North Carolina ENERGY AND EMPLOYMENT — 2022

Overview

North Carolina had 204,813 energy workers statewide in 2021, representing 2.6% of all U.S. energy jobs. Of these energy jobs, 19,841 are in electric power generation; 7,588 in fuels; 23,308 in transmission, distribution, and storage; 78,018 in energy efficiency; and 76,059 in motor vehicles. From 2020 to 2021, energy jobs in the state increased by 10,104 jobs, or 5.2%. The energy sector in North Carolina represents 4.5% of total state employment.

Figure NC-1. Employment by Major Energy Technology Application



Breakdown by Technology Applications

Electric Power Generation

The electric power generation sector employed 19,841 workers in North Carolina, 2.3% of the national electricity total, and added 662 jobs over the past year (3.5%).

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



Professional and business services work represents the largest industry sector in the electric power generation sector, with 31.3% of jobs. Construction is second largest with 30.3%.

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



Fuels

The fuel sector employed 7,588 workers in North Carolina, 0.8% of the national total in fuels. The sector lost 13 jobs and decreased 0.2% in the past year.





Wholesale trade jobs represent 43.3% of fuel jobs in North Carolina.



Figure NC-5. Fuels Employment by Industry Sector

Transmission, Distribution and Storage

The transmission, distribution, and storage (TDS) sector employed 23,308 workers in North Carolina, 0.8% of the national TDS total. The sector lost 297 jobs and decreased 1.3% in the past year.

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



Utilities work represents the greatest proportion of TDS jobs in North Carolina, accounting for 45.9% of the sector's jobs statewide.

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



Energy Efficiency

The energy efficiency (EE) sector employed 78,018 workers in North Carolina, 3.6% of the national EE total. The EE sector added 1,545 jobs and increased 2% in the past year.





EE employment is primarily found in the construction industry.



Figure NC-9. Energy Efficiency Employment by Industry Sector

Motor Vehicles and Component Parts and Component Parts

The motor vehicles and component sector employed 76,059 workers in North Carolina, 3% of the national total for the sector. Motor vehicles and component parts added 8,206 jobs and increased 12.1% in the past year. Repair and maintenance work represents the largest proportion of motor vehicle jobs.

Figure NC-10. Motor Vehicle Employment by Industry Sector



Workforce Characteristics

Employer Growth

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

Table NC-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	1.5	2.2	
Electric Power Transmission, Distribution, and Storage	0.9	1.1	
Energy Efficiency	1.2	1.7	
Fuels	1.9	3.0	
Motor Vehicles	2.0	3.2	

Hiring Difficulty

Employers in North Carolina reported 58.7% overall hiring difficulty.

Table NC-2 Hiring Difficulty

Hiring Difficulty	Very Difficult (percent)	Somewhat Difficult (percent)	Not at All Difficult (percent)	Did Not Hire (percent)	Overall Hiring Difficulty
Overall	27.0	31.7	7.6	33.7	58.7