



Research Division Note #9 - March 4, 1985

CHANGING PROPORTIONS OF MEN AND WOMEN
IN THE ARTIST OCCUPATIONS 1970-1980

The number of persons in the artist occupations increased between 1970 and 1980, however, the extent of the increase or decrease for men and women varies substantially among individual occupations.

A recent special study by the Bureau of the Census revised estimates of the 1970 Census in the light of the 1980 Occupational Classification System. The results of this special study were used in the preparation of this Note to compare 1970 with 1980 for all occupations in terms of numbers in the labor forces and of men and women. One of the important adjustments to the 1970 estimates is the increase to the base of women in some of the artist occupations, particularly designers, as a result of in-transfers from occupational groups that were not previously considered in the artists cluster of occupations. Thus, the base for comparing the increase in the proportion of women between 1970 and 1980 is larger when the adjusted data is used and the percentage increase is not so great.

o In 1970, 31 percent of all artists were women. The proportion increased by 7 percent in the decade to 38 percent in 1980. Increases in the proportion of women occurred in most of the artist occupations.

o The percentage changes for men varied over a wide range, from -42 to +143 percent. For women, the range of percentage changes was even greater, from -18 to +421 percent. However, the 1970 base for women was so small in certain artist occupations such as architects, that the overall impact of the larger percentage increases for women artists on the proportion of women in the artist occupations was much less dramatic than might be supposed.

Actors/Directors: The number of actors/directors increased 67 percent from 1970 to 1980. Unlike all the other artist occupations, the percentage increase of both men and women was 67 percent and the proportion of women in this labor force in 1970 and 1980 was the same 34 percent.

Architects: The number of architects more than doubled between 1970 and 1980. This was the leading artist occupation in terms of percentage change. Men increased 92 percent and women architects more than tripled, 319 percent. However, there were so few women architects in 1970 that even this large percentage change could only impact their overall proportion in the occupation by 4 percent--from 4 to 8 percent.

Art/Drama/Music Teachers (higher education): Teachers decreased by 32 percent between 1970 and 1980. The number of men decreased 42 percent. However, the number of women decreased only 18 percent. Interpret these changes for teachers with caution since in the 1980 Census about two-thirds of all teachers in higher education chose not to specify their discipline in comparison with the 1970 Census, where only 28 percent choose not to specify their discipline. The decline in numbers of art, drama or music teachers may not be an actual decline but simply a statistical reflection of many more teachers choosing not to specify their field.

Authors: Authors increased 65 percent between 1970 and 1980. The percentage increase of women authors was five times that of men, 149 vs. 30 percent, and in 1980 women made up 44 percent of this labor force compared with 29 percent in 1970.

Dancers: The number of dancers increased 78 percent from 1970 to 1980, but this artist labor force remained the smallest one. While few men are in the dancer occupation, their numbers increased 143 percent in the decade which was enough to change their overall proportion from 19 to 25 percent.

Designers: The designers labor force was the largest in the artist occupations in both 1970 and 1980. The number increased 45 percent in the decade. The 100 percent increase in numbers of women was enough to shift the proportion of women by 14 percent, so that in 1980 the proportions of men and women were virtually equal.

Musicians/Composers: The labor force increased 41 percent between 1970 and 1980 and was one of the few artist occupations where men had a higher percentage increase than women. The proportion of women declined 5 percent, from 35 percent in 1970 to 30 percent in 1980.

Painters/Sculptors/Crafts-Artists/Artist Printmakers: The number in this occupation increased 76 percent between 1970 and 1980. Women increased 117 percent compared with the 50 percent increase of men. The overall proportion of women increased 9 percent bringing men and women close to being equal in their proportions.

Photographers: This labor force as a whole, increased 40 percent in the decade, while women increased significantly more than men, 123 vs. 26 percent.

CAVEATS: Research Division Note #7 provides explanations of the effects of the classification system changes used in the 1980 Census on the artist occupations. See Research Division Note #4 for more information on the unadjusted data.

Artist Labor Force by Occupation and Sex
1980 and 1970

Occupation	Total			Men			Women			Women as a Proportion of the Labor Force		
	1980	1970	Change	1980	1970	Change	1980	1970	Change	1980	1970	Change
Actors/Directors	67,180	40,201	67%	44,049	26,339	67%	23,131	13,862	67%	34%	34%	0%
Announcers	46,986	25,942	81	38,392	24,291	58	8,594	1,651	421	18	6	12
Architects	107,693	53,670	101	98,743	51,534	92	8,950	2,136	319	8	4	4
Art/Drama/Music Teachers (higher education)	28,385	42,000	-32	14,718	25,310	-42	13,667	16,690	-18	48	40	8
Authors	45,748	27,752	65	25,409	19,578	30	20,339	8,174	149	44	29	15
Dancers	13,194	7,404	78	3,350	1,381	143	9,844	6,023	63	75	81	-6
Designers	338,374	232,890	45	169,604	148,572	14	168,770	84,318	100	50	36	14
Musicians/Composers	140,556	99,533	41	99,065	64,767	53	41,491	34,766	19	30	35	-5
Painters/Sculptors/Crafts- Artists/Artist Printmakers	153,162	86,849	76	79,445	52,827	50	73,717	34,022	117	48	39	9
Photographers	94,762	67,588	40	72,496	57,597	26	22,266	9,991	123	23	15	8
Artists/Performers, Related Workers, N.E.C.	49,653	53,131	-9	29,356	37,742	-22	20,297	15,389	32	40	29	11
All Artists	1,085,693	736,960	47	674,627	509,938	32	411,066	227,022	81	38	31	7

Research Division Note #9
March 1985

CHANGING NUMBERS AND PROPORTIONS OF MEN AND WOMEN ARTISTS, 1970 AND 1980

