



Lockdown 3.0: which streaming service is best for you?

In the year when businesses, shops and schools closed their doors for months, and the ability to enjoy life outside dwindled, one service remained a constant coping mechanism for many.

Streaming.

Netflix, Prime Video, Disney+. Whichever takes your fancy, it is no argument that streaming services have seen more than their fair share of usage over the past 12 months. Curling up with a film, stand-up set or documentary has been perfect escapism when the world around us is apocalyptic.

Though, many of us decided watching a flu epidemic unfold in the 2011 film *'Contagion'* was the way forward. BuzzFeed News reported that it went from the 270th most-watched Warner Bros. film in December 2019 to their 2nd most-watched film in March 2020.

When we weren't addictively consuming more and more news ('doomscrolling' according to the Collins Dictionary), we were racking up the hours on Netflix.

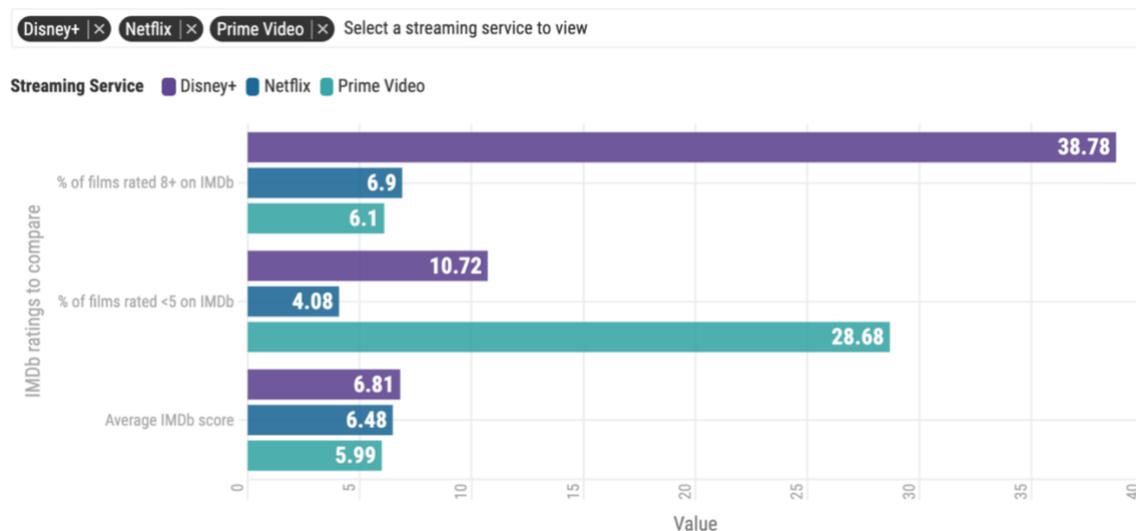
It's possible to punctuate the pandemic according to what the population was binging. Most recently, the Christmas that Covid almost ruined will be remembered as the time '*Bridgerton*' elegantly swooped into our lives.

Netflix filled our lockdown lives so much so that they have vowed to release a new original film every month this year to keep their growing audiences entertained.

But is it worth the cost? Let's take a look.

I decided to look at Netflix, Prime Video and Disney+ and cross-referenced each film (as of 2020) on IMDb to see which streaming site favours the critically acclaimed films.

Graph to show the IMDb ratings of films on each streaming service



Source: <https://www.kaggle.com/ruchi798/movies-on-netflix-prime-video-hulu-and-disney>

It's close but, Disney+ comes out on top for the average IMDb rating of all films on its service with 6.81 out of 10.

Netflix has a respectable 6.48 but Prime Video comes in last place with 5.99.

Interesting.

What about 'bad' films? Well, almost 30% of the films on Prime Video are rated less than 5 on IMDb. Netflix has the fewest films in that category – only 4%.

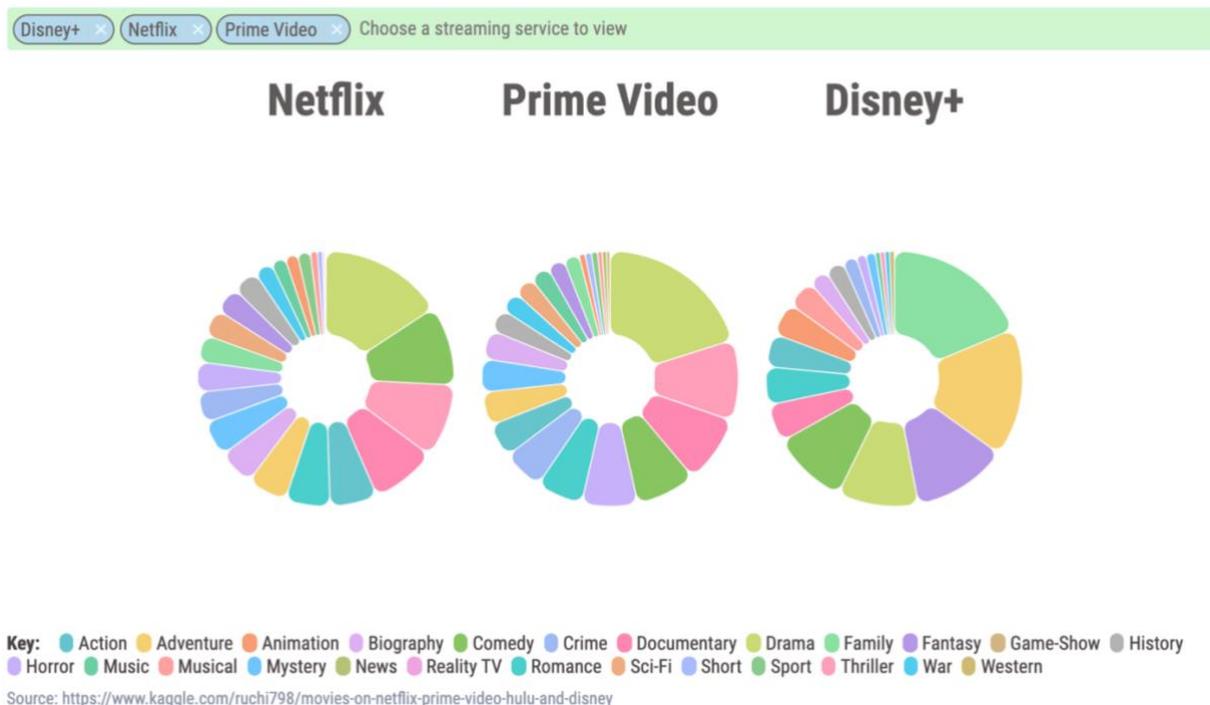
Disney+ has the highest percentage of its films rated higher than 8/10. Not surprising when it boasts classics like *'The Lion King.'*

Of course, it is worth considering the fact that Prime Video has thousands of titles – the most of any service – so perhaps a few underwhelming films are to be expected.

IMDb scores are based on critics' reviews so, if you're not into critically acclaimed films, I also analysed the genres available on each service so you can find whatever you're into.

You're welcome.

Pie charts to show the genres each streaming service favours



If you love highly rated films for the family, Disney+ is the way forward.

Not your thing? Well, if it's drama you're looking for, Netflix and Prime Video both love this genre.

Boris' lockdown announcements getting you down? Fancy a laugh? Comedy is most commonly found on Netflix.

Timings

Prime Video and Disney+ are a little evasive about how many hours of content they have because it changes quite frequently with new releases.

Netflix on the other hand boasts around 36,000 hours of content. If you sat down to watch everything on there, it would take you FOUR YEARS. That's the whole of Biden's presidency.

Neat.

Other factors

Of course, it's not just about how many highly rated films there are. It's also worth considering the actual content.

Netflix is renowned for having some cracking original series and films which some would argue is worth paying for.

Prime Video also loves an original series like '*The Boys*' - a fan favourite super-hero drama.

Disney+ is home to '*The Mandalorian*' so if you love *Star Wars*, that's the service for you.

It's worth looking into, depending on your interests, to find which service will have you sailing through lockdown 3.0.

Prices

Now here's the section you really care about. Post-Christmas, purse-strings collectively tighten and we're all about value for money.

Practically speaking, here are the costs:

Disney+ - £5.99 p/month

Prime Video - £7.99 p/month

Netflix - £13.99 p/month

Netflix have rather depressingly decided to hike their prices up as of January 2021.

Nick Baker, from Uswitch, observed that the increase is coming at a time when people are reliant on streaming services.

“Netflix has been a lifeline for many people during lockdown, so this price rise is an unwanted extra expense for households feeling the financial pressure,” he said.

“It’s unfortunate timing that this price hike coincides with another national lockdown, when all of us will be streaming more television and films than ever.”

Preach, Nick Baker.

Rather inconvenient timing from Netflix.

But, don’t forget that although Prime Video is cheaper, not all titles are included in the monthly subscription cost. Lots are free to watch but some films cost between £3-15 to rent or buy.

Verdict

Look, I’m not going to tell you how to live your life. But if you want my advice, sign up for the free one-month trials on each service and see which one you’re the most glued to.

Netflix, on average, has highly rated films with a wide variety of genres but, obviously, if you’re all about the childhood nostalgia, Disney+ is the way forward. If you think Jeff Bezos deserves a few extra quid and you fancy watching an awful cult classic immediately after ‘*Knives Out*’, then Prime is the one for you.

Which service do you prefer? Let us know in the comments.