

DomainWire

Edition 10 – December 2014

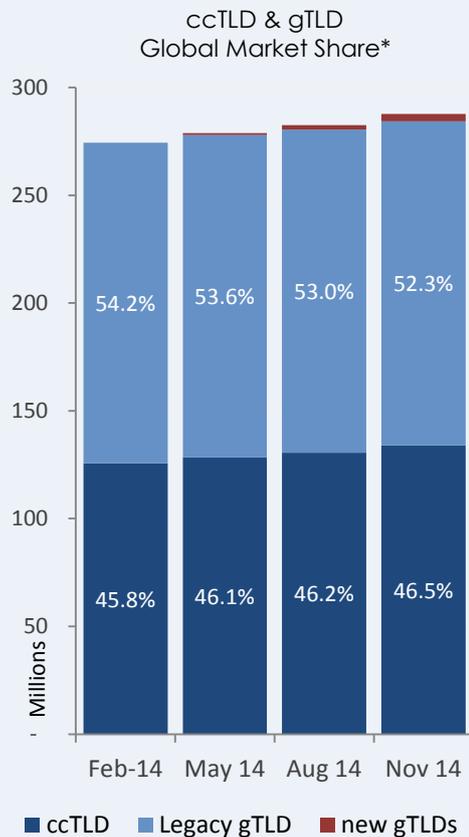
Domain Name Stat Report

DomainWire Stat Report is CENTR's quarterly publication covering basic domain name statistics with a focus on European ccTLDs (country code Top Level Domains). A ccTLD (country code top level domain) is a two-letter domain name extension such as .de (Germany), .es (Spain) or .cz (Czech Republic).

CENTR is the European ccTLD association. CENTR is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to supporting the interests of country code TLD managers. The objectives of CENTR are to promote and participate in the development of high standards and best practices among ccTLD Registries. CENTR has 52 Full Members and 9 Associate Members who altogether represent around 80% of the total number of ccTLD domain name registrations worldwide.



Global Domain Name Status



As at November 2014 total registrations across all Top Level Domains (TLDs) stood at **286.7 million**. This represents a growth of roughly 1.5% (4.1 million registrations) for the 3 months since August 2014.

As new gTLDs are being delegated and opening for general availability, their combined registrations have grown in absolute terms by around 60% since August 2014 and combined registrations are around 3.4 million.

Significant factors have affected the ccTLD growth over the last quarter such as a decrease in .ar (due to policy changes) and the .tk effect (.tk offers mostly free domains). Without the influence of these two ccTLDs, growth was recorded at 1.3% for the 3 month period.

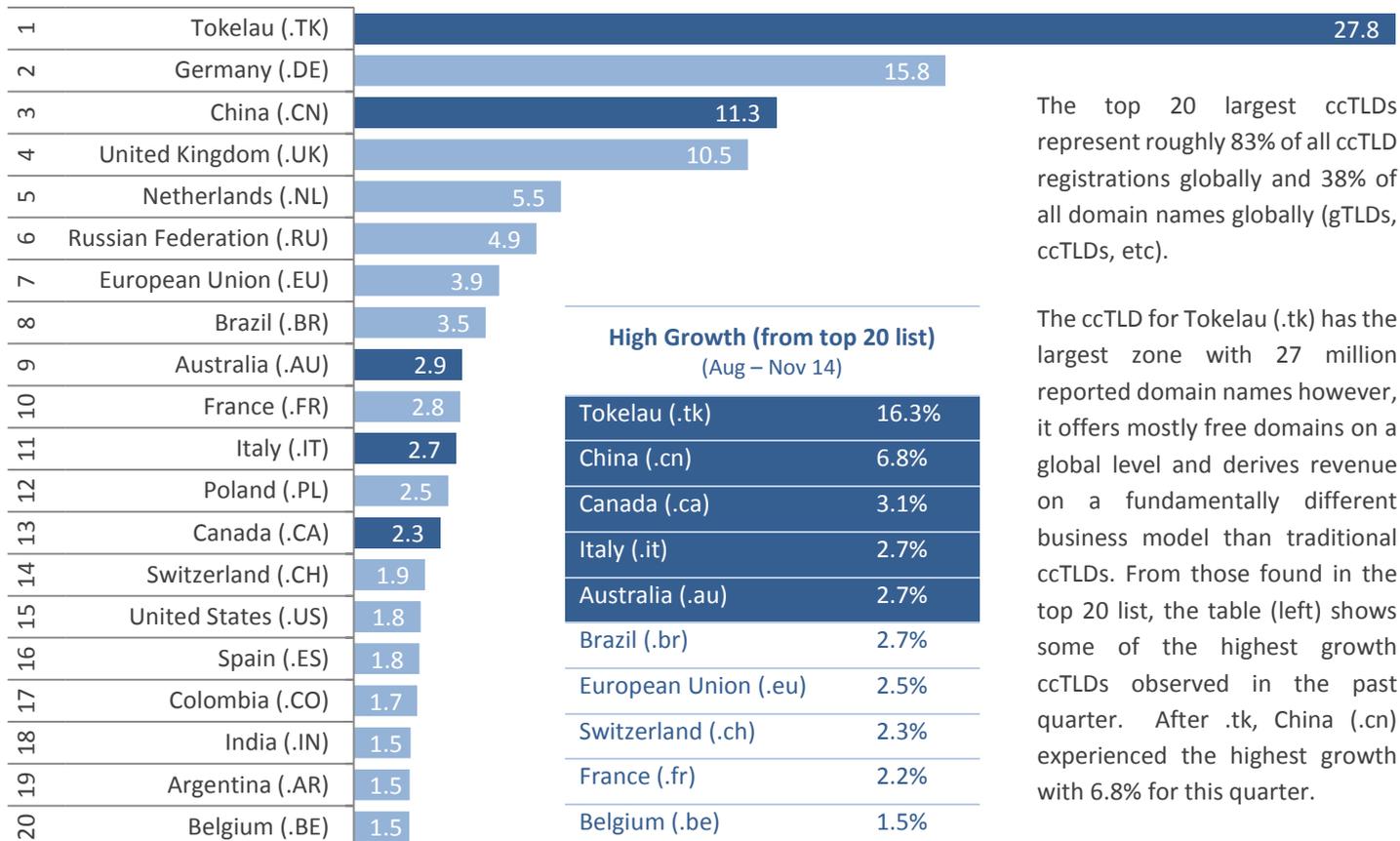
The market share between ccTLDs and gTLDs is relatively even, however weighted slightly to gTLDs. Market share of new gTLDs has been increasing and currently represents 1.2% of all registrations. It's worth noting that the market share values in the chart include TLDs that offer free domains (such as .tk and several of the new gTLDs).

	Registrations	Change (3m)
ccTLD	132,555,956	1.3%*
ccTLD IDN	1,380,462	10.9%
Legacy gTLD	149,447,897	0.4%
sTLD	1,002,313	-1.3%
New gTLD	3,377,635	63.2%
Total	287,764,263	1.9%

* Does not include .ar and .tk in calculation

*ccTLDs include ccTLDs and ccTLD IDN.
Legacy gTLDs include sTLDs (Some sTLDs have a delay in data of 4 months)
New gTLDs in dataset = 427

Top 20 ccTLDs by Registrations



The top 20 largest ccTLDs represent roughly 83% of all ccTLD registrations globally and 38% of all domain names globally (gTLDs, ccTLDs, etc).

The ccTLD for Tokelau (.tk) has the largest zone with 27 million reported domain names however, it offers mostly free domains on a global level and derives revenue on a fundamentally different business model than traditional ccTLDs. From those found in the top 20 list, the table (left) shows some of the highest growth ccTLDs observed in the past quarter. After .tk, China (.cn) experienced the highest growth with 6.8% for this quarter.

European ccTLDs Status update

European ccTLDs closed November 2014 with just over 67 million registrations in total - a net growth of 0.8% over the past 3 months and one that has been climbing since August 2014 (see chart right). This increased growth is typical of this time of the year however, it contrasts to the previous years in that the line (ccTLDs) has recently crossed back to be above the legacy gTLD line after having previously dipped below it. The longer term growth trend for both ccTLDs and legacy gTLDs has been decreasing slowly over the past few years.

Over the past 12 months, European ccTLDs grew 2.3% as compared to 2.0% among legacy gTLDs (note: the gTLD registration base is larger – see previous page). The largest contribution to the 3 month growth of European ccTLDs was .de (Germany) which added over 80K domains for the period.

European ccTLDs At a Glance

Total ccTLD registrations in Europe	67,037,004
Net Growth – Quarter/1 year	0.8%/2.3%
Average Renewal Rate (2013)	80.6%
Highest quarter growth (%)	.by (Belarus) 4.8%
Largest Zone	.de (Germany) 15.8 million
DNSSEC Status	34 signed zones (74%)

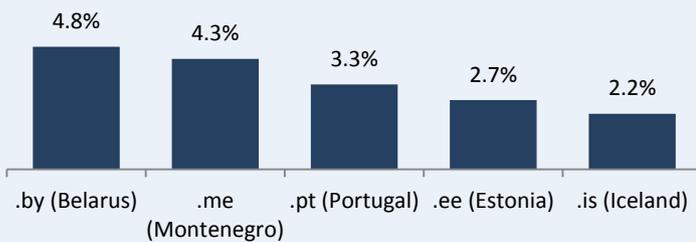


Source: CENTR, Hosterstats, ICANN (DNSSEC stats)

Growth Lines: 3 month moving averages are used to smooth the line
Legacy gTLDs do not include new gTLDs

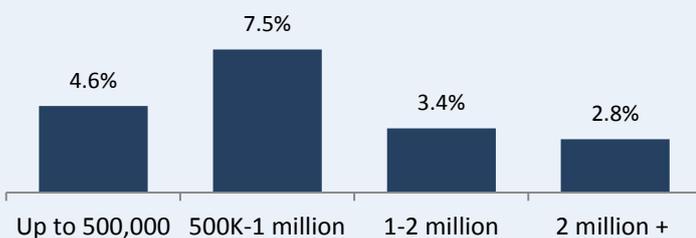
European ccTLDs – Domain name growth

Highest Quartely Growth
(European ccTLDs)



The chart (left) shows the top 5 highest growth European ccTLDs over the most recent quarter. For the 4th consecutive quarter, .by (Belarus) achieved the highest net growth in percentage terms – this quarter recording 4.8%. Although not a traditional ccTLD, the Russian IDN ccTLD .PФ (not on chart) also performed well recording 2.8%. Taken across 34 European ccTLDs, the median growth for the most recent quarter was 1.3% - a reduction of 0.2% from the same period in 2013.

Average 12 Month Net Growth by zone size
(European ccTLDs)



The chart (left) shows the average 12 month growth rates of 37 European ccTLDs grouped by their zone size. The highest rates were recorded within the 500k - 1 million group with a median rate of 7.4%. ccTLDs within this category include .hu, .me, .no, .pt and .ro.

The largest group by number of ccTLDs is the group 'up to 500K' which recorded a 4.6% median average for the period.

European ccTLDs – Market Shares

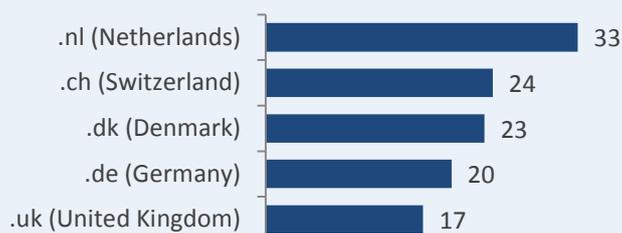
The charts to the right show two methods in measuring market share or penetration of a ccTLD; 1. Domains per capita in the country and 2. The market share of ccTLDs against all domains (inc gTLDs) in the country. The top 5 in each category are displayed for each.

ccTLD Per Capita - the Dutch ccTLD .nl has the highest number of domains per capita – 33 per every 100 inhabitants. The largest country in population is Germany (over 80 million inhabitants) and has 20 domains per 100.

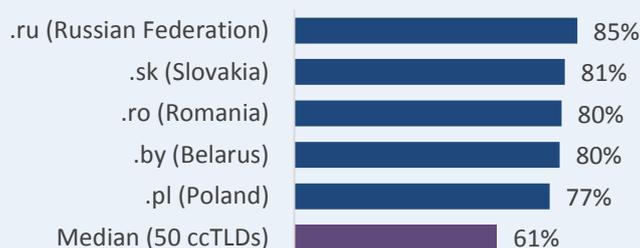
TLD Market Share in Country - In terms of ccTLD market share in country, the Russian Federation has the highest internal share with 85% of all domains registered within the country being the .ru ccTLD. Across 50 ccTLDs (mostly in Europe) the median rate was recorded at 61% - a small increase from data in 2012.

Note: ccTLDs with a significant number of registrants outside their country are not included in the above charts
Sources: CENTR, ZookNIC CIA Factbook. Market Share data: Q2 2014

ccTLD Domains per 100 capita
(per 100 inhabitants in country)



ccTLD Market Share in Country
(% total TLD registrations within country)



New gTLDs: Status Update

Since the new gTLDs started being delegated at the beginning of 2014, they represent around 3.5 million registrations and are continually growing with both the addition of newly delegated strings as well as growth in ones already delegated. Total combined registrations of 435 new gTLDs on record has seen a combined growth of 57% in the past 3 months.

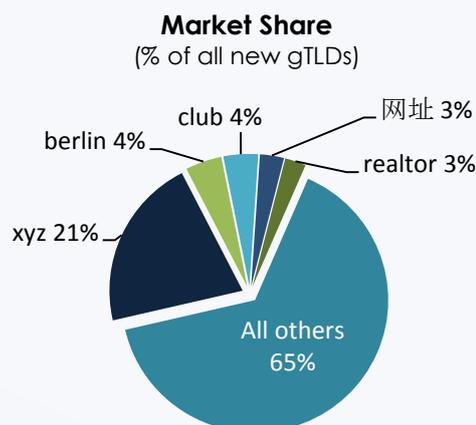
In terms of total registrations, the top 5 new gTLDs are listed to the right along with their 3 month growth and market share (as a percentage of all new gTLDs) values in the chart below. .xyz, .club and .berlin have all opened to general availability for more than 5 months however .berlin has a more restricted and defined target market than the others*.

Market share between the top 5 has remained constant over the past 3 months except for the introduction of .网址 (equivalent to English term “web address”) and .realtor, both overtaking .wang and .guru which have been experiencing a decreasing growth trend over the period.

* As mentioned on page 1, it is worth noting that some new gTLDs give away domains for free. This can give a varied impressions of the success or relevance of a TLD and should be considered when analysing data.

New gTLD	Registrations	Growth (3m)	Category
xyz	736,183	48%	Lifestyle
berlin	154,270	12%	Geographic
club	146,717	40%	Lifestyle
网址 (xn--ses554g)	101,638	NA	Technology
realtor	89,068	NA	Real Estate
Total New gTLDs	3,495,667	57%	

Source: ICANN. Data recorded 15 Dec 2014



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

CENTR is an association of Internet Country Code Top Level Domain Registries such as .uk in the United Kingdom and .es in Spain. Full Membership is open to organisations, corporate bodies or individuals that operate a country code top level domain registry. The project that became CENTR was formed in March 1998 and was informally funded by participant registries. In 1999, it was legally established as a not-for-profit company in the UK. Since 2006, CENTR is registered as a non-for-profit organisation based in Brussels, Belgium. CENTR activities are funded by membership fees, and performed by a secretariat based in Brussels, Belgium.

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

