Overview

Montana has a high concentration of energy employment, with 15,530 Traditional Energy workers statewide (representing 0.5 percent of all U.S. Traditional Energy jobs). Of these Traditional Energy workers, 1,376 are in Electric Power Generation, 5,506 are in Fuels, and 8,648 are in Transmission, Distribution, and Storage. The Traditional Energy sector in Montana is 3.2 percent of total state employment (compared to 2.3 percent of national employment). Montana has an additional 8,838 jobs in Energy Efficiency (0.4 percent of all U.S. Energy Efficiency jobs) and 6,226 jobs in Motor Vehicles (0.2 percent of all U.S. Motor Vehicle jobs).

Figure MT-1. Employment by Major Energy Technology Application

Overall, Traditional Energy jobs declined by 4.2 percent since the 2019 report, decreasing by 678 jobs over the period. Energy Efficiency jobs added 165 jobs (1.9 percent) and motor vehicles added 103 jobs (1.7 percent).
Breakdown by Technology Applications

**ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION**

Electric Power Generation employs 1,376 workers in Montana, 0.2 percent of the national total and adding 47 jobs over the past year (3.6 percent). Traditional fossil fuel generation makes up the largest segment of employment related to Electric Power Generation, with 480 jobs (down -6.2 percent), followed by traditional hydroelectric generation at 417 jobs (up 0.2 percent).

*Figure MT-2.*

**Electric Power Generation Employment by Detailed Technology Application**

Utilities are the largest industry sector in Electric Power Generation, with 35.5 percent of jobs. Construction is next with 23.1 percent.

*Figure MT-3.*

**Electric Power Generation by Industry Sector**
FUELS

Fuels employs 5,506 workers in Montana, 0.5 percent of the national total, down -6.5 percent over the past year. Petroleum and other fossil fuels makes up the largest segment of employment related to Fuels.

Figure MT-4. Fuels Employment by Detailed Technology Application

Mining and extraction jobs represent 58.4 percent of Fuels jobs in Montana.

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

Transmission, Distribution, and Storage employs 8,648 workers in Montana, 0.6 percent of the national total, down 3.8 percent or 340 jobs since the 2018 report.

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

Pipeline transport and commodity flows are responsible for the largest percentage of Transmission, Distribution, and Storage jobs in Montana, with 32.3 percent of such jobs statewide.

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

The 8,838 Energy Efficiency jobs in Montana represent 0.4 percent of all U.S. Energy Efficiency jobs, adding 165 jobs (1.9 percent) since last year. The largest number of these employees work in traditional HVAC firms, followed by ENERGY STAR and efficient lighting.

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

Energy Efficiency employment is primarily found in the construction industry.

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

Motor Vehicle employment accounts for 6,226 jobs in Montana, up 103 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 MT-10.
Motor Vehicle Employment by Industry Sector

Workforce Characteristics

EMPLOYER GROWTH

Employers in Montana are more optimistic to their peers across the country in regards to their job growth over the next year in Traditional Energy (5.1 percent versus 3.2 percent nationally). Energy Efficiency employers expect to add 314 jobs in Energy Efficiency (3.6 percent) and Motor Vehicles employers expect to add 257 jobs (4.1 percent) over the next year.

Table MT-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>6.2</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric Power Transmission, Distribution, and Storage</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Efficiency</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuels</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicles</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HIRING DIFFICULTY

Over the last year, 57.1 percent of energy-related employers in Montana hired new employees. These employers reported the greatest overall difficulty in hiring workers for jobs in Motor Vehicles.

Table MT-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>17.3</td>
<td>69.3</td>
<td>13.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric Power Transmission, Distribution, and Storage</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>69.3</td>
<td>13.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Efficiency</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>47.6</td>
<td>23.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuels</td>
<td>30.8</td>
<td>46.5</td>
<td>22.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicles</td>
<td>32.3</td>
<td>57.4</td>
<td>10.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

1. Lack of experience, training, or technical skills
2. Location
3. Cannot pass employment screening

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

1. Electrician/construction workers — $24.69 median hourly wage
2. Technician or mechanical support — $21.82 median hourly wage
3. Manufacturing or production positions — $21.24 median hourly wage