Arkansas

U.S. ENERGY AND EMPLOYMENT REPORT — 2023

Overview
Arkansas had 63,522 energy workers statewide in 2022, representing 0.8% of all U.S. energy jobs. Of these energy jobs, 4,585 were in electric power generation; 7,547 in fuels; 13,728 in transmission, distribution, and storage; 15,006 in energy efficiency; and 22,656 in motor vehicles. From 2021 to 2022, energy jobs in the state increased 1,759 jobs, or 2.8% (Figure AR-1). The energy sector in Arkansas represented 5.0% of total state employment.

Figure AR-1. Employment by Major Energy Technology Application

Breakdown by Technology Applications

Electric Power Generation
As shown in Figure AR-2, the electric power generation sector employed 4,585 workers in Arkansas, 0.5% of the national electricity total, and added 293 jobs from 2021 to 2022 (6.8%).
Figure AR-2. Electric Power Generation Employment by Detailed Technology Application

Utilities was the largest industry sector in the electric power generation sector, with 35.2% of jobs. Construction was second largest with 25.0% (Figure AR-3).

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

Fuels

The Fuel sector employed 7,547 workers in Arkansas, 0.7% of the national total in fuels (Figure AR-4). The sector gained 622 jobs and increased 9.0% from 2021 to 2022.
Figure AR-4. Fuels Employment by Detailed Technology Application

Professional and business services jobs represented 27.5% of fuel jobs in Arkansas (Figure AR-5).

Figure AR-5. Fuels Employment by Industry Sector

Transmission, Distribution and Storage
The transmission, distribution, and storage (TDS) sector employed 13,728 workers in Arkansas, 0.7% of the national TDS total (Figure AR-6). The sector gained 42 jobs and increased 0.3% from 2021 to 2022.
Utilities was the largest proportion of TDS jobs in Arkansas, accounting for 41.4% of the sector’s jobs statewide (Figure AR-7).

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

Energy Efficiency

The energy efficiency (EE) sector employed 15,006 workers in Arkansas, 0.7% of the national EE total. The EE sector added 586 jobs and increased 4.1% from 2021 to 2022 (Figure AR-8).
Energy efficiency employment was primarily found in the construction industry (Figure AR-9).

Motor Vehicles and Component Parts

The motor vehicles and component sector employed 22,656 workers in Arkansas, 0.9% of the national total for the sector. Motor vehicles and component parts added 217 jobs and increased 1.0% from 2021 to 2022. Repair and maintenance is the largest proportion of motor vehicle jobs (Figure AR-10).
Clean Energy Jobs
In 2022, there were 32,576 jobs in clean energy in Arkansas if traditional transmission and distribution is included and 21,948 jobs if it is not. These increased under either definition, growing 3.1% with traditional transmission and distribution and 4.5% without.

Employer Perspectives

Expected Growth
Employers in Arkansas were more optimistic than their peers across the country about energy sector job growth over the next year (Table AR-1).

Table AR-1 Expected Growth by Major Technology Application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technology</th>
<th>State Expected Growth Next 12 Months (percent)</th>
<th>U.S. Expected Growth Next 12 Months (percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electric Power Generation</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric Power Transmission, Distribution, and Storage</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Efficiency</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuels</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicles</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Arkansas reported 51% overall hiring difficulty (Table AR-2).

Table AR-2 Hiring Difficulty by Major Technology Application

<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>26</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>51</td>
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</tbody>
</table>