

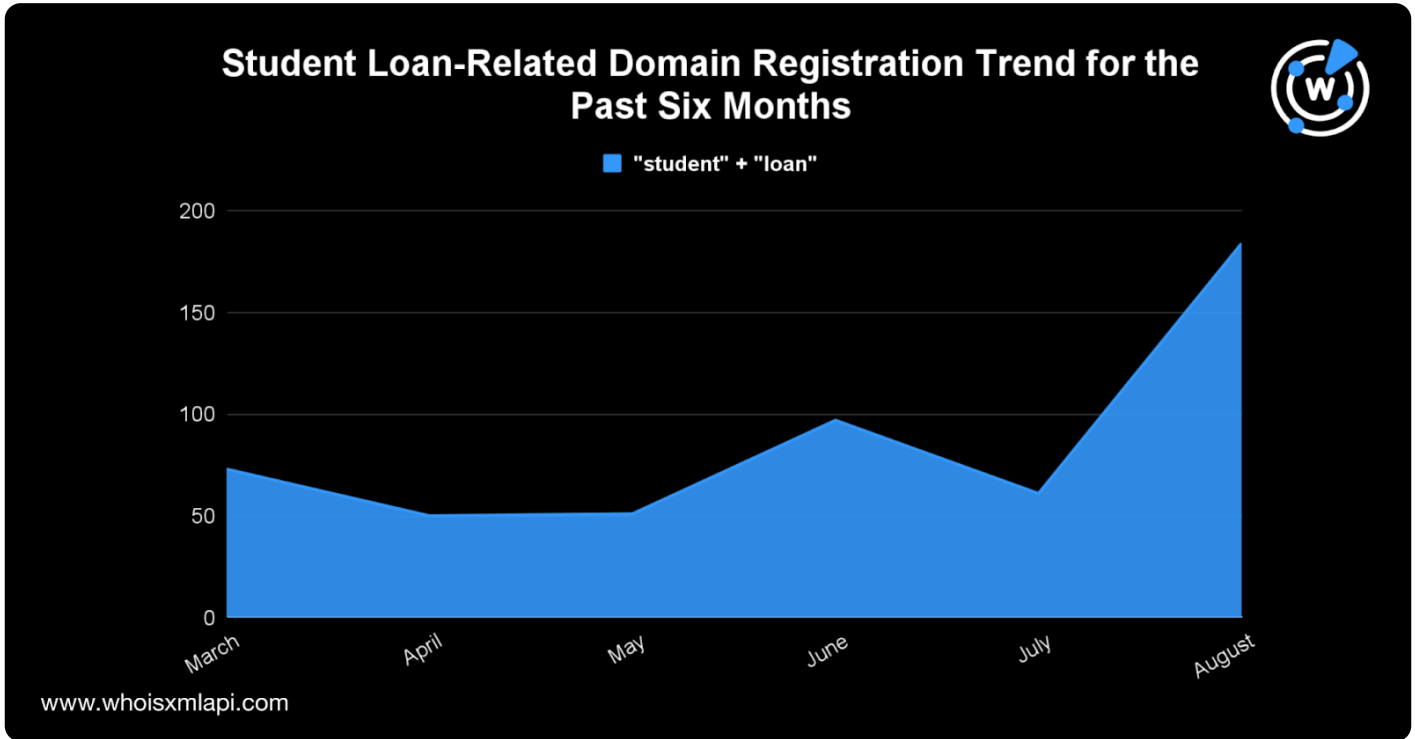
# August 2022: Student Loan Cancellations, American Football Season, Natural Disasters Around the World, and Six Months into the Ukraine-Russia War

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Our team monitored the DNS for registration activities related to some of the most trending and pressing issues in August, ranging from sports to global disasters. An overview for each trend is below.

## Student Loans

White House officials [announced](#) on 23 August 2022 that the current administration plans to cancel up to US\$20,000 in student loans. As borrowers strived to learn how to avail of the debt cancellation, domains containing the phrase “student loan” also increased. In particular, there was a 201% increase in new domains in August compared to the previous month. The spike is evident in the chart below.

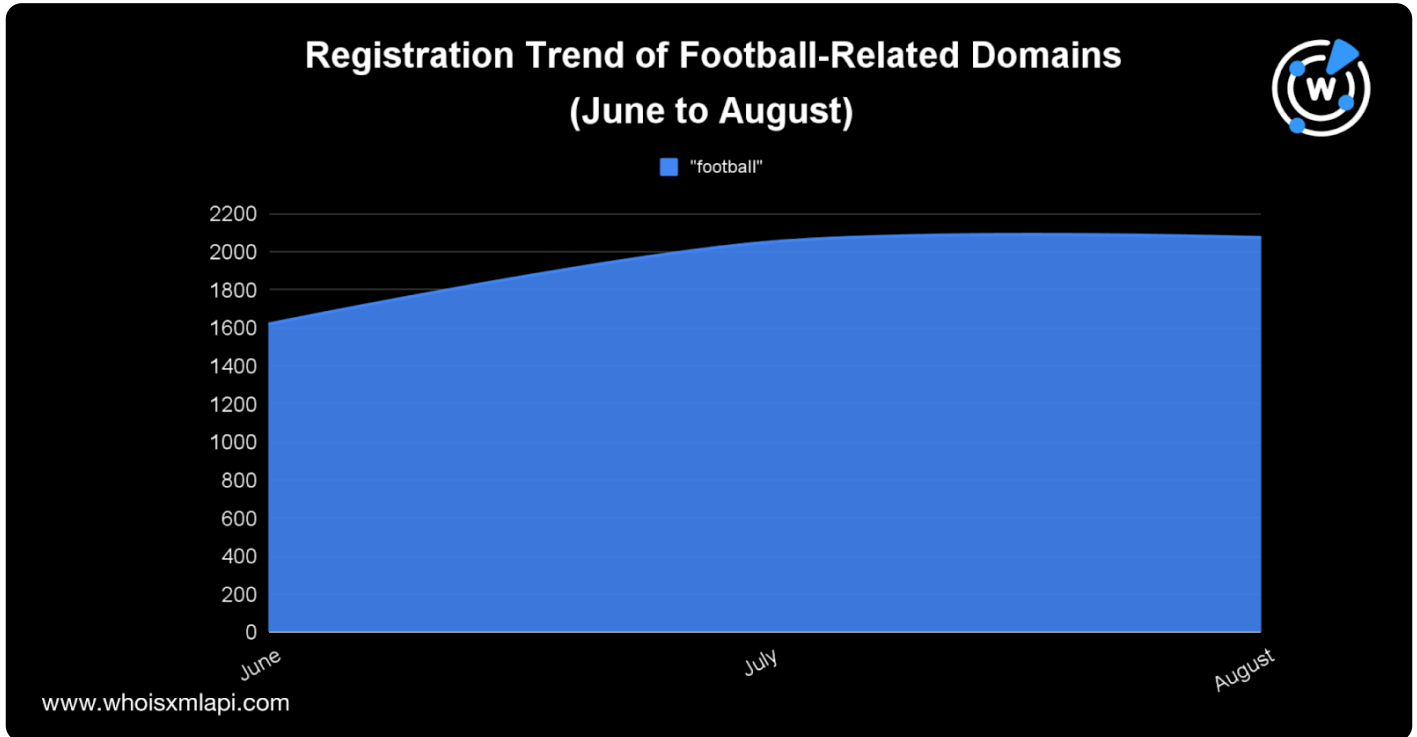


Recurring words used in the domains are “scholarships,” “refinance,” “debt,” “forgiveness,” and “info.” The general public is cautioned against some of the student loan-themed domains, as they can serve as vehicles for phishing and financial scams.

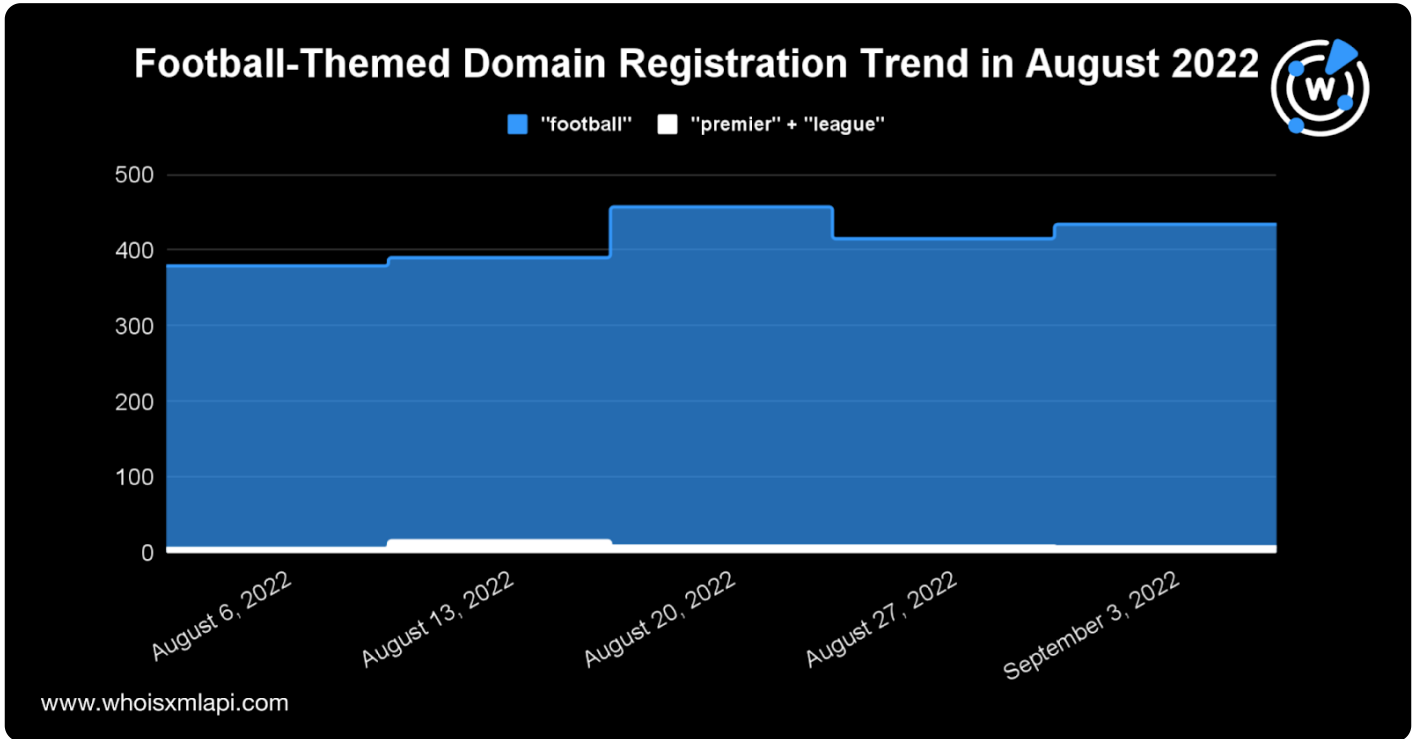


## Football

The National Football League (NFL) preseason began on 4 August 2022. Since then, there has been a steady stream of relevant domain registrations, particularly those containing “football.” The graph below shows the domain registration trend from June to July, reflecting an increase in July which steadied all throughout August.

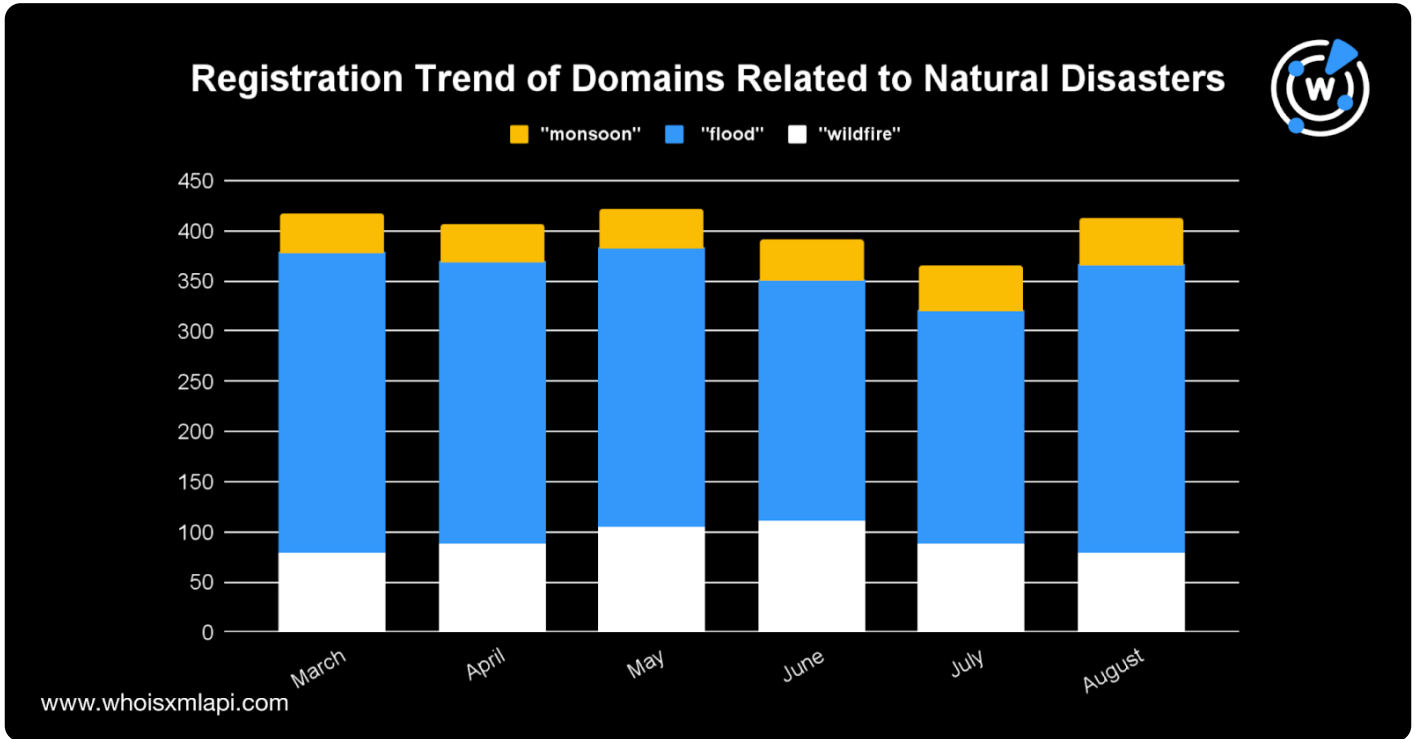


There was a slight increase in registrations during the third week of the preseason, which coincided with one player's suspension. You can see the domain registration trend for August in the chart below.



Some of the text strings mostly used in the domains registered in August are “American,” “club,” “arabianclub,” “club,” and “pro.” These and other strings are shown in the word cloud below.

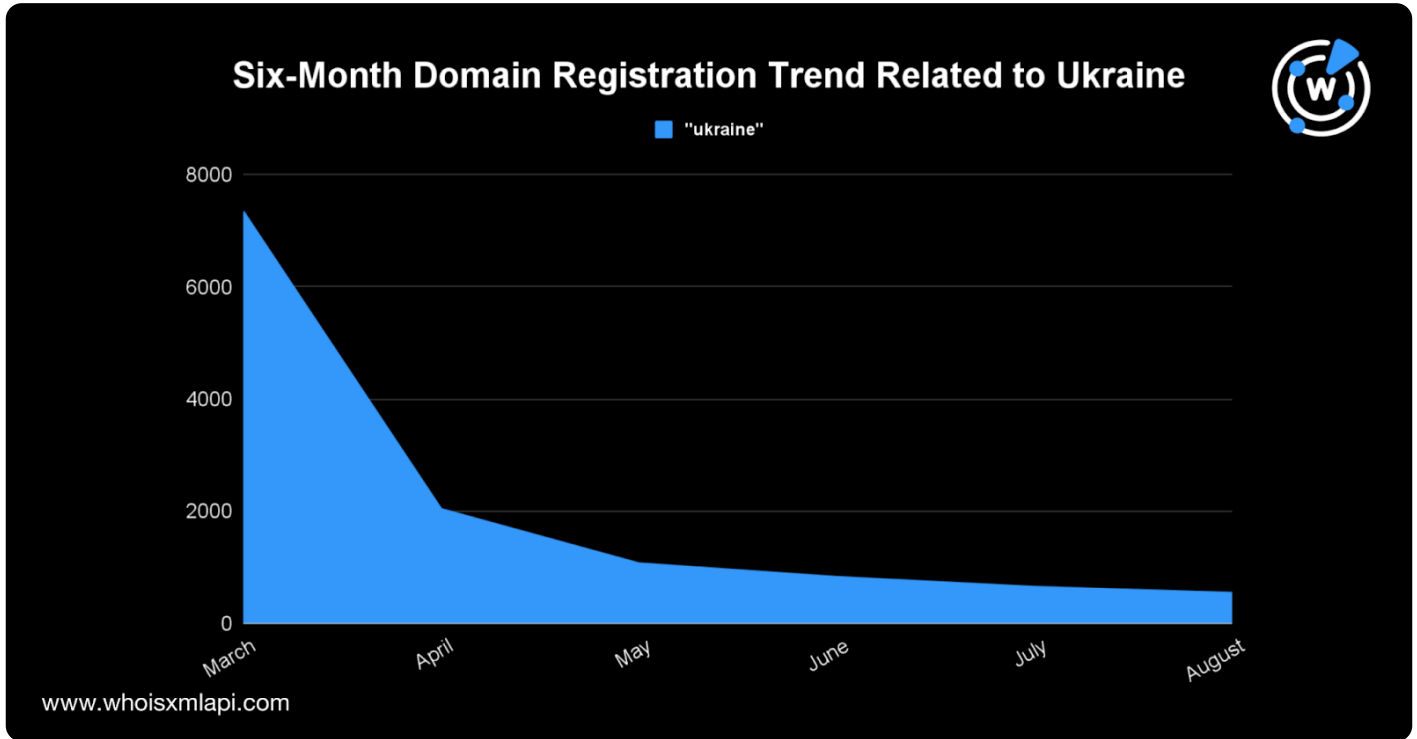




Some of the most common text strings used in disaster-themed domains are “insure,” “newmexico,” “risk,” “safety,” and “light.” The string “lab” also appeared repeatedly, alongside “wildfire” and “flood.”







The text strings that appeared alongside “Ukraine” continued to be consistent. They include “help,” “support,” “aid,” “save,” and “donate,” among other words shown in the word cloud below.

