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TEXAS SOLAR JOBS GREW BY 34% IN 2016, SURVEY FINDS

Texas remains a top U.S. solar job creator

Texas solar jobs grew 34 percent in 2016 over the previous year, adding 2,366 workers to reach 9,396 jobs in the state, according to the National Solar Jobs Census 2016 released Tuesday by The Solar Foundation. Texas has the third largest number of solar jobs in nation.

The report released Tuesday primarily focused on national solar growth numbers. Additional Texas-specific numbers from the Census should be available from The Solar Foundation in March.

"Texas is seeing exciting solar industry growth, and the annual census confirms our jobs impact," said Charlie Hemmeline, executive director of the Texas Solar Power Association (TSPA). "We're eager to dig deeper into detailed state results when they become available, which we expect to show more good news in the Texas solar job market, including a large growth in part-time solar workers."

The growth in Texas solar jobs in 2016 is part of a long-term upward trend – Texas solar jobs have increased 127 percent from 2013 to 2016.

Along with solar jobs, Texas also is growing in solar capacity, Hemmeline said. Texas ranked third in the nation for most solar capacity installed in the third quarter, more than it installed in all of 2015, according to GTM Research and the Solar Energy Industries Association's Q4 2016 U.S. Solar Market Insight report.

Since 2010, The Solar Foundation's National Solar Jobs Census has defined solar workers as those who spend at least 50 percent of their time on solar-related work. The Solar Foundation has consistently found that approximately 90 percent of these workers spend 100 percent of their time on solar-related work.

Among the national findings:

- One out of every 50 new U.S. jobs was in the solar industry.
- Solar jobs grew by 25 percent nationwide in 2016, increasing in 44 states, for a total of 260,077 U.S. solar workers
- Solar industry employment growth outpaced the overall U.S. economy by 17 times.

The complete National Solar Jobs Census 2016 can be found at SolarJobsCensus.org.