The State of the Creator Economy
Assessing the Economic, Cultural, and Societal Impact of YouTube in the US in 2022
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YouTube has been an integral part of our business since we first started. It has allowed us to reach a wider audience, to build relationships with viewers, and to create content that is engaging and compelling. We are constantly looking for ways to improve our YouTube presence, and one thing that may change in the future is the way we use videos to market our products and services.

— Company owner, Media and Music company
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

YouTube’s Impact in the US

Every day, Americans turn to YouTube to learn new skills, connect with others, and enrich their lives. It also provides a platform for a diverse range of content creators to share their interests and passions with audiences within the US and beyond, creating opportunities to build new careers and businesses.

Economic Contribution

- **$35B+** YouTube’s creative ecosystem contributed over $35 billion to US GDP in 2022.
- **390K+** YouTube’s creative ecosystem supported more than 390,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs in the US.

A Platform for Creators

- **55K+** In the US, over 55,000 channels had more than 100,000 subscribers as of December 2022, an increase of more than 15%, year over year.
- **6.5K+** In the US, over 6,500 channels had more than 1 million subscribers as of December 2022, an increase of more than 15%, year over year.

† Source: YouTube first-party data as of December 2022.

The data in this report are taken from research by Oxford Economics, unless otherwise stated. For more information, please see Survey Methodology and Economic Modeling Methodology Q&A at the end of the report.
A Wealth of Benefits

The Home of Creators
YouTube allows creators to find opportunities, earn income, and launch new careers and businesses by sharing their interests, skills, and passions. As channels grow, creators can extend their impact by employing others to help manage their channel.

Helping Businesses Grow
Businesses can use YouTube as a conduit to reach and connect with audiences, build their brand, and help train their staff—which is how the platform can help grow the revenues of small and large businesses.

Diversity of Voices
Through YouTube, creators of all backgrounds and viewpoints can build audiences around shared values, interests, and passions, while users can find community or gain new perspectives.

Supporting Learning at All Ages
Learners see YouTube as a useful resource to gain new skills and develop knowledge. Parents and teachers recognize the educational value of YouTube both inside the classroom and beyond.
How YouTube Creates Economic Impact

**THE MOST POPULAR VIDEO SHARING PLATFORM IN THE WORLD**

Every day people watch billions of hours of video.

More than 500 hours of content are uploaded to YouTube every minute.

**MORE THAN A PLACE TO UPLOAD AND SHARE VIDEOS**

Creators use the platform to find new audiences, connect with fans, and build new careers and businesses.

Creators are individuals, businesses, charities, government agencies, media and music companies, and more.

**HOW CREATORS CAN EARN MONEY FROM YOUTUBE**

**MULTIPLE WAYS TO EARN ON PLATFORM THROUGH THE YOUTUBE PARTNER PROGRAM**

YouTube pays creators a share of the revenues it earns from Ads and YouTube Premium subscriptions.

- Ads
- YouTube Premium

Fan funding offers ways for fans to pay creators:

- Channel memberships
- Super Chat
- Super Stickers
- Super Thanks

The YouTube platform also provides 4 other ways for creators to earn money from their audiences:

- Shopping
- Ticket sales
- Funds to support specific groups of creators
- BrandConnect to facilitate branded content campaigns

**OTHER INCOME AIDED BY YOUTUBE**

Building a profile on YouTube can help creators earn income outside of the platform, e.g.:

- Brand deals and sponsorship agreements
- Sales through their own website or business
- Live appearances

**YOUTUBE CREATES ECONOMIC IMPACT IN THE US ECONOMY**

In the US, more than 430,000 creators and partners receive income linked to their YouTube presence.

1 in 3 creators in the US who earn money from YouTube agree that YouTube is their primary source of revenue.

More than 160,000 creators and partners in the US employ other people to work on their YouTube channel.

Over 40,000 channels in the US earned money from alternative monetization products in the month of June 2022 alone—an increase of over 30% from the prior year.

* Source: YouTube first-party data as of December 2022.
** Further information about the multiple ways to earn is available [here](#).
*** Alternative monetization products include Fan funding, Shopping, and Ticket sales.
How YouTube’s Creative Ecosystem Impacts the Wider Economy

**DIRECT IMPACT**
The money that YouTube pays out is a source of wages and profits for creators, which directly contributes to GDP. It also supports jobs amongst creators and their staff.

**INDIRECT IMPACT**
Many creators purchase other goods and services to run their YouTube channel, e.g. filming equipment, props, editing services, and support services such as accountancy or legal advice. This makes an indirect contribution to the economy.

**INDUCED IMPACT**
There is an induced impact as creators and workers in their supply chain spend their wages in the wider economy.

**CATALYTIC IMPACT**
The other income that YouTube helps creators earn supports a further round of direct, indirect, and induced impacts.

**TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT**

- **$35B+**
  - Contribution to US GDP
- **390K+**
  - Full-Time Equivalent Jobs

For 2022 calendar year

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**Content revenues paid by YouTube**
- Ads
- YouTube Premium
- Fan funding

**Revenues from other sources aided by YouTube**
- Examples:
  - Brand and product sponsorships
  - Creators’ sales of goods and services
  - Live appearances

**Income**

**Purchases**

**Jobs & GDP**

**Consumer Spending**
ECONOMIC IMPACT

The Home of Creators

YouTube allows creators to find opportunities and earn income by sharing their interests, skills, and passions with local and international audiences. Thousands of US creators can earn through YouTube, from individuals supplementing their main income to professional content creators who make a living from their YouTube earnings. While YouTube provides opportunities to earn income on the platform itself, creators can also use YouTube to build an online profile and open opportunities to earn from other sources, e.g. shopping and brand deals. These income streams can fund a new career or business. As channels grow, creators may also create opportunities for others by employing staff or engaging collaborators to help them create content and manage their channel.

Providing Opportunity
83% of creators who earn money from YouTube agree that YouTube provides an opportunity to create content and earn money that they wouldn’t get from traditional media.

Important Income Source
69% of creators who earn money from YouTube agree that the revenue they receive from advertisements being placed on their YouTube content is an important source of income for them.

Positive Professional Impact
74% of creators who earn money from YouTube report that YouTube has had a positive impact on their professional goals.

“
YouTube is a great platform which grants you all the space and resources necessary to grow and turn a passion into a living.

— Creator, Florida, 50,001 to 100,000 subscribers

OXFORD ECONOMICS
YOUTUBE US IMPACT REPORT 2022
Tracey Marks grew up in an environment where mental health treatment was frowned upon. Open discussions about mental health issues were often met with harsh judgement. When she first arrived at medical school, Tracey had no interest in psychiatry, but during her clinical rotation in that field, she witnessed up close the hardship endured by people experiencing mental health issues. Additionally, she saw the profound impact she could have by working with these patients, and it led her to switch from internal medicine to psychiatry.

Dr. Marks has now worked as a general and forensic psychiatrist for over 22 years. She opened a private practice in Atlanta, GA where she has helped thousands of patients manage mood and anxiety disorders, as well as burnout. During sessions, she noticed a pattern that patients struggled to remember details about their conditions and treatment plans, making progress difficult. For that reason, she began making in-depth mental health resources for her patients in the form of blogs and videos. She launched her YouTube channel in 2010 but didn’t find much appetite for content speaking to the nuances of mental disorders. She wouldn’t start posting regularly until 2018 when she noticed other mental health creators like Kati Morton gaining large followings speaking to sensitive topics in engaging and informative ways. Dr. Marks’ weekly videos focus on psychiatric disorders and tips for mental well-being, and self-improvement.

Dr. Marks now employs two people to support her channel, which has grown to over 1 million subscribers and generates a meaningful part of her overall income. Thanks to the channel’s growing revenue, she hopes to invest more time into content that can reach the people who most need quality mental health information, especially in communities where resources are hard to find.

YouTube has been THE way I’ve been able to reach people and change lives in a way I never imagined.

— Dr. Tracey Marks, Atlanta, GA
ECONOMIC IMPACT

Helping Businesses Grow

New and established businesses—including small and medium-size businesses (SMBs)—can also enjoy the benefits of YouTube’s platform. By helping them reach and build a connection with new audiences, YouTube enables businesses to build new sources of demand for their products and services. This can help to generate new sales revenue and growth. YouTube’s vast content library also spans a broad range of business and industry subjects, providing opportunities for businesses to access numerous training resources.

83% of SMBs with a YouTube channel agree that YouTube played a role in helping them grow their customer base by reaching new audiences.

83% of SMBs who use YouTube agree that YouTube is essential to their business growth.

83% of businesses with a YouTube channel agree that YouTube has helped them develop a following from their local area.

80% of SMBs who use YouTube agree that YouTube is a cost-effective way of providing staff training.

I learned many practical skills from YouTube videos. I now own a welding construction company, all based off the skills I picked up on YouTube. I love that I can turn around and share these skills in my videos.

— Creator, Arizona, 10,001 to 50,000 subscribers
In 1910, a Greek immigrant named Robert Andrianos and his two brothers, Pete and Jim, opened the Boston Candy Kitchen (later renamed Hercules Candy Company in honor of their father) in East Syracuse, NY. The brothers made all of the candy by hand and sold it from their family-operated candy store for decades. Robert’s children took turns running the shop until they closed it down in 1972 after his death. But Robert’s grandson, Steve, dreamed of carrying on the Hercules Candy legacy, and by 1977 he had saved up enough money to start making and selling candy out of his basement using the same equipment his grandfather had used before him. Steve and his wife Terry kept the business going out of their home for 40 years.

In 2017, their son created the Hercules Candy YouTube channel and started posting candy-making videos that quickly took off. They began receiving orders from all over the US, as well as orders from their international fans. After seeing the new, sustained business generated by their YouTube channel, Steve and Terry felt secure enough to finally reopen a brick and mortar location in 2018. It was the first time in 70 years that Hercules Candy had had a physical retail location. For Steve, this was a lifelong dream realized. They were also able to buy new equipment and hire additional staff. The family says the sales driven by their YouTube content has had a meaningful impact on their overall business.

Reopening the doors to Hercules Candy Company after 70 years meant the world to Steve and his family, and provided a welcomed stimulus to the East Syracuse community. The shop moved into a storefront that had been vacant for two years. Now, it welcomes sweet-toothed visitors from around the world. Steve and Terry plan to one day pass the business down to their daughter, keeping the family legacy alive.

“YouTube has been a game changer for us because it generates huge interest in our business which turns into sales. This has leveled the playing field between us and big box stores because it puts our business in front of customers who may not otherwise find us with conventional searches.”

— Steve Andrianos, Syracuse, NY
YouTube really helped my business to grow in a very short time. Staff trained themselves to grow, and effective advertisements helped the business to be recognized.

— Head of Marketing or director-level report, Media and Music company
Nisha Vora grew up in a small desert town called Barstow, California, where she ate home-cooked vegetarian Indian meals with her immigrant parents almost every night. After graduating from law school in 2012, Nisha worked as a corporate lawyer in a major law firm. The long work hours left her feeling unhappy and left little time for her true passion, cooking. In 2016, after learning about factory farming, Nisha decided to go vegan. That choice ultimately helped her find a new direction for her career.

Feeling disillusioned with law and seeing an opportunity to capitalize on the growing popularity of veganism, she took a chance at turning her love for cooking into a career. She first tried sharing pictures of her vegan food on social media, but soon realized long form video was a better format to get her excited about the process of cooking. In 2017, Nisha started a YouTube channel called Rainbow Plant Life to document how to make plant-based dishes—and the success of the channel set her life on an entirely new path.

After growing her YouTube audience and publishing a vegan cookbook, Nisha started working on Rainbow Plant Life full-time in 2019. At the time, she had fewer than 40,000 subscribers but felt she could grow the channel significantly if she began focusing on it more consistently. The decision paid off, and Nisha now has 1 million subscribers on YouTube. Today, she employs two full-time staffers to help create content for the channel. She has also seen an increase in revenue generated by ads, sponsorships, website visits, and cookbook sales.

“I think my content resonates with a lot of people who didn’t know that vegan food could be delicious or that were struggling to make meals for their families. I get a lot of meaningful comments from folks who are like, ‘I’ve tried this before and it’s never stuck and I’ve been finally able to do it because of your recipes’.

— Nisha Vora, San Diego, CA
CULTURAL IMPACT

Diversity of Voices

YouTube's equitable access gives a voice to creators of all backgrounds, empowering them to share their knowledge, interests, and life experiences. By helping people to connect with others with similar values, interests, and passions, YouTube creates communities of users and creators. In doing so, it can promote dialogue on current issues, whether that be sustainability, politics, or diversity.

"It helps us feel deeply connected to a cause and empowered with knowledge to take action on issues we care about.

— User, Texas"
### Cultural Impact

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<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Diverse Content</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>76% of users agree that YouTube is home to diverse content and perspectives.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promoting Diverse Voices</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>81% of users agree that with YouTube they can hear from diverse communities and/or cultures from around the world.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language Accessibility</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>78% of users agree that they can easily find content on YouTube in their preferred language.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Viewer Value</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>72% of users agree that they value the diversity of content and perspectives they can find on YouTube.</td>
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<td>Political Range</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>21% of users have searched for political content on YouTube. Of those, 82% agree that YouTube is a source of diverse political viewpoints.</td>
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<td>Sharing Passions</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>83% of female creators agree that YouTube helps them share their passions and ideas.</td>
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Susie Jaramillo (who is of Venezuelan, Ecuadorian, and Irish descent) grew up feeling proud to be Latina. Her father, a Venezuelan rancher, frequently emphasized the importance of celebrating one’s heritage. When she became a mother, she wanted her two children to learn Spanish and be proud of their cultural roots. However, she realized that the children’s songs and stories she remembered from her childhood were difficult to come by in the US.

In 2015, seeing an opportunity, she launched Encantos Media Studios, a company focused on providing Spanish language and cultural education through storytelling. Their multimedia strategy included the launch of Canticos, a YouTube channel presenting bilingual animated videos for kids. Inspired by Hispanic nursery rhymes, Canticos teaches early literacy, math concepts, songs, dance, and culture. In 2017, Susie partnered with Nickelodeon to bring Canticos to Nickelodeon’s digital platforms and to launch a consumer product line. In 2019, the series was nominated for a Daytime Emmy for Outstanding Short Format Children’s Programming.

Seeing greater opportunity to independently grow their business, Encantos Media reclaimed the rights to Canticos from Nickelodeon in 2021 and is now focused on building their YouTube following, which has grown to over 420,000 subscribers. Enjoyed by children, parents, and educators alike, Canticos has attracted a global audience from all backgrounds. Susie says she regularly hears from non-Hispanic parents who say her channel helped introduce their child to a second language and new culture. As her company continues to grow, Susie is excited to inspire and teach a new generation of bilingual learners.

Much to our joy, our YouTube channel has grown into a pretty substantial business unto itself complementing our publishing, music, and subscription businesses.

— Susie Jaramillo, Brooklyn, NY
“[YouTube] allows me to see and experience other countries and cultures that I may never get to visit.

— User, California
SOCIETAL IMPACT

Supporting Learning at All Ages

YouTube offers a place for creators to post content to support learners across different ages and abilities. Whether seeking to build a new technical skill, make a career change, expand a hobby, or simply improve oneself, YouTube offers learners access to information, how-to guides and tutorials.

Similarly, YouTube’s variety of educational videos can help equip parents and teachers with learning materials for students.

“I have used YouTube multiple times to help teach my son a different way to do math problems, or a better way to explain a math concept.”

— User, New York
YouTube is my “go to” expert, where I find valuable information, and answers to my pressing questions. In addition, through browsing, I constantly find new things to learn and explore!

— User, Florida

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<tr>
<th>Societal Impact</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Timely Information</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical Problem Solving</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessible Information</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning for All Ages</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timely Information</td>
<td>74%</td>
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92% of users report using YouTube to gather information and knowledge.

92% of users report they learn how to fix practical problems on YouTube.

92% of female users agree that YouTube is a helpful platform for lifelong learning.

74% of users agree that YouTube was helpful during the US elections by providing access to timely and/or authoritative information.
While watching kids programming with his then 8-year-old daughter Graceyn, Dr. Javoris Hollingsworth noticed animated kids content rarely featured diverse leads. So in 2020, Dr. Hollingsworth, who taught chemistry full-time at a university in Houston at the time, launched Gracie’s Corner on YouTube. The channel provides educational, fun, and encouraging songs starring characters with diverse backgrounds. He writes and produces songs and Graceyn sings them.

The channel didn’t generate any revenue during its first year but Dr. Hollingsworth kept investing in the enterprise because he believed that children of color should see themselves represented in kids programming. He created a home recording studio and paid part-time animators to bring the character Gracie to life. By May 2022, the channel gained so much traction that he decided to quit his job as a professor to focus on it full-time. As the first person in his family to attend college, it was difficult for him to walk away from his hard-earned position, but he was committed to the mission. He hired an animation team and publicists to help get the word out about the channel. He also drew on his wife’s expertise as a doctor in clinical psychology so their content could better support the learning, development, and well-being of children.

Today, Gracie’s Corner has more than 1.5 million subscribers and in February 2023 the channel was nominated for a Favorite Female Creator at the 2023 Nickelodeon Kids’ Choice Awards. Dr. Hollingsworth is thrilled by the success of the channel and while he left university teaching behind, he still likes to consider himself an educator, just to a different audience.

“We’ve been amazed by the global audience we’ve reached. For example, we recently saw a huge increase in the number of viewers in Vietnam. To further improve upon our reach, we are working on dubbing our content in other languages.”

— Dr. Javoris Hollingsworth, Houston, TX
YouTube has given me an incredible space to create educational middle and high school band resources and videos. Lots of teachers across the world use them daily. I’m very appreciative to have YouTube as a place to host all the videos!

— Creator, South Carolina, 1,001 to 10,000 subscribers

Quality Content
85% of parents who use YouTube agree that YouTube (or YouTube Kids for children under 13) provides quality content for their children’s learning and/or entertainment.

Helping Kids Learn
77% of parents who use YouTube agree that YouTube (or YouTube Kids for children under 13) helps their children learn.

Making Learning Fun
77% of parents who use YouTube agree that YouTube (or YouTube Kids for children under 13) makes learning more fun for their children.

Educational Support
86% of teachers who use YouTube report that they have used YouTube content in their lessons and/or assignments.

Facilitated Learning
73% of teachers who use YouTube agree that YouTube helps students learn.

Bridging Education Gaps
75% of parents who use YouTube agree that YouTube helps to tackle gaps in education by providing a way to access quality information.

Making Learning Fun
77% of parents who use YouTube agree that YouTube (or YouTube Kids for children under 13) makes learning more fun for their children.
**Economic Impact**

In 2022, the total contribution of YouTube’s creative ecosystem to US GDP was **over $35 billion.**

YouTube’s creative ecosystem supported **more than 390,000** full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs in the US in 2022.

In the US, over **55,000** channels had more than 100,000 subscribers as of December 2022, an increase of more than 15%, year over year.

In the US, over **6,500** channels had more than 1 million subscribers as of December 2022, an increase of more than 15%, year over year.

83% of creators who earn money from YouTube agree that YouTube provides an opportunity to create content and earn money that they wouldn’t get from traditional media.

69% of creators who earn money from YouTube agree that the revenue they receive from advertisements being placed on their YouTube content is an important source of income for them.

74% of creators who earn money from YouTube report that YouTube has had a positive impact on their professional goals.

83% of creators who earn money from YouTube report that YouTube has had a positive impact on society.

83% of SMBs with a YouTube channel agree that YouTube played a role in helping them grow their customer base by reaching new audiences.

78% of SMBs who use YouTube agree that YouTube is essential to their business growth.

83% of SMBs who use YouTube agree that YouTube is a cost-effective way of providing staff training.

90% of creators who earn money from YouTube agree that they want to use the influence they discovered on YouTube to make a positive impact on society.

83% of creators agree that they want to use the influence they discovered on YouTube to make a positive impact on society.

67% of SMBs with a YouTube channel agree that YouTube played a role in helping them grow their revenue.

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† Source: YouTube first-party data as of December 2022
Cultural Impact

21% of users have searched for political content on YouTube. Of those, 82% agree that YouTube is a source of diverse political viewpoints.

83% of female creators agree that YouTube helps them share their passions and ideas.

62% of users agree that they can easily find content relating to their local area on YouTube.

76% of users agree that YouTube is home to diverse content and perspectives.

81% of users agree that with YouTube they can hear from diverse communities and/or cultures from around the world.

78% of users agree that they can easily find content on YouTube in their preferred language.

72% of users agree that they value the diversity of content and perspectives they can find on YouTube.
**Societal Impact**

92% of users report using YouTube to gather information and knowledge.

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86% of teachers who use YouTube report that they have used YouTube content in their lessons and/or assignments.

73% of teachers who use YouTube agree that YouTube helps students learn.

75% of parents who use YouTube agree that YouTube helps to tackle gaps in education by providing a way to access quality information.

43% of users have searched for health information on YouTube. Of these, 77% agree that they have found health information from credible, trusted sources on YouTube.

43% of users have searched for health information on YouTube. Of those, 72% agree that YouTube provides access to authoritative health information.

39% of users have searched for news on YouTube. Of those, 77% agree that they can find news information from credible, trusted sources on YouTube.
Glossary of Terms

**Business:** The types of businesses included in the analysis vary according to the claim. Our Business survey gathered insights from US businesses that own a YouTube channel; those that advertise on YouTube; and those that use YouTube for other reasons, such as staff training. These groups are not mutually exclusive and a business may fall into two or more of these categories.

**Creator:** Anyone who uploads one or more videos of any subject matter to YouTube, whether they earn revenue or not as a result.

**Creators who earn money from YouTube:** Content creators who are paid money directly by YouTube (e.g., from Ads, YouTube Premium, Channel Memberships, Super Chat, or other ways to earn).

**Full-time equivalent job:** A full-time equivalent (FTE) job represents the amount of work equivalent to one person working full time. For example, one FTE could reflect that a creator works on YouTube for 35 hours a week. Or it could reflect two creators each working 17.5 hours.

**Media business:** Includes Broadcasting and Content Providers, Radio Broadcasting Stations, Television Broadcasting Stations, Media Streaming Distribution Services, Social Networks, and Other Media Networks and Content Providers.

**Music business:** Includes Music Publishers, Sound Recording Studios, Record Production and Distribution, Other Sound Recording Industries, Musical Groups and Artists.

**Shorts:** YouTube Shorts is a way to browse, watch, and create short-form videos (60 seconds or less) from a smartphone. Further details are available [here](#).

**Small & Medium Business (SMB):** For the purposes of this report we define SMBs as businesses with fewer than 500 employees.

**User:** Anyone who views video content on YouTube for any purpose, at least once a month.

**YouTube’s Creative Ecosystem:** YouTube supports an ecosystem of creators who earn revenues both on and off the YouTube platform. This ecosystem also encompasses creators’ employees, as well as businesses and freelancers in their supply chains that earn a substantial portion of their revenue from creators.
Survey Methodology

Oxford Economics surveyed more than 4,000 YouTube Users, 3,300 Creators, and 600 Businesses that use YouTube. All surveys were prepared by Oxford Economics and fielded online in February and March 2023.

The User survey was sent to a representative sample of the US population, by age, gender, and region, with responses weighted to reflect the characteristics of YouTube’s user base.

The Creator survey was sent out by YouTube to its US creator community, with Oxford Economics collating and checking responses to ensure a good mix of creators with different sized audiences, as measured by the number of subscribers to their largest channel.

The Business survey sampled different sizes of US firms that use YouTube in different ways: as content producers (with a particular focus on music and media companies), as advertisers, and as users of YouTube content for other business purposes.
Economic Modeling Methodology Q&A

What types of creators does the economic modeling include?

Our models include “creative entrepreneurs,” who we define as individuals or businesses with at least 10,000 subscribers to their largest channel, and those with fewer subscribers who either earn money directly from YouTube, earn money through their YouTube videos from other sources, or permanently employ others to support their YouTube activities. We also model the impact of media companies and music companies.

How did we estimate the GDP contribution of YouTube’s creative ecosystem?

The total pay-out from YouTube in 2022 was estimated using results from our survey of US based YouTube content creators and published information on music industry revenues. Off-platform revenues were estimated from creator and business survey responses.

We estimated the direct GDP contribution of creative entrepreneurs by subtracting intermediate costs from revenue associated with YouTube activity (the “production” approach). The direct GDP contribution of music and media companies was estimated by applying a standard GDP output ratio to the revenue estimates.

We then used an “input-output” model—in essence, a table showing who buys what, and from whom, in the economy—to estimate both the supply chain (indirect) and worker spending (induced) impacts. In line with standard practice for these types of studies in the US, we used the IMPLAN model for this purpose.

Our results are presented on a gross basis: in other words, they do not consider what the resources used by content creators or stimulated by their expenditure could alternatively have been deployed to do.

Do the results exclude any activity connected with YouTube?

Our estimates exclude the economic contribution of YouTube’s own operations, and the benefits that businesses receive from increased sales as a result of advertising on YouTube.

How did we estimate the total jobs supported by YouTube?

Full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs supported amongst creative entrepreneurs were estimated from survey responses relating to the weekly hours spent working on YouTube. We only included responses from creative entrepreneurs who spend at least eight hours per week working on YouTube. Jobs supported amongst creative entrepreneurs’ permanent employees were also estimated from survey responses.

Jobs supported by media and music companies, and through indirect and induced impacts for all types of creator, were estimated by applying productivity assumptions to the GDP results.

Note: The case studies presented in this document were provided by YouTube.
About Oxford Economics

Founded in 1981, Oxford Economics has become one of the world’s foremost independent global advisory firms, providing reports, forecasts, and analytical tools on more than 100 industries, 200 countries, and 8,000 cities and regions.


As a key adviser to corporate, financial, and government decision-makers and thought leaders, our client base comprises over 2,000 international organizations, including leading companies, financial institutions, government bodies, trade associations, top universities, consultancies, and think tanks.

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