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.

Illinois is emerging as a leading state for solar job growth, thanks to strong support for renewable energy at the state and local levels.

**STATE SOLAR JOBS:** 4,879

**STATE RANKING FOR SOLAR JOBS:** 13

**STATE RANKING FOR SOLAR JOBS PER CAPITA:** 36

- **New Solar Jobs, 2018:** 1,308
- **Solar Jobs Growth, 2018:** 36.6%
- **State Rank by Net Solar Jobs Added, 2018:** 2
- **Projected Jobs Growth, 2019:** 11.4%
- **Percentage of State Solar Workers Who Are Veterans:** 8.6%

**SOLAR INDUSTRY CONTEXT**

- **CUMULATIVE INSTALLED SOLAR CAPACITY¹:** 108 MW
- **STATE RANKING FOR INSTALLED SOLAR CAPACITY¹:** 37
- **ENOUGH SOLAR TO POWER 16,727 HOMES¹²:**

**SOLAR JOBS BY SECTOR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Jobs</th>
<th>Growth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INSTALLATION</td>
<td>2,986</td>
<td>(42% increase)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MANUFACTURING</td>
<td>601</td>
<td>(32% increase)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHOLESALE TRADE &amp; DISTRIBUTION</td>
<td>745</td>
<td>(15% increase)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPERATIONS &amp; MAINTENANCE</td>
<td>222</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>(10% decrease)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other**

- **366 Solar Companies²**
- **338 K-12 Solar Schools⁴**
- **0.08% of State’s Electricity Generation from Solar³**
- **5.8% K-12 Schools Have Gone Solar⁴**

Learn more at SolarStates.org
**Top Metropolitan Statistical Areas for Solar Jobs**

- **Chicago-Naperville-Joliet**: 4,275
- **St. Louis**: 1,143
- **Springfield**: 160
- **Rockford**: 112

**DID YOU KNOW?**
The Future Energy Jobs Act will fund training programs for Illinois solar workers to support a robust and equitable workforce.

**Illinois**

**Solar Policy Context**

- **Net Metering Policy Grade**: 6
- **Interconnection Policy Grade**: 6

Solar installations up to 2 MW deemed non-competitive receive compensation for solar sent back to the grid credited at the retail rate, while those installations deemed competitive are credited at the avoided cost rate. The limit to the number of systems covered under net metering is set at 5% of a utility’s peak demand in the previous year.

**Renewable Portfolio Standard**

**25%** by 2025

**Renewable Portfolio Standard Carveouts**

- **1.5%** Solar PV
- **0.25%** Distributed Generation

**Community Solar**

Legislation Enacted

**Community Choice Aggregation Status**

CCA Enabling Legislation

**Legal Status of Third Party Ownership**

Authorized by state, at least in certain jurisdictions

**Property Assessed Clean Energy Financing (PACE) Status**

PACE-enabling Legislation; In Development Commercial PACE Programs

**State Installer Licensing Requirements**

- Electrician’s License, NABCEP PV Installation Professional, Underwriters Laboratories DG Technology Certification, or Associate in Applied Science Degree

**State Ranking for Average Electricity Price**

- **29%** Employers Reporting It Was “Very Difficult” to Hire Qualified Employees
- **34**

**Average Electricity Price**

- **$9.46 cents/kWh**

---

2. SEIA, National Solar Database
5. https://www.futureenergyjobsact.com/
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