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For Immediate Release

Sound Stage Occupancy / Stage Shoot Numbers Slip in New FilmLA Report

LOS ANGELES – April 3, 2025 – FilmLA, partner film office for the City and County of Los Angeles and other local jurisdictions – today published new data tracking sound stage-based film production in Greater Los Angeles.

The seventh edition of FilmLA's Sound Stage Production Report is based on aggregated data sourced from 17 participating studios in Greater Los Angeles. Combined, these studios own and/or operate approximately 82 percent of L.A.'s certified stage market. The report includes detailed sound stage occupancy and stage and backlot filming data for all of 2023, new sound stage occupancy data for all of 2024, and a comparison of available stage space in Greater Los Angeles and major competing markets in 2025 and five years earlier.

Disrupted by a reduction in global content production and the double industry strikes of 2023, the past two years have been challenging for L.A. area sound stage operators. Regional sound stage occupancy levels, which had on average held in the 90th percentile from 2016 through 2022, declined sharply after that year. In 2023, average regional studio occupancy declined to 69 percent. It weakened further over the ensuing twelve months, declining to 63 percent in 2024.

While the combined effects of the WGA and SAG-AFTRA strikes are easily seen in FilmLA's new occupancy data, global content contraction is illuminated by the overall content mix reflected in project counts and Stage Shoot Days (SSD). In 2023, a total of 1,225 projects filmed in the 477 stages included in FilmLA's analysis. These projects generated 8,671 SSD – fewer than were recorded in any studied period except 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic halted all production for a time.

A closer examination reveals that episodic television series account for only 20 percent of all production happening on certified stages and backlots in L.A. These particularly high-value, job producing forms of production comprised 30 percent of all stage-based filming in previous years.

“It’s important to note that stage occupancy and stage utilization are not exactly the same,” noted FilmLA spokesperson Philip Sokoloski. “A set on a stage can only create jobs when it is under construction or in use. Television budgets have increased, but episode counts have declined and there can be long delays between seasons. To see the real loss of work opportunity in this data, you have to focus on Stage Shoot Days.”

Lower than average sound stage occupancy is a concern shared outside California. Modern, amenity rich sound stages and proximate support services are an attractive lure for film producers. Competing jurisdictions, including the United Kingdom, New York, Georgia and Ontario, Canada, have all more than doubled their stage-based production capacity over the last five years. Los Angeles, with an estimated 8.0 million square feet of stage production space and 13 planned and proposed studio projects in the pipeline, maintains an important infrastructure advantage. Unfortunately for all involved, fewer film, television and commercial projects in production makes it harder to fill studio vacancies.

“The jurisdictions that perform well from here on out – the ones with sustainably high levels of sound stage occupancy and job creation – will be those invested in film project attraction at the country, state and regional level,” Sokoloski predicted. “We’re supportive of state leaders’ interest in expanding California’s film incentive program, and we’re engaged in ongoing conversation with City and County partners about ways to improve the local filming environment.”

Today’s update is the first Sound Stage Production Report published by FilmLA Research in 2025. New sound stage data, subject to availability from research participants, is published twice per calendar year.

About FilmLA

FILMLA.A., INC® is a not-for-profit organization and the official film office of the City and County of Los Angeles, among an ever-increasing roster of local municipalities. Through expedited permit processing, comprehensive community relations, film policy analysis and other services, FilmLA works to streamline and enhance the on-location filmmaking process for communities and content creators, to ensure the Greater Los Angeles economy continues to thrive. Learn more about FilmLA at www.filmla.com.



SOUND STAGE

PRODUCTION REPORT

Seventh Edition, Updated April 3rd, 2025

This report is FilmLA's Seventh Annual Sound Stage Production Report. The 17 studio participants in this study include all of the major legacy studios and the larger independents, representing approximately 82 percent of the current 6.6 million square feet of certified stage space in the Los Angeles market.

In 2023 — a year of entertainment industry disruption including two union strikes¹ — a total of 1,225 projects were filmed in the 35 facilities owned by FilmLA's 17 studio participants. These 1,225 projects generated a total of 8,671 stage shoot days. Noteworthy is the fact that episodic television series accounted for only 20 percent of all production, down from approximately 30 percent in previous years.

The 8,671 shoot days recorded in 2023 was also dramatically less than in 2019, when the 13 studio participants enrolled in that year's study generated 12,308 shoot days. Following several years of unprecedented content growth, especially in streaming television, the industry remains in a state of contraction.

After years of being in the 90th percentile, stage occupancy at participating studios declined by -23 percent after 2022. The average annual occupancy in 2023 was 69 percent; it was 90 percent in 2022, and peaked at 96 percent among reporting studios in 2016. Preliminary occupancy data for 2024 shows no signs of improvement; average annual occupancy dropped even further last calendar year, to 63 percent.²

At the same time, the competitive environment is rapidly changing. Los Angeles County currently remains the world leader in terms of available sound stage space, with 8.0 million square feet of certified and uncertified space. The County is challenged by competing jurisdictions such as the UK and New York, whose respective studio space inventories have doubled over the past five years. Both jurisdictions also offer highly competitive tax incentives.

The California Film Commission in March approved a record 51 film productions for tax incentives through the state's film and tax credit program.

California legislators are also in the process of making changes to the program to limit the exodus of production to other states and countries. In October 2024, Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed increasing the current cap on the program from \$330 million to \$750 million, and since then a pair of bills, SB630 (Allen) and AB1138 (Zbur, Bryan) were introduced to explore additional program changes.

If the efforts now underway are successful, California's Film & Television Tax Credit Program is set to become one of the largest incentive programs in the country, second only to Georgia's, which has no spending cap. This is certain to provide economic advantages and relief to the Golden State's struggling entertainment workforce, which remains the largest in the nation.

¹ NOTE: The WGA strike ran from (May 2 - Sept. 27th), followed by the SAG-AFTRA strikes (July 14 - Nov. 9th).

² NOTE: FilmLA will have the complete 2024 Sound Stage report out later this summer.

PARTICIPANTS

Film
LA



CURRENT¹ CERTIFIED SOUND STAGE SPACE

in Los Angeles County



Occupancy peaked in **2016**, was in the **90th** percentile range through **2022**, and declined to **69%** in **2023**



477

Certified Stages

77

Certified Production Facilities

6.6 M SF

Certified Stage Space*

1.4 M SF

of Uncertified Stage Space*



Note: Data pertains only to facilities with one stage >5K SF ¹ Data is current as of January 2025.

**A certified sound stage is a building or portion of a building usually insulated from outside noise and natural light that has met city criteria. To obtain certification in Los Angeles, one must first obtain a certificate of occupancy or change the certificate (if an adaptive reuse) from the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS) and then go through a compliance process in accordance with California Fire Code Chapter 48 through the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD). <https://www.lafd.org/film-unit/certified-studios>. For more information, please contact the LAFD Film Unit at lafdfilm@lacity.org or via phone at 213-978-3670.*



SOUND STAGE PARTICIPANTS

As a Percentage of LA County Market



35 FACILITIES

■ FilmLA's 17 Participants ■ Others



Square Feet of
Certified Stage Space

5.4M SQ. FT.

82%



Certified Stages

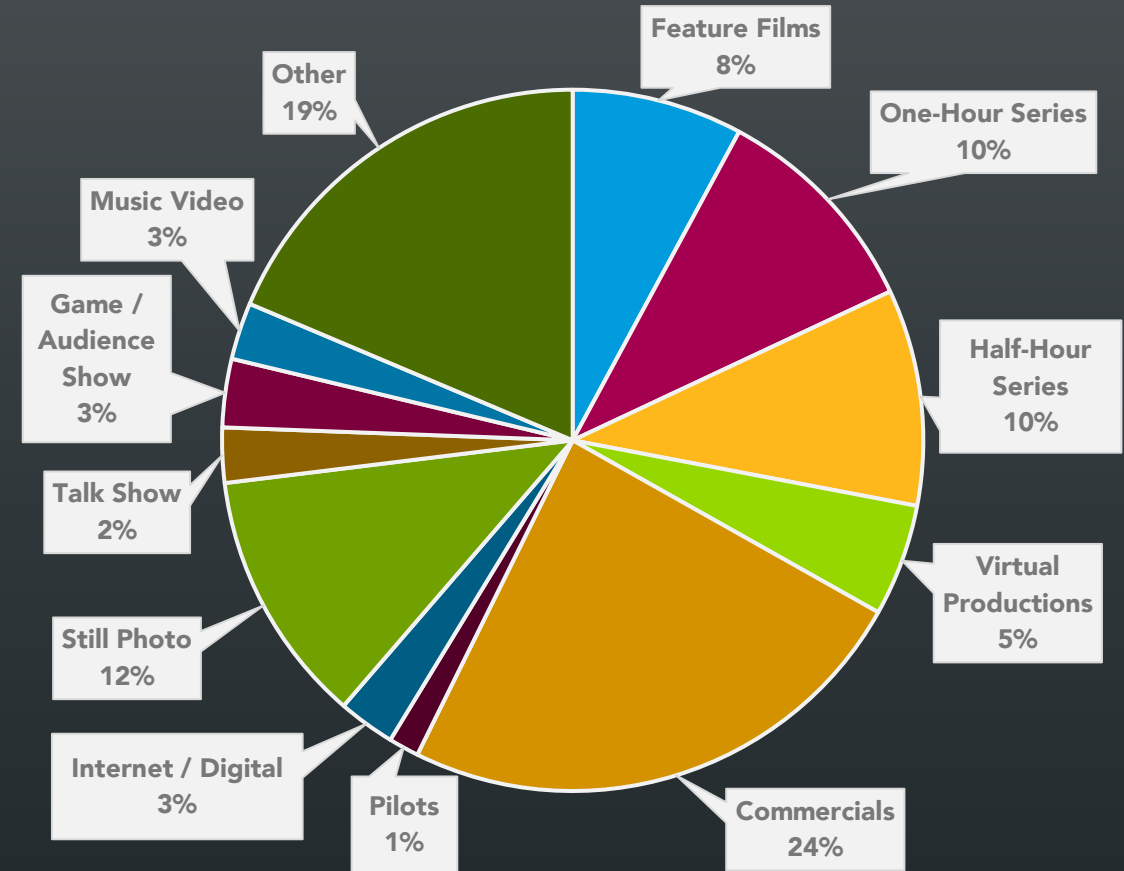
70%

333 STAGES

All PROJECTS 2018-2023*

Source: Studio Participants and FilmLA

	2023*	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Feature Films	90	98	81	47	93	88
One-Hour Series	157	200	235	155	238	215
Half-Hour Series	155	207	209	152	225	228
Virtual Productions	59	22	13	-	-	-
Commercials	276	325	338	255	414	408
Pilot	16	15	17	15	45	43
Internet/Digital	30	14	20	15	39	12
Still Photo	134	197	222	144	275	314
Talk Show	29	36	32	28	45	51
Game/Audience Show	36	36	37	-	-	-
Music Video	30	18	11	7	24	8
Other	213	186	92	80	302	253
Total	1225	1354	1307	898	1700	1620



* NOTE: WGA Strike ran from May 2nd to September 27th, followed by the SAG-AFTRA Strike, which ran from July 14th and ended on November 9th, 2023, shut down scripted content production.

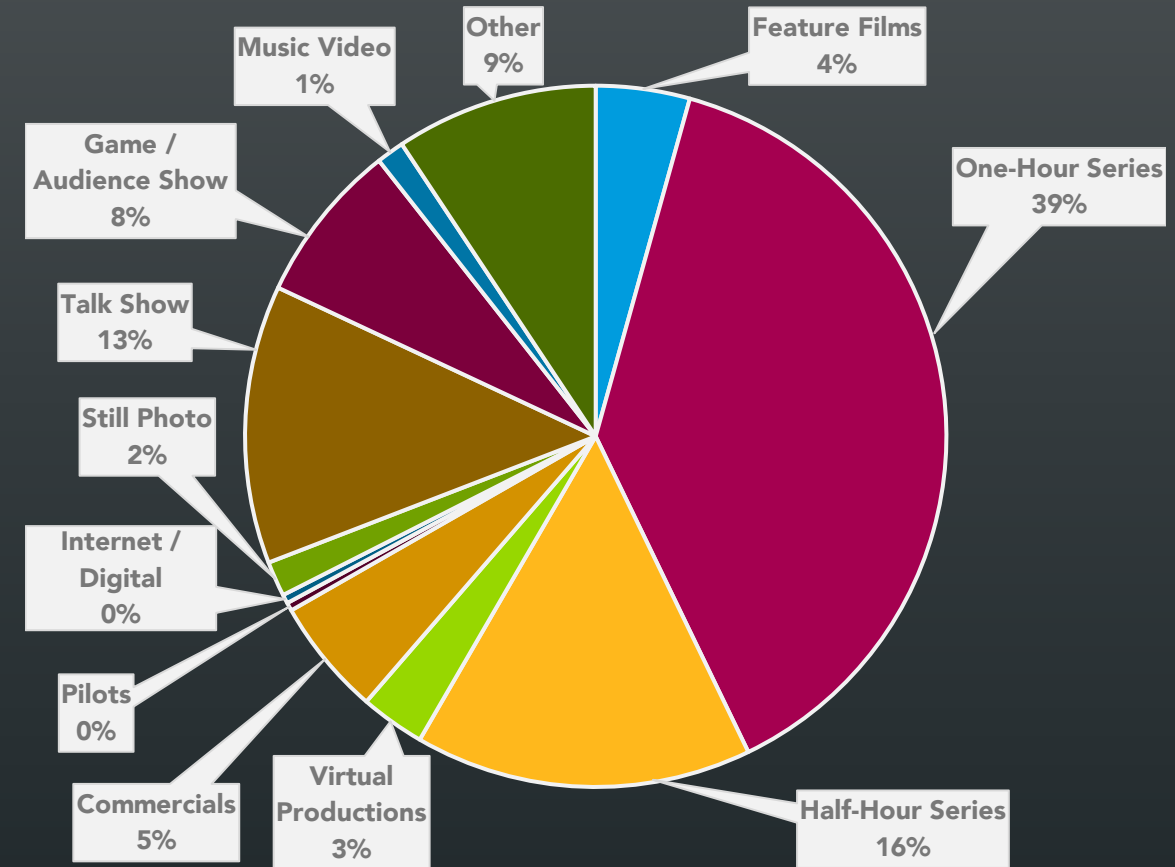
ON STAGE SHOOT DAYS

2018-2023*

Film
LA

Source: Studio Participants and FilmLA

	2023*	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Feature Films	316	344	367	146	293	480
One-Hour Series	3768	4843	3887	1966	4655	6769
Half-Hour Series	1550	2058	3240	2459	3119	3813
Virtual Productions	217	81	79	-	-	-
Commercials	393	463	1812	400	1357	903
Pilot	28	26	34	36	92	77
Internet/Digital	30	14	106	141	73	76
Still Photo	118	173	212	303	695	501
Talk Show	936	1162	955	297	1249	987
Game/Audience Show	542	542	7	-	-	-
Music Video	93	56	530	13	19	6
Other	680	594	579	430	756	879
Total	8671	10356	11808	6191	12308	14491

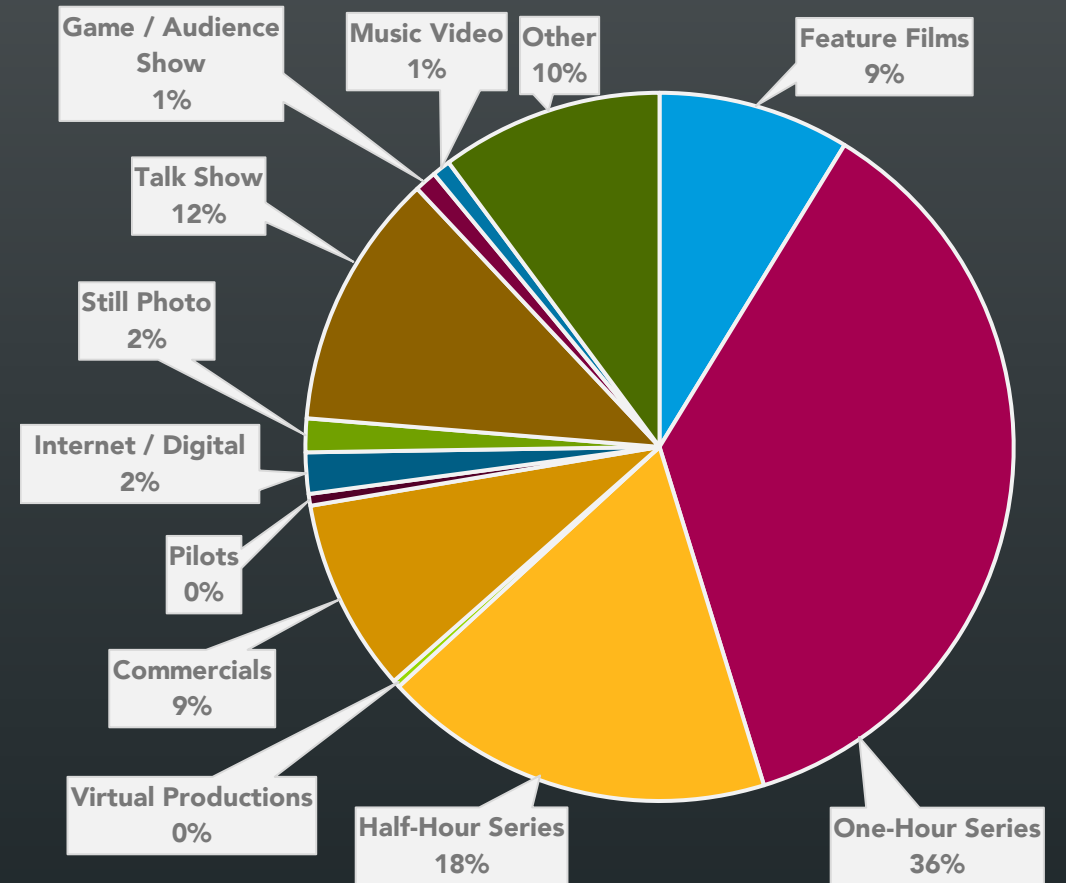


* NOTE: WGA Strike ran from May 2nd to September 27th, followed by the SAG-AFTRA Strike, which ran from July 14th and ended on November 9th, 2023, shut down scripted content production.

BACKLOT SHOOT DAYS 2018-2023*

Source: Studio Participants and FilmLA

	2023*	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Feature Films	70	76	187	41	93	88
One-Hour Series	291	485	1105	656	238	215
Half-Hour Series	143	230	262	422	225	228
Virtual Productions	3	1	-	-	-	-
Commercials	92	83	57	81	414	408
Pilot	4	4	8	10	45	51
Internet/Digital	15	7	14	9	45	43
Still Photo	21	18	9	9	39	12
Talk Show	93	116	102	17	275	314
Game/Audience Show	8	8	0	-	-	-
Music Video	7	4	7	7	24	8
Other	143	35	88	194	302	253
Total	890	1067	1839	1446	1700	1620



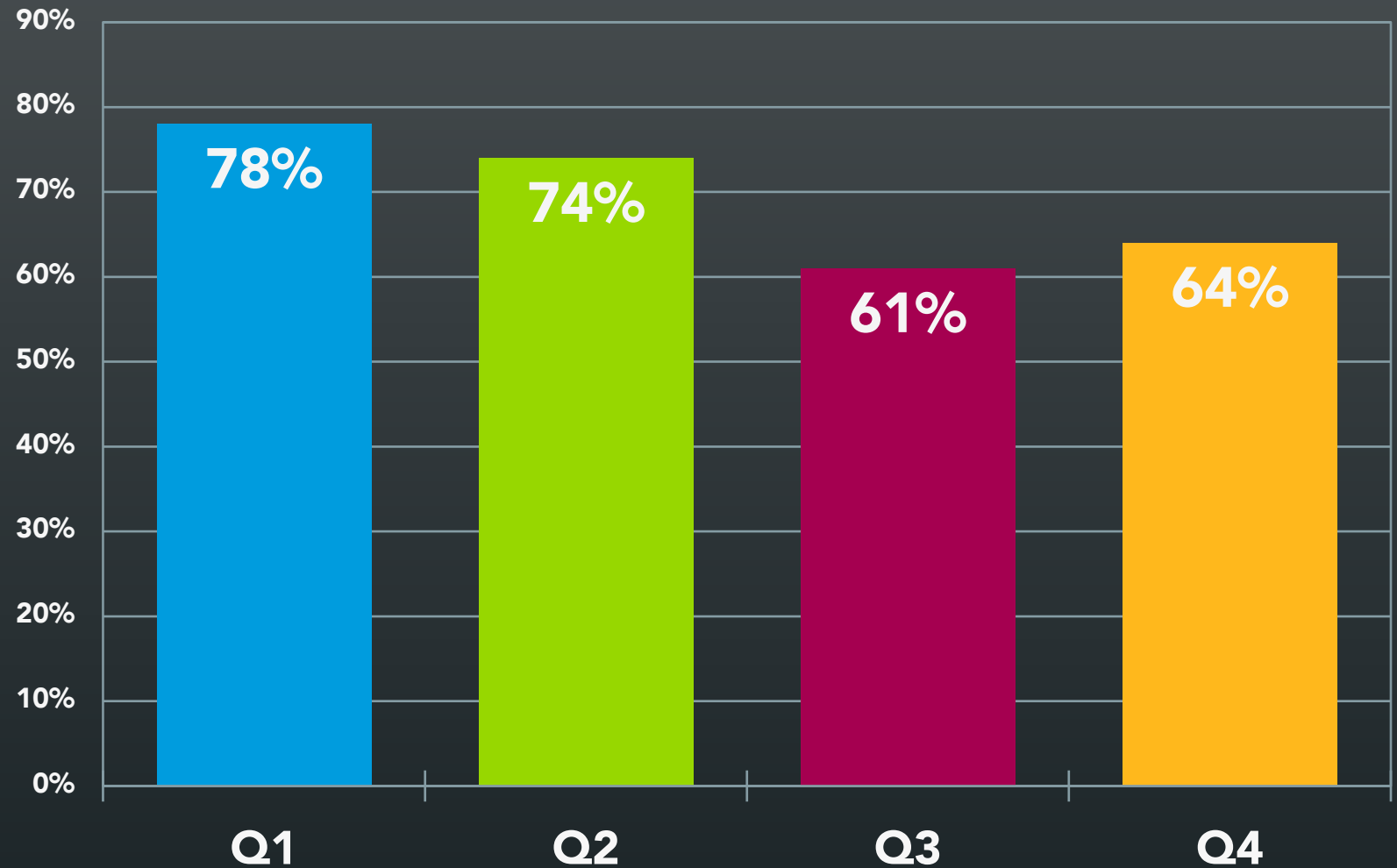
* NOTE: WGA Strike ran from May 2nd to September 27th, followed by the SAG-AFTRA Strike, which ran from July 14th and ended on November 9th, 2023, shut down scripted content production.

2023 AVERAGE OCCUPANCY

Source: Studio participants and FilmLA

2023* AVERAGE ANNUAL
OCCUPANCY
69%

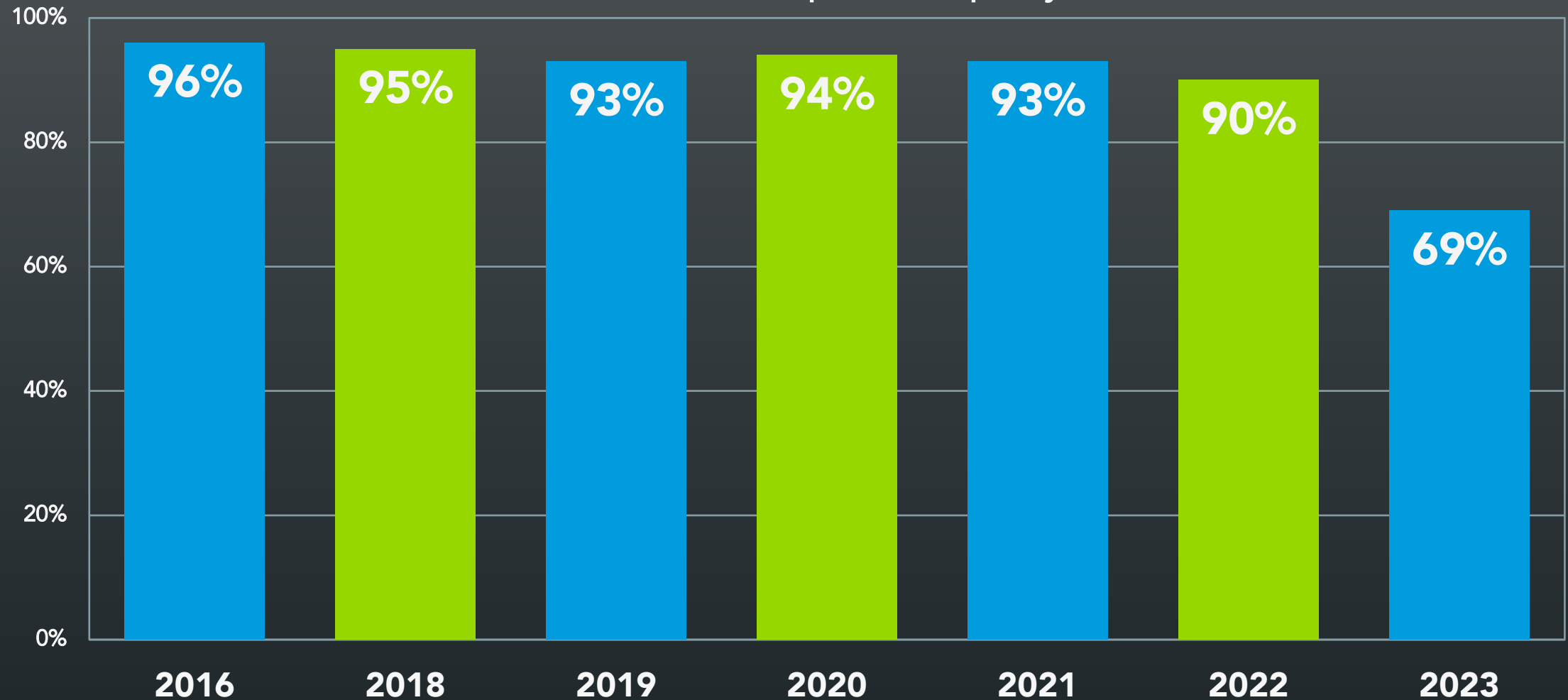
Quarterly Occupancy 2023



* NOTE: WGA Strike ran from May 2nd to September 27th, followed by the SAG-AFTRA Strike, which ran from July 14th and ended on November 9th, 2023, shut down scripted content production.

HISTORICAL OCCUPANCY 2016-2023*

Historic Studio Participant Occupancy

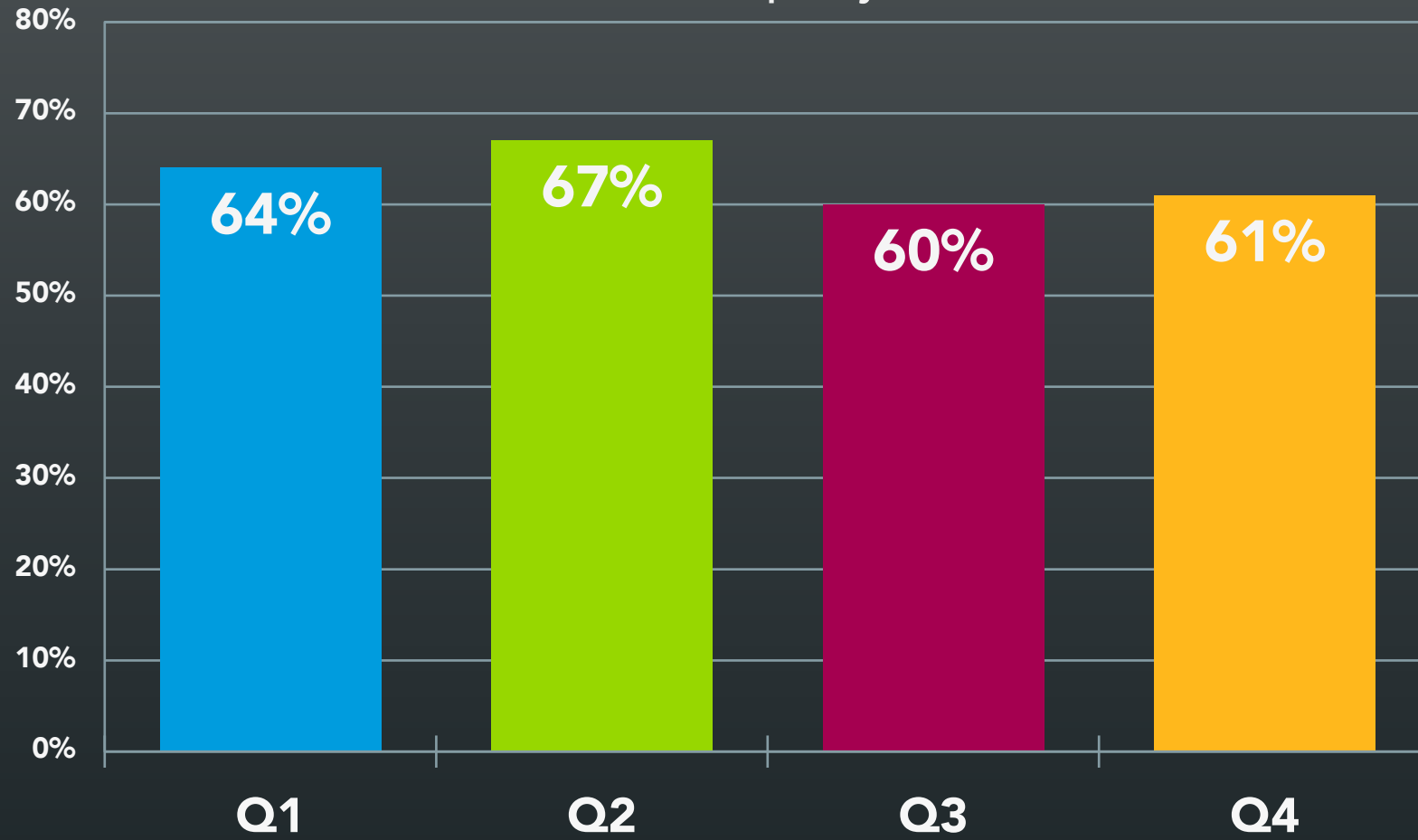


* NOTE: FilmLA did not conduct a sound stage study in 2017

Source: Studio participants and FilmLA

2024 QUARTERLY OCCUPANCY

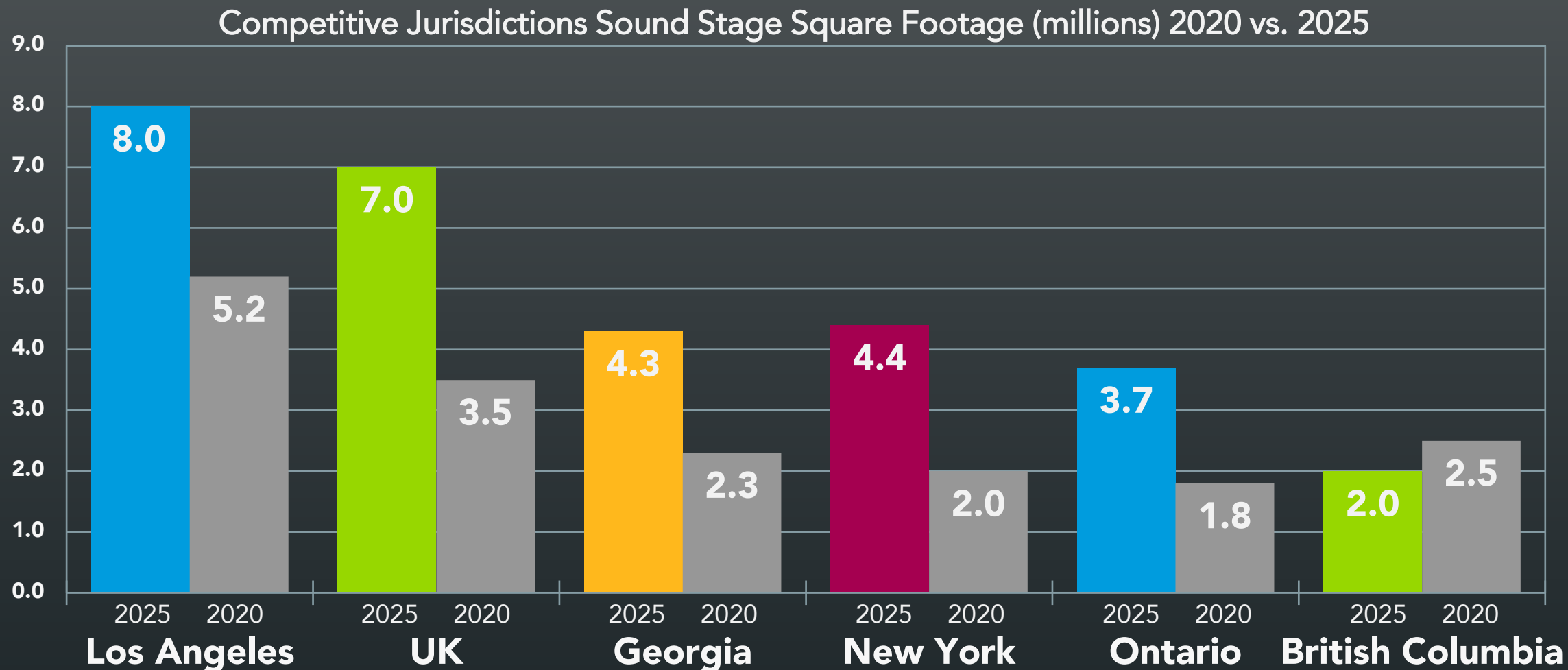
2024 Occupancy



2024 AVERAGE ANNUAL
OCCUPANCY
63%

COMPETITIVE JURISDICTIONS

2020* vs. 2025



* NOTE: Figures were presented in 2018 Sound Stage Report, which was released in 2020. NOTE: FilmLA did not track non-certified stage space in 2020.

Sources: Individual film commissions and FilmLA



PLANNED & PROPOSED STUDIO PROJECTS

(in Alphabetical Order)

STUDIO NAME	LOCATION	STAGES	SF STAGE SPACE	STATUS
Alameda Crossing	Downtown Arts District	9	TBD	Early entitlement phase
East End Studios - Mission Campus	Boyle Heights	5	108,000	Opening Q4 2025.
East End Studios - Griffith Park Campus	Glendale	11	189,000	Construction start 2026.
East End Studios - ADLA Campus	Downtown Arts District	16	309,000	Construction start 2026.
Echelon Studios	Hollywood	5	87,000	Under construction. Opening Q1 2026.
Echelon Studios Television Center	Hollywood	4	76,000	Breaking ground Q3 2025.Opening 2028.
8th & Alameda Studios	Downtown Arts District	17	TBD	Entitlement phase
Fox Future	Century City	9	TBD	Entitlement phase
Radford Studio Center	Studio City	2-7	TBD	Entitlement phase.
Stocker Street Creative	Baldwin Hills-Crenshaw	5	57,000	Entitlement phase. Projected groundbreaking Q2 2025.
Sylmar Studios	Sylmar	6	300,000	Opening in March 2025. Phase II to be completed by year end 2025.
TVC 2050 (Television City)	Beverly/Fairfax District	15	TBD	Entitlement phase.
WB Ranch Lot (Worthe)	Burbank	16	320,000	Construction began in April 2024. Expected to open in 2026.
TOTAL		120-125	TBD	