

DomainWire

Edition 15 – Q1 2016

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 .si (Slovenia).

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 53 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.



Worldwide Status and Growth in Top-Level Domains

ccTLD - gTLD GLOBAL MARKET SHARE

■ ccTLDs ■ legacy gTLDs
■ new gTLDs



There are **323.1 million domains** combined across all top-level domains (TLDs) globally (March 2016) – an increase of 3.75% over Q1 2016.

The largest net growth by category in Q1 came from ccTLDs (2.6%) with the increase mostly due to the increase in .cn (China) domains. Legacy gTLDs grew 1.8%.

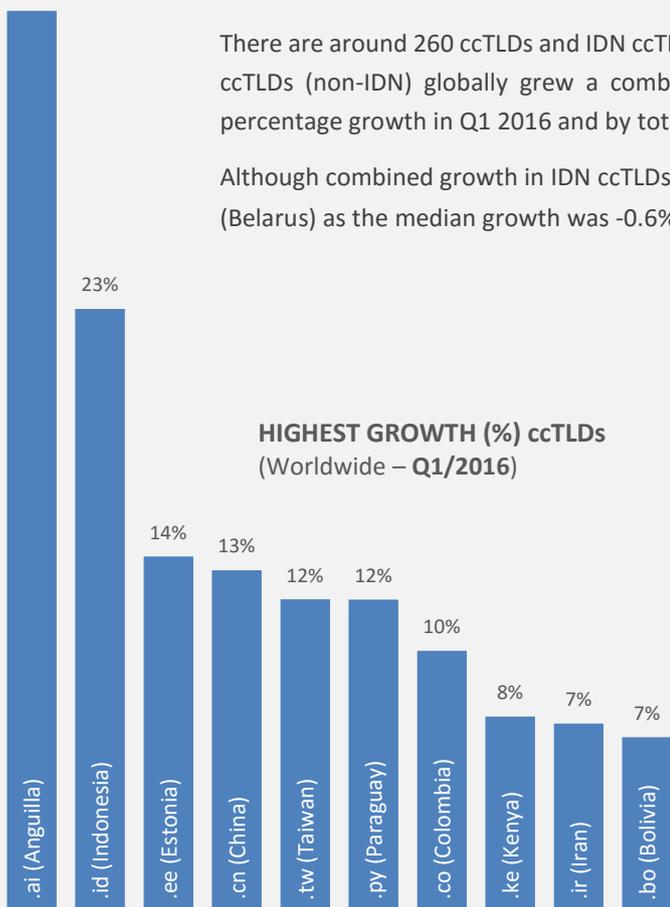
New gTLDs grew from 11 million to almost 16 million domains (over 450 TLDs). They now represent around 5% of TLD registrations globally and had a median growth of 6.1% over the quarter.

	DOMAINS (million)	GROWTH Q1 2016	
		COMBINED	MEDIAN
ccTLD	143.7	2.6%	1.5%
ccTLD IDN	1.8	8.7%	-0.6%
Legacy gTLD	161.6	1.8%	0.3%
New gTLD	15.9	45.7%	6.1%
Total	323.1	3.7%	

Legacy gTLDs = biz, com, info, mobi, net, org, aero, asia, cat, jobs, museum, name, post, pro, tel, travel.
New gTLDs median calculated using top 300 largest TLDs.
Market share chart: ccTLDs include ccTLD IDNs. Legacy gTLDs include sTLDs (some have 4 month data lag)

Country Code Top-Level Domains (ccTLDs)

34%



HIGHEST GROWTH (%) ccTLDs
(Worldwide – Q1/2016)

Only includes ccTLDs with over 5000 domains

There are around 260 ccTLDs and IDN ccTLDs globally with a **combined 145 million domains**. Over Q1 2016 ccTLDs (non-IDN) globally grew a combined 2.6% with a median rate of 1.5%. The top 10 list of by percentage growth in Q1 2016 and by total domains are below.

Although combined growth in IDN ccTLDs was high (8.7%) this was largely driven by .中国 (China) and БЕЛ (Belarus) as the median growth was -0.6%

LARGEST ccTLDs WORLDWIDE

	COUNTRY / ccTLD	DOMAINS (millions)
1	China (.CN)	18.5
2	Germany (.DE)	16.1
3	United Kingdom (.UK)	10.7
4	Netherlands (.NL)	5.6
5	Russian Federation (.RU)	5.2
6	European Union (.EU)	3.9
7	Brazil (.BR)	3.8
8	Australia (.AU)	3.0
9	France (.FR)	3.0
10	Italy (.IT)	2.9

Table does not include ccTLDs which give free domains. .tk (Tokelau) is one of these and is reported to have around 28.6 million domains under management.

European ccTLDs

Q1 2016 Status & Trends

There are around 69 million combined domains under management* – a net increase of 718K domains (1.1%) over the first quarter 2016.

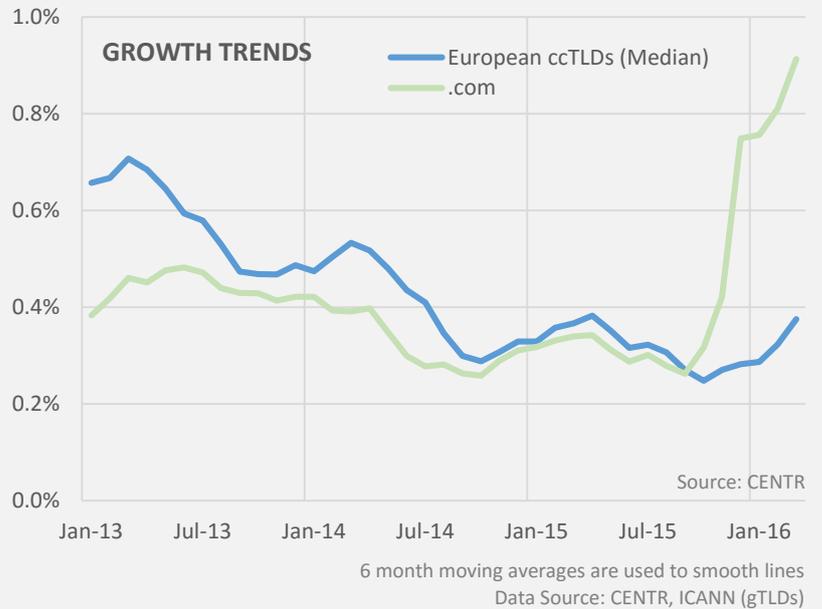
The chart shows median growth rates of European ccTLDs over the past few years along with .com as a reference. Although the trend has been declining the pace of the decline is slowing. This is highlighted by noting that the usual early year peak for 2016 is at around the same level as in 2015 breaking the pattern of the past few years.

The chart also highlights the seasonal nature of ccTLD registrations in Europe cycling over peaks and troughs.

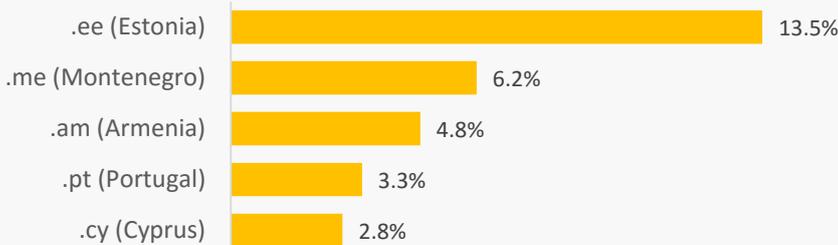
*50 ccTLDs recorded

European ccTLDs *Snapshot*

Est. ccTLD domains (Europe):	68.9 million
Combined Growth – Q1 2016:	697K (1.0%)
Highest % Growth ccTLD – Q1 2016:	.ee (Estonia) 13.5%
Largest Zone:	.de (Germany) 16.1 million
Largest proportion DNSSEC:	.no (Norway) 56% signed



EUROPEAN CCTLDs: TOP 5 DOMAIN GROWTH (Q1/2016)



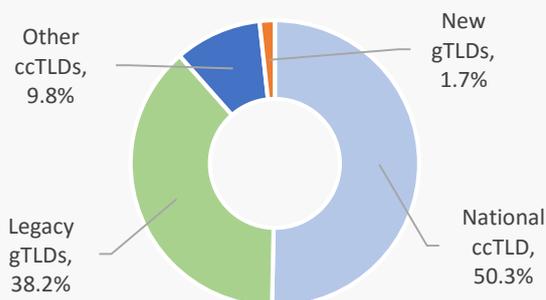
Source: CENTR

The chart (left) shows the top 5 highest growth of European ccTLDs Q1 2016. .ee (Estonia) grew the highest at 13% or 14K domains net*.

Other high growth ccTLDs over the first quarter were .me (Montenegro), .am (Armenia), .pt (Portugal) and .cy (Cyprus).

* In December 2015 local presence requirement in .ee was abolished and additional authentication methods added

AVERAGE BREAKDOWN OF TLDs (BY DOMAINS REGISTERED IN COUNTRY)



Source: CENTR.
Data: MAR 2016

The chart shows average breakdown of TLDs based on total domains (gTLDs, national ccTLD and other European ccTLDs) registered from within a set of 30 European countries.

Over the sample, the national ccTLD has on average the largest share at roughly 51%. Note that that data is based on registration count and does not factor in how different TLDs are being used (eg. if they resolve, are parked, used for website etc). The proportions have not changed substantially since Q4 2015.

Legacy gTLDs

Q1 2016 Status & Trends

Combined domains in legacy gTLDs are currently around 161.6 million and have grown around 1.8% over Q1, 2016. In absolute terms .com grew the most - around 2.2 million domains however in terms of percentage was .info at around 6.6%.

The chart shows the 3-year evolution of the 3 largest legacy gTLDs. This growth observed in most legacy gTLDs suggests a potential stabilisation of regular growth trends after the spikes seen in late 2015 (often reported as being linked to high growth in China). This stabilisation will be better reflected in the trend lines of the coming months given lines use 6-month moving averages.

	Domains (million)	Growth (Q1/2016)
.com	125.7	1.8%
.net	15.8	-0.1%
.org	10.9	0.1%
.info	5.5	6.6%
.biz	2.4	0.9%

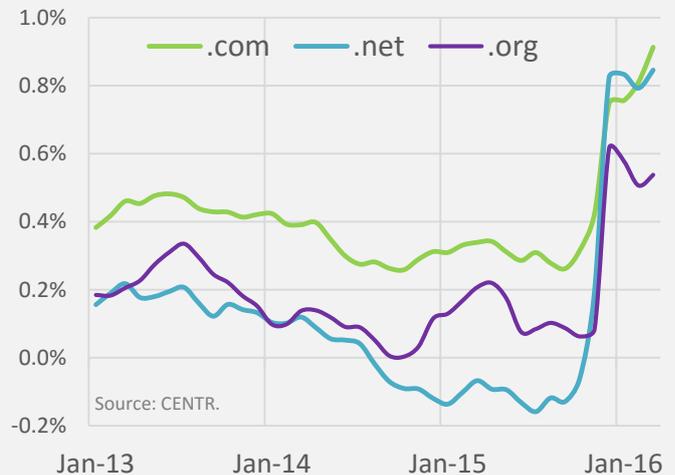


Chart includes top 3 largest legacy gTLDs 6 month moving averages used to smooth the lines. Data Source: ICANN

New gTLDs

Q1 2016 Status & Trends

Combined domains in all new gTLDs grew 45% over Q1 2016 to just over 16 million domains with most of the top 5 largest TLDs continuing to show strong growth.

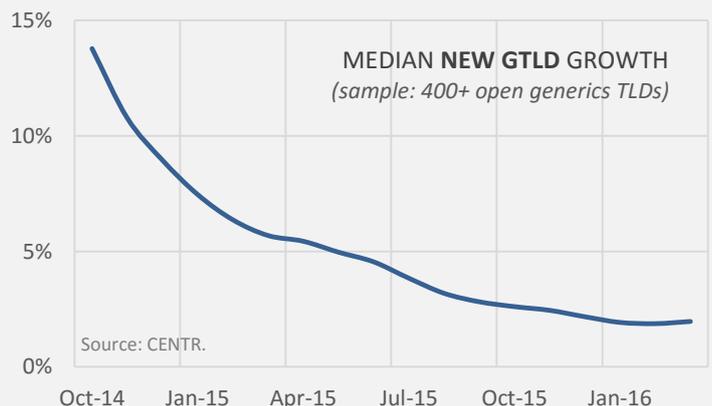
The chart shows median monthly growth rates of new gTLDs considered to be 'open generics' (do not include .brand TLDs). It reflects a predictable stabilisation of growth after early peaks of high growth periods with rates now flattening around 2% per month.

It's estimated that close to 400 new gTLDs have already crossed their first year registration cycle. Growth trends may start to reflect an increasingly realistic view on demand – a post honeymoon period after initial excitement and campaigns.

The largest geo-TLDs are .nyc (75K), .london (62K) and .berlin (57K)

	Domains	Growth (Q1/2016)	Category
xyz	2,531,044	61%	Lifestyle
top	1,592,423	76%	Lifestyle
win	808,935	61%	Technology
wang	745,371	26%	Technology
club	706,219	71%	Lifestyle
网址	341,139	-5%	Technology
science	337,657	3%	Education
site	318,255	360%	Technology
bid	304,327	592%	Commerce
red	289,263	573%	Lifestyle

Source: CZDAP (ICANN). Data recorded MAR 2016



Note: Growth rates include only open generic TLDs. Rates do not include .brand TLDs

SOURCES

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

When the term European ccTLDs' definition is used within this report, it refers to the following: .am, .at, .be, .bg, .by, .ch, .cy, .cz, .cpб, .de, .dk, .ee, .es, .eu, .fi, .fo, .fr, .gg, .gi, .gr, .hr, .hu, .ie, .im, .is, .it, .je, .li, .lt, .lu, .lv, .me, .mt, .nl, .no, .pl, .pt, .PФ, .ro, .rs, .ru, .se, .si, .sk, .tr, .ua, .uk, .va, . 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 .PФ 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

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 53 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.

For any questions on this report, please contact patrick@centr.org

