneous substances. To reduce the risk of scams, darkmarkets provide users with a wealth of information to assess the reliability of sellers: buyer feedback, listing histories, possible echoes on other platforms, profile age, etc. This data helps build

a reputation for each seller and largely determines their level of trust among users. The most viewed listings often concern the sale of small quantities, corresponding to personal use or group purchases. Some listings explicitly target buyers interested in resale, but these remain marginal in the overall volume of observed transactions (COMCYBER-MI 2025b).

The change in purity of the circulating products in France has been measured by the OFDT via the SINTES scheme for more than 20 years. The average and median contents calculated from the SINTES analysis results are indicative and are not representative of the average contents of products circulating in French territory. As the SINTES collections were not carried out randomly, they observe specific collection patterns (selection bias). Moreover, the number of samples is too small to be representative. In order to express the statistical data in the most accurate way and to facilitate their understanding, the interquartile ranges are included. SINTES data should therefore be treated with caution like other data from epidemiological surveillance scheme. The SINTES scheme collected 731 samples in 2023, which is a 17% increase in comparison with 2022 (627 collections made). The most frequently analysed substances were cocaine (143 samples), heroin (101), MDMA (55), and new synthetic products such as 3-MMC (46) and ketamine (42). The cocaine collected showed high concentrations and a low level of adulteration. Around 35% of the samples tested had content of between 80 and 90%, and some were completely pure. New types of cannabis with high concentrations of THC have been observed (up to 78%), notably in the form of resins or oils resulting from innovative extraction processes. Regarding heroin, the average content remained stable. However, worrying cases of adulteration were detected, notably with synthetic cannabinoids or synthetic opioids (e.g. isotonitazene). Health alerts were issued, notably in Île-de-France and Montpellier, following serious or atypical poisonings. The most frequent adulteration remains the addition of paracetamol and caffeine. The increasing presence of synthetic cannabinoids in e-liquids was confirmed: out of 28 samples collected, all contained only synthetic or semi-synthetic cannabinoids. These products are sometimes used by very young users (modal age: 18 years) and were mostly bought online. Serious effects have been reported, notably convulsive seizures and hallucinations. Derivatives of 3-MMC are often falsified (replaced by 3-CMC or other cathinones) and represented a significant proportion of the cases of deception that were detected. Heroin was also replaced in some cases by synthetic cannabinoids. No presence of fentanyl was confirmed in the samples analysed, although two cases of deception involved metonitazene, another synthetic opioid (Cherki 2024).

Cannabis

Cannabis retail prices appear to have been stable since 2020. In 2024, the usual price for herbal cannabis is around €10 per gram, with a range between €8 and €11. For resin, the price is €8 per gram, with a range between €7 and €9 (OFAST 2025a).

The average THC content of cannabis resin seized in 2023 and 2024 was 29%. As for the herbal cannabis seized, its average content fell from 14% in 2023 to 12% in 2024 (OFAST 2025b).

In 2023, according to the OFDT's SINTES scheme, the median THC potency of the analysed resin samples was 30% (IQR: [24.8-33.4]). There is a trend towards an increase in content compared to the previous year. The observation is consistent with herbal cannabis, with a median content of 16% (IQR: [11.3 –16.0]) for 5 samples with THC quantification performed. Three cases of herbal cannabis adulteration with synthetic cannabinoids were recorded in 2023. The adulterants identified were ADB-BUTINACA, MDMB-4en-PINACA, and MDMB-BUTINACA. In 2023, the emergence of new substances with very high THC content was observed. The brand names suggest alternative extraction processes to the protocols traditionally known for the production of cannabis resin (for example: frozen hash, Butane Hash Oil or BHO). These innovations in processing practices (extraction using supercritical CO₂, extraction with different solvents) aim to market substances with extremely high delta-9-THC concentrations. For instance, one cannabis oil collected in 2023 was

measured at 78% delta-9-THC. These resin and oil forms could also be incorporated into other products, such as herbal CBD or food products (Cherki 2024).

Three of the trends identified in previous years are still relevant:

- the development of a concentrated resin supply (obtained by repeatedly passing through several increasingly fine sieves, or with artisan techniques allowing the maximum amount of THC to be extracted) available at prices higher than on the traditional resin market;
- herbal cannabis with low (or no) THC levels;
- and the circulation of herbal cannabis that has a low level of natural cannabinoids and containing synthetic cannabinoids, most often MDMB-4en-PINACA.

Cocaine

According to OFAST, in 2024, the current price per gram of cocaine hydrochloride dropped sharply to €58, compared to €66 in 2023, an unprecedented fall of 12%. As a reminder, these prices were €65 in 2022 and 2021 and €70 in 2017/2018 (OFAST 2025a).

The average seizure content (retail, semi-wholesale, wholesale) was 75% in 2024 versus 73% in 2023, up from 63.5% in 2020 (OFAST 2025b).

Cocaine remained the most frequently collected product in the SINTES system, confirming that supply and consumption of this product were considerable in 2023. The analyses showed an upward trend in cocaine concentrations. For the OFDT SINTES system, the median purity rate of cocaine was 85% in 2023 (IQR: [72.0-91.0]). The upwards trend observed in average cocaine concentrations since 2018 was confirmed in 2023. This went hand in hand with a decrease in or absence of adulteration. Of 101 samples that were tested, eight samples were found to be completely pure. The distribution of concentrations within the tested samples was similar to the previous year, with very high concentrations. 35% of the tested samples had a cocaine concentration between 80 and 90%. Additionally, the number of collections where adulterants were detected is decreasing: of the 131 cocaine samples, 58 (i.e. 44%) were found to contain only cocaine. Samples containing only cocaine but accompanied by residual processing impurities (tropacocaine, methylecgonidine) accounted for 15% of the samples. However, 26% of the samples (n = 35) contained at least one adulterant. The most frequently identified adulterant remained levamisole, an antiparasitic used in veterinary medicine. Cocaine analogues (procaine, lidocaine) were identified in 5 samples (Cherki 2024).

Heroin

According to OFAST, the current price of a gram of brown heroin rose from €28 in 2023 to €32 in 2024. This increase broke the downward trend observed since 2020. The average purity of brown heroin seizures in 2024 was 12%, which is significantly lower than in 2023 (16%). Brown heroin samples collected via SINTES had a median purity of 13% (IQR: [5.8 – 23.1]) compared to 11% in 2022. A total of 101 supposed heroin samples were collected in 2023. After analysis, 87 were found to actually contain heroin (86%). However, unprecedented non-conformities were observed, such as adulteration, replacement with synthetic cannabinoids, or replacement with a new synthetic opioid. As in previous years, heroin base, known as brown, was the predominant form, with 80 samples (92%). So-called white heroin, corresponding to the hydrochloride salt form, was collected seven times in 2023 (Cherki 2024).

In Île-de-France, data from the ATP Île-de-France system revealed a significant change in the composition of heroin samples analysed since the beginning of 2024. An increasing proportion of these samples were characterised by the absence, or only trace presence, of natural alkaloids derived from poppy. This type of heroin with an atypical chemical profile now accounts for between 25% and 40% of the samples collected in the region. These results suggest the emergence of a new group of heroin, which could be added to the forms traditionally identified as "brown" or "white". This new category, sometimes referred to as "hyper white", is characterised not only by the absence

of natural opioids, but also by zero or very low concentrations of cutting agents. In October 2024, five samples with this profile were identified by ATP Île-de-France. Their composition led the Île-de-France Regional Health Agency to issue a regional alert. Analyses revealed particularly high purity levels, ranging from 76% to 87% of heroin, accompanied by 3% 6-monoacetylmorphine (6-MAM) and 3% morphine, with no other adulterants or alkaloids detected (Lovera *et al.* 2025).

MDMA/ecstasy

Price and purity depend on the galenic form in which the substance is sold: tablet, powder or crystal. In 2024, according to OFAST, the current price for an ecstasy tablet decreased slightly to €9 compared to previous years when it had stabilised at €10. This retail price does not fully reflect the reality of the retail market since users tend to buy several dozen tablets at a time to lower the price per unit. By doing so, consumers can lower the unit price of a tablet to €2.50. In 2024, the average active ingredient content of MDMA tablets was 33%, compared to 30% in 2023 (OFAST 2025b). In 2023, SINTES analyses of MDMA confirmed high concentrations for the crystal form and significant variability for the tablet form. A total of 53 MDMA samples were collected in 2023 (7%). Nearly half (49%) of the samples were in crystal form, for which very high MDMA concentrations are expected. In addition, 12 whole tablets and 14 tablet fragments were analysed. Of the 26 crystal MDMA samples, 19 analyses were carried out. They confirmed a high median content (91.5%). MDMA content ranged from 9.3% to 100%. For samples collected in tablet form (whole or fragments), significant variability was observed in MDMA concentrations, as in previous years (Cherki 2024).

New psychoactive substances (NPS)

In 2023, 17 new NPS identifications were reported by SINTES to the Early Warning System of the EUDA. This number was down on the previous year. Since the early 2000s, around 450 new substances have been identified in France, out of more than 950 NPS identified at European level (Cherki 2024). The most often observed families were cathinones, synthetic cannabinoids and arylcyclohexylamines. ketamine, 3-MMC and DMT have been among the 10 most seized substances since 2014.

3-MMC is gradually being replaced by other cathinones with a similar structure, often without the users' knowledge. In 2023, analyses in Île-de-France revealed that 3-MMC was often substituted with other cathinones such as 2-MMC, 3-CMC, and 4-MMC. Among the samples analysed, around 50% of substances labelled as 3-MMC actually contained 3-CMC. The remaining 40% were divided equally between 3-MMC and 2-MMC, while the other remaining 10% consisted of various other cathinones, including preparations (Juszczak *et al.* 2024). A similar trend was observed in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region in 2024. Analyses of products collected from users as part of the TREND scheme regularly reveal cases of deception regarding products presented as 3-MMC: out of 50 samples analysed, 40 actually contained other substances. Among the substances identified were notably 2-MMC, alpha-PiHP, 3-CMC, 3-MEC, 3-MMA, 4-CMC, 2-oxo-PCE, N-ethylhexedrone, N-ethylpentedrone (NEP), N-ethylpentylone, N-ethylnorpentedrone, 4,4'-DMAR and 3-FMC. Alongside these substitutions, 2-MMC now appears to be becoming firmly established in use. In 2024, this substance was identified in seven samples collected specifically from products bought under this name, as well as in thirteen seizures. This frequency of occurrence marks a clear break with previous years, during which 2-MMC was almost absent from analyses in this region (Tissot 2025).

T1.2. Drug related crime

The purpose of this section is to provide a commentary on the context and possible explanations of drug law offences within your country.

T1.2.1. Please comment on drug law offences data.

Please structure your response around supply data (if possible distinguish between trafficking, cultivation/production, wholesale/ retail, and other supply offences) and possession/use data.

In 2022, the Interior Minister's statistics department (SSMSI) amended the data collection system, counting only the use and trafficking of narcotics. In 2024, the total number of persons charged for narcotic use in France was 262 876. Apart from these offences for use (86% of the total), the police and gendarmerie charged 24 172 people with trafficking and resale without personal use of narcotics, 17 193 people with use and resale of narcotics, and 1 815 people with other offences against narcotics legislation. In 2010 (since 2010 national statistics no longer provide details of arrests for each substance), 90% concerned simple cannabis use, 5% heroin use and 3% cocaine use. As of September 2020, simple use violations can be sanctioned by a criminal fixed fine (AFD in French). In 2024, the Interior Ministry's statistics department made a list of nearly 200 000 criminal fixed fines, thus demonstrating the significant growth of this measure to respond to consumers (particularly those of cannabis). However, these developments vary greatly from one geographical area to another (SSMSI 2025a).

A recent SSMSI study has highlighted that people charged with drug use or trafficking are not evenly distributed across the country. These offences are more frequent in highly urbanised areas, particularly in the catchment areas of large cities, where the rates per 1 000 population are the highest. Certain factors related to the characteristics of municipalities partly explain these differences. For example, the presence of a prison in a municipality is closely associated with a higher rate of people charged, whether with use or trafficking. Tourist activity, geographical location (notably coastal or border municipalities or those with an airport), as well as the presence of land transport infrastructure such as national roads or motorway service areas, also influence these rates. Municipalities with significant tourist activity or well connected to the road network tend to record more incidents related to drug trafficking or use. Socio-economic inequalities also play an important role. Municipalities where the standard of living is lower and the unemployment rate higher are more exposed to these offences, especially regarding drug use. Finally, regional disparities persist regardless of the other measured factors. This is particularly the case in French Guiana, where a particularly high rate of people charged with trafficking is observed, but no similar trend is found for use (SSMSI 2025b).

In 2023, according to the Ministry of Justice, convictions for drug law offences (DLOs) as the main offence (single or multiple) accounted for 9% of the national total for all offences, i.e. around 50 000 convictions for the main offence. The offences concerned are: illicit use (37%), possession-acquisition (57%), supply and sale (5%), trade-transport (1%), trafficking-import-export (1%), aiding and abetting others' use (0.06%) and other DLOs offences (0.8%).

Imprisonment is the predominant penalty in cases of offences related to possession-acquisition – this classification being mainly applied in cases of drug trafficking (83%) – whereas offences related to use are mainly punished by fines (70%). The number of penal settlements (Article 41-2 of the Penal Procedure Code) accepted and executed for offences against the legislation on poisonous substances, narcotics and doping products in 2024 came to 3 864. This is an alternative procedure to prosecution, but the offence is nevertheless recorded in the Criminal Record.

Regarding use, a significant proportion of the offences committed were sanctioned before prosecution before a court. At police level, fixed criminal fines account for nearly 68% of those charged with use, representing around 200 000 procedures in 2024. At the level of the public prosecutor's office, among criminal responses (judicial prosecutions or alternatives to prosecution), alternative measures to prosecution were proposed to 16% of the perpetrators of drug use offences in 2024 (including 25% reminders of the law and nearly 21% referrals to a health and social facility in 2024).

T1.2.2. If possible summarise any available data on drug related crime outside of drug law offences (i.e. possession/supply), e.g. money laundering, crimes undertaken under the influence of drugs (e.g. driving under the influence of drugs) or as a result of the use of drugs, crimes committed to fund drug use, crimes between drug market actors (e.g. violent crime, including homicide).

Driving under the influence of narcotics has been an offence in France since 2003. These prosecutions represent around 29% of road safety offences, but their numbers tripled in 10 years, growing from 19 000 in 2013 to 60 270 in 2023.

The revenue coming from the confiscation of goods from people convicted of drug offences are used to contribute to the MILDECA “narcotics” support fund. According to the 2023 activity report of the Agency of the Recovery and Management of Seized and Confiscated Assets² (AGRASC), 50.1 millions euros were paid to MILDECA in 2023, compared to 41.8 millions in 2022 and 49.3 million in 2021 (AGRASC 2024). The increasing practice of seizures and confiscations is also the result of an increased awareness of the prosecutors, through the dissemination of a guide to seizures and confiscations which was completely remade and re-updated in January 2021 (Ascensi 2023). It is an educational, legal and technical tool of reference for all practitioners. In addition, since 2018, the appointment in each public prosecutor’s office of a contact prosecutor dealing with criminal seizures and confiscations has guaranteed the distribution of best practices within the jurisdiction.

According to a 2023 threat status report by the OFAST, drug traffickers use various sophisticated methods to launder the funds derived from their illegal activities. In French Guiana, they mainly channel cash sums from smugglers on return flights from Orly to Cayenne or via express or postal freight. The leaders of Albanian clans, who are often based in non-EU countries, prefer to transfer illicit funds to their home country, where these sums are invested into the local economy, particularly the property market. Road transport, using hiding places concealed within light vehicles, is also commonly used for these transfers. In 2023, a major laundering network, operating within disadvantaged neighbourhoods in the South of France, was dismantled. This network was using offsetting techniques, transferring the laundered funds to Algeria. Construction and public works companies collected cash and made offsetting transfers to shell companies, who then organised a vehicle purchase-resale circuit between Europe and Algeria. Over 40 million euros derived from drug trafficking is said to have been laundered in five years. Chinese criminal groups in France also play an important role in money laundering for French drug traffickers. They use various laundering methods, such as the physical transportation of money to non-EU countries, the purchase of luxury goods for others, and laundering via convenience stores such as PMU *bar-tabacs* (bar tobacconist’s). These groups also practice offsetting, relying on networks of collectors from the diaspora, involving financial transfers across several countries (OFAST 2023b). On 18 December 2024, four individuals were indicted by the Paris public prosecutor’s office for their involvement in a large-scale money laundering network linked to drug trafficking, using cryptoassets as financial vehicles. This case was monitored by the Ministry of the Interior’s Cyber Command (COMCYBER-MI) and shows an international modus operandi based on complex financial flows. According to the initial findings of the investigation, funds from drug trafficking were collected in several European countries, including Spain, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Belgium and Italy, before being converted into cryptoassets, mainly stablecoins. The conversion and transfer operations were then organised between France, Dubai and the United States. One of the cryptoasset wallets identified in this case is believed to have enabled the transfer of more than €248 million in stablecoins, illustrating the scale of the laundered sums and the technical sophistication of the mechanisms used (COMCYBER-MI 2025a).

² Created as part of the law of 9 July 2010, the AGRASC is responsible for the contribution to the “narcotics” supply fund.

In 2024, France recorded 367 murders and attempted murders between criminals³. According to OFAST, almost all these acts were linked to drug trafficking. They caused 110 deaths and 341 injuries over the year. Although a 12% decrease was observed from the exceptional peak of 418 incidents in 2023, the level of violence nevertheless remained high and exceeded that observed in 2022 (303 incidents) and 2021 (275 incidents). Between 2021 and 2024, the number of recorded incidents thus increased by 33%. This violence now affects the entire country. In 2024, 173 municipalities were affected, compared to 161 the previous year. The largest cities remained the most affected, notably Marseille (40 incidents), Grenoble (14) and Toulouse (12). However, the sharpest increase was seen in medium-sized towns, such as Villeurbanne (10 incidents compared to 1 in 2023), Échirolles (9 compared to 2) or Dijon (6 compared to 2). The overseas territories were not spared, such as in Guadeloupe where the number of incidents rose from 7 to 16. Regarding the profile of the perpetrators, among the 176 people imprisoned for murder or attempted murder between criminals in 2024, one quarter (25.6%) were under 20 years old, of whom 16 were minors. In addition to homicides, the security services noted an intensification and diversification of the violence linked to drug trafficking. This took the form of kidnappings, illegal confinement, mutilations (kneecappings), or even arson attacks. They were often carried out by individuals from outside the criminal network, recruited specifically for this purpose (OFAST in press).

In the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region, the city of Marseille was the main hotspot for violence linked to drug trafficking in 2023, due to a deadly conflict between two criminal organisations. In 2024, this situation appears to have calmed, notably thanks to sustained police pressure which led to the arrest of key figures from both groups. This trend resulted in an 82% decrease in homicides and attempted homicides in the Bouches-du-Rhône and a 60% decrease in Marseille. OFAST recorded 45 incidents there in 2024, down from 86 in 2023, with 24 deaths compared to 49. This was accompanied by a significant decrease in firearms seizures in the department, falling from 319 weapons seized in 2023 to 209 in 2024, a drop of 34% (Duport 2025).

T1.3. Drug supply reduction activities

The purpose of this section is to summarise the drug law enforcement activities for drug supply reduction.

T1.3.1. Please comment on drug supply reduction activities within your country.

Please structure your response in terms of

- a) the key priorities of supply reduction
- b) areas of activity of supply reduction
- c) organisational structures/co-ordinating bodies

Please note that information on specialist drug law enforcement (eg. drug squads) is part of a separate focused data collection.

In March 2023, the French government adopted the 2023-2027 Interministerial Strategy for Mobilisation against Addictive Behaviours, which defines the strategic framework for the coming years. This strategy highlights the importance of comprehensive and coordinated action between the different services involved, notably cooperation between internal security forces and the judicial system to combat drug trafficking and organised crime. Moreover, the strategy emphasises the need for public action to be underpinned by in-depth knowledge, promoting the dissemination of knowledge, the involvement of the scientific community, and continuous support for research. Particular attention is given to the development of research on the illicit supply of narcotics through the development and management of an Interministerial Applied Research Programme to Combat Drugs (PIRALAD). This programme has allowed estimates of the French illicit drug market to be

³ These incidents are recorded according to several criteria: the proven involvement of at least one of the parties in criminal or delinquent activity, the clear intention to kill, circumstances suggesting premeditation, the use of a firearm or explosives, and the absence of a private motive.

updated, in terms of volume used, value, and jobs generated by trafficking. Moreover, this programme sparked an international study on the environmental impacts of illicit drug production, in partnership with the UNODC, and an analysis on the impact of digital technology on drug trafficking developments. International cooperation is also emphasised, particularly in view of the crucial role played by the French overseas departments (Guiana, Martinique, Guadeloupe and Saint-Martin) in supplying cocaine to the mainland market. The strategy calls for strengthening European cooperation to prevent, deter, and disrupt drug-related crime, particularly organised crime. That includes police, customs, and judicial cooperation, exchanging intelligence, seizing and confiscating criminal assets, alongside combating corruption. To reduce the availability of narcotics, the strategy plans to impede their arrival from production areas, strengthen international cooperation, detect and prevent their movement within the national territory, and strip traffickers of their criminal assets. It also proposes the strengthening of technological and judicial means to combat organised crime and deconstruct the positive image of traffickers (MILDECA 2023a).

Since 2023, France has participated in the "[Global Coalition to Address Synthetic Drug Threats](#)". This coalition aims to combat the threats posed by the expanding synthetic drugs market by creating a global space for reflection to create the best actions and policies to pursue on this subject. The coalition meets monthly through working groups and subgroups which cover each different aspect of the synthetic drug problem. For example, the "Manufacturing of Synthetic Drugs and their Precursors" subgroup focuses on strategies targeting the first stages of the drug supply process, including the manufacture of synthetic drugs and illegal laboratories, alongside chemical precursors and medico-legal laboratory testing. The "Trafficking of Synthetic Drugs" subgroup on the other hand, seeks to strengthen the capabilities of governments to counter synthetic drug trafficking within their borders, through shared borders and on a global scale.

The governmental strategy regarding the fight against the national trafficking of narcotics was built in 2019 in a national anti-narcotics plan (Ministère de la Justice *et al.* 2019), which includes 55 measures aiming to meet 6 objectives: improve knowledge on trafficking; step up and rationalise field activities; enhance the fight against the underground economy and the drug trafficking laundering routes; reinforcing the seizure of criminal assets; develop international cooperation; strengthen the capacities of services. On the same model of the service reorganisation operated in France as part of the fight against terrorism, a new service has been created to guarantee the role of sole leader in the fight against drug trafficking: the Anti-narcotics Office (OFAST). In February 2020, the Ministry of the Interior officially announced the creation of OFAST, which succeeds OCRTIS (Central Office for the Repression of Drug-related Offences). This creation is one of the main operational adaptations of the national anti-narcotics plan. This creation corresponds to the State's desire to increase cooperation between the various services in charge of law enforcement: police, customs, military police [*gendarmerie*] and justice. OFAST is organised into three divisions, "strategy", "intelligence" and "operations", to respond to the three missions "understand", "target" and "act". They are headed respectively by a customs administrator, a military police [*gendarmerie*] colonel and a divisional commissioner. The deputy head of the office comes from the judiciary. At a territorial level, OFAST has 14 regional offices and 5 territorial detachments. Since September 30, 2020, 104 operational drug intelligence units (CROSS) have been deployed throughout the country, one per department. One of their missions is to establish a map of the deal points located in the French territory and their evolution on a quarterly basis. In 2021, the government announced the creation of a reporting portal for citizens to provide the police and *gendarmerie* with information about narcotic trafficking and its actors. This information is then transmitted to the CROSS for processing. In addition, the extent of trafficking in ports and airports has led OFAST and Customs to create CROSS THEMATIQUES covering port, airport and postal activities.

In addition, in accordance with the strategy of the national anti-narcotics plan which aims to develop the seizures of criminal assets, the Agency for the Recovery and Management of Seized and Confiscated Assets (AGRASC) has been considerably enhanced with the increase in its staff members (83 agents in 2022 compared to 45 in 2020) and the creation of 4 regional offices in

Marseille, Lyon, Rennes and Lille in 2021. In 2023, three new offices were to be set up in Bordeaux, Nancy and Fort-de-France. In 2023, seizures amounted to €1.44 billion, a record since the creation of AGRASC in 2010, compared to €771 million in 2022. Confiscations amounted to €175.5 million, meanwhile, of which €110 million was paid into the general state budget (AGRASC 2024).

The “Narcotics” support fund is established every year and funded by the amounts permanently seized by a judicial authority from drug trafficking activities. In 2023, this fund amounted to 53.8 million euros, which is five times higher than 10 years ago. The allocation of the credits of this fund is as follows: 35% for the Police, 25% for the Gendarmerie, 10% for Customs, 20% for Justice, and 10% for preventive actions led by MILDECA. The objectives of this fund are to strengthen the means of combating drug trafficking, improve international coordination, support territorial actors in the prevention of addictive behaviours, and prevent risks for drug users and repeat offences among prison populations (MILDECA 2023b).

Combating trafficking is also based on the interaction between customs and the justice system which takes place within the National Jurisdiction Against Organised Crime (JUNALCO). Furthermore, in 2022, France created a coordinating body responsible for combating drug trafficking in the port of Le Havre, under the authority of the public prosecutors of Paris, Douai and Rouen. This measure is part of efforts to strengthen cooperation in the fight against trafficking in European ports and to protect port infrastructure.

The 8 specialised inter-regional jurisdictions (JIRS) created between 2004 and 2022 also participate in the fight against narcotics by having enhanced technical resources to successfully carry out their enquiries. Active in 8 regional metropolises (Paris, Lyon, Marseille, Lille, Rennes, Bordeaux, Nancy and Fort-de-France), these include prosecutors and investigating magistrates who have specific competence and experience in combating organised and financial crime.

In 2023, [law no. 2023-610 of 18 July](#) revised the legislative framework for customs action in depth, adapting the powers of customs officers to new digital realities and trafficking developments. This reform includes a review of the customs inspection right, detailing the terms and conditions of these operations to strike a balance between customs offences and respect for individual freedoms and privacy. The scheme for combating the funding of organised crime and terrorism was enhanced by the introduction of a temporary detention of cash amounts, thus enabling the detection of financial circuits derived from criminal activities within the territory. Customs money laundering offences have been broadened to include all offences pertaining to laws enforced by customs or affecting the European Union’s financial interests. This extension also covers digital assets, illicit activity committed abroad, and operations to raise and transport funds, specifically aiming to impede organised fund-raising networks. Customs officials now have increased powers and penalties set out in the Customs Code, to combat the use of non-scheduled chemical precursors in the manufacture of synthetic drugs. The law includes provisions aimed at modernising the monitoring and investigative capabilities of all customs services, and also affirming the non-invocability of professional secrecy to their investigations(DGDDI 2024).

In order to boost its operational capabilities, French customs is planning several technical and logistical developments to combat drug trafficking more effectively. In mainland France, the first deployments of low-intensity mobile scanners are scheduled for the main port platforms. These devices will enable enhanced and more systematic control of goods flows, while facilitating targeted operations. At sea, a strategic shift is underway, moving from a predominantly defensive stance focused on coastal surveillance (known as the “shield” posture) to a more offensive approach. This is based on real-time analysis of the surface situation, increased use of targeting tools, and the ability to carry out interventions offshore, including on the high seas. With this in mind, an order for a new vessel is planned. It will need to be able to operate up to 200 nautical miles off the Corsican coast, thus boosting customs’ operational capacity in the Mediterranean. Similarly, the renewal of the fleet of sea interceptors is underway in the Antilles, an area highly exposed to drug flows from Latin America. Airborne resources are also being modernised, notably by equipping customs

helicopters with the latest generation of multispectral cameras. These technologies significantly improve the detection and identification of targets at sea and on land, both day and night. In addition, efforts are underway to systematise checks on postal and express freight flows. The development of solutions enabling the automatic scanning of 100% of parcels aims to counter the rise of micro-trafficking via discreet shipments. On land, the fight against logistics networks is supported by the planned doubling of the number of automated number plate readers by 2027. These systems enhance the tracking and interception of vehicles linked to trafficking networks. As part of the fight against the proliferation of synthetic drugs, customs services now benefit from an extension of their operational powers. Officers are authorised to use special investigative techniques, such as controlled deliveries or home visits, in order to identify illicit production circuits and dismantle clandestine laboratories. To date, France is the only European country to have incorporated these specific methods into the fight against synthetic substances. At the same time, the fight against online crime continues to be stepped up through the gradual roll-out of a network of specialised investigators in decentralised services. This enhanced territorial coverage enables better targeting of illicit activities carried out via digital channels. In this respect, in April 2024, the *Cyberdouane* [cyber customs] service of the National Intelligence and Customs Directorate (DNRED) dismantled "Cosa Nostra", a platform that was active on the darknet and dedicated to the illegal sale of narcotic substances. Since 1 May 2024, the National Anti-Fraud Office (ONAF) has replaced the Judicial Financial Investigations Service (SEJF). Staffed by customs and judicial tax investigators, it plays a central role in combating money laundering and terrorist financing, by identifying and seizing criminal proceeds and assets. Finally, there is a legal component that completes this range of measures. Reforms are underway to facilitate the seizure of criminal assets and increase application of the presumption of money laundering for customs (DGDDI 2025).

Since the end of 2023, a series of police and national gendarmerie operations have been carried out to combat drug trafficking, marking an intensification of public safety efforts. Between 25 September 2023 and 12 April 2024, 473 operations labelled as "clean sweeps" were carried out, 24 of which were in Overseas France (Durain and Blanc 2024). These actions led to the arrest of 3 816 individuals, as well as the seizure of 632 weapons, 3 tonnes of cannabis, 38 kg of cocaine, 31 kg of heroin, and almost 5 million euros. Over 51 000 police officers and gendarmes were mobilised for these operations (Préfet des Côtes d'Armor 2024). These operations were targeted to urban areas, medium-sized towns, and rural municipalities, in both Metropolitan and Overseas France, in order to respond to trafficking developments and traffickers' methods. The interventions included checks of common areas and cellars in block of flats, identity checks at the request of the public prosecutor, the use of drug and firearm detection dogs, checks of businesses, securing public transport, and the routine removal of abandoned vehicles. These overt and extended operations were prioritised in the problem areas of large cities and planned in collaboration with the National Directorate of Public Security (DNSP) and the National Directorate of Judicial Police (DNPJ) (Police nationale 2024).

In November 2023, the Senate launched an inquiry on the impact of drug trafficking in France and measures to address it. The committee began its hearings on 27 November 2023 and published its conclusions on 14 May 2024. This committee of inquiry auditioned numerous national actors and institutions involved in the fight against the trafficking and use of illicit drugs in France. Among the persons heard were representatives from police, gendarmerie, and customs services, the OFAST, as well as researchers, members of MILDECA, the OFDT, lawyers, and representatives from various relevant ministries. Mr. Bruno Le Maire, the then Minister of the Economy, Finance and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty, Mr. Éric Dupond-Moretti, the then Minister of Justice, and Mr. Gérald Darmanin, the then Minister of the Interior and Overseas, were also heard. This committee of inquiry's final report made several key recommendations. It encouraged increasing the priority of and resources allocated to combating drug trafficking, strengthening efforts to dismantle trafficking networks at the "upper end of the spectrum", and restructuring the action of services responsible for combating drug trafficking (Durain and Blanc 2024).

Between 2024 and 2025, France reinforced its legal framework to combat drug trafficking and organised crime more effectively. This resulted in two bills being tabled in the Senate in July 2024. The bills were presented jointly by senators from the Les Républicains and Socialist, Ecologist and Republican groups. They were based on the findings of the parliamentary report mentioned above. The first bill was entitled "*Getting France out of the drug trafficking trap*", and aimed to endow the State with new means to weaken criminal organisations. The second was for an organic law and concerned the creation and status of a public prosecutor specialising in organised crime. These bills were definitively adopted on 29 April 2025, following an agreement reached in a joint committee. The Constitutional Council approved the main provisions of these laws in its decision of 12 June 2025, although it did censor certain provisions. The laws were promulgated on 13 June and published in the Official Journal the following day ([Act No. 2025-532 of 13 June 2025 aimed at getting France out of the drug trafficking trap](#)). The reform comprises several major measures. It provides for the creation of a national prosecutor's office dedicated to organised crime and responsible for handling the most serious cases. It also introduces a specific regime for high-level traffickers with stricter prison conditions. The informant system has been revised, and individuals who cooperate with the justice system can now benefit from a reduction of their sentence by up to two thirds, compared with one third previously. The system also includes other administrative measures. For example, traffickers may be evicted from social housing. Businesses suspected of money laundering may be closed by administrative decision. The organic law on the status of the specialised prosecutor will enter into force on 5 January 2026 (Vie publique 2025).

France is taking part in the *European Ports Alliance*, launched in January 2024 by the Belgian Presidency of the European Union in cooperation with the Commission. This initiative aims to strengthen the fight against drug trafficking and organised crime in major European ports. Alongside other Member States, France contributes to information exchange, the development of good practices and the reinforcement of checks and coordinated investigations. This alliance is part of a process of enhanced cooperation, without replacing existing mechanisms, in order to improve the resilience of port platforms to criminal infiltration (MILDECA 2024).

Finally, many other players take part in combating trafficking, including the Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs and the Ambassador Extraordinary of the fight against terrorism and organised crime.

T2. Trends

The purpose of this section is to provide a commentary on the context and possible explanations of trends in drug markets and crime within your country.

- T2.1. For the most important drugs in your country, please comment on the possible explanations of short-term trends (5 years) and/or long-term trends (greater than 5 years) in the following aspects of the drug market:
- seizures (by weight bin if possible)
 - price (wholesale and retail if possible)
 - purity (wholesale and retail if possible)

Examples: changes in police practices, patterns of drug use, interruptions to the supply of drugs or the emergence of substitutes or alternatives.

Over the past 20 years, the supply of drugs in France has undergone changes due to the diversification of the products on offer and a much more competitive market. The level of seizures shows that the quantities intercepted have risen sharply over the last twenty years, especially for cocaine and synthetic drugs (see table 1).

Table 1. Average annual quantities seized in France by decade

	2004-2014	2014-2024
Herbal cannabis (kg)	4 440	29 585
Cannabis resin (kg)	62 154	67 220
Cocaine (without crack-cocaine) (kg)	6 618	19 996
Heroin (kg)	882	1 065
Amphetamines and methamphetamines (kg)	376	418
Ecstasy/MDMA (tablets)	881 531	2 253 784

Source: OFDT/OFAST

Table 2. Quantities of drugs seized (in kg) in the last 5 years and changes 2023/2024 (in %)

Drugs seized	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Evolution 2023/2024 (%)
Cannabis: resin	74 340	50 248	72 400	87 600	87 000	64 700	-26
Cannabis: herbal	29 952	46 277	39 500	41 000	37 700	36 300	-4
Cannabis: plants	183 034	115 365	101 771	76 807	112 028	67 607	-40
Heroin	1 073	1 132	1 300	1 400	1 100	1 045	-5
Cocaine	15 761	13 145	26 500	27 700	23 249	53 473	+130
Crack-cocaine	na						
Amphetamines	na	706	226*	273*	265*	618*	+133
Methamphetamines	na	nfa					
Ecstasy (tablets)	1 699 848	1 227 876	1 454 085	1 543 421	4 072 704	9 090 510	+123
LSD (blotter)	na						
Ketamine	na	na	na	na	na	406	na

Source: OFAST

na : not available

* Total amount of amphetamine and methamphetamine seizures

Retail prices of herbal cannabis and resin have remained stable since 2020. The retail price of cocaine saw a significant decrease after several years of stability. The retail price of heroin increased after a downward trend in recent years. Finally, the price of an ecstasy tablet showed a decrease, a first since 2015 (see Table 3).

Table 3. Current retail prices over 5 years (in euros)

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Heroin	33	30	30	28	32
Cocaine	66	65	65	66	58
Ecstasy (tablets)	10	10	10	10	9
Cannabis resin	8	8	8	8	8
Herbal cannabis	10	10	10	10	10
Amphetamines	15	12,5	10	13	12
LSD (blotter)	10	na	na	na	na

Source: OFAST (2025), *Drug prices in France in 2025*.

na: not available

According to the Ministry of the Interior, by the end of 2022, France, including its overseas territories, had 3 159 “dealing points”, defined as permanent and structured sales outlets located in the public sphere, compared to nearly 3 325 in 2021 and 4 034 in 2020 (Premier ministre 2022). This leads to a growing diversity of actors involved in the supply side, while the development of information and communication technologies (ICTs) favours a renewal of the ways in which networks and new relationships with users are organised.

Before differentiating the trends by product, some general factors may be mentioned to explain these developments. Several phenomena explain the expansion of the range of services on offer and the more visible use of ICTs over the past decade. Urban renewal policies in certain peripheral neighbourhoods of large metropolises have aimed not only to renovate the buildings, but also to reduce the deal areas (G erome 2023). These developments have led many networks to build up customer files in order to maintain contact with users and thereby ensure the sustainability of the deal. Home deliveries have also been developed, notably with “cocaine call centres” and/or central purchasing offices. In the Paris region, the phenomenon has developed considerably in Seine-Saint-Denis, where the drug squad dismantles several dozen purchasing offices each year. Their activity is not limited to cocaine. Cannabis (in its resin or herb form) and ecstasy may also be offered. Most of these central purchasing offices are extensions of the activities of the points of sale within deprived neighbourhoods, which are clearly adapting to the needs of inner-city customers in a more competitive market. The phenomenon is developing in most French cities as well as in medium-size cities. In addition to home deliveries, the use of the Internet is also encouraging postal drugs trafficking. In fact, delivery is increasingly mentioned as a purchase method by illicit drug users. This choice offers a certain comfort, because it does not involve any physical contact with the drug dealer or the delivery person. The speed of delivery, often guaranteed within 24 to 48 hours, is also a major factor of its appeal (Tissot 2024).

The development of door-to-door sales does not mark the end of the traditional model of direct resale established in working-class neighbourhoods. It is constantly adapting to the changing aspirations and profiles of consumers. Therefore, the single-product model is disappearing. Even if some traffickers still focus on cannabis resin, the transition to a multi-product offer based on two main products: cannabis resin and cocaine, which are more and more systematically combined.

According to observations from the TREND scheme, the segmentation of the activities carried out by drug trafficking networks has been accentuated in recent years, leading to a specialisation of tasks and an occupational distribution. This organisation means pooling resources between networks, which can be observed at both regional and national level. A notable example is the pooling of resources for the import of drugs, where dedicated teams are responsible for transport and border crossing for many different networks. This tendency to specialise also implies a growing outsourcing of certain duties, such as product conveying, which is entrusted to dedicated teams. This phenomenon is often accompanied by a strict compartmentalisation of teams and individuals, who are generally not directly connected to one another. A small number of individuals act as intermediaries for specific logistics

needs, such as the provision of lorries, the recruitment of staff, or border crossing. During the dismantling of networks, is it common to find that those arrested barely know each other, or not at all (Tissot 2024).

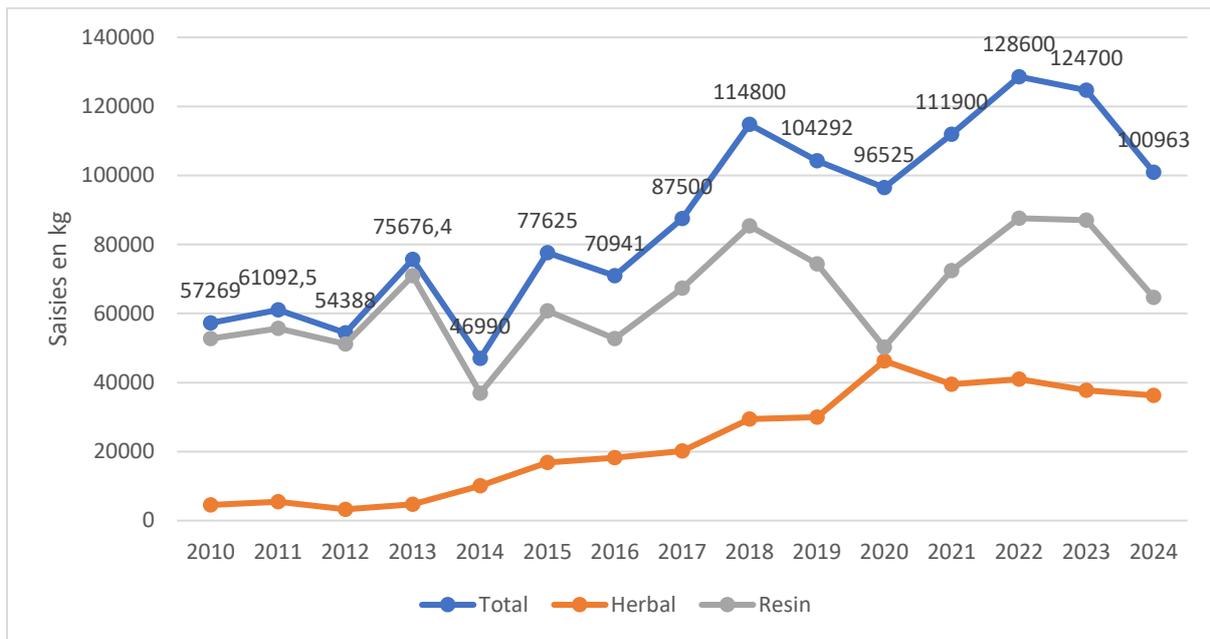
The trafficking networks are recruiting more and more adolescents, particularly those in precarious situations, and who have often recently immigrated, who live in the suburbs of metropolitan areas. Another strategy among traffickers involves recruiting lookouts, dealers, and, since 2020, team leaders, from outside of their home neighbourhood or region. The adolescents recruited are often under significant pressure to continue working, even though they want to stop, under threat from real or fictitious debts, and are exposed to frequent violence. They may also be perpetrators of routine violence themselves, especially when it is directed at people with whom they have little or no previous connections.

Moreover, women are becoming increasingly visible in trafficking activities, even though they remain in the minority. They are mainly recruited for their discretion, being less frequently monitored (Tissot 2024). Observations from the TREND scheme in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes show that they may be found in vehicles transporting cannabis, cocaine, or heroin, often accompanied by men, to appear as a couple. They increasingly participate in retail delivery, working as a two, and concealing products during police interventions. Some women organise trafficking at a higher level, often in collaboration with a male partner in prison, in order to maintain their activity. They may also manage telephone lines and contact with clients and are traditionally recruited as minders. In fact, they appear increasingly often in promotional videos, playing different roles, involving packing or testing products (Tissot 2024).

Cannabis

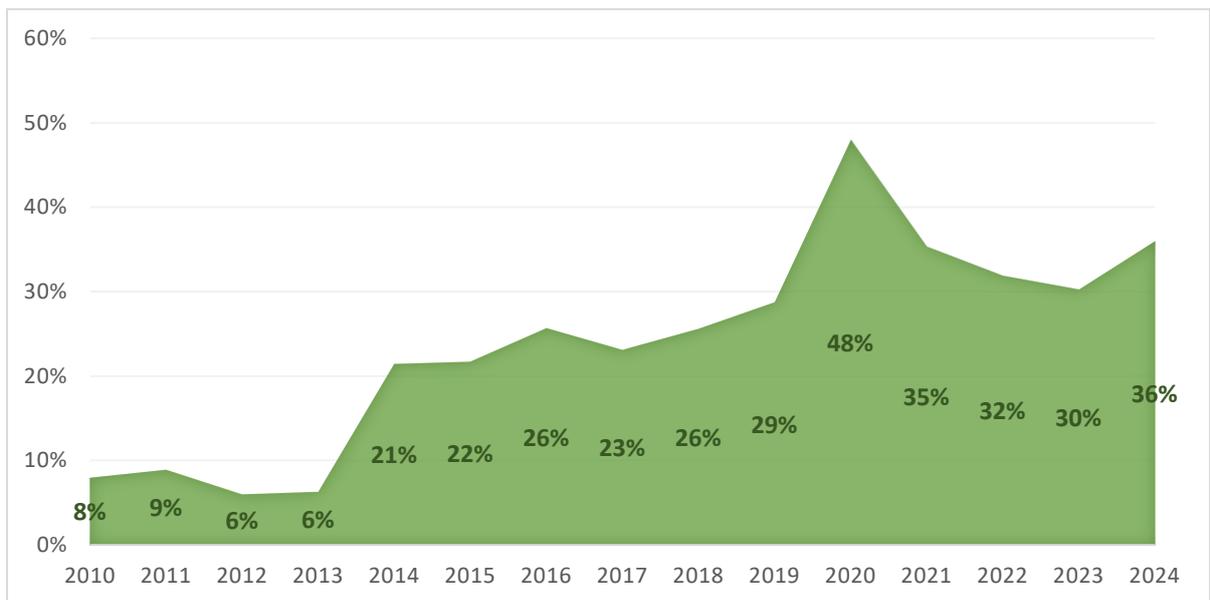
The changes in the French market can be spotted in the progressions of the intercepted quantities of cannabis resin and herbal cannabis throughout the national territory. While, in the 2000s, the average number of the annual cannabis resin and herbal cannabis seizures reached 65.6 and nearly 4 tonnes respectively, in the 2010s, the average was 60.5 tonnes for cannabis resin and 18.4 tonnes for herbal cannabis. In 2024 101 tonnes of cannabis were seized, including 64.7 tonnes of resin and 36.3 tonnes of herbal cannabis. These cannabis seizures represented a decrease of 19% compared to 2023 (Figure 1). The proportion of herbal cannabis in seizures saw a sharp increase at the beginning of the 2010s, rising from 6% in 2013 to 21% in 2014, then to 29% in 2019, reaching a peak of 48% in 2020. Since then, this trend has reversed slightly, but herbal cannabis remains a significant share of seizures, accounting for about a third of the total. In 2024, herbal cannabis made up 36% of total cannabis seizures (Figure 2). In 2024, the number of cannabis plants seized was 67 607, its lowest level since 2011 and a decrease of 40% compared to 2023, when 112 028 plants were seized. Regarding this total, 61% of the plants seized were seized in the French overseas territories.

Figure 1. Cannabis seizures (in kg) in France (2010-2024)



Source: OCRTIS/OFAST

Figure 2. Share of herbal cannabis in cannabis seizures (2010-2024)

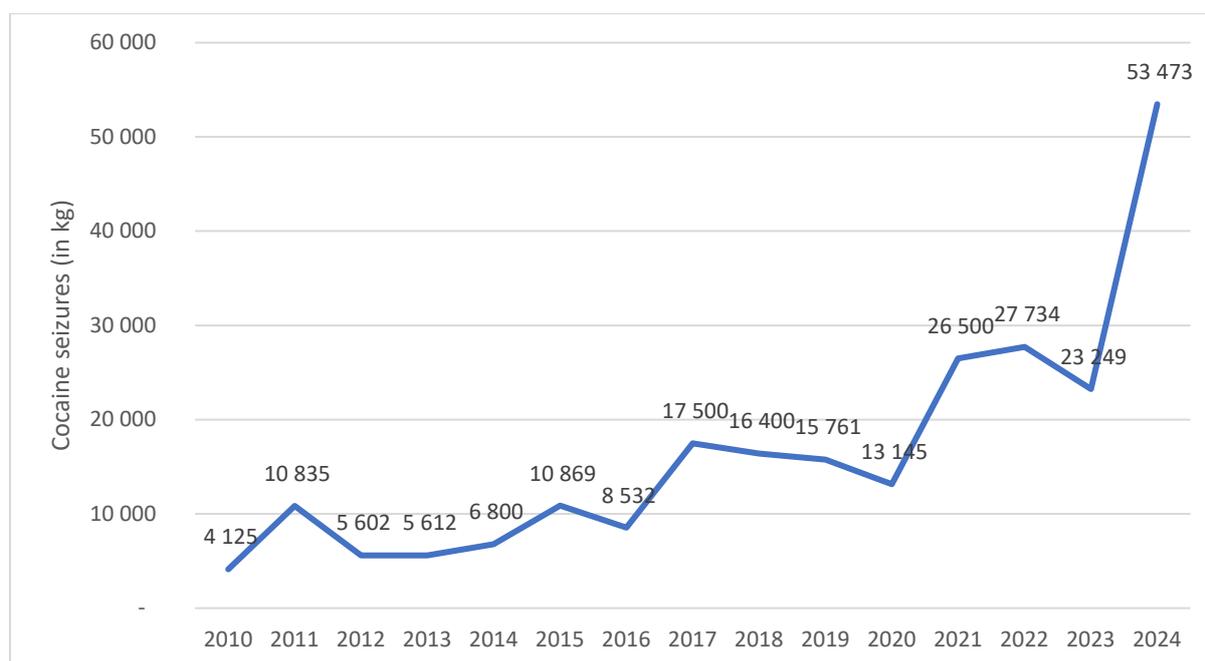


Cocaine

The cocaine market, driven by a steady increase in demand over the last twenty years and a more recent growth in supply, is very dynamic. In 2020 and 2021, the lockdown measures affected the functioning of the market, with the banning of party events, the suspension of airlines to French Guyana and the closure of the border with Belgium (making it more difficult for the trafficking networks to supply the Netherlands, where the main wholesale cocaine market in Western Europe is located and boosting postal freight traffic). But the effect of this containment was short-lived.

In 2024, cocaine seizures in France reached a record level, with 53 tonnes seized, more than double the 23 tonnes recorded in 2023 and marking an increase of over 130% in one year (Figure 3). This sharp rise is partly explained by France's strategic geographical position within the European Union. Located at the heart of Western Europe, France is a major transit zone linking the Netherlands and Spain, in particular. Its proximity to major production areas, notably in South America and the Antilles via the overseas territories, also contributes to this. However, according to OFAST, recent data from 2024-2025 shows that France no longer plays just a transit role. The country has become an important logistics platform for criminal groups, both domestic and foreign, serving as a place for storage, transit, and re-shipment to other countries in Europe and worldwide. This strategic shift is confirmed by several maritime trafficking cases where large consignments of cocaine were delivered to French ports such as Le Havre and Dunkerque, before being sent on to Northern Europe. Moreover, the intensified use of air transport to France is partly explained by the role of Paris airports as logistics hubs to supply other markets outside the national territory (OFAST in press).

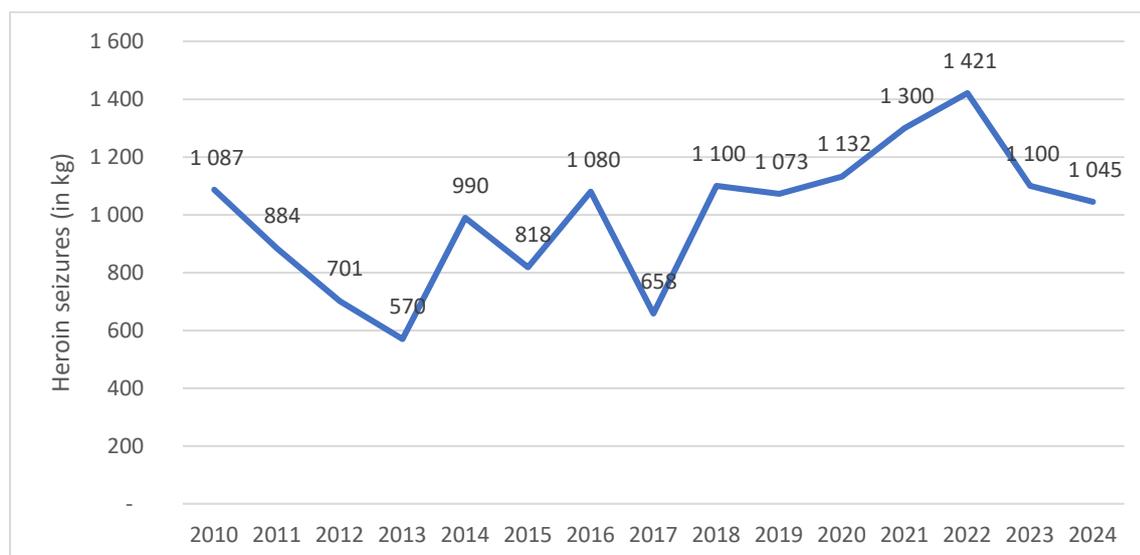
Figure 3. Cocaine seizures (in kg) in France (2010-2024)



Heroin

The heroin market, based on the proportion of annual users in the population aged 18-64, is much smaller than the cocaine market. However, it is one of the largest markets in Western Europe. Since 2018, the Lille metropolitan area experienced an increase in trafficking and is becoming a national centre for the wholesale resale of heroin for the French networks. Similar phenomena are also emerging in the main cities in the East of the country: Grenoble, Nancy, etc. After a steady increase in heroin seizures in France between 2018 and 2022, peaking at 1.4 tonnes in 2022, the quantities have decreased over the past two years, reaching 1.1 tonnes in 2023 and then 1 tonne in 2024. However, this decrease should be placed into perspective, as this is the seventh consecutive year in which seizures have exceeded the symbolic threshold of one tonne.

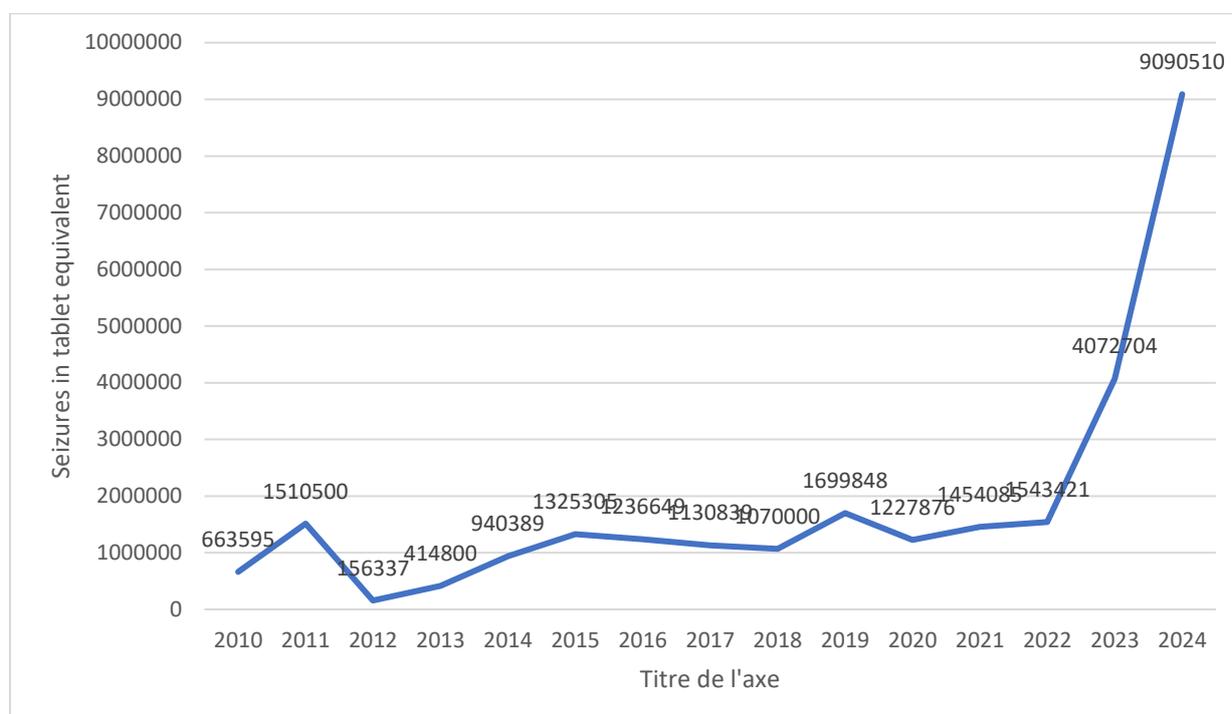
Figure 4. Heroin seizures (in kg) in France (2010-2024)



Synthetic drugs

In 2024, the synthetic drugs market in France was largely dominated by MDMA/ecstasy, with seizures reaching a record high of 9 090 510 tablets, an increase of 123% compared to the 4 072 704 tablets seized in 2023 (Figure 5). France thus confirms its role as a transit zone for MDMA, mainly destined for North Africa and the United Kingdom. 75% of the quantities seized in 2024 were intended for export. Two exceptional operations largely explain this annual record: a seizure of 2 168 000 tablets in May 2024 and another of 3 852 000 tablets in October 2024, both destined for North Africa.

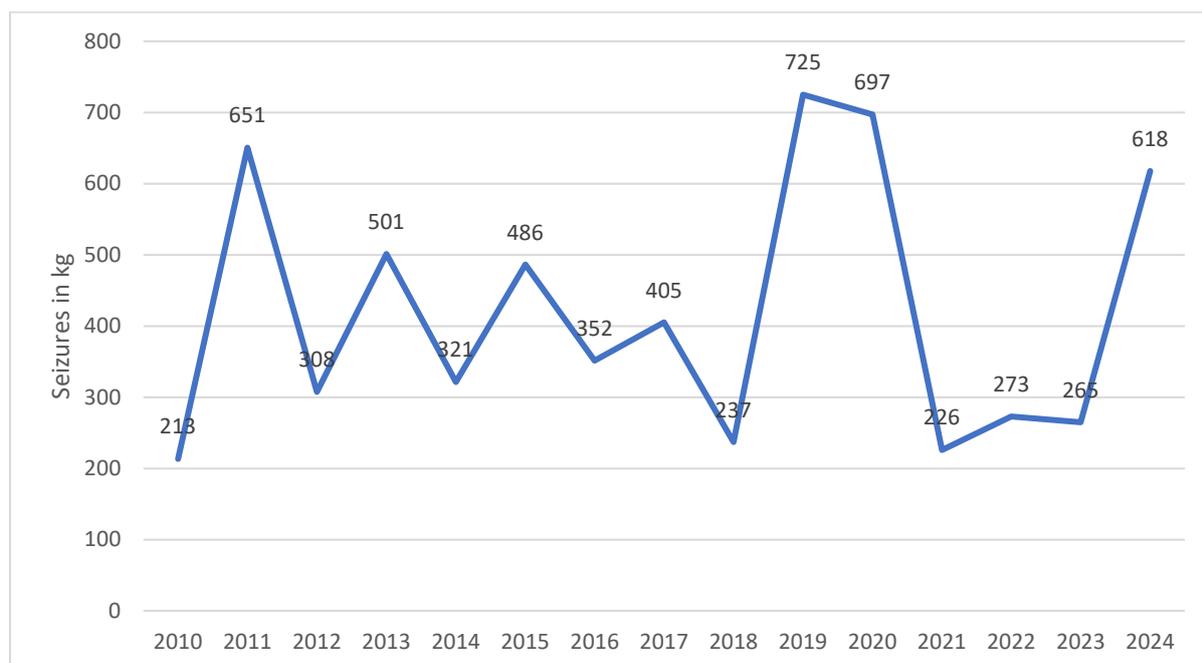
Figure 5. Ecstasy/MDMA tablet seizures in France (2010-2024)



In addition, supply has been organised through micro-networks of user-dealers who obtain their supplies in Belgium and the Netherlands, where most of the European production units are located. The high level of seizures of ecstasy tablets is a clear indication of the dynamism of this market, where strong demand is keeping the price per tablet high (unlike the “crystal” form, where the price per gram has been falling since 2010).

Seizures of methamphetamines and amphetamines in France have not shown a clear trend in recent years, with significant variations from one year to the next (Figure 6). However, 2024 stands out with a sharp rise to 618 kg seized, up from 265 kg in 2023, an increase of 133%. This one-off development should be interpreted with caution, in the absence of a regular trend over the medium term. Methamphetamine is very scarce on the mainland French market due to the lack of structured supply. It is distributed within tightly restricted social circles. In 2014 and 2015, however, this substance was identified in the Bordeaux (Aquitaine) region via the SINTES scheme. According to user claims, it originates from purchases on the deep web, where it sells for between 20 and 30 euros as capsules, and between 80 and 120 euros per gram. On the other hand, a methamphetamine market has been developing in French Polynesia for the last ten years (Simon and Valiergue 2022).

Figure 6. Amphetamine and methamphetamine seizures (in kg) in France (2010-2024)



T2.2. **Optional.** Please comment on the possible explanations of long term trends and short term trends in any other drug market data that you consider important.

T2.3. Please comment on the possible explanations of short- and/or long-term trends in the following drug law offences data:

- supply (if possible distinguish between trafficking, cultivation/production, wholesale, retail, and other supply offences)
- possession/use

Examples: changes in law enforcement practices, government priorities, patterns of drug use, sources of drugs.

T2.4. **Optional.** Please comment on the possible explanations of long term trends and short term trends in any other drug related crime data that you consider important.

T2.5. Please indicate notable trends or important developments in the organisation, coordination and implementation of drug supply reduction activities in your country over the past 5 years.

T3. New developments

The purpose of this section is to provide information on any notable or topical developments observed in drug market and crime **since your last report**.

T1 is used to establish the baseline of the topic in your country. Please focus on any new developments here. If information on recent notable developments have been included as part of the baseline information for your country, please make reference to that section here. It is not necessary to repeat the information.

T3.1. Please report on any notable new or topical developments observed in the drug market and crime in your country since your last report.

In 2020, the illicit drug market in France has been heavily impacted by the measures taken by the State and the European Union to contain the COVID-19 epidemic. The most visible impact occurred during the first lockdown from 17 March to 11 May 2020, during which seizures of the main drugs (resin, herbal cannabis, cocaine, heroin) fell sharply compared to March-April 2019 (OFAST 2020). It seems that, in 2024, the market faced a strong dynamic given the record seizures of cocaine and synthetic drugs carried out by the police, gendarmerie and customs across the national territory.

In 2024, France recorded 367 murders and attempted murders between criminals, almost all linked to drug trafficking according to OFAST. These acts of violence caused 110 deaths and 341 injuries. While this figure marks a 12% decrease compared to 2023 (418 cases), it remains higher than the levels of 2022 and 2021 and represents a 33% increase over four years. The phenomenon now extends across the entire country, affecting 173 municipalities, compared to 161 the previous year. Large cities such as Marseille, Grenoble or Toulouse remained the most affected, but violence is rising sharply in medium-sized towns and overseas territories. Among the perpetrators in prison, a quarter were under 20 years old. In addition to homicides, security services are seeing a diversification of violence linked to trafficking, with acts such as kidnappings, unlawful detentions or arson. These acts are often entrusted to individuals from outside the networks (OFAST in press).

T4. Additional information

The purpose of this section is to provide additional information important to drug market and crime in your country that has not been provided elsewhere.

T4.1. *Optional. Please describe any additional important sources of information, specific studies or data on drug market and crime. Where possible, please provide references and/or links.*

A recent OFDT report updated the data on the supply and illicit use of ketamine in France, drawing on two decades of observation. In terms of supply and trafficking, the report indicates that in the 2000s, ketamine circulated in a loosely organised and small-scale manner, via dealers who were often users themselves and were mainly active in alternative party scenes. Supply was difficult at the time, and often exceeded by demand. From the 2010s onwards, availability of the substance gradually increased, notably thanks to its appearance on encrypted messaging services and social networks. Dealers targeted a clientele from techno parties, and since 2020, a marginal supply has also developed in certain working-class neighbourhoods. The form of ketamine has also evolved, shifting from liquid to directly consumable powder. The market is becoming more structured, with the emergence of differentiated varieties according to origin or appearance, and even labels supposedly guaranteeing quality. Finally, the marked drop in price, from €50 per gram at the start of the 2010s to around €20 at the end of 2024, confirms the increase in its availability (Gérome 2025).

T4.2. *Optional. Please describe any other important aspect of drug market and crime that has not been covered in the specific questions above. This may be additional information or new areas of specific importance for your country.*

T5. Sources and methodology

The purpose of this section is to collect sources and bibliography for the information provided above, including brief descriptions of studies and their methodology where appropriate.

T5.1. Please list notable sources for the information provided above.

- AGRASC (2024). Rapport d'activité 2023. Agence de gestion et de recouvrement des avoirs saisis et confisqués, Paris. Available: <https://agrasc.gouv.fr/rapport-dactivite-2023> [accessed 21/07/2025].
- Ascensi, L. (2023). Droit et pratique des saisies et confiscations pénales 2024-2025. Dalloz, Paris.
- Bailly, F. and Zieleskiewicz, A. (2024). Substances psychoactives, usagers et marchés. Tendances récentes à Metz et en Grand-Est en 2023. OFDT, Paris. Available: <https://www.ofdt.fr/publication/2024/substances-psychoactives-usagers-et-marches-tendances-recentes-metz-et-en-grand> [accessed 21/07/2025].
- Balduc, B. and Gandilhon, M. (2020). La Géorgie et les drogues illicites : trafics, usages et politiques publiques ; Georgia and illicit drugs: trafficking, use and public policies. Drogues, enjeux internationaux ; Drugs, International Challenges. OFDT (13). Available: <https://www.ofdt.fr/publication/2020/la-georgie-et-les-drogues-illicites-trafics-usages-et-politiques-publiques-634> [accessed 21/07/2025].
- Ben Lakhdar, C. and Massin, S. (in press). Estimation en volume et en valeur des marchés des drogues illicites en France en 2023.
- Cadet-Taïrou, A., Gandilhon, M., Gérome, C., Martinez, M., Milhet, M., Detrez, V. *et al.* (2020). 1999-2019 : Les mutations des usages et de l'offre de drogues en France vues au travers du dispositif TREND de l'OFDT. OFDT, Paris. Available: <https://www.ofdt.fr/BDD/publications/docs/epfxac2a9.pdf> [accessed 21/07/2025].
- Cherki, S. (2024). Le Point SINTES n° 10. OFDT, Paris. Available: <https://www.ofdt.fr/publication/2024/point-sintes-ndeg-10-2451> [accessed 25/06/2025].
- COMCYBER-MI (2025a). COMCYBER-MI/Division connaissance, anticipation et gestion de crise/CECyber/BAAO. Note d'analyse stratégique Blanchiment du trafic de stupéfiants par cryptoactifs, 14/05/2025.
- COMCYBER-MI (2025b). COMCYBER-MI/Division Connaissance, anticipation et gestion de crise/CECyber. Note d'analyse stratégique sur les points de vente de stupéfiants du darkweb, 22/04/2025.
- DGDDI (2023). Stupéfiants : Bilan des saisies douanières 2022. Ministère de l'Intérieur ; Ministère de la Justice, Paris.
- DGDDI (2024). Bilan annuel de la douane 2023. Direction générale des douanes et droits indirects, Montreuil. Available: <https://www.douane.gouv.fr/actualites/la-douane-francaise-presente-ses-resultats-pour-lannee-2023> [accessed 21/07/2025].
- DGDDI (2025). Bilan annuel de la douane 2024. Direction générale des douanes et droits indirects, Montreuil. Available: <https://www.douane.gouv.fr/actualites/amelie-de-montchalin-presente-les-resultats-de-la-douane-francaise-pour-lannee-2024> [accessed 21/07/2025].
- Duport, C. (2025). Substances psychoactives, usagers et marchés. Tendances récentes à Marseille et en Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur en 2024. OFDT, Paris.
- Durain, J. and Blanc, E. (2024). Un nécessaire sursaut : sortir du piège du narcotraffic. Rapport fait au nom de la commission d'enquête sur l'impact du narcotraffic en France et les mesures à prendre pour y remédier. Sénat, Paris. Available: <https://www.senat.fr/salle-de-presse/dernieres-conferences-de-presse/page-de-detail-1/narcotraffic-en-france-3036.html> [accessed 21/07/2025].
- Dutilleul, B. (2025). Substances psychoactives, usagers et marchés. Tendances récentes à Lille et dans les Hauts-de-France en 2024. OFDT, Paris.

- EMCDDA and Europol (2019). EU Drug markets report 2019. EMCDDA, Lisbon. Available: https://www.euda.europa.eu/2019/drug-markets_en [accessed 21/07/2025].
- Gandilhon, M., Spilka, S. and Masson, C. (2019). Les mutations du marché du cannabis en France. Produits, approvisionnements, nouvelles pratiques. OFDT, Paris. Available: <https://www.ofdt.fr/BDD/publications/docs/epfxmgz7.pdf> [accessed 21/07/2025].
- Gérome, C. and Gandilhon, M. (2020). Evolution des usages et de l'offre de drogues au temps du COVID-19 : observations croisées du dispositif TREND [Drug use, drug supply and professional practices in France at the time of COVID-19: qualitative cross-observations of the TREND scheme]. Bulletin TREND COVID-19. OFDT (2). Available: <https://www.ofdt.fr/BDD/publications/docs/Bulletin-TREND-COVID-2.pdf> [accessed 21/07/2025].
- Gérome, C. (2023). Substances psychoactives, usagers et marchés : tendances en 2022. Tendances. OFDT (160). Available: <https://www.ofdt.fr/BDD/publications/docs/eftxcg2dc.pdf> [accessed 21/07/2025].
- Gérome, C. (2025). Kétamine : tendances récentes en matière d'offre et de consommation. OFDT, Paris. Available: <https://www.ofdt.fr/publication/2025/ketamine-tendances-recentes-en-matiere-d-offre-et-de-consommation-2535> [accessed 21/07/2025].
- Hours, F. (2024). Saint-Martin : 1,8 tonne de cocaïne saisie par la gendarmerie. Gendinfo (Gendarmerie nationale), 03/05/2024. Available: <https://www.gendarmerie.interieur.gouv.fr/gendinfo/criminalite-organisee-et-enquetes/2024/saint-martin-1-8-tonne-de-cocaine-saisie-par-la-gendarmerie> [accessed 21/07/2025].
- Hours, F. (2025). Trafic maritime de cocaïne : plus de 2 tonnes saisies par la Section de recherches (S.R) de Rouen au port du Havre. Gendinfo (Gendarmerie nationale), 04/01/2025. Available: <https://www.gendarmerie.interieur.gouv.fr/gendinfo/criminalite-organisee-et-enquetes/2025/trafic-maritime-de-cocaine-plus-de-2-tonnes-saisies-par-la-section-de-recherches-s.r-de-rouen-au-port-du-havre> [accessed 21/07/2025].
- Juszczak, E., Lovera, M. and Pfau, G. (2024). Substances psychoactives, usagers et marchés. Tendances récentes à Paris et en Île-de-France en 2023. OFDT, Paris. Available: https://www.ofdt.fr/sites/ofdt/files/2024-07/rapport-trend_paris_idf-2023.pdf [accessed 21/07/2025].
- Lovera, M., Klingelschmidt, J. and Pfau, G. (2025). Substances psychoactives, usagers et marchés. Tendances récentes à Paris et en Île-de-France en 2024. OFDT, Paris.
- MILDECA (2023a). Stratégie interministérielle de mobilisation contre les conduites addictives 2023-2027 [Interministerial strategy for mobilisation against addictive behaviours 2023-2027]. Mission interministérielle de lutte contre les drogues et les conduites addictives, Paris. Available: <https://www.drogues.gouv.fr/le-gouvernement-publie-la-strategie-interministerielle-de-mobilisation-contre-les-conduites> [accessed 21/05/2025].
- MILDECA (2023b). Fonds de concours « Drogues » : un cercle vertueux pour lutter contre le trafic de drogues. Communiqué du 26/06/2023 [online]. Available: <https://www.drogues.gouv.fr/fonds-de-concours-drogues-un-cercle-vertueux-pour-lutter-contre-le-traffic-de-drogues> [accessed 21/07/2025].
- MILDECA (2024). Lancement par l'Union européenne du dispositif « Alliance portuaire européenne », pour mieux combattre le trafic de drogues et la criminalité organisée [online]. Available: <https://www.drogues.gouv.fr/lancement-par-lunion-europeenne-du-dispositif-alliance-portuaire-europeenne-pour-mieux-combattre-le> [accessed 21/07/2025].
- Ministère de la Justice, Ministère de l'Action et des Comptes publics and Ministère de l'Intérieur (2019). Plan national de lutte contre les stupéfiants. Dossier de presse du mardi 17 septembre 2019. Available: <https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/Actualites/L-actu-du-Ministere/Plan-national-de-lutte-contre-les-stupefiants> [accessed 22/05/2025].
- Obradovic, I. (2016). Cannabis : état des lieux des législations européennes sur l'usage [A general overview of the European legal approaches to cannabis use]. *Psychotropes* 22 (2) 61-79.

- Obradovic, I. (2020). Drogues et addictions dans les Outre-mer. État des lieux et problématiques. OFDT, Paris. Available: <https://www.ofdt.fr/BDD/publications/docs/epfxio2a6.pdf> [accessed 21/07/2025].
- OCRTIS (2019). Prix et disponibilité des stupéfiants en France : tendances 2018. Note DEASRI. (04/2019 du 9 avril 2019).
- OFAS (2020). L'impact du Covid-19 sur les trafics de stupéfiants. Note n° 2020-01. Pôle stratégie du 15 juin 2020. Office anti-stupéfiants, Nanterre.
- OFAS (2022). Saisies de cocaïne en France en 2021. Office anti-stupéfiants, Nanterre.
- OFAS (2023a). Intensification du trafic d'ecstasy/ MDMA en France. Note du 18 décembre 2023 [unpublished]. Office anti-stupéfiants, Nanterre.
- OFAS (2023b). État de la menace liée aux trafics de stupéfiants 2023. Office anti-stupéfiants, Nanterre.
- OFAS (2025a). Prix moyen des stupéfiants en France en 2024. Note d'information du 7 mars 2025. Office anti-stupéfiants, Nanterre.
- OFAS (2025b). Bilan des saisies de stupéfiants en France en 2024. Office anti-stupéfiants, Nanterre.
- OFAS (in press). État de la menace 2025. Office anti-stupéfiants, Nanterre.
- OFDT (2023). La cocaïne : un marché en essor. Évolutions et tendances en France (2000-2022). OFDT, Paris. Available: <https://www.ofdt.fr/BDD/publications/docs/epfxco2d3.pdf> [accessed 21/07/2025].
- Police nationale (2024). L'unité d'investigation nationale et les opérations « place nette », deux dispositifs pour renforcer la sécurité du quotidien [online]. Available: <https://www.police-nationale.interieur.gouv.fr/actualite/lunite-dinvestigation-nationale-et-operations-place-nette-deux-dispositifs-pour-renforcer> [accessed 21/07/2025].
- Préfet des Côtes d'Armor (2024). Bilan de l'opération « Place nette » dans les Côtes-d'Armor [online]. Available: <https://www.cotes-darmor.gouv.fr/Actions-de-l-Etat/Securite-et-protection-de-la-population/Bilan-de-l-operation-Place-nette-dans-les-Cotes-d-Armor> [accessed 21/07/2025].
- Premier ministre (2022). Comité interministériel de lutte contre les stupéfiants. Dossier de presse du 02/03/2022. Available: <https://www.info.gouv.fr/dossier-de-presse/12725-dossier-de-presse-comite-interministeriel-contre-les-stupefiants> [accessed 21/07/2025].
- Région de Gendarmerie de Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (RPACA) (2025). Var : un réseau international de fabrication de drogues de synthèse démantelé [online]. Available: <https://www.gendarmerie.interieur.gouv.fr/a-l-international/var-un-reseau-international-de-fabrication-de-drogues-de-synthese-demantele> [accessed 21/07/2025].
- Simon, A. and Valiergue, A. (2022). La méthamphétamine en Polynésie française. Du problème social au problème public ; Methamphetamine in French Polynesia. From a social problem to a public problem. Drogues, enjeux internationaux ; Drugs, International Challenges. OFDT (15). Available: <https://www.ofdt.fr/publication/2022/la-methamphetamine-en-polynesie-francaise-du-probleme-social-au-probleme-public> [accessed 21/07/2025].
- SSMSI (2025a). Établissement de séries longues sur les infractions de trafic et d'usage de stupéfiants enregistrées par les services de sécurité depuis 1972. Interstats Méthode. Service statistique ministériel de la sécurité intérieure (SSMSI) (28). Available: <https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/Interstats/Actualites/Interstats-Methode-n-28-Etablissement-de-series-longues-sur-les-infractions-de-traffic-et-d-usage-de-stupefiants-enregistrees-par-les-services-de-securite-depuis-1972> [accessed 21/07/2025].
- SSMSI (2025b). Trafic ou usage de stupéfiants : davantage de mis en cause dans les communes touristiques, frontalières ou avec de plus faibles niveaux de vie. Interstats Analyse. Service statistique ministériel de la sécurité intérieure (SSMSI) (75). Available: <https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/Interstats/Actualites/Interstats-Analyse-n-75-Trafic-ou-usage->

[de-stupefiants-davantage-de-mis-en-cause-dans-les-communes-touristiques-frontalieres-ou-avec-de-plus-faibles-niveaux-de-vie](#) [accessed 21/07/2025].

Tissot, N. (2024). Substances psychoactives, usagers et marchés. Tendances récentes à Lyon et en Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes en 2023. OFDT, Paris. Available: <https://www.ofdt.fr/sites/ofdt/files/2024-07/rapport-trend-lyon-2023.pdf> [accessed 21/07/2025].

Tissot, N. (2025). Substances psychoactives, usagers et marchés. Tendances récentes à Lyon et en Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes en 2024. OFDT, Paris.

UNODC (2022). World drug report 2022. United Nations, New York. Available: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/world-drug-report-2022.html> [accessed 21/07/2025].

Vie publique (2025). Loi du 13 juin 2025 visant à sortir la France du piège du narcotrafic [online]. Available: <https://www.vie-publique.fr/loi/297230-loi-du-13-juin-2025-visant-sortir-la-france-du-piege-du-narcotrafic> [accessed 21/07/2025].

T5.2. Where studies or surveys have been used please list them and where appropriate describe the methodology?

Methodology

Data on prices

Two resources make it possible to collect unit sale prices of illegal substances:

- A periodic OFAST survey based on data collected at 69 sites throughout metropolitan France records the median semi-wholesale and retail prices of certain illegal substances (heroin, cocaine, cannabis and ecstasy);
- The TREND scheme, on the basis of interviews and observations with drug users, workers in harm reduction facilities (CAARUD) and workers in techno party settings of each site of the scheme. For each substance under consideration (illicit or diverted), the current retail price as well as the lowest and highest price observed are reported.

STUPS® national database

French National Forensic Science Institute (INPS)

Created in 1986, the French National Register of Drug Seizures (FNDS) initially focused on heroin analyses; from 1990, cocaine samples were also studied, before being extended to all drugs, as part of the STUPS® (harmonised narcotics processing system) database, initiated in 1999.

Five national forensic science institutes (Lille, Paris, Lyon, Marseille, Toulouse) and the Forensic Sciences Institute of the French *Gendarmerie* (IRCGN) add their analyses to this database, accompanied by photos, logos, etc. in order to identify the substances in circulation.

National Criminal Record [Casier judiciaire national]

Ministry of Justice, Sub-Directorate for Statistics and Studies (SDSE)

Data from the National Criminal Record makes it possible to describe the punishable offences, the court order procedures, the diversity of responses provided by the courts (convictions imposed, but also alternatives to prosecution, fixed penalty notices, dismissal, etc.), the nature and quantum of sentences and the socio-demographic profile of people who have been convicted since 1984 (when the record was automated). The Criminal Record is based on a detailed classification, grouping around thirty offences into seven classes that are different from the police categories (regarding drug law offences (DLO)): use, possessing-procuring, trafficking, transport, supply and sale, helping others use and other DLO. Since 2017, the system for using the National Criminal Record and recording data has been undergoing a revision in order to improve the quality of conviction statistics. This revision concerns the determination of the main offence (a convicted person may be convicted of more than one offence), which is what the statistics are based on. The Ministry of Justice has been providing their data revised since 1995 on this new basis.

SINTES: National Detection System of Drugs and Toxic Substances

French Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (OFDT)

The SINTES scheme is based on collecting samples of illegal and legal substances directly from drug users. The products collected are forwarded to one of the 8 forensic laboratories working in partnership with OFDT, to determine their composition. At the same time, drug users are asked to complete a questionnaire on the context of use for the substance and its purchase price. This makes it possible to directly correlate the price and purity of a given substance.

The SINTES scheme has three sections:

- The observation section provides an annual overview of the composition of a particular illegal substance. The SINTES observation scheme relies primarily on the French TREND network.
- The monitoring section comes under the health alert system. It is based on the TREND network sites as well as sites outside of this network that have signed agreements. The contributions made in this section are limited exclusively to the identification of newly circulating molecules and up-to-date information on the composition of certain substances at a given moment and in a given location.
- Since 2010, SINTES has been exploiting the Internet to monitor for new psychoactive substances (NPS) and document them.

TREND scheme: Emerging Trends and New Drugs

French Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (OFDT)

The aim of the TREND scheme, which was established in 1999, is to provide information about illegal drug use and users, and on emerging phenomena. Emerging phenomena refer either to new phenomena or to existing phenomena that have not yet been detected by other observation systems.

The system is based on data analysed by eight local coordinating sites in mainland France (Bordeaux, Lille, Lyon, Marseille, Metz, Paris, Rennes and Toulouse) that produce site reports, which are then extrapolated to a national level:

- continuous qualitative data collection in urban settings and the party scene, by the local coordination network, which has a common data collection and information strategy;
- the SINTES scheme, an observation system geared towards detecting and analysing the toxicological composition of illegal substances;
- recurring quantitative surveys, particularly among harm reduction facilities CAARUD clients (the ENa-CAARUD survey);
- partner information system results;
- thematic quantitative and qualitative investigations that aim to gather more information about a particular subject.