



## *List of longest-running American primetime television series*

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This is a **list of the longest running U.S. primetime television series**, ordered by the number of broadcast seasons offered by a U.S. broadcast network or cable network in prime time on the show's original run. Broadcast syndication that could have been scheduled by local stations in prime time have been omitted.

Longest telecasted series

Series shaded in light blue are currently in production.

50 seasons or more

| Number of seasons | Series                                      | Genre/Subject | Network          | First broadcast    | Last broadcast | Number of episodes |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 64                | <i>Hallmark Hall of Fame</i> <sup>[1]</sup> | Anthology     | NBC              | Dec 24, 1951       | Dec 17, 1978   | 354                |
|                   |                                             |               | CBS              | Nov 14, 1979       | April 30, 1981 |                    |
|                   |                                             |               | PBS              | Feb 9, 1981        | May 6, 1981    |                    |
|                   |                                             |               | CBS              | Dec 1, 1981        | Jan 29, 1989   |                    |
|                   |                                             |               | ABC              | April 30, 1989     | April 23, 1995 |                    |
|                   |                                             |               | CBS              | Dec 10, 1995       | April 24, 2011 |                    |
|                   |                                             |               | ABC              | Nov 27, 2011       | April 20, 2014 |                    |
|                   |                                             |               | Hallmark Channel | Nov 30, 2014       | present        |                    |
| 53                | <i>Walt Disney Presents</i> <sup>[2]</sup>  | Anthology     | ABC              | Oct 27, 1954       | June 11, 1961  | 1,224              |
|                   |                                             |               | NBC              | Sep 24, 1961       | Aug 16, 1981   |                    |
|                   |                                             |               | CBS              | Sep 26, 1981       | May 3, 1983    |                    |
|                   |                                             |               | ABC              | Feb 2, 1986        | May 22, 1988   |                    |
|                   |                                             |               | NBC              | Oct 9, 1988        | Aug 26, 1990   |                    |
|                   |                                             |               | Disney Channel   | Sep 23, 1990       | Sep 21, 1997   |                    |
|                   |                                             |               | ABC              | Sep 28, 1997       | Dec 24, 2008   |                    |
|                   |                                             |               | Disney Junior    | March 23, 2012     | present        |                    |
| 50                | <i>60 Minutes</i>                           | News Magazine | CBS              | September 24, 1968 | present        | 2325+              |

30–49 seasons

| Number of seasons | Series                                  | Genre/Subject   | Network  | First broadcast    | Last broadcast         | Number of episodes |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|----------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 46                | <i>Monday Night Football</i>            | Sports Football | ABC      | September 21, 1970 | December 26, 2005      | 684                |
|                   |                                         |                 | ESPN     | August 14, 2006    | present                |                    |
| 44                | <i>Masterpiece</i>                      | Anthology       | PBS      | January 10, 1971   | present                |                    |
| 42                | <i>Saturday Night Live</i>              | Variety Show    | NBC      | October 11, 1975   | present                | 850                |
| 41                | <i>Nova</i>                             | Science         | PBS      | March 3, 1974      | present                | 851                |
| 39                | <i>The Victory Garden</i>               | Gardening       | PBS      | April 16, 1975     | present                |                    |
| 37                | <i>Austin City Limits</i>               | Music           | PBS      | 1976               | present                | 300+               |
| 37                | <i>Live from Lincoln Center</i>         | Music           | PBS      | January 30, 1976   | present <sup>[3]</sup> | 251                |
| 37                | <i>Live from the Met</i> <sup>[4]</sup> | Music           | PBS      | 1977               | present <sup>[3]</sup> |                    |
| 37                | <i>Inside the NFL</i>                   | Sports Football | HBO      | September 1977     | February 6, 2008       |                    |
|                   |                                         |                 | Showtime | September 10, 2008 | present                |                    |

|    |                                               |                     |                    |                     |                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 36 | <u><i>20/20</i></u>                           | News Magazine       | ABC                | June 6, 1978        | present           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 36 | <u><i>Survivor</i></u>                        | Reality Competition | CBS                | May 31, 2000        | present           | 540                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 36 | <u><i>The Woodwright's Shop</i></u>           | Woodworking         | PBS                | 1981                | present           | 481                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 35 | <u><i>Wall Street Week</i></u> <sup>[5]</sup> | News Economics      | PBS                | November 20, 1970   | June 24, 2005     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 35 | <u><i>Frontline</i></u>                       | Public Affairs      | PBS                | January 17, 1983    | present           | 687                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 34 | <u><i>This Old House</i></u>                  | Home Improvement    | PBS                | February 20, 1979   | present           | 900+                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 33 | <u><i>Mystery!</i></u>                        | Anthology           | PBS                | February 5, 1980    | present           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 33 | <u><i>Firing Line</i></u>                     | Public Affairs      | <u>Syndication</u> | 1966 <sup>[6]</sup> | 1971              | 240                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|    |                                               |                     | PBS                | 1971                | December 26, 1999 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 32 | <u><i>The Real World</i></u> <sup>[7]</sup>   | Reality             | <u>MTV</u>         | May 21, 1992        | present           | 602                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 31 | <u><i>Nature</i></u>                          | Documentary         | PBS                | October 10, 1982    | present           | 533                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 30 | <u><i>The Amazing Race</i></u>                | Reality Competition | CBS                | September 5, 2001   | present           | 353                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 30 | <u><i>The Simpsons</i></u> <sup>[8]</sup>     | Animated Sitcom     | <u>Fox</u>         | December 17, 1989   | present           | <p><b><i>The Simpsons</i></b> is an American animated sitcom created by the Fox Broadcasting Company.<sup>[9][10][11]</sup> Developed by G Brooks, and Sam Simon, the series is a satirical depiction epitomized by the Simpson family, which consists of Homer, Lisa, and Maggie. Set in the fictional town of Springfield, society, Western culture, television, and the human condition.</p> <p>The family was conceived by Groening shortly before a series of animated shorts with producer Brooks. He created the family and named the characters after his own family members. Bart was named after his own name; he thought Simpson was a funny-sounding name similar to "simpleton".<sup>[12]</sup> The shorts became a part of <i>The Simpsons</i> on April 19, 1987. After three seasons, the series was developed into a half-hour prime time show and became a mainstay in the Top 30 ratings in a season (1989–1990).</p> <p>Since its debut on December 17, 1989, 764 episodes of the series have been broadcast. It is the longest-running American animated television series, the longest-running American sitcom, and the longest-running American primetime television series, both in seasons and individual episodes. A feature-length film, <i>The Simpsons Movie</i>, was released in theaters on July 27, 2007, to critical and commercial success, spawning a video game, development as of 2018. The series has also spawned numerous spin-off series, video games, books, and other related media, as well as a multi-billion dollar merchandising industry. <i>The Simpsons</i> is a joint production of 20th Century Fox and 20th Television.<sup>[13]</sup></p> <p>On January 26, 2023, the series was renewed for its 35th season, which will take the show through the 2024–25 television season. The season will contain a combined total of 51 episodes. Seven of the episodes are season 34 holdovers, while the other 44 will be produced over the course of the upcoming seasons, bringing the show's overall episode count to 801.<sup>[15]</sup> Season 35 premiered on October 1, 2023.<sup>[16]</sup></p> <p><i>The Simpsons</i> received widespread acclaim throughout the 1990s, which are generally considered its "golden age". The series has been criticized for a perceived decline in quality. <i>Time</i> magazine ranked it as one of the century's best television series,<sup>[17]</sup> and Erik Adams of <i>The New York Times</i> called it "television's crowning achievement regardless of format".<sup>[18]</sup> In 2000, the Simpson family was awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. It has won dozens of awards since it debuted as a series.</p> |

Primetime Emmy Awards, 34 Annie Awards, and 2 Peabody exclamationary catchphrase of "D'oh!" has been adopted language, while *The Simpsons* has influenced many other animated sitcom television series.

## Premise

### Characters

The main characters are the Simpson family, who live in the "America" town of Springfield.<sup>[19]</sup> Homer, the father, is an inspector at the Springfield Nuclear Power Plant, a positive careless, buffoonish personality. He is married to Marge, a stereotypical American housewife and mother. They have Bart, a ten-year-old troublemaker and prankster; Lisa, a ten-year-old activist; and Maggie, the baby of the family who communicates by sucking on a pacifier. Although the family many episodes examine their relationships and bonds with they are often shown to care about one another.<sup>[20]</sup>

The family also owns a dog, Santa's Little Helper, and a cat is replaced by a cat also called Snowball II in the fifteenth- (Annoyed Grunt)-Bot".<sup>[21]</sup> Extended members of the Simpson family in the main cast include Homer's father Abe and Marge's mother Jacqueline and Homer's motherless frequently.

The show includes a vast array of quirky supporting characters include Homer's friends Barney Gumble, Lenny Leonard, the school principal Seymour Skinner and staff member Krabappel and Groundskeeper Willie; students such as Houten, Nelson Muntz and Ralph Wiggum; shopkeeper Nahasapeemapetilon, Comic Book Guy and Moe Szyslak; figures Mayor "Diamond" Joe Quimby and Clancy Winesap; neighbor Ned Flanders; local celebrities such as Krusty the Clown, reporter Kent Brockman; nuclear tycoon Montgomery Burns; assistant Waylon Smithers; and dozens more.

The creators originally intended many of these characters to be for fulfilling needed functions in the town. A number of expanded roles and subsequently starred in their own episodes. Matt Groening, the show adopted the concept of a large set of the comedy show SCTV.<sup>[22]</sup>

### Continuity and the floating timeline

Despite the depiction of yearly milestones such as holidays passing, the characters never age. The series uses a floating timeline in which episodes generally take place in the year the episode is produced. Flashbacks and flashforwards do occasionally depict the characters' points in their lives, with the timeline of these depicted floating relative to the year the episode is produced. For example, episodes "The Way We Was" and "I Married Marge" depict the Simpson family as high schoolers in the 1970s who had Bart (who is always depicted as the early '80s, while the 2008 episode "That '90s Show" depicts Marge as a childless couple in the '90s, and the 2021 episode "Bart Gets an F" portrays Homer as an adolescent in the 1980s. The 1995 episode "Lisa's Wedding" takes place decades in the then-future year of 2010, the same year the series' 22nd season, in which Lisa was still 8. Regarding the floating timeline, Selman stated that "they all kind of happened world".<sup>[23]</sup>

The show follows a loose and inconsistent continuity. For example, the Clown may be able to read in one episode, but not in another. He is consistently portrayed that he is Jewish, that his father was a comedian that his career began in the 1960s. The latter point introduced

in the floating timeline: historical periods that are a core part of a character's backstory remain so even when their age makes it unlikely or impossible, such as Grampa Simpson and Principal Skinner's respective service in World War II and Vietnam.



The Simp

The only episodes not part of the series' main canon are the *Treehouse of Horror* episodes, which often feature the deaths of main characters. Characters who die in "regular" episodes, such as Maude Flanders, Mona Simpson and end with the status quo being restored, though occasional to vegetarianism and Buddhism, the divorce of Millhouse ve parenthood of Apu and Manjula.

## Settir

*The Simpsons* takes place in a fictional American tow settlements in America named Springfield,<sup>[24]</sup> this one is fi show is intentionally evasive with regard to Springfield's surroundings is inconsistent: from one episode to anotl mountains, or whatever the story or joke requires.<sup>[26]</sup> Gro with Portland, Oregon, the city where he grew up.<sup>[27]</sup> C Oregon, and the fictitious Springfield which was the setting Springfield was one of the most common names for a city thought, 'This will be cool; everyone will think it's their Sprin

## Produc

### Develop

When producer James L. Brooks was working on the te *Tracey Ullman Show*, he decided to include small animatec the commercial breaks. Having seen one of cartoonist M comic strips, Brooks asked Groening to pitch an idea for a Groening initially intended to present an animated version ( However, Groening later realized that animating *Life i* rescinding of publication rights for his life's work. He approach while waiting in the lobby of Brooks's office for ti formulating his version of a dysfunctional family that becan named the characters after his own family members, sub name, adopting an anagram of the word *brat*.<sup>[29]</sup>

The Simpson family first appeared as shorts in *The Tracey* 1987.<sup>[31]</sup> Groening submitted only basic sketches to the ar the figures would be cleaned up in production. However, traced his drawings, which led to the crude appearance of shorts.<sup>[29]</sup> The animation was produced domestically at Wes Archer, David Silverman, and Bill Kopp being anirr Gyorgyi Kovacs Peluce (Kovács Györgyike)<sup>[35][36][37][38][3</sup> Maggie have no hairlines, she felt they would look strang decision, saying: "Marge is yellow with blue hair? That's hil

In 1989, a team of production companies adapted *The Sin Company*. The team included the Klasky Csupo animator with the Fox network that prevented Fox from interfering creating the show was to offer the audience an alternativ were watching.<sup>[42]</sup> The half-hour series premiered on Dece Fire".<sup>[43]</sup> "Some Enchanted Evening" was the first full-lengi 1990, as the last episode of the first season, because of a lawsuit against Fox, claiming that her show was the sou receive a share of the profits of *The Simpsons*<sup>[45]</sup>—a claim

### Executive producers

Matt Groening and James L. Brooks have served as exe also function as creative consultants. Sam Simon, descir unsung hero" of the show,<sup>[47]</sup> served as creative supervis



Matt Groening, the creator of *The Simpsons*

with Groening, Brooks and the show's production company Gracie Films and left in 1993.<sup>[48]</sup> Before leaving, he negotiated a deal that sees him receive a share of the profits every year, and an executive producer credit despite not having worked on the show since 1993,<sup>[48][49]</sup> at least until his passing in 2018.<sup>[34]</sup>

Writin





The first team of writers, assembled by Sam Simon, consisted of Jeff Martin, Al Jean, Mike Reiss, Jay Kogen and Wallace W consist of sixteen writers who propose episode ideas at the start of each episode writes the first draft. Group rewriting sessions involve inserting scenes, and calling for re-readings of lines by the writers. Meyer, who had developed the show since the first season, usually invented the best lines in a script credits.<sup>[53]</sup> Each episode takes six months to produce.

Credited with sixty episodes, John Swartzwelder is the most prolific writer on *The Simpsons*.<sup>[56]</sup> One of the best-known writers is Conan O'Brien, who contributed to several episodes in the early 1990s before replacing David Letterman as host of the talk show *Late Night*.<sup>[57]</sup> English comedian Ricky Gervais wrote the episode "Homer Simpson, This Is Your Wife", becoming a celebrity both to write and guest star in the same episode. Rogen and Evan Goldberg, writers of the film *Superbad*, wrote the episode "Homer the Whopper", with Rogen voicing a character in it.<sup>[59]</sup>

At the end of 2007, the writers of *The Simpsons* went on strike together with the other members of the Writers Guild of America East. The show's writers had joined the guild in 1998.<sup>[60]</sup>

In May 2023, the writers of *The Simpsons* went on strike with the other members of the Writers Guild of America East.<sup>[61][62]</sup>

Voice ac

| Cast members                                                                             |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|     |  |  |  |
| Dan Castellaneta                                                                         | Julie Kavner                                                                          | Nancy Cartwright                                                                      | Hank Azaria                                                                           |
| <u>Homer Simpson</u> , <u>Abe Simpson</u> , <u>Krusty the Clown</u> , various characters | <u>Marge Simpson</u> , <u>Patty and Selma Bouvier</u> , additional voices             | <u>Bart Simpson</u> , <u>Maggie Simpson</u> , various characters                      | <u>Hank Azaria</u> , <u>Harry Shearer</u>                                             |

*The Simpsons* has six main cast members: Dan Castellaneta, Hank Azaria, and Harry Shearer. Castellaneta voices Homer Simpson, Abe Simpson, Krusty the Clown, various characters, Groundskeeper Willie, Mayor Quimby, Barney Gumble, and Marge Simpson and Patty and Selma, as well as several other characters. Nancy Cartwright voices Bart Simpson, Nelson Muntz, Ralph W. Simpson, is the only cast member who regularly voices only episodic characters.<sup>[63]</sup> The producers decided to hold casting for the other characters.

been asked to audition for the role of Bart, but casting director so she was given the role of Lisa instead.<sup>[66]</sup> Cartwright was at the audition, she found that Lisa was simply described as a personality. Cartwright became more interested in the underachieving, school-hating, irreverent, [and] clever".<sup>[67]</sup> After hearing her read, gave her the job on the spot.<sup>[68]</sup> Cartwright members who had been professionally trained in voice acting. Shearer does not voice members of the title family, but plays been a part of the main voice cast since the second season, as part of the regular main voice cast since the third season, as voiced Wiggum, Apu Nahasapeemapetilon and Professor Frink. Principal Skinner, Ned Flanders, Reverend Lovejoy and Krusty the Clown won a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Voice-Over Performance.

With one exception, episode credits list only the voice actors. The production crew wanted to keep their identities secret during recording sessions while refusing to publish photos of the actors, which revealed which roles each actor performed in the episode. The actors should receive credit for their work.<sup>[72]</sup> In 2003, the *Studio*, doing live performances of their characters' voices.

The six main actors were paid \$30,000 per episode until 1998. Fox. The company threatened to replace them with new actors if they refused. The series creator Groening supported the actors' strike. From 1998 to 2004, they were paid \$125,000 per episode. After syndication and DVD sales, and in April 2004 the main cast they be paid \$360,000 per episode.<sup>[74][75]</sup> The strike was increased to something between \$250,000<sup>[77]</sup> and \$360,000 per episode. The season was put on hold due to new contract negotiations. The salary was raised to an amount close to \$500,000 per episode.<sup>[78]</sup> The salary was raised to \$400,000 per episode.<sup>[79]</sup> Three years later, production costs were cut, the cast members accepted a 10% raise per episode.<sup>[80]</sup>

In addition to the main cast, Pamela Hayden, Tress MacNeille, and other voice supporting characters.<sup>[63]</sup> From 1999 to 2002, Roscoe Lee Browne as Karl Wiedergott has also appeared in minor roles, but does not appear in the show in 2010, and since then Chris Edgerly has appeared as a "special guest" cast members include Albert Brooks, Phil Hartman, and Kelsey Grammer.<sup>[82]</sup> Following Hartman's death in 1999, Hutz) were retired;<sup>[83]</sup> Wallace's character of Edna Krabappel. Following Taylor's death in 2019, her characters (including Grey Griffin).<sup>[84]</sup>

Episodes will quite often feature guest voices from a wide variety of authors, bands, musicians and scientists. In the earlier seasons, guest stars eventually more started appearing as themselves. Tony Danza appeared briefly in the season two episode "Dancin' Homer". Guest Stars Featured in a Television Series".<sup>[86]</sup>

*The Simpsons* has been dubbed into several other languages, including Portuguese. It is also one of the few programs dubbed in Brazilian Portuguese. It has been broadcast in Arabic, but due to Islamic customs. For example, Homer drinks soda instead of beer and eats pork. Due to such changes, the Arabized version of the series met with some controversy in the area.<sup>[88]</sup>

## Animation

Several different U.S. and international studios animate the shorts on *The Tracey Ullman Show*, the animation was produced by the series, because of an increased workload, Fox Animation Studios.<sup>[32]</sup> These are AKOM,<sup>[89]</sup> Anivision,<sup>[90]</sup> Rough Draft Animation.<sup>[93]</sup>

For the first three seasons, Klasky Csupo animated *The Simpsons*. The production company, Gracie Films, switched domestic production of the show until 2016 when they were replaced by Fox Television Animation. In Season 14, production switched from traditional animation to digital coloring was "Rad" and "Treehouse of Horror".

paint during production of the season 12 episode "Tennis Films delayed the regular use of digital ink and paint until already completed "Tennis the Menace" was broadcast as i

The production staff at the U.S. animation studio, Film R designs new characters, backgrounds, props and draws i layouts, which in turn become animatics to be screened Films for any changes to be made before the work i overseas studios then draw the inbetweens, ink and paint, to tape before it is shipped back to the United States to b four months later.<sup>[97]</sup>

The series began high-definition production in Season 20; Life, Please", aired February 15, 2009. The move to HDT sequence.<sup>[98]</sup> Matt Groening called it a complicated chan timing and composition of animation.<sup>[99]</sup>

## Them

*The Simpsons* uses the standard setup of a situational com family and their life in a typical American town,<sup>[19]</sup> servi lifestyle.<sup>[100]</sup> However, because of its animated nature, 7 sitcom. The town of Springfield acts as a complete univers modern society. By having Homer work in a nuclear pow environment.<sup>[101]</sup> Through Bart and Lisa's days at Spring pressing or controversial issues in the field of education. which enables the producers to make jokes about the enter

Some commentators say the show is political in natur acknowledged in an interview that "We [the show] an appreciation for progressive leanings, but the show mak portrays government and large corporations as evil entities the writers often portray authority figures in an unflattering corrupt, ministers such as Reverend Lovejoy are dismi incompetent.<sup>[106]</sup> Religion also figures as a recurring them and the show has dealt with most of the major religions.<sup>[106]</sup>

Sexuality is often a source of jokes in the series or ser homosexuals are sometimes sources of gags, the series c with "Homer's Phobia" devoting an entire episode to the fa him. In 1990, *The Simpsons* became the first animated ea "Simpson and Delilah".

## Hallma

### Opening se

*The Simpsons'* opening sequence is one of the show's rr gone through three iterations (a replacement of some sho sequence when the show switched to high-definition in 200

Each has the same basic sequence of events: the camer title towards the town of Springfield. The camera then follow entering their house, the Simpsons settle down on their created by David Silverman, and was the first task he did distinctive theme song was composed by musician Dar requesting a retro-style piece. This piece has been noted b

One of the most distinctive aspects of the opening is that Bart writes different things on the school chalkboard,<sup>[110]</sup> occasionally a different instrument), and different gags acc on the couch.<sup>[112]</sup>

### Halloween e

The special Halloween episode has become an annual tra part of season two and established the pattern of three episode.<sup>[113]</sup> These pieces usually involve the family in so often parody or pay homage to a famous piece of work in normal continuity of the show. Although the *Treehouse* seri



the 2000s (and again in 2020), when new installments hit Halloween due to Fox's current contract with Major League Series.<sup>[115]</sup> Prior to 2020 (between 2011 and 2019), a *Horror* episode had aired in October.

Humor

The show's humor turns on cultural references that cover society so that viewers from all generations can enjoy references, for example, come from movies, television science, and history.<sup>[116]</sup> The animators also regularly add into the show's background via humorous or incongruous newspapers, billboards, and elsewhere. The audience may miss the visual jokes in a single viewing. Some are so fleeting and apparent only by pausing a video recording of the show or that *The Simpsons* uses a "flurry of cultural references" and considerable self-reflexivity about television conventions show."<sup>[118]</sup>

One of Bart's early hallmarks was his prank calls to Moe's name. Moe tries to find that person in the bar, but soon realizes the calls were apparently based on a series of prank calls known as "Moe's" denied any causal connection.<sup>[119]</sup> Moe was based partly on profane responses inspired Moe's violent side.<sup>[120]</sup> As the writers came up with a fake name and to write Moe's regular joke during the fourth season.<sup>[121][122]</sup> *The Simpsons*' most common form is jokes about Fox Broadcasting.<sup>[124]</sup> It included a scene in which a Fox News Channel van drove past a "2004" banner and playing Queen's "We Are the Champions" and claims of conservative bias in Fox News.<sup>[125][126]</sup>

The show uses catchphrases, and most of the primary and notable expressions include Homer's annoyed grunt "D'oh". Some of Bart's catchphrases, such as "¡Ay, caramba!", "D'oh", and "On T-shirts in the show's early days."<sup>[128]</sup> However, Bart rarely became popular through the merchandising. The use of many of the episode "Bart Gets Famous" mocks catchphrase-based humor in *Show* solely for saying "I didn't do it."<sup>[129]</sup>

Purported foreshadowing

*The Simpsons* has gained notoriety for jokes that appear to come from the episode "Bart to the Future", which mentions the United States at one time and leaving the nation broken before Trump (who at the time was exploring a presidential campaign). "Dish Upon a Star", lampooned 20th Century Fox as a division of Disney purchased Fox.<sup>[132]</sup> Other examples of purported foreshadowing include the introduction of the Smartwatch, video chat service, spaceflight,<sup>[133][134]</sup> Lady Gaga's acrobatic performance and a submersible implosion.<sup>[136]</sup>

Al Jean has commented on the show's purported ability to make "educated guesses" and stating that "if you throw enough darts, you'll hit the bullseye." Checking sources such as Snopes have debunked many of the extensive run means "a lot of jokes, and a lot of opportunities for predictions" have rather simple and mundane explanations. *Simpsons* with autocorrection is an Apple Newton, a 1970s-era computer recognition.<sup>[139]</sup> Technologically advanced watches have appeared in *The Simpsons*.<sup>[140]</sup>

Influence and legacy

Idiom

A number of neologisms that originated on *The Simpsons* have entered popular culture. Liberman, director of the Linguistic Data Consortium, remarks that Shakespeare and the Bible as our culture's greatest sources of allusions."<sup>[142]</sup> The most famous catchphrase is Homer's "D'oh", which is now listed in the *Oxford English Dictionary*, but is

borrowed the phrase from James Finlayson, an actor in a more elongated and whining tone. The staff of *The Simpsons* on to become the well-known exclamation in the television

Groundskeeper Willie's description of the French as "cheerless". *The New York Review* columnist Jonah Goldberg in 2003, after France's *Le Monde* quickly spread to other journalists.<sup>[142][145]</sup> "Cromulent" <sup>[142]</sup> have since appeared in the *Dictionary.com*'s 21st century word list, respectively.<sup>[142][147]</sup> "Kwyjibo", a fake Scrabble word invented by the aliases of the creator of the Melissa worm.<sup>[148]</sup> "I, for one, would like to see the *Deep Space Homer*" and has become a term to express obsequious submission. It has been used in media as a term "Meh", believed to have been popularized by the show in 2008.<sup>[153]</sup> Other words credited as stemming from the show

*The Oxford Dictionary of Modern Quotations* includes several phrases from the show, including "eating surrender monkeys", Homer's lines, "Kids, you try to do it, but you never try", from "Burns' Heir" (season five, 1994) as well as "I hate the things you hate. And they practically raise themselves to hate me." *Misbehavin'!* (season 11, 1999), entered the dictionary in 2014.

Many quotes/scenes have become popular Internet memes, such as from "The PTA Disbands" (season 6, 1995) and "Stearns and Smith" (season 7, 1996).

Television

*The Simpsons* was the first successful animated program in the United States. *Home* in the 1970s.<sup>[155]</sup> During most of the 1980s, US networks were reluctant to put children, and animating a show was too expensive to a large audience. *Simpsons* changed this perception,<sup>[32]</sup> initially leading to a boom in prime-time cartoon success with shows like *Capitol Critters*, *Animaniacs*, and unsuccessful.<sup>[156]</sup> *The Simpsons*' use of Korean animation helped make the episodes cheaper. The success of *The Simpsons* encouraged other networks to take chances on other adult animated series, such as *King of the Hill*, *Futurama* (which was created by Matt Groening and Gracie Films).<sup>[32]</sup> For *Family Guy* creator Seth MacFarlane, *The Simpsons* animation that had not been there for many, many years ... was a big wheel. They created what is in many ways—you could classify it as a

*The Simpsons* has had crossovers with four other shows. In the episode "The Simpsons Movie", the character of Sherman, the main character of *The Critic*, to be a judge of the show. His name removed from the episode since he had no involvement in the show. *The Simpsons* with the episode "Simpsons Already Did It". *Futurama* come to Springfield in the present to prevent the *Family Guy* episode "The Simpsons Guy", the Griffins visit the Simpsons.

*The Simpsons* has also influenced live-action shows like *Friends* and *Seinfeld* and did not use a laugh track unlike most sitcoms.<sup>[16]</sup> *The Simpsons* in the time slot after *The Simpsons*. *Ricky Gervais* called *The Simpsons* a fellow British sitcom *Spaced* was, according to its director, *Simpsons*.<sup>[165]</sup> In *Georgia*, the animated television sitcom *Georgia* been noted for its very strong resemblance with *The Simpsons* acknowledged.<sup>[166][167]</sup>

LGBT representation

*The Simpsons* has historically been open to portrayals of LGBT characters and challenged heteronormativity.<sup>[168][169]</sup> It was one of several shows that began introducing characters that were LGBT, both openly and closeted. Involving LGBT characters primarily included them through guest appearances. Several prominent LGBT characters over its run.<sup>[170]</sup> Producers have expressed their opinion that LGBT representation is important in

| Season    |                  | No. of episodes | Originally aired   |                 |
|-----------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
|           |                  |                 | Season premiere    | Season finale   |
| <u>1</u>  | <u>1989–90</u>   | 13              | December 17, 1989  | May 13, 1990    |
| <u>2</u>  | <u>1990–91</u>   | 22              | October 11, 1990   | July 11, 1991   |
| <u>3</u>  | <u>1991–92</u>   | 24              | September 19, 1991 | August 27, 1992 |
| <u>4</u>  | <u>1992–93</u>   | 22              | September 24, 1992 | May 13, 1993    |
| <u>5</u>  | <u>1993–94</u>   | 22              | September 30, 1993 | May 19, 1994    |
| <u>6</u>  | <u>1994–95</u>   | 25              | September 4, 1994  | May 21, 1995    |
| <u>7</u>  | <u>1995–96</u>   | 25              | September 17, 1995 | May 19, 1996    |
| <u>8</u>  | <u>1996–97</u>   | 25              | October 27, 1996   | May 18, 1997    |
| <u>9</u>  | <u>1997–98</u>   | 25              | September 21, 1997 | May 17, 1998    |
| <u>10</u> | <u>1998–99</u>   | 23              | August 23, 1998    | May 16, 1999    |
| <u>11</u> | <u>1999–2000</u> | 22              | September 26, 1999 | May 21, 2000    |
| <u>12</u> | <u>2000–01</u>   | 21              | November 1, 2000   | May 20, 2001    |
| <u>13</u> | <u>2001–02</u>   | 22              | November 6, 2001   | May 22, 2002    |
| <u>14</u> | <u>2002–03</u>   | 22              | November 3, 2002   | May 18, 2003    |
| <u>15</u> | <u>2003–04</u>   | 22              | November 2, 2003   | May 23, 2004    |
| <u>16</u> | <u>2004–05</u>   | 21              | November 7, 2004   | May 15, 2005    |

|           |                |     |                    |                               |
|-----------|----------------|-----|--------------------|-------------------------------|
|           |                |     |                    |                               |
| <u>17</u> | <u>2005–06</u> | 22  | September 11, 2005 | May 21, 2006                  |
| <u>18</u> | <u>2006–07</u> | 22  | September 10, 2006 | May 20, 2007                  |
| <u>19</u> | <u>2007–08</u> | 20  | September 23, 2007 | May 18, 2008                  |
| <u>20</u> | <u>2008–09</u> | 21  | September 28, 2008 | May 17, 2009                  |
| <u>21</u> | <u>2009–10</u> | 23  | September 27, 2009 | May 23, 2010                  |
| <u>22</u> | <u>2010–11</u> | 22  | September 26, 2010 | May 22, 2011                  |
| <u>23</u> | <u>2011–12</u> | 22  | September 25, 2011 | May 20, 2012                  |
| <u>24</u> | <u>2012–13</u> | 22  | September 30, 2012 | May 19, 2013                  |
| <u>25</u> | <u>2013–14</u> | 22  | September 29, 2013 | May 18, 2014                  |
| <u>26</u> | <u>2014–15</u> | 22  | September 28, 2014 | May 17, 2015                  |
| <u>27</u> | <u>2015–16</u> | 22  | September 27, 2015 | May 22, 2016                  |
| <u>28</u> | <u>2016–17</u> | 22  | September 25, 2016 | May 21, 2017                  |
| <u>29</u> | <u>2017–18</u> | 21  | October 1, 2017    | May 20, 2018                  |
| <u>30</u> | <u>2018–19</u> | 23  | September 30, 2018 | May 12, 2019                  |
| <u>31</u> | <u>2019–20</u> | 22  | September 29, 2019 | May 17, 2020                  |
| <u>32</u> | <u>2020–21</u> | 22  | September 27, 2020 | May 23, 2021                  |
| <u>33</u> | <u>2021–22</u> | 22  | September 26, 2021 | May 22, 2022                  |
| <u>34</u> | <u>2022–23</u> | 22  | September 25, 2022 | May 21, 2023                  |
| <u>35</u> | <u>2023–24</u> | TBA | October 1, 2023    | May 19, 2024 <sup>[222]</sup> |

The cable television network FXX, a sibling of 20th Televis and digital syndication rights for *The Simpsons*. Original co *The Simpsons* would not be sold to cable until the series co highly rare. The series has been syndicated to local bro United States since September 1994.<sup>[223]</sup>

FXX premiered *The Simpsons* on their network on August featured the first 552 episodes (every single episode chronologically, including *The Simpsons Movie*, which FXX longest continuous marathon in the history of television marathon of *Saturday Night Live* in 2015; celebrating that the marathon was the highest rated broadcast day in the tripled those of regular prime time programming for FXX.<sup>[224]</sup> grew night after night, with the network ranking within t Australia, a marathon of every episode of the show (at th 2020, on Fox8 (a cable network operated on pay TV provi network).<sup>[228]</sup>

After Disney acquired both 20th Television and FX Networ the company's Freeform channel starting October 2, 2019.<sup>[229]</sup>

### Streaming and digi

On October 21, 2014, a digital service courtesy of the FXX episode of the series accessible to authenticated FX sub Xbox One, streaming devices such as Roku and Apple TV criticism of both wrong aspect ratios for earlier episodes a service, but that problem was soon amended with fewer co it was announced that *Simpsons World* would now let format.<sup>[233]</sup> *Simpsons World* was discontinued after the li series streams exclusively.<sup>[234][235]</sup> Initially, the series was view the original 4:3 versions, reigniting criticisms of cropping that "in early 2020, Disney+ will make the first 19 seasons i available in their original 4:3 aspect ratio, giving subscript series."<sup>[237][238]</sup> On May 28, 2020, Disney+ made the first 20, of *The Simpsons* available in both 16:9 and the original 4:3. On October 2, 2020, with Hulu streaming the latest episodes o on September 29, 2021.

The season 3 premiere "Stark Raving Dad", which feature was pulled out of rotation in 2019 by Matt Groening, documentary *Leaving Neverland*, in which two men share children.<sup>[240][241]</sup> It is therefore unavailable on Disney+. Ho *Third Season* DVD box set released on August 26, 2003.<sup>[242]</sup>

In July 2017, all episodes from seasons 4 to 19 were Canada.<sup>[243]</sup>

## Reception and a

### Early suc

*The Simpsons* was the Fox network's first television se shows.<sup>[244]</sup> In 1990, Bart quickly became one of the most "Bartmania".<sup>[245][246][247][248]</sup> He became the most preval shirts. In the early 1990s, millions of T-shirts featuring Bart some days.<sup>[250]</sup> Believing Bart to be a bad role model, sev Bart next to captions such as "I'm Bart Simpson. Who the man!").<sup>[251][252][253]</sup> *The Simpsons* merchandise sold well months of sales.<sup>[251]</sup> Because of his popularity, Bart was o in advertisements for the show, even for episodes in which

Due to the show's success, over the summer of 1990 the F from 8:00 p.m. ET on Sunday night to the same time on T NBC, the number one show at the time.<sup>[255][256]</sup> Throug about the supposed "Bill vs. Bart" rivalry.<sup>[250][255]</sup> "Bart Gett against *The Cosby Show*, and it received a lower Nielsen had an 18.5 rating. The rating is based on the number of h Nielsen Media Research estimated that 33.6 million view

show in terms of actual viewers that week. At the time, it was the highest rated episode in the Network,<sup>[257]</sup> and it is still the highest rated episode in the Network's Sunday slot in 1994 and has remained there ever since.

*The Simpsons* has received overwhelmingly positive reviews. It has been described as "the most irreverent and unapologetic show on television." Tucker of *Entertainment Weekly* described it as "the American cartoon." It's this neat paradox that makes millions of people watch it every night to concentrate on *The Simpsons*."<sup>[261]</sup> Tucker also called it "the best prime-time cartoon show that appeals to the entire family."<sup>[262]</sup>

## Run length and records

On February 9, 1997, *The Simpsons* surpassed *The Flamingo Poochie Show* as the longest-running prime-time animated series. *The Simpsons* replaced *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet* (which was a live action) in the United States in terms of the number of episodes. *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet*'s record of 435 episodes was briefly overtaken by *The Simpsons* as the American animated series with the most episodes across several different iterations.<sup>[267]</sup> However, network executives decided to end the series after the seventeenth season.<sup>[268]</sup> In May 2007, *The Simpsons* reclaimed the record for the number of episodes. While *The Simpsons* has the record for the number of episodes, several other animated series have surpassed *The Simpsons*.<sup>[269]</sup> For example, *The Simpsons* has over 2,000 episodes (7,000+ segments) to its credit.<sup>[269]</sup>

In 2009, Fox began a year-long celebration of the show's 20th anniversary of the premiere of *The Simpsons*. One of the events was the "Yellow" contest in which entrants must design a poster for the 2010 (almost 20 years after "Bart the Genius" aired on *Ja'mal Special – In 3-D! On Ice!*, a documentary special by documentary filmmaker "cultural phenomenon of *The Simpsons*".<sup>[271][272]</sup>

As of the twenty-first season (2009–2010), *The Simpsons* is the longest-running primetime television series, having surpassed the 1950s-era *Simpsons* also surpassed *Gunslinger*'s 635-episode count.

*The Simpsons* is both the longest-running and the highest rated most followed TV shows ever.<sup>[274]</sup>

On February 6, 2019, it was announced that *The Simpsons* will be renewed for a 26th season.

On March 3, 2021, it was announced that *The Simpsons* will be renewed for a 27th season.

## Awards and nominations

*The Simpsons* has won dozens of awards since it debuted. It has won 34 Primetime Emmy Awards,<sup>[86]</sup> 34 Annie Awards,<sup>[278]</sup> and a Peabody Award.<sup>[278]</sup> In a 1999 issue celebrating the 20th anniversary of the show's achievements in arts and entertainment, *Time* named *The Simpsons* the century's best television series, writing: "Dazzlingly unapologetically vulgar, the Simpsons have surpassed the standards of and, yes, humanity of past TV greats."<sup>[279]</sup> In that same issue, Bart Simpson in the *Time* 100, the publication's list of the 100 most influential people.<sup>[280]</sup> Bart was the only fictional character on the list. In January 14, 2000, the Simpsons were awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.<sup>[281]</sup> Also in 2000, *Entertainment Weekly* magazine named *The Simpsons* the greatest television series of all time. Furthermore, viewers of the UK television channel Channel 4 named *The Simpsons* at the top of two polls: 2001's 100 Greatest TV Shows and 2005's The 100 Greatest Cartoons,<sup>[283]</sup> with Homer Simpson as the greatest character.<sup>[284]</sup> Homer also placed ninth on *Entertainment Weekly*'s 2002, *The Simpsons* ranked No. 8 on *TV Guide*'s 50 Greatest TV Shows of All Time. In 2004, it was named the 6th best cult show in 2004.<sup>[287]</sup> In 2007, it moved to No. 8 on *TV Guide*'s list of the "100 Best TV Shows of All Time".<sup>[289]</sup> In 2008 the show was named "Top 100 Shows of the Past 25 Years".<sup>[290]</sup> *Empire* magazine named *The Simpsons* the greatest television series of all time. *Entertainment Weekly* named Homer "the greatest character of all time." The *Guild of America* listed *The Simpsons* as the 11th "best written television series" and ranked *The Simpsons* as the greatest TV cartoon of all time.

2015 *The Hollywood Reporter* survey of 2,800 actors, prod their No. 10 favorite show.<sup>[296]</sup> In 2015, British newspaper best TV sitcoms of all time.<sup>[297]</sup> Television critics Alan Se the greatest American TV series of all time in their 2016 b *The Simpsons* as the second-greatest TV show of all tir fourth-greatest TV show of all time.<sup>[300]</sup>

Critici

Controv

Bart's rebellious, bad boy nature, which underlies his mish people to characterize him as a poor role model for childre a "threat to learning" because of his "underachiever and p education.<sup>[303]</sup> Others described him as "egotistical, aggre Cosby described Bart as a bad role model for children, c Matt Groening said, "That sums up Bart, all right. Most p normal is very boring, and does things that others just w President George H. W. Bush said, "We are going to keep American families a lot more like the Waltons and a lot l tongue-in-cheek reply in the form of a short segment that Dad" in which Bart replied, "Hey, we're just like the W too."<sup>[306][307]</sup>

The show also received criticism from the nuclear power boss Mr. Burns and "bungling idiot" employees (including security.<sup>[308]</sup> In a letter to the nuclear power-backed U.S. apologized, stating, "I apologize that the Simpsons have c with you that in real life, Homer Simpson would not be emp probably wouldn't be employed anywhere."<sup>[308]</sup>

Various episodes of the show have generated controvers (season six, 1995) and Brazil in "Blame It on Lisa" (seaso and negative reaction in the visited countries.<sup>[309]</sup> In th claimed that the city was portrayed as having rampant s infestations—went so far as to threaten Fox with legal ac episode "A Star Is Burns" (season six, 1995), which feature advertisement for *The Critic*, and that people would inc unsuccessful in getting the episode pulled, he had his na concerns, openly criticizing James L. Brooks and sayin response, Brooks said, "I am furious with Matt, ... he's allc going too far. ... his behavior right now is rotten."<sup>[158][311]</sup>

"The Principal and the Pauper" (season nine, 1997) is one Many fans and critics reacted negatively to the revelation first season, was an impostor. The episode has been critic the voice of Skinner. In a 2001 interview, Shearer recalled so wrong. You're taking something that an audience has b tossed it in the trash can for no good reason, for a story w and gratuitous, and it's disrespectful to the audience."<sup>[312]</sup>

Bans

The show has reportedly been taken off the air in several c August 2006, "in an effort to protect China's struggling a show from airing on morning television as it was deemed Russian Pentecostal churches demanded that *The Simps* removed from broadcast schedules "for propaganda of revoked. However, a court decision later dismissed this req

Perceived decli

Critics' reviews of early *Simpsons* episodes praised intelligence.<sup>[42][316]</sup> However, in the late 1990s, around th show began to change. Some critics started calling the become disillusioned with the show, and pointed to its shift an overemphasis on zany antics.<sup>[318][319][320]</sup> Jim Schemb in quality to an abandonment of character-driven story references to popular culture. Schembri wrote in 2011: "Th

from commanding attention to merely being attention-seekers; they have to be caricatures; they can be invested with real emotion; they can be a limp parody of itself. Memorable story arcs have been sacrificed for hungry dialogue."<sup>[321]</sup>

In 2010, the BBC noted "the common consensus is that *The Simpsons* and Todd Leopold of CNN, in an article looking at its perceived decline, are long past."<sup>[320]</sup> Similarly, Tyler Wilson of *Coeur d'Alene* described the show's "golden age",<sup>[323]</sup> and Ian Nathan of *Empire* described the show's "golden seasons".<sup>[324]</sup> Jon Heacock of *LucidWorks* stated that "for the first time at the top of its game", with "so many moments, quotable lines, and helped turn the Simpson family into the cultural icons that it is today."

Mike Scully, who was showrunner during seasons nine through eleven, wrote that "under Scully's tenure, the show's popularity that once would have ended with Homer and Marge bicycling to the tranquilizer dart into Marge's neck. The show's still funny, but in 2007 how the series' longevity is sustained, Scully joked: "you can go on forever."<sup>[328]</sup>

Al Jean, who was showrunner during seasons thirteen through fifteen, has faced criticism, with some arguing that the show has continued to decline. He has complained that under Jean, the show is "on auto-pilot, cranked out". Some critics believe that the show has "entered a new era of being funny".<sup>[330]</sup> John Ortved, author of *The Simpsons: An Uncensored, True History*, described the show as "toothless",<sup>[331]</sup> and criticized what he perceived as "the show's commentary".<sup>[332]</sup> Jean responded: "Well, it's possible that the show is a little bit time and I do remember in season two people saying, 'It's over, it's over, it's over' and I have stopped after episode 13. I'm glad we didn't."<sup>[333]</sup>

In 2004, cast member Harry Shearer criticized what he perceived as the show's decline in the first three seasons as among the worst, so season four to Castellaneta responded: "I don't agree, ... I think Harry's is the first three or four seasons, that it's gotten crazy or a little bit fresh."<sup>[335]</sup> Also in 2004 author Douglas Coupland described the show as "hogwash", saying "*The Simpsons* hasn't fumbled the ball in the past". In an April 2006 interview, Groening said: "I honestly don't think the show will get too financially cumbersome ... but right now, the show has been. The animation is incredibly detailed and imaginative and creatively there's no reason to quit."<sup>[22]</sup>

In 2016, popular culture writer Anna Leszkiewicz suggested that the show's relevance, "contemporary appeal" is only for the "first ten years of mainstream attention when a favorite character from the show is given a shock twist or a new twist for old characters."<sup>[337]</sup> The series has enjoyed an average of 13.4 million viewing households per episode, down from an average of 7.2 million viewers.<sup>[338]</sup>

Alan Sepinwall and Matt Zoller Seitz argued in their 2015 book *The Simpsons: The Untold Story of the Show and the World It Created* that *Simpsons* are "roughly seasons 3–12", and that despite the show's decline, "Eternal Moonshine of the Simpson Mind" and "Holidays in Hell" are earlier classic episodes, further stating that "even if you write the show off as a self, think about how mind-bogglingly great its former self has been."<sup>[339][340]</sup>

In 2020, Uproxx writer Josh Kurp stated that while he agreed the show is as good as it used to be, it is because "it was working at a level that it has." He felt there were still many reasons to watch the show, even the occasional new classic and the fact that the show is still bringing on guest animators like Don Hertzfeldt and Sylvain Chantreau like Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg, Pete Holmes and Matt Groening episode "I, Carumbus", the show itself makes a nod to the show's decline, notes that "It definitely feels like they're wrapping it up ... and it's a little bit sad."

In a 2021 interview with *NME*, Jean was quoted as saying "The show is used to be, I would say I think the world isn't as good as it used to be."



The stereotypical nature of the character Apu Nahasapeer American comedian Hari Kondabolu stated in his 2017 doc a fan of *The Simpsons* and liked Apu, but he now fin Defenders of the character responded that the show is bu saying, "that's the nature of cartooning."<sup>[345]</sup> He added that time in our culture where people love to pretend they're off actor, Hank Azaria, said he was willing to step aside from t South Asian people, Indian people in this country when th this character."<sup>[347]</sup> In February 2020, he confirmed that t same time that the character would remain in the show.

The criticisms were referenced in the season 29 episode ' the fourth wall and addresses the audience by saying, "So and inoffensive is now politically incorrect. What can yo addressed at a later date." Lisa adds, "If at all." This refer photo of Apu with the caption on the photo saying "Don't l have a cow, man," as well as the fact that Hindus do not 2018, it was reported that Apu would be written out of the s

On June 26, 2020, in light of the various Black Lives Matte color (Carl Carlson and Dr. Hibbert, among others) would r season 32, Carl, a black character originally voiced by Az addition, Bumblebee Man, a Spanish-speaking Latino char Mexican-American actor Eric Lopez,<sup>[352]</sup> and Dr. Hibbert, e now voiced by black actor Kevin Michael Richardson.<sup>[353]</sup>

## Other n

### Comic b

Numerous Simpson-related comic books have been releas been published by Bongo Comics since 1993.<sup>[354]</sup> The fi 1991 in the magazine *Simpsons Illustrated*, which was a c were popular and a one-shot comic book titled *Simpsons* was released in 1993 for the fans.<sup>[356]</sup> The book was a s Matt Groening, and his companions Bill Morrison, Mike publishing company Bongo Comics.<sup>[356]</sup> Issues of *Simpso* *Bart Simpson* have been collected and reprinted HarperCollins.<sup>[357][358][359]</sup>

### Film

20th Century Fox and Gracie Films produced *The Si* animated film that was released on July 27, 2007.<sup>[360]</sup> Th by long-time *Simpsons* producer David Silverman and w *Simpsons* writers comprising Matt Groening, James L. George Meyer, Mike Reiss, John Swartzwelder, Jon Vitti, Scully, Matt Selman, and Ian Maxtone-Graham.<sup>[360]</sup> Pro occurred alongside continued writing of the series despite those involved in the show that a film would enter produ series had concluded.<sup>[360]</sup> There had been talk of a pos *Simpsons* film ever since the early seasons of the series originally thought that the story of the episode "Kamp Krus a film, but he encountered difficulties in trying to expand tl length.<sup>[361]</sup> For a long time, difficulties such as lack of a writers delayed the project.<sup>[22]</sup>

On August 10, 2018, 20th Century Fox announced that a s

### Musi

Collections of original music featured in the series have *Springfield*, *Go Simpsonic with The Simpsons* and *The Sir* with the purpose of a single or album release and have not *Sing the Blues* was released in September 1990 and was and becoming certified 2× platinum by the Recording Indi

the album was the pop rap song "Do the Bartman", performed in 1990. The song was written by Michael Jackson, although the *Album* was released in 1998, but received poor reception.

***The Simpsons***

In 2007, it was officially announced that *The Simpsons Ride* would be implemented into the Universal Studios Orlando Hollywood.<sup>[370]</sup> It officially opened May 15, 2008, May 19, 2008, in Hollywood.<sup>[372]</sup> In the ride, patrons at a cartoon theme park called Krustyland built by Krusty the Clown. Sideshow Bob is loose from prison to get revenge on Krusty's family.<sup>[373]</sup> It features more than 24 regular characters from the show and features the voices of the regular cast members, including Dan Castellaneta, James Van Der Beek, John Goodman, Nancy Cartwright, John Fiedler, Hank Azaria, David Hyde Pierce, and Harry Shearer.<sup>[374]</sup> Homer Simpson does not participate in the ride, so none of his characters have vocal lines.

**Video games**

Numerous video games based on the show have been produced, including the arcade game *The Simpsons* (1991) and Acclaim Entertainment (1991).<sup>[376][377]</sup> More modern games include *The Simpsons: Hit & Run* (2003) and *The Simpsons Game* (2007).<sup>[378][379][380]</sup> Electronic Arts has the exclusive rights to create video games based on the show, with EA GAMES called *The Simpsons Arcade* for iOS.<sup>[382]</sup> Another EA-produced game for iOS users, then in 2013 for Android and Kindle users.<sup>[383]</sup> EA also produced: one that was available briefly after the first season.

**Merchandise**

The popularity of *The Simpsons* has made it a billion-dollar franchise. Supporting characters appear on everything from T-shirts to action figures. For special editions of well-known board games, including Catan, Life, as well as the trivia games What Would Homer Do? and What Would Bart Do? and Trump Cards and The Simpsons Trading Card Game and The Simpsons books such as episode guides have been published. The show has been on DVD and VHS over the years. When the first season of *The Simpsons* was released on DVD, it was the best-selling television DVD in history, although it was later overtaken by *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*. In particular, seasons one through seventeen were released on DVD in December 2014 in the U.S./Canada (Region 1), Europe (Region 2), and Japan (Region 4). However, on April 8, 2015, Al Jean announced that Season 18 would not be produced, leaving the collection from Seasons 1 to 17, Season 18, 19, and 21 onwards unreleased.<sup>[388][389]</sup> Jean also stated that Season 20 would be released to the Simpsons World app, and that that season would be released outside of the U.S.<sup>[389]</sup> Two years later, however, on July 1, 2017, Season 19 was released on December 5, 2017, on DVD.<sup>[390]</sup> Another two seasons, Season 20 and Season 21, would be released on December 3, 2019, on DVD.

In 2003, about 500 companies around the world were advertising.<sup>[392]</sup> As a promotion for *The Simpsons Movie*, the show's characters were sold *The Simpsons* related products. These included McDonald's with sprinkles, and "Squishees".<sup>[393]</sup>

In 2008, consumers around the world spent \$750 million on *The Simpsons* merchandise, the amount originating from the United States. By 2009, 2 billion dollars were spent on *The Simpsons* merchandise.<sup>[394]</sup> On April 9, 2009, the United States Postal Service issued a postage stamp featuring Homer, Marge, Bart, Lisa and Maggie, to commemorate the first television series still in production to receive this honor. The stamps, which were made available for purchase on May 7, 2009, were sold, costing the Postal Service \$1.2 million.

**Note**

<sup>a</sup>. Known as 20th Century Fox Television until season 31.

b. The studio did produce animation for the series since season

## Refere

1. Originally *Hallmark Playhouse* radio series, was *Hallmark Television Playhouse* (1951–1954) 1
2. Originally well known as *The Wonderful World of Disney* (1969–1979, 1997–2008), now airing as *The Magical World of Disney* (1988–1997, 2012–current)
3. Not currently on a regular schedule 1
4. Also known as *The Metropolitan Opera Presents* 1
5. Became *Wall Street Week with Fortune* after original host was fired in 2002
6. Pilot taped April 4, 1966
7. According to MTV, 18th season begins November 22, 2006
8. Longest running prime time **animated program** in the United States. 1 2
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| 30 | <u>POV</u>           | Documentary       | PBS                     | July 5, 1988       | present     | 400+                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 31 | <i>The Challenge</i> | Reality Game Show | MTV                     | June 1, 1998       | present     | 398                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 30 | <i>Cops</i>          | Reality           | Fox                     | March 11, 1989     | May 4, 2013 | 1,050                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|    |                      |                   | Spike/Paramount Network | September 14, 2013 | present     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

20–29 seasons

| Number of seasons | Series                                | Genre/Subject             | Network | First broadcast   | Last broadcast | Number of episodes |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 27                | <i>America's Funniest Home Videos</i> | Reality, Comedy           | ABC     | November 26, 1989 | present        | 659                |
| 26                | <i>48 Hours</i> <sup>[1]</sup>        | Documentary/News Magazine | CBS     | January 2, 1988   | present        |                    |

|    |                                                                     |                         |                             |                               |                         |       |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------|
| 25 | <u><i>Dancing with the Stars</i></u>                                | Reality Competition     | <u>ABC</u>                  | June 5, 2005                  | present                 | 400+  |
| 25 | <u><i>America's Most Wanted</i></u>                                 | Reality                 | <u>Fox</u>                  | February 7, 1988              | April 21, 2012          | 1,149 |
|    |                                                                     |                         | <u>Lifetime</u>             | December 2, 2011              | October 12, 2012        |       |
| 25 | <u><i>Camera Three</i></u>                                          | Anthology               | CBS                         | January 22, 1956              | 1979                    |       |
|    |                                                                     |                         | PBS                         | 1979                          | July 1, 1980            |       |
| 24 | <u><i>WWE Monday Night Raw</i></u>                                  | Professional wrestling  | <u>USA</u>                  | January 11, 1993              | September 18, 2000      | 1315+ |
|    |                                                                     |                         | <u>TNN/Spike TV</u>         | September 25, 2000            | July 30, 2005           |       |
|    |                                                                     |                         | <u>USA</u>                  | August 6, 2005                | present                 |       |
| 24 | <u><i>Nick News with Linda Ellerbee</i></u>                         | Children's News Program | <u>Nickelodeon</u>          | April 18, 1992                | December 15, 2015       | 178   |
| 23 | <u><i>The Ed Sullivan Show</i></u> <sup>[2]</sup>                   | Variety Show            | CBS                         | June 20, 1948                 | June 6, 1971            |       |
| 23 | <u><i>Crossfire</i></u>                                             | Talk/News Program       | <u>CNN</u>                  | 1982                          | June 3, 2005            |       |
| 22 | <u><i>E! News</i></u> <sup>[3]</sup>                                | Entertainment Newscast  | <u>E!</u>                   | September 1, 1991             | present                 |       |
| 22 | <u><i>Dateline NBC</i></u> <sup>[4]</sup>                           | News Magazine           | NBC                         | March 31, 1992                | present                 |       |
| 22 | <u><i>National Geographic Explorer</i></u> <sup>[5]</sup>           | Documentary             | <u>Nickelodeon</u>          | 1985                          | 1986                    |       |
|    |                                                                     |                         | <u>WTBS/TBS</u>             | 1986                          | 1999                    |       |
|    |                                                                     |                         | CNBC                        | 1999                          | 2001                    |       |
|    |                                                                     |                         | <u>MSNBC</u> <sup>[6]</sup> | 2001                          | 2005                    |       |
|    |                                                                     |                         | <u>National Geographic</u>  | 2005                          | present                 |       |
| 22 | <u><i>Grand Ole Opry</i></u> <sup>[7]</sup>                         | Music                   | <u>TNN</u>                  | April 20, 1985                | August 2001             |       |
|    |                                                                     |                         | <u>CMT</u>                  | August 2001                   | 2003                    |       |
|    |                                                                     |                         | <u>GAC</u> <sup>[8]</sup>   | 2003                          | 2011                    |       |
| 22 | <u><i>Investigative Reports</i></u>                                 | Reality                 | <u>A&amp;E</u>              | September 27, 1991            | 2004                    |       |
| 22 | <u><i>Ted Mack and The Original Amateur Hour</i></u> <sup>[9]</sup> | Reality                 | <u>DuMont</u>               | January 18, 1948              | October 1949            |       |
|    |                                                                     |                         | NBC                         | October 1949                  | September 1954          |       |
|    |                                                                     |                         | ABC                         | October 1955                  | June 1957               |       |
|    |                                                                     |                         | NBC                         | July 1957                     | October 1958            |       |
|    |                                                                     |                         | CBS                         | May 1959                      | October 1959            |       |
|    |                                                                     |                         | ABC                         | March 1960                    | September 26, 1960      |       |
|    |                                                                     |                         | CBS                         | October 2, 1960               | September 27, 1970      |       |
| 21 | <u><i>South Park</i></u>                                            | Animated Sitcom         | <u>Comedy Central</u>       | August 13, 1997               | present                 | 327   |
| 21 | <u><i>The Bachelor</i></u>                                          | Romance Reality         | ABC                         | March 25, 2002                | present                 | 230   |
| 21 | <u><i>The New Yankee Workshop</i></u>                               | Western Woodworking     | PBS                         | January 1988                  | June 27, 2009           |       |
| 21 | <u><i>Sábado Gigante</i></u> <sup>[10]</sup>                        | Spanish Programming     | <u>Univisión</u>            | May 20, 1986                  | September 19, 2015      |       |
| 20 | <u><i>NFL Primetime</i></u>                                         | Sports Football         | <u>ESPN</u>                 | 1987                          | present                 |       |
| 20 | <u><i>Biography</i></u> <sup>[11]</sup>                             | Documentary             | <u>A&amp;E</u>              | April 6, 1987 <sup>[12]</sup> | August 2006             |       |
|    |                                                                     |                         | <u>Biography Channel</u>    | August 2006                   | present <sup>[13]</sup> |       |
| 20 | <u><i>Big Brother</i></u>                                           | Reality Competition     | <u>CBS</u>                  | July 5, 2000                  | present                 | >500  |
| 20 | <u><i>The Red Skelton Show</i></u>                                  | Variety Show            | NBC                         | September 30, 1951            | June 21, 1953           |       |

|    |                                                                     |                      |     |                    |                   |     |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----|--------------------|-------------------|-----|
|    |                                                                     |                      | CBS | September 22, 1953 | June 23, 1970     |     |
|    |                                                                     |                      | NBC | September 14, 1970 | August 29, 1971   |     |
| 20 | <i><u>Gunsmoke</u></i> <sup>[14]</sup>                              | Drama                | CBS | September 10, 1955 | March 31, 1975    | 635 |
| 20 | <i><u>Law &amp; Order</u></i> <sup>[15]</sup>                       | Crime Drama          | NBC | September 13, 1990 | May 24, 2010      | 456 |
| 20 | <i><u>Evans and Novak</u></i> <sup>[16]</sup>                       | Political Discussion | CNN | September 1982     | November 9, 2002  |     |
| 20 | <i><u>Moneyline</u></i>                                             | Editorial            | CNN | June 1, 1980       | November 11, 2000 |     |
| 20 | <i><u>Law &amp; Order: Special Victims Unit</u></i> <sup>[17]</sup> | Crime Drama          | NBC | September 20, 1999 | present           | 434 |

### 13–19 seasons

| Number of seasons | Series                                                            | Network                     | First broadcast                  | Last broadcast                    | Number of episodes |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 19                | <i><u>American Experience</u></i>                                 | PBS                         | October 1, 1988                  | present                           | 220+               |
| 19                | <i><u>ESPN Sunday Night Football</u></i> <sup>[18]</sup>          | ESPN                        | November 8, 1987 <sup>[19]</sup> | January 1, 2006                   |                    |
| 19                | <i><u>Lassie</u></i>                                              | CBS/Syndication             | September 12, 1954               | March 21, 1973                    | 547                |
| 18                | <i><u>ESPN Major League Baseball</u></i> <sup>[20]</sup>          | ESPN, ESPN2 <sup>[21]</sup> | April 15, 1990                   | present                           |                    |
| 17                | <i><u>Outside the Lines</u></i>                                   | ESPN                        | 1990                             | present                           |                    |
| 17                | <i><u>What's My Line?</u></i> <sup>[22]</sup> (network version)   | CBS                         | February 16, 1950                | September 3, 1967                 | 867                |
| 17                | <i><u>Showbiz Today</u></i>                                       | CNN                         | October 29, 1984                 | 2001                              |                    |
| 17                | <i><u>USA Tuesday Night Fights</u></i>                            | <u>USA</u>                  | March 30, 1982                   | 1998                              |                    |
| 17                | <i><u>Capital Gang</u></i>                                        | CNN                         | September 7, 1988                | 2005                              |                    |
| 16                | <i><u>Antiques Roadshow</u></i>                                   | PBS                         | January 1, 1997                  | present                           |                    |
| 16                | <i><u>Bleach</u></i>                                              | Cartoon Network (Toonami)   | October 5, 2004                  | March 27, 2012                    | 366                |
| 16                | <i><u>MTV Unplugged</u></i>                                       | MTV                         | November 26, 1989                | November 10, 2005 <sup>[23]</sup> | 108                |
| 16                | <i><u>Booknotes</u></i>                                           | C-SPAN                      | April 2, 1989                    | December 5, 2004                  |                    |
| 16                | <i><u>The Lawrence Welk Show</u></i> <sup>[24]</sup>              | ABC                         | July 2, 1955                     | September 4, 1971                 |                    |
| 15                | <i><u>NCIS</u></i>                                                | <u>CBS</u>                  | September 23, 2003               | present                           | 354                |
| 15                | <i><u>ER</u></i>                                                  | NBC                         | September 19, 1994               | April 2, 2009                     | 331                |
| 15                | <i><u>I've Got a Secret</u></i>                                   | CBS                         | June 19, 1952                    | April 3, 1967                     | 350+               |
| 15                | <i><u>Concentration</u></i>                                       | NBC                         | August 25, 1958                  | March 23, 1973                    | 3,796              |
| 15                | <i><u>The Jack Benny Program</u></i>                              | CBS                         | October 29, 1950                 | September 15, 1964                | 343                |
|                   |                                                                   | NBC                         | September 25, 1964               | September 10, 1965                |                    |
| 15                | <i><u>CSI: Crime Scene Investigation</u></i>                      | CBS                         | October 6, 2000                  | September 27, 2015                | 335                |
| 15                | <i><u>American Idol</u></i>                                       | Fox                         | June 11, 2002                    | April 7, 2016                     | 557                |
| 14                | <i><u>Family Guy</u></i>                                          | Fox                         | January 31, 1999                 | February 14, 2002                 | 50                 |
|                   |                                                                   |                             | May 1, 2005                      | present                           | 219+               |
| 14                | <i><u>World Poker Tour</u></i>                                    | Fox Sports Networks         | March 30, 2003                   | present                           | 420                |
| 14                | <i><u>The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet</u></i> <sup>[25]</sup> | ABC                         | October 10, 1952                 | September 3, 1966                 | 435                |
| 14                | <i><u>Bonanza</u></i> <sup>[26]</sup>                             | NBC                         | September 12, 1959               | January 16, 1973                  | 430                |
| 14                | <i><u>Dallas</u></i>                                              | CBS                         | April 2, 1978                    | May 3, 1991                       | 357                |
| 14                | <i><u>Grey's Anatomy</u></i>                                      | ABC                         | March 27, 2005                   | present                           | 317                |
| 14                | <i><u>Knots Landing</u></i>                                       | CBS                         | December 27, 1979                | May 13, 1993                      | 344                |

|    |                                        |                 |                                  |                    |      |
|----|----------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|------|
| 14 | <i><u>An Evening at the Improv</u></i> | <u>A&amp;E</u>  | February 3, 1982                 | January 1, 1996    |      |
| 14 | <i><u>Wild America</u></i>             | <u>PBS</u>      | 1982                             | 1996               | 120  |
| 14 | <i><u>Video Soul</u></i>               | <u>BET</u>      | June 26, 1983                    | 1997               |      |
| 13 | <i><u>Unsolved Mysteries</u></i>       | <u>NBC</u>      | January 20, 1987 <sup>[27]</sup> | September 5, 1997  | 560+ |
|    |                                        | <u>CBS</u>      | November 13, 1997                | June 11, 1999      |      |
|    |                                        | <u>Lifetime</u> | July 2, 2001                     | September 20, 2002 |      |
|    |                                        | <u>Spike TV</u> | October 13, 2008                 | present            |      |
| 13 | <i><u>Criminal Minds</u></i>           | <u>CBS</u>      | September 22, 2005               | present            | 299  |
| 13 | <i><u>Supernatural</u></i>             | <u>CW</u>       | September 13, 2005               | present            | 287  |
| 13 | <i><u>King of the Hill</u></i>         | <u>Fox</u>      | January 12, 1997                 | September 13, 2009 | 259  |
| 13 | <i><u>Armstrong Circle Theatre</u></i> | <u>NBC</u>      | June 32, 1950                    | June 1957          |      |
|    |                                        | <u>CBS</u>      | October 1957                     | August 28, 1963    |      |
| 13 | <i><u>Tim Russert</u></i>              | <u>CNBC</u>     | 1994                             | 2008               |      |
| 13 | <i><u>The 20th Century</u></i>         | <u>CBS</u>      | October 20, 1957                 | January 4, 1970    |      |

## 10–12 seasons

| Number of seasons  | Series                                                 | Network          | First broadcast    | Last broadcast     | Number of episodes |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 12                 | <i><u>America's Got Talent</u></i>                     | <u>NBC</u>       | June 21, 2006      | present            | 302                |
| 12                 | <i><u>Private Screenings</u></i>                       | <u>TCM</u>       | January 1, 1996    | present            |                    |
| 12                 | <i><u>Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel</u></i>           | <u>HBO</u>       | 1995               | present            |                    |
| 12                 | <i><u>It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia</u></i>        | <u>FX/FXX</u>    | August 4, 2005     | present            | 134                |
| 12                 | <i><u>To Tell the Truth</u></i>                        | <u>CBS</u>       | December 18, 1956  | September 6, 1968  |                    |
| 12                 | <i><u>CBS Reports</u></i>                              | <u>CBS</u>       | October 27, 1959   | September 7, 1971  |                    |
| 12                 | <i><u>My Three Sons</u></i>                            | <u>ABC</u>       | September 29, 1960 | September 2, 1965  | 380                |
|                    |                                                        | <u>CBS</u>       | September 16, 1965 | August 24, 1972    |                    |
| 12                 | <i><u>NYPD Blue</u></i>                                | <u>ABC</u>       | September 21, 1993 | March 1, 2005      | 261                |
| 12                 | <i><u>Murder, She Wrote</u></i>                        | <u>CBS</u>       | September 1, 1984  | May 19, 1996       | 264                |
| 12                 | <i><u>Hawaii Five-O</u></i>                            | <u>CBS</u>       | September 26, 1968 | April 26, 1980     | 284                |
| 12                 | <i><u>Don Francisco Presenta</u></i>                   | <u>Univision</u> | October 10, 2001   | January 2012       |                    |
| 12                 | <i><u>Two and a Half Men</u></i>                       | <u>CBS</u>       | September 22, 2003 | February 19, 2015  | 262                |
| 12                 | <i><u>Bones</u></i>                                    | <u>Fox</u>       | September 13, 2005 | March 28, 2017     | 246                |
| 11 <sup>[28]</sup> | <i><u>American Dad!</u></i>                            | <u>Fox/TBS</u>   | February 6, 2005   | present            | 160+               |
| 11                 | <i><u>Kraft Television Theatre</u></i> <sup>[29]</sup> | <u>NBC</u>       | May 7, 1947        | October 1, 1958    | 650                |
| 11                 | <i><u>The Voice of Firestone</u></i>                   | <u>NBC</u>       | September 5, 1949  | June 1954          |                    |
|                    |                                                        | <u>ABC</u>       | June 1954          | June 1959          |                    |
|                    |                                                        | <u>ABC</u>       | September 1962     | June 16, 1963      |                    |
| 11                 | <i><u>You Bet Your Life</u></i>                        | <u>NBC</u>       | October 5, 1950    | June 29, 1961      | 429                |
| 11                 | <i><u>The Andy Williams Show</u></i>                   | <u>CBS</u>       | 1957               | 1959               |                    |
|                    |                                                        | <u>NBC</u>       | 1962               | 1971               |                    |
| 11                 | <i><u>The Carol Burnett Show</u></i>                   | <u>CBS</u>       | September 11, 1967 | March 29, 1978     | 278                |
| 11                 | <i><u>M*A*S*H</u></i>                                  | <u>CBS</u>       | September 17, 1972 | February 28, 1983  | 251                |
| 11                 | <i><u>Happy Days</u></i>                               | <u>ABC</u>       | January 15, 1974   | May 8, 1984        | 255                |
| 11                 | <i><u>Cheers</u></i>                                   | <u>NBC</u>       | September 30, 1982 | May 20, 1993       | 273                |
| 11                 | <i><u>The Danny Thomas Show</u></i>                    | <u>ABC</u>       | September 20, 1953 | 1957               | 351                |
|                    |                                                        | <u>CBS</u>       | 1957               | September 14, 1964 |                    |
| 11                 | <i><u>Frasier</u></i>                                  | <u>NBC</u>       | September 16, 1993 | May 13, 2004       | 265                |
| 11                 | <i><u>Married... with Children</u></i>                 | <u>Fox</u>       | April 5, 1987      | June 9, 1997       | 259                |
| 11                 | <i><u>The Jeffersons</u></i>                           | <u>CBS</u>       | January 18, 1975   | July 23, 1985      | 255                |

|    |                                                       |                |                    |                               |                     |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 11 | <i>7th Heaven</i> <sup>[30]</sup>                     | WB/CW          | August 26, 1996    | May 13, 2007                  | 243                 |
| 11 | <i>Arthur Godfrey and His Friends</i>                 | CBS            | January 12, 1949   | April 28, 1959                |                     |
| 11 | <i>Mystery Science Theater 3000</i>                   | KTMA           | November 24, 1988  | May 28, 1989                  | 197                 |
|    |                                                       | Comedy Central | November 18, 1989  | May 18, 1996                  |                     |
|    |                                                       | Sci Fi         | February 1, 1997   | September 12, 1999            |                     |
| 11 | <i>SpongeBob SquarePants</i>                          | Nickelodeon    | May 1, 1999        | <b>Present</b>                | 204                 |
| 11 | <i>The Big Bang Theory</i>                            | CBS            | September 24, 2007 | <b>Present</b>                | 255                 |
| 10 | <i>The Fairly OddParents</i>                          | Nickelodeon    | March 30, 2001     | <b>Present</b>                | 161 (aired)         |
| 10 | <i>Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts</i> <sup>[31]</sup> | CBS            | December 6, 1948   | July 21, 1958                 |                     |
| 10 | <i>Studio One</i> <sup>[32]</sup>                     | CBS            | November 7, 1948   | September 29, 1958            | 467                 |
| 10 | <i>The Arthur Murray Party</i> <sup>[33]</sup>        | ABC            | July 20, 1950      | September 1950                |                     |
|    |                                                       | DuMont         | October 1950       | March 1951                    |                     |
|    |                                                       | ABC            | April 1951         | May 1952                      |                     |
|    |                                                       | CBS            | July 1952          | August 1952                   |                     |
|    |                                                       | NBC            | October 1953       | September 1955                |                     |
|    |                                                       | CBS            | April 1956         | September 1956                |                     |
|    |                                                       | NBC            | July 1957          | September 6, 1960             |                     |
| 10 | <i>General Electric Theater</i>                       | CBS            | February 1, 1953   | September 16, 1962            | 209                 |
| 10 | <i>Stargate SG-1</i> <sup>[34]</sup>                  | Showtime       | July 27, 1997      | May 17, 2002                  | 214 <sup>[35]</sup> |
|    |                                                       | Sci Fi         | June 7, 2002       | 2007 <sup>[36]</sup>          |                     |
| 10 | <i>Alfred Hitchcock Presents</i> <sup>[37]</sup>      | NBC            | October 2, 1955    | June 26, 1960                 | 366                 |
|    |                                                       | CBS            | September 25, 1960 | June 26, 1962 <sup>[38]</sup> |                     |
|    |                                                       | NBC            | September 20, 1962 | July 3, 1964                  |                     |
|    |                                                       | CBS            | October 5, 1964    | May 10, 1965                  |                     |
| 10 | <i>Nashville Now</i>                                  | TNN            | March 1, 1983      | January 1, 1993               | Unknown             |
| 10 | <i>Murphy Brown</i>                                   | CBS            | November 14, 1988  | May 18, 1998                  | 247                 |
| 10 | <i>All That</i>                                       | Nickelodeon    | April 16, 1994     | October 22, 2005              | 168                 |
| 10 | <i>Friends</i>                                        | NBC            | September 22, 1994 | May 6, 2004                   | 236                 |
| 10 | <i>JAG</i>                                            | NBC            | September 1, 1995  | May 22, 1996 <sup>[39]</sup>  | 227                 |
|    |                                                       | CBS            | January 3, 1997    | April 29, 2005                |                     |
| 10 | <i>Beverly Hills, 90210</i>                           | Fox            | October 4, 1990    | May 17, 2000                  | 296                 |
| 10 | <i>Pantomime Quiz</i> <sup>[40]</sup>                 | CBS            | July 1, 1950       | August 1951                   |                     |
|    |                                                       | NBC            | January 1952       | March 1952                    |                     |
|    |                                                       | CBS            | July 1952          | May 1952                      |                     |
|    |                                                       | CBS            | July 1952          | August 1953                   |                     |
|    |                                                       | DuMont         | October 1953       | April 1954                    |                     |
|    |                                                       | CBS            | June 1954          | August 1954                   |                     |
|    |                                                       | ABC            | January 1955       | March 1955                    |                     |
|    |                                                       | CBS            | July 1955          | July 1957                     |                     |
|    |                                                       | ABC            | April 1958         | September 1959                |                     |
| 10 | <i>The United States Steel Hour</i>                   | ABC            | October 27, 1953   | June 21, 1955                 | 315                 |
|    |                                                       | CBS            | July 6, 1955       | August 13, 1963               |                     |
| 10 | <i>Smallville</i>                                     | WB/CW          | October 16, 2001   | May 13, 2011                  | 217                 |
| 10 | <i>Law &amp; Order: Criminal Intent</i>               | NBC            | September 30, 2001 | May 21, 2007                  | 195                 |
|    |                                                       | USA            | October 4, 2007    | June 26, 2011                 |                     |
| 10 | <i>CSI: Miami</i>                                     | CBS            | September 23, 2002 | April 8, 2012                 | 232                 |

## See also

- Lists of longest running U.S. shows by broadcast type:

- [List of longest-running United States television series](#)
- [List of longest-running U.S. broadcast network television series](#)
- [List of longest-running U.S. cable television series](#)
- [List of longest-running U.S. first-run syndicated television series](#)
- [List of longest-running scripted U.S. primetime television series](#)
- [List of longest-running U.S. primetime television series with continuing characters](#)
- Lists of longest running shows internationally:
  - [List of longest-running television shows by category- international list](#)
  - [List of longest-running UK television series](#)
  - [List of longest-running Australian television series](#)
  - [List of longest-running Philippine television series](#)
- List of shortest running shows:
  - [List of television series canceled after one episode](#)
  - [List of television series canceled before airing an episode](#)

## Notes

1. Also called "48 Hours Investigates"
2. Aired as *Toast of the Town* until 1955
3. Previously *E! News Daily* and *E! News Live*
4. Also known as *Dateline (day of week it airs)*, *Dateline With [Stone Phillips](#)*
5. Host: [Tom Chapin](#) (1985–1988), [Robert Urich](#) (1988–1995), [Bob Ballard](#) (1988–1995), [Boyd Matson](#) (1995–2003), [Michael Fay](#) (2001), [Lisa Ling](#) (2003–)
6. Show renamed *National Geographic Ultimate Explorer* 2003–2005
7. Oldest continuously running radio program, airing on [WSM](#) radio, [Nashville, Tennessee](#)
8. As *Grand Ole Opry Live!*
9. Originated on radio as *Major Bowes' Original Amateur Hour*, 1934–1946
10. Continuation of series that aired 1962–1985 on [Chile's Canal 13](#)
11. Originated on [CBS](#)
12. Reran CBS originals, 1984–1987
13. Rebroadcast A&E originals, 1999–2006
14. Longest-running live-action prime time entertainment program with a consistent setting and recurring characters. While other prime-time shows have run longer, they are all news, sports, anthology or variety programs.
15. Longest-running live-action hour-long prime time entertainment program in the United States. While *Gunsmoke* has accumulated more episodes (635), 233 of its episodes were half-hour dramas. All of *Law & Order*'s episodes were an hour long.
16. Other names: *Evans, Novak, Hunt, and Shields* (1998–2001), *Novak, Hunt, and Shields* (2001–2002)
17. *Roots*, *Kimberly* (2018-05-10). "SVU Renewed for Season 20 at NBC" (<http://tvline.com/2018/05/09/law-and-order-svu-renewed-season-20-nbc/>). *TVLine*. Retrieved 2018-05-14.
18. Moved to [NBC](#) in 2006, at which time *[Monday Night Football](#)* moves from [ABC](#) to ESPN
19. *Sunday Night Football* shared with [TNT](#), with TNT getting the first half of the season, ESPN the second half, 1990–1997
20. Includes *Sunday Night Baseball*, *Wednesday Night Baseball*, etc.
21. ESPN2 started broadcasting major league baseball games in 2002 in addition to those offered by ESPN
22. Longest-running game show in prime time network television; first-run syndication 1968–1975
23. New episodes sporadic after 2001
24. Originally *The Dodge Dancing Party*; first-run syndication 1971–1982; reruns have been airing since 1982 on various [PBS](#) stations
25. Longest running live-action [sitcom](#).
26. First US network series to film all its episodes in color
27. Includes series of specials, Jan. 1987 to May 1988
28. The number of seasons of *American Dad!* is disputed. While some sources claim 2013–14 is its ninth season, its Wikipedia articles treat it as the 10th season.
29. Also known as *Kraft Mystery Theatre* (1958); another series of the same name ran concurrently on ABC, 1953–1955
30. Longest-running family drama on television, per [Reuters article about 7th Heaven finale](#) (<http://www.tv.com/7th-heaven/show/251/story/9267.html?>)
31. On CBS radio 1946–1956
32. Originated on CBS Radio, 1947
33. The first series to be shown on four US broadcasting networks
34. Longest-running [science fiction](#) series in the United States.
35. According to *Sci Fi Wire* (<http://www.scifi.com/scifiwire/index.php?category=2&id=37607>) Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20060825081141/http://www.scifi.com/scifiwire/index.php?category=2&id=37607>) 2006-08-25 at the [Wayback Machine](#)
36. Cancellation announced by Sci Fi Channel, August 21, 2006
37. *The Alfred Hitchcock Hour* 1962–1965
38. One episode wasn't aired on network TV, but was included in later syndication packages
39. One episode made its premiere on USA network as part of a JAG rerun package. The episode, planned to be the first of a two-part story, never aired on NBC before cancellation.
40. Originally aired locally in Los Angeles, 1947–1950

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