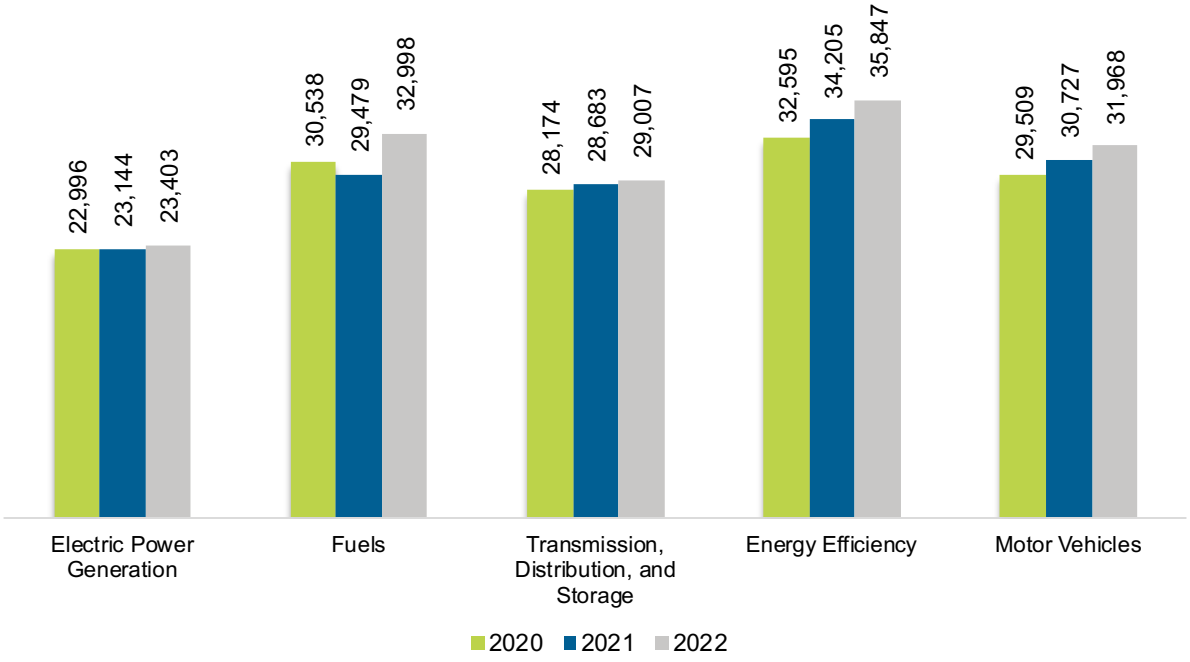
Colorado

U.S. ENERGY AND EMPLOYMENT REPORT — 2023

Overview

Colorado had 153,223 energy workers statewide in 2022, representing 1.9% of all U.S. energy jobs. Of these energy jobs, 23,403 were in electric power generation; 32,998 in fuels; 29,007 in transmission, distribution, and storage; 35,847 in energy efficiency; and 31,968 in motor vehicles. From 2021 to 2022, energy jobs in the state increased 6,984 jobs, or 4.8% (Figure CO-1). The energy sector in Colorado represented 5.4% of total state employment.

Figure CO-1. Employment by Major Energy Technology Application

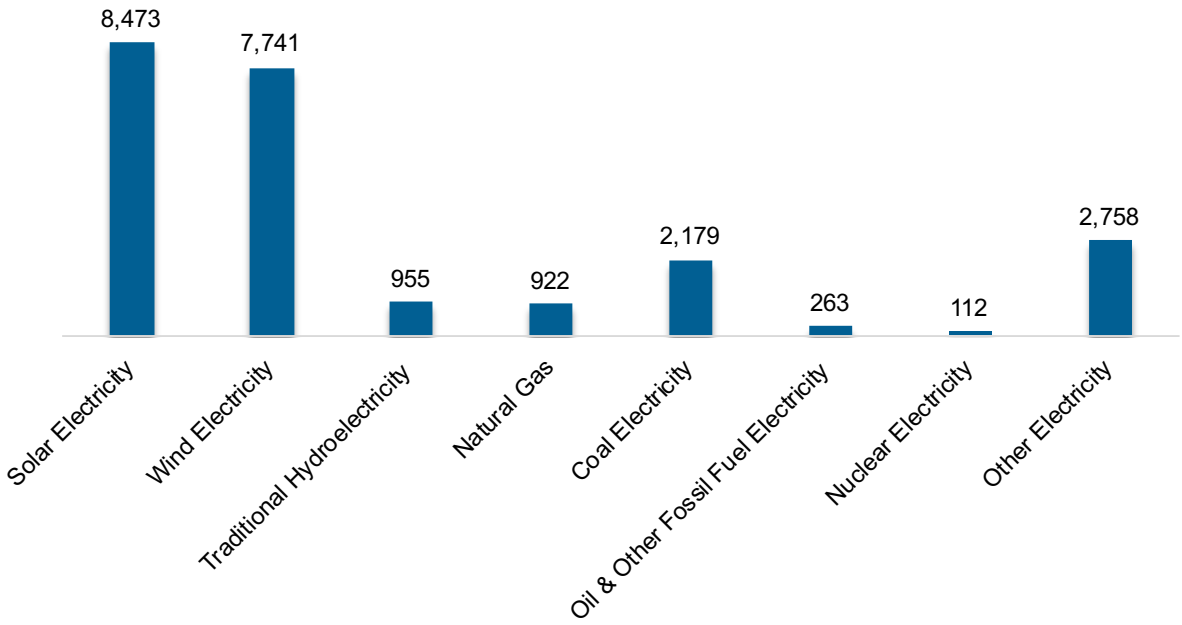


Breakdown by Technology Applications

Electric Power Generation

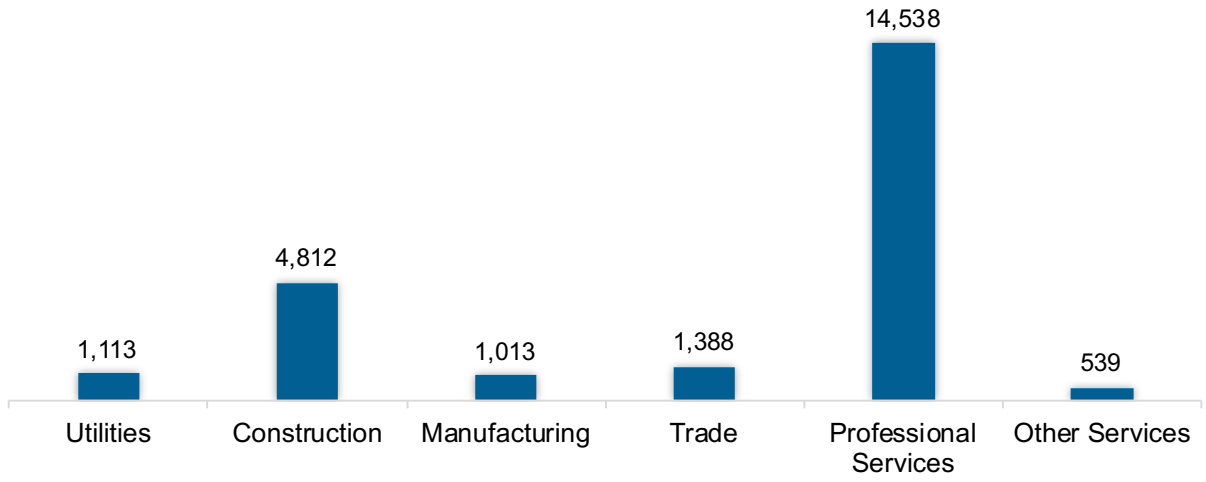
As shown in Figure CO-2, the electric power generation sector employed 23,403 workers in Colorado, 2.6% of the national electricity total, and added 259 jobs from 2021 to 2022 (1.1%).

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



Professional and business services was the largest industry sector in the electric power generation sector, with 62.1% of jobs. Construction was second largest with 20.6% (Figure CO-3).

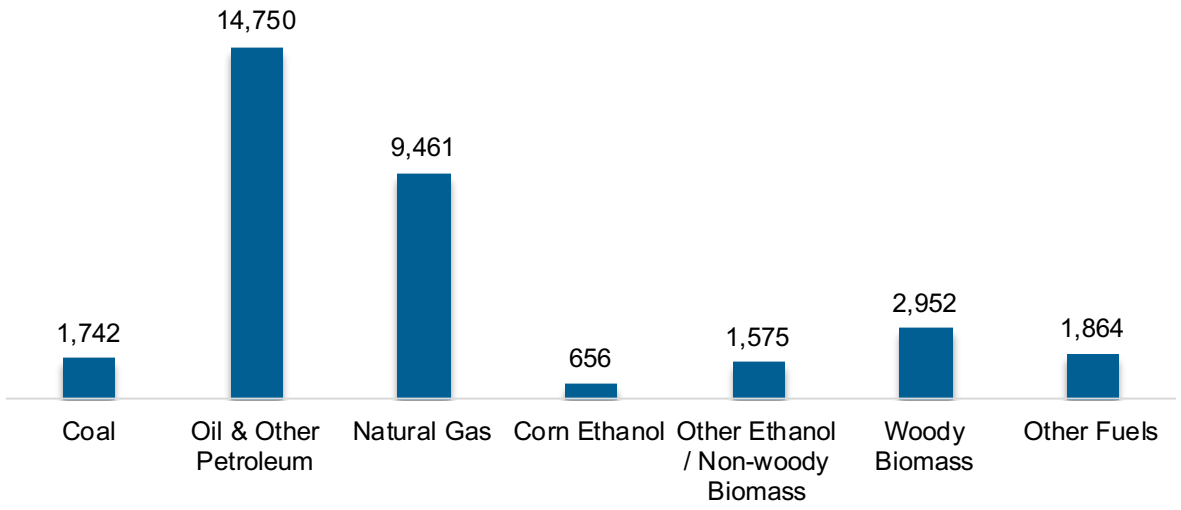
Figure CO-3. Electric Power Generation Employment by Industry Sector



Fuels

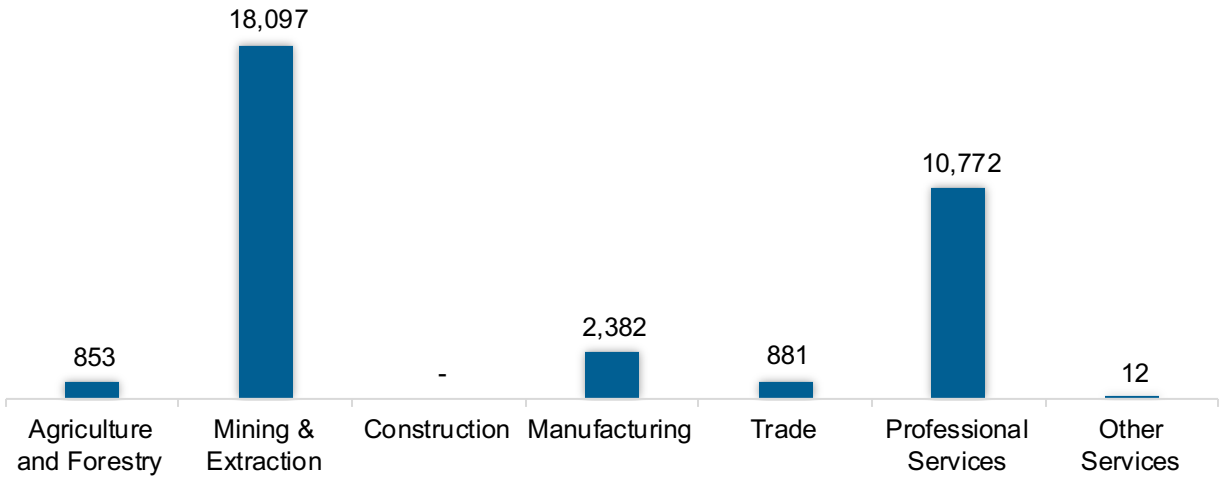
The Fuel sector employed 32,998 workers in Colorado, 3.2% of the national total in fuels (Figure CO-4). The sector gained 3,519 jobs and increased 11.9% from 2021 to 2022.

Figure CO-4. Fuels Employment by Detailed Technology Application



Mining and extraction jobs represented 54.8% of fuel jobs in Colorado (Figure CO-5).

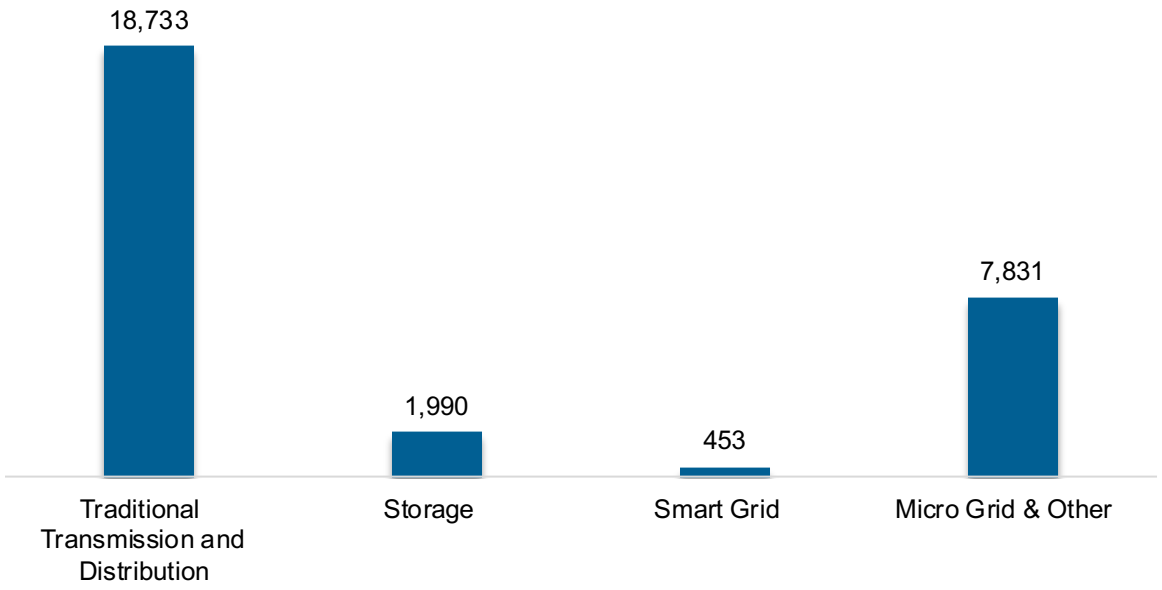
Figure CO-5. Fuels Employment by Industry Sector



Transmission, Distribution and Storage

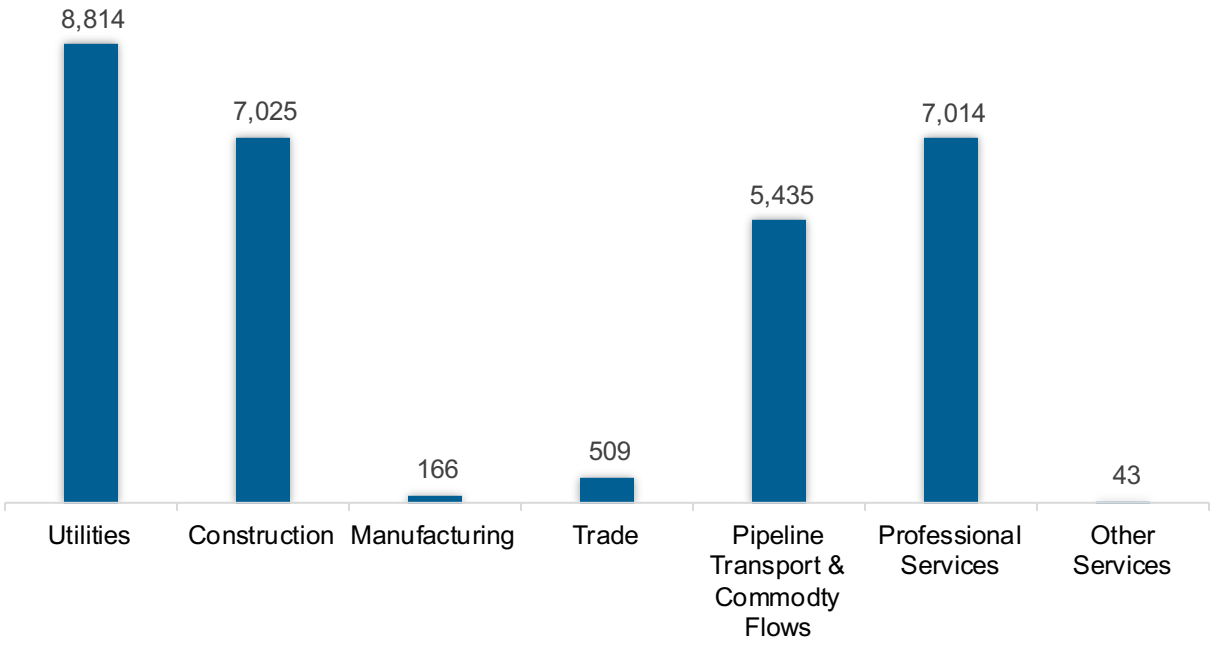
The transmission, distribution, and storage (TDS) sector employed 29,007 workers in Colorado, 3.2% of the national TDS total (Figure CO-6). The sector gained 324 jobs and increased 1.1% from 2021 to 2022.

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



Utilities was the largest proportion of TDS jobs in Colorado, accounting for 30.4% of the sector's jobs statewide (Figure CO-7).

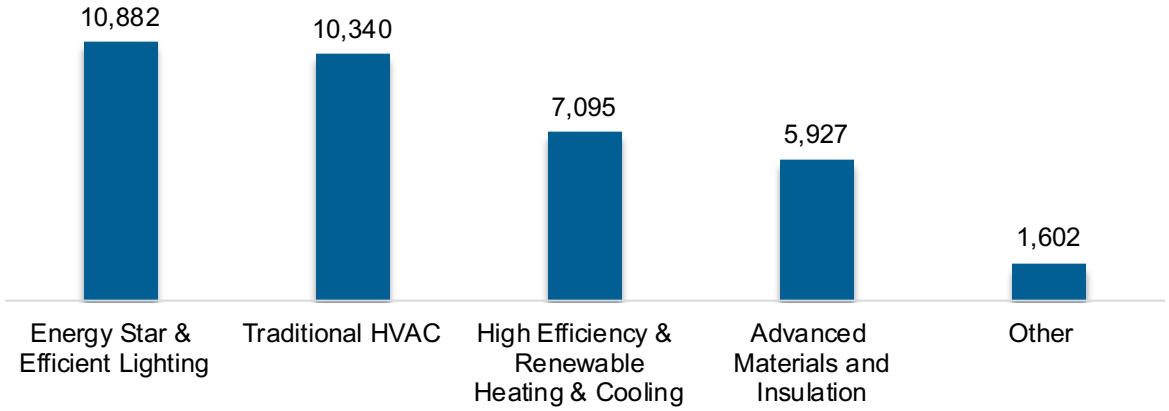
Figure CO-7. Transmission, Distribution and Storage Employment by Industry Sector



Energy Efficiency

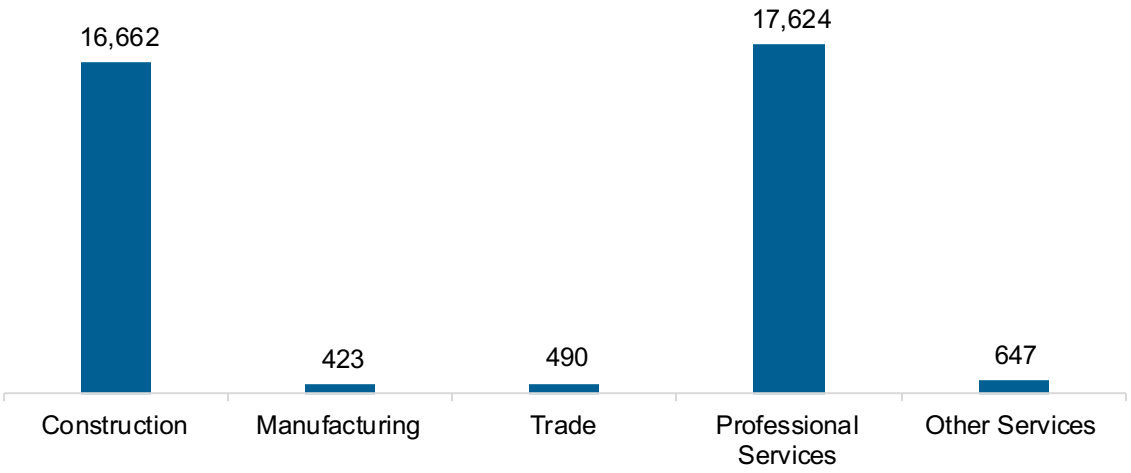
The energy efficiency (EE) sector employed 35,847 workers in Colorado, 1.6% of the national EE total. The EE sector added 1,642 jobs and increased 4.8% from 2021 to 2022 (Figure CO-8).

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



Energy efficiency employment was primarily found in the professional and business services industry (Figure CO-9).

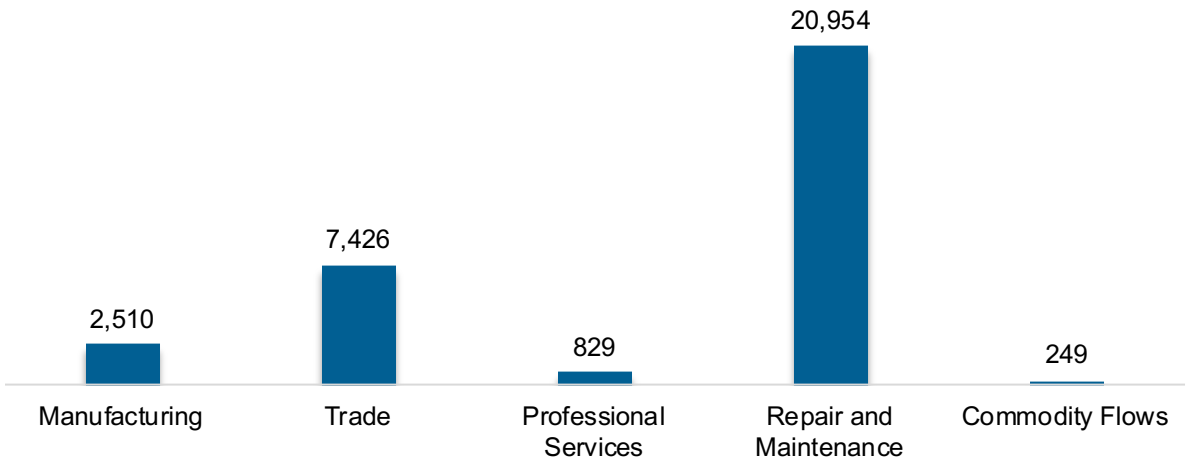
Figure CO-9. Energy Efficiency Employment by Industry Sector



Motor Vehicles and Component Parts

The motor vehicles and component sector employed 31,968 workers in Colorado, 1.2% of the national total for the sector. Motor vehicles and component parts added 1,241 jobs and increased 4.0% from 2021 to 2022. Repair and maintenance is the largest proportion of motor vehicle jobs (Figure CO-10).

Figure CO-10. Motor Vehicle Employment by Industry Sector



Clean Energy Jobs

In 2022, there were 85,222 jobs in clean energy in Colorado if traditional transmission and distribution is included and 66,388 jobs if it is not.[6] These increased under either definition, growing 3.4% with traditional transmission and distribution and 4.0% without.

Employer Perspectives

Expected Growth

Employers in Colorado are similarly optimistic than their peers across the country about energy sector job growth over the next year (Table CO-1).

Table CO-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	6.0	6.0
Electric Power Transmission, Distribution, and Storage	5.0	3.9
Energy Efficiency	6.2	6.4
Fuels	3.8	1.6
Motor Vehicles	5.8	5.5

[6] 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 Colorado reported 47% overall hiring difficulty (Table CO-2).

Table CO-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	23	24	7	46	47