



Research Division Note #11 - March 5, 1985

#### ARTIST EMPLOYMENT IN 1984

1,351,000 artists were employed in 1984, an increase of 128,000 from 1983, according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in January 1985. The unemployment rate for all artists decreased from 6.0 percent in 1983 to 4.7 percent in 1984. In a number of occupations, such as actors/directors, announcers, authors, and designers, the unemployment rate declines were accompanied by large labor force increases.

The data presented in this Research Division Note on artist employment trends is the first year-to-year comparison available from the Bureau of Labor Statistics that employs the new Occupational Classification System put into effect in 1983. The changes improve the consistency and accuracy of the artist occupational groups. The comparisons in this note are much more precise as a result. However, considerable care should be used in comparing these data with prior year data about the artist occupations in Research Division Reports and Notes.

The number of persons in the artist labor force increased 9 percent, in comparison with the Professional Speciality Occupations which increased only 3.1 percent and with all civilian workers which increased only 1.8 percent. Employed artists increased by 10.5 percent, while in Professional Speciality Occupations and among all civilian workers the numbers of employed persons increased 3.6 percent and 4.1 percent respectively.

Unemployed artists declined 14.1 percent compared with declines of 14 percent for Professional Speciality Occupations and of 20.3 percent for all civilian workers. Clearly, the decline in the unemployment rate for artists was mainly the result of a large number of new jobs in artist occupations being filled. The other two comparison groups also experienced declines in their unemployment rates, but these were a result of unemployment declines and much less to new jobs becoming available.

Actors and Directors - The unemployment rate for actors and directors declined from 15.7 percent in 1983 to 13.3 percent in 1984. Employment increased from 60,000 to 68,000 in the same time period.

Architects - The unemployment rate for architects decreased from 4.3 percent in 1983 to 1.0 percent in 1984. Unlike most other artist occupations, the labor force increase for architects from 1983 to 1984 was relatively small but the decline in unemployment was substantial.

Authors - The number in the authors labor force rose by 8,000 for the period 1983 to 1984, and the unemployment rate for authors dropped to 1.5 percent, the lowest rate for any artist group.

Dancers - The sampling error is large for dancers because of the small size of this occupational group. Reliable year-to-year comparisons of unemployment are not possible. It does appear, however, that employment is rising in this occupation.

Designers - There was a 51,000 person increase in the designers labor force from the year 1983 to 1984. Even so, the unemployment rate decreased from 5.2 percent to 3.9 percent. The designers occupation group continues to show the strong growth that characterized this occupation for many years.

Musicians/Composers - The unemployment rate for musicians/composers declined from 8.6 percent in 1983 to 7.3 percent in 1984. However, their 1984 labor force of 174,000 persons was only 4,000 higher than it was in 1983.

Painters, Sculptors, Craft-artists and Artist Printmakers - This is the only artist occupation that had a higher unemployment rate in 1984 than in 1983. The rate for this group rose from 3.3 percent to 3.5 percent. The change was not substantial and may reflect the large increase of 28,000 in the labor force over the year. 26,000 more artists found employment in this occupation in 1984, bringing the total employed to 212,000.

Photographers - The unemployment rate of photographers was 3.9 percent in 1984, down from 5.0 percent in 1983. The number of employed photographers rose substantially from 113,00 in 1983 to 123,000 in 1984.

Teachers of Art, Drama and Music (higher ed.) - The teaching field was the only sector (other than the remainder group of "other artists") where there was a decline in the labor force for the period 1983 to 1984. There were 41,000 teachers in 1984 compared with 43,000 teachers in 1983.

CAVEATS: A summary of the revised Occupational Classification System may be found in Research Division Note #7, "Artist Employment in 1983: Revised Classification System Now In Use," March 15, 1984. A more detailed discussion of the changes and their impacts on the data for each of the artist occupation groups may be found in Bradshaw, Tom, "An Examination of the Comparability of 1970 and 1980 Census Statistics on Artists," The Economics of Cultural Industries, Proceedings of the Third International Conference on Cultural Economics and Planning, Volume 1, Association for Cultural Economics, April 25-28, 1984, University of Akron, 1984. The latter paper is specifically concerned with changes in the Occupational Classification System as used in the 1980 Census in comparison with the 1970 Census. However, much of the information in the paper about the effects of the revised occupational system is also applicable to comparisons of the Bureau of Labor Statistics occupational data for years prior to 1983.

Artist Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment  
1984 and 1983

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>Change 1983-84</u>
<u>Total, All Civilian Workers</u>	<u>113,544,000</u>	<u>111,550,000</u>	<u>+1,994,000</u>
Employed	105,005,000	100,834,000	+4,171,000
Unemployed	8,539,000	10,717,000	-2,178,000
Unemployment Rate	7.5%	9.5%	-2.0%
<u>Professional Speciality Occupations</u>	<u>13,629,000</u>	<u>13,219,000</u>	<u>+410,000</u>
Employed	13,286,000	12,820,000	+466,000
Unemployed	343,000	399,000	-56,000
Unemployment Rate	2.5%	3.0%	-.5%
<u>All Artists</u>	<u>1,418,000</u>	<u>1,301,000</u>	<u>+117,000</u>
Employed	1,351,000	1,223,000	+128,000
Unemployed	67,000	78,000	-11,000
Unemployment Rate	4.7%	6.0%	-1.3%
<u>Actors and Directors</u>	<u>78,000</u>	<u>71,000</u>	<u>+7,000</u>
Employed	68,000	60,000	+8,000
Unemployed	10,000	11,000	-1,000
Unemployment Rate	13.3%	15.7%	-2.4%
<u>Announcers</u>	<u>59,000</u>	<u>41,000</u>	<u>+18,000</u>
Employed	55,000	38,000	+17,000
Unemployed	4,000	3,000	+1,000
Unemployment Rate	6.2%	6.7%	-.5%
<u>Architects</u>	<u>109,000</u>	<u>108,000</u>	<u>+1,000</u>
Employed	107,000	103,000	+4,000
Unemployed	2,000	5,000	-3,000
Unemployment Rate	1.8%	4.3%	-2.5%
<u>Authors</u>	<u>72,000</u>	<u>64,000</u>	<u>+8,000</u>
Employed	71,000	62,000	+9,000
Unemployed	1,000	2,000	-1,000
Unemployment Rate	1.5%	2.5%	-1.0%
<u>Dancers</u>	<u>14,000</u>	<u>12,000</u>	<u>+2,000</u>
Employed	12,000	10,000	+2,000
Unemployed	*	*	*
Unemployment Rate	*	*	*
<u>Designers</u>	<u>466,000</u>	<u>415,000</u>	<u>+51,000</u>
Employed	448,000	393,000	+55,000
Unemployed	18,000	22,000	-4,000
Unemployment Rate	3.9%	5.2%	-1.3%
<u>Musicians/Composers</u>	<u>174,000</u>	<u>170,000</u>	<u>+4,000</u>
Employed	161,000	155,000	+6,000
Unemployed	13,000	15,000	-2,000
Unemployment Rate	7.3%	8.6%	-1.3%
<u>Painters, Sculptors, Craft Artists, and Artist Printmakers</u>	<u>220,000</u>	<u>192,000</u>	<u>+28,000</u>
Employed	212,000	186,000	+26,000
Unemployed	8,000	6,000	+2,000
Unemployment Rate	3.5%	3.3%	+.2%
<u>Photographers</u>	<u>128,000</u>	<u>119,000</u>	<u>+9,000</u>
Employed	123,000	113,000	+10,000
Unemployed	5,000	6,000	-1,000
Unemployment Rate	3.9%	5.0%	-1.1%
<u>Teachers of Art, Drama, and Music (higher ed.)</u>	<u>41,000</u>	<u>43,000</u>	<u>-2,000</u>
Employed	40,000	42,000	-2,000
Unemployed	1,000	1,000	0
Unemployment Rate	2.0%	2.2%	-.2%
<u>Other Artists**</u>	<u>57,000</u>	<u>66,000</u>	<u>-9,000</u>
Employed	54,000	61,000	-7,000
Unemployed	3,000	5,000	-2,000
Unemployment Rate	5.8%	7.1%	-1.3%

\* Data base is too small for estimate  
\*\*Not elsewhere classified

Source: Unpublished data provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Comparison of 1983 to 1984 Changes

All Artists, Professional Speciality Occupations, and Civilian Workers

	<u>Labor Force</u>	<u>Employed</u>	<u>Unemployed</u>
All Artists	+9.0%	+10.5%	-14.1%
Professional Speciality Occupations	+3.1%	+ 3.6%	-14.0%
All Civilian Workers	+1.8%	+ 4.1%	-20.3%

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