



## **The state of broadcast meteorology in the United States**

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According to a 2010 study by the Radio, Television Digital News Association, there are 762 television stations in the U.S. producing local news (and presumably weather) content. Those stations reported staff reductions of 400 news department jobs in 2009, following a cut of 1,200 local news jobs in 2008. Even as the number of news employees declined, local stations increased the amount of local news programming from an average of 4.7 hours to 5.0 hours per weekday in the past year. The phrase “doing more with less” has become a common theme in television newsrooms.

Broadcasting economics have also impacted the approximately 2,200 weather presenters on local television stations. Several high-profile, on-air meteorologists have lost their jobs. The workload of weather presenters is evolving as television stations extend their reach beyond broadcasting — to the internet, and wireless (e.g. cellular telephone) delivery of information.

Technological advancements have improved televised severe weather coverage. The number of amateur storm chasers possessing video streaming equipment has grown significantly, and social networks such as Twitter have become a useful source of weather reports from the public.