



**Local News Map Data
December 1, 2020**

ABOUT THIS PROJECT

The Local News Map is a crowd-sourced resource that tracks what is happening to local newspapers, broadcast outlets and online news sites in communities across Canada. It displays data going back to 2008, which marked the beginning of a deep recession and a turning point for many previously profitable local news organizations. This report, which is produced every two months and archived [here](#), summarizes the latest data available on the map.

For the purposes of this project, a local news outlet is defined as a news organization that maintains independence from those it covers, demonstrates a commitment to accuracy/transparency, and is devoted primarily to reporting and publishing timely, originally-produced news about local people, places, issues and events in a defined geographic area.

This project is the result of a collaboration between Professor [April Lindgren](#), lead investigator for the [Local News Research Project](#) at Ryerson University's School of Journalism and Associate Professor [Jon Corbett](#), who leads the University of British Columbia's [SpICE Lab](#) (Spatial Information for Community Mapping). It was created with financial support from [Canadian Geospatial and Open Data Research Partnership](#); Canadian Media Guild/CWA Canada; Canadian Journalists for Free Expression; a Mitacs Accelerate grant; Unifor; and Ryerson University. This project is also supported by the [Ken and Debbie Rubin Public Interest Advocacy Fund](#).

Credits/citations: The Local News Map is a joint project of the Local News Research Project at Ryerson University's School of Journalism and the University of British Columbia's SpICE Lab (Spatial Information for Community Mapping).

Lindgren, April and Corbett, Jon. *Local News Map Data*.
<http://localnewsresearchproject.ca/category/local-news-map-data>

Visit the map: <https://localnewsmap.geolive.ca/>

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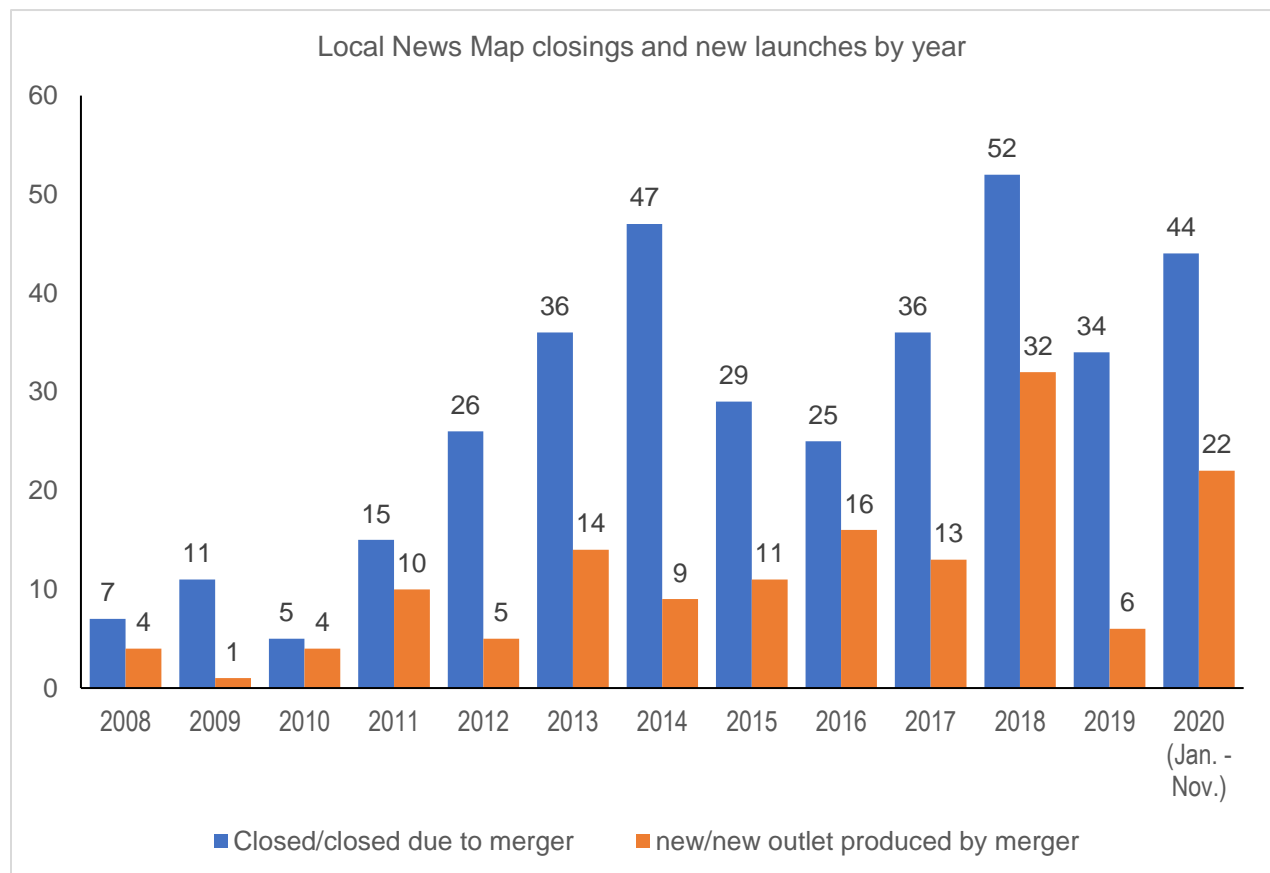
Notable developments: Notes on the impact of COVID-19

Since the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic on March 11, 2020:

- 38 news outlets have permanently closed including three private radio stations and 35 community newspapers that published fewer than five times per week
- 12 daily newspapers have cut one or more print editions
- three community newspapers have shifted completely online
- 18 new local news outlets have launched – one radio station, four community newspapers and 13 online news sites
- 12 community newspapers closed in Manitoba (Glacier Media closed four in September and Postmedia closed eight in May)
- 10 community newspapers closed in Alberta (Great West Newspapers merged 10 local newspapers into three regional newspapers between the end of March and early April)

For additional information on the pandemic's impact on media in Canada, including changes that to date have been labelled temporary, visit the [COVID-19 Media Impact Map for Canada](#).

Local News Map data

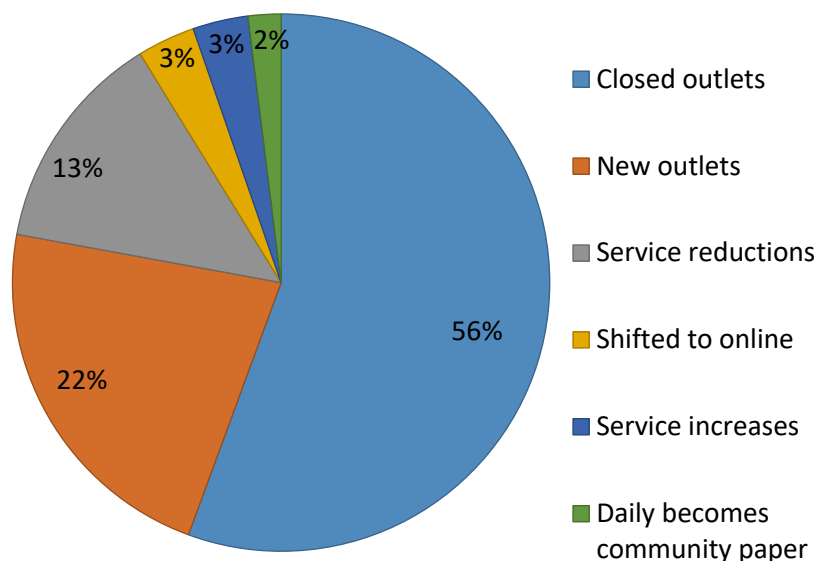


Overview of map data

The map displayed a total of 660 markers representing changes to local news outlets of all types between 2008 and December 1, 2020.

Breakdown of all markers by type of change that occurred:

closed	291
closed due to merger	76
daily (free) becomes a community paper	1
daily becomes a community paper	12
decrease in service	88
increase in service	22
new	121
new outlet produced by merger	26
shifted to online	23



Breakdown of all markers by type of media:

community paper	368
daily paper - free	32
daily paper - paid	61
online	99
radio - private	27
radio - public	11
TV - private	34
TV - public	28

Breakdown of all markers by ownership¹:

Independent owners ²	138
Postmedia	78
Black Press	40
Torstar	36
Transcontinental	36
Metroland	34
Sun Media	29
CBC/Radio-Canada	28
Glacier Media	27
SaltWire Network	21
Great West Newspapers	16
Quebecor	15
Bell Media	13
Rogers Media	13
Village Media	11
Other	125

¹Only owners associated with more than 10 markers are listed except in the case of independent owners

²Owners with fewer than 3 media properties

Local news outlets that have closed since 2008

Total number of closings: 367 (291 direct closings + 76 closings due to mergers)

Number of communities where a local news outlet has closed: 259

Breakdown of closings by type of media:

community paper	271
daily paper - free	28
daily paper - paid	13
online	20
radio – private	18
radio – public	6
TV – private	11
TV – public	0

Breakdown of closings by ownership¹:

Independent owners ²	58
Postmedia	51
Transcontinental	32
Black Press	30
Sun Media	25
Torstar	23
Glacier Media	22
Metroland	20
Great West Newspapers	13
SaltWire Network	12
Other	81

¹Only owners associated with more than 10 markers are listed except in the case of independent owners

²Owners with fewer than 3 media properties

Newly launched local news outlets since 2008

Total number of markers representing new outlets: 147 (121 new outlets + 26 new outlets produced by mergers)

Number of communities where a new local news outlet has been launched: 108

Breakdown of new outlets by media type:

community paper	55
daily paper - free	1
online	72
radio – private	8
radio – public	3
TV – private	3
TV – public	5

Breakdown of new outlets by ownership¹:

Independent owners ²	64
Torstar	10
Village Media	10
Metroland	7
Rogers Media	6
Black Press	5
CBC/Radio-Canada	4
SaltWire Network	4
TVO	4
Your Community Voice	4
Glacier Media	3
Great West Newspapers	3
Other	23

¹ Only owners associated with more than 2 markers are listed except in the case of independent owners

²Owners with fewer than 3 media properties

Increases in service since 2008

Total number of service increases: 22

Number of affected communities: 19

Breakdown of service increases by type of media:

community paper	2
daily paper - free	0
daily paper - paid	2
online	7
radio - private	0
radio - public	1
TV - private	9
TV - public	1

Note: Examples of service increases include longer local newscasts, the launch of a new local news program, increased frequency of publication for newspapers

Decreases in service since 2008

Total number of service reductions: 88

Number of affected communities: 53

Breakdown of service reductions by type of media:

community paper	20
daily paper - free	1
daily paper - paid	32
online	0
radio - private	1
radio - public	1
TV - private	11
TV - public	22

Note: Examples of service decreases include shorter newscasts or fewer print editions per week for newspapers

Breakdown of data by type of local media (2008 to December 1, 2020)

NEWSPAPERS

- Total number of markers representing changes at newspapers: 461

Closings

- Total number of newspapers that have closed: 312 (236 direct closings + 76 closings due to mergers)
- Number of communities where newspapers have closed: 241

Launches

- Total number of markers representing newly launched newspapers: 56 (30 new outlets + 26 new outlets produced by mergers)
- Number of communities where new newspapers have launched: 51

Community newspaper markers on the map (published fewer than five times per week)

- Total number of community newspaper markers: 368
- Total number of community newspapers that have closed: 271 (198 direct closings + 73 closings due to mergers)
- Number of communities affected by the closing of a community paper: 221
- Total number of new community newspapers: 55 (29 new outlets + 26 new outlets produced by mergers)
- Number of communities where a new community paper has launched: 51

DIGITAL NEWS SITES

- Total number of markers representing changes at online news sites: 99
- Total number of newly launched online news sites: 72
- Total number of closed online news sites: 20
- Total number of online news sites service increases: 7

RADIO

- Total number of markers representing changes at radio stations: 38
- Total number of new radio stations: 11
- Total number of closed radio programs: 24
- Total number of radio station service reductions: 2
- Total number of radio station service increases: 1

TELEVISION

- Total number of markers representing changes to television stations: 62
- Total number of new TV stations: 8
- Total number of closed TV stations: 12
- Total number of TV station service reductions: 32
- Total number of TV station service increases: 10

Provincial data for changes to local news media since 2008

Breakdown of changes to local news outlets by province

Province	Number of closings/ closings due to mergers	Number of new/ new outlets due to merger	Number of service reductions	Number of service increases	Total # of markers
Alberta	53	19	13	0	85
British Columbia	65	27	12	2	106
Manitoba	20	3	5	1	29
New Brunswick	5	4	1	1	11
Newfoundland and Labrador	12	2	4	0	18
Northwest Territories	2	1	1	1	5
Nova Scotia	19	9	5	2	35
Nunavut	0	0	0	0	0
Ontario	122	69	48	9	248
Prince Edward Island	0	0	2	0	2
Quebec	51	10	27	2	90
Saskatchewan	18	3	4	4	29
Yukon	0	0	2	0	2
Canada (total)	367	147	124	22	660

Breakdown of number of changes to different types of media by province

Province	Newspaper	Website	Radio	Television	Total # of markers
Alberta	63	8	4	10	85
British Columbia	68	21	13	4	106
Manitoba	22	1	1	5	29
New Brunswick	6	3	0	2	11
Newfoundland and Labrador	14	1	2	1	18
Northwest Territories	2	1	1	1	5
Nova Scotia	29	5	0	1	35
Nunavut	0	0	0	0	0
Ontario	169	50	9	20	248
Prince Edward Island	1	0	0	1	2
Quebec	63	7	8	12	90
Saskatchewan	22	2	0	5	29
Yukon	2	0	0	0	2
Canada (total)	461	99	38	62	660