



Research Division Note #3 - April 27, 1983

ARTISTS INCREASE 81% IN THE 1970s

American artists increased by 81% between 1970 and 1980 and all 50 states and the District of Columbia participated in this gain. According to data on computer tapes made available recently by the Bureau of the Census, the total labor force of artists in the 1980 Census of Population increased from 599,066 persons counted in 1970 to 1,085,693 persons in 1980. Expressed as a compounded annual rate of growth, this is 6.13%, a rate that is sufficient to double the artist population in 11.6 years.

- The artist population more than doubled in 26 states between 1970 and 1980. More than 10,000 artists were found in the civilian labor forces of 28 states in 1980 compared with only 17 states in 1970.
- The proportion of artists in the nation's labor force also rose significantly over the decade. Artists comprised 1.04% of the total civilian labor force in 1980--more than a third greater than the .75% proportion in 1970.
- Just over half of the persons in the artist labor force in 1980 were concentrated in seven states: California (16%); New York (13%); Texas (6%); Illinois (5%); Florida (4%); Pennsylvania (4%) and Ohio (4%). California and New York together have nearly 30% of the artist labor force as of 1980.
- The proportion of artists in a state's total civilian labor force gives an indication of the extent of artists' participation in the economy of each state. In these terms, New York leads the nation with 1.73% of its total civilian labor force consisting of artists, while California and Hawaii are tied for the next position with 1.55% each, and closely followed by Nevada with 1.54%. The greatest ratio in the attached table is for the District of Columbia at 1.95%. However, D.C. is best compared with other cities on this measure rather than states.
- States with greater than average percentages of artists in their total civilian labor forces are not necessarily the large population states. States in this group are: California, New York, Florida, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Washington, Colorado, Connecticut, Arizona, Oregon, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico and Alaska. Texas, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan are in the eight top states when ranked by number of artists but are below the national average for the percent of artists in their total civilian labor forces.
- In 1980, no state had a smaller proportion of artists in its total civilian labor force than .56%, compared with 1970 when 15 states had artists' populations comprising less than half of one percent of their total civilian labor force.

- Among the 15 largest artist population states: California, Texas and Florida had the greatest relative increases in their artist populations. California moved ahead of New York to become first in total number of artists. Texas moved past two states from fifth position in 1970 to third position in 1980. Florida climbed from tenth position to fifth position. North Carolina moved from 19 to 14 and Georgia moved from 22 to 15.
- The largest percentage increase in artists occurred in Alaska, which was in 51st place in 1970 and climbed to 48 in 1980. In this state, the number of artists increased more than three and a half times (361%) between 1970 and 1980. The greatest decline in position was for Connecticut which dropped from 13 to 22, notwithstanding a significant increase in the number of artists in its civilian labor force. On the latter measure, both Alaska and Connecticut are above average with percents of 1.18% and 1.11% respectively.
- Study of the regional growth of the artist labor force provides an important perspective on the changes that have taken place in the distribution of U.S. artists between 1970 and 1980. The south showed the largest gain in the number of artists over the decade, increasing from 136,263 in 1970 to 293,739 in 1980. This increase was large enough to advance the south from the region with the least artists in 1970 to the region with the most artists in 1980.
- The west region had the highest proportion of artists in the total civilian labor force in 1980 (1.37%). This is a significant increase from 1970 when the west also had the highest proportion (1.01%). The proportion of artists as a percent of the total civilian labor force in the south rose from .57% in 1970 to .87% in 1980. This increase advances the south from last to third position. The north central region had the smallest concentration of artists in its 1980 civilian labor force (.83%), although the concentration increased from .63% in the decade.

Caveats: The data in this Research Division Note and accompanying tables are based on the counts of total artist labor force made in the 1980 Census. The occupations included are: authors, designers, musicians/composers, actors/directors, painters/sculptors, craft artists and artist printmakers, photographers, dancers, performers not elsewhere classified, radio/TV and other announcers, architects, and teachers of art, drama and music in higher education. The total artist labor force includes employed and unemployed artists according to standard definitions. Data in this Note should not be compared directly with Research Division Report #5, Where Artists Live, which is about employed artists. Corresponding data on employed artists from the 1980 Census has not yet been released by the Bureau of the Census. Comparisons may be made to the data in Research Division Report #16 and Research Division Note #2, which use annual data in the total artist labor force collected in the Current Population Survey conducted by the Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics; but technical differences such as sampling, interviewing and coding need to be considered. This Research Division Note is the first of many reports to be prepared that will present data and analyses of information collected from artists during the 1980 Census of Population.

Artist Labor Force by State, 1980 and 1970

Rankings by Number of Artists		State	Number of Artists		Number of Artists as a Percent of Total Civilian Labor Force	
1980	1970		1980	1970	1980	1970
1	2	California	176,321	92,726	1.55%	1.16%
2	1	New York	138,424	94,068	1.73	1.27
3	5	Texas	61,802	27,488	.94	.64
4	3	Illinois	50,467	33,880	.92	.74
5	10	Florida	48,302	19,713	1.15	.78
6	4	Pennsylvania	43,363	27,587	.81	.59
7	6	Ohio	39,768	25,888	.80	.61
8	7	Michigan	36,888	24,573	.88	.71
9	8	New Jersey	36,510	23,670	1.04	.80
10	9	Massachusetts	32,223	19,747	1.14	.83
11	12	Virginia	24,775	12,423	1.00	.70
12	15	Washington	22,974	10,726	1.19	.80
13	11	Maryland	20,990	14,094	1.02	.89
14	19	North Carolina	20,561	9,170	.75	.45
15	22	Georgia	20,330	7,289	.82	.40
16	16	Minnesota	19,512	10,440	.98	.68
17	14	Missouri	18,951	10,917	.84	.59
18	17	Wisconsin	18,429	10,412	.82	.59
19	21	Colorado	17,930	7,325	1.25	.85
20	20	Tennessee	17,714	8,039	.86	.53
21	18	Indiana	17,439	9,774	.68	.46
22	13	Connecticut	17,211	11,326	1.11	.87
23	28	Arizona	14,023	3,212	1.18	.83
24	23	Oregon	13,157	5,918	1.06	.71
25	24	Louisiana	12,825	5,888	.74	.48
26	25	Alabama	11,779	5,603	.72	.45
27	30	Kentucky	10,446	5,191	.69	.45
28	26	Oklahoma	10,308	5,519	.77	.57
29	32	South Carolina	9,526	3,743	.68	.38
30	27	Iowa	9,395	5,361	.68	.48
31	29	Kansas	9,377	5,303	.83	.60
32	34	Hawaii	6,753	3,075	1.55	1.04
33	37	Nevada	6,507	2,541	1.54	1.22
34	35	New Mexico	6,505	2,938	1.19	.86
35	31	District of Columbia	6,247	4,016	1.95	1.15
36	38	Mississippi	6,155	2,517	.61	.33
37	33	Utah	5,858	3,101	.95	.78
38	36	Nebraska	5,666	2,901	.76	.49
39	40	Arkansas	5,468	2,292	.58	.33
40	39	Rhode Island	4,527	2,368	.99	.61
41	42	West Virginia	4,223	1,976	.56	.34
42	43	Maine	3,790	1,659	.76	.43
43	41	New Hampshire	3,751	2,003	.83	.66
44	44	Idaho	3,207	1,419	.77	.52
45	45	Montana	2,966	1,390	.83	.53
46	47	Vermont	2,366	1,257	.98	.72
47	46	Delaware	2,288	1,302	.81	.59
48	51	Alaska	2,148	595	1.18	.61
49	48	South Dakota	1,974	1,016	.63	.41
50	49	North Dakota	1,972	850	.68	.40
51	50	Wyoming	1,602	737	.71	.57
		TOTAL	1,085,693	599,066	1.04	.75

SOURCE: Printed reports and computer data tapes obtained from the Bureau of the Census.

National Endowment for the Arts
Research Division
April 27, 1983

Artist Labor Force by Major Regions, 1980 and 1970

<u>Region</u>	<u>Artist Labor Force</u>		<u>Civilian Labor Force</u>		<u>Number of Artists as a Percent of Total Civilian Labor Force</u>	
	<u>1980</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1970</u>
Total U.S.	1,085,693	599,066	104,449,817	80,051,046	1.04%	.75%
Northeast ^{1/}	282,165	183,685	22,919,305	20,043,576	1.23	.92
North Central ^{2/}	229,838	141,315	27,549,057	22,602,621	.83	.63
South ^{3/}	293,739	136,263	33,585,719	23,728,727	.87	.57
West ^{4/}	279,951	137,803	20,395,736	13,676,122	1.37	1.01

REGION

STATES

1/ Northeast

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont

2/ North Central

Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin

3/ South

Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia

4/ West

Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming

National Endowment for the Arts
Research Division
April 27, 1983