



Research Division Note #15 - March 10, 1986

ARTIST EMPLOYMENT IN 1985

1,411,000 persons were employed in artist occupations in 1985--an increase of 4 percent (about 60,000 persons) from 1984 according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in January 1986. This growth exceeded the rate for the Professional Speciality Occupations (3 percent) as well as the rate for All Civilian Workers (2 percent).

The combined unemployment rate for eleven artist occupation groups increased from 4.7 percent in 1984 to 5 percent in 1985. The increase in the unemployment rate for the combined artist groups contrasts with decreases in unemployment rates for all civilian workers and for the professional speciality occupations in general, which declined by 0.3 percent and 0.2 percent respectively. Among the individual artist occupations, unemployment rates increased for actors and directors, and for architects, but remained the same or decreased for the occupations of announcers; authors; designers; musicians/composers; painters, sculptors, craft artists, and artist printmakers; photographers; teachers of art, drama and music (higher education); and other artists not elsewhere classified. The data base for dancers is too small for reliable estimates of unemployment rates.

This Research Division Note on artist employment trends is the second year-to-year comparison employing the new Occupational Classification System put into effect in 1983. The changes improve the consistency and accuracy of the artist occupational groups. The comparisons in this Note show the changes over the three-year period of 1983-1985. Care should be used in comparing these data with data from earlier years in Research Division Reports and Notes when the previous Occupational Classification System was in effect (see Research Division Note #7).

The number of persons in the 1985 artist labor force increased by about 5 percent from 1984 in comparison with the professional speciality occupations and with all civilian workers, which both increased by only about 2 percent.

The number of unemployed artists increased 6 percent, in contrast to the number of unemployed workers in the professional speciality occupations and all civilian workers which declined by 8 percent and 3 percent, respectively.

Actors and Directors - The unemployment rate for actors and directors increased from 13.3 percent in 1984 to 15.4 percent in 1985. Employment increased from 68,000 to 77,000 during the period. However, the actors and directors labor force increased from 78,000 to 91,000. Thus, the 1985 increase of employment was accompanied by a proportionately greater increase in unemployment which resulted in the increased unemployment rate.

Architects - The unemployment rate for architects increased from 1.8 percent in 1984 to 2.2 percent in 1985. A large increase in employment occurred with 130,000 employed architects in 1985 compared with 107,000 in 1984. However, as in the case of actors and directors, a proportionately greater increase took place in unemployment, resulting in a higher unemployment rate.

Authors - The number of authors in the labor force declined by 1,000 for the period 1984 to 1985. The unemployment rate was about the same in both years.

Dancers - The sampling error is large for dancers because of the small size of this occupational group. Reliable year-to-year comparisons of unemployment are not possible. It does appear, however, that employment is rising in this occupation. 1985 shows a continuation of the increase that was noted in the previous year. Over the three-year period 1983-1985, the labor force and the number employed have increased by about 5,000 persons.

Designers - The latest data show designers continuing to increase in number every year. There were 36,000 more employed designers in 1985 compared with 1984. The designer labor force increased by 38,000 individuals and the economy was able to absorb all but 2,000, leaving the unemployment rate unchanged from 1984 to 1985 at 3.9 percent.

Musicians/Composers - The unemployment rate declined for musicians/composers from 7.3 percent in 1984 to 6.5 percent in 1985. The number of employed musicians/composers also declined from 161,000 to 152,000 persons, and the number of persons seeking jobs declined from 13,000 to 11,000. The overall effect of the decline in both the number of persons seeking and the number finding employment as musicians/composers resulted in a lower unemployment rate in 1985.

Painters, Sculptors, Craft Artists, and Artist Printmakers - Like musician/composers, this artist occupation group decreased its labor force size in both numbers of employed and unemployed persons. The result is a reduction of the unemployment rate. Since the 1983-84 increase was large, this occupation group still had more employed persons in 1985 than it did in 1983--200,000 were employed in 1985 compared with 186,000 in 1983.

Photographers - The number of employed photographers expanded from 1984 to 1985 while the number unemployed remained the same, causing the unemployment rate to decline from 3.9 percent to 3.5 percent. There were 129,000 employed photographers in 1985 and 123,000 in 1984.

Teachers of Art, Drama and Music (higher education) - This occupation group had a small increase in labor force from 1984 to 1985 of 1,000 persons. This increase was not enough to return the level of this group to that of 1983 when 43,000 comprised the labor force. The unemployment rate for teachers in 1985 was 1.4 percent, unchanged from 1984.

Artist Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment
1985, 1984 and 1983

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>Change 1984-85</u>	<u>Change 1983-85</u>
Total, All Civilian workers	115,462,000	113,544,000	111,550,000	+1,918,000	+3,912,000
Employed	107,150,000	105,005,000	100,834,000	+2,145,000	+6,316,000
Unemployed	8,312,000	8,539,000	10,717,000	-227,000	-2,405,000
Unemployment Rate	7.2%	7.5%	9.6%	-.3%	-2.4%
Professional Speciality					
<u>Occupation</u>	<u>13,946,000</u>	<u>13,629,000</u>	<u>13,219,000</u>	<u>+317,000</u>	<u>+727,000</u>
Employed	13,630,000	13,286,000	12,820,000	+344,000	+810,000
Unemployed	316,000	343,000	399,000	-27,000	-83,000
Unemployment Rate	2.3%	2.5%	3.0%	-.2%	-.7%
All Artists	1,482,000	1,418,000	1,301,000	+64,000	+181,000
Employed	1,411,000	1,351,000	1,223,000	+60,000	+188,000
Unemployed	71,000	67,000	78,000	+4,000	-7,000
Unemployment Rate	5.0%	4.7%	6.0%	+.3%	-1.0%
Actors and Directors	91,000	78,000	71,000	+13,000	+20,000
Employed	77,000	68,000	60,000	+9,000	+17,000
Unemployed	14,000	10,000	11,000	+4,000	+3,000
Unemployment Rate	15.4%	13.3%	15.7%	+2.1%	-.3%
Announcers	54,000	59,000	41,000	-5,000	+13,000
Employed	51,000	55,000	38,000	-4,000	+13,000
Unemployed	3,000	4,000	3,000	-1,000	0
Unemployment Rate	5.3%	6.2%	6.7%	-.9%	-1.4%
Architects	133,000	109,000	108,000	+24,000	+25,000
Employed	130,000	107,000	103,000	23,000	+27,000
Unemployed	3,000	2,000	5,000	+1,000	-2,000
Unemployment Rate	2.2%	1.8%	4.3%	+.4%	-2.1%
Authors	71,000	72,000	64,000	-1,000	+7,000
Employed	70,000	71,000	62,000	-1,000	+8,000
Unemployed	1,000	1,000	2,000	0	-1,000
Unemployment Rate	1.4%	1.4%	2.5%	-.5%	-1.5%
Dancers	17,000	14,000	12,000	+3,000	+5,000
Employed	15,000	12,000	10,000	+3,000	+5,000
Unemployed	•	•	•	•	•
Unemployment Rate	•	•	•	•	•
Designers	504,000	466,000	415,000	+38,000	+89,000
Employed	484,000	448,000	393,000	+36,000	+91,000
Unemployed	20,000	18,000	22,000	+2,000	-2,000
Unemployment Rate	3.9%	3.9%	5.2%	0%	-1.3%
Musicians/Composers	163,000	174,000	170,000	-11,000	-7,000
Employed	152,000	161,000	155,000	-9,000	-3,000
Unemployed	11,000	13,000	15,000	-2,000	-4,000
Unemployment Rate	6.5%	7.3%	8.6%	-.8%	-2.1%
Painters, Sculptors, Craft Artists, and Artist Printmakers	207,000	220,000	192,000	-13,000	+15,000
Employed	200,000	212,000	186,000	-12,000	+14,000
Unemployed	7,000	8,000	6,000	-1,000	+1,000
Unemployment Rate	3.2%	3.5%	3.3%	-.3%	-.1%
Photographers	134,000	128,000	119,000	+6,000	+15,000
Employed	129,000	123,000	113,000	+6,000	+16,000
Unemployed	5,000	5,000	6,000	0	-1,000
Unemployment Rate	3.5%	3.9%	5.0%	-.4%	-1.5%
Teachers of Art, Dramm, and Music (higher ed.)	42,000	41,000	43,000	+1,000	-1,000
Employed	41,000	40,000	42,000	+1,000	-1,000
Unemployed	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0
Unemployment Rate	2.4%	2.4%	2.2%	.2%	-.7%
Other Artists**	66,000	57,000	66,000	+9,000	0
Employed	62,000	54,000	61,000	+8,000	+1,000
Unemployed	4,000	3,000	5,000	+1,000	-1,000
Unemployment Rate	5.6%	5.8%	7.1%	-.2%	-1.5%

* Data base is too small for estimate

**Not elsewhere classified

The unemployment rates shown in the table were calculated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics using unrounded data. Therefore, there may be some apparent discrepancies between the rates shown and rates calculated using the rounded numbers of unemployed persons and labor forces.

Source: Unpublished data provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Comparison of 1984 to 1985 Changes

All Artists, Professional Speciality Occupations, and All Civilian Workers

	<u>Labor Force</u>	<u>Employed</u>	<u>Unemployed</u>
All Artists	+4.5%	+4.4%	+6.0%
Professional Speciality Occupations	+2.3%	+2.6%	-7.9%
All Civilian Workers	+1.7%	+2.0%	-2.7%

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