



LOCAL NEWS RESEARCH
PROJECT



SPATIAL INFORMATION FOR
SPICE
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Local News Map Data
August 1, 2025

ABOUT THIS PROJECT

The [Local News Map](#) is a crowd-sourced resource that tracks what is happening to local newspapers, broadcast outlets and online/digital news sources in communities across Canada. The map displays information going back to 2008, the start of a deep recession and a turning point for many previously profitable local news organizations. This report summarizing the latest information gleaned from the map is published every two months along with a spreadsheet displaying the latest data. Both are archived [here](#).

The map displays markers that represent changes to free local daily newspapers, paid subscription local daily newspapers, community newspapers (published fewer than five days per week), private/public radio stations, private/public television stations and online/digital news sources, including online radio stations, newsletters, web-based digital news sites and other emerging online formats.

The following types of changes to local news operations are recorded on the map:

- the closing or launch of a news outlet
- service improvements such as a new or extended local television newscast
- service reductions such as a reduction in the number of times a newspaper publishes per week
- mergers of local news outlets that result in the launch of a new entity and/or the closing of an existing news operation
- local free daily newspapers that become community newspapers
- local paid-subscription daily newspapers that become community newspapers
- local news operations that shift to making content available online only

Map markers only reflect the most recent change at a news outlet so a digital site that launched in 2016 would show up on the map/in the data as a “new” online/digital outlet. If that news operation subsequently expanded service by, for instance, opening bureaus in nearby communities, the marker would be changed to a “service increase” marker and appear that way in the overall data. The marker description would, however, include information about the history of the launch and any other previous changes.

A local news organization is defined as a news outlet that maintains independence from those it covers, demonstrates a commitment to accuracy and transparency in reporting methods, and is devoted primarily to reporting and disseminating timely, originally produced news about people, places, issues and events in a defined geographic area.

When users click on a map marker, a pop-up box displays the name and owner of the news outlet along with information on what changed, the community name, when the change occurred, language of operation and links to the source of information about the change. Filters allow users to sort the markers by news outlet ownership, media type and type of change.

The information that registered users add to the map about changes to local newspaper, radio, television and online/digital news sources is displayed using color-coded markers. Map administrators also regularly add markers. The fact that the pace of change is steady but slow helps ensure the accuracy of map data because, with fewer than a dozen markers typically

added each month, administrators are able to verify each crowd-sourced submission. This includes reviewing the contents of links that provide details of the change that has occurred. These links are published with the markers so the source of the information is clear to map users. The journalists, researchers, journalism students, media owners and community members who visit the site and are quick to point out errors also constitute a form of quality control for the data.

This project is the result of a collaboration between Professor [April Lindgren](#), lead investigator for the [Local News Research Project](#) at Toronto Metropolitan 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). Funding for this project has been provided by the Rossy Foundation, the [Ken and Debbie Rubin Public Interest Advocacy Fund](#), the [Canadian Geospatial and Open Data Research Partnership](#), the Canadian Media Union/CWA Canada, Canadian Journalists for Free Expression, a Mitacs Accelerate grant, Unifor and Toronto Metropolitan University.

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

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

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Worth noting

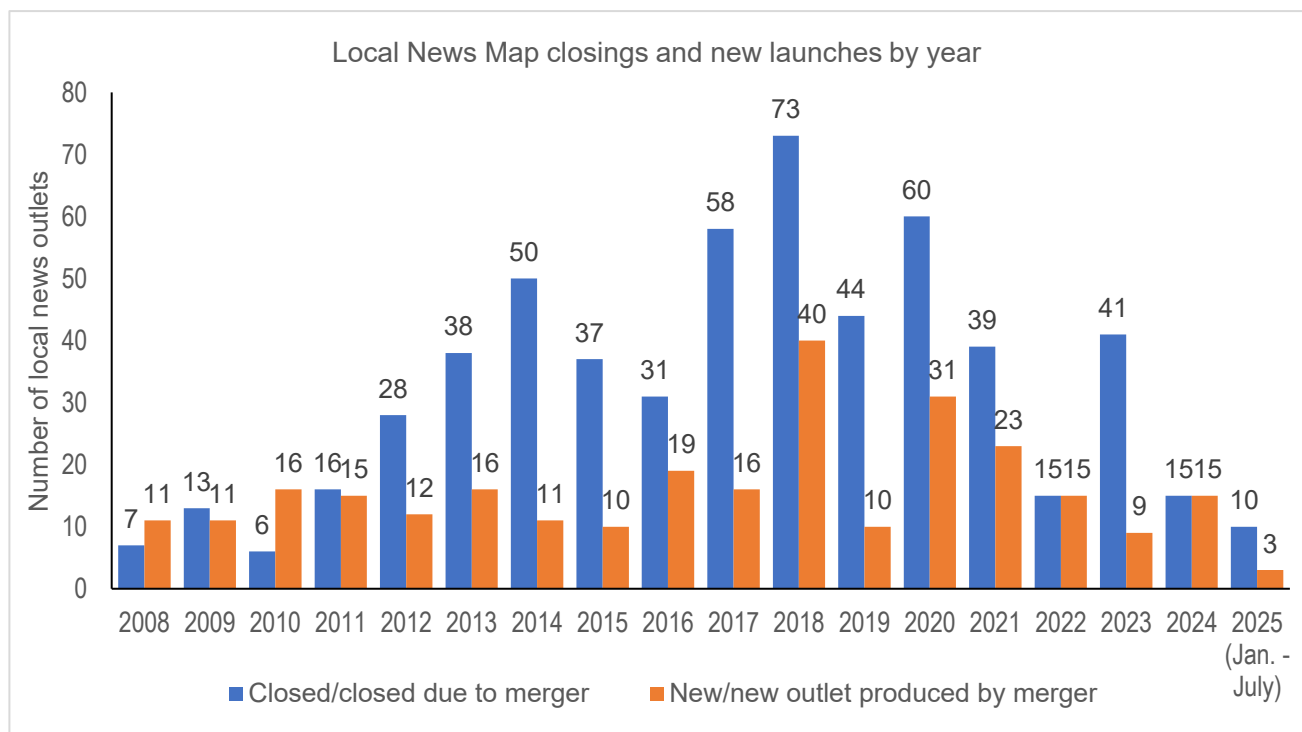
General

Between 2008 and August 1, 2025, 581 local news outlets closed in 380 communities across Canada. Of those:

- 429 closings or 74 per cent of the total were community newspapers, which publish fewer than five times per week. That total includes 117 local community newspapers that closed after they were merged with other newspapers to produce regional publications.

Between 2008 and August 1, 2025, 434 local news outlets launched of which 283 remain in operation. Of the total:

- 151 outlets, more than one third of the total, launched but subsequently closed.
- 252 opened in 175 communities and remain in operation while an additional 31 outlets launched, remain open, but either increased or decreased service.



Note: This chart only includes launch data for the 283 local news outlets that opened since 2008 and remain in operation (252 news outlets that are currently represented on the map as "new" or "new outlet produced by merger" map markers plus 31 outlets that launched since 2008 and experienced a service increase or service decrease).

A closer look at data on the launch of new outlets

As of the June 1, 2024 report, we have refined the process for calculating the number of new local news outlets. Until then, data were only available for newly launched outlets represented on the map as "new" or "new outlet produced by merger" map markers.

Going forward, however, data in these bimonthly reports will also capture the outlets that launched during our study period and subsequently announced a change in service. These changes altered how the outlets are represented on the map. Instead of appearing as a new marker, they are represented by a marker indicating they experienced an “increase in service,” “decrease in service,” “shifted to online,” “closed” or “closed due to merger.” While this approach is consistent with map protocols that require markers to reflect the most recent changes, we were concerned that it also resulted in an undercounting of new local news outlets.

To address this problem, we identified all outlets on the map that launched since 2008 including those that subsequently experienced changes that altered their representation on the map.

This approach, which in the future will be used whenever new information is added to the map, paints a more accurate picture of new outlet launches. Notably:

- 252 new local news outlets launched between 2008 and August 1, 2025 in 175 communities, remain open, and have not experienced any other service changes. **They appear on the map as "new" or “new outlet produced by merger” markers.**
- 182 local news outlets launched between 2008 and August 1, 2025, but subsequently experienced other changes in service. **They are currently represented on the map as the following types of markers.**

Current marker type	Number of outlets
Closed	134
Closed due to merger	17
Decrease in service	5
Increase in service	10
Shifted to online	16
Total	182*

*No launch year information could be found for 15 local news outlets.

Post-pandemic bad news continues to unfold

A special [report](#) published in mid-2022 that examined the effects of the pandemic on news media in Canada suggested difficult times may be ahead given the end of government COVID subsidies and uncertain prospects for a major recovery in advertising. Subsequent developments suggest those difficult times are upon us.

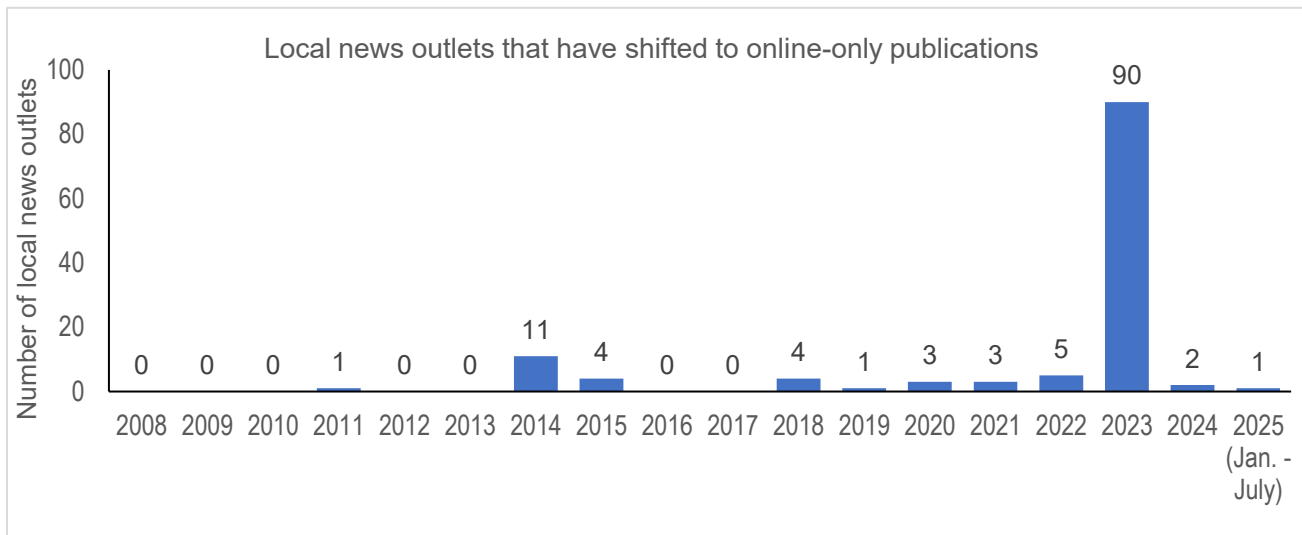
The notable exception is the lull in news outlet closings in 2024. The 15 shutdowns recorded on the map for that year was one of the lower numbers recorded since we started tracking in 2008. It also represents a significant departure from 2023, when 41 local news outlets closed, including 32 community newspapers, eight privately-owned radio stations and one digital outlet. Nearly half of the closings occurred in the Montreal area in August 2023 when Métro Média announced it was suspending publication of its 17 community newspapers. The company declared bankruptcy a month later.

The lull in closings in 2024, however, is offset by the post-pandemic turmoil that has unfolded between January 1, 2023 and August 1, 2025. These included:

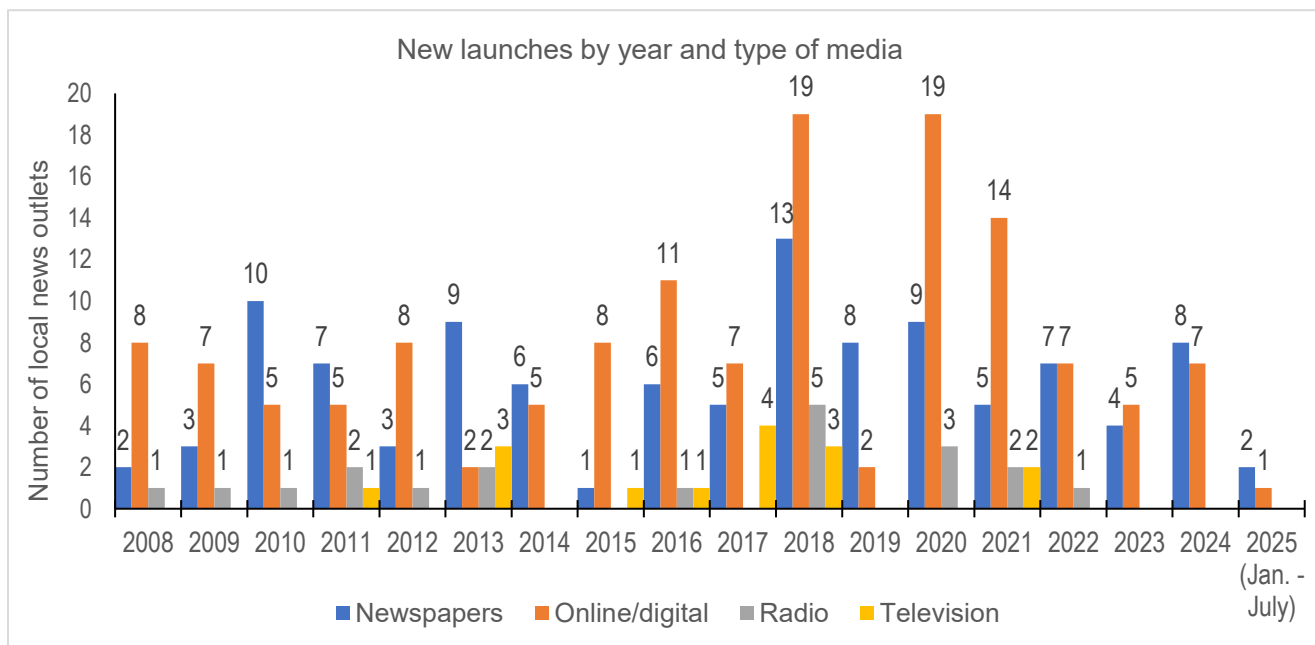
- A wave of cuts affecting the provision of broadcast news:

- In May 2025, Stingray Group closed its two television stations CKSA-TV and CITL-TV in Lloydminster, which straddles the Alberta and Saskatchewan border. A month later, in June 2025, Pattison Media closed CHAT-TV in Medicine Hat, Alberta.
- Corus Entertainment Inc., which owns Global News, announced layoffs that resulted in the loss of [55 media positions](#) across Canada as of mid-July 2024. The affected personnel included TV anchors, broadcast announcers, hosts, producers, videographers and digital broadcast journalists, among others.
- Examples of how the Corus cuts affect local news unfolded in [Kingston, Ont.](#) and [Kelowna, B.C.](#), where local newscasts were reduced by half to 30 minutes and production was moved out of the community.
- Bell Media-owned CTV announced in February 2024 that effective immediately CTV News @ Noon newscasts on all CTV stations except Toronto were cancelled along with the 6 p.m. and late night weekend newscasts on all CTV and CTV2 stations except Toronto, Montreal, and Ottawa. CTV newscasts on federal stat holidays on all stations except Toronto also ceased. CTV and CTV2 stations in 21 markets were affected.
- In June 2023, BCE Inc. announced the [layoff of 1,300 people and the closing of six local radio stations](#). Bell Media, which is part of BCE, also told the federal telecommunications regulator that its 35 local television stations branded as CTV, CTV Two and Noovo, are under financial strain and asked for [major reductions in local news content requirements](#). If the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) agrees, Bell Media's television stations in major markets will no longer have to broadcast six hours of locally reflective news per week. In smaller markets, Bell wants permission to broadcast fewer than three hours of locally reflective news per week.
- Ongoing turbulence in the community newspaper sector, which included:
 - Money woes at SaltWire Network, the largest newspaper owner in Atlantic Canada. The company filed for creditor protection in March 2024. In addition to publishing four daily newspapers - the *Chronicle Herald* in Halifax, the *Cape Breton Post* in Sydney, N.S., the *Guardian* in Charlottetown, P.E.I. and the *Telegram* in St. John's, N.L., SaltWire owned 14 weeklies throughout Atlantic Canada excluding New Brunswick. The publications remained open and in late August Postmedia received [court approval](#) to purchase all of them. Money-saving cuts ensued including, for example, [cancellation of](#) the *St. John's Telegram* newspaper's daily print editions. Subscribers now get just one print edition a week that is mailed to their homes.
 - Financial disruption at Surrey, B.C.-based Black Press. Two months after entering into creditor protection, it [announced](#) on March 25, 2024 that the company had been restructured, sold and would continue its news operations under the new ownership. The company publishes 150 daily and weekly newspapers, magazines and websites in Canada and the United States, including dozens of community newspapers in Western Canada.
 - An increase in the number of publications that have abandoned print and are now published online only. All of the 93 publications affected were community newspapers. Nordstar accounted for most of the changes - the company announced in September 2023 that all of its 71 community newspapers in Ontario would immediately become digital-only publications. The decision came as the company

put its Metroland Media Group division into creditor protection under the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act.



- A slowdown in the number of local news outlet launches after surges in 2020, when there were 30 local news startups and 2021 (21 launches). The number fell to nine in 2023, 15 in 2024 and just three to date in 2025.



Note: This chart only includes launch data for the 283 local news outlets that opened since 2008 and remain in operation (252 news outlets that are currently represented on the map as "new" or "new outlet produced by merger" map markers plus 31 outlets that launched since 2008 and experienced a service increase or service decrease). The data for the 31 outlets reflects the media type at the time these outlets launched.

Recent information added to the Local News Map

Since the last Local News Map update on June 1, 2025, 10 new markers representing changes to local news media were added to the map including three from previous years that came to our attention. Sixteen other existing map markers were updated to reflect changes in service.

Among the changes:

- A new marker was added for a television station that closed: In June 2025, Pattison Media closed CHAT-TV in Medicine Hat, Alberta.
- A new marker was added for a new private radio station: Drumbeat Radio (CKFF-FM), a community radio station in Kebaowek First Nation, launched in April 2020.
- A new marker was added for a community newspaper that closed: *Manotick Messenger* in Ottawa closed in January 2025.
- 2 new markers were added for new community newspapers: Your Community Voice launched *Manotick Messenger - Your Community Voice* and *Barrhaven Independent - Your Community Voice* in Ottawa in January 2025.
- 2 new markers were added for community newspapers that increased service: *Stratford Times* in Ontario moved from publishing twice per month (24 print editions per year) to bi-weekly (26 print editions) in March 2025, while the *St. Croix Courier* in New Brunswick reintroduced its print edition as a free monthly community newspaper in June 2025.
- 2 new markers were added for new digital news outlets: Miramichi Online in New Brunswick launched in June 2011, and Village Media launched DundasToday.com in Ontario in July 2025.
- A new marker was added for a digital news outlet that increased service: The Paris Independent digital newspaper in Ontario joined Grant Haven Media and began publishing a print edition in March 2025.
- 6 existing markers were updated for community newspapers that closed: *South Cowichan Echo* in B.C. closed in May 2017; *The Weekend Advisor* in Williams Lake, B.C., closed in March 2020; *Niagara This Week - St. Catharines & Thorold*, *Niagara This Week - Welland & Pelham*, and *Niagara This Week – Advance* closed in September 2023; and *Barrhaven Independent* in Ottawa closed in January 2025.
- 2 existing markers were updated for community newspapers that decreased service: *Flin Flon Reminder* in Manitoba changed from a twice per week to a weekly newspaper in January 2017, and *Cranbrook Townsman* in B.C. switched to weekly publication from three issues per week in April 2020.
- 2 existing markers were updated for community newspapers that shifted online: *The Graphic* community newspaper in Portage la Prairie, Man., became an online publication in June 2018; and the Toronto edition of the Polish-language newspaper *Gazeta* shifted online in February 2019.
- 3 existing markers were updated for community newspapers that increased service: *Anishinabek News* in Anishinabek Nation, Ont., reintroduced its print edition in Summer 2017; and the *Goderich Sun* and *Woodstock Ingersoll Echo* newspapers in Ontario changed from a monthly to a bi-weekly publications in March 2024.
- An existing marker was updated for a daily newspaper that closed: *Pembroke Daily Observer* in Ontario closed in July 2018.
- An existing marker was updated for a private TV station that increased service: CFJC Today (CFJC-TV) launched its website to provide online news in December 2015.
- An existing marker was updated for a digital news outlet that closed: South Coast Today in Sable River, N.S., stopped updating its website in July 2021.

Outlook for 2025

Major changes are afoot in 2025 that have significant implications for local journalism.

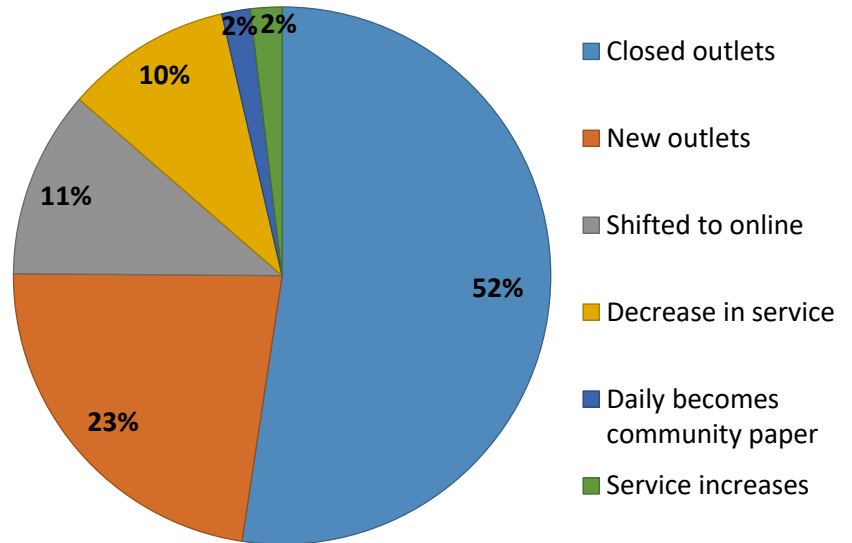
- Eligible news organizations will benefit from two additional revenue sources, notably:
 - a new Ontario government [directive](#) that as of Sept. 3, 2024 requires the province's four largest agencies to allocate at least 25 per cent of their advertising spending to Ontario-based news publishers that the Canada Revenue Agency recognizes as Qualified Canadian Journalism Organizations. Together, the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO), the Ontario Cannabis Store, Metrolinx and the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) spend more than \$100 million a year on marketing. The Ontario government's own advertising will also be subject to the same 25-per-cent rule.
 - Google's first \$100-million payment for 2023 under the provisions of the [Online News Act](#). The money is now being distributed to Canadian news publishers whose work has been repurposed or shared online by the tech giant. Distribution of the cash, the first of five annual payments, is administered by the Canadian Journalism Collective, a non-profit organization led by independent publishers and broadcasters. [News reports](#) say eligible publishers will get about \$13,798 per full-time equivalent journalist who works 2,000 hours per year producing online news while broadcasters will get about \$6,806 per eligible worker. CBC/Radio Canada will get no more than \$7 million while [\\$30 million](#) will be reserved for other broadcasters. The CJC, as of May 28, 2025, had released \$46.5 million to [209 local, regional and national news organizations](#) to offset labour costs in 2023.
- The *Columbia Journalism Review*, in its July 2025 issue, [predicted](#) a "traffic apocalypse" for news sites, noting that as AI-generated summaries are "integrated into search results, anyone looking for information has less reason to click through to the websites where that information originates." The decline in referral traffic, the Review and [others](#) have observed, poses a new threat to news media business models that rely upon that referral traffic to generate advertising revenue. One recent U.S. [study](#) quantified the extent to which users are increasingly just accepting the AI-summary information without clicking through to publishers: AI searches that resulted in no clicks to news sites rose to 69 per cent in May 2025, up from 56 per cent a year earlier.

Overview of map data

The map displayed a total of 1109 markers representing changes to local news outlets of all types between 2008 and August 1, 2025.

Breakdown of all markers by type of change that occurred:

closed	464
closed due to merger	117
daily (free) becomes a community paper	0
daily becomes a community paper	19
decrease in service	111
increase in service	21
new	222
new outlet produced by merger	30
shifted to online	125



Breakdown of all markers by type of media:

community paper	664
daily paper - free	30
daily paper - paid	63
online/digital	195
radio - private	63
radio - public	11
TV - private	56
TV - public	27

Breakdown of all markers by ownership¹:

Independent owners ²	248
Postmedia	112
Metroland	99
Black Press	46
Glacier Media	45
Bell Media	39
Transcontinental	38
Torstar	36
SaltWire Network	32
CBC/Radio-Canada	28
Métro Média	28
Sun Media	25
Village Media	23
Quebecor	18
Rogers Media	18
Great West Newspapers	17
Other	257

¹Only owners associated with more than 15 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: 581 (464 direct closings + 117 closings due to mergers)
- Number of communities where a local news outlet has closed: 380

Breakdown of closings by type of media:

community paper	429
daily paper - free	27
daily paper - paid	14
online/digital	52
radio – private	39
radio – public	6
TV – private	14
TV – public	0

Breakdown of closings by ownership¹:

Independent owners ²	108
Postmedia	58
Glacier Media	37
Black Press	34
Transcontinental	34
Torstar	32
Métro Média	28
Metroland	27
Sun Media	25
SaltWire Network	24
Other	174

¹Only owners associated with more than 15 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: 252 (222 new outlets + 30 new outlets produced by mergers)
- Number of communities where a new local news outlet has been launched: 175
- An additional 31 news outlets opened but then experienced service changes. These news outlets are represented on the map by “increase in service,” “decrease in service” and “shifted to online” markers.
- 151 local news outlets launched and closed over that same period. These news outlets are represented on the map by “closed” and “closed due to merger” markers.

Breakdown of new outlets by media type:

community paper	87
daily paper - free	1
online/digital	136
radio – private	15
radio – public	3
TV – private	5
TV – public	5

Breakdown of new outlets by ownership¹:

Independent owners ²	117
Village Media	21
Big and Colourful Printing and Publishing	6
Monquartier	6
Overstory Media Group	6
Rogers Media	6
Your Community Voice	6
Other	84

¹Only owners associated with more than 5 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: 21

Breakdown of service increases by type of media:

community paper	7
daily paper - free	0
daily paper - paid	1
online/digital	7
radio - private	2
radio - public	1
TV - private	3
TV - public	0

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: 111
- Number of affected communities: 61

Breakdown of service reductions by type of media:

community paper	23
daily paper - free	1
daily paper - paid	23
online/digital	0
radio - private	7
radio - public	1
TV - private	34
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 August 1, 2025)

NEWSPAPERS

- Total number of markers representing changes at daily and community (published fewer than five times per week) newspapers: 757
- Total number of daily and community newspapers that have closed: 470 (353 direct closings + 117 closings due to mergers) in 343 communities
- Total number of markers representing newly launched daily and community newspapers: 88 (58 new outlets + 30 new outlets produced by mergers) in 78 communities
- Total number of daily and community newspaper service decreases: 47
- Total number of daily and community newspapers that shifted to online: 125
- Total number of daily newspapers that became community newspapers: 19
- Total number of daily and community newspaper service increases: 8

Community newspaper markers on the map:

- Total number of community newspaper markers: 664
- Total number of community newspapers that have closed: 429 (315 direct closings + 114 closings due to mergers) in 326 communities
- Total number of new community newspapers: 87 (57 new outlets + 30 new outlets produced by mergers) in 78 communities
- Total number of community newspaper service decreases: 23
- Total number of community newspapers that shifted to online: 118
- Total number of community newspaper service increases: 7

Daily newspaper markers on the map:

- Total number of daily newspaper markers: 93
- Total number of daily newspapers that have closed: 41 (38 direct closings + 3 closings due to mergers)
- Total number of new daily newspapers: 1 (1 new outlet)
- Total number of daily newspaper service decreases: 24
- Total number of daily newspapers that became community newspapers: 19
- Total number of community newspapers that shifted to online: 7
- Total number of community newspaper service increases: 1

ONLINE/DIGITAL

- Total number of markers representing changes at online/digital news sources: 195
- Total number of newly launched online news sites: 136
- Total number of closed online news sites: 52
- Total number of online news sites service increases: 7

RADIO

- Total number of markers representing changes at radio stations: 74
- Total number of new radio stations: 18
- Total number of closed radio programs: 45
- Total number of radio station service reductions: 8
- Total number of radio station service increases: 3

TELEVISION

- Total number of markers representing changes to television stations: 83
- Total number of new TV stations: 10
- Total number of closed TV stations: 14
- Total number of TV station service reductions: 56
- Total number of TV station service increases: 3

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	66	23	28	1	118
British Columbia	90	48	26	4	168
Manitoba	33	11	6	0	50
New Brunswick	12	7	8	2	29
Newfoundland and Labrador	23	0	3	1	27
Northwest Territories	2	1	2	1	6
Nova Scotia	27	13	6	0	46
Nunavut	0	0	0	0	0
Ontario	178	108	126	10	422
Prince Edward Island	0	0	3	0	3
Quebec	108	28	37	1	174
Saskatchewan	41	12	9	1	63
Yukon	1	1	1	0	3
Canada (total)	581	252	255	21	1109

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

Province/territory	Newspaper	Online/ digital	Radio	Television	Total # of markers
Alberta	82	13	8	15	118
British Columbia	88	46	22	12	168
Manitoba	41	1	3	5	50
New Brunswick	19	7	0	3	29
Newfoundland and Labrador	20	1	5	1	27
Northwest Territories	3	1	1	1	6
Nova Scotia	34	10	0	2	46
Nunavut	0	0	0	0	0
Ontario	286	93	21	22	422
Prince Edward Island	2	0	0	1	3
Quebec	126	19	14	15	174
Saskatchewan	53	4	0	6	63
Yukon	3	0	0	0	3
Canada (total)	757	195	74	83	1109