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# Are there black markets of food stamps in the US?

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 cbsnews • 3

Food stamp black market on the...

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## Answer

Yes, there are black markets of food stamps in the US. Criminals are selling stolen EBT information online through social media, messaging boards, and the dark web <sup>1</sup>. The black market for food stamps has grown by 30 percent in recent years, and sales of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) vouchers brought in \$858 million in cash in the 2009-2011 period, compared to \$330 million in the 2006-2008 time frame <sup>4</sup>. The black market accounts for just over 1 percent of the total food stamp program, which is far less than fraud in other government programs like Medicare and Medicaid <sup>2</sup>. However, allegations of fraud, including an informal economy in which food stamps are turned into cash or used to buy liquor, gasoline, or other items besides food, have been used to argue that the program is out of control <sup>2</sup>. CBS2 News conducted a hidden-camera investigation and uncovered people selling food stamps, cashing in taxpayer money. With the cash, they could buy whatever they want, perhaps alcohol, cigarettes, or even drugs, things you can't buy with food stamps, all coming from taxpayer money <sup>3</sup>.

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# What is the market price of food stamps in the black markets?

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## Answer

The market price of food stamps in the black market varies, but according to a survey conducted by Whitmore, food stamps sell for about \$55 to \$65 per \$100 <sup>4</sup>. However, a hidden-camera investigation by CBS2 News found people selling food stamps for cash, with one man willing to pay \$100 to use \$200 worth of food stamps <sup>2</sup>. In addition, social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter have become a new avenue for flipping food stamps, with some users offering half price for their food stamps <sup>5</sup>. It is important to note that selling food stamps is illegal and considered food stamp fraud, which costs Americans millions of dollars <sup>5</sup>.

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# Who are buying those food stamps?

## Sources

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## Answer

It is difficult to determine who exactly is buying food stamps on the black market, but the buyers are likely individuals who want to purchase items that are not covered by food stamps, such as alcohol, cigarettes, or drugs <sup>2</sup>. Some buyers may also be small grocery or convenience stores that purchase the food stamps at a discount from program participants <sup>4</sup>. In addition, there have been cases of food stamp fraud in which store owners illegally gained SNAP benefits and sold them on the black market <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup>. It is important to note that buying food stamps on the black market is

illegal and considered food stamp fraud, which costs Americans millions of dollars <sup>5</sup>.



## Are there dealers who facilitate the trade between sellers and buyers? Who are they and how high is their profit margin?

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Walmart Supercenter

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### ☰ Answer

There are dealers who facilitate the trade between sellers and buyers of food stamps on the black market. These dealers are likely individuals who purchase food stamps at a discount from program participants and then sell them to buyers for a profit <sup>4</sup>. Some dealers may also be small grocery or convenience stores that purchase food stamps at a discount and then resell them for cash <sup>5</sup>. The profit margin for these dealers is not clear, but according to a survey conducted by Whitmore, food stamps sell for about \$55 to \$65 per \$100 <sup>4</sup>. It is important to note that buying and selling food stamps on the black market is illegal and considered food stamp fraud, which costs Americans millions of dollars <sup>5</sup>. The USDA is committed to preventing food stamp fraud and works closely with state and federal partners, law enforcement, SNAP retailers, EBT processors, and other industry experts to continually strengthen and enhance their efforts to prevent, detect, and eliminate fraud and ensure those who commit it are held accountable <sup>6</sup>.



## Are there academic econ papers on black markets?



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[PDF] The Black Market for...

📄 iupui • 3

Black Markets - CQ Researcher

📄 sagepub • 4

Scholarly Black Market |...

📄 springer • 5

Does Legalization Reduce Black...

📄 berkeley • 6

## ☰ Answer

Yes, there are academic econ papers on black markets. Here are some examples:

1. "Forbidden Transactions and Black Markets" by Chenlin Gu, Alvin E. Roth, and Qingyun Wu explores the theoretical model of black markets and how legal bans on repugnant transactions can sometimes give rise to active black markets <sup>1</sup>.
2. "The Black Market in Academic Papers – and Why It's Spooking Publishers" by Mike Ryder discusses the black market of scholarly papers and how it affects academic publishing <sup>2</sup>.
3. "Scholarly Black Market" by Michael J. Madison examines the black market of scholarly articles and its negative impact on the validity and reliability of research in higher education <sup>5</sup>.
4. "Black Markets" by Kenneth Jost discusses the various types of black markets, including those in foods, gasoline, and other commodities, and how they are an outgrowth of government efforts to hold down prices <sup>4</sup>.
5. "Does Legalization Reduce Black Market Activity? Evidence from a Global Ivory Experiment and Elephant" by Solomon Hsiang, Nitin Sekar, and Wolfram Schlenker evaluates the first major global legalization experiment in an internationally banned market and how changes to producer costs and/or consumer demand induced by legal sales can have larger effects than displacement of illegal production in some global black markets <sup>6</sup>.

These papers provide insights into the theoretical and empirical aspects of black markets and their impact on various industries and sectors.



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# Give me some papers on markets of illegal drugs.

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[PDF] DRUG MARKET TREND...

 unodc • 5

2 Markets for Drugs |...

 nap • 6

## Answer

Here are some academic econ papers on markets of illegal drugs:

1. "Illegal Drug Markets: From Research to Prevention Policy" is a volume of essays edited by James A. Inciardi and Lana D. Harrison that examines various facets of illegal drug markets, with emphasis on drug research, prevention, and policies <sup>1</sup>.
2. "Illegal Markets, Research and Policy" by Mike Hough and Mangai Natarajan explores the structure of the distribution process in different countries, the way in which markets respond to changes in supply and demand, and the impact of enforcement on illegal drug markets <sup>2</sup>.
3. "Illegal Markets: The Economics of Drug Distribution and Social Harm" by Peter Reuter and Robert J. MacCoun provides a theoretical discussion about the structure, prices, availability, and product quality of illegal drug markets, as well as the nature and extent of harms that arise from them <sup>3</sup>.
4. "Markets for Drugs" by Jonathan P. Caulkins, Peter Reuter, and Martin Y. Iguchi provides a summary of what is known about major illegal drug markets, including the basic demand-and-supply analysis framework and the various factors that influence drug prices, availability, and quality <sup>6</sup>.
5. "Drug Market Trends" by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) provides an overview of the latest trends and developments in the global illicit drug markets, including the production, trafficking, and consumption of various drugs <sup>5</sup>.

These papers provide insights into the structure, dynamics, and impact of illegal drug markets, as well as the various policies and interventions that can be used to prevent and reduce drug-related harms.

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# Give me some papers on prostitution markets.

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 ojp • 3

Prostitution\* (Chapter 12) -...

 cambridge • 4

[PDF] Decriminalizing...

 nber • 5

Prostitution Research Paper ...

 iresearch... • 6

## ☰ Answer

Here are some academic econ papers on prostitution markets:

1. "Prostitution 2.0: The changing face of sex work" by Scott Cunningham and Manisha Shah examines the impact of the internet on prostitution markets and how it has changed the way sex workers operate <sup>1</sup>.
2. "Assessing the Power of Prostitution Policies to Shift Markets, Attitudes, and Ideologies" by Ronald Weitzer and Steven T. Picou explores the effectiveness of different prostitution policies in shifting prostitution markets, attitudes, and ideologies <sup>2</sup>.
3. "A National Overview of Prostitution and Sex Trafficking Demand Reduction Efforts, Final Report" by Abt Associates Inc. provides a descriptive overview of initiatives targeting the demand for commercial sex in the United States, including the role of demand in driving both prostitution and sex trafficking <sup>3</sup>.
4. "Prostitution" by Elizabeth Anderson discusses the ethical and moral issues surrounding prostitution and how they relate to the market for sex work <sup>4</sup>.
5. "Decriminalizing Indoor Prostitution: Implications for Sexual Violence and Public Health" by Scott Cunningham and Manisha Shah examines the impact of decriminalizing indoor prostitution on sexual violence and public health, finding that it decreased prostitute arrests, increased indoor prostitution advertising, and expanded the size of the indoor prostitution market itself <sup>5</sup>.

These papers provide insights into the structure, dynamics, and

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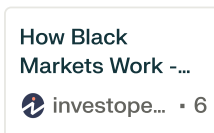
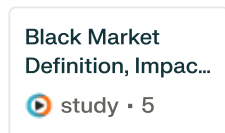
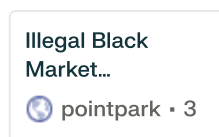
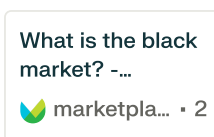
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impact of prostitution markets, as well as the various policies and interventions that can be used to prevent and reduce prostitution-related harms.



## Are there online lectures that discuss black markets?

### 📖 Sources



### ☰ Answer

Yes, there are online lectures that discuss black markets. Here are some examples:

1. "Black Markets | Microeconomics" is a YouTube video by ACDCLeadership that provides an overview of black markets and their impact on the economy <sup>1</sup>.
2. "The Underground Economy: Crash Course Economics #32" is a YouTube video by CrashCourse that explores the underground economy, including black markets, and how they operate <sup>2</sup>.
3. "Illegal Black Market WorldWide Growth" is an online lecture by Point Park University that discusses the growth and impact of the illegal black market, including on the Dark Web of the internet <sup>3</sup>.
4. "How online black markets work" is an article by CSO Online that explains how online black markets operate and the threats they pose to individuals and businesses <sup>4</sup>.
5. "Black Market Definition, Impact & Examples" is a video lecture by Study.com that defines black markets, discusses their impact, and provides examples of black markets around the world <sup>5</sup>.
6. "How Black Markets Work" is an article by Investopedia that explains the mechanics of black markets, including how they arise, how they operate, and their impact on the economy <sup>6</sup>.



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These online lectures provide insights into the structure, dynamics, and impact of black markets, as well as the various policies and interventions that can be used to prevent and reduce black market-related harms.

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## 🔗 Related

What are some examples of black markets discussed in the videos? +

How do online black markets differ from physical black markets? +

What are some potential risks associated with participating in black markets? +

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