

→ Fast Facts



Media freedom

“Media freedom has been deteriorating around the world over the past decade. Among Free countries in Freedom House’s Freedom in the World report, 19 percent (16 countries) have endured a reduction in their press freedom scores over the past five years.”

Sarah Repucci, “Media Freedom: A Downward Spiral,” *Freedom House*, 2019, <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-and-media/2019/media-freedom-downward-spiral> (retrieved September 8, 2020).



First-time college students

“For beginning postsecondary students in 2011–12, the average total cost of attendance was approximately \$20,500. 73.4 percent received grant aid, and, of those who received grant aid, the average amount received was approximately \$7,900. As of 2017, of students who first began postsecondary education in 2011–12, 56.2 percent had earned a credential at any institution attended; 12.1 percent were still enrolled at any institution; and 31.7 percent were not enrolled in spring 2017.”

Joshua Pretlow, Deonte Jackson, and Michael Bryan, “A 2017 Follow-up: A Look at 2011–12 First-Time Postsecondary Students Six Years Later,” National Center for Education Statistics, August 13, 2020, <https://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2020236> (retrieved September 8, 2020).



Audiobooks

“Audiobooks have been riding a wave of popularity in the past three years, and it appears that lockdown only intensified our engagement with the spoken word. A recent report by Deloitte put some numbers on the phenomenal rise. Global sales have been growing at 25–30 percent per annum for the past three years and will hit \$3.5bn in 2020, driven by the US and China, which each make up around a third of the market (for comparison, global print book sales are a whopping \$145bn per annum).”

Alex Preston, “A Word in Your Ear... Why the Rise of Audiobooks Is a Story Worth Celebrating,” *The Guardian*, August 2, 2020, <http://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/aug/02/a-word-in-your-ear-why-the-rise-of-audiobooks-is-a-story-worth-celebrating> (retrieved September 4, 2020).



Cryptocurrency

“In July 2020, the top 10 crypto wallet apps increased net new installs approximately 81.4 percent year over year. Cryptocurrency is becoming increasingly mainstream in emerging markets, particularly in regions of Africa.”

Madeline Lenahan, “Crypto Apps See Highest Growth on Record in July 2020,” *Apptopia*, August 20, 2020, <https://blog.apptopia.com/crypto-apps-see-highest-growth-on-record-in-july> (retrieved September 4, 2020).



Remote instruction

Many K-12 students are not back into school buildings this fall. Instead, they are participating in fully remote instruction. “That’s a key finding from an EdSurge/Social Context Labs analysis of 375 school district reopening plans from around the country and across a diversity of geographies, COVID-19 infection rates, and poverty levels. As of September 3, [they] found that 356 districts (95 percent) planned to offer remote instruction. Meanwhile, just 137 planned in-person instruction. Fewer still—104 (28 percent)—planned to offer hybrid instruction in which students split time learning remotely and in-person.”

Rachel Burstein, “Back to School or Back to Remote Learning? Depends on Where You Live,” *EdSurge News*, September 4, 2020, <https://www.edsurge.com/news/2020-09-04-back-to-school-or-back-to-remote-learning-depends-on-where-you-live> (retrieved September 8, 2020).

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