Rhode Island
ENERGY AND EMPLOYMENT — 2022

Overview

Rhode Island had 22,024 energy workers statewide in 2021, representing 0.3% of all U.S. energy jobs. Of these energy jobs, 2,664 are in electric power generation; 814 in fuels; 2,609 in transmission, distribution, and storage; 10,863 in energy efficiency; and 5,074 in motor vehicles. From 2020 to 2021, energy jobs in the state increased by 979 jobs, or 4.7%. The energy sector in Rhode Island represents 4.7% of total state employment.

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

**Electric Power Generation**

The electric power generation sector employed 2,664 workers in Rhode Island, 0.3% of the national electricity total, and added 152 jobs over the past year (6.1%).

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

Professional and business services work represents the largest industry sector in the electric power generation sector, with 40.2% of jobs. Construction is second largest with 20.9%.

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

The fuel sector employed 814 workers in Rhode Island, 0.1% of the national total in fuels. The sector lost 18 jobs and decreased 2.1% in the past year.

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

Wholesale trade jobs represent 65.2% of fuel jobs in Rhode Island.

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

The transmission, distribution, and storage (TDS) sector employed 2,609 workers in Rhode Island, 0.1% of the national TDS total. The sector gained 194 jobs and increased 8% in the past year.

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

Construction work represents the greatest proportion of TDS jobs in Rhode Island, accounting for 50.4% of the sector’s jobs statewide.

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

The energy efficiency (EE) sector employed 10,863 workers in Rhode Island, 0.5% of the national EE total. The EE sector added 236 jobs and increased 2.2% in the past year.

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

EE employment is primarily found in the construction industry.

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

The motor vehicles and component sector employed 5,074 workers in Rhode Island, 0.2% of the national total for the sector. Motor vehicles and component parts added 422 jobs and increased 9.1% in the past year. Repair and maintenance work represents the largest proportion of motor vehicle jobs.

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

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

**Workforce Characteristics**

**Employer Growth**

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

**Table RI-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>1.7</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric Power Transmission, Distribution, and Storage</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Efficiency</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuels</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicles</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Hiring Difficulty**

Employers in Rhode Island reported 70.4% overall hiring difficulty.

**Table RI-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>25.3</td>
<td>45.1</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>24.4</td>
<td>70.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>