

2014 US Entertainment Employment Survey

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1 Introduction

In October 2014, I set out to look for some employment data to support a business plan. Not finding it, I assembled this survey in order to find the data I needed, as well as other data we saw as useful.

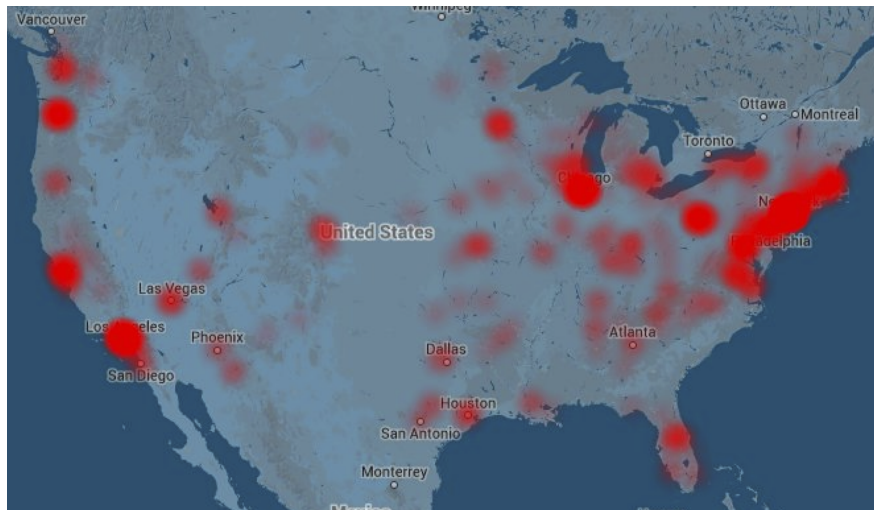
The survey was assembled on the Google Docs platform and pushed to several mailing lists and social media sites, and then the survey was just left to run its course. In 48 hours we collected about 500 responses, with 766 responses after two weeks.

2 Biases

Since the survey has no sampling methodology, we have certainly introduced biases into the system. One particular bias is that we only have received responses from people who use computers and read various message boards the survey was posted to. An additional bias is that being based in Pittsburgh, we have a bias towards Western Pennsylvania in the data. That is, Western PA is more strongly represented in the data than you would otherwise expect.

3 Findings

3.1 Where do you work?



3.2 What is your highest level of education?

Not High School	1	0%
High School	29	4%
Trade School	7	1%
Community College or other 2 year	31	4%
Undergraduate (not BFA)	238	31%
Undergraduate (BFA)	214	28%
Graduate (not MFA)	48	6%
Graduate (MFA)	179	23%
Other	19	2%

3.3 Education Status

Not a student	708	92%
Student	58	8%

3.4 Current employment status

Unemployed	10	1%
Part-time (non-entertainment)	18	2%
Part-time (entertainment)	63	8%
Full-time (non-entertainment)	47	6%
Full-time (entertainment)	381	50%
Full time equivalent with multiple employers (entertainment)	168	22%
Full time equivalent with multiple employers (non-entertainment)	1	0%
Full time equivalent with multiple employers (mixed)	38	5%
Other	40	5%

3.5 What areas of the industry do you work in?

LORT Theatre or other Regional	308	40%
Educational Theatre (University, High School, etc.)	292	38%
Local Theatre (smaller than LORT)	237	31%
Industrials / Corporate Event	227	30%
Off-broadway, Broadway, or other NYC	167	22%
Community Theatre	130	17%
Children's Theatre	125	16%
Trade shows / Convention center	120	16%
Touring theatre	122	16%
Music (non-touring)	112	15%
Music (touring)	93	12%
Themed entertainment / Theme Parks	71	9%
Edutainment	52	7%
Circus/Cirque (non-Feld)	36	5%
Experiential Marketing / Marketing Theatre	34	4%
Touring themed entertainment (Feld, etc.)	29	4%
Cruise ships	25	3%

3.6 Are you a member of a union?

Yes (or working on it)	283	37%
No	483	63%

3.7 Does your job involve hiring people?

Yes	399	52%
No	367	48%

4 Employee Questions

4.1 How do you find work?

People I know	590	77%
OffstageJobs.com	268	35%
Art Search (TCG)	249	33%
Other websites	136	18%
Facebook Groups	125	16%
Overhire lists	103	13%
Craigslist	76	10%
IATSE Hiring Hall	60	8%
TheatreFace	9	1%

4.2 How many hours a week do you spend looking for work?

0 hours, or n/a	346	45%
less than 1 hour	208	27%
1-4	114	15%
4+	16	2%

4.3 How many hours a week do you work in the entertainment industry?

4.3.1 Full breakdown

0	10	1%
1-8	25	3%
9-16	22	3%
17-24	31	4%
25-36	46	6%
37-40	81	11%
41-60	359	47%
60+	114	15%

4.3.2 Bigger groupings

Less than 37 hours	134	17%
37-40 hours	81	11%
41-60+ hours	473	62%

4.4 What fields do you work in?

Event/Production management	313	41%
Electrics/Lighting	264	34%
Lighting design	218	28%
Scenery construction or assembly	208	27%
Stage management	182	24%
Rigging	172	22%
Props	171	22%
Audio/Sound	148	19%
Scenic design	116	15%
Laborer/Loader	110	14%
Scenic art	107	14%
Theatre consulting	106	14%
Video/Media	104	14%
Sound design	88	11%
Automation/Machinery	69	9%
Costumes	62	8%
Gaffer/Grip	47	6%
Art department	47	6%
Media design	47	6%
Systems Integrator	34	4%
Experience design	32	4%
Acting	32	4%
Other film	21	3%
Camera department	20	3%
Wig/Hair/Makeup	19	2%

4.5 What job titles do you associate with yourself?

Catering - Bar Tender	4	1%		
Catering - Caterer	0	0%		
Costume - Costume Crafts Person	19	2%		
Costume - Costume Designer	29	4%		
Costume - Costume Shop Supervisor	14	2%		
Costume - Cutter/Draper	17	2%		
Costume - First Hand	11	1%		
Costume - Shopper/Buyer	15	2%		
Costume - Stitcher	26	3%		
Costume - Tailor	11	1%		
Costume - Wardrobe Run Crew	25	3%		
Costume - Wardrobe Supervisor	16	2%		
Costume - Wig Run Crew	6	1%		
Costume - Wig Supervisor	3	0%		
Education - Teacher	60	8%		
Education - Faculty	66	9%		
Education - Staff	96	13%		
Education - Adjunct Faculty	34	4%		
General - Crew Chief	73	10%		
General - Intern	8	1%		
General - Laborer	45	6%		
General - Loader	30	4%		
General - PA	36	5%		
General - Runner	18	2%		
General - Sales Rep / Mfg Rep	4	1%		
General - Stagehand	133	17%		
General - Theatre Consultant	49	6%		
Lighting - Best Boy	7	1%		
Lighting - Board Op	116	15%		
Lighting - Deck Electrician	102	13%		
Lighting - Followspot Op	89	12%		
Lighting - Gaffer	28	4%		
Lighting - Lighting Designer	185	24%		
Lighting - Lighting Director	95	12%		
Lighting - Master Electrician	157	20%		
Lighting - Programmer	132	17%		
Management - Company Manager	20	3%		
Management - Director of Production	63	8%		
Management - Event Coordinator	72	9%		
Management - Event Producer	39	5%		
Management - Managing Director	16	2%		
Management - Production Coordinator	63	8%		
Management - Production Manager	183	24%		
Management - Production Supervisor	55	7%		
Management - Project Manager	94	12%		
Management - Stage Manager	134	17%		
Media - Animator	9	1%		
Media - Editor	18	2%		
Media - Media Designer	30	4%		
Media - Programmer	30	4%		
Media - Projectionist	32	4%		
Media - Screens Producer	4	1%		
Media - Technician	48	6%		
Media - Video Director	13	2%		
Media - Video Supervisor	12	2%		
			Paint - Industrial	3 0%
			Paint - Lead Painter	24 3%
			Paint - Paint Charge	30 4%
			Paint - Scenic Artist	56 7%
			Paint - Touch up artist	23 3%
			Production - Production Coordinator	72 9%
			Production - Rehearsal Coordinator	20 3%
			Production - Set Coordinator	22 3%
			Production - Talent Manager	8 1%
			Production - Technical Manager	89 12%
			Production - Travel Coordinator	8 1%
			Props - Prop artisan	81 11%
			Props - Prop designer	63 8%
			Props - Prop master	74 10%
			Props - Props carpenter	60 8%
			Props - Props runner	27 4%
			Props - Shopper/buyer	52 7%
			Scenery - Art Dept Coordinator	5 1%
			Scenery - Art Director	16 2%
			Scenery - Automation designer	20 3%
			Scenery - Automation operator	27 4%
			Scenery - Automation tech	28 4%
			Scenery - Carpenter	126 16%
			Scenery - Drafter	59 8%
			Scenery - Flyman	60 8%
			Scenery - Job Lead	35 5%
			Scenery - Production Designer	36 5%
			Scenery - Purchasing agent	17 2%
			Scenery - Rigger	91 12%
			Scenery - Scenic Designer	77 10%
			Scenery - Shopper/buyer	18 2%
			Scenery - Technical designer	50 7%
			Scenery - Technical director	122 16%
			Scenery - Unit Manager	5 1%
			Scenery - Welder	56 7%
			Sound - Acoustic Consultant / Acoustician	10 1%
			Sound - Audio Coordinator	37 5%
			Sound - Engineer	82 11%
			Sound - Mixer	77 10%
			Sound - Playback Assist	18 2%
			Sound - Recordist	20 3%
			Sound - Sound Designer	64 8%
			Stage - Stage carpenter	91 12%
			Stage - Stage crew head	85 11%
			Stage - Stage supervisor	56 7%
			Stage - Staging Consultant	15 2%
			Stage - Staging Supervisor	23 3%
			Other	84 11%

4.6 If you had to pick one job title, which most applies to you?

Catering - Bar Tender	1	0%		
Costume - Costume Designer	7	1%		
Costume - Costume Shop Supervisor	2	0%		
Costume - Cutter/Draper	4	1%		
Costume - First Hand	3	0%		
Costume - Stitcher	3	0%		
Costume - Tailor	1	0%	Paint - Lead Painter	1 0%
Costume - Wardrobe Run Crew	3	0%	Paint - Paint Charge	8 1%
Costume - Wardrobe Supervisor	1	0%	Paint - Scenic Artist	7 1%
Education - Teacher	7	1%	Production - Production Coordinator	4 1%
Education - Faculty	19	2%	Production - Talent Manager	1 0%
Education - Staff	13	2%	Production - Technical Manager	18 2%
Education - Adjunct Faculty	1	0%	Props - Prop artisan	9 1%
General - Crew Chief	1	0%	Props - Prop designer	4 1%
General - Laborer	1	0%	Props - Prop master	25 3%
General - PA	2	0%	Props - Props carpenter	2 0%
General - Sales Rep / Mfg Rep	1	0%	Props - Shopper/buyer	1 0%
General - Stagehand	10	1%	Scenery - Art Director	2 0%
General - Theatre Consultant	4	1%	Scenery - Automation designer	1 0%
Lighting - Best Boy	1	0%	Scenery - Automation tech	3 0%
Lighting - Board Op	2	0%	Scenery - Carpenter	6 1%
Lighting - Deck Electrician	6	1%	Scenery - Drafter	1 0%
Lighting - Followspot Op	1	0%	Scenery - Flyman	2 0%
Lighting - Gaffer	1	0%	Scenery - Job Lead	2 0%
Lighting - Lighting Designer	42	5%	Scenery - Production Designer	3 0%
Lighting - Lighting Director	18	2%	Scenery - Rigger	2 0%
Lighting - Master Electrician	23	3%	Scenery - Scenic Designer	18 2%
Lighting - Programmer	10	1%	Scenery - Technical designer	5 1%
Management - Company Manager	1	0%	Scenery - Technical director	32 4%
Management - Director of Production	29	4%	Scenery - Welder	1 0%
Management - Event Coordinator	3	0%	Sound - Engineer	16 2%
Management - Event Producer	3	0%	Sound - Mixer	2 0%
Management - Managing Director	4	1%	Sound - Recordist	1 0%
Management - Production Coordinator	4	1%	Sound - Sound Designer	8 1%
Management - Production Manager	88	11%	Stage - Stage crew head	3 0%
Management - Production Supervisor	5	1%	Stage - Stage supervisor	1 0%
Management - Project Manager	15	2%	Stage - Staging Consultant	1 0%
Management - Stage Manager	64	8%	Stage - Staging Supervisor	1 0%
Media - Animator	1	0%	Other	64 8%
Media - Editor	1	0%		
Media - Media Designer	6	1%		
Media - Programmer	2	0%		
Media - Projectionist	1	0%		
Media - Screens Producer	0	0%		
Media - Technician	1	0%		

4.7 Which cities/markets do you generally work in?

AL - Birmingham	9	1%
AZ - Phoenix	18	2%
CA - Los Angeles	97	13%
CA - San Diego	29	4%
CA - San Francisco Bay Area	59	8%
CA - Santa Maria / Central Coast	6	1%
CO - Denver	15	2%
CT - Hartford	22	3%
CT - New Haven	28	4%
DC - Washington	50	7%
FL - Tampa / St. Petersburg	17	2%
FL - Miami	20	3%
FL - Orlando	34	4%
GA - Atlanta	25	3%
HI - Honolulu	9	1%
IL - Chicago	83	11%
IN - Indianapolis	15	2%
KY - Louisville	16	2%
LA - New Orleans	15	2%
MA - Boston	45	6%
MD - Baltimore	25	3%
ME - Portland	8	1%
MI - Detroit	25	3%
MI - Grand Rapids	14	2%
MN - Minneapolis-St. Paul	24	3%
MO - Branson	5	1%
MO - Kansas City	17	2%
MO - St. Louis	22	3%
NC - Winston-Salem / Greensboro	9	1%
NC - Charlotte	19	2%
NH - Whole state	5	1%
NM - Albuquerque	9	1%
NV - Las Vegas	37	5%
NY - Syracuse / Ithaca	16	2%
NY - Albany	9	1%
NY - New York City	193	25%
OH - Cincinnati	14	2%
OH - Cleveland	19	2%
OH - Columbus	15	2%
OR - Portland	35	5%
PA - Philadelphia	40	5%
PA - Pittsburgh	54	7%
TN - Knoxville	10	1%
TN - Memphis	9	1%
TN - Nashville	20	3%
TX - Austin / San Antonio	17	2%
TX - Dallas / Fort Worth	19	2%
TX - Houston	23	3%
VA - Abingdon	6	1%
WA - Seattle	23	3%
VA - Richmond	23	3%
WI - Madison	18	2%
WI - Milwaukee	26	3%
Other	121	16%

5 Employer Questions

5.1 How do you find employees?

People I know	389	51%
OffstageJobs.com	132	17%
Art Search	122	16%
Overhire lists	115	15%
Other	83	11%
Facebook groups	68	9%
Other websites	70	9%
IATSE Hiring Hall	55	7%
Craigslist	40	5%
TheatreFace	5	1%

5.2 How many hours a week do you spend looking for employees?

0 hours, or n/a	214	28%
1-4 hours	216	28%
5-8 hours	35	5%
9-16 hours	9	1%
17-40 hours	1	0%
40+ hours	1	0%