

# U.S. Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account: Issue Brief #3

## WORKERS ENGAGED IN ARTS AND CULTURAL PRODUCTION

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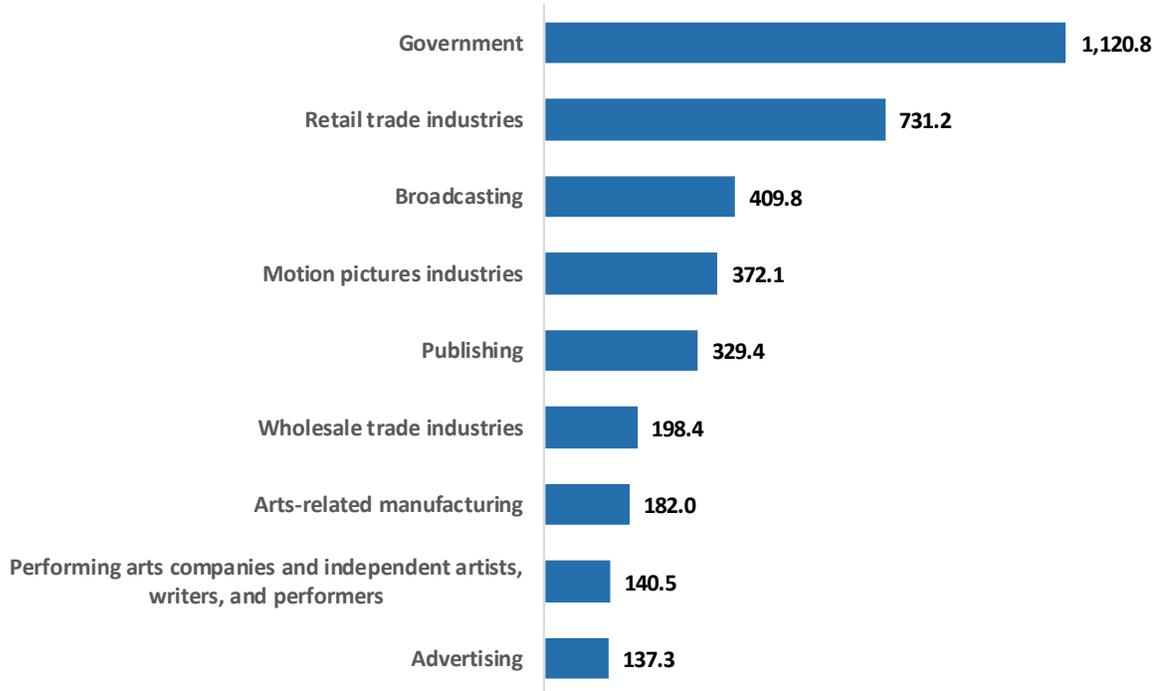
According to the U.S. Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account (ACPSA), in 2013, the arts and cultural sector employed 4.7 million wage and salary workers; compensation for those workers topped \$339 billion. Industries employing the largest numbers of ACPSA workers include: government (comprising federal, state, and local jurisdictions), retail trade, broadcasting, motion picture industries, and publishing.

Government represents the single largest arts-and-cultural-sector employer—1.1 million workers in 2013, or one-in-five ACPSA wage and salary employees. Governments employ workers to produce a variety of arts and cultural services, including museums and parks, architectural services, cultural government agencies, and, the government’s largest contribution to the arts sector—school-based arts education.

The retail trade sector, encompassing art galleries, book and music stores, and florist shops (among other arts-related retail stores), is also a significant arts employer. In 2013, this sector engaged more than 731,000 workers to provide arts and cultural goods and services.

In that same year, broadcasting, motion picture industries, and publishing each employed between roughly 300,000 to 400,000 workers to produce art and culture.<sup>i</sup>

**Top-Ranking ACPSA Industries by Number of People Employed to Produce Arts and Cultural Goods and Services, 2013**  
(Thousands)



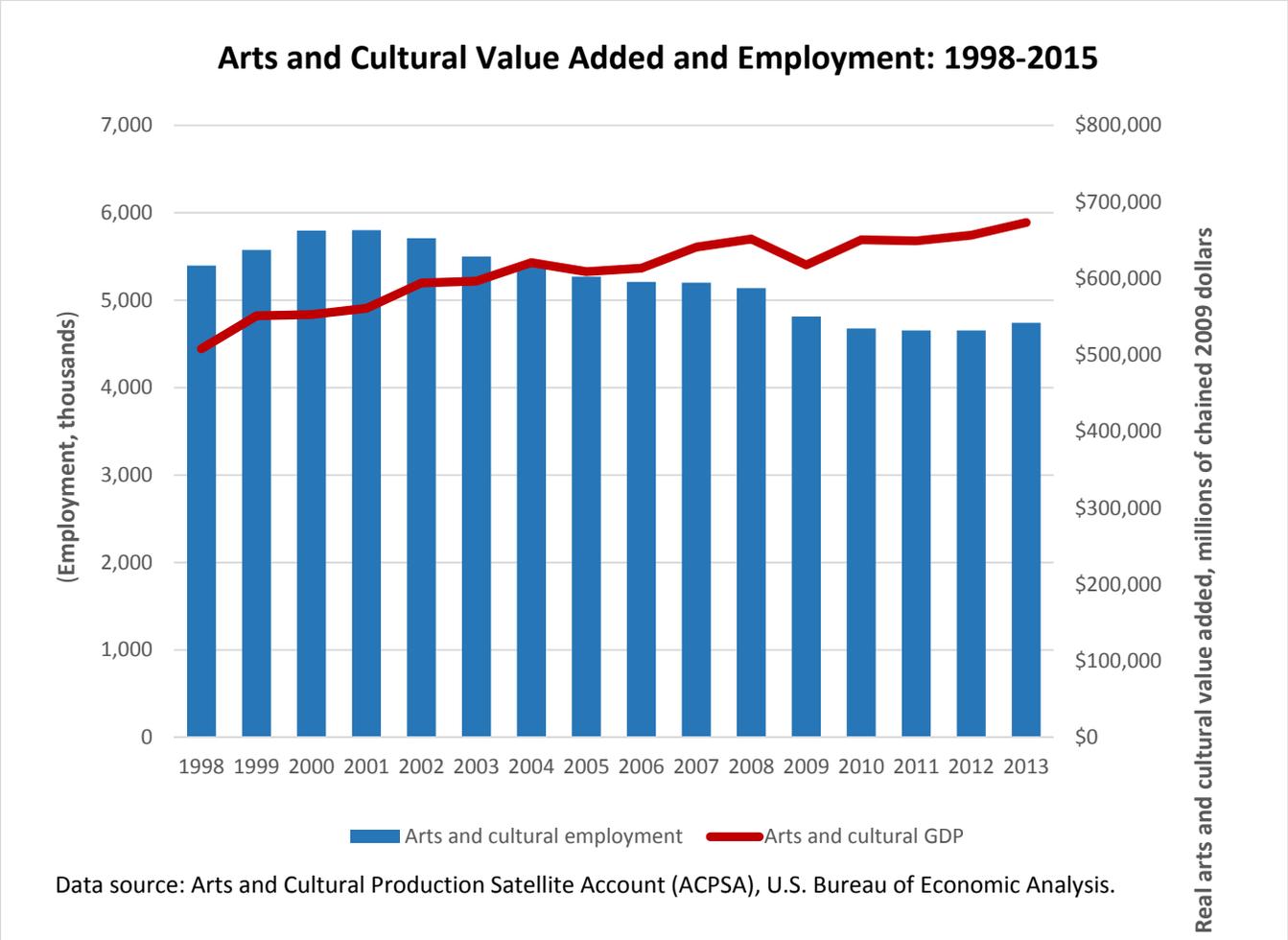
Note: Arts-related manufacturing includes manufactured jewelry and silverware, musical instruments, and custom architectural woodwork and metal work.

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

Trends in Arts and Cultural Employment

Although U.S. production of arts and cultural goods and services is on the rise, the number of workers employed to produce those goods and services has been steadily decreasing.

Between 1998 and 2013, the number of wage and salary workers employed by arts and cultural production dropped by 0.8 percent, or 656,000 employees.<sup>ii</sup>



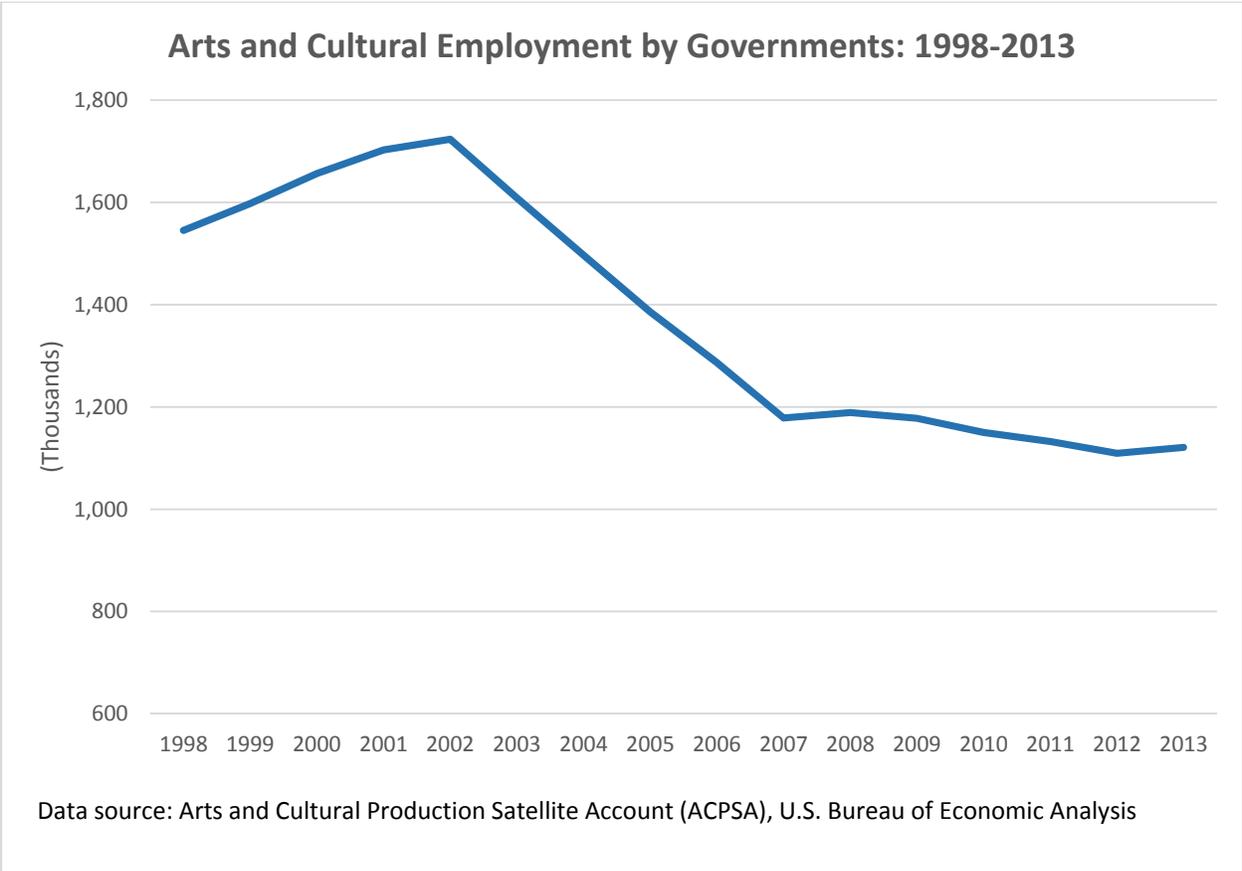
Contributing to this trend were declines in employment by the arts and cultural sector’s largest employer—government.

As discussed above, government provides a variety of arts and cultural commodities, including parks and museums and architectural services.

However, the government sector’s greatest contribution to the arts and cultural economy is the provision of academic-based arts education (i.e., arts education provided in K-12 schools and in colleges and universities). Governments provide more than 90 percent of arts education in the U.S. (\$95.8 billion in 2013).

As a service, the provision of academic-based arts education peaked in 2001 at nearly \$100 billion. Beginning in 2002, however, academic-based arts education services began a steady decline through 2013. From 2001 through 2013, the value of arts education services, adjusted for inflation, fell by 44 percent or more than \$71 billion.

As the largest provider of academic-based (K-12/college) arts education, government ACPSA employment fell correspondingly.<sup>iii</sup>



## Arts and Cultural Employment during the Great Recession

The structural decline evident in arts and cultural employment by governments masks a significant trend—namely, strong cyclical fluctuations in the number of workers employed to produce art.

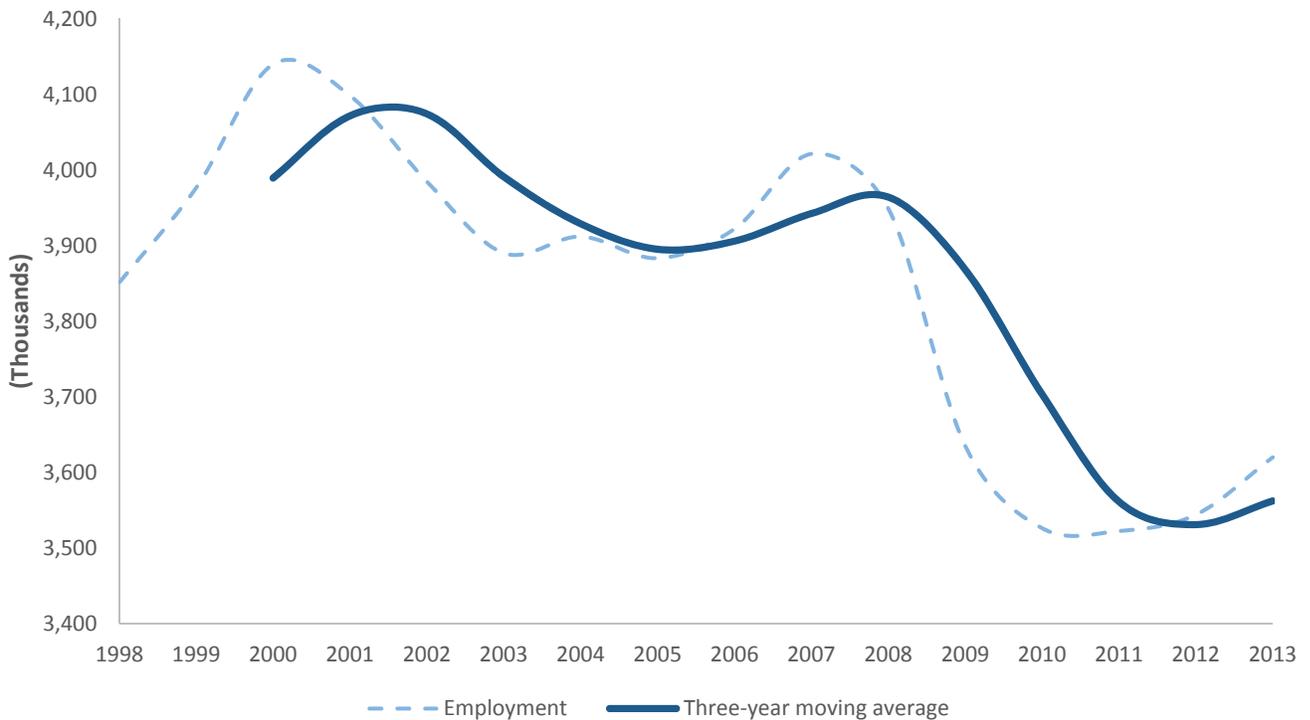
Between 1998 and 2000, excluding government workers, employment of wage and salary workers producing arts and culture increased. In 2000, for example, arts and cultural employment grew by 3.9 percent over 1999 employment levels. But in 2001, a year marked by a mild U.S. recession, arts and cultural employment fell, and continued to fall through 2003.

A recovery ensued in 2004, and arts and cultural employment peaked in 2007. In that year, ACPSA employment, excluding government workers, reached more than 4 million.

In 2008, however, the severe U.S. recession of 2007-2009 took hold of the U.S. arts and cultural workforce. Annual employment, excluding government workers, fell by 1.8 percent. In 2009, employment fell by 8.6 percent.

Arts and cultural employment, excluding government workers, did not recover until 2012. In 2013, annual employment grew by 2.1 percent.

## Arts and Cultural Employment by Non-Government Industries: 1998-2013



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

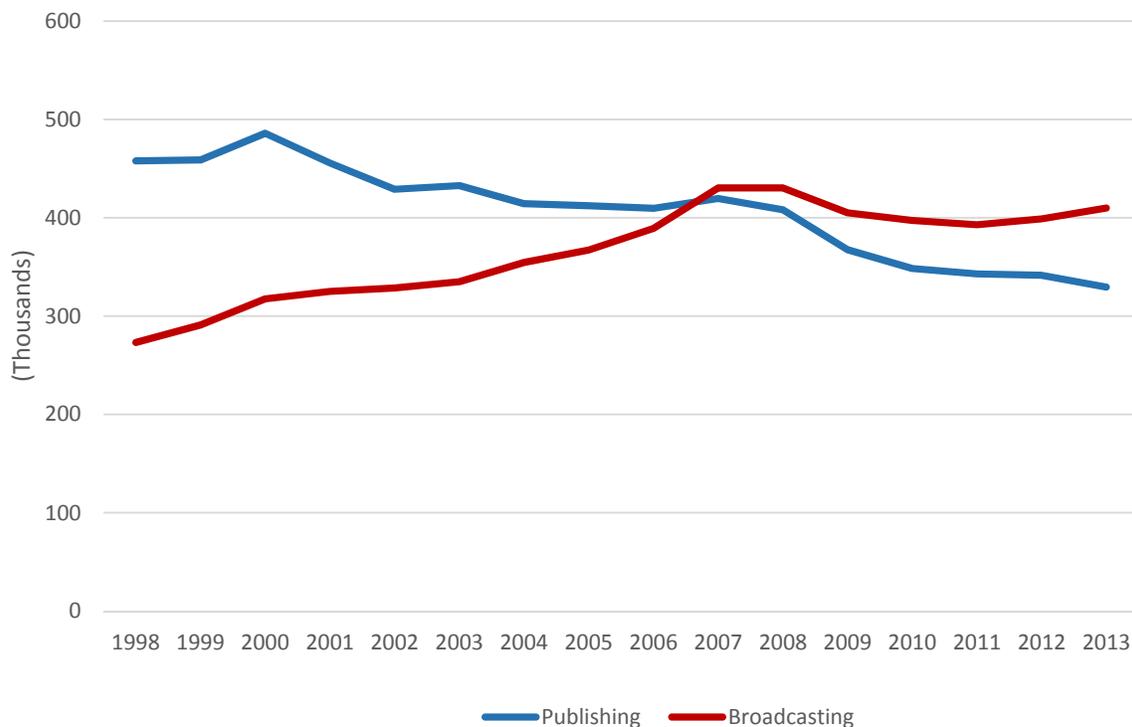
### Employment Patterns in Key Arts and Cultural Industries

Other notable patterns in arts and cultural employment are evident in the publishing and broadcasting industries and in the performing arts/independent artists and specialized design industries.

In 1998, for instance, arts and cultural publishing (namely the publishing of books, magazines, and newspapers, as well as arts-related software publishing) employed nearly 458,000 workers in the entire publishing industry (following government, the second largest arts-and-cultural-production employer). That same year, arts and cultural broadcasting (largely TV and radio broadcasting, excluding sports) employed just under 366,000 workers.

Throughout the 1998-2013 time period, however, arts and cultural employment in publishing declined while employment in broadcasting increased. In 2013, arts and cultural broadcasting employed nearly 410,000 workers, and employment to produce arts and cultural publishing fell to 329,400 workers. The broadcasting industry replaced publishing as the second largest arts and cultural employer.

### Number of Workers Employed by the Publishing and Broadcasting Industries to Produce Arts and Cultural Goods and Services: 1998-2013



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

The performing arts industry and the independent artists, writers, and entertainers industry, as well as the specialized design industries (e.g., interior, industrial, and graphic design firms), have exhibited no strong upward or downward structural changes in employment. They did, nonetheless, experience considerable business cycle swings in response to both the relatively mild U.S. economic recession of 2001, and the severe recession of 2007-2009.

In 2009, for example, employment in the “performing arts/independent artists” industries dipped 6.3 percent. In that same year, employment in specialized design industries fell by 13.5 percent.

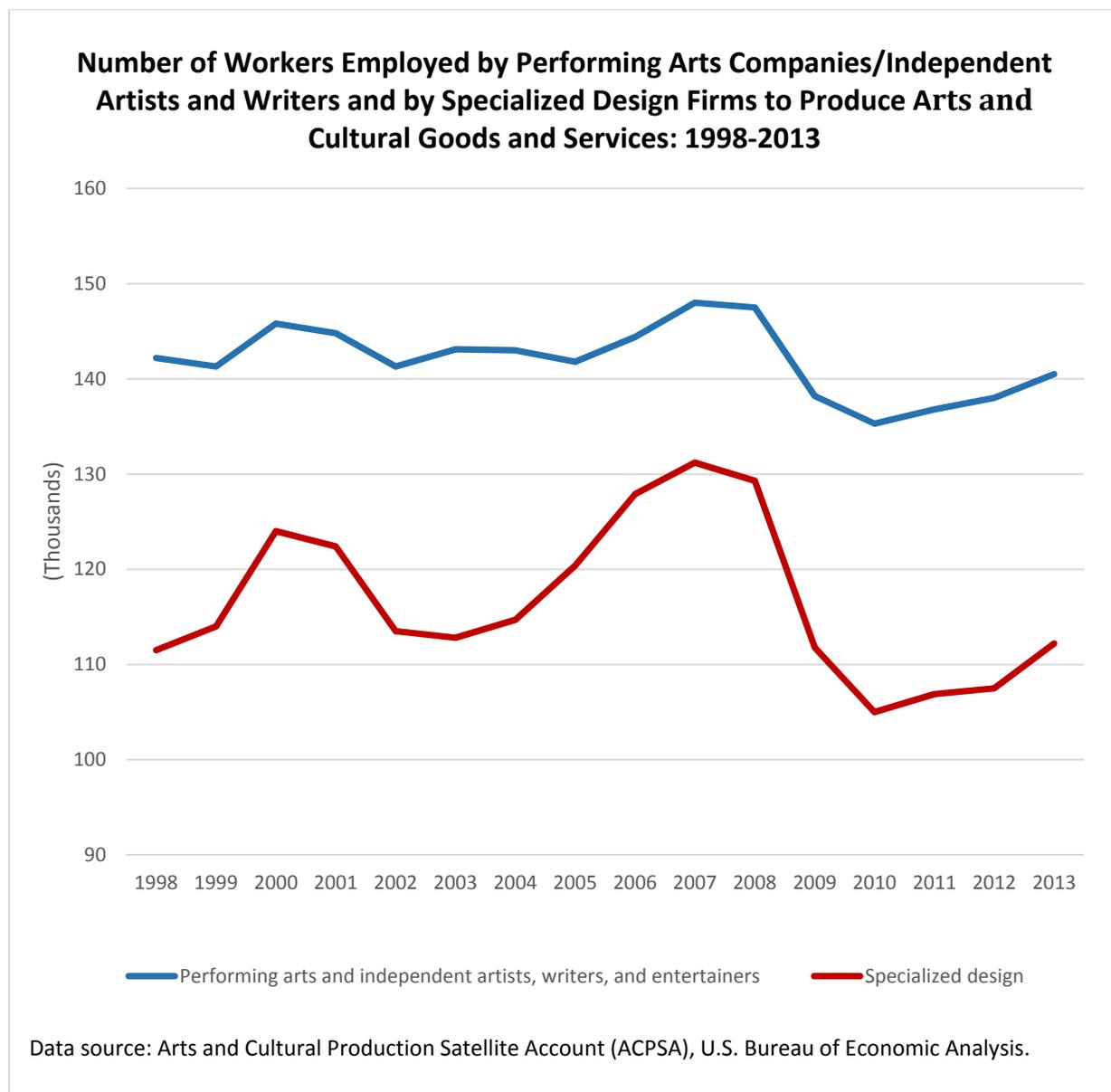
Following the fallout from the 2007-2009 Great Recession, both sectors have since begun to recover. In 2013, employment in performing arts/independent artists industries grew by 1.8 percent, while specialized design employment grew by 4.4 percent.

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<sup>i</sup> ACPSA broadcasting excludes sports broadcasts and production unrelated to the arts such as the repair and maintenance of broadcasting equipment.

<sup>ii</sup> Self-employed workers, though captured by ACPSA production and value added, are excluded from estimates of wage and salary employment.

<sup>iii</sup> For more detail on arts education, please see ACPSA Issue Brief #4.