Research & methodology





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Key numbers

Key numbers



46

Countries across the globe



Over 40,000

Profiling data points



700,000

Core interviews completed per year



Over 4,000

Brands covered



Over 2 billion

Representative of over 2bn internet users



Over 100,000

Interviews per year in the US

Research & methodology

Core research

GlobalWebIndex began its ongoing research back in 2009, in response to what was a clear need in the market for a harmonized, global survey on how internet behaviors were evolving.

Starting with an annual study in the first year, it became bi-annual throughout 2010, 2011 and 2012 before being run each quarter from the start of 2013 onwards. At the end of 2020, we will have run 40 separate waves of research.

Over time, our country coverage has increased. Beginning with 16 markets in 2009, we were running our harmonized study in 36 countries by the end of 2016. We incorporated 6 new markets in 2017, added 3 more in 2018, and added 1 more in 2019, to bring our total to 46.



GlobalWebIndex offers a co-launch option for new markets. For more information, please contact your account manager.

Mobile surveys

Up until the end of 2016, GlobalWebIndex ran its Core study in 36 countries, with the vast majority of respondents completing it via PCs, laptops and tablets. As a relatively long survey where questions were developed with the larger screens of PCs / laptops in mind, it was not suitable for mobile (where surveys need to be short and include relatively simple question formats). This had made it difficult to launch into new emerging markets, especially in Africa, where most internet users are mobile-first (and where significant minorities might be mobile-only).

In 2017, GlobalWebIndex launched a mobile version of its Core study. It contains a selection of questions from the full Core study, but in a mobile-compatible format. This survey is run alongside the longer version on other devices, with the results of both being merged together and then published as one dataset.

Evolution of Globalwebindex response count



Market coverage

EMEA: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, France, Ghana, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UAE, UK.

Americas: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Mexico, USA.

APAC: Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam.

Annual sample size

EMEA	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
UK	2,300	4,000	6,000	4,000	24,500	30,000	30,000	30,000	31,000	31,000	40,000	40,000
France	1,000	2,050	3,000	2,000	4,050	4,000	8,000	8,000	9,000	13,000	20,000	20,000
Germany	1,050	2,000	3,000	2,000	4,000	4,000	8,000	8,000	9,000	11,000	20,000	20,000
Italy	1,050	2,000	3,000	2,000	4,050	4,050	8,000	8,000	9,000	11,000	20,000	20,000
Spain	1,000	2,000	3,050	3,000	4,200	4,200	8,000	8,000	9,000	11,000	20,000	20,000
Russia	750	1,500	2,800	2,500	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	14,000
Netherlands	750	1,500	2,250	1,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Poland	-	800	2,300	1,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	5,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
UAE	_	_	1,500	1,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	5,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
Saudi Arabia	-	_	1,500	1,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	5,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
South Africa	_	_	1,500	1,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Turkey	_	_	1,500	1,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	8,000
Sweden	_	_	1,500	1,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Ireland	-	_	_	_	2,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Belgium	_	_	_	_	_	_	3,000	3,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Portugal	_	_	_	_	_	_	2,250	3,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Egypt	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	1,250	5,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
Austria	_	_	_	-	_	_	_	_	1,250	5,000	5,000	5,000
Switzerland	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	1,250	5,000	5,000	5,000
Ghana	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	3,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Kenya	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	3,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Morocco	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	3,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Nigeria	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	3,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Denmark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	_	3,750	5,000	5,000
Romania	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	1,250	5,000	5,000
Israel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	_	2500	5,000

Americas	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
USA	2,100	4,000	6,000	4,000	24,500	30,000	30,000	30,000	63,000	63,000	100,000	100,000
Mexico	750	1,500	2,550	1,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	6,000	10,000	10,000	17,000
Brazil	750	1,500	2,500	2,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	22,000
Canada	1,000	1,500	3,000	2,000	4,000	4,000	4,500	6,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	19,000
Argentina	_	1,500	1,600	1,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Colombia	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	3,750	5,000	5,000
APAC	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
China	1,000	2,000	4,000	4,000	8,000	8,000	14,000	20,000	43,000	60,000	60,000	96,000
India	750	1,500	2,800	2,550	5,100	5,100	5,000	5,000	12,000	16,000	30,000	54,000
Australia	750	1,500	2,250	1,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	5,000	9,000	16,000	16,000
Japan	900	1,500	2,250	1,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	13,000
South Korea	750	1,500	2,250	1,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Malaysia	-	750	2,300	1,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Singapore	-	-	2,300	1,600	3,150	3,150	3,000	3,000	6,000	10,000	12,000	11,000
Hong Kong	_	-	2,300	1,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	5,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
Indonesia	_	_	2,300	1,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	20,000
Philippines	-	-	2,300	1,550	3,100	3,100	3,000	3,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	12,000
Taiwan	_	_	_	1,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	5,000	7,000	7,000	9,000
Thailand	-	-	-	1,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	15,000
Vietnam	_	_	_	1,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	10,000
New Zealand	-	-	-	_	_	-	_	1,250	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000

Global sample size

20	09	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
16,	650	34,600	73,600	60,200	153,650	166,600	193,750	204,500	364,500	438,750	550,500	689,000

Sample size by quarter

Market	Quarterly sample size
Argentina	1,500
Australia	4,000
Austria	1,250
Belgium	1,250
Brazil	5,500
Canada	4,750
China	24,000
Colombia	1,250
Denmark	1,250
Egypt	1,750
France	5,000
Germany	5,000
Ghana	1,000
Hong Kong	1,750
India	13,500
Indonesia	5,000
Ireland	1,250
Israel	1,250
Italy	5,000
Japan	3,250
Kenya	1,000
Malaysia	1,500
Mexico	4,250

Market	Quarterly sample size
Morocco	1,000
Netherlands	1,250
New Zealand	1,250
Nigeria	1,000
Philippines	3,000
Poland	1,750
Portugal	1,250
Romania	1,250
Russia	3,500
Saudi Arabia	1,500
Singapore	2,750
South Africa	1,500
South Korea	1,250
Spain	5,000
Sweden	1,250
Switzerland	1,250
laiwan e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e	2,250
Fhailand	3,750
Turkey	2,000
JAE	1,750
JK	10,000
JSA	25,000
/ietnam	2,500

Our respondents

To interview internet users at such a vast scale, we work with a number of industry-leading panel providers such as Dynata, Toluna, Kantar, DataSpring, Prodege and OnDevice. These providers manage the relationships with respondents on their respective panels, from the initial recruitment process through to the distribution of invitations to take part in one of our surveys. In some countries, these partners will also engage further panels to help fulfil our sample needs; practically, that means our respondents are typically sourced from between 2-5 panels in the majority of markets.

Although each panel provider will have its own precise systems in place, they will typically be inviting people to sign up for their panels via online ads, sponsored posts, online messaging and partnerships with sites. Anyone who expresses an interest is then required to undergo a joining process, which involves verification of their email address and submission of basic

demographic information (which would normally include metrics such as age, gender, location and so on).

Each time we launch fieldwork, we will supply our panel partner(s) with demographic information about the respondents we require in order for our sample to be representative. Part of this involves instructing them on the number of women vs men, the number from each age group, the proportion with secondary vs tertiary education, and so on.

All of our panel partners offer a variety of incentives to respondents to take part, which include:

- **✓** Monetary payments / PayPal credit
- Loyalty points
- Vouchers
- **Charity donations**
- Competition / sweepstake entry

These incentives are designed to appeal to respondents of all backgrounds, including wealthier segments who might be most motivated by the chance to help good causes. The value of incentives will vary between markets, and will sometimes vary between demographics within a particular country.



Sample structure

There are two key points to note about our sample structure.

We represent 16-64 year-olds

We don't interview anyone aged 15 or under because parental consent would be needed, and because a parent or guardian would technically need to observe them filling out any survey. This makes it slow and expensive to conduct fieldwork, and it's possible that some minors would not answer all questions accurately if being observed by an adult.

We don't interview people aged 65+ because it's very challenging to find enough people in this age bracket in certain markets – particularly emerging markets where internet penetration rates are low and online populations are therefore dominated by younger age groups. As we want our data to be representative and harmonized across markets, we therefore set an upper age limit. A long-term ambition is to remove

this limit and begin surveying older internet users, but this is unlikely to become a reality in the short- or mediumterm future.

We represent online populations

Because internet penetration rates can vary significantly between countries (from a high of 90%+ in parts of Europe and North America to lows of around 20% in parts of APAC), the nature of our samples is impacted accordingly.

Where a market has a high internet penetration rate, its online population will be relatively similar to its total population and hence we will see good representation across all age, gender and education breaks. This is typically the case in North America, much of Europe and places in APAC such as Japan and Australia.

Where a market has a medium to low internet penetration, its online population can be very different to its total population; broadly speaking, the lower the country's overall internet penetration rate, the more likely it is that its internet users will be young, urban, affluent and educated. In some Middle Eastern, African and Asian countries (e.g. India, Indonesia), we would also expect a gender-based skew towards males.

To ensure that our research is representative of a country's online population aged 16-64, we **set quotas on age, gender and education**. To set these, we conduct thorough research across a range of international and national sources.

At a global level, these include the World Bank, the ITU, the International Labour Organization, the CIA Factbook and the US Bureau of Labor Statistics; within individual markets, we are typically taking data from national statistics sources, government departments, Eurostat or other credible and robust third-party sources.

Internet penetration estimates 2019

Market	Penetration estimate	Market	Penetration estimate
Argentina	78	Morocco	65
Australia	88	Netherlands	93
Austria	88	New Zealand	93
Belgium	89	Nigeria	36
Brazil	71	Philippines	64
Canada	94	Poland	79
China	59	Portugal	78
Colombia	66	Romania	72
Denmark	97	Russia	80
Egypt	54	Saudi Arabia	83
France	85	Singapore	85
Germany	88	South Africa	62
Ghana	48	South Korea	95
Hong Kong	91	Spain	87
India	42	Sweden	96
Indonesia	39	Switzerland	96
Ireland	87	Taiwan	83
Israel	85	Thailand	58
Italy	62	Turkey	71
Japan	92	UAE	95
Kenya	43	UK	96
Malaysia	83	USA	80
Mexico	69	Vietnam	55

Note, GlobalWebIndex uses the latest available World Bank Data to forecast internet penetration rates for the present year. These figures are for the total population, whereas our research in conducted among 16-64s, who will have a higher internet penetration rate.

In an ideal world, most researchers would probably decide to set quotas on income too. However, **details of income can be a sensitive matter for many people**, and some will always prefer not to disclose this information.

As a proxy for this, we set quotas on educational attainment

- distinguishing between those who have achieved primary, secondary or tertiary level education. An additional benefit of this is that educational achievement is a relatively stable metric, whereas household or personal income can be subject to considerable short-term changes and fluctuations.



Universe size

To explain how we calculate the figure, we can look at the UK in 2019 as an example. The UN World Population prospects estimates that the total population of the UK in 2018 was 67.14 million. It also estimates that 64% of these individuals – or 42.92m – were aged 16-64. When forecast forward to 2019 by GlobalWebIndex, the age/gender breakdown of this 16-64 population is as follows:

	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64
Males	4,096,090	4,470,870	4,234,263	4,599,551	3,741,123
Females	3,924,002	4,464,171	4,281,755	4,729,833	3,852,482

Using data from the Office for National Statistics in the UK, we can estimate the percentage in each of these groups who use the internet (via any device). These figures for 2019 are as follows:

	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64
Males	99%	100%	100%	100%	98%
Females	99%	100%	100%	100%	95%

By multiplying these two datasets together, we know that 99% of 16-64s in the UK are internet users in 2018. This equates to 42.06m people.

During each wave of research, we then assign a "weight" to every respondent based on their age, gender and education profile. This allows us to calculate approximately how many people are represented by their responses, and to forecast overall audience sizes accordingly.

For example, we might know that a response from a young male aged 16-24 represents 8,000 similar individuals in their market. So, each time that respondent answers positively to a question, the corresponding audience size for that question is increased by 8,000.

Number of internet users represented by a GlobalWebIndex respondent

Market	Number (thousands)	Market	Number (thousands)
Singapore	1	Ghana	9
Ireland	2	Germany	10
New Zealand	2	Saudi Arabia	13
Denmark	3	Poland	13
Hong Kong	3	Malaysia	13
Israel	4	Morocco	16
Australia	4	Mexico	16
UK	4	Philippines	16
Austria	4	Argentina	17
Switzerland	4	Kenya	17
UAE	4	Vietnam	18
Portugal	5	South Africa	18
Sweden	5	Colombia	20
Canada	5	Egypt	20
Belgium	6	Turkey	21
Spain	6	Indonesia	21
Italy	6	Brazil	22
Taiwan	7	Japan	22
France	8	India	24
Thailand	8	Russia	24
USA	8	South Korea	29
Romania	9	China	29
Netherlands	9	Nigeria	58

Localization

As a harmonized survey, we place a strong emphasis on all Core respondents answering all questions. However, there are some cultural and legal exceptions to this:

- We do not ask under-18s (or under-21s in the US) about alcohol. There are also age-restrictions relating to behaviors such as gambling.
- In Middle Eastern countries, some options are localized in line with prevailing cultural customs. Examples of this include asking if someone is living with their spouse rather than their partner, or whether they are engaged rather than in a relationship. We also do not ask about pregnancy in the Saudi Arabia, Egypt or the UAE.
- We only ask about sexual orientation in Australia, New Zealand, North America and in a select number of Western European markets.
- For the following areas of the survey, respondents are asked about their engagement with a number of local names/brands in addition to the global ones asked in all markets:
 - Airlines
 - Alcohol
 - Apps
 - Banks
 - Mobile Handset Brands
 - Mobile Payment Services
 - On-Demand Media
 Services

- Retailers
- Social Networks
- Supermarkets
- Web Brands
- QSR Brands
- Cosmetics
- Drinks Brands
- Sports Brands

Localization

As outlined above, we also employ routing to ensure that respondents are not asked questions which would be irrelevant to them. For example, if someone says they do not use any social networks, then they are not asked follow-up questions about this behavior. Similarly, if they do not own/use a mobile or a tablet, then they will not be asked further questions about these devices.

The survey itself is divided into thematic "blocks" of questions. These blocks are rotated on a random basis to ensure sections do not always appear in the same position within the survey.

With the launch of a Mobile version of the study in 2017, respondents completing this version of the survey answer a sub-set of questions - concentrating on demographics, lifestyle, attitudes, device ownership, online activities and social media.

We also localize the following questions:

Educational Attainment

Respondents see locally appropriate education stages, based on levels specified in the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED).

Income & savings

Respondents are asked to select or enter monetary values in their own local unit of currency.

Translations

All respondents complete the survey in their local language. In most countries we offer one language only but, as per the table below, there are two or three languages available in the following markets: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Egypt, Israel, Malaysia, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, UAE and USA.

To ensure that all text is translated accurately - and with appropriate digital context - we work with an **expert translation company**. Each quarter, any changes/additions are sent to this company, which then employs local and digitally savvy translators in order to update the survey.

Once a year, we ask different translators to proof the entire questionnaire to double-check its accuracy and relevance.

Market	Language(s) available
Argentina	Latin American Spanish
Australia	American English
Austria	Austrian German
Belgium	Flemish, Belgian French
Brazil	Brazilian Portuguese
Canada	American English, Canadian French
China	Mandarin
Colombia	Latin American Spanish
Denmark	Danish
Egypt	American English, Arabic
France	French
Germany	German
Ghana	American English
Hong Kong	American English, Cantonese
India	American English
Indonesia	Indonesian
Ireland	American English
Isreal	Arabic, Hebrew
Italy	Italian
Japan	Japanese
Kenya	American English
Malaysia	American English, Malay, Mandarin
Mexico	Latin American Spanish

Market	Language(s) available
Morocco	French, Arabic
Netherlands	Dutch
New Zealand	American English
Nigeria	American English
Philippines	American English, Tagalog
Poland	Polish
Portugal	Portuguese
Romania	Romanian
Russia	Russian
Saudi Arabia	American English, Arabic
Singapore	American English
South Africa	American English
South Korea	Korean
Spain	Spanish
Sweden	Swedish
Switzerland	French, German, Italian
Taiwan	Taiwanese Mandarin Chinese
Thailand	Thai
Turkey	Turkish
UAE	American English, Arabic
UK	American English
USA	American English, LATAM Spanish
Vietnam	Vietnamese

Data checks

Before they complete a
GlobalWebIndex survey, all panelists
will have undergone quality checks
conducted by their panel. However,
GlobalWebIndex then runs stringent
testing both during and after the
fieldwork to ensure a high-quality and
robust sample. These include:

Checking completion time

By running high volumes of automatic "test" respondents through the survey, we know approximately how long it should take the "average" person to complete (information which is supplemented by the knowledge we have gained from running similar surveys in previous quarters). Based on this, we have a minimum completion time – if anyone finishes more quickly than this, they are removed.

Detecting patterned answers

If a respondent starts answering questions in a certain way, we will review their answers across the survey and, if they appear to be suspicious, we will remove them. Examples of this might include answering a set of agreement questions (where 1=strongly disagree and 5=strongly agree) in the following way: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

Removing straight-liners

Within our survey, we have a number of "grid" or "list" style questions which invite people to enter a level of agreement across a number of different categories. For example, we might ask you a series of statements and ask you to say how much you agree with them – using a 5-point scale from "strongly disagree" all the way to "strongly agree".

If someone answers in a uniform fashion throughout a list or grid, they will be flagged as a potential "straight-liner" - someone who might not be answering accurately. If someone does this on just one question in isolation, we will review their answer to see if this response pattern could be plausible or logical (for example, it could be the case that someone genuinely has not used any services/platforms within a particular type of list). However, if this behavior is detected in two or more questions, they are automatically removed from the sample.

Data checks

Typically, we remove between 5-15% of respondents in the data-cleaning process. During the fieldwork, we over-recruit in each market to ensure that we can still meet our quarterly sample size commitments once any poor-quality responses have been identified and removed.

Detecting multiple "None of the above" answers

In line with standard research practice, most behavioral questions (e.g. "Have you done the following?") will include a "none of the above" option at the end. We will monitor how frequently a respondent is selecting this option and remove them if we deem their "none of the above" responses to be excessively high.

Logic traps

Our survey contains a number of "logic traps" where poor-quality respondents could contradict themselves. An example of this might be a respondent who says their child's age is too high to be compatible with their own. Respondents who fail the logic traps are removed.

2x Rule

When undertaking our analysis, respondents who are identified as being potentially suspicious on two or more of the criteria outlined above are automatically removed without any further consideration.

Re-contact methodology

Our Re-contact methodology allows us to interview Core respondents again providing two significant benefits

- We can pre-target even difficult to reach audiences based on 40,000 profiling data points
- We can synchronize the Custom and Core datasets to allow a user access to a huge amount of data

For example, a client wants to Re-contact B2B Decision Makers from our Core panel so they can better understand their purchase journey, from brand and product discovery through to usage and advocacy. Utilizing both datasets they can understand what influences their B2B purchasing decisions (Custom) and which online sources they spend most time on online (Core).



A Re-contact can be used to...



Deep dive into the views of specific audiences identified in the Core survey





Explore answers that were only touched upon in Core





Measure the effectiveness of a product after it is released into the market





Create and integrate segmentation solutions into the Core data



Map purchase journeys





Understand how consumers currently value a brand's services





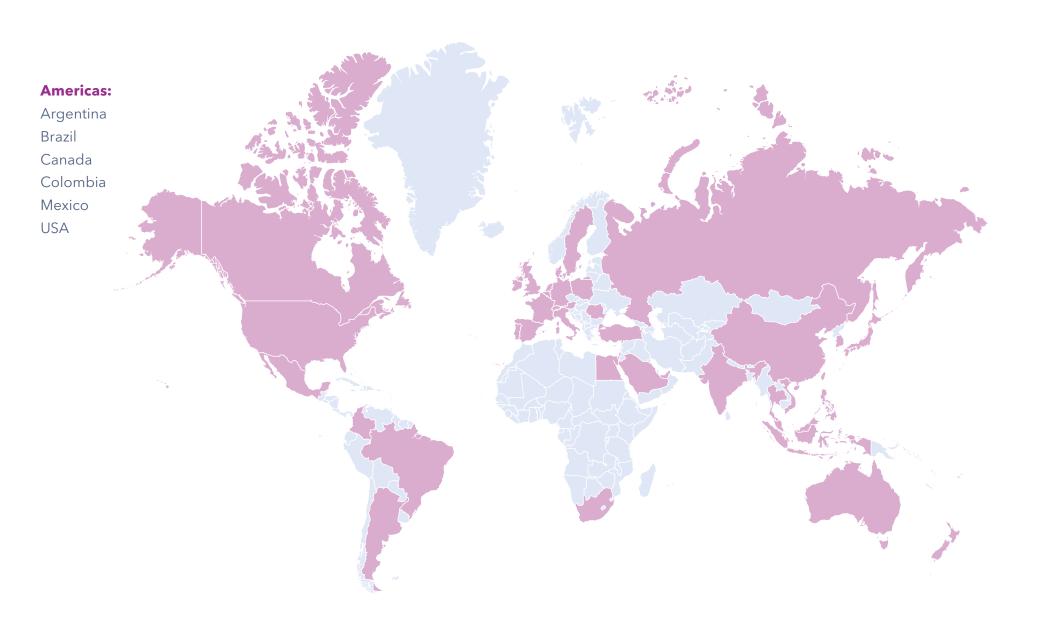
Track consumer trends in more detail





Understand a brand in it's competitive context

Available in 42 markets



EMEA:

Austria
Belgium
Denmark
Egypt
France
Germany
Ireland
Israel

Italy Netherlands Poland

Portugal Romania Russia

Saudi Arabia South Africa

Spain Sweden Switzerland

Turkey UAE

UK

APAC:

Australia China Hong Kong

India Indonesia

Japan New Zealand

Malaysia
Philippines
Singapore
South Korea

Taiwan Thailand Vietnam

Measuring digital impact with GlobalWebIndex

Our digital capabilities have all of the benefits of active and passive data collection. Tagged online content allows us to measure impact of digital advertising and website visits.

- Measure the effectiveness of online campaigns across 40 countries digitally using a panel of over 17 million
- Incorporate Opportunity To See (OTS) modelling for cross platform campaigns
- Evaluate online campaign targeting using our40,000 data points from our Core study
- Understand the profile of a website's visitation audience with the same data points



What we can deliver



Unparalleled profiling

data on an exposed audience, integrating our insights from the Core database



Cross-platform campaign measurement,

utilizing our expertise in passive and active data collection

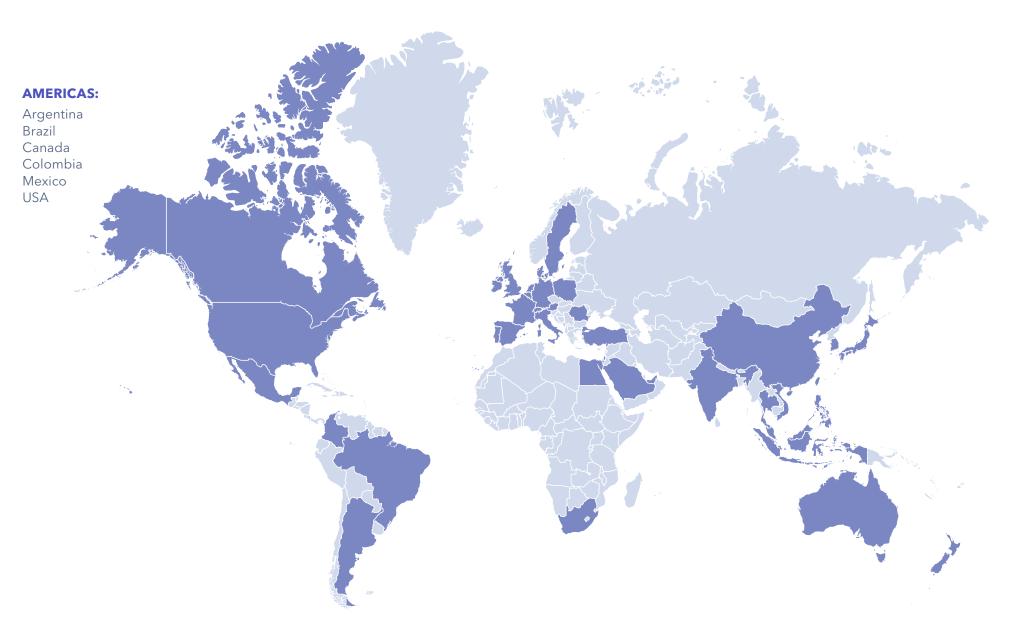


Access to data in our intuitive and integrated Platform



Insight driven reporting tailored to your precise needs

We are globally consistent, locally relevant



EMEA:

Austria Belgium Denmark Egypt France Germany Ireland Italy Netherlands Poland Portugal Romania Saudi Arabia South Africa Spain Sweden Switzerland Turkey UAE UK

APAC:

Australia
China
Hong Kong
India
Indonesia
Japan
New Zealand
Malaysia
Philippines
Singapore
South Korea
Taiwan
Thailand
Vietnam

Want to find out more?

To get more information on our Ad Effectiveness approach, or to understand what other Custom solutions we offer, please get in touch.

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