Executive Summary

In 2019, the Utilities sector comprised 0.5 percent of all public and private sector employment in Iowa with 7,844 jobs and an average annual wage of $90,983. Although the sector is the state’s second-smallest by employment and number of establishments, its average wage was 86.9 percent higher than the statewide average of $48,672. Wages in this sector are higher than in other industries because the sector demands a higher level of specialized skills; additionally, substantial overtime and travel is generally required.

Employment in this sector has regressed in the past decade, falling 7.9 percent from 8,516 employees in 2010. This is despite a rebound in employment of 1.6 percent between 2013–2015.

Iowa’s average wage in this sector lags behind neighboring states: in the Midwest, only South Dakota had a lower private sector average annual wage than Iowa in 2019. Still, wages for all covered employment in the Utilities sector in Iowa increased by 27.0 percent from 2010–2019.

Men held 76.1 percent of jobs in Utilities during the second quarter of 2019.
**What is Utilities?**

The Utilities sector comprises firms engaged in the provision of the following utility services: electric power, natural gas, steam supply, water supply, and sewage removal.

Within this sector, the specific activities associated with the utility services provided vary by utility: electric power includes generation, transmission and distribution; natural gas includes distribution; steam supply includes provision and/or distribution; water supply includes treatment and distribution; and sewage removal includes collection, treatment, and disposal of waste through sewer systems and sewage treatment facilities.

Source: www.bls.gov/cew/bls_naics/bls_naics_app.htm

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**2019 Industry Breakout by Employment in Iowa**

Utilities NAICS Industry Coding

Percentage Employed and Average Annual Wage by Subsector

- 2211-Electric Power Generation, Transm: 6,077, 77%
- 2212-Natural Gas Distribution: 607, 8%
- AAW Natural Gas Distribution = $90,441
- 2213-Water, Sewage & Other Systems: 1,159, 15%
- AAW Water, Sewage, & Other Systems = $61,723
- AAW = Average Annual Wage

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), Iowa Workforce Development

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**2010–2019 Employment in Utilities in Iowa**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Average Annual Wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>8,516</td>
<td>$71,619</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>8,311</td>
<td>$74,725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>8,155</td>
<td>$77,574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>8,099</td>
<td>$76,357</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>8,140</td>
<td>$80,912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>8,227</td>
<td>$81,786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>8,124</td>
<td>$82,759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>8,063</td>
<td>$85,998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>8,013</td>
<td>$88,793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>7,844</td>
<td>$90,983</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), Iowa Workforce Development

https://www.iowalmi.gov/qcew
In 2019, employers in the Utilities sector had an average of 411 locations across Iowa. Electric power generation, transmission, and distribution represented the majority of establishments with 284 locations, or 69.1 percent. This subsector also had the sector’s highest average annual wage at $95,833.

Water, sewage, and other systems was the second-largest subsector in Utilities with 92 locations, or 22.4 percent; however, this subsector had the lowest average annual wage at $63,344.
2019 Average Annual Wage for Covered Employment in Utilities

State Comparisons by Private Ownership

North Dakota $132,295
South Dakota $87,192
Nebraska $132,295
Kansas $96,245
Iowa $96,873
Minnesota $117,310
Wisconsin $105,266
Minnesota $117,310
United States Average: $113,354

North Dakota $132,295
South Dakota $87,192
Nebraska $132,295
Kansas $96,245
Iowa $96,873
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North Dakota $132,295
South Dakota $87,192
Nebraska $132,295
Kansas $96,245
Iowa $96,873
Minnesota $117,310
Wisconsin $105,266
Michigan $122,916

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), Bureau of Labor Statistics

Industry Distribution by Age and Gender, 2nd Quarter 2019

Source: Local Employment Dynamics, Iowa Workforce Development and U.S. Census Bureau
https://lehd.ces.census.gov/