Nebraska
ENERGY AND EMPLOYMENT — 2020

Overview

Nebraska has an average concentration of energy employment, with 25,473 Traditional Energy workers statewide (representing 0.7 percent of all U.S. Traditional Energy jobs). Of these Traditional Energy workers, 6,364 are in Electric Power Generation, 4,421 are in Fuels, and 14,688 are in Transmission, Distribution, and Storage. The Traditional Energy sector in Nebraska is 2.6 percent of total state employment (compared to 2.3 percent of national employment). Nebraska has an additional 13,949 jobs in Energy Efficiency (0.6 percent of all U.S. Energy Efficiency jobs) and 17,844 jobs in Motor Vehicles (0.7 percent of all U.S. Motor Vehicle jobs).

Figure NE-1.
Employment by Major Energy Technology Application

Overall, Traditional Energy jobs declined by 1.9 percent since the 2019 report, decreasing by 492 jobs over the period. Energy Efficiency jobs added 416 jobs (3.1 percent) and motor vehicles lost 162 jobs (-0.9 percent).
Breakdown by Technology Applications

ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION

Electric Power Generation employs 6,364 workers in Nebraska, 0.7 percent of the national total and adding 14 jobs over the past year (0.2 percent). Solar makes up the largest segment of employment related to Electric Power Generation, with 1,893 jobs (up 2.0 percent), followed by traditional fossil fuel generation at 1,079 jobs (down -2.8 percent).

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

Construction is the largest industry sector in Electric Power Generation, with 63.8 percent of jobs. Utilities are next with 10.3 percent.

Figure NE-3. Electric Power Generation by Industry Sector
**FUELS**

Fuels employs 4,421 workers in Nebraska, 0.4 percent of the national total, up 2.3 percent over the past year. Corn ethanol makes up the largest segment of employment related to Fuels.

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

Wholesale trade jobs represent 50.6 percent of Fuels jobs in Nebraska.

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

Transmission, Distribution, and Storage employs 14,688 workers in Nebraska, 1.1 percent of the national total, down 4.0 percent or 607 jobs since the 2018 report.

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

Construction is responsible for the largest percentage of Transmission, Distribution, and Storage jobs in Nebraska, with 45.4 percent of such jobs statewide.

Figure NE-7.
Transmission, Distribution and Storage Employment by Industry Sector

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The 13,949 Energy Efficiency jobs in Nebraska represent 0.6 percent of all U.S. Energy Efficiency jobs, adding 416 jobs (3.1 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 NE-8.
Energy Efficiency Employment by Detailed Technology Application

Energy Efficiency employment is primarily found in the construction industry.

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

Motor Vehicle employment accounts for 17,844 jobs in Nebraska, down 162 jobs over the past year (-0.9 percent). The industry sector that accounts for the largest fraction of Motor Vehicle jobs is repair and maintenance.

Figure NE-10.
Motor Vehicle Employment by Industry Sector

Workforce Characteristics

EMPLOYER GROWTH

Employers in Nebraska are similarly optimistic to their peers across the country in regards to their job growth over the next year in Traditional Energy (3.0 percent versus 3.2 percent nationally). Energy Efficiency employers expect to add 444 jobs in Energy Efficiency (3.2 percent) and Motor Vehicles employers expect to add 707 jobs (4.0 percent) over the next year.

Table NE-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>4.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electric Power Transmission, Distribution, and Storage</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Efficiency</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuels</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicles</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.1</td>
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</table>
HIRING DIFFICULTY

Over the last year, 70.0 percent of energy-related employers in Nebraska hired new employees. These employers reported the greatest overall difficulty in hiring workers for jobs in Electric Power Generation.

Table NE-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>37.6</td>
<td>51.4</td>
<td>11.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electric Power Transmission, Distribution, and Storage</td>
<td>35.1</td>
<td>53.9</td>
<td>11.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Energy Efficiency</td>
<td>29.0</td>
<td>55.0</td>
<td>16.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuels</td>
<td>25.7</td>
<td>45.9</td>
<td>28.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicles</td>
<td>46.3</td>
<td>41.4</td>
<td>12.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

1. Lack of experience, training, or technical skills
2. Insufficient qualifications (certifications or education)
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 — $21.52 median hourly wage
2. Electrician/construction workers — $25.82 median hourly wage
3. IT/software or web developers — $38.76 median hourly wage