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NEW STUDY FINDS TEXAS SOLAR GROWTH BRINGING MORE JOBS, INCREASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO STATE

Texas solar jobs grew 34 percent and produced \$4.7 billion in total economic activity in Texas in 2016, according to a new study by The Solar Foundation. A Texas-specific analysis found that 9,396 solar workers produced \$2.51 billion in direct sales in 2016. When direct, indirect and induced jobs are included, the Texas solar industry's impact exceeded 22,600 jobs that paid more than \$1.6 billion in salaries, wages and benefits.

"These impressive findings on Texas jobs and economic activity affirm that the solar industry is making an impact, with solar now measuring its contributions in billions of dollars," said Charlie Hemmeline, executive director of the Texas Solar Power Association. "From large-scale power plants to rooftop installations for homes and businesses, solar companies are providing exciting new opportunities for customers and workers statewide."

Last year the Texas solar industry added 2,366 workers to reach 9,396 jobs in the state, the third largest number of solar jobs in nation. That is part of a long-term upward trend – Texas solar jobs have increased 127 percent from 2013 to 2016.

The Texas solar jobs data and economic analysis were part of research by The Solar Foundation to reveal the impact of the nation's historic solar jobs boom down to the local level. This data can be found on an interactive Solar Jobs Map at www.SolarStates.org, along with state-specific fact sheets and an economic impact analysis of the nation and of five states, including Texas. The Texas solar fact sheet can be found here: <http://www.thesolarfoundation.org/solar-jobs-census/factsheet-2016-tx/>.

Among the report's Texas findings for 2016:

- One solar-related job supports 1.40 jobs elsewhere in the Texas economy.
- Every \$1 spent on solar generates an additional \$0.87 in spending throughout Texas.
- Solar jobs grew 23 times faster than the overall state economy.
- Texas ranked first in the nation for percentage of solar jobs held by veterans, at 15.7 percent.
- Top five counties for solar jobs: Harris County (1,916), Bexar County (1,665), Travis County (1,175), Dallas County (541) and Williamson County (344).
- Top MSAs for solar jobs: Houston-The Woodlands-Sugarland (2,330), San Antonio-New Braunfels (1,767), Austin-Round Rock (1,577) and Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington (1,202)
- Texas is ranked ninth in the nation for installed solar capacity.

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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.

The Solar Foundation report echoes the Texas solar advancements seen in two other recent reports:

- The SEIA/GTM Research U.S. Solar Market Insight Report 2016 Year In Review found that, through 2016, Texas has 1,215 MW of cumulative installed solar – more than doubling the state's total in the past year and ranking sixth among states for new solar added. The report can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2m6Mbzy>
- The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) 2016 Long-term System Assessment expects significant solar energy growth in Texas in coming years, with solar growth under their “business as usual” Current Trends scenario reaching 20,200 MW by 2031, or 12.5 percent of total generation in Texas. The report can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2noIKWE>

Learn more about solar in Texas and the Texas Solar Power Association at www.txsolarpower.org or follow TSPA on Twitter at [@txsolarpower](https://twitter.com/txsolarpower).

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