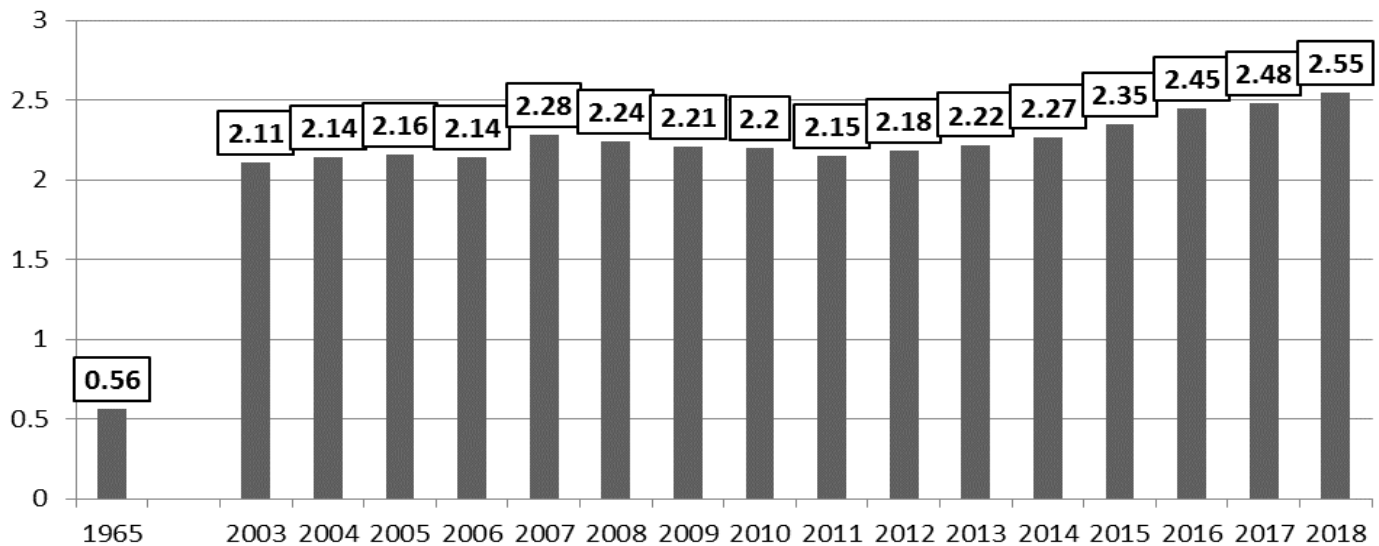




Arts Facts . . . Artist Employment

Artists comprise 1.6 percent of the U.S. workforce (2.55 million workers), per the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The unemployment rate for artists dropped from 4.0 percent in 2017 to 2.7 percent in 2018.

Artists in U.S. Workforce: 2003-2018 [millions]



- The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports that there were 2.55 million artists in the U.S. workforce in 2017—representing 1.6 percent of all workers 16 and older.
- In 2018, the unemployment rate for artists was 2.7 percent, down from 4.0 percent in 2017 (down from 9.2 percent in 2010, and 6.6 percent in 2014). The unemployment rate for artists remains higher than “Professionals” (2.2 percent), a category of workers that includes not only artists, but also other occupations that generally require college training. The 2018 unemployment rate for the total workforce was 3.5 percent.
- This analysis of the artist labor force 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. While these categories do not capture all artists in the workforce, this methodology has been used by the federal government for over 50 years, which makes it a valuable artist employment trend.
- As this is an analysis solely of *artist* employment, it should be noted that many arts-related jobs are not included in these data, such as arts administrators, curators, technical staff, and fundraisers.

Source: National Endowment for the Arts, Office of Research & Analysis and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019.