

DomainWire

Edition 12 – Q2 2015

Global TLD Stat Report

DomainWire Stat Report is CENTR's quarterly publication covering status and trends in global top-level domains with a focus on European ccTLDs (country code top-level domains). A ccTLD is a two-letter domain name extension such as .de (Germany), .es (Spain) or .cz (Czech Republic).

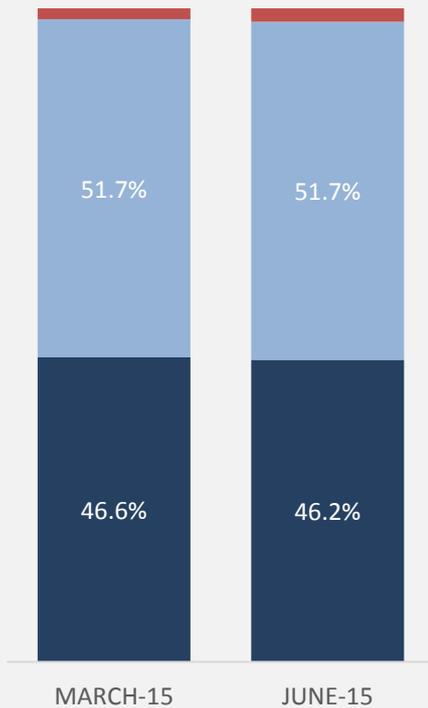
CENTR is the association of European country code top-level domain (ccTLD) registries, such as .de for Germany or .si for Slovenia. CENTR currently counts 52 full and 9 associate members – together, they are responsible for over 80% of all registered country code domain names worldwide. The objectives of CENTR are to promote and participate in the development of high standards and best practices among ccTLD registries.



Global Registrations Overview

Global TLD Market Shares

■ ccTLD ■ legacy gTLD ■ new gTLDs



At the end of Q2, 2015, total registrations across all top-level domains (TLDs) stood at **293.8 million**. Combined growth over the quarter has been small at around 0.2% due to negative growth in some legacy gTLDs as well as a large drop in one ccTLD mainly due to policy changes in 2014.

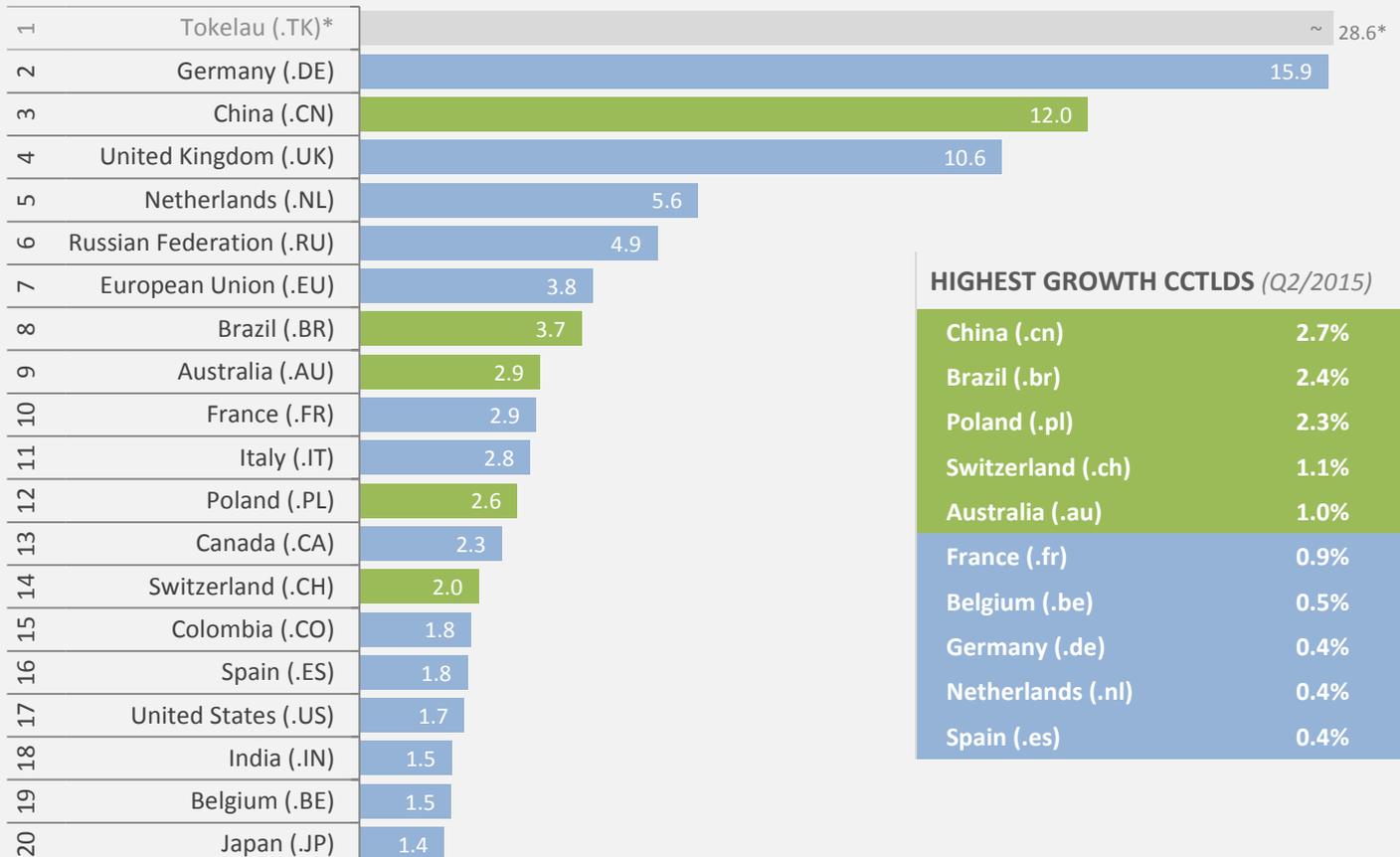
Combined registrations in around 650 new gTLDs grew from 4.4 million in March to just under 6 million domains in June 2015 – a 32% increase or roughly 1.4 million domains. This growth has taken its total TLD market share from 1.7% to 2.0% (more on new gTLD stats later in this report).

The market share between ccTLDs and gTLDs is relatively even, however weighted in favour of legacy gTLDs which are currently at around 52% of all registrations. It's worth noting that the market share values in the chart include TLDs that offer free domains (such as .tk and several new gTLDs).

	REGISTRATIONS (million)	% GROWTH Q2/2015	
		COMBINED	MEDIAN
ccTLD	134.5	-0.7%	1.3%
ccTLD IDN	1.3	0.2%	-0.4%
Legacy gTLD	151.1	0.2%	-0.8%
New gTLD	5.9	31.6%	9.6%
Total	293.8	0.2%	

Legacy gTLDs = biz, com, info, mobi, net, org, aero, asia, cat, jobs, museum, name, post, pro, tel, travel.
 New gTLDs figures/growth can vary depending on the way zone files are calculated
 Market share chart: ccTLDs include ccTLD IDNs. Legacy gTLDs include sTLDs (some have 4 month data lag)

Top 20 ccTLDs by Registrations



HIGHEST GROWTH CCTLDs (Q2/2015)

China (.cn)	2.7%
Brazil (.br)	2.4%
Poland (.pl)	2.3%
Switzerland (.ch)	1.1%
Australia (.au)	1.0%
France (.fr)	0.9%
Belgium (.be)	0.5%
Germany (.de)	0.4%
Netherlands (.nl)	0.4%
Spain (.es)	0.4%

Scale: Millions
 Source: ZookNIC (Jun 2015)

* .tk (Tokelau) run by Freenom and offers free domains at global level. It's considered a fundamentally different business model than most other ccTLDs.

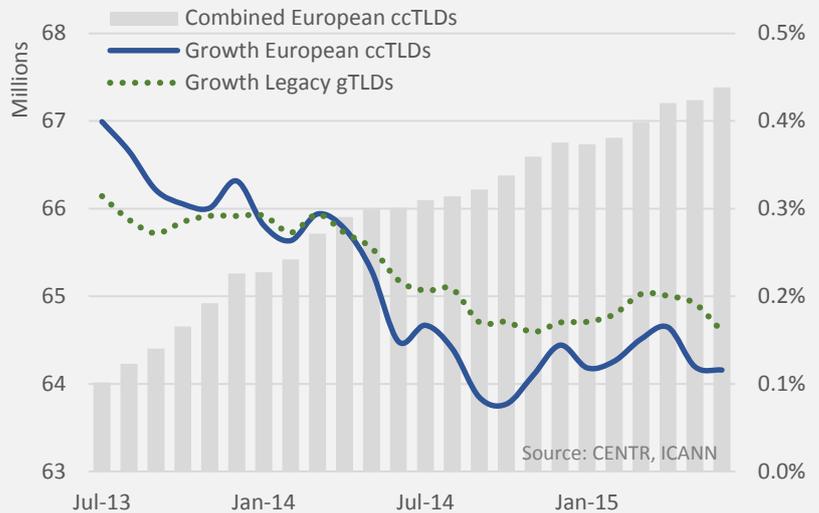
European ccTLDs Registration Trends

European ccTLDs Quick Look

European ccTLDs closed June 2015 with just over 67 million registrations in total – a net growth of 397,000 (0.6%) over the second quarter.

Est. ccTLD Registrations (Europe):	67.3 million
Growth – Q2, 2015:	397,000 (0.6%)
Median Retention (<i>renewals</i>) Rate* (2014):	84.3%
Largest Zone:	.de (Germany) 15.9 million
Highest DNSSEC signed:	.no (Norway) 55% signed

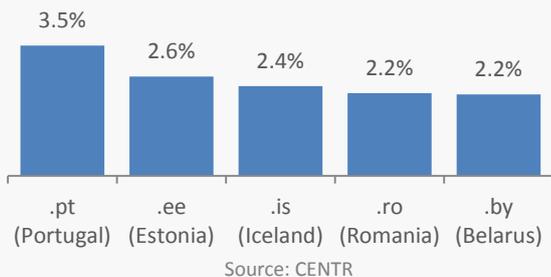
The chart (right) shows a longer term trend using 6 month moving averages to smooth the line. Since late 2014 combined growth among European ccTLDs and legacy gTLDs has stabilised slightly. However, the long-term trend is still pushing downward.



In recent CENTR analysis of its members, it was found that retention rates* (a calculation to estimate renewals) across ccTLDs in Europe have remained steady over the past 3 years at around 84%. The rate of creations (newly created domain names) has however been slowly declining.

Growth Lines: 6 month moving averages are used to smooth the line
 *Retention rate = (Domains at end of n – new domains in n) / Domains at beginning of n

Top 5: Registration Growth (Q2/2015)



The chart (left) shows the top 5 highest European ccTLD growth over the most recent quarter. The ccTLD .pt (Portugal) for the second consecutive quarter has grown the highest at 3.5% for Q2, 2015. While they cannot pin this growth on any one particular aspect, it is worth noting they have been making special efforts in reaching their registrar channels for advocating the importance of domain names associated with the national identity.

Median Growth by Zone Size



The chart (left) shows the average (median) growth rates grouped by zone size. All except the over 3 million category have seen a decrease in median growth as compared to the previous quarter.

Strong growth zones under 1 million were .pt, .ee and .is. In the 1-3 million group they were .pl and .it. In the 3 million plus category, the highest growth was seen in .uk at 0.6% for the quarter.

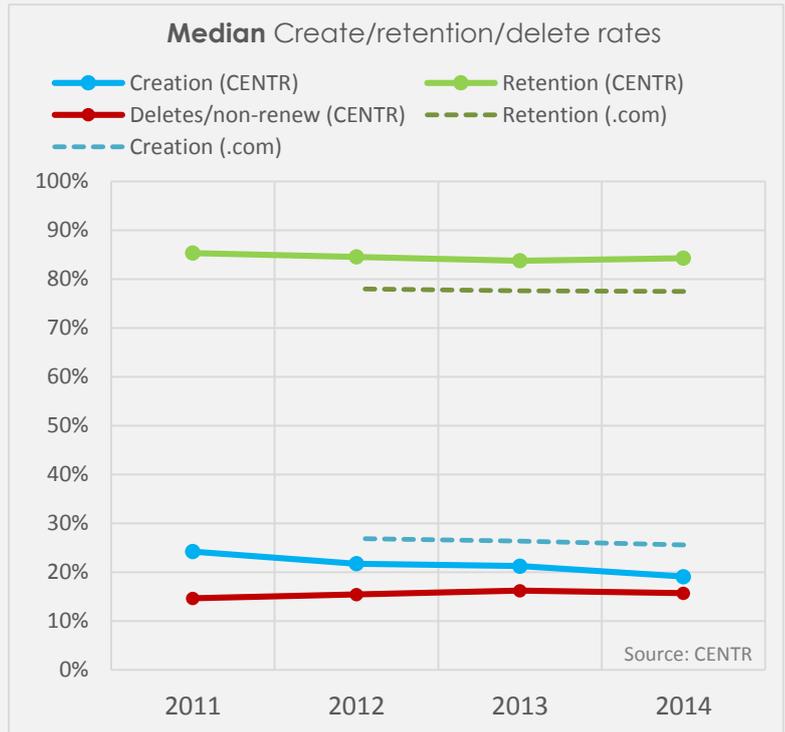
European ccTLDs – Creations and Retentions

Retention rates are an indication of the TLD renewal rates and calculated by comparing the difference between domains at the beginning and end of a period excluding newly registered domains.

The median retention rate was 84% in 2014 among European ccTLDs (referred to as CENTR in chart). This has remained stable across the past few years. However, creation rates (a measure of the percentage of new domains in a zone) have been decreasing.

The deletion rate is effectively negatively correlated to the retention rate (ie. domains that were not retained were deleted or not renewed).

The trend in creation rates are the most noticeable and may be playing a role in the average decrease in growth rates seen on the previous page. European ccTLDs members are, on average, retaining existing registrations but decreasing in their rates in new registrations



New gTLDs: Registrations Status Q2/2015

Since new gTLDs began entering the root zone at the beginning of 2014, they have grown to around 6 million domains with combined growth at 32% for Q2 2015. The 5 million registrations are spread over some 600 TLDs of which around 100 have over 10,000 domains (many still not in general availability).

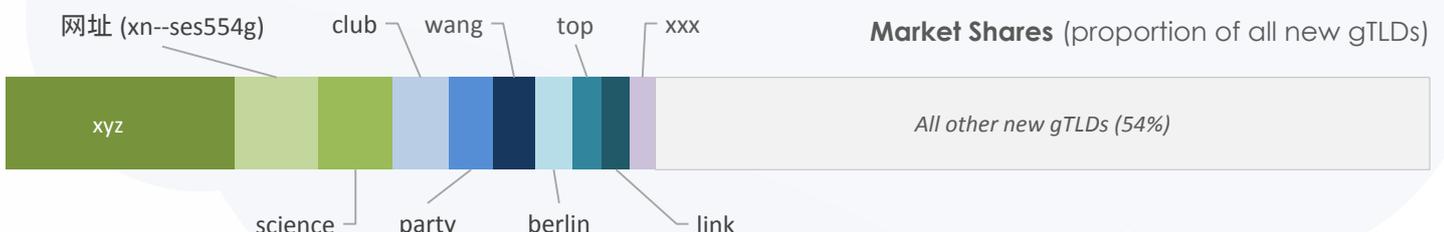
* Since the figures on the right were recorded .xyz has dropped to under 800K.

The median growth rate of the top 100 new gTLDs for Q2 2015 was 9.6%. Median growth over 34 delegated city TLDs (geo-TLDs) was 13.6%.

Note: Some new gTLDs give away domains for free. This can give a varied impression of the success or relevance of a TLD and should be considered when viewing these figures.

Top 10 (by registrations)	Registrations	Growth (Q2/2015)	Category
xyz	937,339	19%	Lifestyle
网址 (xn--ses554g)	338,042	-3%	Technology
science	303,399	777%	Education
club	228,300	30%	Lifestyle
party	181,907	NA	Lifestyle
wang	170,498	38%	Technology
berlin	151,223	-3%	Geo
top	121,807	90%	Lifestyle
link	114,162	84%	Technology
xxx	103,407	0%	Industry
All other	3,159,365		
Total New gTLDs	5,809,449		

Source: CZDAP (ICANN). Data recorded 1 JUN 2015



SOURCES

All data in this report is sourced from the following: CENTR, ZookNic (<http://www.zooknic.com/>) LACTLD, www.hosterstats.com. CENTR would like to thank the support of other Regional Organisations (LACTLD, APTLD and AFTLD) for their continued support in the development of statistical reporting for the global ccTLD community. When sourcing CENTR, data is taken from direct communication and responses received from CENTR members (ccTLD registry operators) via CENTR surveys and ongoing data collection.

When the term European ccTLDs' definition is used within this report, it refers to a set of European ccTLDs which are Full Members of CENTR. In most cases the aggregated values of this group are estimated to represent at least 95% of domain registrations from ccTLDs based in Europe.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ccTLD – a Country Code Top Level Domain (ccTLD) is a top level domain used and reserved for a country or dependent territory. Examples include .uk for the United Kingdom or .de for Germany. Each country appoints a manager of its ccTLD and sets the rules for allocating domains.

gTLD – a Generic Top Level Domain (gTLD) is a top level domain that is open to registrants worldwide in contrast to a Country Code Top Level Domain that are often restricted to registrants located in a particular country. The more popular gTLDs are .com, .org and .net

ccTLD IDN – an IDN is a domain name that includes characters used in the local representation of languages that are not written with the twenty-six letters of the basic Latin alphabet (a-z). An IDN can contain Latin letters with diacritical marks, as required by many European languages, or may consist of characters from non-Latin scripts such as Arabic or Chinese. A ccTLD IDN is an IDN at the top level – eg., the ccTLD IDN for the Russian Federation is .РФ which is the Cyrillic script version of .RF (Russian Federation).

sTLD – a Sponsored Top Level Domain (sTLD) is another form of a gTLD overseen by ICANN. An example of a sTLD is .cat for the Catalonia region.

Registrant – The individual or organisation that registers a specific domain name. They hold the right to use that domain name for a specified period of time (often one year however multi-year registrations are increasingly popular).

Registry – An internet domain name registry receives domain name information into a centralised database and transmits the information in internet zone files on the internet so that domain names can be found by users around the world via the worldwide web and email.

ABOUT CENTR

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