

THE U.S. ARTS ECONOMY IN 2022: A NATIONAL SUMMARY BRIEF

This research brief reports data from the U.S. Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account (ACPSA), a product of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

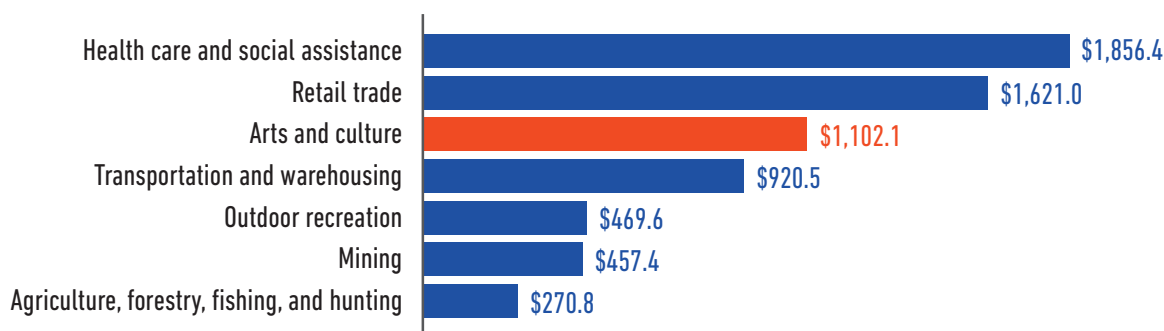
Covering the full year of 2022, the new dataset spotlights an additional year of growth in the wake of COVID-19 in the United States. In 2022, the sector reached an all-time high of \$1.1 trillion in value added to the U.S. economy. To be sure, the growth has not been distributed uniformly across all arts industries. Performing arts organizations, non-government museums, and arts-related construction are among ten arts industries that have yet to reach their pre-pandemic levels of economic value.

Still, the overall arts economy grew by 4.8 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars between 2021 and 2022¹. This year-over-year rate increase far surpassed that for the entire U.S. economy (+1.9 percent). As a sector, arts and cultural industries have posted dramatic gains since the pre-pandemic year of 2019—surging by 13.6 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars. Over the same timeframe, the U.S. economy grew by 5.5 percent.

Beyond growth in its value added to the economy, the sector has experienced a rise in total employment levels. In 2022, arts and cultural employment caught up with pre-pandemic levels to reach 5.2 million wage-and-salary workers in 2022. Industries with the greatest gains in employment include: independent artists, writers, and performers; computer systems design; web publishing and streaming; and certain specialized design services.

Just as not every arts industry boosted production from 2021 to 2022, so has employment growth been uneven. In all, 15 out of 35 arts and cultural industries have yet to return to 2019 arts employment levels.

Value added by selected sectors: 2022 (in billions)

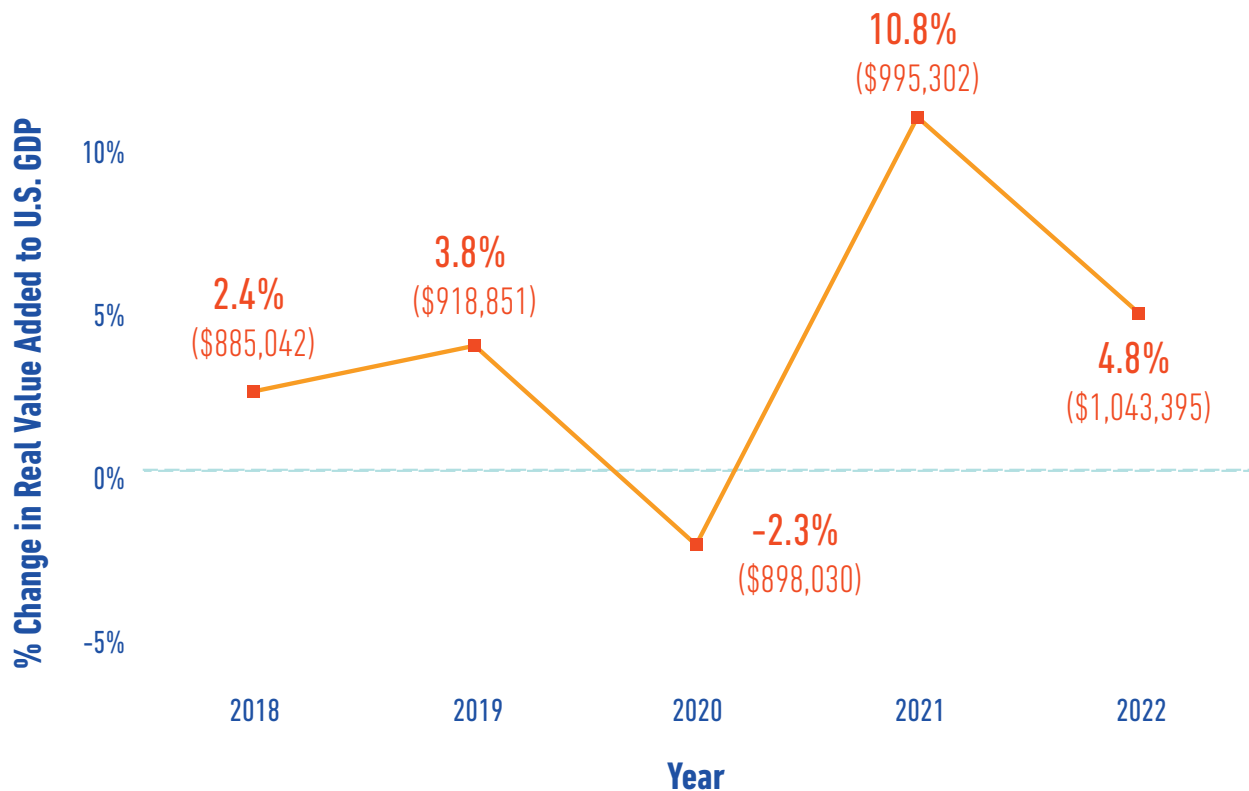


¹ Statistics reported this year supersede all prior ACPSA statistics. The 2017 Benchmark Input-Output Table, produced by BEA in 2023, is the new inter-industry framework for ACPSA statistics. Prior ACPSA data sets used the 2012 inter-industry framework and, therefore, are not directly comparable.

- In 2022, the arts contributed 4.3 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), or just over \$1.1 trillion, to the U.S. economy.
 - As in previous years, the arts added more to U.S. GDP than did any of these sectors: agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting; mining; outdoor recreation; and transportation and warehousing.
 - The total economic value added by arts and cultural industries rose by 4.8 percent between 2021 and 2022. This rate, while lower than in 2021—a record year of expansion for the sector—remained higher than the pre-pandemic (2019) rate of growth, and higher than the growth rate for the overall U.S. economy (+1.9 percent from 2021 to 2022).

Year-over-year changes in the arts' value added to U.S. GDP (2018–2022)

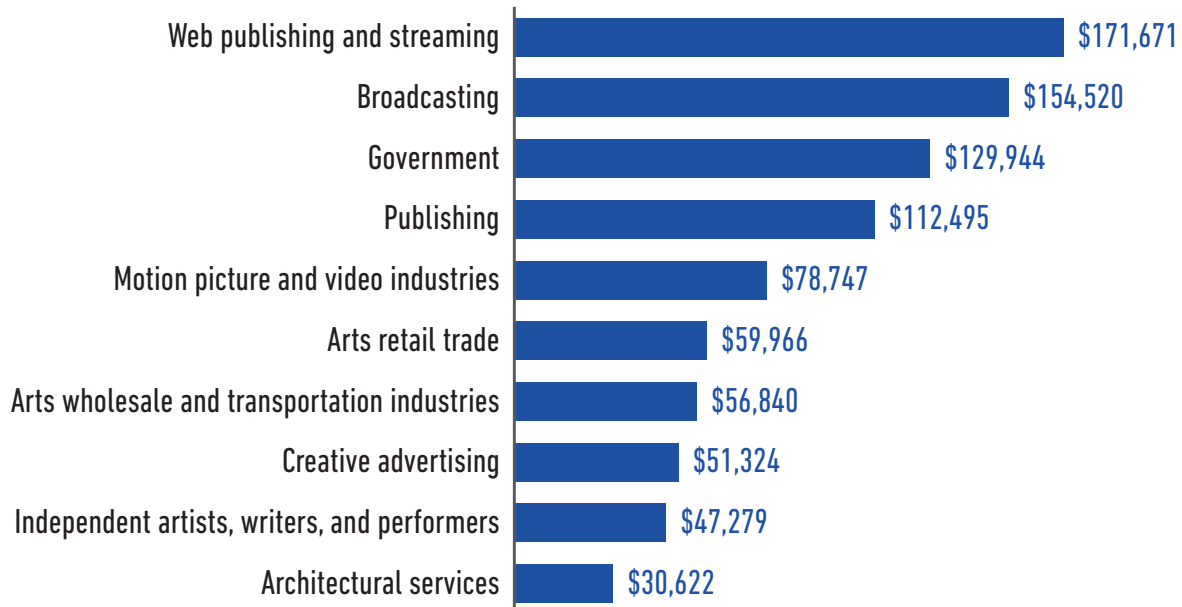
(inflation-adjusted dollars, in millions)



- The top five industries by total value added to the U.S. economy were: web publishing and streaming, broadcasting, government services (including public schools), publishing, and motion picture and video industries.
 - Together, these industries account for 58.7 percent of the total value added to the U.S. economy by all arts and cultural industries.

Top 10 arts and cultural industries, by value added in 2022

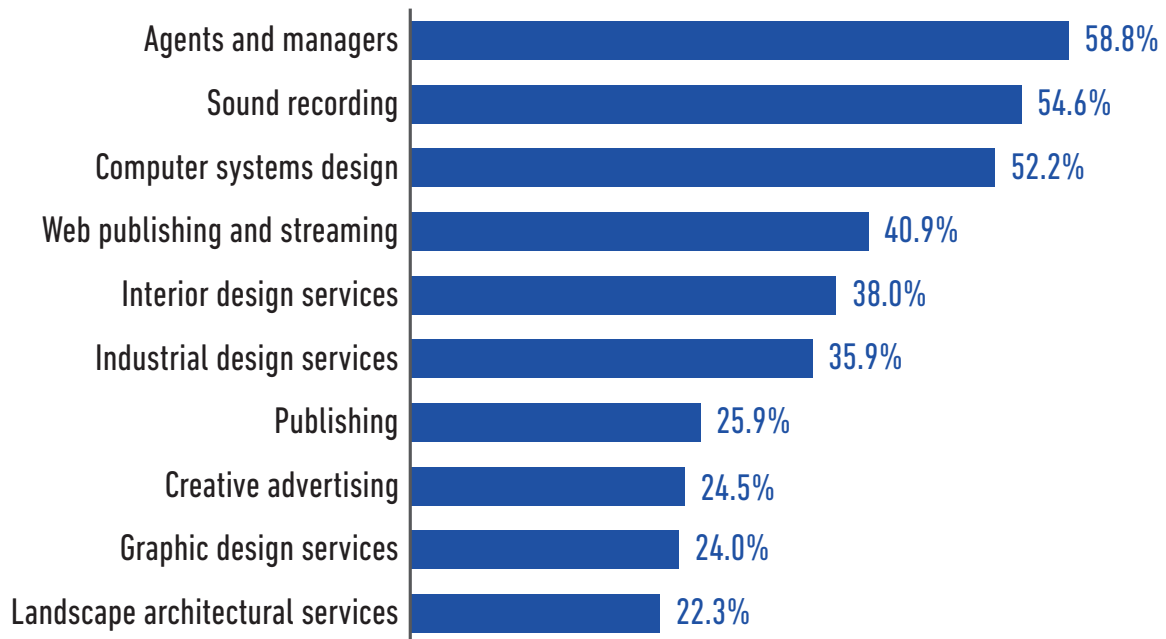
(in millions)



3. In 2022, most arts and cultural industries were restored to pre-pandemic levels of economic activity—or exceeded those levels entirely. In total, 25 out of 35 arts industries posted amounts surpassing 2019 levels.
 - In inflation-adjusted dollars, the value added to GDP by web publishing and streaming services (the largest arts and cultural industry in the United States) grew 40.9 percent since 2019—\$175.2 billion in 2022, up from \$124.3 billion in 2019. Yet, from 2021 to 2022, this industry declined for the first time in recent history.
 - Sound recording's value-added grew by 54.6 percent since 2019.
 - The value added to GDP by specialized design services, including interior, industrial and graphic design, grew by 32.4 percent from 2019-2022—for a total of \$36.5 billion in 2022, adjusted for inflation.
 - The value added by traditional and software publishing (\$122.0 billion in 2022, adjusted for inflation) grew by 25.9 percent since 2019.
 - Other arts industries that showed greater economic activity in 2022 than in 2019 were: publishing; creative advertising; specialized design services; and architectural services.
 - The value added by the motion picture industry surpassed its pre-pandemic (2019) level: nearly \$76.9 billion in 2022 (adjusted for inflation), after a 16.6 percent dip in 2020.

Top 10 arts and cultural industries by percent growth in value added (2019–2022)

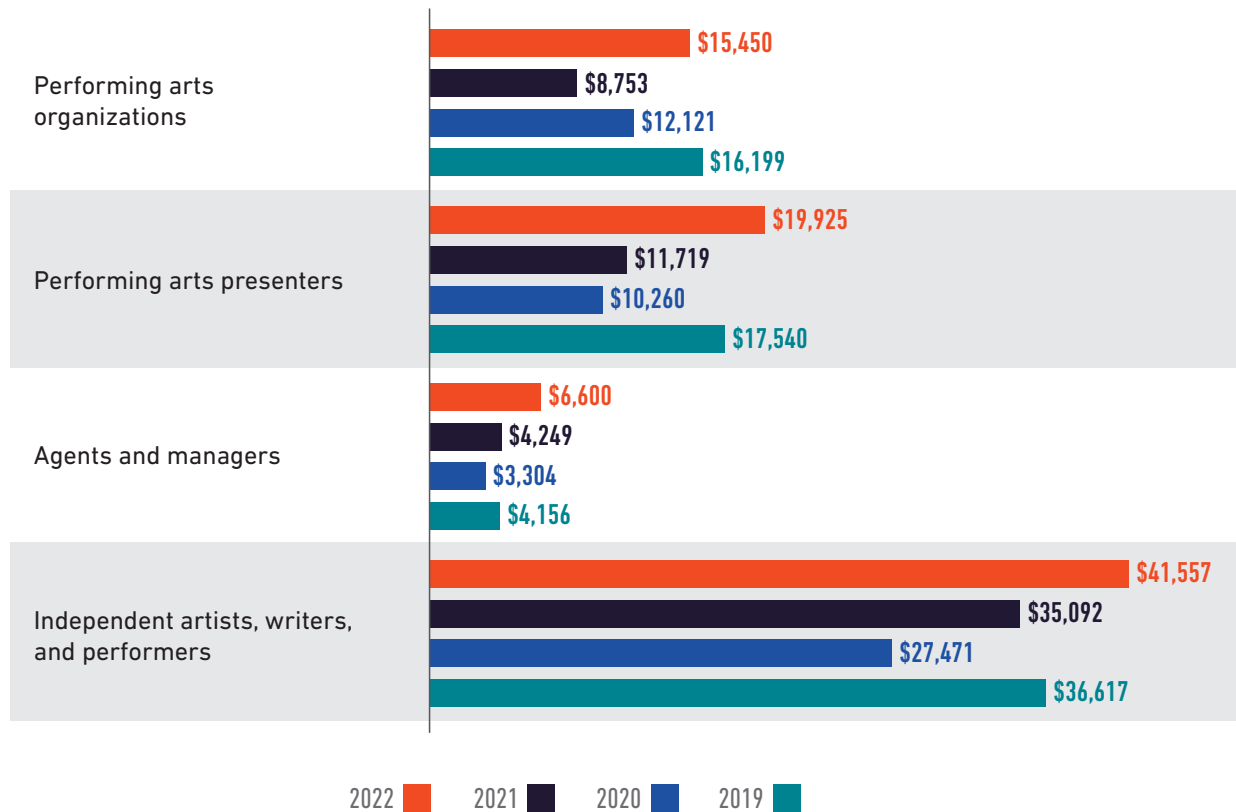
(inflation-adjusted dollars)



4. Among performing arts-related industries, the value added by independent artists, performing arts presenters, and agents and managers have all exceeded 2019 levels.
 - The value added to GDP by independent artists, writers, and performers rose by 18.4 percent from 2021 to 2022. Thus, the industry has outstripped its pre-pandemic level of value-added (growing by 13.5 percent since 2019).
 - When it comes to value-added, performing arts organizations took an even deeper hit in 2021 than in 2020. Between 2021 and 2022, however, the industry made a sharp comeback (an increase of 76.5 percent).

Performing art-related industries, by value added (2019–2022)

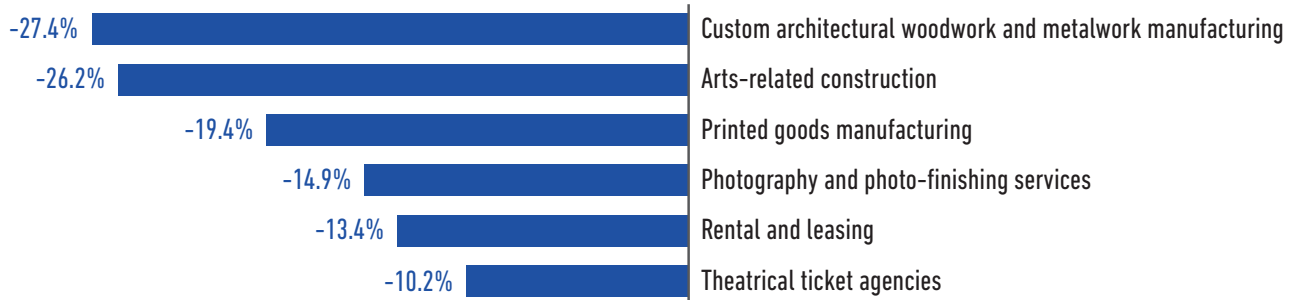
(inflation-adjusted dollars, in millions)



5. Six arts and cultural industries saw substantial declines, with each shedding more than 10 percent of its economic value from 2019 through 2022.
 - Accounting for the largest loss, arts-related construction saw a 26.2 percent drop in value-added from 2019 to 2022—declining from \$16.0 billion in 2019 to \$11.8 billion in 2022, in inflation-adjusted dollars.
 - Custom architectural woodwork and metalwork manufacturing, printed goods manufacturing, photography and photo-finishing services, rental and leasing, and theatrical ticket agencies have all experienced a significant slump in economic value since 2019.

Arts and cultural industries with double-digit percentage declines in value added (2019-2022)

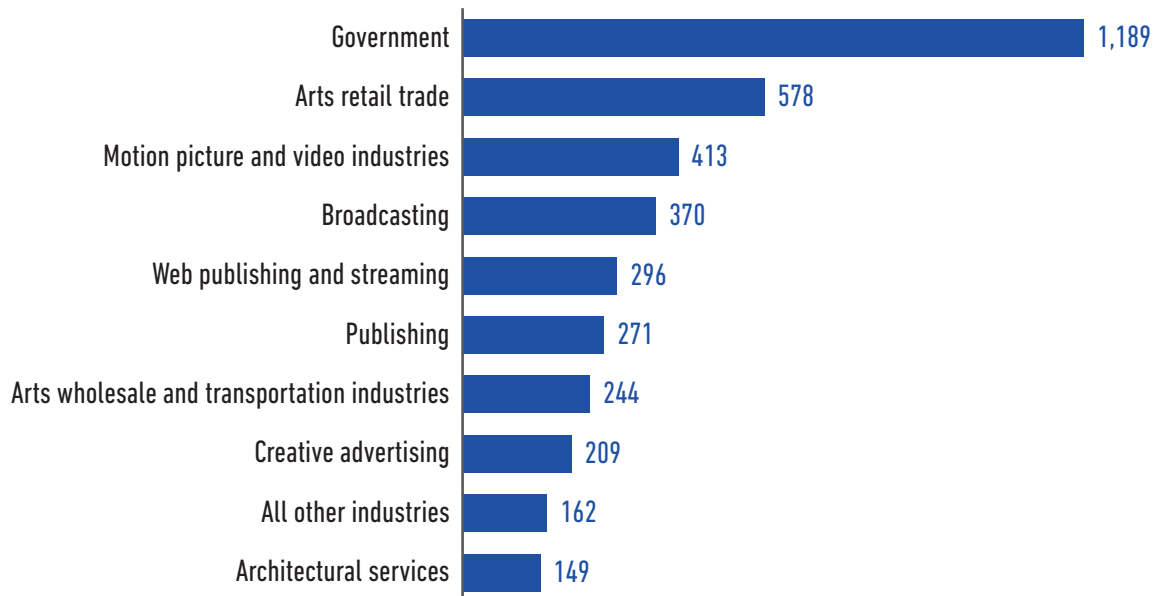
(inflation-adjusted dollars)



- In 2022, total arts and cultural employment recovered to pre-pandemic levels. Nearly 5.2 million workers were employed to produce arts and cultural goods and services, for \$540.9 billion in total compensation.
 - Top arts industries for employment include government services, arts retail, motion picture and video industries, broadcasting, and web publishing and streaming.

Top 10 arts and cultural industries, by employment in 2022

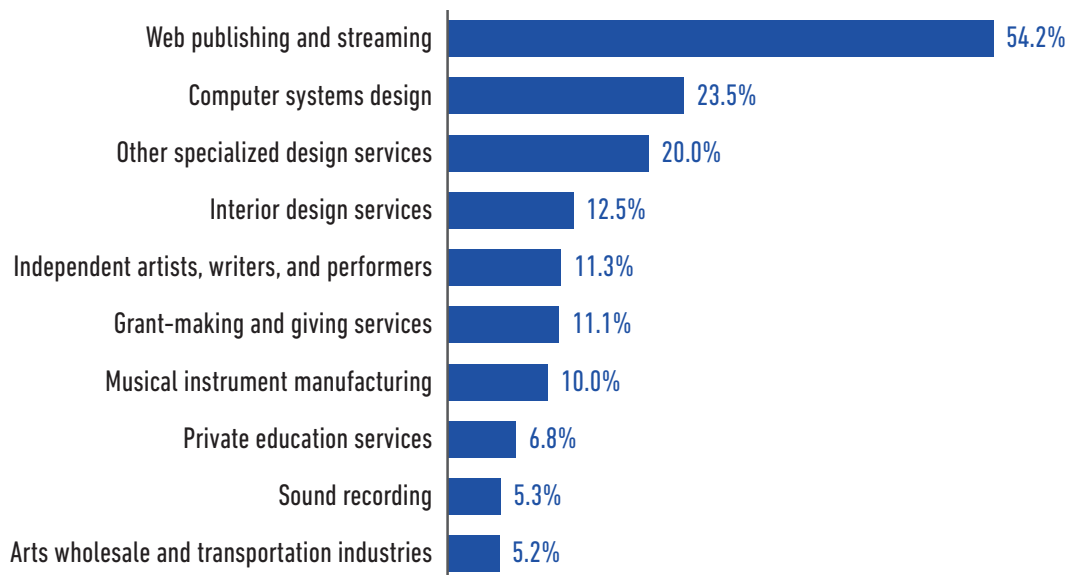
(in thousands)



Note: "All other industries" refer to industries, arts or non-arts, that produce arts commodities not otherwise captured within the ACPSA framework. For more details, see the [NEA Guide to the Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account](#).

7. From 2021 to 2022, most arts industries (30 out of 35) saw gains in employment. Nearly half of all arts industries (17 out of 35) had higher employment levels in 2022 than in the pre-pandemic year of 2019.
 - Between 2019 and 2022, web publishing and streaming services grew by 54.2 percent, to employ 296,000 workers.
 - Other arts industries surpassing 2019 employment levels include: computer systems design (+23.5 percent); other specialized design services (+20.0 percent); interior design services (+12.5 percent); independent artists, writers, and performers (+11.3 percent); and grant-making and giving services (+11.1 percent).
 - Although the total economic value of arts-related construction has declined since 2019, total employment has grown for this industry—by 3.6 percent.

Top 10 arts and cultural industries, by percentage growth in employment (2019-2022)



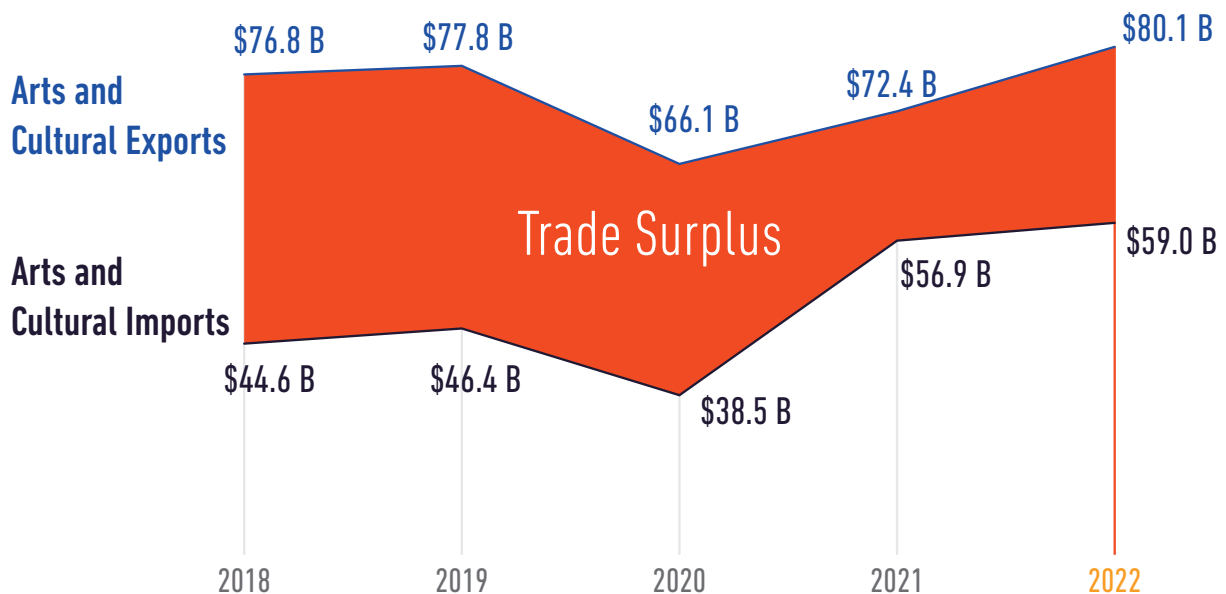
8. In 2022, 15 out of 35 arts industries still employed fewer workers than in 2019.
 - Although employment in publishing was greater in 2021 than in 2019 (326,000 versus 317,000 jobs, respectively), the number then declined to 271,000 in 2022.
 - Performing arts presenters and performing arts organizations experienced an employment surge from 2021 to 2022 (+43.9 and +43.5 percent, respectively). Yet total employment for these industries is still lower than in 2019 (-5.6 and -4.7 percent, respectively).
 - Other arts industries experiencing a 10 percent-or-greater decline in employment since 2019 are: printed goods manufacturing; theatrical ticket agencies; rental and leasing of arts spaces; photography and photo-finishing services; and arts unions.

Arts and cultural industries with double-digit percentage declines in employment (2019-2022)



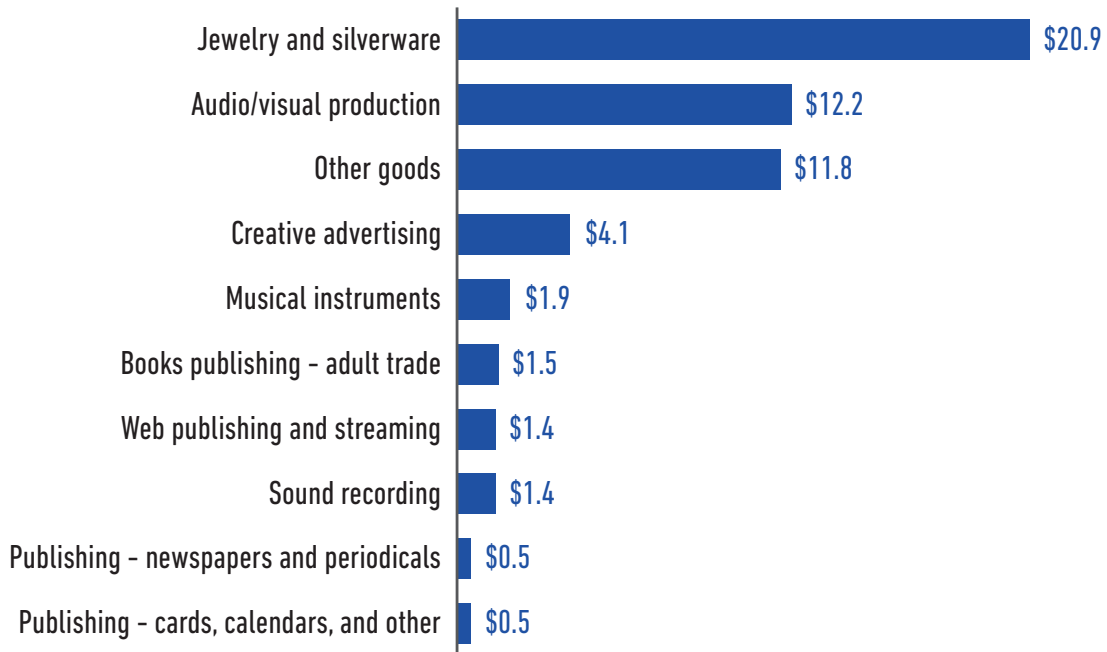
9. Since 2020, arts and cultural exports have continued to increase. From 2021 through 2022, the trade surplus rose from \$15.5 billion to \$21.0 billion
- Top imports in 2022 included jewelry and silverware (\$20.9 billion in imports), audio/visual production services for TV and movies (\$12.2 billion), and other manufactured goods such as glass and china (\$11.8 billion).
 - In 2022, lead arts export commodities included creative advertising (\$18.2 billion in exports), information services such as audio/visual production for TV and movies (\$17.2 billion), and arts-related software publishing (\$11.0 billion).

Imports and exports of arts and cultural goods and services (2018-2022)



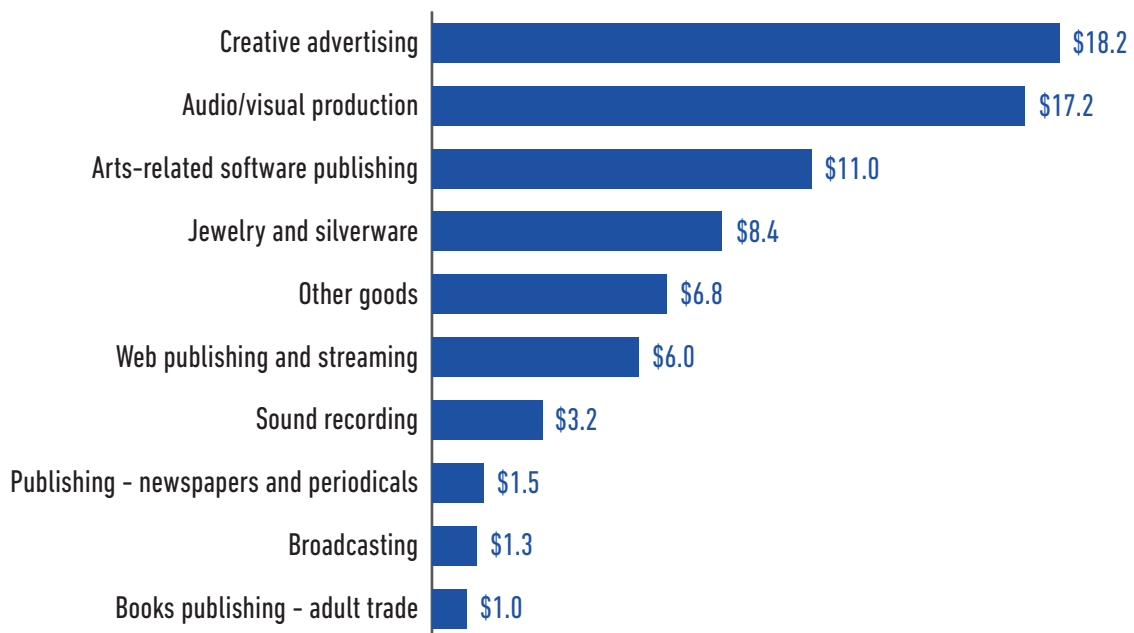
Top 10 imported arts and cultural goods and services in 2022

(in billions)



Top 10 exported arts and cultural goods and services in 2022

(in billions)



Note: "Other goods" refer to other manufactured goods such as glass and china.