South Carolina ENERGY AND EMPLOYMENT — 2022

Overview

South Carolina had 136,442 energy workers statewide in 2021, representing 1.7% of all U.S. energy jobs. Of these energy jobs, 25,814 are in electric power generation; 5,831 in fuels; 12,351 in transmission, distribution, and storage; 27,827 in energy efficiency; and 64,619 in motor vehicles. From 2020 to 2021, energy jobs in the state increased by 2,875 jobs, or 2.2%. The energy sector in South Carolina represents 6.5% of total state employment.

Figure SC-1. Employment by Major Energy Technology Application



Breakdown by Technology Applications

Electric Power Generation

The electric power generation sector employed 25,814 workers in South Carolina, 3% of the national electricity total, and lost 1,031 jobs over the past year (-3.8%).

Figure SC-2.

Electric Power Generation Employment by Detailed Technology Application



Utilities work represents the largest industry sector in the electric power generation sector, with 26.6% of jobs. Construction is second largest with 24%.





Fuels

The fuel sector employed 5,831 workers in South Carolina, 0.6% of the national total in fuels. The sector lost 99 jobs and decreased 1.7% in the past year.





Wholesale trade jobs represent 55.6% of fuel jobs in South Carolina.

Figure SC-5. Fuels Employment by Industry Sector



Transmission, Distribution and Storage

The transmission, distribution, and storage (TDS) sector employed 12,351 workers in South Carolina, 0.6% of the national TDS total. The sector lost 479 jobs and decreased 3.7% in the past year.

Figure SC-6.





Utilities work represents the largest percentage of TDS jobs in South Carolina, with 41% of such jobs statewide.





Energy Efficiency

The energy efficiency (EE) sector employed 27,827 workers in South Carolina, 1.3% of the national EE total. The EE sector added 1,013 jobs and increased 3.8% in the past year.

Figure SC-8.

Energy Efficiency Employment by Detailed Technology Application



EE employment is primarily found in the construction industry.





Motor Vehicles and Component Parts

The motor vehicles and component sector employed 64,619 workers in South Carolina, 2.5% of the national total for the sector. Motor vehicles and component parts added 3,471 jobs and increased 5.7% in the past year. Manufacturing work represents the largest proportion of motor vehicle jobs.

Figure SC-10. Motor Vehicle Employment by Industry Sector



Workforce Characteristics

Employer Growth

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

Table SC-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	0.8	2.2	
Electric Power Transmission, Distribution, and Storage	0.2	1.1	
Energy Efficiency	0.5	1.7	
Fuels	1.2	3.0	
Motor Vehicles	1.3	3.2	

Hiring Difficulty

Employers in South Carolina reported 49.5% overall hiring difficulty.

Table SC-2 Hiring Difficulty

Hiring Difficulty	Very Difficult (percent)	Somewhat Difficult (percent)	Not at All Difficult (percent)	Did Not Hire (percent)	Overall Hiring Difficulty
Overall	25.3	24.3	5.2	45.2	49.5