Idaho

ENERGY AND EMPLOYMENT — 2019

Overview

Idaho has a low concentration of energy employment, with 13,165 Traditional Energy workers statewide (representing 0.4 percent of all U.S. Traditional Energy jobs). Of these Traditional Energy workers, 1,990 are in Electric Power Generation, 2,310 are in Fuels, and 8,866 are in Transmission, Distribution, and Storage. The Traditional Energy sector in Idaho is 1.8 percent of total state employment (compared to 2.3 percent of national employment). Idaho has an additional 8,747 jobs in Energy Efficiency (0.4 percent of all U.S. Energy Efficiency jobs) and 10,096 jobs in Motor Vehicles (0.4 percent of all U.S. Motor Vehicle jobs).

Figure ID-1.
Employment by Major Energy Technology Application

Overall, Traditional Energy jobs grew by 1.2 percent since the 2018 report, increasing by 152 jobs over the period. Energy Efficiency jobs added 520 jobs (6.3 percent) and motor vehicles lost 179 jobs (-1.7 percent).
Breakdown by Technology Applications

Electric Power Generation

Electric Power Generation employs 1,990 workers in Idaho, 0.2 percent of the national total and adding 55 jobs over the past year (2.9 percent). Wind makes up the largest segment of employment related to Electric Power Generation, with 879 jobs (up 1.6 percent), followed by solar at 747 jobs (down 4.8 percent).

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

Construction is the largest industry sector in Electric Power Generation, with 29.6 percent of jobs. Professional and business services are next with 25.9 percent.

Figure ID-3.
Fuels

Fuels employs 2,310 workers in Idaho, 0.2 percent of the national total, up 4.2 percent over the past year. Natural gas makes up the largest segment of employment related to Fuels.

**Figure ID-4.**
Fuels Employment by Detailed Technology Application

Professional and business services jobs represent 42.1 percent of Fuels jobs in Idaho.

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

Transmission, Distribution, and Storage employs 8,866 workers in Idaho, 0.6 percent of the national total, up 0.0 percent or 4 jobs since the 2018 report.

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

Utilities are responsible for the largest percentage of Transmission, Distribution, and Storage jobs in Idaho, with 30.5 percent of such jobs statewide.

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

The 8,747 Energy Efficiency jobs in Idaho represent 0.4 percent of all U.S. Energy Efficiency jobs, adding 520 jobs (6.3 percent) since last year. The largest number of these employees work in high efficiency HVAC and renewable heating and cooling firms, followed by traditional HVAC.

Figure ID-8.
Energy Efficiency Employment by Detailed Technology Application

Energy Efficiency employment is primarily found in the construction industry.

Figure ID-9.
Energy Efficiency Employment by Industry Sector
Motor Vehicles

Motor Vehicle employment accounts for 10,096 jobs in Idaho, down 179 jobs over the past year (-1.7 percent). The industry sector that accounts for the largest fraction of Motor Vehicle jobs is repair and maintenance.

Figure ID-10.
Motor Vehicle Employment by Industry Sector

Workforce Characteristics

Employer Growth

Employers in Idaho are less optimistic to their peers across the country in regards to their job growth over the next year in Traditional Energy (1.4 percent versus 4.1 percent nationally). Energy Efficiency employers expect to add 723 jobs in Energy Efficiency (8.3 percent) and Motor Vehicles employers expect to add 705 jobs (7.0 percent) over the next year.

Table ID-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>9.5</td>
<td>7.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electric Power Transmission,</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution and Storage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Efficiency</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuels</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicles</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hiring Difficulty

Over the last year, 75.0 percent of energy-related employers in Idaho hired new employees. These employers reported the greatest overall difficulty in hiring workers for jobs in Energy Efficiency.

Table ID-2
Hiring Difficulty by Major Technology Application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technology</th>
<th>Very Difficult (%) State</th>
<th>National</th>
<th>Somewhat Difficult (%) State</th>
<th>National</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electric Power Generation</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>20.7</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>54.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric Power Transmission, Distribution and Storage</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>46.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Efficiency</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>21.3</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>48.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuels</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>37.9</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>43.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicles</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>40.0</td>
<td>46.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

1. Lack of experience, training, or technical skills
2. Insufficient qualifications (certifications or education)
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 – $22.40 median hourly wage
2. Electrician/construction laborers – $25.22 median hourly wage
3. Sales, marketing, or customer service – $33.79 median hourly wage