



Newspaper Circulation Since 1850

Year	Number of Newspapers	Circulation (thousands)	Circulation as a percentage of population
1850	254	758	3.3
1860	387	1478	4.7
1870	574	2602	6.5
1880	971	3566	7.1
1890	1610	8387	13.3
1900	2226	15102	19.8
1904	2452	19633	23.4
1909	2600	24212	26.2
1914	2580	28777	28.6
1919	2441	33029	31.0
1921	2334	33742	31.7
1923	2271	35471	30.6
1925	2116	37407	32.3
1927	2091	41368	35.7
1929	2086	42015	34.1
1931	2044	41294	33.6
1933	1903	37630	29.6
1935	2037	40871	32.1
1937	2065	43345	34.1
1939	2040	42966	32.4
1947	1854	53287	37.0
1950	1772	53800	35.3
1954	1820	56410	34.6
1958	1778	58713	33.6
1960	1763	58900	32.6
1963	1766	63831	33.7
1965	1751	60400	31.1
1967		66527	33.5
1970	1748	62100	30.3
1975	1756	60700	28.1
1978	1756	62000	27.9
1979	1763	62200	27.6
1980	1745	62200	27.3
1981	1730	61400	26.7
1982	1711	62500	26.0
1983	1701	62600	26.7

1984	1688	63300	26.8
1985	1676	62800	26.3
1986	1657	62500	26.0
1987	1645	62826	25.9
1988	1642	62695	25.6
1989	1626	62649	25.3
1990	1611	62328	24.9
1991	1586	60687	24.4
1992	1570	60164	23.1
1993	1556	59812	22.6
1994	1548	59305	22.2
1995	1533	58193	21.9
1996	1520	56983	21.1
1997	1509	56728	20.7
1998	1489	56182	20.3
1999	1483	55979	20.2
2000	1480	55773	19.8
2001	1468	55578	19.2
2002	1457	55186	18.9
2003	1456	55185	18.6
2004	1457	54626	18.6
2005	1452	53345	18.0
2006	1437	52329	18.0
2007	1422	50742	17.0

Source: Daily papers, 1850-1967: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics of the United States* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1975), 810; 1970–2007: *Editor & Publisher International Yearbook* (New York: Editor & Publisher, annual); population, 1850–1990, 1998–1999, 2004–2007: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Statistical Abstract of the United States* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, annual); 1991–1997, 2000–2003: estimated by Editor & Publisher.