# West Virginia

# U.S. ENERGY AND EMPLOYMENT REPORT - 2023

### **Overview**

West Virginia had 85,381 energy workers statewide in 2022, representing 1.1% of all U.S. energy jobs. Of these energy jobs, 3,432 were in electric power generation; 27,151 in fuels; 39,182 in transmission, distribution, and storage; 6,668 in energy efficiency; and 8,948 in motor vehicles. From 2021 to 2022, energy jobs in the state increased 12,631 jobs, or 17.4% (Figure WV-1). The energy sector in West Virginia represented 12.6% of total state employment.

#### Figure WV-1. Employment by Major Energy Technology Application



## **Breakdown by Technology Applications**

#### Electric Power Generation

As shown in Figure WV-2, the electric power generation sector employed 3,432 workers in West Virginia, 0.4% of the national electricity total, and added 20 jobs from 2021 to 2022 (0.6%).



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

Utilities was the largest industry sector in the electric power generation sector, with 71.8% of jobs. Construction was second largest with 17.5% (Figure WV-3).

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



### Fuels

The Fuel sector employed 27,151 workers in West Virginia, 2.6% of the national total in fuels (Figure WV-4). The sector gained 5,933 jobs and increased 28.0% from 2021 to 2022.



#### Figure WV-4. Fuels Employment by Detailed Technology Application

Mining and extraction jobs represented 69.2% of fuel jobs in West Virginia (Figure WV-5).

#### Figure WV-5. Fuels Employment by Industry Sector



### Transmission, Distribution and Storage

The transmission, distribution, and storage (TDS) sector employed 39,182 workers in West Virginia, 2.6% of the national TDS total (Figure WV-6). The sector gained 6,579 jobs and increased 20.2% from 2021 to 2022.

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



Construction was the largest proportion of TDS jobs in West Virginia, accounting for 71.0% of the sector's jobs statewide (Figure WV-7).





### Energy Efficiency

The energy efficiency (EE) sector employed 6,668 workers in West Virginia, 0.3% of the national EE total. The EE sector added 159 jobs and decreased 2.4% from 2021 to 2022 (Figure WV-8).





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





### Motor Vehicles and Component Parts

The motor vehicles and component sector employed 8,948 workers in West Virginia, 0.3% of the national total for the sector. Motor vehicles and component parts lost 61 jobs and decreased 0.7% from 2021 to 2022. Repair and maintenance is the largest proportion of motor vehicle jobs (Figure WV-10).





# **Clean Energy Jobs**

In 2022, there were 43,331 jobs in clean energy in West Virginia if traditional transmission and distribution is included and 9,743 jobs if it is not.<sup>49</sup> These increased under either definition, growing 19.3% with traditional transmission and distribution and 3.6% without.

# **Employer Perspectives**

### Expected Growth

Employers in West Virginia were less optimistic than their peers across the country about energy sector job growth over the next year (Table WV-1).

Technology	State Expected Growth Next 12 Months (percent)	U.S. Expected Growth Next 12 Months (percent)	
Electric Power Generation	4.5	6.0	
Electric Power Transmission, Distribution, and Storage	3.4	3.9	
Energy Efficiency	4.7	6.4	
Fuels	2.3	1.6	
Motor Vehicles	4.2	5.5	

#### Table WV-1 Expected Growth by Major Technology Application

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> 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 West Virginia reported 50% overall hiring difficulty (Table WV-2).

Hiring Difficulty	Very Difficult (percent)	Somewhat Difficult (percent)	Not at All Difficult (percent)	Did not hire (percent)	Overall Hiring Difficulty
Overall	33	17	4	45	50

# Table WV-2 Hiring Difficulty by Major Technology Application