Montana ENERGY AND EMPLOYMENT — 2022

Overview

Montana had 30,875 energy workers statewide in 2021, representing 0.4% of all U.S. energy jobs. Of these energy jobs, 1,439 are in electric power generation; 5,015 in fuels; 9,761 in transmission, distribution, and storage; 8,136 in energy efficiency; and 6,523 in motor vehicles. From 2020 to 2021, energy jobs in the state increased by 1,513 jobs, or 5.2%. The energy sector in Montana represents 6.5% of total state employment

Figure MT-1.





Breakdown by Technology Applications

Electric Power Generation

The electric power generation sector employed 1,439 workers in Montana, 0.2% of the national electricity total, and added 156 jobs over the past year (12.2%).

Figure MT-2.

Electric Power Generation Employment by Detailed Technology Application



Utilities work represents the largest industry sector in the electric power generation sector, with 44.8% of jobs. Construction is second largest with 19.7%.

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



Fuels

The fuel sector employed 5,015 workers in Montana, 0.6% of the national total in fuels. The sector gained 374 jobs and increased 8.1% in the past year.

Figure MT-4. Fuels Employment by Detailed Technology Application



Manufacturing jobs represent 41.4% of fuel jobs in Montana.

Figure MT-5. Fuels Employment by Industry Sector



Transmission, Distribution and Storage

The transmission, distribution, and storage (TDS) sector employed 9,761 workers in Montana, 0.6% of the national TDS total. The sector gained 534 jobs and increased 5.8% in the past year.

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



Pipeline transport and commodity flows work represents the greatest proportion of TDS jobs in Montana, accounting for 31.6% of the sector's jobs statewide.



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

Energy Efficiency

The energy efficiency (EE) sector employed 8,136 workers in Montana, 0.4% of the national EE total. The EE sector added 168 jobs and increased 2.1% in the past year.





EE employment is primarily found in the construction industry.

Figure MT-9. Energy Efficiency Employment by Industry Sector



Motor Vehicles and Component Parts

The motor vehicles and component sector employed 6,523 workers in Montana, 0.3% of the national total for the sector. Motor vehicles and component parts added 280 jobs and increased 4.5% in the past year. Repair and maintenance work represents the largest proportion of motor vehicle jobs.

Figure MT-10. Motor Vehicle Employment by Industry Sector



Workforce Characteristics

Employer Growth

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

Table MT-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	0.1	1.1	
Energy Efficiency	0.4	1.7	
Fuels	1.0	3.0	
Motor Vehicles	1.1	3.2	

Hiring Difficulty

Employers in Montana reported 48.1% overall hiring difficulty.

Table MT-2 Hiring Difficulty

Hiring Difficulty	Very Difficult (percent)	Somewhat Difficult (percent)	Not at All Difficult (percent)	Did Not Hire (percent)	Overall Hiring Difficulty
Overall	22.5	25.7	8.0	43.8	48.1