

ACPSA Issue Brief #7: Trends in U.S. Arts Education

As a commodity, "education services" is among the most valuable within the U.S. arts and cultural economy. In 2012, production of arts education services totaled \$106.3 billion, an amount equal to 9.4 percent of all arts and cultural production in that year.

The ACPSA shows that the value of this commodity, though considerable, has been in steady decline. In 2003, for example, the production of arts education was 0.98 percent of U.S. GDP. By 2012, it had declined to 0.66 percent.

Because government, as an industry, is the largest producer of arts education, the declines likely reflect cutbacks in K-12 spending on the arts—a situation no doubt worsened by the severe U.S. economic recession of 2007-2009.

Arts Education Services by Industry

Arts and cultural educational services are of two types: (1) services offered by fine arts schools, which includes non-academic dance, music, and drama schools; and (2) "other education services," which refers to visual and performing arts education provided by primary and secondary schools and by colleges and universities.¹

In 2012, fine arts education, as a commodity, was valued at \$5.4 billion. Fine arts education is provided entirely by the industry of the same name—fine arts schools offering classes in dance, music, and drama, and related categories.

The much larger "other education" was valued at \$100.9 billion in 2012, and is produced primarily by government (federal, state, and local), and secondarily by the industry with the same name. As an *industry*, education services refers to non-government/private primary and secondary schools and colleges and universities.

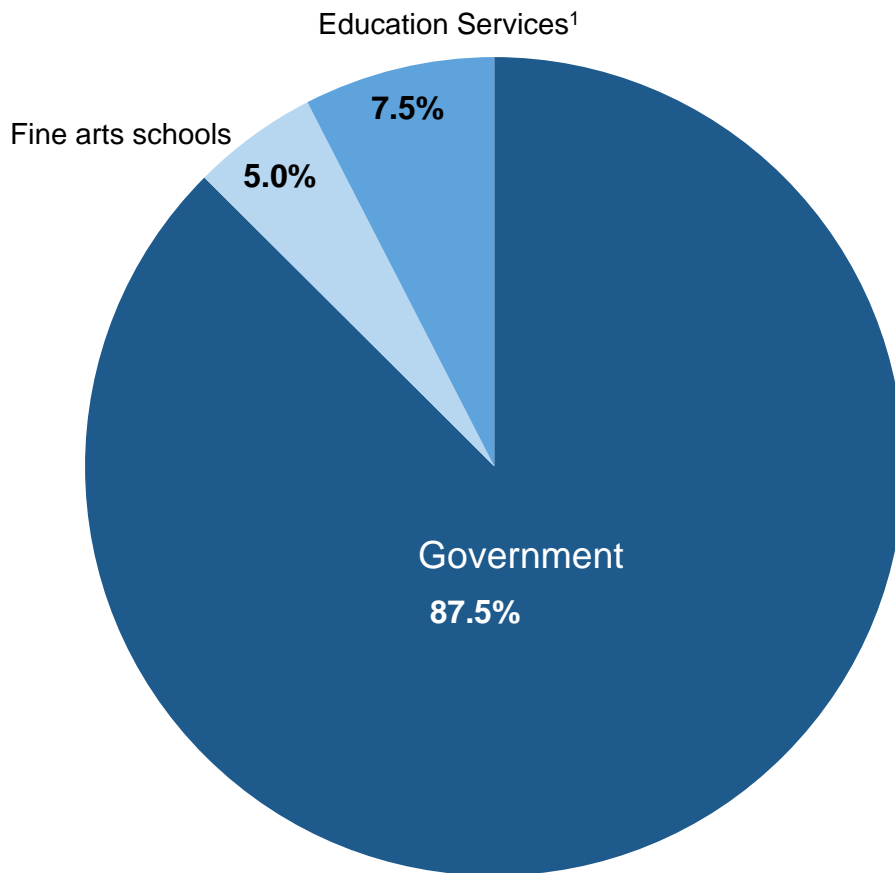
In 2012, government, as an industry, produced \$92.9 billion of other education services; private schools, \$8.0 billion.

¹ Although not identified as a commodity in the BEA accounts, "other education services" can also include productions by college and university performing arts centers.

Arts Education Services: 1998-2012			
(in millions)			
	Fine arts education	Other arts education (K-12, college/university fine and performing arts)	Total ACPSA arts education
1998	\$2,039	\$77,398	\$79,437
1999	\$2,259	\$83,795	\$86,054
2000	\$2,592	\$91,785	\$94,377
2001	\$2,853	\$99,908	\$102,761
2002	\$2,701	\$105,174	\$107,875
2003	\$2,901	\$103,306	\$106,207
2004	\$3,118	\$101,893	\$105,011
2005	\$3,471	\$98,734	\$102,205
2006	\$3,851	\$96,051	\$99,902
2007	\$4,313	\$90,894	\$95,207
2008	\$4,900	\$97,692	\$102,592
2009	\$4,657	\$98,057	\$102,714
2010	\$5,052	\$98,856	\$103,908
2011	\$5,190	\$99,202	\$104,392
2012	\$5,396	\$100,914	\$106,310

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

By Industry: Percent of Arts Education Services Provided, 2012



¹ Non-government/private primary and secondary schools and colleges and universities.
Source: Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account (ACPSA), U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Declining Arts Education

As noted earlier, although education services is among the most valuable of ACPSA commodities, as a share of U.S. GDP it has ebbed over the past decade. To illustrate, in 1998, ACPSA education services was 0.87 percent of GDP. That share rose to nearly 0.92 percent in 2000, and reached 0.98 percent in 2002.

In 2003, however, arts education services retreated to 0.92 percent of GDP, and fell steadily in the remaining years. In 2006, it was 0.72 percent, and it continued its downward trend to 0.66 percent of U.S. GDP in 2012.

BEA analysis shows that more than 60 percent of education services is composed of primary and secondary education (while the remaining 40 percent is college and university). Again, given that government is the primary provider of arts education, the downward trend observed likely reflects reductions in public K-12 expenditures on the arts. Moreover, those cutbacks likely deepened in response to the severe U.S. economic recession of 2007-2009.

