West Virginia ENERGY AND EMPLOYMENT — 2022

Overview

West Virginia had 72,750 energy workers statewide in 2021, representing 0.9% of all U.S. energy jobs. Of these energy jobs, 3,412 are in electric power generation; 21,218 in fuels; 32,603 in transmission, distribution, and storage; 6,509 in energy efficiency; and 9,009 in motor vehicles. From 2020 to 2021, energy jobs in the state increased by 7,970 jobs, or 12.3%. The energy sector in West Virginia represents 11.1% of total state employment.

Figure WV-1. Employment by Major Energy Technology Application



Breakdown by Technology Applications

Electric Power Generation

The electric power generation sector employed 3,412 workers in West Virginia, 0.4% of the national electricity total, and added 141 jobs over the past year (4.3%).

Figure WV-2.

Electric Power Generation Employment by Detailed Technology Application



Utilities work represents the largest industry sector in the electric power generation sector, with 69.6% of jobs. Construction is second largest with 18.9%.





Fuels

The fuel sector employed 21,218 workers in West Virginia, 2.3% of the national total in fuels. The sector gained 682 jobs and increased 3.3% in the past year.

Figure WV-4.

Fuels Employment by Detailed Technology Application



Mining and extraction jobs represent 67.6% of fuel jobs in West Virginia.





Transmission, Distribution and Storage

The transmission, distribution, and storage (TDS) sector employed 32,603 workers in West Virginia, 2.3% of the national TDS total. The sector gained 7,321 jobs and increased 29% in the past year.

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



Construction work represents the greatest proportion of TDS jobs in West Virginia, accounting for 68.5% of the sector's jobs statewide.





Energy Efficiency

The energy efficiency (EE) sector employed 6,509 workers in West Virginia, 0.3% of the national EE total. The EE sector added 200 jobs and increased 3.2% in the past year.

Figure WV-8. Energy Efficiency Employment by Detailed Technology Application



EE employment is primarily found in the construction industry.

Figure WV-9. Energy Efficiency Employment by Industry Sector



Motor Vehicles and Component Parts

The motor vehicles and component sector employed 9,009 workers in West Virginia, 0.4% of the national total for the sector. Motor vehicles and component parts lost 374 jobs and decreased 4% in the past year. Repair and maintenance work represents the largest proportion of motor vehicle jobs.

Figure WV-10. Motor Vehicle Employment by Industry Sector



Workforce Characteristics

Employer Growth

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

Table WV-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	1.1	2.2	
Electric Power Transmission, Distribution, and Storage	0.6	1.1	
Energy Efficiency	0.9	1.7	
Fuels	1.5	3.0	
Motor Vehicles	1.6	3.2	

Hiring Difficulty

Employers in West Virginia reported 48.1% overall hiring difficulty.

Table WV-2 Hiring Difficulty

Hiring Difficulty	Very Difficult (percent)	Somewhat Difficult (percent)	Not at All Difficult (percent)	Did Not Hire (percent)	Overall Hiring Difficulty
Overall	28.0	20.1	16.4	35.5	48.1