



Perceptions of Working in the Energy Industry

Executive Summary

December 2021

The Center for Energy Workforce Development commissioned research to better understand what Americans think of working in the energy industry. The survey was fielded online between November 12-15, 2021, with 2,002 U.S. Adults, 18 and older, representative of the United States based on the U.S. Census. The research was conducted by Regina Corso Consulting.

The following information provides key insights into what Americans think about the energy industry and working in it. Summary highlights and key findings by the detailed questions follow. *Please note, in the detailed findings section, the sub-group differences shown are all significant; if a sub-group is not shown, that indicates there was no statistical difference.*

Summary Highlights

Two-thirds of Americans have a favorable opinion of working in the energy industry.

It's thriving! Three-quarters of Americans say with the variety of roles, the energy industry is a thriving one for employment.

It's essential employment and an industry that is growing are top good reasons to work in the energy industry.

They'd recommend it...two-thirds of Americans would suggest a career in energy to a friend, family member or student.

Key Findings

The energy industry may have some issues, but overall, it's seen as a good one to work in for many Americans. When asked if they have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of working in the energy industry, two-thirds of U.S. adults (67%) say they have a favorable opinion and one-third (33%) a negative one. Compared to some other industries, while over seven in ten Americans (72%) have a favorable opinion of working in the automotive industry, almost two-thirds have one of working in the entertainment industry (64%) and the financial industry (63%).

One reason may be that three-quarters of Americans (76%) say with the variety of roles, the energy industry is a thriving one for employment. In fact, two in five say because there is always a need for energy it offers essential employment (41%) and it is an industry that is growing (39%) are good reasons to work in the energy industry. One-third say good reasons are it is an innovative industry (32%) and there are several different types of careers (32%) while over one-quarter of Americans say good reasons

are they can be part of something big and/or important (28%), it's an industry that helps the environment (27%) and it's an industry going through a lot of changes (27%). One-quarter (26%) say a good reason to work in the energy industry is it offers strong compensation to workers and almost one-quarter (23%) say a good reason is it's a service industry that allows employees to help in their communities while over one in ten (13%) say none of these are good as there is not a good reason to work in energy.

Another way to look at how Americans think this is a good industry to work in is how they would act. Over three in five Americans (63%) say if they were thinking of a change, they would consider a career in the energy industry. Also, over two-thirds (68%) would suggest a career in energy to a friend, family member or student.

That being said, there are a few negative points. First, two-thirds of Americans (67%) say if the energy industry had more diversity, it would be a good place to work. Second, while one-third (34%) say there is not a bad reason and the energy industry is a good one to work in, two-thirds do say there are reasons not to work in the energy industry. One-quarter (24%) say a reason not to work in the industry is you need to have a science and/or engineering background, one in five (20%) say a reason is it is very male dominated and almost one in five (17%) say a reason not to work in the industry is it has a negative impact on the environment. Over one in ten Americans say reasons not to work in the energy industry are it is an industry that causes problems rather than solves them (14%), the work isn't interesting (14%), much of the industry is closing (12%) and there is not a lot of racial diversity in the industry (12%) with one in ten (10%) saying a reason not to work in the energy industry is there is little opportunity for advancement.

Select Detailed Findings:

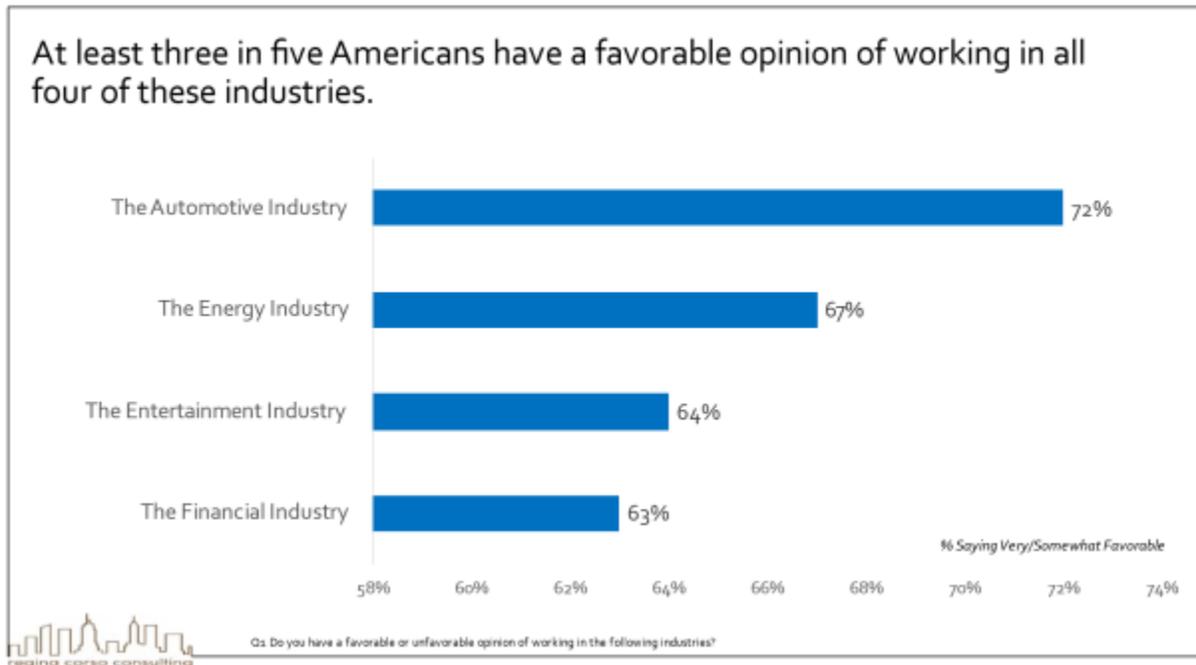
Q1-1 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of working in the following industries? – The Energy Industry

Two-thirds of Americans (67%) have a favorable opinion of working in the energy industry with almost one-quarter (23%) having a very favorable opinion and over two in five (44%) having a somewhat favorable opinion. One-third (33%) have an unfavorable opinion with one-quarter (24%) having a somewhat unfavorable opinion and one in ten (9%) having a very unfavorable opinion.

Americans aged 30-39 are more likely than those 18-29, 40-54 and 55 and older to have a favorable opinion of working in the energy industry (73% vs. 64%, 68% & 65%).

Men are more likely than women to have a favorable opinion of working in the energy industry (70% vs. 65%).

Those with a child in the household are more likely than those without one to have a favorable opinion of working in the energy industry (71% vs. 65%).



Q2-1 How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? I would suggest a career in energy to a friend, family member or student.

Over two-thirds of Americans (68%) agree that they would suggest a career in energy to a friend, family member or student with one-quarter (25%) strongly agreeing and over two in five (44%) somewhat agreeing. One-third (32%) disagree with one-quarter (24%) somewhat disagreeing and less than one in ten (8%) strongly disagreeing.

Americans aged 30-39 are more likely than those 18-29, 40-54 and 55 and older to say they would suggest a career in energy to a family member, friend or student (76% vs. 66%, 68% & 65%).

Men are more likely than women to say they would suggest a career in energy to a friend, family member or student (71% vs. 66%).

Those with a college degree or higher are more likely than those with a high school degree or less and some college to say they would suggest a career in energy to a friend, family member or student (73% vs. 66% & 66%).

Q2-2 How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? With the variety of roles, the energy industry is a thriving one for employment.

Three-quarters of Americans (76%) agree that with the variety of roles, the energy industry is a thriving one for employment with one-quarter (25%) strongly agreeing and half (51%) somewhat agreeing. One-quarter (24%) disagree with one in five (19%) somewhat disagreeing and less than one in ten (6%) strongly disagreeing.

Those 30-39, 40-54 and 55 and older are more likely than those 18-29 to say, with the variety of roles, the energy industry is a thriving one for employment (80%, 76% & 75% vs. 70%).

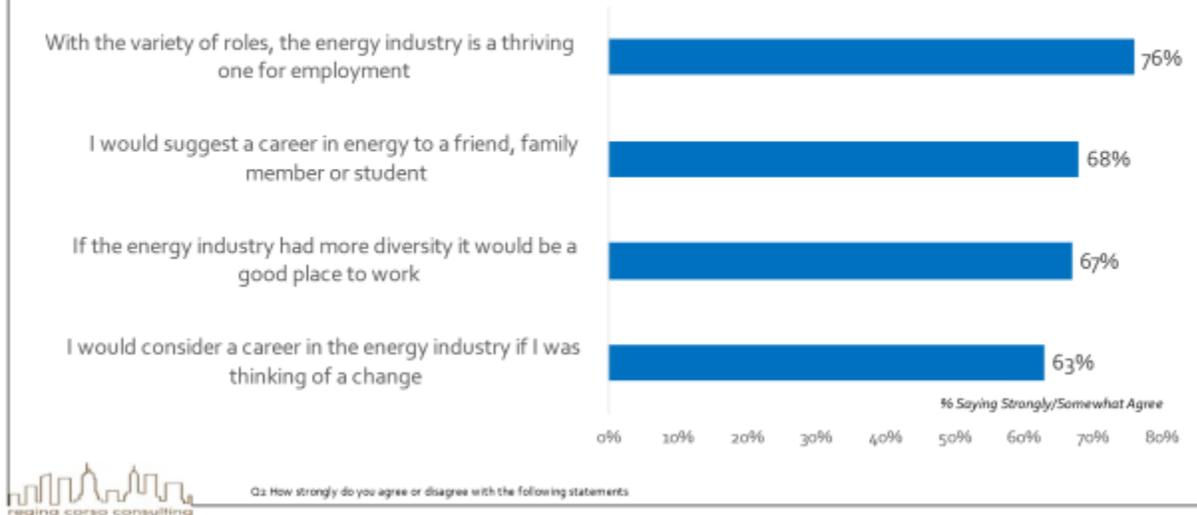
Q2-3 How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? I would consider a career in the energy industry if I was thinking of a change.

Over three in five Americans (63%) agree they would consider a career in the energy industry if they were thinking of a change with over one in five (22%) strongly agreeing and two in five (41%) somewhat agreeing. Over one-third (37%) disagree with one-quarter (24%) somewhat disagreeing and over one in ten (13%) strongly disagreeing.

Those 18-29, 30-39 and 40-54 are more likely than those 55 and older to say they would consider a career in the energy industry if they were thinking of a change (68%, 72% & 66% vs. 52%).

Men are more likely than women to say they would consider a career in the energy industry if they thinking of a change (70% vs. 57%).

Three-quarters of Americans say the energy industry is a thriving one for employment because of the variety of roles in it.



Q2-4 How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? If the energy industry had more diversity, it would be a good place to work.

Two-thirds of Americans (67%) agree that if the energy industry had more diversity, it would be a good place to work with almost one-quarter (23%) strongly agreeing and over two in five (44%) somewhat agreeing. One-third (33%) disagree with one-quarter (24%) somewhat disagreeing and one in ten (9%) strongly disagreeing.

Those 18-29, 30-39 and 40-54 are more likely than those 55 and older to say if the energy industry had more diversity, it would be a good place to work (71%, 75% & 68% vs. 60%).

Those with a child in the household are more likely than those without one to say if the energy industry had more diversity, it would be a good place to work (71% vs. 65%).

Q3 What are good reasons to work in the energy industry? Please select all that apply.

Two in five Americans say a good reason to work in the energy industry is because there is always a need for energy, it offers essential employment (41%) and it is an industry that is growing (39%) while one-third say a good reason is it is an innovative industry (32%) and there are several different types of careers (32%). Almost three in ten (28%) say a good reason to work in the energy industry is they can be part of something big and/or important, over one-quarter say because it's an industry that helps the environment (27%) and it's an industry going through a lot of changes (27%), one-quarter (26%) say it offers strong compensation to workers and almost one-quarter (23%) say a good reason to work in the energy industry is it's a service industry that allows employees to help in their communities. Over one in ten Americans (13%) say none of these as there is not a good reason to work in energy.

Those 40-54 and 55 and older are more likely than those 18-29 and 30-39 to say a good reason to work in the energy industry is because there is always a need for energy, it offers essential employment (42% & 52% vs. 32% & 30%).

Those 30-39, 40-54 and 55 and older are more likely than those 18-29 to say good reasons to work in the energy industry are it is an industry that is growing (39%, 38% & 47% vs. 29%), it is an innovative industry (34%, 32% & 36% vs. 26%), there are several different types of careers (31%, 33% & 39% vs. 24%), and it offers strong compensation to workers (27%, 28% & 29% vs. 19%).

Those 55 and older are more likely than those 18-29, 30-39 and 40-54 to say a good reason to work in the energy industry is it is an industry going through a lot of changes (32% vs. 25%, 25% & 24%).

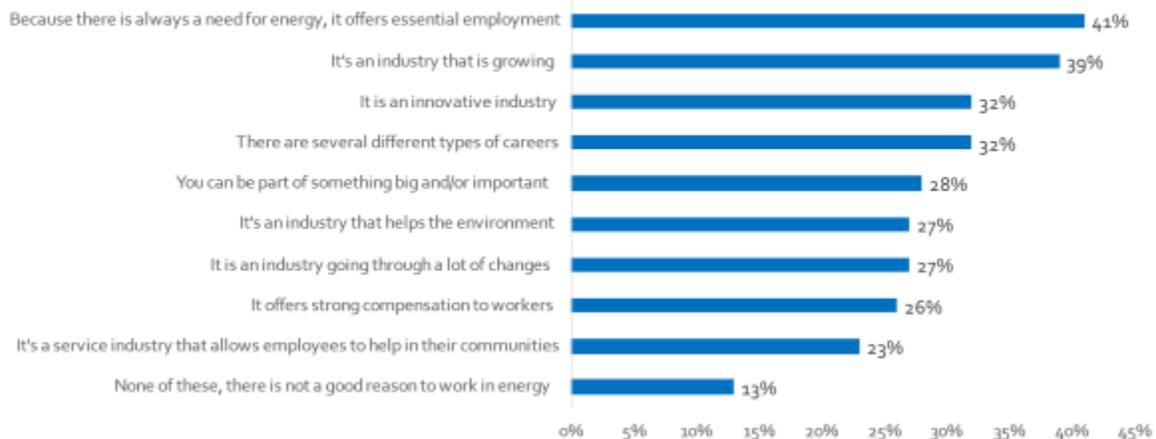
Men are more likely than women to say a good reason to work in the energy industry is it offers strong compensation to workers (31% vs. 22%) while women are more likely than men to say because it's a service industry that allows employees to help in their communities (25% vs. 21%) and none of these as there is not a good reason to work in the energy industry (15% vs. 10%).

Those without a child in the household are more likely than those with one to say good reasons to work in the energy industry are it offers essential employment since there is always a need for energy (43% vs. 38%) and there are several different types of careers (34% vs. 29%) but they also are more likely to say none of these as there is not a good reason to work in energy (14% vs. 10%).

Those with a household income of between \$25,000 and \$49,999, \$50,000 and \$74,999 and over \$75,000 are more likely than those with one of less than \$25,000 to say good reasons to work in energy are it is an industry that is growing (40%, 43% & 43% vs. 34%), it is an innovative industry (32%, 36% & 39% vs. 26%) and there are several different types of careers (34%, 39% & 35% vs. 23%).

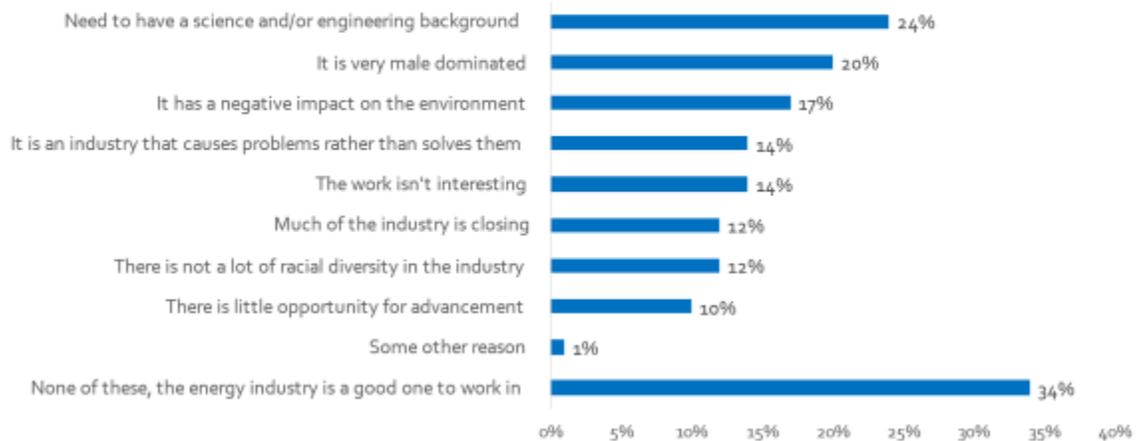
Those with a household income of less than \$25,000 are more likely than those in the three upper brackets to say none of these, there isn't a good reason to work in energy (20% vs. 11%, 8% & 8%).

The top reasons to work in the energy industry are it offers essential employment because there is always a need for energy and it's an industry that is growing.



Q3 What are good reasons to work in the energy industry? Please select all that apply.

Needing to have a science and/or engineering background, being very male dominated and having a negative impact on the environment are the top reasons not to work in the energy industry.



Q4 And, what are reasons not to work in the energy industry? Please select all that apply.

Q4 And, what are reasons not to work in the energy industry? Please select all that apply.

On the other side, one-quarter (24%) say a reason to not work in the energy industry is you need a science and/or engineering background, one in five (20%) say it's because it is very male dominated and almost one in five (17%) say because it has a negative impact on the environment. Over one in ten Americans say the reasons not to work in the energy industry are it's an industry that causes problems rather than solves them (14%), the work isn't interesting (14%), much of the industry is closing (12%) and there is not a lot of racial diversity in the industry (12%) while one in ten (10%) say because there is little room for advancement and 1% say for some other reason. One-third of Americans (34%), however, say none of these as the energy industry is a good one to work in.

Those 18-29 are more likely than those 30-39, 40-54 and 55 and older to say reasons not to work in the energy industry are it is an industry that causes problems rather than solves them (21% vs. 14%, 12% & 12%) and the work isn't interesting (20% vs. 14%, 15% & 9%).

Those 18-29 and 30-39 are more likely than those 40-54 and 55 and older to say reasons not to work in the energy industry are there is not a lot of racial diversity (17% & 14% vs. 10% & 9%) and there is little opportunity for advancement (15% & 14% vs. 8% & 5%)

Those 30-39, 40-54 and 55 and older are more likely than those 18-29 to say none of these are reasons as the energy industry is a good one to work in (31%, 35% & 44% vs. 18%).

Men are more likely than women to say reasons not to work in the energy industry are it is an industry that causes problems rather than solves them (17% vs. 12%) and much of the industry is closing (15% vs. 10%).

Methodology:

This online survey was conducted by Regina Corso Consulting on behalf of the Center for Energy Workforce Development November 12 and 15, 2021 among 2,002 U.S. adults, aged 18 and older. Figures for age, gender, education, income, employment and region were weighted to bring them into line with their actual proportions in the population. Because the sample is based on those who agreed to participate, no estimates of sampling error can be calculated. Percentage may not add up to 100% because of rounding or because multiple responses were allowed.