Colorado

ENERGY AND EMPLOYMENT — 2020

Overview

Colorado has a high concentration of energy employment, with 92,586 Traditional Energy workers statewide (representing 2.7 percent of all U.S. Traditional Energy jobs). Of these Traditional Energy workers, 25,397 are in Electric Power Generation, 38,708 are in Fuels, and 28,480 are in Transmission, Distribution, and Storage. The Traditional Energy sector in Colorado is 3.3 percent of total state employment (compared to 2.3 percent of national employment). Colorado has an additional 36,092 jobs in Energy Efficiency (1.5 percent of all U.S. Energy Efficiency jobs) and 32,321 jobs in Motor Vehicles (1.3 percent of all U.S. Motor Vehicle jobs).

Figure CO-1.
Employment by Major Energy Technology Application

Overall, Traditional Energy jobs grew by 0.7 percent since the 2019 report, increasing by 680 jobs over the period. Energy Efficiency jobs added 1,750 jobs (5.1 percent) and motor vehicles added 235 jobs (0.7 percent).
Breakdown by Technology Applications

ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION

Electric Power Generation employs 25,397 workers in Colorado, 2.9 percent of the national total and adding 507 jobs over the past year (2.0 percent). Solar makes up the largest segment of employment related to Electric Power Generation, with 8,355 jobs (up 7.5 percent), followed by wind at 7,509 jobs (up 2.6 percent).

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

Professional and business services are the largest industry sector in Electric Power Generation, with 61.8 percent of jobs. Construction is next with 20.5 percent.

Figure CO-3.
Electric Power Generation by Industry Sector
FUELS

Fuels employs 38,708 workers in Colorado, 3.4 percent of the national total, up 1.5 percent over the past year. Petroleum and other fossil fuels makes up the largest segment of employment related to Fuels.

Figure CO-4.
Fuels Employment by Detailed Technology Application

Mining and extraction jobs represent 67.0 percent of Fuels jobs in Colorado.

Figure CO-5.
Fuels Employment by Industry Sector
TRANSMISSION, DISTRIBUTION AND STORAGE

Transmission, Distribution, and Storage employs 28,480 workers in Colorado, 2.1 percent of the national total, down 1.4 percent or 412 jobs since the 2018 report.

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

Utilities are responsible for the largest percentage of Transmission, Distribution, and Storage jobs in Colorado, with 27.3 percent of such jobs statewide.

**Figure CO-7.**
*Transmission, Distribution and Storage Employment by Industry Sector*
ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The 36,092 Energy Efficiency jobs in Colorado represent 1.5 percent of all U.S. Energy Efficiency jobs, adding 1,750 jobs (5.1 percent) since last year. The largest number of these employees work in (ENERGY STAR and efficient lighting firms, followed by traditional HVAC.

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

Energy Efficiency employment is primarily found in the professional and business services industry.

Figure CO-9.  
Energy Efficiency Employment by Industry Sector
MOTOR VEHICLES

Motor Vehicle employment accounts for 32,321 jobs in Colorado, up 235 jobs over the past year (0.7 percent). The industry sector that accounts for the largest fraction of Motor Vehicle jobs is repair and maintenance.

Figure CO-10.
Motor Vehicle Employment by Industry Sector

Workforce Characteristics

EMPLOYER GROWTH

Employers in Colorado are more optimistic to their peers across the country in regards to their job growth over the next year in Traditional Energy (6.5 percent versus 3.2 percent nationally). Energy Efficiency employers expect to add 1,487 jobs in Energy Efficiency (4.1 percent) and Motor Vehicles employers expect to add 1,309 jobs (4.0 percent) over the next year.

Table CO-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>6.7</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric Power Transmission, Distribution, and Storage</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Efficiency</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuels</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicles</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
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</table>
HIRING DIFFICULTY

Over the last year, 45.2 percent of energy-related employers in Colorado hired new employees. These employers reported the greatest overall difficulty in hiring workers for jobs in Motor Vehicles.

**Table CO-2**

**Hiring Difficulty by Major Technology Application.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technology</th>
<th>Very Difficult (percent)</th>
<th>Somewhat Difficult (percent)</th>
<th>Not at All Difficult (percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electric Power Generation</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>70.9</td>
<td>13.7</td>
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<td>Electric Power Transmission, Distribution, and Storage</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>67.4</td>
<td>12.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Energy Efficiency</td>
<td>30.7</td>
<td>47.9</td>
<td>21.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuels</td>
<td>32.7</td>
<td>46.9</td>
<td>20.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicles</td>
<td>32.3</td>
<td>57.4</td>
<td>10.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Employers in Colorado 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. Difficulty finding industry-specific knowledge, skills, and interest

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

1. Engineers/scientists — $39.49 median hourly wage
2. Sales, marketing, or customer service — $32.48 median hourly wage
3. Technician or mechanical support — $21.82 median hourly wage