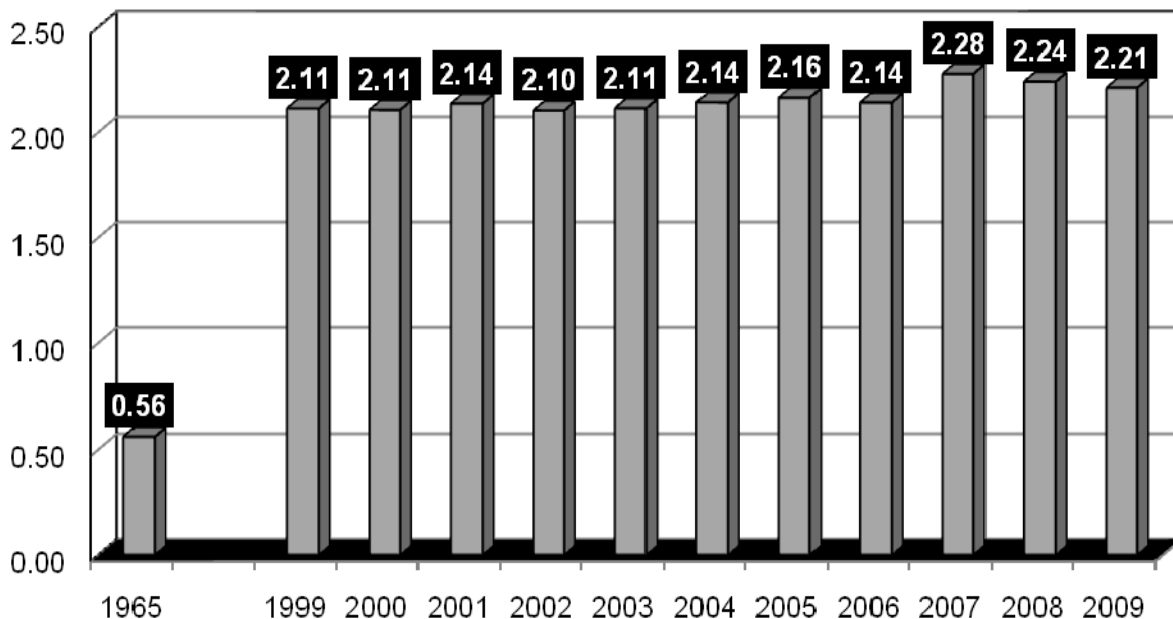




Arts Facts . . . Artist Employment

Artists comprise 1.4 percent of the U.S. workforce, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The unemployment rate for artists grew to 9.5 percent in 2009, and is increasing at a faster rate than all professional workers.

Artists in U.S. Workforce: 1999-2009 (in millions)



- The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports that 2.21 million artists were in the U.S. workforce in 2009—representing 1.4 percent of the total civilian workers. This is the second consecutive annual decrease.
- In 2009, the average unemployment rate for all artists climbed to 9.5 percent, far surpassing the percentage unemployed among all professionals (4.4 percent), a broad category of workers that includes not only artists, but other occupations that generally require college training.
- The artist labor force—using BLS measures—is composed of just 11 occupational categories: architects; art directors, fine artists and animators; designers; actors; producers and directors; dancers and choreographers; musicians and singers; announcers; writers and authors; photographers; and other artists and entertainers.
- As this is an analysis solely of artist employment, it should be noted that many arts-related jobs are not included in this data, such as arts administrators, curators, technical staff, and fundraisers.

Source: National Endowment for the Arts Research Note #97, 2010.