

CARICC Information Bulletin № 258

Drug situation in CARICC Member States at the end of 2025¹

02 March 2026

In order to implement its mandate in a timely and effective manner, CARICC continuously monitors developments in drug situation and prepares forecasts of trends for the near future.

Some statistical data on results of countering drug trafficking in CARICC member states in 2025 compared to 2024 are provided for information to competent authorities of CARICC member states and partners².

I. General trends.

Analysis of statistical data for 2025 in CARICC member states shows the following trends in drug crime:

1. There has been an **increase of 8.4%** or **18,845 cases** in the total number of registered drug crimes and an **increase of 7.9%** or **16,047 cases** related to the sale of various types of narcotic drugs.

2. The number of drug crimes committed by organized criminal groups **increased to 21,306** (11,899 in 2024), which is **79.1%** more than in the same period of the previous year, or **9,407 crimes**.

This trend indicates a number of significant negative changes in drug environment.

Firstly, growth in the number of crimes committed by organized groups indicates a rise in their activity and expansion of their influence in illicit drug trafficking.

This process may be due to improvements in logistics chains, use of modern means of communication and digital technologies and introduction of more conspiratorial schemes for transportation, storage and distribution of narcotic drugs.

Secondly, drug crime remains distinctly transnational in nature.

Organized criminal groups operate within developing, stable transnational networks, which calls for a strong focus on further strengthening cooperation between competent authorities of CARICC participating countries and partners.

Meanwhile, priority is given to timely exchange of up-to-date intelligence and analytical information on activities of organized groups and new methods of criminal schemes, along with conducting coordinated international operations aimed at their timely detection and neutralization.

¹ Produced on the basis of submitted reports from competent authorities of CARICC Member States.

² Ministry of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan did not provide data for 2024-2025.

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Thirdly, amid rapid advances in structures and schemes of organized groups, regular systematic monitoring of drug trends and criminal methods is becoming particularly important, as it will enable early detection of new trends, adjust law enforcement priorities, and adapt strategic and operational measures to combat drug trafficking in line with evolving conditions.

3. Total amount of psychotropic substances seized in CARICC member states **increased** by **55.1%** or **1 ton 217 kg** compared to the previous year.

This increase may indicate that law enforcement agencies are getting better at fighting drug crime.

In particular, the positive trend may be due to improved operational and investigative activities, expanded interagency and international cooperation, staff training, and introduction of modern analytical tools and technical means for detecting and documenting crime.

At the same time, increased seizures do not rule out another trend related to the growth in production and distribution of psychotropic substances, including through transnational supply channels and digital sales platforms. This factor requires additional comprehensive analysis aimed at establishing root causes of the increase in the indicator, assessing the structure of seized substances, and identifying new routes and methods of distribution.

In this regard, it seems appropriate to strengthen analytical component of threat assessment and ensure timely adjustment of preventive and operational measures in order to take preventive measures to prevent further distribution of psychotropic substances in the territory of CARICC member states.

4. Seized precursor amounts **increased** by **4%** or **2 tons 516 kg**, which may indicate an increase in drug production in the region, making it crucial to step up information sharing among CARICC member states to identify and tackle precursor supply channels in a timely and effective manner.

5. An alarming sign is a **3.8% increase**, or **12 cases**, in the number of clandestine laboratories producing synthetic and other drugs, indicating an increase in production of synthetic drugs in the region due to growing demand.

II. Registered drug crimes and arrested persons.

1. In 2025 competent authorities of CARICC member states registered **244,038** drug crimes (225,193 in 2024), an **increase of 8.4% or 18,845 crimes** compared to the same period last year.

There has been an **increase** in drug crimes in the Republic of Kazakhstan by **0.5%**, the Russian Federation by **8.4%**, the Republic of Tajikistan by **19.5%**, and the Republic of Uzbekistan by **25.5%**. In contrast, the Republic of Azerbaijan recorded a **downward trend with a decrease of 12.3%**, and the Kyrgyz Republic saw a **decline** in drug crimes of **8.5%**.

Recorded drug crimes in comparison in 2024-2025

Azerbaijan		Kazakhstan		Kyrgyzstan		Russia		Tajikistan		Uzbekistan	
2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
8863	7769	3940	3959	1230	1125	198 043	214 770	839	1003	12278	15412
-12,3%		0,5%		-8,5%		8,4%		19,5%		25,5%	

2. An increase in the proportion of drug crimes in CARICC member states out of the total number of registered criminal offenses is reported in Kazakhstan (6.2%), the Russian Federation (16.3%), Tajikistan (5.3%), and Uzbekistan (6.5%), with the exception of the Republic of Azerbaijan (-9.0%) and the Kyrgyz Republic (-3.0%).

Despite the fact that in 2025 total number of crimes registered under the article “Smuggling” **decreased by 1.9% or by 30 crimes** (1,534 cases in 2025 and 1,564 in 2024), there is a trend toward

an **increase** in these crimes among CARICC member states, with the exception of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which saw a decline of **35.4%**.

In particular, there was an increase in registration of crimes related to smuggling in Azerbaijan by **14.1%**, Kyrgyzstan by **61.5%**, Russia by **0.7%**, Tajikistan by **10.2%**, and Uzbekistan by **5.8%**.

Comparative table of registered drug crimes under the article “Smuggling” in 2024-2025

Azerbaijan		Kazakhstan		Kyrgyzstan		Russia		Tajikistan		Uzbekistan	
2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
177	202	277	179	13	21	610	614	59	65	428	453
14,1%		-35,4%		61,5%		0,7%		10,2%		5,8%	

3. The number of drug crimes committed by organized groups in 2025 amounted to **21,306** (11,899 in 2024), an **increase of 79.1% or 9,407 crimes** compared to the same period in 2024. This trend confirms continuing activity of organized crime and its growing influence in drug trade, including as a result of possible improvements in their positions in the areas of logistics, distribution networks, and covert criminal schemes.

Registered drug crimes committed by organized groups in 2024-2025

Azerbaijan		Kazakhstan		Kyrgyzstan		Russia		Tajikistan		Uzbekistan	
2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024 9 months	2025 9 months	2024	2025	2024	2025
0	1	17	32	12	15	11 852	21 244	12	6	6	8
		88,2%		25,0%		79,2%		-50,0%		33,3%	

4. In 2025 competent authorities of the CARICC member states detained **66,822 persons** (75,790 in 2024) for crimes related to illicit drug trafficking. Compared to the same period last year, the total number of arrests **decreased by 11.8% or 8,968 persons**.

There has been a **decline** in arrests in the Republic of Azerbaijan by **21.9%**, in the Kyrgyz Republic by **1.2%** and in the Russian Federation (data for 9 months) by **17%**.

With that, there's been an **8.5% increase** in arrests for drug crimes in Kazakhstan, **14.4%** in Tajikistan, and **17.8%** in Uzbekistan.

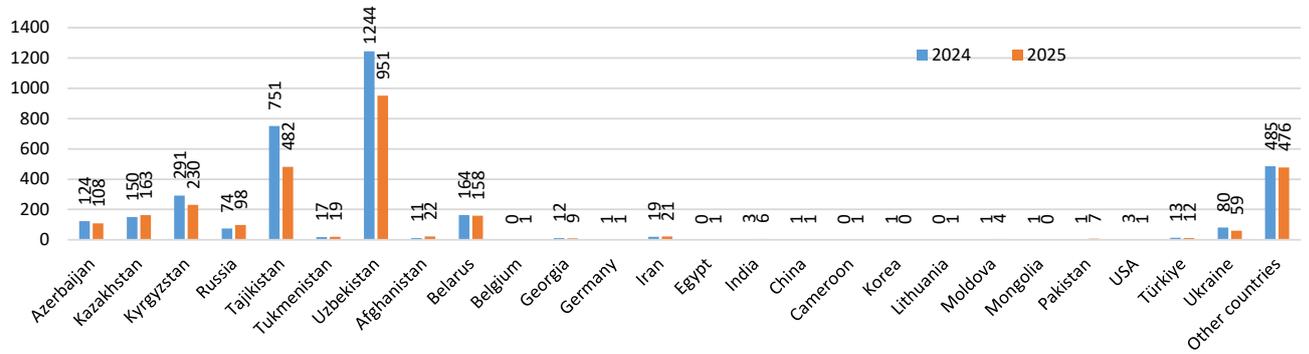
Number of persons arrested for drug crimes in 2024-2025

Azerbaijan		Kazakhstan		Kyrgyzstan		Russia		Tajikistan		Uzbekistan	
2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024 9 months	2025 9 months	2024	2025	2024	2025
7245	5657	2089	2267	961	949	55 143	45 788	972	1112	9380	11049
-21,9%		8,5%		-1,2%		-17%		14,4%		17,8%	

5. In CARICC member states, of the total number of persons detained in 2025 for drug crimes, **2,877** had “**foreign citizen**” status (3,508 in 2024), which is **18% or 631 persons less** than in the same period in 2024.

At the same time, foreigners accounted for **4.3%** of the total number of detainees (4.6% in 2024).

Proportion of arrested foreigners in 2024-2025



citizenship of arrested persons

When dividing detained foreign nationals by citizenship for 2025, the following figures were reported: citizens of Uzbekistan numbered **951**, Tajikistan – **482**, Kyrgyzstan – **230**, Kazakhstan – **163**, Belarus – **158**, Azerbaijan – **108**, Russia – **98**, Ukraine – **59**, Afghanistan – **22**, Iran – **21**, Turkmenistan – **19**, Türkiye – **12**, Georgia – **9**, Pakistan – **7**, India – **6**, Moldova – **4**, and **1** arrested citizen each from Belgium, Germany, China, Cameroon, Lithuania, and USA.

The highest number of detentions of foreign nationals is recorded in the Russian Federation – approximately **85%**.

Comparative table of arrested foreign citizens in 2024-2025

Citizenship	Country of detention											
	Azerbaijan		Kazakhstan		Kyrgyzstan		Russia		Tajikistan		Uzbekistan	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Total	47	55	357	272	17	33	2932 data for 9 m. of 2024	2353 data for 9 m. of 2025	14	22	141	142
Azerbaijan			4	5		1	119	102			1	
Kazakhstan		1			2	1	130	146	1	4	8	11
Kyrgyzstan			30	54			248	155	2		11	21
Russia	6	14	55	74	4	5					9	5
Tajikistan			70	29	1	3	646	417			34	33
Turkmenistan	1	1	1	5			15	13				
Uzbekistan			164	72	6	14	1069	857	5	8		
Afghanistan		1	1						6	9	4	12
Belarus							164 data for 1st half year	157 data for 1st half year				1
Belgium												1
Georgia	11	9	1									
Germany											1	1
Iran	16	18	3	2		1						
Egypt												1
India				3							3	3
China					1	-						1
Cameroon				1								
Korea											1	
Lithuania						1						
Moldova										1	1	3
Mongolia			1									
Pakistan				1	1	4						2
USA					1	1					2	
Türkiye	9	10	1								3	2
Ukraine	3	1	7	13			68 data for	45 data for			2	

							1st quarter	1st quarter						
Others	1	10	10	1	1		473	461						4

III. Seizure of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, and their precursors

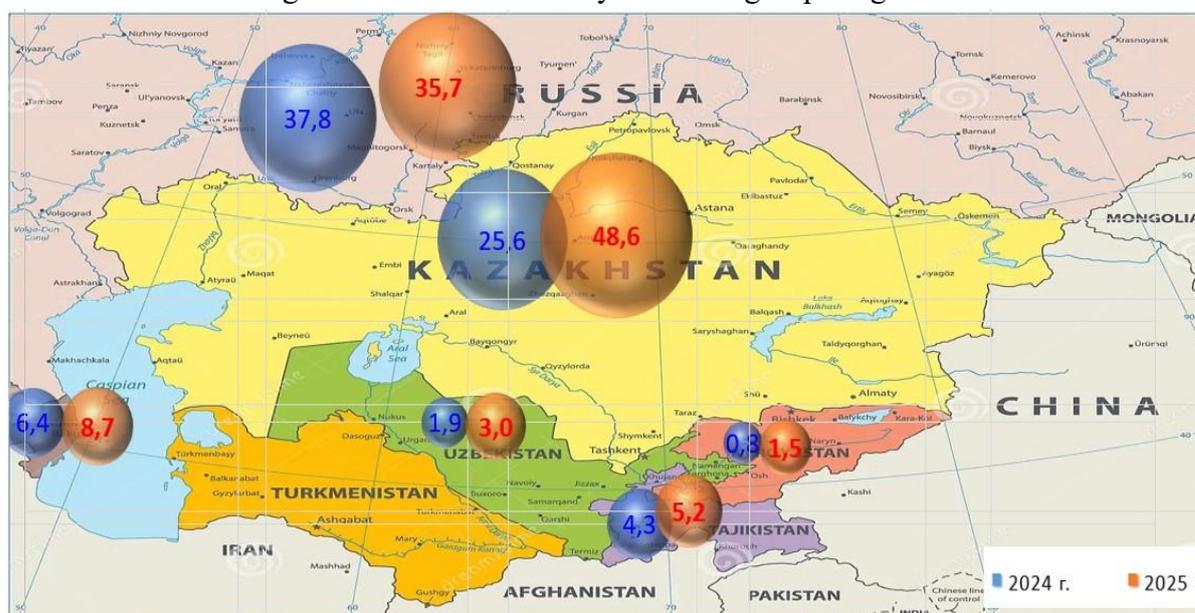
1. A total of **102 tons 980 kg** (77 tons 106 kg in 2024) of drugs were seized in CARICC member states in 2025, which is **33.6% or 25 tons 874 kg more** than in 2024.

Narcotic drugs seized in 2024-2025 (in tons)

Azerbaijan		Kazakhstan		Kyrgyzstan		Russia		Tajikistan		Uzbekistan	
2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
6,4	8,7	25,6	48,6	0,8	1,5	37,8	37,7	4,3	5,2	1,9	3,0
35,5%		89,4%		81,9%		-5,5%		20,5%		57,6%	

Of the total amount of drugs seized, **59.2 tons are cannabis-group drugs** (43.9 tons in 2024), **3.9 tons are opium-group drugs** (7.4 tons in 2024), and **3.4 tons are psychotropic substances** (2.2 tons in 2024).

Total amount of drugs seized is dominated by cannabis-group drugs.



Proportion of seized drugs of opium and cannabis groups in 2024-2025

Name	Azerbaijan		Kazakhstan		Kyrgyzstan		Russia		Tajikistan		Uzbekistan		Total	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Total seized n/d (t)	6.4	8.7	25.6	48.6	0.8	1.5	37.8	35.7	4.3	5.2	1.9	3.0	77.1	102.9
Share of opium group n/d (%)	11,5	10,5	6,7	0,6	1,9	1,2	10,9	1,4	5,9	23,0	27,9	30,5	9,6	3,8
Share of cannabis group n/d (%)	83,6	83,4	86,7	69,0	93,8	52,4	27,1	32,9	91,5	72,1	64,8	64,8	57,0	57,5

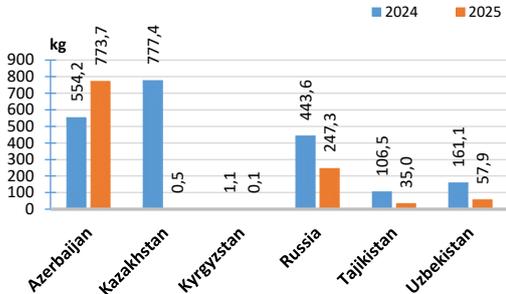
2. Compared to 2024, in 2025 CARICC member states recorded a **45.5% decrease in heroin seizures**, from **2 tons 43 kg to 1 ton 114 kg**.

Only the Republic of Azerbaijan has seen a **39.5% increase** in heroin seizures, from **554 kg to 773 kg**, while the other countries have registered a **decrease** ranging from **44.3% to 98%**.

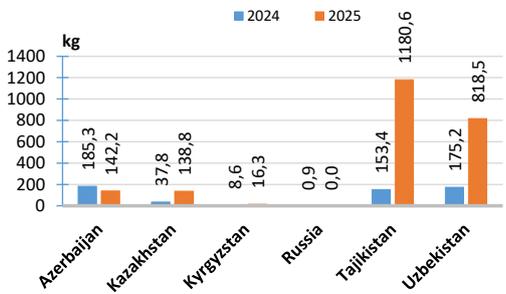
Meanwhile, there was a significant **increase** in the volume of seized **opium** by **309.3% from**

561 kg to 2 tons 296 kg. Specifically, the Republic of Kazakhstan reported an increase of **267.3%** from **37.8 kg to 138.8 kg**, the Kyrgyz Republic saw an increase of **89.9%** from **8.5 kg to 16.2 kg**, the Republic of Tajikistan – **669%** from **153.3 kg to 1 ton 180 kg**, and the Republic of Uzbekistan – **367%** from **175.2 kg to 818.5 kg**. Other countries recorded a **decline** in opium confiscations from **23.3% to 98%**.

Amount of heroin seized in 2024-2025



Amount of opium seized in 2024-2025

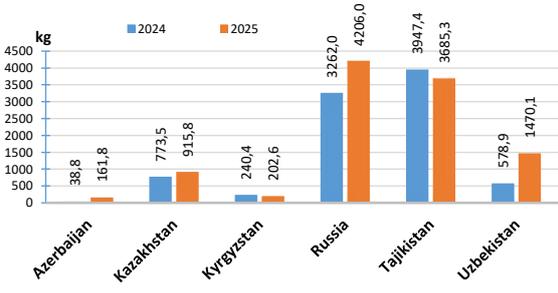


3. 10 tons 641 kg of hashish were seized in CARICC member states in 2025 (8 tons 840 kg in 2024), an **increase of 20.4% or 1 ton 800 kg** over the same period in 2024.

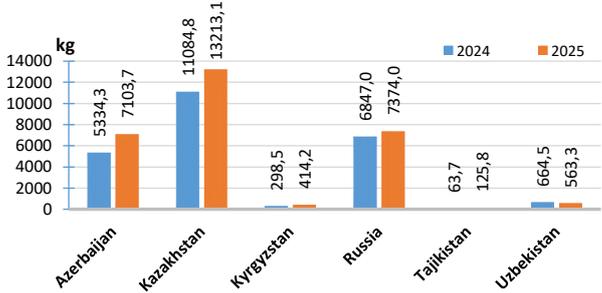
Hashish seizures **increased** by **317%** in the Republic of Azerbaijan, in the Republic of Kazakhstan by **18.4%**, in the Russian Federation by **28.9%**, and in the Republic of Uzbekistan by **154%**, while a **decline in dynamics** was recorded in the Kyrgyz Republic by **15.7%** and in the Republic of Tajikistan by **6.6%**.

4. During the reporting period 28 tons 794 kg of marijuana were seized in CARICC member states (24 tons 292 kg in 2024), which is **18.5% or 4 tons 501 kg** more than in 2024. Seizures of marijuana **increased** by **33.2%** in the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Kazakhstan – **19.2%**, the Kyrgyz Republic – **38.7%**, the Russian Federation – **7.7%** and the Republic of Tajikistan – **97.5%**, while a decrease was recorded in the Republic of Uzbekistan by **15.2%**.

Amount of hashish seized in 2024-2025



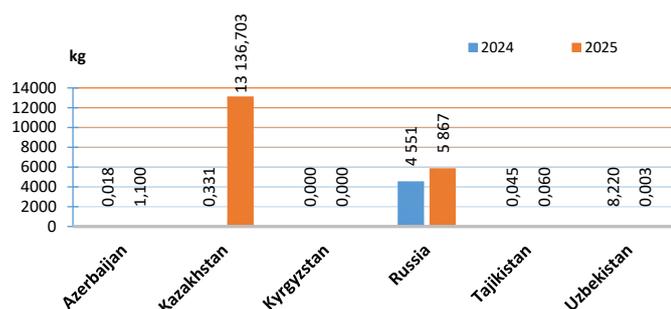
Amount of marijuana seized in 2024-2025



5. 19 tons 4 kg and 866 grams of cocaine were seized in 2025, which is **316.8% or 14 tons 445 kg and 252 grams** more than in 2024.

A significant portion of cocaine seizures – **99.9%** – were made in the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation. In recent years, there has been an increase in cocaine seizures in CARICC member states, which was not observed in previous years. These figures may indicate emergence of new transit routes and intensification of activities by transnational drug trafficking groups.

Amount of cocaine seized in 2024-2025



6. A total of **3 tons 423 kg of psychotropic substances** were seized in 2025, which is **55.1% or 1 ton 217 kg more** than in 2024. There was a **decline** in seizures in Azerbaijan (**25.2%**) and Uzbekistan (**88.3%**), while seizures increased in Kazakhstan (**2%**), Kyrgyzstan (**20.8 times or 1987%**), Russia (**78.4%**), and Tajikistan (**129.4%**). Moreover, **152,95 tablets** (8,104 in 2024) containing psychotropic substances were confiscated.

Seizures of psychotropic substances in 2024-2025

Name	Azerbaijan		Kazakhstan		Kyrgyzstan		Russia		Tajikistan		Uzbekistan	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
p/s (kg)	217,5	162,7	1446,3	1474,7	33,724	703,939	394,5	828,3	110,458	253,417	4,461	0,523
p/s (tab.)									2945	5120	5159	147831

7. Data presented in the table indicate that a significant amount of methamphetamine seizures will continue in 2025, as well as an increase in seizures of mephedrone and Alpha-PVP (A-PVP) in CARICC member states.

Seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants³ and cation class stimulants in 2024-2025

Name	Azerbaijan		Kazakhstan		Kyrgyzstan		Russia		Tajikistan		Uzbekistan	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024 9 months	2025 9 months	2024	2025	2024	2025
Amphetamine (kg)	-	-	0,019	0,596	-	-	115,5	661,2	-	-	0,113	0,007
Amphetamine (tab.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Methamphetamine (kg)	173,7	136,0	3,111	10,014	-	20,174	493,3	211,9	106,003	253,417	49,08	0,342
Mephedrone (kg)			951,704	992,858	5,617	608,907	4741,9	6319,4	0,018	1,457	73,92	60,60
Alpha PVP (A-PVP) (kg)			118,301	18,997	19,164	38,020	10034,9	5449,9	0,316	0,055	0,011	28,52
Other type			371,472	451,371								
MDMA (kg)	0,032	0,138	1,758	0,817	0,088	2,364	96,9	150,8	0,505	1,371	1,04	0,291
MDMA (tab.)	-	-			-	-			2945	5120	-	-
Other PS (kg)	0,09	-			8,855	34,474	13,0	14,4	3,616	2,917	9,341	4,467

Cases of detected clandestine laboratories manufacturing synthetic and other drugs in 2024-2025

Azerbaijan		Kazakhstan		Kyrgyzstan		Russia <i>internal affairs authorities</i>		Tajikistan		Uzbekistan	
2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025

³ A number of amphetamine group drugs are classified as narcotic drugs in the Russian Federation and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

						9 months	9 months				
-	-	99	128	10	17	206	173	-	-	5	14
		29,3%		70,0 %		-16,0%				180,0%	

8. Competent authorities of the CARICC member states (for Russia, data for 9 months of 2024-2025) detected **332** clandestine laboratories manufacturing synthetic and other new types of psychoactive substances in 2025, which is **3.8% or 12 cases more** than in 2024.

The highest number of cases was recorded in Kazakhstan – **128** (99 in 2024), Kyrgyzstan – **17** (10 in 2024), and Uzbekistan – **14** (5 in 2024).

Table of precursors seized in 2024-2025

Name	Azerbaijan		Kazakhstan		Kyrgyzstan		Russia		Tajikistan		Uzbekistan	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Precursors (kg)	0,0	0,1	864,913	15535,5	14271,2	3811,9	47783,0	46283,0	-	-	194,86	0,2
up/down (%)			-34,9%		-73,3%		16,0%		-		-99,9%	
Precursors (l)												

9. In addition, **65 tons 630 kg** of precursors were seized in 2025 (63 tons 114 kg in 2024), which is **4% or 2 tons 516 kg more** than in 2024.

Growth was observed in the Republic of Kazakhstan by **17.9 times or 1,696%**, while there was a decline in the Kyrgyz Republic by **73.3%**, in the Russian Federation by **3.1%**, and in the Republic of Uzbekistan by **99.9%**.

Types of precursors seized in 2024-2025

in 2024:

№	Name
1	sulfuric acid
2	hydrochloric acid
3	acetic anhydride
4	acetone
5	ephedra
6	ephedrine
7	potassium permanganate

in 2025:

№	Name
1	sulfuric acid
2	hydrochloric acid
3	acetic anhydride
4	2-bromo (4-methylphenyl) propan-1-one
5	4-methylpropylphenone (1-(4-methylphenyl)-1-propanone)
6	acetone
7	methylamine
8	ephedra
9	toluene
10	ethyl acetate
11	ammonia
12	sodium hydroxide
13	potassium permanganate

IV. Drug situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In 2025 Iranian law enforcement agencies seized **356 tons 596 kg of drugs** (428 tons 252 kg in 2024), including **8 tons 109 kg of heroin** (8 tons 222 kg in 2024), morphine – **4 tons 324 kg** (in 2024 – 4 tons 335 kg), opium – **136 tons 918 kg** (in 2024 – 261 tons 96 kg), hashish – **22 tons 374 kg** (in 2024 – 42 tons 898 kg) and methamphetamine – **40 tons 453 kg** (in 2024 – 38 tons 501 kg).

Percentage change in drug seizures in Iran varies from **428 tons 252 kg** in 2025 to **356 tons 596 kg** in 2024 (a decrease of **16.7%**), including by type of drug:

Heroin: from 8 tons 222 kg in 2025 to 8 tons 109 kg in 2024. **A decrease of 1.4%.**

Morphine: from 4 tons 335 kg to 4 tons 324 kg. **A decrease of 0.3%.**

Opium: from 261 tons 96 kg to 136 tons 918 kg. **A decrease of 47.6%.**

Hashish: from 42 tons 898 kg to 22 tons 374 kg. **A decrease of 47.8%.**

Methamphetamine: from 38 tons 501 kg to 40 tons 453 kg. **An increase of 5.1%.**

Significant decrease in seizures of opium and hashish by almost 48%, with relatively stable figures for heroin and morphine, as well as a 5.1% increase in methamphetamine seizures, indicates a structural transformation of flows rather than an overall decline in drug production in the region.

Opium and hashish are traditionally transported in large quantities by land. The decline in seizures in Iran, coupled with an increase in drug crime and seizures in CARICC member states, indicates a possible shift of some flows to alternative routes, diversification of logistics, and use of northern transit routes.

Increased seizures of methamphetamine confirm the shift in criminal networks toward synthetic drugs, which require different logistics (smaller shipments, more mobile delivery channels).

With seizures declining in Iran and drug crime increasing in CARICC member states, along with a rise in crimes committed by organized groups and an increase in the volume of psychotropic substance seizures, an objective indicator of redistribution of the burden on northern transit routes is emerging.

Financial flows generated by transit through Iran continue to provide a resource base for transnational criminal networks. Their adaptation to changing operational environment is accompanied by an expansion of geographical reach, which is reflected in crime situation in CARICC region.

This trend has not bypassed the **Trans-Caspian transport corridor**, given the eightfold increase in freight traffic on this route, increase in container traffic, and decline in seizures of traditional drugs in Iran. In this context, Trans-Caspian transit is becoming more attractive for concealing drugs in legal cargo flows.

Key risks include use of container transport to conceal small shipments of synthetic drugs, use of shipment fragmentation schemes, integration of drug shipments into legitimate logistics chains, and combination of drug trafficking routes with channels for illegal migration and movement of extremist elements.

Consequently, aggregate statistical indicators do not point to a reduction in drug threat, but rather to its transformation and redistribution, which reinforces the importance of risk-based control of transport corridors, inter-state exchange of intelligence, joint operations, and implementation of early warning mechanisms.

V. Key findings from analysis of drug situation in 2025

Reinforcement of organized nature of drug crime is confirmed by an **8.4%** increase in the total number of registered drug crimes and a **7.9%** increase in crimes related to drug trafficking, with a simultaneous **79.1% increase** in crimes committed by organized groups.

At the same time, financial stability of organized crime groups is indirectly confirmed by growth in the volume of large shipments, involvement of cross-border connections, and increase in the number of crimes requiring prior coordination (transportation, storage, distribution).

Against the backdrop of trends in drug situation, there has been a transformation in transit flows and routes. Total drug seizures **increased by 33.6%**, with **cocaine seizures rising by 316.8%**, mainly in Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation, which may indicate that the region has been incorporated into a broader interregional transit network that extends beyond the traditional Afghan route.

At the same time, decline in heroin and opium seizures in a number of countries, coupled with increased activity by organized groups, may indicate a redistribution of flows away from traditional routes, fragmentation of consignments and changes in logistics patterns, and use of alternative corridors, including the northern route and multimodal transport chains.

As already noted, growth in container transport and development of the Trans-Caspian route objectively create conditions for concealing illegal shipments in legal cargo flows, which complicates detection and increases the burden on customs and border services. Decreases in opium and hashish seizures in Iran by almost **48%**, accompanied by increases in methamphetamine seizures and drug crime in CARICC states, may indicate a redistribution of flows and diversification of transit routes. In turn, this factor objectively increases the burden on countries in the region by increasing the volume of cargo and vehicles subject to inspection and complicating detection of synthetic drugs, which require laboratory testing.

At the same time, obvious overlap between drug trafficking routes and channels used for illegal migration and movement of radicalized elements will also increase the risk of similar logistics intermediaries being used, criminal networks becoming involved in related types of transnational crime, and financial flows being created that could potentially fuel extremist activities.

Short-term forecasts and recommendations:

It is possible that **organized drug crime will remain at a high level**. Organized crime groups are expected to continue adapting by switching to more flexible routes, using digital platforms and darknet, splitting up shipments and increasing mobility of deliveries, and actively using transport corridors with growing freight volumes, including the Trans-Caspian route. This, in turn, will lead to a continued heavy burden on law enforcement agencies and an increased need for risk-based analysis.

Due to a shift in focus to synthetic segment of the market, there is an expected **increase in the number of clandestine laboratories detected** and a rise in seizures of psychotropic substances. At the same time, there is a need to strengthen precursors control, monitor online trade, expand laboratory capabilities, and introduce early warning systems.

These trends point to a number of systemic problems related to differences in statistical reporting methodologies among countries, incomparability of certain data categories (seizures, laboratories, group offenses), and insufficient integration of data on precursors and synthetic substances.

Based on analysis of available data and conclusions, CARICC considers it appropriate to:

- standardize methods for collecting and classifying statistical data;
 - expand the list of indicators (including data on synthetic and digital sales channels);
 - enhance information exchange in near real time;
 - develop a regional early warning system.
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