BUILDING NEW YORK'S VISUAL MEDIA INDUSTRY FOR THE DIGITAL AGE

Findings and Recommendations

June 2000

Prepared by
THE BOSTON CONSULTING GROUP
at the request of the
NEW YORK CITY INVESTMENT FUND and
NEW YORK CITY COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE

with support from MAYOR'S OFFICE OF FILM, THEATRE AND BROADCASTING

NEW YORK STATE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR MOTION PICTURE AND TELEVISION DEVELOPMENT

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by

The Boston Consulting Group, Inc. 135 East 57th Street New York, NY 10022

June 6, 2000

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Executive summary

Media industry baseline analysis

Situational analysis - driving to recommendations

Recommendations

Appendix

- Baseline analysis
- NY Film Commission incentives

NEW YORK MEDIA PROJECT MISSION STATEMENT

Visual media is rapidly evolving and is among the most important economic sectors for New York, in terms of job generation and contribution to the local economy

Other localities are aggressively seeking to attract production business from New York

The purpose of this study is threefold: first, to quantify the baseline; second, to assess New York's competitive position; and third, to determine what New York needs to do to support and expand its position as a center of film, television, commercial and digital media production in the digital age

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND APPROACH

Objectives

- 1. Determine importance of the media industry to New York economy
 - Size the baseline
- 2. Define and understand the location decision making process
- 3. Assess New York's competitive position compared to other localities
- 4. Recommend opportunities to maximize New York's competitive position

Approach

Interviews

 With key participants in the media industry subsectors

Desk research

- Leverage current data through SIC filings, tax records, and other internal studies
- Launch new analysis where appropriate

Joint teams

 Project teams comprised of resources from BCG and public and private entities

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

New York's traditional media business creates substantial numbers of jobs and income

- Our full survey of all aspects of media spending, from pre to post-production and in all types of media, shows that traditional media direct spending is about \$5.0 billion per year, and total direct and indirect spending is about \$10 billion⁽¹⁾
- Traditional media accounts for over 70,000 jobs in New York City

Recent surveys show that digital media accounts for 100,000 jobs in New York City⁽²⁾

Digital media also contributes about \$5.0 billion to New York City

The study shows that New York has been successful in New Media in part because of its historical strength in traditional media

• The two types of media industries fuel each other

The study recommends that New York should take steps to ensure the continued growth and success of these two essential industries

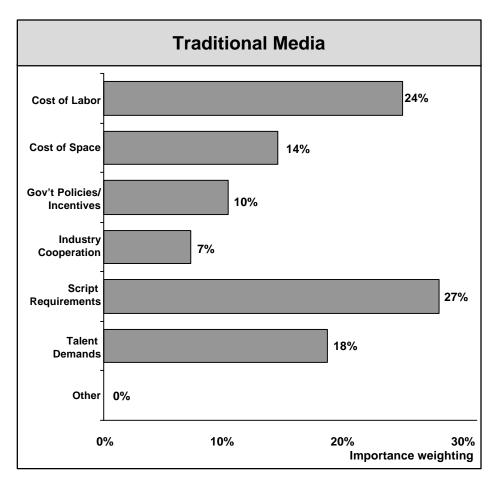
- Attract production & develop space for traditional media and wired office space for digital media
- Encourage government incentives, policies and priorities that target traditional and digital media
- Focus on all stages of production and ensure cooperation between traditional and digital media

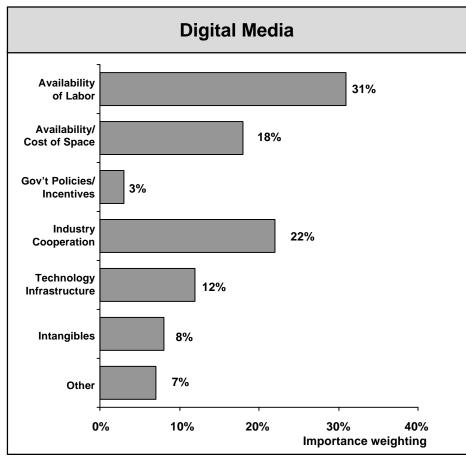
Organizations supporting traditional media and digital media will join forces to work together to strengthen both media

⁽¹⁾ Assumes multiplier of 2.0, (The previously reported figures of \$2.5 billion in direct spending was based on permitted production only rather than the full media industry in New York City)

⁽²⁾ NYNMA/PwC study, BCG analysis

TRADITIONAL AND DIGITAL MEDIA SECTORS CHOOSE PRODUCTION LOCATIONS BASED UPON DIFFERENT CRITERIA





Opportunity to exploit New York strengths and craft recommendations around core needs

NEW YORK CITY WELL POSITIONED FOR TRADITIONAL AND DIGITAL MEDIA

Summary of Industry Interviews

New York's position

	Traditional Media	Digital Media
Strengths	Acting pool depth and expertise Crew depth and expertise International production center • Creative and crafts communities • Production facilities, goods and services Script requirements Talent demands	Concentrated presence of industry participants (e.g., advertising, finance, publishing, broadcast television, etc.) Technology infrastructure Intangibles (e.g., "coolness" factor, Internet industry epicenter, etc.)
Challenges	Some other localities very aggressive in providing direct subsidies Cost position Labor and space	Availability of skilled labor Availability/cost of space Leveraging potential for industry cooperation

However, both sectors at risk without public and private support

Back-up

INTERVIEW PROGRAM INCLUDED OVER 60 KEY INDUSTRY PLAYERS

Decision Makers as Well as Labor, Vendors, Education and Government

Decision makers	Labor	Vendors	Education and Government
16 Features producers	4 Major Labor participants	9 Vendor participants	5 Education and Government participants
14 Television producers			participants
6 Commercial producers			
8 Digital Media executives			

KEY ACTION: MAKE NY THE EAST COAST MEDIA ZONE

Focus on Public/Private Partnership and Convergence of Traditional and Digital Media

Create districts throughout New York City that anchor an East Coast *Media Zone,* providing a "critical mass" of facilities and talent for film, television and broadband production

- Support development of production and space for Traditional Media and wired office space for Digital Media
- Encourage government incentives, policies and priorities that target Traditional and Digital Media
- Focus on all stages of production and ensure cooperation between Traditional and Digital Media

Foundation #1

Encourage concentrated real estate and infrastructure development to meet industry needs

- Create professional, affordable space for features and television
- Continue and expand efforts to make public property available to producers at low cost
- Encourage concentrated development of office space for Digital Media
- Ensure appropriate communication and electrical infrastructure

Foundation #2

Promote investment in education and public/private cooperation to prepare a workforce that can meet industry needs

- Expand the technically proficient workforce through education programs
- Help educational institutions benefit from (and sustain) current NY position

Foundation #3

Convene industry groups and others in a Visual Media Consortium

- Expand efforts of private sector organizations focused on industry needs and issues
- Monitor NY's competitiveness with other localities

Foundation #4

Launch joint industry/public sector marketing campaign to promote New York's commitment to the industry and underscore efforts to link digital and traditional media

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BASELINESummary

New York's traditional media business creates substantial numbers of jobs and income

- Our full survey of all aspects of media spending, from pre to post-production and in all types of media, shows that traditional media direct spending is about \$5.0 billion per year, and total direct and indirect spending is about \$10 billion⁽¹⁾
- Traditional media accounts for over 70,000 jobs in New York City

New York's overall media business contributes ~ \$10 billion directly to the city economy based on the full survey and other recent studies (2)

Both types of media helped sustain substantial numbers of jobs in 1999 to New York City

- Traditional Media production and corporate headquarters contributed 70,000 jobs
- Digital Media contributed approximately 100,000 jobs⁽²⁾

In terms of Traditional Media value chain, production (principal photography) accounts for lion's share of spending at 80%

• Pre-production approximately 10% and post-production approximately 10%

Among the Traditional Media sectors, features and television each represent approximately 40% of dollar spending

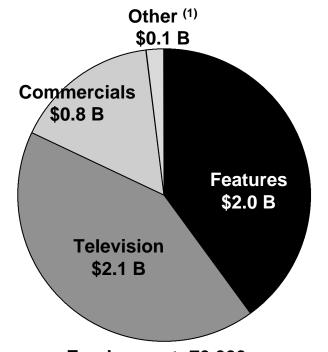
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⁽¹⁾ Assumes multiplier of 2.0

⁽²⁾ NYNMA/PwC study, BCG analysis

MEDIA PRODUCTION CONTRIBUTES SIGNIFICANT VALUE TO THE NEW YORK ECONOMY

Traditional media spending by category



Employment: 70,000

Spending: \$5 Billion

Need to ensure media production remains and grows in New York

Source: BCG analysis

⁽¹⁾ Other includes student films, industrial films, music videos, documentaries

TRADITIONAL MEDIA METHODOLOGY LEVERAGES THREE APPROACHES TO ESTIMATE SPENDING AND EMPLOYMENT

Dollar Spend Employment

Method 1

Method 2

Method 3

Current methodology

 Build off of existing data ⁽¹⁾ to estimate full production value chain, including pre/post production, non-permitted commercial shooting

Sample Budgets

 Estimated spending through analysis of sample budgets

MPAA approach

 Determine payroll spend and use to estimate total industry spend

Top down approach

Analyze union and payroll company employment data

Sample budgets

• Utilize average employment figures from sample budgets

Standard Industrial Classification Code (SIC)

Analyze statistical data reported by media companies

Approach broadens activity space and leverages existing data

• Analyze entire production value chain

(1) Annual statistics from NYC Mayor's Office of Film, Theatre and Broadcasting for principal photography location days

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SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Three Factors Considered in Designing Recommendations

Needs of media sectors in deciding upon a location

- Traditional Media needs both shooting locations and production office space
- Digital Media values availability of labor/talent, industry cluster advantages and availability/cost of space

New York's comparative positioning vs. other locations

What can be leveraged, where do we have advantage?

Focus on enhancing NY's competitive position in light of challenges

SECTOR NEEDS DRIVE LOCATION OF PRODUCTION Summary

Traditional Media location decisions are driven by cost, script requirements and talent preferences

 Generally, in absence of unique script or talent situation, cost will be main driver of decision

Within Traditional Media, features, television and commercials value the three main criteria differently

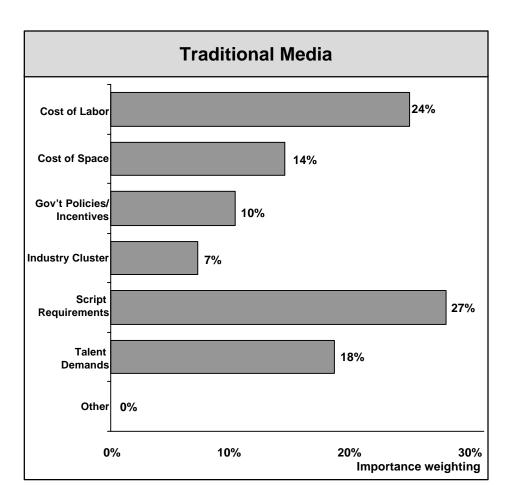
 In general, as budgets get smaller for television movies and commercials, cost becomes more important in location decisions

Digital Media values availability of labor, industry cluster advantages and availability/cost of space

Access to talent is primary concern

COST, SCRIPT REQUIREMENTS AND TALENT DEMANDS DRIVE LOCATION

Interview Findings



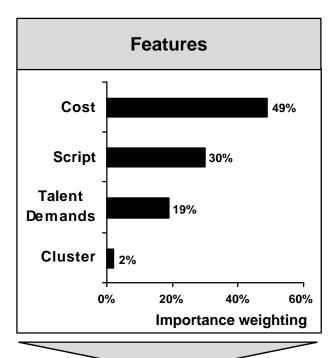
Cost considerations

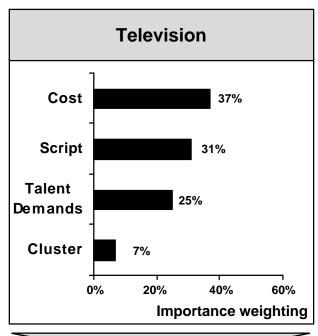
- "Cost Consultants have boiled everything down to the bottom line. Budgets are set and it is up to us to meet the cost requirements."
 - Commercial Producer

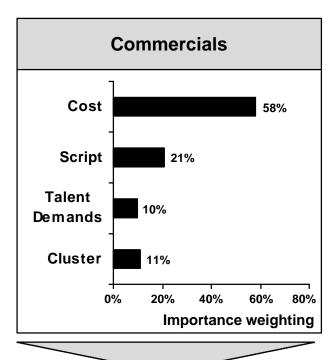
Script and talent demands

- "50% of scripts already have a star or director attached to them, and will be driven by artistic requirements and star demands [intangibles]. The 50% of scripts without talent attached will be more cost driven."
 - Feature Film Producer

CRITERIA WEIGHTINGS VARY BY SECTOR







"Location decisions tend to be a trade-off between costs, script and talent ... a script can drive the decisions as can A-list talent, but without those factors, cost will be the primary concern."

- Features Producer

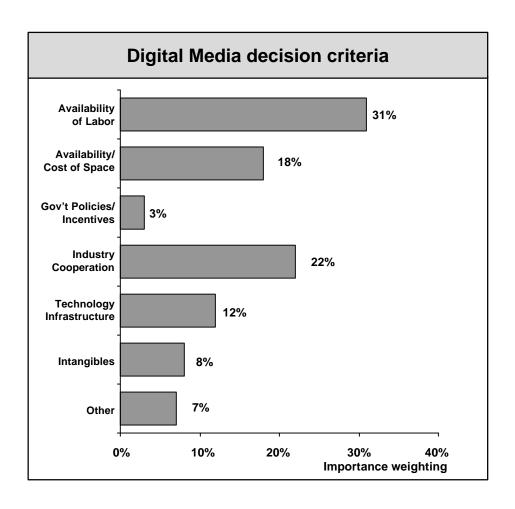
"Our incentive is to make shows as cheaply as possible so the studio's risk is minimized. However, there are certain things that I won't compromise on, like the energy of a location which you can't fake."

- Television Producer

"It's all about costs. Clients have become much more savvy regarding marketing spend, and they drive the decisions because they pay the bills."

- Commercial Producer

DIGITAL MEDIA LOCATION DECISIONS DRIVEN LARGELY BY ACCESS TO TALENT



Ability to hire talent a key concern

- "Once you have recruited the talent, it is easier to get the rest done."
 - Animation Producer
- "My biggest challenge is finding enough people on a cost effective basis. Most of the schools that I hire at are outside the New York area. New York schools should be more aggressive in their contact with the business community."
 - CGI Producer

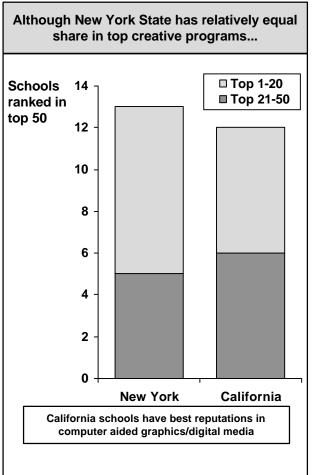
NY lacks collaborative environment

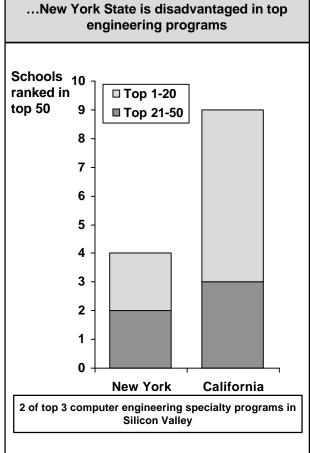
"The strategic advantages of the NY community are not being exploited.
NY needs someone out there making deals and getting things done."

 Digital Media executive

NY DIGITAL MEDIA FIRMS CITE AVAILABILITY OF CREATIVE AND TECHNICAL TALENT AS PREDOMINANT CHALLENGE

100% of Interviews Cited Availability of Talent as Concern





Lack of industry critical mass further hurts ability to attract talent

Critical mass needed to support freelance worker community

"Talent moves to CA because they need a large pool of companies who can offer a steady stream of work - NY lacks the critical mass to supply a strong job network"

- Digital Media executive

Talent attracts more talent

"I lose a lot of people to CA because they feel that they have learned all they can here in NY and need to move on to more 'cutting edge' work"

- Digital Media executive

Source: US News & World Report rankings, 1997 and 1999; BCG interviews; BCG analysis Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding

SECTOR NEEDS DRIVE LOCATION OF PRODUCTION Conclusion and Implications

Traditional Media

Script requirements, talent demands and the availability of professional crews sustain New York's core attractiveness to the industry. To increase demand and attractiveness for this part of the sector:

- New York should seek to support expansion of professional and affordable facilities and production services
- New York should work to enhance its image as "film friendly" and market existing attributes and new initiatives

Digital Media

Silicon Alley has created a strong digital media community. To ensure continued growth in this part of the sector:

- New York should seek to attract and/or create technically capable workforce
- New York should seek to exploit the inherent industry segment advantages
- New York should seek to expand the development of affordable space

NEW YORK COMPETITIVE POSITION Summary

NY offers quality crews and top notch acting talent

- High quality crews and unique "look and tempo" attractive for production
- Theatre community often cited as fueling city's top notch acting talent pool

NY film commissions described as extremely professional, with strong customer service

Generally, NY cost position can be a challenge relative to other locales

Primary components of cost difference to other locales are wage rates, work rules, contract structure, exchange rates and government subsidies

NY value proposition compared to other locales is more competitive than cost analysis of published rates might first suggest

- NY perceived to offer higher quality crews which can cost less in long run
- Ability to negotiate "one-off deals" further narrows cost gap

Among major production centers, Canada most aggressive with direct subsidies

- The US has not benefited from federal government subsidies
- Other localities seeking to develop programs to attract production
- Other English-speaking countries offering direct budget support

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PROTECT AND GROW TRADITIONAL MEDIA WHILE PREPARING FOR THE DIGITAL AGE

Traditional Media contributes significant revenues and jobs to New York

- Motion picture production and services were among the largest job growth industries in New York City from 1992-1998, more than doubling according to the City Department of Labor
- Growing competition from other localities requires New York to respond to ensure support and growth for NY's strong global industry position

New York can sustain and grow market position by integrating Traditional Media with the latest developments in digital technology

- NY should focus on ensuring a supportive environment, as opposed to placing bets on technologies or individual companies
- NY should continue to leverage its strengths in graphic arts, animation, video, music and digital communication technologies

Interviews with industry leaders produced the following set of recommendations for how the public and private sectors can help meet the industry's infrastructure, technology and job creation needs

OVERALL RECOMMENDATION: MAKE NY THE EAST COAST MEDIA ZONE

Focus on Public/Private Partnership and Convergence of Traditional and Digital Media

Create districts throughout New York City that anchor an East Coast *Media Zone,* providing a "critical mass" of facilities and talent for film, television and broadband production

- Support development of production and space for Traditional Media and wired office space for Digital Media
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FOUNDATION #1: HELP MEET THE SPACE AND CRITICAL MASS NEEDS OF TRADITIONAL AND DIGITAL MEDIA

Target public incentives to stimulate concentrated development of affordable, wired space in all parts of the Media Zone, for example:

- Take Lower Manhattan IT District concept to newly identified locations in all boroughs
- Encourage telecom infrastructure/other service investment to create new 24/7 communities
- Concentrate efforts to create critical mass of talent and ideas in targeted districts
- Use incentives to promote renovated or new production and support services space as well as ongoing upgrades to space
- Engage Traditional Media in sponsorship and support of district development
- Set incentives to ensure success of each part of Media Zone, including:
 - Real Estate Incentives (ICIP- Industrial Commercial Incentive Program, IDA, etc.)
 - Energy Abatement Initiatives
 - Zoning changes
 - Utility (energy/telecom) GRT (Gross Receipt Tax) credit
 - Job Creation Tax Credits
 - Financing and Credit Enhancement

Increase - where possible - the availability of publicly owned property for use by developers/ producers at low cost

• For example, other localities provide low rent space for use as production location, soundstage or office, in return for investment in renovation

Develop a package of neighborhood incentives throughout New York to encourage greater availability of film-ready, film-friendly production locations or film zones

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FOUNDATION #2: PROMOTE INDUSTRY-EDUCATION-PUBLIC SECTOR ALLIANCES TO EXPAND LABOR POOL FOR INDUSTRY

Identify higher education institutions to be "education lighthouses" for each district of the Media Zone

- Leverage links with faculty and students at New York's educational institutions, including CUNY, SUNY, Columbia, NYU, Brooklyn Polytechnic, Cooper Union, and others
- Work together to expand technology education programs
- Ensure NY educational institutions benefit from and help sustain NY's current advantaged position in nascent digital media

Set joint public/private initiatives to promote technically savvy workforce

- Industry/Educators jointly define needs for the future
- Educators develop programs for area with state and city support
- Encourage private sector support
 - Lecture series, course sponsorship, industry internship programs, funding for scholarships/ training programs /technology development
- Organize business incubator facilities linking universities, entrepreneurs and investors

Link academic disciplines from universities with corporate institutions to ensure industry synergies

• Bring together art, film school, theatre, technology and communication to realize full potential from New York's assets

FOUNDATION #3: ESTABLISH VISUAL MEDIA CONSORTIUM TO SUPPORT INDUSTRY NEEDS

Leverage existing resources to connect key stakeholders in Media Zone

- Educational Institutions that provide intellectual capital and facilities
- Trade Associations, such as the New York New Media Association and the New York
 Production Alliance
- Venture capital firms and financial institutions
- Entertainment and technology/communications industry partners
- Labor/Unions
- Public sector and community representatives

Use the consortium to unite efforts of all stakeholders on key issues

- Research and accelerate the integration of technology into New York's entertainment industry
- Attract and retain film and technology talent, relocation assistance
- Coordinate effort to provide appropriate, affordable space for all media
- Launch new commercial technology ventures to support job creation
- Serve as sector intermediary to represent the many small businesses in the industry
- Explore Federal government initiatives for international parity through existing trade agreements
- Ensure growth of industry consortia consisting of corporations, small business, finance and academics to foster cooperation and investment

FOUNDATION #4: LAUNCH JOINT INDUSTRY AND PUBLIC SECTOR MARKETING CAMPAIGN

Highlight Cluster Advantages of New York

Promote the various districts in New York, including Manhattan's West Side (from Soho to Lincoln Center), Broadband Brooklyn (Downtown), the Upper Manhattan Technology District and the Long Island City Studios

Encourage development of entertainment technology in all the districts

Develop a neighborhood-based marketing campaign

 Describe public sector support for key neighborhoods to improve their utility for location shooting and to create small business opportunities

Promote New York's advantages as a media center

- Traditional Media
 - growing pool of technically focused talent
 - world class community of creative talent
 - highlight NY's status as an International Production Center (e.g., quality of crews, professional service, variety and depth of locations)
- Digital Media
 - critical mass of nascent companies and investment
 - growing pool of technically focused talent
 - innovation in expanding communication and technical infrastructure

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NY TRADITIONAL MEDIA DIRECT EXPENDITURES Analysis Summary

Method	Features	Television	Commercials	Other	Total
Current Methodology	\$2,033M	\$2,460M	\$580M	\$68M	\$5,141M
Sample Budgets	\$1,857M	\$2,104M	\$816M	-	\$4,844M ⁽¹⁾
MPAA Approach					\$4,499M
Decision:	\$2,023M	\$2,104M	\$816M	\$68M	\$5,011M
Rationale:	Permit system captures close to 100% of principal photography	Bottom-up estimate on show by show basis	Bottom-up estimate for number of commercials produced in NY	Permit system only accurate source for data	
% of total:	40%	42%	16%	1%	100%
Represents best estimate for sec	tor				

(1) Includes \$68M for other Source: BCG analysis

TRADITIONAL MEDIA DIRECT EXPENDITURES

Method 1: Current Methodology

Features	
Pre-production =	\$248 M
Production =	993 M
Post-Production =	60M
Above-the-line costs	722M
Total	\$2,023M

Television	
Pre-production =	\$125M
Production =	1,250M
Post-Production =	101M
Above-the-line costs	984M
Total	\$2,460M

Commercials	
Pre-production =	\$13M
Production =	413 M
Post-Production =	67M
Above-the-Line costs	87M
Total	\$580M

Other	
Pre-production =	\$11 M
Production =	50M
Post-Production =	7M
Total	\$68M

TRADITIONAL MEDIA DIRECT EXPENDITURES

Method 2: Sample Budgets

Features				
Budget size (\$M)	# of films	Total direct expenditures 1998(\$M)		
≤1	110	95		
1 – 10	62	513		
10 – 20	15	210		
20 – 30	10	183		
30 – 50	12	390		
50+	14	466		
Total	223	\$1,857 M		

Television		
Type of show	Total direct expenditures (\$M)	
News	1,047	
Daytime	492	
Primetime	254	
Talk shows	311	
Total	\$2,104M	

Commercials		
Estimate based on union data	Estimate based on AAAA data	
2,134	3,168	
\$308K	\$308K	
\$657M	\$976M	
\$816M		
	Estimate based on union data 2,134 \$308K	

Source: Internet Movie database; NYC Mayor's Office of Film, Theatre and Broadcasting; Electronic Media report (8/99); Local NY Union; AAAA Television Cost Survey - Report of 1997 findings; BCG interviews and analysis

TRADITIONAL MEDIA DIRECT EXPENDITURES

Method 3: MPAA Approach

1998 (\$M)

1998 estimated wages

\$1,800M

- Above-the-line talent⁽¹⁾
- Below-the-line talent⁽²⁾

Wages at 40% of total spending

Total \$4,499M

⁽¹⁾ Includes actors, producers, writers, directors

⁽²⁾ Includes camera operators, electrical, lighting, grips, hair and makeup, wardrobe, etc. Source: BCG interviews, 1998 MPAA State of the Industry Report

NY TRADITIONAL MEDIA EMPLOYMENT

Analysis Summary

Method	Features	Television	Commercials	Other	Total Employment
Top Down					41,145 jobs
Sample Budgets	8,334 jobs	11,767 jobs	5,696 jobs		25,798 jobs
Standard Industrial Classification Codes					54,276 jobs

Decision: 70,000 jobs⁽¹⁾

Rationale:

Top Down method captures freelance worker community while SIC method captures primarily non-freelance workers, though overlap exists

Source: BCG analysis

⁽¹⁾ Sum of top down and SIC methods is 95,421. The SIC number of 54,276 is adjusted upward by 29%, or 39% of the "Top Down" number, to provide a conservative estimate for the number of free lance workers employed that are not captured by the SIC data.

TRADITIONAL MEDIA EMPLOYMENT

Method 2: Sample Budgets

Features			
Budget size (\$M)	# of films	Number of jobs 1998	
<u></u> ≤1	110	2,165	
1 – 10	62	2,538	
10 – 20	15	1,181	
20 – 30	10	730	
30 – 50	12	910	
50+	14	810	
Total	223	8,334	

Television				
Type of show	Number of jobs 1998			
News	5,856			
Daytime	2,753			
Primetime	1,419			
Talk shows	1,740			
Total	11,768			

Commercials					
	Estimate based on union data	Estimate based on AAAA data			
# commercials shot	2,134	3,168			
Average man- days/ commercial	202	202			
Number of jobs 1998	4,585	6,808			
Average	5,696				

Source: NYC Mayor's Office of Film, Theatre and Broadcasting; Internet Movie Database; AAAA Television Cost Survey - Report of 1997 findings; BCG interviews and analysis

TRADITIONAL MEDIA EMPLOYMENT

Method 3: Standard Industrial Classification Code

	SIC Codes	Total number of jobs - 1999	Estimated % for media sector	Total media sector employment
7812 -	Motion picture and video tape production ⁽¹⁾	22,707	92% (12 categories of 13)	20,890
7819 -	Services allied to motion picture production ⁽²⁾	6,095	100% (15 categories of 15)	6,095
7922 -	Theatrical producers and theatrical services ⁽³⁾	20,656	7% (2 categories of 28)	1,446
7929 -	Bands, orchestras, actors, and other entertainers and entertainment groups ⁽⁴⁾	5,412	15% (2 categories of 15)	812
4833	Television broadcasting stations	15,041	100%	15,041
4841	Cable and other pay TV services	9,992	100%	9,992
			TOTAL	54,276 jobs

⁽¹⁾ Relevant media sectors: audiovisual motion picture program production, cartoon motion picture production, commercials/television tape or film production, educational motion picture production, industrial motion picture production, motion picture production, motion picture production, religious motion picture production, tape production (video or motion picture), television film production, training motion picture production

⁽²⁾ Relevant media sectors: casting bureaus, motion picture; developing and printing of commercial motion picture film; directors, motion picture: independent; editing of motion picture film; film libraries, stock footage; film processing, motion picture; laboratories, motion picture consultants; motion picture reproduction; rental of motion picture equipment; studio property rental for motion picture film production; television tape services (e.g., editing and transfers); titling of motion picture film; video tape or disk reproduction; wardrobe rental for motion picture film production

⁽³⁾ Relevant media sectors: agents or managers for entertainers, television programs (including commercials) - live

⁽⁴⁾ Relevant media sectors: actors, actresses

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CURRENT NY FILM COMMISSION INCENTIVES

Services

- Free police
- No fee locations
- Free parking
- Free permits
- Location library (40,000+ images)
- Location lists
- Production assistance

Financial / Taxation

- 8.25% sales tax exemption
- Low interest loans (EDC)
- P.I.L.O.T. programs
- Empowerment zone incentives

Promotion

- Trade show participation
- Studio visits
- Advertising campaigns