



Research Division Note #22 - March 20, 1987

#### ARTIST EMPLOYMENT IN 1986

1,439,000 persons were employed in eleven artist occupation groups in 1986--an increase of 2 percent (about 28,000 persons) from 1985 according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in January 1987. The artists' growth slowed in 1986 to the same rate as that for the Professional Speciality Occupations and for All Civilian Workers. The 2 percent growth for the artist occupations was substantially lower than in the two previous years (4 percent for 1984-85 and 10 percent for 1983-84).

The combined unemployment rate for artist occupations decreased from 5.0 percent in 1985 to 4.1 percent in 1986. The decrease in the unemployment rate for the combined artist groups was larger than that for All Civilian Workers and for the Professional Speciality Occupations, which declined by .2 percent and .1 percent, respectively.

Among the individual artist occupations, unemployment rates increased for announcers, authors, and artists not elsewhere classified; but decreased for the occupations of actors and directors; architects; musicians/composers; painters/sculptors/craft artists/artist print makers; photographers; and teachers of art, drama and music (higher ed.). Unemployment rates for dancers are not included because their data base is too small for reliable estimates (see detailed explanation in the Dancer paragraph on page 2).

The 1986 artist labor force (1,500,000 employed and unemployed artists) increased by only 1 percent from 1985. This increase is less than the change for Professional Speciality Occupations and for All Civilian Workers, which both increased by about 2 percent. The 1 percent increase in the artist labor force was well below that reported in the two previous years (5 percent for 1984-85 and 9 percent for 1983-84).

Actors and Directors - The unemployment rate for actors and directors decreased from 15.4 percent in 1985 to 7.7 percent in 1986 while employment increased from 77,000 to 86,000 during the same period. The number of employed actors and directors has increased by more than 10 percent each year since 1983. These changes must be understood in the light of the new Occupational Classification System (OCS) definition for this category which broadens this group to include many persons involved in theatrical and media productions other than actors and actresses (see Research Division Note #7 for explanation).

Announcers - The number of employed announcers increased from 51,000 in 1985 to 55,000 in 1986 while the number unemployed remained the same at 3,000. In the four-year period from 1983 to 1986 the number of employed announcers increased by 17,000 and the number of unemployed announcers remained the same.

Architects - The unemployment rate for architects decreased from 2.2 percent in 1985 to 1.9 percent in 1986. The number of employed architects increased from 130,000 in 1985 to 132,000 in 1986 while the number of unemployed architects remained the same at 3,000. Since 1983, the number of employed architects has risen by 29,000 and the number unemployed has fallen by 2,000.

Authors - The unemployment rate for authors increased from 1.4 percent in 1985 to 2.6 percent in 1986. During the same period, the number of employed authors increased from 70,000 to 75,000. The number of employed authors in 1986 was 13,000 higher than in 1983. The number of unemployed, on the other hand, was the same as in 1983.

Dancers - The number of employed dancers remained at 15,000, about the same as in both 1985 and 1986, although the number of dancers in the labor force grew from 17,000 to 18,000 during the same period. In the four-year period from 1983-86, the dancer labor force grew by 6,000 persons (from 12,000 to 18,000). The sampling error is large for dancers because of the extremely small size of this occupational group (less than half the labor force size of the next smallest artist occupation), therefore reliable estimates of unemployment rates are not possible. Unemployment rates for very small occupation groups cannot be reliably estimated with a general population survey such as CPS because too few individuals in these groups are found.

Designers - The number of employed and unemployed designers in 1986 remained the same as in 1985. These figures show a departure from the 1983 to 1985 trend when the number of employed designers increased substantially each year (by 14 percent for 1983-84 and 8 percent for 1984-85).

Musician/Composers - The number of employed musicians/composers increased from 152,000 in 1985 to 164,000 in 1986. During the same period, the unemployment rate dropped from 6.5 percent to 3.9 percent. The unemployment rate for musicians/composers has declined every year since 1983.

Painters/Sculptors/Craft Artists/Artist Printmakers - The number of employed painters/sculptors/craft artists/artist printmakers decreased from 207,000 in 1985 to 194,000 in 1986. The unemployment rate among painters/sculptors/craft artists/artist printmakers declined over the period from 3.2 percent to 2.7 percent. The number of employed painters/sculptors/craft artists/artist printmakers in 1986 was down to about the same level as in 1983.

Photographers - The number of employed photographers decreased from 129,000 in 1985 to 127,000 in 1986. The number of photographers who were unemployed in 1986 also declined since 1985 and the unemployment rate dropped from 3.5 percent to 2.7 percent during the period. The decline in the number of employed photographers from 1985 to 1986 was a reversal of the trend from 1983 to 1985 when employment increased by 14 percent.

Teachers of Art, Drama, and Music (higher ed.) - The number of employed teachers of art, drama, and music in higher education increased from 42,000 in 1985 to 43,000 in 1986. The unemployment rate decreased from 2.4 percent in 1985 to 1.9 percent in 1986 while the number of unemployed remained at about 1,000 in each year. The number of employed and the number of unemployed teachers was the same in 1986 as in 1983.

Other Artists (not elsewhere classified) - The number of persons in the labor force referred to as 'artists not elsewhere classified' grew substantially from 66,000 in 1985 to 76,000 in 1986. Accompanying the rise in this labor force category was an increase in the unemployment rate from 5.6 percent in 1985 to 7.8 percent in 1986. This varied group of artists and performers includes such occupations as: magician, juggler, puppeteer, ventriloquist, clown, comedian, impersonator, mime, acrobat, aquatic performer, silhouette artist, and many others.

CAVEATS: This Research Division Note on artist employment trends is the third year-to-year comparison employing the new Occupational Classification System put into effect in the Current Population Survey in 1983. The changes improve the consistency and accuracy of the artist occupational groups. The comparisons in this Note show the changes over the four-year period of 1983-86. 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).

**Artist Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment  
1983, 1984, 1985, and 1986**

Occupation	1986	1985	1984	1983	Change 1985-86	Change 1983-86
<b>Total, All Civilian Workers</b>	<b>117,834,000</b>	<b>115,462,000</b>	<b>113,544,000</b>	<b>111,550,000</b>	<b>+2,372,000</b>	<b>+6,284,000</b>
Employed	109,597,000	107,150,000	105,005,000	100,834,000	+2,447,000	+8,763,000
Unemployed	8,237,000	8,312,000	8,539,000	10,717,000	-75,000	-2,480,000
Unemployment rate	7.0%	7.2%	7.5%	9.6%	-.2%	-2.6%
<b>Professional Speciality</b>						
<b>Occupation</b>	<b>14,228,000</b>	<b>13,946,000</b>	<b>13,629,000</b>	<b>13,219,000</b>	<b>+282,000</b>	<b>+1,009,000</b>
Employed	13,911,000	13,630,000	13,286,000	12,820,000	+281,000	+1,091,000
Unemployed	317,000	316,000	343,000	399,000	+1,000	-82,000
Unemployment rate	2.2%	2.3%	2.5%	3.0%	-.1%	-.8%
<b>All Artists</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>	<b>1,482,000</b>	<b>1,418,000</b>	<b>1,301,000</b>	<b>+18,000</b>	<b>+199,000</b>
Employed	1,439,000	1,411,000	1,351,000	1,223,000	+28,000	+216,000
Unemployed	61,000	71,000	67,000	78,000	-10,000	-17,000
Unemployment rate	4.1%	5.0%	4.7%	6.0%	-.9%	-1.9%
<b>Actors and Directors</b>	<b>93,000</b>	<b>91,000</b>	<b>78,000</b>	<b>71,000</b>	<b>+2,000</b>	<b>+23,000</b>
Employed	86,000	77,000	68,000	60,000	+9,000	+26,000
Unemployed	7,000	14,000	10,000	11,000	-7,000	-4,000
Unemployment rate	7.7%	15.4%	13.3%	15.7%	-7.7%	-8.0%
<b>Announcers</b>	<b>58,000</b>	<b>54,000</b>	<b>59,000</b>	<b>41,000</b>	<b>+4,000</b>	<b>+17,000</b>
Employed	55,000	51,000	55,000	38,000	+4,000	+17,000
Unemployment	3,000	3,000	4,000	3,000	0	0
Unemployment rate	5.9%	5.3%	6.2%	6.7%	+6%	-.8%
<b>Architects</b>	<b>135,000</b>	<b>133,000</b>	<b>109,000</b>	<b>108,000</b>	<b>+2,000</b>	<b>+27,000</b>
Employed	132,000	130,000	107,000	103,000	+2,000	+29,000
Unemployed	3,000	3,000	2,000	5,000	0	-2,000
Unemployment rate	1.9%	2.2%	1.8%	4.3%	-.3%	-2.4%
<b>Authors</b>	<b>77,000</b>	<b>71,000</b>	<b>72,000</b>	<b>64,000</b>	<b>+6,000</b>	<b>+13,000</b>
Employed	75,000	70,000	71,000	62,000	+5,000	+13,000
Unemployed	2,000	1,000	1,000	2,000	+1,000	0
Unemployment rate	2.6%	1.4%	1.4%	2.5%	+1.2%	+1%
<b>Dancers</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>14,000</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>+1,000</b>	<b>+6,000</b>
Employed	15,000	15,000	12,000	10,000	0	+5,000
Unemployed	*	*	*	*	*	*
Unemployment rate	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Designers</b>	<b>504,000</b>	<b>504,000</b>	<b>466,000</b>	<b>415,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>+89,000</b>
Employed	484,000	484,000	448,000	393,000	0	+91,000
Unemployed	20,000	20,000	18,000	22,000	0	-2,000
Unemployment rate	4.0%	3.9%	3.9%	5.2%	+1%	-1.2%
<b>Musicians/Composers</b>	<b>171,000</b>	<b>163,000</b>	<b>174,000</b>	<b>170,000</b>	<b>+8,000</b>	<b>+1,000</b>
Employed	164,000	152,000	161,000	155,000	+12,000	+9,000
Unemployed	7,000	11,000	13,000	15,000	-4,000	-8,000
Unemployment rate	3.9%	6.5%	7.3%	8.6%	-2.6%	-4.7%
<b>Painters/Sculptors/ Craft Artists/and Artist Printmakers</b>	<b>194,000</b>	<b>207,000</b>	<b>220,000</b>	<b>192,000</b>	<b>-13,000</b>	<b>+2,000</b>
Employed	189,000	200,000	212,000	186,000	-11,000	+3,000
Unemployed	5,000	7,000	8,000	6,000	-2,000	-1,000
Unemployment rate	2.7%	3.2%	3.5%	3.3%	-.5%	-.6%
<b>Photographers</b>	<b>131,000</b>	<b>134,000</b>	<b>128,000</b>	<b>119,000</b>	<b>-3,000</b>	<b>+12,000</b>
Employed	127,000	129,000	123,000	113,000	-2,000	+14,000
Unemployed	4,000	5,000	5,000	6,000	-1,000	-2,000
Unemployment rate	2.7%	3.5%	3.9%	5.0%	-.8%	-2.3%
<b>Teachers of Art, Drama, and Music (higher ed.)</b>	<b>43,000</b>	<b>42,000</b>	<b>41,000</b>	<b>43,000</b>	<b>+1,000</b>	<b>0</b>
Employed	42,000	41,000	40,000	42,000	+1,000	0
Unemployed	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0
Unemployment rate	1.9%	2.4%	2.4%	2.2%	+.5%	-.3%
<b>Other Artists**</b>	<b>76,000</b>	<b>66,000</b>	<b>57,000</b>	<b>66,000</b>	<b>+10,000</b>	<b>+10,000</b>
Employed	70,000	62,000	54,000	61,000	+8,000	+9,000
Unemployed	6,000	4,000	3,000	5,000	+2,000	+1,000
Unemployment rate	7.8%	5.6%	5.8%	7.1%	+2.2%	+7%

\* Data base is too small for estimate  
\*\* Not elsewhere classified

All the unemployment rates shown in the table (with the exception of the rates for 'All Artists') were calculated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics using unrounded data. Therefore, calculating unemployment rates using the rounded levels for unemployed and labor force shown in the table may yield slightly different rates.

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

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