

The Creative Economy of Chicago: Impact & Assets

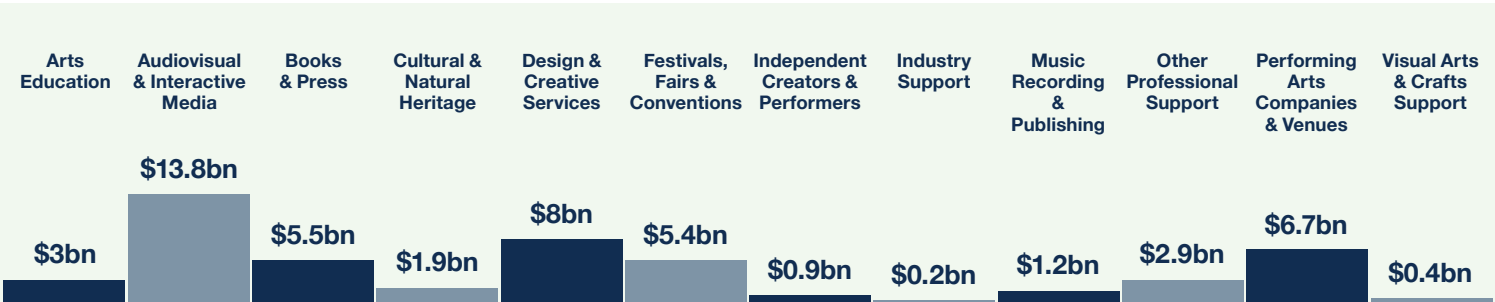


Photo Credit: Public Media Institute: Lumpen Radio - Through Your Years: Generations on Air

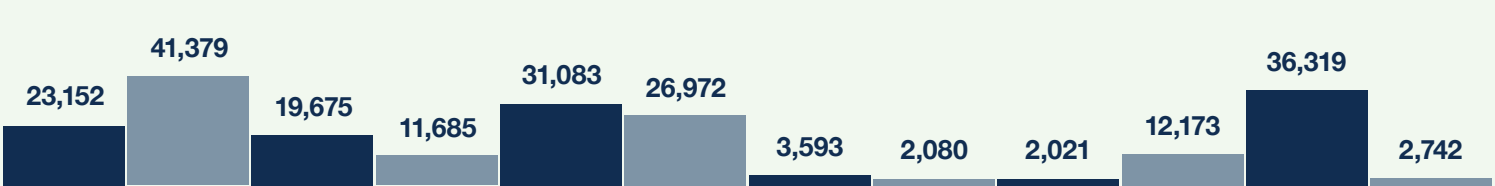
Artists, musicians, designers, architects, filmmakers, publishers, advertising professionals, cultural organizations, educators, creative entrepreneurs, and many others make up our creative economy, shaping Chicago’s identity and driving significant economic activity.

BY THE NUMBERS

- Supports 202,875 jobs
- Generates \$50B in annual economic output



Total Output: \$50bn*



Total Employment: 212,875*

\$1 ➡ \$1.38

Every \$1 generated by Chicago’s creative economy produces an additional \$0.38 in economic activity elsewhere in the local economy.

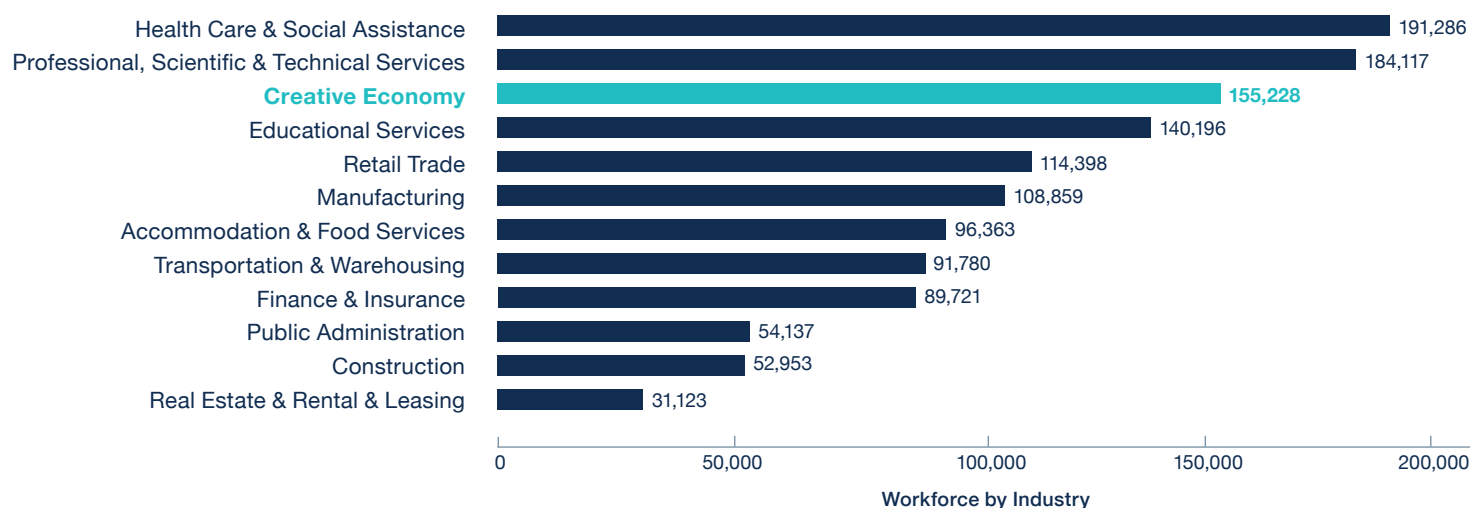
This analysis does not include visitor spending that occurs adjacent to creative experiences, such as restaurant, retail, transportation, or hotel spending. As a result, the findings represent a conservative estimate of the sector’s total economic impact.

Chicago’s share of Illinois’ Creative Economy

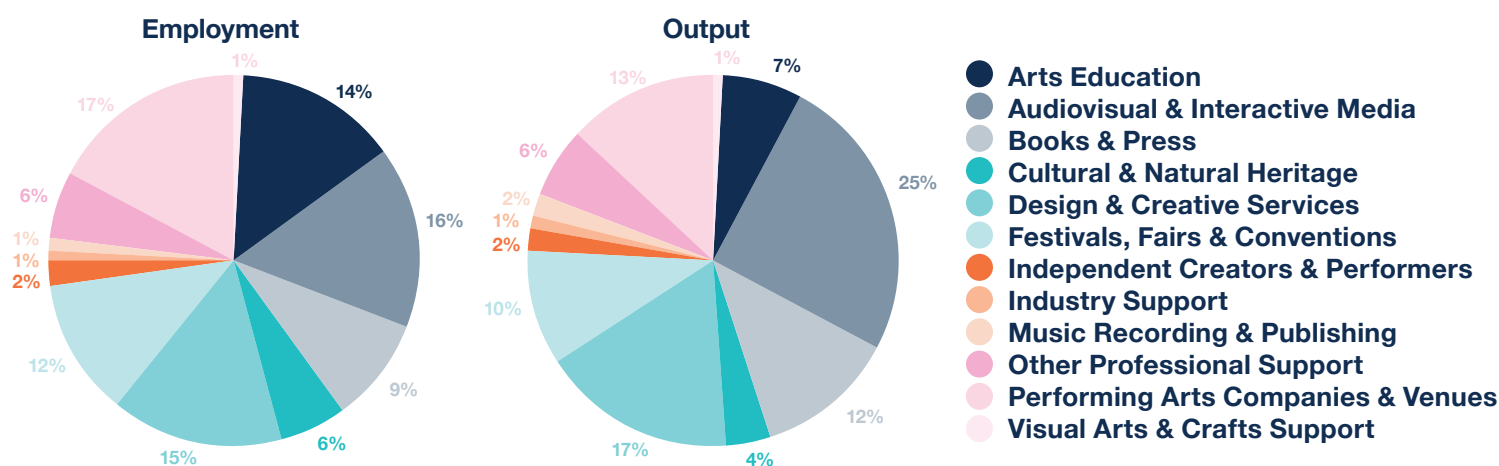
- 47.5% of statewide output
- 40+% of statewide employment



THE CREATIVE ECONOMY IS A MAJOR CHICAGO EMPLOYER



DIRECT EMPLOYMENT AND OUTPUT BY INDUSTRY



DESIGNING CHICAGO'S CREATIVE FUTURE

Chicago's creative economy is a powerful economic and cultural asset. This data points to clear opportunities for growth and investment.

- Public Investment**
Public funding remains small relative to the sector's impact.
Invest to unlock greater economic and community returns.
- Creative Workers and Workforce Development**
Many creative workers face economic insecurity.
Expand pathways to sustainable careers.
- Arts Education**
Arts education builds tomorrow's creative workforce.
Strengthen access to arts learning and career pathways.

What's Next?

This data is just a starting point. Join fellow artists, creative workers, cultural organizations, business leaders, and community partners to discuss the findings and help shape the future of Chicago's creative economy.



Read more about the creative economy of Chicago and Illinois in the full report, view the asset map, and sign up to join a community conversation near you at artsalliance.org/creative-economy.