South Carolina
ENERGY AND EMPLOYMENT — 2019

Overview

South Carolina has an average concentration of energy employment, with 49,083 Traditional Energy workers statewide (representing 1.5 percent of all U.S. Traditional Energy jobs). Of these Traditional Energy workers, 28,351 are in Electric Power Generation, 5,598 are in Fuels, and 15,134 are in Transmission, Distribution, and Storage. The Traditional Energy sector in South Carolina is 2.3 percent of total state employment (compared to 2.3 percent of national employment). South Carolina has an additional 29,984 jobs in Energy Efficiency (1.3 percent of all U.S. Energy Efficiency jobs) and 56,965 jobs in Motor Vehicles (2.2 percent of all U.S. Motor Vehicle jobs).

Figure SC-1.
Employment by Major Energy Technology Application

Overall, Traditional Energy jobs grew by 0.4 percent since the 2018 report, increasing by 192 jobs over the period. Energy Efficiency jobs added 699 jobs (2.4 percent) and motor vehicles added 3,562 jobs (6.7 percent).
Breakdown by Technology Applications

Electric Power Generation

Electric Power Generation employs 28,351 workers in South Carolina, 3.2 percent of the national total and losing 757 jobs over the past year (-2.6 percent). Traditional hydroelectric generation makes up the largest segment of employment related to Electric Power Generation, with 9,336 jobs (down 5.4 percent), followed by traditional fossil fuel generation at 6,553 jobs (down 4.9 percent).

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

Construction is the largest industry sector in Electric Power Generation, with 25.4 percent of jobs. Wholesale trade is next with 22.9 percent.

Figure SC-3.
Fuels

Fuels employs 5,598 workers in South Carolina, 0.5 percent of the national total, up 10.6 percent over the past year. Petroleum and other fossil fuels makes up the largest segment of employment related to Fuels.

Figure SC-4.
Fuels Employment by Detailed Technology Application

Wholesale trade jobs represent 58.6 percent of Fuels jobs in South Carolina.

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

Transmission, Distribution, and Storage employs 15,134 workers in South Carolina, 1.1 percent of the national total, up 2.8 percent or 414 jobs since the 2018 report.

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

Construction is responsible for the largest percentage of Transmission, Distribution, and Storage jobs in South Carolina, with 52.5 percent of such jobs statewide.

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

The 29,984 Energy Efficiency jobs in South Carolina represent 1.3 percent of all U.S. Energy Efficiency jobs, adding 699 jobs (2.4 percent) since last year. The largest number of these employees work in other energy efficiency products and services firms, followed by high efficiency HVAC and renewable heating and cooling.

**Figure SC-8.**
Energy Efficiency Employment by Detailed Technology Application

Energy Efficiency employment is primarily found in the construction industry.

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

Motor Vehicle employment accounts for 56,965 jobs in South Carolina, up 3,562 jobs over the past year (6.7 percent). The industry sector that accounts for the largest fraction of Motor Vehicle jobs is manufacturing.

**Figure SC-10.**
Motor Vehicle Employment by Industry Sector

![Motor Vehicle Employment by Industry Sector](image)

**Workforce Characteristics**

**Employer Growth**

Employers in South Carolina are more optimistic to their peers across the country in regards to their job growth over the next year in Traditional Energy (6.0 percent versus 4.1 percent nationally). Energy Efficiency employers expect to add 451 jobs in Energy Efficiency (1.5 percent) and Motor Vehicles employers expect to add 1,128 jobs (2.0 percent) over the next year.

**Table SC-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>8.4</td>
<td>7.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electric Power Transmission,</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution and Storage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Efficiency</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuels</td>
<td>--</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, 47.5 percent of energy-related employers in South Carolina hired new employees. These employers reported the greatest overall difficulty in hiring workers for jobs in Motor Vehicles.

<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>40.0</td>
<td>20.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electric Power Transmission, Distribution and Storage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Energy Efficiency</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>21.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fuels</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>37.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicles</td>
<td>60.0</td>
<td>30.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Employers in South Carolina 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. Competition/ small applicant pool

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

1. Technician or mechanical support – $15.59 median hourly wage
2. Electrician/construction laborers – $16.99 median hourly wage
3. Management (directors, supervisors, vice presidents) – $35.45 median hourly wage