



Introduction

The number of fact-checking organizations around the world has grown to 188 in more than 60 countries amid global concerns about the spread of misinformation.

According to the Duke Reporters' Lab, the new total of fact-checking initiatives is more than four times the 44 initiatives it initially counted when the Lab first launched its global database and map in 2014. This growth signals the increased breadth and scope of the fact-checking community.

This fact sheet, the second edition of the State of Fact-Checkers Report, was compiled through a survey done with fact-checkers that are verified signatories to the International Fact-Checking Network's Code of Principles. It seeks to complement Duke Reporter's Lab database with aggregated figures on the budget and staffing of major fact-checking organizations. It also points out some of the challenges the community might face ahead.

The key takeaway from this exercise is that, after experiencing a major boom of new fact-checking organizations from 2015 to 2017, the industry is now seeing a major increase in the number of for-profit funding structures. Fewer organizations are relying on large amounts of volunteers.

Please consult last year's report [here](#).

Methodology

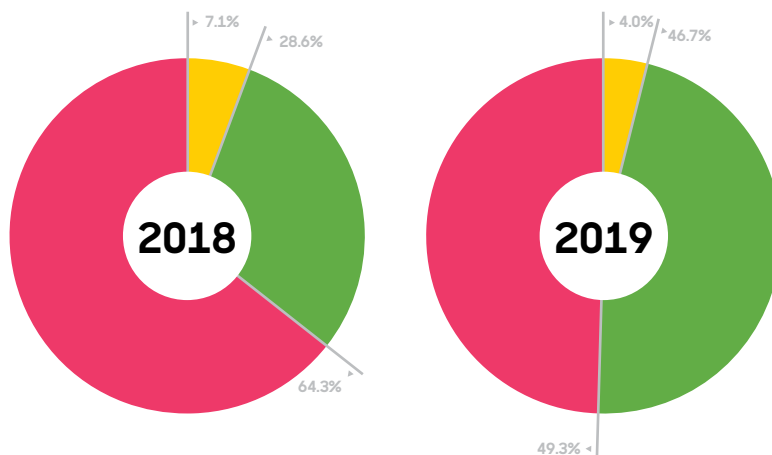
- The aggregated figures below are based on survey data collected between April and July of 2019. The data covers the latest full year of operations (Jan-Dec 2018).
- Respondents are a self-selected subset of the global fact-checking ecosystem, specifically the 75 organizations that are either current verified signatories of the IFCN Code of Principles or undergoing the renewal process.
- All data is relative to these participating fact-checking organizations. They represent a significant subset of the total number of IFCN verified signatories as of the publishing of this report.
- The first edition of this report was made with 42 fact-checking platforms. For this reason, all the comparisons between this year and last year's report are presented in percentages.
- An up-to-date list of IFCN's verified signatories to its Code of Principles can be found at ifcncodeofprinciples.poynter.org

Organizational Form

There has been a major increase in for-profit funding structures in fact-checking organizations since 2018, from 28.6% to 46.7%. The number of non-profit organizations and academic initiatives have decreased.

What is the best description for your fact-checking organization?

- Academic Initiatives
- For-Profit Media Outlets
- Non-Profit Organizations





Distribution

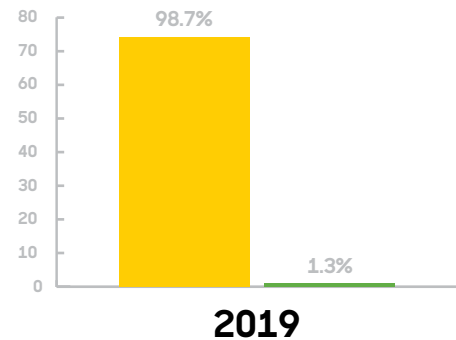
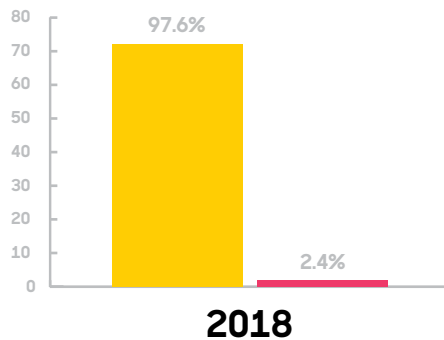
Fact-checking remains a digital tool. All but one of the 75 fact-checking organizations in this sample declared that they publish their fact-checks primarily online (the exception being Knack Magazine, a print magazine in Belgium with a weekly Knack Factchecker section).

It is worth stressing that most of these projects also have strong recurrent partnerships in place with television, print and radio as well as other online publishers. Our survey merely asked organizations to identify their primary method of dissemination.

Nonetheless, the statistic serves as a reminder that most fact-checks are seen by an online audience, and that fact-checkers have yet to migrate to television.

Where do you publish your fact checks primarily?

- Digital
- Print
- Television

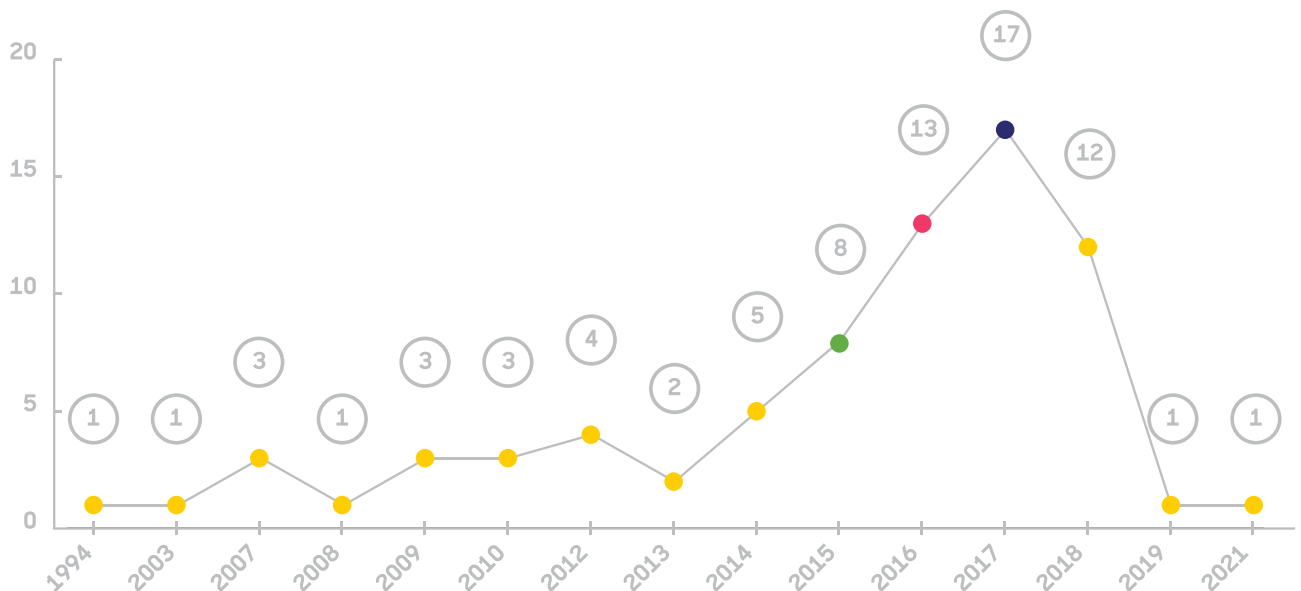


Timeline of launches

The sample has a “survivor bias” – shuttered fact-checking projects don’t attend fact-checking conferences – so this undercounts the amount of fact-checking projects active in the early 2000s.

At the same time it exaggerates the frequency of recent projects, with the greatest boom in growth occurring between 2015 and 2017.

When did your fact-checking organization launch?





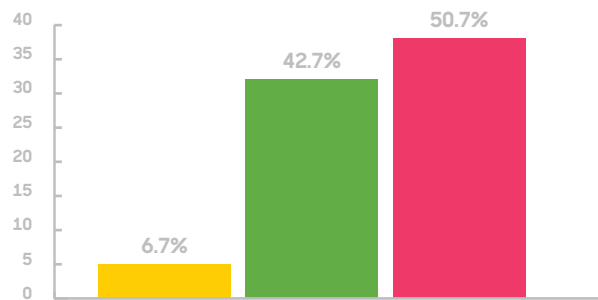
Employees

More than half of this year's fact-checking organizations have more than 5 full-time employees, and more than 60% rely on some amount of part-time employees.

More than 65% of fact-checking organizations don't rely on volunteers whatsoever.

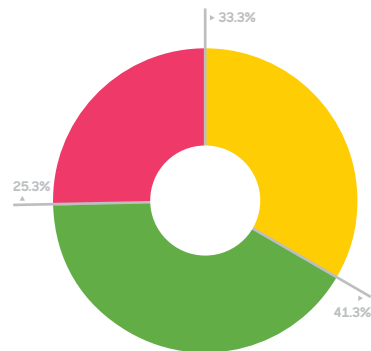
How many full-time employees work for your fact-checking organization?

- 0
- 1 to 4
- 5 or more



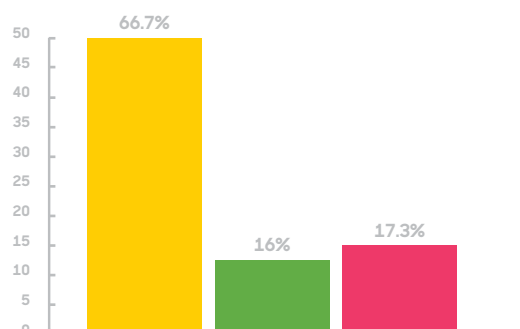
How many part-time employees work for your fact-checking organization?

- 0
- 1 to 4
- 5 or more



How many volunteers work for your fact-checking organization on a continuous basis?

- 0
- 1 to 4
- 5 or more





Funding

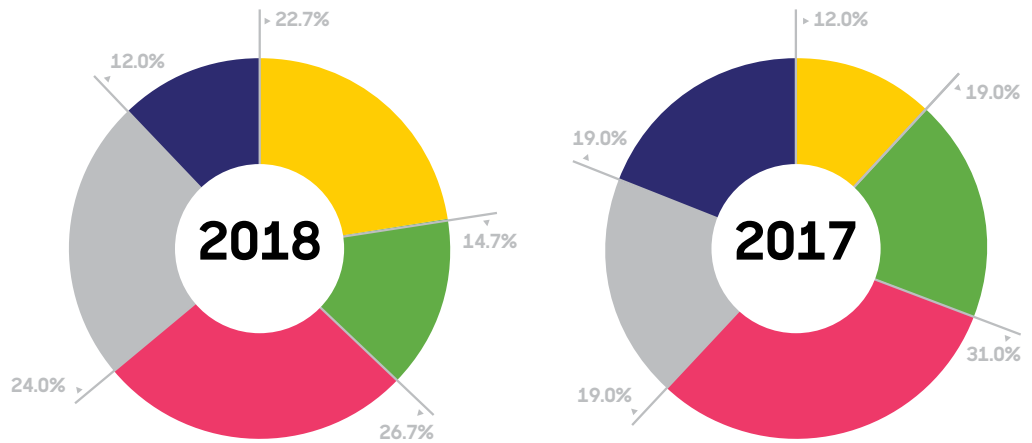
Compared to last year’s report, there’s been an increase in the amount of fact-checking organizations operating with budgets under \$20,000, from 12% to 22.7%. There’s also a 7 point decrease in the amount of organizations operating with budgets over \$500,000.

This snapshot doesn’t capture the fact that the sample is composed of countries with very different purchasing powers, nor any indirect budgetary support fact-checking projects might receive.

At the same time, it’s worth noting the slight increase in the amount of fact-checkers operating with budgets between \$100,000 and \$500,000, from 19% to 24%.

What was the budget of your fact-checking organization in 2018?

- US \$0 - US \$20,000
- US \$20,000 - US \$50,000
- US \$50,000 - US \$100,000
- US \$100,000 - US \$500,000
- More than US \$500,000



LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS CONSIDERED

20 Minutes Fake Off | AAP FactCheck | AFP Fact Check | Africa Check | Agência Lupa | Aos Fatos | BOOM Live | Check Your Fact | CheckNews | Chequeado | Colombiacheck | CORRECTIV.Faktencheck | Debunk.eu/Lie Detector | Demagog Association | Demagog.cz | Detector de Mentiras | Doğruluk Payı | dpa-Faktencheck | Dubawa | Ecuador Chequea | El Sabueso | Ellinika Hoaxes | Fact Crescendo | Fact-checking de lavoce.info | FactCheck by TheJournal.ie | Factcheck.kz | FactCheck.org | FactChecker.in | FactCheckNI | FACTLY | Faktist.no | Faktograf.hr | Fatabyyano Platform | France 24 Observers | Full Fact | Hoaks atau Fakta | India Today Fact Check | Istinomer | Istinomjer | Knack Factchecker | Kryptometer | Lead Stories | MAFINDO | Maldito Bulo | Melo detektorius | NewsMobile Fact Checker | Newtral | Nieuwscheckers | NUcheckt | Observador | Pagella Politica | Patikrinta 15min | Periksa Fakta | PesaCheck | Polígrafo | PolitiFact | Rappler IQ | Raskrinkavanje | RMIT ABC Fact Checker | Science Feedback | Snopes.com | South Asia Check | Taiwan FactCheck Center | Tempo.co | Teyit | The Washington Post Fact Checker | The Whistle | VERA Files Fact Check | Viralgranskaren | Vishvas.News | Vistinomer | VoxCheck | Vrai ou fake | WebQoof