There are 249,983 Americans working in solar as of 2019, according to The Solar Foundation’s latest National Solar Jobs Census. Visit SolarStates.org for details on solar jobs in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

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:** 5,513

- **New Solar Jobs, 2019:** 634
- **State Rank by Net Solar Jobs Added, 2019:** 6
- **Percentage of State Solar Workers Who Are Veterans:** 8%

**STATE RANKING FOR SOLAR JOBS:** 13

**STATE RANKING FOR SOLAR JOBS PER CAPITA:** 35

**SOLAR JOBS BY SECTOR**

- **INSTALLATION**
  - 3,593
  - (20% increase)

- **MANUFACTURING**
  - 574
  - (5% decrease)

- **WHOLESALE TRADE & DISTRIBUTION**
  - 721
  - (3% decrease)

- **OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE**
  - 332
  - (50% increase)

- **OTHER**
  - 293
  - (10% decrease)

**SOLAR INDUSTRY CONTEXT**

- **CUMULATIVE INSTALLED SOLAR CAPACITY¹:** 211 MW
- **STATE RANKING FOR INSTALLED SOLAR CAPACITY¹:** 34

- **ENOUGH SOLAR TO POWER 31,686 HOMES¹:**

- **395 Solar Companies²**
- **0.14% of State’s Electricity Generation from Solar³**

Learn more at SolarStates.org
TOP METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS FOR SOLAR JOBS

DID YOU KNOW?
Conagra Brands entered a service agreement with SolAmerica energy to place eight acres of solar panels on its property in St. Elmo.4

SOLAR POLICY CONTEXT

Net Metering Policy Grade 5
Interconnection Policy Grade 5

COMMUNITY SOLAR PROGRAM GRADE 7

COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION STATUS 8
CCA enabling legislation

LEGAL STATUS OF THIRD PARTY OWNERSHIP 9
Authorized by state, at least in certain jurisdictions

PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY FINANCING (PACE) STATUS 10
PACE enabling legislation; In development commercial PACE program

STATE INSTALLER LICENSING REQUIREMENTS 4

Electrician’s License, NABCEP, Underwriters Laboratories DG technology certification, Electronics Technicians Association DG certification, or Associate in Applied Science degree

RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD 5
25%
by 2025

RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD CARVEOUTS 5
1.5%
Solar PV

0.25%
Distributed Generation

STATE RANKING FOR AVERAGE ELECTRICITY PRICE 3
(Highest to Lowest)

26%
Employers Reporting It Was “Very Difficult” to Hire Qualified Employees

31

9.6 CENTS/KWh
AVERAGE ELECTRICITY PRICE 3

1 Wood Mackenzie, Limited and the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA), U.S. Solar Market Insight
2 SEIA, National Solar Database
3 U.S. Energy Information Administration
4 https://solarindustrymag.com/solamerica-energy-working-on-2-mw-project-in-illinois
5 Based on Freeing the Grid 2015, Vote Solar, Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC), and EQ Research. Grades updated by The Solar Foundation
6 IREC, National Solar Licensing Map
7 IREC, 2019 National Shared Renewables Scorecard
9 North Carolina Clean Technology Center at North Carolina State University, Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency
10 PACENation, available at pacenation.us/pace-programs/