



Israel Film & Television Industry Facts and Figures – at a Glance 2017

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Making Films Come True
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Israel Film & Television Industry Facts and Figures 2017

A. The Audiovisual industry; Structure, Volume, Co- productions, budgets, etc.

1) Structure

- A. 5 major broadcasting organizations: Public TV, 2 Commercial Television Channels, Cable Television, Satellite TV and Educational TV
- B. About 120 independent production companies.
- C. About 10 production studios
- D. About 30 post production studios / facilities

2) Volume – of Israeli Local Production

- A. About 18 –24 full length Feature Films a year
- B. About 200 hours of T.V fiction drama a year
- C. About 90 hours of documentaries a year
- D. About 10 hours of animation a year
- E. Over 150 new Israeli commercials are being produced every year.

3) Co-Productions

- A. About 3 – 5 co-productions of Feature Films a year (fiction) mainly with Europe & Canada.
- B. About 5 – 10 co-productions of documentaries a year.

4) Budgets

The average budget of a production in U.S dollars:

- A. Feature Film, about \$800,000 – \$1,200,000.
- B. T.V Fiction, (Drama) average budget is about \$150,000 per hour.
- C. T.V series, average budget is about \$100,000 per hour.
- D. Documentaries, average is about \$180,000 per hour.

B. Market

1) Cinemas / Theatrical releases

About 10 distribution companies;

- A. About 130 cinema Theaters with 400 screens and a total of about 88,000 seats;
- B. Total number of admissions in 2015-2016 was about 14 million in each of these years.
- C. The price of a cinema ticket is around \$ 10 incl. VAT.

2) About 200 New feature films are being imported / brought into Israel, out of which:

- 68% are American
- 23% are European
- 9% others

*** In addition, about 12 - 16 new Israeli feature films are released annually.

3) **Films from Israel are sold primarily to the European and the American Markets with an average of about 4-7 feature films and about 15-20 Television films and programs sold every year to distributors and Broadcasters.**

*** In 2015-2016 about 6 Israeli Feature Films were commercially and Theatrically released in Europe, the U.S, Canada, Australia and in few Countries in South America.

C. Legislation – Regulatory framework of the Audio-Visual Sector

- 1) The Cinema / Film Law – was implemented on January 1st, 2001 with the aim of encouraging and supporting Israeli filmmaking – by regulating and increasing the Public funding, and by creating “The Israel Film council” which is the policy making and the funding advisory body to the Ministry of Culture.
- 2) The public Television act – 1966 – The public television act as well as the public Television network (channel 1) is currently undergoing major changes and restructuring.
- 3) The 2nd channel – The commercial Television law 1991 – The law regulating terrestrial Commercial Television
Modified in 2000, to include the new commercial Television channel (Ch. 10). By now Israel has two commercial Television channels: channel 2 and channel 10 (both Terrestrial).
- 4) The cable and satellite television law – 1989 – The law regulating cable & satellite
Modified in 2000. About 80% of all Israeli households are connected either to cable or to satellite.

General – note: A special emphasis on “local content” was put in all the regulating measures. At one third (33%) of all the broadcasting hours on the public television and the commercial television must be of local content, and it is in addition to news, current affairs and sports.

At least 60% of all the local television productions have to be commissioned out by the Israeli Broadcasters to independent production companies.

D. Television Broadcasting

- 1) The public television channel – (channel 1)
Broadcasting 18 hours a day. Financed by license fees paid by all the Households in Israel.
- 2) Education T.V –
A public service, fully financed by the Ministry of Education. Broadcasting 8 hours a day and sharing the same channel with the public television channel. This service was given an additional 1.5 hours a day on the commercial channels.
- 3) The commercial Televisions (channel 2 and channel 10) –
Broadcasting 20 hours a day. Financed solely by the revenues from Sales of commercials airtime. Channel 2 was launched in 1993, and Channel 10 was launched in 2002.
- 4) Cable television -
Providing a selection of a wide range of channels including channels from Europe, the Middle East, Russia and the U.S. 20 of the channels are locally packaged and include local Israeli programs. The cable Television is financed by subscription fee.
- 5) Satellite Television -
Introduced in 2000, it offers a selection of a wide range of channels, including 15 channels that are locally packaged and which include locally produced programs. The satellite Television is Financed by subscription fee.

General note;

The total turnover of the entire Israeli television industry in terms of money exceeds the sum of \$ 950 million dollars a year.

E. Investment and financing

1) Public support and funding

The Israel Film Council - is the government appointed Film funding Advisory body, given the task and the responsibility of creating a Sustainable film industry in Israel and the further development of the film Culture in Israel. The public funding of Israeli productions is implemented By 5 film production funds: All of them being registered non for profit Organizations (NGO's)

- A. The Israel Film Fund - supporting the production and distribution of Full length feature films primarily aimed for theatrical release. The Annual budget is about \$ 7 million dollars.
- B. The new Israeli Foundation for film & T.V - Supporting mainly documentaries and experimental films. The annual Budget is about \$2 million dollars.
- C. The "MAKOR" Fund supporting Television films - mainly T.V drama And T.V drama mini-series. The annual budget is about \$1.5 million Dollars.
- D. The Tel Aviv Foundation - created and financed by the city of Tel Aviv And the public funding - supporting "alternative" Feature Films, T.V Drama, Documentaries and Experimental films. The annual budget is About \$7 million dollars.
- E. The "Gesher Foundation - Created to encourage and support multi-Cultural & minority groups film projects. The annual budget is about \$ 1.5 million dollars.

2) Additional Financial Support

- A. The Fund for the promotion of Israeli films - A voluntary fund created by The cinema owners association - supporting the distribution of mainly Israeli Feature Films, which are theatrically released.
- B. The Fund for the promotion of exporting Israeli films. Set Up and financed By the Israel Export institute.
- C. The Film unit at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - promoting Israeli films Abroad with the support of the cultural attachés in the Israeli embassies Throughout the world.
- D. The Jerusalem Films & Television Fund created by the Jerusalem Development Authority - Supporting the production of full length Feature films, Documentaries and TV drama - with an eye on Jerusalem And with an annual budget of \$3 million dollars

General note:

- A. The total of public funding and support for production, festivals, film archives, cinematheques and all other film activities in Israel amounts to about \$22 million dollars a year.**
- B. The total investment from other countries - in the form of co-productions, presales etc. - is about \$4 - 6 million dollars a year.**

- C. A tax incentive designed mainly for Israeli investors does exist as an encouraging measure for Israeli investments in the production of films.**

F. Training

- 1) Initial Training: **Schools & Institutes supported by public funding**:
- A.** 12 film and Television schools are located throughout the country, some of them offering B.A and M.F.A degrees. Some of the schools are internationally recognized and with International reputation and acclaim.
 - B.** "Media and Communication" programs in over 250 Israeli high schools, for 10th – 12th grade students.
- 2) Professional Training – **supported by public funding** :
- A.** Workshops and seminars conducted by local and international Professionals mostly from Europe. These short courses have been Initiated mainly by the Film Funds and the Cinematheques.
 - B.** Every year, about 10 Israeli professional filmmakers receive professional training abroad, mainly in Europe and the U.S.

G. Israel's Official Film Co – Production Agreements

The government of Israel has signed co production treaties with the Following countries:

Australia
Austria
Argentina
Belgium
Brazil
Bulgaria
Canada
Estonia
France
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Italy
New-Zealand
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Spain
Sweden
U.K
Ukraine

H. Festivals / Cinematheques / Film Archives

- 1) The Jerusalem International Film Festival – Israel's most prestigious annual cinematic event, taking place in the Jerusalem Cinematheque, which also houses the Israel Film Archives.
- 2) "Neighbors" – Haifa International Film Festival
The Festival puts special emphasis on the collaboration with the Mediterranean "neighbors" filmmakers.

- 3) Doc – Aviv – The Tel Aviv International Annual Documentary Film Festival.
- 4) Co-Pro – Documentaries' pitching annual event.
- 5) The International Students Film Festival – a bi-annual Film Festival, the largest and the most prestigious of its kind, as declared by CILECT. (The International organization of Film Schools).
- 6) The Sderot / Sapir College Int'l Film Festival – the main film festival in the South of Israel.
- 7) "The Israel Film Service" and Archives (The Government Production Unit).
- 8) The "Spielberg" – Jewish Films Archives

A General note and Summary:

The Israeli Film Industry does have a solid foundation and is a busy and a vibrant focal point of cultural exchange with social and economic contribution to the Israeli and the International film and television industry's.