Arkansas

ENERGY AND EMPLOYMENT — 2019

Overview

Arkansas has an average concentration of energy employment, with 27,474 Traditional Energy workers statewide (representing 0.8 percent of all U.S. Traditional Energy jobs). Of these Traditional Energy workers, 3,610 are in Electric Power Generation, 8,493 are in Fuels, and 15,371 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 15,147 jobs in Energy Efficiency (0.7 percent of all U.S. Energy Efficiency jobs) and 20,159 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 3.3 percent since the 2018 report, increasing by 884 jobs over the period. Energy Efficiency jobs added 365 jobs (2.5 percent) and motor vehicles added 800 jobs (4.1 percent).
Breakdown by Technology Applications

Electric Power Generation

Electric Power Generation employs 3,610 workers in Arkansas, 0.4 percent of the national total and adding 161 jobs over the past year (4.7 percent). Wind makes up the largest segment of employment related to Electric Power Generation, with 877 jobs (up 1.6 percent), followed by traditional fossil fuel generation at 788 jobs (up 1.7 percent).

Figure AR-2.
Electric Power Generation Employment by Detailed Technology Application

Utilities are the largest industry sector in Electric Power Generation, with 41.2 percent of jobs. Construction is next with 22.6 percent.

Figure AR-3.
Fuels

Fuels employs 8,493 workers in Arkansas, 0.8 percent of the national total, up 3.5 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

Mining and extraction jobs represent 27.4 percent of Fuels jobs in Arkansas.

**Figure AR-5.**
Fuels Employment by Industry Sector
Transmission, Distribution and Storage

Transmission, Distribution, and Storage employs 15,371 workers in Arkansas, 1.1 percent of the national total, up 2.9 percent or 432 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 45.1 percent of such jobs statewide.

**Figure AR-7.**
Transmission, Distribution and Storage Employment by Industry Sector
Energy Efficiency

The 15,147 Energy Efficiency jobs in Arkansas represent 0.7 percent of all U.S. Energy Efficiency jobs, adding 365 jobs (2.5 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 by Detailed Technology Application

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 20,159 jobs in Arkansas, up 800 jobs over the past year (4.1 percent). The industry sector that accounts for the largest fraction of Motor Vehicle jobs is manufacturing.

Figure AR-10.
Motor Vehicle Employment by Industry Sector

Workforce Characteristics

Employer Growth

Employers in Arkansas are more optimistic to their peers across the country in regards to their job growth over the next year in Traditional Energy (4.8 percent versus 4.1 percent nationally). Energy Efficiency employers expect to add 1,296 jobs in Energy Efficiency (8.6 percent) and Motor Vehicles employers expect to add 399 jobs (2.0 percent) over the next year.

Table AR-1.
Projected Growth by Major Technology Application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technology</th>
<th>State Projected Growth Next 12 Months (percent)</th>
<th>U.S. Projected Growth Next 12 Months (percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electric Power Generation</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric Power Transmission, Distribution and Storage</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Efficiency</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuels</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicles</td>
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<td>2.2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Hiring Difficulty

Over the last year, 67.3 percent of energy-related employers in Arkansas hired new employees. These employers reported the greatest overall difficulty in hiring workers for jobs in Energy Efficiency.

Table AR-2
Hiring Difficulty by Major Technology Application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technology</th>
<th>Very Difficult (%)</th>
<th>Somewhat Difficult (%)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>State</td>
<td>National</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric Power Generation</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>20.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric Power Transmission, Distribution and Storage</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>21.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Energy Efficiency</td>
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<td>21.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fuels</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>37.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicles</td>
<td>40.0</td>
<td>30.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

1. Lack of experience, training, or technical skills
2. Insufficient non-technical skills (work ethic, dependability, critical thinking)
3. Difficulty finding industry-specific knowledge, skills, and interest

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

1. Technician or mechanical support – $18.82 median hourly wage
2. Management (directors, supervisors, vice presidents) – $36.90 median hourly wage
3. Sales, marketing, or customer service – $28.43 median hourly wage