

State Locations of Artists, by Race and Ethnicity: 2015-2019

Background

This research brief is based on “special tabulations” from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey for 2015 through 2019. For 13 specific artist occupations, including a combined category of “all artists,” the data enumerate workers by race and ethnicity.¹

Two other research briefs are being released simultaneously with this one: a national overview of artists in the workforce, with a focus on demographic and economic differences before the COVID-19 pandemic; and, covering the same time period, an analysis of demographic disparities among manager occupations in the arts. This trio of reports is intended to support a broader movement among arts and cultural funders and organizations to examine issues of access and equity within the larger sector. To this end, the trio stands on a key plank of the NEA’s five-year agenda: to monitor the state of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in the arts.

This research brief (and accompanying maps) highlight, by race and Hispanic origins, state-level concentrations of artists in the following occupations: architects; fine artists, art directors, and animators; designers; actors; producers and directors; dancers and choreographers; musicians; entertainers; announcers; writers and authors; and photographers.

Summary

- 1) Architects of different races and of Hispanic origin were heavily concentrated in **Massachusetts**.
 - Black or African American architects occupied a 61 percent greater share of the state’s Black labor force than they did the share of Black workers nationwide.
- 2) **Maine and Vermont** were home to large concentrations of fine artists, art directors, and animators.
 - Visual artists who were Native American or who belonged to races other than Black, white, or Asian, clustered in Maine.
- 3) Partly owing to the prominence of advertising and publishing in **New York’s** economy, writers and authors clustered within the state at twice the rate than they did in the nation’s workforce.
 - As with many other artist occupations in New York, relatively high numbers of non-white and Hispanic writers/authors concentrate in this state.

¹ State-level data tables accompanying this research brief are included as part of this [ADP](#). The full set of ACS special tabulations on artists, which include state-level data as well as data for the 25 largest (by population) metropolitan areas, by race and by gender, are available (free of charge) from the [National Archive of Data on Arts & Culture \(NADAC\)](#).

- 4) **Kansas** was home to clusters of Hispanic and African American writers and authors.
 - African American writers and authors composed an 87 percent greater share of the state’s Black labor force than they did the share of Black workers nationwide.
 - Hispanic writers/authors (as a share of the Kansas’s Hispanic labor force) exceeded the national share by 49 percent.
- 5) Motion picture and video production was a leading contributor to the arts economies in **Georgia and Louisiana**. Consequently, there were high concentrations of actors in both states.
 - In 2015-2019, Georgia and Louisiana were home to 2,465 and 1,130 actors, respectively.
 - Hispanic, Black or African American, and Asian actors, as well as actors of “other races” (such as American Indian and Native Alaskan) were concentrated in Georgia.
- 6) While the Hispanic labor force was relatively large in **Texas** (5.2 million workers), Hispanic *artists* did not concentrate at high levels in the state.
 - Hispanic artists occupied a 20 percent lower share of the Hispanic labor force in Texas than they did the share of Hispanic workers nationwide.
 - Although not as large as a share of Texas’ Hispanic workforce overall, there were, nonetheless, 37,725 Hispanic artists in the state in 2015-2019.
- 7) **Florida** was also home to a large Hispanic labor force (2.8 million workers). Unlike the case for Texas, however, Hispanic artists *did* concentrate in Florida.
 - Hispanic architects, fine artists/art directors/animators, and photographers were the main artist types that clustered in Florida.
- 8) The greatest concentration of musicians nationwide was found in **Tennessee**.
 - This was true of musicians of all races except Asian, and of musicians of Hispanic background.
- 9) **Utah** and **New Mexico** were each home to well over 2,000 fine artists, art directors, and animators, while **Montana** had nearly 1,000 workers in these visual arts occupations.
 - As a share of New Mexico’s labor force, this number of visual artists was 78 percent greater than the national share.
 - In Utah and Montana, this count was roughly 30 percent greater than the national share.
- 10) There were more artists in **California** than in any other state—over 445,000 in 2015-2019.
 - Even after adjusting for the size of California’s labor force (19.9 million), ACS data show that California is home to large concentrations of artists.
 - California’s primacy in the motion picture and video production industry parallels the state’s large concentrations of actors and producers/directors, of all races and of Hispanic origins.
 - As a share of California’s labor force, the number of African American actors was 7 times greater than the national share.

Regional Distribution of U.S. Artists, by Occupation and Race/Ethnicity

Each section here describes artist workforce characteristics of a specific U.S. region.² It begins with counts of artists (given in parentheses for each state populating the region), before discussing the concentration of artist occupations in those states, and the racial/ethnic make-up of those artist groups.

For the discussion of how artists cluster in different states, by occupation and by race/ethnicity, this brief relies on location quotients (LQ). A LQ measures the concentration of a particular occupation within a state's labor force, relative to that occupation's concentration in the U.S. labor force.

For example, a LQ of 1.2 indicates that the occupation clusters in a state at a level *20 percent greater* than within the nation's workforce at large. A LQ of 0.8 indicates that the occupation clusters in a state at a level *20 percent below* the occupation's concentration in the U.S. labor force.

As for the racial or ethnic categories used in this brief, they align with those reported in the Census Bureau's special tabulations. The categories include: Hispanic (of any race); white, alone, not Hispanic; Black or African American, alone, not Hispanic; Asian, alone, not Hispanic; and other races.

"Other races" designate the following types: American Indian or Alaskan native, alone, not Hispanic; native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, alone, not Hispanic; some other race alone; and people of two or more races.

Northeast: New England and Mid-Atlantic

The total number of artists in each state is shown in parenthesis:

Connecticut (29,925); Maine (9,065); Massachusetts (61,910); New Hampshire (9,100); New Jersey (70,265); New York (243,405); Pennsylvania (79,425); Rhode Island (8,615); Vermont (5,835)

Massachusetts hosted an above-average number of architects and landscape architects, as a share of the state's total labor force. The corresponding LQ for these occupations was 1.63 and 1.65, respectively.

Hispanic, Black or African American, and Asian architects all clustered in this state. Architects in each of these categories, as a share of their respective labor force counts, exceeded the national share by 50 percent or more.

Clusters of workers in the occupation labeled "fine artists, art directors, and animators" (an occupation that includes painters, sculptors, and craft artists) were found in **Maine and Vermont**. The corresponding LQs were 1.53 and 1.80, respectively.

² The regions referenced in this document are those defined by [the U.S. Census Bureau](#).

Maine was home to high concentrations of Asian visual artists and visual artists of “other” races, including Native Americans. According to the ACS data for 2015-2019, 45 Asian visual artists were located in this state. As a share of Maine’s Asian labor force, this count is more than twice the national share.

Most visual artists in Vermont were non-Hispanic white.

New York, meanwhile, hosted more artists than any state except California. The ACS tallied 243,405 artists in New York. As a share of the state’s labor force, this is 66 percent greater than the share of artists in the U.S. labor force.

The Empire State is home to high concentrations of performing artists such as actors, dancers/choreographers, and producers/directors, as well as to designers and writers/authors.

In each of these occupations, non-white and Hispanic artists also tend to concentrate in New York.

For example, by race and ethnicity, the LQ for writers and authors was: Hispanic (1.60); African American (1.58); Asian (1.87); and “other” non-white races (1.74).

One industry contributing to New York’s high concentration of writers/authors is advertising—the leading employer of this artist category.³ According to data from the [Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account](#)—a research partnership between the NEA and the Bureau of Economic Analysis—advertising is the top “core” arts and cultural industry, both in terms of employment and economic value added to New York state.

A similar case can be made for the publishing industry (e.g., the publishing of books, newspapers, and periodicals)—it is also a significant employer of writers and authors, and it is a leading contributor to New York’s arts economy.

Midwest: West North Central and East North Central

The total number of artists in each state is shown in parenthesis:

Illinois (89,425); Indiana (31,585); Iowa (15,735); Kansas (17,295); Michigan (61,020); Minnesota (45,180); Missouri (36,300); Nebraska (10,875); North Dakota (3,330); Ohio (64,760); South Dakota (4,200); Wisconsin (37,095)

Over the period of 2015-2019, the region was home to 416,800 artists; 68 percent were located in the East North Central division.

Nearly 8,800 architects were based in **Illinois**, resulting in a LQ of 1.23 (meaning that the number of architects in Illinois, as a share of the state’s labor force, is 23 percent greater than the national share).

Asian architects, in particular, clustered in Illinois, with 1,135 in this category, corresponding with a LQ of 1.45.

³ See [Occupational Employment and Wages \(OEWS\), May 2019, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#).

The ACS counts just under 900 African American or Black photographers in Illinois. As a share of the state's Black labor force, the number was 67 percent above the national share.

Ohio and Minnesota hosted 213 and 130 Hispanic writers, respectively. As a share of each state's Hispanic labor force, these counts result in LQs of 2.09 and 1.73.

A similar pattern is evident in **Kansas**, home to 100 Black or African American writers/authors. While small in absolute terms, the number—as a share of Kansas's Black workforce—was 87 percent greater than the national share (i.e., the LQ is 1.87).

Of **Michigan's** 620 landscape architects, 105 were Black. As a share of the Black labor force in Michigan, the count was 4.5 times greater than the national share, indicating a strong concentration of Black or African American landscape architects in the state.

South: South Atlantic, East South Central, and West South Central

The total number of artists in each state is shown in parenthesis:

Alabama (20,350); Arkansas (12,075); Delaware (4,780); District of Columbia (12,355); Florida (139,495); Georgia (67,265); Kentucky (18,535); Louisiana (25,350); Maryland (46,680); Mississippi (8,905); North Carolina (59,805); Oklahoma (17,065); South Carolina (25,125); Tennessee (43,395); Texas (166,210); Virginia (57,975)

The **District of Columbia** is home to relatively large concentrations of architects, designers, and writers/authors—both whites and non-whites, and Hispanics and non-Hispanics.

For example, the ACS tallied 185 Hispanic architects in the District. As a share of DC's Hispanic labor force, this was seven times greater than the national share of Hispanic architects in the labor force. Similarly, the ACS picked up more than 600 African American designers in D.C. from 2015 through 2019. The corresponding LQ was 1.87.

Both **Georgia** and **Louisiana** host relatively large numbers of actors, and are demographically diverse in this regard. In 2019, motion picture and video production contributed \$1.7 billion to Georgia's economy, and \$361 million to Louisiana's gross domestic product. Further, as a share of each state's overall economy, motion picture/video production exceeded the national share by 28 percent (Georgia) and 13 percent (Louisiana).⁴

Movie production likely contributed to the clustering of actors in these two states. From 2015 through 2019, Georgia hosted 2,465 actors, with a corresponding LQ of 1.30. Louisiana hosted 1,130 actors, and its LQ for actors was 1.40.

⁴ [See the Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.](#)

Non-white and Hispanic actors also concentrated in Georgia and Louisiana. Although there were just 90 Hispanic actors in Louisiana, the count—as a share of the state’s Hispanic workforce—was more than three times greater than the national share. Additionally, there were 175 Asian actors tallied for Georgia. The corresponding LQ was 2.64.

Value added from the performing arts, including music groups and artists, contribute three times more to **Tennessee’s** economy than to the national economy.

This parallels the finding that musicians are heavily concentrated in Tennessee, including African American musicians and musicians of “other” races such as American Indian/Alaskan Native and musicians of two or more races.

As a share of the Hispanic labor force in Tennessee, Hispanic musicians exceeded the national share by 81 percent. For African American musicians and musicians of other races, the respective LQs were 1.37 and 1.23.

Texas ranked second to California in number of Hispanic workers overall. For the period considered, the ACS reported 5.2 million Hispanic workers. Yet Texas is home to fewer Hispanic artists than perhaps expected, at 20 percent below average (corresponding to a LQ of 0.80).

Ranking third in number of Hispanic workers is **Florida** (2.8 million in 2015-2019). Unlike Texas, Hispanic artists did cluster in Florida.

While the LQ for all Hispanic artists in Florida was 1.35, specific artist occupations in which Hispanics clustered in Florida were: architects (LQ=1.81); visual artists grouped as “fine artists, art directors, and animators” (LQ=1.44); and photographers (1.38).

African American photographers also clustered in Florida. As a share of the African American labor force, the number of Black photographers in Florida exceeded the national share by 29 percent.

West: Mountain and Pacific

The total number of artists in each state is shown in parenthesis:

Arizona (41,960); Alaska (3,790); California (445,095); Colorado (50,860); Hawaii (11,905); Idaho (8,970); Montana (6,910); New Mexico (12,555); Nevada (23,665); Oregon (37,905); Utah (24,410); Washington (61,160); Wyoming (3,015)

Fine artists, art directors, and animators clustered in **Montana, New Mexico, and Utah**. In 2015-2019, New Mexico was home to 2,405 visual artists. As a share of the state’s labor force, this count was 78 percent greater than the national share.

While most visual artists in New Mexico were non-Hispanic white, the state was home to a high concentration of visual artists of “other races.” More than 400 visual artists of other races were located in New Mexico, which corresponded to a LQ of 2.40.

Like New Mexico, Montana and Utah also exhibit clusters of visual artists. Montana and Utah, however, were also home to many photographers, relative to the number of such workers in each state's labor force.

In 2015-2019, 770 photographers were tallied in Montana's workforce; 2,685 photographers, in Utah. The corresponding LQ for photographers in each of these states were 1.25 and 1.50, respectively.

Although most photographers in Montana and Utah were non-Hispanic white, there was a small cluster of Asian photographers in Utah—50 photographers in 2015-2019. As a share of Utah's Asian labor force, this count was 38 percent greater than the U.S. number of Asian photographers, as a share of the national Asian labor force.

The ACS tallied more than 2,600 entertainers in the state of **Nevada**. As a share of Nevada's labor force, this count was nearly six times greater than the national share.

Non-white and Hispanic entertainers also clustered in Nevada. The LQ for African American entertainers in Nevada was 5.37, and it was 6.01 for entertainers of "other" races.

There were more artists in **California** than in any other state—more than 445,000 in 2015-2019. Even after adjusting for the size of California's labor force (19.9 million), ACS data show that California was home to large concentrations of artists.

As is well known, the motion picture and video production industry is a top contributor to California's arts economy.⁵ Accordingly, actors of all races and Hispanic ethnicity are concentrated in California. In 2015-2019, actors, as a share of California's labor force, exceeded the national share by a factor of 3.3.

Producers and directors, including Hispanic and non-white producers/directors, are also concentrated in California.

Half of all Asian producers and directors in the U.S. are located in California, as are 32 percent of Hispanic producers and directors, and 22 percent of African Americans in this occupation.

Nearly 38,000 artists are based in **Oregon**, and Asian, artists, in particular, are concentrated in this state.

The 2015-2019 ACS counts 130 Asian musicians in Oregon. As a share of the state's Asian labor force, this count is twice the national share.

Asians in the occupation labeled "fine artists, art directors, and animators" are also concentrated in Oregon. Relative to the national share of Asian visual artists in the labor market, in Oregon, the share is 79 percent greater.

Clusters of Asian designers and photographers are also evident in Oregon—the corresponding LQs are 1.18 and 1.22, respectively.

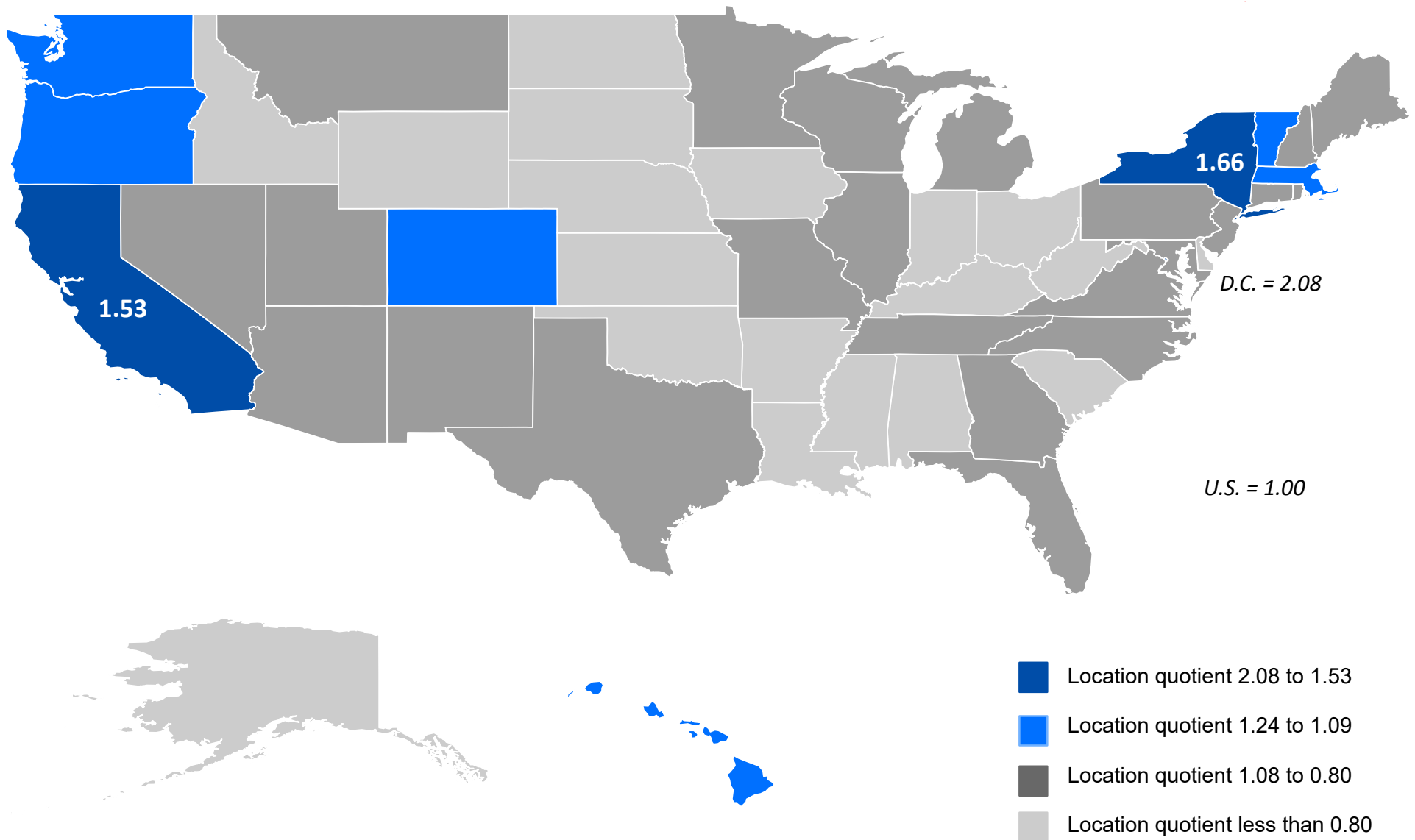
⁵ Based on the [Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account \(ACPSA\)](#), in 2019, "other information services" and motion picture and video production contributed \$64.5 billion and \$35.4 billion, respectively, to California's economy. The National Endowment for the Arts labels "other information services" as "web publishing and streaming."

State-Level Maps of Artists

The following maps use special tabulations of ACS data to indicate, at the state level, where workers in selected artist occupations are concentrated.

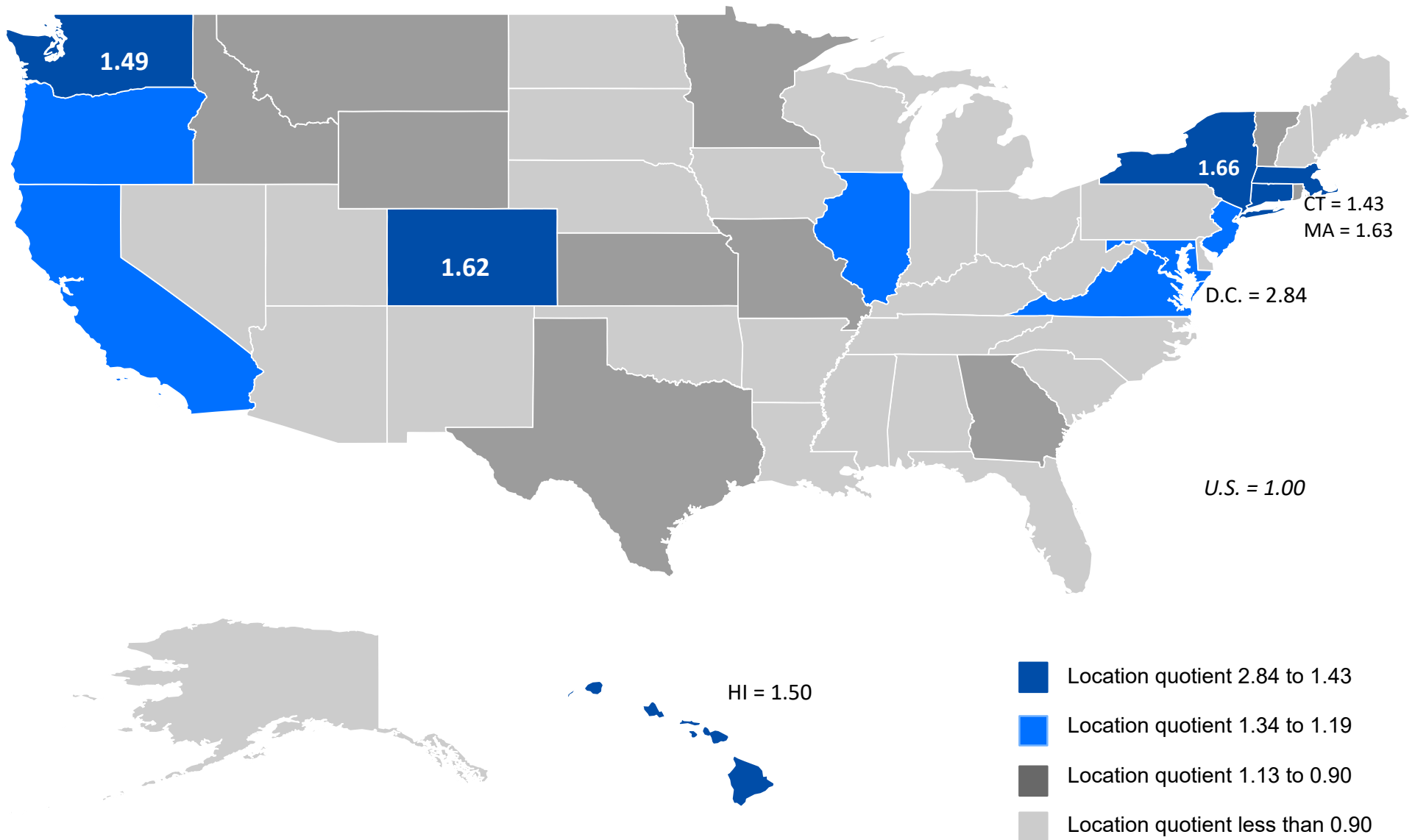
Maps are shown for total artists, and for artists in the main occupations covered in this document: architects; fine artists, art directors, and animators; designers; actors; producers and directors; dancers and choreographers; musicians; entertainers; announcers; writers and authors; and photographers.

Map 1a. Where artists cluster



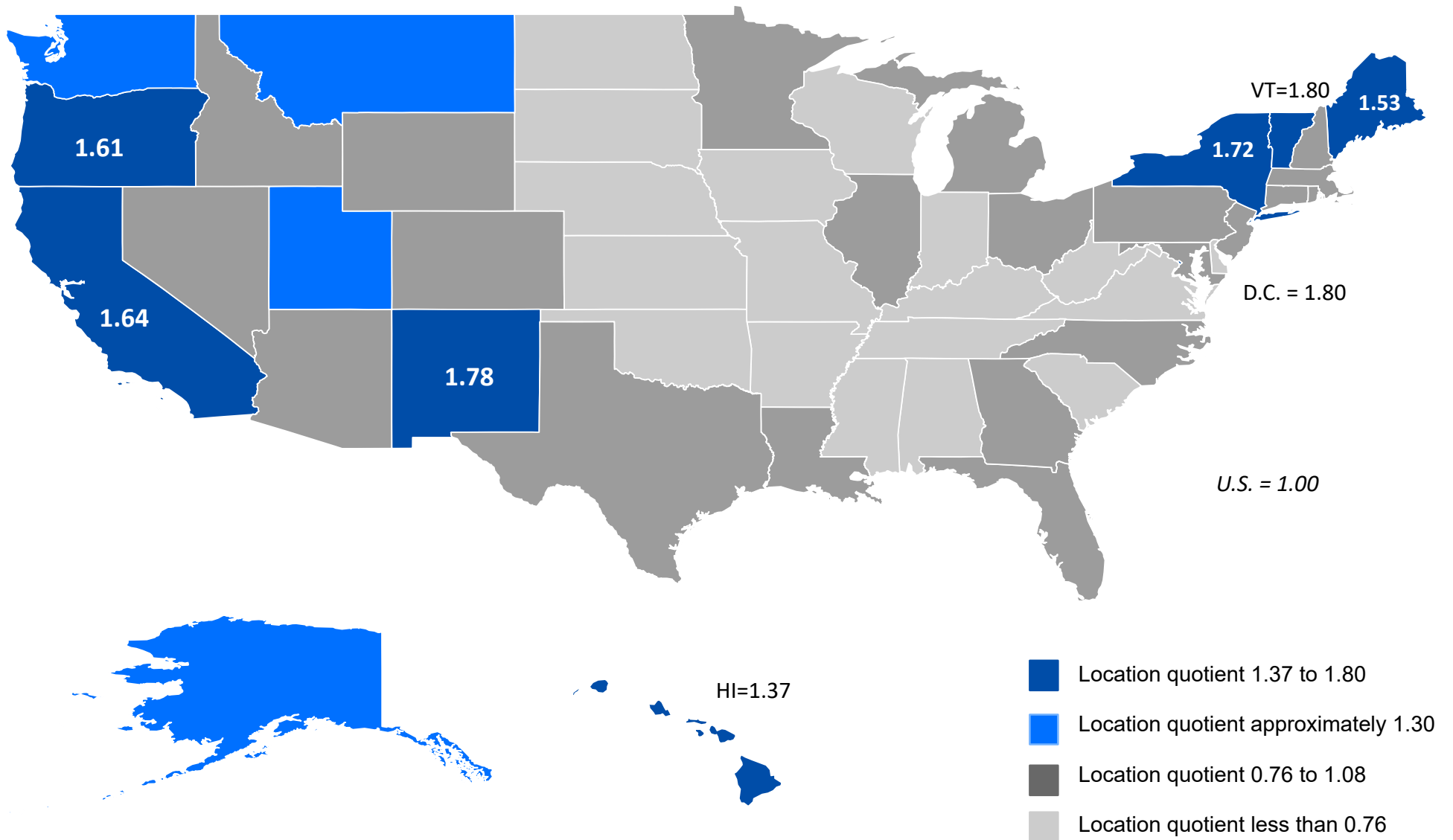
Data source: Special tabulations of the American Community Survey (ACS), 2015-2019,
U.S. Census Bureau
Office of Research & Analysis
National Endowment for the Arts
July 2022

Map 1b. Where architects cluster



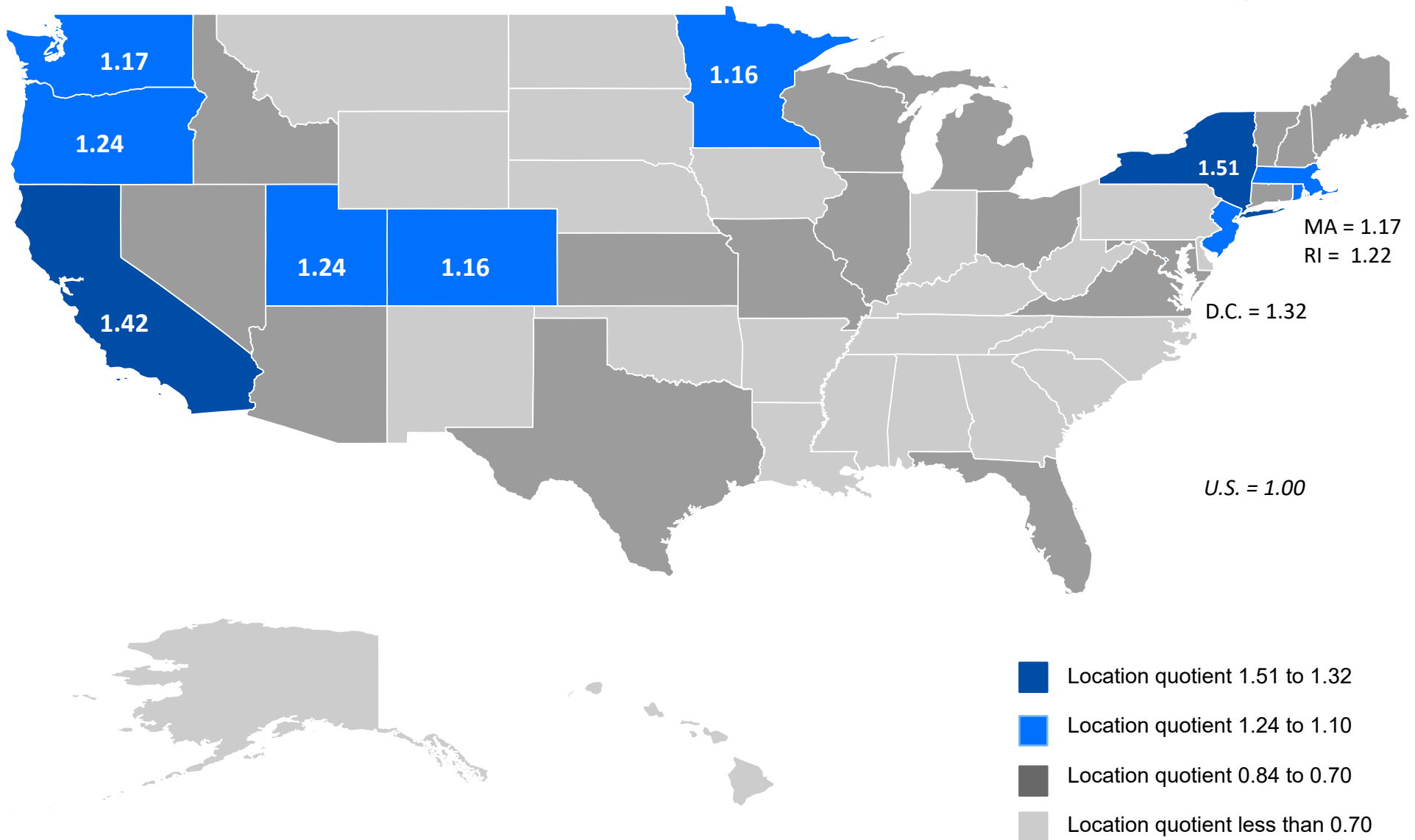
Data source: Special tabulations of the American Community Survey (ACS), 2015-2019,
U.S. Census Bureau
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Map 1c. Where fine artists, art directors, and animators cluster



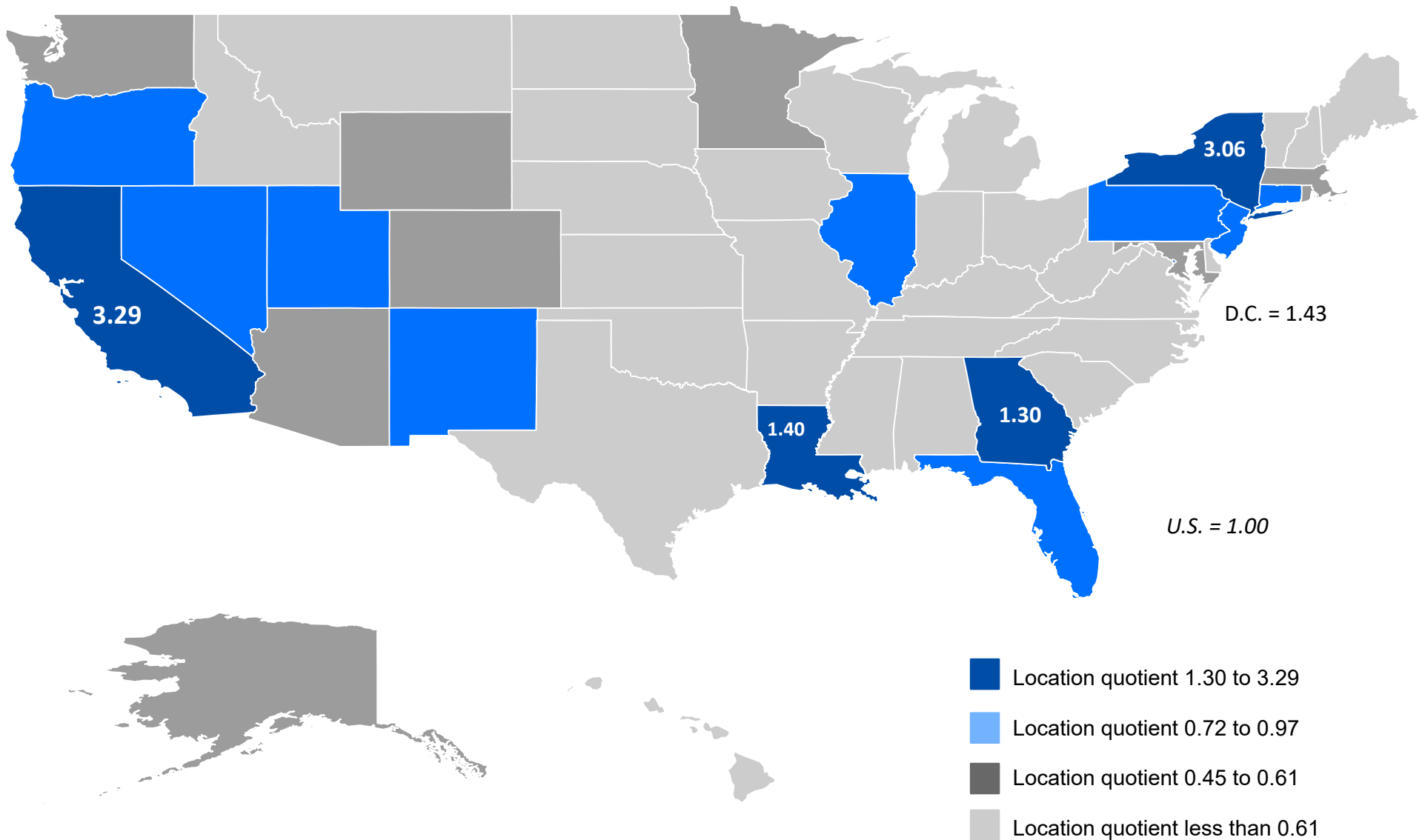
Data source: Special tabulations of the American Community Survey (ACS), 2015-2019,
U.S. Census Bureau
Office of Research & Analysis
National Endowment for the Arts
July 2022

Map 1d. Where designers cluster



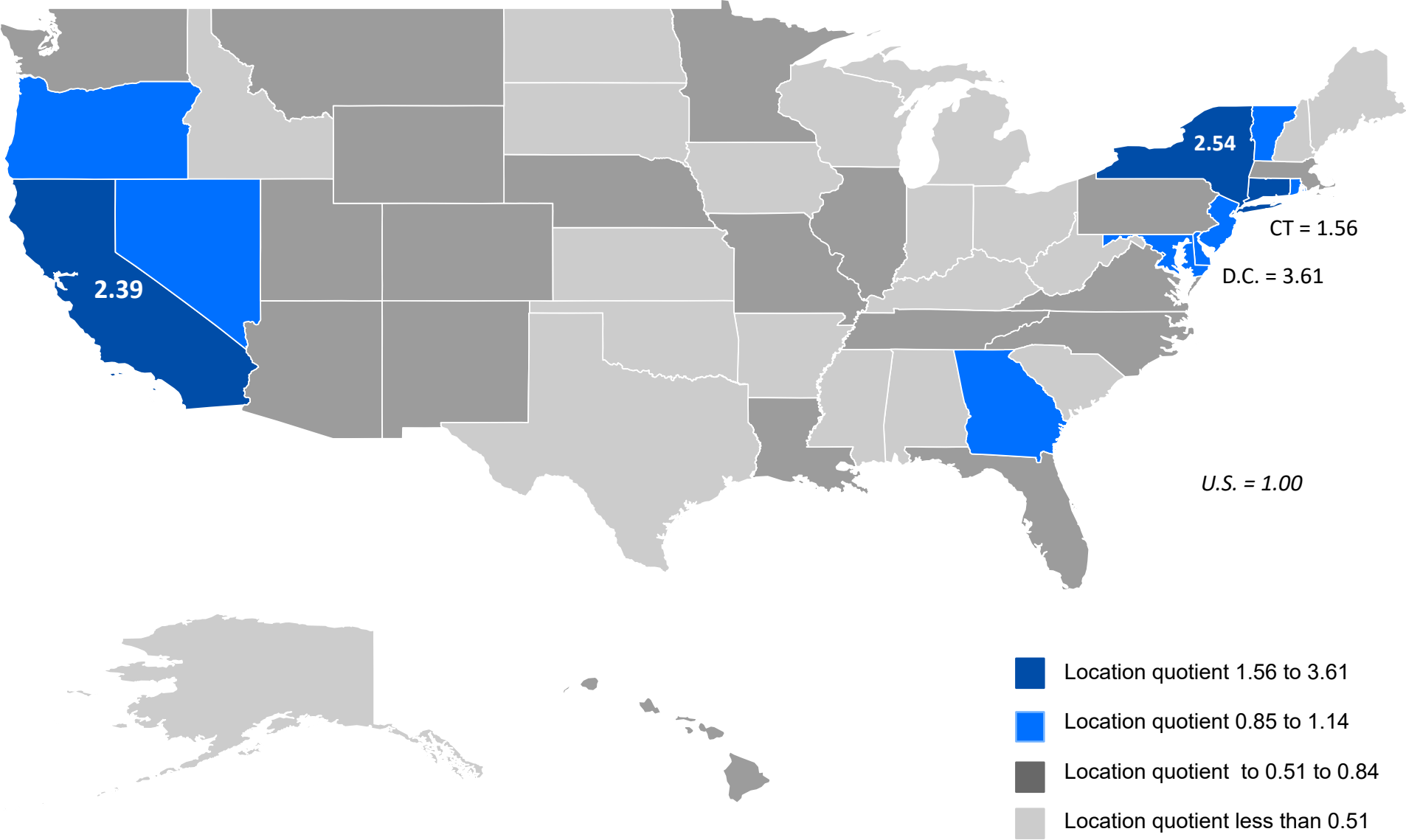
Data source: Special tabulations of the American Community Survey (ACS), 2015-2019,
U.S. Census Bureau
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National Endowment for the Arts
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Map 1e. Where actors cluster



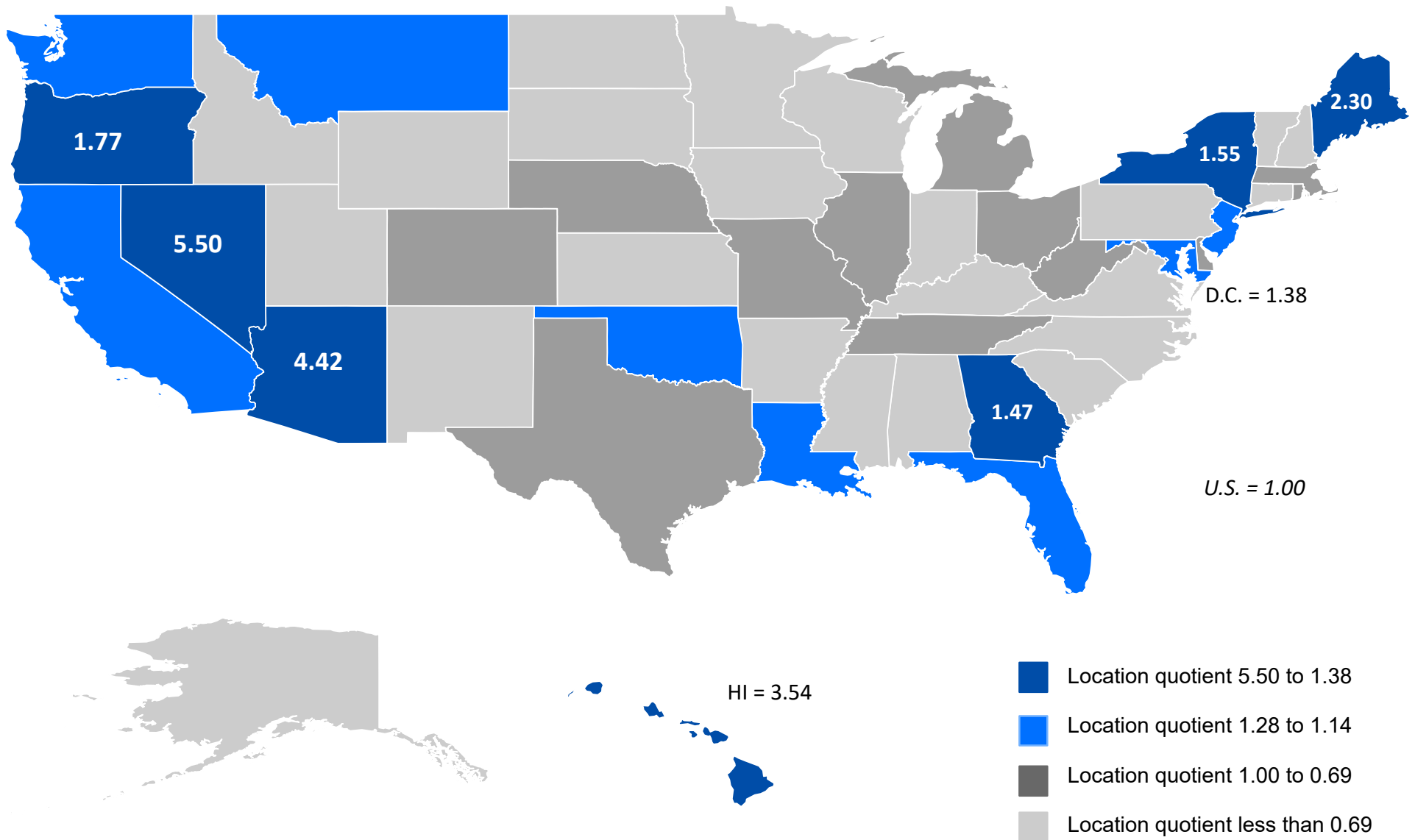
Data source: Special tabulations of the American Community Survey (ACS), 2015-2019,
U.S. Census Bureau
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Map 1f. Where producers and directors cluster



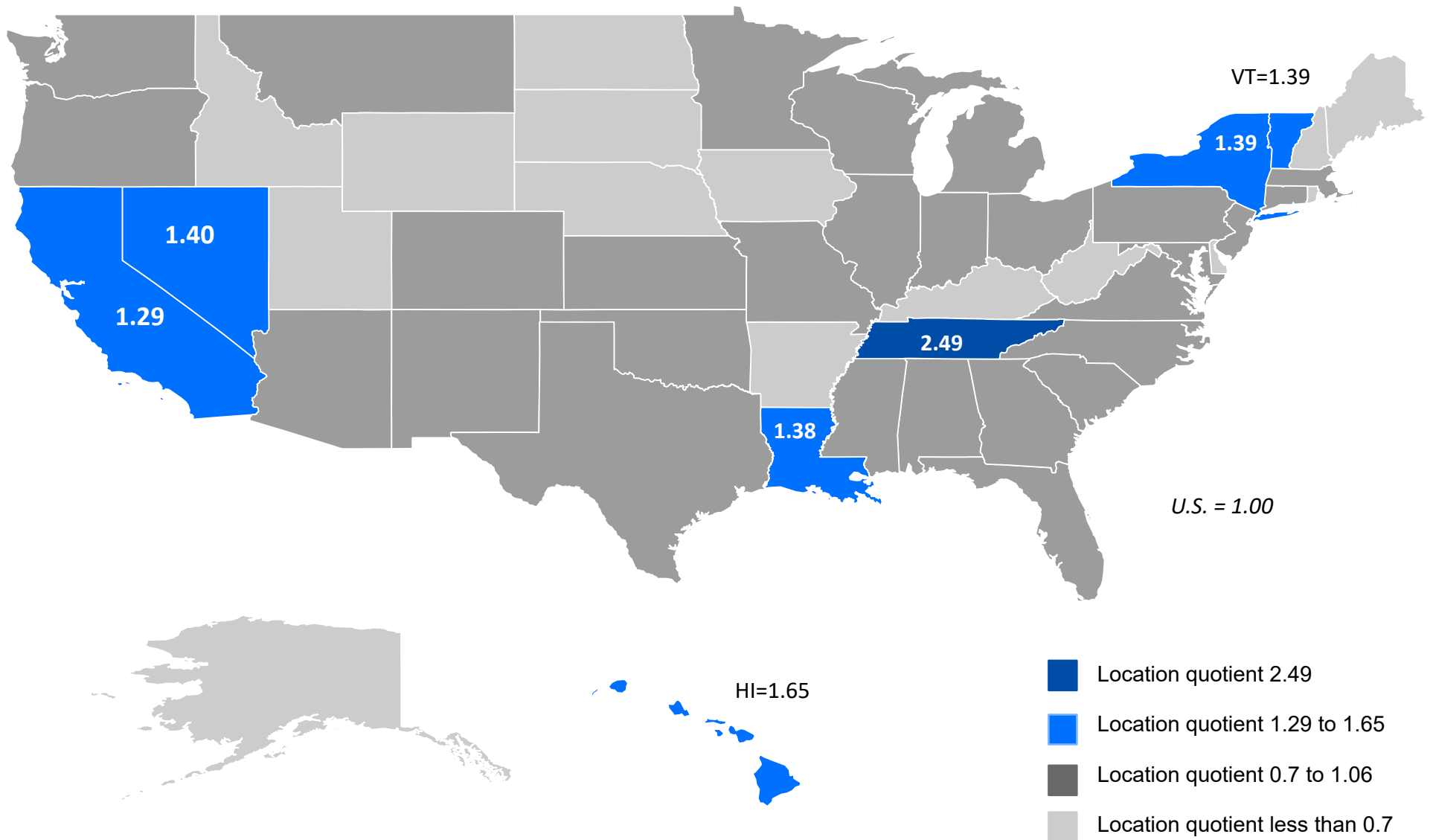
Data source: Special tabulations of the American Community Survey (ACS), 2015-2019,
U.S. Census Bureau
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Map 1g. Where dancers/choreographers cluster



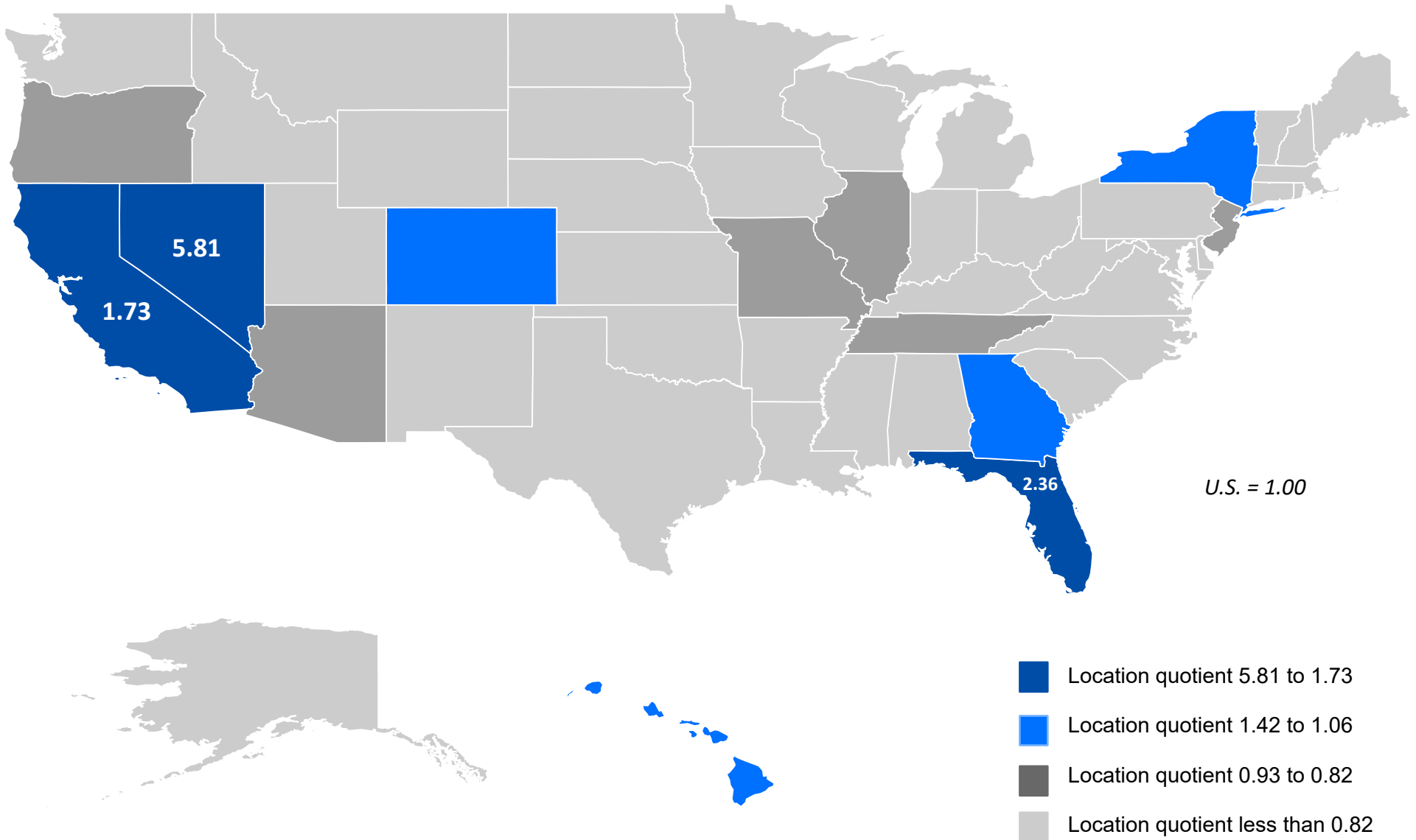
Data source: Special tabulations of the American Community Survey (ACS), 2015-2019,
U.S. Census Bureau
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National Endowment for the Arts
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Map 1h. Where musicians cluster



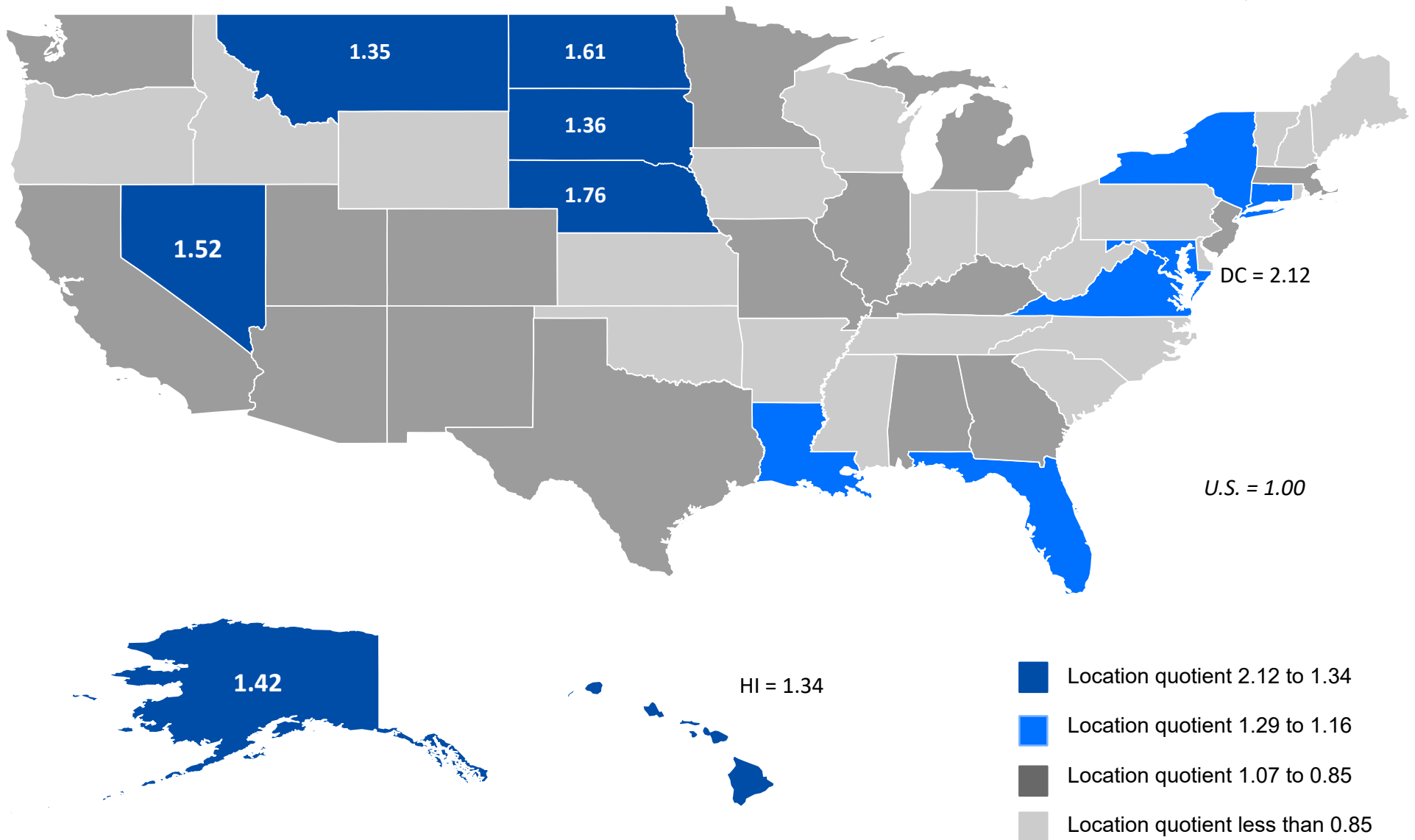
Data source: Special tabulations of the American Community Survey (ACS), 2015-2019,
U.S. Census Bureau
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Map 1i. Where entertainers cluster



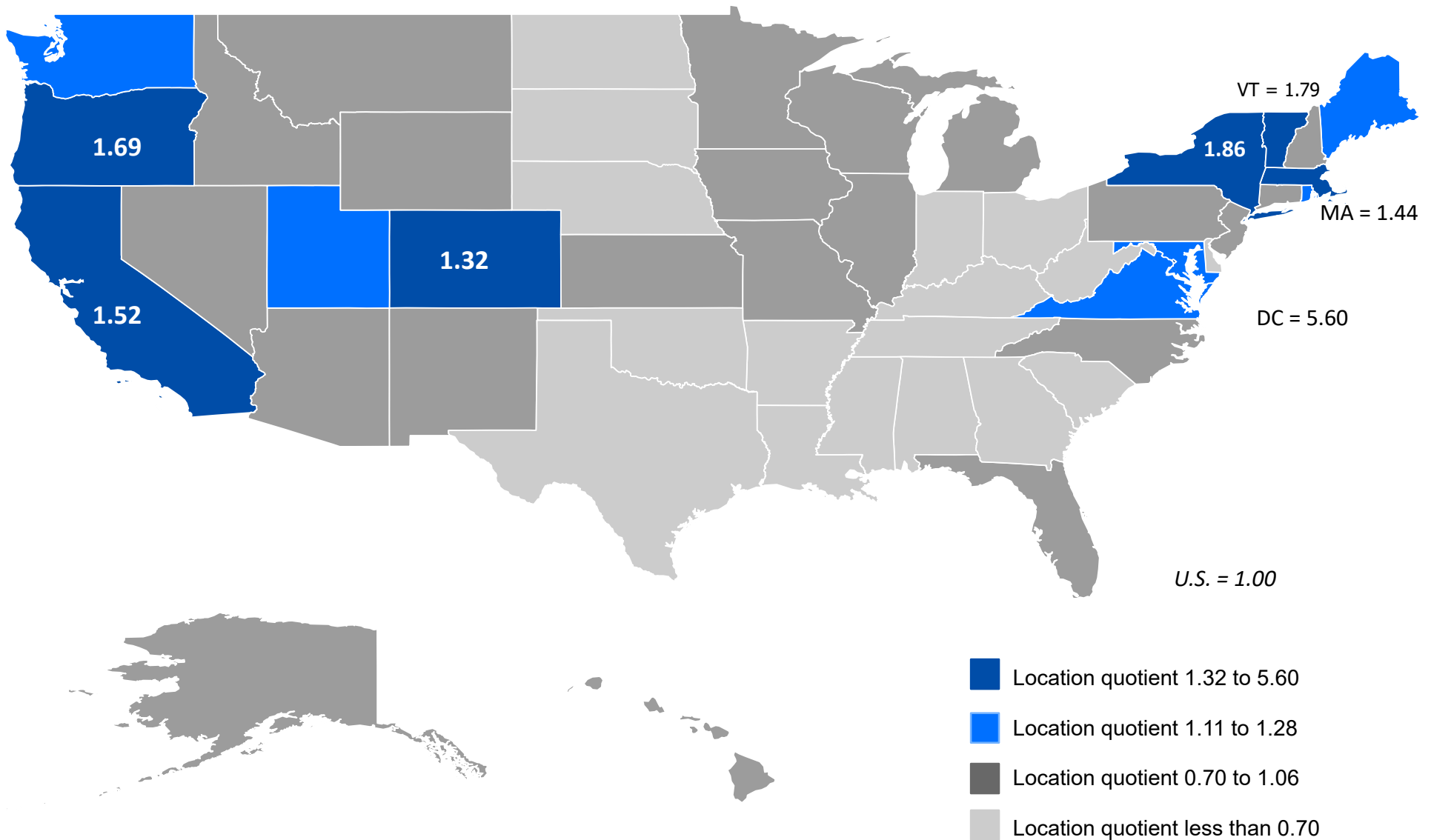
Data source: Special tabulations of the American Community Survey (ACS), 2015-2019,
U.S. Census Bureau
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Map 1j. Where announcers cluster



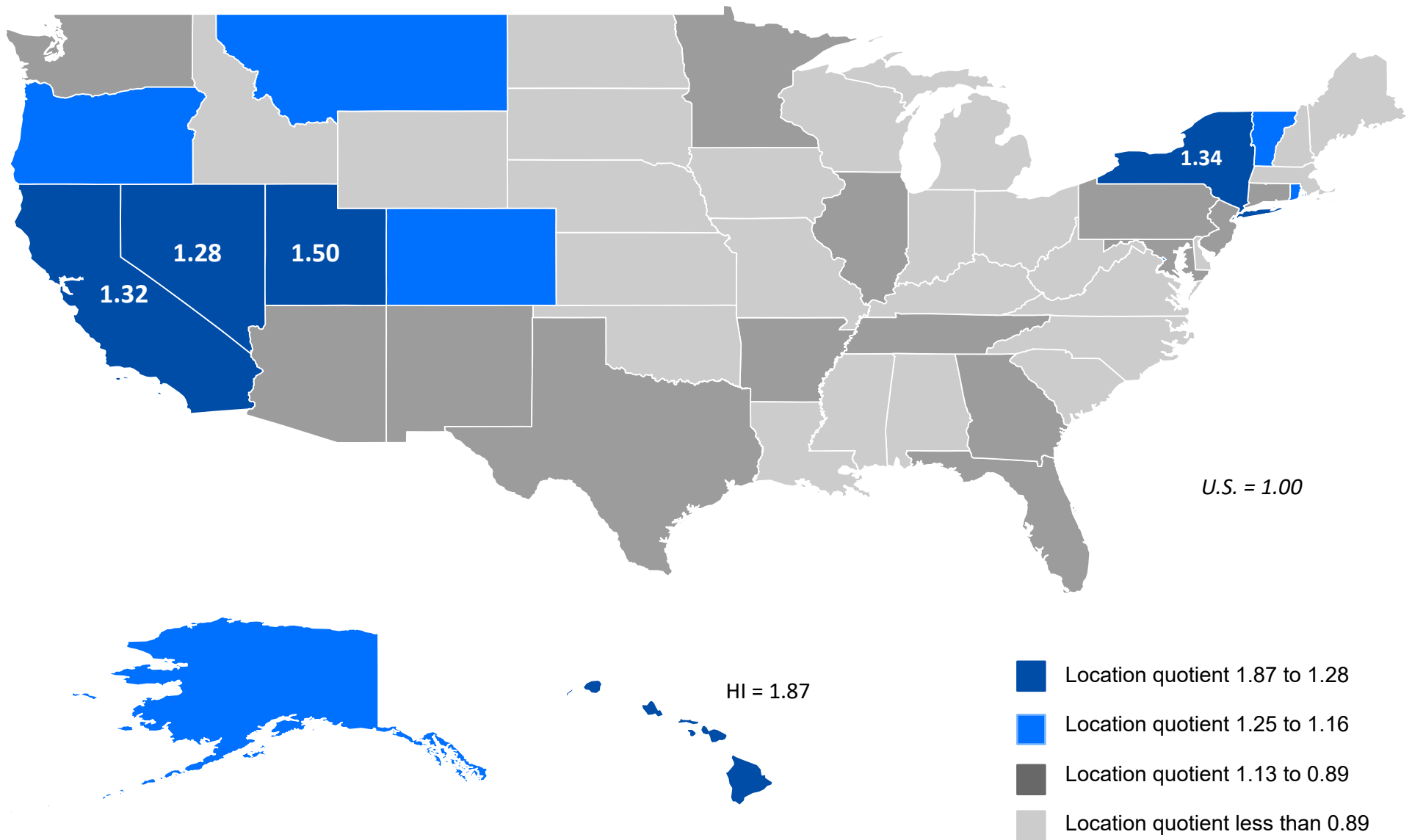
Data source: Special tabulations of the American Community Survey (ACS), 2015-2019,
 U.S. Census Bureau
 Office of Research & Analysis
 National Endowment for the Arts
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Map 1k. Where writers and authors cluster



Data source: Special tabulations of the American Community Survey (ACS), 2015-2019,
U.S. Census Bureau
Office of Research & Analysis
National Endowment for the Arts
July 2022

Map 1I. Where photographers cluster



Data source: Special tabulations of the American Community Survey (ACS), 2015-2019,
U.S. Census Bureau
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July 2022