

STATE OF FACT-CHECKING 2020





Intro

The number of fact-checking organizations across the globe continued to climb with the Duke Reporter's Lab's [latest census](#) showing the global number had reached 290 organizations in 83 countries. In last year's report, the count was 188 organizations in 60 countries.

The influence of online platforms, tagging technologies like [ClaimReview](#), as well as pent up demand for accurate information were just some of the factors the Reporter's Lab attributed to this growth.

This fact sheet, the third edition of the State of Fact-Checkers Report, is meant to complement the work of the Reporter's Lab, particularly by focusing on International Fact-Checking Network's verified signatories.

The key takeaway from this report is that for-profit fact-checkers are a driving force in the community. They've grown from roughly a third in 2018 to over half in this year's report.

Please consult last year's report [here](#) and the 2018 report [here](#)

Methodology

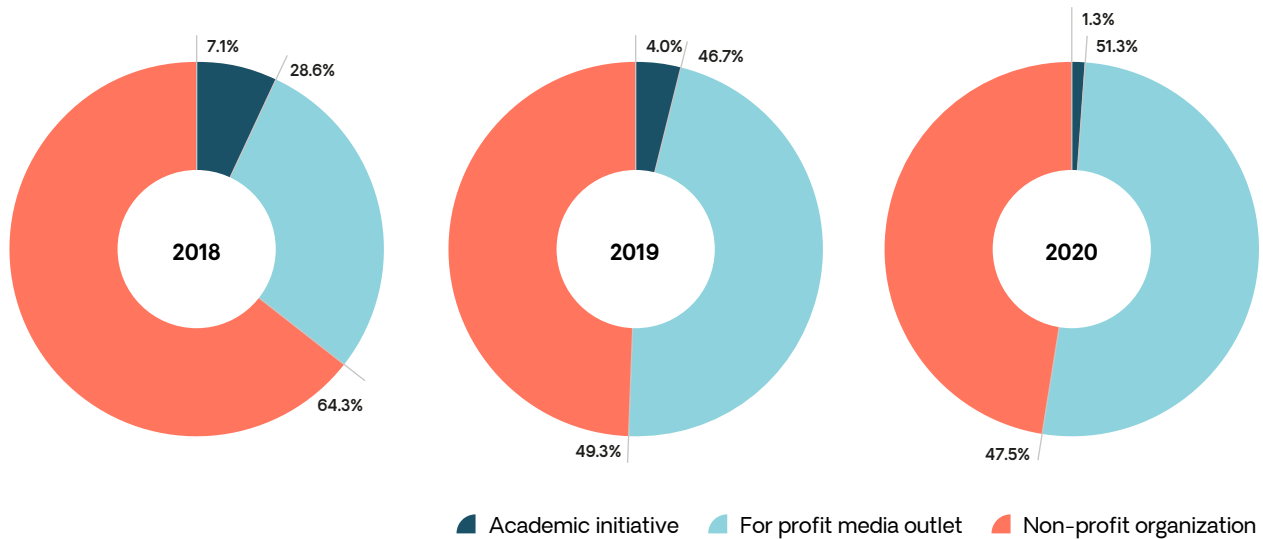
- ◆ The aggregated figures below are based on survey data collected between May and early June 2020. The data covers the latest full year of operations (January through December 2019).
- ◆ Respondents are a self-selected subset of the global fact-checking ecosystem, specifically the 80 organizations 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.
- ◆ An up-to-date list of IFCN's verified signatories to its Code of Principles can be found at ifcn-codeofprinciples.poynter.org



Organizational Form

This was the first year we saw for-profit fact-checkers make up the majority of organizations in the survey.

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



Distribution

All fact-checkers continue to distribute their fact-checks online. This year we asked fact-checkers what media they used to distribute their fact-checks, as opposed to previous surveys where we asked for their primary distribution medium only. The data is reflective of the fact that while all distribute online, some still use print and television.

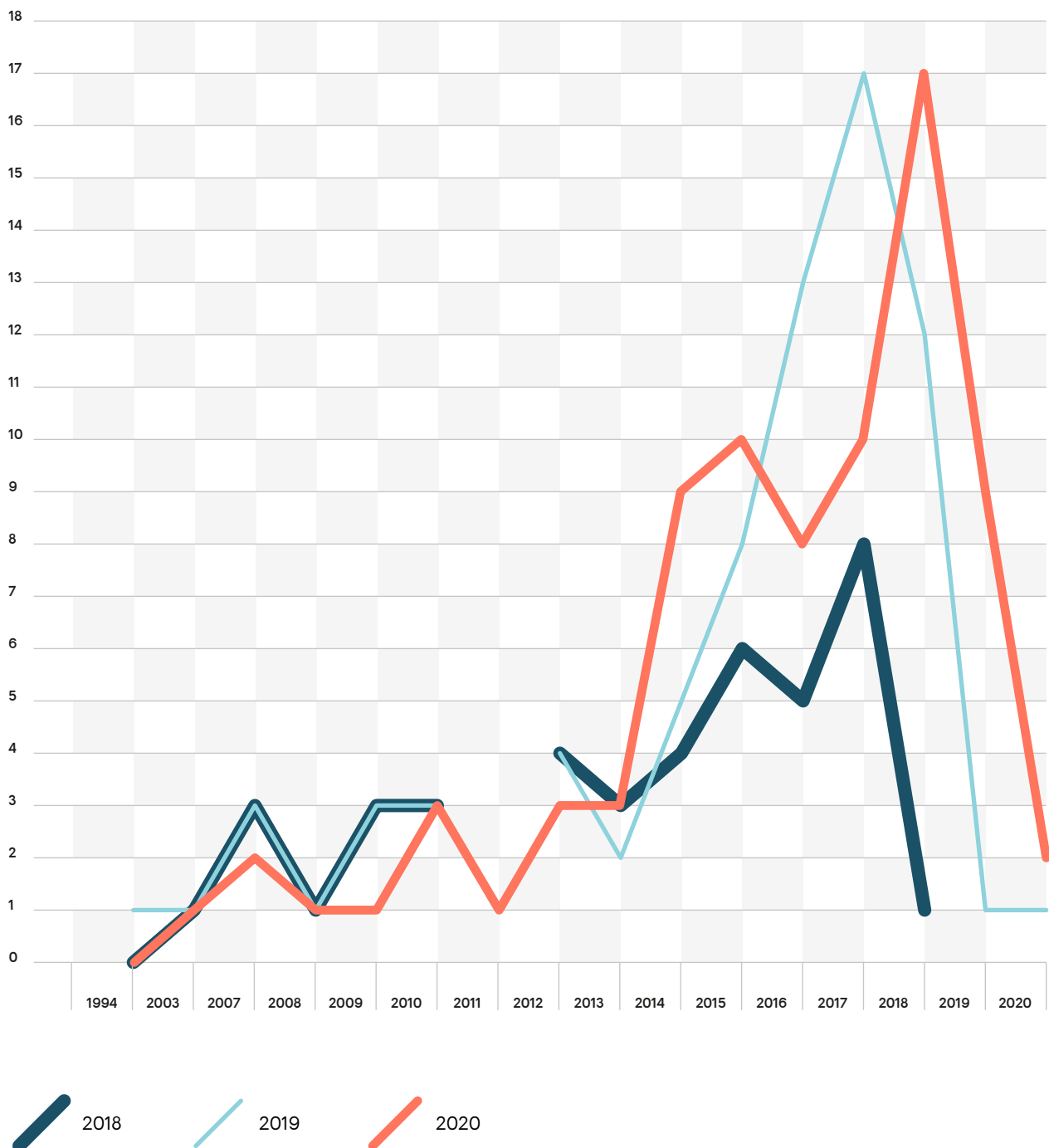
What is the best description for your fact-checking initiative?



Timeline of launches

In the two previous surveys we saw a spike in fact-checking organizations launching in 2017. This year that stayed relatively the same with a peak in 2018, but there was still a drop off the following year.

When did your fact-checking initiative launch?

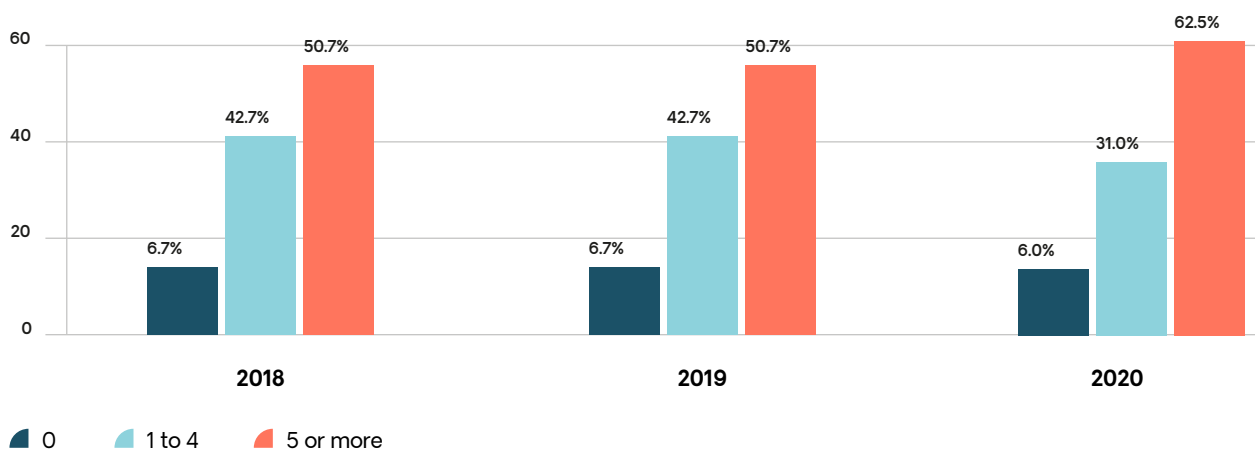


Employees

Full Time

This year we saw a growth in the number of fact-checkers with five or more full-time employees. This group made up nearly two-thirds of all respondents. There was a drop-off for organizations with 1-4 full-timers, and organizations with no full-timers remained constant.

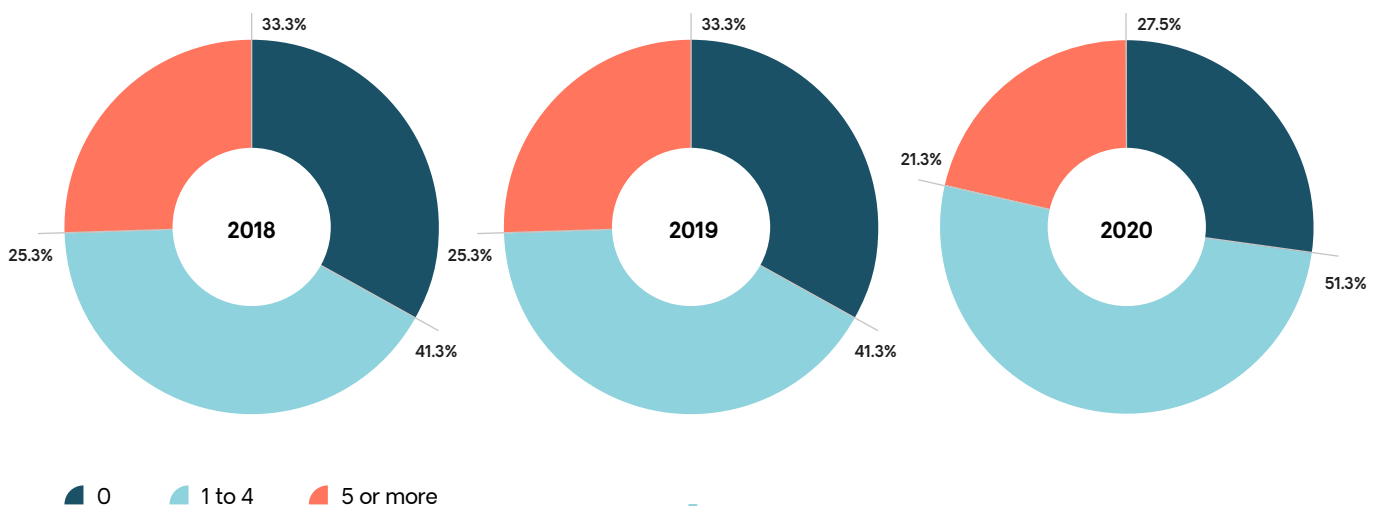
How many full-time employees work for your fact-checking initiative?



Part-time

We're seeing similar percentages of fact-checking organizations using part-time employees, although the majority are using only a handful of part-timers. About a quarter of respondents reported having five or more part-time employees.

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

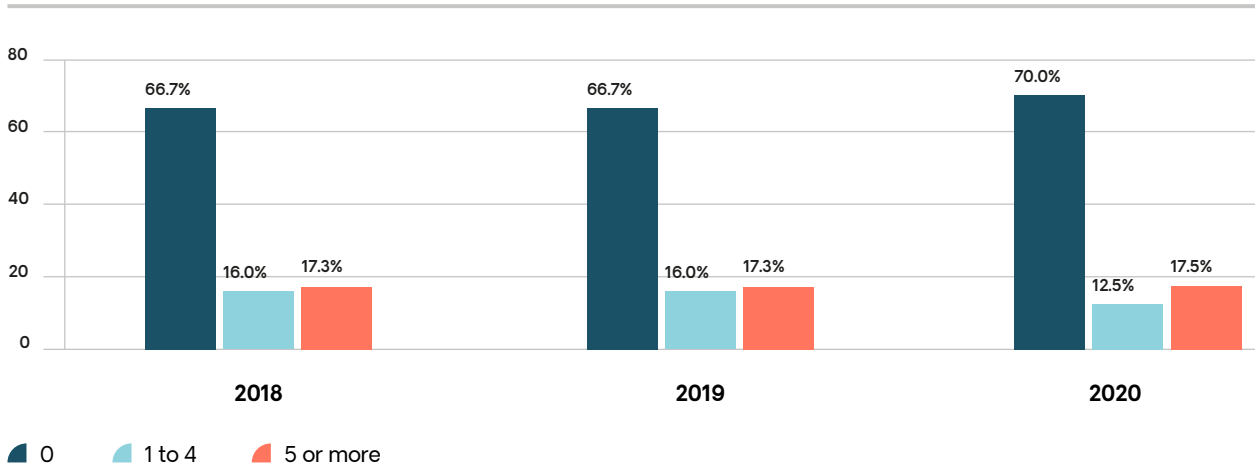




Volunteers

About a third of respondents reported using some volunteer help, but the overwhelming majority do not utilize volunteer fact-checkers.

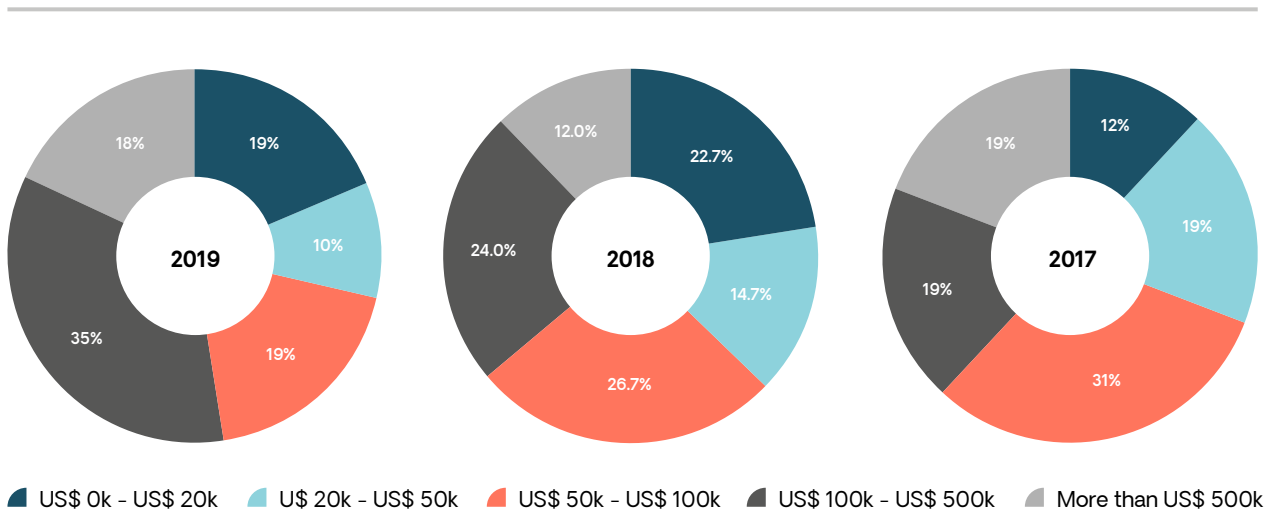
How many volunteers work for your fact-checking initiative on a continuous basis?



Funding

The big news here is 53% of respondents reported having budgets of \$100,000 or more. The percentage of organizations with budgets over \$500,000 remained roughly the same, but there was a huge uptick in the number of respondents reporting budgets between \$100,000 and \$500,000.

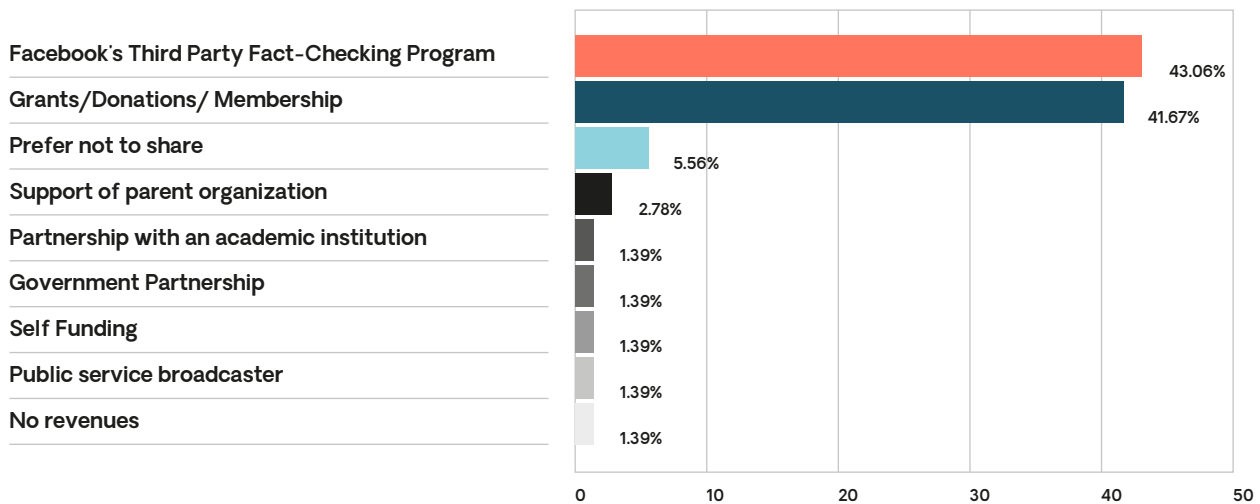
What was the budget of your fact-checking initiative (not the entire organization) in 2019?





This was the first year we surveyed organizations' main sources of income. The overwhelming majority reported receiving most of their funding from either Facebook's 3PFC program, or donations, memberships and grants.

What was your largest source of revenue in 2019?



List of Organizations Considered

20 Minutes Fake off, AAP Fact-Check, AFP Fact Check, Africa Check, Agência Lupa, Aos Fatos, BOOM, Cek Fakta - Suara.com, CheckNews, Chequeado, Colombiacheck, Congo Check, CORRECTIV.Faktencheck, Cotejo.Info, Décrypteurs, Demagog Poland, Detector de Mentiras, Digiteye India, Doğruluk Payı, dpa-Faktencheck, Dubawa, EFE Verifica, El Sabueso, Ellinika Hoaxes, Fact Check, Fact Crescendo, FactCheck Georgia FactCheck.org, FactChecker.in, FactCheckNI, FACTLY Fact-Check, Faktisk.no, Faktograf.hr Faktoje, Fatabyyano, Full Fact, India Today Fact Check, Istinomer, Istinomjer, JTBC news Knack Magazine, Kompas.com, Lead Stories, MAFINDO, Maharat News, Maldita.es, MediaWise, Melo Detektorius (eng. Lie Detector), MyGoPen, Myth Detector, Newschecker, Newtral.es, NUcheckt, Pagella Politica & Facta, Patikrinta 15min, PesaCheck, Polígrafo, Politi-Fact, Rappler IQ, Raskrinkavanje.me, Re:Check, Reuters Fact Check, Stopfake.org, Taiwan FactCheck center, Tempo.co, Teyit, The Dispatch Fact Check, The Fact Checker, The Whistle, TheJournal FactCheck, TjekDet.dk, USA TODAY, VERA Files Fact Check Verificador (La República), Vishvas News, Vistinomer (Truthmeter), VoxCheck, Vrai ou fake WebQoof

