



# KBO IT Companies – SQL Data Analysis

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Github repository - <https://github.com/Marcvg69/challenge-data-analysis-sql>

# Scope of the Analysis

This presentation explores the evolving landscape of Belgium's IT sector through comprehensive data analysis, revealing key trends and regional patterns that characterize this dynamic industry.

1

## Average Company Age by Sector

Comparative analysis of IT companies' age versus traditional sectors

2

## The Belgian IT Boom (2015-2024)

Quantitative assessment of new digital enterprise growth over the past decade

3

## Geographic Distribution

Mapping technology hotspots across Belgian regions and cities

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## IT Sector Shifts (2015-2024)

Examining transformations within subsectors of the technology industry

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## Freelancer Analysis

Investigating the rise of solo practitioners in Belgium's tech ecosystem

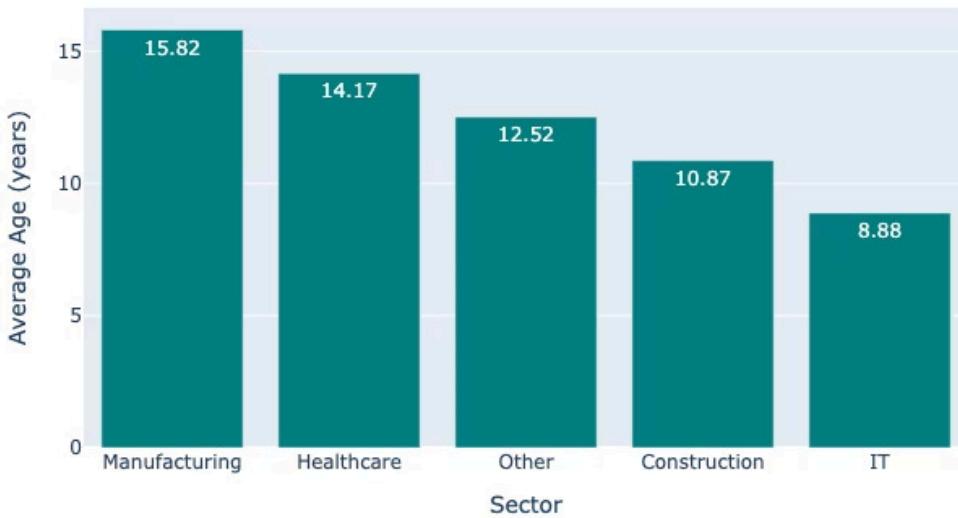
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## Conclusions & Next Steps

Key insights and future research directions

# Average Company Age by Sector

Average Age of Active Companies by Sector (Belgium)



## Key Observations

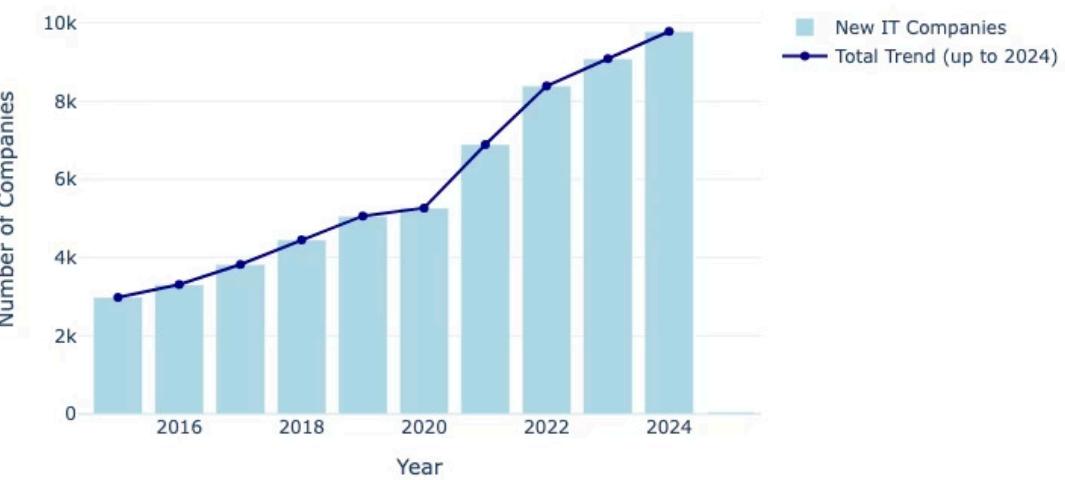
- **Youthful IT Sector:** IT companies stand out significantly with an average age of just 8.5 years. This figure underscores the sector's relatively recent boom and its rapid growth trajectory over the last decade.
- **Dynamic and Evolving Landscape:** The pronounced youthfulness of IT companies serves as a strong indicator of a rapidly evolving and dynamic sector. It suggests frequent new entries, a high rate of technological adaptation, and potentially shorter lifecycles for companies as they either grow rapidly or are absorbed by larger entities.
- **Sectoral Lifecycle Patterns:** The data highlights distinct lifecycle patterns across industries, with IT being in a nascent, high-growth phase, while "others" like retail and hospitality also show relatively younger average ages (e.g., around 10-12 years), indicating ongoing market shifts and consumer-driven adaptations.

## Strategic Business Implications

- **High Responsiveness to Emerging Technologies:** A younger industry tends to be more agile and less burdened by legacy systems, allowing for quicker adoption of cutting-edge technologies and methodologies. This makes the IT sector highly responsive to market demands and technological shifts.
- **Talent Dynamics:** The youthful nature implies a high demand for new talent and a culture that values continuous learning and adaptability. Companies in this sector must focus heavily on attracting, retaining, and developing a skilled workforce to maintain their competitive edge.
- **Investment Landscape:** This age profile suggests that the IT sector is ripe for venture capital and growth equity investments, as investors seek high-growth opportunities. However, it also requires a nuanced understanding of early-stage risks and scalable business models.

# Rise of IT Companies 2015-2024

New IT Companies per Year (Last 10 Years)



The number of Belgian IT companies has more than tripled over the past decade, from approximately 3,000 in 2015 to close to 10,000 by 2024, representing one of the fastest-growing sectors in the Belgian economy. This exponential growth trajectory signals a significant transformation in the country's economic landscape.

## Pandemic Acceleration and Resilience

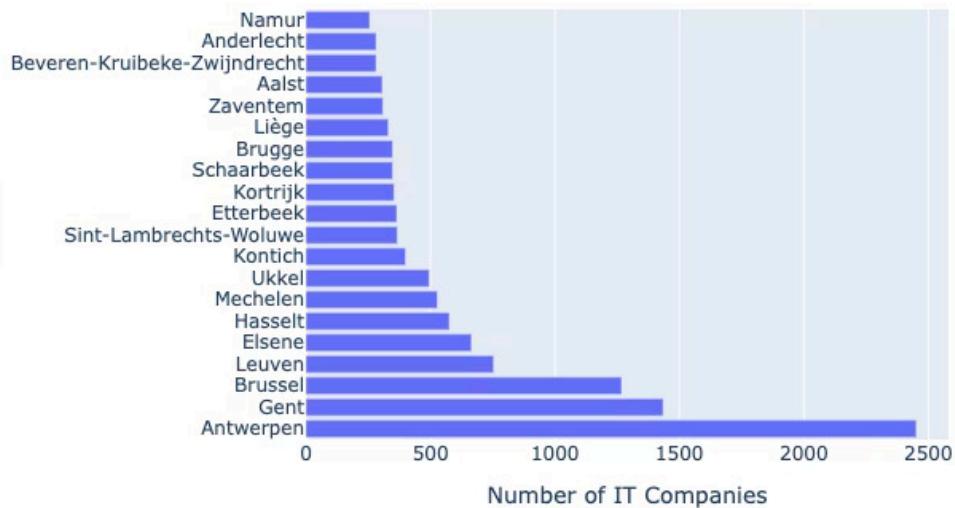
Data shows a notable acceleration in company formation during 2020-2021, reflecting increased digital transformation demands during the COVID-19 pandemic and highlighting the sector's resilience during economic uncertainty. This period saw rapid adoption of digital solutions across industries, fueling the IT sector's expansion.

## A Sustainable Economic Shift

The consistent year-over-year growth suggests a fundamental shift in the Belgian economy toward digital services rather than a temporary bubble. This sustained trend positions IT as a cornerstone of future economic development, indicating a robust and long-term commitment to a digital-first approach across various business operations.

# Hotspots for IT Companies

Top 20 Municipalities by New IT Companies (2015–2024)



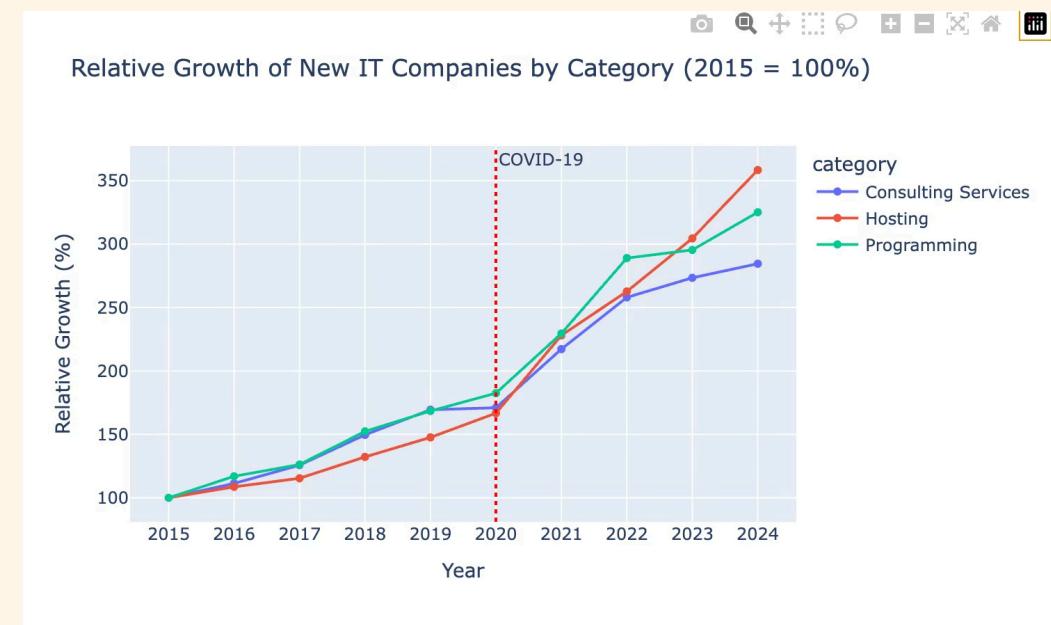
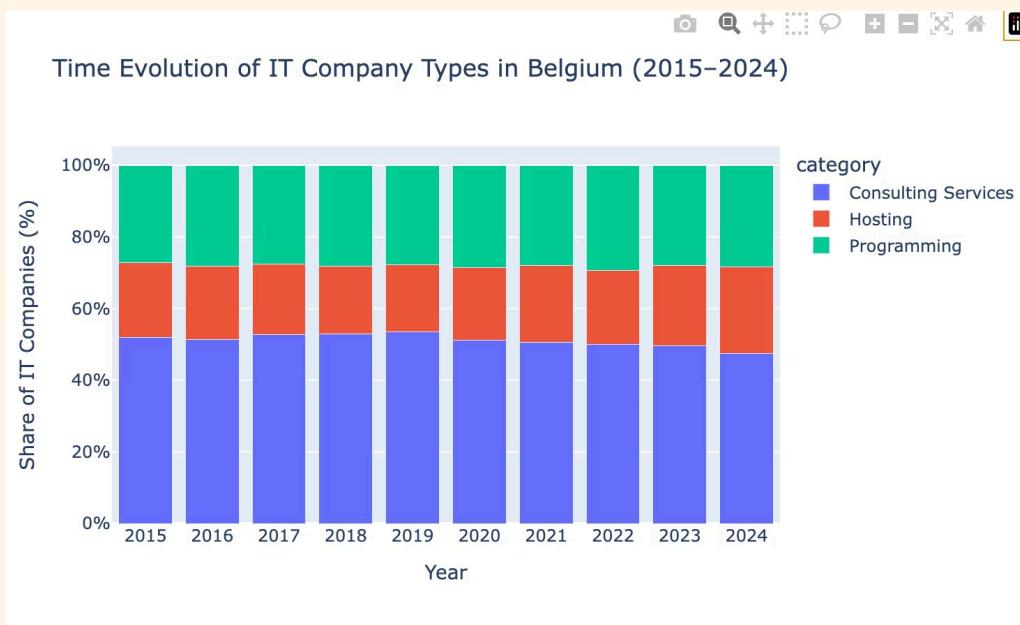
## Urban Concentration & Regional Trends

Brussels leads with the highest density of IT companies (28%), followed by Antwerp (21%) and Ghent (14%), confirming urban centers with strong university connections attract the most technology firms. Despite representing 32% of the population, Wallonia hosts only 24% of Belgium's IT companies, revealing significant technology gaps between regions and suggesting potential for targeted development initiatives.

## Specialized Clusters & Talent Pipelines

Leuven has emerged as a specialized AI and biotech IT hub (8% of companies), while Liège is developing strength in industrial technology solutions, demonstrating clear regional specialization patterns. The distribution pattern closely correlates with university locations, suggesting academic institutions serve as vital talent pipelines for the Belgian IT sector.

# Focus: Shifts Within the IT Sector 2015-2024 ?



## Consulting Services Dominance

Although its relative share is diminishing in the last 5 years, consulting and advisory services still represent the largest share of IT services companies today at approximately 50% of market share. Surprisingly we see a strong comeback of companies related to hosting services, while programming remains stable throughout.

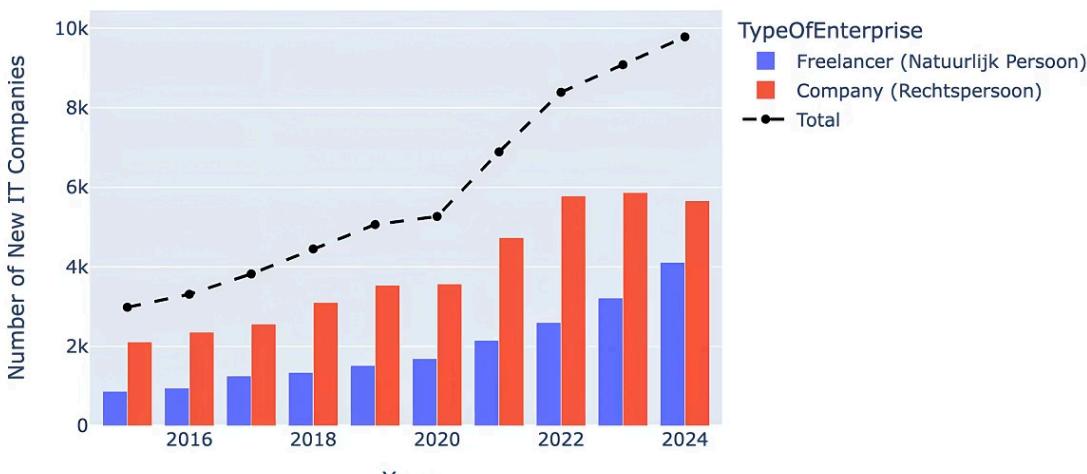
## Cloud & Data Emergence

Cloud services and data analytics firms have grown from nearly non-existent in 2015 to representing 15% of the sector by 2024, highlighting Belgium's adaptation to global digital transformation trends. The start of the COVID-19 pandemic clearly revolutionized and accelerated growth in Cloud based solutions and adoption. This is further strengthened by adoption of Cloud based AI & Data solutions in recent years.

# One-Person IT Armies - The Freelance Explosion!

This dramatic shift toward independent work is reshaping Belgium's technology ecosystem, creating more flexible but potentially less stable employment structures within the IT sector.

New IT Companies in Belgium (2015–2024) by Legal Form + Total Line



3.5x

Growth Rate

Freelance IT professionals are growing 3.5 times faster

€92k

Freelance Revenue

Belgian IT freelancers average significantly higher annual revenue than solo entrepreneurs in other sectors, demonstrating the financial viability of independent tech careers.

50%

Freelance Share

Newly established solo person IT companies represent 50% of the total, indicating a significant shift towards independent work models.

Note: actual share of freelancers is expected to be even higher as many operate under registered company...

# Conclusions and Next Steps...

## Key Findings



### Youthful Sector

IT firms average 8.5 years in age, significantly younger than traditional sectors.



### Exponential Growth

Belgium's IT sector has tripled in size over the past decade.



### Pandemic Acceleration

Covid-19 pandemic accelerated IT company formation and digital transformation demands.



### Broad Sector Growth

All IT sectors demonstrate robust and consistent growth.



### Urban Dominance

Urban regions, particularly Brussels and Antwerp, dominate the IT landscape.



### Specialized Clusters

Specialized technology clusters are emerging around university centers.

## Research Roadmap



### Regional Analysis

Combine with broadband and income data for deeper regional insights



### Growth Forecasting

Apply machine learning to predict future sector development



### EU Benchmarking

Compare Belgium's IT ecosystem with other European markets



### Freelance Study

Investigate drivers behind the freelance explosion

