Alabama

U.S. ENERGY AND EMPLOYMENT REPORT - 2023

Overview

Alabama had 148,304 energy workers statewide in 2022, representing 1.8% of all U.S. energy jobs. Of these energy jobs, 10,977 were in electric power generation; 9,962 in fuels; 25,361 in transmission, distribution, and storage; 29,200 in energy efficiency; and 72,804 in motor vehicles. From 2021 to 2022, energy jobs in the state increased 5,206 jobs, or 3.6% (Figure AL-1). The energy sector in Alabama represented 7.3% of total state employment.

Figure AL-1. Employment by Major Energy Technology Application



Breakdown by Technology Applications

Electric Power Generation

As shown in Figure AL-2, the electric power generation sector employed 10,977 workers in Alabama, 1.2% of the national electricity total, and added 572 jobs from 2021 to 2022 (5.5%).





Utilities was the largest industry sector in the electric power generation sector, with 44.8% of jobs. Professional and business services was second largest with 25.6% (Figure AL-3).

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



Fuels

The Fuel sector employed 9,962 workers in Alabama, 1.0% of the national total in fuels (Figure AL-4). The sector gained 1,374 jobs and increased 16.0% from 2021 to 2022.



Figure AL-4. Fuels Employment by Detailed Technology Application

Mining and extraction jobs represented 33.5% of fuel jobs in Alabama (Figure AL-5).





Transmission, Distribution and Storage

The transmission, distribution, and storage (TDS) sector employed 25,361 workers in Alabama, 1.0% of the national TDS total (Figure AL-6). The sector gained 543 jobs and increased 2.2% from 2021 to 2022.





Utilities was the largest proportion of TDS jobs in Alabama, accounting for 46.7% of the sector's jobs statewide (Figure AL-7).





Energy Efficiency

The energy efficiency (EE) sector employed 29,200 workers in Alabama, 1.3% of the national EE total. The EE sector added 826 jobs and increased 2.9% from 2021 to 2022 (Figure AL-8).



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

Energy efficiency employment was primarily found in the construction industry (Figure AL-9).





Motor Vehicles and Component Parts

The motor vehicles and component sector employed 72,804 workers in Alabama, 2.8% of the national total for the sector. Motor vehicles and component parts added 1,892 jobs and increased 2.7% from 2021 to 2022. Manufacturing is the largest proportion of motor vehicle jobs (Figure AL-10).





Clean Energy Jobs

In 2022, there were 61,374 jobs in clean energy in Alabama if traditional transmission and distribution is included and 44,063 jobs if it is not.¹ These increased under either definition, growing 4.0% with traditional transmission and distribution and 5.3% without.

Employer Perspectives

Expected Growth

Employers in Alabama were less optimistic than their peers across the country about energy sector job growth over the next year (Table AL-1).

| Technology | State Expected Growth Next 12 Months (percent) | U.S. Expected Growth Next 12 Months (percent) | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Electric Power Generation | 4.3 | 6.0 | |
| Electric Power Transmission, Distribution, and Storage | 3.2 | 3.9 | |
| Energy Efficiency | 4.5 | 6.4 | |
| Fuels | 2.1 | 1.6 | |
| Motor Vehicles | 4.0 | 5.5 | |

Table AL-1 Expected Growth by Major Technology Application

¹ The definition of "clean energy" at the state level differs from the national definition due to data availability. For more information see Appendix A of the national U.S. Energy and Employment Report.

Hiring Difficulty

Employers in Alabama reported 55% overall hiring difficulty (Table AL-2).

| Hiring Difficulty | Very Difficult (percent) | Somewhat Difficult (percent) | Not at All Difficult (percent) | Did not hire (percent) | Overall Hiring Difficulty |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Overall | 27 | 28 | 7 | 37 | 55 |

Table AL-2 Hiring Difficulty by Major Technology Application