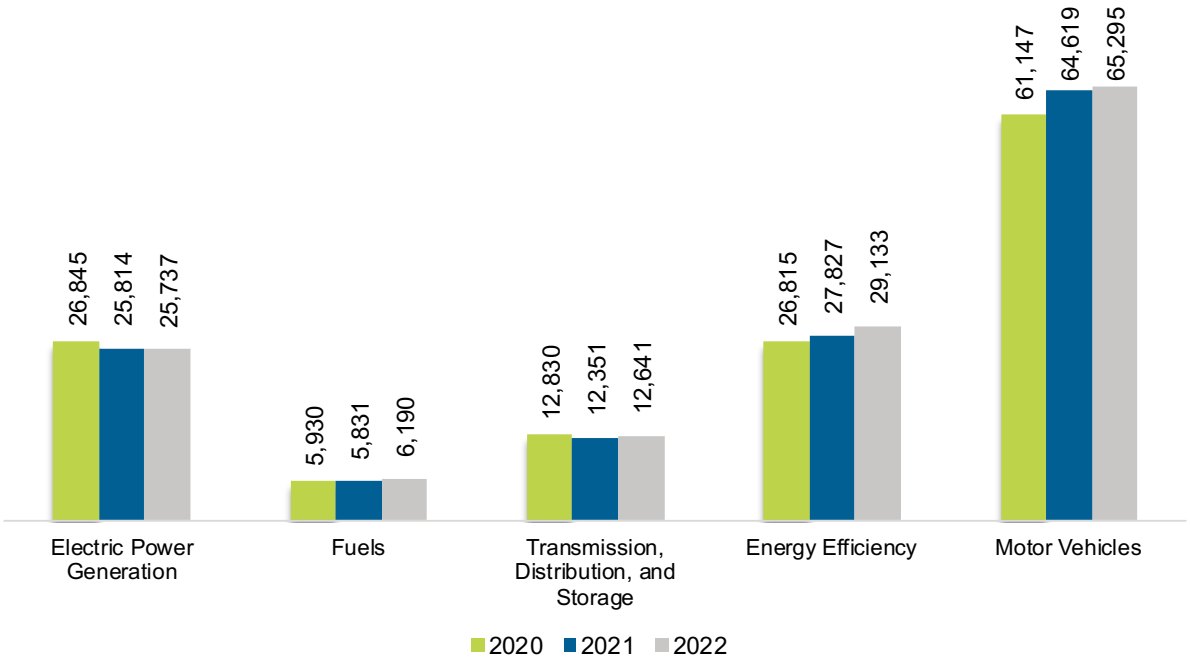
South Carolina

U.S. ENERGY AND EMPLOYMENT REPORT — 2023

Overview

South Carolina had 138,997 energy workers statewide in 2022, representing 1.7% of all U.S. energy jobs. Of these energy jobs, 25,737 were in electric power generation; 6,190 in fuels; 12,641 in transmission, distribution, and storage; 29,133 in energy efficiency; and 65,295 in motor vehicles. From 2021 to 2022, energy jobs in the state increased 2,554 jobs, or 1.9% (Figure SC-1). The energy sector in South Carolina represented 6.3% of total state employment.

Figure SC-1. Employment by Major Energy Technology Application

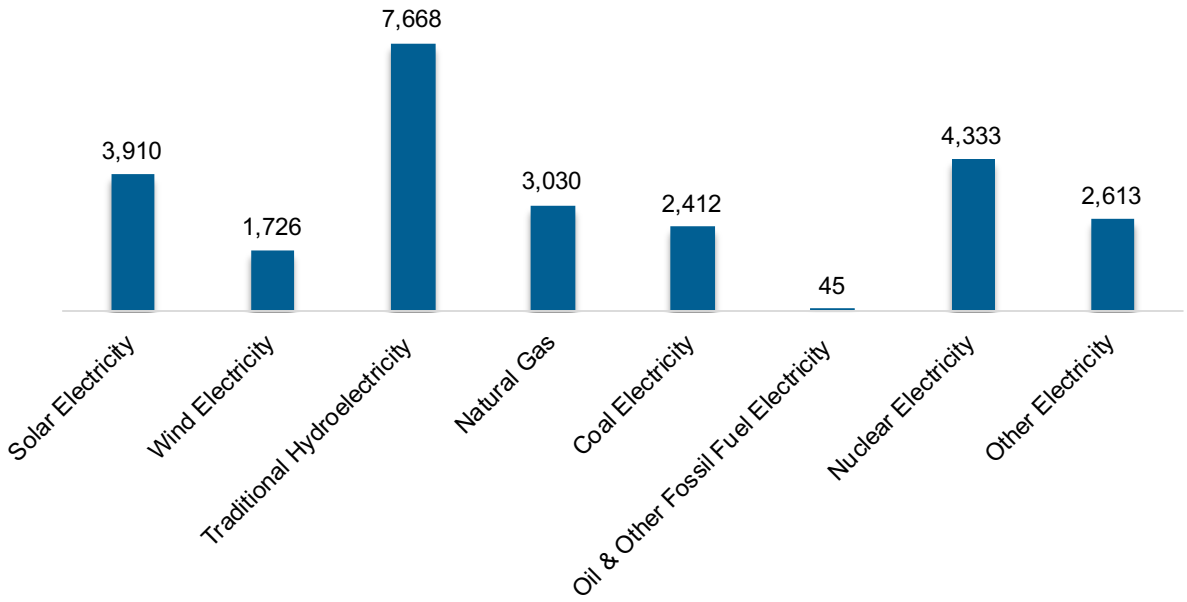


Breakdown by Technology Applications

Electric Power Generation

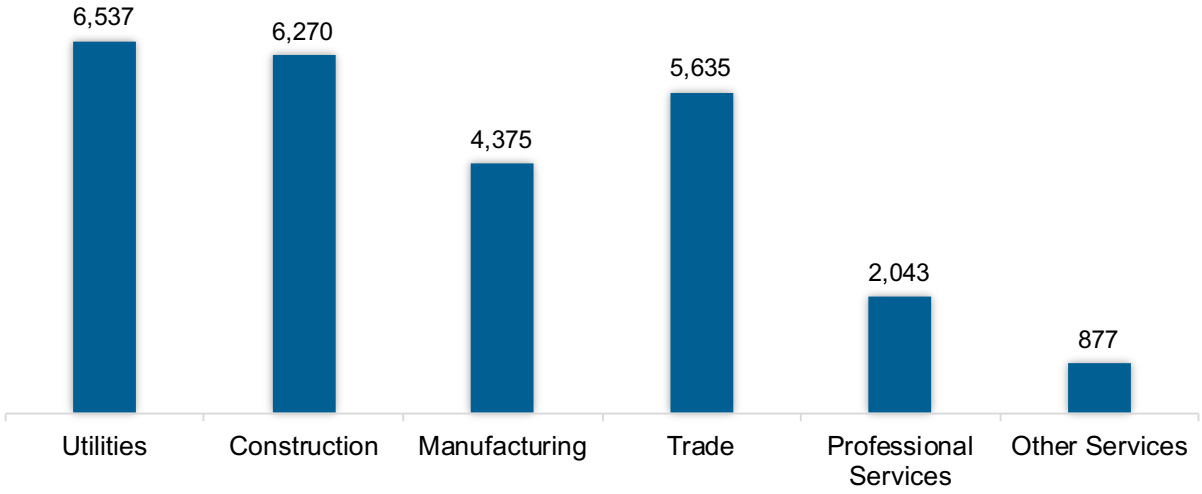
As shown in Figure SC-2, the electric power generation sector employed 25,737 workers in South Carolina, 2.9% of the national electricity total, and lost 77 jobs from 2021 to 2022 (-0.3%).

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



Utilities was the largest industry sector in the electric power generation sector, with 25.4% of jobs. Construction was second largest with 24.4% (Figure SC-3).

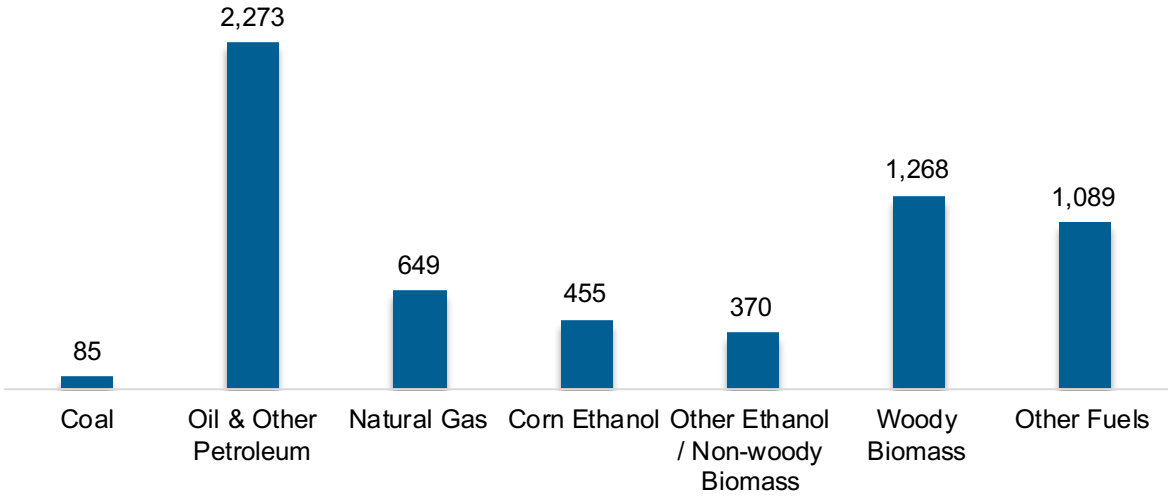
Figure SC-3. Electric Power Generation Employment by Industry Sector



Fuels

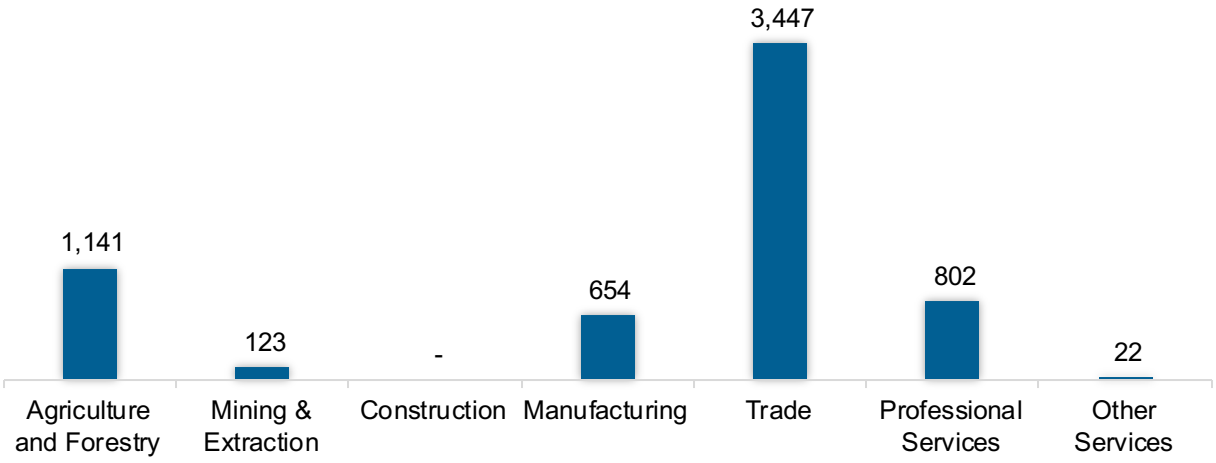
The Fuel sector employed 6,190 workers in South Carolina, 0.6% of the national total in fuels (Figure SC-4). The sector gained 359 jobs and increased 6.2% from 2021 to 2022.

Figure SC-4. Fuels Employment by Detailed Technology Application



Wholesale trade jobs represented 55.7% of fuel jobs in South Carolina (Figure SC-5).

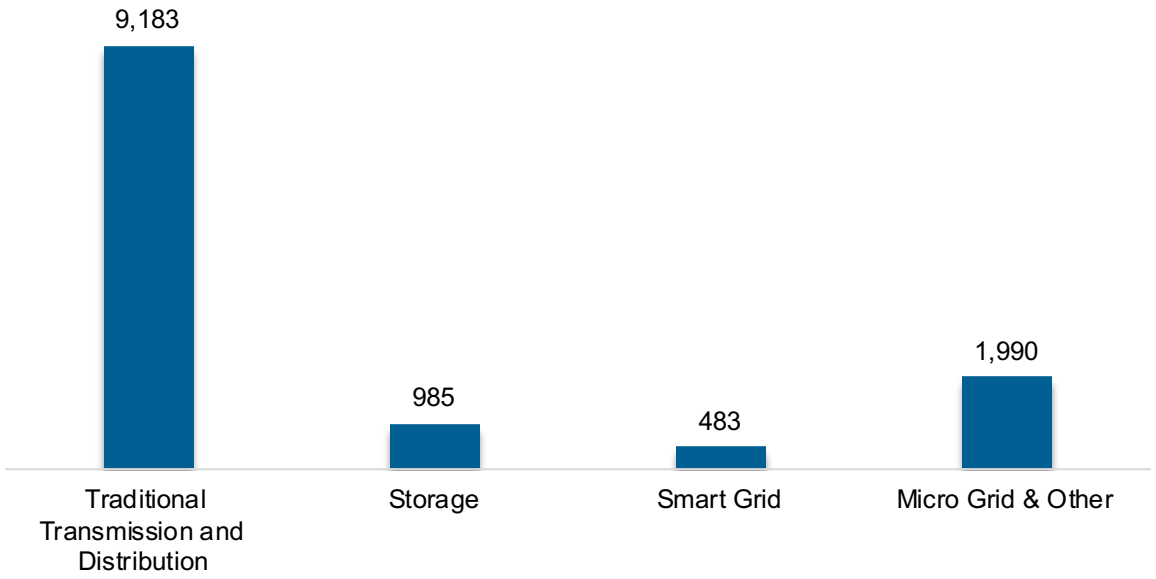
Figure SC-5. Fuels Employment by Industry Sector



Transmission, Distribution and Storage

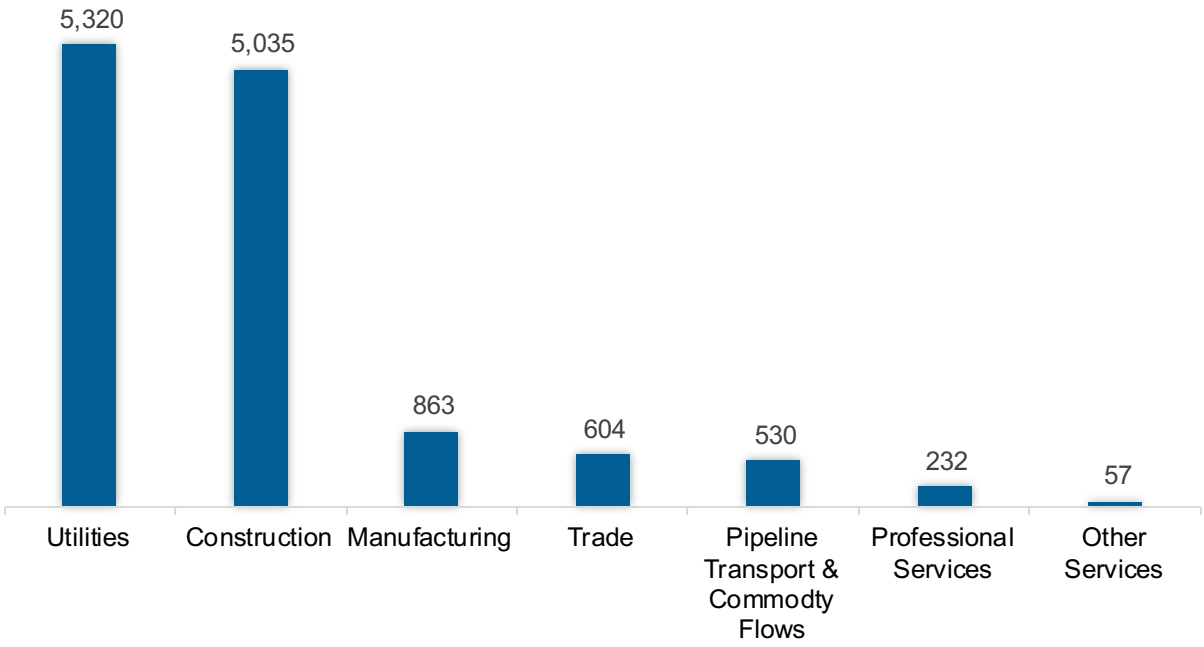
The transmission, distribution, and storage (TDS) sector employed 12,641 workers in South Carolina, 0.6% of the national TDS total (Figure SC-6). The sector gained 290 jobs and increased 2.3% from 2021 to 2022.

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



Utilities was the largest proportion of TDS jobs in South Carolina, accounting for 42.1% of the sector's jobs statewide (Figure SC-7).

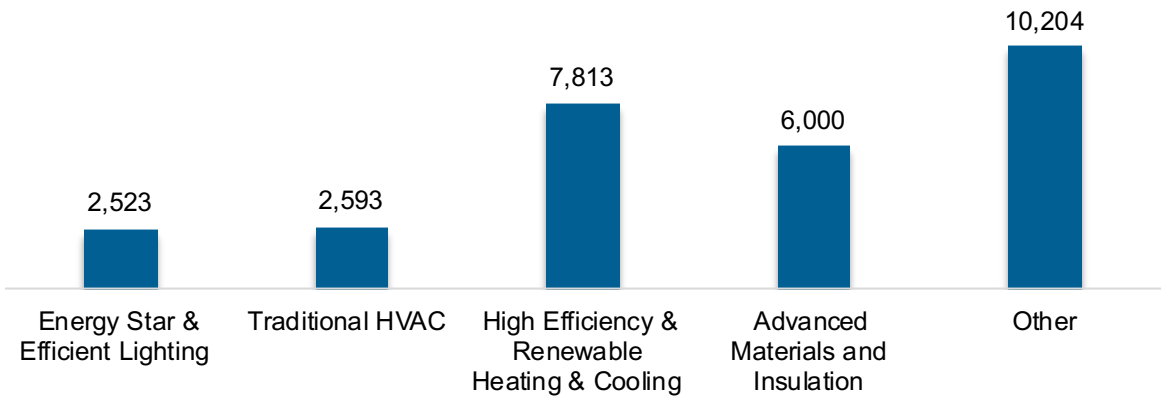
Figure SC-7. Transmission, Distribution and Storage Employment by Industry Sector



Energy Efficiency

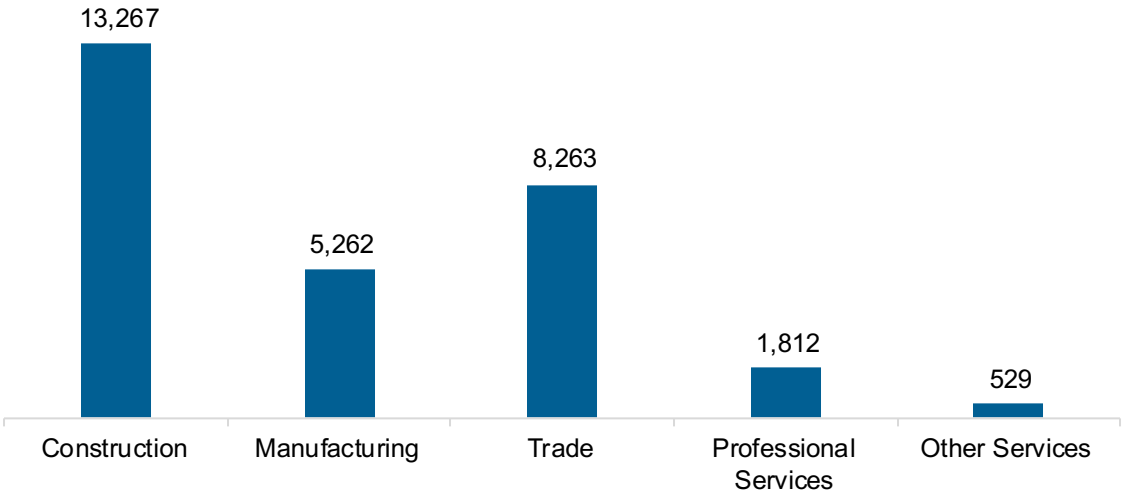
The energy efficiency (EE) sector employed 29,133 workers in South Carolina, 1.3% of the national EE total. The EE sector added 1,306 jobs and increased 4.7% from 2021 to 2022 (Figure SC-8).

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



Energy efficiency employment was primarily found in the construction industry (Figure SC-9).

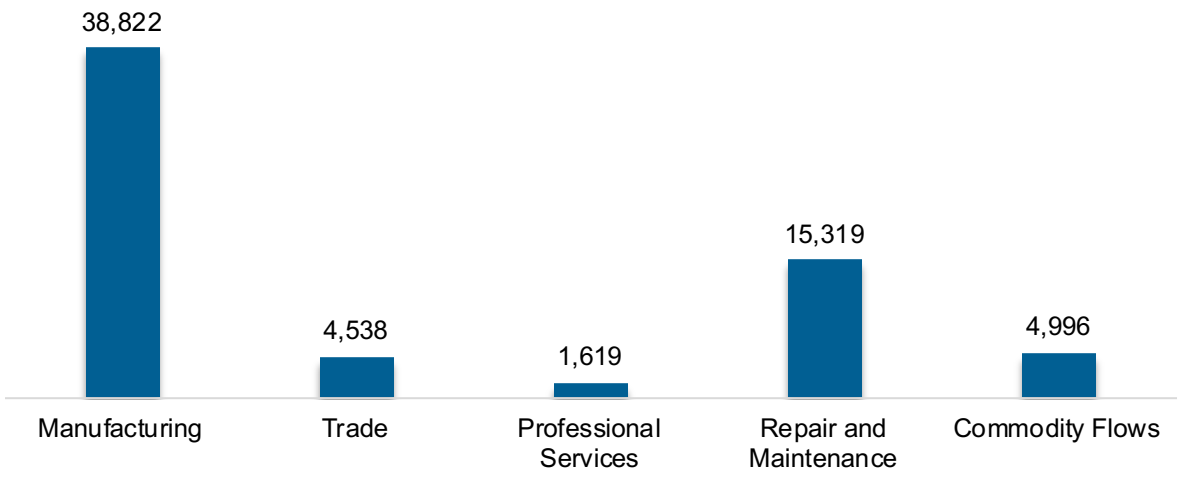
Figure SC-9. Energy Efficiency Employment by Industry Sector



Motor Vehicles and Component Parts

The motor vehicles and component sector employed 65,295 workers in South Carolina, 2.5% of the national total for the sector. Motor vehicles and component parts added 676 jobs and increased 1.0% from 2021 to 2022. Manufacturing is the largest proportion of motor vehicle jobs (Figure SC-10).

Figure SC-10. Motor Vehicle Employment by Industry Sector



Clean Energy Jobs

In 2022, there were 65,711 jobs in clean energy in South Carolina if traditional transmission and distribution is included and 56,478 jobs if it is not.[41] These increased under either definition, growing 2.7% with traditional transmission and distribution and 2.8% without.

Employer Perspectives

Expected Growth

Employers in South Carolina were more optimistic than their peers across the country about energy sector job growth over the next year (Table SC-1).

Table SC-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	7.2	6.0
Electric Power Transmission, Distribution, and Storage	6.1	3.9
Energy Efficiency	7.4	6.4
Fuels	5.0	1.6
Motor Vehicles	6.9	5.5

[41] 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 South Carolina reported 54% overall hiring difficulty (Table SC-2).

Table SC-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	22	32	8	38	54