

Artist Employment in 2000

Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) show that more than 2 million people were employed (in primary jobs) as artists in 2000—a gain of 10,000 workers over the 1999 figure. An additional 295,000 people held *secondary* jobs in artist occupations. This note, #78, reports on the employment trends of workers in 11 artist occupations. The data are provided by the BLS and represent annualized averages of monthly employment counts taken from the Current Population Survey (CPS).

Table 1 of this note shows 1997 through 2000 employment statistics for all civilian workers, professional specialty occupations, and artist occupations. Chart 1 is a 1994-2000 time-series graph of employment for the three aggregate categories of civilian workers, professional specialty occupations, and artist occupations. Chart 2 shows a time-series graph of unemployed workers in these three categories, and Chart 3 plots the unemployment rate for the three groups of workers over the 1994-2000 period. Table 2 shows artist employment in secondary jobs in 2000.

This note also features a section on earnings and projected employment growth for select artist occupations taken from the BLS' *Occupational Outlook Handbook*. Table 3 summarizes this information for select artist occupations. These estimates were not based on the CPS. Rather, they were taken from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey program, a survey of business establishments

The Artist Labor Force

As shown in Table 1, the economy added 1.7 million employed civilian workers in 2000, and the unemployment rate dropped to a 31-year low¹. However, *growth* in civilian employment slowed. Between 1999 and 2000, civilian employment grew by 1.3 percent, down from 1.5 percent recorded a year earlier. Similarly, employment of workers in professional specialty occupations² increased to 21.1 million in 2000, corresponding to an unemployment rate of 1.7 percent. But employment growth in this occupation grouping slowed from 5 percent recorded in 1999 to 1.1 percent in 2000. Artist employment reached more than 2 million workers in 2000, and the corresponding unemployment rate of 3.5 percent was also a historical low. Like employment levels for all civilian and professional specialty workers, artist employment was at a high level in 2000. However, over-the-year growth decelerated from almost 4 percent in 1999 to 0.5 percent in 2000.

¹ See Jennifer L. Martel and David S. Langdon. "The Job Market in 2000: Slowing Down As the Year Ended." *Monthly Labor Review*, February 2001. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

² Professional specialty occupations represent an extensive occupation category characterized by workers with relatively high levels of education. It includes not only artist occupations, but also fields such as engineering, science, the clergy, and law.

Chart 1 shows 1994-2000 employment trends for all civilian workers, professional specialty occupations, and all artist occupations. Though all three categories show upward trends, growth patterns are different. For example, between 1995 and 1998, growth in artist employment was higher and less stable than the other two employment categories. In 1997, for instance, artist employment grew by 7 percent, compared to the 1.4 percent and 3.4 percent rates recorded for civilian employment and professional specialty employment, respectively. In 1999, however, the 5 percent growth in professional specialty employment surpassed growth in artist employment (3.9 percent) and civilian employment (1.5 percent). Chart 1 also shows the slowdown in employment growth for all three occupations categories in 2000, particularly noticeable for artists and professional specialty occupations.

Trends in unemployment and the unemployment rate are shown in Charts 2 and 3. During the 1994-2000 economic expansion, civilian unemployment³ continually declined, and the unemployment rate dropped from 6.1 percent in 1994 to 3.7 percent in 2000. Trends in professional specialty and artist unemployment were less stable. In 1999, for example, unemployment actually increased for both categories. However, like the civilian unemployment rate, unemployment rates for professional specialty occupations and all artists exhibited downward trends throughout the 1994-2000 time frame. Despite similar trend patterns, however, Chart 3 also shows that unemployment rates are higher for artists than for professional specialty occupations as a whole. For any given year in this time series, the unemployment rate associated with artists is about twice as high as the rate for professional specialty occupations.

Individual Artist Occupations

Table 1 shows employment, unemployment, and unemployment rates for 11 individual artist occupations. The “designers” occupation is the largest of these categories. In 2000, 738,000 workers were employed as designers. In contrast, dancers constitute the smallest artist occupation—32,000 dancers were employed in 2000⁴. Of the 11 individual artist occupations shown in Table 1, six showed 2000 increases in employment. Architects experienced the strongest employment growth in 2000—up 21,000 workers, or 10.8 percent, over 1999 employment levels. Employment among designers grew by 16,000. However, in percentage points, this gain is only 1.7 percent. Other artist occupations exhibiting 2000 employment growth included actors and directors (2.3 percent); announcers (6 percent); and other artists not elsewhere classified (7.9 percent).

For several artist occupations, there were fewer workers in the labor force (i.e., working or looking for work in an artist occupation). The strongest decrease in both labor force participation and employment was recorded for photographers. There were 20,000 fewer photographers in the labor force in 2000, a decline of 11.5 percent from the year before. Employment for this group decreased by 18,000, and unemployment fell by 2,000. Similarly, labor force participation decreased by 15,000 among painters, sculptors, and craft artists; and 11,000 in the musician/composer occupation category.

³ In this note, unemployment and the unemployment rate refer to experienced workers.

⁴ In occupations with labor forces of less than 75,000 there is higher error or variance in the estimate due to small sample sizes. Year-to-year changes should be viewed with caution.

The data in Table 1 can also be used to look at changes in artist employment over the 1997-2000 time period. Among all artists, employment was up by 156,000, or 8 percent. However, the employment trends of individual artists occupations varied. For example, between 1997 and 2000 the economy added 80,000 designers and 46,000 architects. Employment also grew for actors/directors and musicians/composers, but at a lower rate of 3,000 and 6,000 workers, respectively. Over this four-year time frame, employment decreased for some artist occupations, including painters, sculptors, and craft artists (13,000 decline) and announcers (decrease of 7,000).

Secondary Artist Employment⁵

The previous sections of this note and Table 1 describe workers in primary jobs⁶. However, the BLS reports that 7.6 million workers, or 5.6 percent of the employed workforce, were multiple jobholders in 2000. Among professional specialty occupations, nearly 1.5 million, or 6.9 percent, held secondary jobs. Table 2 shows the number and percentage of workers holding second jobs in artist occupations. At nearly 37 percent, the rate of workers holding second jobs in artist occupations was highest for musicians and composers. The next highest rate of secondary jobs was in the announcers category (35.7 percent). On the lower end of the scale, only 2.3 percent of workers held second jobs as architects. Designer occupations also recorded fewer second jobs—6.0 percent of all workers in this occupation.

Occupational Outlook

In addition to reporting the current trends in artist occupations described above, the BLS also produces employment projections by occupation. Taken from the most recent edition of the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*⁷, the table below provides a brief summary of earnings and expected employment growth for select artist occupations. The current employment trends outlined in the above sections of this note were based on annual averages from the Current Population Survey. However, the *Outlook* earnings and projections figures are based on the BLS' Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey, a survey of 400,000 business establishments. Consequently, not all of the artist occupations analyzed in the current trends are available in the *Outlook* data. For example, earnings and employment projections are not offered for the authors or teachers of art/drama/music categories⁸. In addition, some artist occupations are defined differently in the *Outlook* than they are in the CPS. For example, the CPS combines all types of designers while the *Outlook* distinguishes between designers and interior designers.

⁵ For detailed information about artist multiple jobholding, see *More Than Once in a Blue Moon: Multiple Jobholding by American Artists*, National Endowment for the Arts, Research Division Report #40.

⁶ Those holding more than one job are counted in the job in which they worked the most hours during the CPS survey week. This job is referred to as their primary job, while all other jobs held are defined as secondary jobs.

⁷ The *Occupational Outlook Handbook* is revised every two years. The figures printed here were taken from the 2000-01 edition published in January 2000.

⁸ Though not listed as a specific occupation in the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, the OES survey estimates that the *mean* annual wage of art, drama, and music teachers was \$45,000 in 1998.

Of the select artist occupations listed below, the highest median annual earnings were recorded for architects (\$47,710) and landscape architects (\$37,930). Photographers (\$20,940) and dancers and choreographers (\$21,430) had the lowest median annual earnings. However, the BLS reports that earnings for announcers, shown as \$8.62 per hour, were also comparatively low. Higher than average employment growth (i.e., employment growth for all occupations) is expected for the following artist occupations: actors, directors, and producers; designers and interior designers; visual artists, and camera operators. However, the BLS notes that, despite high projected employment growth (defined in the *Outlook* as 21 to 35 percent gains between 1998 and 2008), competition for some of these jobs will be strong. This is particularly true for actors, directors, and producers; visual artists⁹; and camera operators. Lower than average job growth is expected for photographers (projected employment growth of 0 to 9 percent), and employment is projected to decline by one or more percent for announcers.

Final Notes

The current trend employment data in this note are reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and are based on annual averages of data recorded by the monthly Current Population Survey. The employed are persons who, during the reference week of the survey, did any work at all as paid employees, worked in their own business, profession, or on their own farm, or who worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in an enterprise operated by a member of the family. Each employed person is counted only once, even if he or she holds more than one job. Multiple jobholders are counted in the job at which they worked the greatest number of hours during the reference week. The unemployed are defined as persons who had no employment during the reference week, were available for work, except for temporary illness, and had made specific efforts to find employment some time during the four-week-period ending with the reference week. The labor force comprises all persons classified as employed or unemployed, and the unemployment rate is the number of unemployed as a percent of the labor force. The unemployment rates listed in this note were obtained directly from the BLS using unrounded data and relate to experienced workers. For a more complete explanation of the Current Population Survey, see the notes and definitions sections of the *Monthly Labor Review*, available online at <http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/mlrhome.htm>.

The earnings and projected employment growth reported in this note were taken from the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, also produced by the BLS. Figures shown in the *Outlook* are based on the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey, a survey of 400,000 business establishments. For more information about the *Outlook* or the OES, see the BLS web site at <http://www.bls.gov/ocohome.htm>.

The Research Division of the National Endowment for the Arts has produced notes on artist employment annually since 1983. More information about Research Division notes and reports can be found on the Endowment's Web site at www.arts.gov.

⁹ In the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, the visual artists category comprises a number of arts occupations including painters, sculptors, printmakers, painting restorers, illustrators, graphic designers, fashion artists, and animators.

Table 1. The Artist Labor Force: Trends in Employment and Unemployment, 1997-2000

(in thousands)

<i>Occupation</i>	2000	1999	1998	1997	Change From	
					99-'00	97-'00
Total Civilian Workers	140,432	138,898	137,673	136,297	1,534	4,135
Employed	135,208	133,488	131,463	129,558	1,720	5,650
Unemployed	5,224	5,410	6,210	6,739	(186)	(1,515)
Unemployment Rate	3.7%	3.9%	4.5%	4.9%	-0.2%	-1.2%
Professional Specialty Occupations	21,482	21,277	20,263	19,648	205	1,834
Employed	21,113	20,883	19,883	19,245	230	1,868
Unemployed	369	394	380	403	-25	-34
Unemployment Rate	1.7%	1.9%	1.9%	2.1%	-0.2%	-0.4%
All Artists	2,110	2,113	2,032	1,962	-3	148
Employed	2,036	2,026	1,950	1,880	10	156
Unemployed	74	87	82	82	-13	-8
Unemployment Rate	3.5%	4.1%	4.0%	4.2%	-0.6%	-0.7%
Actors/Directors	149	146	144	150	3	-1
Employed	139	129	130	136	10	3
Unemployed	10	17	14	14	-7	-4
Unemployment Rate	6.9%	11.9%	9.8%	9.2%	-5.0%	-2.3%
Announcers	57	54	62	64	3	-7
Employed	54	50	60	61	4	-7
Unemployed	3	4	2	3	-1	0
Unemployment Rate	5.6%	7.6%	3.7%	4.3%	-2.0%	1.3%
Architects	217	196	161	171	21	46
Employed	215	194	158	169	21	46
Unemployed	2	2	3	2	0	0
Unemployment Rate	1.1%	0.9%	1.9%	1.4%	0.2%	-0.3%
Authors	144	152	134	141	-8	3
Employed	138	148	130	137	-10	1
Unemployed	6	4	4	4	2	2
Unemployment Rate	4.3%	2.9%	3.3%	3.1%	1.4%	1.2%
Dancers	33	29	35	31	4	2
Employed	32	27	34	27	5	5
Unemployed	1	2	1	4	-1	-3
Unemployment Rate	4.1%	5.2%	3.9%	13.6%	-1.1%	-9.5%
Designers	758	746	716	681	12	77
Employed	738	722	692	658	16	80
Unemployed	20	24	24	23	-4	-3
Unemployment Rate	2.6%	3.2%	3.4%	3.4%	-0.6%	-0.8%

Table 1. The Artist Labor Force: Trends in Employment and Unemployment, 1997-2000

(in thousands)

Continued

<i>Occupation</i>	2000	1999	1998	1997	Change From	
					99-'00	97-'00
Musicians/Composers	170	181	193	167	-11	3
Employed	161	172	183	155	-11	6
Unemployed	9	9	10	12	0	-3
Unemployment Rate	5.3%	4.8%	5.2%	7.1%	0.5%	-1.8%
Painters, Sculptors, Craft Artists	246	261	248	259	-15	-13
Employed	238	252	241	251	-14	-13
Unemployed	8	9	7	8	-1	0
Unemployment Rate	3.2%	3.4%	2.9%	3.0%	-0.2%	0.2%
Photographers	154	174	162	137	-20	17
Employed	148	166	154	132	-18	16
Unemployed	6	8	8	5	-2	1
Unemployment Rate	3.8%	4.4%	4.9%	3.9%	-0.6%	-0.1%
Teachers of Art/Drama/Music	36	40	46	36	-4	0
Employed	35	39	45	36	-4	-1
Unemployed	1	1	1	0	0	1
Unemployment Rate	2.3%	2.8%	1.6%	0.5%	-0.5%	1.8%
Other Artists, N.E.C.**	146	134	131	125	12	21
Employed	138	127	123	118	11	20
Unemployed	8	7	8	7	1	1
Unemployment Rate	5.5%	5.6%	6.4%	5.6%	-0.1%	-0.1%

** Not Elsewhere Classified

Source: Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Current Population Survey, Annual Averages, 1996-1999

Note: All unemployment rates shown, except for the category "All Artists," were calculated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics using unrounded data.

Table 2. Secondary Employment in 2000

Selected Artist Occupations	Primary Job Employment in 2000 (in thousands)	Secondary Job Employment in 2000 (in thousands)	Total Holding Either Primary or Secondary Jobs (in thousands)	% in this Occupation as a Second Job
All Artists	2036	295	2,331	12.7%
Actors/ Directors	139	13	152	8.6%
Announcers	54	30	84	35.7%
Architects	215	5	220	2.3%
Authors	138	13	151	8.6%
Dancers	32	2	34	5.9%
Designers	738	47	785	6.0%
Musicians/Composers	161	94	255	36.9%
Painters/Sculptors/Craft Artists	238	31	269	11.5%
Photographers	148	27	175	15.4%
Teachers of Art/Drama/Music	35	9	44	20.5%
Other Artists, N.E.C.	138	24	162	14.8%

Table 3. Occupational Outlook for Select Artist Occupations

Occupation	Median Annual Earnings in 1998	Projected Employment Growth Between 1998 and 2008
<i>Actors, Directors, and Producers</i>	\$27,400	Increase Between 21 to 35 Percent
<i>Announcers</i>	8.62 (per hour)	Decrease 1 Percent or More
<i>Architects</i>	\$47,710	Increase 10 to 20 Percent
<i>Landscape Architects</i>	\$37,930	Increase 10 to 20 Percent
<i>Dancers and Choreographers</i>	\$21,430	Increase 10 to 20 Percent
<i>Designers</i>	\$29,200	Increase Between 21 to 35 Percent
<i>Interior Designers</i>	\$31,760	Increase Between 21 to 35 Percent
<i>Musicians, Singers, and Related Workers</i>	\$30,020	Increase 10 to 20 Percent
<i>Visual Artists</i>	\$31,690	Increase Between 21 to 35 Percent
<i>Photographers</i>	\$20,940	Increase Between 0 to 9 Percent
<i>Camera Operators</i>	\$21,530	Increase Between 21 to 35 Percent

Chart 1. Total Civilian Labor Employment, Professional Specialty Occupations Employment, and All Artist Employment: 1994-2000

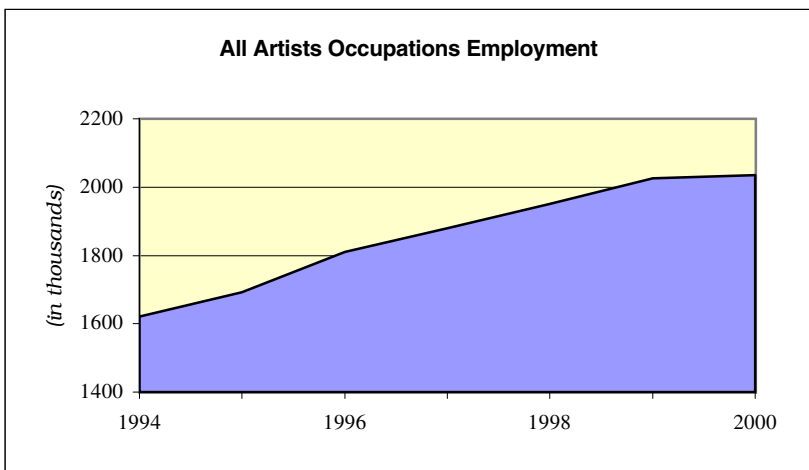
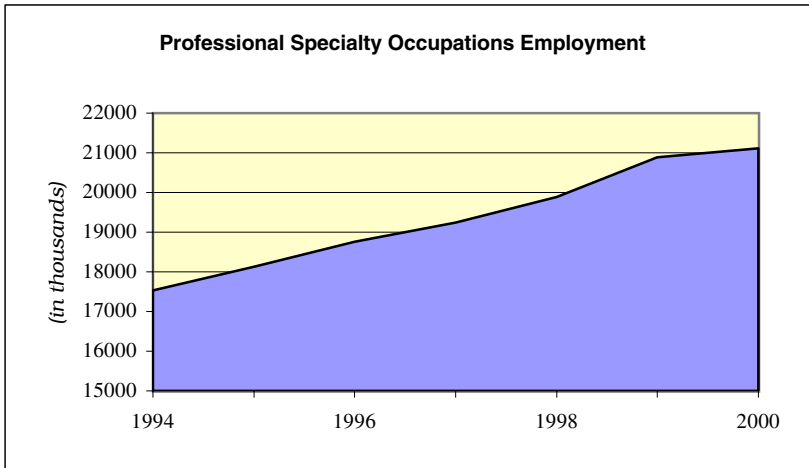
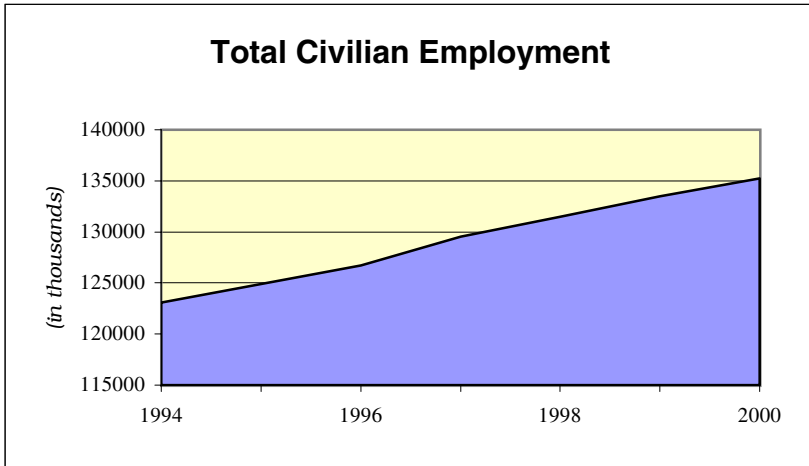


Chart 2. Total Civilian Labor Unemployment, Professional Specialty Occupation Employment, and All Artist Occupations Unemployment: 1994-2000

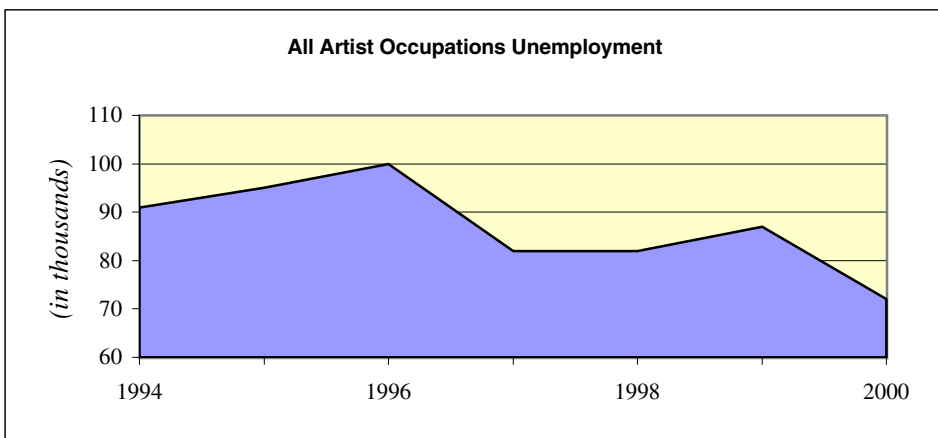
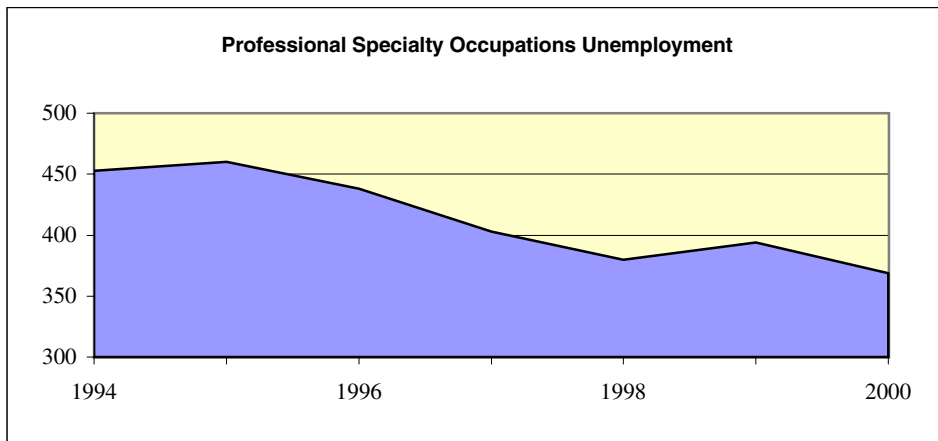
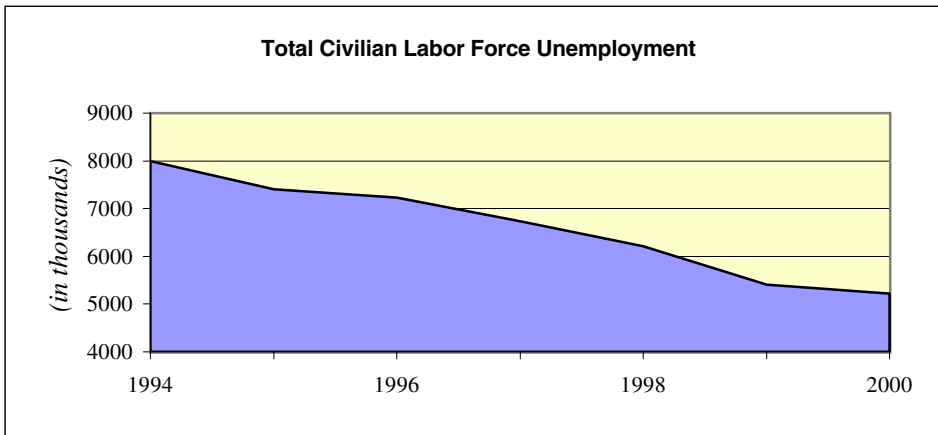
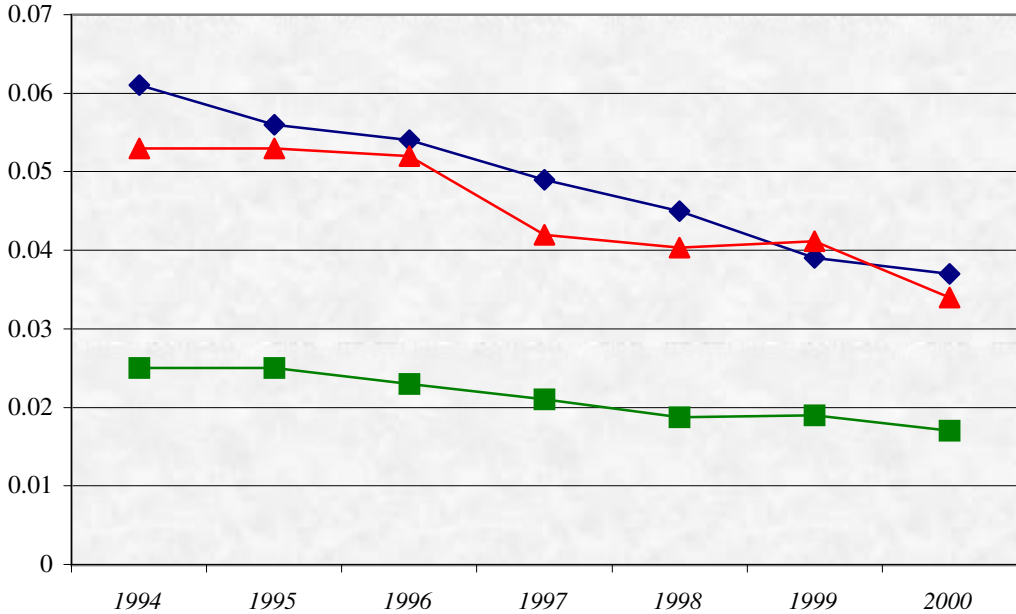


Chart 3. Unemployment Rates for Total Civilian Labor Force, Professional Specialty Occupations, and All Artist Occupations: 1994-2000



◆ Total Civilian Labor Force ■ Professional Specialty Occupations ▲ All Artists Occupations