The arts and culture sector is a $730 billion industry, which represents 4.2 percent of the nation’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP)—a larger share of the economy than transportation, tourism, or construction—according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

- The arts and cultural sector supported 4.8 million jobs in 2014, up from 4.7 million in 2013.
- In 2014, Arts and Culture’s 4.2 percent of GDP represented a larger share of the economy than Construction (3.9 percent), Transportation (2.9 percent), and Travel and Tourism (2.6 percent), and was larger than 45 states’ individual contributions to the GDP, including Pennsylvania ($663 billion) and New Jersey ($537 billion).
- The arts’ contributions to GDP have grown 35 percent since 1998 (an annual rate of +1.79 percent).
- That the BEA measures arts and cultural production in the U.S. highlights the important role of the arts in building a healthy economy and ensuring our global competitiveness.