

ARTISTS IN METROPOLITAN AREAS - 1990

*The Federal agency  
 that supports the  
 visual, literary and  
 performing arts to  
 benefit all Americans*

According to 1990 Census occupational statistics recently released by the Bureau of the Census, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (Metros\*) contained 1,473,197 artists, or 88.15% of the total U.S. artist population (1,671,278). The concentration of artists in metropolitan areas in 1990 was greater than that of the total U.S. civilian labor force. Of the 122,473,499 persons in the civilian labor force, 79.37% were located in metropolitan areas.

*Arts in Education*

*Challenge &  
 Advancement*

*Dance*

*Design Arts*

*Expansion Arts*

*Folk Arts*

*International*

*Literature*

*Locals*

*Media Arts*

*Museum*

*Music*

*Opera-Musical  
 Theater*

*Presenting &  
 Commissioning*

*State & Regional*

*Theater*

*Visual Arts*

- The 30 Metros with the most artists accounted for fully 50% of the nation's artist population. (See Table 1.) The top six metropolitan areas in 1990 were New York (NY), Los Angeles/Long Beach (CA), Chicago (IL), Washington (DC, MD, VA), Philadelphia (PA, NJ), and Boston (MA). Together, these six areas contain almost 25% of the U.S. artist population. The top two metropolitan areas, New York (NY) and Los Angeles/Long Beach (CA), were together the home for over 14% of all U.S. artists, with 123,676 and 119,044 artist, respectively. Of the top six areas, only New York and Los Angeles have over 2% of their civilian labor force comprised of artists, with 2.97% and 2.66%, respectively.

- The concentration of artists in the civilian labor force of a metropolitan area gives some indication of the importance of artists in the area's economy. The average proportion of artists in all metropolitan areas was 1.52% in 1990, compared with 1.36% for the entire U.S. (See Table 2.) The ten leading areas in terms of artist concentration were: Sante Fe, NM (3.38%); Norwalk, CT (3.33%); New York, NY (2.97%); San Fransisco, CA (2.92%); Stamford, CT (2.73%); Los Angeles, CA (2.66%); Boulder/Longmont, CO (2.44%); Sarasota, FL (2.24%); Santa Cruz, CA (2.22%); and Santa Barbara/Santa Maria/Lompoc, CA (2.12%).

- New York had the highest number of artists in eight of the 11 artist occupation categories, including: Architects (10,200); Authors (11,549); Dancers (2,214); Designers (37,411), Musicians/Composers (11,666); Painters/Sculptors, et. al (15,058); Photographers (9,240); and Teachers of arts (817). Los Angeles lead in the remaining three artist categories: Actors/Directors (24,048); Announcers (1,660); and Other artists (7,838).

---

\*Metros include both Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas (PMSAs) as designated by the Bureau of the Census.

Table 1. Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas (PMSA) and Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) with the Highest Percent of Artists: 1990

	Total labor force <sup>1</sup>	Total artists	Percent in U. S. labor force	
			Cumula- tive	Each PMSA or MSA
Total in PMSA's and MSA's Percent of United States	97,210,626 79.37%	1,473,197 88.15%	88.15%	88.15%
New York, NY PMSA	4,170,806	123,676	7.40%	7.40%
Los Angeles-Long Beach, CA PMSA	4,473,143	119,044	14.52%	7.12%
Chicago, IL PMSA	3,128,696	50,156	17.52%	3.00%
Washington, DC-MD-VA MSA	2,259,197	44,241	20.17%	2.65%
Philadelphia, PA-NJ PMSA	2,428,047	34,174	22.22%	2.04%
Boston, MA PMSA	1,601,070	31,690	24.11%	1.90%
Detroit, MI PMSA	2,131,872	30,178	25.92%	1.81%
San Francisco, CA PMSA	905,138	26,470	27.50%	1.58%
Anaheim-Santa Ana, CA PMSA	1,347,338	25,428	29.02%	1.52%
Atlanta, GA MSA	1,574,679	24,878	30.51%	1.49%
Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI MSA	1,389,347	23,139	31.90%	1.38%
Houston, TX PMSA	1,704,156	22,717	33.26%	1.36%
Seattle, WA PMSA	1,096,386	22,115	34.58%	1.32%
Dallas, TX PMSA	1,409,537	21,775	35.88%	1.30%
San Diego, CA MSA	1,210,110	21,405	37.16%	1.28%
Nassau-Suffolk, NY PMSA	1,382,550	21,063	38.42%	1.26%
Oakland, CA PMSA	1,096,926	18,495	39.53%	1.11%
Baltimore, MD MSA	1,246,486	15,834	40.48%	0.95%
Phoenix, AZ MSA	1,064,754	15,737	41.42%	0.94%
St. Louis, MO-IL MSA	1,223,120	15,573	42.35%	0.93%
Denver, CO PMSA	895,271	14,688	43.23%	0.88%
Miami-Hialeah, FL PMSA	963,431	14,505	44.10%	0.87%
Tampa-St. Pete.-Clearwater, FL MSA	970,024	13,663	44.91%	0.82%
Newark, NJ PMSA	974,337	13,129	45.70%	0.79%
San Jose, CA PMSA	841,783	12,995	46.48%	0.78%
Riverside-San Bernardino, CA PMSA	1,154,222	12,201	47.21%	0.73%
Bergen-Passaic, NJ PMSA	695,813	12,098	47.93%	0.72%
Pittsburgh, PA PMSA	952,105	11,955	48.65%	0.72%
Portland, OR PMSA	657,912	11,692	49.35%	0.70%
Kansas City, MO-KS MSA	818,919	11,329	50.02%	0.68%

<sup>1</sup> The labor force is the same as that presented in the Equal Employment Opportunity data file released by the Census Bureau. The 1990 census total for the experienced civilian labor force is 123,044,450. The labor force in the Equal Employment File is 122,473,499, which represents all the persons assigned an occupation code.

Table 2. Ten Metropolitan areas with the Highest Percent of Artists in the Labor Force: 1990

	Labor force*	Artists	Percent artists in labor force
Total	122,473,499	1,671,278	1.36%
Total in PMSA's and MSA's Percent of United States	97,210,626 79.37%	1,473,197 88.15%	1.52%
Santa Fe, NM MSA	61,886	2,094	3.38%
Norwalk, CT PMSA	74,546	2,481	3.33%
New York, NY PMSA	4,170,806	123,676	2.97%
San Francisco, CA PMSA	905,138	26,470	2.92%
Stamford, CT PMSA	112,155	3,058	2.73%
Los Angeles-Long Beach, CA PMSA	4,473,143	119,044	2.66%
Boulder-Longmont, CO PMSA	130,344	3,175	2.44%
Sarasota, FL MSA	118,368	2,648	2.24%
Santa Cruz, CA PMSA	123,889	2,747	2.22%
Santa Barbara-Santa Maria- Lompoc, CA MSA	189,331	4,005	2.12%

\* See footnote in Table 1