

FACT SHEET

2008 COCAINE PRODUCTION AND CULTIVATION: COLOMBIA

- According to the most recent crop estimate from the CNC, potential cocaine production in Colombia dropped fully 39 percent between 2007 and 2008.
- The potential production of pure cocaine fell from an estimated 485 metric tons in 2007 to 295 metric tons in 2008.
- Further, the area under cultivation dropped 29 percent during the same time frame.
- The coca crop declined from an estimated 167,000 ha in 2007 to only 119,000 ha in 2008.
- The current estimate provides a genuinely comparable number to the previous year, given that the “search area” for the estimate was substantially equivalent to that of the previous year.

FACTORS AFFECTING THE DECLINE

- The cumulative effect of steadfast eradication pressure delivered against the primary Colombian growing areas diminished not only the size of the coca fields, but further the ability of remaining fields to produce normal amounts of coca leaf.
- Increased government presence and the deployment of security forces in select growing regions were instrumental in preventing coca cultivation and production.
- Successful operations against drug trafficking organizations kept them under constant pressure and reduced their control over the cocaine industry.

ERADICATION FACTORS

- Combined aerial spraying and manual eradication for 2008 was 227,605 ha.

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Cultivation	169,800	144,450	113,850	114,100	144,000	157,200	167,000	119,000
Spray (Air)*	84,251	122,695	127,112	131,824	134,474	164,119	148,435	129,876
Erad (Man)	1,745	2,762	4,220	6,232	37,540	42,110	64,979	95,731

2008 COCAINE PRODUCTION AND CULTIVATION IN THE ANDES: PERU, BOLIVIA, AND COLOMBIA

- Peru and Bolivia were found to have increased their potential cocaine production for 2008, Peru by a slight 2 percent (to 215 metric tons), while Bolivian production was re-calculated due to increased efficiency converting coca leaf to cocaine, providing a surge of 50 percent increased productive potential in 2008 to 195 metric tons pure cocaine.
- All told, cocaine potential production in the three Andean nations in 2008 was no more than 705 metric tons pure, a figure last seen this low in 1997, and represents a decline from the peak year of production (2001, with an estimated potential production of 1055 metric tons pure) of fully 33 percent.
- Importantly, with the steep drop in Colombia, there has not been an appreciable upsurge of coca cultivation in either Peru or Bolivia.
- Peruvian cultivation experienced a small uptick of 14 percent (from 36,000 ha in 2007 to 41,000 ha in 2008). Even with that uptick Peruvian cultivation remained below where it stood in 2006.

- Bolivia experienced no more than an 8 percent increase in cultivation (from 29,500 ha in 2007 to 32,000 ha in 2008).
- These modest increases in cultivation were more than offset by the steep decline of 48,000 ha in Colombian cultivation.

DOMESTIC INDICATORS SHOW IMPACT ON U.S. STREETS DURING A TIME PERIOD THAT EXPERIENCED COCAINE DISRUPTION

- The most recent National Survey on Drug Use and Health data showed that 18-25 year old past-month cocaine prevalence dropped 32 percent between 2006 and 2008. Past year initiates for cocaine among persons aged 12 and older dropped 26% over the same period.
- Workplace positive rates, as measured by Quest Diagnostics, for cocaine dropped 42% percent from 0.72% in 2006 to 0.42% in 2008..
- DEA STRIDE data on cocaine price and purity show that from the first quarter of 2007 through 2nd quarter of 2009, the price per pure gram of cocaine increased 77.1%, from \$99.48 to \$176.14, while the purity decreased 27.4%, from 67% to 49%.
- DEA Cocaine Signature Program data on arrival-zone seized cocaine show a drop in purity of cocaine bricks arriving in the U.S. ports-of-entry, dropping from 83% to 85% purity (over the 5-year period mid-2003 to mid-2008) to 75% by mid-2009.
- Cocaine seizures along the Southwest Border dropped 37% from a quarterly average of 7,300 kilograms in the 1st quarter of 2007 to 4,600 kilograms in the 3rd quarter of 2009.