

Global Domain Activity Report

Q2 2026



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Dear Reader,

We are happy to share the latest release of our quarterly domain activity report. It provides deeper insights into the Internet landscape, offering a comprehensive view of global domain trends and dynamics for Q2 2026.

We zoomed in on NRDs, also highlighting how many were likely registered with malicious intent. We also took a closer look at the top MX and NS domains this quarter, along with the confirmed malicious domains.

Let's dive in! Feel free to use this data as you see fit and share it with your team.

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Methodology

This quarterly report draws insights from WhoisXML API's comprehensive DNS, domain, and cyber threat intelligence sources.

We begin by examining global domain activity trends for Q2 2026, focusing on the NRDs based on data from the Newly Registered Domains (NRD2) database.

We then explore NRD-related trends in more detail, including their use of specific TLD categories, as well as the leading TLDs and registrars.

We also assess how many of the Q2 2026 NRDs were likely registered with malicious intent based on data from the First Watch Malicious Domains Data Feed.

Next, we highlight the most widely used MX and NS domains using data from DNS Database Download.

Finally, we analyze the domains confirmed malicious by our Threat Intelligence Data Feeds to determine the most commonly used TLDs.



Executive Summary

In Q2 2026, 30.0+ million NRDs were seen, increasing 13.1% from Q1 2026. Of these, 7.6+ million were flagged by First Watch as likely registered with malicious intent.

Domain activity remained concentrated across a small number of TLDs, with rising gTLD and ccTLD volumes.

Our analysis of billions of MX and NS records continued to show increased reliance on a limited set of providers. Registrar rankings shifted, with new entrants into the top 5 as others dropped out.

Finally, 3.2+ million confirmed malicious domains continued to cluster within a small set of TLDs, indicating persistent patterns in malicious domain usage.

30.0M+

NRDs in Q2 2026

13.1%

*increase in the total NRD volume
from Q1 to Q2 2026*

7.6M+

*NRDs likely registered with malicious
intent in Q2 2026*

3.2M+

*confirmed malicious domains in Q2
2026*



Q2 2026 Findings



30.0M+

NRDs registered in Q2 2026

26.5M+

NRDs registered in Q1 2026

We saw a

13.1%

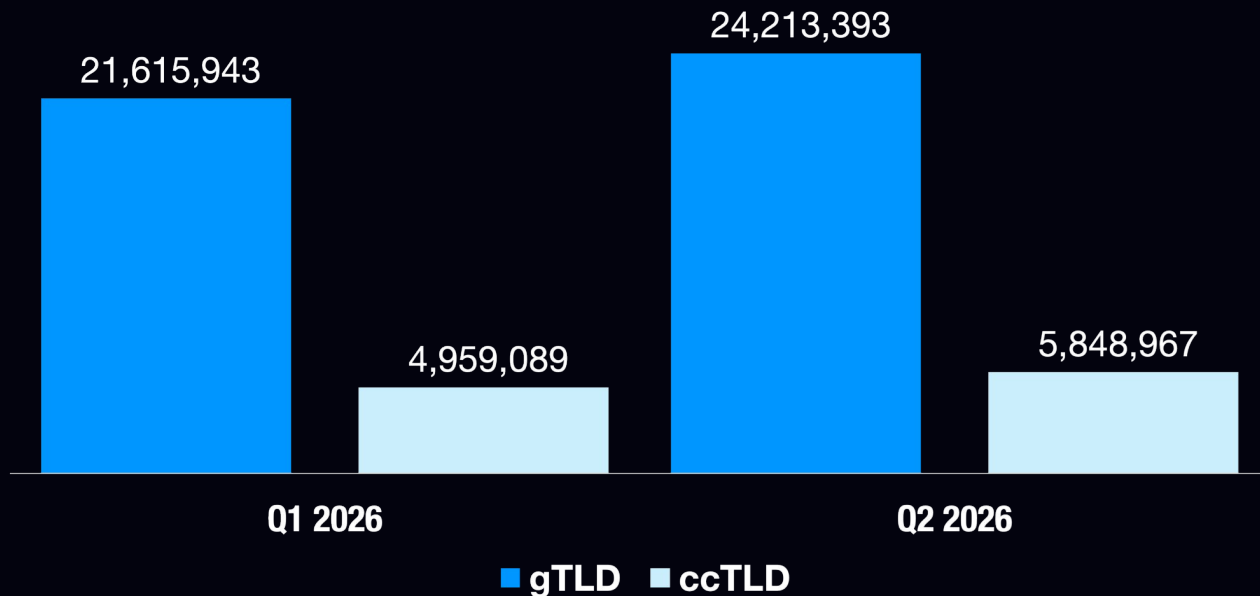
increase in the total NRD volume
from Q1 to Q2 2026.



NRD TLD Types

gTLDs: +12.0% registrations

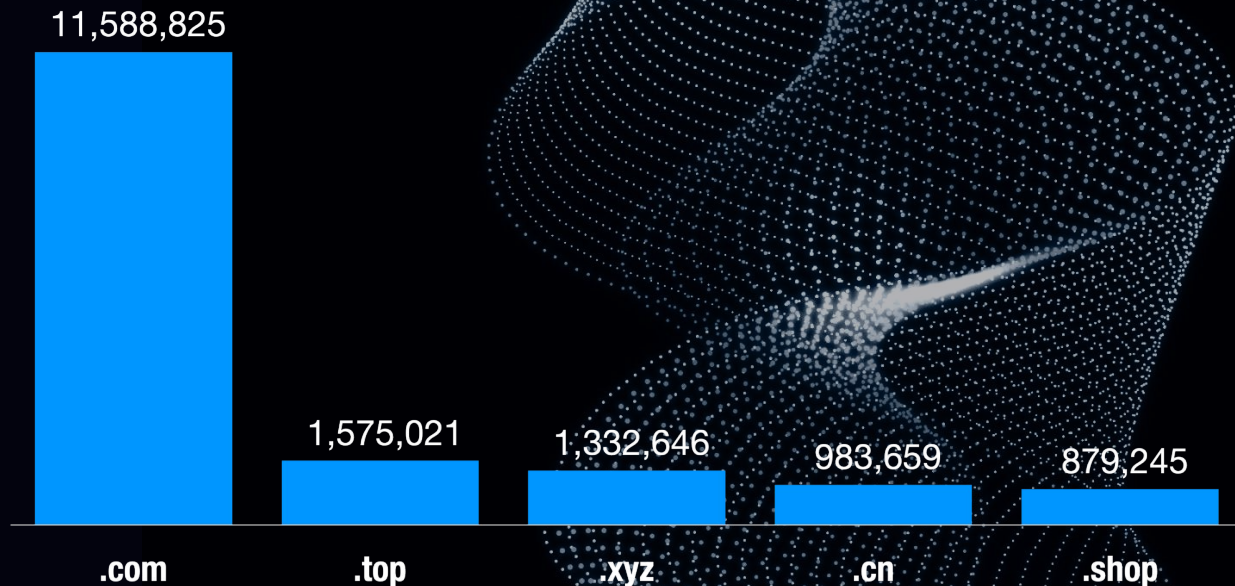
ccTLDs: +17.9% registrations



Top NRD TLDs

16.3M+

Number of NRDs sporting the top 5 TLDs



Top NRD TLD QoQ Growth

The .cn TLD extension entered the top 5 NRD TLDs list. The .org TLD, meanwhile, dropped out.

Q2 2026 TOP TLD	Q2 2026 TLD Volume	Q1 2026 TLD Volume	QoQ Ranking Change
.com	11,588,825	10,479,458	→ (Unchanged)
.top	1,575,021	1,000,527	→ (Unchanged)
.xyz	1,332,646	791,749	↑ from 4 to 3
.cn	983,659	607,552	↑ from 9 to 4
.shop	879,245	938,453	↓ from 3 to 5



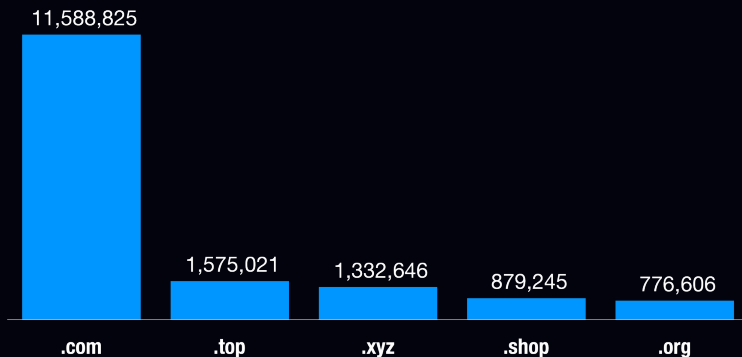
NRD TLD Type Trends

The total number of NRDs sporting the top 5 gTLD extensions increased by 15.8% from Q1 to Q2 2026. That of NRDs using the top 5 ccTLD extensions, meanwhile, rose by 23.4%.

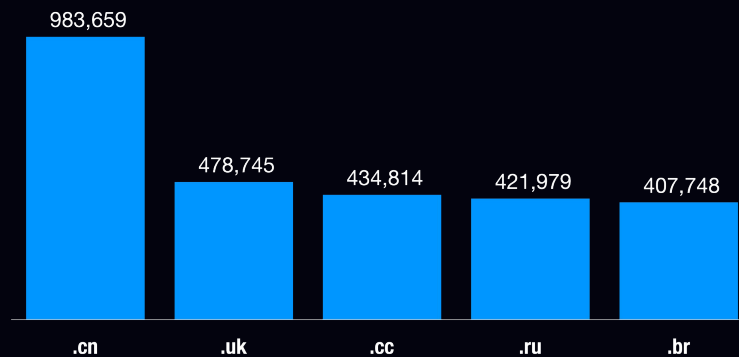
gTLDs: 16.1M+
ccTLDs: 2.7M+

* Top 5 only

Top gTLDs: Q2 2026



Top ccTLDs: Q2 2026



Top NRD gTLD QoQ Growth

While .org made this list, it fell short in terms of joining the previous list—the top 5 TLDs.

Q2 2026 TOP gTLD	Q2 2026 gTLD Volume	Q1 2026 gTLD Volume	QoQ Ranking Change
.com	11,588,825	10,479,458	→ (Unchanged)
.top	1,575,021	1,000,527	→ (Unchanged)
.xyz	1,332,646	791,749	↑ from 4 to 3
.shop	879,245	938,453	↓ from 3 to 4
.org	776,606	733,219	→ (Unchanged)

Top NRD ccTLD QoQ Growth

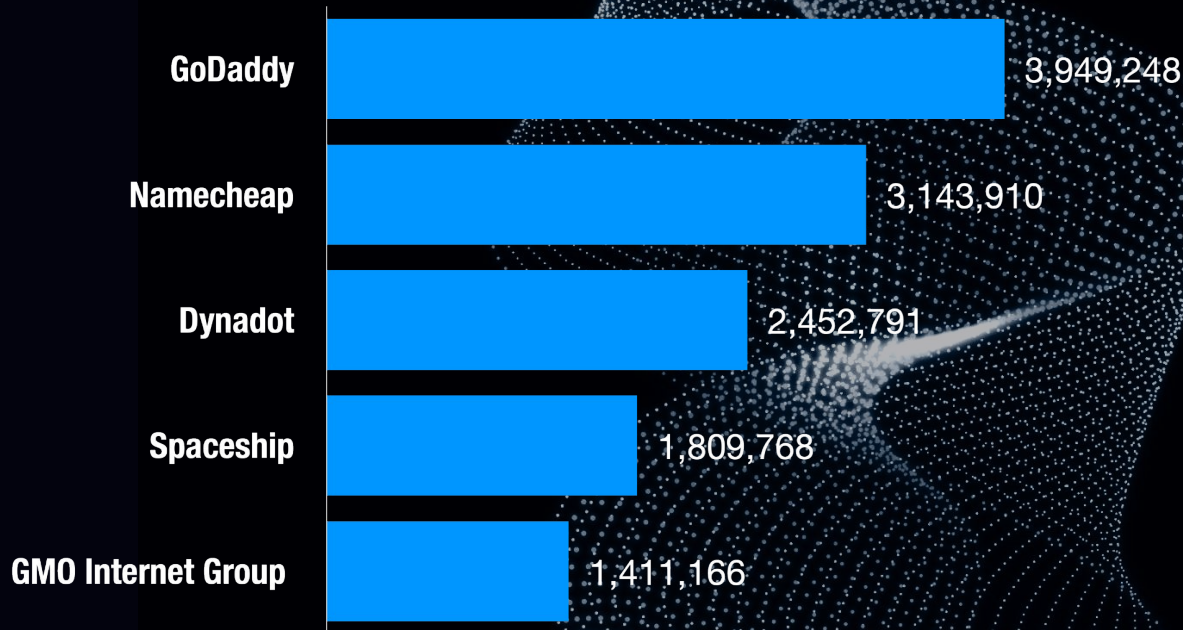
The top 5 ccTLD extensions remained the same from Q1 to Q2 2026 albeit ranking changes for the third to fifth placers.

Q2 2026 TOP ccTLD	Q2 2026 ccTLD Volume	Q1 2026 ccTLD Volume	QoQ Ranking Change
.cn	983,659	607,552	→ (Unchanged)
.uk	478,745	486,710	→ (Unchanged)
.cc	434,814	329,815	↑ from 5 to 3
.ru	421,979	450,594	↓ from 3 to 4
.br	407,748	334,951	↓ from 4 to 5

Top NRD Registrars

12.7M+

Number of NRDs
administered by the top 5
registrars

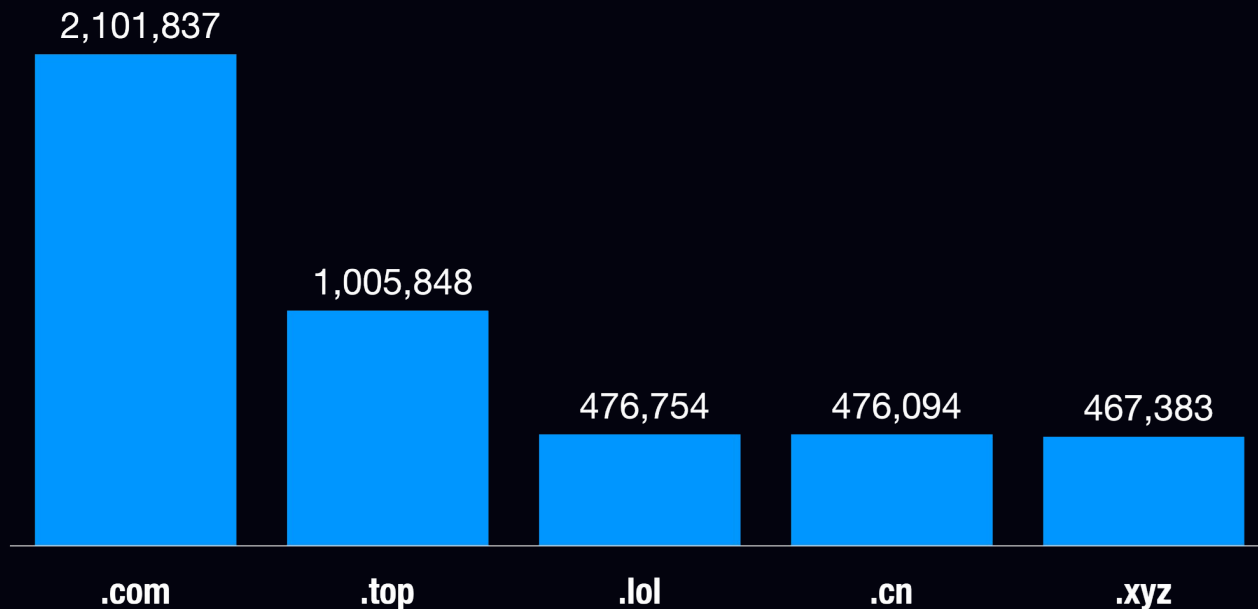


Top NRD Registrar QoQ Growth

Two new entrants were seen this quarter—Spaceship and GMO Internet Group. Their entry led to Hostinger Operations and NameSilo dropping out.

Q2 2026 TOP REGISTRAR	Q2 2026 Volume	Q1 2026 Volume	QoQ Ranking Change
GoDaddy	3,949,248	3,331,154	→ (Unchanged)
Namecheap	3,143,910	2,733,693	→ (Unchanged)
Dynadot	2,452,791	1,304,161	→ (Unchanged)
Spaceship	1,809,768	1,097,945	↑ from 6 to 4
GMO Internet Group	1,411,166	989,204	↑ from 7 to 5

Top First Watch TLDs

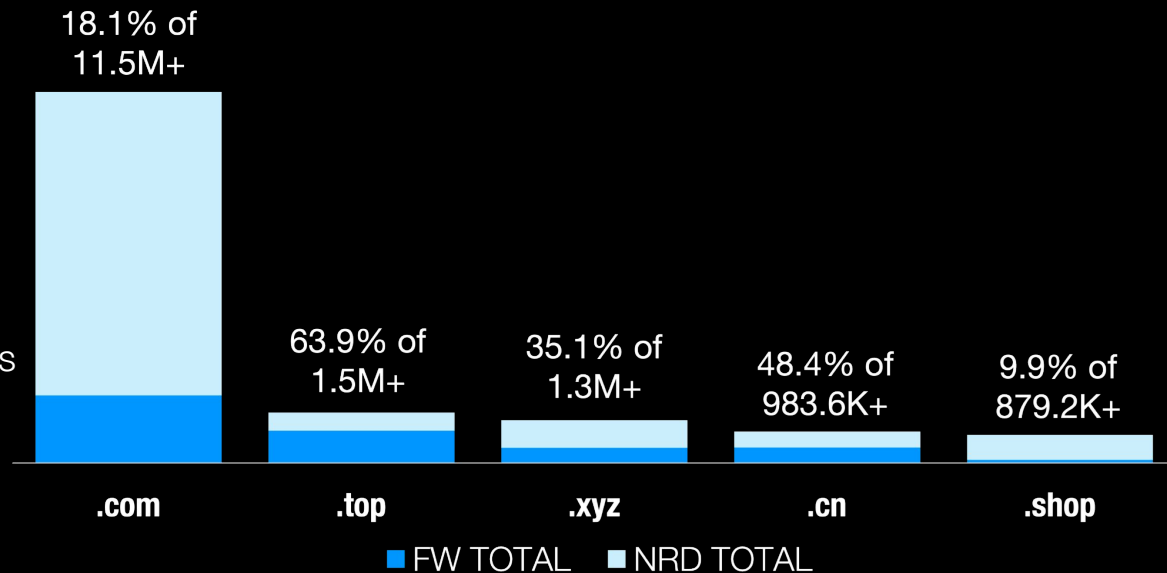


4.5M+

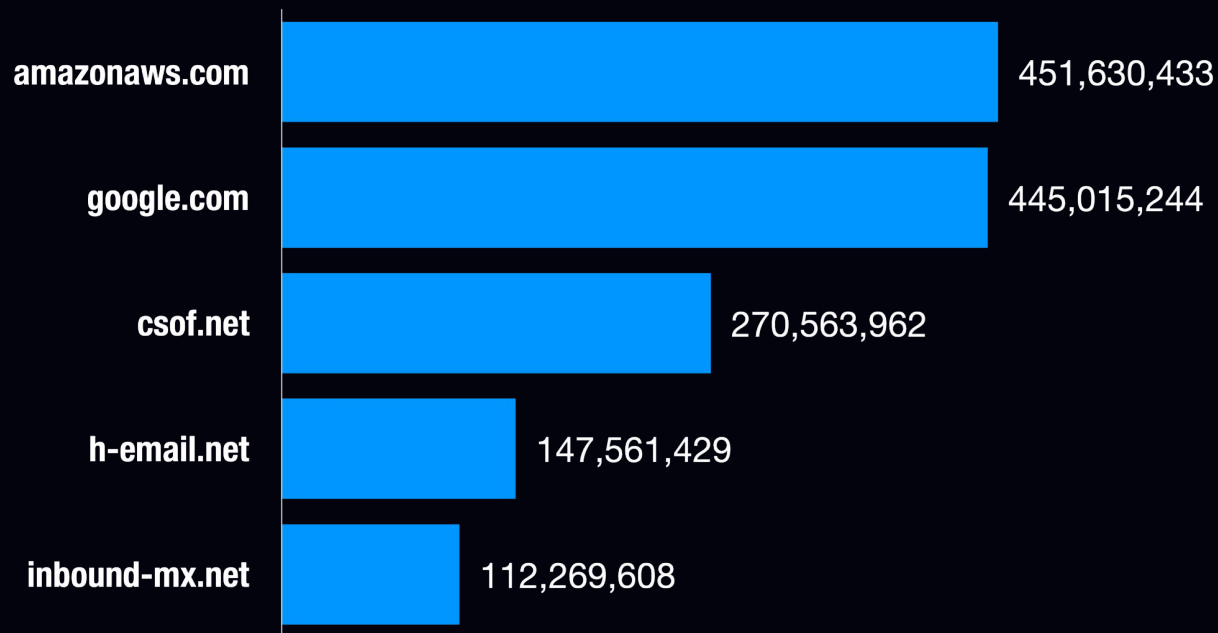
Aggregated number of NRDs likely registered with malicious intent across the top 5 First Watch TLDs

25.3%

of the NRDs using the top 5 NRD TLDs were likely registered with malicious intent.



Top MX Domains



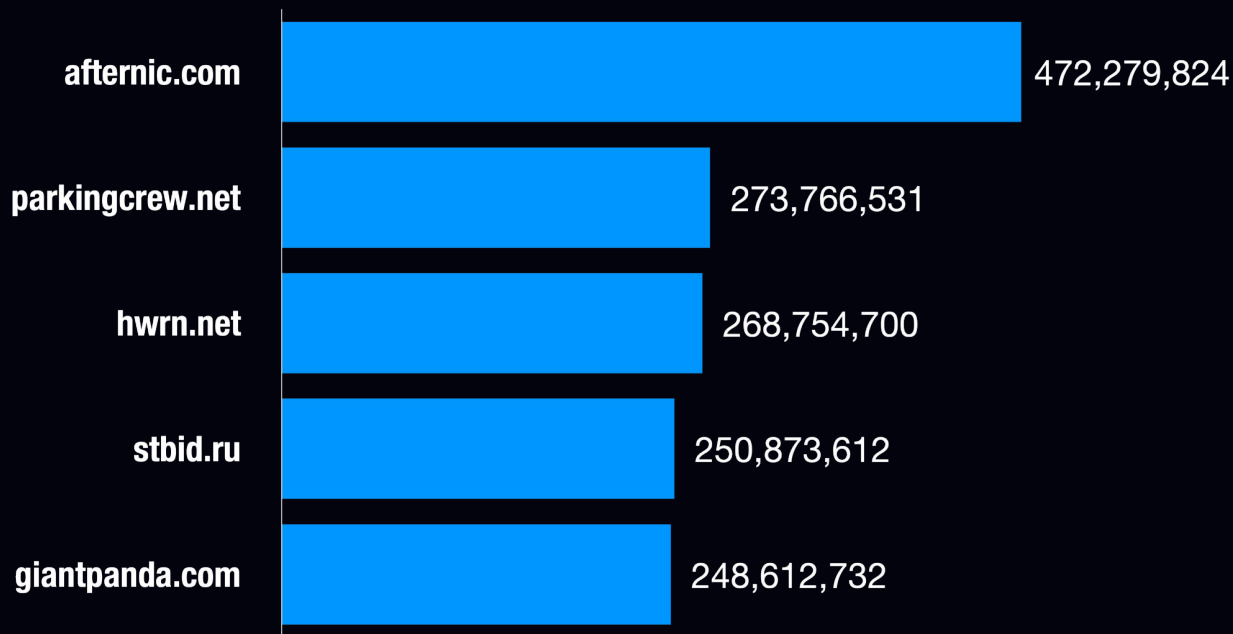
The number of domains using the top 5 MX domains increased by 6.8% from 1.3+ billion in Q1 to 1.4+ billion in Q2 2026.

Top MX Domain QoQ Growth

The MX domains amazonaws[.]com and google[.]com exchanged places this quarter compared with Q1 2026.

Q2 2026 TOP DOMAIN	Q2 2026 Volume	Q1 2026 Volume	QoQ Ranking Change
amazonaws[.]com	451,630,433	365,855,610	↑ from 2 to 1
google[.]com	445,015,244	567,507,973	↓ from 1 to 2
csof[.]net	270,563,962	206,248,848	→ (Unchanged)
h-email[.]net	147,561,429	98,585,251	→ (Unchanged)
inbound-mx[.]net	112,269,608	97,498,838	→ (Unchanged)

Top NS Domains



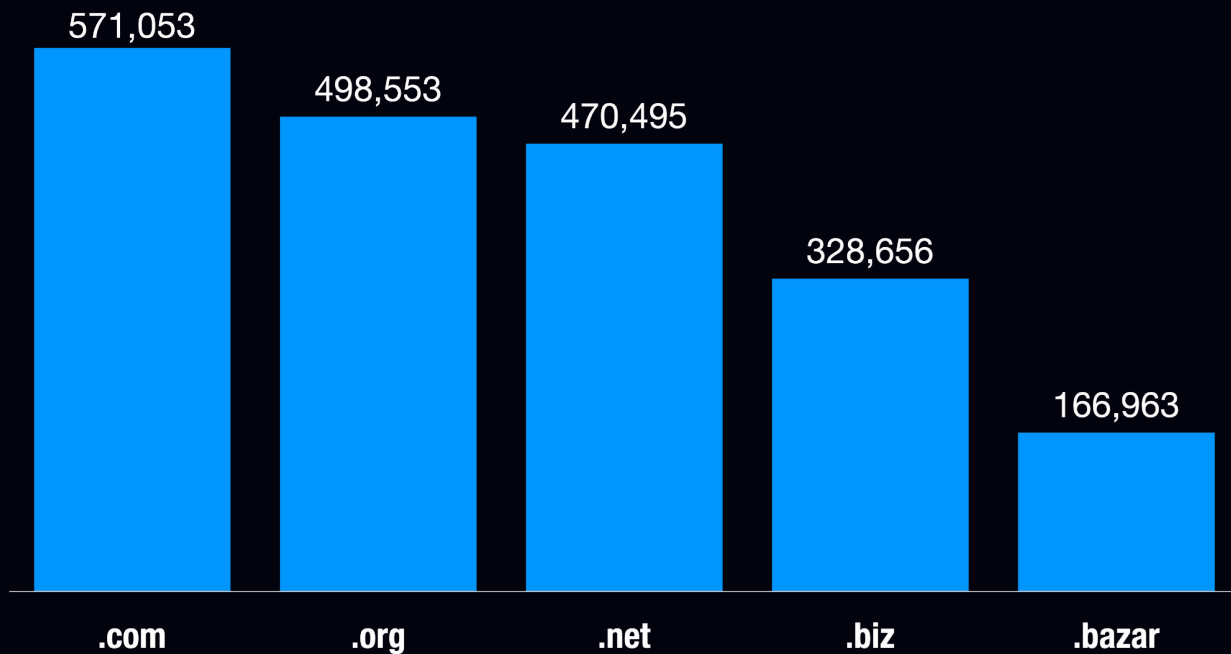
The number of domains using the top 5 NS domains increased by 18.8% from 1.2+ billion in Q1 to 1.5+ billion in Q2 2026.

Top NS Domain QoQ Growth

The domain parkingcrew[.]net entered the top 5. Along with ranking changes, domaincontrol[.]com also fell off this quarter's list.

Q2 2026 TOP DOMAIN	Q2 2026 Volume	Q1 2026 Volume	QoQ Ranking Change
afternic[.]com	472,279,824	360,239,117	→ (Unchanged)
parkingcrew[.]net	273,766,531	192,896,696	↑ from 7 to 2
hwrn[.]net	268,754,700	204,695,920	↑ from 4 to 3
stbid[.]ru	250,873,612	251,389,018	↓ from 3 to 4
giantpanda[.]com	248,612,732	255,105,928	↓ from 2 to 5

Top IoC TLDs



The total number of confirmed malicious domains sporting the top 5 TLDs dropped by 2.3% from 2.08+ million in Q1 to 2.03+ million in Q2 2026.

Top IoC TLD QoQ Growth

The top 5 IoC TLDs stayed as is even in ranking. Shifts in volume were, however, seen for all. Only the .bazar volume dropped while those of the other four rose.

Q2 2026 TOP TLD	Q2 2026 Volume	Q1 2026 Volume	QoQ Ranking Change
.com	571,053	559,542	→ (Unchanged)
.org	498,553	495,896	→ (Unchanged)
.net	470,495	467,984	→ (Unchanged)
.biz	328,656	325,476	→ (Unchanged)
.bazar	166,963	235,663	→ (Unchanged)

Q2 2026 Wrap-Up



Wrap-Up

This quarterly report provides insights into the domain registration patterns seen in Q2 2026. We determined the total number of NRDs for the quarter and how many were likely registered with malicious intent. Pertinent DNS MX and NS-related activities were also examined.

Analyzing these movements can reveal the preferences and behaviors of legitimate and malicious entities alike, enabling organizations to make data-driven decisions and security teams to stay ahead of ever-evolving threats.

Our market-leading domain, IP, DNS, and cyber threat intelligence sources enable us to provide deep insights. We are always seeking to partner with cybersecurity community members to share this intelligence and collaborate on developing innovative solutions to combat cyber threats.

[Get in touch with us](#) to access the data behind this report and discuss collaboration opportunities.



50B+

domains and subdomains

116B+

DNS records

28.7B+

WHOIS records

15+

years of data crawling

About Us

WhoisXML API empowers all types of cybersecurity enterprises, including MSSPs, SOCs, Fortune 1000 organizations, government agencies, and SMBs. We relentlessly collect, process, and deliver the most comprehensive and readily available domain, IP, and DNS intelligence on the market.

To explore how our data can support your product strategy, visit [our website](#) or [contact our sales team](#).

