There are more than 4 million people in the U.S. whose primary job is artist.

**Employment by Selected Occupation Group**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Employment, 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Architects</td>
<td>69,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art directors</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artists</td>
<td>230,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designers</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dancers and choreographers</td>
<td>56,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musicians</td>
<td>19,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writers and authors</td>
<td>202,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photographers</td>
<td>41,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Announcers</td>
<td>55,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Producers and directors</td>
<td>208,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other entertainers</td>
<td>222,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accountants and auditors</td>
<td>49,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artists and related</td>
<td>2,722,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal occupations*</td>
<td>513,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,333,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are more than 2 million people in the U.S. whose primary job is artist.

**2015 Artist Employment**

- *Includes magicians, comedians, and jugglers*

**In many ways, working artists look a lot like the rest of the American workforce, but there are key differences:**

- **Unemployment Rate**
  - Artists: 4.3%
  - U.S. workers: 4.7%

- **Median Age**
  - Artists: 41
  - U.S. workers: 41

- **Median Income**
  - Architects: $70,590
  - Artists: $48,234

**Geography**

As with many industries, artists tend to live in urban centers. As a percentage of the workforce, however, artists cluster in certain regions and occupations similar to those in the American workforce.

- Santa Fe, NM
- Los Angeles, CA
- Nashville, TN
- New York, NY-NJ-PA
- Washington, DC
- Austin, TX
- San Francisco, CA
- Boulder, CO
- Lawrence, KS
- Ann Arbor, MI
- New Mexico

**Examples of metro areas where artists cluster**

- Music: New York, NY-NJ-PA, Los Angeles, CA
- Dance: New York, NY-NJ-PA, Santa Fe, NM, Nashville, TN
- Visual Artists: Los Angeles, CA, Denver, CO, New Mexico
- Writers and Authors: New York, NY-NJ-PA, Los Angeles, CA, Boulder, CO

**Entrepreneurship and Education**

- More likely than other workers to be self-employed

- More likely than other workers to have a college degree

- Artists are well-educated

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**Working Artists in America**

American artists, just like entrepreneurs in any other field, can make a significant contribution to the economy and the cultural vitality of our communities. NEA research demonstrates the powerful connection between the creative workforce and our nation’s economic health.
There are more than 2 million people in the U.S. whose primary job is artist.

**EMPLOYMENT BY SELECTED OCCUPATION GROUP**

*Including lawyers, judges, clerks, and paralegals*
There are more than 2 million people in the U.S. whose primary job is artist.

**Employment by Selected Occupation Group**

*including lawyers, judges, clerks, and paralegals*
Artists are entrepreneurial

more likely than other workers to be self-employed

Artists are well-educated

more likely than other workers to have a college degree
WORkINg ARTISTS IN AMERICA

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND EDUCATION

Artists are entrepreneurial

3.4X

Artists are well-educated

2X

more likely than other workers to be self-employed

34%

62%

more likely than other workers to have a college degree

10%

31%