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These maps show where you can earn the most in 2 fast-growing green jobs

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Abstract

None available.

Full Text

- Wind turbine service technicians are one of the fastest-growing jobs in the US, based on 2020-2030 projections.
- Employment for solar PV installers is also projected to grow quickly in this decade, increasing by 52%.
- We looked at how the pay of these two green jobs varies across the US.

The pay for wind turbine service technicians and solar photovoltaic installers — two in-demand green jobs — isn't the same in every state.

Wind turbine service technician is the fastest-growing job in the nation after leaving out those with "above average cyclical recovery" due to the pandemic, according to a table of fast-growing jobs created by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Without excluding these occupations, BLS projections suggests wind turbine service technician would be the second fastest-growing job, right after motion picture projectionists.

Based on projection data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, wind turbine service technicians is projected to see employment grow 68.2% from 2020 to 2030. That is an increase of 4,700 employees during this time.

The pay for wind turbine service technicians varies across the country as seen in the map below using May 2021 data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics program. Just under half the states had pay figures available for this occupation for May 2021.

You can hover over the states with data to see the average annual pay, number of employees, and location quotient (which shows how much more or less common the job is in each state compared to the country as a whole) for this job.

Based on the states with available data, Pennsylvania had the highest average annual salary for this job at just under six figures. The average pay for a wind turbine service technician in this state was \$99,570 a year.

Texas had the highest estimate of employees for this job, at 4,600. California followed behind with 820 workers in this job. Their average annual pays were \$55,190 and \$65,670 respectively.

The job of a wind tech includes climbing tall wind turbine towers, which have gotten taller over time. It may also mean working long hours, according to one wind tech, Andrew Slate, who previously talked to Insider about what it's like to work in this job.

"On a great day you usually get done about 3 or 4 pm," Slate previously told Insider's Dominick Reuter. "On a really bad day you may be there 'till 11 o'clock at night — you may have to work 18 hours straight."

According to a table from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, solar photovoltaic installer is the third fastest-growing job after factoring out "occupations with above average cyclical recovery." Solar photovoltaic installers are projected to see employment rise 52.1% between 2020 and 2030, or an increase of 6,100 workers.

The map below shows how much this occupation pays based on average annual salaries in states with data available. You can hover over the states with data to see the average annual pay, number of employees, and location quotient for this job.

Texas, with 2,050 solar photovoltaic installers, had the highest average annual pay for this job among states with available data. Average pay in this state for this green job was \$61,240 a year. California had the largest employee estimate for this job with 6,300 employees with an average pay of \$51,420 a year.

Overall, the average annual pay nationally for solar photovoltaic installers was \$50,710, below the overall average for all occupations in May 2021. The average annual pay overall for wind turbine service technicians was \$58,580, around that of the average for all jobs in the US of \$58,260.

Are you a wind turbine service technician, solar photovoltaic installer, or working in another green job? If you are interested in sharing your experience on the job with us, contact this reporter at mhoff@insider.com.

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