



**Local News Map Data
February 1, 2021**

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/>

Contact us: localnews-poverty@gmail.com

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Worth noting

General

- between 2008 and February 1, 2021, a total of 423 news operations have closed in 303 communities across Canada
- community newspapers, which publish fewer than five times per week, account for most of the closings (328)
- 159 new local news outlets launched between 2008 and February 1, 2021, in 118 communities

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

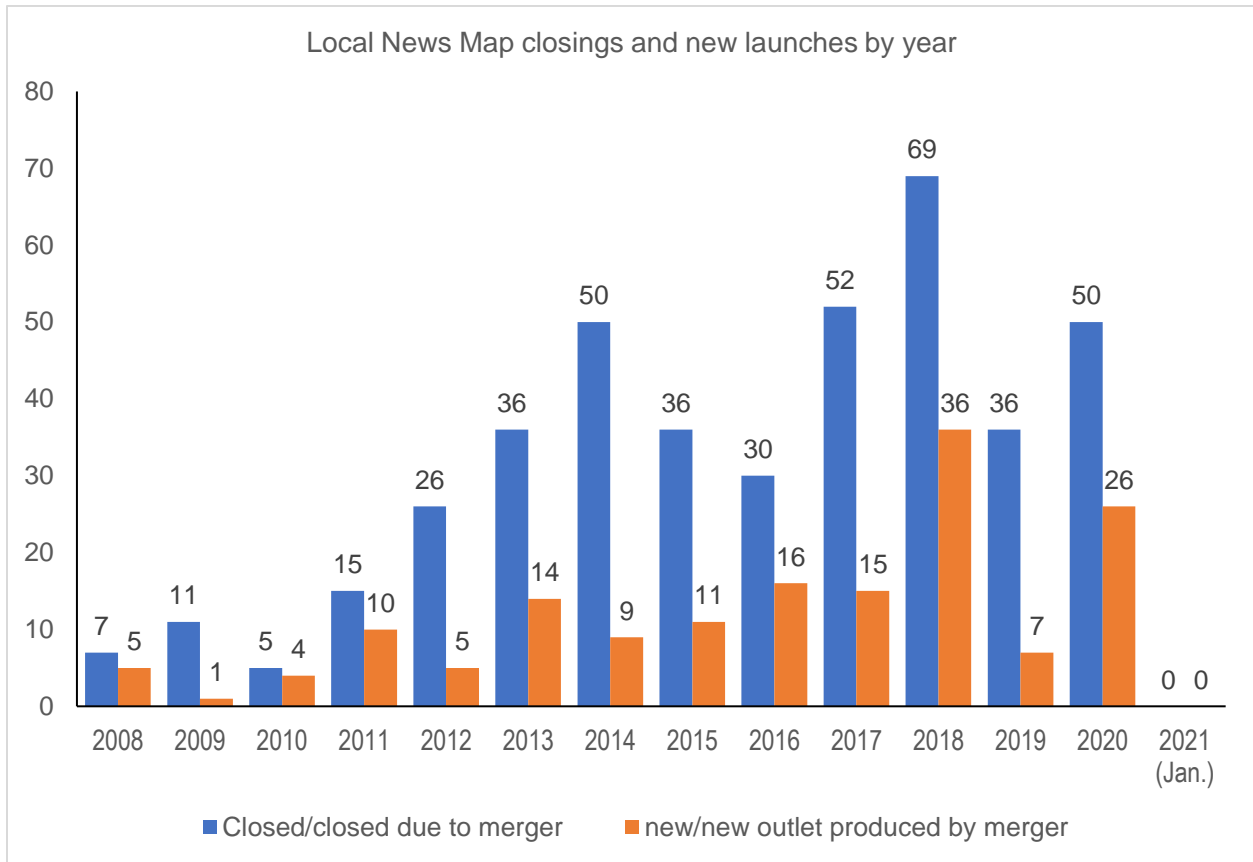
- 44 news outlets have permanently closed including three private radio stations and 41 community newspapers that published fewer than five times per week
- 12 daily newspapers have cut one or more print editions
- three community newspapers have shifted completely online
- 22 new local news outlets have launched – one radio station, seven community newspapers and 14 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](#).

Since the last Local News Map update on December 1, 2020:

- 70 new markers representing changes to local news media were added to the map
- one of those changes occurred in 2008, three in 2014, seven in 2015, five in 2016, 17 in 2017, 24 in 2018, three in 2019, and 10 in 2020
- 56 of the new markers represent news outlets that closed or closed due to a merger of existing operations and 12 markers are for newly launched news outlets or new titles produced by a merger of existing operations. Two markers were added for news organizations that reduced service to their communities.
- the latest data represent significant updates for Quebec and Saskatchewan – 17 markers were added for each of those provinces. An additional 16 markers were added for Ontario.
- four of the news organizations that experienced changes were located in Alberta, seven in British Columbia, three in Manitoba, five in New Brunswick, and one in Nova Scotia

Local News Map data

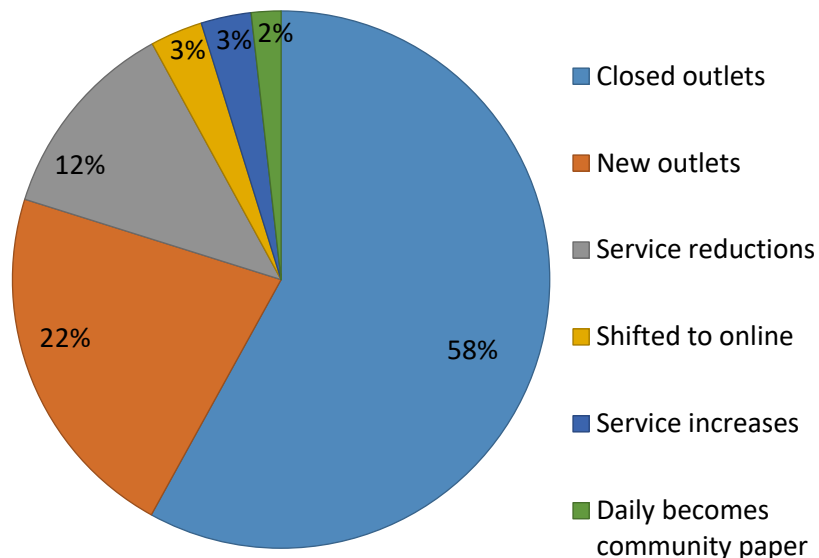


Overview of map data

The map displayed a total of 729 markers representing changes to local news outlets of all types between 2008 and February 1, 2021.

Breakdown of all markers by type of change that occurred:

| | |
|--|-----|
| closed | 321 |
| closed due to merger | 102 |
| daily (free) becomes a community paper | 1 |
| daily becomes a community paper | 12 |
| decrease in service | 89 |
| increase in service | 22 |
| new | 125 |
| new outlet produced by merger | 34 |
| shifted to online | 23 |



Breakdown of all markers by type of media:

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| community paper | 434 |
| daily paper - free | 32 |
| daily paper - paid | 61 |
| online | 101 |
| radio - private | 28 |
| radio - public | 11 |
| TV - private | 34 |
| TV - public | 28 |

Breakdown of all markers by ownership¹:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Independent owners ² | 155 |
| Postmedia | 86 |
| Black Press | 43 |
| Transcontinental | 38 |
| Metroland | 37 |
| Torstar | 36 |
| Glacier Media | 33 |
| Sun Media | 29 |
| CBC/Radio-Canada | 28 |
| SaltWire Network | 22 |
| Great West Newspapers | 16 |
| Quebecor | 14 |
| Rogers Media | 14 |
| Bell Media | 13 |
| Star News Inc. | 12 |
| Village Media | 11 |
| Other | 142 |

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: 423 (321 direct closings + 102 closings due to mergers)

Number of communities where a local news outlet has closed: 303

Breakdown of closings by type of media:

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| community paper | 328 |
| daily paper - free | 27 |
| 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 | 69 |
| Postmedia | 57 |
| Transcontinental | 34 |
| Black Press | 32 |
| Glacier Media | 27 |
| Sun Media | 25 |
| Metroland | 23 |
| Torstar | 23 |
| Great West Newspapers | 13 |
| SaltWire Network | 13 |
| Star News Inc. | 11 |
| Other | 96 |

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: 159 (125 new outlets + 34 new outlets produced by mergers)

Number of communities where a new local news outlet has been launched: 118

Breakdown of new outlets by media type:

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| community paper | 65 |
| daily paper - free | 1 |
| online | 74 |
| radio – private | 8 |
| radio – public | 3 |
| TV – private | 3 |
| TV – public | 5 |

Breakdown of new outlets by ownership¹:

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Independent owners ² | 70 |
| Torstar | 10 |
| Village Media | 10 |
| Metroland | 7 |
| Rogers Media | 6 |
| Black Press | 5 |
| CBC/Radio-Canada | 4 |
| Glacier Media | 4 |
| SaltWire Network | 4 |
| TVO | 4 |
| Your Community Voice | 4 |
| Other | 31 |

¹ Only owners associated with more than 3 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: 89

Number of affected communities: 53

Breakdown of service reductions by type of media:

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| community paper | 19 |
| daily paper - free | 2 |
| daily paper - paid | 32 |
| online | 0 |
| radio - private | 2 |
| 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 February 1, 2021)

NEWSPAPERS

- Total number of markers representing changes at newspapers: 527

Closings

- Total number of newspapers that have closed: 368 (266 direct closings + 102 closings due to mergers)
- Number of communities where newspapers have closed: 285

Launches

- Total number of markers representing newly launched newspapers: 66 (32 new outlets + 34 new outlets produced by mergers)
- Number of communities where new newspapers have launched: 61

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

- Total number of community newspaper markers: 434
- Total number of community newspapers that have closed: 328 (229 direct closings + 99 closings due to mergers)
- Number of communities affected by the closing of a community paper: 267
- Total number of new community newspapers: 65 (31 new outlets + 34 new outlets produced by mergers)
- Number of communities where a new community paper has launched: 61

DIGITAL NEWS SITES

- Total number of markers representing changes at online news sites: 101
- Total number of newly launched online news sites: 74
- 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: 39
- Total number of new radio stations: 11
- Total number of closed radio programs: 24
- Total number of radio station service reductions: 3
- 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: 11
- Total number of TV station service reductions: 33
- 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/territory

| Province/territory | 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 | 56 | 20 | 13 | 0 | 89 |
| British Columbia | 70 | 28 | 13 | 2 | 113 |
| Manitoba | 22 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 32 |
| New Brunswick | 10 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 16 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 12 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 18 |
| Northwest Territories | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Nova Scotia | 20 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 36 |
| Nunavut | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ontario | 133 | 74 | 48 | 9 | 264 |
| Prince Edward Island | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Quebec | 66 | 11 | 27 | 2 | 106 |
| Saskatchewan | 32 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 46 |
| Yukon | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Canada (total) | 423 | 159 | 125 | 22 | 729 |

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

| Province/territory | Newspaper | Website | Radio | Television | Total # of markers |
|---------------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Alberta | 67 | 8 | 4 | 10 | 89 |
| British Columbia | 75 | 21 | 13 | 4 | 113 |
| Manitoba | 25 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 32 |
| New Brunswick | 11 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 16 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 14 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 18 |
| Northwest Territories | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Nova Scotia | 30 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 36 |
| Nunavut | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ontario | 182 | 52 | 10 | 20 | 264 |
| Prince Edward Island | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Quebec | 79 | 7 | 8 | 12 | 106 |
| Saskatchewan | 39 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 46 |
| Yukon | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Canada (total) | 527 | 101 | 39 | 62 | 729 |