

## REGISTRO .IT press kit

### Registro .it

The Registro manages the **Registry of .it Internet domains**, "dot it" is the domain extension for Italy, and is a service of the CNR Institute of Informatics and Telematics in Pisa (CNR-IIT). Only here can you request, modify or delete one or more .it domains.

At the request of users, the Registro, through the management of the primary DNS (Domain Name System) service for Italy, associates the numeric addresses needed to move around the network (which are long and difficult to memorise) with a name. The DNS transparently regulates the functioning of the Internet and the web, e-mail and, in general, all Internet services are based on it. Information on the domain name, its contacts and DNS servers are stored in an archive (DBAN – Data Base of Assigned Names), which is also managed by the Registro.

From September 2019 the Registro .it will also handle the registration and maintenance of the domain names **edu.it**, reserved for the names of Italian public and private schools and, from July 2022, the registration service for the names **gov.it**, reserved for the central State Public Administrations and the National Welfare and Assistance Bodies, indicated in the list of public administrations identified pursuant to Article 1, paragraph 3, of Law no. 196 of 31 December 2009, as amended.

### The Rules of the Internet

The rules of the Net are set by an international organisation, ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers). In December 1987, ICANN instructed the National Research Council of Italy (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, CNR) to manage Internet domains with the .it registration number. This led to the creation of the Registro .it, based at the CNR-IIT in Pisa.

### Some history: cnr.it, the first Italian domain name

In December 1987, [IANA](#) (Internet Assigned Numbers Authority) recognised the Country Code Top-level Domain (ccTLD) .it, assigning its management to the CNR in virtue of the technical and scientific skills acquired by its researchers, who were among the first in Europe to adopt the IP protocol. The registration and maintenance service for Italian domains was initially provided by the CNR's CNUCE Institute. Since 1997, this competence has passed to the Institute for Telematics Applications (CNR-IAT) and

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then to the Institute of Informatics and Telematics (CNR-IIT), which was created in 2002 through the merger between CNR-IAT and the Institute of Computational Mathematics (CNR-IMC).

## How domains and domain names work

Domain names arise from the need to simplify the memorisation of the sequence of digits that characterises IP addresses (unique addresses linked to any device on the Internet), by assigning Registro.it Via Giuseppe Moruzzi, 1 - 56124 Pisa - tel. +39 050 313 9811 fax +39 050 315 2713 - info@registro.it - www.registro.it a textual name to the numeric string, which is easier to remember. The system adopted is called **DNS** (Domain Name System).

Each domain name consists of several levels. Taking chosenname.it as an example, "chosenname" is the second-level domain, and '.it' the top-level domain or TLD - Top-Level Domain (also called extension) which can be of various types:

- **ccTLD** (Country Code Top-level Domain), used by a state or territorial dependency. It consists of two letters, e.g. 'it' for Italy or 'eu' for the European Union;
- **gTLD** (Generic Top-Level Domain), generic top-level domains such as .com or .net, consisting of at least three letters. The .gov, .mil and .edu are reserved for US governments, armed forces and educational institutions. Then there are the new gTLDs (New Generic Top-Level Domain), such as .paris, .berlin, .xyz, ...

At the operational level, the operating model for registering a domain name involves 3 subjects:

- **Registro:** approximately 50 people work in Registro .it
- **Registrars\*:** domain name operators accredited by the Registro who provide Internet services, including the registration and maintenance of a domain.it name
- **Registrants:** companies, organisations, associations, natural persons who have been allocated domain names.

*\*The Registrar is an Internet service provider that has a contract with the Registro to manage .it domains. The Registro does not, in fact, directly register domains on behalf of end users. Each Registrar, in complete autonomy, offers services at all levels and prices, from the simple registration of a domain name to the creation of websites, the provision of Internet connectivity, and the provision of highly specialised services. Each Registrar also independently determines the costs of registering and maintaining .it domains.*

## Figures and rankings

According to the latest CENTR report (Council of European National Top-Level Domain Registries)

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with European/world-wide data updated to September 2025, the total number of domains registered in all known TLDs is estimated at 380 million.

The global domain name market has seen a strong recovery: the first 300 TLDs (ccTLDs and gTLDs combined) achieved median growth of 3.6% in April 2025, up from 2.2% in mid-2024. This is the best performance since 2022, although trends vary significantly across different regions and TLD categories. Asia-Pacific ccTLDs (APTLD20) showed the most pronounced acceleration, with median growth more than doubling from 1.7 per cent to 3.7 per cent in the year to April 2025. The 300 largest gTLDs (gTLD300) also strengthened, rising from 0.6% to 2.1%, with most of the momentum concentrated at the beginning of 2025. In contrast, European ccTLDs (CENTR30) continued to decline, falling from 1.1% to 0.4%, while Latin American ccTLDs (LACTLD15) were at 1.9%.

The strongest results remain those of the 100 largest gTLDs (gTLD100), which recorded median growth of around 7.0%, significantly higher than all other groups, although slightly down from the peak of 7.8% in January 2025.

The .com extension maintains its dominant position with 161 million domains, accounting for 42% of all registrations, even though it lost nearly 2 million domains in the 12 months to April 2025.

European country code top-level domains (ccTLDs) hold 20% of the global market with 77 million domains, with minimal variations, while other generic top-level domains account for 14% (51 million) and added over 6 million net domains during the reference period.

## In Italy

Ranking updated in **December 2025**: based on statistics provided by CENTR regarding the ranking of ccTLDs, **Italy** ranks **6th** within the European continent, with **over 3.5 million** .it domain names.

According to data collected in December 2025, in relation to the **overall market** for domains (not just .it) registered by residents in Italy:

- the .com holds 37% of the market
- the **.it domain holds 47% of the market**
- the .eu holds 4% of the market
- the other ccTLDs (.es, .fr...) hold 2% of the market
- other gTLDs (net, org, biz, mobi, info) hold 10% of the market.

## .it domains

In total, as of **31 December 2025**, **3,537,551** .it domain names have been assigned. In 2025, **482,575** new .it domains were **registered** (including **430** .it IDNs and **242** EDU.it domains).

## .it domain registrants

In 2025, 482,575 domains were registered, of which more than **418,000** were **by Italian registrants (86.6%)** and **almost 65,000 by foreign registrants (13.4%)**.

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### Registrars under contract with the Registro .it

As of 31 December 2025, there are **930 Registrars**, of which just over **800 are Italian (86.6% of the total)**, divided as follows: 60.5% in the North, 23.1% in the Centre and 16.4% in the South, and just over **120 foreign (13.4%)**.

### Renewals and cancellations

In 2025, the .it registers a **renewal rate of 83.6%**.

The market in 2025 showed weak demand: the CENTR10 group<sup>1</sup> generated only 1.05 new registrations for each cancellation, and the CENTR30<sup>2</sup> stood at 1.08. Both ratios are approaching the equilibrium point of 1.0, where new registrations and cancellations are equal.

While new demand weakened significantly, renewal rates remained stable at 85.4% for CENTR10 and 85.9% for CENTR30.

### Growth rate of .it

The **.it growth rate** in 2025 showed an **increase of 1.22%** compared to the previous year: at the end of the year, there were 482,575 new domains, compared to 439,892 cancellations.

### Growth rate of European ccTLDs

Growth patterns among European ccTLDs showed divergent trends: the CENTR10 group (the 10 largest ccTLDs among members) fell to -0.15%, while the broader CENTR30 stabilised at 0.45%.

All information on the evolution of registrations in the .it (data updated in real time) is available on the Registro's website in the Statistics section.

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<sup>1</sup> CENTR10 is the group representing the ten largest European ccTLDs by number of domains.

<sup>2</sup> CENTR30 is the group representing the thirty largest European ccTLDs by number of domains.