Illinois

ENERGY AND EMPLOYMENT — 2019

Overview

Illinois has a low concentration of energy employment, with 113,730 Traditional Energy workers statewide (representing 3.4 percent of all U.S. Traditional Energy jobs). Of these Traditional Energy workers, 30,388 are in Electric Power Generation, 32,765 are in Fuels, and 50,577 are in Transmission, Distribution, and Storage. The Traditional Energy sector in Illinois is 1.9 percent of total state employment (compared to 2.3 percent of national employment). Illinois has an additional 89,469 jobs in Energy Efficiency (3.8 percent of all U.S. Energy Efficiency jobs) and 104,031 jobs in Motor Vehicles (4.1 percent of all U.S. Motor Vehicle jobs).

Figure IL-1.
Employment by Major Energy Technology Application

Overall, Traditional Energy jobs grew by 3.1 percent since the 2018 report, increasing by 3,418 jobs over the period. Energy Efficiency jobs added 2,553 jobs (2.9 percent) and motor vehicles added 9,833 jobs (10.4 percent).
Breakdown by Technology Applications

Electric Power Generation

Electric Power Generation employs 30,388 workers in Illinois, 3.5 percent of the national total and adding 425 jobs over the past year (1.4 percent). Wind makes up the largest segment of employment related to Electric Power Generation, with 8,706 jobs (up 0.9 percent), followed by traditional fossil fuel generation at 7,595 jobs (down 0.1 percent).

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

![Bar chart showing employment by technology application in Electric Power Generation]

Construction is the largest industry sector in Electric Power Generation, with 31.1 percent of jobs. Utilities are next with 27.2 percent.

**Figure IL-3.**

![Bar chart showing employment by industry sector in Electric Power Generation]
Fuels

Fuels employs 32,765 workers in Illinois, 2.9 percent of the national total, up 6.9 percent over the past year. Petroleum and other fossil fuels makes up the largest segment of employment related to Fuels.

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

Manufacturing jobs represent 30.2 percent of Fuels jobs in Illinois.

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

Transmission, Distribution, and Storage employs 50,577 workers in Illinois, 3.7 percent of the national total, up 1.8 percent or 880 jobs since the 2018 report.

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

Utilities are responsible for the largest percentage of Transmission, Distribution, and Storage jobs in Illinois, with 36.7 percent of such jobs statewide.

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

The 89,469 Energy Efficiency jobs in Illinois represent 3.8 percent of all U.S. Energy Efficiency jobs, adding 2,553 jobs (2.9 percent) since last year. The largest number of these employees work in traditional HVAC firms, followed by high efficiency HVAC and renewable heating and cooling.

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

Energy Efficiency employment is primarily found in the construction industry.

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

Motor Vehicle employment accounts for 104,031 jobs in Illinois, up 9,833 jobs over the past year (10.4 percent). The industry sector that accounts for the largest fraction of Motor Vehicle jobs is repair and maintenance.

Figure IL-10.
Motor Vehicle Employment by Industry Sector

Workforce Characteristics

Employer Growth

Employers in Illinois are more optimistic to their peers across the country in regards to their job growth over the next year in Traditional Energy (5.2 percent versus 4.1 percent nationally). Energy Efficiency employers expect to add 7,399 jobs in Energy Efficiency (8.3 percent) and Motor Vehicles employers expect to add 2,060 jobs (2.0 percent) over the next year.

Table IL-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>8.6</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric Power Transmission, Distribution and Storage</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Efficiency</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuels</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicles</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hiring Difficulty

Over the last year, 48.4 percent of energy-related employers in Illinois hired new employees. These employers reported the greatest overall difficulty in hiring workers for jobs in Energy Efficiency.

Table IL-2
Hiring Difficulty by Major Technology Application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technology</th>
<th>Very Difficult (%) State</th>
<th>Very Difficult (%) National</th>
<th>Somewhat Difficult (%) State</th>
<th>Somewhat Difficult (%) National</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electric Power Generation</td>
<td>26.3</td>
<td>20.7</td>
<td>47.4</td>
<td>54.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric Power Transmission, Distribution and Storage</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>46.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Energy Efficiency</td>
<td>31.6</td>
<td>21.3</td>
<td>63.2</td>
<td>48.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fuels</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>37.9</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>43.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicles</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>69.2</td>
<td>46.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

1. Technician or mechanical support – $24.38 median hourly wage
2. Electrician/construction laborers – $25.71 median hourly wage
3. Sales, marketing, or customer service – $33.41 median hourly wage