

Latest online stats reveal growth of over 25%

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Recent stats show online readership growing at over 25%, from 4.8 million in 2008 to over six million for the same period in 2009.

There is a school of thought that, in tough economic times, advertisers will increasingly turn towards the digital arena, not only for its affordability but also its measurability.

But the most recent statistics (Q1 2009) from the Online Publishers Association reveal that there is another reason - advertisers will follow their consumers, and their consumers are hitting the web in droves!

According to the recently-released Nielsen Online Ranking Report, which reveals online readership figures for the first quarter of 2009, there has been a 28.5% growth in total visitors* from 8.6 million in the first quarter last year to over 11 million in the first quarter of this year; and a 25.2% increase in local visitors*, from 4.8 million last year to over six million visitors this year.

Total visitors have increased over 11%, from the fourth quarter last year alone.

That's a substantial increase in anyone's language, representing steady growth and acceptance of the online environment as a mainstream medium.

Josh Adler, OPA head of measurement comments that although the increase has been influenced by the growth of OPA membership and thus the inclusion of previously-unmeasured readership, the newer members are largely smaller publishers and have thus not unduly skewed the curve.

"The increase in membership is also a positive indicator, demonstrating not only the growth of the medium as a whole but also the desire for accurate and independent statistics. It's a sure sign of the industry maturing," he adds.

Adler also points out that the substantial overall growth figures are matched - and even well exceeded - by the growth of existing publishers. Many well known websites saw audience increases of well over 50%.

It's also worth noting that the percentage of domestic versus international traffic has remained consistent over the period, which means that local titles are growing both local and international audiences in equal numbers.

Adler concludes that he expects these exciting growth trends to continue, adding fuel to the online fire and boding exceptionally well for its growth into the future.

"With statistics like these our industry will enhance its status as not only the most measureable platform for advertising, but also one that continues to attract an increasing share of consumer eyeballs."

Click the links below to view the Nielsen Online Ranking Reports (MS Excel required):

[Q1 2008](#)

[Q1 2009](#)

[Q1 2008 and 2009 growth](#)

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