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## News Release

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**NIELSEN REPORTS 17 PERCENT OF TIME SPENT ON THE INTERNET IN AUGUST DEVOTED TO SOCIAL NETWORKING AND BLOG SITES, UP FROM 6 PERCENT A YEAR AGO**

**All Industries Increase Online Ad Spend on Social Networking Sites in August 2009**

**New York, NY – September 24, 2009** – The Nielsen Company today reported that time spent on social network and blogging sites accounted for 17 percent of all time spent on the Internet in August 2009, nearly triple the percentage of time spent on the sector a year ago.

“This growth suggests a wholesale change in the way the Internet is used,” said Jon Gibs, vice president, media and agency insights, Nielsen’s online division. “While video and text content remain central to the Web experience – the desire of online consumers to connect, communicate and share is increasingly driving the medium’s growth.”

**Online Display Ad Spending on Top Social Network Sites More than Doubles in August 2009**  
Year-over-year, estimated online advertising spend on the top social network and blogging sites increased 119 percent, from approximately \$49 million in August 2008 to approximately \$108 million in August 2009. The share of estimated spend on these sites has also grown, increasing from a seven percent share of total online ad spend in August 2008 to a 15 percent share in August 2009.

While several industries decreased their overall online ad spend year-over-year in August, spending on the top social network sites increased across the board. The Entertainment Industry led in growing its online ad dollars, increasing ad spending on the top social network sites by 812 percent in August. Travel advertisers followed suit, increasing their ad spend on these sites by 364 percent (see Chart 1).

“In the past, advertisers had significant concerns with social media advertising,” said Gibs. “The considerable increases we’ve seen in ad spending over the past year suggest that many of these concerns have subsided or been addressed. In particular, advertisers that want to connect with core fan bases, such as movie studios, are allocating more and more dollars to online communities like Facebook and MySpace, where they can engage in an ongoing dialog with their target market.”

**Chart 1: Year-over-Year Percent Change in Online Advertising Spend by Industry (U.S., August 2009)**

Industry	Estimated Spend on Top Social Network Sites*		Year-over-Year Percent Growth	
	Aug-08	Aug-09	On Social Network Sites*	On All Sites
Entertainment	\$1,097,700	\$10,012,800	812%	40%
Travel	\$473,700	\$2,198,200	364%	-11%
Business to Business	\$683,400	\$1,941,700	184%	-8%
Automotive	\$1,110,200	\$3,085,800	178%	-26%
Health	\$1,131,500	\$2,754,900	143%	8%
Web Media	\$11,231,800	\$26,855,700	139%	30%
Software	\$526,400	\$1,202,500	128%	-29%
Financial Services	\$3,233,900	\$6,415,900	98%	-10%
Public Services	\$6,836,500	\$13,203,100	93%	13%
Telecommunications	\$12,449,500	\$23,550,300	89%	-1%
Consumer Goods	\$1,913,400	\$3,349,200	75%	8%
Hardware & Electronics	\$654,000	\$1,022,900	56%	-47%
Retail Goods & Services	\$8,101,400	\$12,556,800	55%	-12%

Source: Nielsen AdRelevance

\*Estimated spend on social networking sites is based off of data for the top ad-supported member community sites ranked by unique visitors in August 2009

**Facebook.com Draws Advertisers in Most Industries**

The growth of social networking sites has been fueled in part by the explosive growth of Facebook, and it is to this site that many industries head when planning their online ad dollars. In August 2009, Facebook was the No. 1 social networking site advertised on by 10 of the 13 industries when ranked by display ad impressions, while Myspace.com led in the other three industries (see Chart 2).

**Chart 2: Top Social Networking Site Advertised on By Industry Ranked by Display Ad Impressions for August 2009 (U.S.)**

Industry	Social Networking Site
Automotive	Facebook
Business to Business	Facebook
Consumer Goods	Facebook
Entertainment	MySpace
Financial Services	MySpace
Hardware & Electronics	MySpace
Health	Facebook
Public Services	Facebook
Retail Goods & Services	Facebook
Software	Facebook
Telecommunications	Facebook
Travel	Facebook
Web Media	Facebook

Source: Nielsen AdRelevance

**About Nielsen AdRelevance Estimated Spend Figures**



The Nielsen AdRelevance service uses a proprietary methodology for estimating online advertising expenditures and only takes into account image-based technologies and advertising sold per CPM. Above data does include compound ads. It does not reflect house advertising activity, strategic partnerships between publishers and advertisers, or text units, paid search, sponsorships, email, units contained within applications (e.g., messengers and pre-rolls) or performance based advertising.

***About The Nielsen Company:***

The Nielsen Company is a global information and media company with leading market positions in marketing and consumer information, television and other media measurement, online intelligence, mobile measurement, trade shows and business publications (Billboard, The Hollywood Reporter, and Adweek). The privately held company is active in more than 100 countries, with headquarters in New York, USA. For more information, please visit [www.nielsen.com](http://www.nielsen.com).

*Editor's Note: Please source all data to The Nielsen Company.*