Overview

Illinois had 288,814 energy workers statewide in 2021, representing 3.7% of all U.S. energy jobs. Of these energy jobs, 31,296 are in electric power generation; 26,385 in fuels; 50,451 in transmission, distribution, and storage; 82,592 in energy efficiency; and 98,089 in motor vehicles. From 2020 to 2021, energy jobs in the state increased 26 jobs, effectively 0%. The energy sector in Illinois represents 5.1% of total state employment.

Figure IL-1. Employment by Major Energy Technology Application
Breakdown by Technology Applications

Electric Power Generation

The electric power generation sector employed 31,296 workers in Illinois, 3.6% of the national electricity total, and added 81 jobs over the past year (0.3%).

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

Construction work represents the largest industry sector in the electric power generation sector, with 34% of jobs. Professional and business services is second largest with 27%.

Figure IL-3.
Electric Power Generation Employment by Industry Sector
Fuels

The fuel sector employed 26,385 workers in Illinois, 2.9% of the national total in fuels. The sector lost 1,303 jobs and decreased 4.7% in the past year.

**Figure IL-4.**
Fuels Employment by Detailed Technology Application

Manufacturing jobs represent 30.9% of fuels jobs in Illinois.

**Figure IL-5.**
Fuels Employment by Industry Sector
Transmission, Distribution and Storage

The transmission, distribution, and storage (TDS) sector employed 50,451 workers in Illinois, 2.9% of the national TDS total. The sector gained 1,146 jobs and increased 2.3% in the past year.

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

Utilities work represents the greatest proportion of TDS jobs in Illinois, accounting for 29% of the sector’s jobs statewide.

Figure IL-7. Transmission, Distribution and Storage Employment by Industry Sector
Energy Efficiency

The energy efficiency (EE) sector employed 82,592 workers in Illinois, 3.8% of the national EE total. The EE sector added 1,921 jobs and increased 2.4% in the past year.

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

Energy Star & Efficient Lighting: 12,773
Traditional HVAC: 28,330
High Efficiency & Renewable Heating & Cooling: 25,473
Advanced Materials and Insulation: 7,777
Other: 8,238

EE employment is primarily found in the construction industry.

Figure IL-9.
Energy Efficiency Employment by Industry Sector

Construction: 40,806
Manufacturing: 17,777
Trade: 5,732
Professional Services: 16,764
Other Services: 1,512
**Motor Vehicles and Component Parts**

The motor vehicles and component sector employed 98,089 workers in Illinois, 3.8% of the national total for the sector. Motor vehicles and component parts lost 1,819 jobs and decreased 1.8% in the past year. Repair and maintenance work represents the largest proportion of motor vehicle jobs.

**Figure IL-10.**
**Motor Vehicle Employment by Industry Sector**

![Motor Vehicle Employment by Industry Sector](chart)

**Workforce Characteristics**

**Employer Growth**

Employers in Illinois are more optimistic than their peers across the country about energy sector job growth over the next year.

**Table IL-1**
**Projected Growth by Major Technology Application**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technology</th>
<th>State Projected Growth Next 12 Months (percent)</th>
<th>U.S. Projected Growth Next 12 Months (percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electric Power Generation</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric Power Transmission, Distribution, and Storage</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Efficiency</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuels</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicles</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Hiring Difficulty**

Employers in Illinois reported 51.5% overall hiring difficulty.

**Table IL-2**
Hiring Difficulty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hiring Difficulty</th>
<th>Very Difficult (percent)</th>
<th>Somewhat Difficult (percent)</th>
<th>Not at All Difficult (percent)</th>
<th>Did Not Hire (percent)</th>
<th>Overall Hiring Difficulty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>24.1</td>
<td>27.3</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>39.7</td>
<td>51.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>