

First-ever District-level Jobs Census Finds Arizona Second in Nation in Solar Jobs
Arizona Solar Jobs Census reports job losses in 2013, but rebound expected in 2014

WASHINGTON, DC, Feb.11– The Solar Foundation (TSF), an independent 501(c)(3) research and education nonprofit, today released a special Arizona district-level jobs report from its fourth annual *National Solar Jobs Census*.

The detailed analysis found that Arizona solar firms shed over 1,200 workers in the past year, a 13 percent decline in employment. However, Arizona remains the second-largest hub for solar careers with 8,558 solar jobs. Despite being only the 16th most populous state, Arizona accounts for 6 percent of total U.S. solar employment. Solar employment in Arizona is expected to grow by 5.6 percent in the next 12 months. The full report can be found at www.tsfcensus.org.

“While Arizona was one of the few states that lost jobs, it remains an industry leader in terms of installed capacity, solar employment and potential for growth given its tremendous solar resource,” said **Andrea Luecke, Executive Director and President of TSF**. “The *Arizona Census* indicates that employers are cautiously optimistic about growth prospects for 2014, expecting to add 500 new jobs. While this anticipated growth is lower than the solar industry job growth we expect nationally in 2014 (15.6%), it underscores the important role the solar industry plays in Arizona’s local economy.”

“Small-business entrepreneurship requires some risk-taking, and those risks don’t always immediately pay off,” said **Governor Jan Brewer**. “Still, thanks to our pro-business policies, highly-trained workforce and abundant sunshine, Arizona remains a national and global leader in the solar industry. As Governor, I will continue to create and foster the competitive economic environment that will secure our title as the nation’s ‘Solar Capital.’”

The report also discovered that local veterans have found bright employment prospects in the Arizona solar industry, as over 16 percent of Arizona solar workers have served in the U.S. armed forces – nearly twice the veteran employment percentage of other Arizona industries.

“The information presented in the *Arizona Solar Jobs Census* is the result of survey responses from over 1,300 employers across the state,” said **Philip Jordan, Vice President of BW Research Partnership**. “This level of sampling provides a high-level of confidence in the data and allows for a deeper examination of trends within legislative districts in Arizona.”

The *Arizona Solar Jobs Census* was conducted by The Solar Foundation and BW Research Partnership with support from The George Washington University’s Solar Institute. The California report uses the same rigorous methodology as The Solar Foundation’s *National Solar Jobs Census*.

About The Solar Foundation:

The Solar Foundation[®] (TSF) is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is to increase understanding of solar energy through strategic research that educates the public and transforms markets. Since 2010, TSF has published its annual *National Solar Jobs Census*, which established the first credible solar jobs base line for the U.S. TSF is considered the nation's authority on the solar labor force and advises many organizations on the topic. TSF is also a leading provider of educational materials on the economic impacts of solar for local governments through its work with the U.S. Department of Energy. In addition, TSF chairs the *National Solar Schools Consortium*, a group of stakeholders seeking to make solar a larger part of the national K-12 system. More at <http://TheSolarFoundation.org>

About BW Research Partnership:

BW Research is widely regarded as the national leader in labor market analysis for emerging industries and clean energy technologies. BW Research provides high quality data and keen insight into economic and workforce issues related to renewable energy, energy efficiency, transportation, recycling, water, waste, and wastewater management, and other environmental fields. The principals of the firm are committed to providing research and analysis for data-driven decision-making. More at <http://www.bwresearch.com/>

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