



Research Division Note #7 - March 15, 1984

ARTIST EMPLOYMENT IN 1983

REVISED OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM NOW IN USE

1,233,000 artists were employed in 1983, an increase of 168,000 from 1982, according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in January 1984. This large increase is consistent with the general improvement of employment in 1983, a recovery year from the major recession that troughed in November 1982.

The overall artist unemployment rate declined from 6.6% in 1982 to 6.0% in 1983. While the 1982 to 1983 comparison is reasonably good for all artists combined, it is not satisfactory for certain of the individual artist occupations because of the use of the new system of occupational classifications.

The new system was first used with the 1980 decennial Census. Its use in connection with the Current Population Survey, which is the basis for the BLS data, was initiated in 1983. The changes are very important, particularly in the case of Actors; Designers; Painters/Sculptors; and Other Artists not elsewhere classified. For these four groups, the changes are of such importance that comparisons should not be made without substantial adjustments.

The work of developing the new classification system took place during the mid-1970s and was managed by the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards of the Office of Management and Budget. Many agencies in the government, including the Arts Endowment, as well as private sector persons and organizations provided comments and suggestions that were considered in making the revisions.

The changes improve the consistency and accuracy of the artist occupation groups. Future comparisons will be much more useful and precise as a result. However, there is a loss of comparability with the older data series.

Actors - This group has been retitled and is now called Actors and Directors. The new category includes nearly three times as many persons as it did in 1982. The additions are largely in occupations associated with directing and producing. The new group is a very broad assembly of individuals associated with the production and performance of dramatic works for stage, motion pictures and the broadcasting media (except dancers and musicians).

Architects - About 89% of the persons in the architects group in 1982 remain in the group in 1983. The individuals transferred out of this category are primarily concerned with naval architecture. The transfers into the category are individuals closely allied with typical work of architecture concerning buildings and landscape architecture.

Authors - The authors group had very few changes. The 1982 and 1983 data can be considered to be directly comparable. They show a decline in the author labor force of 7,000 individuals from 1982. The 1983 employment rate of 2.5% is a decrease of .7% from the preceding year.

Dancers - There were very few changes in the dancers classification between the old and new systems. The 1982 and 1983 BLS data can be considered directly comparable; however, there are too few dancers in the sample for good reliability.

Designers - The designers group had major classification changes. Many additions have been brought into this category, including 33.2% who were previously grouped with decorators and window dressers. As a result, the size of this group has been expanded between 1982 and 1983.

Musicians/Composers - Few changes were made for this group in the revisions to the system. The 1982 and 1983 data can be considered to be comparable. The data for these two years shows an increase in the total labor force of 10,000 individuals and an increase of employed musicians/composers of 6,000. However, the unemployment rate increased from 7.2% in 1982 to 8.6% in 1983.

Painters/Sculptors - This group has undergone a major change and the group name is now Painters, Sculptors, Craft-Artists and Artist Print-makers. A substantial number of persons in the former painters/sculptors group were transferred elsewhere with the largest number of transfers going to the designer group. Most of the persons in the new group were in the old group. The remaining small fraction are sculptors added into this group from their previous location in the industrial occupation category of stone cutters and stone carvers. The new group is a much better representation of creative visual artists than it was before.

Photographers - Few changes were made in the classification system for this group. Video cameramen are one of the additions.

Radio/TV Announcers - All of the persons previously in this occupational group remain in the new classification system, but an additional 10% were added who were formerly included with Other Artists not elsewhere classified.

Teachers - Teachers of art, drama and music in higher education, who were formerly in this occupational group, all remain. In addition, another 10% have been added who were formerly coded as miscellaneous teachers in higher education.

Other Artists - This miscellaneous occupational group of artists not elsewhere classified has been considerably reduced in number as a result of transfers to other occupational groups.

Artist Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment Compared for Old and Revised Occupation Classification Systems, 1980-1983

<u>Occupation Titles</u>		<u>Revised Occupations</u>		<u>Old Occupations</u>		
<u>Old Title</u>	<u>Revised Title</u>	<u>CPS</u> <u>1983</u>	<u>Census</u> <u>1980</u>	<u>CPS</u> <u>1982</u>	<u>CPS</u> <u>1981</u>	<u>CPS</u> <u>1980</u>
<u>All Artists*</u>	<u>No change</u>	<u>1,301,000</u>	<u>1,083,820</u>	<u>1,129,000</u>	<u>1,120,000</u>	<u>1,020,000</u>
	Employed	1,223,000	1,024,540	1,055,000	1,062,000	978,000
	Unemployed	78,000	59,280	74,000	58,000	42,000
	Unemployment rate	6.0%	5.5%	6.6%	5.2%	4.1%
<u>Actors</u>	<u>Actors and Directors</u>	<u>71,000</u>	<u>67,660</u>	<u>37,000</u>	<u>34,000</u>	<u>23,000</u>
	Employed	60,000	57,420	23,000	25,000	15,000
	Unemployed	11,000	10,240	14,000	9,000	8,000
	Unemployment rate	15.7%	15.1%	37.3%	26.9%	35.4%
<u>Architects</u>	<u>No change</u>	<u>108,000</u>	<u>108,540</u>	<u>98,000</u>	<u>95,000</u>	<u>92,000</u>
	Employed	103,000	105,820	94,000	91,000	90,000
	Unemployed	5,000	2,720	4,000	2,000	2,000
	Unemployment rate	4.3%	2.5%	4.3%	2.2%	1.7%
<u>Authors</u>	<u>No change</u>	<u>64,000</u>	<u>45,900</u>	<u>71,000</u>	<u>74,000</u>	<u>71,000</u>
	Employed	62,000	44,440	69,000	72,000	70,000
	Unemployed	2,000	1,460	2,000	2,000	1,000
	Unemployment rate	2.5%	3.2%	3.2%	2.2%	1.9%
<u>Dancers</u>	<u>No change</u>	<u>12,000</u>	<u>13,060</u>	<u>18,000</u>	<u>16,000</u>	<u>12,000</u>
	Employed	10,000	11,660	17,000	15,000	10,000
	Unemployed	**	1,400	**	**	**
	Unemployment rate	**	10.7%	**	**	**
<u>Designers</u>	<u>No change</u>	<u>415,000</u>	<u>338,620</u>	<u>233,000</u>	<u>226,000</u>	<u>198,000</u>
	Employed	393,000	324,940	221,000	218,000	193,000
	Unemployed	22,000	13,680	12,000	8,000	5,000
	Unemployment rate	5.2%	4.0%	5.2%	3.4%	2.6%

Continued

<u>Occupation Titles</u>		<u>Revised Occupations</u>		<u>Old Occupations</u>		
<u>Old Title</u>	<u>Revised Title</u>	<u>CPS 1983</u>	<u>Census 1980</u>	<u>CPS 1982</u>	<u>CPS 1981</u>	<u>CPS 1980</u>
<u>Musicians/Composers</u>	<u>No change</u>	<u>170,000</u>	<u>137,420</u>	<u>160,000</u>	<u>160,000</u>	<u>153,000</u>
Employed		155,000	126,000	149,000	145,000	143,000
Unemployed		15,000	11,300	11,000	15,000	10,000
Unemployment rate		8.6%	8.3%	7.2%	9.6%	6.2%
<u>Painters/Sculptors</u>	<u>Painters, Sculptors, Craft- Artists and Artist Printmakers</u>	<u>192,000</u>	<u>151,360</u>	<u>219,000</u>	<u>220,000</u>	<u>199,000</u>
Employed		186,000	144,420	208,000	211,000	195,000
Unemployed		6,000	6,940	11,000	9,000	4,000
Unemployment rate		3.3%	4.6%	4.9%	4.0%	2.2%
<u>Photographers</u>	<u>No change</u>	<u>119,000</u>	<u>95,940</u>	<u>102,000</u>	<u>106,000</u>	<u>114,000</u>
Employed		113,000	91,240	96,000	101,000	111,000
Unemployed		6,000	4,700	6,000	5,000	3,000
Unemployment rate		5.0%	4.9%	5.4%	4.6%	2.8%
<u>Radio/TV Announcers</u>	<u>Announcers</u>	<u>41,000</u>	<u>45,360</u>	<u>26,000</u>	<u>27,000</u>	<u>19,000</u>
Employed		38,000	43,000	24,000	25,000	19,000
Unemployed		3,000	2,300	2,000	2,000	**
Unemployment rate		6.7%	5.2%	6.7%	5.6%	**
<u>Teachers (higher ed.)***</u>	<u>No change</u>	<u>43,000</u>	<u>29,140</u>	<u>38,000</u>	<u>46,000</u>	<u>37,000</u>
Employed		42,000	28,660	37,000	45,000	36,000
Unemployed		1,000	480	1,000	1,000	1,000
Unemployment rate		2.2%	1.6%	2.3%	1.9%	2.5%
<u>Other Artists</u>	<u>No change</u>	<u>66,000</u>	<u>50,820</u>	<u>127,000</u>	<u>116,000</u>	<u>102,000</u>
Employed		61,000	46,880	117,000	112,000	96,000
Unemployed		5,000	3,940	10,000	4,000	6,000
Unemployment rate		7.1%	7.7%	7.9%	3.6%	6.0%

* All Artists is the total of all of the occupations that follow. It is a special group selected by the Research Division and not a Bureau of the Census category.

** Data base is too small for estimate.

*** Art, drama and music.

Note: CPS refers to the Current Population Survey conducted by the Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics

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