

U.S. Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account: Issue Brief #4

TRENDS IN U.S. ARTS EDUCATION (1998-2013)

Arts education is among the most valuable commodities within the U.S. arts and cultural economy. In 2013, the provision of arts educational services totaled \$109.6 billion, an amount equal to 9 percent of all arts and cultural production in that year.

The provision of arts education, though a valuable service, has been in steady decline. Between 1998 and 2003, the provision of academic-based arts education, adjusted for inflation, fell by more than \$57 billion.

Because government, as a sector, is by far the largest provider of U.S. arts education, the declines observed likely reflect cutbacks in public K-12 school spending on the arts.

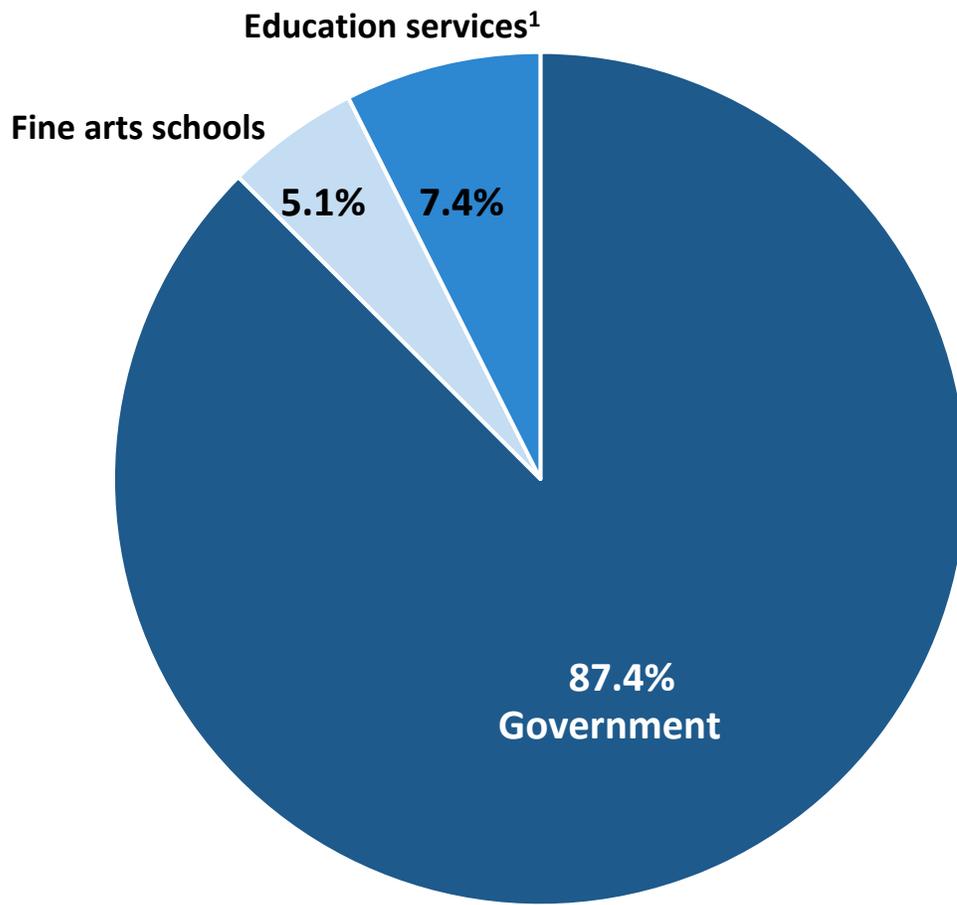
Arts Education by Industry

The Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account (ACPSA) includes two types of arts education: (1) academic-based, which refers to arts education provided by K-12 schools and by post-secondary schools; and (2) non-academic fine arts classes, which are typically provided by music and dance schools and other non-academic schools offering art classes.ⁱ

Academic-based arts education is primarily provided by the government sector. In 2013, governments provided 92 percent (\$95.8 billion) of all academic-based arts education. The remainder, \$8.1 billion, was provided by the industry labeled “education services,” which refers to non-government/private K-12 schools and post-secondary schools.

Nearly all non-academic fine arts education is provided by the industry of the same name. In 2013, the fine arts education industry provided \$5.6 billion in arts classes. The remaining share, \$106 million, was offered by the retail sales industry.ⁱⁱ

By Industry: Percent of Arts Education Services Provided, 2013



¹ Non-government/private K-12 schools and post-secondary schools.

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

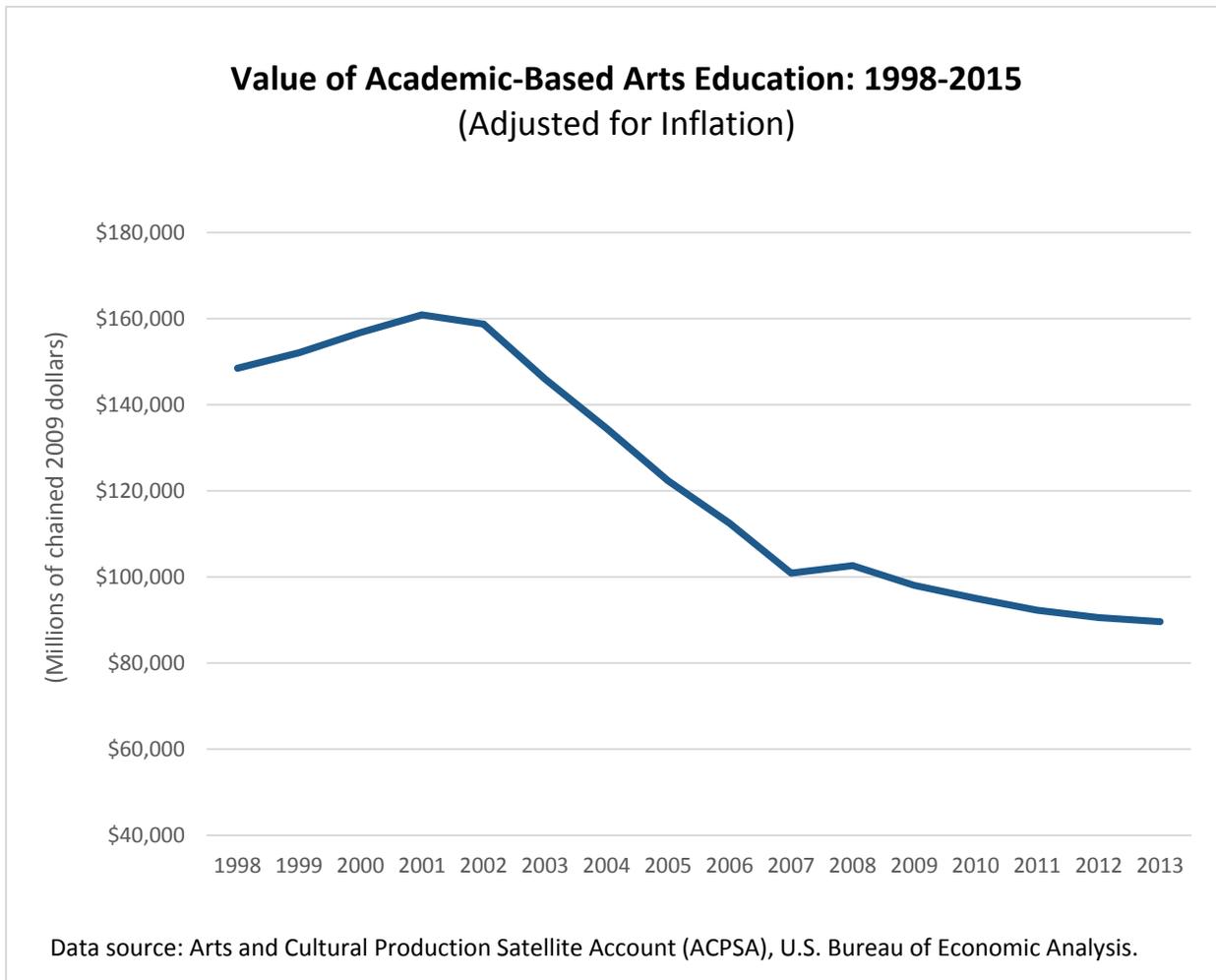
Declining Arts Education

Although arts education is among the most valuable of ACPSA commodities, the provision of arts education in the U.S. has fallen steadily over the past decade. That decline, in turn, reflects reductions in academic-based arts education. Indeed, non-academic fine arts education actually rose between 1998 and 2013.

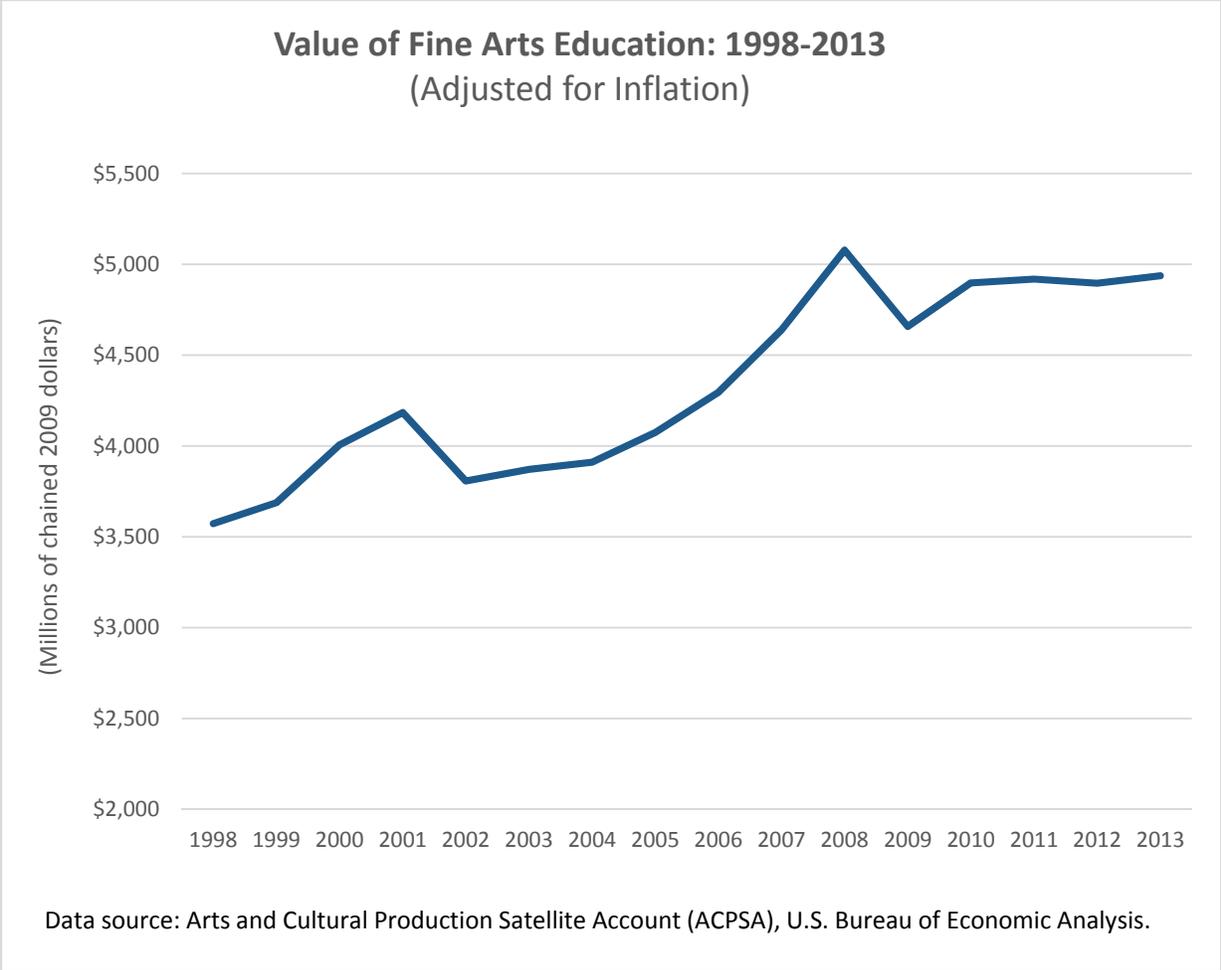
To illustrate, between 1998 and 2001, the provision of academic-based arts education, adjusted for inflation, rose by more than 8 percent. In 2002, however, the real value of academic-based arts classes began to steadily fall. Between 2003 and 2007, for instance, year-over-year declines in real academic-based arts education were between 8 and 10 percent. Over the 1998-2013 time frame, the average real value of academic-based arts education fell by nearly \$59 billion.

Analysis by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis shows that more than 60 percent of educational services is composed of primary and secondary education. (The remaining 40 percent is post-secondary education.)

Given that government is the primary provider of academic-based arts education, the downward trend observed likely reflects reductions in public K-12 expenditures on the arts.



Although a small share of total ACPSA arts education, fine arts education, which is largely produced by non-academic arts schools, has exhibited an upward trend. Between 1998 and 2013, the value of this education, adjusted for inflation, increased by nearly \$1.4 billion.



ⁱ Although not identified as a commodity in the BEA accounts, non-academic arts education may also include productions by college and university performing arts centers.

ⁱⁱ Examples include photography classes offered by camera stores and music classes taught at musical-instrument stores.