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Note #85  
May 2004

## ARTIST LABOR FORCE BY STATE, 2000

By Bonnie Nichols

Special Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Tabulations of Census 2000 data show that artists, as a share of the total civilian labor force, were heavily concentrated in East and West Coast states, including the District of Columbia, New York, and California, where artists were more than 2 percent of each state's labor force.<sup>1</sup> States with small percentages of artists (less than 1 percent of the labor force) were generally located in the Southeast and Plains areas, including Mississippi, West Virginia, and North Dakota.

This note, #85, reports the state location of workers in 11 detailed artist occupations.<sup>2</sup> It examines the state concentration of artists as a share of the total civilian labor force, and state patterns in the location of individual artist occupations. For example, as a percentage of all artists, Michigan had the highest share of designers, the District of Columbia ranked first in architects and writers, and Tennessee had the largest concentration of musicians and signers.

### ARTISTS AS A SHARE OF THE CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

The Special EEO Tabulations show a total of 1.9 million artists in the U.S. labor force in 2000. Of these, 522,485 artists, or 27 percent of the U.S. total, lived in just two states: California (330,635) and New York (191,850). But California and New York have large labor forces of workers in many occupations. To standardize the counting of artists among states with varying labor-force sizes, this note also reports artists as a share of the

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<sup>1</sup> In this note, the District of Columbia is treated as a state. D.C., however, is really a city. Since the arts tend to concentrate in city and urban areas, the District, compared to actual states, inevitably ranks highly in percentages of artists.

<sup>2</sup> The labor-force figures shown in this note include employed and, for specific occupation categories, the experienced unemployed.

total civilian labor force. For example, artists made up 1.4 percent of the U.S. civilian labor market in 2000.

As a share of the civilian labor force, artists were generally concentrated in East and West Coast states. The District of Columbia ranked first—in 2000, artists made up 2.9 percent of the D.C. labor force. New York and California followed with 2.13 percent and 2.09 percent, respectively. Other states with high percentages of artists were Hawaii (1.78 percent), Massachusetts (1.74 percent), Connecticut (1.63 percent) and Vermont (1.61 percent).

For a majority of states, 26 in fact, artists made up 1 to 1.5 percent of the labor force. These states were located throughout the country and included those with large labor forces, such as Texas, Florida, and Pennsylvania, as well as most of the Great Lake states, several Plains and Rocky Mountain states, and sections of the Southeast. In Florida, 1.4 percent of the labor force was composed of artists. In Texas and Pennsylvania, the fractions were 1.16 and 1.17 percent, respectively. Other states falling in the 1 to 1.5 percent range included Illinois (1.35 percent), Iowa (1.01 percent), Montana (1.28 percent) and Virginia (1.32 percent).

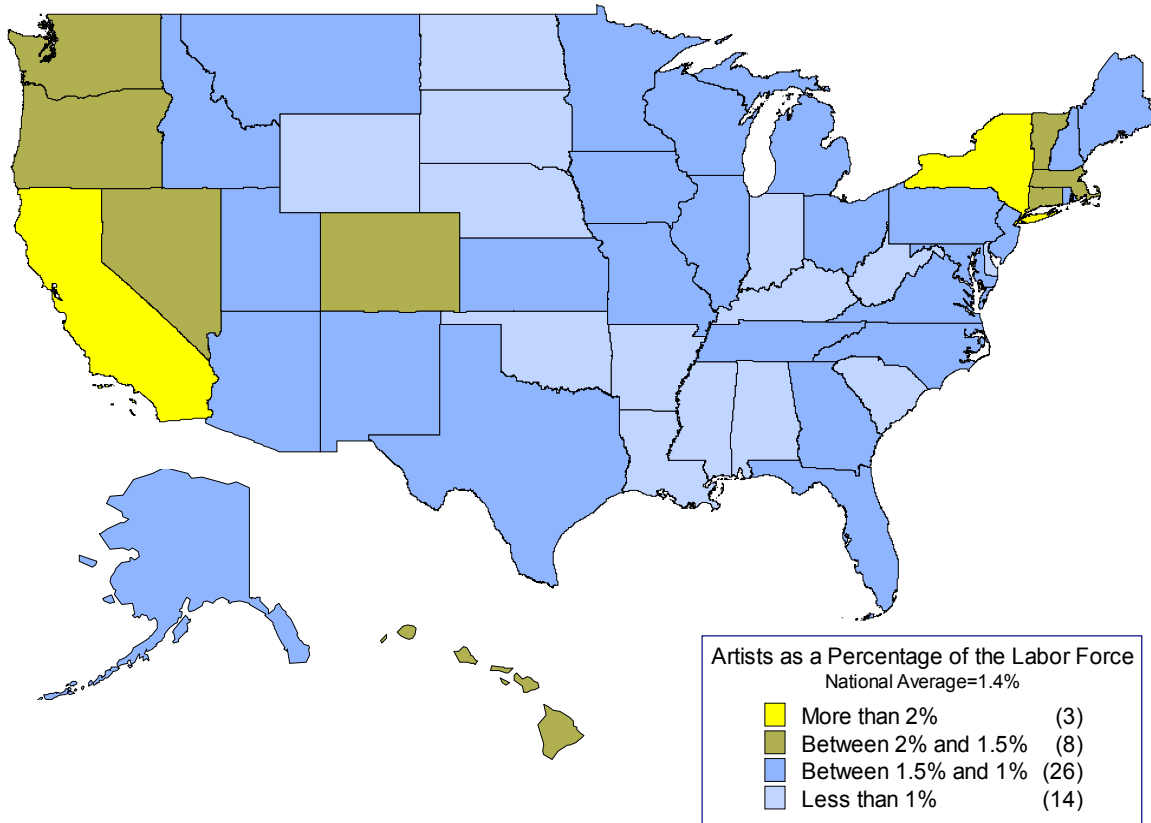
Many of the states with the lowest share of artists (less than 1 percent of the labor force) were located in the Southeast and Plains states. Examples included Mississippi (0.72 percent), West Virginia (0.74 percent), Arkansas (0.76 percent), and North Dakota (0.83 percent).

States with the Highest Share of Artists, 2000 (Includes the District of Columbia)		
	Share of Artists (As a percentage of the labor force)	Rank in the U.S.
U.S.	1.40%	---
District of Columbia	2.89%	1
New York	2.13%	2
California	2.09%	3
Hawaii	1.78%	4
Massachusetts	1.74%	5
Connecticut	1.63%	6
Vermont	1.61%	7
Colorado	1.59%	8
Oregon	1.58%	9
Nevada	1.56%	10

States with the Lowest Share of Artists, 2000 (Includes the District of Columbia)		
	Share of Artists (As a percentage of the labor force)	Rank in the U.S.
U.S.	1.40%	---
Indiana	0.94%	42
Oklahoma	0.92%	43
South Carolina	0.92%	44
Alabama	0.88%	45
South Dakota	0.88%	46
Kentucky	0.85%	47
North Dakota	0.83%	48
Arkansas	0.76%	49
West Virginia	0.74%	50
Mississippi	0.72%	51

### Artists as a Percentage of the Labor Force

Source: Census 2000 Special Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Tabulation.



## INDIVIDUAL ARTIST OCCUPATIONS

An analysis of individual artist occupations also requires standardization among states. In this case, however, a particular artist occupation is shown as a share of the total number of artists. For example, the 2000 Special EEO Tabulations reveal that photographers were 6.4 percent of all artists. The following summarizes the state concentration of selected artist occupations:

### Designers, Fine Artists, Architects, and Writers

The EEO tabulations show more than 749,000 designers in the labor force in 2000, making it the largest of the 11 artist occupations examined in this note. At the U.S. level, designers (a broad category that includes interior, graphic, industrial, fashion, and set designers) made up almost 39 percent of all artists. And, in 26 states, designers were 40 percent or more of the artist labor force, including Michigan, where nearly 52 percent of artists were designers.

There were also relatively large numbers of fine artists (labeled “art directors, fine artists, and animators”) and architects. At the U.S. level, approximately 232,000 workers, or 12 percent of all artists, were fine artists in 2000; almost 193,000, 10 percent of the artist labor force, were architects.

High concentrations of fine artists were found in states with comparatively small artist labor forces. These included New Mexico, where almost 27 percent of all artists were fine artists, and Alaska (21 percent), Wyoming, (19 percent), and Vermont (18.5 percent). High percentages of architects were reported living in the District of Columbia, where they made up 16.5 percent of the artist labor force, and Colorado (14.9 percent), Washington (14.8 percent), and Massachusetts (14.7 percent).

The writers and authors category includes a number of creative-writing occupations, including playwrights, poets, storywriters, scriptwriters, novelists, magazine writers, lyricists, librettists, and humor writers. The 162,000 reported writers and authors were 8 percent of the U.S. artist labor force in 2000. As a share of the total number of artists, the highest percentage of writers and authors was in the District of Columbia. In the District, almost 21 percent of artists were writers, more than 12 percentage points above the figure recorded for the country as a whole. Vermont (12.97 percent), Maine (11.99), and Montana (11.56 percent) also had high concentrations of writers.

### Musicians, Dancers, and Actors

Of the performing arts occupations, the musicians and singers category was the largest—more than 170,000 U.S. workers were musicians and singers in 2000. Among the states and the District, Tennessee had the highest concentration of musicians and singers. Almost 19 percent of all artists in Tennessee were musicians and signers, 10 percentage points higher than the U.S. rate of 9 percent. Nashville’s country music industry may be contributing to the high rate of musicians in Tennessee. In fact, 64 percent of the state’s

musicians live in the Nashville metro area. Other southeastern states also recorded high shares of musicians, including Mississippi (14.1 percent), South Carolina (12.1 percent), and Alabama (11.9 percent).

At 11.5 percent, Nevada also had a high share of musicians and singers, 2.7 points greater than the U.S. figure. But Nevada had, by far, the highest percentage of dancers. Dancers and choreographers are the smallest of the 11 artist occupations. At the U.S. level, for example, dancers were only 1.4 percent of all artists. In Nevada, however, dancers made up almost 9 percent of the state's artists.

This high concentration of dancers is likely due, in part, to Nevada's sizable entertainment and accommodation industries, which employ significant numbers of dancers.<sup>3</sup> In 2000, amusement, recreation, and accommodation accounted for almost 18 percent of Nevada's gross state product—the comparable figure for the U.S. was 1.7 percent.<sup>4</sup>

Other states with relatively high fractions of dancers included Hawaii (5.5 percent), Alaska (3.4 percent), and Oklahoma (2.5 percent).

California and New York had high numbers of artists in all occupations. But, these states generally did not rank highly when individual occupations were estimated as a share of all artists. Using this standardized measurement, Michigan had the highest concentration of designers, the District ranked first in architects and writers, and the largest percentages of musicians and dancers lived in Tennessee and Nevada. But, possibly due to its movie and theater industries, California and New York had the highest shares of actors. In California, 5.4 percent of all artists were actors; in New York, 4.2 percent were. These shares were 3.4 points (California) and 2.2 points (New York) higher than the 2 percent reported for the country as a whole.

## TECHNICAL NOTES

The labor-force figures presented in this note were taken from the Special EEO Tabulations of Census 2000 data. A consortium of four federal agencies sponsored these tabulations: the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Department of Justice, the Department of Labor, and the Office of Personnel Management. The special tabulations delineate the civilian labor force, 16 years and over, by residence (where workers live, and the tabulations used in this note), worksite (where people work), and workflow (flow to worksites by workers from outside places and counties).

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<sup>3</sup> Detailed occupation by industry data are not readily available at the state level. At the U.S. level, however, in 2002, the arts, entertainment, and recreation industry, which includes non-hotel casinos, employed 37 percent of dancers. The accommodation industry, including hotel casinos, employed an additional 32 percent. Combined, the two industries employed almost 70 percent of all dancers. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Office of Occupational Statistics and Employment Projections.

<sup>4</sup> Gross state product is measured using Standard Industry Codes (SIC), which lists "amusement and recreation," rather than the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) definition of "arts, entertainment, and recreation." Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce.

The Census Bureau recommends using the Special EEO Tabulations to obtain information about detailed occupations by race and ethnicity. Due to rounding and differences in labor-force universe definitions, the EEO estimates of total civilian labor force and other high-level occupations groups differ from labor force estimates reported in other Census 2000 reports and tables. For more information about the Special EEO Tabulations, visit the Census Bureau's web site at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

The U.S. estimates shown in this note also differ from those reported in Research Division Note #84, Artist Employment, 2000-2002. This note, produced annually by the NEA Research Division, is based on the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly survey of about 60,000 households conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Special EEO Tabulations, conversely, were obtained from the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire, which was distributed to 1 out of 6 of all U.S. households. The large sample size used in the EEO tabs enable the Census Bureau to report detailed occupations by state, metropolitan areas, and smaller geographic areas such as counties and county sets (combined counties). The smaller CPS sample size can only be used to obtain detailed occupations at the U.S. level. Information about Note #84 and the CPS can be found at [www.nea.gov](http://www.nea.gov) and at [www.bls.census.gov/cps](http://www.bls.census.gov/cps).

## Artist Labor Force by State, 2000

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Occupation Category	U.S. Total	Alabama	Alaska	Arizona	Arkansas	California	Colorado	Connecticut
Total civilian labor force	137,668,735	2,047,070	309,485	2,366,365	1,249,565	15,829,220	2,304,444	1,757,139
All artist occupations	1,927,400	18,035	3,655	33,095	9,475	330,635	36,745	28,605
As percent of total civilian labor force	1.40%	0.88%	1.18%	1.40%	0.76%	2.09%	1.59%	1.63%
Architects	192,860	1,595	305	3,560	755	28,710	5,460	3,115
Art directors, fine artists, and animators	231,690	1,970	770	5,245	1,175	41,860	4,670	3,360
Designers	749,335	7,525	1,000	11,960	4,020	115,505	14,005	12,420
Actors	38,605	140	0	345	40	17,930	275	295
Producers and directors	139,335	900	245	1,555	520	34,325	2,010	2,000
Dancers and choreographers	26,915	215	125	765	120	3,310	420	155
Musicians and singers	170,015	2,145	235	3,095	1,030	26,535	2,765	2,045
Announcers	54,855	840	215	995	515	5,215	830	620
Writers and authors	162,155	845	445	2,605	500	30,565	3,490	2,765
Photographers	124,045	1,570	265	2,025	685	19,935	2,180	1,590
Other artists and entertainers	37,590	290	50	945	115	6,745	640	240

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Occupation Category	Delaware	District of Columbia	Florida	Georgia	Hawaii	Idaho	Illinois	Indiana
Total civilian labor force	397,348	294,972	7,407,465	4,062,805	573,771	636,209	6,208,625	3,117,904
All artist occupations	3,795	8,535	106,925	48,945	10,190	6,655	83,600	29,390
As percent of total civilian labor force	0.96%	2.89%	1.44%	1.20%	1.78%	1.05%	1.35%	0.94%
Architects	360	1,405	9,675	5,655	1,245	820	9,625	2,080
Art directors, fine artists, and animators	450	655	12,305	5,455	1,800	870	9,325	2,970
Designers	1,690	1,990	39,345	19,535	2,570	2,705	34,330	12,860
Actors	40	110	1,585	440	15	60	1,165	130
Producers and directors	210	1,270	7,450	3,600	660	220	5,260	1,625
Dancers and choreographers	35	55	2,210	710	565	60	915	645
Musicians and singers	320	560	11,090	4,630	1,220	380	6,600	2,850
Announcers	125	145	4,185	1,540	340	310	2,490	1,380
Writers and authors	260	1,790	6,545	3,230	645	625	7,190	2,075
Photographers	240	405	7,125	3,320	780	560	5,545	2,185
Other artists and entertainers	65	150	5,410	830	350	45	1,155	590

## Artist Labor Force by State, 2000

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Occupation Category	U.S. Total	Iowa	Kansas	Kentucky	Louisiana	Maine	Maryland	Massachusetts
Total civilian labor force	137,668,735	1,554,722	1,374,699	1,907,615	1,998,010	655,138	2,737,309	3,312,055
All artist occupations	1,927,400	15,760	14,820	16,300	19,010	8,385	38,390	57,795
As percent of total civilian labor force	1.40%	1.01%	1.08%	0.85%	0.95%	1.28%	1.40%	1.74%
Architects	192,860	1,055	1,470	1,340	2,020	840	4,755	8,205
Art directors, fine artists, and animators	231,690	1,625	1,975	1,815	2,080	1,545	4,080	6,295
Designers	749,335	7,325	6,130	6,870	6,580	3,010	13,980	23,450
Actors	38,605	40	65	90	90	25	425	530
Producers and directors	139,335	835	775	1,060	1,090	530	3,435	3,710
Dancers and choreographers	26,915	195	190	330	420	55	295	400
Musicians and singers	170,015	1,245	1,115	1,530	2,695	485	3,095	4,375
Announcers	54,855	695	590	830	1,035	310	980	1,055
Writers and authors	162,155	1,255	1,070	1,025	1,015	1,005	4,095	6,235
Photographers	124,045	1,310	1,175	1,120	1,710	495	2,885	2,975
Other artists and entertainers	37,590	180	265	290	275	85	365	565

(Continued)

Occupation Category	Michigan	Minnesota	Mississippi	Missouri	Montana	Nebraska	Nevada	New Hampshire
Total civilian labor force	4,922,475	2,689,150	1,267,075	2,806,684	454,685	909,508	995,248	676,379
All artist occupations	63,140	37,860	9,180	32,330	5,840	8,905	15,565	8,305
As percent of total civilian labor force	1.28%	1.41%	0.72%	1.15%	1.28%	0.98%	1.56%	1.23%
Architects	4,940	3,670	635	3,290	585	750	1,120	640
Art directors, fine artists, and animators	6,170	4,740	765	4,025	1,175	920	1,265	1,110
Designers	32,635	15,675	3,880	13,270	1,870	3,740	5,020	3,790
Actors	265	465	30	150	65	70	255	40
Producers and directors	2,865	2,245	545	1,665	205	520	750	385
Dancers and choreographers	955	325	90	480	45	200	1,385	40
Musicians and singers	5,015	3,065	1,290	3,045	360	625	1,785	570
Announcers	1,850	1,070	595	985	325	480	395	195
Writers and authors	3,950	3,530	400	2,290	675	750	925	840
Photographers	3,600	2,525	810	2,495	450	765	885	560
Other artists and entertainers	895	550	140	635	85	85	1,780	135



## Artist Labor Force by State, 2000

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Occupation Category	U.S. Total	New Jersey	New Mexico	New York	North Carolina	North Dakota	Ohio	Oklahoma
Total civilian labor force	137,668,735	4,193,140	823,443	9,023,100	4,039,740	331,932	5,684,775	1,632,148
All artist occupations	1,927,400	61,090	12,295	191,850	42,470	2,750	60,860	15,060
As percent of total civilian labor force	1.40%	1.46%	1.49%	2.13%	1.05%	0.83%	1.07%	0.92%
Architects	192,860	6,350	1,250	17,585	3,935	170	6,235	1,420
Art directors, fine artists, and animators	231,690	7,185	3,300	23,885	4,760	305	7,035	1,650
Designers	749,335	25,485	3,555	65,410	18,455	1,100	26,485	5,780
Actors	38,605	915	55	7,980	340	0	370	60
Producers and directors	139,335	4,570	600	20,075	2,520	190	2,930	895
Dancers and choreographers	26,915	490	140	2,620	710	10	995	380
Musicians and singers	170,015	5,755	830	16,300	3,665	245	5,475	1,610
Announcers	54,855	1,150	440	3,205	1,490	300	2,010	690
Writers and authors	162,155	5,000	1,145	20,465	3,130	235	4,260	1,145
Photographers	124,045	3,195	870	11,385	2,800	175	4,020	1,110
Other artists and entertainers	37,590	995	110	2,940	665	20	1,045	320

(Continued)

Occupation Category	Oregon	Pennsylvania	Rhode Island	South Carolina	South Dakota	Tennessee	Texas	Utah
Total civilian labor force	1,740,285	5,992,885	530,598	1,938,205	391,611	2,805,275	9,830,565	1,098,912
All artist occupations	27,540	70,105	7,945	17,825	3,439	35,310	114,085	14,425
As percent of total civilian labor force	1.58%	1.17%	1.50%	0.92%	0.88%	1.26%	1.16%	1.31%
Architects	3,105	7,100	700	1,870	240	2,590	12,835	1,295
Art directors, fine artists, and animators	3,910	8,355	765	1,810	555	3,445	12,710	2,065
Designers	10,815	29,335	3,790	6,835	1,210	12,185	46,375	6,400
Actors	310	720	50	80	4	310	1,040	205
Producers and directors	1,480	3,735	325	1,190	235	2,800	6,170	970
Dancers and choreographers	310	705	95	320	15	355	2,315	320
Musicians and singers	1,800	6,225	620	2,155	290	6,705	11,255	780
Announcers	790	2,195	220	645	220	1,375	4,100	315
Writers and authors	2,950	6,100	645	1,255	190	2,285	7,120	940
Photographers	1,635	4,645	640	1,245	385	2,485	7,400	925
Other artists and entertainers	435	990	95	420	95	775	2,765	210

## Artist Labor Force by State, 2000

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Occupation Category	U.S. Total	Vermont	Virginia	Washington	West Virginia	Wisconsin	Wyoming
Total civilian labor force	137,668,735	331,140	3,563,760	2,979,840	790,685	2,869,239	254,455
All artist occupations	1,927,400	5,320	46,905	46,465	5,820	33,450	2,515
As percent of total civilian labor force	1.40%	1.61%	1.32%	1.56%	0.74%	1.17%	0.99%
Architects	192,860	650	5,625	6,875	310	2,850	200
Art directors, fine artists, and animators	231,690	985	5,045	6,065	755	4,140	485
Designers	749,335	1,880	18,145	18,525	2,315	15,715	860
Actors	38,605	20	295	405	60	210	0
Producers and directors	139,335	230	3,265	2,475	350	1,760	120
Dancers and choreographers	26,915	25	435	390	140	405	20
Musicians and singers	170,015	320	3,905	3,265	495	2,345	180
Announcers	54,855	205	1,570	1,035	520	1,140	105
Writers and authors	162,155	690	4,935	4,090	355	2,310	270
Photographers	124,045	235	3,050	2,695	495	2,230	250
Other artists and entertainers	37,590	80	635	645	25	345	25

Source: Census 2000 Special Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Tabulations.

National Endowment for the Arts  
 Research Division  
 Note #85  
 May 2004

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