

Other Benefits

- Of the 63 million people who volunteered in the United States between September 2009 and September 2010, more than 18 million volunteered through a membership organization.
- Associations represent a major piece of the meetings and conventions industry in the United States. The meetings industry supports 1.7 million jobs and accounts for \$263 billion in spending.
- Trade associations and professional societies spend a similar amount on program activity—focused on education and professional development, versus lobbying activity. The average trade association spent nearly \$1.2 million on program activity in 2009—which includes publications, conferences, seminars, and other forms of education—and \$66,400 on lobbying activity reported under the Lobbying Disclosure Act. In comparison, the average professional society spent \$1,498,150 on program activity and \$65,085 on lobbying activity.

Source: ASAE Foundation Association 990[®] Database; The Economic Significance of Meetings to the U.S. Economy, a study by the Convention Industry Council, 2011; Current Population Survey (CPS) September Volunteer Supplement, 2010.

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ASSOCIATIONS BY THE NUMBERS: AN OVERVIEW

Size

- The IRS recognized 92,331 trade and professional associations in 2010.
- The IRS registered 1,280,739 charitable and philanthropic organizations in 2010.
- IRS statistics show that associations are a growing sector. During the 2010 fiscal year, there were 1,695 new applications for 501(c)(6) status and 59,945 applications for 501(c)(3) status filed with the IRS. Most of these applications were approved.
- The number of trade, professional associations, and charitable organizations has increased 3.4 percent since 2001.

Source: IRS Data Book and Bureau of Labor Statistics

Employment

- Membership organizations employed more than 1.2 million in 2009.
- States with the highest association employment numbers in 2009 are New York, California, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Texas, and Illinois.
- The Washington, DC metropolitan area (including the District of Columbia and portions of Maryland and Virginia) ranks fourth behind Pennsylvania in total association employment (109,905 employees in Pennsylvania to 89,751 employees in DC metro area).

Source: ASAE Foundation Association 990® Database

Wages

- Membership organizations (includes religious organizations, grantmaking and giving services, social advocacy organizations, civic and social organizations, and professional and similar organizations) generated a payroll of nearly \$47 billion in 2010.
- The average gross income for employees of professional associations in 2010 was \$70,876. The average gross income for employees of business associations in 2010 was \$65,104.
- Overall, full-time workers in business and professional associations had 31.7 percent higher hourly wages than in private industry as a whole.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Revenue and Assets

- Membership associations generated \$130 billion in revenue in 2009, up 13.8 percent from the previous year (\$112 billion in 2008) and down slightly (1.6 percent) from 2007 at \$127 billion. Total revenue includes revenue from contributions, grants, program services, and investment income.
- Washington, DC, New York, Pennsylvania, California and Texas lead in association revenue.
- Membership associations hold an estimated \$245 billion in assets. Among the different types of nonprofit organizations, 501(c)(3) groups hold the most assets at \$168 billion. Massachusetts-based associations hold the most assets (nearly \$55 billion), followed by California, New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, DC.

Source: ASAE Foundation Association 990® Database

The Power of A

The Power of A campaign is the story of how associations enrich lives through setting industry standards, training our nation's workforce, growing jobs, driving safety and sustainability standards, keeping the engine of Industry running smooth and safe, and drawing on the wisdom and perspective of the collective so we can predict trends and seed progress. Learn more at thepowerofa.org.