

The Oklahoma Film Enhancement Rebate Program

Overview and Economic Impact of the Oklahoma TV + Film Industry FY15-FY21

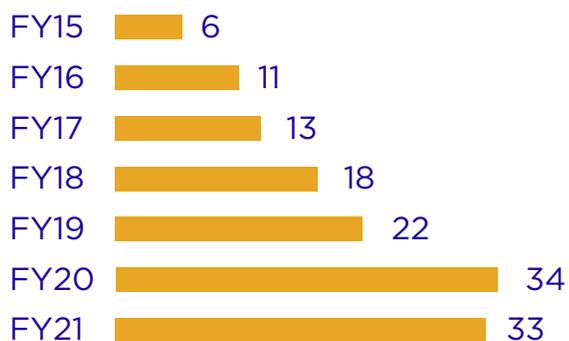
Created February 3, 2021

Oklahoma Legislative History

- In 2001, Oklahoma was one of the first states to establish a local film incentive as a method of dissuading studios and filmmakers from taking their projects (and money) to Canada after the Canadian government introduced a national incentive in 1995. Over the next 12 years, Oklahoma hosted 21 movie productions.
- In 2014, Oklahoma renewed its film incentive program for a ten-year period. This gave incoming productions the assurance of certainty and set up the Oklahoma film industry to attract long-term businesses.
- Since 2014, each year has brought more productions to Oklahoma than the previous year, for a total of 140 productions. While 2020 was challenging for many industries, Governor Kevin Stitt declared the motion picture and recording industries to be essential businesses, which allowed our office to host 33 productions in 2020 during a global pandemic, with over a dozen more slated to film in 2021.
- In addition to the lineup of films in 2021, there are close to 30 project applications on a waitlist for the film rebate that would offer an additional \$125M in direct in-state spending, however, these projects have not been able to be approved due to current funding constraints.
- The past few months have brought very exciting new film infrastructure developments to Oklahoma:
 - In the fall of 2020, Green Pastures Studios and the Oklahoma Film and Television Academy opened in Spencer, Oklahoma. Located on a 12-acre campus, their facilities include sound stages, standing sets and training courses to meet the growing demand of Oklahoma's film industry.
 - In 2021, Prairie Surf Media launched Prairie Surf Studios, which is a 1.3M square foot facility in the middle of downtown Oklahoma City. Prairie Surf Studios meets every production's needs with 140,000 square feet of clearspan soundstages and endless production support.
- The rebate program has currently exceeded every expectation of growth, and will continue to be a source of expanding infrastructure, jobs and money in the Oklahoma economy as long as it has room to grow.

Over \$250 Million Spent in Oklahoma

Number of Productions by Fiscal Year
(FY21 runs through June 30, 2021)

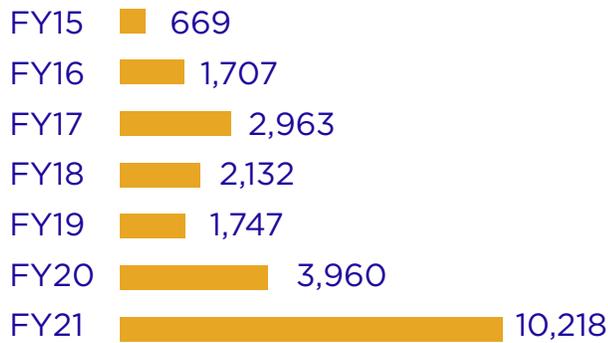


Total Direct Spend by Year
(includes wages, goods, and services)

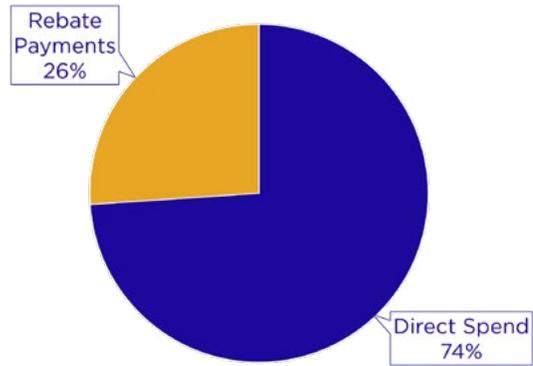


Millions of dollars flow into the Oklahoma economy each year through incoming film productions. These dollars are spent across the state and at a variety of businesses, including hotels, antique stores, lumber mills, restaurants, clothing and retail stores, travel agencies, recording studios and more. Below, the pie chart shows direct spend vs. rebate payments. On average, films receive their rebate payment a year or two after they have spent their money in Oklahoma.

Total Number of Jobs by Fiscal Year



Direct Spending vs. Rebate Payments



In addition to pumping millions of dollars into the Oklahoma economy, the film incentive has created thousands of part-time and full-time jobs for Oklahoma residents. Fiscal year 20 saw over 900 production days and almost 4,000 total hires. The total wages for that year alone were nearly \$19 million, and fiscal year 21 is already projected to see over \$100 million in total wages for over 650 production days. Money from the film industry also supports a wide variety of local [businesses and film support services](#).

The film industry is unique in its ability to reach across multiple fields of employment. Below are just a few examples of jobs that are needed in the film industry. For more information, [find a comprehensive list of film and television careers here](#).

- Hairstylist
- Truck Driver
- Accountant
- Art Director
- Welder
- Construction Foreman
- Caterer
- Electrician
- Location Manager
- Tailor/Seamstress
- Musician/Composer
- Animator
- Office Clerk
- Set Medic
- Hair Stylist
- Pyro Technician
- Mechanic
- Makeup Artist
- Photographer
- Painter
- Animal Wrangler
- Graphic Designer
- Lawyer
- Transportation Dispatcher
- Stunt Coordinator
- Set Designer
- Choreographer

Rural and Urban Oklahoma Impacted

In addition to reaching across industries, the film industry is widespread in its impact across the entire state. Since 2015, at least 125 cities in over 50 counties were locally impacted as film locations in Oklahoma. That means that local businesses across the state had the chance to be involved in this thriving industry.

With the creation of the Oklahoma Film Friendly Community Program, the Oklahoma Film + Music Office seeks to help communities develop the necessary permits and protocol to address film and television production in their areas. It is our goal to establish certified Film Friendly communities in all 77 Oklahoma counties that can assist film and television production companies on a local level, so that everyone who chooses may be represented in this booming industry. To learn more, visit the [Oklahoma Film Friendly Community Program](#) page on our website.



For more information about the economic impact of the Oklahoma film industry, visit okfilmmusic.org/economicimpact.