There are 242,343 Americans working in solar as of 2018, according to The Solar Foundation’s latest National Solar Jobs Census. Visit SolarStates.org to view an interactive map of solar jobs in 2018 by state, county, metro area, and congressional district.

With over 300 days of sunshine, Colorado is one of the nation’s leading solar job states. The solar workforce in Colorado has grown steadily since 2015 thanks to smart policies that support this growth.

**State Solar Jobs:** 6,847

**State Ranking for Solar Jobs:** 8

**State Ranking for Solar Jobs Per Capita:** 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Jobs</th>
<th>Growth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Installation</td>
<td>4,569</td>
<td>(1% increase)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>639</td>
<td>(11% decrease)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale Trade &amp; Distribution</td>
<td>574</td>
<td>(9% decrease)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations &amp; Maintenance</td>
<td>366</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>699</td>
<td>(24% decrease)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**New Solar Jobs, 2018:** 58

**Solar Jobs Growth, 2018:** 0.9%

**State Rank by Net Solar Jobs Added, 2018:** 24

**Projected Jobs Growth, 2019:** 7.5%

**Percentage of State Solar Workers Who Are Veterans:** 7.4%

**Cumulative Installed Solar Capacity¹:** 1,184 MW

**State Ranking for Installed Solar Capacity¹:** 12

**Enough Solar to Power:** 241,244 homes¹²

**Solar Companies²:** 463

**K-12 Solar Schools³:** 104

**State’s Electricity Generation from Solar³:** 2.96%

**K-12 Schools Have Gone Solar⁴:** 4.9%
**TOP METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS FOR SOLAR JOBS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denver-Aurora</td>
<td>4,637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boulder</td>
<td>1,432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Collins-Loveland</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado Springs</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COLORADO**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The largest stand-alone energy storage system on an army base is being constructed at Fort Carson, Colorado. The 4.25 MW system will reduce electricity demand at peak periods, increasing the base’s grid resilience.

**SOLAR POLICY CONTEXT**

- **Net Metering Policy Grade**
  - Grade 6

- **Interconnection Policy Grade**
  - Grade 6

Solar installations sized to meet up to 120% of a customer’s average annual consumption receive compensation for solar sent back to the grid credited at the retail rate. There is no limit to the number of systems covered under net metering.

**RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD**

- **30% by 2020**

**RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD CARVEOUTS**

- **3%**
  - Distributed Generation (1.5% Customer-sited)
  - Property Assessed Clean Energy Financing (PACE) Status

**COMMUNITY SOLAR**

- Legislation Enacted

**COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION STATUS**

- CCA Not Available

**LEGAL STATUS OF THIRD PARTY OWNERSHIP**

- Authorized by state, at least in certain jurisdictions

**PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY FINANCING (PACE) STATUS**

- PACE-enabling Legislation; Active Commercial PACE Programs

**STATE INSTALLER LICENSING REQUIREMENTS**

- Electrician’s License or NABCEP PV Installation Professional

**23%**

Employers Reporting It Was “Very Difficult” to Hire Qualified Employees

**STATE RANKING FOR AVERAGE ELECTRICITY PRICE**

- 23
  - 10.02 CENTS/kWh

**10.02 AVERAGE ELECTRICITY PRICE**

2. SEIA, National Solar Database
6. Freeing the Grid 2015, a joint project of Vote Solar, Interstate Renewable Energy Council, and EQ Research
8. Shared Renewables HQ, an initiative of Vote Solar in partnership with Lee Barken
9. Local Energy Aggregation Network
10. North Carolina Clean Technology Center at North Carolina State University, Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency
11. PACENation, available at pacenation.us/pace-programs/
12. SEIA