



Local News Map Data
April 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 Union/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](#).

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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: localnewspoverty@gmail.com

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Worth noting

General

- between 2008 and April 1, 2021, a total of 448 news operations have closed in 323 communities across Canada
- community newspapers, which publish fewer than five times per week, account for most of the closings (345)
- 165 new local news outlets launched between 2008 and April 1, 2021, in 120 communities

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

- 63 news outlets have permanently closed including one online news site, 10 private radio stations and 52 community newspapers that published fewer than five times per week
- 14 daily newspapers have cut one or more print editions
- 5 community newspapers have shifted completely online
- 26 new local news outlets have launched – four radio stations, seven community newspapers and 15 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 2020)
- 12 community newspapers closed in Atlantic Canada. One independent newspaper closed in March 2020 and SaltWire Network announced the permanent closing of 11 newspapers in March 2021, one year after they were temporarily shut down.

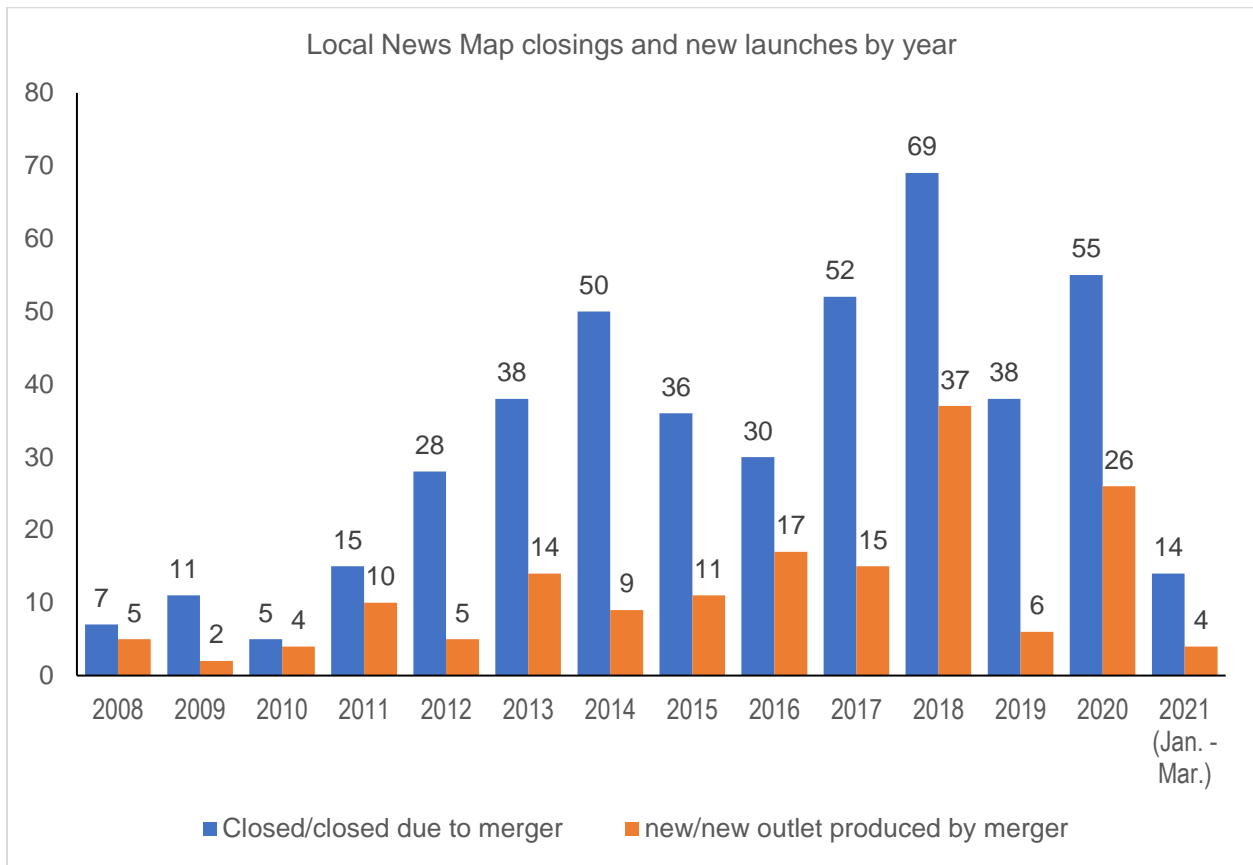
For additional information on the pandemic's impact on media in Canada, including changes that to date have been labelled temporary, visit the [COVID-19 Media Impact Map for Canada](#).

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

- 41 new markers representing changes to local news media were added to the map
- One of those changes occurred in 2009, two in 2012, two in 2013, one in 2016, two in 2018, two in 2019, 12 in 2020, and 19 in 2021.
- 23 of the new markers represent news outlets that closed or closed due to a merger of existing operations and eight markers are for newly launched news outlets or new titles produced by a merger of existing operations. Ten markers were added for news organizations that reduced service to their communities.
- SaltWire Network announced the permanent closing of 11 community newspapers in eastern Canada. After temporarily closing the newspapers in the early days of the pandemic (March 2020), SaltWire confirmed in March 2021 that Amherst News, The Central Voice, The Compass, The Gulf News, The Labrador Voice, The Northern Pen, The Packet, Sackville Tribune-Post, The Southern Gazette, Valley Harvester, and The Western Star would not reopen.

- The latest data represent significant updates for Quebec – 12 markers were added. An additional eight markers were added for British Columbia and six for Ontario.
- Five of the news organizations that experienced changes were located in Newfoundland and Labrador, three were in New Brunswick, two in Alberta, two in Manitoba, two in Saskatchewan, and one in Nova Scotia

Local News Map data

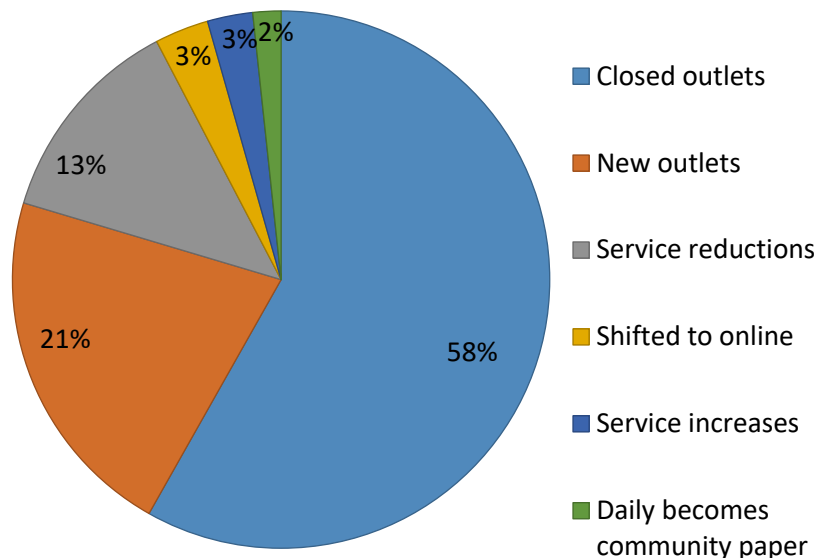


Overview of map data

The map displayed a total of 770 markers representing changes to local news outlets of all types between 2008 and April 1, 2021.

Breakdown of all markers by type of change that occurred:

closed	346
closed due to merger	102
daily (free) becomes a community paper	3
daily becomes a community paper	10
decrease in service	98
increase in service	21
new	133
new outlet produced by merger	32
shifted to online	25



Breakdown of all markers by type of media:

community paper	452
daily paper - free	34
daily paper - paid	59
online	106
radio - private	42
radio - public	11
TV - private	38
TV - public	28

Breakdown of all markers by ownership¹:

Independent owners ²	163
Postmedia	86
Black Press	43
Transcontinental	38
Metroland	37
Torstar	36
Glacier Media	34
SaltWire Network	29
Sun Media	29
CBC/Radio-Canada	28
Bell Media	23
Rogers Media	17
Great West Newspapers	16
Quebecor	16
Star News Inc.	12
Village Media	11
Other	152

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: 448 (346 direct closings + 102 closings due to mergers)

Number of communities where a local news outlet has closed: 323

Breakdown of closings by type of media:

community paper	345
daily paper - free	27
daily paper - paid	13
online	21
radio – private	25
radio – public	6
TV – private	11
TV – public	0

Breakdown of closings by ownership¹:

Independent owners ²	70
Postmedia	57
Transcontinental	34
Black Press	32
Glacier Media	28
Sun Media	25
SaltWire Network	24
Metroland	23
Torstar	23
Great West Newspapers	13
Star News Inc.	11
Other	108

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: 165 (133 new outlets + 32 new outlets produced by mergers)

Number of communities where a new local news outlet has been launched: 120

Breakdown of new outlets by media type:

community paper	64
daily paper - free	1
online	78
radio – private	11
radio – public	3
TV – private	3
TV – public	5

Breakdown of new outlets by ownership¹:

Independent owners ²	75
Torstar	10
Village Media	10
Metroland	7
Rogers Media	6
Black Press	5
CBC/Radio-Canada	4
Glacier Media	4
TVO	4
Your Community Voice	4
Other	36

¹Only 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: 21
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	8
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: 98
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	6
radio - public	1
TV - private	16
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 April 1, 2021)

NEWSPAPERS

- Total number of markers representing changes at newspapers: 545

Closings

- Total number of newspapers that have closed: 385 (283 direct closings + 102 closings due to mergers)
- Number of communities where newspapers have closed: 301

Launches

- Total number of markers representing newly launched newspapers: 65 (33 new outlets + 32 new outlets produced by mergers)
- Number of communities where new newspapers have launched: 60

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

- Total number of community newspaper markers: 452
- Total number of community newspapers that have closed: 345 (246 direct closings + 99 closings due to mergers)
- Number of communities affected by the closing of a community paper: 283
- Total number of new community newspapers: 64 (32 new outlets + 32 new outlets produced by mergers)
- Number of communities where a new community paper has launched: 60

DIGITAL NEWS SITES

- Total number of markers representing changes at online news sites: 106
- Total number of newly launched online news sites: 78
- Total number of closed online news sites: 21
- Total number of online news sites service increases: 7

RADIO

- Total number of markers representing changes at radio stations: 53
- Total number of new radio stations: 14
- Total number of closed radio programs: 31
- Total number of radio station service reductions: 7
- Total number of radio station service increases: 1

TELEVISION

- Total number of markers representing changes to television stations: 66
- Total number of new TV stations: 8
- Total number of closed TV stations: 11
- Total number of TV station service reductions: 38
- Total number of TV station service increases: 9

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	21	14	0	91
British Columbia	73	30	16	2	121
Manitoba	23	5	5	1	34
New Brunswick	11	6	1	1	19
Newfoundland and Labrador	20	0	3	0	23
Northwest Territories	2	1	1	1	5
Nova Scotia	22	9	4	2	37
Nunavut	0	0	0	0	0
Ontario	134	76	51	9	270
Prince Edward Island	0	0	2	0	2
Quebec	73	11	33	1	118
Saskatchewan	34	6	4	4	48
Yukon	0	0	2	0	2
Canada (total)	448	165	136	21	770

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

Province/territory	Newspaper	Website	Radio	Television	Total # of markers
Alberta	67	9	4	11	91
British Columbia	75	22	18	6	121
Manitoba	25	1	3	5	34
New Brunswick	12	5	0	2	19
Newfoundland and Labrador	19	1	2	1	23
Northwest Territories	2	1	1	1	5
Nova Scotia	31	5	0	1	37
Nunavut	0	0	0	0	0
Ontario	184	52	14	20	270
Prince Edward Island	1	0	0	1	2
Quebec	86	8	11	13	118
Saskatchewan	41	2	0	5	48
Yukon	2	0	0	0	2
Canada (total)	545	106	53	66	770