


OWNERSHIP, AFFILIATION, AND INFLUENCE OF MAJOR IRANIAN NEWSPAPERS

LOGO	NAME	OWNERSHIP & MANAGEMENT	SCOPE	AFFILIATION	ACCESS	OBSERVED INFLUENCE	ESTIMATED CIRCULATION
	ABRAR	Ownership: Private Date Founded: 1994 Proprietor: Mohammad Safizadeh Managing Editor: Mohammad Safizadeh Editor-in-Chief: Unknown Website: http://abrarnews.com/	Political, economic, social, and cultural issues.	This independent daily is conservative by nature thanks to its manager's close ties to Hajjat ol-Islam Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri. <i>Abrar</i> also publishes an economic edition and a highly popular sports daily.	The Majles. Safizadeh, who was once in charge of the administrative office of the Majles, still maintains ties and influence there.	<i>Abrar</i> owes much of its popularity to its sports pages. When newsstands run out of <i>Abrar-e Varzeshi</i> , a leading sports daily, readers buy <i>Abrar</i> to read its two sports pages instead.	30,000
	AFTAB-E YAZD	Ownership: Private Date Founded: 2000 Proprietor: Mansur Mozaffari Managing Editor: Mansur Mozaffari Editor-in-Chief: Mansur Mozaffari Website: http://www.aftab-yazd.com/	Political, economic, cultural, and social issues.	The major left-wing clerical association, <i>Majma'-e Ruhaniyun-e Mobarez</i> (Militant Clerics Society), which gave rise to former President Mohammad Khatami among other pro-reform clerics.	Left wing and pro-reform clerical circles.	Read by religious and secular reform-minded clerics, students, intellectuals and supporters of the left-wing Militant Clerics Society.	30,000 (half of early 2009 figure, possibly because of low advertising income and elimination of government subsidy).
	ARMAN-E RAVABET-E OMUMI	Ownership: Private Date Founded: 2009 Proprietor: Hushmand Sefidi Managing Editor: Hushmand Sefidi. Sefidi runs another publication, <i>Poultry World</i> . Editor-in-Chief: Hoseyn Abdollahi Website: http://www.armandaily.ir/	Social, economic, and political issues.	<i>Arman-e Ravabet-e Omumi</i> is not officially linked to any political party, but strongly supports Assembly of Experts and Expediency Council Chairman Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The daily's editor-in-chief previously was the editor of <i>Seda-ye Edalat</i> , which strongly supported Rafsanjani before it was banned in the aftermath of the June 2009 presidential election.	In its relatively short track record, <i>Arman-e Ravabet-e Omumi</i> has shown good access to pro-reform, and, in particular, centrist political circles.	Frequently linked to by Iran's reformist-dominated social media, and extensively quoted by foreign-based Persian-language media.	40,000
	DONYA-YE EQTESAD	Ownership: Private Date Founded: 2003 Proprietor: Donya-ye Eqtesad-e Taban Co. since May 2008 Managing Editor: Alireza Bakhtiari Deputy Managing Editor: Seyyed Mehdi Astani Editor-in-Chief: Ali Mirzakhani (a veteran economic journalist who wrote for <i>Abrar</i>). Website: http://www.donya-e-eqtesad.com/	Economic issues.	<i>Donya-ye Eqtesad's</i> managing director and editor-in-chief come from a moderate conservative background (<i>Abrar</i> and <i>Akhbar</i> , respectively, during the 1990s), but the daily does not clearly support any particular political party.	Iran's private sector.	No particular influence on the government has been observed, but the diversity and extent of its advertisements could indicate influence in the private sector.	8,000
	FARHANG-E ASHTI	Ownership: Private Date Founded: 2002 Proprietor: Andisheh Mehr Corp. Managing Editor: Mohammad Mehdi Emami-Nasari Editor-in-Chief: Amir Nikruyan Website: http://www.mardom.net/fa/	Political, social, cultural and economic issues.	Appears to be an independent daily although it was heavily subsidized and influenced by Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's campaign during the 2005 presidential elections. At times, the daily has followed a pro-reform line but without supporting any particular party.	Centrist parties, Iran's private sector.	The daily appears to be well connected as it had two ban verdicts overturned in 2009 and early 2010. Otherwise, no significant influence observed.	10,000
	HAMSHAHR	Ownership: Public - Tehran Municipality Date Founded: 1991 Proprietor: Tehran Municipality Managing Editor: Ali Asghar Mahaki Editor-in-Chief: Ali Asghar Mahaki (print version) Editor-in-Chief: Yunes Shokrkah (online version) Website: http://www.hamshahronline.ir/	Economic, cultural, and social issues.	Usually follows the political line of Tehran's mayor at any given time. This accounts for the paper's dramatic, sudden shifts from one end of the political spectrum to the other.	Tehran city council, Tehran Municipality, the Interior Ministry, and the political camp or faction to which the mayor of Tehran belongs.	<i>Hamshahri</i> appears to be the most widely read newspaper in Iran thanks to its voluminous classified advertisement supplement, attracting individuals seeking to buy a car, house or major goods and services. Others buy it for its football pages.	350,000 - 450,000
	HEMAYAT	Ownership: Public - Prisons Organization Date Founded: 2001; started publication after 2003 Proprietor: The Judiciary, Prisons Organization Managing Editor: Unknown Editor-in-Chief: Unknown Website: http://www.hemayat.net/	Political and social issues.	The headline-affiliated heads of Iran's conservative-dominated Judiciary and State Prisons Organization.	The Judiciary.	Appears to have a very limited readership, and corresponding political impact, despite its support for the conservative camp.	Less than 10,000
	HEZBOLLAH	Ownership: Private - Imam Hasan Askari Charity Institute Date Founded: 2006 Proprietor: Imam Hasan Asgari Charity Organization Managing Editor: Mohammad Baqer Kharrazi Editor-in-Chief: Hoseyn Qorbazadeh Website: http://www.hnews.ir/fa/	Political, social, and economic issues	Hezbollah Iran, a relatively new political organization which is unrelated to Lebanese Hizballah or the Iranian vigilante group Ansar-e Hezbollah. The organization is characterized by its leaders' fanatic devotion to the 12th Imam of the Shi'ite Islam sect.	Tehran and Qom-based headline conservative religious circles.	No significant influence observed.	Less than 10,000
	IRAN	Ownership: Public - Iranian Government Date Founded: mid 1993 Proprietor: The administration-owned Iran Cultural and Press Institute, affiliated with the official news agency IRNA Managing Editor: Kaveh Eshtehardi Editor-in-Chief: Kaveh Eshtehardi Website: http://www.iran-newspaper.com/	Cultural, social, political, and economic issues.	President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad's Good Scent of Service group.	Exclusive access to information originating from the administration, in addition to information available to other media.	Individuals of varying political interests read it to get first-hand information originating from the administration. Some families appear to buy it assuming that it still is the non-partisan paper it was in the 1990s.	120,000
	JAVAN	Ownership: Public - Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Date Founded: 2000 Proprietor: Payam Avaran Nashr-e Ruz Corp. Managing Editor: Seyyed Nezameddin Musavi Editor-in-Chief: Unknown Website: http://www.javanonline.com/	Cultural, social, and political issues.	The daily was launched as an IRGC-affiliated newspaper. After the 2009 presidential election it became more headline in its political commentaries and reporting, generally supporting President Ahmadinezhad's administration.	The administration and headline political groups favored by the IRGC.	No significant influence observed.	10,000 - 15,000
	JAAM-E JAM	Ownership: Public - The state-run Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting Organization (IRIB) Date Founded: 2000 Proprietor: IRIB Managing Editor: Bijan Moqaddam Editor-in-Chief: Mohsen Mandegari Website: http://www.jamejamonline.ir/	Cultural and social issues.	The state-run radio-TV organization, IRIB. It adheres to the political line of the organization's chairman, currently Ezzatollah Zarghami, a conservative figure close to Supreme Leader Ali Khamene'i.	Exclusive access to IRIB programming information.	Once Iran's best-selling paper with just under half a million copies sold every morning, the daily's popularity dropped sharply after managing editor Hoseyn Entezami moved on. Most of its readers look for sports news and entertainment in the paper.	45,000 - 50,000
	JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI	Ownership: Public Date Founded: 1979 Proprietor: Supreme Leader Ali Khamene'i Managing Editor: Masih Mohajeri Editor-in-Chief: Masih Mohajeri Website: http://www.jomhourieslami.com/j-eslami/index.htm	Political and social issues.	According to Culture Ministry records this paper officially belongs to Supreme Leader Ali Khamene'i, however, it supports Expediency Council Chairman Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. In the 2009 presidential election the daily supported Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, who was the daily's first editor-in-chief in 1979-80.	In its 30-year-long track record, <i>Jomhuri-ye Eslami</i> has demonstrated very good access to news and information coming from the Intelligence Ministry and the Supreme Leader's aides.	In spite of its small readership <i>Jomhuri-ye Eslami</i> is a highly influential daily and is respected and feared by many mid-ranking officials.	Less than 10,000
	KEYHAN	Ownership: Public - Supreme Leader's Office Date Founded: 1943 Proprietor: Keyhan Institute, an affiliate of the Supreme Leader's office Managing Editor: Hoseyn Shariatmadari Editor-in-Chief: Hoseyn Shariatmadari Website: http://www.kayhannews.ir/	Mainly political and economic issues; minimal coverage of other matters.	The daily reflects the tone of hardline Supreme Leader-supporter Hoseyn Shariatmadari, however, the daily's views do not necessarily reflect those of the leader. In May 2008 Shariatmadari won an award for criticizing President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad's administration, but has become the president's favorite critic and officially stated his support for Ahmadinezhad's candidacy in the 2009 presidential election in an editorial in November 2008. The daily, however, has criticized some of Ahmadinezhad's economic policies and choice of cabinet ministers.	Virtually all government offices, particularly the Intelligence Ministry, Judiciary, and the Supreme Leader's office. At times Keyhan has even published private conversations between the Supreme Leader and his visitors and has displayed its exclusive access to intelligence ministry and judiciary documents.	The daily appears to be widely read by supporters and opponents of the regime, government employees, and upper, middle and lower management. Younger readers do not appear to favor it thanks to its old-fashioned extra-broad format, in addition to its political views.	60,000 - 120,000
	MARDOM SALARI	Ownership: Private Date Founded: 2001 Proprietor: Mardom Salari Party Managing Editor: Mostafa Kavakabian Editor-in-Chief: Unknown Website: http://www.mardomsalari.com	Political and economic issues.	Mardom Salari Party and its leader, Mostafa Kavakabian, MP from Semnan.	No particular access area observed. However, its criticism of President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad's economic policies indicate good access to economic experts.	No observed influence, except probably in Semnan Province.	Less than 10,000
	RESALAT	Ownership: Private - Resalat Foundation Date Founded: 1979 (license officially issued in 1985) Proprietor: Resalat Foundation Managing Editor: Morteza Nabavi Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Kazem Anbarlui Website: http://www.resalat-news.com/	Analysis and news.	Islamic Coalition Party, a traditional conservative party that supports a market economy but holds conservative views on cultural and some political matters.	The traditional conservative camp, Bazaar, and Chamber of Commerce.	Read by Bazaaris, traditional conservative readers, and members of the 18 Islamic societies falling under the umbrella of the Islamic Coalition Party.	40,000 - 50,000 has printed over 200,000 copies a day near Majles elections.
	SHARQ	Ownership: Private Proprietor: Mohammad Rahmani Date Founded: 2003 Managing Editor: Mohammad Rahmani Editor-in-Chief: Ahmad Gholami Website: None	Political, economic, cultural, and social issues.	<i>Sharq</i> has always reflected the views of reform-minded intellectuals close to the reformist Islamic Iran Participation Party and the Islamic Revolution's Mojahedin Organization, as well as the liberal Freedom Movement. Newly publishing after a 33 month ban and in the wake of the clampdown on reform parties after the 2009 presidential election, the nature of the affiliation of this paper needs to be further assessed.	Reform camp, private sector.	Since 2003 and in between bans and suspensions <i>Sharq</i> has always been popular among intellectuals, university students and middle class readers.	60,000
	SIYASAT-E RUZ	Ownership: Private Date Founded: 2004 Proprietor: Ali Yusefpor Managing Editor: Ali Yusefpor Editor-in-Chief: Ali Yusefpor Website: http://www.siasatrooz.ir/	Cultural, economic, social and political issues.	Close to conservative Isargaran political group, however, it became closer to President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad after Isargaran distanced itself from his administration during the 2008 Majles election.	The administration and the Majles.	Hardline conservative pro-regime readers.	20,000
	TEHRAN-E EMRUZ	Ownership: Private Date Founded: 2006 Proprietor: Sima-ye Mehr-e Hasti Institute Managing Editor: Mohammad Reza Zakeri Editor-in-Chief: Arash Khoshkhu Website: http://tehrroz.com/	Cultural, economic, social, and political issues.	Tehran Mayor Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf is a member of the board of directors of the company that owns the daily. <i>Tehran-e Emruz</i> supports him and Tehran Municipality. The daily was once banned from May 2008 to February 2009 for criticizing President Ahmadinezhad's policies.	<i>Tehran-e Emruz</i> has demonstrated its insider's access to large parts of Iran's power structure through its coverage of political and economic matters.	Frequent links to this daily's political and, particularly, cultural and economic reports in Iranian social media could indicate influence among young and intellectual readers.	60,000 - 100,000
	VATAN-E EMRUZ	Ownership: Public - Iran Khodro Corp. Date Founded: 2008 Proprietor: Mehrdad Bazrpash Managing Editor: Mehrdad Bazrpash Editor-in-Chief: Reza Shakibai Website: http://www.vatanemrooz.ir	Political, cultural, social, and economic issues.	President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad's Good Scent of Service group.	Administration and state-owned industries.	New daily, yet to be determined.	60,000 - 100,000

1-Green shading denote media with ideologically conservative tendencies. Purple shading indicate pro-reform orientation.

2- Foundation dates as indicated by Iran's Culture Ministry. URLs valid on 6 May 2010.

3- As declared on masthead; and indicated by analysis of the content.

4- Affiliation gleaned from analysis of the backgrounds and careers of managing editors, editors-in-chief and key journalists as well as information appearing in the publications.

5- Based on analysis of affiliation, content, coverage, exclusive news and interviews.

6- Based on analysis of readers' letters and comments, other journalists' comments and OSC observation.

7- Unofficial figures from the Tehran Newspaper Distribution Center, a private trade union of newspaper sellers.