

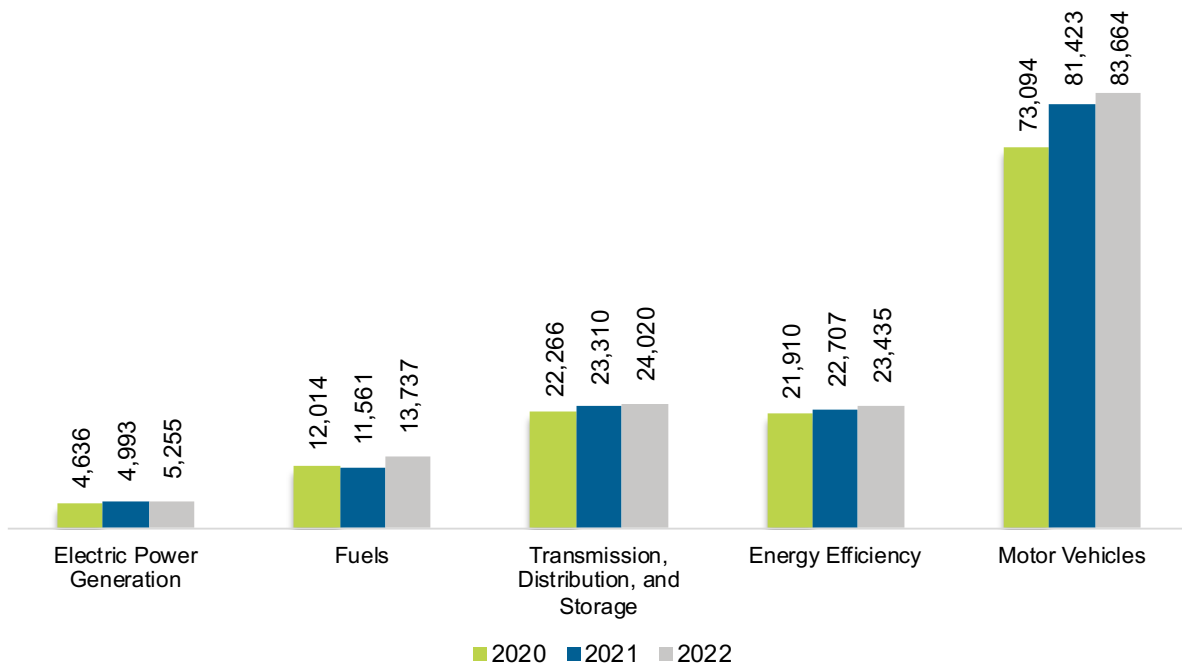
Kentucky

U.S. ENERGY AND EMPLOYMENT REPORT — 2023

Overview

Kentucky had 150,111 energy workers statewide in 2022, representing 1.8% of all U.S. energy jobs. Of these energy jobs, 5,255 were in electric power generation; 13,737 in fuels; 24,020 in transmission, distribution, and storage; 23,435 in energy efficiency; and 83,664 in motor vehicles. From 2021 to 2022, energy jobs in the state increased 6,117 jobs, or 4.2% (Figure KY-1). The energy sector in Kentucky represented 7.7% of total state employment.

Figure KY-1. Employment by Major Energy Technology Application

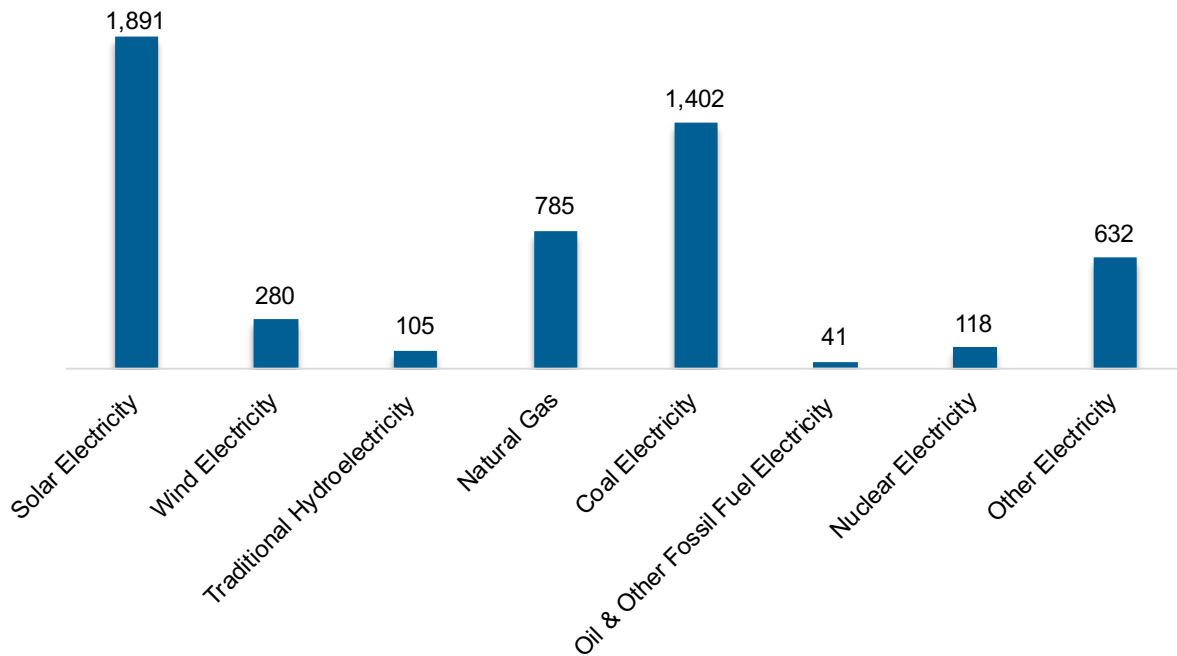


Breakdown by Technology Applications

Electric Power Generation

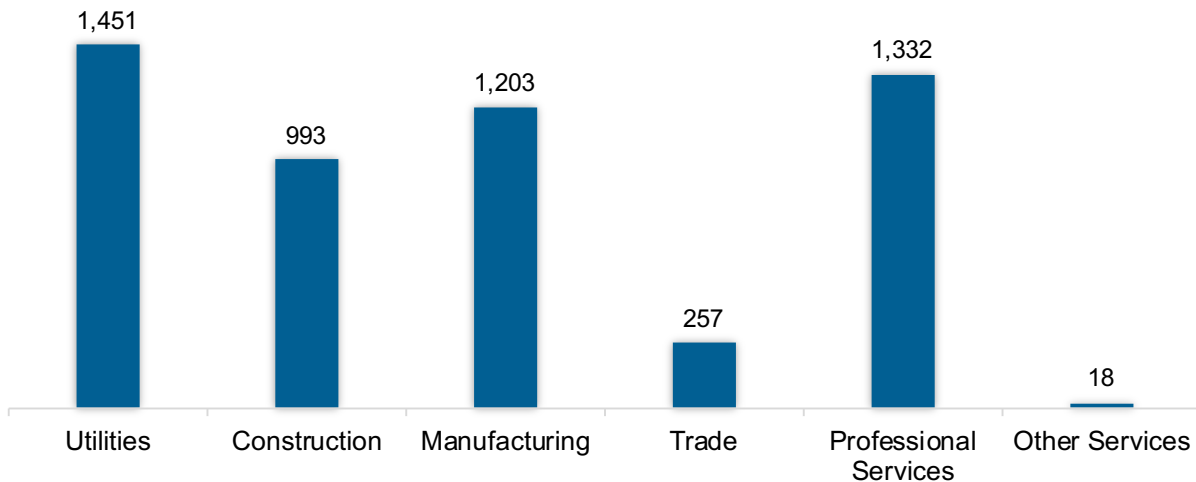
As shown in Figure KY-2, the electric power generation sector employed 5,255 workers in Kentucky, 0.6% of the national electricity total, and added 262 jobs from 2021 to 2022 (5.2%).

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



Utilities was the largest industry sector in the electric power generation sector, with 27.6% of jobs. Professional and business services was second largest with 25.3% (Figure KY-3).

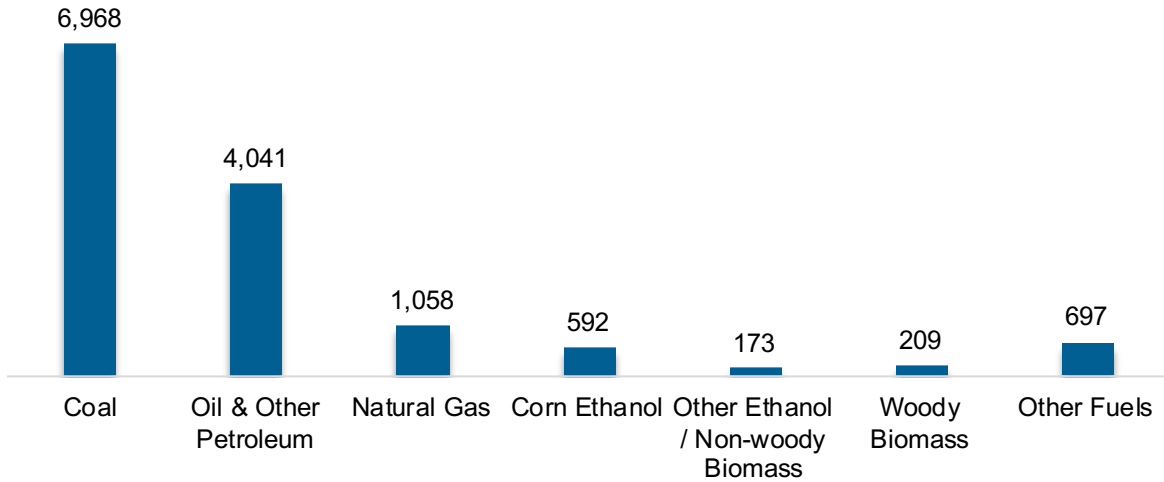
Figure KY-3. Electric Power Generation Employment by Industry Sector



Fuels

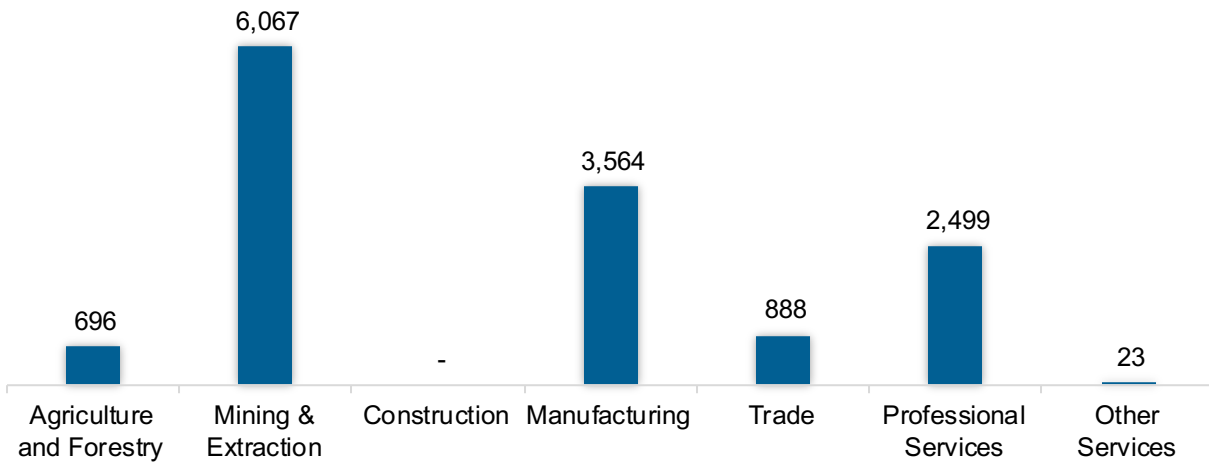
The Fuel sector employed 13,737 workers in Kentucky, 1.3% of the national total in fuels (Figure KY-4). The sector gained 2,176 jobs and increased 18.8% from 2021 to 2022.

Figure KY-4. Fuels Employment by Detailed Technology Application



Mining and extraction jobs represented 44.2% of fuel jobs in Kentucky (Figure KY-5).

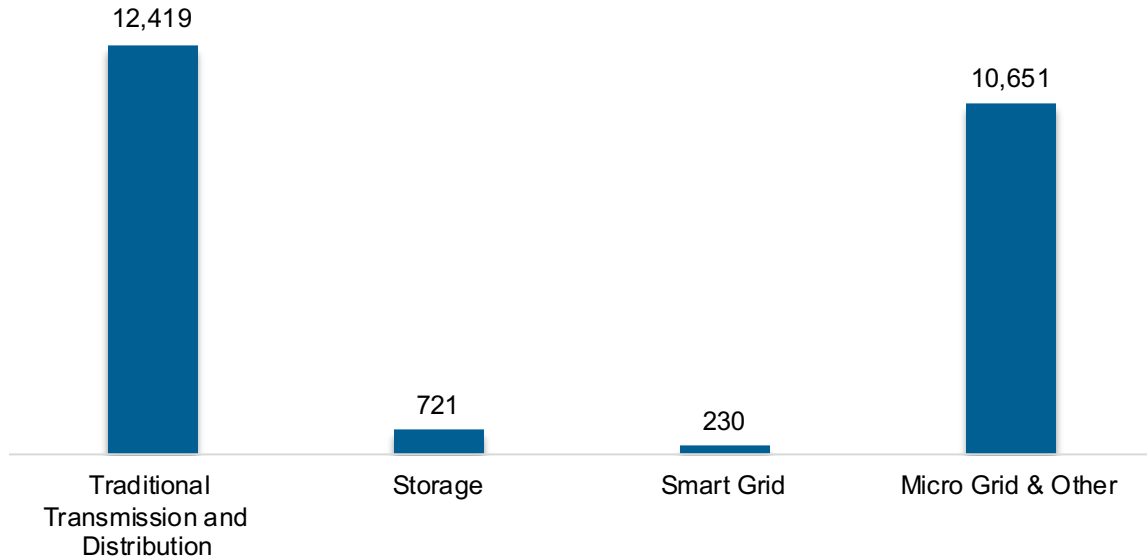
Figure KY-5. Fuels Employment by Industry Sector



Transmission, Distribution and Storage

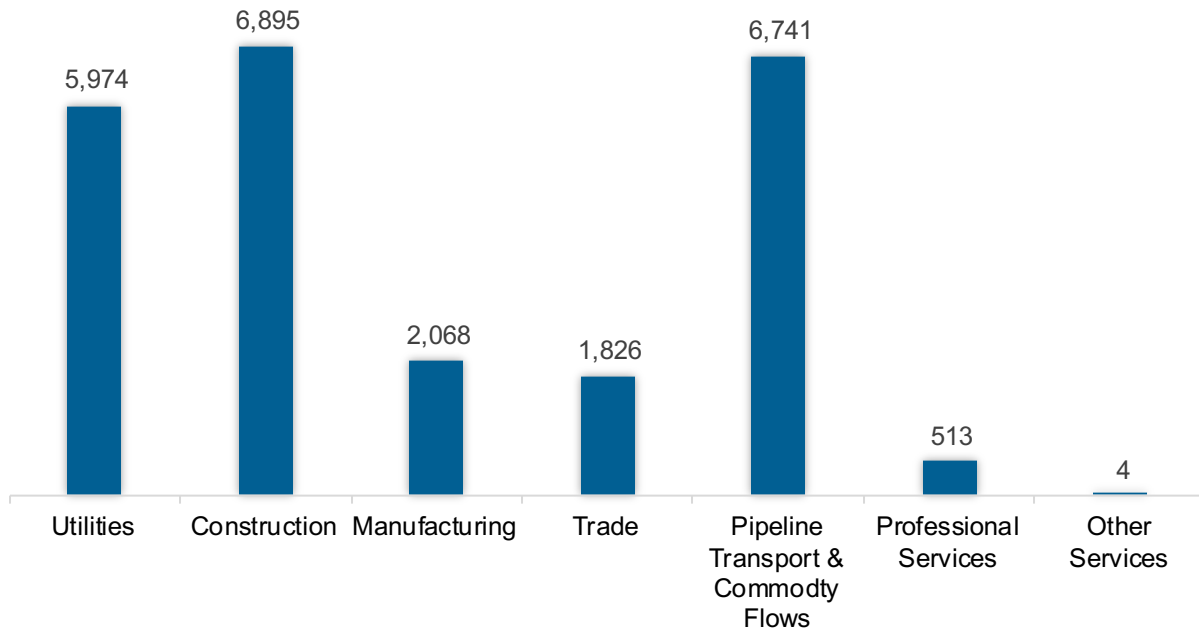
The transmission, distribution, and storage (TDS) sector employed 24,020 workers in Kentucky, 1.3% of the national TDS total (Figure KY-6). The sector gained 710 jobs and increased 3.0% from 2021 to 2022.

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



Construction was the largest proportion of TDS jobs in Kentucky, accounting for 28.7% of the sector's jobs statewide (Figure KY-7).

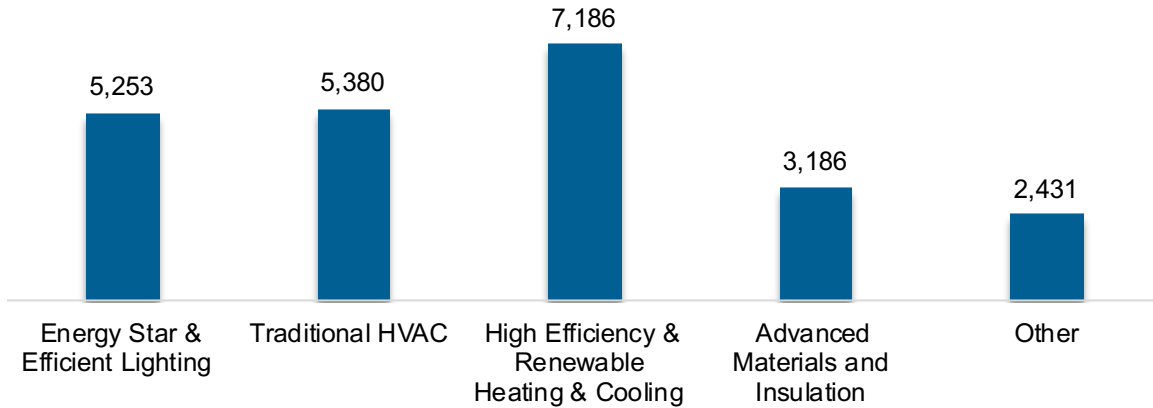
Figure KY-7. Transmission, Distribution and Storage Employment by Industry Sector



Energy Efficiency

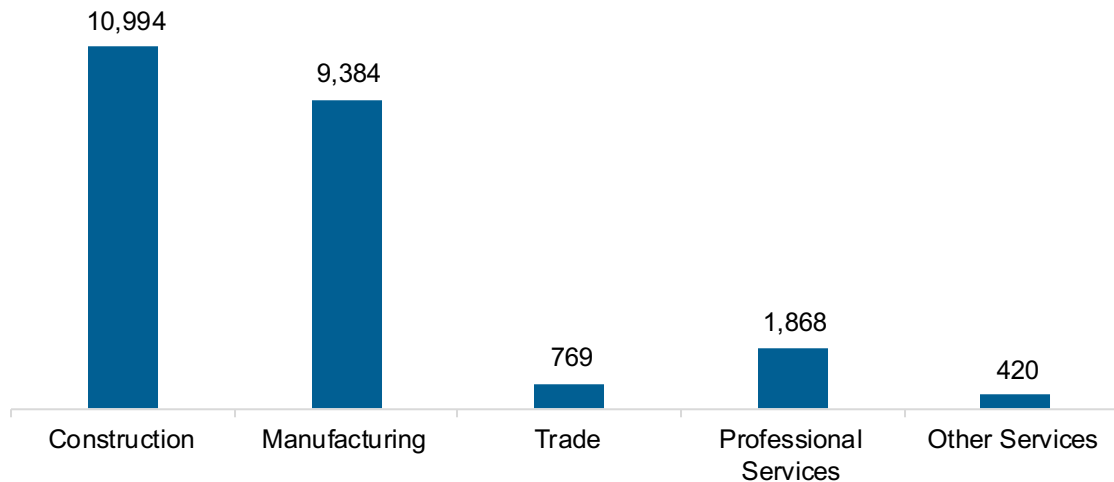
The energy efficiency (EE) sector employed 23,435 workers in Kentucky, 1.1% of the national EE total. The EE sector added 728 jobs and increased 3.2% from 2021 to 2022 (Figure KY-8).

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



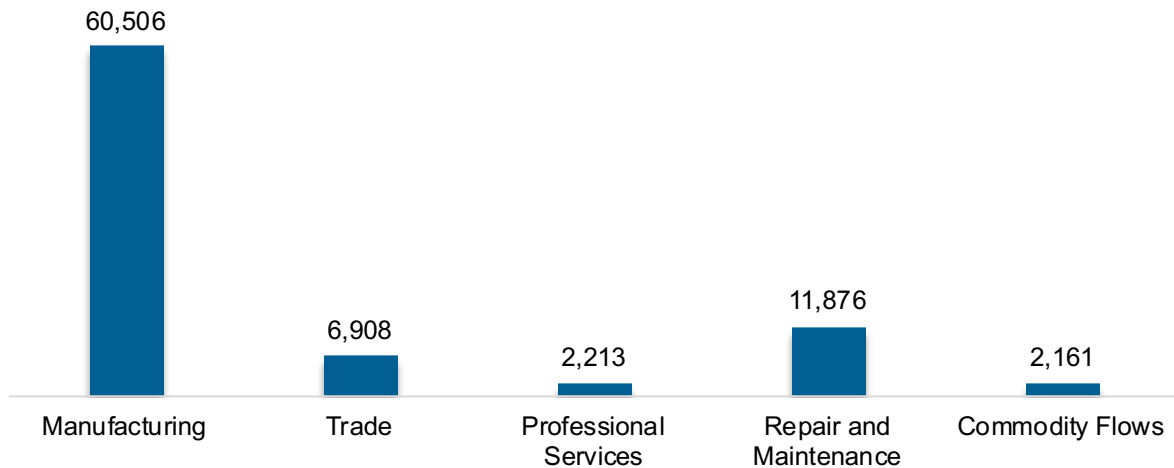
Energy efficiency employment was primarily found in the construction industry (Figure KY-9).

Figure KY-9. Energy Efficiency Employment by Industry Sector



Motor Vehicles and Component Parts

The motor vehicles and component sector employed 83,664 workers in Kentucky, 3.2% of the national total for the sector. Motor vehicles and component parts added 2,241 jobs and increased 2.8% from 2021 to 2022. Manufacturing is the largest proportion of motor vehicle jobs (Figure KY-10).

Figure KY-10. Motor Vehicle Employment by Industry Sector

Clean Energy Jobs

In 2022, there were 46,463 jobs in clean energy in Kentucky if traditional transmission and distribution is included and 34,008 jobs if it is not.¹⁸ These increased under either definition, growing 4.6% with traditional transmission and distribution and 6.1% without.

Employer Perspectives

Expected Growth

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

Table KY-1 Expected Growth by Major Technology Application

Technology	State Expected Growth Next 12 Months (percent)	U.S. Expected Growth Next 12 Months (percent)
Electric Power Generation	3.4	6.0
Electric Power Transmission, Distribution, and Storage	2.3	3.9
Energy Efficiency	3.6	6.4
Fuels	1.2	1.6
Motor Vehicles	3.1	5.5

¹⁸ 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 Kentucky reported 57% overall hiring difficulty (Table KY-2).

Table KY-2 Hiring Difficulty by Major Technology Application

Hiring Difficulty	Very Difficult (percent)	Somewhat Difficult (percent)	Not at All Difficult (percent)	Did not hire (percent)	Overall Hiring Difficulty
Overall	29	28	4	39	57