Film, Television, Commercial
and Music Video Production
Toronto 2012 – Year in Review
Toronto 2012
Great Film, Great Television, Great Digital Media
Expenditures by screen based production companies for on-location filming in Toronto reached approximately $1.2 billion in 2012.

This is a 5.9% increase in total production spending over the $1.13 billion reported in 2011 and the 2nd consecutive year total production spending has exceeded $1 billion.

Production spending in 2012 increased in all categories: Major Productions; Commercials; Animation and Animation.
• The following statistical charts prepared by the Toronto Film, Television & Digital Media Office include expenditures for productions which have an on-location component.

• The film, television and digital media industry generates millions of dollars of additional spending in Toronto related to agency costs for talent, in-house broadcaster production (e.g. news and public affairs programming), and other productions completed entirely within a film or TV studio (e.g. by major networks, specialty channels and others)

• Please note that any production in receipt of an Ontario tax credit has not been reconciled with OMDC tax credits.
This chart shows the total number of major productions and total value of major production spending by type.

It includes both domestic and foreign productions with at least some portion of the filming on location in Toronto.

Total expenditure for all categories was $1014.9 billion.

Expenditures for TV Series and TV Specials increased significantly. Movies of the Week declined sharply and Features were stable relative to 2011.
Major productions include domestic and foreign feature films, movies made-for-television, mini-series, TV specials and TV series that filmed with at least some location work in Toronto.

Expenditures on major production 2012 exceeded $1 billion, up from $957.82 billion in 2011. The CDN was at or near par both year, in contrast to 2001 when the exchange rate was for the CDN was $0.65 U.S.
This chart includes all major U.S. production activity filmed on-location in Toronto (feature films, movies made-for-television, mini-series, TV specials and TV series).

Expenditures on U.S. Productions were over $500 million in 2012 and 2011. Much of this spend is attributable to strong and sustained significant spending in the areas of television series and major feature films.
This chart includes all major domestic production activity filmed on-location in Toronto (feature films, movies made for television, mini-series, TV specials and TV series.)

Domestic production spending has been steadily increasing in recent years. Spending in 2012 of $500 million an almost 17% increase over the 2011. This is attributable to strong growth in the area of domestic TV Series spending.
This chart includes spending for both domestic and foreign productions filmed with a minimum of one day of location shooting in Toronto.

While 2012 saw a modest 3% decrease in spending, Feature Film spending remains at the high end of the range traditionally recorded in Toronto.
This chart includes both domestic and foreign productions for television series filmed with a minimum of one day of location shooting in Toronto.

2012 again saw a significant increase in television series production spending setting another new high level for this type of production activity in Toronto.

The average annual growth for the past six years, in this important segment, is 23%.
This chart includes domestic and foreign spots filmed on-location only.

Expenditures in 2012 show another modest increase from the 2011 level and strong consistent commercial production spending over the past four years above $80 million per year.
The sharp decline in the number of permits issued is a result of the launch of our new electronic permit system which allows for multiple locations to be covered by a single permit.

The 2,034 permits issued represent in excess of 6,000 permit locations used in 2012.
Location filming projects had been relatively constant from 2006 to 2010. In 2011 the City eclipsed the 1,300 per year level and 2012 saw an additional 3.2% increase over 2011.
The number of location shoot days has remained relatively consistent for the past 4 years. Given the significant increases in production activity, the small decrease (2.6%) is likely the result of the availability of studio spaces in the City.

A shooting day is one day of production from start to wrap for one production company.

The number of shoot days shown represent only the days spent on location as permitted by the Toronto Film & Television Office and do not include studio days of work.