

NATIONAL
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FOR
THE ARTS

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ARTIST EMPLOYMENT IN 1989

In 1989, total employment in eleven artist occupational groups increased from 1,505,000 to 1,571,000. These figures represent an increase of 4.4%, and demonstrates a marked change from the modest increase of only .1% (from 1,503,000 to 1,505,000) in 1988. Employment statistics for all occupations, including the eleven artist occupations are compiled through the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Population Survey.

During 1989, there was a decrease in the number of unemployed artists in the eleven occupational groups from 52,000 to 46,000. This decrease lowered the artist unemployment rate from 2.9% to 2.8%, and marked the fourth consecutive year that the artist unemployment rate has dropped. In 1989, the total labor force of artists in 11 occupational areas was up 3.9% from 1988 (1,557,000 to 1,617,000).

These national employment statistics are obtained from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Population Survey, which reports employment information on over 325 occupations, including eleven artist occupations. A respondent (16 years or older) is considered employed if during the survey week he/she did any paid work in his/her business, profession, or farm. It is important to note that those holding more than one job are counted in the job which they worked the most hours during the survey week.

To be considered a working artist in the Bureau of Labor Statistics' survey, one must be working as an artist during the survey week. To be considered an unemployed artist in the survey, one's last job must have been as an artist and lasted at least two weeks, be looking for a job, and not be employed in any other way. The reader should be cautious about comparing these data to other estimates of employment and unemployment in artist occupations as differences in definition and methodology can cause wide variances in these estimates.

In 1989, the total civilian labor force, both employed and unemployed, was up 1.8% from 1988 (121,669,000 to 123,869,000). This total includes 117,342,000 persons employed (up 2.1% from 1988) and 6,528,000 persons unemployed (down 2.6% from 1988). The civilian unemployment rate (the number of unemployed workers as a percent of the total labor force) was 5.3%, down from 5.5% in 1988.

The labor force for Professional Speciality Occupations, a category which includes the eleven artist occupations, increased 3.7% in 1989 (15,249,000 to 15,815,000). The Professional Speciality Occupations include a wide range of professions such as engineers, lawyers, health care professionals, and social,

recreational and religious workers. The total number in this category employed was up 3.9% in 1989 (14,974,000 to 15,550,000), while the total number unemployed dropped 0.4% (266,000 to 265,000), holding the unemployment rate steady at 1.7%.

In 1989, improvements in employment statistics among the individual artist occupations were noted for designers, musicians/composers, and painters/sculptors/craft-artists/artist-printmakers. All these occupations experienced an increase in their labor force, while having fewer people unemployed. Authors experienced no changes in either labor force or unemployment over the year.

Unemployment increased for architects in 1989. Unemployment rates for dancers were not calculated because the number of persons in this occupational group is too small for reliable estimates.

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS 1983-89

The unemployment rate for artists has increased only once since 1983: 6% (1983), 4.7% (1984), 5% (1985), 2.8% (1989). The unemployment rate for civilians has dropped continually since 1983, from 9.6% to 4.7%. The Professional Speciality Occupation category has also experienced a continual decrease during the same period from 3% to 1.7%.

The labor force for artists has grown 24.3% since 1983 (1,301,000 to 1,617,000). The civilian labor force has also experienced continual growth since 1983, up 10.4% (111,550,000 to 123,120,000). Professional Speciality Occupation workers have also experienced continual growth since 1983, up 19.6% (13,219,000 to 15,815,000).

There has been a steady increase in the number employed for all three areas from 1983-89: Artists have risen 28.5% (1,223,000 to 1,571,000), Civilian Workers have risen 16.4% (100,834,000 to 117,342,000), Professional Specialty Occupations have risen 21.3% (12,820,000 to 15,550,000).

INDIVIDUAL ARTIST OCCUPATIONS

These data are based on a sample survey and are subject to sampling errors. Small occupation groups (less than 75,000) are less likely to be accurate than the larger occupation groups. (See note at bottom of Table 1.)

ACTORS AND DIRECTORS

The unemployment rate for actors and directors in 1989 was 10.4%, down from 10.6% in 1988. The labor force for this group dropped 4.5% (112,000 to 107,000), and the number employed dropped 4% (100,000 to 96,000). Since 1983 there has been a 50.7% increase in the size of the labor force (71,000 to 107,000) with no increase in the number of unemployed. This has cut the unemployment rate from 15.7% to 10.4%, a 33.8% reduction.

ANNOUNCERS

The unemployment rate for announcers in 1989 was 2.9%, down from 6.4% in 1988. Decreases were noted in the labor force (56,000 to 53,000), the number employed (52,000 to 51,000), and the number unemployed (4,000 to 2,000). Since 1983 there has been a 29.3% increase in the labor force (41,000 to 53,000), and a 56.7% drop in unemployment (6.7% to 2.9%).

ARCHITECTS

The labor force for architects continued its steady growth in 1989, up 11% from 1988 (145,000 to 161,000). The number of employed rose 9.8% (143,000 to 157,000); this is the sixth consecutive year employment has risen. However, due to the large growth of the labor force, architects experienced a doubling in their unemployment rate from 1988 (1.2% to 2.4%). Since 1983, the architects' labor force has grown 49.1% (108,000 to 161,000), the number employed 52.4% (103,000 to 157,000), while showing a 44.2% decrease (4.3% to 2.4%) in their unemployment rate.

AUTHORS

Authors experienced no employment changes from 1988 to 1989. Their labor force held steady at 83,000 and their unemployment rate at 1.2%. Since 1983, the number of employed authors has grown from 62,000 to 82,000, an increase of 32.3%.

DANCERS

The labor force for dancers was 17,000 in 1989. The labor force for dancers has risen 42% since 1983, and employment 40%. The data on unemployment for dancers is not provided since it was not possible to make reliable estimates given the small size of this category.

DESIGNERS

The 1989 unemployment rate for designers was 2.5%, down from 2.8% in 1988. There was a 4.4% increase in the labor force (525,000 to 548,000), a 4.7% increase in the number employed (510,000 to 534,000), and a 6.7% drop in the total unemployed (15,000 to 14,000). Since 1983 there has been a 32.1% increase in the labor force (415,000 to 548,000) and a 35.9% increase in the number employed (393,000 to 534,000). The number of unemployed persons dropped 36.4% (22,000 to 14,000), cutting the unemployment rate by over 50% (5.2% to 2.5%).

MUSICIANS/COMPOSERS

The labor force for musicians and composers grew 10.1% in 1989 (158,000 to 174,000) and the number of unemployed dropped from 7,000 to 4,000, decreasing the unemployment rate by 42.9% (4.6% to 2.4%). Since 1983, however, the labor force has grown only 2.4% (170,000 to 174,000). During the period of 1983-1989 there has been a 73.3% decrease in the number of unemployed musicians and composers (15,000 to 4,000) and a 73.3% decrease in the unemployment rate (8.6% to 2.4%).

PAINTERS/SCULPTORS/CRAFT ARTISTS/ARTIST PRINTMAKERS

The labor force for this group grew 5.9% in 1989 (219,000 to 232,000). The number of unemployed in this category dropped 25% (4,000 to 3,000), lowering the unemployment rate from 2% to 1.3%. Since 1983, there has been a 20.8% growth in the labor force (192,000 to 232,000) and the number of unemployed dropped 50% (6,000 to 3,000), lowering the unemployment rate 60.6% (3.3% to 1.3%).

PHOTOGRAPHERS

The unemployment rate for photographers dropped 47.2% in 1989, from 3.6% to 1.9%. This was due to a 5.8% reduction in the labor force (121,000 to 114,000) and a 50% reduction in the number of unemployed (4,000 to 2,000). Since 1983 there has been a 4.2% reduction in the labor force in this artist category (119,000 to 114,000), a 66.7% reduction in the number of unemployed (6,000 to 2,000), and a 66.7% reduction in the unemployment rate (5% to 1.9%).

TEACHERS OF ART/DRAMA/MUSIC (higher ed.)

The labor force for this group dropped 8.2% in 1989 (49,000 to 45,000). It is estimated that there are less than 1,000 unemployed--this number is too small to calculate a reliable unemployment figure. This group has remained stable since 1983 when the labor force was 43,000 with an estimated 1,000 unemployed (a 2.2% unemployment rate).

OTHER ARTISTS

This heterogeneous group of artists not classified elsewhere in the survey (which includes such varied professions as animators, comics, puppeteers, and translators) had a labor force of 83,000, up 15.3% from 72,000 in 1988. The number employed in this category rose 14.1% since 1988 (71,000 to 81,000) and the number of unemployed increased from 1,000 to 2,000, causing a rise in the unemployment rate from 2.1% to 2.3%. Since 1983, this category has grown 25.8% (66,000 to 83,000) and the number of unemployed has dropped 60% (5,000 to 2,000). This is reflected in a 67.6% reduction in the unemployment rate (7.1% to 2.4%).

CAVEATS: This Research Division Note is the seventh of an annual series utilizing the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) put into effect in the Current Population Survey in 1983. The changes in the occupational classification system improved the consistency in measuring employment in the artist occupational groups. Caution should be used when comparing these data with pre-1983 data.

Research Division Reports and Notes of related interest:

Reports

- #1 Employment and Unemployment of Artists: 1970-1975
- #16 Artist Employment and Unemployment: 1971-1980

Notes

- #2 Artist Employment in 1982
- #7 Artist Employment in 1983
- #11 Artist Employment in 1984
- #15 Artist Employment in 1985
- #22 Artist Employment in 1986
- #29 Artist Employment in 1987
- #31 Artist Employment in 1988

A Sourcebook of Arts Statistics: 1989

Table 1. Artist Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment, 1983-89

Occupation	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983
Total, All Civilian Workers	123,869,000	121,669,000	119,865,000	117,834,000	115,462,000	113,544,000	111,550,000
Employed	117,342,000	114,968,000	112,440,000	109,597,000	107,150,000	105,005,000	100,834,000
Unemployed	6,528,000	6,701,000	7,425,000	8,237,000	8,312,000	8,539,000	10,717,000
Unemployment rate	5.3%	5.5%	6.2%	7.0%	7.2%	7.5%	9.6%
Professional Specialty	15,815,000	15,249,000	14,726,000	14,228,000	13,946,000	13,629,000	13,219,000
Occupation	15,815,000	15,249,000	14,726,000	14,228,000	13,946,000	13,629,000	13,219,000
Employed	15,550,000	14,974,000	14,426,000	13,911,000	13,630,000	13,286,000	12,820,000
Unemployed	265,000	266,000	300,000	317,000	316,000	343,000	399,000
Unemployment rate	1.7%	1.7%	2.0%	2.2%	2.3%	2.5%	3.0%
All Artists	1,617,000	1,557,000	1,558,000	1,500,000	1,482,000	1,418,000	1,301,000
Occupation	1,617,000	1,557,000	1,558,000	1,500,000	1,482,000	1,418,000	1,301,000
Employed	1,571,000	1,505,000	1,503,000	1,439,000	1,411,000	1,351,000	1,223,000
Unemployed	46,000	52,000	55,000	61,000	71,000	67,000	78,000
Unemployment rate	2.8%	2.9%	3.5%	4.1%	5.0%	4.7%	6.0%
Actors and Directors	107,000	112,000	98,000	93,000	91,000	78,000	71,000
Occupation	107,000	112,000	98,000	93,000	91,000	78,000	71,000
Employed	96,000	100,000	88,000	86,000	77,000	68,000	60,000
Unemployed	11,000	12,000	10,000	7,000	14,000	10,000	11,000
Unemployment rate	10.4%	10.6%	9.8%	7.7%	15.4%	13.3%	15.7%
Announcers	53,000	56,000	62,000	58,000	54,000	59,000	41,000
Occupation	53,000	56,000	62,000	58,000	54,000	59,000	41,000
Employed	51,000	52,000	59,000	55,000	51,000	55,000	38,000
Unemployed	2,000	4,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	4,000	3,000
Unemployment rate	2.9%	6.4%	4.7%	5.9%	5.3%	6.2%	6.7%
Architects	161,000	145,000	136,000	135,000	133,000	109,000	108,000
Occupation	161,000	145,000	136,000	135,000	133,000	109,000	108,000
Employed	157,000	143,000	135,000	132,000	130,000	107,000	105,000
Unemployed	4,000	2,000	1,000	3,000	3,000	2,000	3,000
Unemployment rate	2.4%	1.2%	1.0%	1.9%	2.2%	1.8%	4.3%
Authors	83,000	83,000	86,000	77,000	71,000	72,000	64,000
Occupation	83,000	83,000	86,000	77,000	71,000	72,000	64,000
Employed	82,000	82,000	85,000	75,000	70,000	71,000	62,000
Unemployed	1,000	1,000	1,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	2,000
Unemployment rate	1.4%	.9%	.8%	2.6%	1.4%	1.4%	2.5%
Dancers	17,000	17,000	16,000	18,000	17,000	14,000	12,000
Occupation	17,000	17,000	16,000	18,000	17,000	14,000	12,000
Employed	14,000	16,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	12,000	10,000
Unemployed	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Unemployment rate	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Designers	548,000	525,000	546,000	504,000	504,000	466,000	415,000
Occupation	548,000	525,000	546,000	504,000	504,000	466,000	415,000
Employed	534,000	510,000	531,000	484,000	484,000	448,000	393,000
Unemployed	14,000	15,000	15,000	20,000	20,000	18,000	22,000
Unemployment rate	2.5%	2.8%	2.7%	4.0%	3.9%	3.9%	5.2%
Musicians/Composers	174,000	158,000	177,000	171,000	163,000	174,000	170,000
Occupation	174,000	158,000	177,000	171,000	163,000	174,000	170,000
Employed	170,000	151,000	169,000	164,000	152,000	161,000	155,000
Unemployed	4,000	7,000	8,000	7,000	11,000	13,000	15,000
Unemployment rate	2.4%	4.6%	4.7%	3.9%	6.5%	7.3%	8.6%
Painters/Sculptors/ Craft Artists/and Artist Printmakers	232,000	219,000	198,000	194,000	207,000	220,000	192,000
Occupation	232,000	219,000	198,000	194,000	207,000	220,000	192,000
Employed	229,000	215,000	191,000	189,000	200,000	212,000	186,000
Unemployed	3,000	4,000	7,000	5,000	7,000	8,000	6,000
Unemployment rate	1.3%	2.0%	3.4%	2.7%	3.2%	3.5%	3.3%
Photographers	114,000	121,000	131,000	131,000	134,000	128,000	119,000
Occupation	114,000	121,000	131,000	131,000	134,000	128,000	119,000
Employed	112,000	117,000	126,000	127,000	129,000	123,000	113,000
Unemployed	2,000	4,000	5,000	4,000	5,000	5,000	6,000
Unemployment rate	1.9%	3.6%	4.0%	2.7%	3.5%	3.9%	5.0%
Teachers of Art, Drama, and Music (higher ed.)	45,000	49,000	41,000	43,000	42,000	41,000	43,000
Occupation	45,000	49,000	41,000	43,000	42,000	41,000	43,000
Employed	45,000	48,000	40,000	42,000	41,000	40,000	42,000
Unemployed	***	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Unemployment rate	0.7%	2.7%	2.6%	1.9%	2.4%	2.4%	2.2%
Other Artists**	83,000	72,000	67,000	76,000	66,000	57,000	66,000
Occupation	83,000	72,000	67,000	76,000	66,000	57,000	66,000
Employed	81,000	71,000	64,000	70,000	62,000	54,000	61,000
Unemployed	2,000	1,000	3,000	6,000	4,000	3,000	5,000
Unemployment rate	2.3%	2.1%	4.5%	7.8%	5.6%	5.8%	7.1%

* Data base is too small for reliable estimate
 ** Not elsewhere classified
 *** Less than 1,000

Note: 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.

Because these labor force statistics are based on a sample survey, they are subject to sampling errors. Relatively small changes in employment and unemployment in the smaller artist occupations are often not statistically significant. For a more detailed discussion, see Research Division Report #16, Artists Employment and Unemployment 1971-1980, Appendix B, "Reliability of Current Population Survey (CPS) Statistics."

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 2. Trends in Artist Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment, 1983-1989

Occupation	Change, 1988-1989		Change, 1983-1989	
	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage
<u>Total, All Civilian Workers</u>	+2,200,000	+1.8	+11,570,000	+10.4
Employed	+2,374,000	+2.1	+16,508,000	+16.4
Unemployed	-173,000	-25.8	-4,939,000	-46.1
Unemployment rate	-0.2%	-3.6	-4.9%	-51.0
<u>Professional Speciality</u>				
<u>Occupation</u>	+566,000	+3.7	+2,596,000	+19.6
Employed	+576,000	+3.9	+2,730,000	+21.3
Unemployed	-1,000	-0.4	-134,000	-33.6
Unemployment rate	0%	0	-1.3%	-43.3
<u>All Artists</u>	+60,000	+3.9	+316,000	+24.3
Employed	+66,000	+4.4	+348,000	+28.5
Unemployed	-6,000	-11.5	-32,000	-41.0
Unemployment rate	-0.1%	-3.5	-3.2%	-33.3
<u>Actors and Directors</u>				
Employed	-5,000	-4.5	+36,000	+50.7
Unemployed	-4,000	-4.0	+36,000	+50.0
Unemployed	-1,000	-8.3	0	0
Unemployment rate	-0.2%	-1.2	-5.3%	-33.8
<u>Announcers</u>				
Employed	-3,000	-5.4	+12,000	+29.3
Unemployed	-1,000	-1.9	+13,000	+34.2
Unemployed	-2,000	-50.0	-1,000	-33.3
Unemployment rate	-3.5%	+54.7	-3.8%	-56.7
<u>Architects</u>				
Employed	+16,000	+11.0	+53,000	+49.1
Unemployed	+14,000	+9.8	+54,000	+52.4
Unemployed	+2,000	+100.0	-1,000	-20.0
Unemployment rate	+1.2%	+100.0	-1.9%	-44.2
<u>Authors</u>				
Employed	0	0	+19,000	+29.7
Unemployed	0	0	+20,000	+32.3
Unemployed	0	0	-1,000	-50.0
Unemployment rate	-0.5%	+55.6	-1.1%	-44.0
<u>Dancers</u>				
Employed	0	0	+5,000	+41.7
Unemployed	-2,000	-12.5	+4,000	+40.0
Unemployed	*	*	*	*
Unemployment rate	*	*	*	*
<u>Designers</u>				
Employed	+23,000	+4.4	+133,000	+32.1
Unemployed	+24,000	+4.7	+141,000	+35.9
Unemployed	-1,000	-6.7	-8,000	-36.4
Unemployment rate	-0.3%	-10.7	-2.7%	-51.9
<u>Musicians/Composers</u>				
Employed	+16,000	+10.1	+4,000	+2.4
Unemployed	+19,000	+12.6	+15,000	+9.7
Unemployed	-3,000	-42.9	-11,000	-73.3
Unemployment rate	-2.2%	-47.8	-6.2%	-72.1
<u>Painters/Sculptors/ Craft Artists/and Artist Printmakers</u>				
Employed	+13,000	+5.9	+40,000	+20.8
Unemployed	+14,000	+6.5	+43,000	+23.1
Unemployed	-1,000	-25.0	-3,000	-50.0
Unemployment rate	-0.7%	-35.0	-2.0%	-60.6
<u>Photographers</u>				
Employed	-7,000	-5.8	-5,000	-4.2
Unemployed	-5,000	-4.3	-1,000	-0.9
Unemployed	-2,000	-50.0	-4,000	-66.7
Unemployment rate	-1.7%	-47.2	-3.1%	-66.7
<u>Teachers of Art, Drama, and Music (higher ed.)</u>				
Employed	-4,000	-8.2	+2,000	+4.7
Unemployed	-3,000	-6.3	+3,000	+7.1
Unemployed	*	*	*	*
Unemployment rate	-2.0%	-74.1	-1.5%	-68.2
<u>Other Artists**</u>				
Employed	+11,000	+15.3	+17,000	+25.8
Unemployed	+10,000	+14.1	+20,000	+32.8
Unemployed	+1,000	+100.0	-3,000	-60.0
Unemployment rate	+0.2%	+9.5	-4.8%	-67.6

* Data base is too small for reliable estimate

** Not elsewhere classified

See note at bottom of Table 1.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.