

Competitor Analysis on Amazon, Walmart, and Beyond

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The Value of Competitor Analysis for Ecommerce

Endless opportunities for success have brought nearly 2 million third-party ("3P") sellers to Amazon: it boasts over 300 million customers worldwide and almost 2.7 billion site visits per month. As consumers seek out more omnichannel shopping experiences, however, other retailers are making great strides in catching up. Walmart's ecommerce marketplace has quadrupled in size since opening to additional 3P sellers in 2020, and in 2021 Walmart's ecommerce sales grew by over 70%. Ecommerce brands are diversifying their presence through other channels as well: nearly 30% of Amazon sellers also list products on eBay, 15% use Shopify, 13% sell on Etsy, and 12% are also on Facebook Marketplace.

Simply listing your products on these and other ecommerce platforms isn't enough to stay competitive, however. In order to win in the ecommerce space, brands – as well as agencies that manage them – must keep a constant pulse on the market through detailed competitor analysis.

The benefits of performing competitor analysis include:



Improved Discoverability

Both Amazon and Walmart present huge selling opportunities for brands. Moreover, both platforms have become popular places for shoppers to begin their research when looking for products online: 63% of consumers start their product searches on Amazon, and 31% start on Walmart.com. Competitor research helps you understand how your competitors are promoting their products, and how to make sure your brand is the one that lands in front of shoppers first.

2

Strategic Insights

With higher inventories and costs than smaller brands, enterprise brands have a greater risk if they don't keep up with the competition. Competitor research helps you understand why customers choose to buy from your competition. It can also help you identify opportunities to make your products stand out by improving upon the weaknesses that make customers hesitant to buy from your competitors.



Trend Tracking

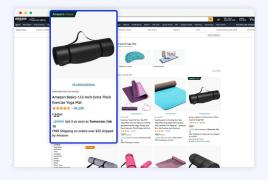
Ignoring your competitors' value propositions and strategies may mean you're missing emerging trends, giving your competition a chance to jump on timely consumer demands first. Ecommerce sellers are constantly evolving their strategies (nearly half of Amazon sellers are considering launching new products or expanding existing lines in 2022!), so it's critical to stay ahead of trends. Competitor research allows you to identify gaps in the market - and, as a result, serve customers whose needs are not being met by your competition.

Stop — Make Sure You Find ALL of Your Ecommerce Competitors!

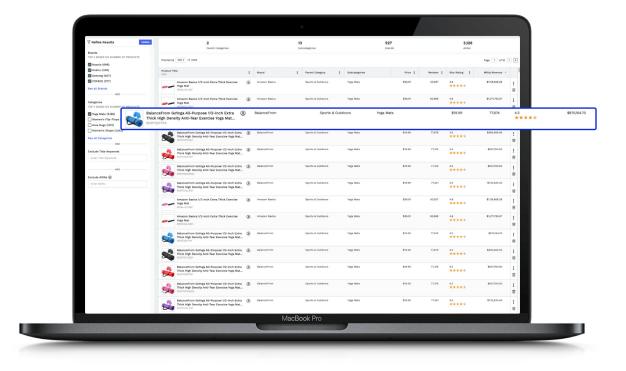
Identifying your competitors on Amazon, Walmart.com, and other ecommerce channels is critical to helping you gauge your market, track consumer trends, and build winning strategies for your own brand and customers. **Don't skip this step, even if you think you already know your competitors!** In an ever-growing ecommerce market, it's always critical to check for newcomers.

Start with Keywords

An easy way to get a basic overview of your potential competitors is to conduct a search using your target keywords, just as you would if you were shopping for products like yours on Amazon or Walmart. Make note of the brands and products that are displayed organically on the first page of the search results, as those may be your top competitors.





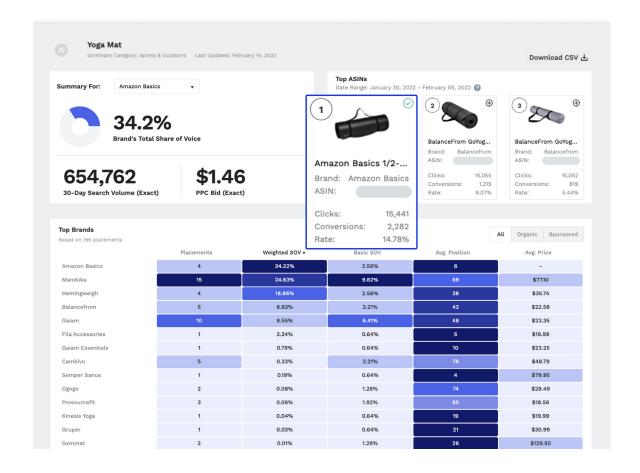


However, you want to be sure you have a pulse on both known and potential emerging competitors in your space, so you need to dive deeper. A tool like Jungle Scout Cobalt can help you get a powerful look into how your brand's market share fares against that of your competitors. You can use Cobalt's Market Insights feature to easily identify both core and emerging competitors in a given product segment on Amazon. Search by keyword or category to see how many brands are competing for a product and which ones are leading by revenue and unit sales.

Monitor Share of Voice

Use Cobalt's Share of Voice (SOV) tool to see both weighted and basic SOV for all brands competing for a specific keyword on Amazon. This information can help you understand which brands are your top competitors for a product, as well as any emerging competitors you should be keeping an eye on.

With **nearly 60%** of Amazon sellers already listing their products on at least one additional channel, you can use this data to get an idea of who your likely competitors are on other platforms as well.



Analyzing Competitor Strategies

Uncovering the most helpful insights requires gathering and analyzing the right data to understand how you stack up against competitors — and where there's opportunity to stand out.

In this chapter, we'll cover:

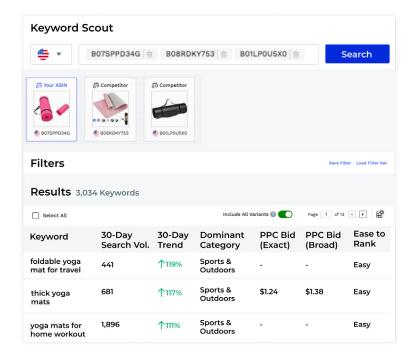
- 1 Keyword Research
- 2 Product Detail Page Research
- 3 Historical Data

1. Keyword Research

Explore the keywords your competitors are using and determine which have the highest conversion rate.

How to Perform Keyword Research

Type a competitor's ASIN(s) into Cobalt's **Keyword Scout** to identify those that are performing well. Keyword Scout can also help you identify whether competitors are targeting your branded terms in their Amazon keyword strategies.



When running paid advertising campaigns, **Downstream** by Jungle Scout provides detailed insights on which search terms are leading shoppers to your Amazon and Walmart ads, helping you determine the right keywords to add or exclude from your campaigns on both platforms to get the best Return on Ad Spend (RoAS).





Expert Advice

You can use Downstream to help protect your branded keywords by setting custom budget allocations that automatically increase bidding when competitor products show up in searches for your brand.



:va Hart

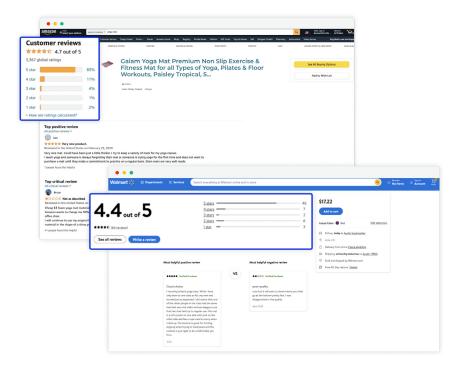
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2. Product Detail Page Research

Study your competitors' listings to identify ways to differentiate your products from those already on the market.

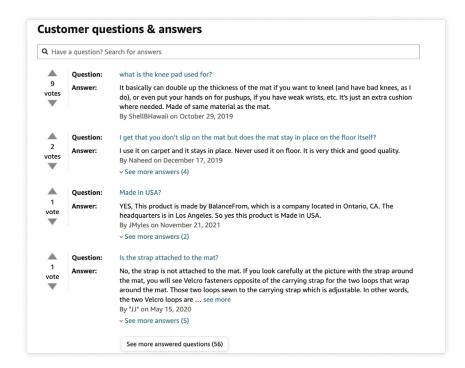
Reviews

Reviews give you an idea of what customers love (and don't love) about a competitor's products, helping you spot strengths and weaknesses. Fourand five-star reviews provide insight into what works for customers, while anything below four stars can spark ideas for improvements you can make to differentiate your products.



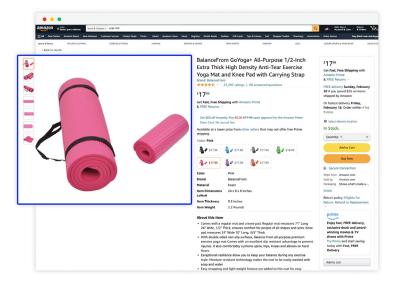
Questions & Answers

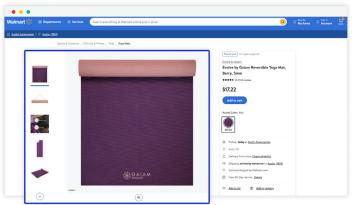
The Q&A section of a competitor's Amazon product listing contains questions you can use to inform copy and infographics in your own listings. By proactively addressing questions that customers are asking about products similar to yours, you can help them overcome potential hesitations about purchasing.

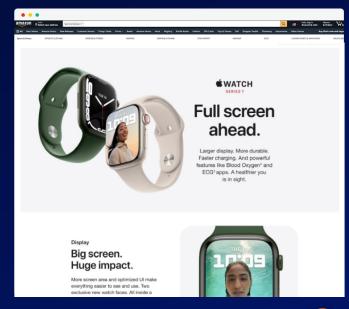


Product Images

Review your competitors' hero and secondary images and make note of anything (good or bad) that makes them stand out in both the search results and product detail pages.









Expert Advice

In addition to A+ Content on Amazon, which allows additional details and images in your product listings, another option exclusive to registered brands is a paid upgrade to include Premium A+ Content. As more competitors take advantage of A+ Content, consider activating additional features through A++ Content to differentiate the shopping experience customers have with your brand.



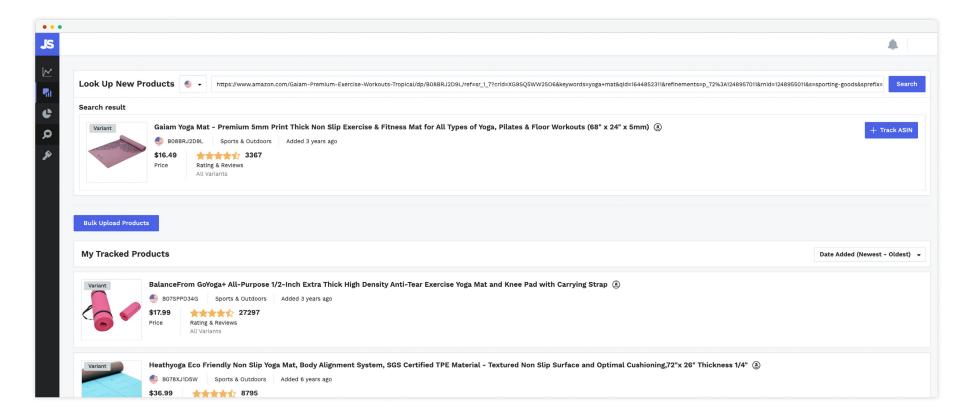
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3. Historical Data

Study your competitors' historical data to understand how their product pricing has changed over time.

How to Find Historical Data

Cobalt's Product Tracker allows you to view the historical Amazon Buy Box prices of a product to see how pricing has fluctuated or remained consistent over the past two years. This data can help you understand consumers' spend thresholds, see when your competitors react to market changes, and determine viable long-term pricing strategies that help you remain competitive while meeting revenue goals.



Monitoring **Competitors (and Opportunities**) **Over Time**

Competitor research never ends. Monitoring your competition closely — from pricing to product listings to advertising — is critical to understanding the strategic changes that can increase or decrease your market share.

In this chapter, we'll cover:

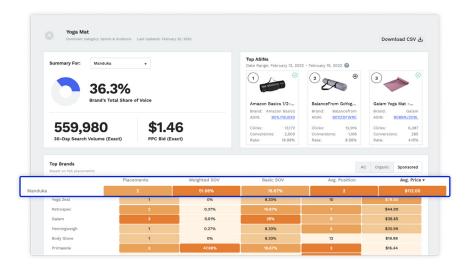
- **Share of Voice**
- **Estimated Sales**
- **Market Performance**

1. Share of Voice

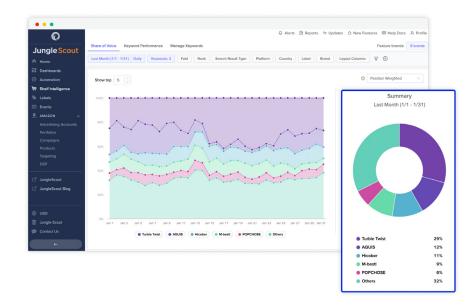
Examine share of voice (SOV) to get an idea of where your competitors stand in the market. SOV provides insight into your brand's visibility vs. your competitors' and the overall market saturation for specific keywords.

How to Monitor Share of Voice

When you enter a keyword into Cobalt's Share of Voice feature, you will see the SOV for each brand competing for that keyword on Amazon, along with how many placements each competitor is getting in search results. It will also display their average position and price in search results. You can use this tool to view the top ASINs for the selected keyword. Analyzing this data by both organic and sponsored placements will help inform all aspects of your brand awareness strategy on Amazon and beyond.



Within Downstream's Shelf Intelligence feature, you can view additional details on your competitors' SOV on Amazon, including organic SOV and paid rankings by Sponsored Brands or Sponsored Products.

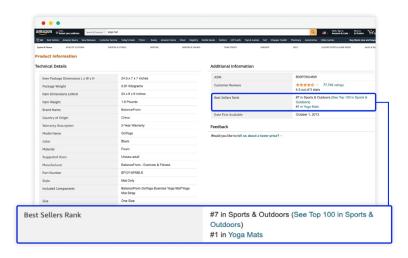


2. Estimated Sales

Study estimated sales to see the volume of inventory that competing brands are moving and the profit margins on their products. This data can also suggest whether a market is healthy or not.

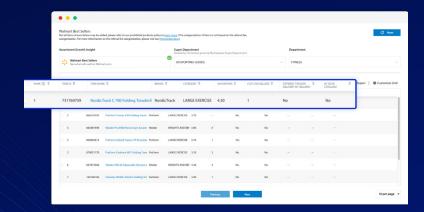
How to Gauge Estimated Sales

To get a general idea of a product's performance on Amazon, you can view the **Best Sellers Rank** on a listing. Alternatively, you can use Cobalt's Market Insights tool to obtain detailed revenue and unit sales estimates for all ASINs in a segment.



Similarly, you can use the Walmart Best Sellers feature within Walmart's Seller Center to research the best selling products in a particular category. You can find Best Sellers within the Growth Opportunities section in Seller Center.

You should track competitors' unit sales and revenue to get a full picture of their performance.





Expert Advice

Agencies can use competitor comparisons in Market Insights to report performance over time to existing clients or show prospective clients the actionable strategies they will execute to make the client more competitive.



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3. Market Performance

Continuously track positioning in the market — both yours and your competitors' — to keep a finger on the pulse of advertising and product performance.

How to Track Market Performance

You can use Cobalt's Rank Tracker to keep an eye on how well your brand and your competitors are ranking for important product keywords on Amazon. In addition to reverse-searching competitor ASINs to track their high-ranking keywords, you can compare keyword history to understand your position and how it's changing over time.



You can use Cobalt's **Product Tracker** to view a specific ASIN's performance over time, including total revenue, unit sales, Best Seller Rank, star rating, and review count.



Putting Competitor Research into Action

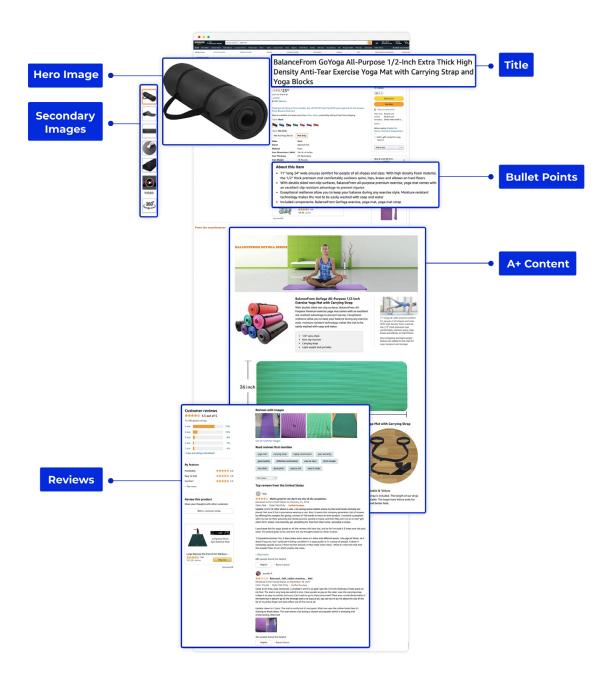
Without thoughtfully implementing collected data into your future product and advertising strategies, your competitive analysis will do little to improve your brand's ecommerce performance. By leveraging your competitive research in a few key ways, however, you can drive growth in awareness, sales, and loyalty for your brand.

In this chapter, we'll cover:

- **How to Optimize Product Listings**
- How to Look for New Products to Sell
- How to Create and Optimize PPC Campaigns

1. Optimize **Product Listings**

Once you've reviewed your competitors' top product listings, you can optimize your own to help your listings stand out in search results, and provide shoppers with all the information they need to confidently purchase from your brand over others. After identifying your competitors' highest-performing keywords, add them to your listing copy (title, bullets, description, etc.) and backend keywords (hidden keywords within your listings that tell an ecommerce platform's algorithm that your products are relevant for certain searches).



Anatomy of a product listing

Title: The same keyword research and tracking you use to monitor your competitors and improve your ads can help you optimize your brand's product listings. Include the highest-ranking keywords first in your title to improve the rank and visibility of your products.

Bullet points: The most impactful description copy goes beyond describing a product's features and also communicates why those features matter to the consumer. Try to include a benefit for every feature you list; think of features as the "what" and benefits as the "why" of your products. Telling consumers how a product will make their life better can be a decisionmaking difference when shoppers are ready to purchase. A detailed, accurate product description also improves your chances of winning the Buy Box for a product on Walmart.com.

Example: You may sell a water bottle and include in the description copy that it is 9oz — but why does this feature matter to the customer? By adding "it is perfect for traveling because it easily fits into your purse," you give shoppers a concrete benefit that your competitors may neglect to include.

Hero image: Your main photo is the first thing most shoppers are likely to notice about your product so it's important that it is high-quality. We highly suggest hiring a professional photographer for your product images.

Secondary images: Beyond your hero image, these additional images are a chance to quickly communicate more information about your product like item dimensions, color options, and how it might fit into the customer's lifestyle. We recommend including at least five secondary images in each product listing that include a mixture of infographics and lifestyle photography.

Reviews: Retail-readiness requires at least 15 customer reviews of your product. Since 70% of shoppers will choose to purchase a highly-rated product over one with low or no rating on Amazon, the more positive reviews you gain, the better. For Amazon, you can use Cobalt's Review Automation feature to save time and increase reviews by automating the Seller Central review request process.

A+ Content: Take advantage of A+ content offers to enhance your listings with additional information. On Amazon, all registered brands are eligible to use A+ Content to incorporate extra details, images, branding, videos and more into product listings. Amazon also gives brands the option to upgrade to Premium A+ Content to unlock even more features that empower you to create a fully branded experience for your customers. Walmart gives all marketplace sellers the ability to enhance listings with rich media, including 360-degree product views, videos, comparison charts, interactive images, and more.

The quality of your listings impacts advertising and search results placement, as well as the likelihood of conversion. We suggest optimizing your product detail pages before putting a substantial advertising budget behind your products.

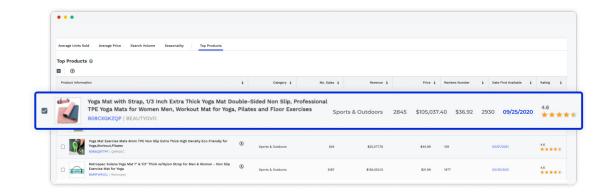
2. Look for New Products to Sell

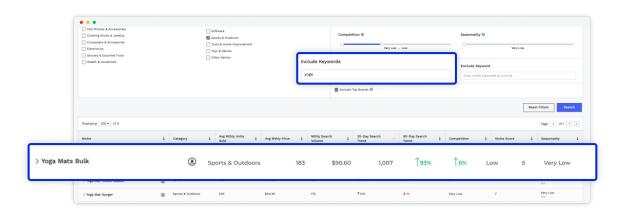
Thorough competitor research isn't just about monitoring competition on the products you're already selling; it's also valuable for identifying opportunities to add new products to your catalog. By continuously monitoring your competitors' strategies and performance, you can quickly respond to new trends or leverage market gaps as soon as you identify them.

Using Cobalt's **Opportunity Finder** feature, you can view the top products in a niche to understand which brands are currently leading the search rankings for a particular product on Amazon. You can then track those products to monitor how your competitors' strategy and success changes over time, as well as assess the market to inform your own strategy.

Opportunity Finder can also help you identify the trends that your competition might be missing, giving you the chance to outrank them for products with growing consumer demand.

Choose the category you want to view, enter your keywords, and you'll have the option to view products by monthly units sold, monthly search volume, level of competition or seasonality, and more. You can then sort your results by 30-Day or 90-Day search trends to find popular search terms with low competition that you can add into your own targeting strategies, or to identify new products that your brand can offer.

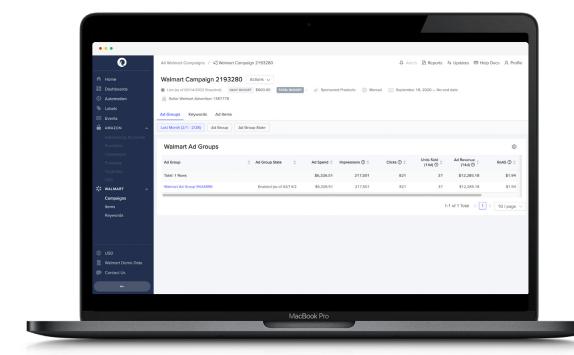




3. Create and Optimize PPC Campaigns

Nearly 80% of brands selling on Amazon also advertise on the platform, and over 30% are considering launching and promoting their products on Walmart's marketplace as well. Use insights from your competitor research to understand the keywords and products that are working for them – then implement them into your own PPC campaigns to draw shoppers to your brand.

You can use Downstream to build, automate, and analyze campaigns across both Amazon and Walmart, making it easier to run multiple ads targeting a high volume of keywords. As your campaigns run, you can further optimize ad strategies with automation features like Dayparting and Advanced Budget Control.





Expert Advice

Use Downstream's **Keyword Harvesting** tool to automatically find key search terms that customers are using and add them to your campaigns. With Advanced Budget Control, you can set budget limits by campaign, day, time, or ASIN to minimize wasted spend as you experiment with new keyword targeting strategies.



Eva HartEnterprise Ecommerce Expert at Jungle Scout

Explore leading solutions for competitive analysis

In this guide, we've covered a number of **Cobalt** and **Downstream** tools for conducting detailed competitor research and putting that research into action to help your brand win on Amazon, Walmart, and beyond.

Jungle Scout Cobalt

Market Insights:

Gather detailed sales data for ASINs and identify competitors in a given product category

Keyword Scout:

View the keywords your competitors are using to drive discoverability and conversions

Opportunity Finder:

Discover product niches that have low competition and high demand

Share of Voice:

View your total SOV and the SOV of your competitors

Product Tracker:

Monitor the performance of specific ASINs and view historical product data to analyze how factors like sale price have changed over time

Rank Tracker:

Track competitor keywords and compare keyword performance history between your brand and others

Jungle Scout

Review Automation Feature:

Automatically request reviews from all customers who place eligible orders



Automation:

Save time and ad spend with tools that automatically adjust advertising campaigns to optimize ROI, reach, and conversions

Advanced Budget Control:

Distribute your budget evenly by the hour to ensure your ad is being served all dav

Dayparting:

Schedule ads to deliver at the most optimal times of the day and allocate spend down to the hour

Shelf Intelligence:

Track your brand's position in the market, monitor competitors, and identify trends in search behavior

Keyword Harvesting:

Identify the search terms shoppers are using to find products like yours and automatically add them to your ad campaigns

Share of Voice:

View details on your brand's share of voice vs. competitors by sponsored content type

About Jungle Scout

Jungle Scout is the leading all-in-one platform for selling on Amazon and beyond. Founded in 2015 as the first Amazon product research tool, Jungle Scout today features a full suite of best-in-class business management solutions and powerful market intelligence resources to help brands, agencies and investors manage their ecommerce businesses.



Supports \$40 billion in Amazon revenue



Serves more than 600,000 customers worldwide



Raised \$110 million in growth equity in 2021



Monitors over 1.8 billion data points daily



Supports up to 17 global marketplaces

Recognized as the most trusted platform for selling on Amazon







Jungle Scout Cobalt



Learn more about how
Cobalt and Downstream
can help you conduct and leverage - detailed
competitor analysis.
Speak with a Jungle
Scout expert today!

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