

Record-breaking Year for Ontario's Film and Television Industry

More than 340 productions help boost economy and create jobs for the province

NEWS

February 28, 2020

TORONTO — Ontario's film and television industry had a record-breaking year in 2019, with 343 productions bringing in \$2.16 billion in production spending for the economy and supporting 44,540 full-time equivalent direct and spin-off jobs. This represents an increase in production by almost 15 per cent from 2018 and more than 7,500 new jobs for Ontarians.

Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries joined award-winning actress Wendy Crewson, award-winning director Sergio Navarretta, as well as industry leaders Jim Mirkopoulos (Cinespace Toronto), Justin Cutler (Ontario Creates), Theresa Tova (ACTRA), Peggy Kyriakidou and Jayson Mosek (UNIFOR), Angela Mastronardi and Monty Montgomerie (IATSE), and Michael Cerenzie and Jonathan Ahee (Stratagem Group) earlier this week to discuss the results.

"Ontario is open for business, open for jobs, and open to the film and television industry," said Minister MacLeod. "These results show that we're building a business-friendly climate where production companies and production service companies can grow."

"In 2020, we are continuing to work with Ontario Creates and the industry to ensure producers at home and around the globe know that there's no better place to create content than right here in Ontario," added MacLeod.

Ontario is a leader in domestic film and television production, and is home to a booming foreign production sector. The economic and employment benefits of Ontario's vibrant film and television industry are felt across the province, with popular and critically acclaimed productions like *Cardinal* and *Letterkenny* produced in Northern Ontario; *Hilda* in Ottawa; and *Workin' Moms*, *Kim's Convenience* and *Star Trek: Discovery* in the Greater Toronto Area. *The Umbrella Academy*, *Schitt's Creek* and many others are filmed across Central and Southwestern Ontario.

"The government's commitment to growing Ontario's film and television industry means big business for Ontario and a globally competitive production scene," says Karen Thorne-Stone, President & CEO, Ontario Creates. "Our suite of financial incentives, over 10,000 locations, world-class crews, diverse talent, award-winning post-production facilities, and expanding studio space are a huge draw for producers from Canada, the U.S. and around the world."

QUICK FACTS

- There was a healthy balance between domestic and foreign production in 2019, with \$1.1 billion in foreign production and \$1 billion in domestic production.
- Jobs created by film and TV production in the province include: technicians (such as lighting, make-up, carpenters, set designers, set dressers and wardrobe experts), production

managers and coordinators, location managers, craft services, post-production experts, accountants, performers and drivers.

- Ontario offers tax credits to support film and television production. These incentives play an important role in increasing economic activity and job creation in Ontario while also enhancing the province's cultural profile.
- In February 2020, the government announced a [Ministers' Film and Television Advisory Panel](#) which will provide evidence and advice to the government on industry trends, challenges and opportunities to grow high-value film and television production in Ontario and maximize benefits for the province.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Ontario Creates](#)

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Ontario Film and Television Production 2017 - 2019

By Format (Production \$ = millions of dollars)	2019 as at Dec. 31, 2019		2018 as at Dec. 31, 2018		2017 as at Dec. 31, 2017	
	Number of Projects	Production \$ left in Ontario	Number of Projects	Production \$ left in Ontario	Number of Projects	Production \$ left in Ontario
	Domestic					
Feature Film	58	144.0	50	132.1	38	80.6
Television Series ¹	117	815.7	118	645.2	120	622.7
Television Movies, Mini-series, Specials, Pilots ²	86	85.1	62	69.9	76	69.6
Total Domestic	261	1,044.8	230	847.2	234	772.9
Foreign						
Feature Film	11	46.1	30	231.8	23	121.9
Television Series ¹	49	946.9	43	715.9	53	653.3
Television Movies, Mini-series, Specials, Pilots ²	22	127.1	21	95.6	13	46.3
Total Foreign	82	1,120.1	94	1,043.2	89	821.6
TOTAL	343	2,164.9	324	1,890.4	323	1,594.5

Animation vs. Live Action

Domestic						
Animation	19	136.3	13	80.4	13	67.9
Live Action	242	908.5	217	766.8	221	704.9
Total Domestic	261	1,044.8	230	847.2	234	772.9
Foreign						
Animation	13	69.6	13	35.7	17	69.7
Live Action	69	1,050.5	81	1,007.6	72	751.8
Total Foreign	82	1,120.1	94	1,043.2	89	821.6
TOTAL	343	2,164.9	324	1,890.4	323	1,594.4

Production Statistics for the industry are generated annually by Ontario Creates. Data represents expenditures of all productions using Ontario Creates-administered incentives and services including Film Fund, Tax Credits and Film Commission. Data does not include television commercials, corporate videos, music videos, or broadcaster in-house production. Data reflects 2019 production spend (labour, goods and services) in Ontario only, which may not be the total project budget. There may be productions that shot in Ontario that are not included in these totals due to the timing of project applications.

All dollar figures are in millions of Canadian dollars. Dollar figures have not been adjusted for inflation. Totals may not add due to rounding.

¹ The number of television series does not include cycles which began production in the previous year.

² Productions with fewer than six episodes.

Notes

- Ontario's film and TV industry contributed a record-breaking \$2.16 billion to Ontario's economy in 2019, creating 44,540 high-value full-time equivalent direct and spin-off jobs for Ontarians.
- In 2019, film and television production in Ontario increased 14.5% over 2018, contributing \$2.16 billion to Ontario's economy; the number of jobs increased by 20%, 7,508 over the previous year.
- 2019 was a strong year for domestic film and television production, contributing \$1.0 billion, an increase of 23.3% over 2018. These figures demonstrate that Ontario Creates is helping build a strong industry for productions of all sizes with a healthy balance between domestic and foreign production.
- Domestic television series production was robust in 2019, with 117 productions contributing \$815.7 million in expenditures (an increase of 26% over expenditures of \$645.2 million in 2018).
- Foreign production remained strong and stable in 2019, with expenditures increasing slightly to \$1.1 billion. Growth was led by a strong television industry, with foreign feature film production returning to more typical numbers after a boom year in 2018, reflecting the changing face of the industry and increased demand for television content.
- Animated production increased in 2019. Domestic animated production expenditures increased nearly 70%, to \$136.3 million from \$80.4 million in 2018, representing 19 animated productions. Foreign animation accounted for \$69.6 million in 2019, returning to 2017 levels after a dip in 2018.
- Made-in-Ontario animated productions included: PAW PATROL, HILDA AND LAST KIDS ON EARTH, and CURIOUS GEORGE.
- Big spending is happening on television series, reflecting the changing face of the industry as audience demand for television series outpaces feature film. Notable foreign series produced in Ontario include: STAR TREK: DISCOVERY, UMBRELLA ACADEMY, THE BOYS, TITANS, THE HANDMAID'S TALE, AMERICAN GODS, CONDOR, DESIGNATED SURVIVOR, GRAND ARMY, RUN and JUPITER'S LEGACY.
- Ontario-made television series are becoming international commercial and critical success stories including: ANNE WITH AN E, CARDINAL, FRANKIE DRAKE MYSTERIES, KIM'S CONVENIENCE, SCHITT'S CREEK, PRIVATE EYES, TALLBOYZ and ODD SQUAD MOBILE UNIT.
- Film and television production is active throughout the province, creating jobs and economic impact for local suppliers, vendors and talent. Many productions are filmed in more than one place in Ontario, including Toronto and other cities or town. Examples include (*alpha order* **Cambridge** (THE HANDMAID'S TALE, MADAM CJ WALKER, THE GOOD WITCH, HARDY BOYS, THE QUEEN'S GAMBIT, FRANKIE DRAKE, ANNE WITH AN E and IN THE DARK; **Durham Region** (AMERICAN GODS season 3, CORONER season 2, TITANS, ANNE WITH AN E, SCHITT'S CREEK, THE HANDMAID'S TALE, SECRET SOCIETY OF SECOND BORN ROYALS, MADAM C.J. WALKER, SPINNING OUT, and FALLING); **Hamilton** (UMBRELLA ACADEMY, MRS. AMERICA, JUPITER'S LEGACY, STARDUST [David Bowie bio], TITANS, LOCKE AND KEY); **Kingston** (DC'S TITANS, MURDOCH MYSTERIES and STAR TREK: DISCOVERY); **Mississauga** (V WARS, SELF-MADE, DESIGNATED SURVIVOR, DARE ME, SHADOWHUNTERS, TITANS, IN THE DARK, and THE BOYS); **North Bay** (CARDINAL); and **Ottawa** (CURIOUS GEORGE, THE LAST KIDS ON EARTH, HILDA were all animated in Ottawa.)
- Ontario's world-class post-production facilities and VFX studios boast incredible creative and technical talent who have worked on impressive series and features, such as: UMBRELLA ACADEMY, SEE, MOTHERLESS BROOKLIN, ZOMBIELAND – DOUBLE TAP, LOCKE AND KEY, SPINNING OUT, IN THE SHADOW OF THE MOON, HOLLY HOBBIE and QUEEN AND SLIM.
- Announcements made in 2018 regarding 1.8 million square ft. of studio space expansion in 2019 and 2020 are providing the opportunity for the sector to attract increased levels of production spending and jobs to the province, with 711,000 sq. ft. already online and open for business.
- Ontario Creates Film Fund recipients such as POSSESSOR (D. Brandon Cronenberg), FALLING (D. Viggo Mortensen) and CASTLE IN THE GROUND (D. Joey Klein) were celebrated at key international film festivals such as Sundance and TIFF, while other recently completed projects are primed to hit the world stage, including NIGHT RAIDERS (International coproduction with New Zealand) and BROKEN HEART GALLERY (from the producing team that made ROOM).