



Office of Research & Analysis  
National Endowment for the Arts  
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## Arts Data Profile: State-Level Estimates of Arts and Cultural Employment: 2001-2014

### Research Brief #2: Trends in Arts and Cultural Employment

The narrative below summarizes state-level trends in arts and cultural employment. The first section addresses employment patterns from 2013-2014; the second examines changes over a longer period (2008-2014)—from the onset of the Great Recession to the recovery and through to expansion.

Between 2013 and 2014, growth in the number of workers employed to produce arts and cultural services met or exceeded the U.S. average in 17 states. In Washington, in particular, arts and cultural employment grew by nearly 6 percent.

During the longer period of 2008-2014, however, few states experienced gains. A notable exception is North Dakota, where arts and cultural employment growth approached 11 percent between 2008 and 2014.

Also of interest, Washington and Utah were the only states to gain arts and cultural workers in both the short run (2013-2014) and since the Great Recession (2008-2014).

(For detailed information about the make-up of arts and cultural industries ACPSA industries, see Key to ACPSA Industries.)

## ACPSA Employment

The Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account (ACPSA) measures the number of workers employed to produce arts and cultural goods and services. By industry, the employment count is restricted to the portion of the industry that is arts-related.

In 2014, for example, total employment in the construction industry exceeded 500,000 workers. However, ACPSA construction, which captures construction of new cultural structures such as museums and libraries, employed 100,000 workers. In other words, ACPSA construction employment accounts for roughly 20 percent of the industry's total workers.

For industries included in the ACPSA, the arts and cultural employment ratio ranges from just 2 percent of workers employed in the computer systems design industry, to 97 percent of workers employed by performing arts companies.

### Recent Trends: 2013-2014

*Above-average growth in 17 states.*

*Largest growth: Washington, Arizona, Utah, and Nevada.*

*ACPSA employment declined in 12 states.*

Between 2013 and 2014, arts and cultural employment increased by 1.3 percent, a rate that translated into an additional 60,000 workers. Contributing to this uptick were employment gains in arts-related retail trade, advertising, architectural services, and performing arts presenters.<sup>1</sup>

Although positive, growth in ACPSA employment was modest. By comparison, U.S. total employment grew by 2 percent between 2013 and 2014.

Over the same period, growth in arts and cultural employment met or exceeded U.S. average growth in ACPSA employment in 17 states. At 5.7 percent, ACPSA employment growth was largest in Washington. In Arizona, Utah, and Nevada, growth was approximately 4 percent.

Other states witnessing above-average ACPSA employment growth included: Florida (3.3 percent); Georgia (3.2 percent); Maryland (2.8 percent); and Texas (2.5 percent).

Washington's breakneck growth in arts and cultural employment was linked to increased employment in arts-related retail sales (including electronic shopping/Internet sales of arts goods or services); "other information services" that are arts-related (including Internet publishing/broadcasting/streaming); and architectural services. Moreover, Washington's gain in arts employment mirrors that of the state's total employment, which also increased by 5.6 percent between 2013 and 2014.

As with Washington, arts and cultural employment grew strongly in Utah during the one-year period. Contributing to Utah's recent gain in arts and cultural employment were: culture-related construction, publishing, and performing arts companies. Also like Washington, Utah experienced

above-average growth in *total* employment during 2013-2014—3.4 percent versus 1.97 percent growth for the U.S. total.

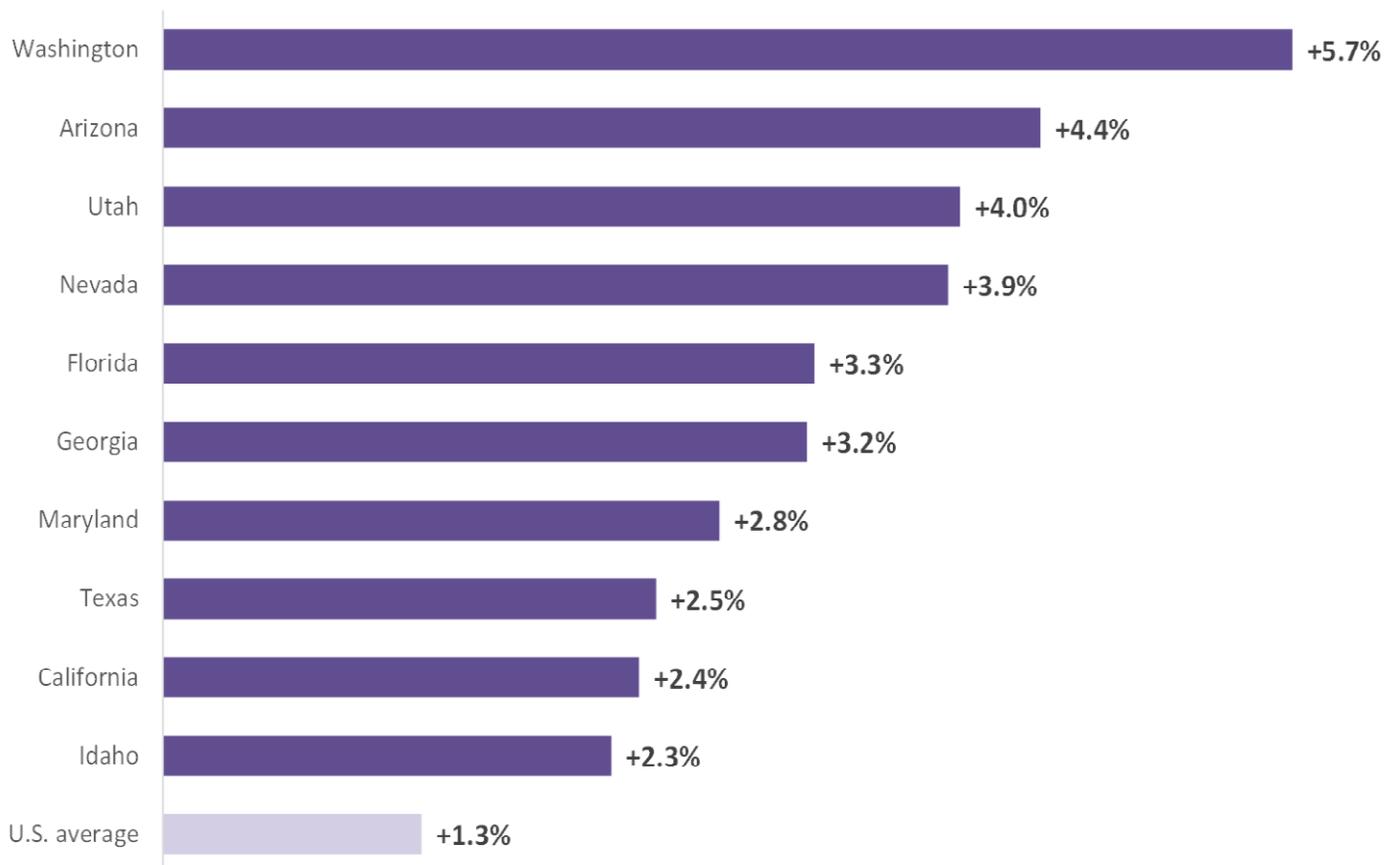
Between 2013 and 2014, arts and cultural employment fell by 1 percent or more in 12 states. In Montana, for example, ACPSA employment declined by 5.8 percent, and in West Virginia, by 4.2 percent.

Contractions in arts-related retail sales and construction contributed to Montana’s declining arts and cultural employment, while in West

Virginia, reduced ACPSA employment in government was the main source of declining arts employment in that state.

Arts and cultural employment declines in Montana and West Virginia occurred as total employment in both states declined—by 1 percent and 1.7 percent, respectively.

**Percent change in arts and cultural employment: 2013-2014**  
Top-ten fastest growing states



Data source: Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account (ACPSA), U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

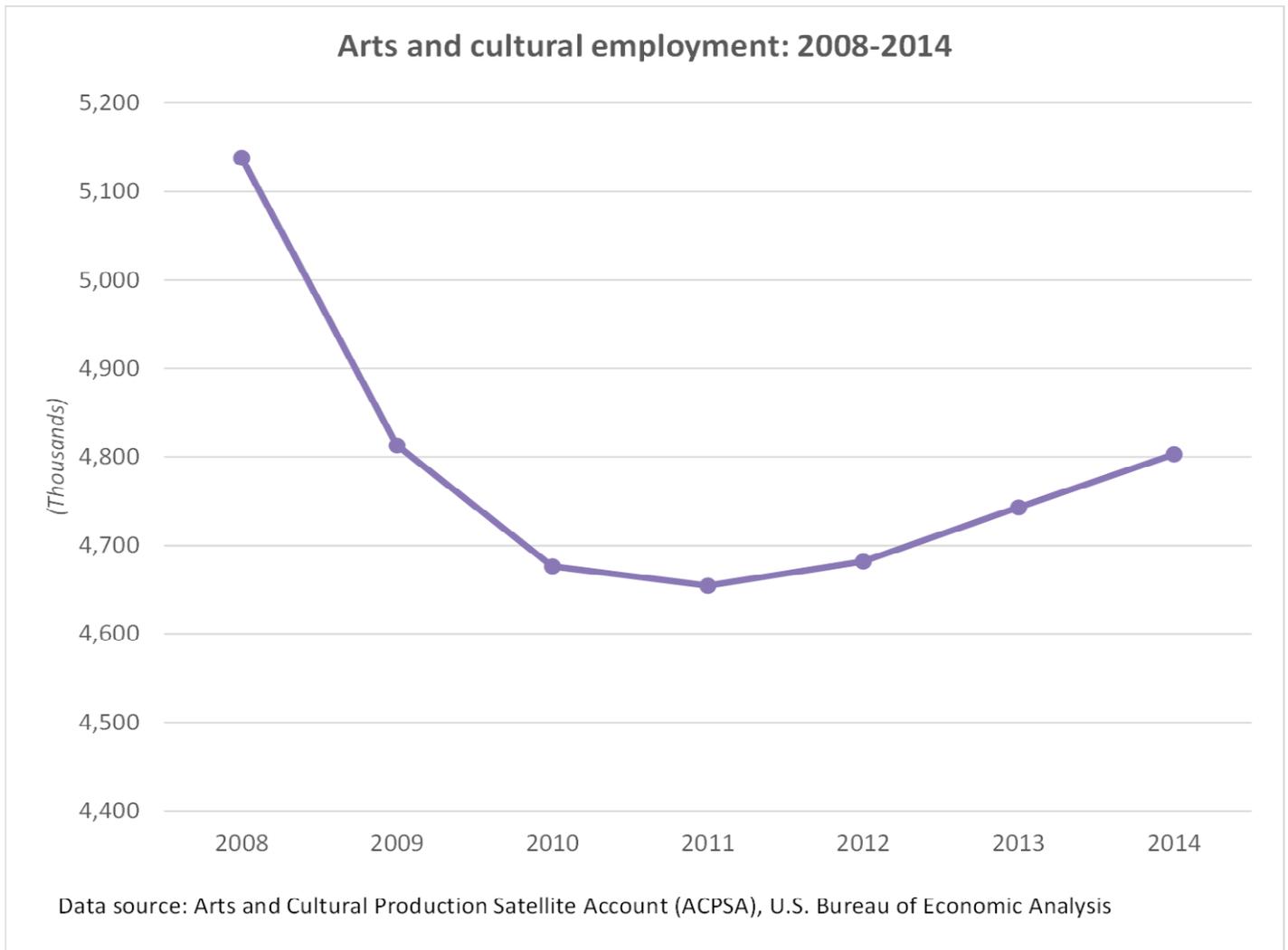
From the Great Recession through Economic Expansion: 2008-2014

*Between 2008 and 2014, 46 states witnessed declines of 1 percent or more in the number of workers employed to produce arts and cultural goods and services.*

*Largest declines in arts and cultural employment: Rhode Island, West Virginia, and Kansas.*

*Sizable gains in a few states: North Dakota, Washington, and Utah.*

Arts and cultural employment has been increasing since 2012. Even so, it is well below levels reported since the onset of the Great Recession.<sup>2</sup> Between 2008 and 2014, the number of U.S. workers employed to produce arts and cultural goods and services fell by 335,000 or 6.5 percent.<sup>3</sup>



Over that period, declining arts and cultural employment was evident in 46 states. Sharp declines of 20 percent, 17 percent, and 16 percent, respectively, were reported in Rhode Island, West Virginia, and Kansas. ACPSA employment fell by 14 percent in Montana and by 7 percent in Georgia.

ACPSA employment declines in Rhode Island stemmed, in part, from reductions in industrial design services (down 66 percent), architectural services (down 30 percent), and broadcasting (down 29 percent). From 2008 to 2014, Rhode Island's *total* employment also declined, but by 3 percent, not by the precipitous rates of decline observed in arts and cultural employment.

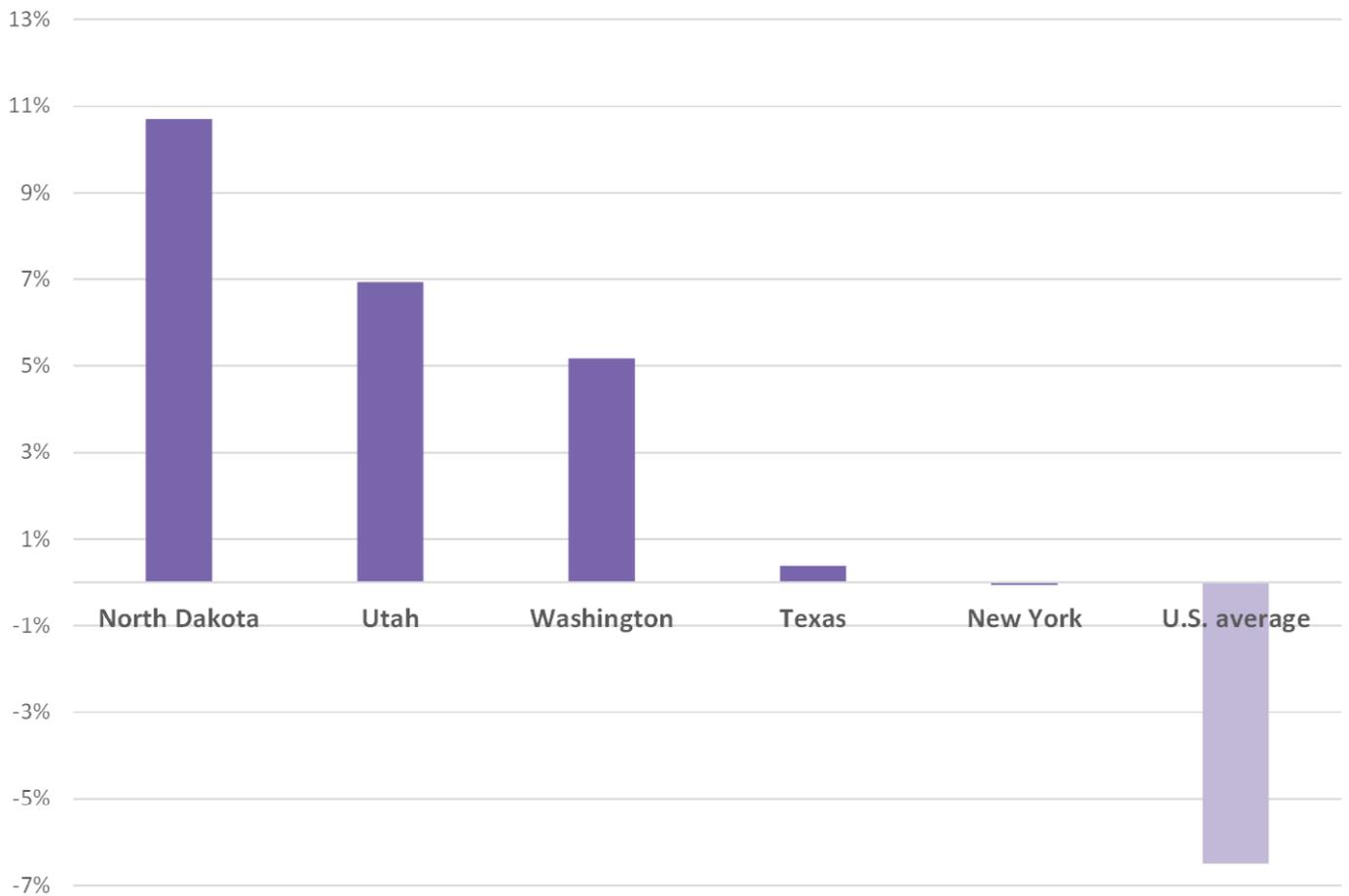
On the other hand, ACPSA employment remained stable or even increased in a handful of states. In New York, for example, the number of workers employed to produce art and culture dropped by only 0.1 percent; in Texas, arts employment grew by 0.4 percent.

ACPSA employment grew by 5 percent in Washington and by 7 percent in Utah.

Of all 50 states and the District of Columbia, however, none matched North Dakota's 2008-2014 growth rate of nearly 11 percent. North Dakota's growth in number of employed arts and cultural workers mirrored the state's *total* employment growth—which went up by almost 26 percent during that time period—and it was shaped by arts employment growth in construction (arts-related), fine arts education, and performing arts presenters, which, between 2008 and 2014, added 94 workers (a gain of 33 percent).

## Percent change in arts and cultural employment: 2008 to 2014

### *Top five States*



Data source: Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account (ACPSA), U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

#### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup>Performing arts presenters, technically “promoters of performing arts, sports, and similar events,” refer to business establishments that promote the performing arts, including performing arts centers and arts festivals. Please see Key to ACPSA Industries.

<sup>2</sup>The [Great Recession](#) began in December 2007 and ended in June 2009.

<sup>3</sup>For more information on declining ACPSA employment, see [U.S. Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account, Issue Brief #3: Workers Engaged in Arts and Cultural Production](#).