



1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20506-0001
202-682-5400

Research Division
Director, Tom Bradshaw
Note #84
September 2003

ARTIST EMPLOYMENT, 2000-2002

By Bonnie Nichols

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports that, in 2002, job market conditions weakened for the total civilian work force and for most workers in artist occupations. In 2002, 7.8 million civilian workers were unemployed, representing 5.4 percent of the labor force. Unemployment among workers in artist occupations reached 116,000 in 2002, while the unemployment rate for artists hit 5.5 percent, up from 3.5 percent in 2000.

This note, #84, reports on the employment conditions of 11 artist occupations in 2000-2002, and contains a section explaining the newly incorporated Census 2000 occupation categories. The note also includes narratives on employment in secondary artist jobs and projected employment growth for artist occupations provided by the Bureau's *Occupational Outlook Handbook*.

Table 1A reports employment figures for artists using the new Census 2000 occupational categories, and Table 1B reports employment estimates using 1990 Census occupations, which were used in previous Research Division notes on artist employment. Tables 2 and 3 show secondary artist employment and projected job growth, respectively. Chart 1 compares unemployment rates for all civilian workers, professional workers, and artists.

EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS FOR THE LABOR FORCE, PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, AND ARTISTS

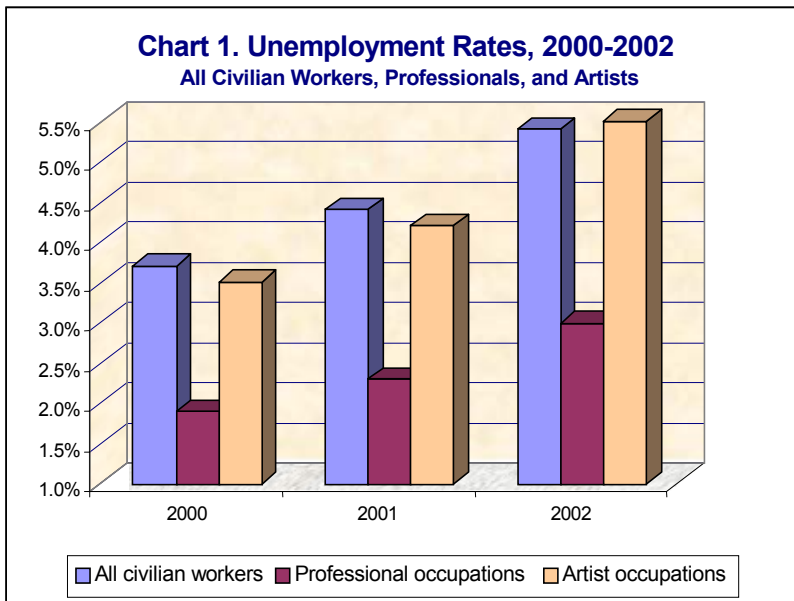
Following the 2001 recession, weak job market conditions continued into 2002. For the year, 7.8 million civilian workers were unemployed, and the unemployment rate grew to 5.4 percent—up 1.7 percentage points from 2000. The BLS also reports that the

duration of unemployment increased. In the fourth quarter of 2002, the number of people unemployed for 27 weeks or more increased by 705,000.¹

The professional occupations category is broad and includes a variety of jobs requiring higher levels of education. It comprises engineers, scientists, clergy, librarians, teachers, lawyers, doctors, and the artist occupations covered in this note. Between 2000 and 2002, employment in professional occupations increased by 648,000 workers. However, unemployment also increased, driving up the unemployment rate for professional workers to 3 percent.

Job market conditions also weakened for most artist occupations. In 2002, unemployment for “all artist occupations,” a sum of the artist occupations reported in Table 1A, increased to 116,000, or 5.5 percent of the labor force in these jobs. This represents an increase of 42,000 unemployed artists compared to the number unemployed in 2000.

Chart 1 shows unemployment rates for all civilian workers, workers in professional occupations, and artist occupations in 2000 through 2002. Unemployment rates for all three categories increased, but rates for artists were roughly twice as high as unemployment rates for all professional workers. In 2002, for example, the unemployment rate for artists was 2.5 percentage points higher than the rate for professional workers as a whole.



Source: U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics

¹ Terence M. McMennamin, Rachel Krantz, and Thomas J. Krolik, “U.S. Labor Market in 2002: Continued Weakness,” *Monthly Labor Review*, February 2003.

Individual Artist Occupations

Between 2000 and 2002, unemployment increased for all but 3 of the 11 individual artist occupations shown in Table 1A. The unemployment rate for designers, the largest artist occupation, grew to 5.1 percent in 2002, up from 3.2 percent in 2000. But, unemployment rates were highest for the smallest artist occupational groups. In 2002, 30.4 percent of actors and 11.1 percent of dancers were unemployed. Rates steadily increased for writers and authors, starting at 3.7 percent in 2000, rising to 4.9 percent in 2001, and growing further to 5.1 percent in 2002.

Rates more than doubled for “art directors, fine artists, and animators,” (jumping from 2.2 percent in 2000 to 5.1 percent in 2002), and for architects (rising from 0.4 percent to 2.6 percent), though the 2002 unemployment rate for architects was still relatively low—comparable to the 3 percent rate recorded for all professional workers. Also, between 2000 and 2002, 22,000 art directors, fine artists, and animators and 31,000 architects left the labor market. Had this not happened, the unemployment rates for workers in these two occupations would have been higher in 2002.

Unemployment fell for musicians and singers, announcers, and the category labeled “other artists and entertainers” (a broad miscellaneous category). But, these declines in unemployment were partially due to workers in these occupations leaving the labor market. In 2000, for example, there were 173,000 musicians and singers in the labor market (164,000 employed and 9,000 unemployed). By 2002, however, 7,000 musicians and singers left the market, and the unemployment rate in this category fell 0.8 percentage points. The BLS also recorded labor market declines for announcers (6,000) and other artists and entertainers (12,000).

REVISED OCCUPATIONAL CATEGORIES

The figures presented in Table 1A show the latest Current Population Survey (CPS) occupational categories derived from the 2000 Census. Table 1B reports occupational categories taken from the 1990 Census. The 1990 categories, which were used in Research Division note # 80 (“Artist Employment in 2001”) and earlier notes and reports on artist employment, are provided here so that readers can compare the 2000 and 1990 categories. The BLS will not continue reporting employment estimates using 1990 Census occupational groupings. Therefore, the artist occupations shown in Table 1B will not be shown in future notes on artist employment. Also, the figures reported in both tables were controlled (i.e., weighted) using Census 2000 population data.

Many of the new occupational categories and estimates differ from those based on the 1990 Census. Using the 2000 revisions shown in Table 1A, for example, the BLS reports that 27.4 million workers were employed in professional occupations in 2002—about 5.5 million more than the number counted using 1990 classifications. Since the professional occupations category is a large aggregate, it’s not surprising that revised estimates differ from those based on 1990 definitions.

But specific artist occupations also changed. For example, what was categorized as “actors and directors” is now reported as two categories—“actors” and “producers and directors.” In 2002, there were 32,000 employed actors and 146,000 employed producers and actors. Under the 1990 classification, there were 155,000 employed actors and directors in 2002. The 1990 category of post secondary art, drama, and music teachers was eliminated under the new system. And, the 1990 category labeled “painters, sculptors, craft artists, and art printmakers” was changed in the 2000 system to “artists and related workers.” In this note, artists and related workers are reported as “art directors, fine artists, and animators” to reflect the occupations included in that category.

Comparing the specific job titles included in the 2000 and 1990 occupational groupings can demonstrate why employment estimates differ between the two systems. To illustrate, the Census 2000 definition of “writers and authors” takes in several occupations in the advertising industry (e.g., advertising copywriters and advertising specialists), as well as biographers, grant writers, sports writers, and crossword-puzzle makers. The exclusion of these occupations from the 1990 definition of “authors” helps explain why the 2000 classification shows 183,000 employed writers and authors in 2002, while the 1990 definition reports 139,000 authors for the same year.

This comparison can be made for any job title shown in tables 1A and 1B using the comprehensive index of occupations available from the U.S. Census Bureau. The 1990 definitions are reported in the published report titled “Classified Index of Industries and Occupations,” 1990 CPH-R-4. Census 2000 occupational categories are shown on the Bureau’s website at <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/occupation.html>.

SECONDARY ARTIST EMPLOYMENT

The previous sections of this note describe workers in primary jobs.² However, the BLS reports that 7.3 million workers, or 5.3 percent of the employed workforce, were multiple jobholders in 2002. Table 2 shows the number and percentage of workers holding second jobs in artist occupations. The highest share of secondary jobholders was for musicians and singers; 37.2 percent of workers in this occupation. The next highest percent of secondary jobs was in the announcers category (31.2 percent). On the low end of the scale, only 3.8 percent of workers held second jobs as architects. Designer occupations also recorded fewer second jobs—7.5 percent of all workers in this category.

OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK

In addition to reporting current employment estimates, the BLS also produces employment projections by occupation. Taken from the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, Table 3 provides a brief summary of earnings and projected employment for select artist occupations.³ *Outlook* earnings and projections are based on the BLS’ Occupational

² Those holding more than one job are counted in the job in which they worked the most hours during the CPS survey week. This job is referred to as the primary job, while all other jobs held are defined as secondary jobs.

³ The *Occupational Outlook Handbook* is revised every two years. The figures printed in this note were taken from the 2002-03 edition issued in December 2001.

Employment Statistics (OES) survey of 400,000 business establishments. This differs from the Current Population Survey (CPS) that was used to produce the employment estimates discussed earlier in this note. As a result, not all of the artist occupations shown in Table 1A are available from the OES. For example, the CPS combines all types of designers, while the Outlook distinguishes between various types of designers (e.g., interior designers).

Of the select artist occupations shown in Table 3, the highest median annual earnings were recorded for architects (\$52,510), landscape architects (\$43,540), and writers and authors (\$42,270). Photographers (\$22,300) and dancers and choreographers (\$22,470) had the lowest median annual earnings. The BLS also reports that median earnings of announcers, reported at \$9.52 per hour, were also generally low.

Higher than average employment growth, defined as 21 to 35 percent gains between 2000 and 2010, is expected for landscape architects, designers, and writers and authors. In the case of landscape architects, BLS attributes projected employment growth to increases in residential and commercial construction, and continued emphasis on ecology and the environment. Increased demand for writers and authors will be due to a number of factors, including growth in the number of on-line publications, expansions in advertising and public relations, and high levels of retirement in this occupation. Though demand for designers will be high, the BLS notes that competition for these jobs will also be high. Employment of announcers is expected to decline by one percent or more, largely due to slow growth in the number of new radio and television stations.

TECHNICAL NOTES

The employment estimates shown in tables 1A, 1B, and 2 are annual averages based on published and unpublished data from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly survey of about 50,000 households conducted by the Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The employed are persons who, during the reference week of the survey, did any work as paid employees, worked in their own business, profession, or on their own farm, or who worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in an enterprise operated by a family member. Each employed person is counted only once, even if he or she holds more than one job. Multiple jobholders are counted in the job at which they worked the greatest number of hours during the reference week.

The unemployed are defined as experienced unemployed persons (the unemployed who have worked at any time in the past) who had no employment during the reference week, were available for work, except for temporary illness, and had made specific efforts to find employment some time during the four-week-period ending with the reference week. The labor force comprises all persons classified as employed or unemployed, and the unemployment rate is the number of unemployed as a percent of the labor force. Apart from the category labeled “all artist occupations,” the unemployment rates listed in this note were obtained directly from the BLS using un-rounded data. For more information about the CPS, visit the CPS website at <http://www.bls.census.gov/cps/cpsmain.htm>.

This note is restricted to a three-year analysis of artist employment in 2000-2002, a short time series compared to previous notes on artist employment. As discussed earlier, the BLS adjusted its employment estimates to reflect both the population controls (i.e.,

weights) and occupational categories used in the 2000 Census. These revised estimates are only available for 2000-2002, as shown in this note. For more information about the CPS revisions, see the “People Are Asking” section of the Bureau’s website at www.bls.gov.

The earnings and projected employment growth reported in this note were taken from the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, also produced by the BLS. Figures shown in the *Outlook* are based on the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey. For more information about the *Outlook* or the OES, see the BLS web site at www.bls.gov/oco.

The Research Division of the National Endowment for the Arts has produced notes on artist employment since 1983. More information about Research Division notes and reports can be found on the Endowment’s web site at www.arts.gov.

Table 1A. The Artist Labor Force: Trends in Employment and Unemployment, 2000-2002

2000 Census Occupation Categories

(in thousands)

Occupation	2002	2001	2000	Change From 02-00
Total civilian workers, 16 years and over	144,327	143,274	142,149	2,178
Employed	136,485	136,933	136,891	-406
Unemployed	7,842	6,341	5,258	2,584
Unemployment rate	5.4%	4.4%	3.7%	1.7
Professional occupations	28,217	27,860	27,217	1,000
Employed	27,358	27,213	26,710	648
Unemployed	859	647	507	352
Unemployment rate	3.0%	2.3%	1.9%	1.1
All artist occupations	2,103	2,136	2,106	-3
Employed	1,987	2,047	2,032	-45
Unemployed ¹	116	89	74	42
Unemployment rate	5.5%	4.2%	3.5%	2.1
Architects	181	198	212	-31
Employed	176	196	211	-35
Unemployed	5	2	1	4
Unemployment rate	2.6%	1.1%	0.4%	2.2
Art directors, fine artists, and animators ²	239	250	261	-22
Employed	227	239	255	-28
Unemployed	12	11	6	6
Unemployment rate	5.1%	4.5%	2.2%	2.9
Designers ³	865	897	843	22
Employed	821	866	816	5
Unemployed	44	31	27	17
Unemployment rate	5.1%	3.5%	3.2%	1.9
Actors ⁴	46	32	30	16
Employed	32	21	24	8
Unemployed	14	11	6	8
Unemployment rate	30.4%	33.4%	19.9%	10.5
Producers and directors	157	149	142	15
Employed	146	139	135	11
Unemployed	11	10	7	4
Unemployment rate	6.7%	6.9%	4.8%	1.9
Dancers and choreographers ⁴	30	31	36	-6
Employed	27	29	35	-8
Unemployed	3	2	1	2
Unemployment rate	11.1%	5.9%	2.4%	8.7

Table 1A. The Artist Labor Force: Trends in Employment and Unemployment, 2000-2002

2000 Census Occupation Categories

(in thousands)

Continued

Occupation	2002	2001	2000	Change From 02-00
Musicians and singers	166	192	173	-7
Employed	159	185	164	-5
Unemployed	7	7	9	-2
Unemployment rate	4.3%	3.7%	5.1%	-0.8
Announcers	54	57	60	-6
Employed	53	55	57	-4
Unemployed	1	2	3	-2
Unemployment rate	2.6%	3.0%	5.1%	-2.5
Writers and authors ⁵	193	161	180	13
Employed	183	153	173	10
Unemployed	10	8	7	3
Unemployment rate	5.1%	4.9%	3.7%	1.4
Photographers	149	135	134	15
Employed	141	131	129	12
Unemployed	8	4	5	3
Unemployment rate	5.4%	2.8%	4.0%	1.4
Other artists and entertainers ⁶	23	34	35	-12
Employed	22	33	33	-11
Unemployed	1	1	2	-1
Unemployment rate	2.6%	4.3%	6.9%	-4.3

Source: Published and unpublished data from the Current Population Survey (with population controls based on the 2000 Census) provided by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The BLS does not publish data for occupations with employment

Research Division Note #84
National Endowment for the Arts
September 2003

levels below 50,000.

¹Unemployed within occupational categories is measured as experienced unemployed, i.e., unemployed people who have worked at any time in the past. It excludes new entrants to the labor market. All unemployment rates shown, except the category "all artist occupations," were calculated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics using unrounded data.

²Defined as art directors, fine artists (i.e., painters, sculptors, and illustrators), multimedia artists, and animators. The Bureau of Labor statistics labels this category "artists and related workers."

³Defined as commercial and industrial designers, fashion designers, floral designers, graphic designers, interior designers, visual merchandisers (e.g., window dressers), and set and exhibit designers.

⁴Year-over-year changes may be insignificant due to small sample sizes.

⁵Defined as workers who develop original fiction and non-fiction for books, magazines and trade journals, newspapers, on-line publications, company newsletters, radio and television broadcasts, motion pictures, and advertisements.

⁶The Bureau of Labor Statistics labels this category "entertainers and performers, sports and related workers, and all other."

Table 1B. The Artist Labor Force: Trends in Employment and Unemployment, 2000-20021990 Census Occupational Categories
(in thousands)

Occupation	2002	2001	2000	Change From 02-00
Total civilian workers, 16 years and over	144,327	143,274	142,149	2,178
Employed	136,485	136,933	136,891	-406
Unemployed	7,842	6,341	5,258	2,584
Unemployment rate	5.4%	4.4%	3.7%	1.7
Professional specialty occupations	22,561	22,249	21,739	822
Employed	21,921	21,765	21,368	553
Unemployed ¹	640	484	371	269
Unemployment rate	2.8%	2.2%	1.7%	1.1
All artist occupations	2,204	2,226	2,123	81
Employed	2,086	2,137	2,051	35
Unemployed	118	89	72	46
Unemployment rate	5.4%	4.0%	3.4%	2.0
Architects	202	221	220	-18
Employed	197	217	218	-21
Unemployed	5	4	2	3
Unemployment rate	2.5%	1.7%	1.0%	1.5
Art, drama, and music teachers ^{2,3}	44	46	36	8
Employed	44	45	35	9
Unemployed	0	1	1	-1
Unemployment rate	0.7%	1.5%	2.2%	-1.5
Authors	147	127	144	3
Employed	139	121	138	1
Unemployed	8	6	6	2
Unemployment rate	5.5%	4.6%	4.2%	1.3
Designers	806	830	765	41
Employed	770	803	745	25
Unemployed	36	27	20	16
Unemployment rate	4.5%	3.2%	2.6%	1.9
Musicians and composers	169	185	170	-1
Employed	161	178	161	0
Unemployed	8	7	9	-1
Unemployment rate	4.7%	3.8%	5.3%	-0.6
Actors and directors	174	148	148	26
Employed	155	133	138	17
Unemployed	19	15	10	9
Unemployment rate	10.7%	10.1%	7.0%	3.7

Table 1B. The Artist Labor Force: Trends in Employment and Unemployment, 2000-2002

1990 Census Occupational Categories

(in thousands)

Continued

Occupation	2002	2001	2000	Change From 02-00
Painters, sculptors, craft artists	240	255	248	-8
Employed	225	244	240	-15
Unemployed	15	11	8	7
Unemployment rate	6.1%	4.1%	3.2%	2.9
Photographers	188	162	155	33
Employed	178	157	149	29
Unemployed	10	5	6	4
Unemployment rate	5.5%	2.8%	3.7%	1.8
Dancers ³	30	28	33	-3
Employed	27	26	32	-5
Unemployed	3	2	1	2
Unemployment rate	11.1%	7.7%	4.0%	7.1
Artists and performers, n.e.c. ⁴	150	172	147	3
Employed	138	163	141	-3
Unemployed	12	9	6	6
Unemployment rate	8.1%	5.3%	4.1%	4.0
Announcers	54	52	57	-3
Employed	52	50	54	-2
Unemployed	2	2	3	-1
Unemployment rate	3.7%	4.4%	5.4%	-1.7

Source: Published and unpublished data from the Current Population Survey (with population controls based on the 2000 Census) provided by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The BLS does not publish data for occupations with employment levels below 50,000.

Research Division Note #84
National Endowment for the Arts
September 2003

¹Unemployed within occupational categories is measured as experienced unemployed, i.e., unemployed people who have worked at any time in the past. It excludes new entrants to the labor market. All unemployment rates shown, except the category "all artist occupations," were calculated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics using unrounded data.

²Post-secondary teachers.

³Year-over-year changes may be insignificant due to small sample sizes.

⁴Artists, performers, and related workers, not elsewhere classified.

Table 2. Secondary Artist Employment in 2002

2000 Census Occupation Categories
(in thousands)

Occupation	Primary Job Employment	Secondary Job Employment	Total Holding Either Primary or Secondary Jobs	% in this Occupation as a Second Job
All artist occupations	1,987	276	2,263	12.2%
Architects	176	7	183	3.8%
Art directors, fine artists, and animators	227	19	246	7.7%
Designers	821	67	888	7.5%
Actors	32	3	35	8.6%
Producers and directors	146	11	157	7.0%
Dancers and choreographers	27	2	29	6.9%
Musicians and singers	159	94	253	37.2%
Announcers	53	24	77	31.2%
Writers and authors	183	27	210	12.9%
Photographers	141	17	158	10.8%
Other artists and entertainers	22	5	27	18.5%

Source: Unpublished data from the Current Population Survey (with population controls based on the 2000 Census) provided by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The BLS does not publish data for occupations with employment levels below 50,000.

Research Division Note #84
National Endowment for the Arts
September 2003

Table 3. Occupational Outlook for Select Artist Occupations

Occupation	Median Annual Earnings in 2000	Projected Employment Growth Between 2000 and 2010
Actors, directors, and producers	\$25,920	Increase Between 21 to 35 Percent
Announcers	9.52 (per hour)	Decrease 1 Percent or More
Architects	\$52,510	Increase 10 to 20 Percent
Landscape architects	\$43,540	Increase 21 to 35 Percent
Dancers and choreographers	\$22,470	Increase 10 to 20 Percent
Commercial and industrial designers	\$48,780	Increase Between 21 to 35 Percent
Interior designers	\$36,540	Increase Between 21 to 35 Percent
Graphic designers	\$34,570	Increase Between 21 to 35 Percent
Musicians and singers	\$36,740	Increase 10 to 20 Percent
Fine artists (painters, sculptors, and photographers)	\$31,190	Increase 10 to 20 Percent
Photographers	\$22,300	Increase 10 to 20 Percent
Writers and authors	\$42,270	Increase Between 21 to 35 Percent

Source: U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Occupational Outlook Handbook

Research Division Note #84
National Endowment for the Arts
September 2003