The arts and cultural production play a significant role in the U.S. economy. The National Endowment for the Arts and the Department of Commerce investigate the impact of arts and cultural goods, services, and industries — both commercial and not-for-profit — to the U.S. economy.

**AN EXPORT POWERHOUSE**

Arts and cultural production contributed to the U.S. economy in 2014 by growing GDP, contributing $729.6 billion, an increase of 35.1%.

**FAST-GROWING ARTS AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES**

The U.S. arts and cultural sector runs a trade surplus ($26.4 billion in 2014) that has been growing every year since 2006. In recent years, several industries producing arts and cultural goods and services have exhibited fast growth.

**ARTS AND THE CREATIVE ECONOMY**

One way to measure the creative economy is by looking at copyright-intensive industries such as publishing, broadcasting, and arts-related computer systems design. The arts make up $453 billion, nearly half of the creative economy (i.e., copyright-intensive industries).

**GROWTH IN PERFORMING-ARTS AUDIENCE DEMAND**

Over the past 15 years, consumers are spending more on admissions to performing arts events. Although arts and cultural production has increased, employment has decreased.

**ARTS AND CULTURAL PRODUCTION AND EMPLOYMENT: 1998-2014**

As a share of total consumer spending, spending on tickets to performing arts events has doubled since 1998.

**TOP 2014 ARTS AND CULTURAL EXPORTS:**

- Online publishing, broadcasting, streaming, and other information services (+12.6%)
- Presenters of performing arts (+5.7%)
- Arts-related computer systems design (+4.2%)
- Industrial design services (+4.1%)
- Landscape architectural services (+4.0%)
- Broadcasting (+2.5%)
- Specialized design (+2.7%)

**GDP GROWTH BY COPYRIGHT-INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES PRODUCING ARTS AND CULTURAL GOODS AND SERVICES: 2012-2014**

- Online publishing, broadcasting, streaming, and other information services: 12.6%
- Arts-related computer systems design: 4.2%
- Specialized design: 2.7%
- Broadcasting: 2.5%

**ARTS.GOV**

The National Endowment for the Arts celebrates and supports America’s arts and cultural heritage. Visit ARTS.GOV for more information.

**Employmet from Arts and Cultural Production**

Although arts and employment in the sector has increased, it has not kept pace with employment in the economy as a whole.

**Growth in Performing-Arts Audience Demand**

Over the past 15 years, consumers are spending more on performing arts events. In 2014, 12% of all tickets sold included at least one performing arts event. This 24% increase is the highest growth rate since 1999.

Arts and cultural production is a valuable part of America’s economy and growing more valuable every year.