



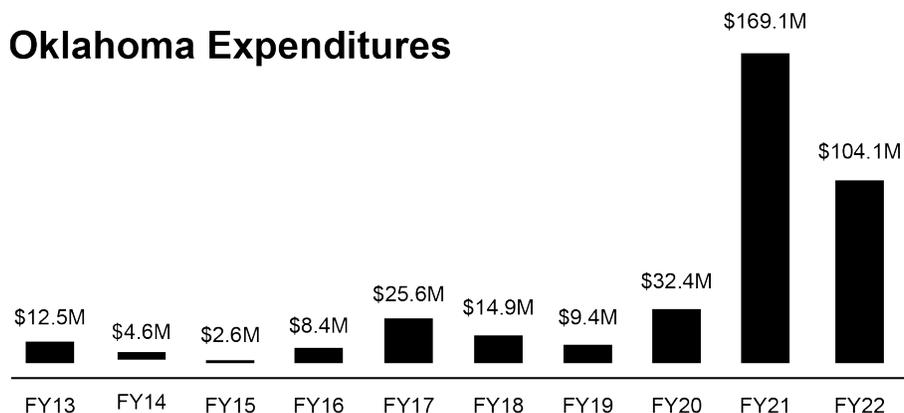
Overview and Economic Impact of the Oklahoma TV + Film Industries FY13-FY22

Revised September 23, 2022

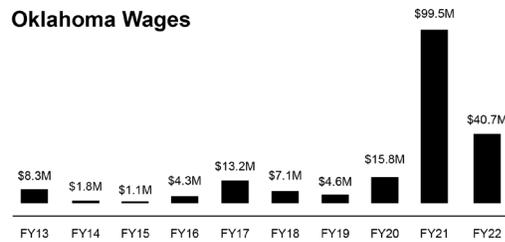
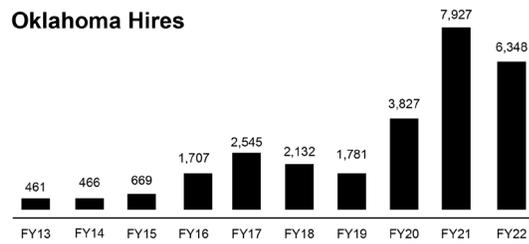
Our History

- 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 year before it for a total of 140 productions. While last year 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 34 productions in FY20 during a global pandemic and brought in almost \$32 million to the state.
- The last two years have brought very exciting new film infrastructure developments to Oklahoma. In the fall of 2020, Green Pastures Studios opened. Located on a 12-acre campus, their facilities include sound stages, standing sets, and a commercial-grade kitchen. In 2021, Prairie Surf Media launched Prairie Surf Studios, which is 1.3M square feet in the middle of Downtown Oklahoma City. Prairie Surf Studios meets every production need with 140,000 square feet of clearspan soundstages, endless production support, mill space, attached hotels, commercial grade kitchen, base camp, and parking. Additionally, in 2021 the Cherokee Nation Film Office opened their 27,000 square foot Soundstage in Owasso, Oklahoma. In 2022, Castle Row Studios became the fourth Oklahoma Certified Soundstage. Located just minutes from the heart of Downtown OKC, this 10,600 square foot facility boasts 3 recording studios, a live performance venue, as well as numerous multi-purpose production rooms.
- In May of 2021, the Filmed in Oklahoma Act of 2021 was signed by Governor Kevin Stitt. This law created a new rebate program and raised the annual cap from \$8 million to \$30 million. The new rebate program is designed with a base of up to 20% and several opportunities for film projects to receive rebate percentage uplifts up to 38% by meeting different criteria designed to promote economic impact across the state and foster infrastructure and workforce development. With a sunset date in 2031, the 10-year program marks a new chapter in Oklahoma film and has set up the state for a successful future decade of growth.

Over \$250 Million Spent in Oklahoma



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.



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. FY20 saw over 900 production days and over 3,700 total hires. The total wages for that year alone were nearly \$18 million, and fiscal year 21 has been projected to see nearly \$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, check out our comprehensive list of film and television careers [here](#).

- Mechanic
- Truck Driver
- Electrician
- Painter
- Welder
- Construction Foreman
- Animal Trainer
- Accountant
- Location Manager
- Tailor/Seamstress
- Musician/Composer
- Animator
- Office Clerk
- Set Medic
- Sound Mixer
- Pyro Technician
- Art Director
- Makeup Artist
- Photographer
- Hair Stylist
- Caterer
- 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 130 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.

Our office has created a Film Friendly certification program 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 about our Film Friendly program, visit our [Film Friendly Resources](#) page.



For more information about the economic impact of the Oklahoma film industry, please visit <https://okfilmmusic.org/economicimpact/>