



Local News Map Data
October 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/>

Contact us: localnews-poverty@gmail.com

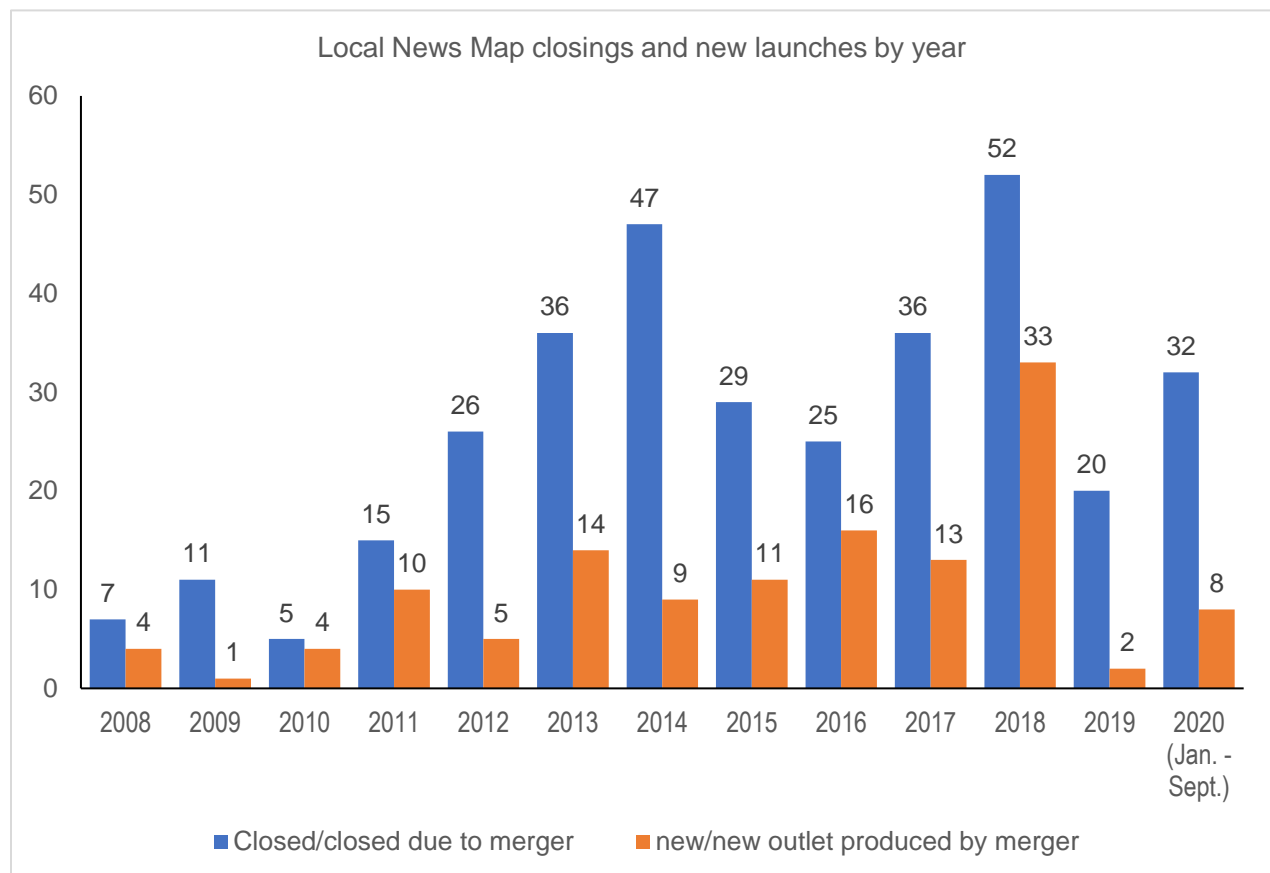
Contents

Notable developments: Notes on the impact of COVID-19	2
Overview of map data	3
Local news outlets that have closed since 2008	4
Newly launched local news outlets since 2008	4
Increases in service since 2008	5
Decreases in service since 2008	5
Breakdown of data by type of local media (2008 to October 1, 2020)	5
Provincial data for changes to local news media since 2008	6

Notable developments: Notes on the impact of COVID-19

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

- 26 news outlets have permanently closed including two private radio stations and 24 community newspapers that published fewer than five times per week
- 11 daily newspapers have cut one or more print editions
- three community newspapers have shifted completely online
- five new local news outlets have launched – one community newspaper and four online news sites
- 12 community newspapers closed in Manitoba (Glacier Media closed four in September and Postmedia closed eight in May)



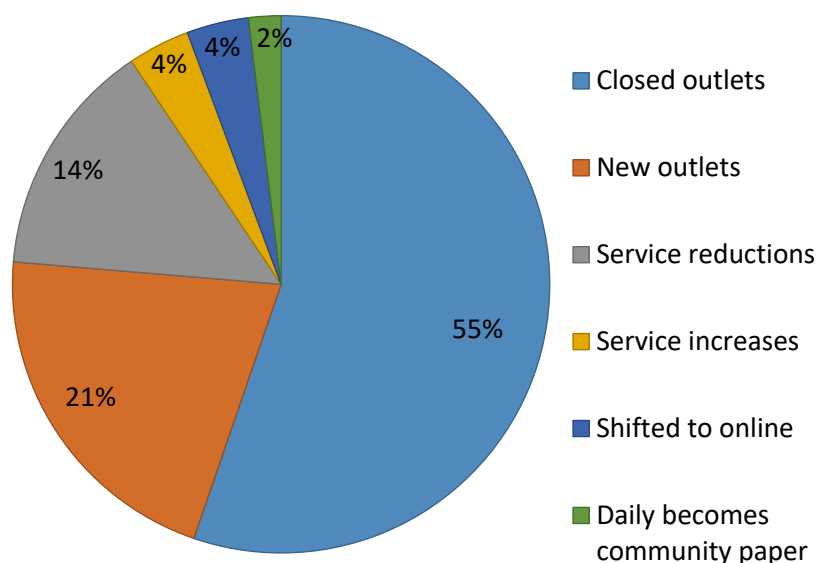
For additional information on the pandemic's impact on media in Canada, including changes that to date have been labelled temporary, visit the [COVID-19 Media Impact Map for Canada](#).

Overview of map data

The map displayed a total of 617 markers representing changes to local news outlets of all types between 2008 and October 1, 2020.

Breakdown of all markers by type of change that occurred:

closed	285
closed due to merger	56
daily (free) becomes a community paper	1
daily becomes a community paper	11
decrease in service	88
increase in service	23
new	111
new outlet produced by merger	19
shifted to online	23



Breakdown of all markers by type of media:

community paper	339
daily paper - free	32
daily paper - paid	60
online	89
radio - private	25
radio - public	11
TV - private	33
TV - public	28

Breakdown of all markers by ownership¹:

Independent owners ²	132
Postmedia	74
Black Press	38
Transcontinental	36
Metroland	34
Sun Media	29
CBC/Radio-Canada	28
Torstar	26
Glacier Media	26
Saltwire Network	16
Quebecor	15
Bell Media	13
Rogers Media	13
Village Media	11
Other	126

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: 341 (285 direct closings + 56 closings due to mergers)

Number of communities where a local news outlet has closed: 240

Breakdown of closings by type of media:

community paper	247
daily paper - free	28
daily paper - paid	13
online	19
radio – private	17
radio – public	6
TV – private	11
TV – public	0

Breakdown of closings by ownership¹:

Independent owners ²	52
Postmedia	48
Transcontinental	32
Black Press	28
Sun Media	25
Torstar	23
Glacier Media	21
Metroland	20
Other	92

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: 130 (111 new outlets + 19 new outlets produced by mergers)

Number of communities where a new local news outlet has been launched: 95

Breakdown of new outlets by media type:

community paper	48
daily paper - free	1
online	63
radio – private	7
radio – public	3
TV – private	3
TV – public	5

Breakdown of new outlets by ownership¹:

Independent owners ²	64
Village Media	10
Metroland	7
Rogers Media	6
Black Press	4
TVO	4
Your Community Voice	4
CBC/Radio-Canada	4
Glacier Media	3
Saltwire Network	3
The Jim Pattison Broadcast Group	2
Transcontinental	2
First Peoples Radio	2
Lexis Media	2
Other	13

¹ Only owners associated with more than 1 marker 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: 23
Number of affected communities: 20

Breakdown of service increases by type of media:

community paper	3
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: 54

Breakdown of service reductions by type of media:

community paper	21
daily paper - free	1
daily paper - paid	32
online	0
radio - private	1
radio - public	1
TV - private	10
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 October 1, 2020)

NEWSPAPERS

- Total number of markers representing changes at newspapers: 431

Closings

- Total number of newspapers that have closed: 288 (232 direct closings + 56 closings due to mergers)
- Number of communities where newspapers have closed: 221

Launches

- Total number of markers representing newly launched newspapers: 49 (30 new outlets + 19 new outlets produced by mergers)
- Number of communities where new newspapers have launched: 45

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

- Total number of community newspaper markers: 339
- Total number of community newspapers that have closed: 247 (194 direct closings + 53 closings due to mergers)
- Number of communities affected by the closing of a community paper: 200
- Total number of new community newspapers: 48 (29 new outlets + 19 new outlets produced by mergers)
- Number of communities where a new community paper has launched: 44

DIGITAL NEWS SITES

- Total number of markers representing changes at online news sites: 89
- Total number of newly launched online news sites: 63
- Total number of closed online news sites: 19
- Total number of online news sites service increases: 7

RADIO

- Total number of markers representing changes at radio stations: 36
- Total number of new radio stations: 10
- Total number of closed radio programs: 23
- 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: 61
- Total number of new TV stations: 8
- Total number of closed TV stations: 11
- 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	41	15	13	1	70
British Columbia	63	26	13	2	104
Manitoba	18	3	5	1	27
New Brunswick	5	4	1	1	11
Newfoundland and Labrador	12	2	4	0	18
Northwest Territories	2	1	1	1	5
Nova Scotia	16	8	5	2	31
Nunavut	0	0	0	0	0
Ontario	120	59	48	9	236
Prince Edward Island	0	0	1	0	1
Quebec	50	9	26	2	87
Saskatchewan	14	3	4	4	25
Yukon	0	0	2	0	2
Canada (total)	341	130	123	23	617

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

Province	Newspaper	Website	Radio	Television	Total # of markers
Alberta	48	8	4	10	70
British Columbia	66	21	13	4	104
Manitoba	20	1	1	5	27
New Brunswick	6	3	0	2	11
Newfoundland and Labrador	14	1	2	1	18
Northwest Territories	2	1	1	1	5
Nova Scotia	25	5	0	1	31
Nunavut	0	0	0	0	0
Ontario	167	40	9	20	236
Prince Edward Island	0	0	0	1	1
Quebec	63	7	6	11	87
Saskatchewan	18	2	0	5	25
Yukon	2	0	0	0	2
Canada (total)	431	89	36	61	617