



## Summary

Since 1988, CAN has been collecting information on the street price development for various types of narcotics. ‘Street price’ refers to the price when purchasing small quantities at the consumer level. Since 2010, the prices for trading larger quantities, i.e., wholesale prices, are also collected. Data collection is performed twice annually through a web survey targeted at rapporteurs in Sweden’s 27 police districts.

In recent years, a number of events have occurred that could result in increased prices on narcotics. Examples include the pandemic and the associated restrictions on travel and transportation, intercepted communication among criminals, general cost increases resulting from a higher rate of inflation, and a weakened exchange rate for the Swedish krona. Additionally, seizures of narcotics have been substantial, while conflict levels among criminal networks have been exceptional.

If the prices in 2023 is compared with those in the less affected year 2019, it is hard to see any larger changes in pricing. Thus, the market for narcotics appears to be relatively resilient in relation to the events that have occurred. Notably, many kinds of narcotics are now historically inexpensive. For instance, amphetamine cost SEK 200 per gram in 2023, which is a quarter of the price 35 years ago if real prices are compared (the nominal prices have been halved). Heroin has seen a similar price decrease. Hashish and cocaine also show decreased prices, albeit smaller ones. For these kinds of narcotics, the current Swedish prices are the lowest ever measured, especially if the quality (purity) is also taken into consideration.

Geographical differences in street prices for narcotics can be observed in Sweden. Narcotics are generally cheaper in metropolitan regions than in non-metropolitan regions. The prices are also lower in southern parts of Sweden, especially compared with northern regions. During the 2000s, the geographic differences have decreased somewhat, primarily through decreases where prices have previously been high. This is the case in particular for amphetamine, but also for heroin and ecstasy/MDMA. One possible explanation for the tendency towards smaller price differences is that the availability of narcotics has increased to some extent throughout the country in the 2000s.

Since 2017, questions about street prices for smuggled cigarettes and alcoholic beverages have also been included. Based on this information, the financial turnover for such smuggling has been calculated for the first time in this study. For 2022, smuggled alcohol was estimated to have had a turnover of SEK 0.7 billion, while the corresponding figure for smuggled cigarettes was 0.1 billion. This is roughly one percent of the turnover of the respective goods in retail. As a



comparison, the estimated turnover from narcotics in CAN's previous price report ranged between SEK 5 and 13 billion annually for the period 2018–2022.