

Domain auctions in CZ registry



• 2nd October 2025

Domain auctions in CZ

- Motivation

- complains from registrants and smaller registrars
 - unequal conditions for obtaining expired domains
- multiple analyses of domain dropcatching
 - domain fights of few domainers
 - more than 10% domains as subjects of these fights (and dropatched within 1 day)
 - 70% domains dropatched by 3 registrars
 - significant EPP traffic in some cases
- registrants had to rely on domainers
 - to offer fair system for registrants
 - to be able to revise the system of free requests for registrars

Domain auctions in CZ

- How did we release domains before domain auctions
 - to April 2024
 - 60 (30+30) days of protection period
 - limited free EPP requests
 - 100 requests per active domain
 - 25 000 requests as a minimum
 - price 0,1 CZK per request above limit
 - domain release 61st day after expiration (randomly)

Domain auctions in CZ

- How do we release domains with domain auctions
 - from May 2024
 - 60 (30+30) days of protection period
 - 15 days - domains in list of domain for auctions
 - 16th day - first round of domains auctions
 - domain release after unsuccessful auctions (randomly)
 - the term depends on auction result
 - limited free EPP requests
 - 100 requests per active domain
 - 25 000 requests as a minimum
 - price 0,1 CZK per request above limit

Domain auctions in CZ

- How does it work
 - object of the auction is the **priority right** to register the domain
 - new behavior after deletion of domain
 - not available for dropcatching
 - published in the list of domains for auctions for 15 days
 - Website: [aukce.nic.cz](https://www.aukce.nic.cz), Domain browser - <https://www.domenovyprohlizec.cz/>
 - contains all deleted domains (no matter for what reason the domain was deleted)
 - “enlisted to an auction” in WHOIS, RDAP, EPP
 - auction doesn't take place if CZ.NIC receives a court decision which prohibits it via preliminary measure
 - no request like it up to day

Domain auctions in CZ

- How does it work
 - 16th day after domain cancellation → English auction
 - duration 9 hours 12:00 – 21:00 (automatic extension in case of bids at the end)
 - starting price 100 Kč ~ 4 EUR
 - minimal bid steps according to current winning price
 - 3 types of bidding (hidden maximal price with automatic bids / direct bid / pre-auction bid)
 - the auction takes place in the Domain Browser (<https://www.domenovyprohlizec.cz/>)
 - only for verified bidders:
 - a natural person with a MojID contact which is verified for electronic identification purposes
 - a natural person holding an electronic identity of another Member State of the European Union (eIDAS)
 - a legal entity with a MojID contact that is validated in accordance with the MojID rules
 - hiding the identity for public

Domain auctions in CZ

- How does it work
 - measures against fraud bidders
 - each identity only 1x
 - limits for 1 identity (50 active auctions, 100 tracked auctions), no limit after paying a deposit
 - blocking bidders who
 - doesn't pay the priority right to domain registration (penalty) - automatically
 - floods the system with DoS type requests - manually
 - penalty = unpaid price (but at least CZK 1,000 ~ 40 EUR)
 - repeating the auction (5-round system) if occurs:
 - the priority right to domain registration not paid
 - the priority right to domain registration not executed

Domain auctions in CZ

- How does it work
 - registration of the domain from auction
 - winner
 - pays for the priority right to domain registration - 7 days
 - registers the domain by the registrar (using the holder handle from MojID) - period of 7 days
 - the registrar sends a standard EPP command
 - registration takes place if the winner handle is listed as the holder
 - required minor changes in the systems of registrars
 - modification of response codes for *create_domain*
 - adding reason to response for *check_domain*
 - EPP extension for *check_domain*
 - release of the domain for dropcatching after an unsuccessful auction
 - no bid in the auction, too many unsuccessful auction rounds
 - at a random moment on the day following a failed auction

Domain auctions in CZ

- What tools do we use?

- system for registry **FRED**

- internally developed (open source registry system)
 - minor changes in EPP, WHOIS, RDAP
 - auctioning is operated by an auction system module (with auction API)
 - auction tools added to already existing tool Domain browser (<https://www.domenovyprohlizec.cz>)

- system of electronic identity **MojeID**

- recognized electronic identity in the Czech republic and EU

- results of EU project RegelD

- support for EU eID in Domain browser

- Advanced DNS Analytics and Measurements (ADAM)

- <https://stats.nic.cz/dashboard/cs/auctions.html>



Domain auctions in CZ

- Previews

AUCTION [Back to auction](#)

[Follow](#) 0 bidding It ends for 07:14:00

techdays.cz (1st auction round)

Current price* 0 CZK Minimum bid* 100 CZK

Your offer ⌵ ⓘ

You bid* 0 CZK

Your offer that you are willing to pay. You can bid more than the minimum amount. The bid is binding and cannot be cancelled.

CZK [Bid](#)

Maximum amount you are now willing to pay (limit) ⌵ ⓘ

Your limit* 0 CZK

The system will automatically bid the lowest possible amount for you (according to the minimum bid table) so that your offer is the highest. The system will only bid up to your limit in this way. The limit can be increased at any time before the end of the auction.

CZK [Set limit](#)

If you bid and win, you will have to pay for the priority right to register the domain and then register the domain with your chosen registrar.

Bidding history
bids: 0, bidding: 0

Start making your first bids

Domain auctions in CZ

- Previews

Ongoing auctions

New auctions that can be attended start at 12:00 every day and end the same day at 21:00.

Domain ↑↓ ▾	Round	Characters ↑↓ ▾	Bids ↑↓ ▾	Price ↓ ▾	Ends in	Action
videoprezentace.cz	1.	15	3	300 CZK	7 hours	Bid
edohoda.cz	1.	7	1	100 CZK	7 hours	Bid
ejaponsko.cz	1.	9	1	100 CZK	7 hours	Bid
sounding.cz	1.	8	0	0 CZK	7 hours	Bid
nazahrady.cz	1.	9	0	0 CZK	7 hours	Bid
nasnabytek.cz	1.	10	0	0 CZK	7 hours	Bid

Domain auctions in CZ

- Previews

Bidding history
bids: 14, bidding: 6

Date	Action type	User	Price
May 8, 2025, 8:59:21 PM	Manual bid	User 6 	57 555 CZK
May 8, 2025, 8:43:20 PM	Manual bid	User 5 	56 555 CZK
May 8, 2025, 7:57:09 PM	Manual bid	User 3 	55 555 CZK
May 8, 2025, 7:55:12 PM	Manual bid	User 5 	53 000 CZK
May 8, 2025, 7:53:56 PM	Manual bid	User 3 	52 000 CZK
May 8, 2025, 2:02:10 PM	Manual bid	User 4 	51 000 CZK
May 8, 2025, 12:14:14 PM	Manual bid	User 3 	50 000 CZK
May 8, 2025, 12:04:01 PM	Manual bid	User 1 	26 000 CZK
May 8, 2025, 12:03:57 PM	Automatic bid 	User 2 	25 000 CZK
	Manual bid	User 1 	24 000 CZK
May 8, 2025, 12:03:51 PM	Automatic bid 	User 2 	23 000 CZK
	Manual bid	User 1 	22 000 CZK
May 8, 2025, 12:01:41 PM	Manual bid	User 2 	21 000 CZK
May 8, 2025, 12:00:05 PM	Automatic bid 	User 1 	5 100 CZK

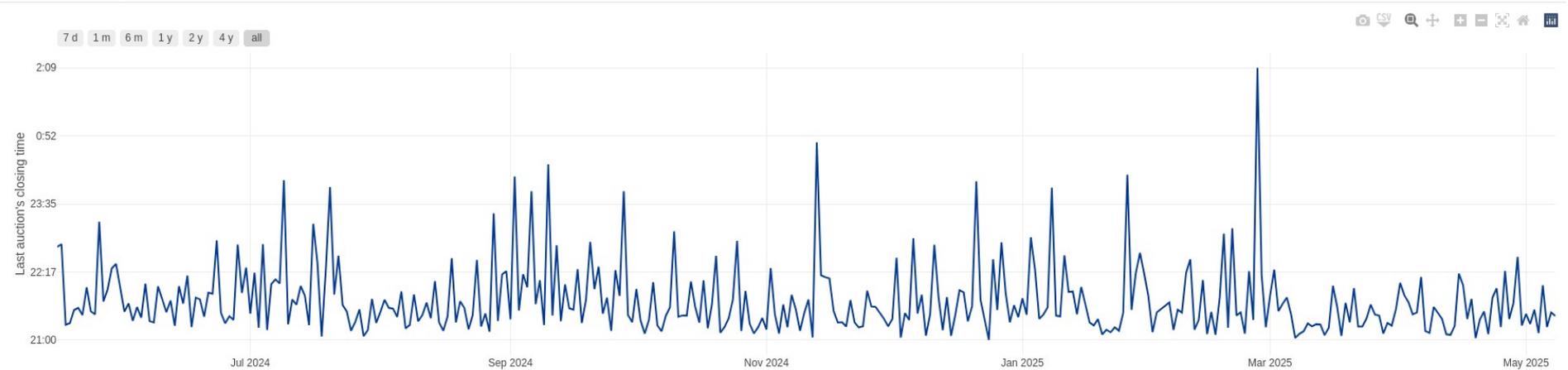
Domain auctions in CZ

- Results after 1 year
 - 165 000+ domains in auctions
 - 5 400+ domains auctioned (3,3% from “in auctions”)
 - 5 300+ domains with paid the priority right to domains registration (98% from “auctioned”)
 - 4 900+ domains registered (93% from “paid”)
 - 1500+ different bidders
 - 97% from Czechia (other countries: Estonia, Latvia, Slovakia, Germany, Bulgaria, Poland, Sweden, UK)
 - 80% natural persons / 20% legal entities
 - 54 bidders blocked (28 unblocked - paid penalty)

Domain auctions in CZ

- Results after 1 year
 - 1 100+ different winners
 - 65% winners won 1 domain, 28% won 2 domains, 16% won 3-5 domains
 - 10 winners won 35% auctions
 - 54% auctions ended later than at 9 pm

Last auction's closing time



Domain auctions in CZ

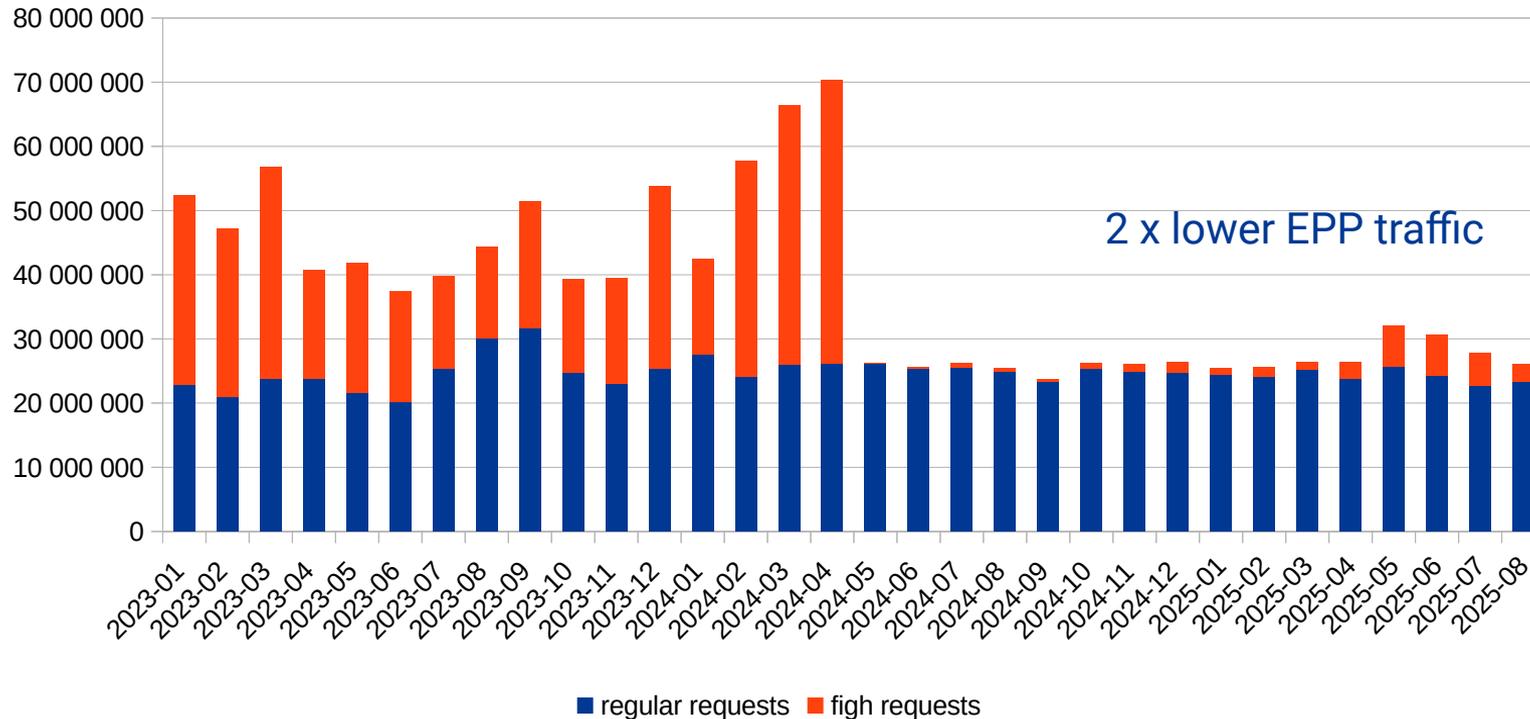
- Results after 1 year
 - supported by 16 from 48 registrars (with market share 90%)
 - auctions generally accepted (no complains received)
 - domainers are the most active in auctions
 - we see more of them
 - closing of 1 auction portal with expired domains of 1 registrar

Domain auctions in CZ

- Results after 1 year

Count of EPP requests
per month

Fight EPP request ~ more than 100 requests
(CheckDomain, CreateDomain, InfoDomain)
for 1 domain from 1 registrar



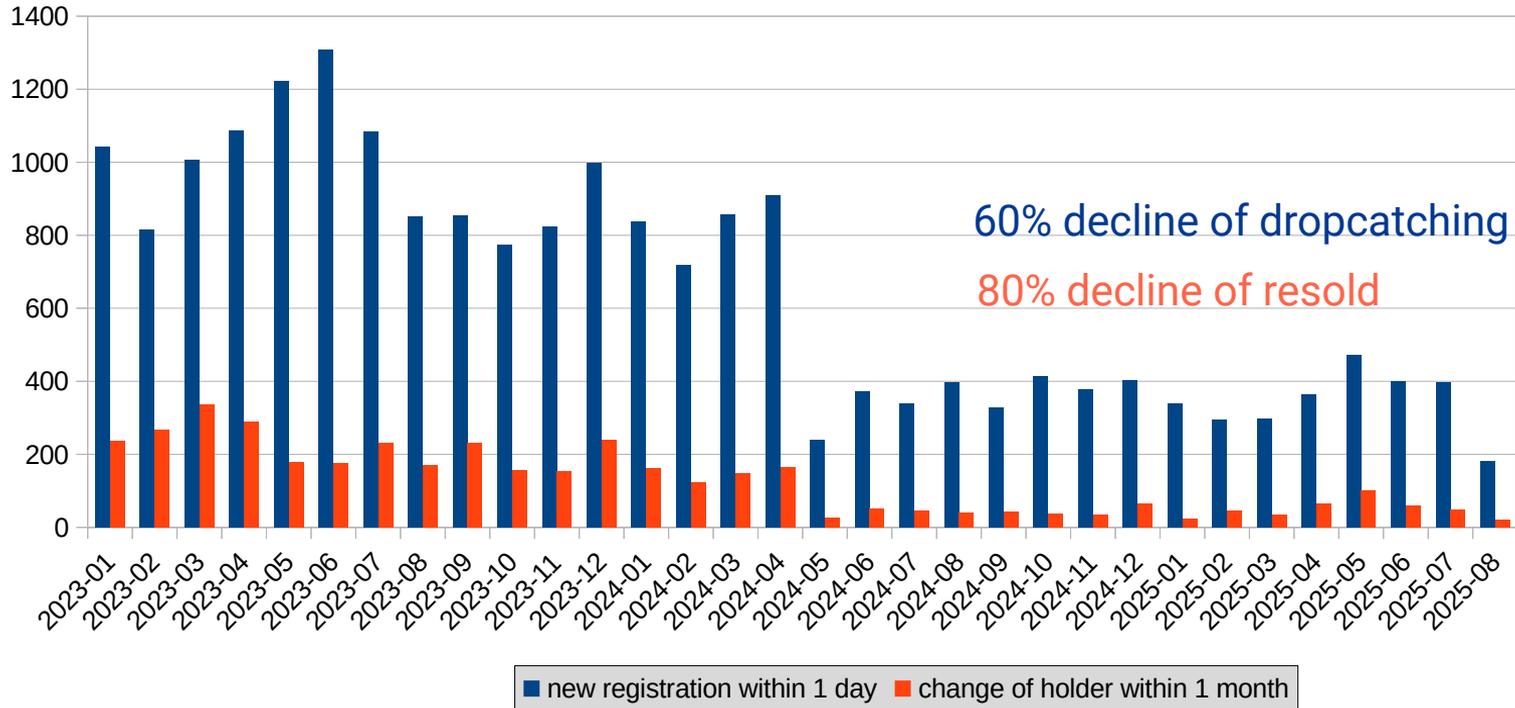
2 x lower EPP traffic

Domain auctions in CZ

- Results after 1 year

Count of dropatched domains within 1 day

per month

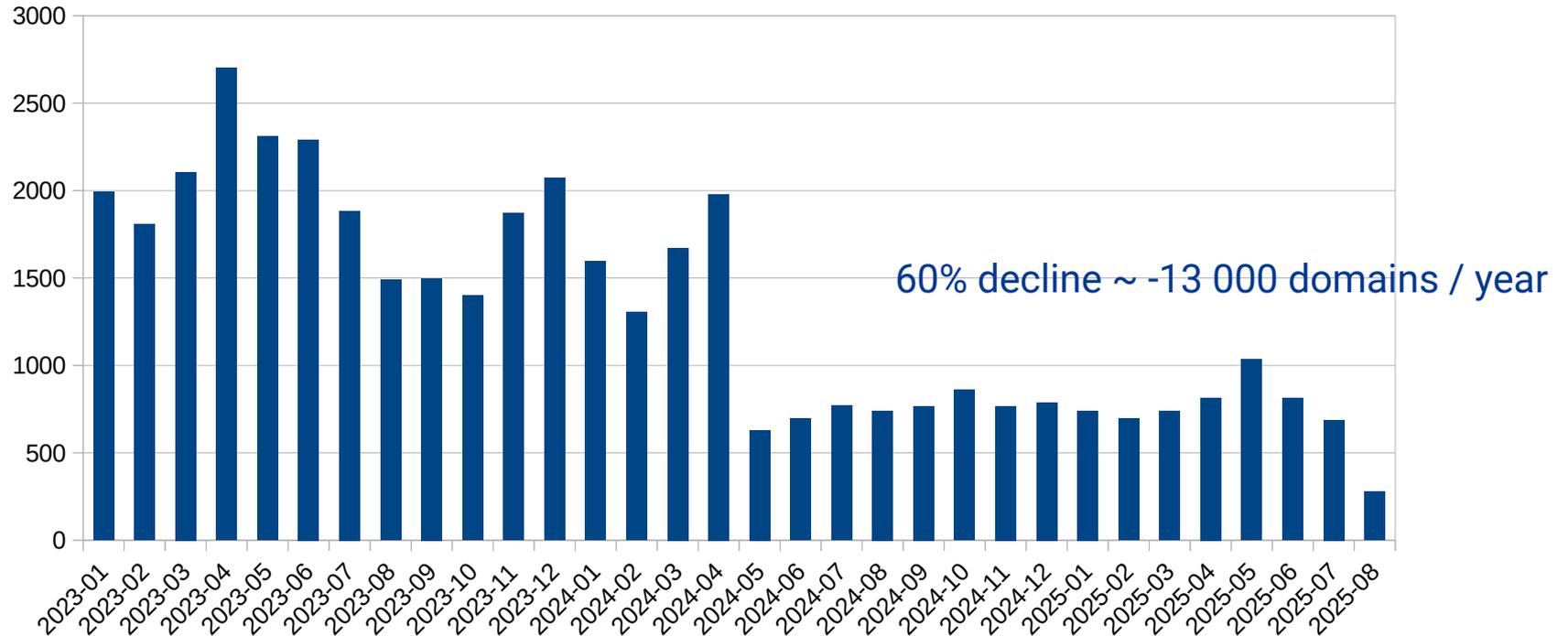


Domain auctions in CZ

- Results after 1 year

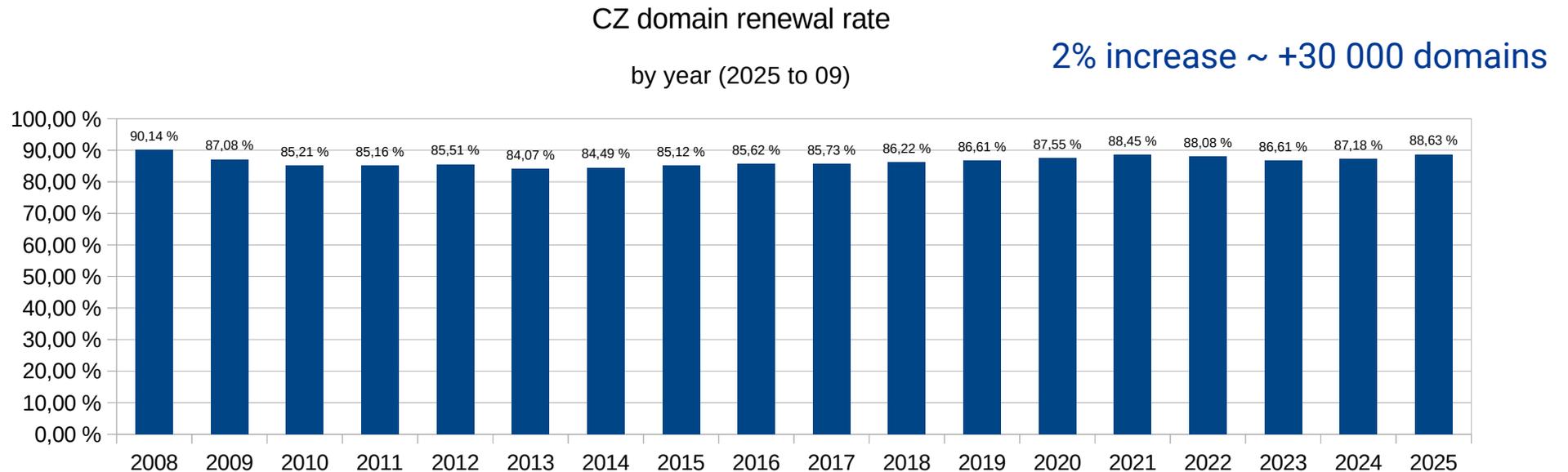
Count of re-registered domains

within 1 month from release



Domain auctions in CZ

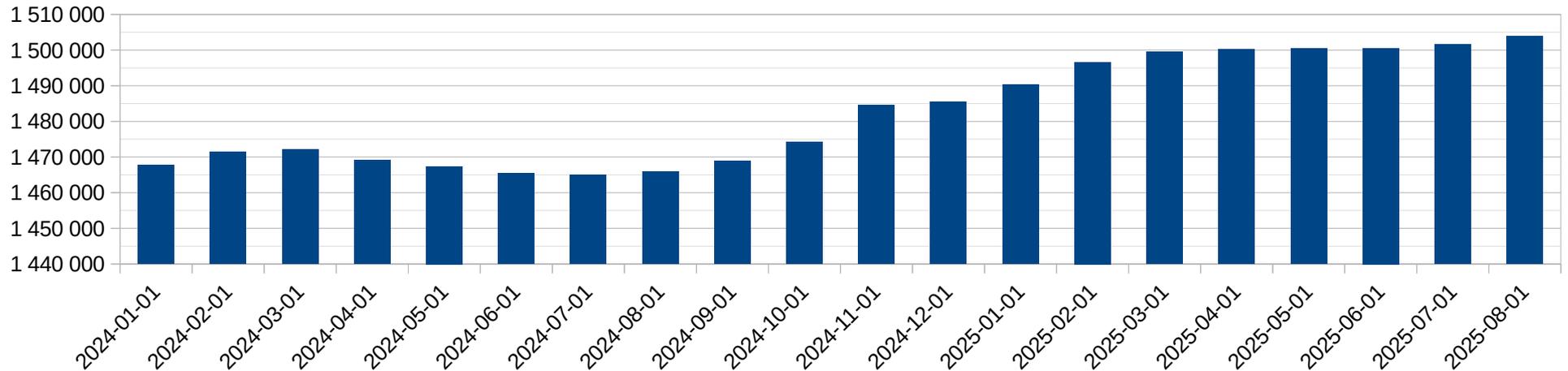
- Results after 1 year
 - slight increase of renewal rate
 - too short period to be sure (auctions or because of price increase from 1st of March 25)



Domain auctions in CZ

- Results after 1 year
 - growth of total number of domains
 - other reason is because of price increase from 1st of March 25

Number of CZ domains
at the end of the month



Domain auctions in CZ

- Results after 1 year
 - 240 000 EUR income
 - the most expensive auctions:
 - virtualnisidlo.cz - 152 077 CZK ~ 6 000 EUR
 - wgz.cz - 121 000 CZK ~ 4 800 EUR
 - zuno.cz - 119 888 CZK ~ 4 700 EUR
 - ergo.cz - 113 000 CZK ~ 4 500 EUR
 - mypage.cz - 101 000 CZK ~ 4 000 EUR
 - legal.cz - 100 000 CZK ~ 4 000 EUR

Domain auctions in CZ

- Results after 1 year

Auction price - the most common price

share of price range



Domain auctions in CZ

- Summary of main achieved goals
 - 1) The market with domains released from the registry opened to public
 - hundreds of auction participants
 - significant decline of fast domain resale
 - transparent pricing of domains by the market
 - 2) Dropcatching weakened ~ significant EPP traffic decline
 - EPP limit for registrars increased 4x (from 09/25)
 - 3) No negative impact to the domain market
 - 4) FRED as innovative SW for domain registries
 - 5) Financial income
 - ROI less than 3 years

Domain auctions in CZ

- Planned and considered changes
 - better support for occasional bidders
 - watching of existing domains if these appear in auctions
 - using AI for suggesting domains in auctions
 - supporting auctions as a parameter of certification program for registrars
 - using AI for sorting and advertising domains in auctions
 - Domain browser with an auction extension as an available module of FRED (open source)

Thank you for watching!



• 2nd October 2025

Domain auctions in CZ

- Delivered changes after launch
 - optimization of payment/invoice processing
 - adding “direct bid” and “pre-auction bid” besides “hidden maximal price”
 - list of domains in JSON format
 - forcing 2FA in Domain browser
 - more intelligent sorting of domains in lists (usability in CZ, SK, EN languages)
 - clearer view of bid history (available even for non-bidders)
 - public statistics (<https://stats.nic.cz/dashboard/cs/auctions.html>)
 - automatic surveys among participants