



## Contribution of the Arts and Culture Sector to the Economy

Arts and cultural economic activity in the United States accounted for **4.5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), or \$877.8 billion**, in 2017—the most recent year for which data is available.<sup>1</sup>

This includes a broad range of core arts and cultural production and supporting services—such as performing arts; independent artists, writers and performers; museums; design services such as advertising, graphic design and fashion design; fine arts education; book publishing; and information services such as broadcasting, sound recording and motion pictures.<sup>2</sup>

When comparing the nominal values added by other industries, arts and culture **exceeds the dollar and percent of GDP contribution** of construction, transportation or agriculture. Construction economic activity accounted for 4.0 percent of GDP, or \$790 billion, in 2017. Transportation accounted for 3.1 percent of GDP, or \$612 billion; agriculture accounted for 0.9 percent of GDP, or \$175 billion.<sup>3</sup>

The total number of arts and cultural jobs in the country was **5.1 million** in 2017, and employment in the sector nationwide increased 0.9 percent over the previous year. Though arts and cultural employment and economic activity is more present in coastal states, the sector has a presence in most states and is growing nearly everywhere. Arts and cultural employment increased in 29 states and the District of Columbia in 2017. For most states, the arts and cultural share of total GDP ranged between 2 and 5 percent. Nominal value added in arts and cultural industries increased in every state and the District of Columbia—except West Virginia, Louisiana, Vermont and Michigan.<sup>4</sup>

Information services was the leading contributor to the overall growth in arts and cultural production at the national level, followed by design services. Core arts and cultural production industries, which include performing arts, museums, design services and fine arts education, grew 2.7 percent. Supporting arts and cultural production industries, including art support services and information services, increased 4.0 percent.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Bureau of Economic Analysis. Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account, U.S. and States 2017. March 17, 2020. <https://www.bea.gov/news/2020/arts-and-cultural-production-satellite-account-us-and-states-2017>.

<sup>2</sup> Bureau of Economic Analysis. Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account, U.S. and States 2017. March 17, 2020. <https://www.bea.gov/system/files/2020-03/acpsa0320.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Bureau of Economic Analysis. Interactive Access to Industry Economic Accounts Data: GDP by Industry. Value Added by Industry/ Value Added by Industry as a Percentage of Gross Domestic Product. October 29, 2019. <https://apps.bea.gov/iTable/iTable.cfm?ReqID=51&step=1>.

<sup>4</sup> Bureau of Economic Analysis. Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account, U.S. and States 2017. March 17, 2020. <https://www.bea.gov/news/2020/arts-and-cultural-production-satellite-account-us-and-states-2017>.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.