

reuters.com

The website for Reuters, an award-winning global news agency that provides content for customers in more than 120 countries.

Ownership and Financing

Reuters is owned by the publicly traded, Toronto-based Thomson Reuters Corp., a news and financial information provider. A majority of Thomson Reuters is owned by The Woodbridge Company Limited, a privately held business controlled by Canada's wealthiest family, the Thomsons. David Thomson serves as chairman of both companies.

News organizations pay a subscription fee to Reuters to use content including articles, photographs, and video footage. The fee varies, depending on the size of the subscriber's organization and which services it chooses.

Reuters is one of the largest news agencies in the world and is part of a broader company offering information and analysis for financial, accounting, and legal professionals.

According to Thomson Reuters' 2018 annual report, the news division took in \$370 million in revenue and \$27 million in adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization. Reuters News that year accounted for 7 percent of the company's total revenue.

Reuters.com generates revenue from advertising and sponsored content.

Content

The website produces breaking news and enterprise stories in sections including Business, Markets, World, Politics, Tech, Wealth, Life, Pictures, and Video. Reuters.com publishes content in 17 international editions, with the U.S. version featuring World subsections for Mexico, Brazil, Africa, Russia, Euro Zone, Middle East, China, Japan, and India.

Typical headlines include "Canada's Trudeau keeps the wheel but prepares for left turn," "German WW-2 U-boat base in France reboots as data center," "Indonesia's report on 737 MAX crash recommends redesign, better training," and "How a major U.S. farm lender left a trail of defaults, lawsuits." Reuters Investigates category includes special reports. For example, "New Gold Rush: The wildcat goldminers doomed by their toxic trade" explores how high prices and inexpensive equipment have attracted millions of Africans to dangerous careers in poorly ventilated mines.

The website's Business section covers aviation and defense, sustainable business practices, and mergers of major companies. In addition to news and information about global markets, Reuters features stock and fund screeners that allow readers to use specific criteria to search for investment opportunities. A Wealth section focuses on personal finance and retirement.

Reuters publishes photo essays by staff photographers under The Wider Image heading in Pictures. One story followed a group of young Muscovites who spend their free time climbing tall buildings to feel more alive. Another essay reported on the social stigma Ebola survivors face in eastern Congo. The website also reports on arts, lifestyle, and sports. Offbeat stories under an Oddly Enough heading include one about a British couple who grow trees into the shapes of the chairs, lamps, and tables they will become.

Credibility

Reuters regularly provides original, on-the-ground reporting, using reliable sources such as government officials and law enforcement authorities, subject-matter experts, and people with firsthand knowledge of events. Headlines accurately reflect story content.

The website does not post a corrections policy. However, the site regularly publishes corrections, typically noting them at the bottom of



This website mostly adheres to basic standards of credibility and transparency.

Score: 95/100



Does not repeatedly publish false content (22 points)



Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)



Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)



Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)



Avoids deceptive headlines (10)



Website discloses ownership and financing (7.5)



Clearly labels advertising (7.5)



Reveals who's in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest (5)



The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information (5)

Criteria are listed in order of importance. [More information.](#)

erroneous stories. A Corrections tab at the bottom of the homepage links to a form readers can use to request a correction.

Reuters.com separates news from commentary. The website publishes opinion and analysis in its Breakingviews section, which it describes as “the Reuters brand for financial commentary.”

Reuters has won numerous awards. In 2019, it was awarded two Pulitzer prizes: one in the international reporting category for its coverage of Rohingya genocide in Myanmar by two of its journalists who were imprisoned in the country at the time they won, and another in the breaking news photography category for documenting the journeys of Central and South American immigrants to the United States. Reuters also won two Pulitzers in 2018, for a series exposing police killing squads targeting drug offenders in the Philippines, and for a photographic series on the migration of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar. Reuters’ coverage earned the news agency many other prizes in 2019, including a George Polk Award, a UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize, and 16 awards from the Society of Publishers in Asia (SOPA).

Reuters avoids emotionally charged language, such as “terrorist” or “terrorism” when recounting events, unless the words appear in a quotation or paraphrase, according to the publicly available Reuters Handbook of Journalism. The handbook instructs staff to “Aim for a dispassionate use of language so that individuals, organisations and governments can make their own judgment on the basis of facts.” On its website, Reuters publishes five Trust Principles, one of which states that it “shall supply unbiased and reliable news services” to its media subscribers, as well as to businesses and governments.

Transparency

A paragraph at the bottom of Reuters.com’s homepage identifies its ownership by Thomson Reuters Corp. The site also links from the homepage to an editorial leadership page.

Some stories on the website are credited to Reuters because they are rewritten from press releases or based on another organization’s reporting. Heather Carpenter, the company’s senior director of communications, told NewsGuard in an email that reporters also are not named “to protect the safety of a journalist working in a dangerous area,” or if too many reporters contributed to a story to list them all individually. Stories that credit writers list their names at the top of the article and link to archives of their work. However, Reuters.com does not provide contact or biographical information for these writers. This does not meet NewsGuard’s standard for providing contact or biographical information about content creators.

Asked to comment on this lack of information, Carpenter told NewsGuard in another email that “Reuters provides direct contact information for its journalists upon request through the ‘Contact’ option found on the website and at the top of nearly every story page.”

Advertising and sponsored content are distinguishable from editorial content.

History

Reuters traces its roots to 1851, when Julius Reuter began sending stock quotes between London and Paris via a telegraph cable across the English Channel. He had previously used pigeons to carry stock information between Aachen, Germany, and Brussels. The wire service expanded across Europe, and then to Asia and South America by the 1870s. The Press Association, a news cooperative founded by British newspapers, bought a majority stake in Reuters in 1925. In 1941, ownership was split between the Press Association and the Newspaper Proprietors’ Association, which represented Britain’s national newspapers. Ownership was extended to press associations in Australia and New Zealand in 1947. Reuters became a publicly traded company in 1984. It merged with the Thomson Corp. in 2008.

In 2010, Reuters expanded its services for U.S. news organizations by launching the Reuters America service, in an effort to draw publishers and broadcasters away from The Associated Press and CNN’s wire services at a lower subscription cost. This resulted in more U.S.-based reporters being assigned to cover major cities and sports, although according to a 2014 Poynter story, Reuters “made no attempt to build” state-by-state bureaus like the AP. The first customer was the Tribune Company, which moved seven of its major publications, including the Chicago Tribune, to Reuters by 2013. The papers went back to using the AP’s services in 2015, but Reuters has continued to invest in U.S.

coverage and hired its first “Rust Belt” correspondent in 2017.

A deal completed in October 2018 sold 55 percent of Thomson Reuters’ financial and risk unit, the most profitable segment of the company, to investment firm Blackstone Group, which agreed to pay “a minimum” of \$325 million per year for 30 years for Reuters to supply news and editorial content. The ownership of Reuters news operations was not affected.

Following the 2016 election of President Donald Trump, the news agency encouraged reporters to stick to the company’s principles of “integrity, independence and freedom from bias” in a January 2017 memo titled “Covering Trump the Reuters Way.” When Rob Cox, editor of Reuters’ Breakingviews service, violated those principles by tweeting “Blood is on your hands, Mr. President,” after five people were killed at a newspaper office in Annapolis, Maryland, Cox apologized and deleted the tweet. Editor-in-Chief Stephen Adler released a statement saying Cox’s “actions were inconsistent with the Thomson Reuters Trust Principles ... we do not condone his behavior and will take appropriate action.” No disciplinary action was disclosed by Reuters.

In December 2019, Reuters reported that information-distributor Refinitiv had censored more than 200 of the news service’s stories to protect its business relationship with mainland China. Refinitiv, which disseminates Reuters articles to global investors through an online platform, had filtered Reuters news stories to remove those that could embarrass Beijing amid anti-government protests in Hong Kong, according to Reuters. A Refinitiv spokesman acknowledged in the Reuters report that there were flaws in its procedures that were being improved, while adding that the company needs to comply with the rules of the countries where it does business. Reuters’ parent company, Thomson Reuters Corp, owned Refinitiv before selling it in 2018.

Disclosure: NewsGuard Editorial Director Eric Efron previously worked at Reuters as editor in charge of business and legal news.

Correction: An earlier version of this Nutrition Label erroneously reported how long a policy to not use the words “terrorist” or “terrorism” to describe specific events has been in place. The policy has been in effect at least since 1992. NewsGuard apologizes for the error.

Editor’s Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on Dec. 13, 2019. The label previously was updated, on Oct. 30, 2019, to reflect NewsGuard’s determination that Reuters.com does not meet the standard for providing information about content creators.

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