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This report looks at the following areas:

60% of national newspaper readers have been satisfied with the coverage of COVID-19 in the national newspapers they read, while only 11% have been dissatisfied. The crisis has presented the opportunity for national newspapers to reassert their importance to people for getting reliable/quality reporting in a world of fake or unreliable online news.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a struggle for national newspaper publishers, as print circulation has dropped significantly and digital advertising revenue declined, at least initially, leading to publishers having to make significant cuts.

Boosted online engagement, across age groups, has enabled national newspapers to grow online subscriber and registration numbers significantly. Publishers will be concerned, however, that with many people facing economic hardships and the news agenda becoming less attention-grabbing than at the beginning of the pandemic, digital subscriber growth could slow down. The dominance of the major tech platforms, such as Facebook and Google, over the digital advertising market and content discovery remains a threat but the balance of power appears to be moving in a more positive direction for publishers.

National newspapers/publishers are expanding into more areas, such as radio and TV, that have a lot of potential for boosting reach and brand image. While the Netflix-style subscription service appears flawed in concept for newspapers, there are many opportunities in utilising other forms of media subscriptions, from magazines to music.

- The impact of COVID-19 on the national newspapers market.
- Forecast for the UK print circulation for national newspapers.
- National newspaper readership and purchasing behaviour.
- The main reasons people subscribe to a national newspaper online.



"While the pandemic has been very difficult for the market, reliable reporting throughout the crisis has enabled national newspapers to reassert their importance to a society bombarded with fake news."

- Rebecca McGrath, Senior Media Analyst

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 The national newspaper topics people spend the most time reading about online.

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Table of Contents

OVERVIEW

- Key issues covered in this Report
- COVID-19: market context
- Economic and other assumptions
- Products covered in this Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Impact of COVID-19 on national newspapers

Figure 1: Short-, medium- and long-term impact of COVID-19 on national newspapers, prepared 20 February 2021

- The market
- 2020 saw a 15% decline in print circulation

Figure 2: Market size for UK national newspaper print circulation (prepared on 5 March 2021), 2015-25

- Battle in Australia highlights ongoing tension between tech giants and news publishers
- · Some publishers criticised for cutting margins for retailers
- Companies and brands
- Introductions from tech giants offer more support to news publishers
- National newspapers expand into more media sectors
- The consumer
- Four in 10 reading online newspapers more

Figure 3: Change in online national newspaper readership, November 2020

People have been buying fewer print titles

Figure 4: National newspaper print readership, November 2020

Figure 5: Print national newspaper purchases, November 2020

Figure 6: Change in purchasing of print national newspapers, November 2020

 Altered lifestyle is the primary reason people are buying fewer print newspapers

Figure 7: Reasons bought fewer print national newspapers, November 2020

Long-term impact on print purchasing is a mixed bag

Figure 8: Expectations of purchasing print national newspapers in the future, November 2020

 Most are satisfied with national newspaper reporting on the outbreak

What's included

Executive Summary

Full Report PDF

Infographic Overview

Powerpoint Presentation

Interactive Databook

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Figure 9: Satisfaction with COVID-19 reporting in national newspapers, November 2020

Growth in different devices used for news
 Figure 10: Devices used for online news, November 2017-20

BBC's dominance boosted by pandemic

Figure 11: Online news sources, November 2017–20

Many older people are open to getting a digital

subscriptionFigure 12: Online national newspaper behaviour, November 2020

People are keeping with their print newspaper when they subscribe online

Figure 13: Reasons for paying for an online national newspaper, November 2020

 COVID-19 dominates the time people have spent reading online national newspapers

Figure 14: National newspaper topics, November 2020

ISSUES AND INSIGHTS

- As COVID-19 accelerates print declines, national newspaper publishers explore more multimedia opportunities
- · Redefining a national newspaper
- Exploring digital subscription options
- Effectively targeting discounts
- Netflix-for-newspapers won't work but smaller bundles could

THE MARKET - KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Print circulation declines 15% in 2020
- The digital advertising market is rebounding well but the print advertising market will continue to struggle
- More regulation expected on tech giants to help news publishers

MARKET SIZE AND FORECAST

 COVID-19 hastens print decline as publishers put more focus on digital subscriptions

Figure 15: Short-, medium- and long-term impact of COVID-19 on national newspapers, prepared 20 February 2021

2020 saw a 15% decline in print circulation

Figure 16: Market size for UK national newspaper print circulation (prepared on 5 March 2021), 2015-25

What's included

Executive Summary

Full Report PDF

Infographic Overview

Powerpoint Presentation

Interactive Databook

Previous editions

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The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.



Figure 17: Market size for UK national newspaper print circulation (prepared on 5 March 2021), 2015-25

Market drivers and assumptions

Figure 18: Key drivers affecting Mintel's market forecast (prepared on 5 March 2021), 2015-25

· Learnings from the last recession

Figure 19: Trends in total UK print national newspaper circulation, 2005-12

Forecast methodology

MARKET DRIVERS

- The CMA wants stronger regulations to be introduced to curb dominance of Google and Facebook
- Battle in Australia highlights ongoing tension between tech giants and news publishers
- · What the conflict means for the UK
- Google defends algorithm
- Many titles increase cover prices

Figure 20: Basic UK cover price for national newspapers, December 2019-20

- Some publishers criticised for cutting margins for retailers
- Digital advertising market to rebound well

Figure 21: Forecast of digital advertising expenditure in the UK (prepared September 2020), 2015–25

Advertisers invest less in print

Figure 22: Advertising spend on print press, 2017-20

- Newspaper deliveries boom during pandemic
- Duke and Duchess of Sussex win cases against UK newspapers
- News UK appeals to Supreme Court to claim digital newspapers should have been VAT exempt for years

COMPANIES AND BRANDS - KEY TAKEAWAYS

- National titles see large drops in print circulation but report strong growth in browser and subscription figures
- Tech giants make introductions offering greater support to news publishers
- National newspapers explore radio and TV

MARKET SHARE

- Significant circulation declines across national titles
 Figure 23: Daily print national newspapers' average print circulation per issue, 2017-20
- Sunday titles' circulation declines slightly better than dailies

What's included

Executive Summary

Full Report PDF

Infographic Overview

Powerpoint Presentation

Interactive Databook

Previous editions

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Report Price: £2195 | \$2995 | €2600

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.



Figure 24: Sunday print national newspapers' average print circulation per issue, 2017-20

There was significant digital growth in 2020
 Figure 25: National newspaper digital editions/publications,
 Jan-Dec 2020

Guardian still way out in front on social media
 Figure 26: National newspapers' social-media followings, 15
 February 2020

- Results from national newspaper publishers
- · Reach reports recovery in digital advertising revenue
- Mail Online a bright spot for DMGT
- The Telegraph returns furlough money as digital subscribers surge
- Guardian cuts jobs but reports growth in subscribers and contributors
- News UK's revenue drops significantly in first half of 2020

LAUNCH ACTIVITY AND INNOVATION

- Introductions from tech giants offer more support to news publishers
- New Facebook News platform introduced in the UK
- Google launches curated news feed service
- National newspapers expand into more media sectors
- Times Radio launches
- News UK moves into TV as the UK's TV news market is set for shake-up
- The Independent launches Independent TV
- Newspapers make the environment a greater priority
- Guardian
- Daily Express
- Financial Times
- Readly adds more national newspapers
- Joint digital subscription used by Financial Times to encourage new subscribers
- Newspapers introduce virtual events, which have potential beyond the pandemic
- Scottish Sun launches a children's version highlighting potential gap in the market

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING ACTIVITY

 Significant drop in adspend by national newspaper publishers

What's included

Executive Summary

Full Report PDF

Infographic Overview

Powerpoint Presentation

Interactive Databook

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Figure 27: Total above-the-line, online display and direct mail advertising expenditure on national newspapers, 2017-20

Figure 28: Top 10 advertisers in the national newspaper market, 2017–20

Adspend shifted towards TV and Digital

Figure 29: Total above-the-line, online display and direct mail advertising expenditure on national newspapers, by media types, 2017-20

Nielsen Ad Intel coverage

BRAND RESEARCH

Brand map

Figure 30: Attitudes towards and usage of selected brands, January 2021

Key brand metrics

Figure 31: Key metrics for selected brands, January 2021

- Brand attitudes: The Times is associated with quality Figure 32: Attitudes, by brand, January 2021
- Brand personality: The Guardian is considered the most ethical

Figure 33: Brand personality - macro image, January 2021

- The Daily Mail is strongly associated with being biased
 Figure 34: Brand personality micro image, January 2021
- Brand analysis
- The Guardian readers are the most satisfied
 Figure 35: User profile of the Guardian, January 2021
- The Times stands out the most to people
 Figure 36: User profile of The Times, January 2021
- The i still has comparatively low awareness
- Figure 37: User profile of the i, January 2021
- The Daily Telegraph has a less positive brand image than other quality titles

Figure 38: User profile of The Daily Telegraph, January 2021

 People are more likely to think the Daily Mail offers good value than other titles

Figure 39: User profile of the Daily Mail, January 2021

- The Daily Express is well behind the Daily Mail for trust Figure 40: User profile of the Daily Express, January 2021
- The Sun is viewed as the most entertaining but intrusive
 Figure 41: User profile of The Sun, January 2021
- Focus on satire could help the Daily Star to stand out Figure 42: User profile of the Daily Star, January 2021

What's included

Executive Summary

Full Report PDF

Infographic Overview

Powerpoint Presentation

Interactive Databook

Previous editions

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THE CONSUMER - KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The pandemic has boosted online readership and most have been satisfied with reporting on the topic
- Many are willing to subscribe to national newspapers online
- People are buying fewer print newspapers but some remain committed to the format

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON CONSUMER BEHAVIOUR

- Four in 10 reading online newspapers more
- Daily Star's satire likely to have been particularly appreciated

Figure 43: Change in online national newspaper readership, November 2020

People have been buying fewer print titles

Figure 44: National newspaper print readership, November 2020

Figure 45: Print national newspaper purchases, November 2020

Figure 46: Change in purchasing of print national newspapers, November 2020

 Altered lifestyle is the primary reason people are buying fewer print newspapers

Figure 47: Reasons bought fewer print national newspapers, November 2020

 Long-term impact on print purchasing is a mixed bag
 Figure 48: Expectations of purchasing print national newspapers in the future, November 2020

 Most are satisfied with national newspaper reporting on the outbreak

Figure 49: Satisfaction with COVID-19 reporting in national newspapers, November 2020

ONLINE NEWS SOURCES AND DEVICES

 Growth in online news consumption and devices used will aid multimedia expansion

Figure 50: Devices used for online news, November 2017-20 Figure 51: Repertoire of devices used for online news, November 2017-20

BBC's dominance boosted by pandemic

Figure 52: Online news sources, November 2017-20

Figure 53: Repertoire of online news sources, November 2020

 Collaboration with new news platforms could help increase penetration

What's included

Executive Summary

Full Report PDF

Infographic Overview

Powerpoint Presentation

Interactive Databook

Previous editions

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ONLINE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER BEHAVIOUR

 Many older people are open to getting a digital subscription

Figure 54: Online national newspaper behaviour, November 2020

- Netflix-for-newspapers is unlikely to work
- Smaller bundles of newspapers could be a better option than larger news subscription services
- · Reducing the gender gap in subscription figures

Figure 55: Online national newspaper behaviour, by gender, November 2020

- Newspapers can feel confident about making registration mandatory
- Having publisher-based, rather than title-based registration walls

REASONS FOR PAYING FOR AN ONLINE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

- People are keeping with their print newspaper when they subscribe online
- Discounts are more important than ever
 Figure 56: Reasons for paying for an online national newspaper, November 2020
- Many national titles likely to have built trust during the pandemic boosting subscriber numbers
- Opinion content is an important tool to get people to subscribe

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER TOPICS

- COVID-19 dominates the time people have spent reading online national newspapers
- National newspapers need to be ready to lessen their COVID-19 coverage

Figure 57: National newspaper topics, November 2020

- Greater coverage of international elections could boost engagement
- As COVID-19 shifts people's priorities, lifestyle content gains importance

Figure 58: National newspaper topics, by gender, November 2020

For young men sport is less of a priority

What's included

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Full Report PDF

Infographic Overview

Powerpoint Presentation

Interactive Databook

Previous editions

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APPENDIX – DATA SOURCES, ABBREVIATIONS AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- Abbreviations
- Consumer research methodology

What's included

Executive Summary

Full Report PDF

Infographic Overview

Powerpoint Presentation

Interactive Databook

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