



LOCAL NEWS RESEARCH
PROJECT



SPATIAL INFORMATION FOR
SPICE
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Local News Map Data
February 1, 2026

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

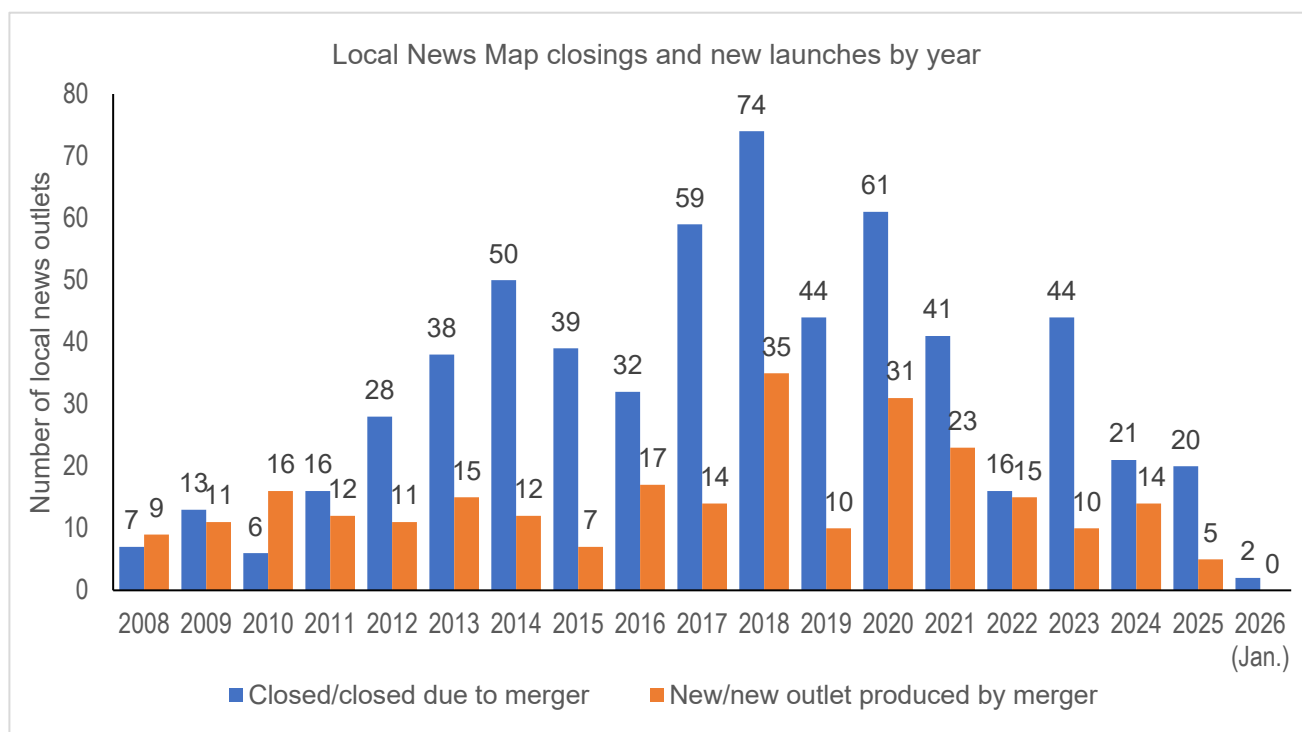
General

Between 2008 and February 1, 2026, 611 local news outlets closed in 390 communities across Canada. Of those:

- 445 closings or 73 per cent of the total were community newspapers, which publish fewer than five times per week. That total includes 115 local community newspapers that closed after they were merged with other newspapers to produce regional publications.

Between 2008 and February 1, 2026, 425 local news outlets launched. Of the total:

- 158 outlets, more than one third of the total, launched but subsequently closed.
- 267 opened in 194 communities and remain in operation. This includes 40 outlets that launched and remain open, but either increased or decreased service.



Note: This chart only includes launch data for the 267 local news outlets that opened since 2008 and remain in operation.

A closer look at data on the launch of new outlets

Map protocols require markers to reflect the most recent changes. Consequently, the map markers for "new" local news outlets or "new outlets produced by merger" are updated when they experience an "increase in service," "decrease in service," "shift to online," "close" or "close due to merger." To avoid undercounting, we include these changed outlets in the total count for new local news outlets. As of Feb. 1, 2026, this tracking exercise shows that:

- 227 new local news outlets launched between 2008 and February 1, 2026 in 165 communities, remain open, and have not experienced any other changes. **They appear on the map as "new" or "new outlet produced by merger" markers.**

- 198 local news outlets launched between 2008 and February 1, 2026, but subsequently experienced some form of change. **They are currently represented on the map as the following types of markers.**

Current marker type	Number of outlets
Closed	141
Closed due to merger	17
Decrease in service	8
Increase in service	13
Shifted to online	19
Total	198*

*No launch year information could be found for 16 local news outlets.

Post-pandemic trends

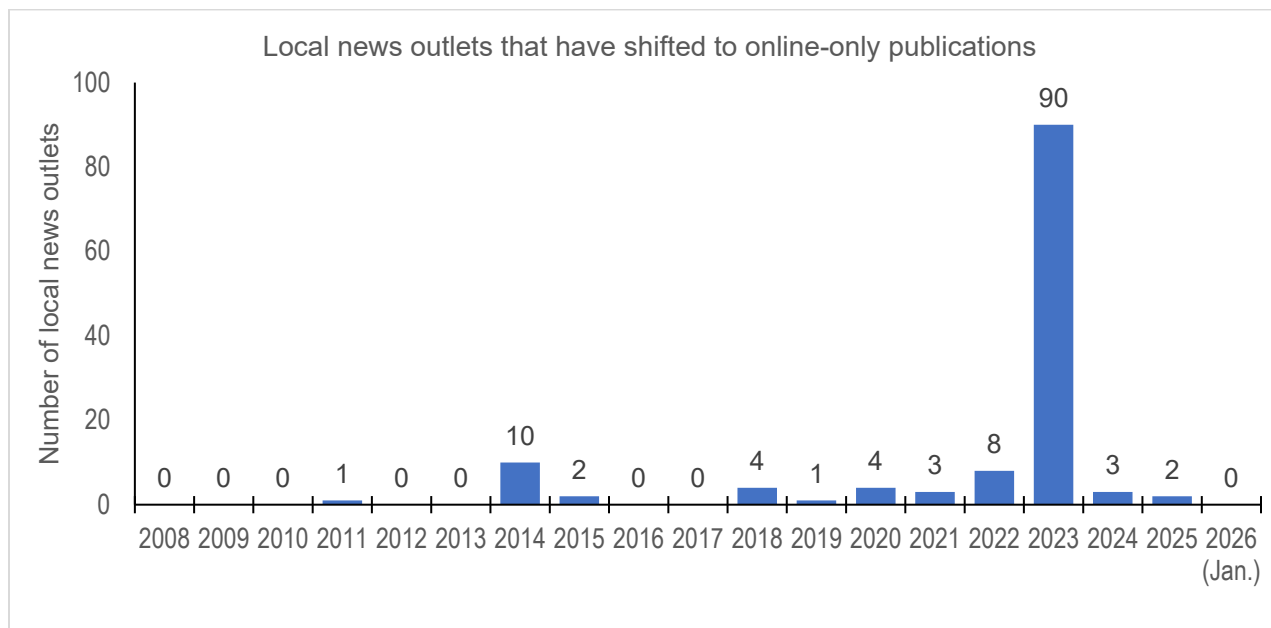
A special [report](#) published in mid-2022 that examined the pandemic's impact on news media in Canada suggested difficult times may be ahead given the end of government COVID subsidies and uncertain prospects for a major recovery in advertising revenue. Subsequent developments suggest those difficult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

Statistics Canada data, for instance, show that newspaper publishers' [print advertising revenue](#) fell by 34.3 per cent to \$408 million between 2022 and 2024. Digital advertising sales also suffered a setback, dropping 11.9 per cent to \$315 million over the same two-year period.

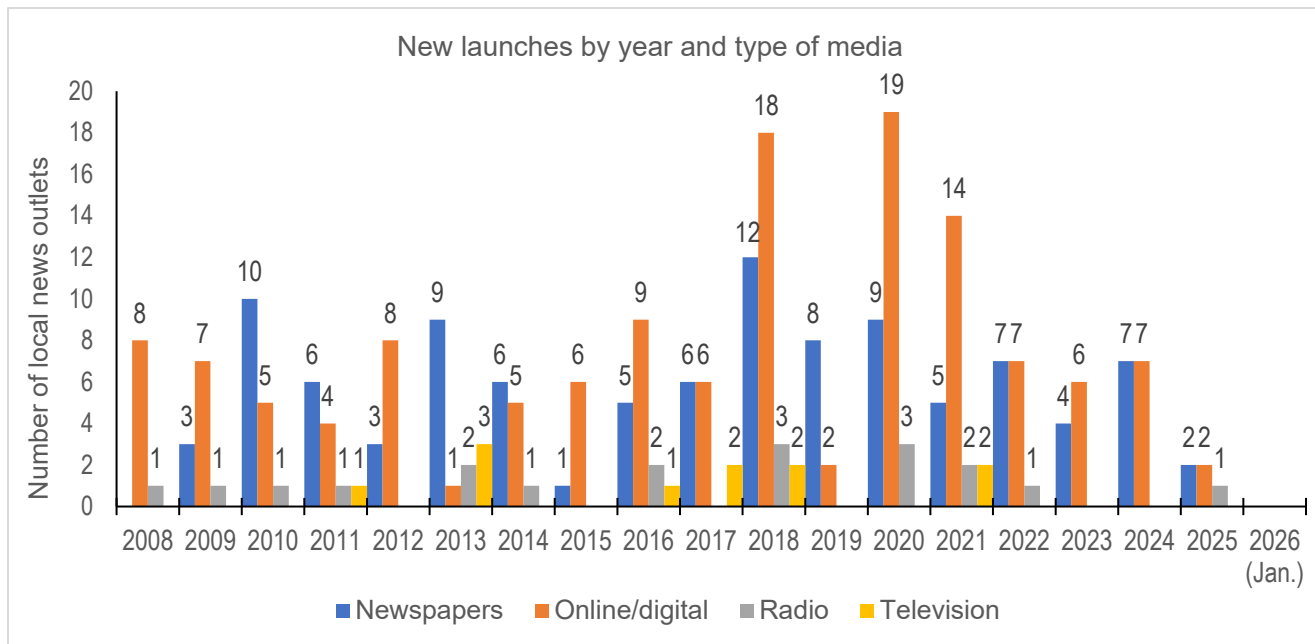
Between January 1, 2023 and February 1, 2026 the local news sector has experienced:

- A wave of cuts affecting the provision of broadcast news:
 - In September 2025, First Peoples Radio Inc. closed 95.7 ELMNT FM in Ottawa and 106.5 ELMNT FM in Toronto.
 - 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 affecting [55 media positions](#) across Canada as of mid-July 2024. TV anchors, radio announcers, hosts, producers, videographers and digital broadcast journalists were among those who lost their jobs. In [Kingston, Ont.](#) and [Kelowna, B.C.](#), for example, the cuts meant local newscasts were reduced by half to 30 minutes and production was moved out of the communities.
 - 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](#).
- 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 now publish online only. All of the 95 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 31 local news startups, and 2021 (23 launches). The number fell to ten in 2023, 14 in 2024 and just five in 2025.



Note: This chart includes launch data for the 267 local news outlets that opened since 2008 and remain in operation – 227 news outlets that are currently represented on the map as "new" or "new outlet produced by merger" map markers plus 40 outlets that launched since 2008 and experienced a service increase or service decrease. The data for the 40 outlets reflects the media type at the time these outlets launched.

Information recently added to the Local News Map

Since the last Local News Map update on December 1, 2025, 9 new markers representing changes to local news media were added to the map including two from previous years that came to our attention. Among the changes:

- 3 new markers were added for community newspapers that closed: *Prairie Dog* and *Planet S* in Saskatchewan closed in September 2025, and *The Carlyle Observer* in Saskatchewan closed in December 2025.
- 2 new markers were added for daily newspapers that closed: Mind Pao closed its Canadian operations and published the final editions of its Vancouver and Toronto Chinese-language newspapers in January 2026.
- 1 new marker was added for the South Grey News, a digital news outlet in Ontario that closed in December 2025.
- 2 new markers were added for new private radio stations: Met Radio 1280 AM, the campus radio station for Toronto Metropolitan University, launched as CJRU 1280AM The Scope in March 2016. CHIR 107.9 FM, a community station in British Columbia, launched in November 2025.
- 1 new marker was added for The Owen Sound Current, a digital news site in Ontario that launched in November 2023.

Outlook for 2026

Major changes in 2025 had significant implications for local journalism.

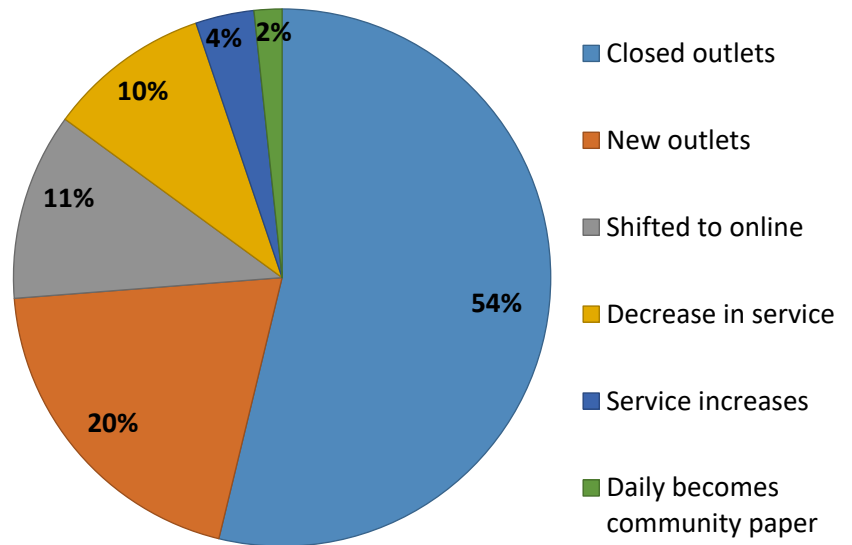
- Eligible news organizations benefited from two additional revenue sources, notably:
 - a new Ontario government [directive](#) that as of Sept. 3, 2024 required the province's four largest agencies to allocate at least 25 per cent of their advertising spending to Ontario-based news publishers that 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 is subject to the same 25-per-cent rule.
 - Google commenced payments of \$100 million per year under the provisions of the [Online News Act](#). The money is being distributed to Canadian news publishers whose work has been repurposed or shared online by the tech giant. A total of \$500 million will be dispersed on a yearly basis for five years dating back to 2023. Distribution of the cash 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 Dec. 22, 2025, had released [\\$96.2 million to 459 eligible news organizations across Canada](#) 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 1135 markers representing changes to local news outlets of all types between 2008 and February 1, 2026.

Breakdown of all markers by type of change that occurred:

closed	493
closed due to merger	118
daily (free) becomes a community paper	0
daily becomes a community paper	19
decrease in service	110
increase in service	40
new	199
new outlet produced by merger	28
shifted to online	128



Breakdown of all markers by type of media:

community paper	683
daily paper - free	28
daily paper - paid	63
online/digital	198
radio - private	72
radio - public	10
TV - private	54
TV - public	27

Breakdown of all markers by ownership¹:

Independent owners ²	256
Postmedia	113
Metroland	97
Black Press	48
Glacier Media	47
Bell Media	38
Transcontinental	38
Torstar	36
SaltWire Network	32
Métro Média	28
CBC/Radio-Canada	27
Sun Media	25
Village Media	23
Great West Newspapers	18
Quebecor	18
Rogers Media	16
Other	275

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: 611 (493 direct closings + 118 closings due to mergers)
- Number of communities where a local news outlet has closed: 390

Breakdown of closings by type of media:

community paper	445
daily paper - free	27
daily paper - paid	16
online/digital	61
radio – private	41
radio – public	6
TV – private	15
TV – public	0

Breakdown of closings by ownership¹:

Independent owners ²	119
Postmedia	59
Glacier Media	38
Black Press	34
Transcontinental	34
Torstar	32
Métro Média	28
Metroland	27
Sun Media	25
SaltWire Network	24
Other	191

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: 227 (199 new outlets + 28 new outlets produced by mergers)
- Number of communities where a new local news outlet has been launched: 165
- An additional 40 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.
- 158 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	77
daily paper - free	0
daily paper - paid	0
online/digital	128
radio – private	14
radio – public	2
TV – private	2
TV – public	4

Breakdown of new outlets by ownership¹:

Independent owners ²	106
Village Media	21
Big and Colourful Printing and Publishing	6
Monquartier	6
Overstory Media Group	6
Your Community Voice	6
Other	76

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: 40
- Number of affected communities: 37

Breakdown of service increases by type of media:

community paper	10
daily paper - free	0
daily paper - paid	1
online/digital	8
radio - private	11
radio - public	1
TV - private	5
TV - public	4

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: 110
- Number of affected communities: 63

Breakdown of service reductions by type of media:

community paper	29
daily paper - free	1
daily paper - paid	21
online/digital	1
radio - private	6
radio - public	1
TV - private	32
TV - public	19

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, 2026)

NEWSPAPERS

- Total number of markers representing changes at daily and community (published fewer than five times per week) newspapers: 774
- Total number of daily and community newspapers that have closed: 488 (370 direct closings + 118 closings due to mergers) in 348 communities
- Total number of markers representing newly launched daily and community newspapers: 77 (49 new outlets + 28 new outlets produced by mergers) in 67 communities
- Total number of daily and community newspaper service decreases: 51
- Total number of daily and community newspapers that shifted to online: 128
- Total number of daily newspapers that became community newspapers: 19
- Total number of daily and community newspaper service increases: 11

Community newspaper markers on the map:

- Total number of community newspaper markers: 683
- Total number of community newspapers that have closed: 445 (330 direct closings + 115 closings due to mergers) in 333 communities
- Total number of new community newspapers: 77 (49 new outlets + 28 new outlets produced by mergers) in 67 communities
- Total number of community newspaper service decreases: 29
- Total number of community newspapers that shifted to online: 122
- Total number of community newspaper service increases: 10

Daily newspaper markers on the map:

- Total number of daily newspaper markers: 91
- Total number of daily newspapers that have closed: 43 (40 direct closings + 3 closings due to mergers)
- Total number of new daily newspapers: 0
- Total number of daily newspaper service decreases: 22
- Total number of daily newspapers that became community newspapers: 19
- Total number of community newspapers that shifted to online: 6
- Total number of community newspaper service increases: 1

ONLINE/DIGITAL

- Total number of markers representing changes at online/digital news sources: 198
- Total number of newly launched online news sites: 128
- Total number of closed online news sites: 61
- Total number of online service reductions: 1
- Total number of online service increases: 8

RADIO

- Total number of markers representing changes at radio stations: 82
- Total number of new radio stations: 16
- Total number of closed radio stations: 47
- Total number of radio station service reductions: 7
- Total number of radio station service increases: 12

TELEVISION

- Total number of markers representing changes to television stations: 81
- Total number of new TV stations: 6
- Total number of closed TV stations: 15
- Total number of TV station service reductions: 51
- 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	68	19	29	2	118
British Columbia	93	44	30	7	174
Manitoba	34	9	6	1	50
New Brunswick	13	4	7	3	27
Newfoundland and Labrador	23	0	2	2	27
Northwest Territories	2	1	2	1	6
Nova Scotia	29	10	5	1	45
Nunavut	0	0	0	0	0
Ontario	188	102	125	13	428
Prince Edward Island	0	0	2	1	3
Quebec	115	26	38	9	188
Saskatchewan	44	12	10	0	66
Yukon	2	0	1	0	3
Canada (total)	611	227	257	40	1135

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

Province/territory	Newspaper	Online/ digital	Radio	Television	Total # of markers
Alberta	83	13	8	14	118
British Columbia	93	47	22	12	174
Manitoba	41	1	3	5	50
New Brunswick	19	5	0	3	27
Newfoundland and Labrador	20	1	5	1	27
Northwest Territories	3	1	1	1	6
Nova Scotia	33	10	0	2	45
Nunavut	0	0	0	0	0
Ontario	287	96	23	22	428
Prince Edward Island	2	0	0	1	3
Quebec	134	20	20	14	188
Saskatchewan	56	4	0	6	66
Yukon	3	0	0	0	3
Canada (total)	774	198	82	81	1135