North Carolina
ENERGY AND EMPLOYMENT — 2022

Overview

North Carolina had 204,813 energy workers statewide in 2021, representing 2.6% of all U.S. energy jobs. Of these energy jobs, 19,841 are in electric power generation; 7,588 in fuels; 23,308 in transmission, distribution, and storage; 78,018 in energy efficiency; and 76,059 in motor vehicles. From 2020 to 2021, energy jobs in the state increased by 10,104 jobs, or 5.2%. The energy sector in North Carolina represents 4.5% of total state employment.

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

**Electric Power Generation**

The electric power generation sector employed 19,841 workers in North Carolina, 2.3% of the national electricity total, and added 662 jobs over the past year (3.5%).

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

![Bar chart showing employment by technology application in the electric power generation sector.](chart)

Professional and business services work represents the largest industry sector in the electric power generation sector, with 31.3% of jobs. Construction is second largest with 30.3%.

**Figure NC-3.**
Electric Power Generation Employment by Industry Sector

![Bar chart showing employment by industry sector in the electric power generation sector.](chart)
Fuels

The fuel sector employed 7,588 workers in North Carolina, 0.8% of the national total in fuels. The sector lost 13 jobs and decreased 0.2% in the past year.

Figure NC-4.
Fuels Employment by Detailed Technology Application

Wholesale trade jobs represent 43.3% of fuel jobs in North Carolina.

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

The transmission, distribution, and storage (TDS) sector employed 23,308 workers in North Carolina, 0.8% of the national TDS total. The sector lost 297 jobs and decreased 1.3% in the past year.

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

Utilities work represents the greatest proportion of TDS jobs in North Carolina, accounting for 45.9% of the sector’s jobs statewide.

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

The energy efficiency (EE) sector employed 78,018 workers in North Carolina, 3.6% of the national EE total. The EE sector added 1,545 jobs and increased 2% in the past year.

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

EE employment is primarily found in the construction industry.

Figure NC-9.
Energy Efficiency Employment by Industry Sector
**Motor Vehicles and Component Parts and Component Parts**

The motor vehicles and component sector employed 76,059 workers in North Carolina, 3% of the national total for the sector. Motor vehicles and component parts added 8,206 jobs and increased 12.1% in the past year. Repair and maintenance work represents the largest proportion of motor vehicle jobs.

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

![Bar chart showing motor vehicle employment by industry sector]

**Workforce Characteristics**

**Employer Growth**

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

**Table NC-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>1.5</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric Power Transmission, Distribution, and Storage</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Efficiency</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuels</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicles</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Hiring Difficulty**

Employers in North Carolina reported 58.7% overall hiring difficulty.

**Table NC-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>27.0</td>
<td>31.7</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>33.7</td>
<td>58.7</td>
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</tbody>
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