

ACPSA Issue Brief #2: Workers Engaged in Arts and Cultural Production

In 2012, the production of arts and cultural goods and services employed 4.7 million workers and generated \$334.9 billion in compensation (i.e., wages and salaries and supplements such as pension funds and health insurance).

Government, it so happens, is the industry employing the greatest number of workers engaged in producing arts and cultural commodities. Arts educators working in public schools (elementary and secondary schools and colleges and universities), as well as workers employed in government parks, libraries, and agencies, contribute to a tally of 1.1 million arts and cultural workers in 2012.

Other industries employing large numbers of workers to produce arts and cultural goods and services include retail trade (713,800); broadcasting (401,300); and motion picture industries (367,300).

In 2012, the industries represented by the performing arts and independent artists employed 136,800 workers; they were compensated \$13 billion. The museum industry employed 122,300 workers, who, in turn, were paid nearly \$4.2 billion in wages, salaries, and benefits.

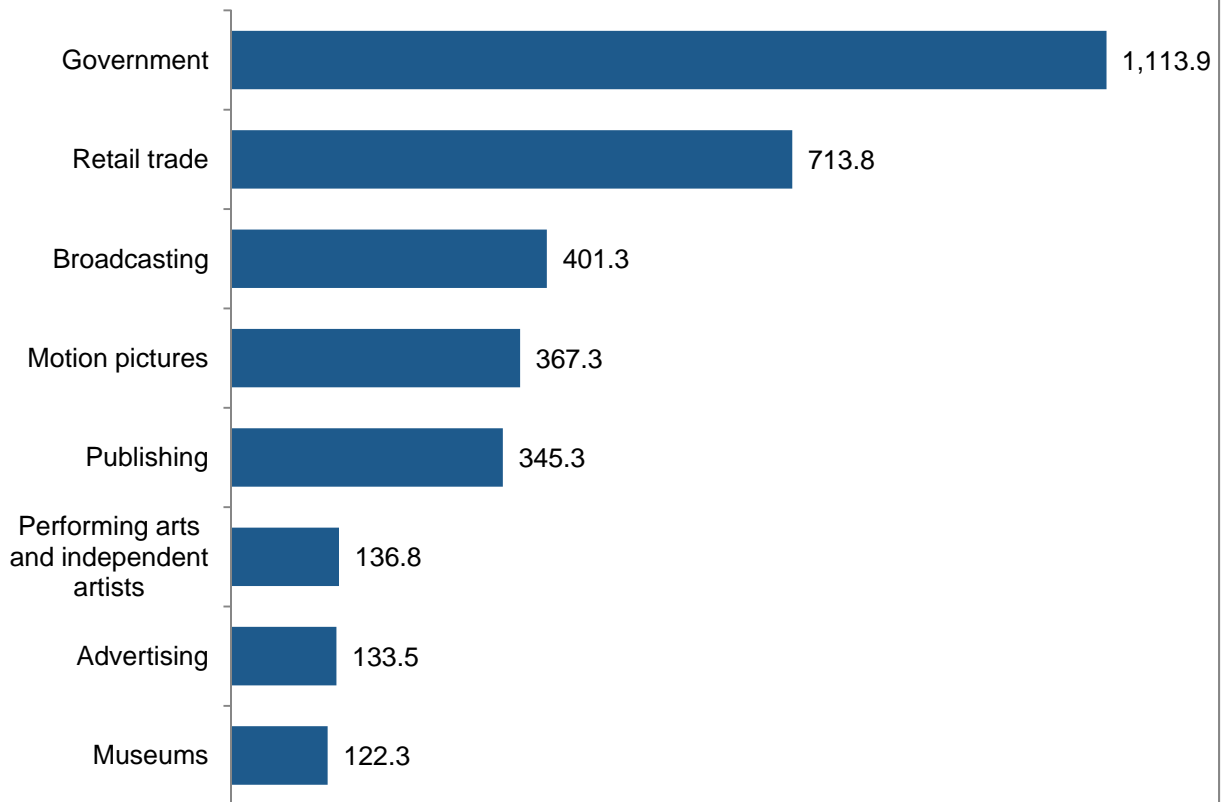
The ACPSA estimates reported here refer to workers engaged in arts and cultural production. In 2012, for example, the broadcasting industry employed a total of 912,100 workers. Of those, 401,300 (44 percent) were engaged in producing radio, television, and cable broadcasts, which are counted by the ACPSA as "arts and cultural."¹

Note: While the ACPSA includes production by sole proprietors (i.e., self-employed arts and cultural workers), their production is captured within the ACPSA's "gross operating surplus," which is a component of value added. Consequently, the ACPSA employment figures (number employed and compensation) refer to wage and salary workers.

(A previous version of this issue brief incorrectly stated that the wages/salaries also applied to self-employed workers.)

¹ Examples of services provided by the broadcasting industry that are not included in the ACPSA include the repair and maintenance of broadcasting equipment. Additionally, the ACPSA excludes sports broadcasts.

Top-Ranking ACPSA Industries by Number of People Employed to Produce Arts and Cultural Services, 2012 (in thousands)



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

Arts and Cultural Employment and the Economic Recession of 2007-2009

In 2000, employment of workers producing arts and cultural goods and services reached 5.8 million workers. In the aftermath of the 2001 recession, however, arts and cultural employment weakened, falling by 3.9 percent in 2003. In the years that followed, arts and cultural employment, though still in decline, was stabilizing.

However, 2007 marked the beginning of a severe economic recession—by 2009, the arts and cultural economy had shed more than 300,000 workers. In 2010, arts and cultural employment fell by an additional 135,000. In 2011 and 2012, declines in employment slowed, suggesting that arts and cultural employment was, again, stabilizing. Even so, there were 555,000 fewer arts and cultural workers in 2012 than in 2006, the year before the Great Recession ensued.

Percentage Change in Employment: 1999-2012



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

Employment by Industries Producing Arts and Culture, 2012			
	Employment	Compensation of employees	Key to notes
	(in thousands)	(in millions)	
Total ACPSA Employment	4,676	334,943.5	
Employment by industries producing arts and culture:			
Arts and entertainment			
Performing arts	100.1	6,801.6	A
Independent artists, writers, and performers	36.7	6,241.6	
Agents and managers for artists	22.1	1,114.4	
Promoters of performing arts	78.6	2,570.8	B
Museums	122.3	4,154.9	C
Professional services			
Advertising	133.5	11,508.5	
Architectural services	102.3	10,491.6	
Landscape architectural services	21.3	1,866.8	
Interior design services	19.4	1,384.6	
Industrial design services	24.5	909.5	
Graphic design services	61.4	3,456.9	
All other design services	2.1	461.9	D
Computer systems design	18.1	2,371.9	E
Photography and photo-finishing services	78.0	3,580.0	F
Education services			
Fine art schools	42.8	2,621.5	G
Other educational services	93.3	4,007.6	H
Information			
Publishing	345.3	38,194.7	I
Motion pictures	367.3	27,855.9	
Sound recording	12.8	2,318.9	
Broadcasting	401.3	34,419.5	
Other information services	48.0	11,933.2	J
Manufacturing			
Printing	99.4	5,598.7	
Jewelry and silverware	26.2	2,495.4	
Musical instruments	8.1	752.0	
Custom architectural woodwork and metalwork	29.2	1,437.0	
Camera and motion picture equipment	1.8	255.3	
Other goods	18.9	1,420.7	K
Other services			
Grant making and other giving services	4.7	343.6	
Unions	16.2	1,064.9	
Government	1,113.9	85,111.3	L
Rental and leasing	42.0	1,301.1	
Other support services	3.5	262.0	M
Construction	92.0	6,561.9	N
Wholesale trade	192.9	14,459.6	
Retail trade	713.8	24,349.9	O
All other industries	182.6	11,263.8	P

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

<i>Key</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>Examples include theater companies, dance companies, symphony orchestras, and circuses.</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>Includes performing art centers and festivals.</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>Includes botanical gardens, zoos, and nature parks.</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>Includes jewelry and fashion design.</i>
<i>E</i>	<i>Computer systems design supporting motion picture and television production and sound recording.</i>
<i>F</i>	<i>Excludes one-hour photo-finishing.</i>
<i>G</i>	<i>Includes music and dance schools.</i>
<i>H</i>	<i>Refers to private elementary and secondary school and college and university performing and visual art departments.</i>
<i>I</i>	<i>Includes newspaper, periodical, and book publishing; art prints, calendars, and cards; and arts-related software such as games and photo-finishing.</i>
<i>J</i>	<i>Includes Internet publishing and broadcasting and archives.</i>
<i>K</i>	<i>Includes the manufacture of blown glass and art goods.</i>
<i>L</i>	<i>Examples of ACPSA services provided by the government include public elementary and secondary and college and university performing and visual arts education; public parks; and services provided by government agencies.</i>
<i>M</i>	<i>Refers to theatrical ticket agencies.</i>
<i>N</i>	<i>Refers to the new construction of arts and cultural structures.</i>
<i>O</i>	<i>Includes art dealers, music stores, book stores, and florist shops.</i>
<i>P</i>	<i>Other industries producing arts and cultural goods and services.</i>