EMPLOYMENT IN THE ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND MEDIA INDUSTRIES

DPE Research Update
February 2022
Data Notes

- Many arts and entertainment organizations never completely shut down. Though productions were paused for over a year in many circumstances, many administrative, operations and management employees worked throughout the pandemic, affecting sectoral employment.

- Because the challenge of defining who is unemployed during the COVID-19 pandemic, compounded with the volatility of monthly BLS data, we encourage affiliates to look at the numbers for sectoral employment rather than unemployment percentages, which are no longer included in this data summary.

- In addition, we encourage everyone to see this data as a set of indicators about creative sector recovery, not a complete picture of the employment situation of your members.
Unemployment in Creative Industries

- In general, economic data is more reliable when looking at larger groupings of industries and is more volatile for specific subsets such as smaller industries.

- Some data sets allow us to analyze the data based on more specific industries while others only provide data based on larger industry groups. You will notice that motion picture and sound recording and performing arts and spectator sports are often grouped together.

- Data for a given month is often revised a month or two after its initial provisional release.
Employment Levels in Select Arts & Entertainment Industries, February 2020 - January 2022 (Thousands)

Net decline in Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation employment, March 2020 – December 2021: 130,000

Performing Arts and Spectator Sports Industry (including independent artists)

- In 2019, total employment in this industry was 519,000
- Performers, directors, choreographers, stagehands, and other professionals represented by AEMI unions account for about 25% of industry employment
- Other major occupations in this industry include:
  - office and administrative support (10.3% of total employment),
  - business and financial operations (8.7%),
  - food preparation and serving (6.2%),
  - transportation (6.1%),
  - sales (5.9%), and
  - management (5.7%)
Employment in Performing Arts and Spectator Sports Industries (Thousands), February 2020 - January 2022

Motion Picture and Sound Recording Industry

- In 2019, employment in these industries totaled 443,000.

- About 39% of industry employment is in occupations traditionally represented by AEMI unions, including actors, singers, musicians, directors, technicians, designers, and others.

- Other major occupations in this industry include:
  - food preparation and serving (13.4%),
  - ushers, lobby attendants and ticket takers (12.5%),
  - office and administrative support (6.3%),
  - sales (4.4%),
  - transportation (4.2%),
  - management (4.1%), and
  - business and financial operations (3.4%)
Employment in Motion Picture and Sound Recording Industry (Thousands), February 2020 - January 2022

Creative Industry Employment in California (Thousands), February 2020 - January 2022

Creative Industry Employment in New York (Thousands)  
February 2020 - January 2022

https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/SMU36000005051200001SA and https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/SMU36000007071100001SA.
Broadcasting

- The broadcasting (except internet) industry is a very wide classification that includes companies that provide cable and subscription programming, as well as traditional television and radio broadcasters.

- About 50% of people working in broadcasting fall into the broad category of arts, design, entertainment and media occupations, which includes news analysts, journalists, and reporters, writers, camera operators, sound engineering technicians, film and video editors, and other creative professionals.

- Other common occupations within the industry include sales (12.5%), office and administrative support (12%), management (7.5%), business and financial operations (5.6%) and computer and math occupations (4.5%).
Employment in Broadcasting, Except Internet (Thousands), February 2020 - January 2022

Questions & Follow-up

- If you have any questions about the data in this presentation or would like more information, please contact DPE Assistant to the President and Legislative Director Michael Wasser at mwasser@dpeaflcio.org.

- DPE will update this presentation with new employment data every month.