CENTRstats Global TLD 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).

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 54 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.

CENTRstats
Global TLD Report
Q1 2018 – Edition 23
The **global TLD market** grew 1.4% YOY at the end of Q1 2018, bringing total recorded domains to an estimated 333 million\(^1\). In terms of market share, 44% of domain names globally are ccTLDs and 56% are gTLDs. These figures have not changed significantly over the past year or two, despite the addition of hundreds of new gTLDs in that period.

As at April 2018, ccTLDs grew a combined 3.5% YOY with the largest net growth within the European region, which added some 2.5 million domains.

While ccTLDs in Europe, Asia and the Americas are all averaging similar percentage growth (2 - 4% YOY), the African region has shown signs of increasing growth over the past 2 years. High growth ccTLDs in the African region recently were .zw (Zimbabwe), .tn (Tunisia) and .cm (Cameroon).

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**gTLDs** grew a combined 0.2% over the past year, dragged down by declines in .top, .org, .net, .biz. The largest gTLD, .com, grew at just over 4% and maintains 46% of the global TLD market.

High percentage gains were made by .art, .ltd, .work, .stream, .reise and .wedding. More on gTLDs on page 3.
The European ccTLD market grew 3.6% YOY and continues a period of stable growth (see chart) with some ccTLDs even reversing the slowing growth seen in previous years. The stabilisation in growth is in part due to a decline in average deletion rates along with flat rates of new domains and renewals.

The TLD market in Europe is estimated at 100 million domains (locally registered ccTLD & gTLDs) of which 59% is made up of European-based ccTLDs — an increase of around 1% YOY. The increase is in part due to declines in local registrations under .biz, .info, .mobi, .net and .org across in most countries. New gTLDs represent less than 2% of domains in Europe and as a whole have not grown significantly over the past year.

At country level, the local/national ccTLD is most commonly the TLD of choice and is generally followed by .com. .eu is often within the top 5 and over the past year, it has grown the highest (%) in Austria, Portugal and Croatia.

New research conducted by CENTR into European ccTLD pricing shows a median retail price of 10 EUR (ex-tax, new registration) with a range of 1-60 EUR. At registry level, the median whoelsale price is 6 EUR ex-tax. Research has shown that there is a reasonably strong positive correlation between wholesale and retail prices, suggesting registrars adjust their prices to support the underlying wholesale price.
Combined gTLDs grew marginally (0.1%) over the past 12 months and is estimated at 186 million domains. Of the legacy gTLDs, .com and .info are the only ones to have maintained consistent positive growth over the past year (4.1% and 18% YOY respectively at April 2018). Other larger legacy gTLDs such as .net, .org and .biz have all declined in total domains.

Of new gTLDs from the 2012 ICANN application round, roughly a third have contracted over the past 12 months. In contrast, the rate of domain names that are parked¹ has fallen from an estimated 63% in January to 59% in April 2018. The lowest rates of parked domains are within the geographic TLD category.

.com maintains around 71% of the global gTLD market with the rest attributed to other legacy gTLDs (18%) and new gTLDs at around 11%. .com is also predicted to retain and potentially increase this share given its growth trend (right), which has been increasing. Average deletion rates in .com have slowed, which may explain the upward growth trend.

Geographic gTLDs grew at a median rate of 1.9% YOY. Despite relatively low growth in this group, geographic TLDs also have some of the lowest rates of domain parking among all new gTLDs, suggesting end-user take up and usage may be higher than other gTLDs – this is likely to assist in their longer term sustainability.

¹ Parked domains are domain names without association to services such as e-mail or a website. Parked statistics sourced from ntldstats.com.

² Excludes recently launched and brand TLDs. Sample of 425 new gTLDs that had a minimum of 1000 domains at the start of the 2017.
SOURCES AND METHODOLOGIES

ccTLD registrations: CENTR member registries (European ccTLDs) and co-operation with APTLD (Asia Pacific region ccTLDs) and LACTLD (South America and Carribean ccTLDs). Other ccTLDs supplemented by data from Zooknic. When data on a ccTLD is not reliable, meaning it is not updated from quarter to quarter, it is not included in growth calculations within this report.

gTLD registrations: ICANN (CZDS) and direct zone downloads with TLD operators.

Parking statistics (on new gTLDs only): https://ntldstats.com/parking/tld. Percentages expressed (parked domains as a proportion of total domains) are based on the total domain counts ntldstats.com provides.

European country market share: geographic distribution of domain location (registrant) sourced from CENTR member registries (ccTLDs) and Zooknic (gTLDs). Market share averages at country level include domains registered from foreign European ccTLDs.

RATIOS USED IN THIS REPORT
The following are calculations for ratios used in this report. These ratios are calculated by CENTR on a monthly basis.

Add ratio: total adds over previous 12 months / total domains (current)
Delete ratio: total deletes over previous 12 months / total domains (current)
Renewal rate: renewals / (renewals + deletes).

Exclusions in data – Some calculations in this report exclude TLDs with limited or unreliable data. Current exclusions are at least the following: .ag, .cc, .cf, .cn, .ga, .gl, .gq, .gr, .im, .ky, .mg, .ml, .mq, .mr, .mz, .ph, .pw, .st, .tk, .tv, .vg, .vi, .ws, .zm. Other exclusions may exist.

TERMS
ccTLD – a Country Code Top-Level Domain (ccTLD) is a two-character top-level domain used and reserved for a country or independent territory. Examples include .uk for the United Kingdom or .de for Germany.
gTLD – a Generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) is a 3 or more character string. Examples include .com, .org, .club, .london
IDN – an Internationalised Domain Name is a domain that contains at least one label that is displayed in software applications, in whole or in part, in a language-specific script or alphabet, such as Arabic, Chinese, Cyrillic, Tamil, Hebrew or the Latin alphabet-based characters with diacritics or ligatures, such as French (source: Wikipedia). A ccTLD IDN is an IDN at the top level – e.g., the ccTLD IDN for the Russian Federation is .РФ, which is the Cyrillic script version of .ru.

Registrant – The individual or organisation that registers a specific domain name. A registrant holds the right to use that domain name for a specified period of time.

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

Market Share – TLD market share in European countries is calculated by using the locally registered domains under each TLD group (ccTLD, new gTLD, legacy gTLD) in over 30 European countries measured as a percentage of their sum (source: CENTR and ZookNic). Market share averages are calculated quarterly.

Grouping
gTLDs and ccTLDs are sometimes grouped to assist analysis and calculations. The below outlines the TLD that may be used within these groups.

‘Legacy’ gTLDs: .asia, .biz, .com, .coop, .info, .jobs, .mobi, .name, .net, .org, .pro, .tel, .travel, .xxx

‘Geo’ (Geographic) TLDs: .abudhabi, .africa, .alsace, .amsterdam, .barcelona, .bayern, .berlin, .boston, .brussels, .budapest, .bzh, .capetown, .cologne, .cyprus, .doha, .dubai, .durban, .eus, .frl, .gent, .hamburg, .helsinki, .ist, .istanbul, .joburg, .koeln, .kyoto, .london, .madrid, .melbourne, .miami, .moscow, .nagoya, .nrw, .nyc, .okinawa, .osaka, .paris, .quebec, .rio, .ruhr, .ryukyu, .saarland, .stockholm, .sydney, .taipei, .tirol, .tokyo, .vegas, .vlaanderen, .wales, .wien, .xn--1iqw23a, .xn--80adxhsks, .xn--mgbc7zdno, .xn--xhq521b, .yokohama, .zuerich

‘European ccTLDs’: .am, .at, .be, .bg, .by, .ca, .ch, .cy, .cz, .cp6, .de, .dk, .ee, .es, .eu, .fi, .fo, .fr, .gg, .gl, .gr, .hr, .hu, .ie, .im, .is, .it, .je, .li, .lt, .lu, .lv, .me, .mt, .nl, .no, .pl, .pt, .ps, .ro, .ru, .se, .si, .sk, .tr, .ua, .uk, .va.

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