

Q3 2023 in a nutshell

Looking at key figures within the .be zone in Q3 of 2023, our quarterly report presents a picture of stability. The Belgian online landscape maintains its equilibrium with approximately

1.75 million active domains, reflecting a consistent trend also observed in

major competitive zones.

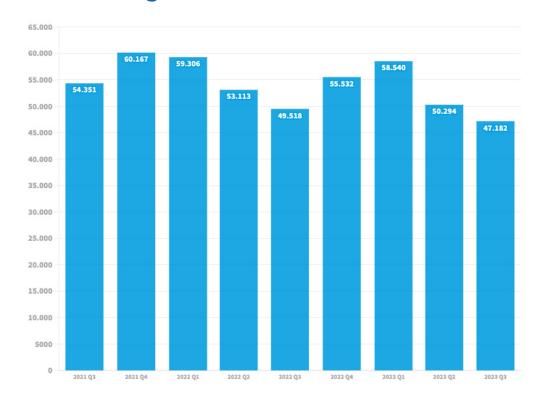
Noteworthy achievements include a remarkable reduction in reported fake webshops and a proactive stance against infections.

However, challenges persist, such as a dip in new registrations in Q3 and a nuanced shift in the renewal rate trend. Our strategic approach to pre-emptively block potential threats and malicious domain names remains instrumental in ensuring the security and integrity of the .be zone.

This report emphasizes our commitment to a secure online environment while navigating the evolving landscape of domain names.

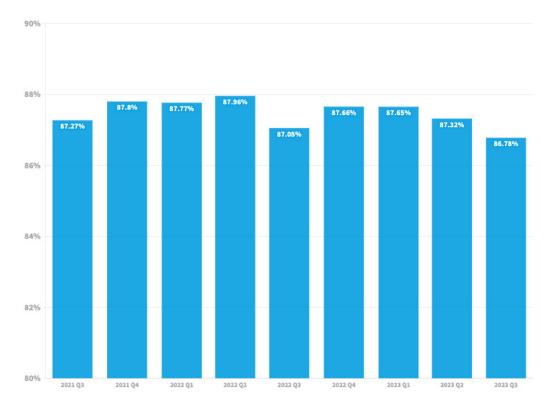
Philip Du Bois, General Manager at DNS Belgium

New registrations, Q3 2021 to Q3 2023



New registrations, a key factor in active domain name evolution reveal Q3 as traditionally the weakest quarter, due to the two holiday months. Year-on-year comparisons, however, reaffirm the pre-COVID trend: a 5% reduction compared to Q3 2022.

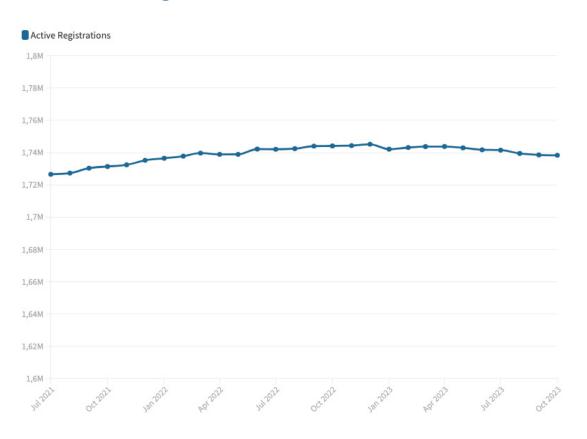
Renewal rate, Q3 2021 to Q3 2023



The renewal rate shows a new trend in 2023. Despite the consistent increase over the past 4-5 years, this year marks a slight deviation, with the average renewal rate in the first three quarters lower than the same period in the previous

year. We attribute this to a possible correction following the robust growth during the COVID period, emphasizing the marginal difference to avoid drawing inaccurate conclusions.

Active registrations, Q3 2021 to Q3 2023

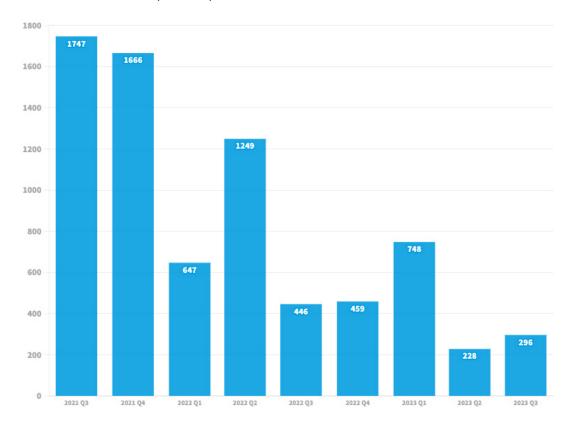


In terms of domain name growth, Q3 mirrors the stability observed in previous quarters, with the .be zone maintaining around 1.75 million active domains. We notice the same trend with our biggest competitive zones such as .com, suggesting that while the Belgian online community isn't rapidly expanding, it doesn't imply a stagnant online economy. The parties that are active online could still be showing growth versus those not online.

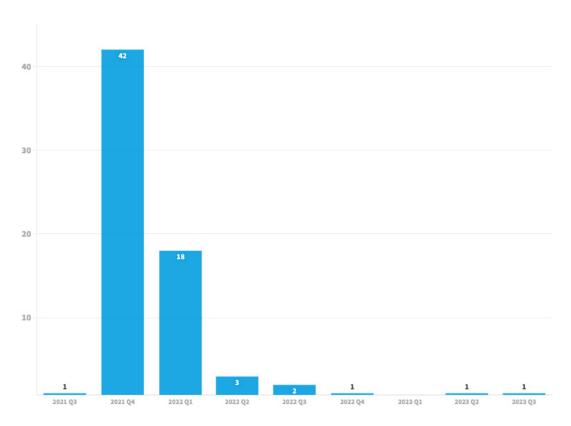
Revokes during Q3 2023

Revokes (chart on page 5), domains we block proactively as we suspect fraud or malicious use, have significantly decreased. Since 2022, our proactive screening of registrations before activation, utilizing artificial intelligence, has enabled us to identify potentially abusive domains. This strategic approach results in the need to block far fewer domains after activation, showcasing the

effectiveness of our pre-emptive measures.

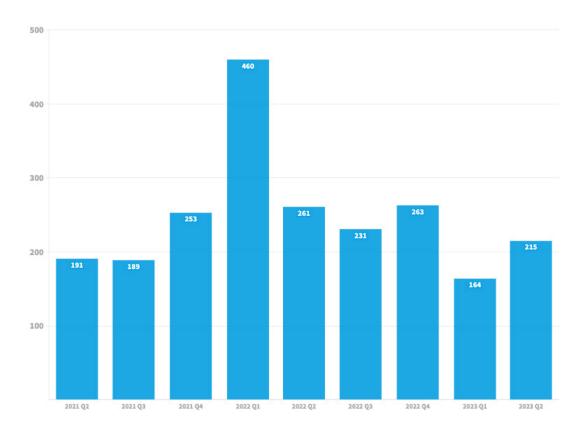


Fake webshop removal



Our continuous efforts to detect fake webshops have proven successful. From all sources, including our internal scans of the .be zone, we recorded only one report of a fake webshop in the .be domain. It's purely out of precaution that we don't state that .be is a secure zone to shop in.

Infected domains detection



The number of infections shows that many website owners still are vulnerable to malware and alike.

Although we can't directly control infections, our monitoring efforts serve to raise awareness among affected parties, prompting necessary actions upon detection.

dnsbelgium

.be .brussels .vlaanderen

DNS Belgium is a non-profit organisation. Our mission is to register and manage .be, .vlaanderen and .brussels domain names, improve the accessibility of the internet, encourage its use, make it safer to use for everyone and do so in a more sustainable manner.

DNS Belgium

Ubicenter - Philipssite 5/13 - 3001 Heverlee (Belgium)

+32 16 28 49 70

communications@dnsbelgium.be