Oregon
ENERGY AND EMPLOYMENT — 2019

Overview

Oregon has a low concentration of energy employment, with 26,825 Traditional Energy workers statewide (representing 0.8 percent of all U.S. Traditional Energy jobs). Of these Traditional Energy workers, 9,758 are in Electric Power Generation, 3,330 are in Fuels, and 13,736 are in Transmission, Distribution, and Storage. The Traditional Energy sector in Oregon is 1.4 percent of total state employment (compared to 2.3 percent of national employment). Oregon has an additional 42,547 jobs in Energy Efficiency (1.8 percent of all U.S. Energy Efficiency jobs) and 26,435 jobs in Motor Vehicles (1.0 percent of all U.S. Motor Vehicle jobs).

Figure OR-1.
Employment by Major Energy Technology Application

Overall, Traditional Energy jobs grew by 1.2 percent since the 2018 report, increasing by 326 jobs over the period. Energy Efficiency jobs added 589 jobs (1.4 percent) and motor vehicles added 579 jobs (2.2 percent).
Breakdown by Technology Applications

Electric Power Generation

Electric Power Generation employs 9,758 workers in Oregon, 1.1 percent of the national total and losing 262 jobs over the past year (-2.6 percent). Solar makes up the largest segment of employment related to Electric Power Generation, with 5,723 jobs (down 7.9 percent), followed by traditional hydroelectric generation at 1,585 jobs (up 0.6 percent).

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

Manufacturing is the largest industry sector in Electric Power Generation, with 28.0 percent of jobs. Construction is next with 24.8 percent.

Figure OR-3.
Fuels

Fuels employs 3,330 workers in Oregon, 0.3 percent of the national total, up 19.0 percent over the past year. Woody biomass makes up the largest segment of employment related to Fuels.

Figure OR-4.
Fuels Employment by Detailed Technology Application

Agriculture jobs represent 36.8 percent of Fuels jobs in Oregon.

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

Transmission, Distribution, and Storage employs 13,736 workers in Oregon, 1.0 percent of the national total, up 0.4 percent or 56 jobs since the 2018 report.

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

Construction is responsible for the largest percentage of Transmission, Distribution, and Storage jobs in Oregon, with 36.0 percent of such jobs statewide.

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

The 42,547 Energy Efficiency jobs in Oregon represent 1.8 percent of all U.S. Energy Efficiency jobs, adding 589 jobs (1.4 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 OR-8. Energy Efficiency Employment by Detailed Technology Application

Energy Efficiency employment is primarily found in the construction industry.

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

Motor Vehicle employment accounts for 26,435 jobs in Oregon, up 579 jobs over the past year (2.2 percent). The industry sector that accounts for the largest fraction of Motor Vehicle jobs is repair and maintenance.

Figure OR-10.
Motor Vehicle Employment by Industry Sector

Workforce Characteristics

Employer Growth

Employers in Oregon are similarly optimistic to their peers across the country in regards to their job growth over the next year in Traditional Energy (4.1 percent versus 4.1 percent nationally). Energy Efficiency employers expect to add 2,070 jobs in Energy Efficiency (4.9 percent) and Motor Vehicles employers expect to add 523 jobs (2.0 percent) over the next year.

Table OR-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>5.9</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric Power Transmission, Distribution and Storage</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Efficiency</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuels</td>
<td>1.0</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, 37.8 percent of energy-related employers in Oregon hired new employees. These employers reported the greatest overall difficulty in hiring workers for jobs in Motor Vehicles.

Table OR-2
Hiring Difficulty by Major Technology Application

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

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

1. Lack of experience, training, or technical skills
2. Competition/ small applicant pool
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 – $17.73 median hourly wage
2. Electrician/construction laborers – $15.24 median hourly wage
3. Management (directors, supervisors, vice presidents) – $37.04 median hourly wage