## FINANCIAL REPORT <br> NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS


NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS 1771 n street nw, washington 6 d.c. decatur 2.9300
From: Everett E. Revercomb want to vote on the matters coming before these meetings.
The By-Laws require that each member shall certify "the name of one person or each active membership; which person shall be an owner, partner, officer, or
 to have as many participants in these meetings as possible. Every member should exercise its right to vote.
At the top of this page is indicated the name of the person on our mailing lists at present authorized to act for and represent this station. If you wish to certify that person merely sign below and return to me. If you desire to make any

 all voters' certification cards to this request.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Everett 世• Revercomb } \\
& \text { Secretary-Treasurer }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Person Authorized } \\
& \text { Cast Vote at NAB } \\
& \text { Annuel Convenfion }
\end{aligned}
$$

Person Authorized to

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Annual Convention, } \\
& \text { Chicago, Illinois }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\text { Date: February 2, } 1959
$$

All voters' certification cards may be picked up at the Certification Desk
during the convention. It will be conveniently located near the Registration Desk in the Lower Lobby of the Conrad Hilton Hotel. May we please have a prompt response

## INTRODUCTION

This report presents information on revenues, expenses, and profits in radio stations. Its basic purpose is to aid station management in evaluating its operations by providing financial yardsticks from comparable stations. The report has two parts.

Part I is a nationwide summary based on the typical radio station in the industry as a whole. The information is too broad to be considered a yardstick for individual stations.

Part II provides financial yardsticks based on the calendar year, 1957. The stations are grouped first according to market size and, secondly, by revenue size. Before looking at the yardstick tables, please read carefully the explanatory material on page 6. If you have any difficulty in finding and using your yardsticks, let us know. We shall give you specific guidance on your problem. Additional information needed to make specialized comparisons will be developed and made available upon request.

The information contained in this bulletin is based on questionnaires mailed to, and returned by radio station management. Excluded from the results are non-commercial facilities, stations operating in the Territories of the United States, and stations which were not on the air throughout the entire 1957 calendar year. More detailed discussion on sample coverage and methodological problems may be found in the Appendix.

All of the figures in this report are labelled as "typical". More specifically, this means that these figures are medians, that is the middle figure, after ranking the stations in a particular market-size or revenue-size category on each of the revenue and expense items. Consequently, $50 \%$ of the stations have a revenue or expense figure which is above, or equal to, the "typical" figure and $50 \%$ of the stations have a figure which is below, or equal to, the "typical" figure.

This report was prepared for the radio members of the NAB by the Department of Broadcast Personnel and Economics.

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## PARTI NATIONWIDE SUMMARY

Part I presents 3 pages of nationwide revenue and expense data. From this material you get a financial picture of the typical station in the industry as a whole. This is for your general information only and is too broad to be considered a yardstick for individual stations. The nationwide figures in this section are comparable with those published in last year's survey.
On pages 4 and 5 are bar graphs showing the nationwide trend for the typical station in revenue, expense, and operating ratio from 1955-1956-1957 and 1958 estimated revenue.

## Highlights

1957 ... found the typical radio station with about $\$ 100,000$ in total revenue . . . $\$ 90,600$ in total expense . . . and a profit margin of about $9 \phi$ on every sales dollar. (See Table 1.)

1957 . . . showed that for every time sales dollar taken in by the typical radio property, $85 \%$ came from local advertisers, about $15 \phi$ from national and regional advertisers, and less than $1 \phi$ from network sponsors. Out of each expense dollar, $38 \phi$ was spent for general and administrative, $33 \xi$ for programming, $17 \phi$ for selling, and $12 \phi$ for technical. (See "pie" charts on page 4.)

1958 . . . estimates made by broadcasters show total revenue up $2 \%$ over 1957.

TABLE 1-REVENUE AND EXPENSE FOR THE TYPICAL RADIO STATION, NATIONWIDE, 1957 The typical OPERATING RATIO was $\mathbf{9 0 . 9 \%}$

| Revenue and Expense Items | Typical <br> Dollar <br> Figures | Typical <br> Percent <br> Figures |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| TOTAL BROADCAST REVENUE " | $\$ 99,700$ |  |
| TOTAL TIME SALES | 100,500 | $100.0 \%$ |
| From: | 0 | 0.0 |
| Networks ${ }^{\text {b }}$ | 0.0 |  |
| National \& regional advertisers | 15,100 | 15.0 |
| Local advertisers | 85,400 | 85.0 |
| TOTAL BROADCAST EXPENSE | $\$ 90,600$ | $100.0 \%$ |
| From: | 10,900 | 12.0 |
| Technical | 29,700 | 32.8 |
| Program | 15,800 | 17.4 |
| Selling c | 34,200 | 37.8 |
| General \& administrative |  | - |
| TOTAL SALARIES \& WAGES (incl. |  |  |
| supervision) and all TALENT EX- | 52,700 | 58.2 |

${ }^{\text {a }}$ Time sales plus incidental broadcast revenue minus agency and rep. commissions and payments to networks for sale of time.
${ }^{\circ}$ For only those stations which were affiliated with nationwide networks, the typical network revenue was $\$ 4,000$.
c Includes all promotion; excludes agency and rep. commissions.

WHERE DOES THE TYPICAL STATION'S TIME SALES DOLLAR COME FROM?


Network: less than $1 ¢$

WHERE DOES THE TYPICAL STATION'S EXPENSE DOLLAR GO?


NATIONWIDE TREND IN OPERATING RATIO FOR A TYPICAL RADIO STATION


TRENDS IN REVENUE AND EXPENSE FOR A TYPICAL RADIO STATION, NATIONWIDE


## How to FIND Your Revenue and Expense Yardsticks

1. Table of Contents . . . Look at the table of contents on page 2. There, from pages 7-26, you will find a listing of the various market-size and revenue-size yardstick tables. Each market-size and revenue-size grouping is contained on one table. Each table provides two sets of yardstick figures-one for all stations in the grouping and one for just those stations which made a profit during 1957.
2. Market-Size Yardsticks . . . On pages $7-16$, you will find financial yardsticks arranged by 9 market-size categories. The largest market-size category (population 2.5 million or more) has been divided by revenue size into two tables-the first with stations of $\$ 1$ million or more total revenue, the second for those stations with less than $\$ 1$ million total revenue. To determine your market size, use the 1957 population figures in Sales Management's annual Survey of Buying Power (May 1957). If your city is located within a standard metropolitan area, use the population of the metropolitan area. See the Appendix for further details on the market-size classification scheme.

These are the most refined yardsticks in the report. They provide broadcasters with the most useful yardstick arainst which to evaluate their own operations.
3. Revenue-Size Yardsticks . . . On pages $17-26$ you will find financial yardsticks arranged by 10 revenue-size categories. Your revenue size is determined, as in all prior NAB surveys, solely by your total broadcast revenue in 1957.

By not considering market size, this grouping of stations allows a comparison with stations more specifically comparable
in revenue size. The revenue-size breakdown should be especially helpful to those stations which, for one reason or another, feel that the market-size population figures provided by Sales Management do not reflect the real size of their local selling area. The major limitation of this yardstick, unlike the market-size grouping, is that you are unable to judge whether your dollar revenue is in line with that secured by comparable stations.

## How to USE Your Revenue and Expense Yardsticks

At the end of each yardstick table there are blank columns headed "Your Station" in which you may enter your figures. Do not overlook the dollar comparisons. They are at least as important as the percent comparisons. Also be sure to evaluate your results against the middle $50 \%$ figures as well as the typical figures, since it should not be anticipated that any one station will be perfectly in line with all the typical figures. If your station lost money in 1957 or only made a small profit, you might want to use the yardstick figures for profit-only stations as goals for 1958.

If one or more of your revenue or expense figures are unfavorably out of line with the yardsticks, this does NOT mean that you are necessarily running an inefficient operation, and that the figures which are substantially out of line must be corrected. But it does mean that you should be able to explain WHY it is necessary for the particular figure to deviate from the yardstick. If the explanation is sound, for both the short run and long run, you may not want to consider any changes.

The explanation is what is significant-not just the fact that a particular revenue or expense figure is out of line with that in comparably situated stations.

TABLE 2. REVENUE AND EXPENSE YARDSTICKS, MARKET SIZE 1 ( 2.5 million pop. or more)—Large Stations (Total Revenue $\$ 1,000,000$ or more)

| REVENUEAND EXPENSEITEMS | ALLSTTATIONSE |  |  | PROFIT-ONLY STATIONS |  |  | YOURSTATION |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Typical Dollar Figures | Typical Percent Figures | Middle 50\% Range | Typical Dollar Figures | Typical <br> Percent <br> Figures | Middle 50\% Range | Dollar <br> Figures | Percent Figures |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Line } \\ & \text { No. } \end{aligned}$ | Col. 1 | Col. 2 | Col. 3 | Col. 4 | Col. 5 | Col. 6 | Col. 7 | Col. 8 |
| 1. OPERATING RATIO ${ }^{\text {a }}$ |  | 74.0\% | 66.9\%-76.8\% |  | 74.0\% | 66.9\%-76.8\% |  | - |
| 2. TOTAL BROADCAST REVENUE ${ }^{\text {b }}$ | \$1,821,100 |  | \$1,497,700-\$2,832,700 | \$1,821,100 |  | \$1,497,700-\$2,832,700 |  | 100\% |
| 3. TOTAL TIME SALES From: | 2,112,600 | 100.0\% | 1,536,500-3,025,200 | 2,112,600 | 100.0\% | 1,536,500-3,025,200 | - |  |
| 4. Networks ${ }^{\text {c }}$ | 114,100 | 5.4 | 13,500- 159,500 | 114,100 | 5.4 | 13,500- 159,500 |  |  |
| 5. National \& regional advertisers | 1,345,700 | 63.7 | 1,002,100-2,577,900 | 1,345,700 | 63.7 | 1,002,100-2,577,900 |  |  |
| 6. Local advertisers | 652,800 | 30.9 | 258,500- 893,700 | 652,800 | 30.9 | 258,500- 893,700 |  |  |
| 7. TOTAL BROADCAST EXPENSE | \$1,372,700 | 100.0\% | \$1,118,200-\$2,016,000 | \$1,372,700 100.0\% $\$ 1,118,200-\$ 2,016,000$ |  |  |  | 100\% |
| From: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8. Technical | 210,000 | 15.3 | 200,000- 312,800 | 210,000 | 15.3 | 200,000-312,800 |  |  |
| 9. Program | 546,300 | 39.8 | $376,200-883,700$ | 546,300 | 39.8 | 376,200- 883,700 |  |  |
| 10. Selling ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | 277,300 | 20.2 | 203,200- 353,600 | 277,300 | 20.2 | 203,200- 353,600 |  |  |
| 11. General \& administrative | 339,100 | 24.7 | 277,700- 404,400 | 339,100 | 24.7 | 277,700- 404,400 |  |  |
| 12. TOTAL SALARIES \& WAGES (including supervision) and all TALENT EXPENSE | 823,000 | - 60.0 | 640,700-1,155,100 | 823,000 | 60.0 | 640,700- 1,155,100 |  |  |

a Derived from each station's total expense divided by total revenue-NOT line 7 divided by line 2 .
${ }^{\text {b }}$ Time sales plus incidental broadcast revenue minus agency and rep. comm. and payment to networks for sale of time.
c For only those stations which were affiliated with nationwide networks, the typical network revenue was $\$ 139,800$ with a middle $50 \%$ range of $\$ 121,800$ $\$ 191,100$; the respective figures for the "profit-only" stations were identical since the same stations were involved.
"Includes all promotion; excludes agency and rep. comm.
e There were no "loss" stations in this sample grouping. Consequently, the figures for the all-station breakdown are the same as those for the profit-only breakdown.

TABLE 3. REVENUE AND EXPENSE YARDSTICKS, MARKET SIZE 1 ( 2.5 million pop. or more)—Small Stations (Total Rev. less than $\$ 1,0000,000$ )

a Derived from each station's total expense divided by total revenue-NOT line 7 divided by line 2 .
${ }^{\mathrm{b}}$ Time sales plus incidental broadcast revenue minus agency and rep. comm. and payment to networks for sale of time.
c There were less than 6 stations in this sample grouping affiliated with nationwide networks. Consequently, typical network revenue for those stations affiliated with nationwide networks was not calculated for the all-station or the profit-only breakdowns.
d Includes all promotion; excludes agency and rep. comm.

TABLE 4. REVENUE AND EXPENSE YARDSTICKS, MARKET SIZE 2 (1-2.5 million population)

${ }^{\text {a }}$ Derived from each station's total expense divided by total revenue-NOT line 7 divided by line 2.
${ }^{b}$ Time sales plus incidental broadcast revenue minus agency and rep. comm. and payment to networks for sale of time.
c For only those stations which were affiliated with nationwide networks, the typical network revenue was $\$ 45,600$ with a middle $50 \%$ range of $\$ 7,700-\$ 71,200$; the respective figures for the "profit-only" stations were $\$ 46,500$ and $\$ 28,300-\$ 75,000$.
${ }^{d}$ Includes all promotion; excludes agency and rep. comm.

TABLE 5. REVENUE AND EXPENSE YARDSTICKS, MARKET SIZE 3 ( $500,000-1$ million population)

a Derived from each station's total expense divided by total revenue-NOT line 7 divided by line 2.
${ }^{\text {b }}$ Time sales plus incidental broadcast revenue minus agency and rep. comm. and payment to networks for sale of time.
c For only those stations which were affiliated with nationwide networks, the typical network revenue was $\$ 18,800$ with a middle $50 \%$ range of $\$ 8,000-\$ 37,700$; the respective figures for the "profit-only" stations were $\$ 25,400$ and $\$ 8,600-\$ 41,300$
${ }^{d}$ Includes all promotion; excludes agency and rep. comm.

TABLE 6. REVENUE AND EXPENSE YARDSTICKS, MARKET SIZE 4 ( $\mathbf{( 2 5 0 , 0 0 0 - 5 0 0 , 0 0 0}$ population)

a Derived from each station's total expense divided by total revenue-NOT line 7 divided by line 2 .
${ }^{1 " T i m e ~ s a l e s ~ p l u s ~ i n c i d e n t a l ~ b r o a d c a s t ~ r e v e n u e ~ m i n u s ~ a g e n c y ~ a n d ~ r e p . ~ c o m m . ~ a n d ~ p a y m e n t ~ t o ~ n e t w o r k s ~ f o r ~ s a l e ~ o f ~ t i m e . ~}$
${ }^{c}$ For only those stations which were affiliated with nationwide networks, the typical network revenue was $\$ 10,600$ with a middle $50 \%$ range of $\$ 4,600-\$ 25,800$; the respective figures for the "profit-only" stations were $\$ 9,700$ and $\$ 4,300-\$ 26,000$.
${ }^{\text {d }}$ Includes all promotion; excludes agency and rep. comm.

TABLE 7. REVENUE AND EXPENSE YARDSTICKS, MARKET SIZE 5 (100,000-250,000 population)

| REVENUEAND EXPENSEITEMS <br> Line <br> No. | ALL STATIONS |  |  |  |  | PROFIT-ONLY STATIONS |  |  |  |  |  | YOUR STATION |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Typical Dollar Figures | Typical Percent Figures | Middle 50\% Range |  |  | Typical Dollar Figures |  | Typical Percent Figures | Middle 50\% Range |  |  | Dollar Figures | Percent Figures |
|  | Col. 1 | Col. 2 |  |  | . 3 |  | Col. 4 | Col. 5 |  | Co | . 6 | Col. 7 | Col. 8 |
| 1. OPERATING RATIO ${ }^{\text {a }}$ |  | 93.5\% |  | 86.1\%-1 | 2.1\% |  |  | 88.5\% |  | 81.9\%- | 3.7\% |  | \% |
| 2. TOTAL BROADCAST REVENUE ${ }^{\text {b }}$ | \$ 153,900 |  | \$ | 113,400-\$ | 209,500 | \$ | 173,900 |  | \$ | 118,400-\$ | 258,900 |  |  |
| 3. TOTAL TIME SALES From: | 154,200 | 100.0\% |  | 111,000- | 219,300 |  | 173,300 | 100.0\% |  | 120,100- | 264,500 |  | 100\% |
| 4. Networks ${ }^{\text {c }}$ | 4,800 | 3.1 |  | $0-$ | 12,000 |  | 3,600 | 2.1 |  | $0-$ | 12,300 |  | - |
| 5. National \& regional advertisers | 38,100 | 24.7 |  | 16,200- | 75,700 |  | 41,100 | 23.7 |  | 16,700- | 90,900 |  |  |
| 6. Local advertisers | 111,300 | 72.2 |  | 76,500- | 140,900 |  | 128,600 | 74.2 |  | 84,000- | 155,800 |  |  |
| 7. TOTAL BROADCAST EXPENSE <br> From: | \$ 147,700 | 100.0\% | \$ | 112,900-\$ | 201,300 | \$ | 151,400 | 100.0\% | \$ | 113,600-\$ | 223,100 |  | 100\% |
| 8. Technical | 23,100 | 15.6 |  | 10,600 - | 31,800 |  | 23,000 | 15.2 |  | 10,400- | 33,000 |  | - |
| 9. Program | 45,500 | 30.8 |  | 31,200- | 65,700 |  | 49,300 | 32.6 |  | 32,300- | 75,300 |  | - |
| 10. Selling d | 26,400 | 17.9 |  | 17,100- | 38.400 |  | 28,500 | 18.8 |  | 18,900- | 40,800 |  |  |
| 11. General \& administrative | 52,700 | 35.7 |  | 36,200- | 70,200 |  | 50,600 | 33.4 |  | 38,500- | 71,900 |  |  |
| 12. TOTAL SALARIES \& WAGES (including supervision) and all TALENT EXPENSE | 89,100 | 60.3 |  | 64,700- | 115,600 |  | 93,400 | - 61.7 |  | 66,200- | 127,500 |  |  |

a Derived from each station's total expense divided by total revenue-NOT line 7 divided by line 2.
${ }^{\mathrm{b}}$ Time sales plus incidental broadcast revenue minus agency and rep. comm. and payment to networks for sale of time.
c For only those stations which were affliated with nationwide networks, the typical network revenue was $\$ 8,200$ with a middle $50 \%$ range of $\$ 4,000-\$ 16,500$; the respective figure for the "profit-only" stations were $\$ 9,300$ and $\$ 4,100-\$ 16,800$.
${ }^{\text {a }}$ Includes all promotion; excludes agency and rep. comm.

TABLE 8. REVENUE AND EXPENSE YARDSTICKS, MARKET SIZE 6 (50,000-100,000 population)

| REVENUEAND EXPENSE ITEMS Line No. | ALL STATIONS |  |  |  |  | PROFIT-ONLY STATIONS |  |  |  |  |  | YOURSTATION |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Typical Dollar Figures | Typical Percent Figures | Middle 50\% Range |  |  | Typical <br> Dollar <br> Figures |  | Typical <br> Percent <br> Figures | Middle 50\% Range |  |  | Dollar <br> Figures | Percent <br> Figures |
|  | Col. 1 | Col. 2 |  |  | l. 3 |  | Col. 4 | Col. 5 |  |  | ol. 6 | Col. 7 | Col. 8 |
| 1. OPERATING RATIO * |  | 89.6\% |  | 82.9\% - 9 | 96.6\% |  |  | 87.5\% |  | 82.0\% | 95.2\% |  | \% |
| 2. TOTAL BROADCAST REVENUE ${ }^{b}$ | \$ 145,500 |  | \$ | 110,900-\$ | 169,900 | \$ | 149,800 |  | \$ | 118,400-\$ | 171,400 |  |  |
| 3. TOTAL TIME SALES From: | 142,100 | 100.0\% |  | 109,800- | 174,100 |  | 147,500 | 100.0\% |  | 116,000- | 176,600 |  | 100\% |
| 4. Networks ${ }^{\text {c }}$ | 2,600 | 1.8 |  | 300- | 7,400 |  | 2,400 | 1.6 |  | $300-$ | 6,500 |  |  |
| 5. National \& regional advertisers | 28,500 | 20.1 |  | 8,200- | 38,800 |  | 27,100 | 18.4 |  | 8,600- | 39,000 |  |  |
| 6. Local advertisers | 111,000 | 78.1 |  | 80,200- | 133,900 |  | 118,000 | 80.0 |  | 93,900- | 137,700 |  |  |
| 7. TOTAL BROADCAST EXPENSE | \$ 131,200 | 100.0\% | \$ | 103,600-\$ | 154,600 | \$ | 131,100 | 100.0\% | \$ | 105,500-\$ | 158,300 |  | 100\% |
| From: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8. Technical | 17,200 | 13.1 |  | 12,100- | 21,900 |  | 17,700 | 13.5 |  | 12,200- | 22,300 |  |  |
| 9. Program | 41,600 | 31.7 |  | 33,800- | 50,200 |  | 40,800 | 31.1 |  | 34,400- | 49,600 |  |  |
| 10. Selling d | 23,600 | 18.0 |  | 18,200- | 31,200 |  | 23,500 | 17.9 |  | 18,100- | 31,600 |  |  |
| 11. General \& administrative | 48,800 | 37.2 |  | 32,800- | 59,300 |  | 49,100 | 37.5 |  | 33,000- | 60,600 |  |  |
| 12. TOTAL SALARIES \& WAGES (including supervision) and all TALENT EXPENSE | 75,900 | - 57.8 |  | 56,8!0- | 98,900 |  | 76,700 | 58.5 |  | 57,800- | 102,400 |  | - |

${ }^{\text {a }}$ Derived from each station's total expense divided by total revenue-NOT line 7 divided by line 2.
${ }^{b}$ Time sales plus incidental broadcast revenue minus agency and rep. comm. and payment to networks for sale of time.
c For only those stations which were affiliated with nationwide networks, the typical network revenue was $\$ 3,200$ with a middle $50 \%$ range of $\$ 1,600-\$ 8,300$; the respective figures for the "profit-only" stations were $\$ 3,100$ and $\$ 1,100-\$ 7,700$.
${ }^{d}$ Includes all promotion; excludes agency and rep. comm.

TABLE 9. REVENUE AND EXPENSE YARDSTICKS, MARKET SIZE 7 (25,000-50,000 population)

a Derived from each station's total expense divided by total revenue-NOT line 7 divided by line 2 .
b Time sales plus incidental broadcast revenue minus agency and rep. comm. and payment to networks for sale of time.
c For only those stations which were affliated with nationwide networks, the typical network revenue was $\$ 1,000$ with a middle $50 \%$ range of $\$ 100-\$ 3,800$; the respective figures for the "profit-only" stations were $\$ 1,100$ and $\$ 200-\$ 3,600$.
${ }^{\text {a }}$ Includes all promotion; excludes agency and rep. comm.

TABLE 10. REVENUE AND EXPENSE YARDSTICKS, MARKET SIZE 8 ( $\mathbf{1 0 , 0 0 0 - 2 5 , 0 0 0}$ population)

a Derived from each station's total expense divided by total revenue-NOT line 7 divided by line 2.
${ }^{\mathrm{b}}$ Time sales plus incidental broadcast revenue minus agency and rep. comm. and payment to networks for sale of time.
c For only those stations which were affiliated with nationwide networks, the typical network revenue was $\$ 600$ with a middle $50 \%$ range of $\$ 0-\$ 5,000$; the respective figures for the "profit-only" stations were $\$ 500$ and $\$ 0-\$ 5,200$.
${ }^{d}$ Includes all promotion; excludes agency and rep. comm.

TABLE 11. REVENUE AND EXPENSE YARDSTICKS, MARKET SIZE 9 (less than $\mathbf{1 0 , 0 0 0}$ population)

| REVENUE AND EXPENSEITEMS <br> Line <br> No. | ALL STATIONS |  |  |  |  | PROFIT-ONLY STATIONS |  |  |  |  |  | YOUR STATION |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Typical Dollar Figures | Typical <br> Percent <br> Figures | Middle 50\% Range |  |  | Typical <br> Dollar <br> Figures |  | Typical Percent Figures | Middle 50\% Range |  |  | Dollar Figures | Percent <br> Figures |
|  | Col. 1 | Col. 2 |  |  |  |  | Col. 4 | Col. 5 |  |  |  | Col. 7 | Col. 8 |
| 1. OPERATING RATIO ${ }^{\text {a }}$ |  | 91.6\% |  | 82.6\%-98 | . $4 \%$ |  |  | 88.2\% |  | 79.4\% | .9\% |  | - \% |
| 2. TOTAL BROADCAST REVENUE ${ }^{\text {b }}$ | \$ 62,200 |  | \$ | 49,800-\$ | 78,100 | \$ | 63,400 |  | \$ | 52,800-\$ | 81,200 |  |  |
| 3. TOTAL TIME SALES From: | 62,200 | 100.0\% |  | 48,600- | 77,500 |  | 63,200 | 100.0\% |  | 50,600- | 79,700 |  | 100\% |
| 4. Networks ${ }^{\text {c }}$ | 0 | 0.0 |  | $0-$ | 0 |  | 0 | 0.0 |  | $0-$ | 0 |  |  |
| 5. National \& regional advertisers | 4,300 | 6.9 |  | 1,300- | 9,100 |  | 4,500 | 7.1 |  | 1,400- | 9,300 |  |  |
| 6. Local advertisers | 57,900 | 93.1 |  | 43,700- | 69,500 |  | 58,700 | 92.9 |  | 45,000 | 72,900 |  |  |
| 7. TOTAL BROADCAST EXPENSE | \$ 56,200 | 100.0\% | \$ | 43,400-\$ | 69,500 | \$ | 55,300 | 100.0\% | \$ | 44,500-\$ | 71,400 |  | 100\% |
| From: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8. Technical | 7,100 | 12.6 |  | 4,800- | 10,200 |  | 6,500 | 11.7 |  | 4,700- | 9,900 |  |  |
| 9. Program | 18,100 | 32.3 |  | 12,100- | 24,100 |  | 18,200 | 32.9 |  | 12,300- | 24,100 |  |  |
| 10. Selling ${ }^{\text {d }}$ | 8,600 | 15.3 |  | 5,600- | 12,600 |  | 8,400 | 15.2 |  | 5,500- | 12,200 |  |  |
| 11. General \& administrative | 22,400 | 39.8 |  | 14,800- | 29,000 |  | 22,200 | 40.2 |  | 15,500- | 29,100 |  |  |
| 12. TOTAL SALARIES \& WAGES (including supervision) and all TALENT EXPENSE | 31,700 | - 56.4 |  | 21,300- | 41,600 |  | 31,700 | - 57.3 |  | 22,000 | 42,500 |  |  |

${ }^{\text {a }}$ Derived from each station's total expense divided by total revenue-NOT line 7 divided by line 2.
${ }^{\mathrm{b}}$ Time sales plus incidental broadcast revenue minus agency and rep. comm. and payment to networks for sale of time.
c For only those stations which were affiliated with nationwide networks, the typical network revenue was $\$ 200$ with a middle $50 \%$ range of $\$ 0-\$ 2,200$; the respective figures for the "profit-only" stations were $\$ 300$ and $\$ 0-\$ 1,900$.
${ }^{d}$ Includes all promotion; excludes agency and rep. comm.

TABLE 12. REVENUE AND EXPENSE YARDSTICKS, REVENUE SIZE 1 ( $\$ 750,000$ and over)


[^0]TABLE 13. REVENUE AND EXPENSE YARDSTICKS, REVENUE SIZE 2 ( $\mathbf{~} 500,000-\$ 750,000$ )

${ }^{\text {a }}$ Derived from each station's total expense divided by total revenue-NOT line 7 divided by line 2.
${ }^{\text {b }}$ Time sales plus incidental broadcast revenue minus agency and rep. comm. and payment to networks for sale of time.
c For only those stations which were affiliated with nationwide networks, the typical network revenue was $\$ 30,600$ with a middle $50 \%$ range of $\$ 16,400-\$ 53,100$; the respective figures for the "profit-only" stations were $\$ 28,800$ and $\$ 17,400-\$ 51,800$.
${ }^{d}$ Includes all promotion; excludes agency and rep. comm.

TABLE 14. REVENUE AND EXPENSE YARDSTICKS, REVENUE SIZE 3 ( $\$ 300,000-\$ 500,000$ )

| REVENUEAND EXPENSEITEMS Line No. | ALL STATIONS |  |  |  |  | PROFIT-ONLY STATIONS |  |  |  |  |  | YOURSTATION |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Typical Dollar Figures | Typical <br> Percent <br> Figures | Middle 50\% Range |  |  | Typical <br> Dollar <br> Figures |  | Typical Percent Figures | Middle 50\% Range |  |  | Dollar Figures | Percent Figures |
|  | Col. 1 | Col. 2 |  |  | l. 3 |  | Col. 4 | Col. 5 |  |  | ol. 6 | Col. 7 | Col. 8 |
| 1. OPERATING RATIO ${ }^{\text {a }}$ |  | 89.8\% |  | 75.7\%-9 | 94.3\% |  |  | 88.3\% |  | 75.2\%-93 | 93.3\% |  | - \% |
| 2. TOTAL BROADCAST REVENUE ${ }^{\text {b }}$ | \$ 368,400 |  | \$ | 330,000-\$ | 414,100 | \$ | 372,400 |  | \$ | 335,100-\$ | 421,100 |  |  |
| 3. TOTAL TIME SALES From: | 397,200 | 100.0\% |  | 346,700- | 468,000 |  | 402,000 | 100.0\% |  | 345,500- | 469,100 |  | 100\% |
| 4. Networks ${ }^{\text {c }}$ | 9,600 | 2.4 |  | 0 - | 19,700 |  | 9,700 | 2.4 |  | $0-$ | 19,700 |  |  |
| 5. National \& regional advertisers | 165,200 | 41.6 |  | 110,200- | 222,300 |  | 170,400 | 42.4 |  | 110,200- | 222,300 |  |  |
| 6. Local advertisers | 222,400 | 56.0 |  | 170,500- | 264,500 |  | 221,900 | 55.2 |  | 169,100- | 264,500 |  | - |
| 7. TOTAL BROADCAST EXPENSE <br> From: | \$ 330,400 | 100.0\% | \$ | 288,000-\$ | 361,900 | \$ | 322,600 | 100.0\% | \$ | 275,200-\$ | 354,300 |  | 100\% |
| 8. Technical | 54,200 | 16.4 |  | 34,200- | 69,300 |  | 51,000 | 15.8 |  | 30,900- | 61,600 |  |  |
| 9. Program | 97,800 | 29.6 |  | 80,800 | 115,300 |  | 95,200 | 29.5 |  | 76,600- | 108,200 |  |  |
| 10. Selling d | 67,700 | 20.5 |  | 53,700- | 82,700 |  | 65,800 | 20.4 |  | 52,400- | 78,800 |  |  |
| 11. General \& administrative | 110,700 | 33.5 |  | 84,100- | 130,600 |  | 110,600 | 34.3 |  | 81,200- | 127,400 |  |  |
| 12. TOTAL SALARIES \& WAGES (including supervision) and all TALENT EXPENSE | 180,600 | - 54.7 |  | 159,000- | 218,000 |  | 177,500 | 55.0 |  | 158,500- | 215,200 |  |  |

${ }^{n}$ Derived from each station's total expense divided by total revenue-NOT line 7 divided by line 2.
${ }^{b}$ Time sales plus incidental broadcast revenue minus agency and rep. comm. and payment to networks for sale of time.
${ }^{c}$ For only those stations which were affliated with nationwide networks, the typical network revenue was $\$ 17,100$ with a middle $50 \%$ range of $\$ 9,400-\$ 26,800$; the respective figures for the "profit-only" stations were $\$ 16,300$ and $\$ 9,400-\$ 27,000$.
${ }^{\text {a }}$ Includes all promotion; excludes agency and rep. comm.

TABLE 15. REVENUE AND EXPENSE YARDSTICKS, REVENUE SIZE 4 ( $\mathbf{~} 200,000-\$ 300,000$ )

${ }^{\text {a }}$ Derived from each station's total expense divided by total revenue-NOT line 7 divided by line 2.
${ }^{\mathrm{b}}$ Time sales plus incidental broadcast revenue minus agency and rep. comm. and payment to networks for sale of time.
${ }^{c}$ For only those stations which were affiliated with nationwide networks, the typical network revenue was $\$ 9,300$ with a middle $50 \%$ range of $\$ 4,100-\$ 19,500$; the respective figures for the "profit-only" stations were $\$ 8,900$ and $\$ 2,600-\$ 16,100$.
${ }^{\text {d }}$ Includes all promotion; excludes agency and rep. comm.

TABLE 16. REVENUE AND EXPENSE YARDSTICKS, REVENUE SIZE 5 ( $\$ 150,000-\$ 200,000)$

${ }^{\text {a }}$ Derived from each station's total expense divided by total revenue-NOT line 7 divided by line 2.
${ }^{\mathrm{b}}$ Time sales plus incidental broadcast revenue minus agency and rep. comm. and payment to networks for sale of time.
c For only those stations which were affiliated with nationwide networks, the typical network revenue was $\$ 5,300$ with a middle $50 \%$ range of $\$ 1,600-\$ 11,000$; the respective figures for the "profit-only" stations were $\$ 2,600$ and $\$ 900-\$ 8,700$.
${ }^{\mathrm{d}}$ Includes all promotion; excludes agency and rep. comm.

TABLE 17. REVENUE AND EXPENSE YARDSTICKS, REVENUE SIZE 6 ( $\mathbf{( 1 2 5 , 0 0 0 - \$ 1 5 0 , 0 0 0 )}$

a Derived from each station's total expense divided by total revenue-NOT line 7 divided by line 2.
${ }^{\text {b }}$ Time sales plus incidental broadcast revenue minus agency and rep. comm. and payment to networks for sale of time.
c For only those stations which were affiliated with nationwide networks, the typical network revenue was $\$ 4,400$ with a middle $50 \%$ range of $\$ 800-\$ 7,300$; the respective figures for the "profit-only" stations were $\$ 3,900$ and $\$ 0-\$ 6,600$.
${ }^{\text {d }}$ Includes all promotion; excludes agency and rep. comm.

TABLE 18. REVENUE AND EXPENSE YARDSTICKS, REVENUE SIZE $7(\$ 100,000-\$ 125,000)$

${ }^{\text {a }}$ Derived from each station's total expense divided by total revenue-NOT line 7 divided by line 2.
${ }^{\mathrm{b}}$ Time sales plus incidental broadcast revenue minus agency and rep. comm. and payment to networks for sale of time.
c For only those stations which were affiliated with nationwide networks, the typical network revenue was $\$ 3,700$ with a middle $50 \%$ range of $\$ 1,000-\$ 7,900$; the respective figures for the "profit-only" stations were $\$ 2,800$ and $\$ 200-\$ 6,800$.
${ }^{d}$ Includes all promotion; excludes agency and rep. comm.

TABLE 19. REVENUE AND EXPENSE YARDSTICKS, REVENUE SIZE $8(\$ 75,000-\$ 100,000)$

| REVENUEAND EXPENSEITEMS <br> Line <br> No. | ALLSTATIONS |  |  |  |  | PROFIT-ONLY STATIONS |  |  |  |  |  | YOUR STATION |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Typical <br> Dollar <br> Figures | Typical <br> Percent <br> Figures | Middle 50\% Range |  |  | Typical <br> Dollar <br> Figures |  | Typical Percent Figures | Middle 50\% Range |  |  | Dollar <br> Figures | Percent Figures |
|  | Col. 1 | Col. 2 |  |  |  |  | Col. 4 | Col. 5 |  |  |  | Col. 7 | Col. 8 |
| 1. OPERATING RATIO ${ }^{\text {a }}$ |  | 93.3\% |  | 82.7\%-10 | . $4 \%$ |  |  | 88.0\% |  | 79.9\%-93 | .9\% |  | - \% |
| 2. TOTAL BROADCAST REVENUE ${ }^{\text {b }}$ | \$ 85,200 |  | \$ | 79,900-\$ | 93,900 | \$ | 85,100 |  | \$ | 79,100-\$ | 94,000 |  |  |
| 3. TOTAL TIME SALES From: | 85,400 | 100.0\% |  | 79,900- | 93,900 |  | 85,400 | 100.0\% |  | 79,400- | 93,100 |  | 100\% |
| 4. Networks ${ }^{\text {c }}$ | 0 | 0.0 |  | $0-$ | 1,700 |  | 0 | 0.0 |  | $0-$ | 700 |  |  |
| 5. National \& regional advertisers | 9,100 | 10.7 |  | 4,400- | 16,800 |  | 7,800 | 9.1 |  | 3,300- | 13,000 |  |  |
| 6. Local advertisers | 76,300 | 89.3 |  | 67,800- | 81,100 |  | 77,600 | 90.9 |  | 69,100- | 81,900 |  | - |
| 7. TOTAL BROADCAST EXPENSE <br> From: | \$ 79,300 | 100.0\% | \$ | 71,400-\$ | 89,500 | \$ | 74,400 | 100.0\% | \$ | 67,800-\$ | 82,200 | - | 100\% |
| 8. Technical | 9,200 | 11.6 |  | 6,100- | 13,400 |  | 7,800 | 10.5 |  | 5,100- | 11,500 |  |  |
| 9. Program | 25,900 | 32.7 |  | 20,900 - | 31,000 |  | 24,000 | 32.3 |  | 20,900- | 29,300 |  |  |
| 10. Selling ${ }^{\text {d }}$ | 13,300 | 16.8 |  | 10,400- | 16,800 |  | 12,700 | 17.1 |  | 9,200- | 15,300 |  |  |
| 11. General \& administrative | 30,900 | 38.9 |  | 24,600 | 35,400 |  | 29,900 | 40.1 |  | 22,500 | 34,200 |  |  |
| 12. TOTAL SALARIES \& WAGES (including supervision) and all TALENT EXPENSE | 46,300 | - 58.4 |  | 38,700- | 53,800 |  | 43,300 | 58.2 |  | 37,400- | 49,100 |  |  |

" Derived from each station's total expense divided by total revenue-NOT line 7 divided by line 2 .
${ }^{1}$ Time sales plus incidental broadcast revenue minus agency and rep. comm. and payment to networks for sale of time.
c For only those stations which were affiliated with nationwide networks, the typical network revenue was $\$ 2,200$ with a middle $50 \%$ range of $\$ 0-\$ 4,600$; the respective figures for the "profit-only" stations were $\$ 900$ and $\$ 0-\$ 3,300$.
${ }^{\text {a }}$ Includes all promotion; excludes agency and rep. comm.

TABLE 20. REVENUE AND EXPENSE YARDSTICKS, REVENUE SIZE 9 ( $\$ 50,000-\$ 75,000)$

a Derived from each station's total expense divided by total revenue-NOT line 7 divided by line 2.
${ }^{\mathrm{b}}$ Time sales plus incidental broadcast revenue minus agency and rep. comm. and payment to networks for sale of time.
e For only those stations which were affiliated with nationwide networks, the typical network revenue was $\$ 100$ with a middle $50 \%$ range of $\$ 0-\$ 400$; the respective figures for the "profit-only" stations were $\$ 100$ and $\$ 0-\$ 300$.
${ }^{d}$ Includes all promotion; excludes agency and rep. comm.

TABLE 21. REVENUE AND EXPENSE YARDSTICKS, REVENUE SIZE 10 (Less than $\$ 50,000$ )

${ }^{\text {a }}$ Derived from each station's total expense divided by total revenue-NOT line 7 divided by line 2.
${ }^{\mathrm{b}}$ Time sales plus incidental broadcast revenue minus agency and rep. comm. and payment to networks for sale of time.
c For only those stations which were affiliated with nationwide networks, the typical network revenue was $\$ 700$ with a middle $50 \%$ range of $\$ 100-\$ 3,200$; the respective figures for the "profit-only" stations were $\$ 400$ and $\$ 200-\$ 3,300$.
${ }^{\star}$ Includes all promotion; excludes agency and rep. comm.

## 1. Coverage of the Sample

The results of this study are based on questionaires mailed to the entire radio station broadcasting industry and covering the 1957 calendar year. During the year there were approximately 3,020 radio stations in operation. But the universe for this survey (i.e., total number of stations which could have returned usable questionnaires) is only 2,916-the total number of operating stations (3.020) minus 126 stations which did not operate throughout the entire 1957 calendar year and, for stations which did operate a full year 1957, 34 educational stations and 59 radio properties located in the Territories of the United States. In line with last year's financial survey, the 2,916 stations in the universe include stations which are not members of the NAB and stations which failed to make a profit in 1957.
Usable returns were provided by 754 of the 2,916 possible stations. In other words, the report is based on a $26 \%$ sample. Of significance is the similarity between the sample and universe when broken down by the 9 market-size categories which provide the basic yardsticks in this bulletin.

| Market Size (population) | Number of Stations in |  | Percent of All Stations in |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | NAB Sample | Universe | NAB <br> Sample (754) | Universe (2,916) |
| 2.5 million or more | 39 | 153 | 5.2\% | 5.3\% |
| $1 \text { million- }$ | 35 | 117 | 4.6 | 4.0 |
| $\begin{array}{r} 500,000- \\ 999,999 \end{array}$ | 70 | 260 | 9.3 | 8.9 |
| $\begin{array}{r} 250,000- \\ 499,999 \end{array}$ | 93 | 283 | 12,3 | 9.7 |
| $\begin{array}{r} 100,000- \\ 249,999 \end{array}$ | 129 | 430 | 17.1 | 14.7 |
| $\begin{array}{r} 50,000- \\ 99,999 \end{array}$ | 39 | 139 | 5.2 | 4.8 |
| $\begin{array}{r} 25,000- \\ 49,999 \end{array}$ | 60 | 188 | 7.9 | 6.5 |
| $\begin{array}{r} 10,000- \\ \quad 24,999 \end{array}$ | 150 | 552 | 20.0 | 18.9 |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { Less than } \\ 10,000 \end{gathered}$ | 139 | 794 | 18.4 | 27.2 |
| Total | 754 | 2,916 | 100.0\% | 100.0\% |

Among the deficiencies of the sample are (1) the inability to make a perfect comparison between the number of stations in our revenue-size and profit-only breakdowns and the number in the universe for each of these station groupings, and (2) as with all mailed questionnaire surveys, the lack of control over nonrespondents to the questionnaire.

## 2. Market-Size and Revenue-Size Classification Scheme

The data in this report are arranged in two basic groupings -market size and revenue size. Many other breakdowns are possible using such factors as geographical region, membership or nonmembership in the NAB, and power. Our selection of market-size and revenue-size categories was based on the hypothesis (or informed hunch) that these two factors are perhaps the most significant determinants, or at least the most revealing, of radio revenue and cost structures.
With both the market-size and revenue-size groupings, there is an additional breakdown of just those stations which made a profit during 1957. By eliminating those facilities which operated in the "red", the yardstick figures for these "profitonly" stations represent modest goals toward which all "loss" and low profit stations can strive.

## A. Market-Size Classification Scheme

(1) Population figures for standard metropolitan areas were used for all cities falling within such an area. The definition of a standard metropolitan area is that used by the U.S. Bureau of Census except for the New England area. Here, because the Census does not provide county definitions, we used the Survey of Buying Power, published by Sales Management (May 10, 1957). In addition, Sales Management's potential standard metropolitan areas were used.
(2) The Survey of Buying Power's estimates as of January 1, 1957 were the actual population figures used since those from the U.S. Census cover 1950 and, consequently, are badly out of date. For those few small cities not covered by the Survey of Buying Power, the 1950 census figures were used.

## B. Revenue-Size Classification Scheme

This scheme for station groupings is based solely on the total broadcast revenue figures (time sales plus incidental revenue minus agency and rep. commissions and other deductions) found on each questionnaire return.

## 3. Statistical Problems

## A. Median

The "typical" figures in each table are medians or the middle figure $\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)$ after ranking the stations in a particular category on a particular revenue or expense item. Thus, $50 \%$ of the stations have revenue figures which are above, or equal to, and $50 \%$ of the station revenue figures are below, or equal to, the "typical" revenue figures in the tables. Likewise, $50 \%$ of the stations have expense figures which are above, or equal to, and $50 \%$ of the station expense figures are below, or equal to, the "typical" expense figures in the tables. Medians rather than averages (means) were used due to the relatively small number of items involved in each grouping ${ }^{\text {a }}$ and because of the large diversity between the revenue or expense or operating ratio figures within each of the groupings. As is common in many economic studies, means would tend to yield higher figures than medians due to the existence of relatively more extreme figures at the top than at the bottom of any ranking of a group.

Because the typical figure for each expense (or revenue) item is a median rather than a mean, the total figures (for example, total broadcast expenses) would not normally be the sum of the median figures for the expense (or revenue) items which comprise the total. The individual revenue and expense items have, however, been adjusted in this report so that they will add up to their respective totals in both dollar and percentage terms.
B. Middle $50 \%$

The middle $50 \%$ (or interquartile range) has been presented because it allows a broadcaster to evaluate his operating results more thoroughly than if just one typical figure were available as the yardstick. Since every firm is in some way unique, it is to be expected that a station's operating figures will not coincide precisely with standards of measurement based on the typical comparable station. With a range showing where the figures of $50 \%$ of the comparable stations lie, station management can get a much better idea of its financial position relative to other comparable radio facilities.

[^1] returns.

## C. Operating Ratio

Typical operating ratio figures are derived directly from each station rather than by dividing the typical total expense for a particular category of stations by the typical total revenue for the grouping. More specifically, an operating ratio was calculated for each station in a particular category. The operating ratio figures were then ranked and the median figure selected. Consequently, the typical operating ratio found on line 1 of all the yardstick tables is not the result of a simple division of the typical total expense figure (line 7 in each yardstick table) by the typical total revenue figure (line 2 in each yardstick table). This direct station-by-station method of calculating the operating ratio provides a much more realistic figure with which to compare your station.

## D. Ratio of Total Salaries to Total Expense

The percentage figure opposite the typical dollar figure for Total Salaries \& Wages and all Talent Expense on each table is derived by dividing that figure by the Total Broadcast Expense dollar figure for that particular group. This figure was not derived on an individual station basis but is simply line 12 divided by line 7 to give a ratio figure of salary expenses to total expenses. It is separate from the above percentage figures in each table.
E. Nationwide Figures

The nationwide figures in Part I were derived from the market-size groupings. Each of the market-size medians for a particular revenue or expense item was weighted by the total number of stations in the market-size category and not by the number of questionnaire returns from each marketsize grouping. A median of these market-size medians was then calculated to yield the nationwide figure.
Unlike the yardstick figures in Part II, a simple division of total expense by total revenue does yield the operating ratio figure in the nationwide statistics. But the adjustment was made on the total expense figure rather than on the operating ratio figure. This is because we believe that both the total revenue and operating ratio figures are somewhat more significant than the total expense figure.

## F. Exclusions

Where data were available from less than 15 stations for any particular revenue or expense item in any category of stations, no information is presented in this report. In most cases the data herein presented represent sixty or more stations.


[^0]:    a Derived from each station's total expense divided by total revenue-NOT line 7 divided by line 2.
    ${ }^{\mathrm{b}}$ Time sales plus incidental broadcast revenue minus agency and rep. comm. and payment to networks for sale of time.
    ${ }^{c}$ For only those stations which were affiliated with nationwide networks, the typical network revenue was $\$ 72,400$ with a middle $50 \%$ range of $\$ 41,500-\$ 128,000$; the respective figures for the "profit-only" stations were identical since the same stations were involved.
    ${ }^{d}$ Includes all promotion; excludes agency and rep. comm.
    e There were no "loss" stations in this sample revenue-size grouping. Consequently, the figures for the all-station breakdown are the same as those for the profit-only breakdown.

[^1]:    ${ }^{a}$ Fourteen station groupings were based on less than 50 questionnaire

