Kentucky ENERGY AND EMPLOYMENT — 2022

Overview

Kentucky had 143,994 energy workers statewide in 2021, representing 1.8% of all U.S. energy jobs. Of these energy jobs, 4,993 are in electric power generation; 11,561 in fuels; 23,310 in transmission, distribution, and storage; 22,707 in energy efficiency; and 81,423 in motor vehicles. From 2020 to 2021, energy jobs in the state increased by 10,074 jobs, or 7.5%. The energy sector in Kentucky represents 7.8% of total state employment.

Figure KY-1. Employment by Major Energy Technology Application



Breakdown by Technology Applications

Electric Power Generation

The electric power generation sector employed 4,993 workers in Kentucky, 0.6% of the national electricity total, and added 357 jobs over the past year (7.7%).

Figure KY-2.

Electric Power Generation Employment by Detailed Technology Application



Utilities work represents the largest industry sector in the electric power generation sector, with 27.6% of jobs. Professional and business services is second largest with 25.4%.

Figure KY-3. Electric Power Generation Employment by Industry Sector



Fuels

The fuel sector employed 11,561 workers in Kentucky, 1.3% of the national total in fuels. The sector lost 453 jobs and decreased 3.8% in the past year.





Mining and extraction jobs represent 41% of fuel jobs in Kentucky.



Figure KY-5. Fuels Employment by Industry Sector

Transmission, Distribution and Storage

The transmission, distribution, and storage (TDS) sector employed 23,310 workers in Kentucky, 1.3% of the national TDS total. The sector gained 1,045 jobs and increased 4.7% in the past year.





Pipeline transport and commodity flows work represents the greatest proportion of TDS jobs in Kentucky, accounting for 28.9% of the sector's jobs statewide.





Energy Efficiency

The energy efficiency (EE) sector employed 22,707 workers in Kentucky, 1% of the national EE total. The EE sector added 797 jobs and increased 3.6% in the past year.





EE employment is primarily found in the construction industry.





Motor Vehicles and Component Parts

The motor vehicles and component sector employed 81,423 workers in Kentucky, 3.2% of the national total for the sector. Motor vehicles and component parts added 8,329 jobs and increased 11.4% in the past year. Manufacturing work represents the largest proportion of motor vehicle jobs.

Figure KY-10. Motor Vehicle Employment by Industry Sector



Workforce Characteristics

Employer Growth

Employers in Kentucky are less optimistic than their peers across the country about energy sector job growth over the next year.

Table KY-1

Projected Growth by Major Technology Application

Technology	State Projected Growth Next 12 Months (percent)	U.S. Projected Growth Next 12 Months (percent)	
Electric Power Generation	0.6	2.2	
Electric Power Transmission, Distribution, and Storage	0.0	1.1	
Energy Efficiency	0.3	1.7	
Fuels	1.0	3.0	
Motor Vehicles	1.1	3.2	

Hiring Difficulty

Employers in Kentucky reported 57.9% overall hiring difficulty.

Table KY-2 Hiring Difficulty

Hiring Difficulty	Very Difficult (percent)	Somewhat Difficult (percent)	Not at All Difficult (percent)	Did Not Hire (percent)	Overall Hiring Difficulty
Overall	21.1	36.8	9.4	32.7	57.9