

Number of theaters.—There are currently 35 Broadway theaters in New York City, only a little more than half the number that existed 30 years ago.

Legitimate (commercial) theaters in New York City, 1931-66

	Number		Number
1931.....	66.0	1951.....	31.0
1935.....	56.0	1955.....	31.0
1938.....	48.0	1958.....	32.0
Average number per decade (1931-40).....	54.0	Average number per decade (1951-60).....	31.5
1941.....	43.0	1961.....	33.0
1945.....	36.0	1963.....	36.0
1948.....	35.0	1965.....	36.0
Average number per decade (1941-50).....	37.0	1966.....	35.0

Source: 1931-60 figures from the League of New York Theatres, Inc., as they appear in "Crisis in the Free World Theatre" by John F. Wharton; 1961-66 figures from the New York City Department of Commerce and Industrial Development.

Seating capacity.—Broadway theaters seat from 781 to 1,788 persons. The average seating capacity is 1,211.

Construction and financing.—All Broadway theaters have been built and are maintained entirely with private capital. The last Broadway house was built in 1927. About 80 percent of the Broadway theaters have undergone major renovation within the past 5 years, all with private capital. The amount of capital involved in renovations is not available.

Production costs.—Production costs have risen steadily since 1940. Little estimates that the cost of mounting a dramatic play to have risen from \$25,000 in 1940, to \$60,000 in 1950, to \$125,000 in 1960; and the cost of mounting a musical to have risen from \$60,000 in 1940, to \$200,000 in 1950, to \$350,000 to \$400,000 in 1960. Estimates run even higher according to the following information compiled by John F. Wharton:

Increase in capital requirements in the New York theater, 1939-60

Capitalization	Show (dramas)	Year
\$25,000	Life With Father.....	1939
20,000	Voice of the Turtle.....	1943
40,000	Deep Are the Roots.....	1945
100,000	Mr. Roberts.....	1948
180,000	Auntie Mame.....	1956
125,000	Miracle Worker.....	1959
125,000	Toys in the Attic.....	1960
144,500	The Rape of the Belt.....	1960
150,000	Advise and Consent.....	1960

Source: League of New York Theatres, Inc. Stuart Little, "The Broadway Producer," a background paper prepared for the Rockefeller Brothers Fund Panel on the performing arts.

Capitalization	Show (musicals)	Year
\$225,000	South Pacific.....	1949
160,000	Gentlemen Prefer Blonds.....	1950
360,000	Bells Are Ringing.....	1956
400,000	My Fair Lady.....	1956
600,000	Camelot.....	1960

Source: League of New York Theatres, Inc., as it appears in "Crisis in the Free World Theatre," by John F. Wharton.