How AI Is Making the Caribbean Island of Anguilla Rich

An Unexpected Winner of the AI Boom

Since the launch of ChatGPT at the end of 2022, artificial intelligence has shaped the tech world like few other technologies. Thousands of startups have emerged, and billions in investments are flowing into new companies. An unlikely winner sits in the middle of the Caribbean: Anguilla, a small island with just 15,000 inhabitants.

The Boom of the .ai Domain

The .ai domain extension was introduced in 1995 as a country code for Anguilla. Today, it has long grown beyond its original function and is internationally recognized as a synonym for artificial intelligence. Companies like perplexity.ai, x.ai, meta.ai, and google.ai deliberately use this extension to emphasize their connection to "artificial intelligence."
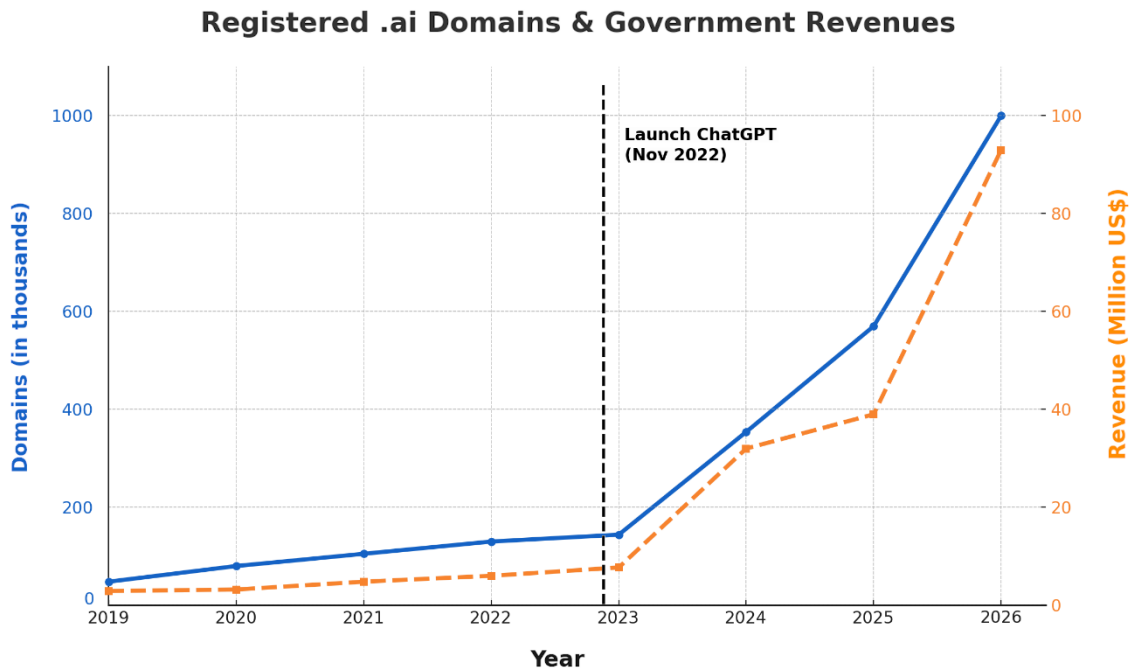
The numbers speak for themselves:

Development of the .ai Domain

Year	Registered .ai Domains
2018	approx. 48,000
2019	approx. 62,000
2020	approx. 86,000
2021	approx. 124,000
2022	approx. 144,000
2023	approx. 354,000 (+145% vs. 2022)
2024	approx. 570,000 (+61% vs. 2023)
2025 (Aug.)	approx. 870,000
2025 (Forecast)	over 1 million (+75% vs. 2024)

Source: whois.ai (Webarchive) & domainnamestat.com

Source: [Domaintechnik FAQ](#)

Registered .ai Domains & Government Revenues

Source: Domaintechnik FAQ

Domaintechnik has projected the trend: with an average daily increase of 1,518 .ai domains, the one-million mark is expected to be reached by November 20, 2025.

Since 2018, the number of .ai registrations has increased twentyfold. There is no end in sight to the boom. According to an analysis by Identity Digital, 28 percent of all newly founded tech startups now rely on a .ai domain. Whether a domain is still available can be checked in real time with the Domain Check tool.

From Under 1% to Almost 50%: .ai Domains Dominate Anguilla's Budget

For Anguilla, the current boom brings significant additional revenue. While the economy previously relied primarily on tourism (around 37% of GDP), the .ai extension has become a stable and steadily growing source of state income.
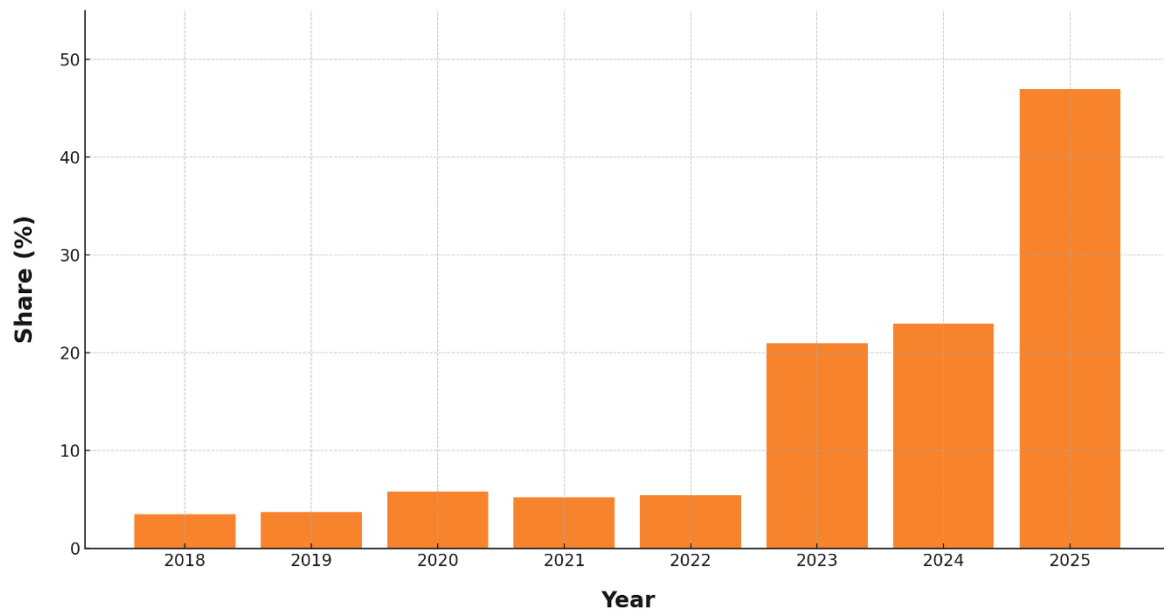
"In the years before the real breakthrough of AI, revenue from .ai domains made up less than 1% of our state income. In 2023, it had already risen to 25 to 27% — and by 2025 it will be around 47%", explained Jose Vanterpool, Minister of Infrastructure and Communications (MICUHITES).

Anguilla's Government Revenues from .ai Domains

Year	Revenue (US$)	Revenue (EC$)	Share of State Budget
2018	2.9 Mio.	7.8 Mio.	~4 %
2022	7.7 Mio.	20.8 Mio.	~6 %
2023	32 Mio.	87 Mio.	~21 %
2024	39 Mio.	106 Mio.	~23 %
2025 (Forecast)	93 Mio.	250 Mio.	~47 %

Sources: Government of Anguilla (Statistics Dept., Draft 2025 Estimates), IMF

Share of .ai Domain Revenues in the State Budget

Source: Domaintechnik FAQ

".ai domains have a renewal rate of around 90 percent despite their relatively high cost. Since they are always registered at least two years in advance, 2025 marks the first major renewal wave of domains registered in 2023. This is exactly what is currently causing another sharp increase in state revenues," explained Fabian Ledl of Domaintechnik, an accredited .ai registrar where you can buy a .ai domain for €149.99.

Even on the secondary market, .ai domains are traded at high prices: you.ai sold for an impressive $700,000 in 2023, cloud.ai for $600,000 in 2025, and adapt.ai in the same year for $300,000.

Investments in the Future and Security

The International Monetary Fund reports that Anguilla is using the .ai revenues wisely: part of the money is being used to repay debt, while another part is being invested in future projects such as expanding the airport, green energy, and protecting nature and fish stocks.

Prime Minister [Ellis Webster emphasized](#) that it was pure coincidence that Anguilla — and not the neighboring island of Antigua — received the .ai extension in 1995. At the same time, he warned against relying solely on revenue from .ai domains:

"You can't predict how long this will last. Our economy and programs must not depend on it exclusively. Otherwise, in the event of a new trend, we would have to make drastic cuts within a short time."