Arkansas ENERGY AND EMPLOYMENT - 2020

Overview

Arkansas has an average concentration of energy employment, with 27,805 Traditional Energy workers statewide (representing 0.8 percent of all U.S. Traditional Energy jobs). Of these Traditional Energy workers, 3,884 are in Electric Power Generation, 8,558 are in Fuels, and 15,362 are in Transmission, Distribution, and Storage. The Traditional Energy sector in Arkansas is 2.3 percent of total state employment (compared to 2.3 percent of national employment). Arkansas has an additional 15,492 jobs in Energy Efficiency (0.7 percent of all U.S. Energy Efficiency jobs) and 20,893 jobs in Motor Vehicles (0.8 percent of all U.S. Motor Vehicle jobs).



Figure AR-1. Employment by Major Energy Technology Application

Overall, Traditional Energy jobs grew by 1.2 percent since the 2019 report, increasing by 331 jobs over the period. Energy Efficiency jobs added 344 jobs (2.3 percent) and motor vehicles added 734 jobs (3.6 percent).

Breakdown by Technology Applications

ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION

Electric Power Generation employs 3,884 workers in Arkansas, 0.4 percent of the national total and adding 274 jobs over the past year (7.6 percent). Traditional fossil fuel generation makes up the largest segment of employment related to Electric Power Generation, with 1,007 jobs (up 27.7 percent), followed by wind at 888 jobs (up 1.3 percent).

Figure AR-2.





Utilities are the largest industry sector in Electric Power Generation, with 58.2 percent of jobs. Construction is next with 16.1 percent.



Figure AR-3. Electric Power Generation by Industry Sector

FUELS

Fuels employs 8,558 workers in Arkansas, 0.7 percent of the national total, up 0.8 percent over the past year. Petroleum and other fossil fuels makes up the largest segment of employment related to Fuels.

Figure AR-4. Fuels Employment by Detailed Technology Application



Professional and business services jobs represent 27.2 percent of Fuels jobs in Arkansas.



Figure AR-5. Fuels Employment by Industry Sector

TRANSMISSION, DISTRIBUTION AND STORAGE

Transmission, Distribution, and Storage employs 15,362 workers in Arkansas, 1.1 percent of the national total, down 0.1 percent or 8 jobs since the 2018 report.

Figure AR-6. Transmission, Distribution and Storage Employment by Detailed Technology



Utilities are responsible for the largest percentage of Transmission, Distribution, and Storage jobs in Arkansas, with 43.5 percent of such jobs statewide.





ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The 15,492 Energy Efficiency jobs in Arkansas represent 0.7 percent of all U.S. Energy Efficiency jobs, adding 344 jobs (2.3 percent) since last year. The largest number of these employees work in (other energy efficiency products and services firms, followed by traditional HVAC.

Figure AR-8.





Energy Efficiency employment is primarily found in the construction industry.



Figure AR-9. Energy Efficiency Employment by Industry Sector

MOTOR VEHICLES

Motor Vehicle employment accounts for 20,893 jobs in Arkansas, up 734 jobs over the past year (3.6 percent). The industry sector that accounts for the largest fraction of Motor Vehicle jobs is manufacturing.





Workforce Characteristics

EMPLOYER GROWTH

Employers in Arkansas are less optimistic to their peers across the country in regards to their job growth over the next year in Traditional Energy (2.7 percent versus 3.2 percent nationally). Energy Efficiency employers expect to add 888 jobs in Energy Efficiency (5.7 percent) and Motor Vehicles employers expect to add 677 jobs (3.2 percent) over the next year.

Table AR-1

Projected Growth by Major Technology Application.

Technology	State Projected Growth Next 12 Months (percent)	U.S. Projected Growth Next 12 Months (percent)
Electric Power Generation	4.5	4.8
Electric Power Transmission, Distribution, and Storage	1.8	3.5
Energy Efficiency	5.7	3.0
Fuels	3.6	1.7
Motor Vehicles	3.2	3.1

HIRING DIFFICULTY

Over the last year, 63.6 percent of energy-related employers in Arkansas hired new employees. These employers reported the greatest overall difficulty in hiring workers for jobs in Electric Power Transmission, Distribution, and Storage.

Table AR-2

Hiring Difficulty by Major Technology Application.

Very Difficult (percent)	Somewhat Difficult (percent)	Not at All Difficult (percent)
23.7	68.1	8.2
24.1	69.0	6.9
42.1	36.8	21.1
32.2	43.2	24.6
42.3	47.4	10.2
	Very Difficult (percent) 23.7 24.1 42.1 32.2 42.3	Very Difficult (percent)Somewhat Difficult (percent)23.768.124.169.042.136.832.243.242.347.4

Employers in Arkansas gave the following as the top three reasons for their reported difficulty:

- 1. Insufficient non-technical skills (work ethic, dependability, critical thinking)
- 2. Lack of experience, training, or technical skills
- 3. Competition/ small applicant pool

Employers reported the following as the three most difficult occupations to hire for:

- 1. Technician or mechanical support \$21.58 median hourly wage
- 2. Installation workers \$20.77 median hourly wage
- 3. Electrician/construction workers \$22.82 median hourly wage