# Own the Social Sphere

# Your ultimate guide to social media



# Connections that Matter

No matter your industry, connecting with your audience is central to building your brand, running your business, and having a well-rounded marketing strategy. It's not just **what** you say but **who** you're saying it to, as well as **where**, **how**, and **when**.

Social media is a chance for you to make the connections that will help you thrive in your business and as a marketer. By focusing on how to develop content that clicks, you'll find your business will flourish with your following.

### What you'll learn:

03	Start with a social media audit
05	Know your audience
80	Select the perfect channel
09	Set goals and develop social media campaigns
12	Create content that clicks
14	Social campaign worksheet
17	Social media best practices
18	Social strategy worksheet
20	Measure your success
22	Metrics glossary
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# Conducting a Social Media Audit

A social media audit allows you to assess your current social media channels and see how they are performing against your business goals. By evaluating your social media accounts, you can easily identify what is working well, what needs improvement, and what can be eliminated.

Use this worksheet to audit your current social media accounts. Gain insights about how your social media strategy is currently working and get an idea of what you can improve on for the future. Tip: Make a fresh copy for each channel you currently use.

Platform:	Most Recent Post Date:	Total # of Published Posts:	
Goals:		Hashtags:	
Ζ.			
3			
KPIs:		Notes:	
1.			
3			

Followers	Impressions	Engagement change*	Top performing content types	Top 5 best performing posts
			1.	1.
Likes	Reach	Follower change*	2.	2.
			3.	3.
Shares	CTR	Were goals achieved?	4.	4.
		□ Yes □ No	5.	5.

#### Questions to Ask Yourself:

- 1. What type of content is achieving my performance goals? (video posts? reels? stories?)
- 2. If your goals were not achieved, why do you think that is?
- 3. What type of content has the highest engagement?
- 4. Are the posts/content getting the same response on each platform?
- 5. Does certain content perform better on one platform than others?
- 6. Is one platform performing better?
- 7. How have your follower and engagement metrics changed over time? Have they gone up or down?
- 8. Are your posts aligned with your brand voice? If not, are the posts aligned with your brand voice performing well?

\*Change since last audit

\*\*See page 22 for a metrics glossary

# Auditing Your Competitor's Accounts

Auditing your competition is a great way to stay on top of trends and target potential customers. In auditing your competitors' accounts you'll want to pay attention to:

Î		#		
Account followers (Total followers and influential accounts followed)	Post Engagement (High and low)	Hashtags Used (Pay attention to the top hashtags used)	How Often They Publish	<b>Content</b> (Type and messaging of top performing pieces)
Competitor:				
Platform:	Plat	Form:	Platform:	
Total Account Follow	ers	Total Account Followers	Tot	al Account Followers
Influential Accounts Foll 1. 2. 3.	lowed 1. 2. 3.	Influential Accounts Followed	Influer 1. 2. 3.	ntial Accounts Followed
Post Frequency		Post Frequency		Post Frequency
Engagement rate		Engagement rate		Engagement rate
Audience growth*		Audience growth*		Audience growth*
Hashtags used		Hashtags used		Hashtags used
Most recent post do	ite	Most recent post date		lost recent post date
Total # of published p	posts	Total # of published posts	Toto	al # of published posts
Top 5 best performing p	posts	Top 5 best performing posts	Top 5	best performing posts
1.	1.		1.	
2.	2.		2.	
3.	3.		3.	
4.	4.		4.	
5.	5.		5.	

# Know Your Audience

Marketing means nothing without an audience. You want your messages, designs, and videos to be seen and, more importantly, to be seen by the right people — those who are primed to engage with your content and take an interest in your business. These people are your target audience.

Social media marketing is no different. Finding the right target audience is key to building a successful presence in the social sphere.

### Determining Your Target Audience

To understand who your target audience is on social media, you'll need to take the time to research, refine, and repeat.

#### Research

Data is everything when it comes to developing a quality target audience. You'll want to make some educated guesses about who your social media target audience will be based on your current customer base, but then you're going to have to back them up by collecting the appropriate data as you test and refine your audience target.

# 2

#### **Demographic data**

The first step to determining your target audience is to take a deep dive into the demographics of your current customers. Think about the people who are purchasing your products or booking your services. Some demographics you'll want to pay attention to are:

#### Age | Income | Gender | Location | Job/Career

#### Search out your audience

As you recognize what your customer base looks like, you'll have a good understanding of the type of users to gear your content towards online. The first step is to find where your audience is hanging out online. Remember that your audience might not be present on every platform.

**Find your competition** Use your competition as fuel for your social media

marketing efforts. Find competitors within your industry and see what kinds of content they are posting and who their audience is.

#### **Repeat and refine**

It's important to remember that your audience will grow and change as your business does. Keep your finger on the pulse of what's happening in your social sphere by repeating the cycle every quarter and refine your target audience(s) when necessary.

#### **How to Attract Followers**

Getting people to notice your business takes work and attracting followers can seem like a tough challenge. But fear not, we've got you covered with some top-tier tips and tricks to help you pique potential customers' interest and see your follower count skyrocket.

#### Start with your base

When you first create your social media accounts, start with your base to attract followers. This includes your friends, family, and current clients. Ask your base to follow your accounts and spread the word about your business.



# 2

#### How to grow beyond your existing base

Once you've tapped into your stores of loyal fans, it's time to figure out new ways to grow your social following. Hashtagging, following relevant accounts, and sharing links to your other marketing and social channels will help you to expand your social reach.



Hashtags are a great resource for getting your content seen by potential customers. Tag your content with no more than ten relevant and/or trending hashtags to make sure your content is easy to discover. Sources like WhatTheTrend (@WTT) will teach you how to find hashtags.



#### Follow relevant accounts

Following user accounts and business accounts relevant to your brand can help you grow your presence and expose your content to new customers. Just be sure to follow credible accounts, don't purchase followers, and don't follow a ton of accounts in one visit (you'll end up looking like a bot).

#### **Cross-channel CTAs**

Encourage customers to follow your social media accounts by adding clickable links or QR codes to your email marketing, print materials, and website.

# Target Audience

It's not enough to craft quality content. You have to make sure that your content is seen by the people who are primed to engage with and invest in your business. Use this worksheet to outline your target audience(s) for each platform you intend to use.

#### 1. Who is your target audience:

ex: Students and local young families who like good coffee and pastries

#### 2. What is their age:

#### 3. Gender:

#### 4. Audience goals:

ex: To get caffeinated, be a part of a tight-knit community, to eat really good food

#### 5. Values:

ex: Supporting the local community, work-life balance, intellectualism

#### 6. Social Media Platform(s):

ex: Instagram/Facebook

# Select the Perfect Channel

The world of social media is vast and varied. Different channels attract different users, host different types of content, and have different standards about what posts appear at the top of your feed. Use the data below to help you select the perfect channel for your business.

#### Facebook

#### **Demographics**

Average Age: 25-35

**Gender**: 43% female, 57% male (no other genders measured)

**Time spent per day**: 33 minutes

#### Content Types

- Sharing events
- Webinars
- Company updates

#### YouTube

#### Demographics

Average Age: 50-64

**Gender**: 78% female, 22% male (no other genders measured)

**Time spent per day**: 14.2 minutes

#### Content Types

- Product demos
- Customer testimonials
- Event recaps
- Q&As
- Business ads

#### Instagram

#### **Demographics**

#### Average Age: 25-34

**Gender**: 48.4% female, 51.8% male (no other genders measured)

**Time spent per day**: 29 minutes

#### **Content Types**

- Memes
- Video content and reels
- Event showcase and promotion, bite-sized content, hints and tips

#### LinkedIn

#### Demographics

Average Age: 25-34

**Gender**: 48% female, 52% male (no other genders measured)

**Time spent per day**: 22% of users access the network daily

#### **Content Types**

- Blog
- Podcasts
- Company announcements

#### Pinterest

#### Demographics

Average Age: 50-64

**Gender**: 78% female, 22% male (no other genders measured)

**Time spent per day**: 14.2 minutes

#### **Content Types**

- Product-centric posts
- ldeas to inspire product use
- Mood boards

### TikTok

#### Demographics

#### Average Age: 10-19

**Gender**: 61% female, 39% male (no other genders measured)

**Time spent per day**: 89 minutes

#### **Content Types**

- Brand awareness content
- Product demos
- Customer testimonials

### **Set Goals and Develop Social Media Campaigns**

Once you know what social channels you want to focus on, it's time to start developing your goals. Each social media campaign you create should align with a goal you have for your business.

When setting your goals remember to make them SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-Bound). Need ideas? Here are some common goals to structure your campaigns around.

#### **Drive Awareness**

Increases familiarity with your business, product, or service. Can also increase your social following.

#### Goal: Educate and boost public awareness

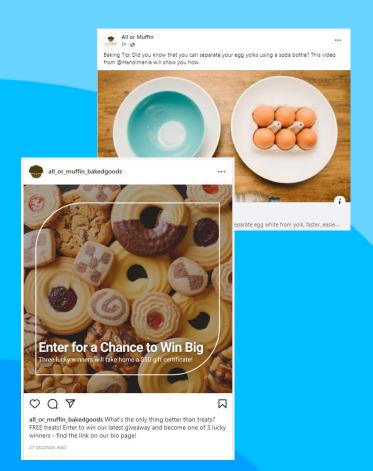
- Q&A interviews
- News

Questions

- Company info
- Fill-in-the-blanks
- Giveaways

Contests

- Behind-the-scenes media
- Tips and tricks
- Content promotion
- Enter-to-win .
- Share-to-win





#### All or Muffin

Want to learn how to bake like the experts? Join our head baker, Else P, on Friday, March 10th for a hands-on, fun, and delicious class on how to make babka. Best of all you'll take home a lad of your own end of the class \_0 with the class page to learn more and reserve your spot! Want to learn how to bake like the experts? Join our head baker, Else P, on Friday, December 2nd for a hands-on, fun, and delicious class on how to make babka. Best of all you'll take home a ... See

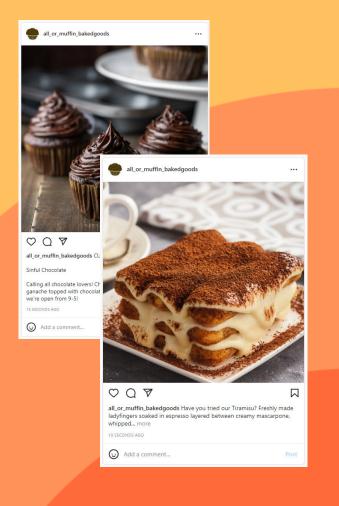


#### **Grow Contacts**

Invites customers/prospects to connect with you via email through sign-up forms or other leadgeneration pieces.

#### Goal: Educate and boost public awareness

- Contests
- Enter-to-win
- Downloadable content
- Email opt-in
- Event RSVPs



#### **Promote Product/Service**

Alerts customers and prospects to a product launch, service expansion, brand initiative, or promotion.

#### Goal: Increase revenue or acquire new customers

- Ads
- Promotions and sales
- Product features (images/video)
- Customer testimonials
- Product teasers/previews
- Tutorials
- Fundraising kickoff

#### **Customer Advocacy**

The digital version of word-of-mouth advertising.

Goal: Establish long-lasting customer relationships, boost brand awareness, and increase sales by amplifying positive customer experiences.

- Customer stories/quotes
- Polls/voting
- User-generated content
- Product reviews



# Social Media <mark>Goal Planning</mark>

Use this worksheet to develop social media goals. Set your goal and outline the actions or posts that will help you achieve your goals.

Goal	1:
Actio	ons/posts
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Goal	2:				
Acti	Actions/posts				
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					

Goal	3:	
Acti	ons/posts	
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

### Example:



#### Goal 2:

Increase follower count

#### Actions/posts

- 1. Favorite coffee photo contest
- 2. Product giveaway
- 3. Coffee roasting 101 event
- 5.

#### Goal 3:

Increase sales

#### Actions/posts

- 1. Coffee sale promotion post
- 2. New drinks highlight posts

3.

4.

5.

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# Create Content that Clicks

Once you know where to post, it's time to figure out what you want to say and when you want people to see your message.

#### Develop a content calendar

The first place to start is with your content calendar. As you plan out content, ensure to account for consistency in posting, but include various content types to keep your audience engaged. It's okay to have spaces in your content calendar. Social media is a fast and evolving marketing channel; there's always room for doing things on the fly. Leave room for current trends while maintaining a regular schedule.

#### **Repurposing content**

As you watch your content flourish on the web, take note of the pieces that can be repurposed for future use. Remember, there is no use in reinventing the wheel — when content works, it works.



Here are some ideas on how to repurpose your content:

### The Keys to Content Success

The good news is you're not in your social media journey alone.

**Copywriting**: What you say matters, so it's essential to think about the kind of stories your audience wants to hear, and what you want them to know about your business. To help you get off the blank page, consider playing around with <u>AI technology</u> — just remember that the content and creativity is ultimately up to you.

**Imagery:** Photography, video, and design help people to see what your brand is all about. Original images are best to help you show off the personality of your brand. Still, if you don't have access to high-quality original images, there are some free and paid stock image websites, like <u>Unsplash, Shutterstock, Pexels</u>, and <u>Adobe Stock</u>.

**Scheduling**: Consider investing in social media scheduling software to save time and resources. Scheduling allows you to plan out content in advance and gives you a better bird's eye view of what kinds of posts you've got planned across channels.

**Content Calendar** Use the worksheet below to plan out your social media content for the month.

Day Time		Post Goals and Content	Content Link	Whi	ch chann	els are ya	ou posting	g to?
	ex. 8AM	What are you trying to accompish with your post or story?	What article, video, or page do you want to drive people to?	Facebook	Instagram	Pinterest	LinkedIn	TikTok
			Week 1					
Monday								
Tuesday								
Wednesday								
Thursday								
Friday								
Saturday								
Sunday								
			Week 2					
Monday								
Tuesday								
Wednesday								
Thursday								
Friday								
Saturday								
Sunday								
			Week 3					
Monday								
Tuesday								
Wednesday								
Thursday								
Friday								
Saturday								
Sunday								
			Week 4					
Monday								
Tuesday								
Wednesday								
Thursday								
Friday								
Saturday								
Sunday								

# Social Campaign Planning

Use this worksheet to help you develop a social media campaign. Enter your goal and outline the posts you'll create to achieve it.

	Post 1	Post 2	Post 3
ontent Type			
aption/Message			
Call to action			
inks			
ost Date			
esign Ideas			
ocial Channels			
ashtags/Keywords			

### Example:

Campaign Goal: <u>Eve</u>	ent signups		
	Post 1	Post 2	Post 3
Content Type	Static design	Video reel	Image carousel
Caption/Message	Get ready to get your bake on! Our strudel class is coming up soon. Save your spot today.	This apple strudel can be yours, made with your own two hands when you sign up for our strudel class. Only a few spots left!	This is your last chance to sign up for Bakeshop's apple strudel making class. We hope to see you there!
Call to action	Sign up	Claim your space	Huzzah for strudel
Links	signup.bit.ly	signup.bit.ly	signup.bit.ly
Post Date	X/X/XXXX	X/X/XXXX	x/x/xxxx
Design Ideas	Static image of people in the Bakeshop culinary lab	Montage of strudel making, dough stretching, etc.	Image carousel of stills from previous video
Social Channels	Instagram, Facebook	Instagram, Facebook	Instagram
Hashtags/Keywords	#BakeshopStrudel	#BakeshopStrudel	#BakeshopStrudel

### Social Platform Size Guide

## Facebook

Profile photos must be at least 170x170 pixels.

Cover photos appear on your page at 820 x 312 pixels.

Images shared in a post have a recommended size of 1200 x 630 pixels or 1080 x 1080 pixels.

### Instagram

Profile images appear on your homepage at 110 x 110 pixels.

Image thumbnails appear on your profile at 161 x 161 pixels. Square photos are 1080 x 1080 pixels and rectangular photos should be 4:5 aspect ratio.

Story videos should use a resolution of 1080 x 1920 pixels or an aspect ratio of 9:16.

### Pinterest

Profile images appear at 165 x 165 pixels on the homepage.

Pins on the main page appear at 236 pixels with a scaled height. Expanded Pins have a minimum width of 600 pixels with a scaled height.

It is recommended to use an image aspect ratio of 2:3 for pins.

### TikTok

Videos should have a resolution of 1080 x 1920 pixels with a 9:16 aspect ratio.

News feed videos have a max file size of about 285MB for Apple and 72MB for Android. Ads have a max file size of 500MB.

Videos have a max length of 3 minutes.

### YouTube

The channel profile image should be 800  $\times$  800 pixels.

Custom thumbnail images should be 1280 x 720 pixels.

The channel cover photo has a minimum size of 2560 x 1440 pixels with an aspect ratio of 16:9.

Shorts videos have max length of 60 seconds and a recommended resolution of 1080 x 1920 pixels with a 9:16 aspect ratio.

### LinkedIn

Your company logo image should be 300 x 300 pixels.

The company business banner size is recommended at 1128 x 191 pixels.

Images shared in a post have a recommended size of 1200 x 1200 pixels.





### How Often Should You **Post on Social?**

Social media is a great way to share important news, products, and updates with your followers, but how often should you be posting? Here are some guidelines to help you create a consistent and effective social schedule.





Three to seven times a week

per day (treat Reels as part of

Stories: three to 10 stories per day.



your feed).



Two to three videos per week

LinkedIn

Three to five posts a week

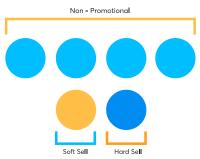
YouTube

Pinterest One to five posts per day



### **Content Mix Guidelines**

Social media is a great way to share the spirit of the season with your followers, but how often should you be posting? Here are some guidelines to help you create a consistent and effective holiday social schedule.



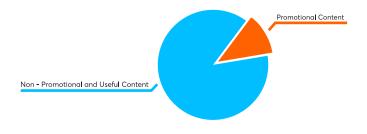
#### 4-1-1 Approach

For every six postings you publish, four should be nonpromotional content, one should be a soft sell (think event invite), and **one a hard sell** (buy now).



#### The Rule of Thirds

Not to be confused with photography composition rules, the rule of third says 1/3 of your posts should be promotional, 1/3 should be non-promotional and useful, and 1/3 on engaging with your audience.



#### 80/20 Rule

Out of all the posts you publish, 80% of posts should contain non-promotional and useful content and 20% should contain promotional content.

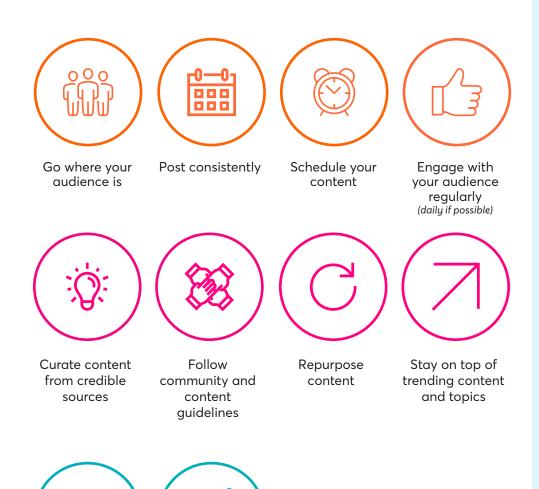


#### 5-3-2 Approach

For every ten posts you publish, five should be posts from other relevant sources, three should be content you've created (promotional or non), and two should engage with your audience and humanize your brand.

# Social Media Best Practices

You've set your goals, you've found your target audience, and you're ready for your company to shine on social media. As you craft content and revisit your social media strategy, make sure to check in with these best practices.



# Keep your content visible

**Shadow Banning:** Even the name sounds scary, but fear not! We're here to give you the low-down on the social media practice and teach you how to avoid it.

Shadow Banning refers to the actions taken by social media platforms to limit the visibility of a post or user's content. Usually, bans are the result of violating community or content guidelines. Here's how to keep your content in the (visible) loop:

- Don't purchase likes or followers
- Don't post graphic content (violence, nudity, illegal drugs, illicit activities)
- Don't use too many hashtags or banned/irrelevant hashtags
- Don't spam other accounts
- Don't act like a bot

Check in on your competition

Reevaluate your strategy regularly

# Social Strategy

To help you plan out your social media strategy take some time to go through this worksheet and identify your industry, audience, content, goals, and tactics.

1. What is my industry?

6. How often will you post in a week?

2. What content mix am I going to use?	7. How often will you check your audience's engagement?
□ 4-1-1 	
□ 80/20 □ The rule of thirds	
□ 5-3-2 approach	
3. Why are you using each social media channel?	8. In what manner will you respond to your audience?
LinkedIn:	
Instagram:	- 
Facebook:	9. In what manner will you respond to others' content?
Youtube:	-
TikTok:	_
4. What is your overall aim for using social media?	10. Trending hashtags to watch:
	-
5. What campaign goal are you trying to achieve?	
s. What campaign goal are you trying to achieve:	Engagement Includes:
	<ul> <li>Likes</li> <li>Comments</li> <li>Mentions</li> </ul>

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# Social Strategy

### Example

#### 1. What is my industry?

Baking/Food Service

#### 2. What content mix am I going to use?

- ☑ 4-1-1
- □ 80/20
- □ The rule of thirds
- □ 5-3-2 approach

#### 3. Why are you using each social media channel?

LinkedIn: Press, connection to other businesses

Instagram: Main channel, show off product, attract followers

Facebook: Show off product, event management

Youtube: <u>No presence</u>

TikTok: <u>No presence</u>

#### 4. What is your overall aim for using social media?

Attract customers, schedule and promote events, build brand recognition and credibility through helpful tips, etc.

#### 5. What campaign goal are you trying to achieve?

Increase monthly follower count, increase revenue from pre-order sales, increase event attendance

6. How often will you post in a week?
<u>3-4 per week on Instagram, 2 per week to Facebook,</u>
1 a week on LinkedIn

7. How often will you check your audience's engagement? Daily on Instagram, twice a week on Facebook, once a week on LinkedIn

8. In what manner will you respond to your audience? Quickly, with a casual, friendly tone that is eager to answer questions and deals with concerns generously

9. In what manner will you respond to others' content? In a supportful way! We love to engage with fellow local businesses and the community

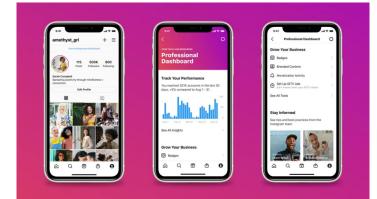
#### 10. Trending hashtags to watch:

#bakeshop #bakeshopsmithfield #smithfieldeats #VAeats
#smithfieldVA #localbakeries #nytcooking #bonappetit

# Measure Your Success

So you've planned out your campaign, launched your posts, and are ready to measure your results. Based on your campaign's goal, you'll want to pay close attention to different metrics.

To get started, either head into your social scheduling tool or discover your success metrics natively on social media:



#### Instagram

When you are running a professional account on Instagram, you have access to a professional dashboard. See how many accounts you've reached, compare to previous performance, check impressions, and note engagement.

#### TikTok

Under your TikTok analytics page, you'll find valuable insights like profile views, content shares, video views, and more.



in CAMPAIGN MANA				💣 FixDer	x 👻   Marketing CXO Account 🕄 👻   🔕
CANPAIGN PERFORMANCE	WEBSITE DEM	OGRAPHICS ACC	OUNT ASSETS 👻		Create campaign
Current website audience Product page	▼ Clear	Compare website a Select segment	eudiences	Showing data for these dates Past 30 days	
Fixdex.com • 12,000 Pageview	vš				
View by: Job title 👻		% of Pageviews	Fixdex.com	<ul> <li>Comparison</li> </ul>	Time period increase

15%
15%
15%
15%

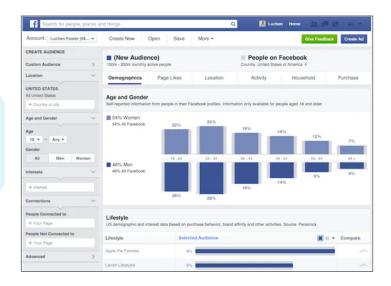
#### LinkedIn

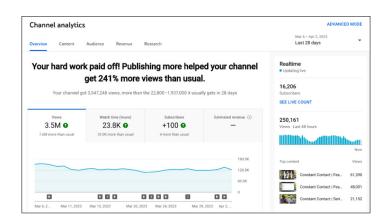
You can find campaign performance, website demographics, and other metrics in your LinkedIn Campaign dashboard. Compare audiences and pages.

# Measure Your Success

#### Facebook

Use the Facebook insights page to hone in on your audience demographics, such as age, location, and lifestyle.





#### YouTube

Find your YouTube analytics under the Analytics guide on the left-hand side menu. Your dashboard will show you an overview of your channel metrics, like view count and subscribers, and then will allow you to drill down further to see content, audience(s), and any ad revenue you have earned.

# Metrics Glossary

Here's a little metrics glossary to help you start your analysis.

#### **Awareness Metrics**

Awareness and reach are great ways to measure the awareness of your brand and content with your followers and on a particular social channel.

**Impressions** are the number of views your content receives. Impressions are a good metric to look at when you want to see if your content is working on a moment-to-moment basis. A high level of impressions early on means your content is likely to get positive engagement and sharing. **Reach** is the potential for viewership. Measuring reach allows you to see how wide of a net your content is casting — broad reach means your content is reaching new audiences, while low reach means your content might be stagnanting.

### **Engagement Metrics**

Engagement metrics show you how your audience interacts with your content.

Individual engagement includes things like:

- Likes
- Comments
- Shares/Retweets

**Post-engagement** is the number of individual engagements your post receives divided by impressions or reach.

**Account mentions** occur when a follower tags you in a post or mentions you without your request. Account mentiones are proof of customer advocacy.

### **Return on Investment Metrics**

Return on investment metrics help you determine your campaign's profitability.

**Social referrals** When people reach your website through a link provided on one of your social media accounts. GA breaks this down by social channel to show you how many referrals you receive for each.

**Click-through-rate (CTR)** is the comparison between content impressions and content clicks.

To help you understand where your business falls on the engagement metrics spectrum, check out the numbers below.

**Industry averages** - average engagement rates (2022, collected by Socialinsider.io)

- TikTok 4.25%
- Instagram 0.60%
- Facebook 0.15%

# Measure Social Impact

Use this worksheet to measure your monthly social media impact. Enter the goal(s) you had for the month, the platforms you used, and your success metrics to help you determine what worked and what could be improved for the future.

	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3
Platform			
Impressions			
Reach			
Likes			
Comments			
Shares			
Click-through-rate (CTR)			

#### What worked: \_

What could be improved: \_

### Example:

Goal: Increase email subscribers by 3%

	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3
Platform	Instagram	Instagram	Instagram
Impressions	11k	11.3k	10k
Reach	14k	15.3k	13.3k
Likes	4,300	4,700	4,400
Comments	787	794	750
Shares	239	250	340
Click-through-rate (CTR)	1.2%	1.5%	1.3%

What worked: Shares increased over time

What could be improved: Click-through-rate decreased over time, consider testing different calls to action.

# Conclusion: What **You** Can Do to **Get Started**

Now that you have all the knowledge you need to optimize your social media presence, it's time to get started by auditing your own social media presence and setting the goals that you want to achieve with future campaigns. Use the worksheets provided in this guide to help you along your way to owning the social sphere.

Constant Contact's <u>social media tools</u> allow you to reach new audiences and grow your business. Post and engage with your social channels in one integrated, streamlined location.

### Get the free trial

