

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



**Governor's Office of
Economic Opportunity**



Yellowstone Season 1 (2018), Paramount Network

Film Production

The Utah Film Commission plays a vital role in the success of the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity by promoting the state as a destination for film, television, and commercial production. Film production creates jobs in the creative sector while supporting local businesses and encouraging tourism across the state.

In March 2022, the Legislature amended the current Utah Motion Picture Incentive Program (MPIP). This revised program is designed to attract higher-impact film and television productions to Utah's rural communities, adding additional tax credits available for productions that shoot at least 75% of their production days

in a rural county. The rural component of the MPIP will allocate an additional \$12 million in tax credits each year for the next two years.

The focus on film production in rural Utah is already demonstrating success. In June 2022, the Go Utah Board approved 13 productions for film incentives, six filming exclusively in rural Utah, with an overall estimated economic impact of \$142.5 million.

Film production continues to be a reliable economic driver that impacts the entire state. In the last five years, Utah's film incentive generated \$614 million in net output. Nearly

half (49%) was from direct spending in the industry, while a further \$143 million was created in the supply chain and \$170 million through the subsequent wage effects. A 2021 study from Olsberg SPI commissioned by the Motion Picture Association of Utah revealed and outlined how valuable Utah film production has been to the state. The study found that for each tax dollar spent on the tax credit, Utah's economy receives \$7.

The Utah Film Commission also serves as a liaison to the broader entertainment industry by supporting local film events and working with higher education to create workforce training opportunities around the state.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- \$4.8 million in state film incentives was awarded during the past 12 months to 13 productions shooting in Utah, including a mix of local and out-of-state feature films and TV series, yielding a total estimated spend of \$32.8 million.
- 44% of all state filming locations are in rural counties.
- Six Utah communities are certified as Film Ready Utah to support film productions and enable economic impact across communities, including Cedar City, Kanab/ Kane County, Moab to Monument Valley, Ogden, Park City, and Utah Valley.
- Over 150 people participated in workshops and educational programming supporting Utah crews' workforce development.
- A 2021 SMARI study estimated \$600 million per year in film-motivated tourist spending in Utah over 10 years, with 30% of visitors indicating that a film or television series was among the primary motivators for visiting a particular destination in the state.



High School Musical (2006), Disney Channel



Westworld Season 1 (2016), HBO

Motion Picture Tax Credit

U.C.A. 63N-8-101

The Motion Picture Tax Credit promotes using Utah locations, crew, and resources by film productions. It also provides incentives that allow Utah to develop a strong motion picture industry and compete with other states as a filming and production destination. The program receives annual funds of \$6.79 million in tax credits and an additional \$12 million in tax credits specifically for productions that film in a rural county (see page 38 for more information).



**Governor's Office of
Economic Opportunity**

World Trade Center at City Creek

60 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE, SUITE 300
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84111-1004

1 801 538 8680
business.utah.gov
[@BusinessUtah](https://twitter.com/BusinessUtah)