February 2021

Topic: Streaming Services

Streaming services truly had their year in 2020 with many turning to the TV to keep occupied during the pandemic. With 9,020 articles, Netflix stands far ahead of any other players in #Factiva. Spotify came in second with 1,732 articles—almost twice that as the third provider, Amazon Prime. Apple, Disney and Hulu battled for fourth place, but Disney surged spectacularly at the end of the year (+341%). Which streaming services are you subscribed to?

January 2021

Topic: Retail

Did your shopping habits change over the festive season?

When searching in #Factiva, it came as no surprise that retail was the most-mentioned industry during the holidays. And as the world continued through the pandemic, it's clear that 2020 shopping habits were different than in 2019.

In 2019, the top 3 retailers were Amazon, Tesco and Macy's. In 2020, Amazon (+43%) topped the ranking again followed by John Lewis & Partners and Macy's. E-tailing became the second most mentioned industry, increasing mentions by 69% from 2019. This seems to confirm that
COVID-19 has given a major boost to online sales as people try to avoid the risks associated with in-store shopping.

November 2020

Topic: Vaccination

Although the world is eagerly following the successful trials of multiple #COVID-19 #vaccines, coverage of the anti-vaccination movement is also increasing. Mentions of “anti-vaccination” in #Factiva have grown exponentially over the past five years with only 45 articles in 2015 to over 1,600 in 2020 (+3,617%). Almost three-quarters of the “anti-vaccination” media mentions were in relation to coronavirus, as well the 2019 measles outbreak. Other key topics discussed are governments’ debates over making vaccinations compulsory and Big Tech companies’ fight against misinformation about vaccines.

October 2020

Topic: US Elections

Two candidates with diametrically opposed views on foreign policy and multilateralism is creating an extraordinary amount of interest in the U.S. presidential election abroad. Searching in #Factiva for coverage outside the U.S., with the exception of English, German clearly tops the ranking of the most published languages followed by Chinese, Spanish, Japanese and French. Indeed, from the withdrawal of U.S. troops to Nord Stream 2 pipeline sanctions, stakes in the event seem to be the highest in Germany. How are you keeping informed on the 2020 election?

September 2020

Topic: Virtual Sports

The sporting landscape has changed dramatically since the beginning of the pandemic. Many professional sporting organizations have leaned on digital experiences to bring the stadium into the home. This has sparked an increase in articles in #Factiva on the topic of virtual sports with 63% of mentions occurring in the last 6 months. Have you participated in any virtual sporting events?
August 2020

Topic: Education Technology

The #COVID-19 pandemic put education technology in the spotlight like never before. Educational institutions closed in most countries around the world and school reopening plans after the summer holidays remain largely in flux. Due to this uncertainty, it is no surprise that the first keyword showing up in #Factiva's filters is 'EdTech startup'. During the pandemic, Edtech has stood out as a key sector of interest, which has received a strong vote of confidence from PE-VC investors. #Edtech startups are raising funds more aggressively than ever to prepare for skyrocketing demand and to boost innovation potential in a market ripe for disruption. Has a school you're affiliated with made new investments in EdTech?

July 2020

Topic: Cashless Payments

The first mentions of cashless payments in #Factiva date back to the mid-1980s, however in the past few years coverage has skyrocketed, with mentions increasing by 90% in 2016 (over 7,500) YoY. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the acceleration of cashless commerce and spearheaded the potential for a completely cashless society. Contactless and digital payment methods require less physical interaction, and are increasingly considered to be more secure than traditional payment methods involving dirty surfaces and hand-to-hand contact. The number of articles in the Factiva database referencing contactless or cashless payments have been growing, from 637 at the beginning of the year, to over 1,600 in April and 2,300 in June. India, U.S. and UK, followed by China, Singapore and Pakistan are the most mentioned countries in the context of this shift.

June 2020

Topic: BLM

The first mention of Black Lives Matter (BLM) in the #Factiva archive dates back to 2013 after the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin. That year, 7 articles mentioned the #BLM movement in the Factiva database. BLM mentions jumped to 2,672 in 2015 and peaked in 2016 with 44,076 mentions, many during the time of the presidential election debates. Mentions of BLM dropped sharply until this year, with 36,293 mentions to date, mostly in June (31,084). The surge in mentions started on May 27, accelerating exponentially until June 9 (3,511). During the week of June 2-10, there were more than 2,500 articles in Factiva mentioning BLM every day.
May 2020

Topic: M&A

Coverage of M&A activities on the #Factiva database dropped by 22% between Feb and May this year compared to last year - reflecting the impact of the #COVID-19 crisis on dealmakers.

Mentions of ‘privatizations’ are down by 30% whereas ‘nationalizations’ are up 37% compared to last year - revealing that many governments may be concerned about losing sovereignty over strategic sectors of their economies. Numerous flagship companies are facing financial problems, especially in the transportation industry, and the meltdown of their market capitalization is leaving them exposed to hostile takeovers from foreign countries.

April 2020

Topic: Working from home

COVID-19 is compelling companies to embrace remote working as more countries impose quarantine and confinement measures. While there were only 2 mentions of “working from home” in relation to #coronavirus in the week of January 20th, mentions surged to 1,425 in the week of March 9 and now stand at 3,148 in the #Factiva database.

Interestingly, the 5 most quoted companies in this Factiva coverage are Google, Amazon, Alphabet, Microsoft and Boeing.

March 2020

Topic: International Women’s Day

Who is Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka? Executive Director of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka is the second most mentioned women in International Women’s Day (IWD) coverage within #Factiva since 2010. Over the last 10 years, #IWD mentions increased by 251% within Factiva, peaking in 2018 (9,400 articles) following widespread media reporting of the #MeToo movement. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka follows Meghan Markle as the most mentioned woman in #IWD coverage, whilst Hillary Rodham Clinton, Emma Watson and former Australian Prime Minister, Julia Gillard follow suit with top mentions.

Mentions of “feminism” grew by the same proportion, also peaking in 2018 (17,252). Likewise articles on “gender equality” experienced the same upward trend (+208%) within Factiva during this 10-year period.